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Patrick Palmer

Palmer bound over and denied bond

by RONALD E. MCCALL
Staff Writer

Judge David Cavender listened to about fifteen minutes of evidence in the form of questions from Assistant District Attorney Joe Skeens and answers by GBI Special Agent Tracy Sands last Wednesday morning, June 17, 2009, before ruling there was probable cause that Patrick Palmer should be bound over to the Grand Jury for the death of Palmer's wife, Felisha Powell Palmer, 29, of Collins. Felisha Palmer was found dead in her home early Monday morning, May 4, 2009. After finding probable cause, Judge Cavender denied bond.

Patrick Palmer was found in his vehicle and arrested by law enforcement officials just off Holland Road about 11:00 a.m. on the day of his wife's death. He surrendered peacefully.

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BOE 2010 budget under pressure

by RONALD E. MCCALL
Staff Writer

With the Great Recession chewing up state revenues, acting Superintendent Dr. Gina Williams is thankful for federal stimulus money. But she is more thankful for school system employees who understand that the system is facing difficult economic times and are willing to make the necessary sacrifices to save jobs while helping balance the budget.

Dr. Williams and Financial Officer Debbie Powell shake their heads in dismay when state funding austerity cuts are mentioned. Austerity cuts is a term used to describe state allocated money that is taken away from local school systems to save money and help balance the state budget. According to Powell, last year's July allotment sheet from the state showed an austerity cut of \$198,000. The current June allotment sheet shows that the Tattnall County School System will lose \$1,322,000 in austerity cuts. Even worse, Powell just attended a state meeting and learned that a new allotment sheet will be issued this week and systems are expecting more funding cuts.

"Essentially, the federal stimulus money we are receiving is being offset by state austerity cuts. We are not really gaining funds, which is what we'd hoped for with the stimulus money, but without it we would be in worse shape financially," Williams said. "What worries us is what will happen in two years when stimulus money runs out?"

System employees have been working overtime to find savings to balance the budget and create a fund balance that creates some safety if revenues continue to dry up.

"I cannot say enough about our system employees from the people in our central office to the custodial staff at the schools," Dr. Williams said. "Really, I have not heard anyone complain. We have asked 12 month employees to take one or two unpaid furlough days, and we have asked all staff to find ways to save money. Everyone has responded posi-



Financial Officer Debbie Powell and acting Superintendent Dr. Gina Williams

tively. Without them jumping in and helping, we couldn't have done this without some people losing jobs. They understand that times are tough and we must work together so that people don't lose jobs while we maintain a balanced budget. They understand it is not easy."

Unlike the federal government, state governments are required to balance their budgets, and in a time of declining state revenues, the Governor and the Legislature have been scrambling to find areas to save money. If revenues continue to decline, that could spell more bad news for school systems.

"We are hearing rumors of a legislative session in August that could result in 10 days unpaid furlough for everyone," Dr. Williams said. "Obviously we hope that won't happen. The law requiring a 190 day school year would have to be amended, and there might be other changes that could hurt us."

Debbie Powell agreed. "Right now our

budget is not terrible," she said. "We have cut about \$1.3 million out of next year's budget, and we have saved enough money this year. By just cutting spending, we are projecting a June 30, 2009, fund balance of about \$879,000. But that balance and the 2010 budget changes from day to day. Here it is June 23rd, and we will get a new allotment sheet from the state this week. Who knows what changes that will bring. If it has new cuts in our state funding, obviously it will change our figures."

Dr. Williams was especially complimentary to central office staff and principals. "They worked long hours to find ways to save money. In times like these, we certainly don't want to take someone's job away from them. Again, all of our people really worked hard. The Board of Education has worked with us to find solutions. It has been a team effort. We couldn't have done it otherwise."

Several drug arrests made

Following ongoing investigations conducted by the Tattnall County Sheriff's Office, several drug arrests have recently been made in Tattnall County.



James Lonnie Stevenson

On June 13, 2009, at approximately 5:34 p.m., deputies with the Tattnall Sheriff's Office stopped a green Dodge Dakota on Mt. Zion Road for a traffic violation. The driver, James Lonnie Stevenson, age 48, of a Glennville address, was in possession of marijuana within his vehicle.



