



# LaGrange Daily News

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WEATHER Pg. 2  
92 / 70



Partly cloudy  
Today's artist: Jonathan Shaw, fifth grade, Rosemont Elementary School.

## Countdown



The Dixie Youth World Series are here. Opening ceremonies are today, and tournaments are Monday through Friday.

## Sports



Troup County's teams are ready for action in the Dixie Youth Baseball World Series.

## State



Kingsland will celebrate highlights of its history this week with a 100th anniversary observance. Elnora Dawson-Kelly, however, is not one of Kingsland's residents who needs a history lesson - she lived it. She's 102 years old.

## INDEX

- Business . . . . . 7
- Classifieds . 3B-5B
- Crossword . . 6C-7C
- Entertainment . 6C-7C
- Food . . . . . 5C
- International . . . 5
- Living . . . . . 1C, 3C
- Local . . . . . 2
- National . . . . . 5
- Nuptials . . . . . 2C
- Obituaries . . . . 2
- Opinion . . . . . 6
- Sports . . 1B-3B, 6B
- State . . . . . 4
- TV Listings . . . . 6C

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## 'I was impressed with the city's efforts in data collection'



Anne Westmoreland, center, LaGrange's water pollution control superintendent, watches as Andrew Douglas, left, and Channing St. Alban with the state Environmental Protection Division prepare and test West Point Lake water samples. Standing at right is plant technician Parker Barber.

## State validates local lake testing

By Jennifer Shrader  
Staff writer

Representatives from the state Environmental Protection Division officially have blessed the new tests LaGrange is conducting on West Point Lake.

"I was impressed with the city's efforts in data collection and their strategy for year-round data collection," said Channing St. Alban, an environmental specialist with the EPD who visited LaGrange last week.

The state already performs a series of tests on the lake, as well as other lakes in Georgia. But since early summer, LaGrange has wanted to do more tests on the lake, more often and in more places.

Anne Westmoreland, LaGrange's water pollution control superintendent, who is in charge of the local testing, invited Alban to the lake so she could see if the city and state are doing the tests the same way. For the local test results to be included in state data, the city has to use the same protocols. Westmoreland was pleased to see that is what's happening.

"We confirmed we are doing the tests properly," Westmoreland said. "When we started, initially we had some questions but most of those have been resolved. This was validation for us. The way we collect the data can have a big impact on the results."

The local testing came as a result of worries early this spring that nutrients were being loaded in the



Douglas, left, pulls samples from West Point Lake as St. Alban logs data on the lake last week.

lake and not measured. Too many nutrients can affect fish habitats. When the state made the decision in April to reduce flows on Peachtree Creek, officials here, along with the Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, worried that enough testing wasn't being done to make sure lower flows didn't allow nutrients to flourish.

The state wanted the reduced flow because if the flow at the creek south of Atlanta was reduced, it would mean more water could be stored north of Atlanta in Lake Lanier, which has been struggling to refill since the height of the drought last fall.

Local lake observers didn't object

when the flow was lowered through April, but did protest when the state got permission from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to keep the low flow through May. The warmer the temperatures, the better the conditions for nutrients.

LaGrange and the SOS committee, sponsored by the LaGrange-Troup County Chamber of Commerce, started the comprehensive testing early this summer. The tests include measurements of phosphorus and nitrogen, as well as a host of other nutrients, biological indicators and other yardsticks that can indicate the health of the lake and

SEE WATER, PAGE 2

## Nonposted house numbers plaguing county

By Joel Martin  
Senior writer

Finding the right home in the unincorporated area of Troup County can be a problem for emergency personnel when the address isn't posted on the mailbox.

The county addressed the issue about 20 years ago, but "maybe it's time to look at it again," impact fee administrator Scott Turk told county commissioners Friday.

He said he will look at how other counties are handling the problem.

The city of LaGrange requires residents to post their address. If they fail to comply, the city will do it for them and send residents a bill.

There's no such requirement in the unincorporated area, but the County Commission may change that with a new ordinance.

"We've had several calls where residences were not marked and we've had to ask for a description of the residence or have a family member come down to the road and flag us down," said county Fire Chief Jerry Heard.

Commission Chairman Ricky Wolfe said that in the county where he used to live, the post office wouldn't deliver mail unless the address was posted on the mailbox.

"If someone dies of a heart attack next week because Jerry couldn't find them, that's a problem," Wolfe said.

Most fire department calls are for medical problems because firefighters are trained as first responders.

In another matter at Friday's commission meeting, county engineer James Emery said the county's special-purpose local-option sales tax has paid off with "huge improvements on roads all over Troup County."

The six-year tax, which began in January 2007, will raise a projected \$70 million, much of it for road work in the cities and unincorporated area.

Emery, who recognized road crew foreman Ricky Hacker for an outstanding job, said the tax also has allowed the county to buy state-of-the-art road paving equipment, including a new asphalt paving machine.

The county had considered operating its own asphalt plant, but instead entered into a contract with C.W. Matthews, which has an asphalt plant on Vulcan Materials Road.

"We're getting a great deal on asphalt" this year, Emery said, because the price was set Jan. 1 before gasoline prices went through the roof. "We've gotten first class, extremely high-quality paving, and it's being done at a high production level."

Joel Martin can be reached at jmartin@lagrangenews.com or at (706) 884-7311, Ext. 235.

## Ministry may close for lack of funding

By Joel Martin  
Senior writer

Fellowship Deliverance Ministry Inc. may have to close in 60 to 90 days unless donations pick up.

"We need support and I want the public to know about it," said the Rev. Max Riley, who started the residential treatment program 13 years ago in a converted crack house on Murphy Avenue. "Without support, it's going to be hard to keep our doors open."

The nonprofit, which offers an 18-month substance-abuse program for up to 32 men, receives an annual \$10,000 grant from the state Department of Community and a relatively small stipend from a church in LaGrange and

another in Palmetto.

Program fees from clients who can hang on to a job, along with donations, are supposed to supplement the \$182,000 annual budget, but donations have fallen off in recent years because of the slackening economy.

The Callaway Foundation has pitched in twice with brick and mortar needs, once in 1999 and again in 2000, but Riley has had to dip into his own income from construction and remodeling jobs to keep the ministry afloat.

Riley said the building at 207 W. Mulberry St. needs a new roof, among other repairs, and donations of building materials would help.

"We're not just a homeless

shelter," Riley said. "We also offer job training, job placement assistance, resume building, help with transportation" and life skills training. "We help more people on the street than we do people who come through this ministry."

Added his wife, Rebecca Riley, who co-founded the ministry: "We have the heart to do what we do by the grace of God. This is our calling. But it takes more than just a heart to help the homeless, the mentally challenged and people with an addiction - it takes financial support."

Rick, a 54-year-old client who didn't want to use his full name, said he was an alcohol

SEE MINISTRY, PAGE 2



Joel Martin / Daily News

From left are the Rev. Bill Fannings, board treasurer, and Fellowship Deliverance Ministry Inc. co-founders Rebecca and Max Riley.



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