



The Trussville Tribune

April 23 - 29, 2014

Your news source for Trussville, Clay and Pinson

50¢

Northern Beltline groundbreaking: 'Very important' to governor

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

U.S. Rep. Spencer Bachus pulled out an old photo he said he discovered while cleaning out his desk, a photo from 40 years ago.

Bachus joked that he was wearing the same suit Monday as in that old photo. The suit hasn't worn out. The Northern Beltline will not wear out, either, he said.

"It's going to be here for generations and generations and generations," Bachus told a crowd gathered at the groundbreaking for the Northern Beltline in Palmedale on Monday.



photo by Ron Burkett

Gov. Robert Bentley, legislators and area mayors turn dirt at Monday's groundbreaking of the Northern Beltline.

The initial project will connect Alabama Highway 79 to Alabama Highway 75. The entire project will consist of a 52-mile multi-lane highway that will stretch from Interstate 59 in northeast Jefferson County to the Interstate 459 interchange with I-20/59 near Bessemer. The contract for the first phase of the project was awarded to Wright Brothers Construction Company, Inc. of Charleston, Tenn., last year. The estimated cost for the first phase of the project is \$46 million and is expected to be completed by mid fall 2016.

Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley spoke Monday morning to a crowd of legislators, reporters, commissioners and mayors. He said his first priority as governor was to create jobs for Alabamians.

"The Northern Beltline will certainly do that," Bentley said.

Bentley said the University of Alabama Cen-

see BELTLINE page 5

Magic Moment granted in Trussville for 11-year-old



photo by Ron Burkett

The Hurley family reacts after being told it will go to Disney World this year.

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

Janet Hurley thought she and her husband, David, would never vacation again.

Since 2005, the Trussville couple has adopted six special needs children from various parts of China, after visiting orphanages in the large country.

"Our hearts broke for them," Hurley said.

None of the couple's six adoptive children -- A.J. (11), Emmi (10), Avery (8), Jenna (9), Wes (9) and Waid (8) -- were related before coming to Trussville.

The oldest of the children, A.J., has Trisomy 8, a chromosomal disorder caused by having three copies of chromosome 8. A.J. had open heart surgery when he was 3 and is missing his corpus cal-

losum, a part of the brain that connects the left and right cerebral hemispheres and facilitates inter-hemispheric communication. The condition is so rare that most babies born with it are stillborn or miscarried, Hurley said.

"Just the fact that he can walk and run and write his name is amazing," Hurley said.

Hurley said she filled out paperwork last year for Magic Moments, a wish-granting organization dedicated to children living in Alabama with chronic, life-threatening diseases. She got a phone call in November saying her paperwork was being reviewed. She didn't think the family would be granted a Magic Moment.

Another group, Gardendale-based Mission:118, made T-shirts to sell to help fundraise for the Magic Mo-

ment. The group is made up of Gardendale High School seniors Lexie Bear, Tiffany Otis and Kennedy Webster. All Mission:118's funds go to a charity of choice each month.

Then, Hurley got a call a month ago, saying A.J.'s Magic Moment had been granted and that the family would be going to Disney World this year.

"I was about screaming and crying and trying to drive and not let six kids know what was going on," Hurley said.

The six kids, however, didn't know about the trip until last Thursday, when it was revealed to them at a party at the Masonic Park in Trussville. The Buzz Light-year-themed party featured a bouncy castle, Bubble Fun blow bubbles, pizza, cup-

see TRUSSVILLE page 4

Eggs Away: Helicopter drops 1,000 eggs in Clay



photo by Ron Burkett

A helicopter delivers Easter eggs in Clay on Saturday.

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

Clearview Baptist Church on Saturday, April 19 hosted a helicopter Easter egg drop at Clay City Park.

About 1,000 Easter eggs were tossed from the helicopter. Another few thousand eggs were hunted for by children on the ground.

Two golden eggs were dropped from the helicopter, and the children who found them won a ride in the helicopter.

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

Clay-Chalkville mourns death of football player

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

Teachers at Clay-Chalkville High School sometimes email head football coach Jerry Hood, to tell him what a great job certain players are doing in class.

