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Leading Eagle

Griggs named to All-Star team, looks to playoffs

SPORTS | 5

CHHS, PLAS sit atop new ASWA baseball polls

THE MESSENGER

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50¢

THURSDAY
APRIL 8, 2010

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COMING FRIDAY

The Pike County Chamber of Commerce will honor students from all local high schools with the highest ACT scores at its annual PRAISE banquet.

OBITUARIES

Mary Agnes Poynter
Charles R. Dunnivant

ARTIST OF THE DAY



Paulette Krumel creates hand-crafted art glass and custom fused glass gifts and jewelry. See www.troymessenger.com/news/troyfest for more on this TroyFest artist of the day.

BRIEFS

Gambling task force seeks court's help

MONTGOMERY—The Governor's Task Force on Illegal Gambling is asking the Alabama Supreme Court to throw out a judge's order that keeps it from operating in Macon County and from raiding Victoryland's electronic bingo machines.

The task force filed papers with the Supreme Court on Wednesday saying the governor has the authority to enforce gambling laws in all 67 counties. The task force said Victoryland's power and influence with Macon County officials shouldn't give it immunity.

TODAY'S FORECAST

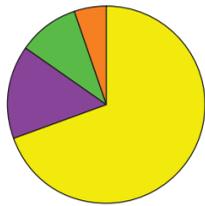


THURSDAY
Partly Cloudy

HIGH LOW
84 60

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think there is more pollen this year than last?



- Yes, I think it's the most I've ever seen
- Yes, but it's not the most it's ever seen
- No
- I'm not sure

Polls, forums and more online www.troymessenger.com



VOL. 134 • NO. 68

City, county seek grants...again

By Holli Keaton

THE MESSENGER

Local agencies weren't pleased with the results of a federal transportation grant, but they are hoping for more success in a second round.

Both the city of Troy and the Pike County Road Department applied late last year for a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant to support local



Lunsford

and back to U.S. Highway 231. The goal was to ease traffic on George Wallace Drive, particularly

projects.

For Troy, that project would have been to construct an east-west corridor, spanning from George Wallace Drive near Charles Henderson High School to Montgomery Street

during Troy University's home football games.

It took \$12,500 of city money to apply for these funds, and Lunsford said he was disappointed the funding wasn't awarded.

"Not getting funded the first time was really disappointing because we knew we had a good project," he said.

The Pike County Road Department was seeking its share

GRANT continued on page 3

New bill hopes to cut jobless rates

By Ryan Charles

THE MESSENGER

A likely nod from Gov. Bob Riley is all that is left to write the proposed Reemployment Act of 2010 into law.

The legislation, initiated by Rep. Robert Bentley, R-Tuscaloosa, is designed to cut into the state's unemployment rate. It would provide employers with incentives for hiring Alabamians who have been, or still are, under unemployment benefits. That means the 719 Pike County residents currently on unemployment, and others whose benefits have already expired, will have another chip to play in their search for work.

Businesses who choose to hire those workers, stand to claim a one-time state income tax deduction of up to 50% on their gross earnings according to the Associated Press.

The claim could be filed after the employee nets a year on the payroll, and only on workers making at least \$10 per hour.

Marsha Gaylard, President of the Pike County Economic Development Center, said that while she has yet to review the details of the bill, she supports it so far.

"I would certainly be in favor of any kind of incentives that the legislature passes to benefit companies and get people back to work," she said.

The legislation has been approved amidst the highest state unemployment rates in over a quarter-century. The Senate passed the bill unanimously Tuesday, after it previously received house approval. The Reemployment Act of 2010 could

JOBS continued on page 8

Financial footing



PHOTOS/WENDY WARD

The Pike Animal Shelter and the city of Troy officials will meet today to discuss a long-term financial commitment to the project of building a new animal facility. Pictured above is Troy Animal Control Officer Carol Connell letting a fairly new face to the shelter out for some fresh air. The dog pictured above just arrived at the adoption facility Monday.

Shelter group seeks city funds for project

By Holli Keaton

THE MESSENGER

The Pike Animal Shelter officials and Troy Mayor Jimmy Lunsford are expected to meet today to discuss a city-funded commitment.

The shelter, which will serve as the new shelter for the city of Troy, has already entered a partnership with the city.

But, the group is looking to take that partnership a little further in financial backing — the missing element to the shelter's completion.

Chair of the Founder's Society Donna Schubert approached the



Troy City Council late last year seeking a long-term commitment of around \$75,000 annually, and Lunsford told her he would reevaluate his budget in January.

However, considering economic times, the city has not been able to provide that commitment just yet.

"I have not told them no, but I've not been able to say, 'yes, we'll be able to give you a long term commitment,'" Lunsford said.

