

THE LOCAL BRUNSWICK

Manslaughter charge in fatal bludgeoning



By Michael Brown

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BRUNSWICK, Ga. – A local woman has been charged with manslaughter in the death of a Brunswick football coach.

Bail was set at \$250,000 for Allison Marshall, 26, during her arraignment in Glynn County Superior Court on a charge of first-degree manslaughter in the death of Boyd Thomas, 35.

Authorities are confident that the physical and forensic evidence found at the crime scene will show a clear link between Boyd and Marshall. At the time of his death, police had found an intoxicated Marshall covered in Boyd's blood, standing next to his body.

County prosecutors cite a possible motive stemming from an October 2006 editorial in the Local Brunswick written by Marshall. In the editorial, Marshall alleged that as the coach of the Brunswick High football team, Thomas physically abused his players and supplied them with steroids. Marshall then called for an investigation into Thomas and his staff. The editorial



Allison Marshall has been charged with manslaughter in connection with the death of Coach Boyd Thomas.

also demanded drug testing for all members of the Brunswick football team.

"Safety is our top priority, and after an internal investigation, which included interviewing several members of the Brunswick football team, as well as the coaching staff, it appeared Marshall's accusations were unfounded," said a representative for the Brunswick High School board of directors.

A representative for Marshall stated that he is certain that she would be exonerated of all charges in the upcoming weeks.

Marshall is a native of Brunswick

and a graduate of Brunswick High. She had been planning to study medicine, according to her fiancé, Ben Hughes.

"I can't believe this has happened. Allie's life's goal was to help people, to help them heal. None of this makes any sense. I know Allie better than anyone. There has to be some mistake," said Hughes.

Marshall faces up to a maximum of 20 years in state prison if convicted.

The trial is set to start in January 2007.