

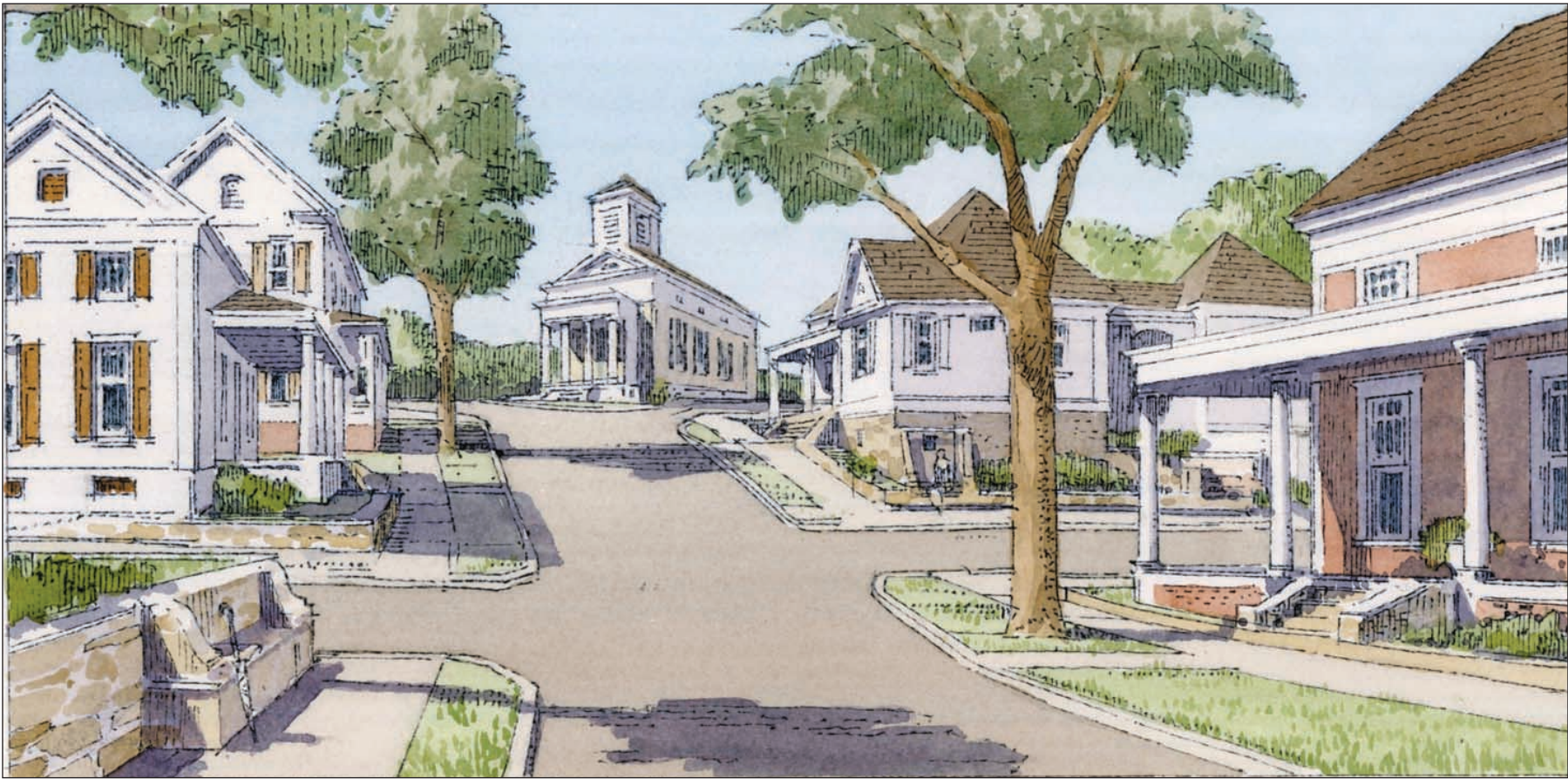
# LaGrange Daily News

In our 161st year

August 18, 2004

50 cents

## 'This is like lift-off time'



This artist's rendering shows plans for part of a proposed community at Upper Big Springs Road and Interstate 85.

## Leaders get look at final plan for community

By Jennifer Shrader  
Staff Writer

The design for a planned community at Upper Big Springs Road and Interstate 85 has passed the scrutiny of a nine-day "charrette" with community leaders.

