



The Valley Times-News

WEST POINT TIMES-NEWS

February 26, 2015

THURSDAY

50¢

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BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION — Taking part in the program during the City of West Point's annual Black History Month Celebration were, from left above, Mrs. Jo Frances House, who read poems that inspired

laughter and reflection; Kalisia Lynch, who sang songs with a voice that inspired the audience; and Lydia Glaize, keynote speaker and a member of the Fairburn (Ga.) City Council.

Speaker says West Point is city on move

By **CY WOOD**
Editor-Publisher

WEST POINT — Lydia Glaize was the keynote speaker at West Point's Black History Month Celebration Tuesday, but Glaize didn't focus on the past. She talked about the future.

Glaize, a Fairburn, Ga., councilmember and a college and career coach at a private school, set the tone for her remarks early on: "The spirit of the Lord

is in this city." She saw that, she said, in how West Point embraces visitors, and makes them feel welcome. "Thank you for taking up the mantle of Christ," she said.

Glaize made note of the large number of young people present for the celebration and commented on how appropriately dressed and groomed they were.

She recognized the various city departments that contribute

•See **HISTORY**, page 6



MISSION ZERO CORRIDOR PROJECT — It was a cold, dreary day with rain threatening, but that didn't dampen the enthusiasm of Interface Inc. associates who put down tons of mulch made from recycled tires at Exit 18 on I-85. The mulch was donated by Liberty Tire Recycling. Interface associates were involved in a number of other projects Wednesday as part of their

community service or "legacy" projects they do during each year's annual sales meeting. Shown above are the Interface associates, representatives of the Georgia Conservancy and the Ray C. Anderson Foundation. At left are West Point Mayor Drew Ferguson IV and LaGrange Mayor Jim Thornton.

The Return offers Beatle experience

By **WAYNE CLARK**
Times-News News Editor

VALLEY — The ultimate Beatle experience will be performed by The Return at the historic Langdale Theater in Valley on Saturday, March 28, starting at 7:30 p.m. EDT.

The Return got its start in the late 1990s when four young

friends got together to play their favorite Beatle songs just for the fun of it. As time went on, they polished their act and became fixated on the idea of striving for the highest level of authenticity possible. They wanted to recreate the early sixties Beatles concert experience from the tiniest details, such

•See **RETURN**, page 6

Interface beautifies sustainably

By **CY WOOD**
Editor-Publisher

LaGRANGE — Exit 18 on I-85 was awash in reflective vests Wednesday morning, but it wasn't state prisoners picking up trash.

Instead, more than 40 individuals, including community lead-

ers, Interface employees and trustees of the Ray C. Anderson Foundation joined together to beautify an area near Exit 18. Participants spread 32 tons of GroundSmart rubber mulch donated by Liberty Tire Recycling around the exit's plantings.

The mulch is symbolic of the sustainability initiative that is

part of the Ray C. Anderson Memorial Highway, stretching from Exit 2 to Exit 18 on I-85. It is made from recycled tire rubber and should last eight years. The highway was dedicated in 2014 and is also referred to as the Mission Zero Corridor.

This "highway of the future" •See **INTERFACE**, page 6

North Alabama gets heavy snowfall

The Associated Press

GADSDEN, Ala. (AP) — Forecasters say nearly a foot of snow has fallen in parts of Alabama, combining with slush and ice to make for treacherous travel.

By early Thursday, data from weather stations showed that around 11.5 inches of snow fell in

the Grant area; and about 11 inches in the Hartselle and Guntersville areas.

A wide area of north Alabama was essentially shut down because of dangerous travel conditions created by the snow.

The snow left slushy ice atop multiple roads north of Birmingham to the Tennessee line.

Scores of schools were closed or opening late Thursday, along with some government offices and businesses.

Snowfall was heaviest north of metro Birmingham. The weather service says some areas in the state's northeastern and northwestern corners could break snowfall records.

Charter schools, economic incentives top GOP legislative agenda for 2015

The Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Alabama House Republicans have named charter schools and economic incentive legislation among their top priorities for the upcoming legislative session.

House Speaker Mike Hubbard and GOP legislators announced their agenda on

Wednesday.

As gay couples began marrying in the state this month, Republicans are also proposing a "religious freedom" bill they said would protect judges and others who refuse to participate in marriage ceremonies that violate their religious beliefs.

The GOP caucus is also backing legislation to bring back the

electric chair if the state can't obtain lethal injection drugs to carry out executions.

House Minority Leader Craig Ford criticized Republicans for not proposing a solution to the state's budget troubles. Hubbard said lawmakers will craft budgets after looking at the governor's proposals.

The session begins Tuesday.



LIVERPOOL, 1962? — No, it's not the little-known John, Paul, George and Ringo and it's not the 1960s, but anyone who's heard The Return in concert will swear they've gone back in time to the first days of Beatlemania. Concert goers can experience those days again with the March 28 performance at Langdale Theater by The Return, a four-member group whose performances are so much like the Beatles themselves they have been booked to perform at the rebuilt Cavern Club, located on Mathew Street in Liverpool. "Anyone who enjoys the music of the 1950s and the 1960s will find this show extremely entertaining," concert promoter Bill Gilbert said. "We urge you to order your tickets as soon as possible."

Time incorrect in caption

A caption appearing underneath a photo in the Friday, Feb. 20 edition of The Times-News listed the incorrect hours for Resurrect Antiques. The correct hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST Monday through Saturday.



National Weather Service Local Forecast

Today, mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s. Tonight, mostly cloudy in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows around 30. Friday, partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s. Friday night, partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy. Lows around 30. Saturday, mostly cloudy in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s. Saturday night, mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of rain after midnight. Lows in the upper 30s. Sunday, partly cloudy in the morning then becoming mostly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of rain showers.

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES High 42° Low 35° Today at 8 a.m. 37°
RAINFALL (measured at West Point Dam) Yesterday 0.61" February 4.47" 2015 6.62"
WEST POINT LAKE LEVEL Today 630.82 Yesterday 630.72 Generation Continuous

Today's Bible Thought

"First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift. Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still with him on the way, or he may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. I tell you the truth, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny. You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart." **Matthew 5:24b-28**



West Point Councilman Dr. Joe Downs recognized the organization, All for the Good of Man, during West Point's Black History Celebration Tuesday.



Outstanding Springwood School students were recognized during the City of West Point's Black History Month Celebration Tuesday at the West Point Gym.



Troup High School principal Chip Medders, left, introduced outstanding students from his school during the Black History Month Celebration Tuesday in West Point.



Long Cane Middle School principal Chip Giles, center, introduced outstanding students from his school during the Black History Month Celebration Tuesday in West Point.



West Point Elementary School principal Jan Franks, at podium, assisted by Mrs. Zelma Brock, recognized outstanding WPES students during West Point's Black History Month Celebration Tuesday.



BUSINESS RECOGNITION — As part of its Black History Month Celebration, West Point recognized some local small businesses. Councilman Jerry Ledbetter, left, presents a certificate to Erikka Dunn of Shear Expressions Salon & Spa.



BUSINESS RECOGNITION — As part of its Black History Month Celebration, West Point recognized some local small businesses. Shown above at the podium is Sharon "Lady Storm" Acres, who is involved a wide range of multimedia projects in the community and also helps West Point CARES stage plays

Religious groups supporting Moore's gay marriage stand

The Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Supporters who rallied around Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore during his 2003 Ten Commandments fight returned to Alabama Wednesday to praise his stand on gay marriage.

The Rev. Patrick Mahoney, leader of the Christian Defense Coalition, said it was offensive to see Moore portrayed as "this George Wallace zealot, bigot, someone op-

posed to human rights and justice."

"We see Judge Moore in a different light."

Mahoney said Moore had embraced "the very principles of this nation in resisting unjust federal orders." If anything, he said Moore should be compared to those who resisted unjust court rulings in the past, like the ones that allowed segregation and slavery.

In this case, Mahoney said, Moore is "just saying a judge can't define marriage."

"The institution of marriage is the oldest institution recorded among man," said Mike Weldon, pastor of Claud Independent Methodist Church in Elmore County, who also spoke in support of Moore.

Gays and lesbians began marrying in Alabama on Feb. 9 after a federal judge found Alabama's ban on same-sex marriage unconstitutional. Moore urged probate judges not to issue marriage licenses. Moore argues that probate judges are not bound by the federal judge's decision because they were not defendants in the case. He also argues that probate judges, as mem-

bers of the state judiciary, are not under the authority of a district-level federal judge.

Moore was removed as chief justice in 2003 for disobeying a court order to remove a Ten Commandments monument from the rotunda of the Alabama judicial building. Mahoney and other pastors, who rallied for days on the courthouse steps in support of Moore then, returned to the steps Wednesday to praise him again.

Mahoney acknowledged that the U.S. Supreme Court might legalize gay marriage nationwide later this year. Mahoney called for a "peaceful resistance movement" to what he called judicial overreach on gay marriage and many other issues.

The Human Rights Campaign issued a statement saying the weddings taking place across Alabama show that "America is ready for marriage equality."

"There will always be opponents of equality, and those in Alabama are no different from those we've faced in similar battles across the country in our fight to expand LGBT equality."

Honor that Special Birthday with a 2x2 Color Ad with Photo for only \$20.00

Birthdays List



Thursday, February 26, 2015

- Penny Booker
- Jarred Grubbs
- Andrea Wilson
- Diane Winston
- Brandon Haynes
- Kandra Brooks
- Dedra Avery
- Rev. Rickey Cofield

Sponsored By:

United Women's Healthcare



Kimberly D. Fields, M.D.
Board Certified in
Obstetrics and Gynecology
39 Medical Park • Valley, AL 36854

ALL PATIENTS WELCOME.
Call (334) 756-2496 to make an appointment.
Office Hours: Mon thru Thur 9-5 EST.
Fri 9-12 EST by Appointment Only.

Names should be submitted to the Valley Times-News by 3:00 P.M. the previous day either by calling 334-644-8100 or e-mail news@valleytimes-news.com

Area Deaths & Funerals

As Submitted By Area Funeral Homes

MR. HARGETT

LANETT — Mr. Perry D. Hargett of Lanett died Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015, at EAMC-Lanier Memorial Hospital in Valley.

Funeral services are scheduled for Friday, Feb. 27 at 1 p.m. at Mt. Hermon Baptist Church in Lanett with the Rev. Louis Upshaw, pastor, the Rev. Vernon Carter, eulogist, and Bishop Donald Lancaster officiating. Burial will follow at Pine Hill Cemetery in Lanett.

Public viewing is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 26 from 1 until 7 p.m. at Davis Memorial Mortuary Chapel.

Born in Chambers County, Mr. Hargett was the son of the late Mitchell and Maureen Hargett. He was a member of Mt. Hermon Baptist Church and loved doing the simple things in life like softball, baseball and hanging out with friends and family, like George, Crystal and Eltin.

Mr. Hargett is survived his wife, Rachell Hargett of Valley; two children, Tiffany Brown and Marquez Brown, both of Lanett; four grandchildren, Jada Malone, Jamarus Wright, Quintavious Brown and Tamia Brown, all of Lanett; one sister, Veronica Jennings (Sylvester) Brooks of Lanett; five brothers, Spencer (Brenda) Hargett of Atlanta, Travis (Angela) Hargett and Mendale Hargett, both of Lanett, and Tony Hargett and Mitchell Hargett Jr., both of Charlotte, N.C.; three uncles, Willie George (Gail) Gilbert, Charlie (Deborah) Gilbert and Dave Varner, all of Lanett; two aunts, Carrie (Arthur) Atkinson and Helen Gilbert, both of West Point; six step-children; a cousin, who was like a brother, Chester Hargett of Lanett; several great-aunts; special friends, Eltin Billingslea, Johnnie B. Thomas and Kenny Logan; his Dozier Street moms, Mae Lizzie Fears and Louise Billingslea; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

Online condolences can be expressed at www.davismemorialmortuary.com.

Davis Memorial Mortuary of Valley is handling arrangements.

Woman brings gun to school

The Associated Press

ELBERTA, Ala. (AP) — Authorities in south Alabama say a woman accused of carrying a gun into an elementary school has been arrested.

