ANOTHER ONE GONE: GREGG WITHDRAWS AS COMMERCE SECRETARY NOMINEE. 2A

The Daily Tribune News

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2009 | BARTOW COUNTY'S ONLY DAILY NEWSPAPER | VOLUME

WEA
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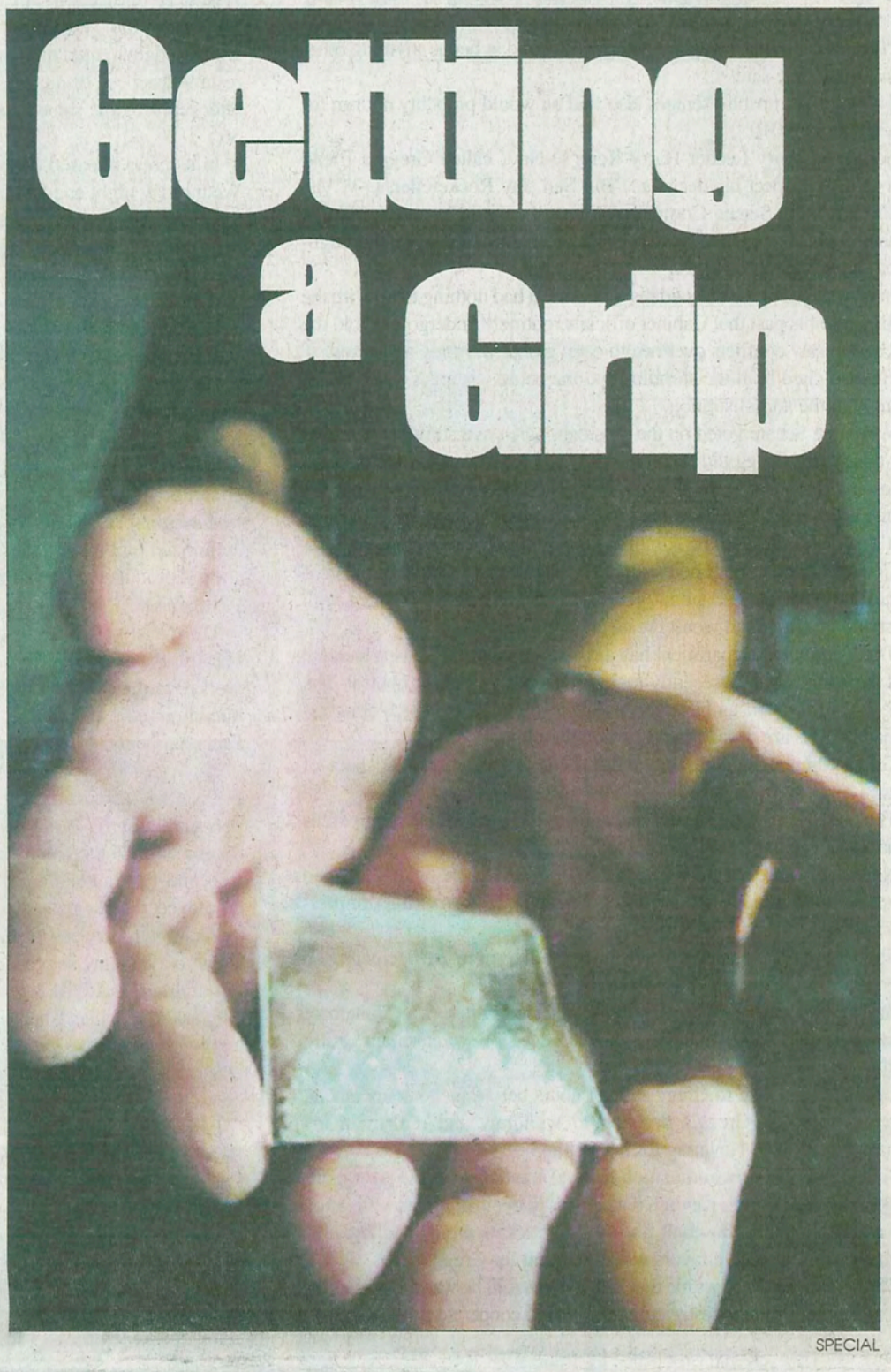
will give way to cl
the afternoon.

Getting a Grip



SPECIAL

Campaign aims to reduce use of meth

By BRANDE POULNOT
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Bartow County residents may soon see graphic advertisements aimed at reducing methamphetamine use.

State leaders and businessmen recently announced an effort to combat use of the highly addictive drug, which a study determined could cost the state $1.3 billion a year.

"Georgia has the third worst methamphetamine problem in the country," Cartersville native and Georgia Meth Project Chairman Lee Shaw said. "North Georgia has the worst problem in the state, meaning that north Georgia has one of the worst methamphetamine problems in the country. This problem is very wide ranging and affects a tremendous number of families."

