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Commission slows effort to revamp personnel board

By PEGGY USSERY
Eagle Staff Writer

Dothan commissioners have delayed efforts to repeal the city's Civil Service Act.

At their Tuesday meeting, city commissioners agreed to back-off a request for legislation to repeal the 1947 Civil Service Act. The current legislative session is nearing its end, and city officials hurriedly scheduled

public meetings this week to get input before asking local legislators to introduce a bill that has been advertised twice already.

But commissioners will not ask for the legislation in this session. Instead, city officials will suspend the advertisement but continue with public meetings. A deadline of May 31 has been set to have a final document to show how the personnel system will change once the Civil Ser-

vice Act is no longer.

Dothan Mayor Chester Sowell said the commission owes employees more time to digest proposed changes.

"The perception is we're trying to slide something in," Sowell said. "If I've heard it once, I've heard it a hundred times."

The city will have to advertise the proposed bill again when the next legislative session convenes.

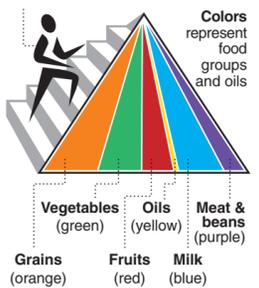
Currently, the city's personnel department operated under the Civil Service Act. The legislative act establishes the Citizens Supervisory Committee and the Dothan Personnel Board. While other city departments answer to the city manager, the personnel department operates under the personnel board and supervisory committee.

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The Department of Agriculture unveiled a new version of the food guide pyramid on Tuesday, adding a colorful reminder to make healthy food choices and increase physical activity.

Anatomy of the pyramid

Figure represents the importance of daily physical activity



SOURCE: Department of Agriculture AP

Food pyramid inverted

By LIBBY QUAID
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The government hopes a rainbow in a triangle and a stair-climbing stick figure will motivate people to eat a little better and exercise more.

Pick more foods from orange, green, blue and red colors and less from yellow and purple, and you're on your way to a healthier diet. But you have to do a little research to learn exactly what to eat — a point raised immediately by critics.

The government "has replaced an American icon with a simple graphic that leaves out real guidance for a nation hungry for direction," said Dr. Elizabeth Pivonka, a

See **FOOD PYRAMID**, Page 8A

Sweetening the deal

Dothan, Houston County looks to offer economic incentives for retail developments

By PEGGY USSERY
Eagle Staff Writer

Houston County and the City of Dothan are following the example of other Alabama communities in offering financial incentives for large retail developments.

Dothan commissioners approved a resolution during their Tuesday meeting which allows the city and county governments to provide economic incentives to retail developers which have a minimum \$50-million initial construction investment.

Houston County commissioners will consider a similar resolution next week. The two governments have provided incentives for industrial developments in the past, but this is the first step in providing such incentives for retail

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the white smoke



the bells



the window



The signs point to a new pope

Joseph Ratzinger is new pontiff

By VICTOR L. SIMPSON
Associated Press Writer

VATICAN CITY — With unusual speed and little surprise, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger of Germany became Pope Benedict XVI on Tuesday, a 78-year-old transitional leader who promises to enforce strictly conservative policies for the world's Roman Catholics.

Appearing on St. Peter's Basilica balcony as dusk fell, a red cape over his new white robes, the white-haired Ratzinger called himself "a simple, humble worker."

The crowd responded to the 265th pope by waving flags and chanting "Benedict! Benedict!"

From Notre Dame in Paris to the Basilica of Guadalupe in Mexico City, cathedral bells tolled and prayers were offered. Millions watched live television broadcasts of St. Peter's bells pealing at 6:04 p.m. and white smoke pouring from the Sistine Chapel's chimney — signs a successor to John Paul II had been chosen.

Not everyone was happy, however. Jose Silvano, a 40-year-old travel agent from Brazil, called Ratzinger "the right

pope for the cardinals, but not for the people. We were hoping for a South American, a Brazilian, a pope who would work for the neediest and the rights of women and children."

Niels Hendrich, 40, of Hamburg, Germany, jumped up and down at the prospect of a new pope — but then gave only three halfhearted claps when he learned who it was.

"I am not happy about this at all," he said. "Ratzinger will put the brakes on all the progressive movements in the church that I support."

But Cardinal Walter Kasper of Germany said Ratzinger's communication skills were a factor in his selection. "They wanted a man who is firm in faith and church doctrine but also a man who can explain things," Kasper told CNN.

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Inside:

Editorial: Challenges await pope **4A**
Uncertainty gives way to cheers **10A**

Local priest hopes Benedict XVI lives up to his name

By JILL NOLIN
Eagle Staff Writer

When it comes to popes, there's a lot in a name.

And one local priest is hoping the newly elected pope, Benedict XVI, will embody the values his name implies.

Once a pope is elected, one of the first duties is to choose a name. And Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the German who was elected Tuesday, adopted a name that goes back 1,500 years.

"Something is being told by the name he selected," said Father Patrick Gallagher, pastor of St. Columba Catholic Church in Dothan.

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