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WHITE COUNTY NEWS

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White County Commission suspends monies used for employee retirement

by Denise Etheridge
White County News

In an executive session Monday, the White County Board of Commissioners voted to suspend the county's contribution to the county employees' 401(a) retire-

ment plan. County officials said the action is a temporary one that will help save money because of anticipated funding cuts from the state.

The county has been contributing 4 percent to an employee's retirement fund once they reach

their one-year anniversary. After an employee has been with the county for two years, the BOC would match a half percent for every 1 percent that the employee puts in, in addition to the 4 percent. Finally, the county would match up to 7 percent or a \$2,200

cap; whichever came first.

"This decision was not an easy one," said Travis Turner, White County Commission Chairman. "It weighed heavily on me. But, the board decided to take some pre-emptive actions so that we can better prepare ourselves for

the near future. Everyone knows the severity of our economy. Two years ago, this would have been unheard of."

Turner said that the county's finances are currently "in the black"

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Scott Glover: 'Outstanding young dairy farmer'

by Billy Chism
White County News

Scott Glover grew up milking cows. As a young boy, he helped his grandfather, J.K. Crumley, who owned dairies in White County, Hall County (just below the White County line) and Forsyth County.

He also helped his father, Larry Glover, who was briefly involved in the dairy business, and later the young Glover worked for Whitaker Farms and for his uncle, Steve Crumley, where he gained the knowledge and experience on how to operate a farm and grow crops.

"I worked fulltime for Steve for several years until I was 24 years old," Glover said. "Then I trained horses for five years. But I finally decided that what I wanted to do was milk cows for a living, and I went back to what I grew up doing."

This dedication to his profession, combined with hard work and innovative dairy practices, has pro-



See DAIRY Page 8A Scott Glover on his 40-acre dairy farm in White County.

New education SPLOST may be on November ballot

by Denise Etheridge
White County News

The White County Board of Education met with an architect, an engineer and two education consultants in a called meeting Monday to discuss its proposed facilities plan in depth.

The proposed plan would cost an estimated \$15.9 million and would include the construction of a new middle school and a new Board of Education administrative office on the middle school campus or other suitable site,

building a new gym at the middle school, demolishing the old middle school building and the buildings that currently house the White County Special Education Department and old vocational annex.

School officials hope to pay for these projects with Special Local Purpose Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) funds. White County School Superintendent Dr. Paul Shaw recommended that the board place a new education SPLOST on the Nov. 3 ballot.

The school board's guests in-

Superintendent Dr. Paul Shaw said construction on a new middle school could start in June 2010 if voters approve a new education SPLOST this November.

cluded Doug Breaux from Robertson, Loia, Roof of Alpharetta, Rod Nix from Charles Black Construction Company in Cleveland,

Richard Beard from Pioneer RESA and Doug Fields, a consultant with the Georgia Department of Education.

Most of the school board's discussion revolved around the school system's plans to build a new middle school and a gym at the middle school site.

Breaux told school board members that tying a new gym into the construction of a new middle

school would save the district money.

"A standalone gym would need additional restrooms, janitorial space and a concession area," he said. "We can eliminate expensive space."

Breaux said he was confident that a new gym would cost less than \$3.9 million if it would be tied into a new middle school building.

The board and its guests also discussed the option of building

See SPLOST Page 9A



Area churches celebrate season of Lent

Churches throughout White County, including Mossy Creek United Methodist Church, are observing the season of Lent in preparation for the holy day of Easter. To see what local churches have planned, see the church calendar on Page 12A. (Photo/Billy Chism)

Federal officials are questioning agency's environmental reports

by Denise Etheridge
White County News

A report that questions the validity of information put out by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) was released on March 10 by the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight of the Committee on Science and Technology.

The subcommittee's report challenges ATSDR's findings on numerous environmental health cases across the country over a period of nearly 20 years.

ATSDR, along with Public Health, drafted a similar report in December 2008 on LHR Farms,

a septic and grease trap waste disposal facility in south White County. The ATSDR report concluded that LHR Farms poses "no public health hazard."

According to the subcommittee's report, ATSDR "appears to avoid clearly and directly confronting the most obvious toxic culprits that harm the health of local communities across the nation. Instead, they deny, delay, minimize, trivialize or ignore legitimate concerns and health considerations of local communities and well respected scientists and medical professionals."

The 32-page document the subcommittee released includes

reviews of ATSDR's reports of environmental health cases that include potential formaldehyde exposures by Hurricane Katrina and Rita survivors in FEMA travel trailers.

"The poor scientific integrity of ATSDR's formaldehyde health consultation and the weak leadership at the agency that permitted the production of this misleading report which went uncorrected for so long - keeping the public in harm's way for a year longer than necessary - was not an isolated incident," the subcommittee's report states.

The subcommittee concluded

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WEATHER

Weekend Outlook
Friday - Sunny; 63°F/35°F
Saturday - Sunny; 61°F/35°F
Sunday - Sunny; 63°F/40°F
Rainfall as of 03-14-09
2009 YTD: 10.39"
Normal YTD: 16.08"

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