Project Executive Director Jim Langford said Georgia business owners, along with state Attorney General Thurbert Baker, last year began raising private money to prevent "almost an epidemic problem" through public services messages, public policy and community outreach.

"The workforce has been affected by meth usage," Langford said, adding that methamphetamine use causes problems with absenteeism, which in turn causes high turnover for companies.

Superior Court Judge Scott Smith, who presides over the local drug court, said methamphetamine "is by far the biggest social problem we face in the Cherokee Judicial Circuit," which covers Bartow and Gordon counties.

"Between 70 and 80 percent of all the crimes committed are somehow related to drug offenses," he said. "And the great majority of our drug offenses are methamphetamine."

METH, 3A

Bartow County design as Certified Work Rea

By MAIA FOX
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Bartow County was put to the test and has exceeded its goals.

Gov. Sonny Perdue announced Wednesday that Bartow County is now a Georgia Cert Community, a designation proving the county has the talented workforce that business educational infrastructure to drive economic growth and prosperity.

The Work Ready initiative helped 1,713 of Bartow's residents earn a Work Ready C cent above its goal. Bartow County also improved its public high school graduation rate by 7.9 percent to 72.4 percent.

Fred Kittle, Work Ready Team Leader for Bartow County, said the process was truly a community effort and that the longer he lives in Bartow, the prouder he feels about the community coming together.

"If anyone group or entity didn't help, we wouldn't have soared as high as we did," he said. "It was pretty awesome when everybody came together to help make this possible."

The community's designation was the result of efforts by a team of partners, including the Carterville-Bartow County Chamber of Commerce, North Metro Technical College, Cartersville-Bartow County Department of Economic Development, Department of Labor, Bartow Count Bartow County Government and the City of Cartersville.

Ron Newcomb, acting president of North Metro Technical College, thanked officia in a press release issued Thursday.

"It is through the diligence and persistence of our dedicated community and chamber ticular, Chamber president Kay Read, as well as Connie Smith, certified Job Profiler, t able to attain this goal in such a short amount of time," he said.

Ponders conquers fear, wins Junior M

By MARIE NESMITH
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For Hannah Ponders, facing her fear has been a lucrative and fulfilling endeavor.

Competing in the areas of scholastic achievement, interview, talent, fitness and self-expression Sunday, the Woodland High School junior won the 2010 Bartow County Junior Miss title and a total of $1,900 in scholarship funds.

"I decided to enter Junior Miss for a few different reasons," said Ponders, the 17-year-old daughter of Rocky and Kay Ponders of White. "First, I have always been rather shy and over time dance has helped me become less shy and more comfortable performing in front of people. At the beginning of my junior year, I discovered I had a fear of speaking in front of people after I delivered my first oral commentary in my English class.

"I realized that even though I was comfortable on stage, that did not extend to the use of my voice. So since I could barely speak in front of my peers, I knew there would be many other things that would pose major problems in the way of speaking in front of others. I saw Junior Miss as an opportunity to push myself out of my comfort zone, while also getting to do what I love — dance — and possibly earn scholarships for college."

Along with Ponders, the Junior Miss' 52nd annual program at The Grand Theatre in Cartersville featured eight other high school

JESSICA LOEDING/jessica.loeding
Bartow County Junior Miss Ponders, left, is congratulate winner, Abbey Hufstetler.

juniors: Woodland High S Askew, Jordan Elder and Kati Christian Academy's Kenda Kathryn Lovingood; Cass Michaela Painter and Mega Cartersville High School's Ka

"She was so impressed with

Excel science squad eyes state compe

By JON GARGIS
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The scientists of tomorrow may be prepar-

physics," said Excel science teacher Justin Harvey, who coaches the team. "A lot of them are things they have to build ahead of time and bring in to compete, and some of

Local companies set to work on jail project

Expansion to begin in coming weeks

By BRANDE POULNOT
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The $30 million project under way to expand the Bartow County Adult Detention Center will take about 18 months to complete. Local authorities hope the use of several Bartow County businesses to work on the project will help the local economy.

County Administrator Steve Bradley said construction management firm Peter Brown Construction agreed to use as many local subcontractors as possible.

"The other thing they said they would do is encourage each of the subcontractors and they would themselves try to buy as much locally in the materials, equipment and supplies," Bradley said, adding that County Commissioner Clarence Brown had asked Peter Brown to use local vendors and buy locally when possible.

"We would always encourage them to use local vendors if they could," Bradley said. "We know there are a lot of people in Bartow County in business that need the work."

The expansion, which will add a six-story housing pod, medical building, GED classroom and sally port, in addition to renovating several areas, is expected to begin within the next couple of weeks, according to Project Manager Ralph Lambert.