Hood during the last football season got one of those emails, praising junior Mekail Evans, the teacher explaining that the 5-foot-

9, 195-pound inside linebacker who wore No. 30 on his jersey was a pleasure to teach.

Hood said Evans probably didn't like public praise or criticism, a somewhat shy student at times. Hood praised Evans that day, the linebacker cracking a smile while looking at the ground.

"That's the one memory that I thought about (last Wednesday) all day," Hood said.

Evans died last week.

Last Tuesday night, he was in the shower at home after working out at the YMCA. The family heard a thud come from the bathroom.

"He had apparently had complications due to an enlarged heart," Hood said. "That's what the coroner is telling us."

Hood said he got a message from Evans' mother about midnight last Tuesday. He was at the hospital with the family in the wee hours Wednesday morning.

"A very sad situation," Hood said.

Evans had been in the Clay-Chalkville football program since the seventh grade. Last season as a junior, Evans was ninth on the Clay-Chalkville defense with 23 tackles. He totaled three tackles for loss. Hood said Evans was going to be "heavily counted on" this year and probably had an athletic future at a small college.

Rising senior defensive

end Kendall Jones said he and his teammates used to joke around and laugh with Evans in the locker room.

"Everybody on the team is his brother and we have lost one but we are going to do big things this year in honor of our brother," Jones said.

Hood said Evans seemed at his happiest in the last year. He called him a "tough kid and tough player" who routinely finished first in workouts and drills.

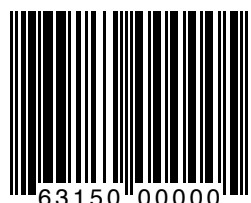
A memorial fund has been established through Regions Bank to help with unexpected costs the family will incur. A candlelight vigil was held on the field at Cougar Stadium on Friday.

"I just can't say enough good things about the kid," Hood said. "He was one of my favorites to coach."

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

Inside The Tribune:

News - pages 2 - 7
Lifestyle - pages 8 - 11
Opinion - page 12
Calendar - page 13
Sports - pages 14 - 16



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NEWS

Trussville Rotary receives district awards

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The Trussville Rotary Daybreak Club walked away with several ribbons and certificates from its district-wide meeting April 11-12.

District 6860 held its annual meeting at the Courtyard by Marriott Grandview on U.S. Highway 280 with approximately 200 people in attendance.

The Trussville Rotary Daybreak Club received certificates for youth programs and initiatives, and also for literacy. The awards recognized the club's commitment to its weekly reading program at Paine Primary School.

The club received ribbons in recognition for its involvement with the Interact Club at Hewitt-Trussville High School



submitted photo

Front row from left are Diane Poole, Mary Jean Sanspree, Abby Osborne, Chloe Wilks, Taylor Cooner and Rotary District Governor Tom Greene. Back row from left are Michael Dean, Sikandar Raza, Danny Cooner, John Griscom and Rotary Assistant District Governor Pat McTamney.

and also for achievement regarding public relations for the club.

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

Sears-Garrett Engagement Announcement

For The Tribune

Ms. Donna Sears of Trussville, Alabama is pleased to announce the engagement of her daughter, Jennifer McRae Sears, to John Rogers Garrett. Jennifer is also the daughter of Mr. David Earl Sears of San Antonio, Texas. John is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Daniel Garrett of Trussville, Alabama. Miss Sears will be graduating in May from The University of Alabama, Capstone College of Nursing. Mr. Garrett completed his undergraduate degree in accounting from The Culverhouse College of Commerce at The University of Alabama, and will be beginning an internship this summer with Alabama Power. The wedding is planned for



submitted photo

Jennifer Sears and John Garrett

June 14, 2014 at Independent Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, Alabama. The couple will honeymoon in the Dominican Republic. John and Jenny will reside in Birmingham.

School board places intra-district transfer policy on table

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The Trussville City Board of Education on Monday placed an intra-district student transfer policy and cross boundary transfer application on the table for future approval.

The policy will first go to federal court for approval.

The policy would allow students currently living in the city of Trussville and zoned for an elementary school in their zone

of Trussville to request a cross boundary transfer to attend outside their attendance zone.

