



The Trussville Tribune

May 28 - June 3, 2014

Your news source for Trussville, Clay and Pinson

50¢

Old Springville resurfacing complete in Clay

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The resurfacing of Old Springville Road in Clay was completed last week, according to City Manager Ronnie Dixon.

Dixon said the resurfacing went "great." Resurfacing began March 31.

Dixon said now that resurfacing the main road in Clay is complete, shoulder work, permanent striping and centerline marking will begin. Dixon estimated that project to last about four weeks.



file photo by Gary Lloyd

This sign is at the corner of Clay-Palmerdale Road and Old Springville Road in Clay.

Dixon said in January that the city was set 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 in January 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 the 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 ATRIP was to cover \$736,000 for a total of \$920,000 for the resurfacing project.

Dixon said that when engineering was

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Woman walking country for homeless veterans passes through Trussville



photo by Gary Lloyd

Kim Denmark walks outside of Target in Trussville last Wednesday.

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

Kim Denmark stands outside Target in Trussville, her orange outfit about as bright as last Wednesday's sun.

She's holding a United States flag, a beat-up cloth attached to a dented metal pole, the gold eagle at the top missing one wing due to a pesky tree branch in New Jersey. She does not allow the flag to touch the ground, because that can be perceived as disrespectful. She wears a hard sign that drapes her front and back, like some rookie store employee begging for customers.

Denmark, however, does not work for Target.

A man pulls up in a green Dodge truck at a stop sign in front of Target, and his passenger window is rolled down. The man leans to the center of his two-door truck, motions to Denmark and calls out, "Thank you for what you're doing." He compliments Denmark's flag, which is spotted on the white stripes with faded orange stains.

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"It's the real deal," Denmark says to the man, and he again thanks her.

"You're welcome and God bless you," she says to him.

Denmark, originally a businesswoman from Ohio, is walking across the country, raising awareness for the poor, homeless and economically disadvantaged. She admits she was successful in business, but also arrogant and wouldn't help people or give back to her community. She judged homeless people who were drunk, she said.

"I never thought about who that guy used to be," she said.

She says she had an epiphany, and now lives to serve others.

By walking, Denmark's goal is to dramatize the severity and dedication of her personal interest in America's indigenous and working poor. She hopes to initiate a spark in cities across the U.S. to become more proactive in helping those in need. She calls it the "I choose to do something" campaign.

To date, Denmark has walked 4,790

Motorcyclists ride for kids in crisis near Pinson



photo by Ron Burkett

A motorcycle sits outside Palmerdale United Methodist Church prior to the ride beginning Saturday morning. See more photos on page 11.

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The first annual "Ride for Kids in Crisis" was held Saturday beginning at Palmerdale United Methodist Church.

Riders of all skill levels were invited to the event. The purpose was to create awareness of the struggle to put an end to child abuse.

The event's registration webpage said it was calling for "the entire spectrum of motorcyclists and bikers helping to create awareness of the struggle to put an end to child abuse. Imagine the message this will send throughout Alabama. No child should live in fear."

The webpage also said participants were confronting abuse, while changing lives one mile at a time.

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

Final graduation at Jack Wood Stadium 'a beautiful night'

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

Mother Nature wouldn't have had it any other way.

It was a bit hot, but the skies were clear, the chance of rain impossible.

Trussville City Schools Superintendent Pattie Neill called last Thursday "a beautiful night" for the

last graduation in Jack Wood Stadium, a structure that has held most Hewitt-Trussville High School graduation ceremonies since 1949, when the stadium was built in the center of Trussville.

"The weather was clear, the crowd overflowed and it was a fitting sendoff to the Class of 2014," Neill said.



photo by Ron Burkett

The Class of 2014 last Thursday became the final Hewitt-Trussville High School class to have its graduation ceremony at Jack Wood Stadium.

By the end of the night, 367 Hewitt-Trussville High School seniors walked across a stage on the field. Total college scholarship money earned by the Class of 2014 is \$8.62 million.

