

Happy Mother's Day



The Tuskegee News

'Tis better to light a candle than to curse the darkness'

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75 CENTS

Tuskegee seals the deal!

Exit 38 Travel Center Project construction to begin May 15

The anchor project for the rebirth of Exit 38 in Tuskegee — the \$7.2 million Tuskegee Travel Center — has cleared the last bar to begin construction.

Developer Jeffery and Andrea Potter and Skegee Travel Center, LLC are officially ready to begin construction on May 15. Completion of the travel center is projected to be March of 2020.

This project marks a five-year process and collaborative effort between the City of Tuskegee, Utilities Board of Tuskegee (UBT) and the Macon County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA) — and other local leaders. Redevelopment of Exit 38, the gateway to

(See CENTER, P. 6)

Two dead, five arrested after string of burglaries, shooting

By GUY RHODES
Editor/Publisher

An investigation is ongoing into the shooting deaths of two Tuskegee men on Saturday May 4 and five arrests have been made involving a single burglary and a series of burglaries in Tuskegee.

According to Tuskegee Police Chief Marquez James, Jamie Collins, 39, and Willie Long 49, died as a result of a being shot by assault rifles at about 8:50 p.m. in the 700 block of Warren Ave. in Tuskegee.

Collins was the owner of Jay's Towing Service in Tuskegee.

Carver Festival delights hundreds



By DANIELLE DAVIS
Tuskegee News Staff

The spirit of George Washington Carver was in the air Saturday, May 4 as many came out to celebrate the 16th annual Carver Festival.

The festivities began with a parade, which saw individuals from Tuskegee as well as the surrounding cities walk, — and in some cases ride — down the street to greet the dozens of bystanders.

Following the parade, Festival goers were given the opportunity to branch out and explore the various vendors or take to the grass to listen to various entertainers.

When asked why she stopped by the festival, (See FESTIVAL, P. 6)

George Washington Carver (GWC) Elementary School third graders Fadeidra Howard, left, Gensis Simmons (Miss GWC), Alexander Fussell (Mr. GWC) and first grade teacher Ms. Letisha A. Dix join hands while walking in the 16th annual Carver Festival Parade Saturday, May 4.



George Washington Carver impersonator Paxton Williams, of Chicago, waves to the crowd during the 16th annual Carver Festival parade.



Booker T. Washington High School 11th grader and majorette Joidan Maloy, center, stands proud during the 16th annual Carver Festival parade.



Carver Image Antoinette R. Frederick offers festival goers a smile and wave during the 16th annual Carver Festival parade Saturday, May 4. Frederick is one of the remaining few who lived during Carver's time.

Photos by Danielle Davis

Chief James said autopsy results on the two victims are pending. He added that there have been no arrests made in conjunction with the

shooting, but there are people of interest in the ongoing investigation.

(See ARRESTS, P. 6)

TU graduation draws near, former U.S. Attorney General to speak

TU News Bureau

Loretta Lynch, the nation's first female African-American U.S. attorney general, will serve as Tuskegee University's commencement speaker during its 134th Spring Commencement Exercises on Saturday, May 11. The exercises began at 10 a.m.

A leading progressive voice during her 30-plus-year highly distinguished career, Lynch was appointed at the 83rd U.S. attorney general by President Barack Obama in April 2015 and served in this capacity until January 2017.

She also served as head of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York twice, under both President Bill Clinton and Obama.

Described by Obama as "the only lawyer in America who battles mobsters, drug lords and terrorists, and still has the reputation for being a charming 'people person,'" she has been instrumental in shaping the direction of the nation on a number of tough issues.

Those issues have included improving the relationship between local law enforcement and the communities they serve, as well as her bold

stances on criminal justice reform.

In other events:
FRIDAY, MAY 10

- 10 a.m. — Baccalaureate Service, Tuskegee University Chapel
- Graduates should assemble outside the Tuskegee University Chapel no later than 9 a.m.
- Noon — Graduates & Parents Reception, Grey Columns
- 1 p.m. — ROTC Commissioning Ceremony,

(See GRADUATION, P. 6)

Tuskegee Council approves draft contract for an airport manager

By GUY RHODES
Editor/Publisher

Interstate 85.