The next step is a slew of state and local tests before construction can begin.

"This is like lift-off time," said Joe Alfandre, who is developing the property with partner Bruno Bottarelli.

What is likely to be the final design plan was shown during the planning session's final presentation Tuesday, attended by more than 100 community leaders and local residents. Last week the town planning firm of Duany, Plater-Zyberk & Co. came up with two versions of a design plan - one with large open space areas, the other with smaller neighborhood parks. Tuesday's final plan seemed to combine some of both versions. It includes 2,849 housing units at a rate of seven per acre, and 115 acres of open space, including wetlands and parks.

There is about 50,000 square feet of space for retail shops. Kennedy Smith, former director of the National MainStreet Program, told

designers last week she believed the development could support about 35,000 square feet, which is the size of Big Lots or LaGrange City Hall.

"You'll notice on the design the space marked for retail is applied like lipstick to make it stretch out as far as possible," said Mike Watkins, director of town planning for Duany, Plater-Zyberk. "We're flattered you all think we could compete with your downtown."

Planners have said since they arrived in town last week that the new community is not meant to compete with, but to enhance, downtown and the rest of LaGrange.

"Think of it this way," Watkins said. "A lot of people have more than one mode of transportation in their garage. A car and a bicycle. Do you think the car is jealous of the bicycle? They're both used for different things."

In the plan, nearly every home will face a tree-lined street, a park or Mallory Lake, a 17-acre pond in the southwest corner of the property. There are plans for a community center, neighborhood performing arts center, a recreation center and even a school, if the population warrants it. There's a



This drawing shows developers' plans for the project. The two halves of the development would be connected by a pedestrian walkway over the interstate, which runs from the lower left to the upper right in the sketch.

neighborhood friendly" gas station and a community garden.

In completing the design,

SEE **PROJECT**, PAGE 2

## Visions lead Maryland woman to discover LaGrange

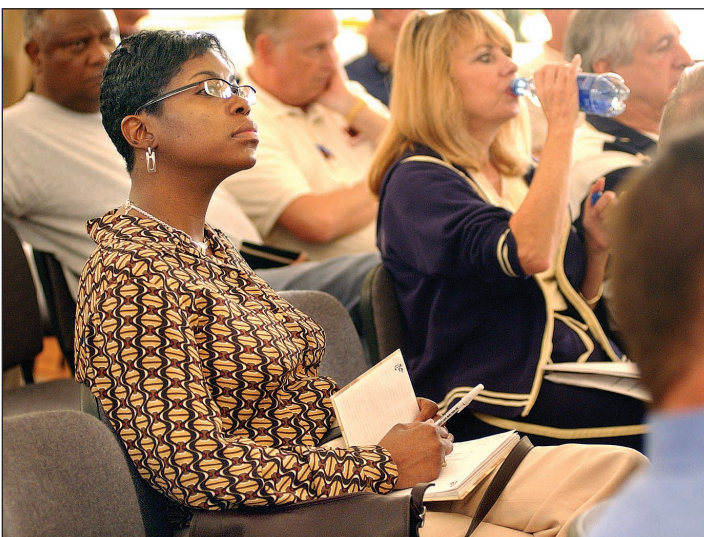
By Jennifer Shrader  
Staff Writer

Betty Brown doesn't know if she'll be moving into one of the houses in the planned community on Upper Big Springs Road, but she knows she's going to have a home somewhere in LaGrange.

The 35-year-old systems analyst from Beltsville, Md., believes it's been ordained by God she come to the city.

"I don't know why God chose me," she said. "I think he wanted someone from outside the area to come and see the project so people would know it was real."

Brown hadn't even heard of LaGrange until March 2003, when she was in her lawyer's office getting patents for two inventions, both having to do with vehicle security. When her lawyer asked what she was going to do with the proceeds from the inventions, she mentioned moving to Georgia. An Arkansas native, she was



Mike Jacoby / Daily News

Betty Brown of Beltsville, Md., plans to move to LaGrange after visiting the city, then attending a planning session for a planned community on Upper Big Springs Road.

hoping to return with her 17-year-old daughter to her Southern roots.

"A woman came by who I had never seen before and said, 'You should go to LaGrange,'" Brown recalled.

Shortly after that, Brown visited her sister-in-law at Fort Benning. When her sister invited her on a day trip, she said they were going to LaGrange.

"I said, 'OK, God, you really want me to go to this town.

