

**TILLEY
RETIRES
AT KSU**

**COACH DIRECTED
WOMEN'S TEAM
FOR 17 SEASONS**

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WALKER PREVIOUSLY LED
EAST COBB CHURCH IN '70s

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**A HOMEcoming
FOR NEW PASTOR**

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New Sunday alcohol sales vote sought

Suit: 91,000 residents in Cobb's six cities 'disenfranchised' by bungled booze ballot

By Jon Gillooly
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MARIETTA — Former state Rep. Roger Hines filed suit in Cobb Superior Court on Friday, asking that the March 6 election for Sunday alcohol sales in the county be held again because vot-

ers in the Cobb's six cities didn't get to vote.

Hines, who lives in the city of Acworth but has a Kennesaw address, said he anticipated voting on the Sunday sales question for unincorporated Cobb when he went to vote in the presidential preference primary.

"My wife was standing right beside me when I voted, and one



Rep. Roger Hines

of us whispered to the other, 'Isn't that Sunday sales ballot supposed to be on here?'" Hines said.

The referendum passed in unincorporated Cobb by 30,806 votes, but there were 91,261 eligible voters in the six cities who were denied the opportunity to vote, he said.

"So it just got me to thinking, 'Well, regardless of the outcome of the election, that's a lot of disenfranchisement,' so that's why I filed a petition with (Marietta

A screw-up? Or a conspiracy?

Readers pose the question: Was the mishandled Sunday booze vote a mistake, or was it actually a ploy by a few hopeful candidates to get more voters out to the polls on July 31?

Around Town, 6A

attorney) Justin O'Dell," he said.

Hines said that while he voted against allowing Sunday sales in Acworth when his city held an election on the topic back in November, the fact that he oppos-

es the matter is not the issue, he said.

"To me, it's sincerely just a matter of that many people not

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Their cup runneth over ... with pride



Whitefield Academy in Mableton had a parade and pep rally to celebrate the Wolfpack's Class A state championship in basketball — its third in the past 10 years.

Whitefield won easily over Athens Christian, 73-49, last Saturday for the title. **Above:**

The Wolfpack's Kenny Gaines, who will be taking his considerable talents on to the University of Georgia next year, shows off the trophy and shares that championship feeling with Whitefield students. **Right:** Kris Martin, the team's only junior, is carried by seniors as he's introduced during the ceremony.



Staff/Jon-Michael Sullivan

CCSD official: 'Do SPLOST or not do projects'

Board members told district needs \$757M to maintain schools, bus fleet

By Lindsay Field
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MARIETTA — The Cobb County School District needs about \$757 million to maintain schools and keep their bus fleet running, and the only way to get it looks to be another SPLOST.

"It comes down to, do we want to do a SPLOST, or not do the projects?" Deputy Superintendent of Operations Chris Ragsdale said. "That's really up to the board. They have to approve all funding resources, regardless of which way we go."

Board member Alison Bartlett requested a list of maintenance and transportation needs, which Ragsdale presented to the board during Wednesday's work session.

"I was quite flabbergasted that we only have about \$2.1 million (in the maintenance budget) each year ... for 116 schools," Bartlett said. "That doesn't include administrative offices."

Bartlett said Cobb business leaders told her the district should spend about



Chris Ragsdale

\$100 million annually to maintain its \$1 billion in district property.

"That \$2 million doesn't even cover repair costs," she said. "We have to figure this out. We have to be able to use our schools."

Ragsdale said he polled department heads in both maintenance and transportation to create the preliminary list for the next five to seven years.

"It's going to be quite extensive, not necessarily the number of projects, but the extent of the projects, like HVAC replacements, boilers, electrical and lighting," he said.

Maintenance costs could come to about \$675 million for projects including:

- Installing or replacing emergency generators;
- Roofs at 77 facilities where warranties are expiring;
- Paving at 84 locations

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War effort at new low: Karzai at 'end of rope,' many in U.S. feel same

By Robert Burns
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Afghan President Hamid Karzai says he's at "the end of the rope," and a majority of Americans feel the same way.

