



The latest version of Daniel Craig's 'Bond' takes an emotional turn, 4B

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The Brunswick News



Festival The 40th Annual Blessing of the Fleet in Darien will be held from 5 to 10 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Vic Waters and Sammy Kershaw perform on Friday; Trina Hamlin and Sounds of Motown Saturday. Other activities include a street parade, food and vendor booths, Art in the Park, a 5K river run, car show, shrimp eating contest, carnival fireworks and the largest shrimp fleet parade in the U.S. Admission is \$5 and includes entertainment. No pets are allowed. Details: 437-6684.



Outdoors A Marsh Kayak Trip will be held from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday at Crooked River State Park in St. Marys. This low tide paddle will offer good opportunities for bird watching. Space is limited; reservations are required. Details: (912) 882-5256.

Arts A Day of the Arts, part of the ongoing celebration of St. Mark's Episcopal Church's 150th Anniversary, will take place Saturday. From 8 a.m. to noon, plein aire artists will paint on the lawn; from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. there will be a children's sidewalk art contest, and from 4 to 6 p.m. a wine and cheese reception will be held. Details: 265-0600.

Arts "Art and Sol," the 15th annual Spring Arts and Crafts Festival, will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at Neptune Park, in the Pier Village, St. Simons Island. Sponsored by Glynn Art Association. Details: 638-8770.

Festival The 7th Annual Spring Fling for disabled citizens and the general public will be held from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday at Mary Ross Park, Brunswick. The event will feature free food, activities, live entertainment and a petting zoo. Admission is free. Details: 261-4515.

AT THE MOVIES 'Smart People' opens Friday in Brunswick, St. Simons Island, St. Marys

'Smart People' not so smart after all

By **CHRISTY LEMIRE**
The Associated Press

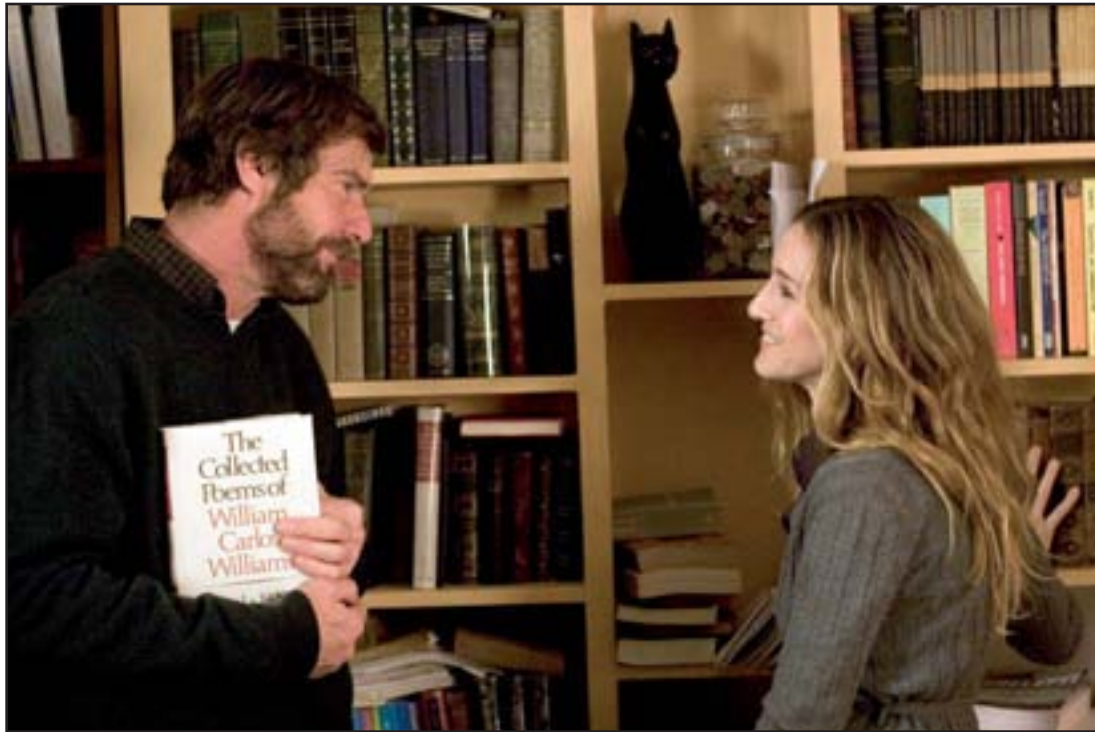
"Smart People" isn't as smart as it thinks it is, despite some wickedly snappy dialogue. Novelist-turned-screenwriter Mark Poirier gives the capable, eclectic cast some real zingers to play with, but he also loads his script with some plot contrivances that are simply too hard to accept.

