



The Valley Times-News

WEST POINT TIMES-NEWS

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THURSDAY

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Visitor center adds electric car charger

KMMG grant funds Ray C. Anderson Foundation project

By DAVID BELL
Times-News Staff Writer

WEST POINT — The Georgia visitor center on I-85 North in West Point will soon feature a solar powered quick-charging station for electric vehicles.

The photovoltaic PV2EV system, manufactured by Hannah Solar of Atlanta, was announced Wednesday during a groundbreaking ceremony

hosted by the LaGrange-Troup County Chamber of Commerce.

The new charging station is being made possible by a grant from Kia Motors Manufacturing Georgia to the City of West Point through the Ray C. Anderson Foundation. It will become the first installation of its kind in the Southeast at a highway visitor center, making it possible to drive an all-electric vehicle from Montgomery to

•See QUICK CHARGE, page 6



QUICK-CHARGE GROUND BREAKING — Representatives from Kia Motors Manufacturing Georgia were joined by elected officials and members of the Ray C. Anderson Foundation Board of Trustees Wednesday at the Georgia Welcome Center on I-85 North for a special groundbreaking ceremony. The welcome center will become the first in the Southeast to feature a solar powered electric vehicle quick-charging station, funded by KMMG and manufactured by Hannah Solar of Atlanta. Shown above, from left, are Anthony Coker of Hannah Solar; West Point Mayor Drew Ferguson IV; Randy Jackson, Senior vice president of human resources and administration at KMMG; Harriet Langford and Mary Ann Lanier, trustees of the Ray C. Anderson Foundation; Brittney Gray, Georgia Department of Economic Development; John Lanier, Ray C. Anderson Foundation; and Jimmy Cho, vice president of KMMG. (Photo by David Bell)



CHECK PRESENTED FOR QUICK-CHARGE STATION — Kia Motors Manufacturing Georgia presented a check in the amount of \$100,516 to the City of West Point Wednesday for the purchase and installation of a solar powered electric vehicle quick-charging station to be located at the Georgia Welcome Center on I-85 North. The new charging station is part of the "Mission Zero Corridor" project between exits 2 and 18, spearheaded by the Ray C. Anderson Foundation, to create a sustainable roadway system utilizing cutting edge technology. Shown above, from left, are West Point Mayor Drew Ferguson IV; Harriet Langford, trustee of the Ray C. Anderson Foundation; and Randy Jackson, vice president of human resources and administration at KMMG. (Photo by David Bell)

Inside Today: Senior Scene 2015

Troup, Harris add jobs, unemployment rate up

By THE TIMES-NEWS

ATLANTA — Unemployment rates rose in Troup and Harris counties during May, but employment totals increased in both counties.

According to the Georgia Department of Labor, Harris County saw its jobless rate move up to 5.4 percent from April's 5 percent, and Troup's rate rose slightly to 5.9 percent from April's 5.8 percent.

Employment in Harris County grew by 153, but the county's civilian labor force increased by even more, expanding to 15,728 from April's 15,495. Employment in the county stood at 14,872, compared to 14,719 in April, and un-

employment rose to 856 from 776. Last year, Harris County's unemployment rate was 6.2 percent.

Troup County added 287 jobs during May but its civilian labor force grew by even more. Employment in Troup stood at 34,707, compared to 34,420 in April, while the labor force grew to 36,888 from 36,520 in April. Unemployment in the county grew to 2,181 from April's 2,100. Troup's unemployment rate in May 2014 was 7.5 percent.

Statewide, Georgia saw its unemployment rate edge up a tenth of a percent to 6.3 percent in May, but the state added almost 6,000 jobs during the month.

EAMC's Terry Andrus named 2015 Grassroots Champion



Terry Andrus

By THE TIMES-NEWS

MONTGOMERY — Terry Andrus, president of East Alabama Medical Center, was recently recognized as an American Hospital Association Grassroots Champion at the Alabama Hospital Association's annual meeting in Destin.

As the 2015 Grassroots Champion, Andrus was recognized for his exceptional leadership in generating

grassroots and community support of the important mission of hospitals. The Grassroots Champion award is presented annually to one individual from each state, with winners nominated by the state associations and final selections made by the AHA.