Elberta Police Chief Stan DeVane tells AL.com the 52-year-old woman

was let in through a back door to Elberta Elementary School's cafeteria, found her sister who works at the school and threatened her Wednesday afternoon. Authorities say the woman was armed and the incident was linked to an ongoing domestic dispute.

MISS FINCHER

PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. — Miss Patricia Jean Fincher, 62, died Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015, at Fawcett Hospital in Port Charlotte after a long battle with illness.

Funeral services are planned for Saturday, Feb. 28 at 2 p.m. at Johnson Brown-Service Funeral Home Chapel in Valley. Burial will follow at Hillcrest Cemetery in Lanett.

The family will receive friends Friday, Feb. 27 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Miss Fincher is survived by her fiancé, Charles Neal of Port Charlotte; her sister, Linda Browder of Lanett; her brother, Marion (Louise) Fincher of Detroit, Mich.; two special nieces, Edith Towler and Wendy Fincher, both of Detroit; several other nieces and nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews; as well as two very special friends, Mrs. Linda Napier and Ms. Cindy Fleishner.

A long-time resident of Detroit, Miss Fincher was a retired auto worker with Cadillac-GM. She was a beloved and dedicated daughter, sister and aunt. If you ever needed her for anything, she was always there and will be missed by all of those who loved her. Miss Fincher was a woman of strong faith, who tirelessly put the needs of others over her own. She was preceded in death by her parents, Clyde and Annie Mae Fincher, both of Valley; three brothers, Freddy Fincher of Detroit and Leon Fincher and Wayne Fincher, both of Alexander City; and one nephew, Michael Fincher of Detroit.

To sign the online guest book, go to www.johnsonbrownservicefh.com.

Johnson Brown-Service Funeral Home of Valley is handling arrangements.

MRS. LOWE

LANETT — Mrs. Anges "Ann" Parrish Lowe, 91, of Lanett died Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2015, at EAMC-Lanier Nursing Home in Valley.

Funeral services are planned for Saturday, Feb. 28 at 11 a.m. at Johnson Brown-Service Funeral Home Chapel in Valley with the Rev. Rusty Williams officiating. Burial will follow at Resthaven Memorial Gardens.

The family will receive friends Friday, Feb. 27 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Mrs. Lowe is survived by her daughter, Betty (Billy) Parker of Lanett; a niece, Pat Parrish of Mobile, Ala.; a nephew, Tommy Parrish of Oxford, Ala.; several cousins; a caregiver, Juanita Smith Slaughter; and her cat, Buddy.

Born July 3, 1923, in Abanda, Mrs. Lowe was the daughter of the late Lottie and Thomas Parrish. She was a former office manager, for 30 years, with the A&P Tea Company and also worked for several years with Valley National Bank, prior to

her retirement. Mrs. Lowe enjoyed gardening, flowers, working in her yard and games. She was an active member of Lanett First United Methodist Church. Mrs. Lowe was preceded in death by her husband, Wilmer Lowe, and her brothers, Eric Parrish and Thomas Blake Parrish.

The family would like to express a special thanks to the nurses and certified nursing assistants at Lanier Nursing Home, to Dr. Kamath and also to the staff members of Chattahoochee Hospice, who so lovingly cared for her.

Johnson Brown-Service Funeral home of Valley is handling arrangements.

MR. WINSTON

LANETT — Mr. Decedric Lawarren "Cedric" Winston, 41, of Lanett died Monday, Feb. 23, 2015, at his residence.

Funeral services are planned for Friday, Feb. 27 at 1 p.m. at Bethlehem Baptist Church in West Point with the Rev. Dr. Willie T. Edmondson, pastor, the Rev. Billy Drakes and the Rev. Terry Magby officiating. Burial will follow at Marseilles Cemetery in West Point.

The remains will lie in state at the church on Friday from noon until the funeral hour.

Mr. Winston leaves behind a wonderful, devoted mother, Betty Jean Winston of Lanett; three brothers, Lamar Winston and Rodney (Vickie) Winston, both of Opelika, and Michael (Bridget) Winston of Lanett; four sisters, Donna Floyd of West Point, Natalie (John) Calloway of LaGrange, Kimberly Winston of Lanett and Erica Brandy of West Point; four aunts, Linda Young, Barbara Young and Gaynell Boyd, all of West Point, and Diane McCullough of Knoxville, Tenn.; one uncle, Donald (Lula) Gilliam of West Point; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Born March 8, 1973, in Chambers County, Mr. Winston was a 1992 graduate of Lanett High School. He enjoyed dancing and singing. Cedric loved playing with his nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father, Thomas "Pete" Young.

Condolences may be expressed at www.mwleemortuary.com.

M.W. Lee Mortuary is handling arrangements.

**Greater Valley Area
CrimeStoppers
334-756-8200**

Police Reports

By THE TIMES-NEWS

Lanett Police

LANETT — Domestic violence (strangulation/suffocation) was reported in the 5000 block of 38th Street SW.

Criminal trespass third degree and theft of property third degree were reported in the 100 block of South 18th Street.

Theft of property third degree was reported in the 1000 block of North Lanier Avenue.

Chambers Sheriff

LaFAYETTE — Donald Broughton, 27, of LaFayette was arrested for failure to pay-theft of property third degree and failure to appear-DUI.

Machelle Alsabrook, 20, of Valley was arrested for fugitive from justice.

Anthony Dowdell, 38, of Auburn was arrested for bad checks and failure to appear-bad checks.

Sheriff officials reported 112 inmates in the Chambers County Detention Facility.

West Point Police

WEST POINT — Keon Lee, 29, of Duluth was arrested for driving with a suspended license.

Valley Police

VALLEY — Laquiesha Nastajjah Mashay Huguely, 18, of Lanett was charged with three counts of failure to appear.

Wanda Renita Street, 47, of Valley was charged with making false report to law enforcement.

Burglary third degree and theft of property second degree were reported in the 5200 block of 20th Avenue.

Child in need of supervision was reported in the 6100 block of Fairfax Bypass.

Failure to pay for gasoline was reported in the 550 block of 20th Avenue.

First Class, Alabama's
Voluntary
Pre-K Program
Lanett City Schools

Alabama's nationally recognized **First Class Pre-K** is now accepting applications for the **2015-2016** school year. Enrollment is open to all children **four years of age** who are residents of the state of Alabama regardless of family income.*

Registration Date **March 16-27, 2015**

Time **8:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

Location **W.O. Lance Elem. School
Lanett, AL**

Required Documents **Completed Family Information form &
most recent utility bill as proof of
Alabama residency**

A random selection drawing will be held. (Families do not have to be present in order to receive a placement.)
Location: Lanett Board of Education **Date:** Thursday, May 28, 2015 @ 10:00 am
105 N. Lanier Ave., Lanett, AL

*Acceptance to the program is through a random selection process. The registered applicant must meet residency requirements and complete the essential documents set forth by the program. The registered child must be **4 on or before September 1, 2015**. Children who are eligible for kindergarten are ineligible to register. Children will not be denied participation on the basis of income, sex, race, color, national origin, or disability.

Alabama Department of Children's Affairs Office of School Readiness children.alabama.gov 12/2014 tl

OPINION

Letters to the Editor

Bowen East Head Start valuable local asset

To the Editor:

To the Bowen East Head Start:
I just wanted to sit down this morning and share with you how much I appreciate you and all that you do for my son and the young people in our community. I know you are probably surprised to be hearing from me today, but it just occurred to me that sometimes you have to share with people how much they mean to you.

I enjoy the atmosphere at your center when I drop my child off. From the moment that I enter the building, I'm greeted with hellos and smiles. Not only that, but the staff takes the time to acknowledge my child. Who happens to be very shy. This has helped him more than any-

thing to come out of his shell. His communication skills have really improved and I believe that it's because of what you do.

Also, your building is so clean and it always smells so fresh. I brag about you all the time on my job. It's just nice to enter a building where children are and be greeted with such a clean scent. I know in my heart that I don't have to worry about my child. We are half-way through this year and he hasn't missed any days due to illness, and I know it's because of your high standards. Love it!

The last thing I want to share with you is that I love your use of social media. I'm a Facebook person and I enjoy seeing the pictures posted of my

child and the other children. It shows the community that you all are not just paid baby sitters, but that you are investing in our youth. I want to personally thank you for every experience that you have brought to my child. A picture tells a thousand stories. So please keep posting them.

If there is ever anything that I can do to help your center as a volunteer or helper, just let me know. I applaud you and I am so happy that my child had the opportunity to be a part of your program. May God richly bless you, and I hope that you will continue in all you do to help prepare our children for greatness.
One Happy Momma,
Freda Williams

Great book by Gambrell, wonderful cause

To the Editor:

I have just finished reading a wonderful book written by Sam Gambrell, a friend of mine, and a friend of many of you here in LaGrange and Troup County. Sam and Peggy lived on Piney Woods Drive for many of the years that he worked for Milliken and Company, along with their two lovely daughters, Susan and Sandy, before moving back to Spartanburg, S.C. Sam's book, "He Sends Us Angels, Fertile Fields and Mill Hill Magic," walks us through his life during the '30s, '40s and '50s as he grew up on his grandparent's farm, then later living with his mom, dad and little sister in a mill village.

I am a very slow reader but I have finished this 300-page book in only three days. My wife said to me, "That must be a very interesting book. You have not put it down since receiving it." Interesting is an understatement. This book brought back so many memories for me growing up in LaGrange. As I read, I would laugh, and at times shed a tear at some of the sad portions. I knew that Sam was a brilliant man, but never realized that he had such writing abilities.

Sam has graciously decided that all money raised from the sale of this book will go straight toward a fund to benefit Epworth Children's Home, a foster home, in Columbia,

S.C. What a wonderful charity! Sam has both printed books and CDs in PDF format. Contact him either by mail, email or phone (see below) with your address and he'll send your choice of book or CD. Send any donations you care to make after receipt of the book or CD. Write the check to Sam or CCUMC and clearly mark it "For Epworth."

Contact Info: Sam Gambrell, 102 Lorraine Ct., Spartanburg, SC 29307 (864) 579-2079 sampan@bellsouth.net

Trust me, you will not be disappointed in this great, easy-to-read, true-life story.
Tommy Callaway, LaGrange

Obama moving too slowly on Islamic State

WASHINGTON, D.C. — As I made my way around East Alabama during the District Work Week, one of the issues I heard about the most at my "Congress on Your Corner" events was the threat from the group known as the Islamic State (ISIS, ISIL or IS).

Folks were very concerned about the utter brutality shown by this radical terrorist group.

I am very concerned as well. With the 24/7 news coverage, we are all too familiar with the barbaric actions of this group. They have executed Americans and other innocent individuals from around the world by beheading and even burned a Jordanian pilot alive. Most recently, we learned of the beheadings of 21 Egyptian Christians. The Islamic State killed them for

Rep. Mike Rogers
3rd District, Alabama

one reason — because of their faith.

The Islamic State does not play by any rules when it comes to the treatment of the individuals they hold captive. They are a terrorist group who must be stopped and stopped soon.

The Obama Administration is finally starting to give more than lip service to the need for a more coherent strategy to confront the Islamic State. This week, the House Armed Services Committee, which I am a part of, will also hold a full committee hearing focused on the President's request for Authorization for Use of Military Force

(AUMF).

While I believe this request for authorization is a necessary step in the right direction, it does not outline a well thought out strategy for success. We can't mistake action for a strategy.

Arab allies like Jordan, Egypt and the UAE are starting to take the fight to the Islamic State. The U.S. should support our allies and deliver the unique brand of American justice to the terrorist group.

What we as Americans must do for now is remain vigilant as we go about our daily routines and remember that we are dealing with a group like we have never dealt with before.

The Islamic State is barbaric and radical, and eliminating this group will not be a short or simple task.

Republicans need to hang Rudy out to dry

Back in 1987, this writer was invited by friends to advise them on a press conference they had called to oppose President Reagan's signing of an INF treaty to remove all nuclear missiles from Europe.

My advice: Deplore the treaty; do not attack the president. The next day, Howard Phillips declared that Ronald Reagan had become a "useful idiot for Soviet propaganda."

Howie captured the headlines, as did Rudy Giuliani after that dinner at 21 Club for Gov. Scott Walker, where the mayor spontaneously rose to declaim, "I know this is a horrible thing to say, but I do not believe that the president loves America. ... He wasn't brought up the way you were brought up and I was brought up, through love of his country."

