



The Trussville Tribune

January 30 - February 5, 2014

Your news source for Trussville, Clay and Pinson

50¢

Old Springville repaving could begin in March

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

Repaving work on Old Springville Road in Clay could begin in March, Clay City Manager Ronnie Dixon said last week.

Dixon said the repaving work would likely last six to eight weeks.

Dixon said the city was set last week to contract with Jefferson County for the work. He said Jefferson County would pay \$263,500 while Clay would ante up \$200,000 for the project.

Dixon said that repaving will be done on sections of Old Springville Road that total almost nine miles,

from the southern city limits to the Jefferson County line and including areas that are considered city of Birmingham.

The city of Clay had been awarded money as part of the Alabama Transportation Rehabilitation and Improvement Program for the resurfacing of Old Springville Road. The city's



match for the project was set at \$184,000 while AT-RIP was to cover \$736,000 for a total of \$920,000 for the resurfacing project.

Dixon said that when engineering was done, the

file photo by Gary Lloyd

The intersection of Old Springville Road and Clay-Palmerdale Road in Clay

project came in with an estimate of \$1.8 million and \$300,000 just for engineering. He said it would have required buying right-of-way, putting in guardrails and covering culverts to bring the project to federal standards. Resurfacing became a \$2 million job, and

see REPAVING page 3

First Trussville property tax public forum tonight

by Gary Lloyd

Editor



file photo by Gary Lloyd

The public forum will be at the Trussville Civic Center.

The first public forum on the proposed seven-millage property tax increase that would fund two new elementary schools in Trussville is tonight.

The forum is at 5:30 p.m. at the Trussville Civic Center.

Another public forum will be Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 5:30 p.m. at the Trussville Civic Center. The vote of Trussville residents for or against the seven-millage property tax increase is Tuesday, Feb. 25.

Trussville City Schools Superintendent Pattie Neill said the benefits of two new elementary schools are eliminating all portable classrooms at the Paine Elementary Campus, improving school safety with tornado shelters, improving the quality of education with smaller class sizes and increasing property values.

Seven additional mills in property taxes would cost Trussville residents \$70 per year on homes appraised at \$100,000, \$140 per year on homes appraised at \$200,000 and \$210 per year on homes appraised at \$300,000.

see TAX page 2

Pinson man charged with Pinson, Grayson Valley robberies

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

Jefferson County sheriff's deputies have arrested a Pinson man who allegedly robbed three eastern Jefferson County businesses in recent weeks to support his heroin addiction.

Billy Ross Sullivan II, 39, is charged with two counts of first-degree robbery. Additional charges are expected. He is in Jefferson County Jail with bond set at \$120,000.

According to the Jeffer-

son County Sheriff's Office, at about 6 p.m. Sunday deputies responded to a report of a robbery at the CVS in the 5700 block of Chalkville Mountain Road in Grayson Valley. A man entered the store and demanded money from the cashier, said Chief Deputy Randy Christian. He held his hand in his pocket as if he had a gun, but he left without getting the money, Christian said.

About 20 minutes later, deputies responded to a report of a robbery with similar circumstances at the

Winn Dixie store located in the 4700 block of Center Point Road in Pinson. Money was taken in this robbery, Christian said. The description of the suspect was the same as the one given in the CVS robbery. A description of the suspect's vehicle was broadcast to responding deputies. A nearby deputy spotted the suspect traveling south on Center Point Road and conducted a traffic stop.

Sullivan was taken into custody and money taken in the robbery was recovered, Christian said. No gun was found in the vehicle or on the suspect. The suspect's mother was also in the car when it was stopped. It was learned that she had not entered either of the stores and had no knowledge of the robberies, Christian said.

Christian said the suspect was questioned by detectives and admitted to committing both robberies. Sullivan also confessed to committing a robbery of the Food Giant in Pinson on Jan. 10. He said he needed the money to support a heroin addiction, Christian said.

Contact Gary Lloyd at news@trussvilletribune.com and follow him on Twitter @GaryALloyd.



photo courtesy of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office

Bill Ross Sullivan II

Missing Pinson woman found dead

by Gary Lloyd

Editor



photo courtesy of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office

Lula Hazzard Skanes

The body of a missing 66-year-old Pinson woman has been found.

The body of Lula Hazzard Skanes was discovered Monday morning in a wooded area near Sweeney Hollow Road and Winchester Hills Drive.

Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Randy Christian said a family member searching the area Monday located her body in a deep ditch at Winchester Hills Drive and Sweeney Hollow Road.

"The sheriff's office is sad to report that a body believed to be that of a missing dementia patient has been located," Christian said.

see PINSON page 3

Company has U.S. 11 property under option for possible mall

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

A company has an option on a stretch of property along U.S. Highway 11 in Trussville that could be the site of a future mall.

Blackwater Resources has the option on property starting at Gloria's Hair Salon and up to

and including the boarded-up house across from the Tutwiler Farm subdivision entrance, said Trussville City Clerk Lynn Porter.

"They are trying to get options on the remainder of the property between the boarded-up house and the historical Presbyterian Church, but that was not finalized the last time I heard from

them," Porter said.

Porter said the company has about 70 percent of the space spoken for with no duplication of retailers already in Trussville. Porter said the company has not disclosed who the retailers are.

Porter said the site's entrance will be at the traffic light at Tutwiler Farm. It will require rezoning and plat approval prior

to construction. Porter said the company indicated that it would like to be under construction this summer.