If I'm supposed to be here, let me know,'" Brown recalled.

On their way into the city on Hamilton Road, the two women passed Wright Street. Wright is Brown's maiden name. Then they passed Brown Street.

"We prayed right there in the car," Brown said.

After her visit, Brown says she started envisioning a property with a lake and trees. It was a city inside a city with homes and stores. Soon after that, Brown learned of the planned community on Upper Big Springs Road, which seemed to mirror her vision. She attended the developers' charrette this week.

When she saw the plan, "It was everything God already had showed me," she said.

Brown met those involved in the project, including Mike Watkins, director of town planning for Duany, Plater-Zyberk & Co.

"I think if someone has that strong a relationship with

God, anything is possible," Watkins said.

Brown said she's been given visions from God before and has learned not to be afraid of them. Recently she envisioned a nursing home for seniors at her church, Mount Jezreel Baptist Church in Silver Spring, Md. The next day, the pastor announced the church was taking on such a project.

Brown believes her visions for LaGrange are part of a higher calling. She believes God is telling her to use the money from her inventions to possibly help with future developments.

"There's another town out there," she said. "When I got back to the hotel, I started seeing raw land again. God has just shown me I need to provide for others."

Jennifer Shrader can be reached at [jshrader@lagrangenews.com](mailto:jshrader@lagrangenews.com) or at (706) 884-7311, ext. 236.

## Perdue warns of meth epidemic

ATLANTA (AP) - Georgia officials depicted the growing trend of methamphetamine use in uniquely Southern terms - Gov. Sonny Perdue said use of the addictive drug was growing like kudzu - but the numbers told the drug's true story.

Meth cases in the state have more than doubled over three years, jumping from 854 cases to more than 1,800 in 2003.

"By one analysis, we're on pace to have more than 2,000 rural meth seizures this year - a record, a record we don't cherish," Perdue said Tuesday at a summit, which brought together police, drug treatment experts and lawmakers over a two-day period to devise recommendations for their communities and the state.

Part of the drug's popularity stems from how easy it is to make. The sample meth lab set up outside the conference room looked more like a toolshed than a drug manufacturing center. A pile of matches, a few household products and a handful of chemicals that can be obtained at a local hardware store lay on the table.

And that ease has made production of meth particularly problematic in rural areas where the toxic fumes created during its production go unnoticed.

"LSD needs a certified chemist, but meth can be made in pots and pans," said

SEE **METH**, PAGE 2

## College, exit exams not linked, study finds

The Associated Press

Many high school graduation tests don't measure whether students are ready for college or work, and some states haven't even made clear what the purpose of their test is, a study finds.

Of the 25 states that have or plan graduation exams, only one, Georgia, says its test ensures students are prepared for higher education or work. Most of the states gear their tests toward 10th- or 11th-grade learning, and some gauge pre-ninth grade skills, according to the Center on Education Policy, a research group. Its annual review of these exams was released today.

With 20 states now withholding diplomas from students who don't pass tests in English and math, if not other subjects, the common assumption is that the tests measure college readiness, said Keith Gayler, the lead author of the report. That's wrong, he said.

The center found some states had little clarity about the purpose of their tests, which makes the exams harder to explain and defend politically, said director Jack Jennings.

"If they're not clear, then they can't write an exam that's legitimate," Jennings said of state leaders. "We're urging states to re-examine their policies."

High-school graduation now hinges on exit exams for more

SEE **EXAMS**, PAGE 2

### Weather

Scattered clouds  
High 91, Low 68

Today's weather picture is from Lauren Pittman, fourth grade, West Side Magnet School.

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### Sports

The Callaway Cavaliers will open their season Thursday with a home game against Heard County.

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### Nation

In hurricane-prone areas, some people choose to live in mobile homes, but others have no choice.

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## Georgia digest

### Edwards raises \$1.1 million

ATLANTA (AP) — John Edwards' appearances in Georgia raised more than a million dollars for the Democratic presidential campaign, state Democrats reported Tuesday.

Emil Runge, Democratic spokesman, said the fundraiser that Edwards attended in downtown Atlanta on Monday brought in \$1.1 million. Edwards headlined the event, which included a \$2000-a-person reception and a \$25,000-per-couple dinner at the Hyatt Regency hotel.

Runge had no figures for attendance at the two events, but an earlier free rally in College Park drew about 3,600. Edwards described presidential nominee John Kerry as a strong leader who would be a better commander in chief than President Bush.