The next day, Rudy doubled down, bringing up Obama's old ties to socialists and communists: Stalinist Frank Marshall Davis, radical Saul Alinsky, 1970s bomber Bill Ayers, Rev. Jeremiah Wright.

Rudy could not understand why at the National Prayer Breakfast the president launched an attack on the Crusades and the Inquisition, done "in the name of Christ." The mayor could not understand why Obama had trouble identifying and naming ISIS as radical Islamic terrorists.

Though this writer heard several radio talk show hosts Friday cheer Rudy on, Republicans swiftly declared that Obama's love for America must not be questioned. Urged to put space between themselves and Rudy, most Republican leaders swiftly did.

The consultant class' advice was near unanimous: Cut Rudy loose.

Sensing retreat, the left pursued. And it is not letting go. They still demand to know why Walker did not renounce Rudy and whether he believes Obama is a Christian. For weeks the governor has been be-

Patrick Buchanan
Creators Syndicate

deviled for refusing to say in London if he believes in evolution.

Walker's initial response to whether he thought Obama was a Christian was, "I don't know. ... To me this is a classic example of why people hate Washington, and, increasingly, they dislike the press."

Yet, Walker's spokesperson hastily issued this corrective statement, "Of course the governor thinks the president is a Christian."

Monday, Rudy walked back his remark that Obama does not love America, writing in the Wall Street Journal, "I didn't intend to question President Obama's motives or the content of his heart."

The Republican rout was complete.

While this, too, shall pass away, what it reveals is the balance of power in the culture war and which side has the whip hand. And what it portends is a drive by the left to pull the GOP back onto the terrain of moral and social issues where its candidates are, or can be portrayed, as out of step with modernity.

Lately, this writer heard a political analyst say that if the GOP platform opposes same-sex marriage, the party can write off California and its 55 electoral votes. Which may be true. Such has been the cultural and moral shift in America in just a few years.

Yet if the party is true to its past platforms and professed convictions, how can it endorse or equivocate on same-sex marriage?

As for whether one believes in Darwinian evolution, it is neither an inconsequential nor illegitimate question. For where one stands on biblical truth, natural law, a creator and intelligent design is a strong if not absolute indicator of where one

Coughing and coffin

Listening to the patter of rain drops on the office roof Wednesday afternoon, I was actually glad that the precipitation in our neck of the woods was strictly liquid.

In North Alabama and North Georgia, they aren't that lucky. Some areas could get six inches of snow, it's going to be cold and a lot of things can go wrong with severe weather.

Ordinarily, I like the idea of a snowfall or two each winter, but this was not a good week, personally, for frozen precipitation.

If you came into The Times-News office blindfolded this week, you might have thought you were in a tuberculosis sanitarium. It's been a tough February at the newspaper.

About half the staff has visited a physician this month, and the other half probably should have. I even broke down and went to the doctor, got some prescriptions and hope to be feeling better sometime during 2015.

Not that the newspaper has been singled out for assaults on good health. It seems that every place I visit in the Greater Valley Area is going through the same thing.

Being sick is no fun. It's especially bad when you have symptoms that simply refuse to respond to medicinal intervention.

I'll tell you how bad this year's crud is. It is resistant to Vick's Vapor Rub. Since my early childhood, Vick's Vapor Rub has been the mainstay of home remedies for colds, flu, allergies, sinus or whatever is attacking one's upper respiratory tract. Put a little Vick's under your nose at night, and you will sleep like a baby — until this year. Even Vick's can't relieve symptoms of the cough-a-thon that everyone seems to be afflicted with this year.

But that's OK. This too shall pass. February winds up this weekend, spring is just a few weeks away and sometime in the next couple of weeks we will have some really nice days.

For now, though, we have to deal with the reality of winter sickness, winter weather and the winter mullygrubs.

If you are among the fortunate few who have escaped the hacking cough of winter 2015, you are indeed blessed. Count your blessings.

Sizing It Up

By Cy Wood
Publisher/Editor



What Others Are Saying

Comments from other newspapers

The Times, Gainesville, Georgia, on Gov. Deal's plan for schools:

For decades, conservative leaders in Washington and Atlanta have preached the goal of decentralizing government by returning power from federal to state and state to local, giving average citizens more direct control of their daily lives.

But nearly halfway through this year's session of the General Assembly, efforts to reform two of Georgia's crucial needs, roads and schools, seem to be headed in the opposite direction.

On transportation, state leaders proposed a fuel excise tax to replace sales taxes cities and counties rely on for revenue. The bill being debated in the legislature has yet to address those concerns, nor have lawmakers provided many details on where or how that extra money would be spent.

Now an initiative to help education is taking a similar tack, taking the wheel out of local hands in favor of more state control.

Gov. Nathan Deal's proposal would have the state assume management of the state's worst schools in a statewide Opportunity School District. Beginning in 2017, a state-level superintendent would be chosen by the governor to oversee schools rated as persistently failing by test scores and other measures. The superintendent would have several options for turning them around, including direct management, working with local school boards, conversion to charter schools or closure.

Schools in this "district" would be limited to 100, with up to 20 added each year. Currently, 141 would qualify for such action, according to the governor's office. Those chosen would remain under state supervision for five to 10 years.

The plan would be in the form of a constitutional amendment, meaning it must first pass both chambers of the legislature by two-thirds majorities, then go before voters in a referendum next year.

The Valley Times-News

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~ Cat of the Week ~

CAT OF THE WEEK — This week's Cat of the Week is a beautiful black and white tuxedo cat that needs a loving home and family. Other cats available this week include Gary, a beautiful white long-haired adult male cat; Queenie, a long-haired adult female white and gray tabby; Daphne, a five-month-old short-haired white and gray tabby; Pepper, an adult short-haired female tortoise shell calico cat; and Binx, a black short-haired adult male cat. For information, call 756-9377, stop by 3265 Fairfax Bypass, Valley or go to www.chatthumane.org. (Photo by Anne Glenn-Holliday)



~ Dog of the Week ~

DOG OF THE WEEK — This week's dog of the week is an adult German shepherd. Other dogs include: Fonzi, a year-old male black and white border collie-mix; Lavern, two eight-month-old Chihuahua-dachshund-mix dogs; a seven-month-old male Lab-mix; a white and gold one-year-old female Lab-mix; a one-year-old black and white male blue heeler-mix; a one-year-old female pit bull-mix; a one-year-old female Lab-mix dog; and a one-year-old tan and black female German shepherd dog. For information about the shelter pets, call Shon Sims at 334-756-9377. To view, go to www.chatthumane.org. (Photo by Anne Glenn-Holliday)



Auburn's first black football player speaks at local church

THE COMMUNITIES were so proud to learn about who was going to provide uplifting information for Black History Month.

We express gratitude to Mayor Riley and the city of Valley for the special award to the Rev. Owens.

They celebrated "A Century of Black Life, History and Culture at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Valley. It ended with dinner.

Bethlehem Baptist Church, the Rev. R.L. Carter, pastor, provided special music.

Accompanying the choir was the percussionist, organist, and the vocalist, Brother Johnny Chambers sang "Jesus is That Old Mountain Where the Chilly Winds Don't Blow."

James Curtis Owens, was the first black football player, at Auburn University and to receive a scholarship. His nickname was "The O."

The celebration continued with the choir, attired in overalls and checkered shirts, singing. A youth said the morning prayer. Brother James E. Thomas led "Come on Jesus, and See About Me." The male choir and the congregasang the hymn, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," followed by the responsive reading by Pastor Carter.

Pastor Carter said that it was a very special day because they were looking all the way back to Booker T. Washington times, etc.

Scripture was from Ephesians 6:10-20. The Rev. Carter prayed for the bereaved, sick and shut ins. The officers directed tithes and offering to music of "If You Need Him, Call Him." Choir members accompanied the leader, Sister Annie Margaret Frazier. Offertory prayer followed with a welcome and announcements. There was a specialty from the children to Pastor Carter.

At this point in the celebration, special guests were recognized. There were students who attend Point University in West Point.

The Rev. Carter recalled words that were often said by James Brown "I'm Black and I'm Proud." The sponsors, Brother Johnny Chambers had words of wisdom and introduced the speaker, the Rev. James C. Owens, who left a lasting legacy at Auburn with an award named for him. He was also the first recipient of the James Owen "Courage Award" given to a player who displays courage in the face of adversity.

At Fairfield High School, James Curtis Owens was an all-state football and basketball player and a track star. He ran the 100 yard dash and had the strength for shot put.

In the midst of desegregation efforts at universities across the South and after he was recruited by more than 60 other universities, Owens became the first at a Southeast Conference School, Auburn University.

A Birmingham native,

he helped integrate the

River View

Pearlie Gibson
756-4317



Fairfield High School football before signing with the Auburn Tigers under head Coach Ralph "Shug" Jordan.

The male choir sang, "Amazing Grace," with the congregation, before the sermon.

The Rev. Owens opened with words of thanks and stated that he appreciated what his parents had taught him. It brought me a mighty long way. He said he came from a small home, two rooms and a kitchen.

His subject was "No-body but God" (Ephesians 2:4-12). He said that no matter what you have, appreciate what God has done for you. He lived in this kind of situation for years. He sees what his parents meant when they said, "God has brought you!" Rev. Owens thanked Bethlehem Baptist for allowing him to share the history with them. He said he remembered that not long ago blacks were called Negro, and they couldn't stand it.

"We would have a fit. But time passed and things changed. Along came James Brown, who said "I'm black and proud." Attitudes changed.

He said he understands what his dedicated parents meant by their teaching and said we should teach our children as the old day parents did. They prayed for us. We lived in a community that had problems, tribulations, etc. And they called me Bay-Man. I really thought my nickname meant that I was bad. I used to beat up on people. But my reactions changed.

By praying to God, things changed. Some directions were not agreeable, but with God, I took them, and as I moved, things got better.

Auburn was great! It was also a testing time. After I was there for a while, I was promised a roommate. Henry Harris, the first black or African-American basketball player was the one.

When we entered Auburn, we had dignity, and we did what we had to do, play ball with determination. Henry's sport wasn't as popular as football. Sometimes he was out. I used to run real fast and fall, but I would get up and continue. I was told how to call "Him."

We had an old house where we dressed to enter the field to play. There on the front would be so many blacks, just to cheer me on to the field. I was the only black on the team. We must not forget nowadays, who shoulders we stood on and those strong shoulders brought us through!

But God brought others, who were strong, and some even died as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. did. There were water hoses, community fights

and while I waited, things were changing. Auburn came along and claimed me.

HEALTH TIPS: Do you believe you can be healthier? Walking will effectively help you to lose excess weight.

Garlic smells bad, but it's naturally helpful. It destroys the bacteria that causes ulcers, reduces the risk of heart disease and it's a natural insect repellent. Research shows that it lowers blood pressure, protects arteries and veins, and reduces the risk of blood clots. There is no standard dosage for garlic, but a recent study used a concentration of garlic extract equivalent to eating about two medium cloves a day. R. Hoffman, M.D., New York City. Alternative cures that really work. Ask your doctor about alternative cures.

THE BOWEN East District Association will celebrate its Black History Program on Saturday, Feb. 28 at 3 p.m. (C.S.T.) at Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church in LaFayette. The guest speaker will be Dr. Randy B. Kelley, national chaplain of the Democratic National Committee and a member of the Martin Luther King Jr. Board of Preachers at Morehouse College in Atlanta. For information contact Mrs. Mary Francis Bailey Mitchell (706)-586-8234. Rev. Michael Stiggers, district moderator.

A DRAMATIC, heart-touching address was given at New Mt. Sellers Baptist Church for a Black History breakfast.

They began at 9 a.m. The mistress of order was Sister Joan Magby.

Kalandra Holloway is the daughter of Pricilla Holloway and Douglas (Sharon) Morgan. She is also the granddaughter of Christine Holloway.

She graduated from LaFayette High School with honors in 2001. She then moved to Nashville, where she attended Tennessee State University, and obtained her bachelor's degree in computer science in 2005.

She also has a master's in business administration from the University of Baltimore in Baltimore, Md.