According to Blackwater Resources' website, the company has managed and leased properties at the Vestavia City Center, Patton Creek in Hoover, the River Trace Shopping Center in Gadsden, the Northside Mall in

Dothan and the Market Shoppes in Decatur.

Blackwater Resources Senior Developer Jeff Werszner said he'd be able to discuss the project in mid February.

Contact Gary Lloyd at news@trussvilletribune.com and follow him on Twitter @GaryALloyd.

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NEWS

Clay grad kills record deer: 'Like a dream come true'

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

Call it The Kill. In the early morning hours of Jan. 5, Ray McCollum saw four deer below his tree stand in Lamar County, all "panting like a dog." He had never seen this before, figuring something must have been chasing them. Thirty seconds later, he discovered what it was. A huge deer emerged, just 20 yards away from McCollum, a 2010 Clay-Chalkville High School graduate. McCollum shot and killed the deer. When he descended the tree stand,

he realized the deer's mass, much bigger than the two 8-points he killed last year. This whitetail deer had 13 points. It was 155 pounds. It scored 166 3/8 inches. "It's been like a dream come true," said McCollum, who has gone hunting with his dad since he was 8. "Just excitement overcame me." McCollum said the kill will go in the state whitetail record book. He does not yet know specifics about how the kill ranks statewide. McCollum's dad, who has also killed a 13-point in his time as a hunter, helped him bring the deer



Ray McCollum with the 155-pound, 13-point deer

out of the woods. McCollum lives in Tuscaloosa now, majoring in forestry at the University of Alabama. He wants to specialize in wildlife management. "I fell in love with deer hunting at a young age and I fell in love with nature," McCollum said. "It's just been something I've really wanted to do and have something to do with for the rest of my life. It's something that makes me happy." Contact Gary Lloyd at news@trussvilletribune.com and follow him on Twitter @GaryALloyd.

TAX continued from page 1

The plan is to renovate the city's original high school in the Cahaba Project and to build a new school near the Magnolia Place subdivision. Board President Bill Roberts said it should be

crowding at Paine any longer," Neill said last month. "This particular solution gives us room for growth for many years."

stressed to city residents that two new schools will improve traffic congestion in downtown Trussville and other areas. A traffic flow report from Trussville police officer Chuck

Bradford shows that 510 vehicles come to the Paine Elementary Campus every morning between 7:15 a.m. and 8:05 a.m. About 27 percent of those vehicles arrive between 7:36 a.m.

and 7:45 a.m., according to Bradford's report. There are also 27 school buses and daycare buses dropping kids off between 7:20 a.m. and 7:45 a.m. "It is tough to get 500-

plus cars around the ring to drop off approximately 847 kids in a 45-plus-minute window along an industrial highway, and that does not include bus traffic," Bradford said.

The news source for Trussville, Clay and Pinson

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Spann calls Tuesday weather 'huge forecasting error'

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

It happened again. Jefferson County residents abandoned their cars. The motorists who continued to brave the icy roads did so with icicles attached to side mirrors and tailpipes. Residents walked a couple miles or more for milk.

Snow covered the northeastern Jefferson County area for a second



photo courtesy of Keith Kennedy

A car in a ditch on South Chalkville Road in Trussville

consecutive January. Snow accumulated Jan. 17, 2013 and on Tuesday.

Schools let out early, basketball games were postponed and meetings were canceled.

ABC 33/40 chief

meteorologist James Spann said "hundreds and hundreds" of motorists were stranded on major highways. He said that Alabama citizens should not blame school systems or city workers for the conditions of the roads and timing of schools being let out.

"This was a huge forecasting error," Spann said.

Contact Gary Lloyd at news@trussvilletribune.com and follow him on Twitter @GaryALloyd.

Hewitt-Trussville students help people home in snow

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

Hewitt-Trussville High School students knew they could help Tuesday.

Preston Palmer, a sophomore at Hewitt-Trussville, hopped on his four-wheeler and rode out to people who had abandoned their cars due to Tuesday's snowfall and icy conditions. He picked them up and gave them rides to their homes in the Camp Coleman Road area of Trussville.

Palmer said others were doing the same. Hewitt-Trussville basketball players Connor Murrell and Will McCullough also helped people home. Palmer helped about 20 people home, he said.

"Just felt like they needed help and knew I could do something about it," Palmer said.



photo courtesy of Peyton Palmer

Hewitt-Trussville sophomore Preston Palmer heads out to help people in Trussville.

Have stories of kindness during Tuesday's wintry weather? Have photos from your neighborhood? Let us know on our Facebook page or in an email to news@trussvilletribune.com.

Contact Gary Lloyd at news@trussvilletribune.com and follow him on Twitter @GaryALloyd.



photo courtesy of Keith Kennedy

A truck off the side of the road near Snake Hill Road in Trussville



photo by Gary Lloyd

Brewster Road in the Grayson Valley area on Tuesday

PINSON continued from page 1

Skanes had been missing since about 9 p.m. Friday from her residence in the 1100 block of Oak Creek Trail near Pinson.

The family told officers that Skanes had also been diagnosed with Alzheimer's.

Deputies searched the area Friday night and were

continuing the search Saturday with K9s.

Christian said there is no reason to suspect foul play in Skanes' death.

Contact Gary Lloyd at news@trussvilletribune.com and follow him on Twitter @GaryALloyd.

REPAVING continued from page 1

the city doesn't have the 20 percent match, Dixon said.

