


DOTHAN EAGLE

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Today: 70% chance of storms
High 89°
Low 73°



Syrian Prime Minister's break was planned for months **5A**

Temple shooting suspect was white supremacist **8A**



High school teams begin fall practice **1B**



Man gets 15 years for arson

BY MATT ELOFSON
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A Houston County judge sentenced an Army veteran to serve 15 years in prison for setting fire to a Dothan restaurant. Circuit Court Judge Brad Mendheim sentenced 28-year-old Joshua Garzarek

to the prison term Monday afternoon after hearing several hours of testimony and arguments during a sentencing hearing. A Houston County jury



Garzarek

convicted Garzarek earlier this year of a felony second-degree arson charge. Dothan police detectives arrested Garzarek in July 2010, the day after firefighters were called to a fire at the Poplar Head Bar and Grill on Cherokee Avenue. No one was injured in the fire. The charge stemmed

from a domestic dispute between Garzarek and his former girlfriend, who worked at the restaurant. Mendheim said he believed he'd given Garzarek enough time to get mental health treatment after he reduced his bail on the arson charge in order for him to get that

treatment in the Tuscaloosa area. But Mendheim said instead Garzarek found himself facing another arson charge out of the Birmingham area. "Those are issues the court simply can't ignore," Authorities charged Garzarek with felony second-degree arson in May

2011, which still remains pending in Shelby County. Mendheim also ordered \$11,926.76 in restitution to be paid for damages caused during the fire in Dothan. Attorney Arthur Medley, who represented Garzarek

See **ARSON**, Page 3A

Bank robbery suspect to get mental exam

BY MATT ELOFSON
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A federal judge recently found a local bank robbery suspect may be suffering from neurological, mental and physical impairments that may impact his ability to go to trial.



Toothman

Federal court records indicate a judge ordered James Daniel Toothman to receive a psychiatric examination.

A federal grand jury indicted the Florida man in March on a two-count felony bank robbery by force or violence charge.

Records say the federal government charged Toothman with the robbery of the same Regions Bank branch two times last year. According to the indictment, Toothman was charged with stealing money by force from a Regions Bank branch on Jan. 11 and Dec. 30, 2011.

See **ROBBERY**, Page 7A

Cowarts, developer in ongoing legal dispute

BY GREG PHILLIPS
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The Town of Cowarts and a real estate developer are in the midst of a months-long legal dispute in Houston County circuit court.

At the center of the issue are two separate agreements between Cowarts and Dynamic Developments LLC.

Cowarts filed suit March 1, outlining "a justiciable controversy" arising from a contract signed by the two parties in 2010.

According to the initial suit, the contract "consists of an agreement that Dynamic will build, at its expense, a pump station and convey such to the Town. In

See **COWARTS**, Page 2A



WALLACE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Electrical program connects students with opportunities

BY JIM COOK
 jcook@dothaneagle.com

A little more than five years ago, Rob Rhodes got tired of his job in pharmaceutical management and decided to pursue a lifelong interest in electricity as a new career.

After completing a two-year electrical technology degree program from Wallace Community College, Rhodes started a business with just himself, a truck and a helper. Since then, Rhodes has built Diamond-R-Electric, a company that now employs 23 people, has revenues of \$4 million and operates in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi and Louisiana.

"Whatever business success I enjoy today wouldn't have happened without the instruction and connections I made at Wallace," he said.

While not every graduate of Wallace Community College's electrical program will go on to found a business that generates seven-figure revenues, instructor Michael Vann said opportunities currently abound in the electrical trade.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the numbers of electrician's jobs are expected to grow by 133,000, or 23 percent, between 2010 and 2020, outpacing the national average for job growth. Median pay for electricians in 2010 was \$48,250.

Wallace offers a one-year certificate program and a two-year degree in electrical technology. Vann said the one-year program gives students the necessary know-how to do residential wiring work and conduit-bending, while the two-year degree prepares students for a broader range of projects, including industrial electrical work.

