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SINCE 1829

AG seeks documents in ASEA investigation

By Markeshia Ricks
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His attorney said he is not the target of an ongoing criminal investigation by the state's attorney general, but there is a criminal investigation taking place and Mac McArthur, executive director of the Alabama State Employees Association, has documents and records the attorney general wants.

The documents and records that Attorney General Troy King is seeking are contracts, billing and payment records and court documents between McArthur's law firm, McArthur

& Associates LLC, and a list of entities that include the ASEA, its political action committee and Nationwide Retirement Solutions Inc.

But King won't get his hands on those documents and records unless a court orders McArthur to hand them over.

While Attorney General Troy King's office would neither confirm nor deny that it was engaged in any kind of criminal investigation, an assistant attorney general was forced to make that admission four months ago to Montgomery County Circuit Judge Charles Price, according

to court records. That's because McArthur sued King civilly to invalidate a subpoena that King issued on Feb. 19, seeking information from McArthur as part of the investigation.

The information that the attorney general sought from McArthur points to an investigation that could be connected to the revelations of an Alabama Securities Commission report on the retirement plan for state employees that was then administered by Nationwide Financial Services Inc.

The October 2008 report

raised concerns that "although the state plan is better for the state employees than the previous plan, the involvement of the ASEA has cost approximately \$10 million since 2000 from participants' retirement accounts. The funds paid to ASEA/PEBCO do not appear to be justified, and are in fact mostly profits to the association.

"It is also certain that it is not disclosed to state employees who participate in the plan, the fact that funds they believe are

ASEA Page 4A

SUBPOENAS FOR INFORMATION

Attorney General Troy King's office wanted records and documents from McArthur regarding his law firm and the following entities, according to a copy of the subpoena:

- Jeffrey M. Pitts
- Matrix LLC
- The Alabama State Employees Association
- The Alabama State Employees Association Pub-

lic Benefit Corporation Inc.

- PEBCO Inc.
- The Alabama State Employees Association Political Action Committee (SEA-PAC)
- Nationwide Retirement Solutions Inc.
- Nationwide Financial Services Corporation Inc.
- The Keen Group LLC.

Willie Cook remembered



Photos by Mickey Welsh Advertiser

Funeral services were held Thursday for Montgomery City Councilman Willie Cook at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center.

Constituents, family, friends, rivals praise tireless efforts

By Cosby Woodruff
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Willie Cook's memorial service focused on the Montgomery City Councilman's service.

Political allies and rivals joined with lifelong friends, constituents and family members at a two-hour memorial service Thursday to remember Cook's works on the council and his commitment to his community. Then he was buried with military honors at Montgomery Memorial Cemetery.

Cook died July 8 following a massive heart attack. He spent much of his political career working with, and at times battling with, U.S. Congressman Bobby Bright. Bright, who served as Montgomery's mayor for most of Cook's time on the council, recalled Cook as a fierce advocate for the voters in his district.

Bright described Cook as a

bulldog who could intimidate those who came before the council, but who did so as part of the fight for his area.

"Willie was devoted to his constituents," Bright said. "He was also devoted to the entire city."

Bright presented Cook's widow, Lorna, with a flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol and a resolution he read into the Congressional Record.

Montgomery Mayor Todd Strange presented the family with a Montgomery flag bearing the city seal that Cook helped change to include

Cook Page 4A

PHOTO GALLERY VIDEO @montgomeryadvertiser.com



Riley says prayers answered as Gulf oil flow halted

By Jay Reeves
The Associated Press

DAUPHIN ISLAND — Alabama Gov. Bob Riley was upbeat Thursday over the news that BP had stopped the flow of oil into the Gulf of Mexico, but he cautioned that damage from the massive spill will not end any time soon.

At Dauphin Island for a news briefing, the governor's face lit up when he heard the news.

"That's great. I think a lot of prayers were answered today," said Riley.

He was joined by BP chief operating officer Doug Suttles to



▶ New cap stops oil 4B

present a \$5 million research grant to the Dauphin Island Sea Lab.

Suttles smiled at the news but said it was far too early to celebrate since the flow was only stopped as part of a test,

Oil Page 4A

Hubbert resigns as Democratic officer

By Phillip Rawls
The Associated Press

Teacher lobbyist Paul Hubbert is leaving his position as a vice chairman of the Alabama Democratic Party, but a Republican leader said 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.

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 Education 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 Republican and independent members to agree to go vote and to take another voter with them.

Hubbard, the GOP chairman, said he expects AEA's influence in state government, particularly in the Legislature, to be an issue in the general election Nov. 2.

Hubbert, who has been at the helm of the teacher organization for 40 years, has no doubt about it.

"I am sure there is a faction within the Alabama GOP hierarchy that will continue to criticize AEA members," Hubbert said. "One thing is clear, a friend of education is a friend of education, regardless of what party they belong to."



Hubbert

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