"We're basically foregoing the ATRIP money," Dixon said.

Clay Mayor Charles Webster was on hand in October for an update on ATRIP projects that were announced throughout Jefferson County.

"We want everyone in Jefferson County to understand the profound impact of ATRIP on our area and on your ability to get to school and work," County Manager Tony Petelos said at the time. "These improvements will immediately benefit our citizens and our economy, and I'd like to personal-

ly thank Gov. Robert Bentley for this wise investment in our local transportation system."

Five projects in Trussville were on the original ATRIP funding list. They included resurfacing Queenstown Road from Roper Road to Second Street, resurfacing Camp Coleman Road

from U.S. Highway 11 to Windsong Drive, traffic signalization on Chalkville Mountain Road from Norrell Drive to Tyler Loop Road, interchange lighting on Interstate 59 at Deerfoot Parkway, and turn lanes on Trussville-Clay Road and signalization at Husky Parkway.

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Chamber annual banquet set for Feb. 8

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The 58th annual Trussville Area Chamber of Commerce banquet will be Saturday, Feb. 8 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Trussville Civic Center.

The banquet will include dinner, a silent auction and entertainment provided by the Shaun Pezant Trio. The band plays oldies, doo-wop and jazz.

At the banquet, the Gatekeeper Awards and Customer Service Person of the Year will be recognized.

Silent auction items include gift certificates, Birmingham Barons tickets, a two-night stay in Sandestin with a round of golf and more. An autographed Auburn University football will also be up for bid.

There will be a table decorating contest, and the top winners will receive \$100,

\$75 and \$50, respectively. For reservations or more information, visit www.trussvillechamber.com or email Katie Thompson at katie.thompson@trussvillechamber.com. The chamber can be reached at 205-655-7535.

Contact Gary Lloyd at news@trussvilletribune.com and follow him on Twitter @GaryALloyd.

Clay council to discuss leash ordinance Monday

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The Clay City Council on Monday will likely discuss a proposed leash ordinance for the city.

The ordinance, if approved, would allow the city to issue a \$40 fine to a pet owner if his or her dog was found running at large and another \$40 fine if the animal is not vaccinated. A second violation in one year would result in a \$75 fine. Anyone who releases an animal from "confinement or restraint" without the permission of the owner could also be fined \$40, according to the proposed ordinance.

Animals found running at large would be impounded for three days and then euthanized or handed over to the humane society if not claimed by the owner.

The city council meets at 6:30 p.m. Monday at Clay City Hall.

At last week's council meeting, Clay City Manager Ronnie Dixon gave council members the proposed leash ordinance to review. He said it would work "in conjunction" with the city's "vicious dog" ordinance approved in June 2013.

"I think you'll find it suitable," City Attorney Alan Summers told council members.

The proposed ordinance



file photo by Gary Lloyd

Clay City Hall

states that the city has undertaken to establish the ordinance "to protect the public health and safety of its citizens and to promote the general welfare of the citizens and animals residing within the city."

Dixon said that a dog was killed by another dog in the Paradise Valley subdivision in mid January. He said in late July 2013 that 15 to 18 pit bulls had been registered with the city since the "vicious dog" ordinance took effect in June. He said that also since that

time, two dogs in the city had been killed by pit bulls and three more injured by pit bulls. He said in one of those five cases, a dog climbed over a fence, and in another a dog was unleashed. He didn't know the particulars of the other three instances. A small bird dog was killed by an American Bull Terrier in Clay in November.

Contact Gary Lloyd at news@trussvilletribune.com and follow him on Twitter @GaryALloyd.

HHS senior named Rotary Student of Month

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The Trussville Rotary Daybreak Club has named its most recent Student of the Month.

Taylor Cooner is a senior at Hewitt-Trussville High School and has been involved in Interact Club for three years and is serving as its president this year.

The club's current project is "jeans for teens," a project in which the club is currently collecting jeans of all sizes for teens in need. Along with the Interact Club, Cooner is involved with Senior Board, Spanish Club, Pink Engineers, Leadership Team, Heritage Panel, Mu Alpha Theta and the National Honor Society.



submitted photo

From left are Rotary Club member Ty Williams, Taylor Cooner Rotary Club President Alan Taylor and Danny Cooner.

Cooner will graduate in May with an advanced academic diploma and plans to attend the University of Alabama this fall to major in engineering.

Cooner received a gift

card donated by Jim 'N Nick's Bar-B-Q.

Contact Gary Lloyd at news@trussvilletribune.com and follow him on Twitter @GaryALloyd.

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Michaels stores may have suffered data breach

by Scott Buttram

Publisher

Michaels said in a statement released last week that customers' bank card information may have been compromised in a data security attack.

The company said that it recently learned of possible fraudulent activity on some U.S. payment cards that had been used at Michaels.

Michaels has a location in Trussville on U.S. Highway 11 at the Colonial Promenade at Tutwiler Farm shopping center.

"We are working closely with federal law enforcement and are conducting an investigation with the help of third-party data security experts to establish the facts," CEO Chuck Rubin said in a statement. "Although the investigation is ongoing,

based on the information we have received and in light of the widely-reported criminal efforts to penetrate the data systems of U.S. retailers, we believe it is appropriate to notify our customers that a potential issue may have occurred."

Customers were told to

keep a close eye on their bank accounts and be on the lookout for any fraudulent activity. The card issuer or financial institution should be contacted immediately if any suspicious activity is noted.

