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The Trussville Tribune

February 25 — March 3, 2015

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50¢

Greyhound rescue group plans to end dog racing

Wagering at Birmingham Race Course in 'catastrophic decline,' advocate says

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

Christine Dorchak is taking aim at Alabama.

Dorchak, president and general counsel of the greyhound rescue group

Grey2K USA Worldwide of Arlington, Mass., said last Thursday she's partnering with Baptists and the Humane Society in Alabama for a campaign to end dog racing in Alabama.

There are two dog racing tracks in Alabama --

Mobile Greyhound Park and the Birmingham Race Course. The latter is off John Rogers Drive, mere minutes from the Trussville city limits.

Dorchak has written legislation for other states that requires them to re-

port about injuries to greyhounds and deaths during races. She's hoping to find a legislative sponsor in Alabama. This year's legislative session begins March 3.

Dorchak, along with Alabama Citizens Action

Program Executive Director Joe Godfrey, held a press event last Thursday to talk about dog racing in Alabama.

"It's a story of dogs who suffer and die just so someone can place a \$2 bet on them," Dorchak said. "It's

completely pathetic. It's costing dogs their lives and it's costing taxpayers money."

Bad business for dogs

There are 21 dog racing see GREYHOUND page 4

Renovation, construction bid for Cahaba school approved

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The Trussville City Board of Education on Monday approved the bid for the construction of a community elementary school in the Cahaba Project in Trussville.

Trussville-based Blalock Building Company was approved to build the school, and renovate the existing structure, for \$10,961,000. The company had been revealed as the low bidder Feb. 10 with a bid of \$11,088,000. Minor adjust-



file photo by Gary Lloyd

The school building in the Cahaba Project

ments decreased the cost. Blalock Building Company was the company that won the bid for constructing Hewitt-Trussville Stadium, which was completed in October 2014.

Tuscaloosa-based Amason & Associates, Inc. bid \$11,903,000 to build the new school. Birmingham-based Argo Building Company, which was the low bidder for the Magnolia Place communi-

see CAHABA page 6

Clay-Chalkville theater teacher ending career with big award



photo by Gary Lloyd

Hal McIntosh in the auditorium at Clay-Chalkville High School

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

Before he can walk away, Hal McIntosh must come out for at least one more curtain call.

McIntosh, the theater teacher at Clay-Chalkville High School, received the Teacher Hall of Fame Award for 2015 from the Alabama Educational Theatre Association in January. He's retiring later this year.

McIntosh has been at Clay-Chalkville High School since it opened in 1996, and was at Hewitt-Trussville High School the 10 years before that.

"It's a nice award for the end of a long career that's

been pretty successful, I think," McIntosh said.

McIntosh has bachelor's degrees in education and theater. He went to Hewitt-Trussville thinking he'd be just a social studies teacher, until former theater teacher Gayle Glenn, who was over multiple groups at the time and is now on the Trussville community for a number of years, most recently having appeared in "The Fantastics" at the Levite Jewish Community Center Theatre.

McIntosh said his best memories are of his students, of watching them grow as performers. He said his goal was to always help people see the value in theater and understand the work that goes into a production. When he was in college, he

always there. In his 28 years, he's directed 54 shows at Hewitt-Trussville and Clay-Chalkville, and two more outside of school. He's acted in the Birmingham community for a number of years, most recently having appeared in "The Fantastics" at the Levite Jewish Community Center Theatre. McIntosh said his best memories are of his students, of watching them grow as performers. He said his goal was to always help people see the value in theater and understand the work that goes into a production. When he was in college, he

see AWARD page 4

Pinson aids youth association with bills

by Lee Weyhrich

Staff Writer

The city of Pinson is aiding the Pinson Valley Youth Association during a tough stretch.

Due to larger-than-normal expenses, the members of PVYA realized they couldn't afford their power bill for two months in a row. A two-month bill totaling roughly \$2,500 was presented to the Pinson City Council last Thursday with a request for help.

Since the PVYA facility is owned by the city, Mayor Hoyt Sanders believes paying the power bill is preferable to the alternative, especially since the running furnace can keep the pipes from freezing.

This is not the only request PVYA had for the council, however. The association also asked for crushed brick for the baseball fields. For regular maintenance 20 tons of the substance are used at the fields throughout the course of the year. The cost of 20 tons is \$1,600. The council approved this request with Councilman Robbie Roberts as the only dissenting vote.