According to the policy, all applications must be received by the board on or before July 10 for the fall term of any particular school year. All approved transfers are good for one year only. All cross boundary transfers must reapply every year.

Transportation is not provided for any transfer students, the policy states. The policy also states that

approved transfer students are subject to immediate revocation or denial if they exceed the number of allowed absences, do not maintain satisfactory grades or do not maintain satisfactory behavior.

The board briefly discussed the policy at Monday's quarterly retreat.

The intra-district transfer policy is being discussed because the school system is in the process of designing and constructing two new elementary schools. One will be located in the

renovated New Deal-era school building on Parkway Drive, and the other will be constructed near the Magnolia Place subdivision. Both are expected

to open for the 2016-2017 school year.

The board next meets Monday, May 19 at 6 p.m. The transfer policy will not be voted on at that meet-

ing.

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Fairfield seeks info in death of Pinson woman

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The Fairfield Police Department is seeking information in the death of a Pinson woman.

The body of Megan Elizabeth Monroe, 22, was discovered Saturday morning. Various reports indicate Monroe's body was dumped and set on fire behind an empty house.

Police Chief Leon Davis said the department was still awaiting word from the coroner's office as to Monroe's cause of death.

Davis urged anyone who saw or spoke with Monroe prior to her death to contact the Fairfield Police Department at 205-786-4111.

"Any information received will remain confidential and you will not be asked to identify yourself, but assistance from the public is needed to aid in bringing closure to this family," Davis said.



photo courtesy of Fairfield Police Department

Megan Monroe

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

Trussville closes on lighting for sports complex

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The Trussville City Council on Tuesday closed on the qualified energy conservation lighting for the Trussville Sports Complex.

The approval is for the permanent financing for the lighting project.

The Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds program is federally funded and gives assistance for the construction, rehabilitation or installation of energy-efficient buildings or facilities.

The new lighting will be better lighting and more cost effective than what the city had previously. This is a \$2.485 million

project. The federal government will give an annual rebate on the interest, and combined with the electricity cost savings over 20 years, the projections are a very low to no cost return on investment.

Lighting at the complex in the past was frequently left on when no one was in the park. Timers proved ineffective through the years as they were often "reset" and storms frequently interfered with the settings, causing them to come on at strange times. The new lighting can be controlled remotely through a computer program.

The improvements are expected to reduce energy consumption by at least 20

percent.

The city council in December approved the new lighting. In November, the city council approved a resolution that planned for the city to be reimbursed if it spent funds up front for the lighting. According to the resolution, the city proposed to issue approximately a \$2.5 million aggregate principal amount of its general obligation warrants for the purpose of paying the costs of acquiring and constructing various capital improvements to the lighting system in the sports complex.

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

Zoning denied for Kellogg's warehouse in Pinson

by Lee Weyhrich

Staff Writer

The Pinson City Council last week denied rezoning for a Kellogg's warehouse.

The change to industrial zoning in the area where the warehouse was proposed was denied. The area, located at 7068 Highway 75, is adjacent to

a residential area.

"While we welcome business growth, we must regulate the correct locations," Mayor Hoyt Sanders said. "Perhaps we can find a suitable location."

For the vote to pass, four positive votes were needed.

Sanders said Dawn Tanner and Robbie Roberts

voted for the rezoning. He said he, John Churchwell and Joy McCain voted against it. Joe Cochran was not present for the vote.

The owner of the property, Jason Stidham, wants to open the warehouse, and he has said the warehouse would be quiet, hidden from view by trees, as non-intrusive as possible and as far away on

the property from housing as possible.

The proposal has been divisive among Pinson residents, Tanner said. Churchwell agreed.

"You've got a lot (of residents) that are for it, and a lot that are against it, and you could go almost either way, but I think that we know a lot more now than we did two weeks

ago," Churchwell said. "When we get right down to it we'll just have to vote our best conscience on the way to go."

The city has already designated the area as a site for future highway commercial businesses, according to the master plan. According to current zoning rules these businesses could include

bus stations, funeral homes, printing and publishing businesses, automotive repair, a gym, or an automotive or recreational vehicle dealership, in addition to more commercial endeavors.