### Art school plans Atlanta campus

SAVANNAH (AP) — After 25 years of rapid growth on the Georgia coast, the Savannah College of Art and Design announced Tuesday plans to open a satellite campus in Atlanta.

The new campus, called SCAD-Atlanta, will begin offering classes in 2005, though a final location and list of available majors have yet to be decided, said Paula S. Wallace, president and co-founder of the college.

Since the Savannah college, known locally as SCAD, opened in 1979, enrollment has shot from 71 students to nearly 7,000.

## Local weather

### THURSDAY



High 91 Low 69  
Scattered clouds

### FRIDAY



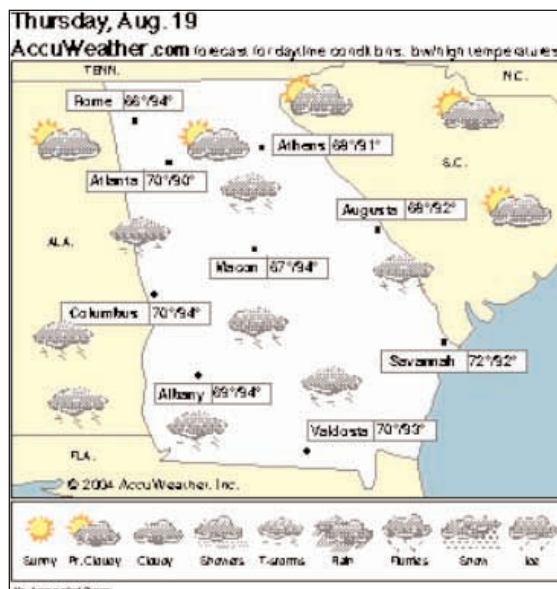
High 89 Low 71  
Chance of thunderstorms

### SATURDAY

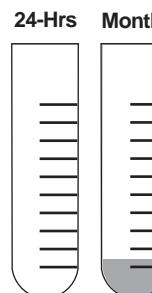


High 88 Low 69  
Chance of thunderstorms

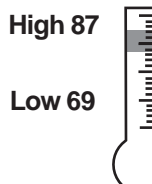
### Georgia Weather



### Rainfall



### Yesterday



## LaGrange Daily News

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## LaGrange Daily News

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**On the Net:**  
Center on Education Policy:  
<http://www.cep-dc.org>



Mike Jacoby / Daily News

Developers show off the final plans for the proposed community to about 100 residents Tuesday afternoon at the offices of DASH for LaGrange Inc.

## PROJECT FROM 1

planners had to find a way to connect all 240 acres, which are split in half by a power line. I-85 runs through the center of the property and there's a petroleum line easement on the west side.

The final plan Tuesday included a pedestrian walkway over the interstate.

"It's a gateway to wake drivers up and let them know they're in LaGrange," Watkins said.

## EXAMS FROM 1

than half of all public school students, and that number is expected to grow to seven in 10 students by 2009.

Alfandre said the design is still in the conceptual drawing phase at this stage, but he wasn't worried about building around the interstate.

"I've gotten used to building in unusual areas," he said.

He also hinted there could be more challenges.

"Do you know a good beaver trapper?" he asked the crowd.

Developers must now put the final touches on the design, then get approval from the state for the plan. After

Meanwhile, colleges and employers continue to warn that schools are graduating students who cannot communicate, analyze or reason well enough to succeed. High school graduation exams have been promoted as one way to ensure students leave with quality skills.

The graduation exams appear to be encouraging schools to cover more of the content in their state standards, and to add remedial courses or other help for students who are at risk of failing the exams, the report said.

But there are drawbacks to the tests, too, it said, such as a narrowing of curriculum and the steering of some students away from a traditional diploma.

The center takes no position on the tests, aiming instead to highlight what's working and what's not as state leaders weigh decisions. The center collected data from the states, reviewed research and convened a national panel on the tests' impacts.

Many state officials said their high schools and colleges have not discussed tying the exit exams to what students need to know in college. Maryland and Washington were exceptions, and many states have moved toward more challenging tests.

With the debate over the exams quieting somewhat, states have a chance to close gaps in achievement for blacks, Hispanics and poor kids, Gayler said. To move right to high school tests that measure college readiness, he said, would yield "so few students passing at this point that the reforms would crumble under their own weight."