"The best part of my job is being able to place a student on a career path," he said.

See **PROGRAM**, Page 7A



JAY HARE / DOTHAN EAGLE

Wallace College student Donald Deshazo looks over a low voltage system inside a classroom at the college's electrical program on Monday morning.

Dale aircraft down after 18-wheeler collision

BY EBONY HORTON
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Special mechanics have been called in to repair the Dale County Air Support Unit's McDonnell Douglas 600 after a Wal-Mart 18-wheeler truck ran into one of the aircraft's rotor blades while it was parked at a local safety event, according to authorities.

Dothan Police Lt. Todd David said an 18-wheeler that was part of Wal-Mart's safety division was attempting to leave National Night Out around 8:25 p.m. Saturday at the Dothan Civic Center when the truck's windshield hit the rotor blade of the helicopter, which was on display at



JAY HARE / DOTHAN EAGLE

A Dale County Sheriffs Department helicopter that was on display during the National Night Out event over the weekend was apparently damaged by a Wal-Mart safety truck and was deemed unable to fly.

See **CRASH**, Page 2A

GOLD MEDAL VALUES!

Jim Skinner HONDA

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<p>1996 CHEVY TAHOE LEATHER</p>  <p>\$4,980</p>	<p>2007 LEXUS ES 350 SUNROOF, NAVI, LEATHER</p>  <p>\$19,996</p>	<p>2011 FORD MUSTANG LEATHER INTERIOR</p>  <p>\$20,996</p>
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Obituaries

Raymond Dunn

Raymond Dunn, 62, of Ozark passed away Saturday, August 4, 2012.

Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Tuesday, August 7, 2012 at Sunset Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Bobby Marks officiating. Burial will follow in Sunset Memorial Park with Robert Byrd directing. The family will receive friends at the funeral home Tuesday from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m.

Robert Byrd of Sunset Memorial Park Funeral Home, (334) 983-6604, www.SunsetMemorialPark.com. Sign the guestbook at www.dothaneagle.com.

Prince Floyd

Prince Floyd, husband of Margaret Richards-Floyd, died Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2012. He was 82.

The family will receive visitors on Tuesday, Aug. 7, from 6-8 p.m. at Stanford & Sons Funeral Home in Abbeville.

The funeral will be noon Wednesday, Aug. 8, at St. Paul Baptist Church in Abbeville with burial to follow at Ebenezer Cemetery.

Stanford and Sons Funeral Home of Abbeville, (334) 585-5344, is in charge of arrangements.

Joe Neal Ketchem

Mr. Joe Neal Ketchem, 68, of Hartford, Alabama, went to be with Jesus on August 5, 2012, at Southeast Alabama Medical Center after a lengthy illness.

He was a blessing to his wife of 50 years, Christine Ketchem, and a loving father to Cindy Dykes, Debra Jones (Russell), David Neal Ketchem (Elizabeth), and Jennifer Sellers (James). He was a devoted family man, being the grandfather to eight grandchildren; Mason Walding, Seth Walding (Danelle), Caitlin Dykes, Zachary Sellers, Abigail and David Ketchem, and Sydney and Brandon Jones and great-grandchild Mason Lee Walding.

He was preceded in death by his sister Marilyn Bucchi, his mother, Mertie Lee Ketchem, his father, O'Neal Ketchem, and his grandson Mason Joel Walding.

Visitation is Tuesday, August 7, 2012 from 6-8 pm, and services will be held Wednesday, August 8, 2012 at 10am at Bottoms Garden Chapel in Hartford, with Darin Mosley and Chris Kroll officiating. Burial will be at Hartford City Cemetery.

Flowers will be accepted or contributions may be

made to Hartford Baptist Church-Christian Life Building at 105 East Burch St. Hartford, AL. 36344.

The family will be at the residence at 406 Avenue F in Hartford.

