



The Trussville Tribune

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Your news source for Trussville, Clay and Pinson

50¢

Pets go missing in Maplewood; game warden investigating

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

Jefferson County Game Warden Kerry Bradford is working with the city of Trussville regarding the missing small pets in the Maplewood subdivision.

Bradford said it's been reported that several small pets are

missing and one was killed. At least three residents of Maplewood have seen a large "cat-type animal," Bradford said.

Bradford met with Mayor Gene Melton on Monday to come up with a plan.

"We'll be working with the city and utilizing trail surveillance cameras to gather information in areas of concern," said

Bradford, the county's game warden since 2007.

Bradford said the only cat that matches the description given is a jaguarundi, a small, wild cat native to Central and South America. He said jaguarundis are usually not considered as options because they're not common or indigenous to this area. He did say, though, that more

evidence — eyewitness accounts — is needed before it can be completely ruled out, though it's more likely to be someone's exotic pet than a jaguarundi.

He said the "automatic culprit" that comes to mind is a coyote.

"Coyotes are very common in the Trussville area," Bradford said.

He said a bobcat is not likely

because they're "extremely, extremely shy."

No sightings or missing animals have been reported since last week, Bradford said.

"Missing cats, small dog killed are typical of a coyote being in the area," he said. "We do not want to discredit anyone's eye-

see MAPLEWOOD page 5

New superintendent's contract approved

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The Jefferson County Board of Education last Thursday unanimously approved new Superintendent Craig Pouncey's contract.

Pouncey's contract was effective July 1 and runs through June 30, 2018, and pays him a base salary of \$228,000. According to the contract, Pouncey's salary will increase by 3.5 percent each Jan. 1 based on him receiving a satisfactory annual evaluation by the board.

Pouncey said he is "truly excited" to be the Jefferson County Schools superintendent. In his application for the job, Pouncey said his reason for leaving his chief of staff position with the Alabama State Department of Education was a "desire to reconnect with students." He

see SUPERINTENDENT page 3

Patriotic display in First Baptist Trussville's library honors military



photo by June Mathews

Gordon Harvey, left, and Richard Bailey in front of the Wall of Freedom

by June Mathews

For The Tribune

Though they've gone to the same church for years, Gordon Harvey and Richard Bailey had never met until two weeks ago. But there's nothing surprising about that. After all, First Baptist Church of Trussville is a big place with members often segregated by age, and the two men are of different generations.

Common ground, however, recently brought them together. The names of both men appear on the "Wall of Freedom" in the church's library. And when they dropped by

to view the patriotic display, they learned church membership is not all they share. Harvey, a Korean War veteran of the U.S. Air Force, who later transitioned to the Air National Guard, served in the 117th Air Refueling Wing, the same unit in which Bailey currently serves as a master sergeant.

The two hit it off.

"Once you've served in any branch of the military, it's sort of a brotherhood," Harvey said. "I would have never guessed that we had this many (members of the military) right here in our church."

The idea for the Wall of

Freedom came about during the spring when Library Director Connie Horsley and her team were casting around for a different kind of summer observance. For more than 20 years, the library sponsored a summer reading program, but in the past few years, participation has been dwindling, and something new seemed to be in order.

Team member JoAnn Mitchell came up with the concept.

"Trussville is very patriotic, and many members of our church come in their uniforms for the Fourth of

see FREEDOM page 4

Rudd teacher needs kidney transplant: 'The support has been great'

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

Rudd Middle School special education teacher Tracy Spraggins couldn't believe it.

She needed a kidney transplant and her husband, James, had stepped up. He was found to be perfect match, down to the same blood type and tissue type.



photo courtesy of Wayne Parham Photography

James and Tracy Spraggins

The only issue was his slightly high blood pressure. He weighed close to 260 pounds but trimmed that to 198 in about six months. He wore a blood pressure monitor, and it told the couple that his blood pressure was still too high, and doctors at UAB said it would be "too risky" for him to donate to his wife, Spraggins said.