The Pinson City Council next meets Thursday, May 1 at 6:30 p.m. at Pinson City Hall.

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Business briefs:

by Gary Lloyd
Editor

Zeke Smith appointed to workforce council

Trussville's Zeke Smith, Alabama Power's executive vice president for external affairs, was recently appointed by Gov. Robert Bentley to serve as chair of the Alabama Workforce Council.

The advisory group will formulate policies, develop innovative educational workforce programming and discuss issues critical to the workforce development needs in Alabama.



photo courtesy of Alabama Power

Zeke Smith, left, is greeted by Gov. Robert Bentley.

"It is important there is an open dialogue between industry and education," Smith said. "I'm optimistic the council will make a difference helping our educational leaders develop a robust workforce that can step right in and fill the needs of industry and business."

The idea for the Alabama Workforce Council came from the Bentley's College and Career Ready Task Force, a group of education, business and industry leaders



photo by Diane Poole

The Casey Mann State Farm ribbon cutting

who collaborated on addressing the challenges of producing a skilled workforce that can appeal to new and existing companies today and in to the future.

In other business news, Casey Mann had a ribbon cutting for his State Farm office in Trussville earlier this month.

In other area business news, Alabama Youth Homes merged with King's Home on April 15. King's Home was formerly The King's Ranch and Hannah Homes. King's Home will now operate 22 Christ-centered homes in three Birmingham metro counties, where every resident has been rendered homeless because of the effects of abuse, domestic violence or neglect.

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TRUSSVILLE continued from page 1

cakes and candy. The cooler filled with water had a label taped to it, titled "Space Ranger Fuel."

The best party feature, though, was a near-life-size balloon of Buzz Lightyear, with a speak bubble that read, "CALLING ALL SPACE RANGERS...NEXT STOP: Disney World." The Mission:118 group presented that balloon to the family.

The timing of the trip is great for Jenna. She is legally blind and her vision is deteriorating rapidly. Doctors estimate she has about two years before she will be totally blind.

"With the timing of the trip, at least she will be able to see the things she can get up close to, and have those special memories," Hurley said.

The vacation means a trip the six kids would never have gone on otherwise. It means great memories. Hurley said she and David have two grown children, who they took to Disney World when they were young. The more the couple adopted, though, the more impossible a trip became financially.

The feeling now? "Amazing," Hurley said. "I'm just so thankful for the organizations that put



photo by Ron Burkett

A.J. gives a thumbs up in front of the Buzz Lightyear balloon.

this together."

The T-shirt A.J. wore for the reveal fits the day and the upcoming trip. The turquoise shirt features a quote scrawled in blue, words spoken by Walt Disney.

"It's kind of fun to do the impossible," it reads.

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Deputies discover meth lab while checking on children

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

Jefferson County sheriff's deputies last Tuesday dispatched to a residence in northeastern Jefferson County to check the welfare of two children ended up making another discovery.

Deputies responding to a mobile home in the 4600 block of Elfreth Johnson Road in unincorporated Jefferson County near Pinson found an active methamphetamine lab just after 1 p.m. last Tuesday.

Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Randy Christian said a caller expressed concern that there was

drug activity at the mobile home and he was worried about the 5- and 8-year-old children who lived there.

Christian said there was a small travel trailer on the mobile home's lot. Deputies knocked and a 29-year-old woman answered but said she was alone. When deputies heard noises coming from the travel trailer, she told them that her adult stepson, 20-year-old Jeremiah Small, was inside the trailer. She knocked on the door and Small came out. Both granted deputies permission to search the mobile home and the travel trailer, Christian said.

Once inside the travel



photo courtesy of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office

Jeremiah Small

trailer, deputies located an active methamphetamine lab, Christian said. They exited the trailer and called narcotics investigators. Drug paraphernalia was



photo courtesy of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office

Carla Byess

found inside the mobile home.

The children were located in the mobile home but were unharmed, Christian said. The

for their safety and placed with relatives.