"Jack Wood Stadium has been the site for thousands of students' graduations, with a rich history of families and students

celebrating a milestone in life," said Hewitt-Trussville High School Principal Tim Salem.

Bob Davis, who lives in the Cahaba Project and graduated from Hewitt-Trussville in 1968, estimated 95 percent of all Hewitt-Trussville graduation ceremonies have been

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NEWS

Center Point Fire wins national firefighter challenge

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The Center Point Fire District won first place Saturday at a national firefighter challenge on a NASCAR raceway in North Carolina.

The fire district won gold in the individual team competition at the Scott Air-Pack Firefighter Challenge in Charlotte. Team members also won several other awards at the two-day competition. More than 36 fire departments across the U.S. participated.

Members of the Center Point Fire District combat team are Battalion Chief Lonnie West, Lt. Brandon Dahlen, Fire-Medic Calem Hicks, Fire-Medic C.J. Elliott and Fire-Medic Adrian Millican. On the first day, this group won the



photo courtesy of the Center Point Fire District Facebook page

The Center Point Fire District combat challenge team poses with NASCAR driver Jamie McMurray.

individual team competition, and Hicks took fifth place overall in individual scoring.

On the second day of

competition, West and Millican won second place in the tandem competition, and all five won third place in the relay competition.

Teams are exposed to timed, real-world challenges that demonstrate the advancement of carrying hose lines up a stairway,

hoisting of hose, striking of a metal frame for simulating a forcible entry, advancement of a hose-line and flowing water, and car-

rying a dummy that simulates rescuing a trapped victim until the team member reaches the finish line.

Fire Chief Donnie West said he's proud of his firefighters for their dedication and commitment for competing at a world-class event of this nature.

"Competition at this level is extremely difficult and requires an individual to be in excellent physical condition," he said in a Facebook post.

The Center Point Fire District serves about 65,000 residents in a 70-mile radius, including in Clay, Pinson, Center Point and surrounding areas.

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

GRADUATION continued from page 1

held at the stadium since it opened. He's attended many graduation ceremonies there, including 1966 for his brother, 1969 for his wife and sister, 1976 for another sister, 1988 for a son, 1992 for another son and 1998 for another son.

"I was born and lived most of my life a block down the street from the stadium," Davis said. "I

will miss those yearly graduations at the stadium, but realize that the school moved miles away several years ago. It is time for Hewitt to have new facilities."

Other sites due to unfortunate weather have been school gymnasiums and First Baptist Church of Trussville.

"The stadium has served this community well dur-

ing the last 65 years," Neill said.

Graduating senior Riley Stokes said it was a great feeling last Thursday night.

"It was an honor to be the last class to go out of that stadium with all the memories that place holds," he said.

Fellow graduating senior Jessica Lyster called the night "bittersweet."

"It's an honor to be the last class to graduate at Jack Wood," Lyster said. "We will always remember the memories and friends we made these past four years and the teachers who were with us every step of the way."

DeMarcus Kelly, who also graduated last week, said it felt great to graduate but it was also emotional. Will that be the last

time Kelly steps onto the grass at Jack Wood Stadium?

"It definitely won't be my last time there," he said. "I have to come support my brothers on Friday night."

The Class of 2015 will graduate at the new Hewitt-Trussville Stadium, which is under construction behind the Trussville Civic Center.

"A new era begins next year in Trussville with the Class of 2015 because they will have the first graduation ceremony at the new HTHS stadium next year," Neill said.

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CLAY continued from page 1

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

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Camp Coleman getting more than \$16,000 for 'critical' needs

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The Girl Scouts of North-Central Alabama Board of Directors voted May 10 to approve of funding a list of needs identified as "critical to the continued operation of the formerly rested camps."

Camp Gertrude Coleman in Trussville will get \$16,710 toward its critical needs, the most of any of the three camps listed in a report getting critical needs. Camp Trico is getting \$9,760 and Camp Tombigbee is receiving \$725.

