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The Tuskegee News

'Tis better to light a candle than to curse the darkness'

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Del Marsh's gambling bill includes VictoryLand as site for table games

By GUY RHODES
Editor/Publisher

A bill introduced Tuesday (May 5) by Del Marsh, president pro tem of the Alabama Senate, would allow VictoryLand in Macon County to be one of four sites able to establish casino-type gambling with table games and slot machines.

Marsh's bill would also encourage the governor to enter into a gaming compact with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians which are operating electronic bingo at locations in Atmore, Wetumpka and Montgomery.

VictoryLand has been shut down in recent years after a raid by Attorney General Luther Strange's office resulted in confiscation of hundreds of ma-

chines and cash. The closing means the loss of more than 2,000 jobs and millions of dollars local, state and federal taxes.

A decision about whether the machines and cash taken in that raid should be returned to VictoryLand is being awaited from Montgomery Circuit Judge William Shashy who heard the case in October 2014.

A Republican from Anniston, Marsh hopes that money generated by allowing full-fledged gambling would be a way to avoid raising taxes for the state's financially-strapped General Fund.

Gov. Robert Bentley has proposed up to \$541 million in taxes to shore up the General Fund. His proposal hasn't drawn much support from legislators. Bentley

strongly opposes helping fund the state budget through gambling.

Marsh's bill would require Alabama voters to approve a constitutional amendment authorizing his gambling proposal. Marsh also pointed to an Auburn University Montgomery study his office commissioned that suggested the plan could create 11,000 new jobs

"Do we raise taxes or do we find new sources of revenue?" Marsh said at a Tuesday press conference. "We have hundreds of millions of dollars leaving this state to fund gaming facilities in other states."

The proposal, largely unchanged from draft legislation

(See BILL, Page A-6)



First Lady Michelle Obama

Michelle Obama second First Lady to visit Tuskegee

TU News Bureau

First Lady Michelle Obama will deliver the address at Tuskegee University's 130th Spring Commencement Ceremony. Mrs. Obama will address approximately 500 graduates as well as their friends, family and mem-

((See more TU graduation info on Page A-6))

bers of the university community on Saturday, May 9, at 11 a.m. in the Gen. Daniel "Chappie" James Arena.

Mrs. Obama is the second first lady in Tuskegee's history to visit the university. Eleanor Roosevelt visited Tuskegee Institute (now University) and took her historic flight with Tuskegee Airman Charles A. Anderson on March 29, 1941.

Michelle LaVaughn Robinson Obama is a lawyer, writer, and the wife of the 44th and current U.S. president, Barack Obama. She is

(See TU COMMENCEMENT, P. A-6)

Beautiful weather favors Carver Festival

On a beautiful day in Tuskegee, the 12th Annual George Washington Carver Commemorative Festival was held on Saturday, May 2.

There was plenty for all to enjoy, ranging from entertainment, to a car show, science exhibits, displays and — of course — food.

See Page B-1 for more pictures.



George Washington Carver and his friends from left are: Meloneze Robinson, Antoinette Frederick and Dr. Howard Settler, all who knew Dr. Carver who died in 1943. Paxton Williams portrayed Dr. Carver.



Grand Marshal Warren Duncan and his wife Deidre Y. Duncan wave.

Photos by Jacquelyn Carlisle



Tomora M. Pace, left, the 2015-17 Carver Festival Queen is shown with Naquitha Bowen is First Attendant.

Suspect faces charges for sexual abuse and burglaries

By GUY RHODES
Editor/Publisher

A joint effort by several law enforcement agencies resulted in the arrest of a suspect in several sexual abuse and burglary charges in Tuskegee and Auburn.

According to Tuskegee Police

Chief Lester Patrick, Raymond T. Cox Jr., 23, of Tuskegee was taken into custody on Thursday morning about 9:46 a.m. at a residence in Tuskegee. Cox was



Cox

charged with one count each of burglary (first degree), sexual abuse (first degree), Kidnaping (first degree) and theft of property (second degree).

The Tuskegee Police Department, the U.S. Marshals Fugitive Task Force and The Auburn Police Department

(See SUSPECT, P. A-6)

Arrests made in Tuskegee's second homicide of the year

Two suspects have been charged in the shooting death of a Tuskegee man that took place at about 8:15 a.m. Sunday, April 26.

Tuskegee Police received a call from the Texaco Convenient store located at 305 Old Montgomery Road in reference to shots fired. Upon arrival of officers were advised that several subjects had in engaged in



Rumph

All parties involved had left the scene upon police arrival. While on scene, officers were advised that a subject had

gun fire at the car was located next door and that the altercation had spilled over into the parking lot of the store.

been taken to East Alabama Medical Center in Opelika suffering from a gunshot wound.

Upon investigation it was learned that Marquez Walker, age 22 of Tuskegee, had died. It was also learned at that time

(See ARRESTS, P. A-6)



Pointer

Another hearing to discuss funding plan for urgent care

By JACQUELYN CARLISLE
Community News Editor

Mayor Johnny Ford allowed citizens to make comments on urgent care financing during the April 28 Tuskegee City Council meeting after a public hearing at the meeting on the topic was postponed.

A public meeting on the urgent care issue will be conducted at 6:30 p.m. during the May 12 regular meeting of the Council.

"Since people are here for a hearing, it is only fair to allow them to speak during the community comment portion of the meeting," Ford said.

Jacqueline Gullette, a member of the Utilities Board of Tuskegee (UBT) and retired nurse, is in favor of the council approving a resolution offering assistance for an urgent care facility.

"We in Tuskegee need urgent care and it is important for the council to support it," Gullette stated. "You say you have questions that have not been answered, yet \$200,000 has been given to the Health Authority to fund another doctor and everything was not explained about that by the authority."

The UBT has already approved guaranteeing a \$75,000 portion of a loan of \$250,000 and is requesting the same commitment from the Tuskegee City Council. Dr. Karl Sterlin, the lead physician for the urgent care proposal, is willing

(See COUNCIL, P. A-6)



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