Small was arrested and charged with unlawful manufacturing of a controlled substance. He was in Jefferson County Jail with bond set at \$150,000. Chemical endangerment of a child charges were later filed against the 29-year-old woman, who is the mother of the two children. Carla Byess is charged with two counts of chemical endangerment of a child. She is in Jefferson County Jail with no bond.

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BELTLINE continued from page 1

ter for Business and Economic Research estimated that 21,000 permanent jobs will be supported by the Northern Beltline in the future. Bentley said the Northern Beltline is "very important" to him.

Bachus said the Northern Beltline provides an "exciting future" for people in the area.

"This is a great day for our state and this region," Bachus said.

Jefferson County Commission President David Carrington said he sees future economic development and job creation for years to come. He called the day a "historic milestone" and a day of "celebration."

The day did not come without opposition. The Southern Environmental Law Center and Black Warrior Riverkeeper released a statement Monday.

"To continue investing in an unnecessary road that will cross and permanently alter streams and wetlands in 125 places, impacting two major sources of local drinking water, is nothing to celebrate," said Nelson Brooke, the Black Warrior Riverkeeper. "Today's event is merely a distraction from the fact that the Northern Beltline remains a wasteful and destructive diversion from the Birmingham area's pressing transportation needs, such

as the I-59/20 upgrade and major traffic issues on I-65 and Highway 280."

Southern Environmental Law Center senior attorney Gil Rogers said the lack of funding to get the project from start to finish illustrates that the project is a "bad idea" for the region and poor investment for taxpayers.

"Not only is this project needlessly damaging the Black Warrior and Cahaba River watersheds, but its \$5.4-billion price tag would use all of Alabama's federal funding for much needed road improvements and maintenance projects around the state," Rogers said. "Other states are sensibly shelv-

ing large projects that are far less costly than the Beltline in the face of economic realities."

The SELC has filed two federal lawsuits on behalf of Black Warrior Riverkeeper in 2011 and 2013. The 2011 suit charged that the responsible agencies failed to provide a necessary analysis of alternative transportation investments as required by law, and to justify the environmental impacts and tremendous economic cost of the Beltline. The SELC filed suit in 2013 challenging a permit issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the Northern Beltline's first phase of construction, charging improper

segmentation of the project and failure to follow the Clean Water Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. A federal judge in January denied a request for a preliminary injunction that would block construction of the Northern Beltline.

A group of young students attended the ground-

breaking Monday. Bentley noted their attendance.

"You all are going to enjoy (the Northern Beltline)," he said.

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Michaels in Trussville impacted by data breach

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The Michaels Stores Inc. data breach that impacted three million customers nationwide included the Trussville location on U.S. Highway 11, according to the Birmingham Business Journal.

information about the specific locations and dates of exposure of the data breach last week.

At the Trussville store, affected dates were May 8 through Aug. 10, Aug. 13 through Oct. 8, Oct. 17 through Nov. 24, and Dec. 12 through Jan. 19, 2014, according to the BBJ.

A letter from Michaels Stores Inc. CEO Chuck

Rubin states that the company has continued its "extensive investigation" with the help of two independent, expert security firms since January.

"We have also been working closely with law enforcement authorities and coordinating with banks and payment processors to determine

the facts," Rubin said.

After weeks of analysis, the company discovered evidence confirming that systems of Michaels stores in the United States and its subsidiary, Aaron Brothers, were attacked by criminals using highly sophisticated malware that had not been encountered previously by either of the security firms, Rubin said.

Rubin said the company has identified and fully contained the incident, and the malware no longer presents a threat to customers at Michaels or Aaron Brothers.

"We are truly sorry and deeply regret any inconvenience this may cause," Rubin said. "Our customers are always our No. 1 priority and we are

committed to retaining your trust and loyalty."

The company is offering identity protection and credit monitoring services to affected customers in the U.S. for 12 months at no cost.

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

Household hazardous waste collection day Saturday

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

A household hazardous waste collection day for Jefferson County residents will be Saturday, April 26 at McLendon Park in Birmingham, adjacent to Le-

gion Field.

It will be from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The event is free for Jefferson County residents. They may bring ammunition, prescription drugs, used motor oil, paper shredding, electronics, white goods and paint.