PVYA has also requested new equipment at the fields due to the old equipment reaching the end of a long life with numerous stop-gap repairs. PVYA has requested a steel field drag, nail drag, cocoa drag mat, four batter boxes, two field liners, a base digger, base plugs, an aluminum rake, a base path rake, a diamond pump and two types of tape. Based on estimates from vendors these items could total as much as \$1,600.

see PVYA page 3

TRIBUNE AREA WEATHER

Here is The Trussville weather conditions in page by scanning the QR code below with your smartphone.



'Evaluation period' for Clay library could last 9-10 months

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

An "evaluation period" of the Clay Public Library could last nine or 10 months, according to Clay City Manager Ronnie Dixon.

The evaluation will be done with the help of Pinson Public Library Director April Wallace, who was approved Feb. 10 by the Pinson Public Library Board of

Trustees to assist the Clay Public Library during its time of transition.

"Then we'll go from there," Dixon said.

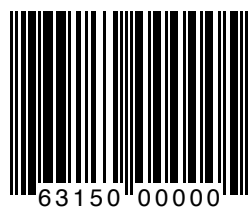
Former Library Director Karen Moody left Clay to take a position with the Warrior Public Library. In July 2014, Clay Public Library Assistant Director Joy Lee left to take a position with Gadsden City Schools.

The evaluation period will consist

see LIBRARY page 3

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NEWS

Pinson Valley HS receives Toolbox for Education grant for library remodel

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation has awarded a \$4,200 Lowe's Toolbox for Education grant to Pinson Valley High School for the school's media center remodeling project. Pinson Valley High School is one of more than 500 schools across the United States to be awarded a Lowe's Toolbox for Education grant for improvement projects during the 2014-

2015 school year. The library media center will be using the grant money to purchase new paint, new ceiling tiles, new light covers and a new area rug. These materials will be used to refresh the space. The library media center is original to the school, which was built in 1972. As school libraries are being transformed into library learning commons, the media center specialists at Pinson Valley are working to transform the space into an area where students can come to study, read and



photo courtesy of Jefferson County Schools

Pinson Valley High School

collaborate with peers. The project is scheduled to be completed this spring. "The Lowe's Toolbox

for Education program delivers on Lowe's' commitment to improve the educational environment for students across the country," said Maureen Ausura, chairwoman of the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation. "We're honored to work with Pinson Valley High School to support the needs of our local students, teachers and families."

Since its inception in 2006, Lowe's Toolbox for Education has provided more than \$42 million in grants to 9,600 schools, benefiting more than 5.5

million children. Grants are available to K-12 public schools in the U.S. for a wide range of improvement projects. Schools may be eligible to receive Toolbox grants up to \$100,000. Parent groups and educators can apply by visiting ToolboxForEducation.com. The spring cycle closed Feb. 13.

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

Trussville Chamber annual banquet Saturday

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The Trussville Area Chamber of Commerce's annual banquet is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 28 at the Trussville Civic Center.

The banquet includes dinner, silent auction and musical entertainment by Vann Burchfield. Reservations are \$50 per individual and \$90 per couple. A table of eight may be purchased for \$500.

Proceeds from the banquet and silent auction go toward events such as the Christmas parade and City Fest, as well as to deserving high school and home-schooled seniors for scholarships.

At the banquet, an individual and organization will be recognized for the Chamber's Gatekeeper Award. The awards are presented in recognition of outstanding volunteerism in the community.

The Customer Service Person of the Year Award will also be presented.

Candidates are:

- Randy Tyner at Tyner's Pharmacy & Discount Drugs
- Jayna Moore at Express Paint & Promotional Items
- Tiffany Layfield at Subway-Shell Food Mart
- Staff at Jade Boutique (now Tula J. Boutique)
- Edward Ballard at Office Depot
- Fresh Value Marketplace staff
- Nemeisha Webb at the AT&T Store
- Megan Patterson at the Trussville Civic Center
- Chase Nelms at Nelms Pharmacy
- Annette Pierce and Tina Pierce at Hilton Garden Inn
- Trussville Pediatric Dentistry staff

For more information, visit www.trussvillechamber.com or call 205-655-7535.