Bottoms-Garden Chapel of Hartford, (334) 588-3250, is in charge of arrangements. Please sign an online guest book at www.dothaneagle.com

William E. Peters

Mr. William E. Peters of Wicksburg passed away Monday, August 6, 2012 at his home. He was 79.

Funeral services will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug 8, in the Pilgrim Home Baptist Church with Rev. Buddy Hood officiating and Sorrells Funeral Home of Slocomb directing.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Pilgrim Home Baptist Church: 13534 W. State Hwy 84, Wicksburg, AL. 36352.

Mr. Peters was born on August 17, 1932 in Houston County to the late Lonial and Willie Mae Peters. Eugene loved the Lord and his family. He served in the Navy during the Korean War. After leaving active duty, he was employed with the Civil Service at Ft. Rucker for 25 years. Eugene

also served in his Church as a Deacon and Sunday School teacher for over 25 years.

He was preceded in death by one sister, Lillian Peters and one brother, Robert Peters.

Survivors include his wife, June Peters of Wicksburg; one daughter, Teresa Hallford (Daniel) of Echo; one son, Scott Peters of Dothan; one sister in law, Helen Peters of Wicksburg; one brother, Billy Max (Martha Jean) of Slocomb; one grandchild: Alicia Hicks (Hayden); one great-grandchild, Harrison Hicks all of Dothan.

Sorrells Funeral Home of Slocomb, (334) 886-7777, is in charge of arrangements. Please sign an online guest register at www.sorrellsfuneralhomes.com.

Michele Johnson Prockup

Mrs. Michele Johnson Prockup, 60, a native of Dothan, AL, a former resident of Mobile and a resident of Robertsdale, died Saturday, Aug. 4, 2012.

Mrs. Prockup was the director for Catholic Social Services in Robertsdale, AL.

She is survived by daughter, Jessica Prockup; and son, Ben Prockup both of

Obituary policy

All obituaries and death notices cost \$4.14 per line. Obituaries are placed online at www.dothaneagle.com for a one-time \$10 charge. Photos are \$10.

Funeral homes must submit obituaries, death notices and photos by 4:30 p.m. the day before the obituary is to be published. Obituaries are accepted only through funeral homes.

Photos: Dothan Eagle publishes photographs with its obituaries. The photograph must be delivered or e-mailed to the Eagle by 4:30 p.m. the day before the obituary is to be published. Label the name of the deceased on the back of the photograph exactly as the name will appear in the obituary. Photos are \$10.

Fax: (334) 712-7975

E-mail: obits@dothaneagle.com

Funeral homes should call to verify receipt of their e-mail or fax, if they do not receive a confirmation.

Questions may be directed to the classified department at (334) 712-7929 or (334) 712-7935.

American flags may be run for military free upon request.



Robertsdale, AL; sisters and brothers, Jacqueline Johnson Causey of Montgomery, AL, Elizabeth Johnson of Tuscaloosa, AL, Michael Johnson of Alexandria, VA, Jimmy Johnson of Oxford, AL, Amy Johnson Malecki of Mobile, AL; nieces and nephews, Justin, Rachel, Leanne and Mark.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday, August 7, 2012 at 10:00 A.M. at the St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Robertsdale with Father Pat Madden officiating.

Burial will be in the Dyess Cemetery, Robertsdale, AL. A visitation will be held from 6-8 p.m. Monday at Mack Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the St. Patrick's Catholic Church, P.O. Box 1367, Robertsdale, AL 36567.

Mack Funeral Home & Crematory of Robertsdale, AL, (251) 947-7781, is in charge of arrangements. Sign the online guestbook at www.dothaneagle.com.

Dothan to vote to continue repair of city-owned buildings

BY LANCE GRIFFIN
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Two roof projects are expected to be approved by the Dothan City Commission today as the city continues to make needed repairs to aging city buildings.

City management has recommended the commission award a bid to Marty Robbins Roofing in the amount of \$230,000 for a roof replacement at the Westgate Fire Station and repair of the roof at Westgate Recreation Center where the Westgate pool is located.

