



Bobby Haven/The Brunswick News

Parents and students look over schedules in the Glynn Middle School lunchroom during open house on Tuesday.

## Schools: Reviews positive

Continued from 1A

said Joann Saahir, a sixth-grade special education teacher. "I think that everyone is so happy to be in a new environment, from the principal down, and we're all looking forward to a great year."

The classrooms are a major improvement for sixth-grade language arts teacher Gayle Egan, who taught in a portable building last year.

"These are 21st century classrooms," Egan said. "This truly is a school that the county can be proud of."

As parents looked around the building that will house about 900 students, they were just as excited as their children.

"This is something we've all looked forward to," said Kim Claussen, mother of sixth-grader Mackenzie. "I know my daughter can't wait for the school year to start."

Principal Ricky Rentz stood at the entrance of the school and couldn't help but notice as jaws dropped in amazement.

"It's about time we have a new facility," Rentz said. "People started showing up early and the parking lot is completely full,



Bobby Haven/The Brunswick News

Parents and students walk the main hallway at Glynn Middle School during open house Tuesday.

so that's a good sign. Everyone seems excited to start something new."

Reactions were similar at Jane Macon, where Principal Scott Spence greeted parents and students.

"I've seen nothing but smiles," Spence said, before commending the staff for putting the finishing touches on the school over the weekend and during the week.

"Our faculty and staff have worked extremely hard in a pressure situation to get this school ready for open house."

Construction delays caused by walls that had to be demolished and rebuilt because of improperly mixed mortar pushed the \$21.7 million project right to the deadline for opening Thursday. To open, temporary half-walls had to be constructed to substitute for railings that had to be remanufac-

ured and the gymnasium had to be blocked off while construction continues there.

Even so, it is a new school building, with more space, and ready to open.

"In my old class it felt like I was in a box sometimes," said April Kelly, a life science and social studies teacher. "But you walk in here and there's just so much space."

Marcie Wagner, the mother of sixth-grader Peyton Lovell, was pleased with the school after touring most of the 133,000-square-foot facility.

Wagner, an alumnus of the old Jane Macon, said the increased technology in the classrooms and the variety of offerings in the human science magnet program will lead to academic success for the 900 students attending the middle school.

## Retail: Shopping center planned for Canal Road

Continued from 1A

Callaway said the center would be similar to the "town center" concept of Glynn Isles, about three miles east at Golden Isles Parkway and Altama Avenue.

The shopping center would cause an increase in traffic, generating as many as 17,000 trips daily, according to county estimates.

The developer, Callaway Land Co., agreed to complete improvements to Canal Road, including widening where necessary. A traffic signal would be installed

once 80,000 square feet of the project is complete.

The shopping center, close to Interstate 95, would attract shoppers from nearby counties, Callaway said. "It's truly a regional site and a great draw."

In a weak economy, attracting large tenants can be tough, but Callaway said he is confident it will draw major retailers.

"The economy looks like it is beginning to turn around, and typically a project like this takes a year or two to open," he said.

The earliest for an opening would be 2011, said Callaway,

adding that he hopes to break ground for construction next summer.

The site plan for the shopping center is now subject to the approval by the Glynn County Commission, which is to vote on it Sept. 3.

In an unrelated decision Tuesday, the planning commission denied a request to rezone a residential lot at the northwest corner of Altama Avenue and Suburban Drive to allow Lord Eye Center to build there. About 20 residents showed up at the meeting in opposition to the request.

## State Patrol: Troopers being furloughed for cost savings

Continued from 1A

the Georgia State Patrol post in Brunswick, Sgt. Neal Jump, told The News that only two or three troopers were on duty during the main travel times of the day, and during the third shift, there was only one patrol officer available.

To prevent more drastic measures from being taken, Cosper said troopers are being fur-

loughed one day per every two-week pay period.

"We're going to see if that will cover it," Cosper said, adding that if that doesn't reduce the budget enough by the end of September, more furloughs will be considered.

Cosper added that post captains are using good judgment and are trying to keep operating with as many officers as possible.

"They know their busy times and the number of people they need per shift," Cosper said.

The public shouldn't be led to believe that the Georgia State Patrol is going to cut back in its patrolling in a noticeable way, he said.

"Don't think we're not going to be there," Cosper said. "We're going to be creative, and we're still going to get the job done."

## Low-altitude rocket launched in N.M.

By **TIM KORTE**  
The Associated Press

UPHAM, N.M. — An Orlando, Fla.-based avionics company successfully fired a low-altitude rocket Tuesday at a new spaceport in New Mexico where the state hopes to launch commercial space tourism flights within two years.

Officials at the New Mexico Spaceport said such tests are important steps, not only toward viable space travel but also to demonstrate the site's uses for other commercial space development.

Moog Industries fired the rocket after a roughly 90-minute delay brought on by a glitch in a GPS

antenna that had to be replaced.

The problem led to postponement of a planned second launch that would have represented the first time a private company completed two liftoffs from the same site in one day. New Mex-

ico Spaceport officials said the research and development test was important because it demonstrated commercial applications beyond \$200,000 space flights for tourists that Virgin Galactic plans to operate within two years.

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## Senate debates nominee

By **JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS**  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate held a history-making debate Tuesday on confirming Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor as the first Hispanic justice, with Republican opponents asserting she would bring bias to the bench and Democratic supporters saying she was a mainstream moderate.

There was little doubt that President Barack Obama's first high court nominee would be confirmed with bipartisan support as early as Thursday, but senators lined up to weigh in on her fitness for the bench anyway, with an eye toward the history books, the nation's burgeoning Hispanic electorate and perhaps the next Supreme Court battle.

"Judge Sotomayor's journey to this nomination is truly an American story ... (and) a reminder to all of the continuing vitality of the American dream," said Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., the Judiciary Committee chairman. His opening remarks framed Sotomayor's confirmation as a step on the nation's still-evolving "path of inclusion" that began with the Bill of Rights and continued with the extension of voting rights to women and enactment of the civil and voting rights laws of the 1960s.

"She's a restrained, experienced and thoughtful judge who has shown no bias in her rulings," Leahy said.

Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama, the panel's top Republican and his party's pointman on Sotomayor, called her a devotee of an approach that heeds "the seductive siren call of judicial activism" and is contrary to the "classical underpinnings" of the nation's legal system.

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