That was June 4.

"We were devastated," said Spraggins, who was diagnosed with lupus at age 6 and is now 37 years old. "We

see TRANSPLANT page 5

Trussville girl found safe in Texas

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

A Trussville girl missing since last Tuesday was located safely in Texas last Thursday.

Trussville Police Department Lt. Jeff Bridges said 14-year-old Lindsay Alford was located last Thursday afternoon in Baytown Harris, Texas. She was in the custody of the Department of Youth Services until her family could pick her up, Bridges said.

Alford had last been seen last Tuesday around 5:30 p.m. jogging along Queenstown Road in Trussville. She was wearing black shorts and a black shirt with "Swag" written across it. Bridges said the department had a runaway report and was investigating.

Bridges said the department felt "very confident" that Alford was not abducted. He said she got in an 18-wheeler with a truck driver bound for Jackson, Miss. Crime Stoppers and the Alabama Bureau of Investigation were notified.

Bridges said the girl was located after local and state agencies were notified.

Clay receives 5 resumes for open council seat

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The city of Clay has garnered five resumes for its open seat on the Clay City Council.

City Manager Ronnie Dixon said the names of applicants and resumes "are privileged."

The city accepted resumes through Monday.

Mark Halstead's last day on the Clay City Council was Monday. He's leaving the city council due to a relocation.

The city council will have until Sept. 2 to appoint someone to fulfill the remainder of Halstead's term.

Halstead has been a member of the current Clay City Council since November 2012. He also served on the city council from 2004 to 2008. He was also on the city's Zoning Board of Adjustments from 2000 to 2002 and the Planning and Zoning Commission since 2002.

A post on the city of Clay's

Facebook page earlier this month asked anyone interested in "taking an active role in leading your city" to submit a resume to Clay City Hall.

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

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NEWS

Group 'serious' about mixed use development for downtown Trussville

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

It's a project that could help kickstart the revitalization of downtown Trussville.

Officials from the Trussville City Council, Planning and Zoning Board, Downtown Redevelopment Authority and Design Review Committee last Thursday heard from a group about a possible mixed use senior housing development for downtown Trussville.

The meeting focused on a possible amendment to the planned unit development portion of the city's zoning ordinance, which could pave the way for a mixed use development.

If approved, the amendment would allow a planned unit development on sites of four acres or more when situated within the downtown district or the transition district. The acreage restriction may not end up as part of the approval.

Real estate developer Aaron Conley, Greenville,



photo by Gary Lloyd

Johnston Design Group's Scott Johnston speaks to Trussville officials last Thursday at Trussville City Hall.

S.C.-based Johnston Design Group's Scott Johnston and The Cottages President Cliff White presented their plans and answered questions last Thursday about the proposed development, which would be located on the six-acre Wheeler property beside Captain D's in the downtown Trussville area. If the development eventually happens, the historic home on the property would come down.

"We really like this town," White said.

The plan would be for The Cottages, a Hunts-

ville-based senior living community, to construct a mixed use senior housing development in the downtown Trussville area. White called it an "innovative product," which would include an independent living space, assisted living space, small storefronts, a restaurant, a bike trail near Pinchgut Creek and a small park. Johnston said it would have a "retail town center kind of feel." The mixed use development would be pedestrian oriented and would work with the city's downtown master plan. The goal of the development would be "to engage" the whole community, not just the senior living community, Conley said.

The assisted living space would likely be for 33

people, and the independent living for between 75 and 95 people. The Cottages has locations in Decatur, Florence, Hartselle, Hoover, Huntsville, Montgomery, Mountain Brook and Russellville, as well as one location each in Mississippi and Tennessee.

"We are serious about doing this," Conley said.

According to a draft of the ordinance, the planned unit development is designed to permit the "flexible development of comprehensively planned projects which permit one or more uses to be developed on a tract of land, taking into consideration the

compatibility of specific uses with the surrounding uses in accordance with an approved master development plan."