Dennis Quaid plays against type as acerbic, self-absorbed English professor Lawrence Wetherhold, who infamously has forgotten the names of his students at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh for decades.

A bump on the head he suffers while trying to get his car out of the campus impound lot (again) lands him in the hospital, where the chief emergency room doctor, Janet Hartigan (Sarah Jessica Parker), just happens to be one of his former students. Naturally, he doesn't remember her either, even though she harbored a school-girl crush on him.

(Inexplicably, she also held onto the freshman essay on which he gave her a C several years ago.)

At the same time, his scam-artist adopted brother, Chuck (Thomas Haden Church), just happens to show up and move in with Lawrence and his teenage daughter, Vanessa (Ellen Page), a Young



AP/Miramax Films

Dennis Quaid, left, and Sarah Jessica Parker are shown in a scene from the film, "Smart People," which features some witty lines but little more.

Republican who's obsessed with getting into Stanford. Lawrence also has a son, a Carnegie Mellon student (Ashton Holmes) who lives in the dorms and doesn't get much to do.

Longtime commercial director Noam Murro keeps things moving along at a decent clip in his feature debut, but it's hard to shake the feeling that you've seen this kind of indie dysfunctional-family comedy

countless times before. There are also more than a few shades of the superior "Wonder Boys" in here, with its competitive academic setting and self-destructive characters. Quaid's Lawrence is just as screwed-up as Michael Douglas was in that film, he just doesn't know it.

All these figures will clearly shape Lawrence for the better, but not without some major resistance from this rumpiled, middle-aged blowhard. And

they're all viciously verbal, so they're up for the challenge of sparring with him — and each other. Chuck urges Lawrence to go out with Janet — and more: "You spend \$50 on dinner, that's grounds for intercourse."

He also inspires some stirrings in the uptight Vanessa, getting her high and drunk when she should be studying. She's the kind of girl whose mantra is: "You should really make your bed, it sets the tone

If you go

"Smart People"
★★★☆☆
Rated R
90 minutes long

for the whole day." Even though the character is far more politically and socially conservative than Juno MacGuff, the role that earned Page an Oscar nomination and made her an instant star, they're similar enough in terms of quick-witted temperament and deadpan delivery that you do wonder what other kinds of characters she's capable of inhabiting.

But the person who has the most influence on him, ostensibly, is Janet — though it's hard to believe they'd ever get together. The age difference, about a decade, isn't the problem. The fact that they have no chemistry, and that Lawrence doesn't appear to have the vaguest glimmer of humanity or potential for redemption, is, and you'll question what she sees in him. Parker certainly has strong enough comic timing that she's comfortable bantering with Quaid, they just seem like an ill fit for each other.

The way their relationship evolves also may be difficult to believe, but "Smart People" does end smartly on a subtly lovely up note.

CHECK IT OUT Guitar Hero III competition at Broomelli Boys

'Guitar' event to benefit Relay for Life

By **KRISTA HARRIS**
The Brunswick News

Calling all Guitar Hero III fans! Broomelli Boys Pizzeria in Brunswick is inviting people of all ages to come pluck ... um, press ... their luck on the various colored buttons of the Xbox 360 Guitar Hero game in a fund-raising competition on April 20.