Michaels' statement said it would offer monitoring

assistance to customers who may have been affected.

"If we find as part of our investigation that any of our customers were affected, we will offer identity protection and credit monitoring services to them at no cost," Rubin said.

Trial begins for teen charged in Clay daycare sex abuse case

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

Jury selection began Monday in the trial of a teenager accused of sexually abusing three children at a daycare in Clay, according to www.myfoxa.com.

Eric Lemont Higdon, 17 at the time of his arrest in August 2012, was charged as an adult with sexual abuse of a child less than 12 years old and two counts of first-degree sodomy of a child less than 12 years old.

Higdon has been free on \$150,000 bond since Sept. 2, 2012.

The arrest was a result of an investigation into alle-



photo courtesy of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office

Eric Lemont Higdon

gations of sexual abuse at Momma's Place Christian Academy in Clay.

On Aug. 18, 2012, deputies received a report that the son of a daycare worker had inappropri-

ate contact with a child at the facility. During the week that followed a total of three families reported similar incidents.

There were four victims ages 5, 5, 4 and 3 years old. During the investigation it was determined that the son of one of the daycare workers had been coming to the daycare on a regular basis and, while he was there, abusing the children, according to Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Randy Christian. All the incidents were alleged to have occurred on the premises.

According to the www.myfoxa.com article, Higdon appeared in court Monday morning with several family members.

Book sale, blood drive at Pinson library Saturday

by Gary Lloyd

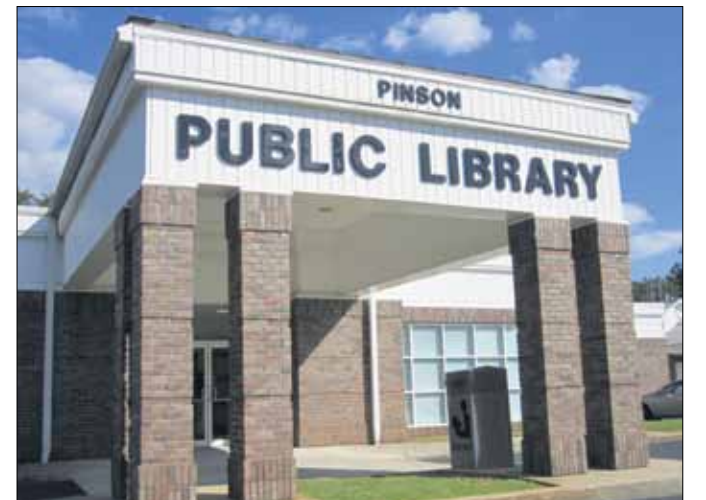
Editor

The second annual Book Sale/Blood Drive at the Pinson Public Library is scheduled for Saturday.

The book sale and blood drive will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Anyone who donates blood will receive a free reusable bag and \$5 of book bucks to spend in the library's used book area. The library will also have baked goods available for purchase and a door prize drawing.

Items include fiction, nonfiction, kids' books, DVDs, VHS tapes and



file photo

The Pinson Public Library

magazines. Book prices vary from 10 cents to \$2.

The Pinson Public Library is located at 4410 Main St. in Pinson.

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LIFESTYLE

Pinson Elementary competes in Science Olympiad

For The Tribune

The Pinson Elementary School second-grade Science Olympiad team competed in all 28 events in the Jan. 18 Jefferson County Olympiad at Pinson Valley High School.

The team was the only one of 23 elementary schools made up of all second-graders. Most other schools that compete are made up of students in the third through sixth grades.

Xavier Irby, Constance Ornelas and Leah Graves placed third in Reflection Relay. Jacob Vinson and Graves placed fourth in Mystery Architecture. Scotty Burnett and Ornelas placed fifth in Get Your Bearings.

Team members include Irby, Burnett, Graves, Vinson, Ornelas, Kaeleb Barnett, Ella Little, Bryant, Aaron Simmons, Caroline Wilder, Kenyon Hughes, Muir, Delaney Weekly, Tristian Titus White, Riley Mackey, Olivia Girard, William Davis, Christopher Bookmiller and Ava-Leah Ajavon.



submitted photo

The Pinson Elementary School Science Olympiad team

The team is coached by Missy Presley and Leslie Chatta.

Girl Scouts board amends 'limited use' resolution

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The Girl Scouts of North-Central Alabama Board of Directors last Wednesday voted to amend its "limited use" basis resolution.

The amendment comes as a result of the need to use a camp as a cookie storage and distribution center.

Girl Scouts of North-Central Alabama Communications Coordinator Robyn Tucker said Camp Coleman in Trussville, as well as Camp Trico, Camp

Anderel and Camp Tombigbee, will now be used "in any way that benefits the Council."

The Trussville camp is still open on a "limited use" basis.

"The board decided we should be able to use it for other purposes as well, not just troop camping," Tucker said in an email.

Camp Coleman re-opened Jan. 15 on a "limited use" basis. The Board of Directors on Nov. 20 unanimously approved a resolution to allow the closed and rested camps to

be re-opened on a limited use basis. "Limited use" means that no staff, instructors or services will be provided and that troops will be responsible for bringing their own equipment and supplies.

The Girl Scouts camps will remain open pending the outcome of the re-evaluation and strategic planning process. The Board of Directors in May 2013 approved an amendment to its three-phase property plan, which rested Camp Coleman instead of closing it permanently. At the May 9,



file photo

Camp Coleman in Trussville

2012, Girl Scouts of North-Central Alabama Board of Directors meeting, a 13-4 board vote approved of divesting the Camp Coleman property as part of Phase 2 of the group's property plan.