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

Trussville OKs 2015-16 school calendar

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The Trussville City Board of Education on Monday approved the 2015-2016 school calendar.

The calendar has students starting the school year Aug. 12.

Thanksgiving break is from Nov. 25-27 and

winter break begins at noon Dec. 18. Students will return from winter break Jan. 6, 2016.

Spring break will be March 28, 2016 through April 1, 2016.

Graduation is set for May 24, 2016.

The Jefferson County Board of Education also recently approved its 2015-2016 school calendar. Students will begin the

year Aug. 6. Thanksgiving break is Nov. 23-27 and winter break begins Dec. 21, with students returning Jan. 12, 2016.

Spring break is March 28, 2016 through April 1, 2016. Graduations will be May 23-25, 2016.

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

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Trussville manufacturing firm acquires Canadian company

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

SPOC Automation Inc., a Trussville-based oil and gas industry engineering, software, and automation equipment manufacturing firm, announced Friday its completion of acquiring KJ Controls Canada, a Spruce Grove, AB Canada-based company.

in 1999 and has developed a base of variable frequency drive business across western Canada.

The acquisition continues to build on SPOC's global footprint strategy to deliver their variable frequency drive products, cloud-based SCADA and automation solutions in the artificial lift controls space of the oil and gas industry. It also brings new in-house capability to further

develop the company's integrated solution-based approach to oil field controls and automation solutions.

"The completion of this acquisition allows us to now bring our Canadian customer base additional access to 500+ years of automation and control expertise, expanded inventory, new product developments and world class field service

capacities right in the heart of Canada's oil and gas industry," said SPOC Automation, Inc. President Bobby Mason.

The acquisition also expands SPOC Automation's footprint into the Canadian oil and gas automation and controls market. The SPOC Automation Canada team will continue to service its existing footprint of customers as it has the last

15 years.

"We could not be happier with becoming part of the SPOC Automation team," said KJ Controls Canada President Barry Martel. "We have developed a great relationship over the last decade with the SPOC Automation team and it became evident that the company's cultures aligned. Together we hope to bring better service, products and

automation solutions to our customers."

The financial details of the deal weren't disclosed, and the acquisition closed Feb. 15.

SPOC Automation builds variable frequency drive solutions for the oil and gas industry.

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

PVYA continued from page 1

Roberts was disappointed that PVYA didn't tell the city about its financial woes sooner, instead of springing the expenses on the city at the last minute. He said he would rather the city and association work together than feel like the council was playing "rescue squad."

According to Councilwoman Dawn Tanner, this

exact discussion took place among herself, Sanders and the association at the last PVYA meeting with the hopes that the two entities could grow better communication and avoid surprises in the future.

It's unclear whether the council might have to pay for next month's power bill as well, but according to Sanders the association's

financial woes should get an infusion of cash soon.

"They're going to have a tournament the 13th and 14th of March, and that will generate some revenue," Sanders said. "Because of the (unexpected cost of new football) equipment last year and some other bills it has just been a tough year for them."

Tanner added that the

purpose of the park is not to make a profit, but to provide a service.

In other news, the council approved a bid from Call-A-Haul for occasional debris removal. That company provides emergency cleanup after storms and other events, and has worked for the city in previous years.

The council also unani-

mously approved its contract with Birmingham-Southern College to continue providing nature management at Turkey Creek Nature Preserve. This also extends Preserve Manager Charles Yeager's contract to be on site at the preserve. The cost of this to the city is \$20,000 per year.

The council is also look-

ing for bids for mowing at city properties. Bids must be received by the council no later than 3 p.m. March 13. One change in this year's invitation to bid is the removal of the city park property. The upkeep of that land will be among the responsibilities of the park director position the council is creating.

LIBRARY continued from page 1

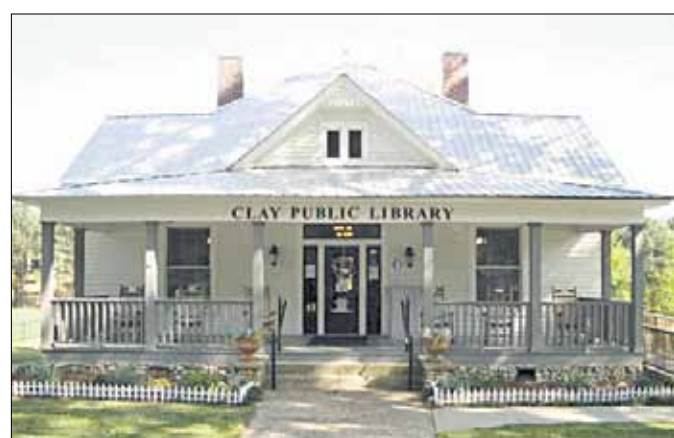
of data collection, best practices and more.