She has a servant's heart and truly loves inspiring and helping others.

She loves and is loved by many. She is a poet, a speaker, a mentor, a friend, and a missionary just to name a few.

She recently ventured to Nairobi Kenya to help young girls at AIC Boarding School, who had been rescued from early childhood marriages, child abuse, being orphaned and FGM (female genital mutilation). Her life was completely changed by this experience.

In addition, Kalandra recently moved from the Washington D.C. to Atlanta, where she now takes advantage of being closer to family and spends quality time with them.

She is a member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Arlington, Va., and she



GUEST SPEAKER — Kalandra Holloway, shown second from left, was the guest speaker at the Black History breakfast and New Mt. Sellers Baptist Church in LaFayette. Shown from left is her father, Douglas Morgan, her mother, Priscilla Holloway, and the Rev. and Mrs. Terry Magby. (Photo special to the Times-News)

is a financial member of both the Northern Virginia Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and the Washington, D.C. Chapter of Tennessee State University Alumni Association. Kalandra is a true reflection of her motto "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!"

St. Stephens' C.M.E. Church Praise Team was in charge of the music for the breakfast, and was accompanied by percussionist Robert Chambers, pianist Sister JoAnn Floyd, and guitarist Brother Bruce Martin. The music was excellent.

Kalandra Holloway spoke at New Mt. Sellers Baptist Church's annual Black History breakfast. The theme was "There is Power in the Name of Jesus," and Kalandra's topic was "Are You Connected to the Power?"

Kalandra talked about the many different definitions of power and explained that while it's ok to have power, it's very important that we be connected to the power, which is Jesus Christ.

She gave us a history lesson on how the Israelites got connected to the power and were led out of Egypt, and our ancestors got connected to the power and God delivered them from slavery and segregation.

Kalandra got connected to the power and has been able to accomplish things in her life that she never even dreamed of doing.

Even with the most challenging obstacles, she was able to turn them into opportunities, because she was connected to the power. We can all have peace that passes understanding, patience to deal with the most challenging situations, and passion coupled with purpose to change the world if get and stay connected to the power.

The breakfast included a program with St. Stephens Praise Team opening the celebration.

It did two selections "We Come to Magnify the Lord" with leader, Sister Narfunda Ross and "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot." They sang old spirituals.

After the scripture, Brother Robert Chambers and the Rev. Joe McGhee prayed.

The praise team performed, "We've Come a Long Way," with vocalist Sister Shermitta Boone.

Sister Latoya Ratchford said words of wel-

come.

Poetry was read by Sister Marticia Briskey.

Pastor, the Rev. Tony Magby said the blessing of the food.

After breakfast, the praise team did a selection.

Sister Takeshia McCurdy introduced the guest speaker.

Sister Kalandra Holloway, followed beautiful music from the praise team.

Sister Mershelia Heard led "Lion of Juda."

Closing remarks were made by Sister Pricilla Holloway.

The program was excellent and encouraging, with words from the speaker. The speech was tops!

TO THE alumni students and friends of Miles College, they can now leave a permanent marker to illustrate the campus that was founded in 1898.

Please remember the dates for contributions which are from Nov 1 until Feb. 28.

Your contributions for the program are highly

appreciated. Please mail your check or money order to: Miles College Development Office, P.O. Box 39800, Birmingham, AL 35208 or pay online by credit card at www.miles.edu.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY blessings are due for: Jakenyia Cotton on Feb. 23; Christopher Bozeman on March 2; Jakia Sherrill Thompson on March 3; McCall Fullerton on March 8; and Shamira Davidson on March 9 and to all of those who are celebrating birthdays up to March 9. May all of you have many more.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to Mr. and Mrs. Nathan and JoAnn Newton, on March 10. Wishing you a lovely day and a blessed future.

CONGRATULATIONS to Lafayette Bulldogs Basketball Team for the recent advancement in the playoffs! Continue to prevail.

The baseball team are developing more.

There is still a chill in the weather. Get ready for baseball.

HAVE A good week.

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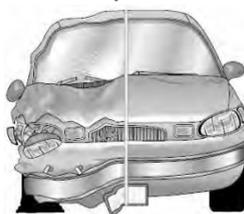
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Briefly Told

Briefly told items may be emailed to reporter@valleytimes-news.com. Please keep brief. Announcements are published twice a week.

• **Qui Vive Civic Club** will meet Tuesday, March 3 at 5 p.m. at Lanett Recreation Center. Mary Moody will serve as hostess. Everyone, please be present.

• Internationally acclaimed composer, singer, songwriter and acoustic guitarist, Jim Scott, will lead a **Pete Seeger Songfest**, sponsored by Fig Tree and Artistic Moments, Friday, Feb. 27 at 7:30 p.m. EST at the Fredonia Community Club, 6160 County Road 222, Five Points. Adults, \$10-15, sliding scale. Youth to 18, \$5. Songs will include "If I Had a Hammer," "Where Have All the Flowers Gone," "Turn, Turn, Turn" and more.

• This Thursday and Friday (Feb. 26-27), **Hawkes Library** will be holding a book sale on with free coffee and cookies for guests. Doors will be open from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. both days. Arrive early for the best selection. All proceeds help support the library, allowing it to continue providing new programs and current books for patrons. The library is located at 100 West Eighth St. in West Point, beside City Hall. Call 706-645-1549 for more information.

• **East Alabama Medical Center** will host a program on Friday, Feb. 27 at noon CST on senior living accommodations. It'll be conducted by Susie Pugh, director of senior living, and Jason Banks, manager of Oak Park Independent Living apartments. A light lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. in the main lobby of Bradshaw Library. Reservations are required by Thursday, Feb. 26 by calling 334-756-1402.

• **Chattahoochee Hospice** will offer volunteer training classes Tuesday and Thursday evenings March 3, 5, 10 and 12 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the office, 6 Medical Park North, across from the health department. If you're interested in volunteering or would like more information, please contact Hilda Jones at 334-756-8043 or email volunteercoordinator@chattahoochee hospice.com.

• **Chambers County Schools** will hold 2015-2016 kindergarten registration Monday, March 2 through Friday, March 27. Registration forms will be available at all elementary schools and will also be posted at the Chambers County website, www.chambersk12.org.

• **Chambers County Commission Public Facilities and Infrastructure Committee** will meet Monday, March 2 at 3 p.m. in the commission office at the courthouse in LaFayette.

• **Touched by Suicide Support Group** will meet Monday, March 2 at 5:30 CST at the East Alabama Medical Center Health Resource Center, 2027 Pepperell Parkway, across the street from EAMC. For information contact Deborah Owen, former EAMC director of psychiatric services at jdowen1991@yahoo.com, or Dayle Cook at 706-518-5538, dayle@knology.net.

• **Lanett Nazarene Church** semi-annual chicken-que will be held Saturday, March 28 at 10 a.m., \$7 per plate. Tickets not required.

• **The March Thursday Lunch Club** will be held Thursday, March 5 at noon at First United Methodist Church, 401 Broad St., LaGrange. Guest speaker, nationally recognized storyteller Donald Davis. For reservations, call 706 884-4635 or email churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org.

• **The Valley Recreation Department** is seeking volunteers to assist with its youth sports programs, including scorekeepers, concession stand workers, special events, clock operators, assisting with staff support functions, as well as youth sports coaches. For information, call 756-5290.

• **Circle of Care Center for Families**, 2200 35th Place, Valley, will host "Together We Can," a class designed to help parents work together to raise their children and improve co-parenting relationships of single parents on Thursday mornings, March 5, 12, 19, 26 and April 2 and 9, from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Circle of Care.

• The third annual **Chambers County Women's Self Defense Course** will be held March 3, 5, 10 and 12 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Langdale United Methodist Church, 6301 20th Ave., Valley. Registration, \$15, includes bottle of pepper spray, T-shirt and light refreshments. Must be cash or check only. Register at the Sheriff's Department, 2 S. LaFayette. Office open from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST. For questions, contact Kimberly Carter, 705-590-0291.

• **Circle of Care Center for Families (COC)**, 2200 35th Place, Valley will host "Mastering the Mysteries of Love," a class designed to develop effective communication, conflict management and problem solving skills within a relationship on Tuesdays, March 3, 10, 17 and 24, from 6 to 8 p.m. at COC. Free classes, free meal and a give-away each evening.

• **The Chambers County Alabama Democratic Conference (ADC)** is organizing a bus trip to the 50th anniversary of the Bloody Sunday March in Selma, Ala., on March 8. Seating will be limited and will come on a first come, first serve basis. For information, contact Dr. Randy B. Kelley, Chambers County Alabama Democratic Conference chairman, 256-390-1834.

• **The Tiny, Little and Young Miss Vallerata Pageant** will be held Saturday, Feb. 28 at 10 a.m. at the Langdale Auditorium. Age groups are K4-first grade, Tiny Miss; second-third grades, Little Miss; fourth-fifth grades, Young Miss. Registration packets are available at the elementary schools, Valley Community Center, and Bradshaw Library. For more information email littlemissvallerata@gmail.com.

• **The West Point Woman's Club** is accepting nominations for the West Point Yard of the Quarter. The yard must be located within the West Point city limits. Deadline for nominations is March 10. The winner will have a sign placed in the yard and a notice will appear in The Times-News. Call 706-645-2435 to submit a nomination. The name of the home owner, the address and the telephone number will be needed. Call the above number for more information. Anyone can place a nomination, not just West Point residents.

• **The Christian Service Center** food pantry is open Monday and Thursday from 9 a.m. until noon. If you need assistance, call 334-576-3552. Volunteers will be glad to provide you with the information you need to determine eligibility for assistance. The office is located at 5342 Cusseta Road. Clothing is also available, weather permitting.

IS Christian abductees now at 220

BEIRUT (AP) — The number of Christians abducted by the Islamic State group in northeastern Syria has risen to 220 in the past three days, as militants round up more hostages from a chain of villages along a strategic river, activists said Thursday.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the militants have picked up dozens more Christian Assyrians from 11 communities near the town

of Tal Tamr in Hassakeh province.

The province, which borders Turkey and Iraq, has become the latest battleground in the fight against the Islamic State group in Syria. It is predominantly Kurdish but also has populations of Arabs and predominantly Christian Assyrians and Armenians.

IS began abducting the Assyrians on Monday, when militants attacked a cluster of villages along the Khabur River, sending thousands of people fleeing to safer areas.

Younan Talia, a senior official with the Assyrian Democratic Organization, said IS had raided 33 Assyrian villages, picking up as many as 300 people along the way. It was not possible to reconcile the numbers, and the fate of the hostages remained unclear.

State-run news agency SANA and an Assyrian activist group, the Assyrian Network for Human Rights in Syria, said the group had been moved to the IS-controlled city of Shadaddeh, a predominantly Arab town south of the city of Hassakeh. The Observatory, however,

said they were still being held in nearby Mt. Abdullaziz.

The mass abduction added to fears among religious minorities in both Syria and Iraq, who have been repeatedly targeted by the Islamic State group. The extremists have declared a self-styled caliphate in the regions of both countries that are under their control, killing members of religious minorities, driving others from their homes, enslaving women and destroying houses of worship.

The group has killed captives in the past, including foreign journalists, Syrian soldiers and Kurdish militiamen. Most recently, militants in Libya affiliated with IS released a video showing the beheading of 21 Egyptian Christians.

The extremists could also use the Assyrian captives to try to arrange a prisoner swap with the Kurdish militias they are battling in northeastern Syria.

The Observatory said negotiations through mediators were taking place between Arab tribes and an Assyrian figure to secure the hostages' release.

HISTORY

Continued from page 1

to West Point being a safe city and a good place to live.

"It's easy to forget to say thank you," she said. Glaize pointed out that West Point, sitting on the state line, had done a remarkable job of working with its Alabama neighbors. "You've learned to work together," she said.

In deciding what she would say during the celebration, Glaize said she knew the emphasis was on black history, but there's a more important history — God history, she said.

Kia coming to West Point involved a lot of hard work at the state and local level, but it was God's hand that brought the plant to West Point, she said.

And then Point University came to West Point, a Christian university that was struggling in East Point but has found new life in West Point, because that's where God wanted it to be.

Glaize said she saw God's presence in her own life. Growing up on a public housing project in New Jersey with a single mother, she said she should have become a statistic.

