



THE LEAF-CHRONICLE

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IN SPORTS, C1



HOME & GARDEN GUIDE INSIDE

• SECOND ANNUAL EVENT WILL BE THIS WEEKEND AT APSU FOY CENTER
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INSIDE TODAY

TROOPS WET, BUT HAPPY TO BE HOME

158 CAB SOLDIERS RETURNED EARLY

IN COMMUNITY, B1

Storm pounds county with wind, flooding



GREG WILLIAMSON/THE LEAF-CHRONICLE

The Port Royal area was under a flood warning for much of Thursday as rain fell throughout the day.

Variety of agencies follow developments

BY RICHARD V. STEVENS
AND PHILIP GREY
THE LEAF-CHRONICLE

A storm packing high winds pounded Clarksville and most of Montgomery County Thursday night, capping a day of heavy rains that caused localized flooding of creeks and rivers.

A roof was blown off a residence in the Dotsonville community off of Highway 79 West, but no serious in-

juries were reported, said Ted Denny, public information officer for the county Sheriff's Office. Power lines were down on York Road.

In nearby Woodlawn, trees were knocked down along Lake Road, causing some traffic delays.

Further south, downed trees and property damage was reported along Martin Road, off Highway 13 near Montgomery Central High School.

"Our guys are being pushed to the

limit," Denny said about 10 p.m. "It was a big storm that covered almost all of the county, from Woodlawn and Dotsonville all the way down to Highway 13."

Jim Knoll, Clarksville Police spokesman, said the storm was intense and hit about 9:15 p.m.

"We've got some flooding, trees down, a few auto wrecks, some power

SEE STORM, PAGE A3

CLARKSVILLE

Council targets noise makers

Proposals would restrict racetracks, trash pickup

BY BRIAN EASON
THE LEAF-CHRONICLE

Two city councilmen are pushing for amendments to the city noise ordinance so their constituents can get a good night sleep.

One is a revival of Ward 8 Councilman David Allen's 2009 proposal to limit the hours that racetracks can operate.

Ward 7 Councilman Geno Grubbs' proposal is a new one. It would require that garbage trucks only make their rounds from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Both proposals faced resistance from other council members at their non-voting session Thursday night, with several questioning whether the body should meddle in something that would adversely affect local businesses.



GRUBBS



ALLEN

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE A3

Pitts backs teachers union

BY JAMES GALLOWAY
FOR THE LEAF-CHRONICLE

State Rep. Joe Pitts came out in support of the Tennessee Educators Association during a Thursday meeting about the possibility of teachers losing the ability to collectively bargain with school boards.

The meeting comes after the state Senate voted to reverse a 1978 law that gave collective negotiation rights through a union, along with a proposed change in teacher tenure law introduced by Gov. Bill Haslam. Haslam's plan would extend the period of time teachers must wait to receive tenure from three to five years and require them to pass performance reviews.

SEE TEACHERS, PAGE A3



JAMES GALLOWAY/FOR THE LEAF-CHRONICLE

State Rep. Joe Pitts listens to concerns of members of the Tennessee Educators Association during a Thursday meeting.

Committee delays money for Carmel

New school 1 of 3 projects held up

BY JIMMY SETTLE
THE LEAF-CHRONICLE

Funding for the third major school project currently on the table for Montgomery County was delayed until June by the county Budget Committee.

The committee decided Thursday evening to put off a resolution for Carmel Elementary in southeast Montgomery County until a better idea of the budget picture for the new fiscal year is available.

Construction of Carmel and the county's 23rd ele-

mentary school in North Clarksville and renovations to Northwest High School have been deferred until a new fiscal year.

In an attempt to avoid delaying the opening of elementary school 23, the School Board has already shifted \$90,000 from capital projects already approved to pay for schematic design.

Clarksville-Montgomery County Schools Director Mike Harris told the Budget Committee he had "good news" regarding Carmel, a

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COMMITTEE

FROM PAGE 1

project that is currently expected to cost close to \$17 million.