A committee has been established by the Tuskegee City Council to move forward on hiring a new city manager following the resignation of Bernard Houston on April 22.

The committee will be chaired by District 3 Council member Shirley Curry with Council members Annie Brown, Chris Lee and Ala Whitehead — along with Mayor Tony Haygood and Temporary City Manager Ulysees Roberts — also on the committee.

Roberts was appointed on April 22 and can serve in a temporary status for four months. After four months, he will automatically become permanent city manager unless a new city manager or another temporary appointment is made.

That action was taken in a called meeting of the Council during which it took final steps to move forward on a \$7.2 million Travel Center development in Tuskegee at Exit 38 off

The Council also approved a draft agreement for a manager at Moton Field, the City's municipal airport where a new terminal is in the final stages of completion.

Stipulations in the draft contract:

- The agreement is not to exceed \$40,000 for contract management services;
- The contract will extend for a period of one year with a detailed update and performance at six months;
- Manager will be responsible for all activity at the airport and be accountable directly to the City Council;
- A complete written and verbal report will be to the City Council at least once a month or more frequently if needed;
- All contracts proposed will be submitted to the City Council and City Attorney for review for final approval and signatures;

(See MANAGER, P. 6)



The 27th annual Letter Carriers Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive is on Saturday, May 11



Chunnenuggee Fair comes to Union Springs

By DANIELLE DAVIS
Tuskegee News Staff

Chunnenuggee Fair will arrive in Union Springs May 11. Attendees can delight in various foods, entertainment and goods.

The following entertainment is scheduled for the fair:

- 9 a.m. — Invocation
- 9:05 a.m. — National Anthem— Terronda Hicks
- 9:10-9:45 a.m. — Michael Jacobs
- 10-10:45 a.m. — Allison Tucker
- 11-11:45 a.m. — Mac Cone
- Noon-12:45 p.m. — Justin Smoker
- 1-1:45 p.m. — John Bull Band
- 2-3 p.m. — Alabama Chilly/ ICE Cool Band

Vendors will be selling a variety of items including food and trinkets. Everyone is welcome to attend the event. The fairgrounds will be located at 217 Prairie Street North, Union Springs. For more information, call 334-738-8683.

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Center (From Page 1)

Tuskegee, has been a community priority for many years.

Land purchases, market feasibility studies, environmental and civil testing and planning led to grants for infrastructure improvements to accommodate the future development.

“Developing a blank interstate exit from scratch was a herculean task,” explained MCEDA Director Joe Turnham. “Acquiring land, appropriate planning, upgrading infrastructure, attracting developers/financing all while proving that certain developments were feasible, were tasks that had to take place simultaneously and over a measured period of time.

I know that citizens were skeptical and restless as the years and months went by. But now we are here, we’ve knocked the first domino over. Exit 38’s rebirth will now come out of ground.”

The 10,000 square foot ‘Skegee Travel Center has been a dream of Jeffery Potter for many years and will showcase local flavor and history.

It will feature a fueling center for cars and trucks and three restaurants (Huddle House, Krispy Krunchy Chicken and Little Caesar’s Pizza). The center will also have car charging stations for electric vehicles, one of the first on the I-85 Corridor.

A full-service convenience store and a Greyhound Bus Terminal will also occupy the space. The facility will be state-of-the-art and will feature 24 video screens throughout the space that will help sell local history and attractions, a kiosk of local opportunities, including Tuskegee University, local business and the VA.

“Our family and I are thrilled to be able to make this dream a reality, not just for us, but for our community. This is where we grew up and we want to give back. We will hire locally and contribute back to our local institutions, all while providing world class products and service to interstate travelers and local citizens. This project is a Macon County win for us all,” pointed out de-

velopers Jeffery Potter and his wife, Andrea.

The \$7.2 million project was made possible through a carefully weaved package of New Market Tax Credit Investment by the U.S. Treasury and Wells Fargo Bank, federal infrastructure grants, Cooperative District contribution, developer equity and a USDA B&I Loan Guarantee for part of the leveraged package with United Bank of Alabama.

The Small Business Development Network, out of the University of Alabama and its representative, Suzanne Darden, were key to pulling the deal off.