Billy Anthony

Following a roadside investigation, deputies searched Stevenson's residence, located at 27 Riverbank Drive in Glennville, and recovered a felony amount of marijuana within the residence, as well as nine marijuana plants on his property. He was charged with possession of marijuana as well as manufacturing in marijuana and is currently bonded out of the Tattnall



Tequilla LaJune Anthony

see DRUGS, pg. 3



Christopher Andrews



TCHS Graduate Logan McCullough (seated center) signs letter of intent with Andrew College. Next to Logan are his parents Pam and Hugh McCullough. Standing (l to r): Booster Club President Robin Stewart, TCHS Athletic Director Hugh Vaughn, TCHS Principal Glenn Stewart and TCHS Head Baseball Coach Josh Cole.

Logan McCullough signs with Andrew College

by MARGARET A. LAWLER
Staff Writer

TCHS graduate Logan McCullough signed with Andrew College located in Cuthbert, GA, Monday, June 22, 2009, to play on their baseball team next season. He is the second player from TCHS this year to successfully sign with a college to pursue his college dream to play baseball. Andrew College has been considered to be one of the strongest junior college baseball conferences in the country.

Logan led the Warriors during senior season pitching 52 innings

and recording 50 strikeouts. His E.R.A. for this season was 2.71.

TCHS Head Baseball Coach Joshua Cole stated, "Logan worked hard this past season and showed the younger players how to move to the next level. His hard work helped with team morale. He is a great pitcher and will succeed at Andrew College."

McCullough's father, Hugh, stated that his son has worked hard to pursue his dream of playing baseball in college. He coached his son for twelve years from the beginning of his career to now.

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DOT gives Reidsville Airport orders to proceed

by CASEY CORBETT
The Tattnall Journal

The Reidsville Airport Authority received good news from Charles Evans of Aviation Programs. They have received the notice to proceed with the runway extension and parallel taxiway, along with the reimbursement on T-Hanger construction at the Reidsville Municipal airport.

On December 12, 2008, members of the Reidsville Airport Authority and local political leaders met at the airport for a meeting to study the effects of airports on local economies. Carol Comer of the Georgia Department of Transportation spoke to the group about the advantages of a longer runway attracting business and industry to the area. According to Comer, industry will not consider airports with runways less than 5000 feet. Currently, the Reidsville Municipal Airport is 3800 feet. After the short meeting, the group flew to Statesboro and Douglas to examine how extending their runways benefited and resulted in their economic growth.

Representatives from both airports described how extending

see AIRPORT, pg. 3



Employees of Clyde's Market #34 were all smiles as they were surrounded by the Deen family. Kneeling: Clyde's Manager, Marie Bashlor. Standing: Ms. Geneva Green, Jamie Deen, Danielle Kennedy, Melissa Bryant, Ms. Paula Deen and Bobby Deen.

Paula Deen visits Reidsville

Word travels fast in a small town and it doesn't take long for news to spread when a celebrity stops in for a visit. On Tuesday afternoon, June 23, that celebrity was Paula Deen.

Paula Deen stopped in Reidsville, on her way to a speaking engagement in Sumter County, and purchased some drinks and chicken gizzards from Clyde's Market across from the Tattnall County Courthouse.

Paula Deen is a celebrity chef on the Food Network channel and the owner of The Lady and Sons restaurant in Savannah.

The Boys and Girls Club of Sumter County was hosting Deen as the featured speaker for the 11th Annual Steak and Stake Banquet later that

evening. She was on her way to the Success Center on the campus of Georgia Southwestern State University. The annual event helps raise funds for the youth in Sumter County.

Paula Deen, along with her husband, Michael Groover, and two sons, Jamie and Bobby, were welcomed by local residents in Clyde's Market.

Paula, Michael, Jamie and Bobby were gracious as fans welcomed them to Reidsville. She and the boys posed for pictures with fans and she shared how much she loved her sons.

As she was leaving, she signed autographs and thanked everyone for welcoming them during their brief stop in Reidsville.

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DEADLINES News items: Monday at 3 p.m.
Classifieds: Monday 3 p.m.
Display ads: Tuesday 10 a.m.

JULY 4TH Reidsville is getting ready for the annual Fourth of July Festivities! see the details on page 10.

FACEBOOK The Tattnall Journal is now on Facebook! Search our name (or click the link at www.tattnalljournal.com) and become a fan to share your thoughts and ideas, post photos, or let others know of things happening in Tattnall!

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