"That bid came in about \$3 million under expectation," he said. "We did get the good news that that bid is good for about

six months."

County Mayor Carolyn Bowers said she's been in conversation with Harris about the school funding delays. "We can't fund (the new schools and renovations) right now with the current tax rate," Bowers said.

Among other discus-

sion, the Budget Committee heard from Sheriff's Department Chief Deputy Ed Patterson and Lt. Jessie Reynolds about the loss of traditional government funding for methamphetamine lab cleanup. That cost, for the future, could be absorbed by counties.

TEACHERS

FROM PAGE 1

Pitts called the move "political retribution" and payback by the Republicans who have "complained loud and long" about the TEA's support of Democratic candidates in the past. Pitts said teachers are becoming a political target.

Republican State Rep. Glen Casada supports the initiative to revoke the union's bargaining rights and extend tenure requirements. He said the TEA protects bad teachers and drives up the cost of education when they bargain for benefits and salaries.

Pitts said the legislation is aimed at the people who make public education work every day.

"You're stripping them of their right to have a say in their career," Pitts said. "You're stripping them of a seat at the table to talk about their retirement system they contribute to

through their hard work. ... You're making them a political target."

Casada doesn't agree that the recent surge of Republican initiatives are either "anti-public education" or "union-busting." He said teachers should have to answer to the school board directly for their shortcomings and salary negotiations, not through a union.

"If they complain about salaries — as you and I know they do — that they're not making enough and they're hanging on the union to get salary and benefits, the reason they got in this rut maybe was the union. Maybe, so let's try something different," Casada said. "No collective bargaining."

Preventing the automatic payroll deductions for union dues and allowing for the election of a superintendent are two other bills on the table that TEA considers important.

Gera Summerford, TEA president and a public school teacher from Seviere County, said out of 70,000 educators employed by the state of Tennessee, over 50,000 belong to the teacher's union, which she considers the collective voice of public school teachers in the state.

She said removing that collective voice and expecting all teachers to individually negotiate with the school board is absurd.

"What I imagine is a return to the days of favoritism, nepotism, rewarding and providing jobs for those who voted for the right people," Summerford said to murmurs of agreement from within an audience of teachers.

Pitts encouraged teachers to keep pressure on lawmakers. Summerford said she expects thousands to turn out at a teacher's rally March 5 in Nashville.

WEATHER

FROM PAGE 1

outages across the city. The siren system activated around 9:15 p.m.," Knoll said.

Michelle Williams, who lives in a city neighborhood of single-family homes off Lafayette Road near Northwest High School, said she began hearing the roar of high winds around 9:20 p.m.

"My walls were rattling," said Michelle Williams. "The whole house was rattling. I thought my roof was going to blow off."

"I felt panic, anxiety. You hear all that and you wonder, what's going to happen? Praying was a must," Williams said. "It seemed like a lifetime, but I would say it lasted three minutes."

Afterward, she looked out her windows to see the storm's wrath. "My fence is gone, a shed is sitting in the road. There's debris all around my house," she said.

Earlier, as a new line of

storms moved in from the west, the National Weather Service issued a tornado watch in late afternoon. The alert was upgraded to tornado warning about 8:50 p.m. and lasted until 1 a.m. today. The warning said that 1-inch hail, wind gusts up to 75 mph and dangerous lightning were possible throughout the midstate area.

At the Montgomery County Emergency Management Agency, representatives from city and county government, as well as EMS, American Red Cross, Risk Management, the Sheriff's Office and public information personnel were watching a line of fast-moving storms approaching from the western part of the state.

The agencies came together Thursday afternoon after a conference call with the National Weather Service convinced officials they needed to be prepared for a long night.

Just how many emer-

gency personnel were on standby?

"Everybody in city and county government," answered Steve Jones of EMA.

Flooding remained a big worry all day Thursday, as new storms dumped an additional 1-2 inches on top of 3 inches that had already fallen the previous night.

