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Marietta Daily Journal

FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2013

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75 CENTS



Alicia Holbrook arrived Thursday morning at Still Elementary School in Powder Springs with her three school-age boys — first-grader Parker, third-grader John Caleb and fifth-grader Mason, along with her daughter, Anna Kate, 2 — for Cobb school's new student registration for the 2013-14 school year. There are five main documents required of all students prior to being enrolled in the Cobb County School District, including a certificate of immunization, a hearing, dental and vision screening certificate, proof of birth date and residency, and social security card. For more information about registration, link to <http://www.cobbk12.org/aboutccsd/enrollment>.

Staff/Kelly J. Huff

Discipline proposal lauded

Angelucci recommends that termination be a last resort

By Lindsay Field
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MARIETTA — A former Cobb School District assistant superintendent is happy to hear that the district is working with the board and public to make changes to its staff discipline policy.

Stanley Wrinkle, who retired from Cobb Schools in 1994 after serving as an assistant superintendent for 18 years, has been working tirelessly over the last year to help get former Green Acres Elementary School teacher Greg



Staff/file

Stanley Wrinkle, left, and Greg Leontovich at a Cobb School Board meeting earlier this year.

Leontovich at least an interview with the school district. The district fired Leontovich in 2005 after he was

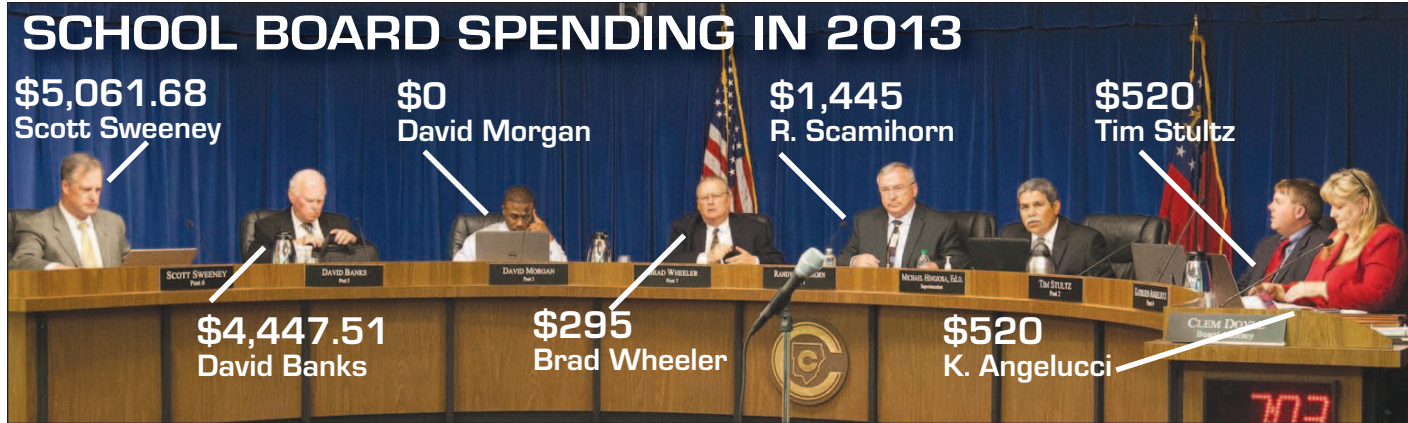
falsely accused of molesting a 6-year-old girl at the Smyrna school. Wrinkle has said all along

that the district should revisit its policies and consider what actions like the ones they took with Leontovich can do to someone's professional reputation.

"I am extremely grateful that the board is considering this rule change and particularly to those board members who have led the way in this matter," he said.

Among the proposed revisions to the discipline policy suggested by board member Kathleen Angelucci on

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Staff/file

Over-spending spurs policy change talk

By Lindsay Field
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MARIETTA — After exceeding its budget for training and travel to education conferences, the Cobb Board of Education is considering a policy change that would provide additional oversight over such trips.

Board members varied in the amount of trips they cost the district last year, from David Morgan, who billed the district nothing, to Scott Sweeney, who spent \$4,541.68 for trips to Virginia and Washington, D.C.

Board members Kathleen Angelucci

“Just because there’s \$10,000, doesn’t mean that we have to use it and especially when we are talking about the financial times that we find ourselves in right now.”

