



TIMES-GEORGIAN

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Four more plead guilty in Mobley case

D.A. says community lost 'truly decent man'

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The four remaining defendants accused in the 2013 shooting death of a Villa Rica business owner pleaded guilty Monday.

Following the pleas, District Attorney Pete Skandalakis said he hoped the family of Mitch Mobley "can find

some comfort and peace."

"Our office joins with the Mobleys in asking that Mitch be remembered more for the good and generous man that he was than for the manner of his death. Our community has lost a truly decent human being."

Mobley was the owner of

Mobley Company Jewelers in Villa Rica.

A fifth defendant in the case, Eric Billings, in February pleaded guilty to fatally shooting Mobley.

Four men — Raphael Rucker, Bernard Hunt, Eric Billings and Greg Clifton — entered the Mobley jewelry store on June 26, 2013. Waiting in a getaway vehicle was another man, Cranford Phelps. After

entering the store, Rucker, Hunt and Clifton used mallets to smash display cases and steal jewelry. Eric Billings pulled out a handgun and pointed it at a store employee, who fled to the back of the store.

A fifth defendant in the case, Eric Billings, in February pleaded guilty to fatally shooting Mobley.

At the urging of one of his codefendants, according to prosecutors, Billings chased the employee but was confronted by Mobley. Billings quickly fired three shots

at Mobley, but missed each time, prosecutors said. At the sound of the shots, the other defendants abandoned Billings and fled the store. Mobley shot one time and grazed Hunt on the arm as he ran away.

While looking for a way out of the back of the store, Billings again came upon Mobley, whose back was turned to the defendant. Billings fired three more shots, two of which struck Mobley, fatally

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READY, AIM ...



Above: Morgan Frank takes aim during the precompetition setup at the BB Gun Shooting Championships Saturday at the Ag Center in Carrollton.

The event is part of the Georgia Games, with shooters from all over Georgia competing. The Georgia Games were created in 1989, with the championships held in an Olympic-style multisports festival, including about 50 different events.

Right: Collin Grubbs, currently Georgia's top BB shooter in the 4-H state championships, competes in the standing position Saturday.

Photos by Ricky Stille/Times-Georgian



Jackson will vote 'no' on transportation system proposal

Agency to present details to Board of Commissioners

BY WINSTON JONES
THE TIMES-GEORGIAN

Carroll County Commissioner Kevin Jackson said Monday that he will vote against a proposed state-backed, county public transportation system, even though the Board of Commissioners won't hear details of the proposed plan until Thursday.

"We've seen this before and turned it down," Jackson said. "I've talked with other people in my district, and I think I have the pulse for the district. They're tired of standing in line to pay for food behind people with free debit cards and free cellphones. I don't see the need for free bus service. My vote will be 'no' on this item."

Representatives from Three Rivers Regional Commission will meet with the Board of Commissioners Thursday at 4 p.m. to present details of the proposed transportation system. It would be funded by state rural transportation money, with the county providing a 10 percent match. Three Rivers currently operates similar transportation systems in Coweta, Meriwether, Spalding, Pike, Lamar, Upson and Butts counties.

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CASA needs more funding, volunteers for its mission

BY ERIC WILEY
THE TIMES-GEORGIAN

Carroll County Court Appointed Special Advocates, or CASA, is in need of volunteers to assist with aiding foster children.

The group last month hosted its 14th annual Grand Night event at the University of West Georgia's ballroom, raising just under \$60,000 to support its mission of training volunteers who advocate on behalf of abused and neglected children living in the community.

"Our event overall was successful, but we're not finished," CASA Executive Director Amanda Camp said. "Being a nonprofit, that's the challenge, making sure enough funds are available to support what we need."

The organization, which has been in Carroll County since 1998, currently has 42 active volunteers, "but the concern is that even with

TO HELP

To volunteer, visit carrollcasa.org, stop by the CASA office at 123 Newnan St. in Carrollton or contact Camp at 770-838-1964.

that number of volunteers, we've had issues getting volunteers for every child from this area in foster care," Camp said.

There are about 140 to 145 children from Carroll County in foster care.

Prospective volunteers must be at least 21 years of age, go through a background and screening process, personal interview and a training process.

"There's a huge benefit to children having a CASA volunteer,"

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Buchanan man is charged with murder in ax attack

Additional counts possible

BY COLTON CAMPBELL
THE TIMES-GEORGIAN

A Buchanan man is accused of causing the death of another man during an ax attack this month.

James Anthony Pitts, 42, was booked into the Haralson County jail in mid-April on charges of aggravated assault. Those charges were upgraded to felony murder following the death last week of 46-year-old Edward Foster Posey.

Haralson County Sheriff Eddie Mixon said Pitts attacked Posey on April 4, during which the defendant struck the victim on the head with an ax handle as the two argued at the Dehunt Drive home where Pitts resided.

Also charged in the incident was April Lequilla Clopp, 38, who lived with Pitts at the time of the incident. Clopp faces charges of obstruction of law enforcement and hindering the apprehension of a criminal.

"Several hours passed

between the attack on Mr. Posey and when he was taken by an acquaintance to Higgins General Hospital in Bremen," said Capt. Teresa Pilcher of the sheriff's department. "Upon his arrival, the attending physician ordered that Posey be transported to Atlanta Medical Center."

Posey reportedly remained in the intensive care unit at the hospital until he died April 20.

Pitts remains in Haralson County jail without bond.

Pilcher said the investigation into the events on April 4 are ongoing, and further charges are possible.



James Anthony Pitts



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