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DOTHAN EAGLE

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Old Howell School City pledges \$1.5 million to development project

BY LANCE GRIFFIN
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The Dothan City Commission pledged \$1.5 million on Tuesday to aid in the development of the old Howell School building and nearby area into a senior living facility.

Commissioners Kevin Dorsey (District 1), Albert Kirkland (District 3), Beth Kenward (District 5) and David Crutchfield (District 6) along with Mayor Mike Schmitz voted yes. District 2 Commissioner Amos Newsome and District 4 Commissioner John Ferguson voted no.

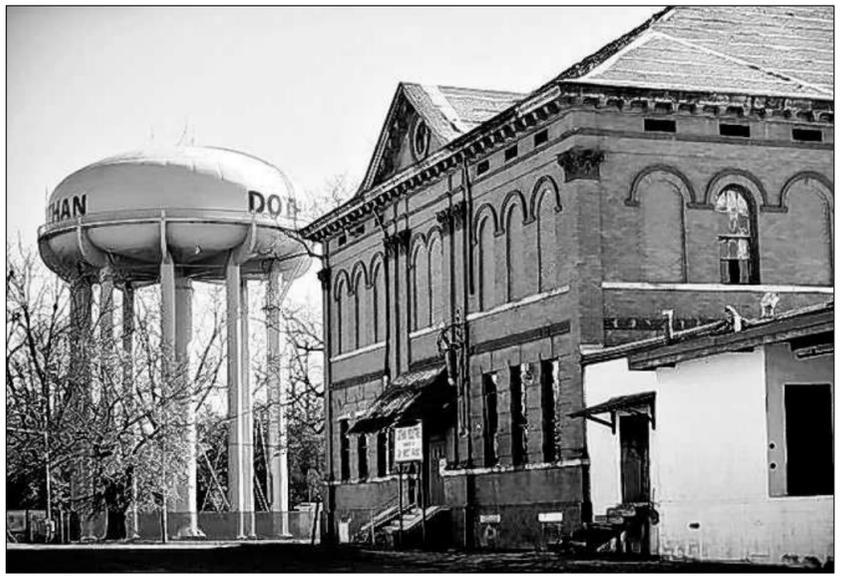
Ferguson said he voted no because he could not justify pledging \$1.5 million to a private development with other costly obligations hanging over the city including sewer rehabilitation and the moving of one fire station and the potential addition of another.

Newsome said he voted no because he believes there is too much crime in the College/Appletree street area where the building is located.

"This is no place to put our seniors," Newsome said.

Proponents, however, believe the investment will revitalize the area and drive away crime. The overall investment of the project is about \$14 million.

The vote Tuesday pledged the funds through the Dothan Downtown Dothan Redevelopment Authority. The money can be used for cash or in-kind work such as utility work, fee waivers or other city services. According to



EAGLE FILE PHOTO

Developers are moving forward with securing financing to turn the old Howell School building into a senior living facility.

the resolution passed Tuesday, closing of the financing cannot occur until the developers have secured the necessary tax credits to fund the project, have closed their construction loan and had development plans approved by the city.

Developers said Tuesday that the \$1.5 mil-

lion pledge will help in their application for tax credits, which must be submitted in the next 10 days. The developers said they would know if the credits have been approved in April or June. If the funding is secured, construction could begin late this year or early 2017.

EPA will probe issuance of landfill permit to Dothan

BY LANCE GRIFFIN
lgriffin@dothaneagle.com

The Environmental Protection Agency has agreed to look into the complaints of local residents who believe the Alabama Department of Environmental Management acted in a discriminatory manner when it awarded a permit to allow the City of Dothan to expand the city landfill at its current location.

A group of local black residents filed a civil rights complaint last month, claiming that the decision to award Dothan a permit to expand the landfill at its current site in east Dothan was unfair because African Americans comprise 89 percent of the population within 1 mile of the proposed expansion

and 79 percent of the population within 1.5 miles.

The complaint claims the city's stated purpose of disposing its garbage could have been fulfilled by other alternatives.

The complaint is made against ADEM because ADEM issued the permit to the city and receives financial assistance from the EPA.

Specifically, the EPA has agreed to look into two matters, according to the EPA's response:

» "Whether ADEM discriminated against African-American residents in the surrounding community on the basis of race/color through the modification of the solid waste disposal permit number 35-06 and authorization to the City of Dothan to expand the City of Dothan Sanitary Landfill in violation of Ti-

tle VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and EPA's implementing regulation."

» "Whether ADEM is complying with the procedural safeguard provision delineated in 40 C.F.R. Part 7 Subpart D, which require recipients of EPA financial assistance to have specific policies and procedures in place to comply with their affirmative non-discrimination obligations."

The EPA's agreement to look into the matter is not a decision on the merits of the complaint. ADEM has 30 days to respond to the complaint now that it has been accepted by the EPA.

The complaint was filed on behalf of the residents, who have not been named, by Florida environmental attorney David Ludder.

Ozark man sentenced to 14 years for molesting 8-year-old

BY MATT ELOFSON
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An Ozark man received a 14-year prison sentence after he pleaded guilty to molesting an 8-year-old girl two different times.

Dale County District Attorney Kirke Adams said 22-year-old Marquese Lamar Mack pleaded guilty to two felony counts of sex abuse of a child less than 12 years old. Dale County Circuit Court Judge P.B. McLaughlin sentenced Mack to a 14-year prison term for each charge to be served concurrently for one 14-year sentence.