He added that as the project continues, builders will use more local resources.

"We'll get a lot of temporary labor through the labor forces in Bartow County," Lambert said. "As time goes on we'll have more and more [local] participation. We try to use as much local participation as we can for the local economy."

One community businessman said his company welcomed the work in this sluggish economy. Cal-Mar Fencing Services won the bid to install 3,500 feet of fencing, which will take about three months.

"We have seen a decrease in business for sure," Vice President Clint Woodall said. "Having the jail job is good because we have seen a definite decrease in work."

LOCAL LABOR

Local companies subcontracted to complete work on the Bartow County jail expansion include so far:

- 7 Hills Fire Protection Co., 412-C Grassdale Road, Cartersville;
- All Top Roofing Services, 15 River Drive, Cartersville;
- Cal-Mar Fencing Services, 32 Lee St., White; and
- Johnny on the Spot, 4711 Joe Frank Harris Parkway, Adairsville.

Local agent work undercover to ma arrest of four-time

STAFF REPORTS

A man with a Kingston address in Floyd Cour before a federal magistrate judge in Rome on r weapons charges.

According to a United States Attorney's Office

Barry Edward Bagwell, 50, of Kingston, had four felonies and in June 2008 was released from accused of distributing methamphetamine ar firearms.

During the investigation, a cooperating witness face-to-face meetings with Bagwell, arranging c buys. An undercover agent from the Bartow Coun then met Bagwell, which resulted in more buys. sold a .22-caliber rifle, calling it a "good hitman g officers.

Bagwell allegedly hid out in northwest Georgia before he was arrested Monday by both Bartow a law enforcement, as well as the Bureau of A Firearms and Explosives, at a convenience store i