Dixon said another part-time employee may be hired in the meantime to maintain the library's hours.

Clay City Councilman Kevin Small said he'll be interested in seeing what changes can be made to better streamline things at the library.

"We're looking forward to that," he said.

The Clay Public Library, which opened in October 2009, is located at 7257 Old Springville Road in Clay. The Pinson Public



file photo

The Clay Public Library

Library, which opened in October 2011, is located at 4410 Main St. in Pinson.

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

Court date reset for woman charged with DUI while driving 3 kids

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The court date has been reset for a Trussville woman charged with driving under the influence while driving three children.

Stephanie Leigh Day, 34, was originally scheduled to appear in Trussville Municipal Court on Wednesday, March 4 at 4 p.m. That date was reset on request of her attorney to Friday, June 12 at noon.

On Jan. 20, a two-vehicle accident occurred on Trussville-Clay Road near Hewitt-Trussville Middle School, injuring two people.

Day was charged with



photo courtesy of the Trussville Police Department

Stephanie Leigh Day

DUI.

The head-on collision occurred near Hewitt-Trussville Middle School when Day's vehicle crossed over into the oncoming lane. Trussville Police Department Capt.

Jeff Bridges said a 32-year-old woman and a 2-year-old girl in the other vehicle were injured in the crash.

Day had three children in the car, a 9-year-old, 7-year-old, and 6-month-old.

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GREYHOUND continued from page 1

tracks left in the United States, and 14 of them are in Alabama and Florida, Dorchak said. She said dog racing is legal in seven states, and Alabama is one of two that doesn't report greyhound injuries to the public.

"It's a very bad business for the dogs," she said.

Dorchak said kennel conditions are poor at the tracks, particularly at the Birmingham Race Course. According to her report, "High Stakes: Greyhound Racing in the United States," a persistent flea infestation was documented in 2013, yet it appears no disciplinary action was taken by the Birmingham Racing Commission against the kennel. Dorchak reported that repeated problems were documented in inspections that year, yet regulators failed to take action to correct the issues or punish those responsible.

In her report, Dorchak states there have been at least two cases in Alabama of racing greyhounds testing positive for cocaine

since 2009. One was at the Birmingham Race Course, and it resulted in a \$750 fine. She said the dogs are fed raw "4-D" meat, derived from dying and diseased animals, used to reduce costs.

She said common injuries include broken legs, broken necks, broken skulls and electrocution.

"These dogs are living like this every day and nobody is looking out for them at these racing commissions," she said.

A dying industry

Wagering on live greyhound racing at the Birmingham Race Course declined by 20 percent between 2012 and 2013, Dorchak said. From 2008 to 2013, the amount gambled on live greyhound racing at Mobile Greyhound Park decreased by 61 percent, she said.

"Wagering is in catastrophic decline," she said.

She said 42 tracks have closed since 1991. The Birmingham Race Course opened in 1992, she said. Only 21 tracks are left across seven states.

"We've got a long way to go," Dorchak said.

She said because the industry is dying, there's little money to care for the dogs properly.

"A dog with a broken leg is probably a dead dog," she said.

Effect on taxpayers, communities

On page 16 of her report, Dorchak states that in a 2011 study, economic pro-



photo by Gary Lloyd

The Birmingham Race Course

fessors from Auburn University and the College of Charleston concluded that greyhound racing tends to have a negative impact on state revenues in the jurisdictions in which it exists. The study found that each additional dollar of greyhound handle is estimated to reduce net state revenue by \$7.61.

"It's a parasite on taxpayers," Dorchak said.

The Birmingham Race Course sits just a few miles from Trussville and is surrounded by the Irondale city limits. Does a diminishing race course affect the value of nearby Trussville?