Mack

Adams said Mack will have to serve the entire 14-year prison sentence without any early release or parole because the victim was under the age of 12 at the time of the offenses.

Ozark police arrested Mack in October 2014, and originally charged him with felony first-degree rape, three felony counts of first-degree sodomy and two felony counts of sex abuse of a child less than 12 years old.

Court records show the victim, a girl, was 8 years old when the offenses occurred.

Former Ozark Police Chief Tony Spivey told the *Dothan Eagle* at the time of Mack's arrest that the offenses were reported to the Ozark Police Department by a relative of the victim on Sept. 16, 2014. He said the charges were the result of a police investigation, which included interviews with the victim at the Southeast Alabama Child Advocacy Center.

As part of the guilty plea, the rape and sodomy charges were dismissed.

The court also ordered Mack to pay a \$5,000 fine, a \$100 victim's compensation fee and a bail bond fee of \$175.

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Sign up to receive daily forecast and severe weather text alerts.

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2016

TODAY Sunny, with a high near 64. North northwest wind 10 to 15 mph. 64°	THURSDAY 70° 49° Clouds moving in. East wind 5-10 mph, then SW	FRIDAY 66° 42° Sunny. Mostly clear at night.
TONIGHT Mostly clear, with a low around 40. North northwest wind around 5 mph becoming east after midnight. 40°	SATURDAY 69° 45° Sunny. Mostly clear at night.	SUNDAY 73° 48° Sunny. Partly cloudy at night.
LAST MONDAY HIGH: 72° LOW: 45°	MOON PHASES NEW March 8, FIRST March 15, FULL March 23, LAST March 31	
UV INDEX 6 0-14 scale HIGH	ALMANAC Sunrise 6:07a, Sunset 5:41p, Moonrise 12:44a	
ALBAMA Auburn 60/38, Troy 63/50, Dothan 64/40, Marianna 65/49, Panama City Beach 63/50	LAKE LEVELS Eufaula 187.84, Harding 520.84, Jordan 251.89, Martin 485.41, Seminole 78.85, West Point 630.35	
RAINFALL 24hrs 0.00", Month 6.56", YTD 10.55", Mon last year 3.72"	AROUND THE NATION City Hi Lo W Atlanta 53 34 ms, Birmingham 56 38 s, Boston 51 20 r, Chicago 31 27 ms, Denver 55 34 ms, Detroit 17 28 sn, Honolulu 79 69 brzy, Kansas City 43 29 r/sn, Knoxville 65 37 sh, Las Vegas 82 56 s, Miami 79 64 ps, Minneapolis 27 13 clrg, Nashville 47 37 clrg, New Orleans 65 52 s, New York 45 43 ms, Orlando 82 56 ms, St. Louis 49 30 r/brzy, Savannah 67 43 sh/s, Seattle 54 44 r, Washington, D.C. 60 44 s	
Tides Low: 2:59a High: 4:23p	Tides Low: 12:49a High: 2:39p	
Seas North winds 18 to 23 knots diminishing to 5 to 10 knots. Seas 3 to 5 feet subsiding to 2 to 3 feet. At night, north winds 5 to 10 knots becoming southeast 8 to 13 knots. Seas around 2 feet.	Seas North winds around 20 knots becoming northwest 10 to 15 knots. Seas 3 to 5 feet occasionally up to 6 feet, subsiding to 2 to 4 feet in the aft'n. Dominant period 5 seconds. Protected waters choppy becoming a light to moderate chop. At night, northeast winds 10 knots. Seas 2 to 3 feet.	

VISIT WWW.DOTHANEAGLE.COM FOR MORE WEATHER

Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, www.noaa.gov

Local Briefs

The following people have been arrested by the Dothan Police Department and are charged with a felony. None has been convicted. Information provided by the Dothan Police Department.

Feb. 29

» Robert Doyle Haynes IV, 25, of Louisville, Tennessee, meth possession.

» Quantez Edward Williams, 35, of Dothan, attempted first-degree arson.

DUI arrest

Feb. 29 — Ronald Peoples Jr., 44, of Cottondale, Florida.

Man charged with trying to set house on fire

Dothan police arrested a 35-year-old man and charged him with attempting to set fire to his own home while it was occupied by a woman on Sunday.

Dothan Police Lt. Will Glover said police arrested Quantez Edward Sentoria Williams and charged him with felony attempted first-degree arson.

Glover said police charged Williams with attempted arson because his house didn't actually catch on fire during the incident, which occurred Sunday in the 3000 block of Aaron Street.

Glover called it a domestic-related incident. Williams was taken to the Houston County Jail and held without bail.

MONDAY'S NUMBERS

FLORIDA:

Cash 3 Evening: 4-4-3
Cash 3 Midday: 0-5-2
Fantasy 5: 8-11-28-35-36
Play 4 Evening: 8-4-5-2
Play 4 Midday: 1-5-3-6

Florida Lotto: flalottery.com

Georgia Lotto: 900-25-LUCKY, 800-GA-LUCKY, galottery.com

GEORGIA:

Cash 3 Evening: 3-1-0
Cash 3 Midday: 9-8-8
Cash 4 Evening: 8-3-3-7
Cash 4 Midday: 4-3-6-8
Fantasy 5: 10-11-13-36-42
Georgia FIVE Evening: 0-1-7-0-5
Georgia FIVE Midday: 2-8-7-8-5
Jumbo Bucks Lotto: 06-09-11-26-34-47

THE DOTHAN EAGLE WILL NOT GIVE LOTTO NUMBERS OVER THE PHONE