Camp Coleman needed \$2,000 for seasonal staff

for grounds maintenance from May through September, \$1,000 for basic maintenance supplies and \$1,000 for dumpster service. LP gas for hot water is a \$3,000 expense, fire extinguisher inspection service was \$800, critical repairs cost \$500 and various permits cost \$900.

The repairing of equipment and service vehicles totaled \$160, a battery for AED cost \$350, swimming pool operation was \$2,000, and repair and inspection services for ropes course was \$5,000.

"Some of this comes from them not being in use continuously, and some of it is routine maintenance we need to be able to do



file photo by Gary Lloyd

Camp Coleman in Trussville

to keep the camps running effectively and to the standards we want our campers to experience," said Girl Scouts of North-Central

Alabama Communications Manager Robyn Tucker.

The board of directors also approved to allow program and supervisory

staff for any event or activity that generates sufficient revenue to cover the staff expenses at the formerly rested camps.

At the May 9, 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. 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.

The board of directors on Nov. 20, 2013 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. Camp Coleman re-opened Jan. 15 on a "limited use" basis.

Camp Coleman, in continuous since 1925, consists of 34 wooden structures and outbuildings constructed between 1925 and 1994.

For more information, visit www.girlscoutsna.org.

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

Rehab of Trussville road to cost \$500k

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The Trussville City Council on Tuesday authorized Mayor Gene Melton to hire Dunn Construction for the rehabilitation of a section of North Chalkville Road.

The rehab of the stretch of road between Rock Ridge Avenue and Hewitt Street will cost \$517,911.43.

Construction is expected to begin June 14, Melton said. It's expected to last about two months. Signs

will likely be placed in the area next week to let people know where they'll detour.

The roadbed of North Chalkville Road is in poor shape, which causes the wear surface not to hold up. The design is to rebuild the road entirely, including the base, the binder course that secures the base and the seal coat, as well as curb and gutter repair and sidewalk repair. Melton said some dead trees will be taken down during the completion of the project.

One block will be

repaired at a time so that detours can be taken, Melton said. Melton said detour signs will be placed in the area about a week in advance of the work beginning, so that motorists will know to take detours. He said when complete, that stretch of North Chalkville Road will "ride good, look good."

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

Trussville library fundraiser set for June 10

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The Friends of the Trussville Library is holding a fundraiser at Bojangles in Trussville on Tuesday, June 10.

On that day from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the U.S. Highway 11 location, Friends of the Trussville Library is sponsoring a "Share Night," in which 10 percent of the restaurant's sales during those three hours will go toward

projects and programs at Trussville Public Library.

"It's a win-win way of helping the library," said Mary Lynne Robbins, president of Friends of the Trussville Library. "All

you have to do is eat."

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Vote June 3rd in the Republican primary



Primary election set for Tuesday

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The primary election for several political races is set for Tuesday, June 3.

The races that impact the area will all determine the Republican nomination for the various races.

The winners of the primaries at this time will not face opposition in the November general election.

The only qualifying candidate for Alabama State

Senate District 15 is incumbent Republican Slade Blackwell. For Alabama State Senate District 17, candidates are Trussville's Shay Shelnett, Pinson's Joe Cochran, Jim Murphree, Gayle Gear, Brett King, Adam Ritch and Jim Roberts.

For State House District 44, which covers Trussville, Clay, and Pinson, three Trussville men are the candidates. Republicans John Amari, Joe Freeman and Danny Garrett

qualified to run to replace Arthur Payne, who's retiring.

In the U.S. House of Representatives District 6 race, candidates include Scott Beason, Will Brooke, Paul DeMarco, Chad Mathis, Gary Palmer, Robert Shattuck and Tom Vigneulle.

Joe Knight, of Trussville, is the Republican incumbent and is unopposed in the race for Jefferson County Commission District 4.

Secretary of State Jim

Bennett said that voters need to check for any changes made to their legislative districts as the changes from the 2012 redistricting process go into effect for the 2014 statewide elections cycle.