"If the owner and the city of Birmingham could get its act together the results could bring more tax dollars to the I-459 and U.S. 11 area that could be a benefit to our businesses," Trussville Mayor Gene Melton said.

Dorchak said wherever a track closes, there are better opportunities for the property. She said if a vacant track sits there, it takes away from nearby

property values.

Melton said he would only wish the race course would close if "the owner and the city of Birmingham could create a higher and better use for the property."

Moving forward

Dorchak's goal is to phase out greyhound racing wherever it exists and prevent other countries from developing it.

"Our objective is to try and expose the ways to the cruelty of greyhound racing and just end it entirely," she said.

Dorchak said the Birmingham Race Course hasn't answered any of her group's public information requests since May 2014. The information she does have comes from past reports and public records.

Dorchak said she's sent copies of "High Stakes:

Greyhound Racing in the United States" to every state's legislators.

"We have quite a bit of work ahead of us," she said. "We're going in the right direction, but there's a lot of work to do here in Alabama and around the world."

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

Scan this QR code with your smartphone to watch Grey2K USA Worldwide's Christine Dorchak talk about the effects a dog racing track has on surrounding communities.



AWARD continued from page 1

heard professors talk about students choosing to major in theater but knew nothing about it. He vowed to make sure that if he became a teacher, he'd never send a student out unprepared.

"It's so nice to be honored by your peers and somebody recognizes you've made a difference," he said.

In his retirement, McIntosh plans to travel. He's never been to Boston and wants to go west with his brother. They may go to Washington D.C. this fall.

Before flights can be booked and hotel

accommodations made, though, McIntosh has one more musical to direct at Clay-Chalkville High School. "Little Shop of Horrors" will be his final production, and it will be April 23-25. It's the same musical he directed in his final show at Hewitt-Trussville High School. The show was "unbelievable" at Hewitt-Trussville, and he wants this performance to top that one. It will be his final curtain call.

"Oh yeah, you know you want it to be fantastic," McIntosh said. "I think it

will be."

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

Scan this QR code with your smartphone to watch Hal McIntosh talk about what the award means to him.

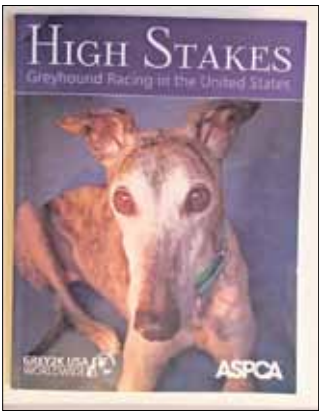


photo by Gary Lloyd

The cover of "High Stakes: Greyhound Racing in the United States"



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'Stay in School Week' to emphasize importance of graduation

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The Alabama State Department of Education, The Mattie C. Stewart Foundation and The Lawler Foundation of Birmingham are partnering to bring awareness to the importance of graduating from high school and taking an honest look at the reality of what happens to those who don't.

During "InsideOut: Stay in School Week," March 2-6, the ALSDE is encouraging all middle and high schools throughout the state to dedicate time to watch the 26-minute documentary titled "InsideOut." The film, shot in two Alabama maximum security prisons, exposes the devastating and lasting effects of dropping out of school by those who live

with the consequences every day – prison inmates.

"The ALSDE acknowledges the serious social, economic and educational consequences resulting from students dropping out of high school and resolves to meet the goal of a 90 percent graduation rate with steps outlined in PLAN 2020," said State Superintendent of Education Tommy Bice, noting that Alabama is moving in the right direction.

The state's graduation rate is now at 86 percent and is projected to continue rising.

"Still, across America, too many young people are dropping out of school and must deal with the devastating consequences that often result from not graduating from high school," Bice said. "We applaud The Mattie C.

Stewart Foundation's role in the fight against dropout rates and the Foundation's tireless dedication to increasing student commitment to class work and graduation."

According to national statistics, a student drops out of school every 26 seconds. That's 7,000 every day, and more than 1.3 million every year. Eight out of 10 high school dropouts will end up in prison. In addition, each class of dropouts costs the United States more than \$329 billion in lost wages – not to mention \$40 billion spent on prisoner incarceration each year.

The Mattie C. Stewart Foundation has invested time and creativity to the "InsideOut: Stay in School Week" campaign, with the theme of "Graduation is Your Beginning." The

foundation is teaming up with The Lawler Foundation of Birmingham to cover the cost of production and distribution and will send a copy of the InsideOut DVD to every school in Alabama in a 6-12 grade configuration.