General Services Manager

Randy Morris said the roof over the pool area at Westgate Recreation Center was damaged in a March storm and that a portion of the cost of the repair could be recovered from insurance money.

The projects are part of an ongoing effort to repair and upgrade several city-owned buildings. Roofs on the Dothan Police Department and on a warehouse and meter shop at the Dothan Utilities' property were previously repaired or replaced. The roof at the Westgate Recreation Center had already been replaced recently and only the portion damaged in the storm will

be replaced.

The Westgate Fire Station facade will also undergo a refurbishment and a similar project is planned for the Eastgate Fire Station in the near future.

"We are constantly looking at what needs to be done and projecting when we need to do it," Morris said.

The repair of city-owned buildings has been a priority for city officials. Several million dollars in improvements have been identified.

In 2011, the city upgraded the HVAC system at the Dothan Police Department and upgraded lighting at nine city facilities with stimulus funds.

Ozark

Forum planned for council candidates

BY EBONY HORTON
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More than a dozen Ozark City Council candidates are expected to answer residents' questions at a "Meet the Candidates" forum next week.

The forum is set for 6:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 13, at the Perry Recreation Center in Ozark. The event is hosted by the Friends of Ozark, the Ozark Hospitality Club, and the Dale County Democratic Conference.

The election is set for Aug. 28. Event official Marian Jenkins said a total of 15 candidates are running for the five council seats.

Jenkins said in a press release that each candidate will have an opportunity to discuss his or her platform and answer written questions submitted by voters during the estimated two-hour event.

Questions are expected to be pulled from trays for each candidate, and a moderator will then ask the questions.

Candidates for the election are incumbent Frank Garret, Theresa Locke and Tommie Sherman for Place 1; Elizabeth "Liz" Babine, incumbent Mike Barefield and Rickey Outlaw for Place 2; Winnie Frazier, Winston Jackson, Eric Minniefield and Myron Williams for Place 3; Mo Armstrong and Andy Gilland for Place 4; and Virgil "Red" Byrd, incumbent Stanley Engfinger and Anthony Hill for Place 5.

Place 3 Councilman Jerry "Red" Crittenden is not running, and Place 4 Councilman Mark Blankenship has been elected to serve next year as the Dale County Commission chair.

Ozark Mayor Billy Blackwell does not face opposition.

City learns AYP status of schools

BY JIM COOK
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Dothan City School Board Superintendent Tim Wilder informed the city school board of the school system's adequate yearly progress results Monday night, telling them three schools had missed the mark.

Wilder said Honeysuckle Middle School, Girard Middle School and Dothan High School did not make AYP, but that the school system would appeal the Dothan High assessment, believing that the state had made a mistake in evaluating the school.

Because of Honeysuckle and Girard's AYP status, parents at those schools will be given the option of sending their children to Beverlye Magnet School or Carver Magnet School, but only if their children meet the magnet school's entrance require-

ments. School staff are checking students' test scores to see which children may be eligible for transfer, and will soon inform parents of their status. Wilder said transfers should be complete by September.

Wilder said the two middle schools had barely missed the AYP mark, meeting most goals under the No Child Left Behind act.

The Dothan City School board also hired an architect Monday night to design a new athletic building for Northview High School. The board hired Bradley and Schmidt Architecture to design the building, which will provide needed weightlifting and locker room facilities for Northview High athletes. Wilder said the 10,000 square-foot building will likely cost between \$700,000 and \$1.2 million.

Board Chairman Harry Wayne Parrish said the building was needed to replace antiquated facilities.

"In 1978 we built Northview High School," he said. "It's no longer a new school, it's an old school."

During Monday's meeting, board member Franklin Jones expressed concerns about diversity in the makeup of school staff at two of the city's magnet schools. Jones said two of the schools only have one minority staff member.

"It shows black children that there are only custodians and cooks on staff," he said. "...I know it's not intentional, but it needs to be corrected."