“It was textbook effort in cooperation, risk and equity of the developer, wise use of grants, incentives, creative financing, sweat and determination on behalf of all parties. It was complicated and very fragile, but we threaded the needle. And because we did, Tuskegee-Macon County will benefit for many years to come. I want to thank all of the leaders —past and present — who believed in this effort and supported it.” Turnham said.

The City of Tuskegee, UBT and the Cooperative District took the last actions and votes on Thursday (May 2) of last week by dedicating easements and rights-of-way for the project. Airmen Legacy Drive will be the new street for the travel center.

The new jobs created will total at least 49 and climbing over the years; new sales of \$15 million per year; \$500,000 in new local taxes to the communities per year; and \$200,000 per year in utility purchases.

It will also make available 24-7-365 food choices and national bus travel via Greyhound with four or five routes per day from Exit 38.

In addition to the Skegee Travel Center, Pop-eye’s Restaurant is beginning construction in May and will finish this fall. Talks are well underway for two to three other restaurants and an 85-room hotel. These projects will front the completed access road, now named “Red Tail Lane.”

Graduation (From Page 1)

Tuskegee University Chapel

- 3 p.m.— School of Nursing and Allied Health Nursing Capping and Pinning Ceremony, Tuskegee University Chapel
- 3 p.m. — Order of the Engineer, Logan Hall
- 6 p.m. — Social Work Pinning Ceremony, Tuskegee University Chapel

SATURDAY, MAY 11

- 10 a.m. – Spring Commencement Exercises, Gen. Daniel "Chappie" James Center Arena
- Graduates should assemble in Luther Foster Hall no later than 9 a.m.

COMMENCEMENT DAY INFORMATION SEATING

Doors to the James Center are scheduled to open at 7:30 a.m. the morning of commencement

Tickets will be required for entry to the spring commencement ceremony.

The processional is expected to begin at 9:30 a.m. As a courtesy, please plan to be seated by then or limit your entry until the processional concludes.

OVERFLOW SEATING

Those who don’t have a ticket to enter the James Center may view the 2019 Spring Com-

mencement Ceremony at one of these satellite locations on campus:

- University Chapel
- Kellogg Auditorium
- Henderson Hall Auditorium
- Logan Hall

SECTIONS FOR THE DISABLED

Sections for those with disabilities will be indicated in the James Center. Since these spaces will be limited, it may be necessary to restrict seating to the individual requiring this accommodation and only one other family member.

Graduates should inform appropriate university personnel in advance of any special needs of family members or guests.

PARKING AND SHUTTLE SERVICE

Designated guest parking will be located: Behind Foster Hall
In front of Harvey Hall
Behind the Chapel
Beside Kenney Hall
Handicapped parking beside Foster Hall
Please consult the campus map for regular parking.

On-campus shuttle service will begin at 8:30 a.m. from these designated parking lots.

the 1200 block of Rosenwald Heights on Sunday, May 6. Arrested were: Daniel Pollard, 18; Markeon Williams, 21; and Jason Williams, 22. All three are residents of Tuskegee.

Some items from the burglary have been recovered.

Two juveniles have been arrested and charged in a series of burglaries the past several weeks on South Main Street, Howard Road and Nancy Street.

Chief James said some items from the burglaries have been recovered. He added that additional arrest warrants are expected to be issued.

Anyone with information about the homicides or burglaries are asked to contact the Tuskegee Police Department Secret Witness Line at (334) 727-9865.

Festival (From Page 1)

Tuskegee resident Jasmine Grant simply said, “I’m here for the Cajun food.”

She joined the several who were in line for shrimp and grits, catfish, etc.

Chilly’s Ice Cool Band director Stan “Chilly” Cooks expressed his desire for the band to win an award later in the day. Chilly’s Ice Cool Band marched in the opening parade.

“I love the camaraderie,” said Cooks when asked what kept him coming back. “I love the city.”

“George Washington Carver was a ‘bad’ man. And I would like to thank him for teaching us to create and make stuff out of nothing,” he added.

Carver Festival Board of Directors Secretary Dr. Elaine C. Harrington was overjoyed at the festival turnout, starting with the parade.