Typically, 65 percent to 85 percent of students pass their test on their first try. Comparisons between states are inappropriate because tests are different, the report said.

Thousands of students did not graduate this year because they failed exit tests, but the total number is not available because of appeals and a lack of data tracking, it said.

Earlier this year, an alliance of education groups called the American Diploma Project warned that high school graduation has lost its meaning. In calling for more rigor, the group said exit exams should be broad enough to test years of high school content, and colleges should use the tests in determining where to place new students.

that, LaGrange City Council will have its first chance to give the development its approval. Bottarelli said city approval could happen within 90 days.

"By next summer, we could be in the ground," he said.

The entire project is expected to take up to 10 years to complete.

Jennifer Shrader can be reached at [jshrader@lagrangenews.com](mailto:jshrader@lagrangenews.com) or at (706) 884-7311, ext. 236.

## Public safety

### Teen charged with trying to enter auto

A 14-year-old LaGrange boy was charged Tuesday with criminal attempt entering an auto, possession of tools during the commission of a crime and criminal trespass after an incident across from Cannon Street Elementary School at 115 E. Cannon St.

Police said a witness saw the teen and another juvenile attempt to pry open a door of a locked 1998 Chevrolet Prizm. More than \$300 in damage was done to the car.

The two left the parking lot on foot, soon followed by police. Officers found a hammer and screwdriver in the path the juveniles had taken.

The 14-year-old was found on Hamilton Road. He was released to his mother's custody, pending a court date at Troup County Juvenile Court.

The other youth involved was not found.

### Thefts

Three employees of Ruby Tuesdays at 305 Morgan St. returned to their cars after work Tuesday to discover items stolen from their vehicles.

Stereos were taken from two vehicles, and a debit card was stolen from the console of the third.

Police viewed a surveillance video of the parking lot and saw a man entering all three vehicles.

A \$100 red, white, and blue "Horton Homes" flag was stolen Tuesday from the 2000 block of Whitesville Road.

A 1990 Chevrolet truck was stolen Tuesday from a parking lot at 601 Union St.

Items totaling more than \$200 were charged on a woman's debit card Thursday. She didn't notice her missing card until Tuesday.

Almost \$1,000 in items was stolen from a vehicle Tuesday in the 100 block of Smith Street. Stolen items include a car stereo, portable CD player and CDs.

### Arrests

Carol L. Milner, 48, of Shiloh was charged Tuesday with felony theft by shoplifting after she allegedly stole more than \$130 in items from Wal-Mart at 803 New Franklin Road in LaGrange. Milner has three previous convictions for theft by shoplifting.

**CRIME STOPPERS**  
812-1000

## Obituaries

Information for obituaries is written and provided by funeral homes and family members of the deceased.

**Hunter-Allen-Myhand Funeral Home**  
506 Hill Street  
LaGrange, Georgia 30241  
706-884-5626

**Mackey-Wilson-Jennings Funeral Home, Inc.**  
507 East Depot Street  
LaGrange, Georgia 30240  
(706) 882-6612 Day or Night

### James Brown Jr.

James "Junebug" Brown Jr., 52, of 506-A Borton St. died Friday at West Georgia Medical Center.

Mr. Brown, born Feb. 4, 1952, in LaGrange, was the son of Elsie Brown and the late James W. Brown Sr.

Survivors include a son James Webber; daughters, Tina Brown, Catrina Dukes Bianca Brown and April Whitehead; two stepsons and two stepdaughters; brothers, Larry Brown, Danny Brown, John Brown; and a sister, Lillian Brown; special friends, Eva C. Brooks and Etrulia Dukes, all of LaGrange.

Funeral services will be Thursday at 3 p.m. at Solomon Grove Baptist Church with the Rev. John Tompkins officiating. Burial will be in Southview Cemetery. The family will receive friends at his home.

A service entrusted to Mackey-Wilson-Jennings Funeral Home.

## METH FROM 1

Sherri Strange, a Drug Enforcement Administration special agent.

Two years ago, when Strange helped oversee drug enforcement officials in Oklahoma, officers were finding two or three meth labs a day. "We were at our wits' end," she said. "We couldn't arrest ourselves out of the situation."

After Oklahoma held a similar summit, legislators passed a law that requires anyone buying over-the-counter cold medications that can be used to make the potent drug to show photo identification and sign for the purchase.