Of all the past decade's setbacks in the endeavor to form a solid alliance with Afghanistan and defeat the Taliban, the war effort has been driven to a new low by the slaughter of nine Afghan children and seven adults allegedly by a U.S. soldier whose identity had been kept secret until late Friday.

A senior U.S. official said the suspect is Army Staff Sgt. Robert Bales, 38. The official spoke on condition of anonymity



Hamid Karzai

because of the sensitivity of the legal case that is in its early stages.

The soldier was on his way Friday from a U.S. military detention facility in Kuwait to the maximum security prison in Fort Leavenworth, Kan., though Karzai demanded anew that he be tried under the Afghan justice system.

Karzai also is now insisting that U.S. forces retreat from rural areas immediately and let Afghans take the lead in security next year. But the White House and the Pentagon said Friday

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Obama holds one-day fundraiser in Atlanta

The Associated Press

President Barack Obama came to Atlanta on Friday for a one-day fundraiser and was greeted by Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed and U.S. Rep. John Lewis, among others.

Traveling with the president were two celebrities, film producer Tyler Perry and performer Cee Lo Green.

It's the first time Obama has visited Georgia in 18 months. He will attend three fundraisers in Atlanta in hopes of increasing his fundraising pace in preparation for



The Associated Press

President Obama arrives at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport and greets his welcoming party, from left, Rep. Hank Johnson (D-Ga.), Rep. David Scott (D-Ga.), Rep. Sanford Bishop (D-Ga.), Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.), and Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed.

his showdown with a Republican presidential nominee.

Obama lost Georgia in the 2008 general election by five percentage points

and is hoping to rally voters for a better showing this fall.

At the fundraiser, Obama cast the Republican Party as holding a "fundamentally different vision about who we are as a country" and compared his challengers unfavorably with his 2008 presidential opponent, Sen. John McCain.

"That shift that has taken place in the Republican Party we haven't seen in a very long time," he said. "In 2008, the guy I was running against, the Republican nominee, he didn't deny that climate

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Karzai

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that nothing would collapse the war plan, even after the massacre, the inadvertent Quran burnings by U.S. soldiers and the deaths of seven American servicemen at the hands of their allies.

Polls have shown that up to 60 percent of Americans say it's time to end the war in Afghanistan. And that's not lost on the administration.

"The Afghan people are tired of war," Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, just back from Afghanistan, acknowledged on Friday. "The American people share some of that tiredness after 10 years of war, as well. All of that's understandable."

But he also said he is confident that Americans realize the U.S. needs to finish its work of stabilizing Afghanistan to ensure that al-Qaida cannot against use that country as a launch pad to attack the United States. His theme — patience — is likely to dominate the discourse in

Washington and in allied capitals in the lead-up to a NATO summit meeting in Chicago in May.

President Barack Obama called Karzai on Friday seeking clarification on the demand concerning U.S. troops in rural areas, and White House press secretary Jay Carney said the leaders agreed to keep discussing the matter, which is at the heart of the military strategy.

"I think that the two men were very much on the same page" about gradually handing over security responsibility to Afghan forces, with U.S. and other international troops switching to a support role throughout Afghanistan sometime in 2013, Carney said. A final transition to Afghan control is supposed to happen by the end of 2014.

Another pillar of the war strategy is creating meaningful peace talks with the Taliban insurgents, but that, too, suffered cracks in the aftermath of the village massacre. The Taliban said it was no longer talking on terms set by the Americans.

Co-founder of 'Kony' video group detained, hospitalized

By Elliot Spagat
Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO — A co-founder of the group behind a viral video about a brutal African warlord was detained by police and hospitalized after witnesses saw him running through



Jason Russell

streets in his underwear, screaming and banging his fists on the pavement. Jason Russell of Invisible Children was hospitalized for exhaustion less than two weeks after the release of the 30-minute video he narrated about warlord Joseph Kony, said Ben Keeseey, the group's chief executive officer.



The Associated Press

A box full to the brim with KONY 2012 campaign posters sit in the Invisible Children Movement offices in San Diego on March 8. The group's chief executive officer says it's co-founder was hospitalized for exhaustion.

