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## Community News

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Article Text:

Atlanta

Police say drugs were at the scene of standoff

The man who shot and killed himself after a standoff with Atlanta police was operating an extensive marijuana "grow house" inside the Barge Road home, according to police.

The man, whose name has not been released, barricaded himself inside a Barge Road home in southwest Atlanta, police said Monday night.

The incident started Monday afternoon when police saw two men near Barge Road and detained them. One of the men had an outstanding warrant, police said. The other said he lived in a house right up the street, and officers escorted the man, who was handcuffed, to his home to get identification.

Once there, he drew a handgun behind his back and pointed it at the officers, said Carlos Campos, spokesman for Atlanta police.

Officers took cover, and the man slammed the door of the home, Campos said.

Atlanta police SWAT team members came to the scene of the standoff. While they were trying to talk to the man, officers said they heard a single gunshot from the house.

Once inside, officers said they then found the man had committed suicide. Investigators found bolt cutters in the home, which the man apparently used to cut off the handcuffs and shoot himself, Campos said.

Narcotics officers executed search warrants at the home Monday evening, Campos said.

KRISTI E. SWARTZ

T.I. ordered to report to prison in Arkansas

Federal authorities ordered rapper T.I. to report directly to a federal prison in Arkansas by Monday to start serving his 11-month prison sentence.

U.S. Marshal Beverly Harvard on Tuesday ordered T.I., whose real name is Clifford Harris Jr., to report to the Forrest City low-security prison where he served parts of an earlier 10-month stint for federal weapons charges.

A federal judge in Atlanta sentenced the rapper this month to serve another 11 months in prison for breaking his federal probation after he was arrested Sept. 1 in Los Angeles on drug charges.

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Cobb

Acworth \* Austell \* Kennesaw \* Mableton \* Marietta \* Powder Springs \* Smyrna

Owner of shuttered motel hopes to reopen

The owner of a Marietta motel closed for zoning violations said he plans to work with the city and reopen the 150-unit Tim Horne's Hospitality Inn on Delk Road.

The city condemned the property Friday, and tenants in the 75 rooms that were occupied moved out on Saturday.

Jack Dubard, president of Tucker-based Southern Scottish Inns, said he was not aware of the situation until it became public last week. Scottish Inns had leased the property to Tim Desandro for 10 years.

Marietta code enforcement manager Garry Thomas said there was sewage a foot deep under one of the three motel buildings. He said there were structural problems and electrical and plumbing problems.

The property owner has 60 days to start improvements on the property.

Scottish Inns owes the city of Marietta \$65,328 for 2009 and 2010 property taxes and is \$11,623 in arrears for 2009 Cobb County taxes.

Dubard said he intends to make the Nov. 2 deadline to pay Cobb County. If he doesn't, the property could be sold for back taxes. TUCKER MCQUEEN, FOR THE AJC

Walton High to present technology night

Walton High School students in auto tech, graphic arts, video production and pre-engineering classes will demonstrate what they've learned at a technology night open house 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the school, 1590 Bill Murdock Road in Marietta.

Graphics arts instructor Dan Campagna said the school's robotics team also will be a part of the program that starts in the school's theater.

He said the idea is to get middle school students and ninth-graders interested in the east Cobb County school's technology classes. The event is open to the community. TUCKER MCQUEEN, FOR THE AJC

DeKalb

Avondale Estates \* Chamblee \* Clarkston \* Decatur \* Doraville \* Dunwoody \* Lithonia \* Pine Lake \* Stone Mountain

New traffic judge appointed in county

An Atlanta public defender will be DeKalb County's newest traffic court judge.

The County Commission voted unanimously Tuesday to appoint Roderick Bridges as a full-time Records Court judge.

Bridges serves as a senior attorney in the Atlanta public defender's office and has been a part-time substitute judge with DeKalb's Records Court since 2002.

The commission's public safety committee nominated Bridges after interviewing five candidates. Bridges fills a position vacated through the county's early retirement this year.

Bridges said his main goal is to assist youth drivers with traffic violations.

Commissioner Sharon Barnes Sutton, chairwoman of the public safety committee, said she hopes the additional judge will alleviate some of the court's lines. No start date has been set.

MEGAN MATTEUCCI

Fulton

Alpharetta \* Chattahoochee Hills \* College Park \* East Point \* Fairburn \* Hapeville \* Johns Creek \* Milton \* Palmetto \* Roswell \* Sandy Springs \* Union City

Computer glitch causes East Point billing mishap

More than 800 residents received delayed utility bills this month, but city officials are telling them not to worry.