"Our Association is fortunate to have leaders like Terry who give of their time and resources to ensure the

•See ANDRUS, page 6



THE NEW MAPS ARE HERE — The Greater Valley Area Chamber of Commerce has had a new map of the Valley/Lanett/West Point area published for the first time in seven years. They recently arrived at the Chamber office in Lanett and are being distributed in the local area. The maps are free, and anyone can pick up one at the Chamber office. "It's a good tourism tool," Chamber Executive Director Barbara Andrews (second from left) told members of the Kiwanis Club of Valley on Wednesday. "The (Alabama and Georgia) visitor center staffs were pleased to hear we have new maps. They get requests for them all the time." The maps are in color and the park areas are green. These green areas include Hardley Creek and Eagle View parks on West Point Lake, the West Point River Park, the Point University Golf Club, Valley Sportsplex, and the Langdale and River View boat landings. From left, are Patsy McKenzie, Barbara Andrews, Club President Tammy Merritt and Henry Bledsoe. (Photo by Wayne Clark)

Alabama takes down flags

The Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Four Confederate flags were taken down from outside the Alabama Capitol on Wednesday as Gov. Robert Bentley ordered their removal amid national controversy about the official display of Confederate emblems on government grounds.

The Republican governor, explaining his order, said the Confederate flag is part of the state's history but its presence on the Capitol grounds was a "distraction" in a state dealing with a multitude of issues.

"It has become a distraction all over the country right now," Bentley said Wednesday. "Off and on, it has

•See ALABAMA FLAGS, page 6

QUICK CHECK



National Weather Service Local Forecast

Today, partly cloudy. Chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the mid 90s. Chance of rain 40 percent. Tonight, partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 70s. Friday, thunderstorms likely. Highs in the upper 80s. Chance of rain 70 percent. Friday night, mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 70s. Saturday, thunderstorms likely. Highs in the mid 80s. Chance of rain 70 percent. Saturday night, mostly cloudy. Thunderstorms likely in the evening.

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES High.....94°.....Low.....74°.....Today at 8 a.m.....72°
RAINFALL (measured at West Point Dam)..... Yesterday.N/A°..... June.....0.24°.....2015.....18.95°
WEST POINT LAKE LEVEL.....Today.....634.20.....Yesterday.....634.28.....Generation.....1-10 p.m.

Today's Bible Thought

I am not writing this to shame you, but to warn you, as my dear children. Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. Therefore I urge you to imitate me. For this reason I am sending you to Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church.
I Corinthians 4:14-17

Briefly Told

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

• **Lanett High School Class of 1965** will have its 50th Class Reunion on the weekend of Aug. 22. Plans are made and we hope to reach all of the class of 1965. For more information please contact Nancy Few Padgett — nancypadgett@comcast.net. Phone 941-769-0239.

• The public is invited to learn more about **West Georgia Health's** proposed partnership with Well-Star at a community presentation Tuesday, June 30 at 6 p.m. at the Enoch Callaway Cancer Clinic Auditorium on West Georgia Health's campus. The presentation will include why WGH was searching for a partner, why the WGH-WellStar partnership is a good fit for both organizations, how WGH patients and community will benefit from the relationship and where WGH will go from here. For questions, email communityfeedback@wghealth.org.

• **LifeSouth Community Blood Center** will have blood drives Friday, June 26 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Givorns Foods in Valley and Sunday, June 28 from 4 to 7 p.m. at Rock Springs Baptist Church, LaFayette.

• The first **Williams Family Reunion** (descendants of Peter and Winnie Williams) will be held July 17-19. Events include a memorial service July 17 at Sweet Home Baptist Church at 4:30 p.m. CDT, events July 18 at Canaan Baptist Church from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and praise and worship July 19 at Canaan. For reservations at Key West Motel in Roanoke, call 334-863-2100 by July 1 and ask for rooms reserved by Abigail Bonner. For more information contact Annie Lee Hill at 334-646-9009.

• **Re-Generation** will have its "Final Hoot No. 1" Friday, Aug. 14 and Saturday, Aug. 15 with doors opening at 6 p.m. Tickets are on sale now. Call 706-882-9909. Seating is limited.