"Jason Russell was unfortunately hospitalized yesterday suffering from exhaustion, dehydration and malnutrition," Keeseey said. "He is now receiving medical care and is focused on getting better. The past two weeks have taken a

severe emotional toll on all of us, Jason especially, and that toll manifested itself in an unfortunate incident yesterday."

"Jason's passion and his work have done so much to help so many, and we are devastated to see

him dealing with this personal health issue," the statement read.

San Diego police dispatcher transcripts show neighbors began calling around 11:30 a.m. Thursday to report that a man was running around in his underwear in the city's Pacific Beach neighborhood.

"(Subject) is at the corner, banging his hands on the ground, screaming, incoherent," the transcript continues. "People are trying to calm him down, he's been stopping traffic."

Police Lt. Andra Brown said a 33-year-old man was detained and taken to a hospital for medical evaluation. He was never arrested, and no charges are planned.

"At this point, the police department's involvement in the matter is done," Brown said.

SPLOST

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■ Plumbing needs, such as replacing piping

For the transportation department, Ragsdale said the district could be facing about \$82 million in future costs, including:

■ Purchasing 500 school buses

■ Purchasing 120 special education buses

■ Buying around 80 vehicles for maintenance or safety

Both bus fleets are about 15 years old.

"This lists shows that we have a need for an alternate funding source, but that is up to you," he told board members.

In order to fund such needs, Bartlett said the board could consider taking about \$100 million out of

the district's general fund annually, take out a bond, prepare a fourth SPLOST or do nothing at all.

She said a bond could be "crippling" and that a SPLOST would be very nice, but declined to comment on whether she's made up her mind.

Even if the board raised the property tax rate to the max, they would only be able to collect an additional \$22 million, Chief Financial Officer Mike Addison said.

If the school board did decide to host a special election for SPLOST, it could cost them about \$295,000, according to Janine Eveler with the Cobb Elections Board, and could take place in either March or July of 2013. In the past, the election cost was paid for with the approved SPLOST.

Ragsdale said an elec-

tion in March 2013 would allow for collections in a fourth SPLOST to begin Jan. 1, 2014, immediately after SPLOST III collections end. However, a collection start-date would be later than that if voters approved a SPLOST in November 2013.

If an election were approved, the district would also be looking in-house for the first time to create a SPLOST notebook. In the past, a private entity, the Facility Group, created the notebook, but Ragsdale said there would be no reason to outsource that part of the process.

Ragsdale will go back before the board at their Thursday night meeting with the district's capital improvement plan, and in April, the board will see what the future technology, music and athletic needs are of the district.

Obama

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change might be a problem, he thought it was a good idea for us to ban torture, he was on record as having supported immigration reform."

The Obama campaign's African American Leadership Council held a gala at Perry's studio in Atlanta, featuring a performance by singer Cee Lo Green. General admission tickets were \$500. VIP tickets ranged from \$2,500 to \$10,000. A dinner at Perry's home was expected to raise \$35,800 per guest.

The money is split between the campaign and the Democratic National Committee.

In Chicago earlier in the day, tweaking Republicans

four days before the Illinois primary, Obama said Friday that the hopefuls campaigning to take his job would do well to channel the moderation and inclusiveness of the Land of Lincoln.

"I'm thinking maybe some Lincoln will rub off on them while they're here," Obama told a lunchtime fundraiser in Chicago.

Obama also noted the barrage of attack ads the primary season has unleashed and said they're not exactly appealing to — in Lincoln's famous words — "the better angels of our nature."

The nation's first Republican president is an oft-mentioned Obama role model, and he began a day of fundraising in Illinois and Georgia by holding Lincoln up as an example to today's conservative GOP field.

"We've got some guests

in Illinois this week," Obama noted at a donor event organized by Democratic lawyers. "Apparently they have not wrapped up on the other side."

Obama said Lincoln understood Americans are one nation, and they rise and fall together. He contrasted that with "on-your-own economics" which he says his GOP foes embrace.



Vote

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being allowed to vote," Hines said.

