

A MOUTH TOO FAR?

Mayor apologizes for remarks ... well, sort of



FEDEX SHOOTING
BACK HOME
Page 1B

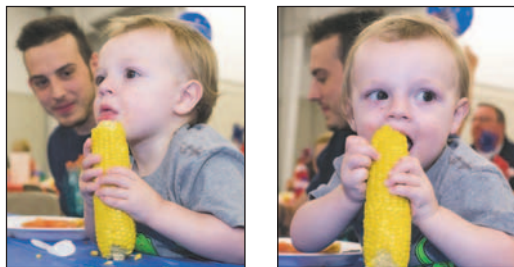
COBB'S LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1866

Marietta Daily Journal

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25TH ANNUAL CORN BOILIN'

Don't Knox it 'til you've tried it



Staff/Jeff Stanton

Eighteen-month-old Knox Dobbins proves the old theory that 'where there's a will, there's a way' as he wrestles an ear of corn to the mat and chows down at the 25th Annual Sheriff's Corn Boilin' at Jim R. Miller Park Monday night. Story and more photos are on **Page 1B**.

COBB COMMISSION

Braves' plans on table today for critical vote

By Jon Gillooly
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MARIETTA — This morning, the Cobb Board of Commissioners is scheduled to vote on a rezoning to allow the Atlanta Braves to build a \$672 million stadium and \$400 million mixed-use development down the road from Cumberland Mall.

The Cobb Planning Commission advised approving the request for the proposed 74-acre site in a 5-0 vote on July 1.

One of the stipulations the Cobb Planning Commission included as part of its recommendation was that the county and Braves implement a traffic and pedestrian parking plan prior to the stadium opening.

In his review of the plan, Jon Tuley with the Atlanta Regional Commission's land use division, wrote in a June 9 memo that two critical things must occur for the project to be successful. One is that a proposed pedestrian bridge over I-285 connecting Cobb Galleria with the Braves development be completed.

The other is to have a shuttle system operating in the Cumberland area to get ticket holders to the stadium site.



Get updates today on the board of commissioners' meeting.

See **Vote**, Page 6A

COBB SCHOOLS

Coach claims discrimination at South Cobb

By John Bednarowski
sportseditor@mdjonline.com

MARIETTA — Former South Cobb football coach Geoff Pastrick intends to file suit against the Cobb School District for racial discrimination.

His attorney, Justin O'Dell, said he has already filed a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on Pastrick's behalf and is currently waiting for the commission's reply.

Pastrick, 37, was hired as the new football coach at South Cobb High School by Principal Ashley Hosey on March 21, but his employment was rescinded on April 18 by assistant superintendent Barbara Swinney.

Between those two dates, Pastrick, who also worked as an assistant coach at Hillgrove and McEachern high schools, said he resigned his position as head coach at Chapel Hill High School in Douglas County to begin work with the Eagles program immediately. He was given a key to the facilities at South Cobb, had begun putting together his coaching staff and filled out all necessary paper work to begin booster club fundraising.

O'Dell said the school district pointed to a December 2011 unsatisfactory evaluation Pastrick had been given for why he could not be hired, but O'Dell does not believe that to be the real reason.



