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Marietta Daily Journal

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Men accused of bilking woman, 91, out of \$2.8M

Bail set at \$100K, \$500K for father, son in Cobb jail

By Lindsay Field
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MARIETTA — A father and son from Gainesville remain in the Cobb County Jail after they allegedly swindled almost

\$3 million from a 91-year-old Marietta woman. Jeffrey T. Carr, 39, and Joseph T. Carr, 65, were arrested Tuesday by investigators with the Cobb County Sheriff's Fraud Unit on exploitation charges. Jeffrey Carr was also arrested on four counts of theft by taking and Joseph Carr on one count of theft by receiving stolen property. Jeffrey Carr remains in the county jail on a \$500,000 bond,

and his father is held on a \$100,000 bond. According to warrants, Jeffrey Carr is accused of taking \$2.8 million from the elderly woman by influencing her to sign over her power of attorney and accepting fees, rent payments, commissions, legal fees



Joseph T. Carr, 65



Jeffrey T. Carr, 39

and other charges. He is also accused of moving her to a rehab facility in Gainesville, "essentially isolating her from contact with her daughters and friends, despite the victim's initial request to go to a facility close to her residence in Cobb

County," according to a release by the Sheriff's Office. Jeffrey Carr later took her out of the assisted living home in Gainesville and moved her into a bedroom in his parents' home. Joseph Carr is accused of accepting a total of \$691,920 from the elderly woman's accounts between 2011 and 2013. Some of the money has been

See **Accused**, Page 4A

Claims against principal dropped

Veteran educator had been accused of failing to report alleged rape

By Lindsay Field
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MARIETTA — Failure to report allegations against Awtrey Middle School Principal Jeff Crawford have been dismissed by the Cobb County School District.

"We are relieved and pleased to hear that common sense has prevailed and that the matter is being dismissed," said Crawford's attorney, Justin O'Dell. "Mr. Crawford is looking forward to preparing for the end of the school year and the school year to come. He is happy to be rid of this distraction and able to focus entirely on education."

O'Dell said he received a phone call from the district attorney Tuesday about the dismissal.

Crawford, a 21-year educator with 14 years of experience as an administrator, was accused of incompetency, insubordination and willful neglect of duties for failure to report a female student's allegation of rape.

The school district also faulted Crawford for not returning to school on Jan. 18 following a meeting regarding the accusations.

Crawford was scheduled to appear at a hearing for his appeal against his suspension of one day without pay in two weeks.

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Jeff Crawford

FIT FOR LIFE



The new fitness center at Swift-Cantrell Park in Kennesaw was dedicated this week and immediately tested by local residents. **Top:** Marine recruiter Sgt. Tim King does some chin-ups after the ribbon-cutting ceremony. **Right:** Kathy Hoffman of Kennesaw tries a few pushups. **Below:** Miranda Jones, assistant to the Kennesaw city manager, tries out the shoulder press. The center is sponsored by Life University.



Staff/Laura Moon



Police sketch of suspect.

Flasher accosts women

One knocked to ground as man flees in red truck

By Leo Hohmann
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MARIETTA — Cobb Police and the National Park Service are looking for a man who reportedly exposed himself to two college-aged women at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park and then assaulted one of the women.

He escaped in a red Ford dually pickup truck. If caught, he will be charged with public indecency and simple battery for the act that occurred Tuesday near 750 Cheatham Hill Road.

According to investigators, as the two women were walking in the National Battlefield Park, they saw a man standing at the wood line, nude from the waist down and fondling himself. The man then charged at the two women, both college students, knocking one of them to the ground.

One of the women reportedly chased after the attacker.

"My hat is off to the two ladies," said Nancy Walther, park superintendent. "She chased him down and called 911 and gave a description of the vehicle and of the suspect and now as a result we have that great sketch from the GBI."

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Whitlock Avenue part of redevelopment bond talks

By Jon Gillooly
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MARIETTA — The City Council spent several hours Wednesday night debating how a \$35 million bond should be spent, ultimately opting to continue the discussion at its next work session May 6.

If the council puts the bond

referendum on the ballot, voters would decide its fate Nov. 5.

