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# The Times

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GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA

## 2 key road projects gain funding

Tumbling Creek bridge, bypass of downtown Gainesville receive grants

**BY CLARK LEONARD**  
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A pair of prominent local road projects are closer to becoming a reality.

A Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank grant of \$793,416 will go toward helping Gainesville

get started on putting in a traffic light at the intersection of Thompson Bridge Road/Ga. 60 and Oak Tree Drive/Ga. 60 Connector and realigning Oak Tree Drive. Mayor Danny Dunagan said the money should fund the engineering and feasibility study for the project, which replaced a much-discussed

potential Enota bypass.

"Gainesville has to have a bypass. We can't keep relying on Green Street as a route through Gainesville," Dunagan said. "It needs relief. It grows more every day, and more and more cars are on the road — and more and more traffic problems."

Dunagan had more good news for drivers, too. He said repaving of Green Street and E.E. Butler Parkway should happen this summer, with that work likely beginning in July.

A study is underway to determine what's underneath Green Street and what can be done to

help traffic.

Another grant from the infrastructure bank of \$2 million completes the necessary funding for a bridge along Tumbling Creek Road that would span railroad tracks. Hall County Commissioner Scott Gibbs said the Georgia Department of Transportation previously agreed to fund \$1 million of the

■ Please see **ROAD, 4A**

## 'Let's make school food fun'



Photos by **ERIN O. SMITH** | The Times

Tanner Hensley, 7, bites into a chip with refried beans Wednesday during the Shake It Up in School Nutrition taste test at Lanier Charter Career Academy at The Oaks.

## Hall County students test potential Georgia lunch recipes

**BY RON BRIDGEMAN**  
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New main dishes and vegetables were on the menu Wednesday when Hall County students from kindergarten to middle school were "taste testers" for potential recipes for Georgia schools.

The Georgia Department of Education brought 20 school chefs to Lanier Charter Career Academy at The Oaks to prepare the new dishes for the students to sample.

Officials from the state came to LCCA for three days

— the kickoff for Shake It Up in School Nutrition in Georgia.

Sara Sheridan, school nutrition coordinator for Hall County, explained the idea is to make food more appealing to students.

She said Larry Winter, a member of the Georgia Board of Education from Dalton, promoted the concept. Winter attended the taste testing.

"We aren't really in the nutrition business. We're in the restaurant business," Winter said.

"If we're in the restaurant

■ Please see **FOOD, 4A**



Sarah Combs, a compliance specialist with the Georgia Department of Education, gives instructions Wednesday before the Shake It Up in School Nutrition taste test begins.

## Amazon plans distribution center; 500 hires expected

Times staff reports

Amazon will add a new 600,000-square-foot distribution center in Braselton and hire about 500 people.

"Amazon expects to find an abundance of local talent to fill these 500 new, full-time jobs," Nina Lindsey, spokeswoman for Amazon, said by email. "There may be some Amazon employees who wish to transfer to the new location for personal reasons, but that would be the exception and an extremely small number."

Amazon employs more than 1,500 full-time employees in Georgia.

The center in Jackson County will be used for packing and shipping large items such as household décor, sporting equipment and gardening tools.

■ Please see **AMAZON, 4A**

## Democrats disrupt House, stage protest over gun vote

From Times staff, wire reports

**WASHINGTON** — Rebellious Democrats disrupted the House's legislative work on Wednesday, staging a sit-in on the House floor and refusing to leave until they secured a vote on gun control measures. Exasperated Republicans were forced to recess while cutting off the C-SPAN cameras that showed the protest.

A group of nearly 100 Democrats led by Georgia Rep. John Lewis demanded a vote on

■ Please see **DEBATE, 4A**



**REP. JOHN YARMUTH** | Associated Press

Democrat members of Congress, including Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., center, and Rep. Joe Courtney, D-Conn., left, participate in a sit-down protest seeking a vote on a gun control measure Wednesday on the floor of the House on Capitol Hill in Washington.

## Buford man accused of beating dad to death with crowbar

From Staff Reports

Gwinnett police arrested a Buford man Wednesday evening after he allegedly beat his father to death with a crowbar in the driveway of the family home.

Officers responded to a domestic dispute at 5615 Bridle Glen Drive after a neighbor called 911 to report the assault, according to Cpl. Michele Pihera of the Gwinnett County Police Department. Mihera said in a release that the suspect's stepmother also

called 911 after the suspect reportedly told his stepmother what he'd done.

Officers found the man outside the home and took him into custody.

Detectives said the suspect got into an argument with his father just before the assault. Police said the suspect is "an ex-convict," but the extent of any criminal record was still undetermined.

After the suspect was taken into custody, he was transported to Gwinnett County Police Headquarters to be interviewed.

While waiting, he punched a female officer in the face. The officer suffered facial injuries and an ambulance was called. She is expected to recover, according to Pihera.

After police conclude their interviews, the suspect will be transported to the Gwinnett County Jail to face charges, according to Pihera.

The names of both victim and suspect are being withheld pending notification of other family members, police said.



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**WEATHER 2A**

High **92** Low **75**

Lake Lanier level: **1,067.97 feet**  
Down 0.06 feet in 24 hours

**DEATHS 2D**

Luther JM Cochran, 62	Carl Robert Neff, 54
D. Eugene Dusenberry, 89	Genevieve Garrison Sanders, 82
Patricia Ann Couch Haggard	Geraldine Carrasquillo Smith, 54
Eva Pauline Helton, 88	

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