"The legislative district that you voted in last time may not be the same district that you will be voting on in June," Bennett said. "Not all voters have been changed to new districts, but some have."

Bennett said the most ac-

curate place to check for any changes in district lines is www.alabamavotes.gov. A voter can put in personal information using the "My Polling Place and Registration Status" section and the website will show the voter which districts will be on their ballot Tuesday.

The website follows the detailed lines that were put in by the registrars themselves at the local level so it will be an accurate reflection of what voters will encounter.

"We want every voter to be an informed voter," Bennett said. "There very well may be changes that a voter will see when they go to the polls in June so we encourage voters to check so there is no confusion when they read their ballot."

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

Husky Parkway bridge completion expected in June

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The Husky Parkway bridge is expected to be completed in June, Trussville City Schools Facilities Coordinator Barry Davis said last week.

The bridge will likely not open until the Husky Parkway extension, which runs by the new Hewitt-Trussville Stadium site, past the Trussville Civic Center and to Trussville-Clay Road, is completed.

The extension is in Blalock Building Company's contract to construct the new stadium.

The more than 300-foot bridge spans the Cahaba River and will alleviate traffic congestion on Deerfoot Parkway. Trussville Mayor Gene Melton said that once the Husky Parkway bridge is completed, traffic



A look at the Husky Parkway bridge last week

photo by Gary Lloyd

patterns in Trussville will likely change. Congestion

will move away from Chalkville Mountain

Road and the downtown Trussville area. And, as the

housing market improves, that area could be good for

development.

"That connection is huge to the city, public services and everybody," Melton said. "There's no telling what will develop in that area. People just can't imagine when we make those connections how much impact it's going to have on the downtown area."

The Trussville City Council in August 2013 approved Birmingham-based Brasfield & Gorrie to construct the bridge. The contracting company was approved with a base bid of \$3,281,445.13.

The bridge will be three lanes and include a pedestrian lane.

Davis said work on the new stadium is "progressing" and "moving along well."

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KIM DENMARK continued from page 1

miles across 16 states in just more than 110 months. She's gone through 26 pairs of New Balance tennis shoes and worn out two pairs of boots.

She plans to take her walk all the way to the White House by October, with hopes of getting the attention and support of President Barack Obama and the U.S. Congress. She hopes to show Obama the information she's ac-

quired across the U.S. relative to homeless people and homeless veterans.

"It's out of control," Denmark said of homelessness.

Denmark stopped at Lowe's on Edwards Lake Road on her way into Trussville last week. She met a female soldier there, who was soon retiring after 30 years of service. The soldier told Denmark to tell people in the White

House not to forget about fallen soldiers and ones struggling.

"That's what it's about," she said.

Denmark said if she's walking through a state and hears about someone getting evicted from their home, she tries to speak with the judge to get more time for the home's occupants, to get the lights turned back on. Sometimes the judge talks with

her, and sometimes the judge doesn't. She said 90 percent of the time, though, she's able to help get families more time.

Denmark is striving to be a representative and voice for the poor, to speak about homelessness, poverty, job loss and housing. Her goal at the local level is to get communities to talk about doing positive things for their residents.

"Everybody can choose

to do something in their community," she said.

Last week, Trussville Mayor Gene Melton issued Denmark a pennant of Trussville. Trussville Police Department Lt. Herb Rosenbaum drove Denmark to a hotel at the end of her day walking and Hampton Inn provided her stay in the area.

Denmark wears all orange -- from her shirt and pants to her hair tie

and parts of her shoes -- because when she first started trekking across the states, it was winter and she wanted to be visible in the snow. It's now more than that.

"When you see me, you see bright, and that's what I represent," she said.

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Pinson meets Thursday to reconsider zoning

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The Pinson City Council will meet in a special session Thursday to reconsider zoning for a Kellogg's cereal products warehouse.