At the request of the council, Beth Sessoms, the city's economic development director, presented suggestions on how the \$35 million bond could be spent: dividing \$25 million for buying aging apartment complexes along Franklin Road; \$7.3 million for two new roads that would run

east of Southern Polytechnic State and Life universities, connecting those schools with Franklin Road and whatever future redevelopment occurs there; \$1.5 million for Whitlock Avenue sidewalks, landscaping and pedestrian street lamps; and \$1.2 million to renovate the former Lemon Street School, home to the city's and county's black

students prior to desegregation.

Given that the bond would be issued under the Urban Redevelopment Powers Law, Sessoms said it was necessary to amend the city's urban redevelopment plan to include Whitlock Avenue for it to receive bond money.

Councilmembers Jim King and


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INSIDE

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◆ 147th year, edition 122

OUTSIDE



Showers

75

HIGH

57

LOW

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POLLEN COUNT

YESTERDAY	INDEX
117	0-14 = LOW 15-89 = MODERATE 90-1499 = HIGH 1500+ = EXTREME
HIGH	



Accosts

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Authorities released a composite sketch from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation that shows a light-skinned man, possibly Hispanic, in his late 20s to early 30s with a goatee and shaggy, curly hair.

He fled on foot to a faded red mid-1990s model Ford pickup and was last seen driving westbound on Dallas Highway towards Paulding County, police said.

The suspect was tall, possibly up to 6-foot-3, and 230 pounds. He possibly has hazel eyes and was last seen wearing a light blue short-sleeve T-shirt with unknown writing on it and gray cargo-style shorts.

Michael Bowman, with Cobb Police, said that agency has increased patrols of the park and parking areas. The National Park rangers have also posted the sketch and photos of the red truck at every trail head in the park.

Walther said the park is patrolled by both Cobb County Police and specially trained rangers.

“Cobb County Police Department, they’ve taken the lead on this case,” Walther said. “But we have what we call visitor protection rangers, and they are sent to the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center for training.”

She said these rangers are trained to protect more than

just people.

“We differ from regular police departments, as we are not only protecting the visitors but also the resources. We have 11 miles of earthworks, which is pretty amazing if you think about it, and they protect those resources.”

Tuesday’s incident was the first of a criminal nature this year, Walther said.

“I can tell you from my perspective from managing the park that this is the first incident this year. I don’t think this is isolated, though. I think in the spring time we do get the occasional person that comes in and is doing deviant behavior. It’s not the only time it’s happened, but it’s not a regular occurrence.”

She praised Cobb County Police Department for the job it does in lending a hand at the park.

“We are a small staff. If we didn’t have the relationship that we have with Cobb County, they are there, they’re in our parking lot, they go to the top of the mountain, they help us with the accidents.

“We couldn’t do it without them. It’s a really special relationship. They look after us.”

The park also relies on its visitors to be its eyes and ears, she said.

Similar incidents may have occurred prior to this incident and police are asking that anyone who may recognize this suspect or who has information that may assist investigators, to call (770) 499-3945.

Principal

Continued from Page 1A

Cobb Schools spokesman Jay Dillon said the hearing for Crawford has been canceled, but declined to confirm whether the allegations have been dismissed.

O’Dell said he hopes the school district has learned something from this mistake.

“I am hopeful that this dismissal is the first step by the school district on a path to changing the entire process of investigating and charging educators in order to avoid others having to go through a situation like Mr. Crawford,” O’Dell said.

Cobb School Board Chair Randy Scamihorn said he had not been briefed on the dismissal or hearing cancellation, but said that anytime an employee is given another chance, it is a good thing.

He also spoke on what Cobb Schools is doing in reference to future mandatory reporting problems.

“We are in the process of reviewing the procedures,” he said. “I’ve been patient because these things sometimes become com-

plex, and the district may need time to work through changes and the ramifications of any changes.”

Three employees lost their jobs on similar allegations last school year. They were also criminally charged and the Solicitor General’s Office dropped charges against one of them earlier this year.

Directors with two of Cobb County’s professional teachers’ organizations say they are pleased with the

district’s decision.