O'Dell writes in the petition that failing to hold a new election violates the equal protection laws of the U.S. and state constitutions.

"The people in the city of Kennesaw (and the other cities) pay county taxes," O'Dell said. "They vote for county commissioners. They vote in other county referenda for tax levies and the like. They will share in paying for the enforcement, licensing, public safety and will share in the revenue increase from sales taxes. They have a right to be heard. It is very possible that an individual could be perfectly fine with Sunday Sales in the city, but disagree with such sales countywide."

County Commission Chairman Tim Lee said it was county attorney Dorothy Bishop who told Cobb Elections Director Janine Eveler to design the ballot the way it was.

"Dotty gave the wrong advice to Janine," Lee said Thursday.

Lee said that if a judge calls for a new election, he hopes the judge will make that decision by May 6, because that would give him enough time to put the question on the July 31 ballot.

Bishop, who earns a salary of \$156,165, has served as the county attorney since 1994, said Robert Quigley, county spokesman.

Bishop refused to speak with the Journal, but she did send a March 7 email to the commissioners standing by her advice.

"I hope you are not being caused undue political problems by the claims that city voters should have been allowed to vote in the county's referendum," Bishop wrote. "Even though the state statute

fails to make the issue crystal clear, upon further reflection I stand by my previous advice to Janine that our referendum should be limited to voters in the unincorporated area, for several important reasons not previously discussed.

"The result of the county vote would not have affected any city's situation in any way," she wrote. "The city could authorize Sunday sales even if the county voted NO, and the city could prohibit Sunday sales even if the county voted YES."

Moreover, to have included city voters in the county referendum would have allowed city voters to vote twice on the same subject, which would violate the democratic principle of one person, one vote, she said.

"Voting for county commissioners is different because the commissioners impose certain taxes for payment county-wide, and there shall be no taxation without representation," she wrote.

But O'Dell said the law is clear in its language referencing that the issue shall be submitted to the electors of the "county," not the "unincorporated county."

O'Dell said Bishop is wrong about it being a double vote. It is two separate questions. For example, a resident of Marietta would have voted on the Sunday sales question in Marietta, as well as the Sunday sales question in the county, he said.

"You are not voting twice on the same issue, you are voting once each on two separate questions," O'Dell said.

"Further, there is a 'taxation without representation' issue," O'Dell said. "The folks in the municipalities pay taxes to Cobb. ... those taxes will be used to pay for the costs of having alcohol on Sunday. Those costs include public safety and enforcement."

The lawsuit list Hines, Patricia C. Powers of Ken-

nesaw and John Doe 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Smyrna, Marietta, Powder Springs and Austell as the plaintiffs and Eveler and the Cobb Board of Elections as the defendants. O'Dell said the four John Doe names listed are for unnamed people from the remaining cities.

"If someone comes in after today, they can be substituted for a John Doe," he said.

Gregg Litchfield, attorney for the Cobb Board of Elections, said his board would hold a meeting at 8 a.m. on Friday to decide how to respond.

O'Dell praised Lee and Kennesaw Mayor Mark Mathews for alerting the public about the issue before the deadline for a lawsuit. A lawsuit must be filed within five days of the election results being certified. They were certified on Monday.

"This is an example of the openness that Cobb County expects," O'Dell said. "An error was made by the Board of Elections and the elections supervisor in not allowing the residents of the six municipalities to determine whether Sunday sales should be allowed in Cobb County. As taxpayers and electors of Cobb County, these citizens have a right to vote on that issue."

Conspiracy theorists are claiming that Lee designed the election in error so that there would be a greater turnout in the July 31 referendum to decide whether to increase the sales tax by 1 percent to fund transportation projects. Lee dismissed such speculation.

"How do they come up with this stuff?" Lee asked. "That's just ridiculous. They think I'd throw an election? I don't think that way."

Kennesaw, Acworth and Smyrna residents approved allowing Sunday sales back in November's election. Residents in Marietta, Austell and Powder Springs approved the question on March 6.

10th Annual Spring Chicken Run

A Race Against Hunger

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