Deputy EMA Director Jerry Buchanan said the Cumberland River was expected to crest at 43 feet, three feet below flood stage. Buchanan said the May 2010 flood rose to 62.58 feet.

As he said that, though, the incoming squall line was being tracked at 60 miles per hour, shifting the emphasis to a more immediate problem: tornadoes.

Temperatures behind the front were in the 40s as a cold air mass collided into a much warmer air mass with temperatures in the 60s and 70s.

"This group is ready to react," Steve Jones said of the fronts.

COUNCIL

FROM PAGE 1

Allen's proposal was previously voted down 5-7, after hoards of Clarksville Speedway patrons showed up to oppose the changes. The initial proposal would have prevented cars from being raced after 11 p.m., but the cut-off time was later amended to 12:30 a.m.

Allen's new proposal would prevent cars from racing after midnight.

"I feel this is a fair compromise," Allen said, noting that he had no intention of shutting down the racetrack. "Certainly the racetrack provides entertainment for our city ... (but) right now they can run 24 hours a day if they want to."

Some council members said the residents should have known what was in store when they moved next door.

"If you move into an airport area, you know there's an airport," Ward 3 Councilman James Lewis said.

"I live on Second Street, and I hear cars 24 hours a day," Ward 6 Councilman Marc Harris added. "But that's a decision I made, and I accept it."

Harris said the true problem was the develop-

ers who continued to build neighborhoods nearby.

Others argued it would not be fair to the business owner.

"These developments have encroached upon the track, the track has not encroached upon them," Ward 11 Councilman Kaye Jones said.

Allen noted he leaves "probably five houses" away from the track, but said it was not a personal complaint. Rather, it was one he'd received from constituents.

"If it were in your backyard, you'd think differently," Allen responded. "If it were in your ward, you'd think differently."

Garbage trucks

Grubbs said his proposal was geared toward garbage trucks operating as early as 4 a.m. at times.

"I'm bringing this up so people who get up and have to go to work can get a good night's rest," Grubbs said.

Codes enforcement official Mike Baker told the council his office routinely receives complaints about noise from garbage trucks.

"I have personally called garbage operators and asked them to

cease," Baker said. "It seems to work for a couple of weeks and then they go right back into their routine."

Jones questioned whether the proposal would adversely affect small business owners. She gave as an example the possibility of truck operators going out early in the morning so they could work a day job as well.

Some suggested limiting the proposal to only those vehicles that made the most noise, and Ward 9 Councilman Joel Wallace said a blanket time restriction really provides no incentives for quieter trucks.

Others, including Harris and Ward 1 Councilman Nick Steward, said moving trash pickups to the day could cause traffic problems by keeping trucks on the street when school buses are running and people are driving to work.

"I can't fathom there being that many on a given morning, city-wide," Grubbs responded.

The council's regular voting session is Thursday at 7 p.m.

Brian Eason, 245-0262

City government reporter

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LOTTERIES

TENNESSEE

Thursday midday:

Cash 3: 0-0-9

Cash 4: 5-8-2-8

Thursday evening:

Cash 3: 0-3-6

Cash 4: 5-8-3-3

Wednesday:

Tennessee Cash:

09-11-14-28-33

KENTUCKY

Thursday midday:

Pick 3: 1-4-9

Pick 4: 6-4-5-0

Wednesday evening:

Pick 3: 1-5-1

Pick 4: 2-0-0-4

Cash Ball: 11-12-

13-23 - 18

Kicker: 4-3-0-1-2

Thursday evening Kentucky

Lottery results not available

by press time.

POWER BALL

Wednesday:

29-32-36-39-49

Power Ball: 29

Power Play: 3

QUOTABLE

"He who never leaves his country is full of prejudices."

— Carlo Goldoni, Italian playwright (born this date in 1707, died 1793)



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For more information and to register, contact the Montgomery County Extension office at 931-648-5725.

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