Kathleen Angelucci, board member

and Tim Stultz have suggested three

changes to the policy governing board member “development opportunities,” which outlines training and legal requirements for the elected officials.

One suggestion includes the board voting on the amount of reimbursements the group as a whole will expend annually on these trips. Another includes reporting back to the board what members learn at conferences or events that are not required.

In fiscal 2013, which spanned July 1, 2012 to June 30, the board allotted itself \$11,000 for travel and training, a budget

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Water War

Alabama senator claims Cobb taking more than its share from Allatoona

By Nikki Wiley
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MARIETTA — An Alabama senator has accused Cobb County’s water wholesaler of taking more water than allowed from Lake Allatoona, but others say it’s not that simple.

Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.) says the federal agency that manages the lake’s water has failed to keep the Cobb-Marietta Water Authority, the water wholesaler, from taking more than it is allowed.

Sessions alleges the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which has a contract with the water authority that specifies how much it can take, knew the authority was taking too much yet didn’t do anything to stop it.

Sessions questioned Corps representatives and heard from Georgia Sens. Johnny Isakson and Saxby Chambliss on Monday at a hearing of the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Brig. Gen. Donald Jackson, commander of the South Atlantic Division of the Corps, told Sessions at the hearing he was aware of infractions in 2007 when the Southeast experienced a crippling drought, but did not know of any recent problems.



Ala. Sen. Jeff Sessions

Cobb’s water use affects other states

Pat Robbins, public affairs officer for the Mobile District of the Corps, told the MDJ that authority officials were notified once after exceeding the permitted amount, but no consequences were levied.

Sessions’ statements aren’t the first time metro Atlanta’s water usage has been called into question. A decades-long fight between Georgia, Florida and Alabama over the use of water from the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint and the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa river systems, which

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Man, 20, charged in alcohol-related death of teenager

By Leo Hohmann
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KENNESAW — An overdose of alcohol is being blamed for a 16-year-old boy’s death after he consumed at least two large flasks of vodka and several shots of rum at the house of a 20-year-old Kennesaw man.

That man, Kyle Douglas Walker, turned himself in Thursday to authorities at the Cobb County jail, five days after a warrant had been issued for his arrest.

Walker provided the alcohol to two 20-year-old friends and 16-year-old Alexander Fraire on the night of July 11.

Bottles of vodka and shots of rum were being handed out with encouragement to “chug,” according to police reports.

“It was just a few guys that got together

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GO! see a movie under the stars — Page 1D

Team examining Gulf shipwreck comes across 2 additional vessels

By Michael Graczyk
Associated Press Writer

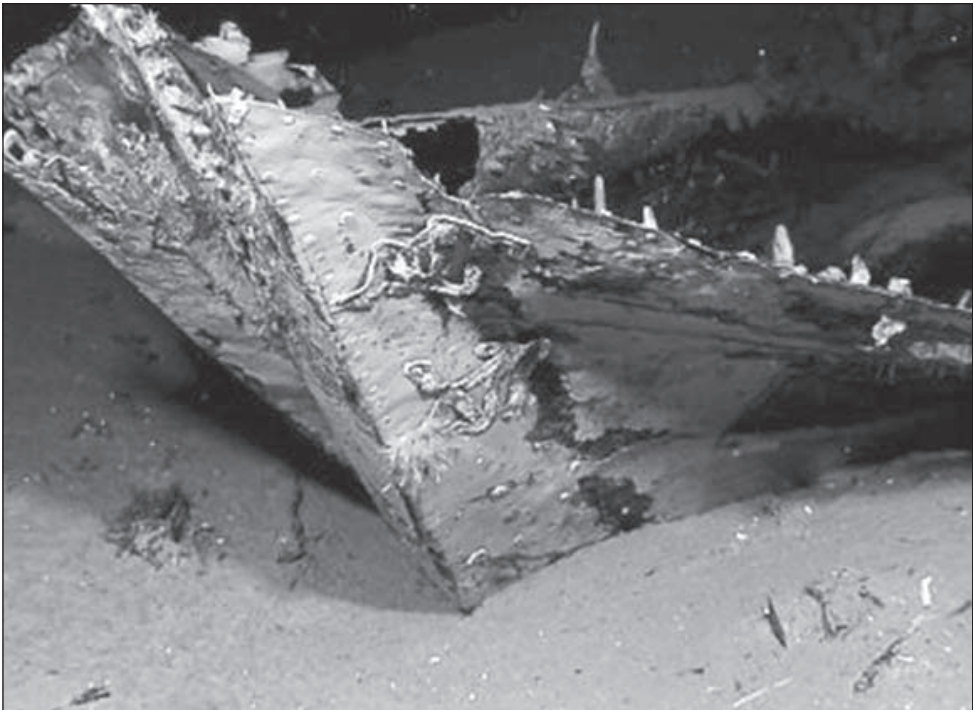
GALVESTON, Texas — Marine archaeologists examining a well-preserved shipwreck nearly a mile deep in the Gulf of Mexico made a thrilling discovery this week — two nearby vessels that were likely sailing with their ship when they all went down together in the same storm.

