

Thursday, October 6, 2011

DO THAN EAGLE

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75 cents

Today: Sunny
Winds at 5-10 mph
High 85°
Low 58°



GOP field set, Romney woos unconvincing 8A

Tide QB McCarron has been steady 1B

Former Apple CEO Steve Jobs dies at 56 6A



Alabama Immigration Law

Law could have funding, accountability impact

BY JIM COOK
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Alabama's new immigration law is chasing many Hispanic students out of public schools, and could have unintended

consequences with regard to local funding and schools' ability to meet accountability requirements.

An unusually high number of absences and withdrawals have

INSIDE

» Alabama loses workers as immigration law takes effect. 5A

been reported in some school districts with large Hispanic

populations, according to the Alabama Department of Education. Here in the Wiregrass, the law is resulting in large withdrawals and absences of Hispanic students in some districts, and

fewer withdrawals and absences in others.

"They're scared," Dale County School Superintendent Donny

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Mayor to use business trip to tout Dothan

BY LANCE GRIFFIN
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Dothan's mayor plans to use an upcoming business trip to sell the city to potential employers — some 7,250 miles away.

Mayor Mike Schmitz, who owns and operates the Mike Schmitz Automotive Group, will be flying to Seoul, South Korea, soon to meet with Hyundai officials in connection with his automotive dealership business.

Schmitz, however, said he planned to take the opportunity to meet with Korean business leaders about Dothan's availability as a prime site to locate industry.

"Just knocking on some doors," Schmitz said.

Schmitz said he planned to initiate contact with some companies in South Korea, but added that other Korean companies have already initiated contact with Dothan.

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Promoting fitness



JAY HARE/DO THAN EAGLE

South Dale Middle School students climb a rock wall inside the school's gym during physical education class on Wednesday afternoon.

Dale County schools incorporate equipment, games into P.E. program with federal grant

BY EBONY HORTON
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A gym and fitness center with a rock-climbing wall, Nintendo Wiis, Xbox Kinects, circuit fitness equipment and an active learning lab might not seem like it would exist in a public elementary school.

But a variety of the equipment and centers are throughout Dale County Schools' physical education departments after the system received a Carol M. White Physical Education Program grant totaling \$450,210 over three years. The federal grant, which is in its final year for the schools, was one of two awarded in the state to enhance P.E. instruction by incorporating assessment, instruction, and new programs that could lead to lifelong physical strengthening and conditioning.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 17 percent of children and teenagers between the ages of 2 and 19 in America are obese — or have a body mass index of more than 30 percent. More than 10 percent of children

"It's interesting to watch them get excited about exercising and movement. Even some of those students that weren't interested before are getting involved with exercise at our fitness center on the treadmills and other equipment."

Kenna Head,

South Dale Middle School P.E. teacher

between ages 2 and 4 were obese in Alabama in 2010, and more than 32 percent of the state's adults are obese, according to data.

South Dale Middle School P.E. teacher Kenna Head said equipment like a rock-climbing wall and a fitness center purchased for the school get kids more motivated to exercise and become involved in organized sports.

"It's interesting to watch them get excited about exercising and move-

ment. Even some of those students that weren't interested before are getting involved with exercise at our fitness center on the treadmills and other equipment," she said.

Dale County High School also has a fitness center with multiple types of weights and other equipment, while televisions that broadcast healthy meal choices are on display at Ariton Schools and are being installed at G.W. Long Schools.

In addition to Wiis and Kinects, the schools also have some new outside resources. Newton Elementary School has more playground equipment. Midland City Elementary School has an entirely new playground and is expected to launch an active learning lab soon.

Ariton Schools P.E. teacher Starla Cherry said school officials have traveled throughout the country to learn about P.E. models that incorporate movement with learning. Cherry said the schools also have been able to provide maximum participation for

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JAY HARE/DO THAN EAGLE

A farmer was critically burned over much of his body after a fire apparently started in the bed of his truck as he was driving into Alabama on Cottonwood Road on Wednesday afternoon.

Gasoline fire causes injury

From staff reports

A fire that started in the back of a man's pickup truck left the motorist hospitalized after he tried to put the fire out.

Alabama State Trooper Kevin Cook said the incident happened after a motorist noticed something on fire in the back of his truck. Cook said the incident took place around 3:15 p.m. about 100 feet north of the Florida state line on Alabama Highway 53.

Houston County Sheriff's Capt. Antonio Gonzalez said deputies also responded to what was originally believed to be a traffic accident. Gonzalez said a container of gas in the back of a pickup truck hauling a trailer caught fire, and the driver was burned as he tried to take the container of gas out of the truck. Gonzalez said a passing motorist, who stopped to help, also suffered injuries from apparent smoke inhalation.

Tax evasion, fraud trial moved to Montgomery

BY LANCE GRIFFIN
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The tax evasion and fraud trial of two local business people, originally scheduled to be heard in Dothan later this month, has been moved to Montgomery.

U.S. District Judge Myron Thompson issued an order Tuesday moving the trial of Monty and Patricia Ervin. Jurors, however, will still be selected from the lower part of the Middle District of Alabama and jury selection is still scheduled to begin Oct.

25 in Dothan. Once a jury is selected, the trial will begin in Montgomery.

Thompson cited "reasons of security" for moving the trial and cited a letter from the United States Marshal's Office. The letter, however, has been placed under seal by the court and is not viewable by the public.

The Dothan Federal Building was built in 1911 and was placed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. The courthouse lacks several features of the expanded fed-

eral courthouse in Montgomery, including separate judge's chambers and separate prisoner holding areas.

The Ervins are charged with three counts of tax evasion and conspiracy to defraud the United States. Patricia Ervin is charged with structuring transactions to avoid reporting requirements.

Monty Ervin has been detained pending trial after a judge determined he could be considered a flight risk. He was arrested in Florida in March. The government

alleges Ervin had plans to avoid arrest by moving to an island near Honduras.

According to an indictment and a statement from the Department of Justice, the government alleges the Ervins owned a realty company and placed properties and other assets in the names of "nominees" in order to conceal their assets and income from the Internal Revenue Service. The indictment also alleges the Ervins failed to file income tax returns in multiple years.



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