Trussville's Planning and Zoning Board will hold a public hearing about the zoning ordinance amendment Monday, July 14 at 6 p.m. at Trussville City Hall. If the Planning and Zoning Board approves the amendment, it will then go before the Trussville City Council on Tuesday, Aug. 12 at 6 p.m.

The Trussville City Council last year adopted a new downtown master plan. The main component of the new revitalization

plan involves a major redesign of downtown Trussville, with the primary focus being placed on road construction and commercial property. The downtown area extends from Kay Avenue on the west side to the Cahaba River on the east side. It also extends north of U.S. Highway 11 to Hewitt Street and down to the railroad tracks on the south side of downtown.

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



photo by Gary Lloyd

Should the development happen in the future, the historic home on the Wheeler property would come down.

All city councils meet in next week

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

All area city councils will meet in the next week.

The Pinson City Council meets Thursday, July 3 at 6:30 p.m. at Pinson City Hall, located at 4410 Main St. in Pinson.

The Clay City Council meets Monday, July 7

at 6:30 p.m. at Clay City Hall, located at 2441 Old Springville Road in Clay.

The Trussville City Council meets Tuesday, July 8 at 6 p.m. at Trussville City Hall, located at 131 Main St. in Trussville.

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Trussville again pulls mayor, council salary adjustments from agenda

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

Perhaps the third time will be the charm.

The Trussville City Council last Tuesday pulled ordinances to amend mayor and city council salaries for the next administration from its agenda. It did so due to a "thin staff," Councilman Alan Taylor said. Council President Buddy Choat and Councilman Anthony Montalto were absent from last week's meeting.

It pulled the same ordinances from its agenda June 10 for further review.

The city council next meets Tuesday, July 8 at 6 p.m. at Trussville City Hall.

The proposed ordinance would increase the mayor's yearly salary from \$60,000 to \$72,000 and each council member's pay to \$750 per month. Each councilman makes \$500 per month now, and the council president makes \$1,000 per month.

All the salary adjustments would take effect for the elected administration that takes office in November 2016, not for the incumbent mayor and council. If approved, the salary can't be changed for incumbents. State law requires salary changes to be approved at least six months prior to a municipal



file photo by Scott Buttram

A former Trussville City Council, including Wayne Taylor, Buddy Aydelette, Buddy Choat, Anthony Montalto and Brian Plant, discusses a sales tax increase in 2011 at the Trussville Civic Center.

pal election. The next municipal election in Trussville is in August 2016.

The holdup at the June 10 meeting was a recommendation by a council member that the mayor receive all cost of living raises granted to city employees. The way the ordinance was drafted, it was unclear if in the following administrations the mayor began back at \$72,000 or if his salary took up where the last mayor's salary left off, including any increases during those four years.

The ordinance would also give future mayors the option to participate in the employee health insurance plan under the same conditions and costs as full-time employees. There are currently no provisions for insurance for the mayor. Council positions are part time, and do not include insurance coverage.

The rate of pay for all council positions beginning in November 2016,

should the ordinance eventually be approved, will be \$750 per month, an increase of \$250 for council members and a decrease of \$250 for the council president. The reason for the decrease for the council

president is a belief that the president's duties are not significantly different than those of council members.

The mayor's \$60,000 yearly salary was established in 1998 to become effective with the admin-

istration that took office in the fall of 2000. The council's \$500 per month pay rate was established in 1995 to become effective with the administration that took office in the fall of 1996. There was no council president in Trussville in 1996.

When the city received the results of the federal decennial census of 2000 in 2002, state law required a change in the form of government in the administration next succeeding receipt of census results, indicating the city's population had exceeded 12,000 people. Based on those results, the city knew it would have a council pres-

ident for the 2004 administration, and the monthly rate for the council president was set at \$1,000.

Trussville's current mayor is Gene Melton, and council members are Choat (council president), Montalto, Taylor, Perry Cook and Brian Plant.

The city council last week also pulled from the agenda a franchise agreement with Bright House Networks. It will likely be on the next agenda.

