



# The Beaufort Gazette

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## IT'S SATURDAY MORNING — TIME FOR SCHOOL?



Photos by **JAY KARR** • The Beaufort Gazette

**Seventh-grade English teacher Ginger Garner leads a lesson on figurative speech during the Saturday school program at Robert Smalls Middle School.**

### Weekend sessions help students get ahead — and kids seem to like it

By **KATE CERVE**  
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**E**leven-year-old Trevon Grier doesn't laze around on Saturday mornings watching cartoons.

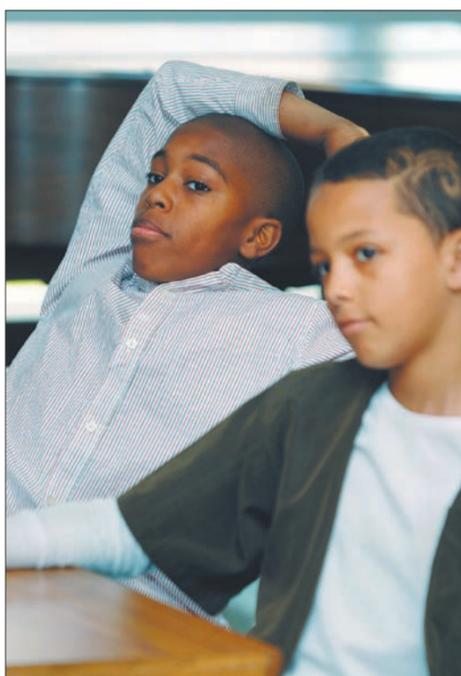
He wakes up early to catch a ride to school, where he spends two hours practicing math and reading.

Trevon participates in Robert Smalls Middle School's new Saturday school program. It's one of a small number of schools in Beaufort County offering optional Saturday classes to give students extra academic help.

LaToya Grier, Trevon's mother, said she believes her son should take advantage of all opportunities to get ahead that the school offers.

"The school is going to be open, and you should go," she told him.

Please see **SCHOOL** on 11A



**Trevon Grier, left, and Omar Daniels listen to teacher Ginger Garner during Robert Smalls Middle School's Saturday program.**

### AFTERMATH OF JAPAN EARTHQUAKE, TSUNAMI

## Death toll hits 1,800

### As cleanup begins, officials warn of new tsunami risk

By **JAY ALABASTER** and **TODD PITMAN**  
The Associated Press

SOMA, Japan — Soldiers and officials along a stretch of Japan's northeastern coast warned residents that the area could be hit by another tsunami today and ordered them to higher ground. But the Meteorological Agency said there was no risk of another deadly wave.

Sirens around the town of Soma went off this morning and public address systems ordered residents to higher ground.

Farther south along the coast, helicopters flew over coastal communities warning residents to head to higher ground. In Sendai, the biggest city in the area, police announced warnings on a public address system.

Officials have confirmed about 1,800 deaths from Friday's earthquake and tsunami — including 200 people whose bodies were found Sunday along the coast — and said more than 1,700 were missing and 1,900 injured.

The death toll seemed certain to get much higher after a report from Miyagi, one of the three hardest-hit states. The police chief estimated that more than 10,000 people were killed there, police spokesman Go Sugawara said.

Some media outlets reported late Sunday that 2,000 bodies had been

Please see **TOLL** on 11A

### NUCLEAR CONCERNS

## Explosion reported at plant

By **ERIC TALMADGE** and **MARI YAMAGUCHI**  
The Associated Press

SOMA, Japan — The second hydrogen explosion in three days rocked Japan's stricken Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant early today, sending a massive column of smoke into the air and wounding six workers. It was not immediately clear how much — if any — radiation had been released.

The explosion at the plant's Unit 3, which authorities have been frantically trying to cool following a system failure in the wake of a massive earthquake and tsunami, triggered an order for hundreds of people to stay indoors, said Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano.

The blast follows a similar explosion Saturday that took place at the plant's Unit 1, which injured four workers and caused mass-evacuations.

Japan's nuclear safety agency said

Please see **NUCLEAR** on 11A

### ABOUT TOWN

## Fashion store opens on Bay Street — again

By **JULIANN VACHON**  
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After a two-year hiatus, It's Me! Fashions has returned to Bay Street, next to its former location at the corner of Bay and Charles streets.

The fashion and accessory store stood at that corner for 18 years before owner Sandra Breland decided to retire about two years ago.

Breland's retirement, however, was short-lived.

"I just wasn't happy not working," Breland said. "I guess I worked so long, it's just become part of me."

When the Butterfly Shop at 928½ Bay

### WHAT IS ABOUT TOWN?

As you drive around northern Beaufort County, you notice a sign for a new shop or new construction. Or you realize an old store has gone out of business. About Town answers the ques-

tion. "What's going on here?" If you have information about something that has changed the local landscape or if you wonder about one of those changes, contact reporter Juliann Vachon at jvachon@beaufortgazette.com or 843-706-8184.

St. announced it was closing, Breland jumped at the chance to revive her store in a new space, she said. It's Me! Fashions reopened in February and offers clothes, shoes, jewelry, purses and other accessories for

women, Breland said. Breland, of Ridgeland, has worked in retail for more than 25 years and owned stores in Hardeeville, Bluffton and Hampton County, she said. Beaufort's historic Bay Street has

seen many stores come and go in the past year and a half. Many of their owners attribute the closings to the economy.

Breland said a smaller store size will allow her to capitalize on Bay Street's location without draining the budget, hence her decision to open in a space of about 400 square feet.

"I have something in every single spot of the store," Breland said. "Bay Street has its bad months, but it has its good months, too. You just have to make the most of the good times."

It's Me! Fashions is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Details: 843-524-2456

### DEATHS, 4A

Angie Smith, 64  
William Shockey, 63

### INSIDE TODAY'S GAZETTE

**Facebook helps long-lost siblings find each other — and other family members they didn't even know about. 1C**



### QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If we all did the things we are capable of doing, we would literally astound ourselves."  
**Thomas Edison**