Camp Coleman, in continuous use for nearly 89 years, consists of 34 wooden structures and outbuildings constructed between 1925 and 1994.

Contact Gary Lloyd at news@trussvilletribune.com and follow him on Twitter @GaryALloyd.

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The Trussville Tribune
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Guide to shopping local for your sweetheart

by Abby Hathorn

For The Tribune

Roses are red, violets are blue, and these local gift ideas are sure to help you make her blush and make him smile without the fuss this Valentine's Day.

Follow this guide, and you will see that shopping locally is as easy as can be. Now, grab your coat and write a love note because this will be the best Valen-

tine's Day for you and your sweet pea.

We all know that diamonds are a girl's best friend, and there is no time like the present to stop by Alabama Wholesale Diamonds in Trussville and pick up that special someone a sparkly surprise. Not only does Alabama Wholesale Diamonds offer gifts for adults, but it also has a fabulous assortment of jewelry perfect for teenagers and college students.

"One of our most popular items for Valentine's Day is our heart jewelry, but we also sell a lot of simple diamond necklaces," said Tessa Stack of Alabama Wholesale Diamonds.

If you are looking for a one-stop-shop for all your Valentines, visit Ginni G Florist in Trussville for terrific gifts and goodies for girls and boys. "We are going to have a lot of gift baskets this Valentine's Day. For the guys,

we will have themed baskets for fishing, hunting, golfing and so forth; and for the ladies we will have sweet, fun gift baskets with all kinds of goodies inside," said Ginni Griffin. Ginni G also has a team of award-winning designers who are sure to make you a fabulously unforgettable bouquet of flowers for that special someone. "We will have classic Valentine's bouquets like a dozen roses as well as a variety of other

fun and sweet flower arrangements," Griffin said. "We will also have loose-cut flowers for the customers who enjoy picking out their own flowers."

Treat your sweetheart to a relaxing spa day this Valentine's Day at Wellness Med Spa in Trussville. "Our chocolate and peppermint facials are really, really hot around Christmas and Valentine's Day," said owner Gina. "We can also do a peppermint

aroma therapy massage, which is super relaxing. If you do not know how your lady would like to be pampered, we can always do a gift certificate to the Wellness Med Spa."

How do you make your Valentine's Day unforgettable? Be sure to check out my next article for a cute Valentine's Day date night plan. Until then, y'all get to shopping locally for your sweethearts.

6 from Hewitt-Trussville named to All-State Band

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

Six Hewitt-Trussville High School band members were named to the All-State Band.

Rebecca Percy was named the top flute player in the district and Jason

Collins was named the top bari-sax player in the district. Other All-State Band members include Nikki Newman, Ben Toves, Jennie Tanner and Matthew Barrett.

All-District Band members included Percy, Collins, Newman, Toves, Tanner, Barrett, Jeremy Col-

lins, Jacob Roberson, Seth Hollingsworth and Christopher Shorter.

Only Oak Mountain and Vestavia Hills had more students chosen than Hewitt-Trussville High School, according to Band Director Scott Waid.

Chalkville Elementary has 3 place 1st in Science Olympiad

For The Tribune

Three groups from Chalkville Elementary School placed first in the Jefferson County Science Olympiad on Jan. 18 at Pinson Valley High School.

In the 3rd Rock From the Sun competition, Kevin

Lin and Cole Beard placed first in the What Are You Trying To Tell Me? competition, Karlye Mahoney and Hannah Bradshaw placed first. Jaylon Sanders took first place in the Calculator Contest.

Natalie Miralda and Melanie Jones placed second in the Grab a Gram,

while Mahoney and Bradshaw placed second in the Which Way is North competition. Tayler Love and Gabby Kirk took second in the Where in the World? category.

The Chalkville Elementary School Science Olympiad team is coached by Kevin Foshee.

ACTA announces spring show auditions

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

Auditions for ACTA Theater's spring show, "Our Town," will be held Feb. 17-18 at the theater

on Parkway Drive in Trussville. Auditions are at 7 p.m. both days.

The play, directed by Donna Love, will be April 25-27 and May 1-4. There will not be a show May 3.

Speaking and nonspeaking supporting roles are available. Roles are available for one male age 40 and older, two males age 30 and older, one female age 30 and older, high school age males and more. Townspeople, a church

choir and cemetery people are also needed.

Those who audition should bring a nonreturnable snapshot to go along with an application form. Performers should be prepared to read from the script and

demonstrate pantomime skills. For more information, visit www.actatheater.com.

Contact Gary Lloyd at news@trussvilletribune.com and follow him on Twitter @GaryALloyd.

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Trussville residents will receive letter about property tax

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

Trussville residents in the coming weeks will receive a letter in the mail from Trussville City Schools Superintendent Pattie Neill about the proposed seven-millage property tax increase.

The vote of Trussville residents for or against the seven-millage property tax increase, which would fund two new elementary schools, is Tuesday, Feb. 25.

She said about 8,000



photo courtesy of Trussville City Schools

A rendering of the elementary school that will be built in the Magnolia Place area

Roberts said Monday that he's heard "very positive" feedback about the proposed increase so far.

Trussville City Schools Superintendent Pattie Neill

improving the quality of education with smaller class sizes and increasing property values.

