

The Gadsden Times

GADSDENTIMES.COM | WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2008 | 50 CENTS

CRIME

Ramirez charged with murder

BY LISA ROGERS
Times Staff Writer

A 49-year-old man suspected in the shooting death of a Ragland man was charged with murder Tuesday.

Roy Gongora Ramirez was charged in the slaying of Terry Lacaine "Luke" Trammell, 51, whose body was discovered Sunday afternoon behind an abandoned house on U.S. Highway 431 in the Sand Valley community, Etowah County Sheriff Todd Entrekin said.

Trammell appeared to have been dead for several days, and it appears he was killed in the same area where he was found, Entrekin said.

Trammell died from gunshot wounds to the upper body, Investigator Jeff Hopper said.

Trammell apparently was shot after an altercation with Ramirez, who left in Trammell's car, a 2000 Dodge Stratus.

The car was later found in the parking lot at a nearby convenience store.

An Oxford man and some young boys who stopped for a short break from driving on U.S. Highway 431 discovered the body about 4 p.m., Entrekin said.

Entrekin said Sheriff's Department investigators and agents with the Etowah County Drug Enforcement Unit were working the case when an agent got a tip that led to the arrest of Ramirez about four hours after Trammell's body was found.

Graveside service for Trammell is set for 2 p.m. today with visitation from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Usrey Funeral Home in Pell City.



Roy Gongora Ramirez was charged in the slaying of Terry Lacaine 'Luke' Trammell, 51, whose body was discovered Sunday afternoon behind an abandoned house on U.S. Highway 431.

COURTS

Judge orders monitoring for convicted sex offender

BY LISA ROGERS
Times Staff Writer

A judge has ordered a convicted sex offender to be under house arrest and to wear an ankle bracelet with GPS monitoring after the man was arrested last week in connection with the attempted abduction of an 11-year-old girl.

Donald Edward Holcomb, 61, 157 Kerri Lane East in the Aurora community near Boaz, was



Holcomb

released about 5 p.m. Monday on \$2,500 bond after he was charged with enticing a child into a vehicle for illegal or immoral purposes, a Class C felony.

District Attorney Jimmie Harp said he filed a motion Tuesday to request conditions be placed

on Holcomb's bond after he was contacted by The Times about Holcomb's release.

The Times was contacted by the child's grandmother with concerns about his release.

Etowah County District Judge William Russell signed an order late Tuesday afternoon that orders Holcomb to be placed under house arrest and wear an ankle bracelet with GPS monitoring. He will be monitored by

Etowah Court Referral pending trial.

"The device cannot be removed, and if it is tampered with, it alerts the Sheriff's Department," Harp said.

The monitoring system is connected to a phone line and also sounds an alert if the person being monitored goes beyond 500 feet of the assigned phone line, Harp said.

PLEASE SEE JUDGE | A7

EDUCATION

Board approves drug policy

BY KENNETH A. HOBSON JR.
Times Staff Writer

The Gadsden City School Board unanimously voted to approve its Drug and Alcohol Intervention policy during their scheduled board meeting Tuesday.

Officials say the policy will go into effect at the beginning of the 2008-09 school year.

The policy will include monthly random drug testing of about 75 students from the high school and the three middle schools in the district.

The drug testing procedures will be conducted as a urine test that officials say is less invasive for students, as well as more cost efficient for the system.

Only students participating in extracurricular activities or driving and parking on school property will be required to participate in testing, but any student has the right to participate.

Gadsden City Schools Superintendent Bob Russell said that this policy is not designed to penalize anyone, but to offer help to students that may have problems.

"This policy has been in the works for some while now, and we have worked and re-worked it," Russell said.

"But none of it is in concrete. If we need to change any details to the policy we will.

"We are doing this for the students," he added.

Officials say that they have applied for a grant that will relieve some of the costs from the system and will allow the system to have a more proactive intervention program.

Russell should hear if the grant was approved by mid-summer. The board also approved Russell's recommendation to revise the Gadsden City schools' graduation prerequisites.

The board approved that students will not be able to participate in graduation activities if they have not passed at least four or five parts of the graduation

PLEASE SEE BOARD | A7



'We are doing this for the students.'

— BOB RUSSELL

Gadsden City Schools Superintendent

Berry pickin' time



Mary Alford, left, and David Alford, of Centre, pick strawberries as their grandson, Hagan Mathews, 4, enjoys some of the harvest at Norris Farms in Hokes Bluff Monday. For some delicious strawberry recipes, please see C1.



Above, pickers walk down rows of ripe strawberries. At left, Bob Simmons, of Gadsden, passes an empty bucket to his wife, Ann, as they pick strawberries.

Times photos by Eric T. Wright

GOVERNMENT

City Council approves line of credit for road, technical school projects

BY ANDY POWELL
Times Staff Writer

New jobs and improved career technical training for high school students will come from a \$7 million line of credit for Gadsden

from Wachovia Bank approved Tuesday by the City Council, city officials said.

The council approved the credit line of up to \$7 million, which will be used to finance a new

technical training building at the Gadsden City High School campus and to fund the four-laning of Airport Road to Steele Station Road.

It also will extend water and

sewer service to a site on Airport Road for industrial use. The money can be used for only those purposes.

An industrial project dubbed "Project Freeze" is interested in

a site near the intersection of Airport Road and Steele Station Road that would mean several hundred new jobs, city officials said.

But part of the industry's re-

quirement is that Airport Road be four-laned.

Mayor Sherman Guyton said Tuesday an estimate by the Alabama Development Office said

PLEASE SEE COUNCIL | A7

INSIDE TODAY

- Ask Amy.....B4
- Bridge.....C8
- Business.....C7
- Classifieds.....D1
- Comics.....C8
- Crossword.....C8
- Features.....C1
- Funerals.....A5
- Horoscopes.....B4
- Obituaries.....A5
- Opinion.....A6
- Scoreboard.....B2
- Sports.....B1
- TV Listings.....B4



JUST FOR MOM

Bake some doughnuts for a special Mother's Day breakfast.
C1

TODAY'S WEATHER



Mostly sunny with a cool start but a warm afternoon.
High 82 Low 58
For details, see A8

141ST Year, No. 310 Copyright, 2008