“We are absolutely thrilled by this development and that a veteran educator who didn’t do anything wrong has been cleared and won’t be facing the suspension,” said John Adams with Educators First.

“We’re glad that someone in the central office finally decided to take a look at this case and do the right thing,” he said. “I hope, as the result of this case and what comes out of this, going forward human resources and the district will treat employees much better and employees will truly be viewed as innocent until proven guilty.”

In the future, Adams said he also believes the

“I hope, as the result of this case and what comes out of this, going forward human resources and the district will treat employees much better and employees will truly be viewed as innocent until proven guilty.”

— John Adams, Educators First

Accused

Continued from Page 1A

recovered by investigators while working with the Cobb District Attorney’s Office and Adult Protective Services through seizures of bank accounts in the name of Jeffrey Carr and the woman.

Search warrants executed by the county fraud unit resulted in investigators confiscating four Cadillacs and two Rolex watches, which they believe were purchased with the woman’s money.

Nancy Bodiford with the Sheriff’s Office said investigators can’t say exactly how much money has been confiscated, but they have frozen several bank accounts totaling \$1.5 million.

She also said the case has been “extremely active and ongoing,” and information about the relationship between Carr and the elderly woman cannot be released.

Anyone with information on other exploitation incidents or the abuse of elders, can contact the Sheriff’s Office at (770) 499-4752.

Ways to avoid being scammed

Pat King with the Georgia Division of Aging said crimes like the ones Jeffrey and Joseph Carr were arrested for are “exploding.” And the elderly are particularly at risk because they are more often targeted by swindlers.

“We’re seeing more and more (cases),” she said Wednesday. “In fact, I’d say 90 percent of the crimes against the elderly are money driven.”

She said in the past cases involving elderly victims and their powers of attorney have been civil matters, but that doesn’t give an individual the authority to steal from someone.

King said predators can be clever in how they gain trust from a senior citizen.

“They will make friends with you and slowly but surely isolate you, gain your trust, and that’s when they start appearing on

bank accounts, financial statements or assets,” she said. “We just need to start looking out better for our older population.”

King recommends taking these steps to avoid elder abuse or exploitation for the general public:

- Get on “Do Not Call” lists;
- Don’t sign any docu-

ment just placed in front of you;

- Shred anything that comes in the mail with personal or banking information on it;
- Get caller ID;
- Get periodic credit checks;
- Never provide personal information to someone over the phone;

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district needs to take a harder look at how it handles not only mandated reporting cases but employee discipline and personnel investigations in general.

He learned about the dismissal Wednesday.

Connie Jackson with the Cobb County Association of Educators agreed with Adams.

“I think that teachers and staff have been careful not to violate the failure to report law, and I think that because it has been so widely publicized, there might

have been a rush to judgment, and I’m glad to see that the district took time to step back and fully assess the situation,” she said.

Like Adams, she hopes the district will do more research before making allegations.

“I think my members will be glad to see that the district is taking a more thoughtful approach to handling discipline because we have always encouraged more time to investigate charges before they are brought,” Jackson said.