Seven additional mills in property taxes would cost Trussville residents \$70 per year on homes appraised at \$100,000, \$140 per year on homes appraised at \$200,000 and \$210 per year on homes appraised at \$300,000.

The plan is to renovate the city's original high school in the Cahaba Project and to build a new school near the Magnolia Place subdivision.

The schools will likely house 400 students each and could house as many as 500. Roberts said that's a good thing.

"We're living in a place that could explode," he said of families possibly moving to Trussville.



photo courtesy of Trussville City Schools

A rendering of what the elementary school in the Cahaba Project will look like, as seen from where Jack Wood Stadium currently stands

letters will be mailed out, and they will include information about the proposed increase and how the funds would be used.

Trussville City Board of Education President Bill

said the benefits of two new elementary schools are eliminating all portable classrooms at the Paine Elementary Campus, improving school safety with tornado shelters,

Clay Elementary 4th in Science Olympiad



photo courtesy of Jefferson County Schools

Clay Elementary School

For The Tribune

The Clay Elementary School Science Olympiad team placed fourth overall in the Jefferson County Science Olympiad on Jan. 18 at Pinson Valley High School.

The team had three first-place group finishers.

Andrew Adams, Zack Mills and Jordan McCants placed first in Triple Play.

Mills and Garrett Rogers took first place in Bridging the Gap. Adams and Colin Sims placed first in the Geometrics competition.

Julia Petty, Alex'ah Boone and Gracie Reeves finished in second place in Reflection Relay. Mills and Jacob Tapscott placed second in Space Invaders, and Petty and Boone finished second in Mystery Architecture.

Tapscott and Reeves earned a third-place finish in Weather or Not. Rogers and Petty placed fourth in Modern Minds.

Petty, Mary Katherine Barnes, Jana Smith and Alanna Gaines placed fifth in Write It, Do It. Also earning a fifth-place finish were Reeves and Boone in What Are You Trying to Tell Me?

The team is coached by Brenda Hancock.

Business briefs:

by Gary Lloyd
Editor

Trussville company wins BuildSouth Award

Trussville-based Blalock Building Company recently won the AGC 2014 Build-South Award for the additions and renovations to Calera Middle School.

The new main school building includes a board room, choral room and specialty labs for industrial arts, computer and business courses and an art studio.

Blalock Building Company is contracted to construct the new Hewitt-Trussville Stadium behind the Trussville Civic Center. Blalock Building Company was revealed as the project's low bidder last summer, with an adjusted base bid — after a

\$240,000 deduct — of \$13,353,900. After six alternate bids for aspects of the project — precast concrete visitor seating, multi-purpose field lighting package and overflow parking, kitchen equipment upgrade for the visitor concession, precast concrete for a home side and visitor side expansion and soccer concessions/restroom building — Blalock's bid totaled \$14,626,550.

In other business news, Bojangles' opened in Trussville on Monday on U.S. Highway 11. Reef Revolution, a store specializing in saltwater corals and fish, opens on Old Springville Road in Clay on Saturday.

Contact Gary Lloyd at news@trussville-tribune.com and follow him on Twitter @GaryALloyd.

Super Chili Bowl this weekend in Trussville

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The second annual Super Chili Bowl is scheduled for Saturday at the Trussville Civic Center.

Competitive team awards include the grand champion; trophies for first, second and third places; best booth; plaque for best design, them and decoration; best costume; and plaque for most unique costumes, overall presentation and

performance to support team theme. A people's choice award will be given to a team from either the competitive or fun categories.

Admission to the event is \$5 in advance and at the door. Children ages 10 and under get in free.

Setup begins at 7 a.m. on Saturday, and booth judging will begin at 11 a.m. Chili judging begins at 11:30 a.m., public chili sampling begins at noon and awards will be presented at 2:30

p.m. The grand champion award last year went to the "Fire In the Hole" Amerex Corp. team, which included Mark Lewis, Jeff Layfield, Mark Bailey and Heath Posey.

For more information, visit www.trussvillechili.org.

Contact Gary Lloyd at news@trussvilletribune.com and follow him on Twitter @GaryALloyd.

OPINION

New job means new attitude, new possibilities and (maybe) new purchases

I love working at home. In terms of a job, there's nothing finer than keeping my own hours and wearing sweatpants to the office. And as for the commute, you can't beat it. The walk from the bedroom to my desk takes less than a minute. Even if I detour to the kitchen for a cup of coffee, I'm at work in record time, and no matter when I get there, I'm considered punctual. I am, after all, the boss.

But there is one thing I don't love about working at home. For all my introvert tendencies (more than most people realize) being on my own for hours on end sometimes gets to be too much of a good thing, and I begin missing the social aspects of working in the outside world.

It was during one of those lonely spells a few weeks ago that I began casting about for a part-time job, something to get me out of the house on occasion and as a bonus, add a steady component to my freelance income. Browsing around on some of the local online employment sites, I ran across a listing for which I was perfectly qualified, and long story short, I applied, interviewed and got the job.

Now three days a week, I'm navigating rush hour traffic to get to and from the downtown Birmingham law firm where I serve as an administrative coordinator. And while I'm still feeling my way along, trying to get a grasp of what all the title entails (and since it's a newly created

position, my employer is trying to get that same grasp), I'm perfectly happy to be out and about for part of the week, making new friends and letting somebody else take care of the details of being in business for a change.

But in contrast to how a younger me viewed the downtown workaday world, I've learned a few lessons over the years that are helping me approach this job with a bit more wisdom, maturity and maybe even a little less stress.