• **Teal Magnolias** will meet Thursday, July 9 at 6 p.m. CDT at EAMC Health Resource Center, 2027 Pepperell Parkway, Opelika. Guest speaker with be Pelepper McCain. She is an oncology massage therapist and will be speaking on the benefits of massage therapy on cancer patients.

• **The Avery bi-annual family reunion** will be held in Opelika July 24-26, 2015. For more information contact Mary Brooks, 334-444-7272; Chase Summers, 334-524-7617; or Tecia McKay, 678-429-3428.

• **Interfaith Food Closet** is now open Thursdays from 5 until 8 p.m.

• Local authors are invited to share their published work with the public at the **Bradshaw Library Authors' Day** to be held Friday, June 26 from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. This event will provide an opportunity for local authors to display and sell their work at a "meet and greet" book signing. All works are welcome. Authors interested in participating should contact Connie Beilfuss at (334) 768-2161 or via email at conniebeilfuss@chamberscountylibrary.org.

• **The 1985 Class of Lanett High School** will hold its 30th reunion Saturday, July 18, beginning with a picnic at West Point Lake and an evening dinner at Irish Bred Pub in West Point. For additional information, contact Sue Marie Bass Forrester at 404-647-4477, or go online to www.eventbrite.com.

• **Troup County Schools** will purge records of gifted students who graduated in May 2014. Gifted students or their parent/guardian may claim gifted records by calling the Exceptional Education Center, 706-812-7939 by June 30, 2015. Unclaimed records will be destroyed after July 10, 2015.

• Come out on Friday evenings to West Point Park (across from Givorns Foods) and enjoy free music concerts which are designed for the whole family. **Summer Sounds** will continue Friday, June 29 with contemporary pop. Bring a picnic dinner, lawn chair or blanket to sit on. No alcohol is permitted in the park. The concerts are sponsored by the June-teenth Committee in partnership with the City of West Point and West Point Parks and Recreation and generously underwritten by Capital City Bank and CharterBank.

• An **outside cookout and gospel singing** scheduled for June 27 at the Piggly Wiggly parking lot in LaFayette has been canceled until further notice.

• **Emanuel Missionary Baptist Church for the Deaf and Hearing**, 2821 Cusseta Road in Huguley, will begin offering free sign language classes on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. The first class begins Thursday, May 14. For more information or to register, please call 706-773-5330.

• The 17th annual **Shawmut School Reunion** will be held Saturday, Aug. 15 at the Shawmut Gym beginning at 10 a.m.

• **Hogansville Market Day** will be held the second Saturday through October from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. A 12x12 space is \$10. Bring tents and tables. Parking lot across from City Hall. Call 706-637-9823 for space.

• **The St. Stephens C.M.E. Food Bank** will open and issue food on the second Wednesday of each month from 1 to 3 p.m. Applicants must meet income requirements. Name, full address, zip code and last four digits of the Social Security number required. The state emergency food assistance may have to make verifications.

• **Lupus Support Group** meeting will be held every third Monday from January through October at 6 p.m. CST at the East Alabama Health Resource Center in Opelika. Adrienne Jordan, facilitator, 334-497-0273 and Shtorie Sumbry, co-facilitator, 706-505-5095.

• **Become a foster parent** with AL Mentor. Free foster parent classes every Monday at 5:30 p.m. Contact Gina at 334-705-8877 for more information. Open your home and change the life of a child.

• **The Youth Employment Skills (YES!) Project** is now available to Chambers County youth ages 16-21 to provide life, academic and employment skills for youth to become self-sufficient adults by providing opportunities for employment, college or technical training advancements. It's income based and the applicant must qualify in order to participate. Contact Brad Thomas or Nancy Poole at the Circle of Care Center for Families for more information at 334-768-4091.

• **Alcoholics Anonymous** meetings are held Thursdays and Sundays at 7 p.m. at Chattahoochee Clubhouse, 501 S. Sixth St., Lanett.

