



The Trussville Tribune

July 15 — 21, 2015

Your news source for Trussville, Clay and Pinson

50¢

Cougars, Huskies rank in Top 10 football poll

by Erik Harris
Sports Editor

NationalHSFootball.com has released its Alabama Preseason football poll, and two area football programs are seen not only in the Top 10, but the top half of the Top 10.

For the first time in four years, Hoover does not sit atop the preseason state ranking. The Bucs come in at No. 2 in the Yellowhammer State

photo by Ron Burkett

Hewitt-Trussville senior quarterback Zac Thomas rolls out of the pocket last season.



behind top-ranked Clay-Chalkville.

Going into head coach Josh Floyd's second season at the helm, Hewitt-Trussville debuts at No. 5 in the state. Floyd finished his opening campaign with an overall record of 5-6, finishing with a first round playoff loss at Gadsden City.

NationalHSFootball's Preseason Alabama Top 10: No. 1 Clay-Chalkville (15-0), No. 2 Hoover (12-2), No. 3 Central Phenix City (10-2), No. 4 Spanish Fort (12-2), No. 5 Hewitt-Trussville (5-6), No. 6 Prattville (11-3), No. 7 Opelika (9-2), No.

see POLL page 3

Metro: DUI-related accident leads to manslaughter charge

From staff reports

Jefferson County Sheriff's deputies responded to a call on Sunday night that led them to an intoxicated man, his flipped Monte Carlo and a dead wife.



Photo via the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office

Eshmael Munashe Patterson

Around 5 a.m. on Sunday, police responded to investigate a report of a suspicious person in the 1600 block of Pratt Highway in Birmingham. Upon arrival, authorities found 27-year-old Eshmael Munashe Patterson walking down the road.

The Northeastern Jefferson County man told deputies that he had been in a car accident that left his wife, Tanya Denise Blakely, trapped in the vehicle.

Once police located the 2003 Monte Carlo roughly 35 feet deep in a ravine, Blakely had passed away in the back seat. Blakely, 27, was found in the vehicle, which had been flipped and came to rest on the roof.

Patterson was taken to the hospital, where a blood test indicated his blood alcohol content was significantly over the limit for driving. He was

see DUI page 2

JefCoEd board passes vote to extend pay raises



photo by Erik Harris

The Central Office board room.

From staff reports

In an effort to keep employees from jumping over to neighboring school systems for higher pay, the Jefferson County Board of Education has chosen to pass out some pay raises.

In a Thursday meeting, the board voted to approve the 2015-16 salary schedule, which offers higher payment to many non-teaching JefCoEd employees. The vote passed 5-0.

Some of the pay hikes

will go to support staff employees, while some principals and coaches will receive an increase in supplements. Pay raises will also be seen in the central office.

These raises come on the heels of a major stretch of layoffs that the board has since rescinded.

Teachers who don't also serve in a coaching position will not see any hike in payment. The new schedule will offer a 50-cent hourly increase for many support

staff employees.

According to reports, the range of annual increases for longevity in the system has been upped to 28 years for many employees. Under the previous arrangement, some positions had their range capped at 11 years, which gave veteran staffers no financial incentive to stay in the system.

That 50-cent jump is expected to cost about \$500,000 annually, and the longevity extension should tack on another \$434,000.

Former Pinson Valley High School teacher pleads guilty

From staff reports

Nearly five months after resigning from her teaching position at Pinson Valley High School, 27-year-old Jennifer Marin Perry has been placed on probation after pleading guilty to a misdemeanor charge of having sexual contact with a student under the age of 19.



photo courtesy of Jefferson County Sheriff's Office

Former Pinson Valley High School teacher Jennifer Marie Perry.

On Wednesday, Jefferson County District Court Judge Katrina Ross placed the former teacher on a yearlong

see PINSON page 4

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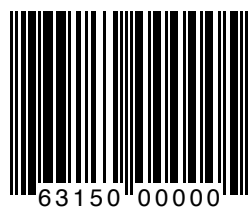
Here is The Trussville weather conditions in page by scanning the QR Tribune's area weather Trussville, Clay, and code below with your forecast for the next Pinson, see The Trussville smartphone. seven days. For current Tribune weather web



CHILD FIND

Help Trussville City Schools locate, identify, and evaluate Trussville residents from birth to age 21 who have disabilities or who are suspected of having disabilities. Contact the Trussville City Schools Special Education Department at (205) 228-3043.