The meeting will be at 7 p.m. at Pinson City Hall. The city council last

month voted to reconsider a previous action, one in which the rezoning of land at 7068 Highway 75 for a Kellogg's warehouse was denied.

For the rezoning to pass, four positive votes were needed. Dawn Tanner, Robbie Roberts and Joy McCain voted for the rezoning. Mayor Hoyt Sanders and John

Churchwell voted against it. Joe Cochran was not present for the vote. To be approved, the vote needed to be 2/3.

Sanders has said he doesn't believe there has been a motion to reconsider on a zoning case since Pinson has been doing zoning, which has been for three years. All others have been re-classification

based on annexation, he said.

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 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 area is currently zoned for light agriculture, and the rezoning being pursued would change that to light industrial.

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

Authorities offer graduation, summer safety tips

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

As summer approaches and another school year ends, state law enforcement agencies partner to remind Alabamians whether they're celebrating close to home or traveling to one of Alabama's lakes, beaches, or another destination, to ensure safety is part of their summer festivities.

Law enforcement officers across the state will collectively work together to create a highly visible enforcement presence and to promote public safety throughout the summer months ahead.

"Our goal is to reduce in-

juries and deaths by teaming together to serve and protect the citizens of Alabama," said Secretary of Law Enforcement Spencer Collier.

In addition, state law enforcement will combine forces with county and municipal agencies in Alabama to conduct various details designed to enhance public safety and to enforce all laws, including traffic, boating, and alcoholic beverage laws.

With more than 45,000 Alabama high school seniors graduating in May, it's important to caution graduates, other teenagers and their parents of the dangers associated with alcohol and drugs, a press

release stated.

Law enforcement officers urge Alabamians to:

- Restrict access and closely monitor teens to prevent underage use of alcoholic beverages.
- Avoid driving or boating while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Buckle up -- no matter how short the trip -- on the road or on the water. Occupants of all ages should use seat belts or child restraints when traveling by motor vehicles. On waterways, all occupants of water vessels should use U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets.
- Focus on driving or boating and avoiding such

distractions as texting and talking on cell phones.

- Slow down in construction zones along the way. Drivers pose the greatest danger in work zone crashes by not paying attention, speeding and driving while impaired or distracted.
- Report anything suspicious to the Alabama Fusion Center's tip line, 866-229-6220.
- Make hotel/motel stay safe. Choose establishments that are protected

by smoke alarms and fire sprinkler systems. Once in rooms, guests should review escape plans with the entire party. If alarms sound, leave rooms right away, using the stairs and avoiding elevators.

- Take care when using grills or building outdoor fires. Never leave them unattended, and place them a safe distance from everyone, especially children and pets. It's a good idea to designate a 3-foot "safe zone" around the

grill or fire.

- Pay attention to weather conditions, particularly when there's thunder and lightning. Storms can come up quickly, especially in warm weather, so keep an eye to the sky. Watch for temperature changes, shifts in wind patterns and changes in cloud formations.

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Sheriff's office introduces newest K-9

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office last week welcomed its newest addition to the K-9 Unit.

Naiyah is a 14-week-old bloodhound, who comes to the sheriff's office through a donation from The Jimmy Ryce Center for Victims of Predatory Abduction, which donates bloodhounds to law enforcement agencies for use in helping find missing or abducted children.

Like all rookie deputy sheriffs, Naiyah will begin training immediately and is expected to be deployed with the patrol division in about six months. In addition to tracking missing or abducted children she will also aid in tracking criminal suspects and missing adults.



photo courtesy of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office

Naiyah

will be able to discriminate specific scents allowing her to track a single person even through a crowd," Chief Deputy Randy Christian said.

The sheriff's office publicly thanked The Jimmy Ryce Center for Victims of Predatory Abduction for the donation. "Naiyah will look forward

to many years of service to the neighborhoods and communities of Jefferson County and especially to watching over our children," Christian said.