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

SUPERINTENDENT continued from page 1

echoed that last week.

"At this point in my career, I really longed to get back (to reconnecting with students)," Pouncey said. "We've got a lot of exciting opportunities going on in the state right now and education is changing, ever evolving."

Pouncey replaces Stephen Nowlin, whose contract was bought out and is now an administrative officer for the remainder of his contract. Pouncey was previously superintendent of Crenshaw County Schools, assistant state superintendent and deputy state superintendent of education.

"My philosophy has always been that educational opportunities for students must be promoted and protected," Pouncey said in his application for the job. "This must be accomplished through a spirit of collaboration with all stakeholders in a respectful and responsive manner at



photo by Gary Lloyd

New Jefferson County Schools Superintendent Craig Pouncey speaks to reporters last Thursday morning.

all times."

Pouncey said he plans to connect with the business community to make

sure students are ready to enter the workforce, focus on academic improvement and develop a new strategic plan for the school system.

"Through a collaborative effort, I think it's time for us to set a new direction for Jefferson County," Pouncey said.

Bobby Neighbors had been serving as interim superintendent since May. Last Thursday morning was Neighbors' last board meeting as interim superintendent.

"It's been a very positive experience for me," said Neighbors, who was the school system's superintendent from 2000 to 2003. "I've loved every second of it."

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JeffCo BOE amends bid amount for Clay stadium turf

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The Jefferson County Board of Education on June 26 amended the bid amount for artificial turf at Cougar Stadium on the Clay-Chalkville High School campus.

The board at its June 5 meeting approved Shaw Sports Turf as the lowest responsible bidder with a bid of \$480,000. The correct amount is actually \$480,300.

The total cost of the project is \$516,664.51 and will be equally divided between the city of Clay and the Jefferson County Board of Education.

The Clay City Council in May voted to enter into



photo by Gary Lloyd

A look at the field at Cougar Stadium last month

a facilities use agreement with the Jefferson County Board of Education, in which the city would provide up to \$265,000 — roughly half the cost of new field turf — in exchange for usage of all school sports facilities through June 30, 2029. The target date for the

field to be completed is Aug. 5. Clay-Chalkville's first home football game is scheduled for Aug. 29 against Minor.

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

July Jumpstart at Pinson Valley HS July 10

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

Pinson Valley High School is hosting its annual freshman orientation Thursday, July 10.

July Jumpstart is from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. that day.

The cost is \$10 and covers lunch for the day and a T-shirt.

"Attendants of this event in the past have always praised orientation as being the best thing they could have done to get their school year going," a post on the school's website states.

Registration forms are available at http://



photo courtesy of Jefferson County Schools

Pinson Valley High School

pinsonvalleyhigh.jefcoed. news@trussvilletribune.com and in the school's front office. com and follow him on Twitter @GaryALloyd.

Contact Gary Lloyd at

1 injured in wreck on Clay-Palmerdale Road

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

One person was seriously injured in a motorcycle crash on Clay-Palmerdale Road on Sunday.

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office responded to an accident involving a motorcycle and a car at

about 12:24 p.m. Sunday on Clay-Palmerdale Road near Brookwood Road.

The investigation indicates that the driver of the motorcycle crossed the center line in a curve and collided with an oncoming car, said Sgt. Jack Self.

The 21-year-old female driver of the motorcycle was transported to the hospital by Palmerdale

paramedics with serious injuries. Her condition is not known, Self said.

The driver of the car was not injured.

Speed and alcohol are not believed to have been factors in the accident.

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

Business briefs:

by Gary Lloyd
Editor

Icebergs opens in Trussville

A new Italian ice and gelato shop has opened in Trussville.

Icebergs recently opened at 110 Glenn Ave. in downtown Trussville.

In other news, the next Trussville Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon will be Thursday, July 17, and newly elected State House District 44 Rep. Danny Garrett will be the featured speaker.