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NEWS

Hayden girl receives two life-saving transplants

With the cost of a transplant often exceeding \$500,000, many transplant families are unable to shoulder the financial burden of such a procedure. The Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA) is a national charity dedicated to organizing and guiding communities in raising funds for transplant-related expenses. In Hayden, volunteers are raising funds for COTA in honor of transplant patients like local girl, Kelcy Goolsby.

Kelcy is the daughter of Nichole Burnett and Chance Burnett. Born on February 24, 2004, Kelcy was diagnosed with Dock 8. The doctors at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, performed a life-saving liver transplant on April 9, 2015 and a life-saving bone marrow transplant on June 26, 2015. An estimated \$90,000 is being raised by Hayden volunteers.



submitted photo
Kelcy Goolsby

Volunteers are needed to assist with fundraising activities that will help with transplant-related expenses. Individuals and groups interested in more information can contact Community Coordinator Tonya Burnett at 205.683.9583 or coinbham@yahoo.com. Media representatives may contact the campaign Public Relations Coordinator Kaitlin Chappell at 256-347-

6785 orkaitlinchappell@gmail.com for more information about the family or the COTA community fundraising campaign.

Donations may be mailed to the Children's Organ Transplant Association, 2501 West COTA Drive, Bloomington, Indiana, 47403. Checks or money orders should be made payable to COTA, with "In Honor of Kelcy G." written on the memo line of the check. Secure credit card donations are also accepted online at www.COTAforKelcyG.com.

Free conference to address church security

From staff reports

In light of recent world events, remaining alert -- even in what we used to consider havens of safety and peace -- is imperative. And sadly, preparing for the worst is just as critical.

To help local church families formulate plans for dealing with medical, fire, severe weather, civil disputes and active shooter emergencies, First Baptist Church Trussville is hosting a Church Crisis Response Team Conference on August 8, 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Registration begins at 7:15 a.m.

The conference is free. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

For more information or to RSVP for the event, email crtconf@fbctrussville.org.



DUI continued from page 1

questioned by detectives and admitted to driving the car and drinking during the night.

Patterson was arrested and charged with Criminally Negligent Homicide and Reckless

Manslaughter. He posted \$10,000 bond and was released from jail.

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Cahaba Riverkeeper hires first full-time Riverkeeper

From staff reports

The Cahaba Riverkeeper (CRK) is pleased to announce the hiring of David Butler as their new Riverkeeper. Butler assumes his new position effective immediately.

Butler has served CRK as a Board member and active member of the Water Quality Sampling Committee. For the past two summers, he has volunteered for weekly bacteriological testing on the river in an effort to provide the river community with timely information about water quality.

"I am humbled by my appointment as Riverkeeper for an organization that is becoming known for its systematic, scientific testing of high-use swimming and boating sites," said Butler. In the summer months, Cahaba Riverkeeper tests from Trussville to Helena for pathogens that could be harmful to humans and wildlife.

In spring 2015, Butler led the successful Renew Our Rivers cleanup in Helena. He also



submitted photo

David Butler was recently hired as the new Riverkeeper for Cahaba Riverkeeper.

has been a strong advocate for cooperation among parties interested in the health of the Cahaba River.

Butler replaces Dr. Myra Crawford as Riverkeeper. Crawford, who founded CRK in 2009 as a member of the global Waterkeeper Alliance, has served a dual role as both Riverkeeper and Executive Director. Crawford will continue as Executive Director.

"The time has come to expand

our work along the Cahaba River," Crawford said. "I know of no one who spends more time on the Cahaba River than Dave. He is on the water almost every day and has been a high-value partner in identifying problems on the river and helping us resolve them, whenever we can.

The Riverkeeper's responsibilities include coordinating efforts to monitor water quality in the river, with targeted investigations when

needed, and updates to the Waterkeeper Alliance Swim Guide. The Riverkeeper lobbies for passage and enforcement of river-friendly legislation and works with staff to develop outreach and restoration programs in the watershed and with business/ industry to implement river-friendly development practices.

Butler, owner of Canoe the Cahaba recreational outfitter, holds a journalism degree from the University of Alabama and is currently enrolled in the Birmingham School of Law. He previously has worked in the financial research community after studying finance at the University of Kentucky.

Butler is also a board member of the Friends of the Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge located in Bibb County. He also serves on the Advisory Board for the Cahaba Environmental Center at Living River, and he has taken an active role in improving recreational access to the Cahaba River.

