



DO-OR-DIE TIME, 1B

Gwinnett Gladiators face must-win game against Reading Royals.

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Trash settlement approved

Commissioners still face lawsuit, public anger in garbage debate

By CAMIE YOUNG
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LAWRENCEVILLE — Much of Gwinnett's more-than-a-year-long trash saga appears over after commissioners approved a settlement Tuesday dividing the coun-

ty among five garbage haulers. But with one lawsuit to go and public dismay over the government mandating trash service, two commissioners admitted the deal had downsides. "I look at this as trying to make the best out of a tough situation," Commissioner Mike Beaudreau

said, pointing to \$80 million in lawsuit claims waived in the settlement and blaming legislators for neglecting to take care of a rental oversight issue. Commissioner Shirley Laseter, the sole dissenting vote, said the plan solves issues such as multiple garbage trucks causing

noise and pollution as well as wear and tear on the roads, but she said she fought for discounts for seniors. "We've been held hostage," during mediation sessions, she said.

According to county officials, the plan will take effect July 1,

with haulers assigned to residential areas.

Although the process did not include competitive bids, the settlement will place fees at \$17.86 a month for mandatory trash pickup, recycling, bulky items and white items, the first 18 months of which will be charged on upcoming property tax bills.

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Photo: David McGregor

Jay Fulmer, a veterinarian in Dacula, will be running in the Boston Marathon on April 19 to raise money for the Dana-Farber Foundation in honor of Debbie Foote, one of his employees who has cancer.

A reason to run

Veterinarian to race 26.2 miles in support of his co-worker

By HEATHER DARENBERG
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DACULA — When Jay Fulmer was a teenager, his goal was to run a marathon.

Fulmer, a veterinarian at Hog Mountain Animal Hospital, finally achieved that goal last year and qualified for the Boston Marathon earlier this year. Now, he has set his sights on a larger goal: raising money for cancer research.

In addition to qualifying for the Boston Marathon, Fulmer was also selected for the

Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge team, which raises money for the Claudia Adams Barr Program in Innovative Basic Cancer Research.

As a member of the team, Fulmer set a personal fundraising goal of \$7,000. So far, he's raised more than \$4,000.

Fulmer said this is the first time he has participated in such a fundraising endeavor, but he is motivated to achieve the goal by the person he wishes to honor with his efforts — Debbie Foote, a receptionist at the veterinary clinic. Foote, who has worked at the animal hospital for 10 years,

was diagnosed with lung cancer two years ago.

"We're like family," Fulmer said. "It's like having a family member diagnosed. She has handled it with such grace and dignity."

Fulmer said Foote is an inspiration to him.

"There's not a training run that I don't think about her and what she has to go through," he said. "I just can't put it into words how inspirational she's been."

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Barrow moves to censure chairman

Alleged anger issues prompt board's motion

By MICHAEL ALPERT
Staff Correspondent

WINDER — Tension ran high near the end of Barrow County's Board of Commissioners' meeting Tuesday night when Commissioner Ben Hendrix motioned that the board formally censure Chairman Danny Yearwood for alleged refusal to attend anger management training, as recommended by an attorney the county hired to investigate allegations against him.

Cartersville attorney David Archer's investigation into the county human resources office allegations of misconduct against Yearwood and Director of Community and County Development Lyn Clement reportedly found no state or federal violations. However, it recommended in its 37-page findings for Yearwood to attend anger management courses.

Archer found little corroboration to allegations that Yearwood made racially offensive comments to county employees, though it concluded evidence existed that the chairman behaved angrily and could benefit from anger management courses.

Hendrix, speaking from a prepared statement, alleged that Yearwood told him and others he would not attend the training Archer recommended. Hendrix also alleged Yearwood had behaved hostile with employees more recently.

"This conduct is continuing, and it is of great concern to me, and should be of great concern to this county," Hendrix's statement read.

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Health reform becomes law

Obama signs bill bringing medical coverage to millions

By JENNIFER LOVEN
AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON — It was a day of history for the nation — and sweet vindication for President Barack Obama. His grin seemed wider than any in recent memory.

After more than a year of arguing, struggling and dealing, Obama signed into law a nearly \$1 trillion health care overhaul that ranks among the biggest changes ever

devised by Washington and will reshape the way virtually every American receives and pays for treatment. It will rework fully one-sixth of the U.S. economy and for the first time cement insurance coverage as the right of every U.S. citizen.

At the White House, jubilation was in the air on Tuesday. Democratic lawmakers and advocates, crowded into the East Room for the signing ceremony, hooted and

hollered at nearly every Obama sentence. They snapped photos of the president — and themselves. Vice President Joe Biden was caught whispering a profanity as he exclaimed to the president what a big deal it was.

It seemed more like a campaign rally than a bill signing. No one seemed quite able to contain themselves.

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The Associated Press
President Barack Obama signs the health care bill in the East Room of the White House on Tuesday.

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