The goal is to provide all Jefferson County residents a safe outlet to dispose of their household hazardous waste materials.

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

State temporarily shuts down driver license system

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

In an effort to comply with federal regulations, the Alabama Department of Public Safety's Driver License Division has scheduled a database conversion the last weekend of April, which will result in all systems - including online services - being shut down from 5 p.m. Friday, April 25, to 8 a.m. Wednesday, April 30.

During that time, driver license examining offices across the state will be unable to issue, renew or reinstate driver licenses and non-driver identification cards. In addition, access to motor vehicle records and Alabama Uniform Crash Reports will be offline. This temporary system shutdown will also affect probate offices, license commissioners' offices and other agencies and businesses that involve Alabama driver license trans-

actions or reviews.

To lessen the impact on the public, this particular week was selected as April 28 is a state holiday, and state offices already will be closed.

Normal service is expected to resume at 8 a.m. April 30.

For more information, visit dps.alabama.gov.

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

Home dedicated in Clay



photo courtesy of Greater Birmingham Habitat for Humanity

Keys are presented to the Humphrey brothers by John Hoerner from Cathedral Church of the Advent.

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

A Greater Birmingham Habitat for Humanity home was dedicated in the city of Clay on Good Friday.

The rehabilitation of Darius Humphrey's home on Debbie Drive in Clay began in March. Building on Faith is a house-building event, uniting congregations of various faiths together to build houses in partnership with local families.

The home is a property acquired through a nationwide partnership with Bank of America to rehabilitate vacant properties and match them with homeowners. Humphrey and his brother, Curtis, are excited to move into their new home.

"This is a dream come true for me and my brother," Humphrey said. "This is the beginning of becoming independent, hard working, responsible and productive young men. Thank you for helping us

buy a home of our own."

Churches that provided volunteers on this home include All Saints' Episcopal Church, Cathedral Church of the Advent, Episcopal Church of the Holy Apostles, Episcopal Church of St. Francis of Assisi, First Wesleyan Church of Anniston, Holy Infant of Prague Catholic Church, Independent Presbyterian Church, Liberty Crossings United Methodist Church, Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church and St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

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Clay moves closer to Clay-Palmerdale, Old Springville traffic light

by Lee Weyhrich

Staff Writer

After years of battling to install a traffic light at the corner of Clay-Palmerdale Road and Old Springville Road, it looks like things will soon be moving forward.

The holdup for these plans was a corner of property at 6784 Old Springville Road that contained only a single parking place. That corner has been a source of contention since the beginning of Clay as a city, 14 years ago, Councilman Ricky Baker said.

Roger Roper, the owner of Roger's Quick Stop, didn't want to have to give up any of his land for the city, but he agreed to sell the corner of his property to the city for close to \$9,000, which several members of



file photo by Gary Lloyd

A sign at the corner intersection of Clay-Palmerdale Road and Old Springville Road

the council, including City Manager Ronnie Dixon, and City Attorney Alan Summers believe is more than the land is worth.

The other option for the city would be condemnation, but Summers recommended

against that due to even higher costs and a slower turnaround.

According to Summers, a condemnation case could spend as much as a year at the circuit court level, costing many thousands of dollars in fees.

Regardless of the decision of the probate court, the case could be appealed to the circuit for more money. The city would also be responsible for

newspaper advertising of the condemnation, among other expenses.

Summers advised the council to take the \$8,800 offer.

"Yes, \$8,800 is worth more than that little tract, but when you add all this -- and we're supposed to be stewards of the money and all -- I'd far rather see this done," Summers said.

In January, Dixon said the traffic signal would be better served to be erected with two cantilever poles instead of one. Roper at the time said he's "all for" a traffic signal at the intersection, but that it could be done in a more "up-to-date" way.

Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Randy Christian said that nine traffic

accidents were reported at the intersection of Clay-Palmerdale Road and Old Springville Road in 2013.

The council agreed to pay the \$8,800. The transaction could be complete in as little as 30 days, at which time construction for the traffic light could begin. If construction on that project began immediately, it could start before the paving project on Old Springville Road ends.