Also during "InsideOut: Stay in School Week," the nationally recognized "Choice Bus" will visit Alabama high schools in Mobile, Montgomery and Bessemer. The Choice Bus is an experienced-based learning tool designed to show young people the power of education, as well as the likely consequences of choosing to drop out of school.

"There is no better learning tool than experience itself," said Sherri Stewart, executive director of The Mattie C. Stewart Foundation. "We designed our tools

to let young people and their families experience firsthand the powerful benefits of education and the likely consequence that await high school dropouts. We know from student and teacher testimonies that we're having a positive impact on their choice to stay in school."

The front half of the Choice Bus is literally a classroom, a visual representation of learning and self-improvement. But the entire second half of the bus is an exact replica of a prison cell. After viewing testimonials and a four-minute movie, the curtain opens, revealing the prison cell. Students can walk into the uncomfortable living conditions, experiencing the reality that faces the majority of those who decide to drop out of school.

The "InsideOut"

documentary, originally released in 2007, has been used in 49 states and Canada and has been viewed by more than 15 million students and community organizations. The Choice Bus has visited 21 states and has been experienced by more than two million students and adults.

Hewitt-Trussville High School Principal Tim Salem said he was looking for the video to be shown in career prep classes. Pinson Valley High School Principal Terrence Brown said the school doesn't plan on participating. Clay-Chalkville High School Principal Michael Lee didn't respond to a message before press time.

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

Gov. Bentley to request \$700 million tax, revenue package

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley will ask legislators to approve a \$700 million tax and revenue package in the upcoming legislative session, according to www.myfoxa.com.

Bentley said at last Thursday's Alabama Governor's Early Childhood Education Leadership Summit that he wouldn't "sugarcoat" the state's budget situation, saying Alabama

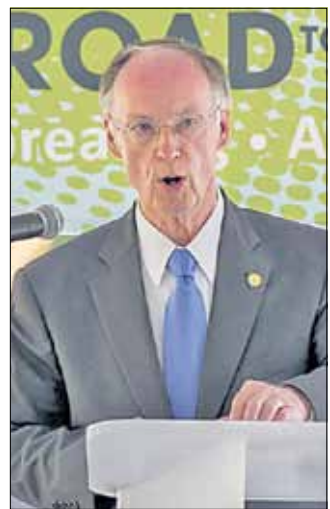
needs additional revenue to maintain services, according to www.myfoxa.com.

Bentley is expected to discuss his proposal March 3 in his State of the State address.

Nearly 300 early childhood education leaders from across the state gathered in Montgomery last Thursday to discuss and learn more about the state's vision for high-quality early learning and care beginning at birth and continuing through age 5.

The summit was a celebration of the state's high-quality early childhood programs and the shared vision for comprehensive early learning held across the state.

"There is no issue more important to Alabama's economic future than developing our next generation of children," Bentley said in a statement. "Children start the learning process at birth, and I believe early education is the foundation for success



file photo by Ron Burkett

Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley

in life. Today's summit was a great opportunity to highlight the importance of early childhood education and I appreciate the partnership and commitment of those who work in early childhood education."

The summit highlighted the state's voluntary First Class Pre-K program, home visiting programs, child care centers, and elementary schools and new federal grants for Early Head Start/Child Care Partnerships and

Pre-K expansion. Speakers discussed how the state's focus on research-based and developmentally appropriate learning activities is one reason why Alabama's early childhood education and care programs are among highest quality programs in the country.

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Trussville policer officer injured in wreck

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

A Trussville Police Department SUV was involved in an accident at the intersection of Trussville-Clay Road and Green Drive last Tuesday night.

It appeared the SUV went up a steep embankment.

Capt. Jeff Bridges said officer Ryan Robinson was involved in the one-car accident when he was en route to a dispatched call around 8 p.m. While traveling northbound on Green Drive, he ran across Trussville-Clay Road,



photo by Scott Buttram

The wreck scene

striking a tree.

He was transported to UAB Hospital, treated and released, Bridges said.

The cause of the accident is under investigation and yet to be determined.