Also in Trussville Area Chamber of Commerce news, the annual golf tournament at Limestone Springs Golf Course in Oneonta fielded a total of 82 golfers.

The Alabama Power Company team won the tournament, Bryant Bank finished second, and Jason Reese and Friends finished third. Zeke Smith won closest to the pin and Ed Davidson won longest drive.

Wintzell's Oyster House is "coming soon" to Trussville, according to a post on its website. The restaurant will be located at 5893 Trussville Crossing Blvd. The post states to stay tuned for information on hiring and a grand opening.

"We look forward to being a member of the Trussville community," the post states.

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FREEDOM continued from page 1

July and different patriotic days," Mitchell said. "But we hadn't done anything patriotic (in the library) in a long time. I thought it would be nice to honor the people who help preserve our freedom."

So a notice went out via the church newsletter and worship guides, asking members to provide the library team with the names of anyone in their immediate families, living or deceased, who had ever served in the military. The names, the notice said, would be included on a wall of honor. According to Horsley, the response was immediate and overwhelming.

"We expected to get a few hundred names, but 529 names were submitted the first day," she said.

While Horsley originally thought a small portion of a wall near the circulation

desk would provide plenty of room for the list, the nearly 700-name Wall of Freedom covers the entire wall and spills over onto nearby soffit space.

"One of the best parts of this has been the little kids coming in to find their fathers' or grandfathers' names on the wall," Mitchell said. "It's such a history lesson for them."

In addition to the honor roll, military memorabilia dating back to World War I and including flags, hats, and jackets from every branch of the service, is on display around the library.

"We've even got a hat from the WACs," Mitchell said, "and that was hard to find."

As one of the individuals being recognized by the library's patriotic decor, Harvey is pleased, yet humbled, to be one of the people listed.

"It's a great honor," he said. "I'm a very patriotic man and proud to have served, so this means the world to me."

And Bailey, while he's also proud to be a member of the military, considers his service at least, if not more, beneficial to himself and his family as it is to anyone else.

"When I'm in the store or something, and people see my uniform, they'll often thank me for my service," he said, "but I thank them back because I've gotten way more out of it. So getting this recognition is gravy to me and to all the veterans in the church and the military family members of the church. I think it's a really good thing."

Current plans call for the Wall of Freedom and military memorabilia to remain on display through the July 4 holiday weekend.

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MAPLEWOOD continued from page 1

witness account, but further evidence is needed to determine, if possible, if it is anything other than indigenous coyote or bobcat.”

A June 23 notice sent to Maplewood residents states that one resident has lost a cat and another resident found her small dog “dead of severe injuries,” which a veterinarian said “were not typical of having been hit by a car.”

Several more residents have said on Facebook that they’ve had their cats disappear recently. Some have said the animal jumps tall fences and is extremely quick. The notice says the animal is dark, has a definite cat face and is two to three feet long with a long, tapered tail and green eyes.

If and when the animal is caught, it will be relocated.

Trussville Police Department Lt. Jeff Bridges said the department has not received any reports about the situation.

Bradford said the land being cleared on U.S. Highway 11 as a “borrow pit” for the Trussville Springs construction could have disturbed whatever animal may have had a den in the area, though he said that typically an animal would move further



photo by Gary Lloyd

The entrance to the Maplewood subdivision off U.S. Highway 11 in Trussville

away than an area as nearby as Maplewood.

“That activity could definitely be a disturbance and cause it to move,” he said.

Bradford provided these tips for residents with small pets:

- Don’t let your pet out by itself.

- If walking your pet, take pepper spray or mace because it works well on charging animals.
- Take a whistle because these animals don’t like loud noises.

“All those things can deter or run an animal off,” Bradford

said.

A coyote recently attacked a small dog in the Innsbrooke neighborhood in Pinson. Pinson Mayor Hoyt Sanders said the city has received reports of coyotes and feral hogs over the past several years, and “increasingly

this year.” A 300-pound wild pig was killed in Pinson in August 2013 when it was hit by a car near Pinson Valley High School.