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

Trussville book signing planned for June 7

From staff reports

The Trussville Tribune editor Gary Lloyd will sign copies of his new book, "Trussville, Alabama: A Brief History" on Saturday, June 7 at The Little Professor in Homewood.

The signing is from noon to 2 p.m. The Little Professor is located at 2717 18th St. S. in Homewood. The book released April 15 and was

published by The History Press in Charleston, S.C. The book features information about all things Trussville, including its early beginnings, the Cahaba Project, Cahaba River, landmarks, people, schools, churches, businesses, government history and how the city looks today.

The 128-page book is available wherever books are sold, and also online at www.historypress.net and www.amazon.com. The book is also available as an e-book.

Blackwell honored for business legislation

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The Association of County Commissions of Alabama last week approved a resolution expressing appreciation to

Sen. Slade Blackwell for the passage of a bill.

Act 2014-415 streamlines the business personal property tax process by creating an online system and a short form for smaller businesses and was supported by the

business community and the Alabama Department of Revenue.

The resolution in part states "Blackwell brought his business expertise to bear and worked tirelessly throughout the Legislative Session to move this important legislation through the process."

The resolution states that Blackwell's "dedication and determination were instrumental" in the passage of the legislation.

Blackwell is serving his first term in the Alabama State Senate representing Jefferson and Shelby counties in District 15. He is running unopposed for the seat again.



submitted photo

Jefferson County Commissioner Joe Knight, left, with Slade Blackwell

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

Clay, Pinson graduations on Thursday

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

Graduation ceremonies for Clay-Chalkville and Pinson Valley high schools are set for Thursday, May 29.

Clay-Chalkville High School's graduation will be at 2 p.m. at the Pete Hanna Center on the Samford University campus. Admission is by ticket only, and each graduate usually gets 10 tickets each.

Pinson Valley High School's graduation will be at 4 p.m. at the church formerly known as Cathedral of the Cross in Center Point. Doors will open at 2 p.m., and every guest must have a ticket to enter.

Hewitt-Trussville High School held its graduation ceremony last Thursday at Jack Wood Stadium.

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

VOTE REPUBLICAN JOHN AMARI ON JUNE 3RD

John Amari is deeply rooted in our community beginning with his grandparents and the Huffman Curb Market and continuing to his family today.

John is a lifelong resident of Northeast Jefferson County and a Hewitt-Trussville H.S. graduate.



John is active in the community. John is on the Sav-a-life Jr. Board, which is a faith based pro-life organization. John is a volunteer baseball coach.

John is an attorney in the general practice of law; helping families solve problems.



John Amari:

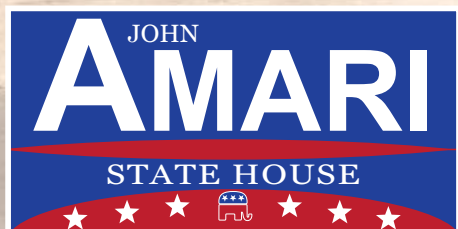
- Is strongly pro-life and will fight to protect the 2nd Amendment
- Is for low taxes, fiscal responsibility and limiting the size of government
- Will protect private property rights
- Supports term limits

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- More Freedoms and less regulation
- More Family and less government



John and wife, Ambre, with their children, John Paul, Maya and Vinny.



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Trussville summer reading kickoff June 3

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The children's summer reading program at the Trussville Public Library will begin Tuesday, June 3 with a kickoff party.

The party begins at 10:30 a.m.

Special guest Roger Day is coming from Nashville. He will bring his guitar and play all sorts of songs.

Signup for the summer reading program will begin after the kickoff party at noon. Children who sign up for the summer reading program at the Trussville Public Library will receive



file photo by Gary Lloyd

The Trussville Public Library

a bag filled with all the materials needed for the program.

"We'll offer several children's programs weekly during June and July, ranging from close encounters with reptiles to magicians to theatrical performances," said Library Director Emily Tish. "Because of our space restrictions, some events will be held twice weekly to accommodate everyone. Since our goal is to encourage reading, we'll also ask our younger participants to read either 10 books a week or for three hours a week, and keep a record their reading

logs."