Parrish said he agreed that the schools needed a more diverse staff and that the system will look into resolving the matter.

vertebrae in his back, Johnson told the Eagle.

Johnson said police found an empty case of beer inside Toothman's vehicle at the scene of the crash, and that he'd told police he'd been drinking during and before the police pursuit. Troopers charged Toothman with two felony crimes in connection to the crash and pursuit along with driving under the influence.

Johnson said police found some cash in the van driven by Toothman, along with a pellet gun.

Federal court records indicate both the prosecution and defense agreed Toothman's injuries resulting from the crash after he fled from police bring into question his ability to contribute to his defense because of neurological, mental and/or physical impairments.

The court ordered the psychiatric report to be completed by Sept. 20.

Robbery

From Page 1A

The robber stole money during each robbery after passing the teller a note demanding cash. The robber did not appear to be armed. He did not wear a mask, but wore a baseball cap in each robbery.

Florida state troopers released information shortly after Toothman's arrest indicating he was likely drinking beer at the time of the Dothan bank robbery in December.

Florida State Trooper Sgt. J.D. Johnson told the Dothan Eagle shortly after the robbery that Toothman led authorities on a high-speed chase from Dothan into Bay County, Fla. Toothman was arrested but not before he crashed his vehicle, sending him to the hospital with a chipped

Immigration

Report: States passing fewer laws

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — State legislatures passed 20 percent fewer immigration laws in the first half of this year than at the same time last year, according to a new report by the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Lawmakers in 41 states enacted 114 bills and 92 resolutions that dealt with immigration between Jan. 1 and June 30 this year, compared with 257 such laws enacted during the same time period last year, according to the report released on Monday.

States delayed immigration legislation in part as they waited for the Supreme Court to rule on the states' authority to

enforce immigration laws, said John Watkins, a Republican state senator in Virginia who co-chairs the conference's Task Force on Immigration and the States.

Last June, the Supreme Court upheld a provision from Arizona's immigration law that allows police to check the immigration status of those they stop for other reasons. Yet, the justices struck down provisions that created state crimes allowing local police to arrest people for federal immigration violations.

Watkins said that the Supreme Court ruling provided "a yellow light, in that states can move forward in some areas, but not in others."

Washington State represen-

tative Sharon Tomiko Santos, a Democrat, said it is now imperative for Congress or the next president to act on the issue.

"The can has been kicked down the road for too long, and states have suffered as a result," said Tomiko Santos, who co-chairs the task force with Watkins.

Of all the laws enacted on immigration, 18 percent focused on law enforcement and 11 percent on identification and driver's licenses.

Six states — Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Michigan, New Hampshire and West Virginia — enacted laws that dealt with the E-Verify program, which requires businesses to check the legal status of their employees, according to the report.

Program

From Page 1A

Vann said he graduates about two to seven students from the two-year program each year, but would like to see more complete the program. Vann said there's a strong demand for skilled electricians in the Wiregrass, with many existing industries needing qualified electrical workers. Vann said entry level salaries for electrical work in the Wiregrass range from \$12 to \$19 an hour.

"I wish I had more employees who had been through the Wallace program," Rhodes said. "I'd hire them in a heartbeat."

Donald DeShazo, 57, of Dothan, is back at Wallace pursuing an electrical tech degree after being laid off from Sony. DeShazo said he hopes the credentials he

receives from the Wallace program combined with his practical experience as a Sony vet will improve his job prospects.

Charlie Eastman, 25, is also in the program. Eastman said after tiring of working in a dead-end job he decided to enroll in the program to help him find a career.

"I worked for three years without a raise," he said. "I did some research and found that there are electrician jobs that pay well."

Dave Guiler is a recent graduate of the program who has used the skills he learned to help expand his entertainment business. Guiler said thanks to what he learned at Wallace, he's now able to create temporary power systems for audio, video and lighting equipment, a helpful skill as he helps produce events in various venues.

"It went above and beyond an electrician's class," he said.