

HERNANDO TODAY

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HERNANDO TODAY

SPORTS



Boy's Cross Country:
Central High paces County effort with seventh-place finish. See Page A10.

LATE BULLETIN

The Brooksville City Council picked Tom Hogan of the Hogan Law Firm of Brooksville to be the city attorney. Look for details in tomorrow's *Hernando Today*.

Big turnout expected at Job Fair

By TONY HOLT
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BROOKSVILLE — Last year, approximately 800 job seekers packed the Hernando County Job Fair submitting resumes, filling out applications and sitting down for first and second interviews with local businesses.

More of the same is expected today as organizers anticipate seeing a long line forming outside Heffernan Hall before the doors open.

Keeping the crowd outside becomes a bigger challenge for organizers year after year. In 2006, people were waiting outside the doors almost an hour before the fair opened.

"Vendors were taking

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1 Chile's coastline stretches for 2,700 miles long, running from the Atacama, the world's most arid desert in the north, through forests, valleys, mountains, lakes, glacier fields, the Tierra del Fuego and the Antarctic Circle in the south.

2 Chile is never more than 110 miles wide east to west.

3 Chile provides North America with almost 15 percent of all its fruit sales during the months of November through April and is the second-largest producer of salmon in the world.

4 Soccer is Chile's national sport.

5 There are more than 2,000 volcanoes in Chile, of which about 50 are active.

Prosecutors band together to fight breast cancer



Staff photo by BOB EAST III

Sporting her Piggy Power T-shirt, Mary Johnston, right, a victims advocate in the state attorney's office, talks with Jo Anne Clay at a fund raising grill out at the Hernando County Courthouse Wednesday. Staffers from the state attorney's office grilled hamburgers and hot dogs to raise funds for breast cancer charities.

By KYLE MARTIN
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BROOKSVILLE — Prosecutors set aside courtroom rhetoric Wednesday to flip some burgers for a good cause.

The aroma of sizzling franks and patties lured a steady stream of government center patrons and employees to the handicap entrance of the downtown building.

Folks were also drawn to a chance to plunk down a donation to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

In two weeks, employees of the State Attorney's Office will take the cash with them to a breast cancer memorial walk in St. Petersburg.

Wednesday's cookout is part of a group effort by all five counties in the Fifth Judicial Circuit to beat last year's goal of \$3,600. So far, em-

ployees have raised \$2,200.

Among the crowd lining up for lunch were employees from the Citrus County office, who teamed up with Sumter County to make their donation.

"The whole circuit is really coming together," said Donna Brown, an organizer of the event.

A driving force behind Hernando County's effort is the death of a longtime investigator at the office,

Glenn Hurst.

Hurst was an ex-cop who worked the streets during a time when "pig" was the popular epithet for people in his line of work.

He took the slur in stride and turned it around to mean Pride, Integrity and Guts — the fundamental elements of a good police officer.

See **BREAST CANCER**, Page A2

School board to vote again on two hot issues

SUPERINTENDENT WANTS INPUT FROM ALL BOARD MEMBERS

By TONY MARRERO
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BROOKSVILLE — Two big issues will come back before the school board so all five members can vote on them.

A controversial teacher merit pay plan and much-debated revisions to the school magnet program died with 2 to 2 votes by the school board Tuesday night. School board member Jim Malcolm was out of town.

Under district policy, school superintendent Wayne Alexander can bring issues back the board for another vote.

Alexander said Wednesday that he plans to do just that.

"In an ideal world, I wouldn't have board meetings when board members can't be there," Alexander said. "I al-

ways feel like I'm cheating the district, but business has to go on."

The two issues, however, have been the focus of much discussion in recent months. Alexander said the point is not just how Malcolm would vote, but that all five board members get a chance to weigh in to help give him direction.

"I would be wondering what (a board member) would have said and what was missing in terms of ideas, suggestions and needs," Alexander said.

Malcolm did not return calls for comment Wednesday. It is unclear how

he would have voted on either issue.

However, he has called himself a magnet school "purist" who favors increasing the number of students accepted by portfolio.

And he opposed a previous incarnation of the state's teacher merit pay plan.

Board members Dianne Bonfield and John Sweeney dissented in each of the two votes Tuesday.

Currently, 60 percent of students at

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Former county worker to vie for commission

GAINES SAYS SHE KNOWS COUNTY 'FROM INSIDE'

By TONY MARRERO
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BROOKSVILLE — Pamela Gaines sees the irony in her bid for county commission. Gaines, 51, lost her job as an executive secretary in the county's utilities department earlier this year as a result of "effi-

ciencies that can be accomplished by consolidating divisions and functions," according to a letter she received notifying her that her position had been eliminated.

Now the Brooksville Democrat wants the commission's District 5 seat currently held by Chris Kingsley — and if elected would likely be asked to continue a trend to shrink government.

"I think there are areas that can be pared down," Gaines said, adding that if the Jan. 29 constitutional amendment for a "super"

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Cable customers prepare for channel changes

WILL COST \$1 A MONTH FOR NON-DIGITAL USERS

By MICHAEL D. BATES
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BROOKSVILLE — Effective Dec. 11, Bright House Networks cable customers will have to consult their TV guides to find some of their favorite channels.

To provide more programming and to create uniformity

across its service area, Bright House will realign its channels and move all public, educational and government access channels to the lowest tier of digital service.

But the channel realignment comes with a cost.

Cable customers whose televisions aren't equipped with digital capability will have to pay \$1 per month for a digital converter box.

Ray Graber, director of government and public relations for

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