Georgia Lottery Numbers

| | |
|--|---|
| PowerBall Drawing 03-05-10-22-32 PB 07 | Cash 3 - Yesterday 2-8-6 (PM) |
| Mega Millions Jackpot \$64 million | Cash 4 - Yesterday 4-8-1-6 (PM) |
| Fantasy 5 05-18-19-21-32 | Jumbo Bucks Lotto 11-17-20-24-44-47 |

QUICK CHARGE

Continued from page 1

Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport.

"We are very fortunate in this community to have willing partners like Kia, the Georgia Conservancy and the Ray C. Anderson Foundation who realize our future hinges on developing technology, and those who understand how to best incorporate that technology into local infrastructure will better position themselves for sustainable success," said West Point Mayor Drew Ferguson IV.

Installation of the charging station will begin immediately, with completion expected in August. It is the first of many innovative technologies still to be introduced by the Ray C. Anderson Foundation through its "Mission Zero Corridor" project, designed to create a sustainable roadway system on Interstate 85 between exits 2 and 18. The corridor has been named in memory of Anderson for his leadership in ecological responsibility and economic sustainability as founder and CEO of Interface, where he served until his death in 2011.

The foundation, led by Anderson's two daughters, has joined forces with Interface, the Georgia Conservancy and the Georgia Tech College of Architecture to establish the Ray C. Anderson Memorial Highway as a preeminent demonstration of innovative and sustainable approaches to highway design, stewardship and management.

ALABAMA FLAGS

Continued from page 1

always been a distraction."

"In Alabama, this is part of our history and we need to honor that, but it's offensive to some people ... because unfortunately it's like the swastika. Some people have adopted that as part of their maybe hate-filled groups, and that's a shame," Bentley said in reference to the Confederate battle flag.

Four Confederate flags — the first three official flags of the Confederacy and the square Confederate battle flag — had flown since 1994 at each corner of an 88-foot-tall Alabama Confederate Monument beside the Alabama Capitol.

Bentley quietly issued the order late Tuesday after ensuring he had the authority to have the flags removed.

State workers unceremoniously removed the four flags by 10 a.m. Wednesday and brought them inside the Capitol. The monument, which was dedicated in 1898, remains on the Capitol grounds.

About a dozen people showed up afterward to either praise the furling as a long overdue gesture or to protest the removal of what they called a symbol of Southern heritage and pride.

Mike Williams, state adjutant for the Alabama division of the Sons of the Confederate Veterans, wore a Confederate T-shirt and carried a large Confederate battle flag to the Capitol grounds, standing by the monument where the flags once stood.

He said the flag "has nothing to do with race. It has everything to do with heritage."

"My thoughts are if you don't change peoples' hearts, then changing flags won't make a hill of beans. You change hearts first. Removing people's heritage won't change people's hearts, except in the opposite direction," he said. Williams said a protest would be held later.

African-American legislators quickly praised Bentley's decision to remove the flags on his own accord, without a protracted legal or political fight.

"I am proud that the governor took the flag down from the Capitol grounds. That flag is a symbol of white supremacy," said Sen. Hank Sanders, D-Selma.

Sanders was one of 14 African-American legislators arrested for trespassing in 1988 when they tried to yank down a Confederate flag that, at that time, flew atop the Alabama Capitol dome.

Sanders said if people want to display the symbol on their own, that is their choice, but "it sends the wrong message" to have it on the Capitol grounds.

"Any flag that flies on the state Capitol should be a flag that unites us rather than divides us," said Rep. Darrio Melton, D-Selma.

Calls to remove Confederate symbols that dot the South reignited after the massacre of nine people at a black church in South Carolina last week. The white suspect, Dylann Storm Roof, posed in photos displaying Confederate flags and burning or desecrating U.S. flags.

In the 20th century, the Confederate flag became a symbol of Southern defiance during the civil rights era. In 1963, former Gov. George C. Wallace ordered the battle flag hoisted over the Capitol dome during a fight with the federal government over ending school segregation. It was removed in the early 1990s.

Bentley is the latest Southern politician to take a stand against the official display of Confederate emblems on state grounds and the first to order flags removed by executive order.

Bentley said he has not made a decision about what to do about a state specialty tag for the Sons of Confederate Veterans that has a likeness of the Confederate flag.

