

DOTHAN EAGLE

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"For I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" *Isaiah 37:17*

75 cents

Today: Showers, t-storms
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Crew seeks survivors, bodies after Texas blast



8A

Coble brings a veteran presence



1B

Open House Weekend
 Check out more than 100 Wiregrass homes for sale **INSIDE TODAY'S EAGLE**

Dothan man convicted in 'pots and pans' trial

Victims cheated out of \$6 million

BY LANCE GRIFFIN
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A federal jury convicted a Dothan man Thursday on multiple counts of fraud and money laundering after concluding he swindled scores of people out of millions of dollars in what prosecutors referred to as a "pots and

pans" scheme. Edward Lincoln Forehand, of Dothan, will be sentenced Aug. 2 by U.S. District Judge Myron Thompson. Forehand faces up to 20 years in prison on each count and can be fined up to \$250,000 on each count; twice the gain by

Forehand or twice the loss by the victims. Prosecutors with the U.S. Attorney's Office and Alabama Securities Commission argued that Forehand pitched a fraudulent investment scheme to residents that promised exorbitant

returns. Forehand claimed the money invested would go toward the purchase of wholesale cookware that would then be sold to colleges and universities at much higher prices. Prosecutors

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PLANS PROGRESS



JAY HARE / DOTHAN EAGLE

A painter rolls a layer of paint over the Pemco logo at the old facility Thursday morning. Commercial Jet recently took over the facility and has already started renovations on the property.

Ideas moving forward to take over Dothan airport tower

BY LANCE GRIFFIN
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Despite two one-month delays in the Federal Aviation Administration's closure of 149 airport towers around the country, Dothan's Regional Airport director said there is no reason to believe the FAA will not go through with the closure of Dothan's tower, now planned for June 15.

Airport Director Art Morris has been scrambling to put the pieces together that will allow the Dothan-Houston County Airport Authority to take over control of

the tower immediately after the FAA relinquishes control. However, Morris said he is still trying to gain the necessary information from the FAA.

Morris said he has been attempting to determine how much it will cost for the maintenance of the tower and its equipment by the FAA as compared to a private contractor. However, the FAA has not provided cost estimates on tower maintenance.

Morris said the Authority is also ready to use contract workers to man the tower in peak hours during the day.

Continued operation of the tower was a requirement for new employer Commercial Jet, Inc., to relocate its aircraft maintenance and repair business to Dothan from Miami. It is expected to cost between \$400,000 and \$600,000 per year to operate the tower.

Meanwhile, a contractor is currently working on repairs and renovations to the airport's Hangar 15. Once work on the hangar is substantially complete, Commercial Jet can begin operations. Repairs

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Student charged with threat

BY MATT ELOFSON
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Houston County Sheriff's deputies have arrested a teenager on a charge that he threatened to shoot and kill people at Rehobeth High School.



Braden

Court records show Sheriff's Lt. Randy Anderson, the school resource officer for the Houston County Sheriff's Office, arrested Aaron Andrew Braden, 18, of Decatur Road, on Wednesday and charged him with felony making a terrorist threat.

The Houston County Schools Superintendent's Office confirmed Braden attended Rehobeth High School at the time

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Ozark fire chief to be on probation

To have testing after dispatch incident

BY EBONY HORTON
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OZARK — The City of Ozark still has a fire chief.

After around seven combined hours of executive sessions over three days, the city council unanimously approved Ozark Mayor Billy Blackwell's recommendation to suspend Ozark Fire Chief Greg Boutwell for 30 days without pay, retroactive April 5, and place him on probation for one year.

Boutwell was also ordered to go for testing and counseling for

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Samboree brings campers from across country

BY GREG PHILLIPS
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Al and Rosemary Ranks don't make it to Dothan very often.

After all, it's a long drive from Randolph, Maine, to the Circle City, but the couple is stationed in town this weekend along with more than 260 other campers at the National Peanut Festival fairgrounds for this year's Samboree.

The Samboree is an annual event that draws members of the Good Sam RV Club from around the country to hang out, play games and raise money for various charities.

"We live in Florida in the winter

and were on our way back up anyway, so we decided to stop in for Samboree," said Al Ranks. "They have a good one here. The city's good and we've got some friends here."

Good Sams are members of an international group of RV campers that started in the 1960s.

Among the charities supported by the group are Dogs for the Deaf and the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind.

Alabama Good Sam State Director Larry Cobb said Dothan was selected because of its outstanding facilities at the Peanut Festival.

"This is a great campground," he said. "It's a first-rate facility."

Among the games that will be



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ONLINE

» For more about the Good Sam RV Club, visit www.goodsamclub.com.
 » For details on Alabama Good Sams, visit www.alabamagoodsams.org.

Jim Christensen rolls a ball while playing a game of bocce with his wife, Chris, during the Samboree at the National Peanut Festival Fairgrounds.

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