A small coyote was spotted on a driveway in the Tutwiler Farm subdivision in Trussville on May 16 at around 10:30 p.m. Someone saw it run down driveway, stop in their back yard and just look back. Clay City Manager Ronnie Dixon said there have been no reports of coyotes in Clay.

A Clay resident, however, said that she had contacted Clay City Hall about coyotes in the area. After having seen one coyote walking in the street on several occasions, she finally decided to call Clay City Hall after a second, larger coyote was spotted in her back yard.

“We have had several cats go missing over the years and I suspect some have met their fate to these coyotes,” the Clay resident said. “Since we had a large dog and these cats were not afraid of her, I doubt they would have realized the coyote was such a threat.”

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TRANSPLANT continued from page 1

could not believe it.”

Spraggins said the week following was “devastating” because not only was she not getting a new kidney, but the process had to start over. When one kidney center denies a transplant, patients can try at others, a process that takes a long time.

“We’re not going to stop,” Spraggins said.

Spraggins in 2012 was first told she’d have to go on dialysis, so her kidneys could live. After

an extensive evaluation, she was accepted to a national kidney transplant list. Spraggins said she was “really afraid” at first, and she didn’t know if she’d be able to work. She likes working at Rudd Middle School, with exceptional education students.

Spraggins does dialysis at night while she’s sleeping, so that she doesn’t have to go to a center and can keep going to work. Her lifestyle has changed a little bit. When she and James

go on vacation via airplane, they have to think three weeks in advance, so her dialysis equipment will be there.

A fundraiser held in April has really helped the couple financially. Spraggins has also received phone calls and cards, from family, friends and co-workers.

“The support has been great,” she said. “They have come through 100 percent. We’ve been really thankful.”

When the 2014-2015 school year begins in early August, Spraggins plans to be there, working with her students.

“I wouldn’t miss it for the world,” she said.

Knowing a donor is out there, ready to give her a kidney, however, could come at a moment’s notice. She could be at school when she gets the call.

“I’ve got to put everything down and say, ‘Hey guys, I love y’all at school and I’ll see

you in a couple weeks, a couple months,’” she said.

Anyone interested in potentially donating a kidney to Spraggins may call her at 205-240-1476 for more information. To give to the couple, visit www.jamespjspraggins.com.

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*Clinical professional is defined as a physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner. If you are experiencing a medical emergency, call 911.



Rain, rain go away, come again another day

Weather a challenge for Trussville stadium project

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

Mother Nature continues to call audibles on the Hewitt-Trussville Stadium project.

As of last Thursday, Trussville-based Blalock Building Company had been on the job for 296 days. Of those, 92 days -- or 31 percent -- have been delayed due to inclement weather, according to National Weather Service records, said Blalock Building Company President Steven Blalock.

"The stadium has presented its challenges with weather this year," Blalock said in an email.

The Trussville City Board of Education last July approved Blalock Building Company to build Hewitt-Trussville Stadium,



photo by Gary Lloyd

The site of Hewitt-Trussville Stadium after some rain last month

the new football stadium to be located behind the Trussville Civic Center.

The Trussville-based building company was revealed as the project's low bidder last year, 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.

Ground was broken at

the site, signaling the beginning of the project, on Sept. 25, 2013.

Trussville City Schools officials are targeting Oct. 3 as the opening date for the new stadium, when Hewitt-Trussville hosts Oak Mountain. The Huskies play two more home games after that this season, on Oct. 24 against Hoover and Oct. 31 against Clay-Chalkville.

Regardless of the weather, Blalock said the compa-

ny is making every effort to get the stadium ready for at least a home game this season.

"We look forward to opening the new football stadium and also know it will be a tremendous accolade for the city of Trussville," Blalock said.

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



photo courtesy of Trussville City Schools

A rendering of what Hewitt-Trussville Stadium will look like

Former Trussville superintendent begins new job

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

Former Trussville City Schools Superintendent Suzanne Freeman on Tuesday began her new job as the superintendent of the Pike Road School System.