"I grew up in a violent neighborhood, lived in Miller Homes but it was better known as Killer Homes because there were murders there all the time, but we made it out," she said of her and her siblings.

That's because back in the South, her grandparents were praying for her and her siblings, who they never saw.

She said what she came to realize, as her life unfolded, is that if there is progress and success in this society, "There are ways to get there."

Glaize said parents need to do a better job of instilling values in their children. A child at the age of 10 knows the difference between right and wrong, she said. "Choices come from what we have in front of us."

Glaize cautioned that every progress is not success. God provides the good successes, she said.

She reminded the audience that "God's love is for everybody, we're all God's children," she said.

Glaize challenged adults to set examples that will inspire youth to higher aspirations. "We can't make a difference," she said, "if they can't see a difference."

West Point is a city on the move, she said, so many good things happening in so many areas. West Point has what it takes to be the best, she said, and she wants to see West Point being talked about under the Gold Dome in Atlanta some day, just like Savannah is today.

"Make sure the money comes to the city to get done what needs to be done," she said.

In closing she challenged West Point to embrace its youth and get ready to "reengage, reeducate and relaunch them" toward a better tomorrow.

INTERFACE

Continued from page 1

has the potential to be a cutting-edge demonstration of a sustainable corridor for the rest of the world, according to the late Anderson's daughter, Harriet Langford, a trustee of the Ray C. Anderson Foundation.

Anderson, a native of West Point and a Georgia Tech graduate, founded Troup County-based Interface Inc., the world's largest carpet tile manufacturer, and led his company to become a globally lauded and emulated model of sustainable industry.

Some 10.5 million travelers pass through the Mission Zero Corridor each year, emitting some 98,532 tons of carbon annually. Langford said the Foundation is currently working on a study with Georgia Tech and the Georgia Conservancy on what the highway of the future, informed by sustainable thinking, might look like.

The project is a long-term exploration of technologies that sequester carbon and abate pollution, as well as ways to conserve energy and power for local businesses with solar panels and solar pavers, just to name a few.

"As Ray and Interface set forth a model for sustainable business, we intend for this 'highway of the future' to be a game changer for transportation ecology using existing and future innovations in technology," Langford said.

In addition to the Exit 18 project, Interface associates worked at 13 other projects throughout the area as part of Interface's community service or "legacy" projects — a way the company gives back to communities each year during the annual sales meeting.

The projects included a West Point Lake cleanup, working with food closets and the Humane Society and carpeting projects benefiting Whitesville Road Elementary and West Point Elementary.

West Point Mayor Drew Ferguson IV and LaGrange Mayor Jim Thornton joined with the volunteers. They expressed their cities' appreciation for the efforts by Interface associates to make the community more attractive and for taking the lead in creating support for sustainability initiatives in Troup County.

"I'm excited," Ferguson said. "The groundwork has been laid here."

"People love beautiful green spaces," Thornton said, noting that the efforts at Exit 18 will help to establish LaGrange as a place people want to visit.

6,000 lose power in Georgia

The Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Utility companies say more than 6,000 customers are without power in north Georgia after several inches of snow fell in the region.

Before dawn Thursday, Georgia's electric membership cooperatives about 3,000 customers were power in north Georgia. Authorities say the outages are primarily in Gilmer, White, Gordon

and Catoosa Counties.

Georgia Power's outage data early Thursday showed that more than 3,000 of its customers were without power. Many of those outages were in the northeast corner of Georgia.

The storm moved into the region Wednesday afternoon, dropping nearly nine inches of snow in parts of northwest Georgia. Many areas of north Georgia saw at least six inches of snow.

THE RETURN

Continued from page 1

as John Lennon's on-stage gum chewing, to the most extensive details, such as using exact replicas of instruments and gear the Beatles used in their public appearances.

While they were learning to comb their mop tops just right and finding the right Beatle boots and black suits to wear, they were also learning each song note for note, rhythm for rhythm — getting the signature moves and looks of the Fab Four down pat, too. They practiced relentlessly, with a growing passion for getting their show just right.

In the years that followed, The Return began to draw the attention of more widely renowned clients not only in the U.S. but in multiple other countries as well, including London and Liverpool, England, at the world-famous Cavern Club, where the early Beatles often performed.

"We're very fortunate to have booked this outstanding musical group," said concert promoter Bill Gilbert of Bill Gilbert and Associates. "For many years they have attracted audiences in the thousands. We believe everyone will thoroughly enjoy this production at the historic Langdale Theater. Anyone who enjoys the music of the 1950s and 1960s will find this show extremely entertaining."

There will be one two-hour concert beginning at 7:30 p.m. EDT. "We urge you to order your tickets as soon as possible," Gilbert said. "For tickets and information, call (334) 768-3410."

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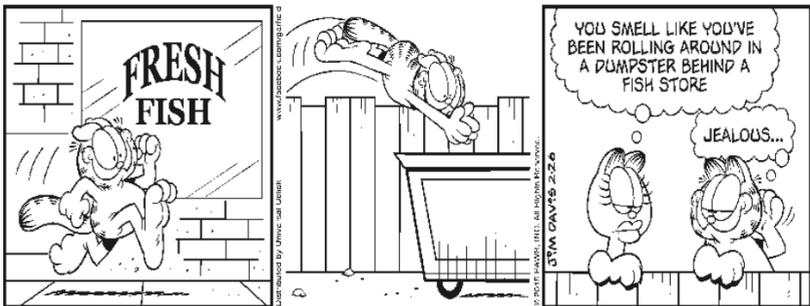
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HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

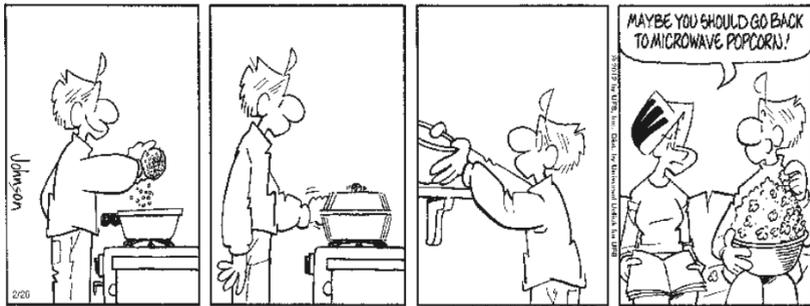
Georgia Lottery Numbers

PowerBall Drawing 17-19-21-32-39 PB 08	Cash 3 - Yesterday 5-8-5 (PM)
Mega Millions Jackpot \$127 million	Cash 4 - Yesterday 0-1-0-4 (PM)
Fantasy 5 07-15-19-26-38	Jumbo Bucks Lotto 12-14-16-29-38-43

Garfield



Arlo & Janis



Born Loser



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Blondie



THURSDAY EVENING

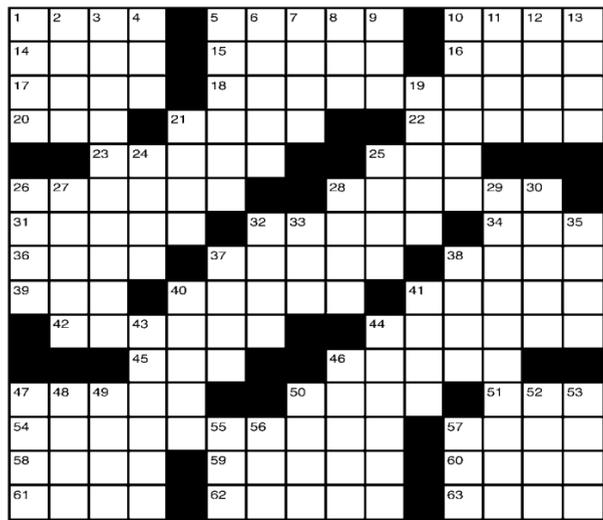
C - Charter, W - WOW Cable

FEB. 26

	C	W	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00	12:30
WJCN	15	19	WJCN Local News		Kevin Dunn	To Be Announced	In the Zone		Outdoors/ Mines	American Outd.	WJCN Local News		Jake Sessions	
WRBL	3	4	Jeopardy! ®	Wheel of Fortune	Big Bang Theory	The Odd Couple	Big Bang Theory	Mom (N) (In Stereo)	The Victoria's Secret Swim Special		WRBL 11pm News	Late Show With David Letterman ®		Late Late Show
WLTZ	13	8	Family Feud ®	Family Feud ®	The Slap Anouk learns she is pregnant.	The Blacklist "The Deer Hunter" ®			Allegiance "Chasing Ghosts"		WLTZ First	Tonight Show-J. Fallon		Seth Meyers
WTVM	9	10	Inside Edition	Entertainment Ton.	Grey's Anatomy "Staring at the End"	How to Get Away With Murder "The Night Lila Died; It's All My Fault" ®			Allegiance "Chasing Ghosts"		News	Jimmy Kimmel Live (In Stereo) ®		Nightline (N) ®
WSFA	9	12	WSFA News at 6	Entertainment Ton.	The Slap Anouk learns she is pregnant.	The Blacklist "The Deer Hunter" ®			Allegiance "Chasing Ghosts"		WSFA News at 10	Tonight Show-J. Fallon		Seth Meyers
WTBS	39	66	Seinfeld (In Stereo)	Seinfeld (In Stereo)	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Conan		The Office ®	Conan
WGN-A	16		America's Funniest Home Videos ®	America's Funniest Home Videos ®	America's Funniest Home Videos ®	How I Met/Mother	How I Met/Mother		Outlaw Country ®		Outlaw Country ®		Rules/Engagement	Rules/Engagement
WJSP	12	11	Lawmakers (N)	Wheat Belly Total Health With William Davis, MD (In Stereo)	Masterpiece Classic A surprise for Mrs. Patmore. (In Stereo)	The Fast Metabolism Revolution With Haylie Pomroy ®			The Fast Metabolism Revolution With Haylie Pomroy ®		Dr. Fuhrman's End		Diets Forever!	Diets Forever!
WXTX	8	7	News at 7 (N)	Big Bang Theory	American Idol The top 12 girls perform.	Backstrom A fortune teller is murdered.			FOX 54 News Ten (N)		Big Bang Theory	TMZ (N) (In Stereo)	RightThisMinute	America Now
WCIQ	7	5	PBS NewsHour (N) (In Stereo) ®	The This Old House Hour (In Stereo)	Antiques Roadshow "Bismarck" ®	Civil War: The Untold Story (In Stereo)	Civil War: The Untold Story (In Stereo)		Civil War: The Untold Story (In Stereo)		Civil War: The Untold Story (In Stereo)		BBC World News	Tavis Smiley ®
A&E	49	49	The First 48 Stabbing victim in Dallas.	The First 48 (In Stereo) ®	After the First 48 "Kiss of Death" ®	Nightwatch "Full Moon Rising" ®	Nightwatch "Their Worst Day" ®		Nightwatch "Full Moon Rising" ®		Nightwatch "Their Worst Day" ®		The First 48 (In Stereo) ®	
AMC	51	64	*** "Ocean's Eleven" (2001) ®	*** "Titanic" (1997, Historical Drama)	Leonardo DiCaprio, Kate Winslet, Billy Zane. A woman falls for an artist aboard the ill-fated ship. "PG-13" ®				Wild West Alaska (In Stereo)		Wild West Alaska "Fathers and Sons"		Wild West Alaska (In Stereo)	
ANPL	62	55	Wild West Alaska "Midnight Madness"	Wild West Alaska (In Stereo)	Wild West Alaska "Fathers and Sons"				Wild West Alaska (In Stereo)		Wild West Alaska "Fathers and Sons"		Wild West Alaska (In Stereo)	
BET	52	35	Being Mary Jane "Sleepless in Atlanta"	BET Honors 2015 ®					The Game ®		Keyshia Cole	The Game ®	The Wendy Williams Show ®	
BRAV	50	76	The Millionaire Matchmaker (In Stereo)	The Millionaire Matchmaker (In Stereo)	The Millionaire Matchmaker (In Stereo)	The Millionaire Matchmaker			The Millionaire Matchmaker		What Happens	The Millionaire Matchmaker (In Stereo)	Vanderpump Rules	Vanderpump Rules
CMTV	60	61	(6:30) *½ "Wild Hogs" (2007) Four friends take a motorcycle road trip.		Party Down South "Back in the Saddle"	Party Down South "Party Down South "Back in the Saddle"			Party Down South "Party Down South "Back in the Saddle"		Party Down South	Steve Austin's Broken Skull Challenge		Steve Austin's Broken Skull Challenge
CNBC	42	41	American Greed A couples life unravels.	Shark Tank Beer-infused ice cream.	American Greed	American Greed (N)			American Greed (N)		American Greed "Ea\$y Being Green"	American Greed "The Cash King"		American Greed "The Cash King"
CNN	44	40	Erin Burnett OutFront (N)	Anderson Cooper 360 (N) ®	Morgan Spurlock: Inside Man (N)	CNN Tonight			CNN Tonight		Anderson Cooper 360 ®	Morgan Spurlock: Inside Man		Morgan Spurlock: Inside Man
COM	66	58	South Park ®	Broad City	Workaholics ®	** "Harold & Kumar Escape From Guantanamo Bay" (2008, Comedy) Kal Penn, John Cho. ®			Daily Show		The Nightly Show	At Midnight		This Is Not
CSPAN	99	99	Key Capitol Hill Hearings Speeches. (In Stereo)	Key Capitol Hill Hearings Speeches. (In Stereo)	Key Capitol Hill Hearings Speeches. (In Stereo)	Key Capitol Hill Hearings Speeches. (In Stereo)			Key Capitol Hill Hearings Speeches. (In Stereo)		Key Capitol Hill Hearings Speeches. (In Stereo)			Key Capitol Hill Hearings Speeches. (In Stereo)
CSPAN2	96	74	(6:00) Key Capitol Hill Hearings	Key Capitol Hill Hearings Speeches. (In Stereo)	Key Capitol Hill Hearings Speeches. (In Stereo)	Key Capitol Hill Hearings Speeches. (In Stereo)			Key Capitol Hill Hearings Speeches. (In Stereo)		Key Capitol Hill Hearings Speeches. (In Stereo)			Key Capitol Hill Hearings Speeches. (In Stereo)
DIS	53	45	Jessie (In Stereo)	K.C. Undercover	"Zapped" (2014, Comedy) Zendaya. (In Stereo) ®	Mickey Mouse			I Didn't Do It ®	Liv & Maddie ®	I Didn't Do It ®	A.N.T. Farm ®	Good Luck Charlie	Good Luck Charlie
DISC	53	25	Alaska: The Last Frontier (In Stereo)	Alaska: The Last Frontier (In Stereo)	Alaska: The Last Frontier (In Stereo)	Alaska: The Last Frontier (In Stereo)			Alaska: The Last Frontier (In Stereo)		Alaska: The Last Frontier (In Stereo)		Alaska: The Last Frontier (In Stereo)	
DISXD	121	46	Ultimate Spider	Star Wars Rebels	Gravity Falls	Gravity Falls			Marvel's Avengers Kirby Buckets		Gravity Falls	Gravity Falls		Star Wars Rebels
E!	25	57	E! News (N)	The Soup	*** "Ocean's Thirteen" (2007) George Clooney, Danny Ocean and his gang seek to right a wrong.				E! News (N)		E! News (N)		Sex and the City	Sex and the City
ESPN	32	30	College Basketball: Teams TBA. (N) (Live)		College Basketball: Teams TBA. (N) (Live)				College Basketball: Teams TBA. (N) (Live)		SportsCenter (N) (Live) ®		SportsCenter (N) (Live) ®	
ESPN2	33	31	College Basketball: Teams TBA. (N) (Live)		College Basketball: Teams TBA. (N) (Live)				College Basketball: Teams TBA. (N) (Live)		Basketball	30 for 30 ®		
FAM	61	20	*½ "Zookeeper" (2011, Comedy) Kevin James, Voices of Rosario Dawson.		*½ "Liar Liar" (1997) Jim Carrey. A fast-talking lawyer cannot tell a lie.				The 700 Club (In Stereo) ®					Gilmore Girls "There's the Rub" ®

