



# The True Citizen

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## Troopers investigate four-vehicle crash

By Elizabeth Billips  
Associate Editor

Four people were injured when a tractor-trailer plowed into a line of stopped cars at a construction zone.

According to Major Larry Lewis of the Burke County Sheriff's Office, the wreck happened on Highway 80 West, at the intersection of Story Mill Road, around 2:30 p.m. Monday.

"There were no life threatening injuries," he said, surveying photographs he took of the aftermath. "God was with each and every one of those people ... it could have been so much worse."

Officers say the truck driver, Louis Carter of Augusta, realized too late that the vehicles ahead of him were stopped. He was unable to slow down his rig.

"He rammed the minivan first," Major Lewis said. "Then

he hit the truck and the Cruiser."

Waynesboro resident Patricia Wallace, the driver of the PT Cruiser, and Angela Parker of Decatur, the driver of the Toyota Tacoma, were both treated and released the same day.

The driver and passenger in the Chrysler Minivan, Huug Berkheij and David Waugh, both employees at OM Lit, were transported to the Medical College of Georgia. According to a hospital spokesperson, Waugh was later released, and Berkheij's condition had been upgraded to good by Tuesday afternoon.

Carter, the truck driver, was not hurt.

Whether or not Carter is charged will be left to state troopers who are investigating the accident.

(See related story page 8.)



BSCO-MAJOR LARRY LEWIS

Sheriff Greg Coursey surveys the accident scene where four people were injured.

### INSIDE



#### Art gallery opens in Midville

Just past the entrance to city hall, there lies an oasis among the worn-out storefronts of Midville.

In the midst of the historic downtown, a simple sign and cutout of an alligator head hang above a pair of bright teal double doors. Inside lies an eclectic blend of sculptures, paintings and pottery crafted by area artists.

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#### Health dept. readies for flu season

The weather may still be warm, but it's time to start preparing for flu season.

The Burke County Health Department will hold extended hours next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 2-4, for a flu clinic at its Dogwood Drive facility.

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#### Bear recognized for dedication

He's not the biggest guy on the team, but he may have the most heart.

Tim Prophet, a senior at Burke County High School, has the determination and commitment that makes him a model among his teammates, and his coaches call him the kind of player they love to coach.

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#### Bears face Glenn Hills in Homecoming game Friday

Burke County High School (1-2) will battle the Glenn Hills High School Spartans this Friday in the Bear Den.

Kickoff is set for 7:30 p.m. The Bears are celebrating Homecoming week and will look for their second win of the season in front of a big hometown crowd.

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## A Prolific Problem

### Part I: The Crisis

(Editor's note: The Crisis is the first story in a three-part series entitled A Prolific Problem in which staff writer Anne Marie Kyzer examines the growing rate of births to teenagers and unmarried mothers in Burke County.)

By Anne Marie Kyzer  
Staff Writer

The youngest mother ever on his delivery table was 10 years old.

And she wasn't sure who the father of her baby was, Waynesboro obstetrician Dr. Mark Gresham added grimly.

Dr. Gresham describes what he sees on a day-to-day basis as nothing short of a crisis situation.

Pregnancies by unwed mothers, many of them young teenagers, continue to increase in number and popularity.

Nearly 68 percent of the babies delivered to Burke County residents in 2005 were born to unwed mothers, according to the latest data from the Georgia Department of Human Resources.

More than a quarter of those were teenagers. Some 20.6 percent of all births in the county were to teenagers.

The percentage of unwed mothers in the county has increased on a steady basis over the past few years, escalating more than 12 percent in just four years from 2001-2005. And the percentage of abortions by unwed teens was also up compared to the previous two years.

"It's terrible," Dr. Gresham said. "The whole idea of being married is just not in the picture anymore." He noted that at least half of his patients are not married and somewhere around 30-40 percent are in their teens.

"And it's not just first time moms," he explains, saying that the mothers start young but continue the trend. "It's repeat offenders. It's nothing to see people under the age of twenty in here with two or three children. It's more and more common."

Deena Sams, executive director of Communities in Schools, sees the problem firsthand everyday. She works with local teenagers in her program trying to teach them positive life lessons that she hopes will steer them clear of such a lifestyle.