"Dave has consistently

demonstrated his ability to connect the people to the river," said Peggy Gargis, Board president. "Naming him as the Cahaba Riverkeeper is a natural and appropriate step for our organization and an acknowledgement of how much of his himself he devotes to the well-being of the Cahaba and its watershed."

Cahaba Riverkeeper's mission is to defend the ecological integrity of the entire Cahaba River watershed, including the main stem Cahaba and its tributaries. A community-based, nonprofit dedicated to exploring the science of the Cahaba, the organization seeks to engage citizens of its watershed to help ensure clean water, a healthy aquatic environment, and the recreational and aesthetic values of the Cahaba.

For more information about CRK visit <http://cahabariverkeeper.org> or follow on Facebook (www.facebook.com/cahabariverkeeper) and Twitter (CahabaRiverkeep).

POLL continued from page 1

8 Carver Montgomery (9-3), No. 9 McAdory (12-1) and No. 10 St. Paul's (15-0).

The poll features five Class 6A teams, four Class 7A schools and one representing Class 5A.

NationalHSFootball points to quarterback Zac Thomas and running back Jarrion Street as the Huskies' key contributors.

"[Floyd] has had some young talent that is learning how he wants to work and the results

started to come to roost," wrote Dallas Jackson. "With Zac Thomas and Jarrion Street on the offensive side of the ball and linebackers Bailey McElwain and Jalen Williams, the team has a punchers chance in every game it has scheduled."

Thomas eclipsed the 1,000-yard mark on the ground and through the air as a junior, accounting for 27 touchdowns. Street carried the ball 183 times for 1,165 yards and 14

scores. Both Thomas and Street found themselves on the first annual All-Tribune Football Team. The pair also appeared on the Alabama High School Athletics Association's first Class 7A All-State roster.

Hewitt-Trussville will host Montgomery Bell Academy (Tenn.) to begin the upcoming season on Aug. 21.

For the Cougars, NationalHSFootball

points to the pitch-and-catch relationship between signal caller Ty Pigrome and T.J. Simmons as the team's bright spot.

Those two, both All-Tribune and All-State selections, have grabbed

the attention of college programs. Simmons is currently committed to play for Alabama while Pigrome holds an SEC offer from Missouri.

Clay-Chalkville will likely rank in the

HSFB100 National poll, which the publication releases in August. The Cougars start the 2015 season in Murfreesboro, Tenn. against Blackman (Tenn.) on Aug. 22.

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Connie Thibodeaux Puryear

Connie Thibodeaux Puryear, 53, of Longview, Texas, is in Heaven with the Lord she loved so much and served so well. She went from this life to the next on Sunday, July 5, at 3 a.m. She was born on May 2, 1962, in Mobile, Ala. She went to Hewitt-Trussville high school and then to Montevallo University for her undergraduate degree. Connie also received two masters degrees, one in Christian Education from Reformed Theological Seminary, and the other in Psychology from LeTourneau University. She spent her life serving the Lord and others at First Friends Preschool in Hallsville, at Christian Heritage Christian School, and then at LeTourneau University,



Connie Thibodeaux Puryear

A visitation will be held at the church they have attended for 17 years, Fellowship Bible Church, 4600 McCann Road, in Longview, on Friday, July 10, from 6-8 p.m. The funeral will also be at Fellowship Bible Church on Saturday, July 11, at 10 a.m.

Since Connie spent most of her life believing and working in Christian Education, the family asks that memorial contributions be made in honor of Connie to Longview Christian School, 1236 Pegues Place, Longview, Texas 75601. Connie faithfully lived out her life verse: Luke 1:38- Behold I am the servant of the Lord, let it be to me according to your word.

both in Longview.

She is survived by her father, Robert Thibodeaux; her mother, Janice Thibodeaux; and her five siblings, Chris, Curtis, Cathy, Cindy, and Carrie. She is also survived by her husband of 30 years, Johnny Puryear, and their two children, Joshua, his wife Shea, and Jessica.

PINSON continued from page 1

unsupervised probation. Perry was initially sentenced to six months in jail.

When the investigation began in February, Perry, an Odenville native, was in her first year serving as an educator after graduating from Jacksonville State University with a bachelor's degree in secondary education in 2014.

On Feb. 24, sheriff's detectives began an investigation into reports of inappropriate sexual contact between Perry and a

17-year-old male student at Pinson Valley High School.