THE Daily Commuter Puzzle by Jacqueline E. Mathews

- ACROSS**
- Murdered
 - Went out with fireman's pole
 - Heavy book
 - Nimble
 - Scoop holder
 - Strong ox
 - Cry out loudly; shout in protest
 - Actor Affleck
 - Pig's comment
 - Estate home
 - Gumdrops or Milk Duds
 - Aug.'s follower
 - Abilities
 - Kit or Johnny
 - Energetic
 - Actor Keach
 - Cauldron
 - Longoria and Mendes
 - Piece of celery
 - Ricky Ricardo's portrayal
 - To ___; namely
 - Iron alloy
 - Punctured, as a bull his victim
 - Sister's son
 - Hit for Travolta & Newton-John
 - Male sheep
 - Sassy
 - Plant pest
 - Opinion
 - One ___ kind; unique thing
 - Heavy draft horse
 - Was sorry for
 - Actress Lange
 - Prepared to be photographed
 - ___ up; spent
 - Facial features
 - Jumpy
 - Koppel & Wass
- DOWN**
- Take a ___ at; attempt
 - Suffer defeat
 - Set free
 - Actress Ming-Na ___
 - McCallum and Letterman
 - Horrible pain
 - Lyme disease transmitter
 - Actor Wallach
 - ABC followers
 - Leftover pieces
 - Money lent
 - 6 ___ 12 is 2
 - Doe or buck
 - ___ board; nail file
 - "For Your Eyes ___"; 007 movie
 - Swiss skier's paradise
 - Paper bag
 - Gush forth
 - Actor Bacon
 - Summon
 - La Scala, e.g.
 - Schnozes
 - Worry; fret
 - Edison's initials
 - Wisk rival
 - Underground plant part
 - "That ___ it!"; cry of disgust
 - Window cover
 - Got bigger
 - Groups of lions
 - Grasping
 - "Circular ___"; wastebaskets
 - Muscle pain
 - Stratagem
 - Excessive publicity
 - Extensive
 - Give dinner to
 - Tallies up
 - Group bath
 - Put on, as clothing
 - Groove



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 2/26/15

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



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'Dear Abby'

Face-to-face friend refuses to like online interaction

DEAR ABBY: Help! Facebook is killing my social life. I am wondering if anyone else is having this experience.

I am a woman whose job requires me to be on the computer eight hours a day. The last thing I want after work is to go online. Before Facebook took over my social circle, this wasn't a problem. But now all my friends and family are on the site and pressuring me to do likewise.

Gradually, Facebook contact seems to be replacing real, physical get-togethers. Things that used to be done in person or over the phone are now all done on Facebook, and we rarely get together anymore. If I don't check Facebook, I am out of the loop.

If I suggest getting together, everyone is "busy" -- busy on Facebook, I guess. They aren't mad at me or avoiding me, they just want contact on their terms. Am I the only one having this problem? -- OLD-SCHOOL IN CHAMPAIGN, ILL.

DEAR OLD-SCHOOL: I'm sure you're not the only one. The Internet is supposed to be a tool to facilitate communication, not a substitute for real, flesh-and-blood relationships. If you can't work out a compromise with your friends and family -- say, one in-person visit a month -- you may have to cultivate some new relationships with other "old-school" people who also prefer face-to-face contact.

DEAR ABBY: My father recently passed away. It was unexpected. He was my sunshine and my heart. I am devastated. Because of this, I am no longer sure I want to have a traditional wedding. It would be too sad to not share the day with Dad, as I had dreamed. My fiancé and I have

discussed eloping, and it seems like the right idea.

The trouble with eloping, however, is that we'd want our parents and siblings there as witnesses, and we'd like a party for friends and extended family after the nuptials. People are telling me THAT'S not eloping, and they have been looking forward to attending our wedding.

In the midst of my grief, I'm not sure how to respond to their comments. What should I do? -- FATHERLESS BRIDE IN MISSISSIPPI

DEAR FATHERLESS BRIDE: If you would prefer your nuptials to be a small, intimate affair, that's what they should be. Have a reception later. Whether others were looking forward to attending your wedding is beside the point. If you are challenged for not wanting a big wedding, all you need to say is that your plans changed when your father died. No one should be able to argue with that, because your feelings are understandable.

DEAR ABBY: I have a neighbor who is always asking to borrow things. The items come back only if I go and collect them -- from food items like spices, to gasoline, cash and more. The situation is almost comical, like Simpson vs. Flanders. How can I make my stuff less available without outright saying no? -- FLANDERS OF "SPRINGFIELD," MAINE

DEAR FLANDERS: And what is wrong with just saying no? When someone's generosity is abused, that's the most logical thing to do. And without being nasty, you should tell your neighbor the reason why.

SPORTS

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Page 8

Streaking LaFayette seeks its fourth title

By SCOTT SICKLER
Times-News Sports Editor

BIRMINGHAM — There's just one road block ahead for the streaking LaFayette High Bulldogs boys basketball team (24-5) when coach Obadiah Threadgill's team faces Elba High at 2 p.m. CT Friday in the AHSAA 2A boys state championship basketball game.

Now in his fourth season, Threadgill is 80-36 overall and claimed his first-ever area title two weeks ago with a thrilling 62-59 overtime win over rival Lanett at the Panther Den.

LaFayette's win over Lanett gave the Bulldogs its first area title since 2009 under then coach John T. Woody but also gave LaFayette the Chambers Co. championship with a 2-1 mark over Lanett and a 2-0 sweep of Valley.

It was the first time in over a decade that LaFayette was crowned as best in Chambers Co.

The seven-member senior class at LaFayette came in the same year Threadgill arrived and they've steadily been building a powerhouse team, which has gelled on a remarkable run of success to the 2A state title game.

Two years ago, LaFayette lost in the 2A finals to Tanner but the Bulldogs answered that challenge and then some in throttling Tanner 87-56 in semifinal action Monday.

It was vintage LaFayette basketball

and the Bulldogs were clearly the superior team and demonstrated that from start to finish in a convincing and equally impressive rout.

LaFayette has won three state championships in its tradition-rich history and they will be the favorite to make it four titles Friday.

The Bulldogs won in 1986 under coach Cornelius Reese, again claimed the title under John T. Woody in 1989 and again with Woody in 2002.

This is LaFayette's best team since the Bulldogs last won the title in 2002 and they are primed to take the crown Friday.



UGA tops Ole Miss

By R.J. MORGAN
Associated Press

OXFORD, Miss. (AP) — Kenny Gaines scored 22 points and Marcus Thornton added 18 points and 13 rebounds to lead Georgia to a 76-72 victory over Ole Miss on Wednesday night.

Ole Miss head coach Andy Kennedy was not pleased with his team's intensity in their third Southeastern Conference loss at home this season.

"I'm so sick and tired of being the most energetic guy in the building," Kennedy said. "It's wearing on me. I know our guys care, but they certainly show it in a different manner."

Georgia (18-9, 9-6 SEC) shot 37 percent from the field (23-of-62) and hit 11-of-23 3-pointers.

"Ole Miss is a good team," Georgia head coach Mark Fox said. "We really felt like after losing two home games already this season that we were going to have to

SEE UGA-UM, page 9



SEEKING NUMBER FOUR — It's been a terrific season to date for the surging LaFayette Bulldogs and they can cap an amazing year Friday when they battle Elba for the AHSAA 2A boys state championship. (Photo by Scott Sickler, Times-News sports editor)

Randolph leads Alabama over South Carolina 59-51

By DONALD F. STAFFO
Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP) — Levi Randolph scored 17 points, grabbed six rebounds and dished five assists to lead Alabama to a 59-51 victory over South Carolina Tuesday night.

Retin Obasohan contributed 15 points and Rodney Cooper added 11 for the Crimson Tide (17-11, 7-8 Southeastern Conference).

"We just tried to be more aggressive in the second half," Randolph said. "We played together. We take what the defense gives you. We're going to fight and give it all to get the win."

After South Carolina battled back to tie the score at 44 with 8:31 left, Alabama outscored the Gamecocks 15-7 down the stretch and Randolph netted seven points in the final 6:07.

"Give a lot of credit to Levi Randolph," said South Carolina coach Frank Martin. "We battled to tie the game after being so atrocious to start the second half. Levi does what seniors do. Protect the home court and put the team on their back."