First of all, I've realized I don't have to be the lead car in the morning rat race. The world isn't going to end if I'm a minute or two late, so I might as well slow down. I'll just stay a minute or two late to make



June Mathews
Somewhere in the Middle...

up for it.

Secondly, expensive work clothes with perfectly matching accessories don't matter like they used to. Seriously, as long as an outfit is neat, clean and office-appropriate, who cares if I'm carrying a purse that matches my shoes? I don't.

Thirdly, work matters, but only for the time I'm at the firm. Toting a briefcase

to and from the office used to make me feel important, like a busy professional whose job required that I work more than just regular office hours. Now that my old briefcase is buried under a pile of coats and Christmas decorations in the hallway closet, I feel just as important.

Fourth, my definition of "professional" has changed. It's not a particular job or position; it's an attitude. And nowadays I think it's awfully professional to give it all I've got from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the law firm three days a week and whatever freelance hours I work at home the other two days of the work week. The rest of the time, I'd rather relax and be not-so-professional.

Lastly, while I'm thrilled

with the pay increase I've recently gained, I'm more motivated by a job I love than by money. I fully expect — once I figure out all I'm responsible for — to love my new job. If I'm wrong about that, I can always return to full-time freelancing and the poverty that often ensues.

But if I'm right, I'm going to order that new living room rug I've been wanting and maybe a new refrigerator and matching dishwasher, not to mention that new bedroom suite I've been dreaming of for years...

Ge, I sure hope I love my new job.

Email June Mathews at jmathews120@charter.net.

Is birth control linked to glaucoma?

In surfing around looking for interesting new research in the field of eye care (could my life get more exciting?), I found a recent study suggests women who have used oral contraceptives for three or more years are more likely to develop glaucoma.

Before you go flushing your birth control medication, know that the data was collected from a survey rather than controlled clinical trials. This means that much more research needs to be done to determine if there is really a connection.

The study—conducted by researchers at the University of California, San Francisco, Duke University and Third Affiliated Hospital of Nanchang University in China—used 2005-2008 data from the



DR. ZACK STEELE, O.D.

Centers for Disease Control's National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.

A total of 3,406 participants over age 40 completed the survey, which researchers used along with eye exam results. The study indicated that women who use oral contraceptives long-term are twice as likely to be diagnosed with glaucoma when compared to those who used oral contraceptives for less

than three years, or not at all. Lead investigator Elaine Wang, a fourth-year medical student at Duke University, acknowledged that more research is necessary. She also pointed out that the study did not distinguish between types of oral contraceptives, or what ethnic groups dominated the study.

However, Wang, along with fellow study authors, wanted gynecologist and eye care professionals to be aware of the possible association and consider it along with existing risk factors, such as increased intra-ocular pressure.

Glaucoma is the second-leading cause of blindness globally. There is no way to prevent the disease, but it can be controlled if caught early, which is why regular eye exams are es-

sential. Optometrists are generally on the front line of glaucoma detection and are well aware of the known risk factors for the development of glaucoma.

To me, this just emphasizes the importance of yearly comprehensive eye examinations and glaucoma testing, including yearly intra-ocular pressure measurements, whether

someone takes birth control medication or not.

Although taking birth control is not proven to be one of those risk factors at this point, the results of this study may be worrisome for some patients.

Though the study is intriguing, keep in mind that it is the first of its kind and many more need to be done. Whether you are

taking contraceptives or not, I would recommend an eye exam every year, especially if you have a family history of glaucoma.

Dr. Zack Steele is a 2003 graduate of the UAB School of Optometry. His practice, Trussville Vision Care, is located on Chalkville Mountain Road in downtown Trussville.

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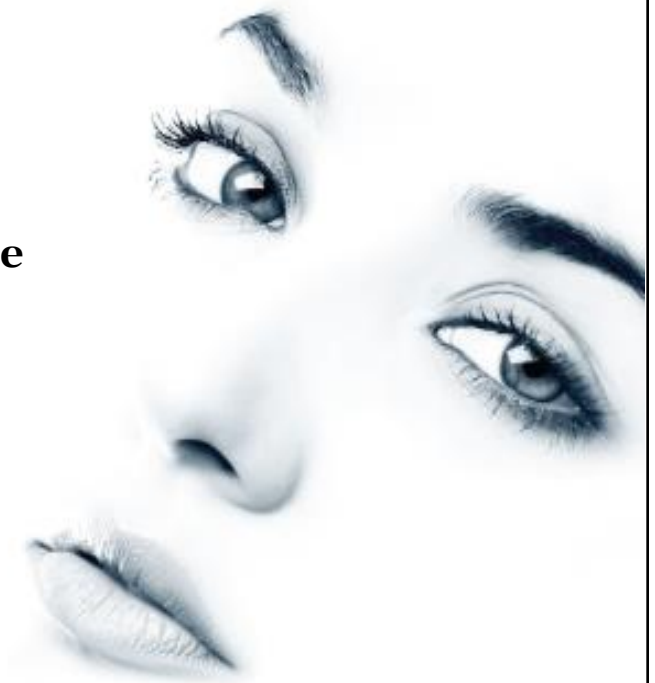


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CALENDAR

Zumba on Mondays, Wednesdays in Trussville

Zumba with Karla is at the Trussville Civic Center Mondays and Wednesdays at 9 a.m. The \$7 classes are for members and non-members. For more information, email kgeopet@yahoo.com or call the civic center at 205-655-9486.