Robinson has been with the Trussville Police Department two and a half

years. The extent of damage to the patrol vehicle has yet to be determined, Bridges said.

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Trussville BOE places 7 possible names on table for new community elementary schools

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The Trussville City Board of Education on Monday placed seven possible names on the table for consideration for the two new community elementary schools that will soon be constructed.

Two of the names on the table are for the elementary school to be constructed near the Magnolia Place neighborhood. They are:

- South Trussville Elementary School
- Magnolia Elementary School

The other five names are for the elementary school to be constructed in the Cahaba Project. They are:



photo courtesy of Trussville City Schools

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

- Central Trussville Elementary School
- Cahaba Elementary School
- Cahaba Central Elementary School
- Cahaba Village Elementary School
- Trussville Cahaba Elementary School
- The South Trussville

Elementary School and Central Trussville Elementary School options would likely work together, much like three Vestavia Hills elementary schools that are named Vestavia Hills Elementary School Central, Vestavia Hills Elementary School East and Vestavia Hills Elementary



photo courtesy of Trussville City Schools

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

School West. During Monday's meeting, many ideas were discussed for naming the schools. A letter from the Trussville Historical Board expressed interest in the school in the Cahaba Project being named Hewitt Elementary School. If that name wasn't satisfactory to

the board of education, the historical board supported Cahaba Elementary School. Bob Davis, who lives in the Cahaba Project, suggested Cahaba Village Elementary School since the school building there has been the "anchor" of the area for the last 75 years, he said. The Trussville City Board

of Education is not limiting itself to choosing from the seven choices it placed on the table, but will make a decision on the schools' official names at the March 16 meeting.

"I just want us to do it right, whatever it is," said Board President Bill Roberts.

The board has been accepting input from the community on naming the two new schools at newschool@trussvillecityschools.com.

The schools are expected to open for the 2016-2017 school year.

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

Trussville to appraise 3 areas for future right turn lane

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The Trussville City Council on Tuesday authorized Mayor Gene Melton to hire Joe Batrich of JNP Appraisal Services to appraise three areas the city must acquire to construct a future right turn lane on North Chalkville Road.

The rights-of-way that will be appraised are in front of First United

Methodist Church of Trussville, Best Insurance and First Baptist Church of Trussville.

The city council in November 2014 authorized Melton to sign a contract with Skipper Consulting for the North Chalkville Road widening project. That contract is for \$11,800.

Melton said Skipper Consulting will do work for the city with the Alabama Department of Transportation for the

future right turn lane at the intersection of North Chalkville Road and Main Street.

The right turn lane will stretch from the intersection to Vann Circle. Several properties have already been acquired by the city.

Melton said in 2013 that it would cost about \$2.2 million to acquire all the property necessary to construct the turn lane. The construction of the right turn lane will likely



file photo by Ron Burkett

Trussville Mayor Gene Melton

lane in place sometime in 2016. It's unclear if that is still the timetable.

Melton has said the city has to work to acquire the properties because the federal government declared the area historic and would not help with the project.

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

CAHABA continued from page 1

ty elementary school, bid a total of \$12,224,116. Trussville City Schools' available funds for the project totaled \$12,152,170.

The projected completion date for the school is June 30, 2016.

Bids for the elementary school in the Magnolia Place area were opened in January, with Birmingham-based Argo Building Company revealed as the low bidder at \$15,229,235. Trussville City Schools' available funds for that project totaled \$10,862,350. Argo's bid was reduced to an approved \$13,754,935 by making adjustments. The expected completion date of that school is July 15, 2016.

Each school will accommodate up to 500 students. The total cost — including construction, renovation,

site work, contingency and other costs — for both schools was projected to be around \$23 million.

The plan is to open both schools for the 2016-2017 school year.

Based on this year's enrollment, there would be 427 students attending the New Deal-era school building in the Cahaba Project, 374 at the school in the Magnolia Place area and 1,025 students at the Paine Elementary Campus.

Trussville residents on Feb. 25, 2014 voted to approve a seven-millage property tax increase to fund the two new community elementary schools. The final results of the vote were 2,813 people in favor of the increase, while 1,935 voted against it. Seven additional mills in property taxes will cost Trussville residents \$70 per

year on homes appraised at \$100,000, \$140 per year on homes appraised at \$200,000 and \$210 per year on homes appraised at \$300,000.