Tish said information packages for up to 1,500 younger participants have been prepared.

"Registration has been well over 1,000 for several years," she said. "Many of our teenage patrons have participated since they were toddlers."

The summer reading program lasts until July 19.

For more information, visit www.trussvillelibrary.com.

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



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LIFESTYLE

Trussville man recognized for donations to Rotary Foundation

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

A Trussville man was recognized at the May 14 Trussville Daybreak Rotary Club meeting for his contributions to the Rotary Foundation.

John Griscom was recognized as a Paul Harris Plus One Fellow, meaning he has donated \$2,000 to the foundation.

Griscom is also a member of Trussville's Public Safety Committee.

On the same day, the Rotary Club heard from FM 101.1's Michael Hart,

who's a speaker, author and radio talk show host. He spoke about the significance of the U.S. Constitution.

"We need to hold our politicians' feet to the fire to do what's right," Hart said. "We should change political apathy and encourage people to vote."

He added that too many people relinquish their responsibilities to the government.

"Morality involves things like your obligation to have a job," he said.

He referred to the acronym, LIV, or Low Info Voter, and encouraged



photo by Diane Poole

John Griscom, left, with Rotary Club President Alan Taylor

people to be in tune with current events and to realize the importance of U.S. history.

On May 21, the club heard from Dr. Hugh

Brindley, part of MEGA Missions, which is a construction group that services the people of Tamaulipas, Mexico. Brindley and others make a mission

trip there every February, although others combine for trips five to six times a year. Their main purpose is to build a Christian church but they have also developed a rapport with the local medical community. The community has no modern medical equipment, therefore can't make proper diagnoses. As such, they record the leading cause of death for the area as "natural causes." In partnership with the downtown Birmingham Rotary Club, the group will provide funds for a CT scanner.

Hewitt-Trussville High

School exceptional education teacher and Independence Place executive director Carrie Jones, who was a semifinalist for Alabama Teacher of the Year, spoke to the club Wednesday.

On June 4, the club will hear from Avondale Brewing CEO Chris Donaldson and on June 18 will hear from former FOX6 meteorologist and social media expert Dennis Washington.

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

Law center notifies schools of alleged immigration violations

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The Southern Poverty Law Center last week notified 96 Alabama school systems that their enrollment practices violate federal prohibitions against denying or discouraging the enrollment of children based on their immigration status or that of their parents.

In many cases, school enrollment forms require

a Social Security number or a U.S. birth certificate, without explaining that such disclosure, under federal law, is voluntary and not necessary for enrollment.

The SPLC urged Alabama State Department of Education Superintendent Tommy Bice to ensure that all schools in the state's 135 districts comply with federal mandates by the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year.

"It is well-established

law that all children, regardless of their immigration status, have a right to attend our public schools," said SPLC attorney Jay Singh. "Too many schools in Alabama, however, are not living up to their legal responsibility."

Last summer, at the SPLC's urging, Bice issued a memo to local school superintendents reminding them that the lack of a Social Security number, a birth certificate or a parent's driver's license is not

sufficient to deny enrollment. However, more than 70 percent of Alabama's school districts have failed to comply, according to the SPLC. Earlier in May, the U.S. departments of Justice and Education issued guidance outlining the responsibilities of schools to provide equal access to educational opportunities regardless of a child's or parent's national origin or immigration status.

"Schools across Alabama continue to embrace

unlawful enrollment policies with impunity – policies that obstruct immigrant students' path to the schoolhouse door and that remain in place despite recent state and federal guidance and 30-plus years of case law that preserves all students' right of access to an education," Singh said.

To ensure that enrollment in public school is not chilled, federal law requires that schools requesting a Social Security number must: indicate that

disclosing the number is voluntary; provide the statutory or other basis upon which it is seeking the number; and explain how the number will be used.

A data summary of each school system is available at www.splcenter.org.

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

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