Researchers led by a team from Texas State University in San Marcos are calling it the deepest shipwrecks — 4,363 feet down — that archaeologists have systematically investigated in the Gulf of Mexico and in North America.

“I think we’re all thoroughly intrigued by this project,” principal investigator Fritz Hanselmann, of the Texas State University Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, said Thursday at a news conference announcing the new find.

“We went out with a lot of questions and we returned with even more. The big question we’re all asking is: What is the shipwreck? And the answer is we still don’t know.”

During eight days of exploration that ended Wednesday, more than 60 artifacts were recovered from the first vessel explored, including musket parts, ceramic cups and dishes, liquor bottles, clothing and even a toothbrush.



The Associated Press

An oxidized copper hull sheathing and possible draft marks are visible on the bow of a wrecked ship found in the Gulf of Mexico about 170 miles from Galveston, Texas. Officials with Texas A&M University at Galveston and Texas State University say the recovery expedition of the two-masted ship that may be 200-years-old, concluded Wednesday. They’ve been able to recover some items like ceramics and bottles, including liquor bottles and an octant, a navigational tool. Other items spotted among the wreckage are muskets, swords, cannons and clothing.

The researchers couldn’t legally or ethically retrieve pieces from the two new finds under the terms of their agreement to examine the initial shipwreck.

But scientists who took thousands of photos and closely examined the wrecks with remote-controlled undersea vehicles speculated that the three ships likely went down

together in a storm about 170 miles southeast of Galveston. They came to rest within a five-mile area of one another.

The artifacts originated in several places, including china from Britain, pottery from Mexico and at least one musket from Canada.

“What you’re going to see and hear I hope will blow your mind,” Hansel-

mann told reporters.

“Because it has ours.”

Two of the ships were carrying similar items, and researchers believe they may have been privateers, or armed ships hired by a government, Hanselmann said. The third vessel was carrying hides and large bricks of tallow, and it may have been a prize seized by the privateers.

Discipline

Continued from Page 1A

Wednesday are that employees are presumed innocent until they are found guilty, that termination of an employee should only be used as a last resort, that the use of polygraph examinations can only be used in rare circumstances and that employees may not be subject to retaliation for exercise of their due process rights related to any investigations or disciplinary matters.

Wrinkle said Angelucci’s recommended changes also reiterate the board policy that “District employees shall be treated fairly and with dignity, in a clear, consistent and professional manner,” which he called outstanding.

Angelucci said Thursday she has been working on the changes for about two months with Board Chair Randy Scamihorn.

“Other board members have been very interested in seeing a cultural change. ... I am hoping they will be supportive of it in its entirety,” Angelucci said.

Angelucci said the revisions are in part because of recent actions taken by the district, such as when Kell

High School Principal Trudie Donovan resigned abruptly after she was accused of failure to report child abuse, “but overwhelmingly, because it is the right thing to do,” Angelucci said. The charges against Donovan were later dropped by the state.

The hope is for an overall change with fair and complete due process as the goal, she said.

“Restoration of an employee’s reputation if they are cleared of unethical conduct by the district is an important one for me.”

Cobb Superintendent Michael Hinojosa, who welcomes the feedback, asked that board members and the public submit their changes or additions by email to his executive director of policy, Darryl York, by Aug. 9.