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

Scan this QR code with your smartphone to watch Trussville City Board of Education President Bill Roberts talk about the process of approving two new community elementary schools.



Paine Primary kindergarten registration now open

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

Trussville City Schools kindergarten registration is now open and must be completed on or before Sept. 1.

The link for kindergarten registration is available

by visiting www.trussvillecityschools.com, selecting "Schools" and clicking on "Paine Primary School."

The form will collect basic student demographic information, parental and emergency contact information, and health information that will be

entered into the school system's InformationNow student database.

For more information, call 205-228-3782.

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Chalkville ES sidewalks first phase done: 'It's a lot safer'

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The first phase of the sidewalks project at Chalkville Elementary School is done.

Construction began in October 2014 to build sidewalks along Chalkville School Road and along the school's drive. Principal Rod Johnson said before the sidewalks were there, students were walking between cars in the morning car line.

"It's a lot safer (now)," Johnson said.

About 200 students walk to school from the surrounding homes and apartments.

The second phase of the project may be tougher. Safe Routes to School grants are no longer available, but Nick Sims, who was instrumental in getting the first phase complete by writing the grant for the school, told Johnson that the Transportation Alternatives Program is now available and could help.

The second phase would include a sidewalk extending from the Chalkville Elementary School sign down Chalkville School Road toward Old Springville Road. That project will include "a lot more obstacles," Johnson said, including grading work and utilities.

The reason behind the sidewalks is safety.



photo by Gary Lloyd

A plaque, cross and tree are located on the Chalkville Elementary School campus in memory of Larry Bevis, near where he was struck by a car in 2006.

On April 5, 2006, Larry Bevis, the school crossing guard, was struck by a car while directing traffic on Chalkville School Road. He later died of his injuries. A resolution from the Alabama State Senate mourning Bevis' death hangs on a wall near the cafeteria at Chalkville Elementary School.

Over the years, Johnson

and made phone calls to a number of people, asking for help in making the school zone safer. Johnson soon heard about the Safe Routes to School program, the purpose of which is to enable and encourage students in grades K-8 to walk and bicycle to school.

Federal funds are used to pay for the program, and the school faced two major obstacles in receiving

them: a complicated application process and funds only being available on a reimbursement basis for approved projects. Because Chalkville Elementary School is in an unincorporated area of Jefferson County, the school needed support of the Jefferson County Commission and the Jefferson County Board of Education in order to move forward with an application.

Johnson almost gave up on the project when he received an email from Nick Sims on Dec. 16, 2011. He introduced himself and offered his assistance in helping the school complete the application. At the time, Sims was employed by Communities Putting Prevention to Work, which was funded by United Way.

Johnson said that somewhere along the way,

the "ball was dropped" and while others who had applied for funding were seeing their projects come to fruition, nothing happened at Chalkville. Johnson contacted Jefferson County Commissioner Joe Knight and asked for his help.

The grant totaled \$132,525. The Jefferson County Board of Education in December 2013 approved an application for construction submitted by Chalkville Elementary School.

The project resulted in the construction of two sidewalks. One sidewalk runs along the school drive from the entrance to the school up to the Bishop Building. The other sidewalk is across the street from the school, running along Chalkville School Road from the Tammera Place Apartments up to Park Brook Apartments.

Sims, Knight and

Knight's assistant, Zach Brooks, were recognized at a PTA meeting at the school earlier this month.

"I know that if Nick Sims hadn't emailed me out of the blue and if Commissioner Knight had not gotten involved, we would probably still be without sidewalks," Johnson said.

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

Scan this QR code with your smartphone to watch a video report about the impact the sidewalks at Chalkville Elementary School will have.



Trussville City Schools creates college, career coach position

by Gary Lloyd

Editor

The Trussville City Board of Education on Monday approved a job description for a college and career coach.

Qualified applicants should have a degree in social work or sociology.

The salary range is from \$37,250 to \$63,911.

The coach will provide assistance to all high school students, individually and in groups, regarding college and career readiness, post high school graduation planning; identifying and resolving barriers to graduation; and facilitating career choices and planning. The coach will be involved with middle school students in developing their four-year

plan. To apply, those interested should visit <http://www.alsde.edu/TeachInAlabama>. For more information about the position, visit www.trussvillecityschools.com.

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

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