

Local & State

COASTALPEOPLE
by Lindsey Adkison



Area author weaves tale of indigo

Pamela Bauer Mueller is at it again.

The Jekyll Island author is back with another historical novel set in the Lowcountry. But this one was not something that she had planned. The book's creation is proof that inspiration never sleeps.

"A weaver friend of mine who lives on Jekyll Island came to my house and told me, 'I know who your next subject should be.' I was tired from marketing (her previous book), 'Splendid Isolation,' so I groaned and stuck my fingers in my ears," she said.

Mueller insisted that the was going take a break from writing for a while. But her friend wouldn't take no for an answer.

"Her name is Eliza Lucas Pinckney," she continued, prying the fingers from my ears. "She was the first colonist to successfully cultivate indigo in the New World, and she did this at age 17," Mueller said.

That sparked her interest. For good measure, her friend also tossed in tidbits like the fact that Pinckney's sons were close friends of President George Washington and that he was a pallbearer at Pinckney's funeral.

With that, Mueller was officially hooked.



Bobby Haven/The Brunswick News

Pamela Bauer Mueller will be at Beachview Books on Mallory Street on St. Simons Island on Friday from 5 to 7 p.m.

"I left the following week to spend 10 days at the South Carolina Historical Society in Charleston, researching this amazing woman's life. My research took about nine months, and the writing another eight months," she said.

The result of her work was "Water to my Soul," a narrative of Pinckney's life and an in-depth description of how she brought the dye of the indigo plant to the South — an act, Mueller says, that brought wealth to her family, her neighbors and the region before the start of the American Revolution.

"Her remarkable success in

the 18th-century Colonial world is a noteworthy achievement that required skill, luck and a strong personality. The fact that she did this while working within the enormous social constraints faced by women make her even more remarkable," she said.

What's just as remarkable is how Mueller put together her detailed books in only 22 months, a time that includes printing and editing. It's something that Mueller says has gotten easier with practice.

"Writing these historical novels has become easier because now I've developed a formula.

I begin my research by going to sources with old documents pertaining to the subject, the time period and other real people with whom she/he interacted. I read everything I can find already written about that person: novels, newspaper articles, magazines, etc. I e-mail other authors who have written about the time period, and we share information," she said.

"Everything goes into a thick notebook, usually handwritten notes, with sticky tabs, so I can easily find my categories as I write. Then, I sit down and write."

She finds that she's most creative early in the day. "6 a.m. to 9 a.m., and then I put it away until later or the next day. My stories grow and evolve through the months I write them, but I try to get down large sections of the story before I "rewrite," so I don't get bogged down spending too much time on that," she said.

Mueller is currently discussing "Water to my Soul" and the creative process behind it at several local book stores. She will make an appearance from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday at Beachview Books, 215 Mallory St., St. Simons Island. She will also visit other locations in the coming months.

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Crash knocks out power

DAWSONVILLE: Authorities say the aftermath of a hit-and-run crash led to a second wreck that knocked out power to a neighborhood north of Atlanta.

Police say a driver who was involved in a fender bender outside a Dawson County Kroger store left the scene around 11 p.m. Monday and headed north on Georgia 400. Sheriff's officials pursued the pickup until its driver lost control and slammed into a utility pole.

Authorities say a 13-year-old passenger in the truck was trapped for nearly 90 minutes before being freed.

Dawson County sheriff's office spokesman Sgt. Tony Wooten said the driver was taken into custody, and it wasn't certain yet what charges he would face.

CONYERS: A woman and her daughter were shot outside a private school in Rockdale County, and the woman's husband has been arrested, authorities said.

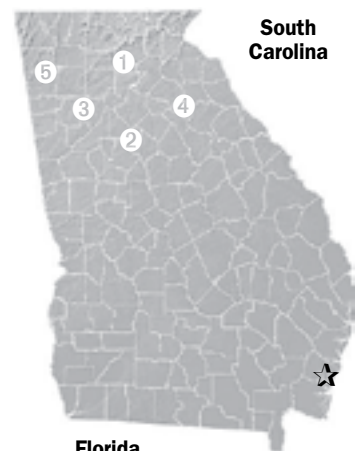
The woman had just driven up to Little Mountain Christian Academy to drop off her daughter around 6:30 a.m. Tuesday and was sitting in her car when gunshots rang out, sheriff's officers said.

"She heard gunshots and realized she'd been shot and realized her daughter had been shot and ran inside for help," Rockdale County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Jodi Shupe said.

Police said 36-year-old Terrence Sherrod Roberson surrendered hours later at the sheriff's office in nearby Newton County and was charged with two counts of aggravated assault.

The woman was flown by helicopter to Atlanta Medical Center, where she was reported in surgery, while her 10-year-old daughter was at Children's Healthcare at Egleston.

InSTATE



Numbers on stories correspond to map locations. The star locates Brunswick.

AUSTELL: Police say a 3-year-old fired a shotgun into the roof of a van in the Atlanta suburb of Austell.

Court records state that two women were driving in a van with a loaded Mossberg 12-gauge shotgun inside.

Authorities say the 3-year-old grabbed the weapon and fired off a round into the van's roof.

Cobb County police spokesman Michael Bowman said that no one was hurt in the Sept. 6 incident.

Authorities said arrest warrants were issued for the adults involved, who face charges including reckless conduct.

ATHENS: The University of Georgia says Rutherford Hall, a 72-year-old dormitory on the University of Georgia's South Campus, will be razed and rebuilt as a 260-resident hall.

Historic preservation groups had urged the university to renovate the building. The university said Tuesday the replacement project will be done with atten-

tion paid to retaining the historic character of the original structure. The demolition will begin after the 2012 spring semester, with the new residence hall ready for occupancy in the fall of 2013.

University President Michael Adams issued a statement saying that replacing Rutherford Hall is the best option for providing safe and functional housing on campus.

ROME: The Rome City Commission has deferred until next year a vote on Sunday alcohol retail sales.

The commission had planned to put the issue on the Nov. 8 ballot, but decided Monday night to hold off because there's no other reason to hold an election that day in the city.

Only six people qualified for six open commission seats, making an election unnecessary.

The Rome News-Tribune reports that Commissioner Jamie Doss says the Sunday sales vote was put off because of the expense it would incur. Doss says Rome voters will get a chance to decide the issue.

— Associated Press

Lottery picks

For winning numbers in Georgia and Florida lottery drawings Tuesday, go to www.thebrunswicknews.com and click "lotteries."

Winning numbers Monday in Georgia were Midday 3, 3-2-9; Midday 4, 4-5-5-4; Midday 5, 5-1-1-4-8; Cash 3, 0-2-2; Cash 4, 6-4-6-5; Ga. 5, 5-0-8-4-7; Fantasy 5, 6-20-25-27-39; Decade of Dollars, 4-9-13-23-29-37.

Winning numbers Monday in Florida were Midday 3, 2-0-1; Midday 4, 9-7-3-4; Cash 3, 2-8-7; Play 4, 0-0-1-5; Fantasy 5, 11-15-20-24-29.

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