Freeman was hired in February by the new school system, which formed after breaking from Montgomery Public Schools.

Freeman was the first Trussville City Schools superintendent, serving from



photo courtesy of Principle Portrait Group

Suzanne Freeman

2004 until 2012. In July 2012, the Trussville City Board of Education unanimously approved a contract settlement with Freeman.

Before her approval by the Pike Road School Board, Freeman was retired from public education but was working as a consultant for school systems. Freeman's obligations to Trussville City Schools and other school systems concluded Monday.

Freeman said she consulted for Pike Road with its "early

planning stages" in 2006. She said the new school system is "building from the ground up," since no schools have been constructed yet. A school in the Waters community will open for students in K-8 in 2015. High school students will filter into Montgomery schools or private schools until Pike Road can have a high school.

Freeman in 2008 was named the state superintendent of the year by the School Superintendents of Alabama and in 2009 was one of four

finalists for National School Superintendent of the Year.

Prior to that, she was the superintendent of Cullman City Schools since 2000. Freeman earned a doctorate in curriculum and teaching from Auburn University, and had worked for Auburn City Schools as an assistant superintendent and principal for the Auburn Early Education Center.

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Matt Pitt's travel restriction lifted

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The travel restriction imposed on The Basement founder and youth evangelist Matt Pitt as part of a bond condition has been lifted, according to one of his attorneys.

Brian Ritchey said last week that the agreement between attorney Carmella Penn and the district attorney was dated June 6.

Pitt has often traveled across the country for his



photo courtesy of The Basement

Matt Pitt

job as a youth minister. Pitt still faces a charge of impersonating a peace officer in Jefferson

County in connection to an incident from June 2013 in Grayson Valley, in which he allegedly presented a Jefferson County honorary sheriff's badge to Brandon Vessels and Brad Lunsford after the two Grayson Valley residents found what they believed to be a rifle about 50 feet into the wooded area near their homes.

The Jefferson County charge was ruled a violation of Pitt's probation from a previous conviction of attempting to impersonate

a peace officer in Shelby County. Pitt in September 2012 pleaded guilty to impersonating a peace officer after he allegedly pulled behind traffic on Interstate 65 near Calera in May 2012 and activated flashing blue lights.

He spent eight months in Shelby County Jail and was released on Palm Sunday this year.

Pitt spoke in May for the first time since his release from Shelby County Jail, saying his eight months behind bars was "one of

the greatest experiences of my life."

"God uses every kind of thing in my life," Pitt said in May. "He uses trouble. He uses trials. Any time I've been knocked down, He uses the pit as my greatest story. He's always used the craziness of my life to reach so many more people."

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

Safety tips for July Fourth

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office has provided tips on how to stay safe during the July 4 holiday.

When it comes to fireworks, it's recommended that you and your family go to see a show put on by professionals. In the event

that you purchase fireworks for yourself, you should know the law and follow these safety tips.

- It's unlawful to sell fireworks to people under age 16 unless accompanied by an adult, or to any intoxicated or irresponsible person.
- It's unlawful to explode or ignite fireworks within 600 feet of any church, hospital, asylum, public school or any en-

closed building, or within 200 feet of where fireworks are stored, sold or offered for sale.

- No person shall ignite or discharge any article of fireworks within or throw the same from a motor vehicle.
- Use fireworks outdoors only and obey all local laws.
- Always have water handy.
- Only use fireworks as intended. Don't try to alter them or

combine them. Never re-light a "dud" firework. Wait 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water.

- Spectators should keep a safe distance from the shooter and the shooter should wear safety glasses.
- Alcohol and fireworks do not mix.
- Only persons over the age of 12 should be allowed to handle

sparklers of any type.

- Report illegal explosives to the fire or police department in your community. If you live within the city limits check with your local police or mayor's office about restrictions on fireworks.

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

Another corrugated pipe in Trussville

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The Trussville City Council last week authorized Mayor Gene Melton to hire Milam and Company to repair a corrugated pipe on Yvonne Street on the south side of the city.