Road work has already begun at the northern border of Clay on Old Springville Road. The entire project is estimated to take six to eight weeks, Councilman Kevin Small said.

Gary Lloyd contributed to this story.

Trussville PD, sheriff's office participating in drug take-back day

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day is scheduled for Saturday, and the Trussville Police Department and Jefferson County Sheriff's Office are participating.

The day aims to provide a safe, convenient and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating

the general public about the potential for abuse of medications.

The Trussville Police Department will hold its first-ever take-back day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at Trussville City Hall on Main Street. Lt. Jeff Bridges said the department will take back prescription and non-prescription drugs that people want to get rid of.

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office will hold

its take-back day also from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Center Point Substation on Center Point Road.

For more information about National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day, visit http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/.

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

Pinson to consider new band uniforms

by Lee Weyhrich

Staff Writer

The Pinson City Council last week held first readings of requests from the Pinson Valley High School band boosters and those in charge of maintaining the football field.

The marching band has been using the same uniforms for the last 12 years. The band is looking to replace 100 uniforms at a cost of roughly \$40,000. The band already has

\$25,000 toward that goal. Councilman Robbie Roberts suggested the council consider covering \$10,000 of the expense.

Like the uniforms, the football field at Willie Adams Stadium has seen a lot of use through a lot of games, and the field needs to be redone.

"Anyone that attends the high school football games knows what kind of shape the field is in," Councilwoman Dawn Tanner said. "The board of education is looking at trying to come

up with a place to build a practice field."

Tanner said the field has been vastly overused.

The cost of repairing the field would be between \$10,000 and \$15,000, and the work would need to be done by the middle of May in order for the field to be ready for the fall season.

The field and uniforms will likely be voted on at the next council meeting, scheduled for May 1 at 6:30 p.m. at Pinson City Hall.

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LIFESTYLE

Board votes for HTMS lunchroom renovation

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The Trussville City Board of Education on Monday approved the renovation of the lunchroom of Hewitt-Trussville Middle School.

The estimated cost of the project is \$350,000.

The project will include the installation of new serving lines, and additional office space for the manager and assistant manager. The new serving lines will replace the original serving lines, and will improve the flow and efficiency of the student traffic during serving times.

Lathan and Associates is doing the design and engineering of the project. The renovation will likely take place next year.

The board also approved of spending \$125,000 public school funds to remove the mulch and replace it with a poured rubber surface on the Paine Primary School playground.

Sprouse Construction was the low bidder at \$125,000. Lathan and Associates did the design and engineering.

In other action, the board approved two amendments with EEFS for Hewitt-Trussville Stadium and Sports Complex. The first updates the contract

showing the correct contract amount to reflect the correct percentage of payment for the design firm. The other amendment reflects a credit for engineering work that the city had already paid for.

School officials also discussed the possibility of expanding the parking lot at Hewitt-Trussville High School. About 300 parking spaces could be added in the upper left area of the student parking lot.

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

Police, fire chiefs discuss departments



photo by Diane Poole

Don Sivley, June Mathews and Russell Ledbetter

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

Trussville Police Chief Don Sivley and Trussville Fire Chief Russell Ledbetter discussed their departments at last week's Trussville Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon.

Sivley was hired as a Trussville police officer in July 1976 and became chief in 1998. He said the department's mission is to protect the people and property of Trussville. The department has 68 staff members, including 54

sworn officers.

Sivley said the department averages 140 arrests per month and 27 inmates per day. He said the addition of Chevrolet Tahoes as police cruisers have been "a tremendous help" and the department has seen thousands in savings by running them on compressed natural gas.

Ledbetter was hired in 1998 as the fire department's first full-time chief. The department includes 40 paid members and 65 volunteers. He said the department is "very strong."

Ledbetter reported that

the department received 2,716 calls and responded to nine structure fires in 2013.

During the Jan. 28-29 winter storm, the fire department received 24 medical calls and transported 13 people. There were 150 pillows and blankets, 75 cots, 75 personal hygiene kits, and 20 cases of water provided at shelters in the city.

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



file photo by Ron Burkett

Hewitt-Trussville Middle School

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