

metro

VETERAN'S DAY

Local events

Calendar, C-3



terry dickson

In Waycross, couple helps erect tribute to war dead

WAYCROSS, GA. | On Saturday at the 11th hour, of the 11th day of the 11th month, America will honor its veterans at a time coinciding with the formal end of World War I, the war to end all wars.

In Waycross, the city will celebrate the culmination of a couple's dream to finally have a monument there honoring those who died in service from World War I to the present. That Danny and Judy Barnes came up with 148 names of war dead is a testament etched in granite that the signing of the armistice was nothing more than a pause before politicians lurched again toward war.

Danny Barnes said it's been about four years since they started the process, three years of which was research.

The Barneses had traveled a lot and had seen war memorials about everywhere they went including in some cities much smaller than Waycross.

Asked about all the work it took, Danny Barnes said, "It was an honor to get it done. Waycross didn't have anything like it."

The closest was a plaque with the names of those who died in World War I that was affixed to the first bridge over the Satilla River so people could travel more easily between Waycross and Blackshear. When the bridge was replaced, the plaque was put on the new bridge.

Judy Barnes' father, Sgt. Jimmie Lee Mincks, was killed in Vietnam on Oct. 11, 1965. He was 36 and serving with the 101st Airborne's Charlie Co., 1/327th Infantry in Quang Tri.

At 327th reunions, Danny and Judy Barnes have talked to the soldiers who were lying on either side of Mincks in that stinking mud. They said Mincks stood, and the other soldiers told him to get back down, likely in easily understood terms.

"He said, 'If they shoot me, y'all will at least know where they're hiding,'" Judy Barnes said.

Sgt. Mincks' name is on at least a couple of monuments, the black granite Vietnam Memorial "wall" in Washington, D.C., and on a monument in Muncie, Ind., his hometown.

Judy Barnes parents separated when she was 6 and her mother moved with her new family to Georgia when she was 11.

"I have vague memories of him. My mother wouldn't let us see him. None of his knew him," she said of herself and her younger sister and brother.

At 14, she was about to get to know her father.

"I talked to him about six weeks before he shipped out. We were making arrangements to meet him at Fort Campbell," when he got orders for Vietnam, she said.

And it is partly because of Jimmie Mincks that Danny and Judy Barnes set out to honor those from Danny Barnes' hometown who died in wars.

"I'm a firm believer our veterans who served need to be recognized. If they gave the ultimate sacrifice, they need to be honored," he said.

They put out the word of their mission and began learning things, first of all that the hometown of record in military archives is not always accurate. Calls came, some from as far as California. Judy Barnes poured over records in the library, old newspaper stories, whatever they could find.

"We walked every cemetery there is in Waycross

DICKSON continues on C-2

Report: Inspection had been pending

Park's last inspection prior to boy's death: Sept. 12

By David Bauerlein
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A company contracted by the city of Jacksonville to inspect Bruce Park's septic tank system had not yet completed its monthly inspection when a 3-year-old boy on a family outing was found dead inside a tank on Oct. 22, according to summaries submitted to the city by Environmental Remediation Services.

Before Amari Harley's death, the most recent inspection of Bruce Park's septic tank system occurred Sept. 12, when Environmental Remediation Services determined "All Opps OK."

If the October inspection at Bruce Park had been done prior to Amari's death, the findings of

that inspection could have helped the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office by giving investigators updated information beyond the results of the Sept. 12 inspection.

The sheriff's office has been trying to determine what went wrong at Bruce Park and how Amari ended up in one of the underground tanks, the openings of which are supposed to be protected by lids that are child-proof, and resistant to tampering and vandalism.

Environmental Remediation Services, also known as ERS, has a contract with the city to do monthly inspections of city-managed septic tanks and lift stations throughout Jacksonville, including the system at Bruce Park.

In the wake of Amari's death, Mayor Lenny Curry ordered a



A memorial of balloons, candles, words of remembrance and toys was left atop the tank where 3-year-old Amari Harley was found. A vigil for him was held Wednesday in Bruce Park. The boy went missing during a family birthday party and his body was found later that day inside a septic lift tank buried nearby. (Bob Mack/Florida Times-Union)

sweeping review of safety and security measures at all city parks. ERS assisted the city in that review.

The city replaced the lids at the Bruce Park septic tank

PARK continues on C-2

Sunset saunter in Confederate Park



A woman, two children and two small dogs take a late afternoon walk along the pond in Confederate Park on Tuesday. (Bob Mack/Florida Times-Union)

Curry names 6 to newly created Kids Hope Alliance

By Christopher Hong
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Mayor Lenny Curry on Wednesday named six people, including a former sheriff, and business and nonprofit leaders, to oversee the Kids Hope Alliance, the city's newly formed agency that will carry out city-supported youth programs.

Curry's appointments for the group's board of directors are Nat Glover, Jacksonville former sheriff and outgoing president of Edward Waters College; Rebekah Davis, a registered nurse and former board member of the Jacksonville Children's Commission; Kevin Gay, founder and leader of the non-profit Operation New Hope-Ready4Work; Joe Peppers, an army veteran and manager for Amazon; Tyra Tutor, a senior official with The Ad-

ecco Group; and Marvin Wells, the founder of a local oral surgery practice.

"These individuals are dedicated members of our community who share my commitment to safe neighborhoods and serving local youth," Curry said in a written statement. "They will serve our city well."

Curry formed the Kids Hope Alliance early this year to replace the Jacksonville Children's Commission and the Jax Journey, which also used city money to fund youth programs.

Some council members expressed skepticism over Curry replacing the programs, but the council approved the formation of the group in an 18-1 vote.

The Kids Hope Alliance will focus on early learning, juvenile justice, out-of-school time, and pre-teen and teen programming.

The appointments must be approved by the City Council, which will review and vote on them later this year.



Curry



Carla Wiley, president of the sham charity One Door for Education, headed to Jacksonville's federal courthouse in May to testify at the fraud trial of former Rep. Corrine Brown. Wiley was accompanied by attorney Gray Thomas, who filed court papers Wednesday arguing for leniency in her sentencing hearing next week. (Bob Self/Florida Times-Union)

Head of fake charity hopes to dodge jail for scam with Brown

By Steve Patterson
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The head of a sham charity at the center of former Rep. Corrine Brown's fraud conviction deserves to avoid prison time, her attorney argued in papers filed Wednesday in Jacksonville's federal court.

Carla Wiley, president of the organization One Door for Education, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud before Brown was indicted for

soliciting money for One Door that was then misused.

"She has fully accepted responsibility for her role in the offense and did so from the outset," attorney Gray Thomas wrote in a memo to U.S. District Judge Timothy Corrigan, who has scheduled a sentencing hearing for Wiley next week.

Thomas said Wiley "has done all that was asked of her during the investigation," from handing over

all the money left in One Door's bank account to testifying against Brown at her trial in May.

Brown was ultimately convicted of 18 felonies and faces a sentencing hearing Nov. 16, the day after hearings for Wiley and Brown's former chief of staff, Ronnie Simmons, whom Wiley once dated.

Prosecutors said One Door collected about \$800,000 in donations,

WILEY continues on C-2