South Carolina (13-14, 4-11) led 10-3 early and stayed in front throughout most of the first half. Alabama closed to within one point on three occasions before finally tying the game at on a 3-pointer by Randolph with 1:52 left. Laimonas Chatkevicious made a jump shot for the Gamecocks and Jimmie Taylor answered with a dunk to make it 22-22 at intermission.

Alabama opened the second half with a 19-11 run and was up 41-33 after another dunk by Taylor at the 12:56 mark.

SEE TIDE-CAROLINA, page 9

49ers to bid to host college title game

By JOSH DUBOW
AP Sports Writer

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) — The San Francisco 49ers will bid to host the college football playoff championship game at Levi's Stadium.

A person with knowledge of the plans told The Associated Press on Wednesday that the team will seek to host either the 2018, '19 or '20 title game when they come up for bid later this year. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because there has been no announcement about the plans.

Cities interested in hosting one of those three title games have until May to bid. A decision on the winners is expected in the fall.

While the semifinal games in the four-team playoff have been awarded to existing bowl games, playoff officials have opened up the

championship game to all cities.

AT&T Stadium in the Dallas area hosted the first college championship game last month between Ohio State and Oregon. The next two title games have been awarded to Glendale, Arizona, and Tampa, Florida.

Levi's Stadium opened in Santa Clara last summer as the new home for the 49ers. The stadium is one of the most technologically advanced and is located in the heart of Silicon Valley, making it a prime place to host big events.

The Super Bowl will be played there next February and the Pac-12 hosted the first of three straight conference championship games there last December.

The stadium also hosted the NHL's second outdoor game in California last weekend, drawing more than 70,000 fans for a game between the San Jose Sharks and Los Angeles Kings.



LEARNING FROM A PRO — Former Troup High All-American catcher Luke Bailey, left, with Tampa Bay Rays organization, talks to Tigers all-state catcher and Auburn signee Jonathan Foster at a recent home game against 6A Newnan High. Troup routed Newnan 11-1 in six innings. Coach Craig Garner's Tigers are 5-0 on the season and hoping to make a run for the GHSA 4A state championship. (Photo by Scott Sickler, Times-News sports editor)

David Ragan, Erik Jones to replace Busch at Atlanta

By The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — David Ragan will drive Kyle Busch's car in the Sprint Cup Series this weekend at Atlanta, while 18-year-old Erik Jones will drive Busch's car in the Xfinity Series.

Busch broke his right leg and left foot when he crashed head-on into a concrete wall Saturday at Daytona International Speedway. He left the Florida hospital on Tuesday and was transferred to one in Charlotte for further treatment.

SEE NASCAR, page 9

Regan Smith welcomes first child in double-duty

By JENNA FRYER
AP Auto Racing Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Regan Smith was quick to accept an offer to race in the Daytona 500 as Kurt Busch's replacement driver.

He did have one slight concern, though, about

SEE SMITH, page 9



SPRINGWOOD GOLF TEAM — Springwood School's golf team has one match under its belt and will be hosting a tournament involving several teams in the near future. Team members, shown above, back row from left, are Smith Collins, Austin Teague, Johnathon Hart,

coach Bill Edwards, Blake Carter, Bruce Andrews, Josh Oswalt and McLane Martin. Front row are Mary Charles Spivey, Jordan Plank, William Andrews, Jack Brown and Anna Bolton. (Times-News Sports Staff photo)

SCOREBOARD

Kentucky 27-0 unanimous No. 1

The Top 25
By The Associated Press
The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Feb. 22, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and last week's ranking:

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Kentucky (65)	27-0	1,625	1
2. Virginia	25-1	1,528	2
3. Gonzaga	28-1	1,471	3
4. Duke	24-3	1,448	4
5. Wisconsin	25-2	1,390	5
6. Villanova	25-2	1,306	6
7. Arizona	24-3	1,228	7
8. Kansas	22-5	1,111	8
9. Notre Dame	24-4	1,109	10
10. N. Iowa	26-2	1,032	11
11. Wichita St.	25-3	930	13
12. Iowa St.	20-6	887	14
13. Utah	21-5	876	9
14. Maryland	22-5	895	16
15. North Carolina	19-8	655	15
16. Oklahoma	19-8	622	17
17. Louisville	21-6	613	12
18. Arkansas	22-5	564	18
19. Baylor	20-7	473	20

20. West Virginia	21-6	453	23
21. SMU	22-5	357	21
22. VCU	21-6	182	25
23. Butler	19-8	165	19
24. San Diego St.	22-6	117	—
25. Providence	19-8	72	—

NBA Standings

NBA Glance
National Basketball Association
By The Associated Press

All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	37	20	.649	—
Brooklyn	23	32	.418	13
Boston	22	33	.400	14
Philadelphia	12	45	.211	25
New York	10	46	.179	26½

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	45	12	.789	—
Washington	33	25	.569	12½
Miami	25	31	.446	19½
Charlotte	23	32	.418	21

Orlando	19	40	.322	27
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Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	36	22	.621	—
Chicago	36	22	.621	—
Milwaukee	32	25	.561	3½
Detroit	23	34	.404	12½
Indiana	23	34	.404	12½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	41	15	.732	—
Houston	39	18	.684	2½
Dallas	39	21	.650	4
San Antonio	34	23	.596	7½
New Orleans	30	27	.526	11½

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	37	19	.661	—
Oklahoma City	32	25	.561	5½
Utah	21	35	.375	16
Denver	20	37	.351	17½
Minnesota	13	43	.232	24

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	44	10	.815	—
L.A. Clippers	37	21	.638	9
Phoenix	30	28	.517	16
Sacramento	20	35	.364	24½
L.A. Lakers	15	41	.268	30

Wednesday's Games

Miami 93, Orlando 90, OT
Atlanta 104, Dallas 87
Boston 115, New York 94
New Orleans 102, Brooklyn 96
Charlotte 98, Chicago 86
Milwaukee 104, Philadelphia 88
Minnesota 97, Washington 77
Houston 110, L.A. Clippers 105
Phoenix 110, Denver 96
L.A. Lakers 100, Utah 97
Sacramento 102, Memphis 90
Portland 111, San Antonio 95

Thursday's Games
Golden State at Cleveland, 8 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Phoenix, 10:30 p.m.

Friday's Games
Washington at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Cleveland at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Orlando at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Golden State at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
New York at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Charlotte at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Miami at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Brooklyn at Houston, 8 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Utah at Denver, 9 p.m.
San Antonio at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
Milwaukee at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Portland, 10:30 p.m.

UGA-UM

Continued from page 8

come in here and play catch up."

Gaines was 8-of-15 from the floor and 4-of-7 from beyond the arc.

"He shot the ball well," Fox said. "And he played some good defense. He's been ill, but he's getting better. We knew he was going to need to have a bigger game tonight."

Nemanja Djuricic scored 17 points on 5-of-13 shooting and also hit 4 3-pointers.

Ole Miss (19-9, 10-5 SEC) struggled from the field, particularly beyond the arc. The Rebels were 0-for-7 on 3-point attempts in the first half, 6-of-29 for the game.

"They were really locked in, and we can't ever seem to manufacture offense out of the gate," Kennedy said. "It was back forth, and then we let Gaines get loose."

Georgia led for all but 29 seconds of the game. They led 34-23 at the half. The Bulldogs were able to split the Ole Miss defense consistently, winning the assist battle 17-10. And scoring 15 second-chance points.

"They hurt on second shots," Kennedy said. "They did a really good job of making the extra pass."

But the contest was far from one-sided. Ole Miss kept pace throughout, and with 4:33 to play a Stefan Moody 3-pointer trimmed the Georgia lead to 2 points before the Rebel rally ran out of steam.

"When it's your time to make a play, you have to step up," Kennedy said. "Georgia made plays down stretch, and they deserved to win."

Moody led the Rebels with 19 points on 5-of-16 shooting, but was only 2-of-11 from beyond the arc. Jarvis Summers added 13 points.

TIDE-CAROLINA

Continued from page 8

"We were small (at that point) and we tried to press a little bit to get them off kilter and then to get back to our zone," said Alabama coach Anthony Grant. "We were able to force misses. We got a little ball movement and player movement. We were able to defend and that was probably the difference."

"I think they did a good job not allowing us to get the ball inside," said South Carolina's Duane Notice. "They protected us from getting the ball to our bigs. As guards, we have to be more aggressive on the perimeter, make shots and attack the zone. I think their length and speed was the factor for them against us."

Chatkevicius had 18 points and Notice 16 points for South Carolina.

TIP-INS

Crimson Tide: Senior guard Levi Randolph leads Alabama in scoring (14.7 ppg), assists (2.3 apg), steals (1.4) and minutes (35 mpg) and currently ranks fifth

in the SEC in field goal percentage (.491) and free throw percentage (.803), ninth in steals and 11th in scoring. . Alabama leads the all-time series with South Carolina 24-15, including holding a 12-2 advantage at home. . The Crimson Tide has won seven of the last eight games played in Tuscaloosa. . Ricky Tarrant, second on the team in scoring average (13.1 ppg) and 3-pointers made (29) and the team-leader in assists (2.0 apg) and steals (1.4 spg), has missed seven straight games because of a lower right leg injury.

Gamecocks: South Carolina won the first meeting between the two teams this year 68-66 on Jan. 13 in Columbia. . In their first meeting South Carolina, despite shooting a lower percentage, prevailed because it outrebounded Alabama 32-22 and forced the Crimson Tide into 14 turnovers that resulted in the Gamecocks getting a lot more shots. . South Carolina's last win in Tuscaloosa was 75-73 on Feb. 14, 2009.

SMITH

Continued from page 8

spending an additional day in Florida. His pregnant wife, Megan, was at home in North Carolina expecting their first child. But he said the couple agreed in advance that should she go into labor, he should complete his races before heading home.

"I've asked her to keep her legs crossed as long as she can if she does go into labor," Smith joked at Daytona International Speedway last weekend.

Everything worked out just fine for the Smiths, who welcomed son Rhett Lee on Wednesday, an off day for NASCAR drivers.

The baby had a short window to arrive: Smith gets back on track Thursday at Atlanta Motor Speedway, where he'll drive Busch's car for Stewart-Haas Racing in an open NASCAR test. He's slated to fill his regular role as Xfinity Series driver for JR Motorsports all weekend, and do double-duty in the Sprint Cup Series for SHR. Busch has been indefinitely suspended by NASCAR.

Smith, who ran four full seasons in the Cup series from 2008 through 2012, has spent the last two as a full-time driver for JR Motorsports in NASCAR's second-tier series. But he has been a super substitute a handful of times the last few years.

Smith filled in unexpectedly for Dale Earnhardt Jr. in 2012 when Earnhardt was sidelined with a concussion, and he flew in on race day last year at Watkins Glen when SHR needed an emergency substitute for Tony Stewart.

Now he's making his second start for Busch, who was suspended Friday. But with 173 career Cup starts, Smith thinks he's capable of moving car-to-car and stepping in wherever needed.

"I think the fortunate thing is that I've done enough Cup races to where I'm familiar with most of the cars," he said. "They all take their own kind of shape and form. You make the most of them. I don't think anybody wants to be in the scenario where you have to sub under circumstances, whatever they may be."

"And with that said, if it happens, you want to make the most of that opportunity."

KYLE BUSCH-FUTURE RACING: Kyle Busch is back in North Carolina receiving treatment on his broken right leg and broken left foot, and it's not clear how long he'll be sidelined.

But when he does return to racing, it's unlikely that team owner Joe Gibbs will limit his racing outside the Sprint Cup Series. Busch was injured Saturday in the season-opening Xfinity Series race at Daytona, a day before the Daytona 500.

Gibbs said it's hard to hold Busch back because aside from his wife, Samantha, racing is all he has. Busch owns a NASCAR Truck Series team at Kyle Busch Motorsports.