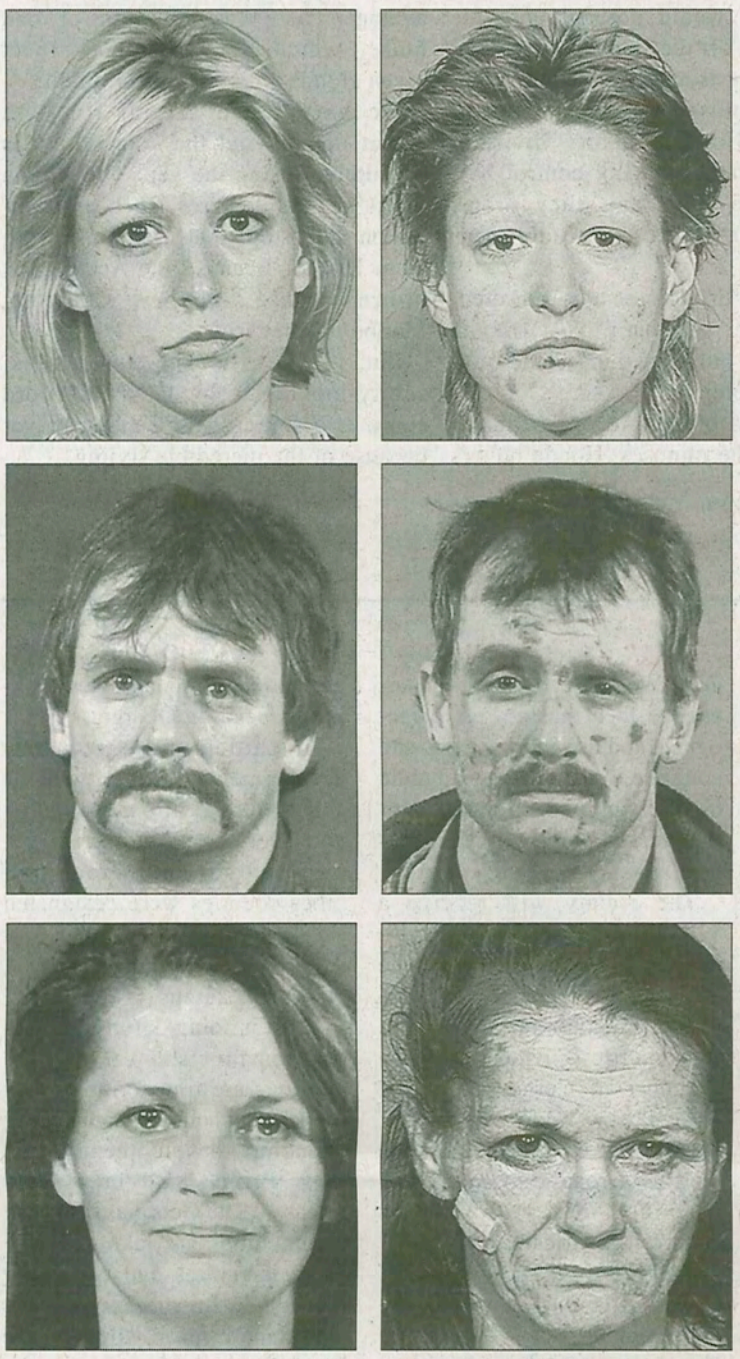
Accidents and fires

Cartersville police worked these Wednesday tra

- A 2007 Freightliner struck a light pole at 6:49 Museum Drive. The driver was cited for an impro semi was slightly damaged and the pole was exte
- A 2001 Volvo V70 rear-ended a 2005 Hond a.m. at North Erwin Street at Old Mill Road. issued. No visible vehicle damage was reported.
- A 1999 Ford Explorer rear-ended a 2003 GM a.m. at Burnt Hickory Road at Mission Road, issued. The vehicles were slightly damaged.
- A 2004 Nissan Sentra tried to turn left at 12:: 2001 Lexus RX-300 at North Dixie Avenue at W The driver was cited for failure to yield when en The Sentra was extensively damaged and the Lex erate damage.
- A 2004 Chevrolet Tahoe rear-ended a 2008 H p.m. on Market Place Boulevard at Highway 4 cited for following too closely, and the driver of th to the hospital with back and stomach pain. The visible damage and the Tahoe sustained slight dar

Georgia State Patrol troopers had responded with no injuries as of 5:30 p.m. Thursday.

Cartersville and Bartow County firefighters had a fire as of 5:30 p.m. Thursday.



• SPECIAL

These before and after photos show the effects of long-term methamphetamine use.

Meth

From page 1A

The consequences of using the stimulant span further than criminal liability, he said.

"It's so far reaching it's beyond explanation," Smith said. "Not only do you have families suffering because they essentially have lost the person they knew because it changes the personality, parents are losing their children.

"Department of Family and Children Services involvement has grown incredibly with families involved in a methamphetamine addiction situation [and] the juvenile court is very busy having to deal with situations where custody is being taken away from parents because of their addiction to methamphetamine. Businesses are suffering financial loss. Thefts, burglaries, forgeries, all those personal financial crimes are increasing because methamphetamine robs a person of their sense of responsibility so they don't have jobs. The great majority of the people that come into the drug court are unemployed. And the only way to fund a habit when you're unemployed is to try to find money any way you can."

Members of the Georgia Meth Project are now working to secure additional funding and hopes to launch the campaign later this year.

Baker said in a release the Meth Project, which currently operates in Arizona, Idaho, Illinois, Montana and Wyoming, has been a successful prevention campaign.

> **"I think people in Bartow County will see overwhelming results ... This marketing campaign shows the reality of what happens to your life if you take methamphetamine."**
>
> — Lee Shaw
> Georgia Meth Project chairman

"The Meth Project has been very successful," Langford said. "We think [there has been] 50 to 60 percent decline in first-time meth use in those states."

Shaw said the campaign will greatly impact North Georgia.

"I think people in Bartow County will see overwhelming results," Shaw said. "Because this marketing campaign shows the reality of what happens to your life if you take methamphetamine, and shows the consequences of it."

For more information, visit www.methproject.org.

BartowBlotter

The following information — names, addresses, charges and other details — was taken directly from Bartow County Sheriff's Office jail records. Not every arrest leads to a conviction, and guilt or innocence is determined by the court system. Arrests were made by BCSO deputies except where otherwise indicated.

Feb. 11

- **Philip Michael Banks**, 51, of 130 Barnsley Garden Road, Adairsville, was arrested and charged with driving while license suspended or revoked.
- **Garland Lee Burson**, 19, of 7286 Staton Place, Acworth, was Cartersville, was arrested and charged with probation violation.
- **Scott Anthony Haas**, 27, of 233 Sabrina Court, Woodstock, was arrested and charged with possession of cocaine.
- **Michael Christopher Lee**, 37, of 123 Hawthorn St., Rome, was arrested and charged with probation violation.
- **James Buddy Lively**, 20, of 495 Old Tennessee Highway, White, was arrested on a superior count bench warrant — failure to appear, and charged with aggravated stalking (FVA), three counts of reckless conduct and two counts of criminal trespass (FVA).
- **Johnathan Shane Warren**, 35, of 716 Prospect Road, Rockmart, was arrested by a probation officer and charged with state probation violation.
- **Mark Steven Weatherford**, 45, of 4440 Pecan Lane, Acworth, was arrested and charged with criminal trespass.
- **Robert Daniel Weatherford**, 55, of Glade Road, Acworth, was arrested and charged with criminal trespass.

Feb. 12

- **Cassandra Florence Cooper**, 36, of 2365 Arnold

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