Lunsford said sales tax figures have continued to be down around 2 percent on average this

SHELTER continued on page 8

Free prostate screening offered April 17

By Jaine Treadwell

THE MESSENGER

A free exam and 10 minutes of a man's time could save his life.

Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of male cancer-related deaths in the United States. Alabama's prostate cancer death rate ranks third highest in the nation.

When Dr. Thomas Moody, president of Urology Health Foundation in Birmingham, heard those statistics, he took them very personally.

"For more than 50 years, Urology Centers of Alabama has been committed to providing the highest quality medical services," Moody said. "I believed that we had an obligation to help rectify the situation."

SCREENING continued on page 3



PHOTO/JAINE TREADWELL

Dr. Thomas Moody, president of Urology Health Foundation in Birmingham, and Debbie Baker, clinic supervisor Alabama Department of Public Health, Coffee and Pike counties, met Wednesday afternoon to discuss the free prostate cancer screening clinic that will be offered to men ages 40 years and older from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday, April 17 at the Pike County Health Department. An estimated 27,360 men will die from prostate cancer this year. Early detection saves lives.

Big Green Egg to be awarded Saturday

By Jaine Treadwell

THE MESSENGER

When Dr. Seuss was dreaming up the idea of green eggs and ham, he could not have envisioned the Big Green Egg of the 21st century. So one has to wonder just what Dr. Seuss would have said about the "world's best smoker grill."

The idea of the Big Green Egg is 3,000 years old and rebirth of the ancient oriental Kamado cooker is taking the country by storm.

And one very lucky "guest" at the Garden Party at Terra Cotta Saturday night, April 10, will take home a Big Green Egg and can begin planning garden parties of his or her own.

The Garden Party is a fundraiser sponsored by Terra Cotta and First United Methodist Church of Troy with all proceeds going to the 2010 Pike County Relay for Life campaign.

Nancy Harrell, publicity chair for the event, said the Big Green Egg smoker is just one of many

EGG continued on page 8

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GRANT: 'We've been trying to replace those bridges for a long time...'

From Page 1

of the pie in a joint TIGER grant application with other county road departments from around the state.

If awarded, Pike County was set to receive around \$1.8 million to repair six local bridges.

All the bridges now have posted weight limits, meaning only smaller vehicles can drive over them.

These bridges are the Indian Creek Bridge on County Road 2214; the Beaver Pond Branch Bridge on County Road

5521 near Mt. Carmel; an unnamed bridge on County Road 3302 near Swindall Road; the Big Creek Bridge on County Road 2228; another unnamed bridge on County Road 3338; and the Mill Creek bridge on County Road 1116 near the Mt. Moriah community.

"We have completed plans for them, we just don't have the funding," said Pike County Engineer Russell Oliver.

In a time when the road department has had to sell

its equipment to keep from borrowing money, Oliver said those projects will have to be placed on hold.

"We've been trying to replace those bridges for a long time. We started developing plans to replace them around 2001 during the Garvey Bond Bridge replacement program. We did receive funding to replace bridges, but we ran out before we could get to those," Oliver said.

But, both Oliver and Lunsford are hoping for at

least a portion of funding in a second round of the grant awards.

Congressman Bobby Bright, D-Montgomery, told Lunsford Monday he would work to assist Troy in funding this project. There have been no dates set on when the next round of funds would be distributed. Of the original \$1.5 billion disbursement, only one project was awarded for a freight rail project that extends from Tennessee into the state.

SCREENING: Free prostate screenings will be offered Saturday, April 17

From Page 1

To do so, Moody and his colleagues at the Urology Centers of Alabama in Birmingham now provide free prostate cancer screenings to males ages 40 years and older in undeserved areas.

Free prostate cancer screenings will be offered from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 17, at the Pike County Health Department in Troy. Those who are age qualified are encouraged to take advantage of this potentially life saving opportunity.

Prior to offering this free service, Moody and his colleagues at the Urology Center in Birmingham began to look seriously at the reasons Alabama ranked so high with regard to deaths from prostate cancer.

"First, Alabama had no

insurance bill to cover the cost of prostate cancer screening," he said. "The state appropriated \$400,000 for breast and cervical cancer screenings but none for prostate cancer screenings. And, the number of those who went for screenings was very low."

Moody said it was time for the Urology Center of Alabama to step to the plate and the physicians encouraged the Legislature to do its part. Rep. Alan Boothe of Pike County was one who supported a bill in the Legislature to provided funding for prostate cancer screening.

The Urology Center was willing to do its part by offering free screenings to undeserved counties.

"We had an obligation to help and, because if prostate cancer is detected early,

lives can be saved," Moody said.