Sports Briefs

Lanett Recreation Spring Sports

*The Lanett Recreation Department is accepting registration for the 2015 youth baseball and softball season. Registration will take place, March 2-27. The registration fee is \$25 per child and \$10 for any additional child in immediate family. All registration must be paid at Lanett City Hall. Baseball age divisions include: 5-6 yr. old coed (t-ball), 7-8 yr. old coed (coach pitch), 9-12 (Dixie youth) and 13-14 (Dixie boys). Softball age divisions will include 9 & under, 12 & under and 14 & under. Practice schedules include: 11-12 boys Tues., April 7, 6 p.m.; 9-10 boys Thurs., April 9, 6 p.m.; 5-6 coed (t-ball) Fri., April 10, 6 p.m.; 7-8 coed (coach pitch) Fri., April 10, 6:30 p.m.; 12 & under girl softball Fri., April 10, 7 p.m.; and 13-14 boys Thurs., April 9, 7 p.m. at Lanett High baseball field. In addition, Lanett Recreation will hold free computer classes for adults will start Fri., March 13th from 9 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. at L.B. Sykes Community Center. Also, Track & Field tryout will start Wednesday, March 18th at 6 p.m. at Lanett High School Stadium. Ages are 9-14 boys and girls. Summer Activities will be announced at a later date. For more information, contact: Lanett RD personnel at (334) 644-4312 or (334) 644-4316.

Valley Recreation Spring Sports, Swim Lessons

*The Valley Recreation Department is now accepting registration for spring sports including t-ball, youth baseball, softball and soccer through March 24. Ages include 3-4 for t-ball; 5-6, co-ed coach pitch; 7-15 for youth baseball and youth softball; 5-12 for soccer. The cost is \$40 per participant. Discounts are available for households with multiple participants. In addition, the Valley Recreation Department will be offering swim lessons beginning Feb. 22. The American Red Cross learn to swim program lessons is for 5-12 year olds with levels 1-5 and adult. Lessons will be offered Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 5-5:30 p.m. The cost is \$25 for Valley Community Center members and \$35 for non-members. For additional information, contact VRD personnel at (334) 756-5290 or jinobles@cityofvalley.com.

West Point Recreation Spring Sports

*The West Point Recreation Department is now accepting registration for spring sports activities and other programs through Sat., March 7, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET. Youth sports programs include youth baseball, ages: 4-8, 9-18; youth softball, ages: 7-9, 10-16; adult softball, ages: 16-and-over; zumba, ages: 12-and-up; and cheerleading/tumbling, ages: 3-13. The WPRD office is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The final day to register is Sat., March 7, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Youth sports programs include: For additional information, contact: WPRD personnel at (706) 645-3529.

001 Statewides

AUCTIONS
REDMONT AUCTION & Land Co., Inc. will be selling at absolute auction March 7, Saturday, 11:00 - 2003 Highway 14 East Selma, Alabama. Prime rental properties 42+/- acres to be offered in 11 parcels and as entirety- mobile home park (ground leases only), home-large shop. Apartment - 5 more buildings-raw land with high-way frontage for further development. For information and brochure 1-205-822-4229 Eddie Propst #1161.

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The East Alabama Water Sewer and Fire Protection District is accepting applications for following position:

Full Time Maintenance Crewmen- The duties include but not limited to maintenance of water lines, water meters and meter services; maintenance of sewer lines, manholes and sewer services; meter reading, general care and maintenance of district equipment and other work as assigned.

All applicants for the positions must be at least 18 years of age, have a high school diploma or equivalent and have a valid Alabama Commercial Driver's License or obtain it within 6 months of employment. Applicants must be in good physical condition and able to pass a drug screen and background check. Experience is preferred. Only those qualified need apply.

Application period ends at 5:00 p.m. EST on March 6, 2015. Applications can be obtained and must be returned to the office of the District located at 150 Fob James Drive Valley, Alabama. **No phone calls. E.O.E.**

Walmart's new CEO faces sagging sales challenge

The Associated Press

BENTONVILLE, Ark. (AP) — When Wal-Mart CEO Doug McMillon took the top job at the world's largest retailer last year, he inherited some big problems.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc., which has more than 11,000 stores in 27 countries, has struggled with two years of mostly sluggish sales due in large part to a challenging global economy and major changes in how people shop.

Workers' groups have targeted Wal-Mart over its pay and treatment of its U.S. employees with protests. And overseas, the retailer is still being scrutinized nearly two years after a Bangladesh factory that made some of its clothes collapsed, killing over 1,100 workers.

McMillon, whose first job at Wal-Mart was an hourly position loading trucks as a college student in 1984, has had to wrestle with these issues since he became CEO in February 2014. In the past year, he's replaced the head of the struggling U.S. division, accelerated the pace of smaller store openings and stepped up the retailer's e-commerce efforts.

But last week, McMillon made his boldest move yet by announcing that Wal-Mart would give raises to nearly 40

percent of its 1.3 million U.S. workforce as part of a billion-dollar investment in changes to employee pay and training. Wal-Mart said it would increase starting wages for U.S. employees to at least \$9 per hour by April and by at least \$10 by February 2016.

Two days before he made the announcement, McMillon, 48, spoke with The Associated Press exclusively about the pay and training increases, the fallout from the Bangladesh disaster and other issues that are affecting Wal-Mart. What follows are edited excerpts from a 40-minute interview at Wal-Mart's headquarters in Bentonville, Arkansas.

Q: What is behind the decision to raise wages?

A: What's driving us is we want to create a great store experience for customers and do that by investing in our own people.

Q: How would you address critics who say Wal-Mart should go beyond the wage increase it announced?

A: I think we are playing our role. Creating opportunities for so many people, and clarity on how they can grow in a company into a lot of great jobs. I have a great amount of pride in the role we play.

Q: As the nation's largest private employer, Wal-Mart has outsized influence in the national

debate over raising the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$10.10 an hour. Why has Wal-Mart remained neutral in the debate?

A: It's clear to us what we need to do to run a good business, and we are taking action on that. As it relates to a federal minimum wage, there are other people responsible for figuring that out. I am not an economist. Someone else can sort out what the best decision is there.

Q: Is it hard to break the perception that Wal-Mart has low-end jobs?

A: What we can worry about is the reality. If the reality is good enough, eventually I think most people know perception corrects itself. Our job is to create great store experiences for customers and online and in every way we can service them. And over time, that matters the most.

Q: Do you think Wal-Mart is unfairly targeted for its labor practices?

A: Nobody ever promised that this will be fair. So I am not under the illusion that it will be.

Q: What have you learned from your critics?

A: I have learned from (former Wal-Mart CEOs) Mike Duke and Lee Scott the value of listening to critics. We have ears and we care. Sometimes, you can learn more from criticism than you can from flattery. So we listen to

all of it, but at the end of the day, we are doing what we need to do for our business.

Q: How do you think your first year has gone?

A: I feel good about the first year. I think we've increased our clarity as it relates to our strategic plan. Our leadership has a better sense of where we need to go to capitalize on our opportunities. I feel like we have done a good job of listening to our associates and beginning to respond appropriately to set them up for success. Growing an e-commerce business is important. And we are getting stronger in markets like China.

Q: What will it take to get more customers back in the stores?

A: No doubt business is going increasingly mobile and increasingly online. We don't really care how the customers want to shop. We want to be in the position to serve them in any of those ways.

Q: Wal-Mart is one of

a group of North American retailers and clothing makers that agreed to a five-year pact aimed at improving safety conditions at Bangladesh factories. Do you think you're making inroads in Bangladesh?

A: We have such a big supply chain that we do business with a lot of people in a lot of categories. That can make it more challenging for us. But we do care. We are making investments, and I have no doubt that we are making things better. But it will be an ongoing effort across the supply chain to try to create a more sustainable situation for everyone.

Q: How much have you been influenced by your time at Wal-Mart?

A: I've been here pretty much my whole adult life. So what I believe and the things I learned have been largely influenced by Wal-Mart, and much of our culture will stand the test of time and still will be really valuable to the business and to the

communities we serve. But there are things that need to change ... how we serve customers, the tools that we use to do it.

Q: Wal-Mart has made some mistakes, right? For instance, before you became CEO, Wal-Mart reduced labor in stores, which resulted in unstocked shelves and low employee morale.

A: The economic environment these past few years has been challenging globally, and I think our focus on productivity was well-placed. But sometimes we can go too far. And the thing about Wal-Mart is we course-correct.

Q: How would you describe employee morale at stores now?

A: The word I would use to describe us at the moment is 'encouraged.' We've got a lot of associates with a lot of experience and pride in the business. We're listening and responding to them and making changes. And I think they're encouraged that we are on the right track.

Supreme Court denies dentist exclusive on teeth-whitening

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court ruled Wednesday that a state regulatory board made up mostly of dentists violated federal law against unfair competition when it tried to prevent lower-cost competitors in other fields from offering teeth-whitening services.

By a 6-3 vote, the justices rejected arguments from the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners that it was acting in the best interests of consumers when it pressured nondentists to get out of the lucrative trade in teeth-whitening services.

Justice Anthony Kennedy said in his majority opinion that the Federal Trade Commission was right to conclude that the state regulators also had a financial interest in the market for teeth-whitening.

In dissent, Justice Samuel Alito warned that the decision "is likely to have far-reach-

ing effects on the states' regulation of professions" because many boards are made up of practitioners.

The court long has accepted that some actions that otherwise would raise antitrust concerns are permitted if they are done by states. The court had to decide whether the dental board was acting mainly in the interests of dentists or the public. If it was the latter, that would protect the board's decisions from complaints about unfair competition.

"The Supreme Court's opinion confirms that the antitrust laws place important limits on what collusive actions private actors can take to advance their own businesses under the cloak of government action," said Jane Willis, an expert on antitrust law in Boston.

Bobby White, the dental board's chief operations officer, said the court's decision would force broad changes in how regulatory boards operate. "And since all of those changes will take time (and often legisla-

tive activity), the opinion threatens to massively disrupt professional regulation," White said in a statement.

In 2006, the dental board warned operators of teeth-whitening kiosks in malls and tanning salons that they were practicing dentistry without a license. The board also sent cease-and-desist letters to malls where the kiosks operated.

"These actions had the intended result," Kennedy wrote. "Nondentists ceased offering teeth-whitening services in North Carolina."

Customers instead had to go to higher-priced dentists who generally charged \$300 to \$700 for over-the-counter kits.

Courts across the country have been asked to rule on similar issues. In early October, a judge in Alabama rejected a complaint against that state's dental board and upheld restrictions on teeth-whitening services as "reasonably designed to protect the health of Alabama citizens."

Georgia House approves bill permitting medical marijuana

The Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — The Georgia House overwhelmingly passed a bill Wednesday to legalize cannabis oil for the treatment of nine major health problems, including a last-minute addition of sickle cell disease.

The bill's sponsor, Republican Rep. Allen Peake of Macon, said he added sickle cell disease by late amendment to his House Bill 1 at the request of the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus. The disease, also known as sickle cell anemia, overwhelmingly affects African-Americans.

The medical marijuana bill passed 158-2 and now goes to the state Senate, where considerable opposition is all but certain. The list of eligible conditions is expected to be whittled to just a few diagnoses in the upper chamber.

Gov. Nathan Deal, who must sign the measure for

it to become law, has said he supports the use of cannabis oil for treatment of seizure disorders. Peake said he expects Deal to support the bill in its current form. He said in an interview he cut the number of eligible conditions from its original 17 because it would have had no chance of passage in the Senate, or possibly even the House.

A cannabis oil bill failed in the General Assembly last year. In its current form, the bill would allow cannabis oil for treatment of seizure disorders, cancer, ALS, multiple sclerosis, Crohn's disease, Mitochondrial disease, Fibromyalgia, Parkinson's disease and sickle cell disease.

Despite opposition to the list of 17, Peake said he added sickle cell disease after lawmakers "approached us and made a compelling argument to add this as another diagnosis."

Still, he said, "the Senate has sent signals they don't want to include any diagnosis other than seizure disorders," so the bill faces a significant uphill battle.

"This will help thousands and thousands of Georgians, maybe 500,000, but any bill we pass that helps any citizen, I'll be happy with," he said.

House Speaker Georgia David Ralston praised Peake for his efforts, and many of his colleagues rose in a standing ovation after the vote.

Peake then looked toward the gallery and thanked "parents who have fought this fight for the last year for their kids who suffer from seizures. They have showed us what true courage is."

He repeated that "passage of this bill is not an indication of a slippery slope" toward Colorado-style marijuana legalization "but a confirmation of our compassionate reach."

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