Alabama House Speaker Mike Hubbard on Wednesday said he also asked the House clerk to remove the Confederate flag from the historic House chamber at the Alabama Capitol. The Legislature no longer meets in that room, but Hubbard said the flag would be a distraction in an upcoming special session on the state budget.

Bentley did not announce his decision ahead of time after previously declining to comment on the fate of the flag.

Williams, the Confederate flag supporter, said he was shocked by Bentley's decision, noting that the governor signs an annual proclamation for Confederate History Month.

"He understands history, so I think he's just bowing down to political pressure," he said.

Southern Poverty Law Center President Richard Cohen called the removal an important first step.

"The legacy, if perhaps not the symbols, of slavery and Jim Crow still hangs heavily over our state. Discrimination is by no means a thing of the past." Cohen said.

"This project is Ray Anderson to the core," said Allie Kelly, co-project leader from the Georgia Conservancy. "It's a pioneer idea and in every way validates Mr. Anderson's spirit and priorities: his legacy of stewarding natural resources for future generations and feeding innovators' hearts and souls."

The long-term project will feature new technologies as they develop, which could include air-filtering billboards and solar panels built into the highway itself for generation of electricity.

Anderson, a native of West Point, committed Interface to being a world leader in sustainable manufacturing. "Mission Zero" refers to his challenge to the company to create a manufacturing system with no negative impact on the environment.

Prison guard is held in New York escape

The Associated Press

PLATTSBURGH, N.Y. (AP) — A maximum-security prison guard who delivered frozen meat with tools hidden inside to two inmates before they escaped will be arraigned on charges of promoting prison contraband and other offenses.

But a lawyer for correction officer Gene Palmer says his client had no knowledge any contraband was inside the meat.

"He did pass the hamburger meat. He shouldn't have done it. He apologized for it," said defense lawyer Andrew Brockway on Wednesday night. He insisted Palmer didn't know the inmates were trying to escape.

Palmer worked at the Clinton Correctional Facility in upstate Dannemora, where inmates David Sweat and Richard Matt were reported missing on June 6.

He was released from

the Clinton County Jail around 12:30 a.m. Thursday after posting \$25,000 bail after he appeared before a judge in Plattsburgh to face charges of promoting prison contraband, tampering with physical evidence and official misconduct.

Palmer will plead not guilty at his arraignment on Thursday, Brockway said.

Authorities say the inmates cut through the steel wall at the back of their cells, crawled down a catwalk, broke through a brick wall, cut their way into and out of a steam pipe and then sliced through the chain and lock on a manhole cover outside the prison.

Sweat, 35, was serving a life sentence without parole in the killing of a sheriff's deputy. Matt, who turned 49 Thursday, was doing 25 years to life in the kidnapping, torture and hacksaw dismemberment of his former boss.

ANDRUS

Continued from page 1

important work of hospitals continues," said J. Michael Horsley, FACHE, president of the Alabama Hospital Association. "Terry has served as chairman of our association twice, served on numerous committees and represented hospitals on various state boards, including the State Committee on Public Health. He is a tireless advocate for hospitals and their patients."

Andrus began his tenure at East Alabama Medical Center in 1983 as its chief operating officer and was later named president and CEO. Under his leadership, the Medical Center was named to Fortune's list of the "100 Best Companies to Work For," honored as one of the "Top 100 Heart Programs" in the United States for three consecutive years and recognized for advancements in open heart surgery by being named a Premier Quality Award Distinguished Performer. EAMC has also been awarded the Alabama Quality Award for excellence in performance.

He is a past recipient of the American College of Healthcare Executives' Regent's Award and Sun-Health's Service to Alliance Award. He is currently a board member for AuburnBank and chairman of the board of Camp Maranook. He served as past president of the Auburn and Opelika Chambers of Commerce, Opelika Kiwanis Club and United Way of Lee County, and he is a former member of the board of directors for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama and Premier Inc.

Founded in 1921, the Alabama Hospital Association is a statewide trade organization that assists member hospitals in effectively serving the health care needs of Alabama, through advocacy, representation, education and service.

Wishing Well®

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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.