Wrestling at Palmerdale Homesteads Community Center

GCW Wrestling is the first Saturday each month at 7 p.m. at the Palmerdale Homesteads Community Center. The Mark Taylor Band performs the fourth Saturday each month, clogging and line dancing, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Georgiana Davis Masonic Lodge meetings

Georgiana Davis Masonic Lodge No. 338 in Trussville meetings are at 7:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Monday each month. Practice nights are on the first and third Monday. Family nights are on the fifth Monday of the month. The lodge is at 190 Beechnut St. in Trussville. For more information, call Bryan Stover at 205-706-5220.

Jazzercise at Trussville Civic Center

Jazzercise is Mondays at 5 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., and Saturdays at 9 a.m. at the Trussville Civic Center. For more information, contact Beth Gilbert at 205-966-9893.

Trussville property tax vote Feb. 25

A special property tax election in Trussville will be Feb. 25, 2014, for the purpose of two new elementary schools. Voting places will be Trussville City Hall

and First Baptist Church of Trussville. Polls will be open that day from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Seven additional mills in property taxes would cost Trussville residents \$70 per year on homes appraised at \$100,000, \$140 per year on homes appraised at \$200,000 and \$210 per year on homes appraised at \$300,000.

Super Chili Bowl Feb. 1

The Super Chili Bowl is scheduled for Feb. 1 at the Trussville Civic Center. The registration deadline is Jan. 30. Registration is \$25 per competitive team and \$20 per fun team. Admission to the event is \$5 in advance and at the door. Children ages 10 and under get in free. For more information, visit www.trussvillechili.org.

Leadership Conference in Trussville March 20

The third annual Trussville Leadership Conference is March 20 at the Trussville Civic Center. The keynote speaker is Richard Simmons III, founder and executive director of The Center for Executive Leadership. The registration fee is \$49 until March 7. After that it will be \$59. For more information, call the Trussville Area Chamber of Commerce at 205-655-7535.

Reading, memorizing scripts workshop Feb. 6-27

A workshop on reading and memorizing scripts will be held each Thursday from Feb. 6 through Feb. 27 at ACTA Theater in Trussville. Students will practice with small scripts and monologues. The class is intended to teach actors a fun way to memorize lines. The class each Thursday lasts from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$65 for the one-month class. To register, email chanelwoodacting@gmail.com.

Springville dance Feb. 1

The Traylor 8-piece band will play Feb. 1 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at The Shack Burgers & BBQ at 5393 Highway 11 in Springville. For more information, visit www.bandmix.com/traylor8-pieceband or call 205-467-0770.

Author book signing in Trussville Feb. 16

Trussville native Garrett B. Robinson will sign copies and read from his book Feb. 16 at the Trussville Public Library. The signing will be from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call the library at 205-655-2022.

'The Night Sky' storytime at Pinson library Feb. 21

Join Ms. Allison for "The Night Sky" storytime on Feb. 21 at 10 a.m. at the Pinson Public Library. Hear songs, stories and enjoy a snack. The library is located at 4410 Main St. in Pinson.

Movie night at Palmerdale UMC

"Ragamuffin: The True Story of Rich Mullins" will show Friday, Jan. 31 at 7 p.m. at Palmerdale United Methodist Church at 7776 Highway 75. Tickets are \$10 and are available at www.palmerdaleumc.com or at the church office. For more information, call 205-681-9762.

Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt in Trussville April 5

A free flashlight Easter egg hunt will be April 5 at the Trussville Youth Football Field in the Trussville Sports Complex at 6:30 p.m. The hunt is for children ages 2 through 8. There will be 5,000 candy- and toy-filled eggs, face painting, a fire truck, a fire dog, cotton candy and a space bounce. Children should bring flashlights and baskets.

'Ride for Kids in Crisis' May 24

The first annual "Ride for Kids in Crisis" will be May 24 beginning at Palmerdale United Methodist Church. Registration that day will be from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Bikes leave at 10:15 a.m. Registration is \$25 per bike and \$10 per passenger. For more information or to RSVP, contact Cindy Wynn at 205-837-5331.

Trussville flag football registration

Registration for spring flag football is now open until Feb. 23. Evaluations start Feb. 24 and games start at The Mall on March 16. The cost is \$90 per child. To register, visit www.trussvilleparks.org. For more information, call 205-661-3777 or email zachmanning@hotmail.com or asmith@trussville.org.

Trussville basketball camp March 24-27

Trussville Parks and Recreation is hosting a basketball camp March 24-27 featuring Keith "Shot Doc" Veney and Damanna Odom as the lead instructors. The camp costs \$150 and is for ages 6 to 18. It will take place at the Athletic Center on Parkway Drive. To register, visit www.shotdocnation.com.

Valentine Brunch at GVCC Feb. 12

Area ladies are invited to attend a Valentine Brunch on Feb. 12 at 10 a.m. at Grayson Valley Country Club. Brenda Copeland of Bastrop, La., will share ideas on finding "Stealzs & Dealzs." Cost is \$14 and reservations are encouraged by calling Janice at 205-853-3022 or emailing rfoster5@bham.rr.com.

Have events you want to share? Email them to news@trussvilletribune.com.

SAVE THE DATE!

February 1, 2014
12pm-3pm
Trussville Civic Center



12pm:
Doors Open
12pm-3pm:
Chili Sampling
2:30pm:
Awards Ceremony

All Tickets \$5.00
Children 10 and under FREE

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