A computer glitch caused many residents to receive a utility bill early this week with a due date of today.

Because of the problem, city officials said the affected residents will not be charged a late fee or have their power disconnected.

The affected customers were in Wards A and B.

JOHN THOMPSON, FOR THE AJC

Gwinnett

Berkeley Lake \* Buford \* Dacula \* Duluth \* Grayson \* Lawrenceville \* Lilburn \* Norcross \*  
Snellville \* Sugar Hill \* Suwanee

Snellville mulls another change in liquor laws

Snellville is looking to relax its liquor laws once again, this time to allow for the consumption of beer and wine during special events.

The City Council discussed a special events ordinance during a work session Monday night.

Though the measure is still preliminary, Councilman Tom Witts noted that the relaxed law could be similar to those recently adopted in Duluth and Grayson.

Grayson, for instance, hosted a beer festival last month as a way to spur economic development downtown.

In July, Snellville permitted Sunday alcohol sales as a way to boost the bottom line for struggling restaurants and lure high-end retailers to town. Since then, restaurants have reported an uptick in food and alcohol sales.

Witts said city leaders could take action on the new ordinance in as early as two months.

SHANE BLATT

Ex-county chairman may lead Evermore CID

Former Gwinnett County Commission Chairman Wayne Hill could be picked to manage the embattled Evermore Community Improvement District.

The board for the Evermore CID is expected to name Hill as interim executive director in a meeting this afternoon, Chairman Dwight Harrison said.

Hill would handle the day-to-day operations for the self-taxing association of property owners along U.S. 78. Hill likely would serve six months, earning about \$10,000 a month, Harrison said.

For months, the board has been stymied by infighting and meeting no-shows, with most of the rancor revolving around the contract for Executive Director Jim Brooks.

A 4-4 stalemate on Sept. 22 sealed Brooks' fate, allowing his one-year contract to lapse a week later. During that time, board member Forrest Adair died, tipping the balance of power on the divided board.

SHANE BLATT

Greater Atlanta

Cherokee \* Clayton \* Coweta \* Douglas \* Fayette \* Forsyth \* Henry \* Paulding \* Rockdale  
Candidate offers reward for theft of signs

A write-in state House candidate is offering a \$500 reward for the return of at least a dozen of her campaign signs.

State Sen. Gail Buckner filed a report with Clayton County police Monday after discovering

signs that she and her campaign staff had placed during the past two weeks in Morrow and Jonesboro were missing. Buckner estimates she has lost about \$800 worth of signs. Buckner said she was particularly alarmed that signs were stolen out of people's yards, which is against the law.

Buckner, a Democrat, is currently representing Senate District 44, which includes Clayton and Henry counties.

She is campaigning for the House District 76 seat against Democrat Sandra Scott, a former Clayton County school board member.

Buckner said she intends to press charges against the culprits. The missing signs say: "Write-in Gail Buckner for State Representative or State House." TAMMY JOYNER

Man, 65, dies in collision with garbage truck

A 65-year-old Cumming man died Tuesday when the pickup truck he was driving hit a garbage truck in Cherokee County, police said.

Investigators believe Alvin Clemons crossed the center line and struck a garbage truck shortly before noon on Ga. 369, just east of Yellow Creek Road, Lt. Jay Baker with the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office said.

Clemons was taken to North Fulton Hospital, where he died from his injuries, Baker said.

ALEXIS STEVENS

Teacher who texted girl gives up his certificate

A North Hall High School band teacher who resigned last spring after administrators discovered his relationship with a student, surrendered his teaching certificate this month.

Alan Keith Kirkland's certificate was canceled Oct. 14, according to the Professional Standards Commission website. He will be able to petition for the right to reapply for teaching certification after three years.

A fellow teacher reported suspicions of Kirkland last May, according to school documents.

When confronted, the 37-year-old teacher admitted he had an inappropriate relationship with a senior girl and resigned, the documents say.

The nature of the relationship was not defined other than Kirkland and the girl had exchanged thousands of phone texts. CHRISTOPHER QUINN

State

Propane fuel use halted after patrol car ignites

The Jackson County Sheriff's Office suspended the use of propane to power its vehicles after a patrol car erupted in flames this week.

Maj. David Cochran, chief deputy at the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, says officials have launched an investigation to determine if the fire was caused by a propane leak.

The department's 63 patrol cars can run on propane or gasoline.

Cochran says the fire occurred Monday morning north of Jefferson as Deputy Gary Cox was responding to a call.

Cox was taken to Athens Regional Medical Center in Athens, where he was treated for burns.

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