Geoff Pastrick



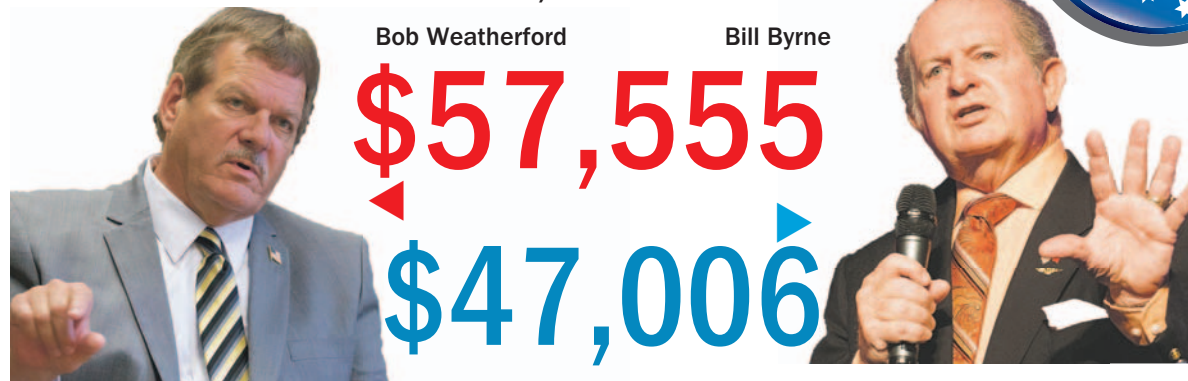
Barbara Swinney

See **Coach**, Page 6A

War chest wars



BOC, District 1 *



*According to filings on Cobb Board of Elections website

Candidates' campaign money detailed

By Ricky Leroux
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See full campaign contribution chart, including local, state and federal races on page 6A.

MARIETTA — Prepare for an all-out assault of campaign ads in your mailbox, over your phone and on your television.

With July 22's runoff elections a week away, candidates for several high profile positions will be emptying their war chests to

buy direct mail advertisements, employ callers and purchase commercials in an attempt to drive supporters to the polls. And some candidates have large war chests.

For example, there is about \$2 million cash on hand between Republican U.S. Senate candidates Jack

Kingston and David Perdue.


"I'm sure both of those candidates are going to ... continue to raise money right up to the last possible minute," said Kerwin Swint, a political science professor at Kennesaw State University.

See **Wars**, Page 3A

U.S. Representative, District 11 **



**According to the Federal Election Commission's website



80
62
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Vote

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"If the pedestrian bridge is not in place and circulator buses are not present, approximately 16,000 people (35 percent of all patrons who drive plus the 3 percent expected to take public transportation) will be required to cross Cobb Parkway to access the site ..." Tuley writes, noting that will cause traffic delays.

County Chairman Tim Lee said those 16,000 people would not be crossing Cobb Parkway. "Now, that's not going to happen. It just can't happen," Lee said. "They have to paint a picture probably of the worst-case scenario and that's not going to happen."

The proposed 1-285 pedestrian bridge is in the design phase, Lee said. "We're trying to figure out where it should be and what it should be and where it should start and where it should land," he said.

How much it will cost, he said, has yet to be determined. "All the funding buckets haven't yet been identified in the transportation improvements just like they aren't always identified when they have zonings and other zoning cases, but as we go through plan review, and we know exactly what the impact is, we'll figure that all out," Lee said.

Funding will come from outside the \$672 million being used to build the stadium, Lee said.

"It has to be outside of that bucket because I think the \$672 million, that has to be used for the stadium and the stadium proper," Lee said. "You know, we might get a massive developer come in and want to do the whole thing and pay for everything. It's hard to tell at this point."

Last month, commissioners approved a contract with San Francisco-based URS Corporation to do a study on implementing a shuttle service for the Cumberland area at a cost of \$445,010. The results of that study will tell commissioners how the shuttle service will work, Lee said.

"There's a lot of work that still has to be done and there has to be some level of confidence that a company that is coming to Cobb County investing \$1 billion and making a commitment for 30 years in writing and is leaving their current location because of two issues, parking and access, that over the course of the next two years we're going to get that nailed down and get that nailed down well, so it isn't an issue and it actually is an asset," Lee said.

John Pederson, the county's zoning division manager, said the transportation plan is required by the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority. He expects it will be in place six months prior to opening day.

"It's not just Cobb DOT and the Braves doing the study," Pederson said. "State DOT is going to be involved with that. The city of Marietta, city of Smyrna, city of Sandy Springs — there's a lot of partners to this study."

In its vote to recommend approving the rezoning, the Cobb Planning Commission agreed to a request from the Braves to increase the maximum impervious surface by 10 percent.

Pederson said the zoning district allows for 80 percent of a site to be

impervious, whether that means it's a parking lot, building or sidewalk.

"With this approval, Planning Commission is OK with going higher than 80 percent as long as that extra storm water is accounted for in the detention ponds. So the ponds will be bigger," Pederson said.

The property is zoned general commercial, office high rise and office and institutional.

The Braves are requesting the property be rezoned regional retail commercial. The zoning classification is reserved for mixed-use developments exceeding 500,000 square feet in size and containing a combination of commercial uses, including office, retail and residential space. The \$400 million privately-owned development calls for:

- 630,000 square feet of Class A office space;
- 500,000 square feet of "upscale" retail space;
- 450 hotel rooms;
- 600 "luxury" multi-family residential units; and
- 100,000 square feet for a multi-use entertainment facility.