Strange said the bans helped the state log a 75 percent reduction in meth labs. "It changed the history of Oklahoma," she said.

Perdue didn't promise a similar legislative response. The governor said he didn't want meth to be the "cause du jour" in this year's legislative session, and drug enforcement officials warned of the power of drug companies in almost hushed tones.

"The pharmaceutical industry has their own ideas, and they're a very, very, very powerful lobby," said Phillipa LeVine, a DEA officer.

The state, though, has already passed tougher punishments for people who make and sell meth. It's a felony in Georgia to possess more than 300 over-the-counter cold pills, which is used to produce meth. It's also a felony to possess any amount of anhydrous ammonia, a common fertilizer, with the intent of making meth.

Parents and caregivers can also be held criminally accountable for reckless child endangerment in meth-related cases, a law which also creates a separate felony for making meth in the presence of a child.

Perdue said four children have died in rural Georgia so far this year in suspected meth-related cases.

Summitgoers also stressed the environmental effects of meth. Every pound of meth produced yields five to six pounds of toxic waste, which is often dumped into waterways and the sewage system. The DEA estimates it will spend \$15.7 million this year to clean up meth labs, and if a lab is found on private property, the high-priced cleanup bill goes to the private landowner.

Perdue urged officials to work together and avoid turf battles.

"I know I paint a grim picture," he said. "That's because it's a grim situation."

## Setting it straight

The Daily News is committed to reporting information fairly and accurately. It is our policy to correct errors, omissions or misleading statements. Corrections should be reported at 884-7316 or via e-mail to [editor@lagrangenews.com](mailto:editor@lagrangenews.com)



### Helen M. Kaylor

Mrs. Helen Eugenia McAllister Kaylor, 95, of LaGrange, formerly of Oak Ridge Tenn., died Tuesday, Aug. 17, 2004, at Florence Hand Home.

Mrs. Kaylor, born May 17, 1909, in Boulder, Colo., was the daughter of the late Milo and Eugenia Easley McAllister. She had lived here since 1992 was an educator, homemaker and was Presbyterian.

Survivors include two daughters and a son-in-law, Patricia Lynn and Sidney Michael Gay of LaGrange and Deborah Elaine Kaylor Phillips of Chattanooga, Tenn.; four grandchildren, Carlos Guillermo and Janelle Schweinfurth of Duluth, Helen Alejandra Schweinfurth of Long Island, N.Y., and Samuel Falcon and Lynn Phillips and Halian August and Kimberly Phillips, all of Memphis, Tenn.; and four great-grandchildren, Gabrielle Nicole Schweinfurth, Sydney Taylor Schweinfurth, Allison Nichole Phillips and Graham Michael Phillips.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Lloyd Milton Kaylor, and a son, Phillip Clark Kaylor.

The family will receive friends at Hunter-Allen-Myhand Funeral Home Thursday evening from 6 until 8.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the LaGrange Memorial Library, 114 Alford St., LaGrange, GA 30240 in memory of Mrs. Kaylor.

### Hunter-Allen-Myhand Funeral Home

506 Hill Street  
LaGrange, Georgia 30241  
706-884-5626

### Mildred Treadwell

Mrs. Mildred Treadwell of LaGrange died Monday, Aug. 16, 2004, at Florence Hand Home.

Mrs. Treadwell, born June 9, 1915, in Chambers County, Ala., was the daughter of the late Obie and Willie Pearl Brand. She had lived here most of her life, retired from Callaway Mills and was a member of Baptist Tabernacle.

Survivors include a daughter and son-in-law, Janice and Sonny Kent Jr. of LaGrange; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Charley Sr. and Joyce Treadwell of Lanett, Ala., and Leon Treadwell of LaGrange; eight grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren; two brothers, William D. Brand of LaGrange and Alfred E. Brand of Wichita, Kan.; and several nieces and nephews.

Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. today in Hillview East Cemetery with the Rev. A.W. Kent Jr. officiating.

Hunter-Allen-Myhand Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

## Man sentenced for car thefts

ATLANTA (AP) — An Atlanta man has been sentenced to 10 years in prison for stealing cars from his neighbors and selling them over a five-year period.

Mark Avery Husbands, 35, copied down vehicle identification numbers of cars in his neighborhood and had duplicate keys made.

Husbands, who pleaded guilty Monday to 21 counts theft and forgery, gave the buyers phony bills of sale and title certificates. He used fake names and a fictitious South Carolina address.