According to Harrington, this year’s parade was the most inclusive yet.

“(They were) people in parade from all across the state of Alabama. (Which is a sign) of how we’re connecting with other communities.

“I hope the people of Tuskegee are filled with pride today as they witness the commemoration of George Washington Carver.”

Tuskegee resident and returning vendor Pamela Duncan said the people keep her coming back every year.

It’s a good thing to see people come together for something like this, she added.

Another Tuskegee resident, Linda Dickerson, revealed that this was her first time attending the Festival.

“It’s really nice,” she said. “It’s definitely something to come out and enjoy.”

Tuskegee University professor of animal science Dr. Harold Higgins was on hand with his aquaponics experiment.

Higgins explained that he tries to mimic his life around Carver’s principles.

“In particular, making use of the things that you have. Everything I’ve done here can be made out of recycled things,” he said.

Manager (From Page 1)

• Manager is expected to conduct a complete analysis of current situation at the airport in coordination and consultation with city employees, fixed base operator, pilots, airport advisory committee attorney(s), federal aviation officials and state aviation officials;

• Upon completion of the initial analysis of the current status of the airport, manager will develop a short-term plan and make recommendations for consideration and adoption by the City Council;

• At the end of the one-year contract term, the City Council has the option of: (1) to terminate the contract; (2) extend the contract; (3) develop a new contract; or (4) choose a different structure for airport management operations;

• Manager is expected to generate revenue above and beyond annual contract amount, or reduce expenses to realize savings equal to such amount, or a combination of revenue increase and expense reductions equal to or greater than contract amount. The ultimate objective is to make significant improvements at the airport while increasing revenues to the City from airport operations and its related activities.

The City attorney will review the draft contract for the Council’s consideration.

In other action:

• The Council decided to set up a work session to meet with U.L. Brownlee, who manages the boat-house and fishing permits for Tuskegee City Lake, about developing a contract for his services or establishing the position as a city employee.

• Heard from Police Chief Marquez James that two juveniles had been arrested in conjunction with a rash of burglaries on South Main Street, Howard Road and Nancy Street in Tuskegee.

James also said any rumors that he is planning to resign or that he had been fired are only rumors. He told the Council he likes his job very much and plans on remaining in his position.

Death Notices

DARDEN, John W. III passed away Sunday, May 5, 2019 at East Alabama Medical Center in Opelika. His funeral will be on Friday, 10, 2019 at 10 a.m. CDT at Fort Mitchell National Cemetery.

GAUNTT, Mr. Eddie D., 90, a resident of Tallahassee, passed away Tuesday, April 30, 2019 in Tallahassee. Funeral services were held May 6 from New Zion A.M.E. Church. Pastor Gwen Tellis officiated. Burial was in Tuckabatchee Cemetery. The Peoples Funeral Home directed.

JACKSON, Mr. James A., 74, a former resident of Tuskegee Institute, passed away Tuesday, April 30, 2019 in Montgomery. Funeral services were held May 7 from Calvary Missionary Christian Church. Rev. Dan Stewart officiated. Burial was in Greenwood Cemetery. The Peoples Funeral Home directed.

MANGUM, Mr. Martin Stanley, 85, passed away Sunday, April 28, 2019 at Bethany House in Auburn after a lengthy battle with dementia. A graveside service was held May 1 at the Little Texas Cemetery.

WALKER, Mr. Booker T., a resident of Tuskegee, passed away Saturday, April 27, 2019. Funeral arrangements and survivors will be announced by McKenzie’s Funeral Home.

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Arrests (From Page 1)

Burglary arrests

Three adults and two juveniles have been charged in separate burglary arrests, Patrick reported.

Three Tuskegee men have been apprehended and charged with a burglarizing a residence in

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Obituaries

Remembering loved ones — how to submit an obituary.

A charge of 25 cents a word with an additional charge of \$5 for a photo with the obituary. Obituaries may be scheduled for publication by funeral homes or individuals, or you can bring them into our office at 103 South Main Street, Tuskegee. Deadline for an obituary is noon Tuesday prior to the following Thursday’s edition of The Tuskegee News. Contact (334) 727-3020 or email tuskegeenews@bellsouth.net to schedule an obituary.