Sams knows she and her staff have their



Courtesy of Stockphoto (Jyn Meyer)

work cut out for them.

She said the stigma that unwed pregnancy used to carry seems to be lost on today's youth.

"Kids used to be ashamed of being pregnant, but they're not really ashamed anymore. It's almost a rite of passage," she said with a sigh. "It's sad to say. There's no fear at all of being pregnant. They're not even afraid of what their parents or others might say."

Nationally, the number of births to unmarried mothers was 35.8 percent in 2004, according to the National Center for Health Statistics. The rate in Burke County was nearly twice that at 67.3 for the same year. Teenage moms delivered 23.7 percent of the babies born to unwed mothers in the United States in 2004, while the rate in Burke County came in just under that at 22.5 percent.

#### BIRTHS TO BURKE COUNTY MOTHERS

	2002	2003	2004	2005
% of all births to teens	19.8	19.5	16.2	20.6
% of all births to unwed mothers	63.4	65.1	67.3	67.8
% of births to unwed mothers by teens	30.5	28	22.5	27.3
% of all births to unwed teens	19.3	18.2	15.1	18.5
Abortion rate	13.2	14.3	14.7	12.5
% abortions by teens	19.7	18.1	14.9	23.8

Source: Georgia Department of Human Resources, Division of Public Health

## 22 indicted Jury indicts woman who shot brother

By Elizabeth Billips  
Associate Editor

The Superior Court grand jury returned indictments against all 22 defendants they heard cases against last Thursday.

Among them was Geneva Ellison - a Waynesboro woman who shot her big brother, Jimmie Ellison, during an argument over towels.

According to the incident report filed in July, the argument began when Mr. Ellison attempted to dry his vehicle with "their mother's good towels."

Ms. Ellison told deputies she aimed the gun and fired but was only trying to "back him off."

According to a report, the bullet punched through Mr. Ellison's shoulder, traveled down his arm and shattered the head of his humerus.

Ms. Ellison was indicted on both of her original charges - aggravated assault and possession of a firearm during the commission of a crime.

The grand jury also indicted a former Waynesboro resident accused of molesting a 3-year-old.

Brandon Zanders was arrested two months ago for allegedly forcing his girlfriend's toddler to perform a sex act on him last October while another child watched.

Local investigators said that prior to Zanders' arrest, they received a tip from Pooler police officers who launched an investigation into sex crimes there of the same nature.

According to an incident report filed here, the allegations were brought to surface by a Department of Family and Children Services worker in Savannah, where Zanders was living at the time.

The grand jury returned indictments on him for aggravated sodomy and two counts of aggravated child molestation.

Three Waynesboro men were indicted on charges stemming from an April 2006 fight that prompted an unexpected drug bust.

According to the original incident report, officers were called to Tucker Avenue where they found Kacee "JC" Smith holding a shotgun over a 24-year-old man who had blood coming from his mouth.

Smith's teenage son Keith Smith had allegedly chased down the victim and was holding him down for his father to beat with the shotgun, which contained five live rounds.

After taking the father and son into custody, officers seized two large bags of marijuana that had been thrown into a nearby yard. They arrested Timothy Woods, 26, was identified by witnesses at the scene.

Inside Woods' vehicle, officers found more marijuana, several bags of crack cocaine and a pistol with a scratched off serial number.

The grand jury returned "true bills" on all three men. The elder Smith was indicted for aggravated assault, possession of a firearm during the commission of a crime and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. His son was indicted for aggravated assault and possession of a firearm during the commission of a crime.

Woods was indicted for possession of cocaine with the intent to distribute, possession of marijuana with the intent to distribute, criminal use of an article with an altered identification mark and driving with a suspended license.

- Other defendants who were indicted include:
- Brandon Joshua Bailey: kidnapping, battery (Family Violence Act) and criminal trespass;
  - Otha Leon Carswell: theft by receiving stolen property;
  - Sammy Cobb Jr.: criminal damage to property in the second degree;
  - Willie Lee Coleman: manufacturing marijuana and posses-

- See Indictments, page 9