The popular video game features a special guitar plugged into the Xbox system that allows players to "play along" with a song on the screen, sort of like guitar karaoke.

For an entry fee of \$10 each, contestants can match their skills against each other. Admission to watch and enjoy the fun will be \$2 each.

Proceeds from the entry and spectator fees, along with food sales on that Sunday, will go to Relay for Life.

"Come out and have a good time for a good cause," said Cheston Broomell, co-owner of the pizzeria.

All the equipment will be provided. Intermediate and

The details

Broomelli Boys Pizzeria, 760 Scranton Rd. Suite 101, behind Glynn Place Mall, will hold a Guitar Hero III Competition starting at 4:30 p.m. on April 20. Registration is at 4:15 p.m. Entry fee is \$10 to compete, \$2 to just to watch, with all proceeds going to Relay For Life. Food and beverages will be provided. For more information, call 267-7075 or stop by the pizzeria to pick up an entry form.

expert levels will be played, so if you are still on easy, you may want to stay home or start practicing, Broomell advises.

Broomell said he saw the game being played in other places and thought it would be fun to do in Brunswick.

The winners will be decided by the highest scores, which will be tracked by a scorekeeper. After the competition, three levels of prizes will be given away including various gift certificates and trophies.



Michael Hall/The Brunswick News

Cheston Broomell tosses a pizza at Broomelli Boys Pizza, which is hosting a Guitar Hero III competition on April 20 to raise funds for Relay for Life.

EATING IN Red curry paste provides instant flavor - and heat - in a bottle

Beef stir fry mixes Asian, Southwest flavors

By **J.M. HIRSCH**
The Associated Press

This heavily seasoned beef stir-fry is one part Thai curry dish, one part taco meat. And entirely delicious.

The trick for getting deep, bold flavors with almost no effort are three key ingredients — Thai red curry paste, coconut milk and freshly squeezed lime juice.

The curry paste, which can be found in grocer's Asian or ethnic aisle, is a thick, red seasoning that can be used to add heat to soups, stews, cooked rice and stir-fry dishes.

Unlike hot peppers, the heat

of the curry paste won't clear your sinuses. This is more of a lingering, deeper, on-the-tongue heat. If you prefer milder tastes, start with 1/2 tablespoon and taste your way up.

The coconut milk (usually found in the same section as the curry paste) not only adds lush body to this dish, but the fat also acts as a balance to the heat.

Meanwhile, the lime juice cuts through both the curry paste and coconut milk with refreshing acidity.

Baby spinach and thinly sliced scallions are stirred in and wilted during the final stage of cooking, but any hardy

greens would work well, including chopped baby bok choy, thinly sliced green cabbage or kale.

Serve this over rice or paired with fresh vegetables in a wrap.

RED CURRY BEEF

Start to finish: 30 minutes
Servings: 4

2 tablespoons canola oil
1 1/2 tablespoons red curry paste
1 tablespoon soy sauce
1 tablespoon sugar
1 pound lean ground beef
1/2 cup coconut milk
6 scallions, thinly sliced
5-ounce bag baby spinach
Zest and juice of 1/2 lime

1/2 cup shredded fresh basil
1/2 cup crushed unsalted peanuts

In a large, deep skillet over medium-high heat, combine the oil, curry paste, soy sauce and sugar. Cook until fragrant, about 1 minute. Add the ground beef and saute until cooked through, about 8 minutes.

Stir in the coconut milk. Return to a simmer. Mix in the scallions and spinach and continue cooking until the greens are just wilted, about 2 to 3 minutes.

Mix in the lime juice and zest and the basil. Serve over rice, garnished with peanuts.



Larry Crowe/AP

Red curry paste gives this dish instant but manageable heat.