The school administration notified the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office that the teacher in question had come forward reporting that she had been told by students that there was a rumor being passed at the school that she had engaged in a sex act with a male student.

Perry denied any wrongdoing and resigned from her position as the freshman English teacher and cheerleading sponsor

at Pinson Valley. She made her official exit from the school on Feb. 24.

She has already lost her teaching license and will now have to register as a sex offender, following the guilty plea.

According to the sheriff's office, Perry and the student met in a parking lot a few miles away from the school's campus to engage in a sex act on Feb. 8. The act, which took place in a parked vehicle, was consensual.

Pinson golf course celebrates 50 years with discount play

From staff reports

With the arrival of 2015 came the arrival of Cumberland Lake Golf Course's 50th year of existence.

To celebrate the millstone, Cumberland Lake is offering a special 50th Anniversary deal this week. The discount will be available to golfers from Monday, July 13 through Friday, July 17.

Throughout the week, golfers may play two rounds of golf at the par-72 course for \$50. The price includes green fees, cart and tax. By paying an extra \$5, customers can opt to play one of the two rounds the following weekend.

The 18-hole course is located at 2150 Cumberland Lake Drive in Pinson, off Marsh



submitted photo

Cumberland Lake Golf Course's first tee box.

Mountain Road between Highway 75 and Highway 79.

Cumberland Lake is open to players of all ability levels. The par-72 golf course plays 5,000 yards from the ladies' tees and 6,800 yards from the championship tees.

The course also features

shorter senior tees and member tees. Bermuda grasses cover the entire course, which begins with a 520-yard Par 5 hole.

For more information, visit www.cumberlandlakegolf.com or call the course clubhouse at (205) 680-4653.

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LIFESTYLE

Local students attend Alabama Governor's School at Samford

by June Mathews

Staff Writer

Hewitt-Trussville High School seniors Kylie Pursy and Maggie McBride were among 88 students chosen from across the state to attend the 2015 Alabama Governor's School (AGS) last month.

A summer residential honors program funded by Samford University, the State of Alabama and private sources, the AGS provides academic, creative and leadership experiences for a limited number of rising high school seniors who have demonstrated exceptional ability and achievement in their studies. Samford hosts the 12-day program each June.

ACS was established in 1987 as the Alabama Honors Academy and patterned after Governor's schools in North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Georgia, Mississippi, and Kentucky. Alabama became the 24th state to have this nationally recognized school.

Participants each attended a morning and afternoon class. Pursy attended healthcare and

leadership sessions, while McBride attended sessions on the American legal system and global citizenship.

"Both of us truly enjoyed the experience," said McBride. "I know that I personally would not

trade my time at AGS for anything. It was an early experience of both college and the real world that was truly priceless."

For more information on the Alabama Governor's School experience, visit ags.wpdreamer.com.



submitted photo

Hewitt-Trussville seniors Kylie Pursy (left) and Maggie McBride recently attended the 2015 Alabama Governor's School at Samford University.

For the sake of fun, fitness and friendship, give line dancing a try



photo courtesy of metrocreativeconnection.com

by June Mathews

Staff Writer

Looking for a way to stay mentally and physically fit, build confidence, make new friends and have a whole lot of fun at the same time? Then check out the line dancing classes at Palmerdale Homestead Community Center on Thursday at 5:30 p.m. or the East Pinson Valley Recreation Center on Saturdays at 3:30 p.m.

"We've been dancing for nearly four months at PHCC," said Barry Wilson. "Line dancing has been an in-and-out popular activity for several years, but people are finding it to be beneficial as well as

fun to their health as it not only helps physically, but mentally as well. It keeps you feeling young."

Instructors Debi Stubbs and Betty Lim teach general dances that vary from ultra beginners to intermediate levels. Styles include Latin and waltzes, and dances include Electric Slide, Cut a Rug and Dizzy, among others.

The ages of class participants vary, said Wilson, but most begin having a better understanding of the dances around age 16. From there the range goes up to seniors.

"It is a great family activity for older children and parents," he said. "People will find it helps

with coordination and confidence and that it helps you use your brain to keep your memory sharper. It's fun because you're around others with the same mindset and moving in the same direction to great music."

An instructor himself for nine years, Wilson has been on trips to visit other places to perform with other line dancers for various occasions.

"It's a great way to interact with others," he said.

For more information on the line dancing classes available at the Palmerdale Homestead Community Center and the East Pinson Valley Recreation Center, email bfeweb@gmail.com.



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