

Super Saturday ribs and blues event returns



18th century ship found beneath Ground Zero

Clay County RB gets 2nd chance at last game

The Anniston Star

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ANNISTON INQUIRY SET WITHOUT AGENDA

BY LAURA CAMPER
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An Anniston City Council investigation into potentially "illegal or illicit" activity on the part of council members, city staff or the Police Department should convene by Tuesday, but the council has yet to announce an agenda. The rules for the investigation that council members approved

on Tuesday state that the chair, city attorney Cleophus Thomas, is responsible for convening the inquiry body within seven days. However, no date has been scheduled, no subpoenas have been sent and the city manager and mayor are not sure of the scope of the investigation. City Manager Don Hoyt said the inquiry is part investigation and part fishing expedition.

"They each (the councilmen) have their own issues that they want to investigate for whatever reason and I don't know what they all are," Hoyt said. There is no written agenda or list of priorities yet, just hints at what the members are interested in delving into, he said. Not even all the members know the scope of the investigation. The mayor isn't privy to the

subjects of the investigation. He has been fighting insinuations by other council members for months, but agreed to the investigation to bring everything out into the open, including problems created by the other council members, he said. "It's just the fact that Ben Little and John Spain don't have anything to do besides these investigations," Mayor Gene Robinson

said. "They started with me — this has been going on for months. I have been in battle for months and months with these two guys." The charges of corruption then spread to Judge Joel Laird, the city prosecutor Ted Copland, and the city's former director of Community Development Clarence Williams, he said. Although there were some problems found in a

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BP finally stops leak, for now

BY COLLEEN LONG AND HARRY R. WEBER
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — The oil has stopped. For now. After 85 days and up to 184 million gallons, BP finally gained control over one of America's biggest environmental catastrophes Thursday by placing a carefully fitted cap over a runaway geyser that has been gushing crude into the Gulf of Mexico since early spring. Though a temporary fix, the accomplishment was greeted with hope, high expectations — and, in many cases along the beleaguered coastline, disbelief. From one Gulf Coast resident came this: "Hallelujah." And from another: "I got to see it to believe it." If the cap holds, if the sea floor doesn't crack and if the relief wells being prepared are completed successfully, this could be the beginning

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Anniston woman whose home is hemmed in by car dealerships seeks relief from businesses' bright lights

Bill Wilson/The Anniston Star

The home of Etheleen Jones sits on Quintard Avenue amid several car dealerships. Jones, who has lived at the location since 1947, has complained at recent Anniston City Council meetings about the lights of Cooper Chevrolet across the street, which she says create 'daylight at night' at her home.

BY LAURA CAMPER
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Etheleen Jones doesn't sit on her front porch at night because the lights on the car lot across the street shine like a spotlight on her front door, not only making her uncomfortable, but also afraid. "It's just so daylight at night; it frightens me," she said. "I love to sit out there when it's raining. It's just so quiet and calming, but I don't now. I shut the door at night." Jones said she's afraid someone will see her and the furniture on her porch and that might entice a thief to break into her house. Jones moved into her house on Quintard Avenue as a new bride in 1947. The

house, in a residential area once known as Oxana because of its location between Anniston and Oxford, backed up to a wooded area, and it was just like living in the country, she said. But as Anniston grew, it swallowed up Oxana, and her quiet neighborhood became the Motor Mile. Jones' house is now surrounded by car dealers. Right next door to her is Kia Store Anniston. Directly across the street is Mullinax Auto Sales, which is flanked on either side by Anniston Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram and Cooper Chevrolet. They all have lights, and she knows they need them; she just doesn't want them shining in her house. Jones has made concessions to deal with her neighbors. One year, Volvo, now

Kia, put in a red neon strip of lights that shone in her windows. "Our house was just like it was on fire at night," she said. To solve the problem, her late husband, Durwood, built a trellis to block the light. But some problems have been too difficult for her to solve on her own, and that has brought her to the last three Anniston City Council meetings. At both meetings in June, Jones complained about cars blocking her in her driveway and lights from Cooper Chevrolet that violated a city ordinance by shining into her home. She said she had already contacted Cooper Chevrolet, but

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CALHOUN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION Detail may move schools step closer to unitary status

BY LAURA JOHNSON
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Almost 40 years have passed since a federal court ordered desegregation of Calhoun County Schools. But as recently as Thursday, the Calhoun County School Board was working out details of a legal agreement that could eventually get them out of court-ordered supervision over the process. Board members approved an amendment to a legal agreement — one that clarifies which construction projects have to be submitted for court approval and which can be approved by the school board. It may seem like a minor detail, but it's a step toward achieving "unitary status" — official recognition that the school system is, in effect, integrated. "It's a road map to reach unitary status," Robin Andrews, Calhoun County School Board attorney. "(Once cleared) it means that there are no remaining vestiges of segregation." The court has had a say in construction projects in county schools ever since the original desegregation order was handed down in the early 1970s.

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Hubbert steps down as Democratic officer

BY PHILLIP RAWLS
Associated Press

MONTGOMERY — Teacher lobbyist Paul Hubbert is leaving his position as a vice chairman of the Alabama Democratic Party, but a Republican leader says the Democratic Party will remain under the influence of Hubbert's Alabama Education Association. Hubbert said Thursday it would be in the best interests of AEA for him not to be active in the Democratic Party. "We support friends of education regardless of party, and our membership reflects the diversity of party membership in Alabama," Hubbert said.



HUBBERT

State Republican Party Chairman Mike Hubbard said Hubbert's resignation won't make much difference because AEA's No. 2 official, Associate Executive Secretary Joe Reed, is the Democratic Party's vice chairman for minority affairs and that other employees of AEA serve in leadership roles in the party. "The Alabama Democratic Party is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Alabama Edu-

cation Association," he said Thursday. Bradley Byrne, who lost the Republican runoff for governor Tuesday, had made an issue of AEA's top two officials being vice chairmen of the state Democratic Party and had called AEA a corrupting influence on state government. Hubbert sent a letter to Democratic Party Chairman Joe Turnham announcing his departure and saying he would not run again for the vice chairmanship. Hubbert estimates that AEA turned out 50,000 votes for the winner of the Republican runoff for governor, Robert Bentley, by getting AEA's Republi-



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Samuel L. Carter, Georgia
Thomas Curry, Talladega
Mark Evans Gillen, Cedar Bluff
Claude H. Hendrix, Anniston

Ella Lee Leonard, Anniston
Sharon Gambrell McNeal, Jacksonville
Franklin Erwin Wofford, Piedmont

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CHANCE OF RAIN
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Nic Thompson, Church of the Good Shepherd