“We always take input from everybody, but in the end, policy language has to be pretty precise,” he said. “The lawyers have to look at that, there’s all kinds of things that we have to follow like federal laws. I do appreciate everyone having the approach to try and work together on this.”

John Adams with the teacher advocacy group EducatorsFirst said he and his organization are in full

support of Angelucci’s recommendations.

“This would dramatically increase the way employees are treated and should also increase employee morale,” he said. “It’s a balanced approach and reasonable and it will treat people more fairly.”

Marietta attorney Justin O’Dell, who represents a middle school principal who was wrongfully accused by the district in spring, reviewed the changes as well and agreed that they’re a positive step in the right direction.

Failure to report allegations against his client and Awtrey Middle School Principal Jeff Crawford were dismissed in early May by the district.

“It is always important to recognize the need for swift investigation and discipline of wrongdoers, particularly when it comes to children,” O’Dell said. “However, that need must be balanced against the rights of due process and integrity in the proceedings. I am proud of the school board for looking at the issue and recognizing the need for change.”

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 Jan. 18 following a meeting regarding the accusations.

ODDBRIEFS

Judge fines woman who cursed at jury selection

From wire reports

ERIE, Pa. — A Pennsylvania woman has been fined \$500 for cursing because she was frustrated with being picked to serve on a jury.

The Erie Times-News reports Erie County Judge **Ernest DiSantis** levied the fine Wednesday on Kathleen Port.

DiSantis told the Erie woman she was “totally out of line” and explained jury service is a duty of citizenship.

Port, whose phone number is unlisted, apologized several times but was fined nonetheless.

She told the judge she was upset because jury service would make her miss work and cost her income.

DiSantis says Port could have claimed a hardship on her jury service questionnaire, but did not.

Port was also thrown off the jury, which was picked to hear an illegal weapons case.

Police: Stinky restroom was skunk’s fault

MIDDLESBORO, Ky. — A Kentucky man is under arrest for taking a skunk to the rest room — and leaving it there.

Kevin Kibert told WYMT-TV during a jailhouse interview that he didn’t do it, but acknowledges he went into the restroom at a Middlesboro convenience store earlier this month.

Store manager **Pamela Hobbs** said Kibert walked into the restroom with a

garbage bag and came back out, saying, “Sorry, man,” to an employee as he left. The worker went to see what Kibert was sorry about and saw a baby skunk, which had already sprayed the men’s room.

Hobbs said people would walk up the door, smell the skunk odor and leave.

The criminal mischief case against the 35-year-old Kibert was sent to a grand jury Tuesday.

River swimmer prompts internat’l rescue

DETROIT — A man who wanted to prove he could swim across the Detroit River from Canada to the U.S. after a night of drinking ended up prompting an international rescue operation.

John Morillo told The Windsor Star that Monday night’s swim from Windsor, Ontario, to Detroit, was “really stupid” and said in retrospect he shouldn’t have done it. He was cited for being intoxicated in a public place and released from jail Tuesday.

“I was drinking, but I wasn’t really drunk,” Morillo, 47, of Windsor, said Tuesday. “The thing is, I’ve been telling people I’m going to swim across the river for years and they’re like ‘yah, yah, blah, blah, you can’t make it.’ So, I don’t know, last night I just decided it was the time to go.”

Morillo said he regrets causing problems for authorities, including Windsor police and Coast Guard crews from the U.S. and Canada.

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Spike

Continued from Page 1B

“So for year-to-date we are running at better than a 100 percent increase for permits,” Allegood said.

The mayor said his 23,000-resident city is the

fastest-growing city in the county because of the quality of life there.

“We’ve built a place where people and business want to come and locate because our great quality of life, and we make it really easy for builders and developers to do business with us,”

Allegood said. “Another thing that I think is really, really important is we’re building affordable housing. We’re building housing with really positive price points, so it’s affordable housing, it’s quality of life, it’s all of those places that people want to be.”

Study

Continued from Page 1B

Local Option Sales Tax. “The diverging diamond is basically the interchange between those two projects,” Ott said.

Combined with Gov. Nathan Deal’s optional toll lanes along Interstates 75 and 575 through Cobb and Cherokee counties, Ott hopes the Windy Hill Road projects will have a large long-term impact on congestion.



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