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METROPOLITAN REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY FY 2014 PROPOSED BUDGET (Includes Fiscal Agent Revenues & Expenses)	
Metro RESA supports the work, improvement and effectiveness of its local school systems, colleges and universities, and library system. The State agency serves as the fiscal agent for Metro West Georgia Learning Resources System and North Metro Georgia Network for Educational and Therapeutic Support. The below proposed budget for FY 2014 for these entities will be considered for final adoption by the Board of Control at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, May 15, 2013 at Wyndham Atlanta Galleria; 6345 Powers Ferry Road, N.W.; Atlanta, GA 30339:	
ANTICIPATED REVENUES:	
Federal Revenues	\$ 3,113,088.52
State Revenues	\$ 6,175,760.32
Other State Agencies Revenues	\$ 273,162.78
Transfers/Contributions from Local Systems	\$ 259,717.00
Local Revenues	\$ 1,146,700.00
TOTAL BUDGETED REVENUES	\$ 10,968,428.62
ANTICIPATED EXPENSES:	
Instructional Expenses	\$ (3,208,323.94)
Pupil Services Expenses	\$ (1,231,472.11)
Improvement of Instructional Svcs Expenses	\$ (4,254,262.90)
General Administration Expenses	\$ (393,866.04)
School Administration Expenses	\$ (530,469.76)
Support Services - Business Expenses	\$ (281,737.13)
Maintenance & Operations Expenses	\$ (72,766.26)
Support Services - Central Expenses	\$ (31,344.77)
Other Support Services Expenses	\$ (157,820.44)
TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSES	\$ (10,162,063.35)
Schedule of FY 2014 Metro RESA Board of Control Meetings: Courtyard by Marriott Atlanta Vinings; 2857 Paces Ferry Road, N.W.; Atlanta, GA at 10:00 AM on 7/17/2013, 8/21/2013, 9/18/2013, 10/16/2013, 11/20/2013, 12/18/2013, 1/15/2014, 2/19/2014, 3/19/2014, 4/23/2014, 5/21/2014, and 6/18/2014.	

Simon Says...

COBB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT FY2014 BOARD OF EDUCATION TENTATIVE BUDGET					
	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL REVENUE	DEBT SERVICE	INTERNAL SERVICES	TOTAL ALL FUNDS
Revenues:					
Local Revenue	\$399,584,343	\$31,097,189	\$0	\$6,746,864	\$437,428,396
State Revenue	\$407,318,416	\$6,636,087	\$0	\$0	\$413,954,503
Federal Revenue	\$3,999,097	\$78,841,627	\$0	\$0	\$82,840,724
Transfer Revenue	\$159,890	\$1,063,291	\$0	\$1,447,507	\$2,670,688
Total Revenue	\$811,061,746	\$117,638,194	\$0	\$8,194,371	\$936,894,311
Utilize Fund Balance	\$45,229,379	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$45,229,379
Total Resources	\$856,291,125	\$117,638,194	\$0	\$8,194,371	\$982,123,690
Appropriations:					
Instruction	\$613,154,695	\$28,108,891	\$0	\$0	\$641,263,586
Pupil Support Services	\$17,007,112	\$5,755,329	\$0	\$0	\$22,762,441
Improvement of Instructional Services	\$23,601,865	\$13,689,681	\$0	\$0	\$37,291,546
Educational Media Services	\$14,840,200	\$21,881	\$0	\$0	\$14,862,081
Federal Grant Administration	\$0	\$783,087	\$0	\$0	\$783,087
General Administration	\$7,416,503	\$1,024,378	\$0	\$0	\$8,440,881
School Administration	\$51,809,976	\$72,789	\$0	\$0	\$51,882,765
Support Services - Business	\$3,858,160	\$55,927	\$0	\$8,194,371	\$12,108,458
Maintenance and Operation of Plant Services	\$60,278,455	\$1,469,806	\$0	\$0	\$61,748,261
Student Transportation	\$47,259,513	\$1,515,572	\$0	\$0	\$48,775,085
Central Support Services	\$14,473,404	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$14,473,404
Other Support Services	\$0	\$1,883,712	\$0	\$0	\$1,883,712
School Nutrition	\$0	\$54,731,095	\$0	\$0	\$54,731,095
Community Services	\$69,761	\$8,526,046	\$0	\$0	\$8,595,807
Capital Outlay	\$17,983	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$17,983
Transfers	\$2,503,498	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,503,498
Debt Service	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Appropriations	\$856,291,125	\$117,638,194	\$0	\$8,194,371	\$982,123,690
A Public Forum on the tentative budget will be held on May 14, 2013 at 7:00 PM. The FY14 budget is scheduled to be adopted in final form by the Board on May 16, 2013 at 7:00 PM.					
All meetings are conducted at the Cobb County Board of Education, 514 Glover Street, Marietta, Georgia. A copy of the budget is available on the web at http://www.cobbk12.org/centraloffice/finance/budget.aspx .					
Mr. Randy Scamihorn, Chairman of the Board					
Michael Hinojosa, Ed.D. - Superintendent					