When the free prostate screenings were offered to a county in the Black Belt, Moody said he was asked what would be done if a problem was found and the individual had no insurance and no way to pay for the treatment.

"We were told 'don't come' if you are going to do the screenings and then abandon those with problems who can't pay," Moody said. "We don't do that. My colleagues provide that safety net. If a problem is found through our free prostate cancer screenings and an individual can't pay and can get to Birmingham, our physicians will do the surgery and we have hospitals that will provide a room. We won't abandon anyone."

One in every six men will get prostate cancer sometime in their lives. An estimated 27,360 men will die from prostate cancer this year, 500 of those in Alabama. Prostate cancer screenings can mean a difference between life and death. The screening for prostate cancer involves a simple blood test called a PSA that measures the level of protein in the blood. Normally, PSA is found in the blood at very low levels. Elevated PSA readings can be a sign of prostate cancer.

A physical examination is also given to detect prostate cancer. This exam is called a DRE or digital rectal exam. These tests take about 10 minutes to perform. Tests results will be made available in about a week.

OBITUARIES

James H. Davis Funeral Home
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Mary Agnes Poynter

Mary Agnes Poynter, 91, mother of Joyce Dix of Troy, AL, formerly of Owensboro, Kentucky passed away to her Heavenly home on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2010, from the home of her daughter in Troy, where she had lived for the last ten years.

Mrs. Poynter was born in McLean County, KY on September 9, 1918 to the late William S. and Josephine Goff.

On February 4, 1938, she married Norman F. Poynter. She helped her husband, Norman, in the grocery store business in several communities around Daviess County. Over the years, she worked at the General Electric Company and Snyder School lunchroom. She opened Mary's Plaque Shop in Friendly Village, KY, which was her pride and joy. Making and selling these plaques gave her an opportunity to witness for the Lord and do what she loved. Mary's plaques are in many homes throughout the U.S.

She was a member of First Baptist Church of Troy, AL and a former member of Mt. Zion Methodist

Church, Panther, KY. She stayed active in church until she could no longer attend due to her failing health. She was preceded in death by her husband of 42 years, who passed away on October 4, 1980. She was also preceded in death by



Poynter

her parents; her son, William E. Poynter; a sister, Ernestine Clary and her brothers, Murrell Goff and David L. Goff.

Mom will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her. She has finally been reunited with her Heavenly family and friends. She had read about the streets of gold

Thrash-Keahey Funeral Home
Brundidge • 735-2100

Charles R. Dunnivant

Mr. Charles R. Dunnivant, 83, of Troy went to be with the Lord on April 6, 2010 at his home in Troy.

Mr. Dunnivant leaves to cherish his memories two daughters, Mary Charles Allen and Betty and Ronnie Jones of Troy; 4 grandchildren, Wendy Day, Sandy and Bill Blackwell, Rachel and Chris Jordan

and Daniel Jones; 3 great-grandchildren, Amber Parker and Kaitlyn and Sam Jordan.

Mr. Dunnivant was preceded in death by a daughter, Jo Ann Mitchell on March 21, 2008 and his wife Mary Dunnivant on May 8, 2008 and his parents. Visitation will be held at Thrash-Keahey Funeral Home Friday, April 9, 2010 between the

hours of 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Graveside services will follow at 2 p.m. at Lakeview Cemetery with Rev. Martha Baxter officiating. Pallbearers will be Dennis James, Matthew Johnson, Chuck Johnson, Michael Paul Johnson, Chris Jordan and Joe Johnson. Thrash-Keahey Funeral Home of Brundidge will be directing.

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2010 Pike County Relay for Life Caregiver of the Year Award Award Nomination Form



2009 Caregiver of the year, Ann Stallings, with her son, Ben

The Caregiver of the Year award is presented to an individual who exemplifies the spirit of the caregiver through his or her loving, compassionate and joyous support to someone who is facing or has faced cancer.

To nominate someone for this award, please complete the information below. The Caregiver of the Year will be chosen by a panel of outside judges. This person will be recognized at the Pike County Relay for Life Survivor dinner that will be held on May 4, 2010 at Park Memorial United Methodist Church.

Nominee:
(Please print)
Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Nominated by:
(Please print)
Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Why does your nominee deserve the Caregiver Award?

In 500 words or less, please describe why your nominee is deserving of the Caregiver of the Year award. If this nominee has participated in our local Pike County Relay for Life please include this information. Please write your response on a separate paper and attach to this form.

Nominations may be submitted no later than April 22, 2010 and mailed to the attention of: Kay Franklin, American Cancer Society, 3064C McGhee Road, Montgomery, AL 36111 or by fax to 334-612-6181.

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