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The BrightSide

A SWEET TASTE OF SUCCESS



DONNETTE BECKETT, HERALD & REVIEW

Mama Bear Bakery owner Jessica McBride, center, and fourth-grade students from Ellsworth Dansby Jr. Magnet School wait for customers to arrive to pick up an order of Oreotella cinnamon rolls.

Fourth graders learn business skills by creating, selling treats

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DECATUR — Ellsworth Dansby Jr. Magnet School fourth graders Kari Coleman and Temari Washington took their first steps toward becoming entrepreneurs.

The students and their classmates worked with Mama Bear Bakery to create and sell a new flavor of cinnamon rolls, Oreotella.

The process was surprising to Temari. "I thought we were just going to see her make cinnamon rolls or help her make the cinnamon rolls," she said. "I was surprised that we got to make the flavor of the cinnamon rolls."

Selling the product was new to Kari. "We had to make it interesting," he said. "We made a sign and a commercial."

Project based learning projects are important to Ellsworth Dansby Jr. Magnet School teachers and administration. Examples for the fourth graders have included creating a workspace for the classroom as well as connecting erosion, weather and water. "They're not just selling something," said teacher Erica Byrne.

According to Byrne, her students were able to connect the entrepreneur lesson with real-world experiences. "I wasn't sure how they were going to get with the marketing," she said. "The way that they showed them marketing techniques and how we use it in the real world, they really connected with that."

Mama Bear Bakery owner Jessica McBride is a former teacher with the Decatur Public Schools. For the project, she taught the children that failure is part of the process. "When I come up with a recipe, it doesn't take just one time," she said.

The finished product wasn't achieved on the first attempt for the fourth graders either. Rejected ideas included a cookie dough flavor and Grinch- and Santa Clause-themed pastries. Other flavor

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ELECTION 2026

Early voter turnout up as Election Day arrives

Macon County races include clerk position, three board seats

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After months of campaigning, Election Day has arrived.

Polling places across the state are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday.

In Macon County, the only county-wide race is for county clerk. Republican Marsha Webb and Democrat Bryan Smith are seeking to succeed Josh Tanner, who chose not to seek reelection.

There are contested races for three county board seats. Incumbent Republican Gregory Mattingley is being challenged by Democrat Kasey Holt in District 5. Also in District 5, Republican Cody Parks and Democrat Michelle Wayne are seeking to fill a two-year term. In District 2, Republican Dan Caulkins and Democrat Angelea "AJ" Hines are seeking to fill a two-year term.

The ballot also features contested races for U.S. Senate, governor and other statewide offices, Congress and state Senate.

In the 13th Congressional District, incumbent Democrat Nikki Budzinski is being challenged by Republican Jeff Wilson. In the 15th Congressional District, incumbent Republican Mary Miller is being challenged by Democrat Jennifer Todd.

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Sheriff's office investigating claims election law flouted

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DECATUR — Macon County Sheriff Jim Root confirmed Sunday that his office is looking into claims that incorrect voter address listings may have flouted election laws.

The claims had first been raised by Republican County Clerk candidate Marsha Webb and the issue has also been highlighted by Macon County Republican County Chairman Bruce Pillsbury.



Root

"Yes, we have started an investigation on that specific issue (regarding voter addresses)," Root said.

"We were able to make contact with Tanner's office Tuesday (current Republican County Clerk Josh Tanner) and he provided us with the files we needed for that investigation."

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