“ It has to be outside of that (funding) bucket, because I think the \$672 million, that has to be used for the stadium and the stadium proper. You know, we might get a massive developer come in and want to do the whole thing and pay for everything. It's hard to tell at this point.

— Tim Lee, Chairman of the Cobb County Board of Commissioners

”

Coach

Continued from Page 1A

"If I subpoena the employment files for every coach in Cobb County do you think there may be one more with an unsatisfactory evaluation?" O'Dell asked. "What (information) did Swinney get that principal (Hosey) did not?"

He said that is why he has filed the discrimination complaint.

"What else could it be?" O'Dell said.

Since South Cobb began playing football in 1952, only one of the 12 coaches that preceded Pastrick was black — Michael Youngblood, who was hired in the spring of 2013. Youngblood resigned after one season. After Swinney, who is black, disallowed Pastrick's hire, Sherrod Rainge, an assistant coach at the school, was promoted and became the second black coach in the program's history.

The Cobb School District was asked for comment, but communications director Jay Dillon said the district could not comment on specific personnel matters.

Unfortunately for Pastrick, all of this could have been avoided. When he applied for the job, Pastrick had to go online and fill out numerous pages of background information into the STAR — Strategic Applicant Recruitment — system. The system is used to aid the human relations department and

flag potential issues with a candidate's application.

Once an applicant's information passes STAR, a human relations supervisor is supposed to approve it before a principal or a hiring manager begins the interview process.

"That is correct," Dillon said. "That is the way the procedure is supposed to work."

If the system worked the way it was intended, Pastrick would not have immediately resigned his position at Chapel Hill and would still be employed there today.

Instead, on March 27, six days after Pastrick started working without a contract, Cobb School District human resources started to take a closer look as his application, and a lengthy email conversation began between Tim Baker, the executive director of employment, Hosey and Swinney.

"Are you OK with hiring Geoff Pastrick as a PE Teacher?" Baker asked Swinney. "In 2011-2012, he received an overall unsatisfactory of (principal) Regina Montgomery at McEachern."

Pastrick, while teaching special education students, did receive an unsatisfactory evaluation. McEachern assistant principal Ashley Campoli had stated in her report that there were problems with his lesson plans and tardiness. She also said Pastrick did not assume responsibility for professional growth, interact in a respectful, civil and professional

manner with students, families, staff and school leaders and that he did not actively support the School Strategic Plan.

Pastrick said it was the first and only unsatisfactory evaluation he has had in 14 years of teaching and coaching, and that it was given to him on Dec. 21, 2011, more than a month (Nov. 11) after he turned in his letter of resignation to Montgomery. On the evaluation form signed by Pastrick, Montgomery and Campoli, Pastrick said "I don't agree with this evaluation. I will be appealing with Cobb County Schools."

He followed with a written rebuttal to the evaluation, dated Jan. 17, 2012. To date, Pastrick said his appeal has never been resolved.

Later, on the 27th, Swinney emailed Hosey asking if he had talked with Montgomery about Pastrick and his previous employment.

"Yes," Hosey said. "She was the first person I spoke with. He was in Special Ed. We are using him in PE. I spoke to his current principal and athletic director as well."

Fifteen days later, on April 7, Swinney asked Baker for a copy of Pastrick's evaluation. The following day, Swinney told Hosey the district could

not hire his new football coach.

"Hi Ashley!" Swinney said. "After reviewing the evaluation of Mr. Pastrick, I cannot approve of hiring this candidate. Please call me for further discussion. Thanks!"

Ten days later, Pastrick was relieved of his duties.

O'Dell said the Cobb County School District screwed up, but instead of sitting down with them to try and work out an amicable agreement, the district stonewalls them at each turn. They said this was why they filed the complaint.

"In a perfect world, (Pastrick) would be the head coach at South Cobb," O'Dell said. The next best thing would be to find a position, any position coaching in the county, and then if a job opens up, allow him to interview for it."

Pastrick remains unemployed. Efforts to find any coaching job have proved fruitless, including becoming a community coach, and he is currently weighing all options — including moving to a different county or out of state.

"I've come to the realization I'm not going to be coaching in the fall and that's tough," Pastrick said. "And I probably won't be able to coach in Cobb County anymore."

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