Melton called it an "emergency order," and

Milam and Company will be paid to repair the pipe on a time and equipment use basis.

Melton said he wasn't yet sure how much it would cost to fully repair the area.

The city of Trussville hasn't been a stranger to road repairs recently. Green Drive was closed from May 2013 to January due to a collapsed cul-

vert because of stormwater washing away soil beneath the road. Bob Smith Construction repaired the issue for \$379,000.

Also last year, the city spent \$56,800 with Milam and Company to repair a collapsed drainage pipe 38 feet below the surface in front of Chevron on Chalkville Mountain Road. The gaping hole near Ser-

vice Road and Chalkville Mountain Road was declared a public safety emergency prior to its repairing.

Melton said last week that the rehabilitation of North Chalkville Road between Rock Ridge Avenue and Hewitt Street is "going good." Dunn Construction is performing the work for \$517,911.43.

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. The goal is to re-open this stretch of road before school begins in August.

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LIFESTYLE

Exchange student program open in Alabama

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

A program is open for those who want to share America with an exchange student from another country.

Local families are invited to host an exchange student sponsored by Program of Academic Exchange.

"Hosting an exchange student not only is an opportunity to share what you most love about the U.S., it helps you to see the U.S. through fresh eyes," said Community Coordinator Rebecca Kinney.

Kinney manages exchange student ambassadors that are a little different from "regular" exchange students. The students she manages have competed against tens of thousands of other exchange students for the opportunity to take part in U.S. State Department leadership programs. The students are awarded scholarships to come to the U.S. to learn leadership skills and take part in community service projects so they can take the practice of volunteerism back to their home countries, where they will work for two years on community service.

Kinney's local group of student ambassadors was recently rewarded with a trip to the United Nations in New York City for every member of the group doing more than 100 community service hours in Alabama, as well as doing many cultural presentations for their classmates and communities.

The 2013-2014 student ambassadors included three at Hewitt-Trussville High



submitted photo

The 2013-2014 student ambassadors, representing Monte Negro (Oak Mountain HS), Russia (Bob Jones HS), Spain (Randolph School), Russia - Altai region (Chelsea HS), Kazakhstan (Hewitt-Trussville HS), Turkey (Hewitt-Trussville HS), Jordan (Oak Mountain HS), Moldova (Hewitt-Trussville HS), and Indonesia and Egypt (both Clay-Chalkville HS)

School and two at Clay-Chalkville High School.

PAX students arrive to the U.S. for the upcoming school year in August. They are 15-18 years old, have studied English for three years, and are motivated to learn more about the U.S. by attending high school and living with a host family. They are covered by comprehensive medical insurance and have their own spending money.

Volunteer host families provide PAX students with a warm and supportive home environment, a seat at the family dinner table, a bed, a quiet place to study, and encouragement to engage in everyday American life.

The 2014-2015 incoming student

ambassadors are:

- 16-year-old Abraham from Liberia, a special needs student who's interested in computers, reading, writing and mechanics
- 16-year-old Ghassan from Lebanon, who's interested in soccer, swimming, running, camping, cycling, chess and cards
- 17-year-old Koro from Indonesia, who hopes to be a future "National Geographic" photographer, and enjoys writing, tennis, radio and graphic design
- 15-year-old Anika from Bangladesh, who enjoys dance, poetry, singing, volunteering, reading and running
- 15-year-old Izabells from the Republic of Georgia, who enjoys guitar,

piano, dance, painting, photography, reading and cycling

- Ecaterina from Moldova, whose interests are school radio, volunteering, meditating and environmental issues
- Anastasiya from Turkmenistan, who enjoys jogging, reading, photography, cycling, basketball and acting
- Mariam from Egypt, who enjoys gymnastics, soccer, swimming, karate and drawing
- Khapiya from Kazakhstan, who enjoys volleyball, swimming, ice skating, reading, photography, chess, community service and drawing

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