



**SHRC's
Annual
Art Show**
See page 4-B



**Friday,
April 3
at UWA**
See page 1-B

**SCHS
ALL Stars
named**
See page 8-A



Sumter County Record-Journal

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Volume 14 • Number 49 • 16 Pages • 3 Sections • 5 Inserts • Livingston, Alabama 35470 • Thursday, April 2, 2009



Entertainer entrapped in wreck

A total of four "exotic entertainers" and three security guards in route back to Mississippi wrecked and injured at least three in this vehicle mishap Friday, March 27 at approximately 2:45 a.m. According to reports all seven were traveling in this Nissan Frontier truck which overturned several times in a heavy rain storm on Hwy 80. The seven reportedly had been working at the Oak Tree Lounge in Coatopa. Sumter Rescue Squad was called for an entrapment, but the call was cancelled after volunteers at the scene lifted the vehicle off the female victim who was trapped underneath. Another female was also thrown from the vehicle. The injured were transported to a Meridian Hospital by Northstar Ambulance Service.

Photo by Terry Pendergrass

Kidnapping, pornography, sodomy arrests made

By Herman B. Ward, Jr.
Associate Editor
Sumter County Sheriff Johnny Hatter reported that Markeith Christian, 25, of 1841 Hwy. 39 in Epes was arrested March 20 on a Grand Jury indictment. He was charged with Kidnapping, First Degree and Pornography Production with a minor. Bond was set at \$20,000. Robert E. Porter, 48, of 125 Short St. in Cuba was arrested on a Grand Jury indictment March 19 and

charged with Assault, Third Degree and Sodomy. His bond was set at \$15,000. Jerry Drummond, 52, of 303 Boykins St., York, was arrested on March 18 and charged with violating his probation. No bond was set. Jimmy Tools, 38, of 187 McAboy St. in Cuba, was arrested March 18 for Domestic Violence and Harrassment. Bond was set at \$1,000. James Earl Bester, 45, of 34 Panola Parkway in Panola was arrested March

20 on a Grand Jury indictment for discharging a firearm into a occupied vehicle. He was charged with Assault, First Degree. His bond was set at \$15,000. Fredrick Rice, 44, of 72 Williams Road in Gainesville was arrested March 23 for Failure to Appear in court. His fine was \$200 or 13 days in the Sumter County Jail. Jerry Killings, 54, of 6411 Coatopa was arrested

continued page 2-A

Siblings milk \$256,000 out of Barber's Dairy

Robin Lee Jones, 42, Birmingham, and Robert Lee, 41, of Livingston, Alabama, pled guilty Thursday, March 26 in United States District Court.



Robin Lee Jones



Robert Lee

Police Department announced the plea on Thursday.

Jones pled guilty to Counts 1, 2, 11, 12, 18 and 19 of a federal indictment alleging wire fraud, credit card fraud, and forfeiture. Lee pled guilty to similar charges in Counts 15, 16, 18 and 19 of the indictment.

Alice H. Martin, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama, Roy Sexton, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Secret Service and A.C. Roper, Birmingham

According to the indictment, Jones, a Barber's Dairy company clerk in July 2005, was in charge of administering the credit card accounts for company truck drivers. She illegally ordered, used and allowed family members, including her brother Robert Lee, to charge approximately \$256,000.00 for personal expenses.

The indictment charged a wire fraud scheme to defraud from July, 2005 to March 2007, and credit card fraud from February,

continued page 2-A

More black men die without treatment

Study shows prostate cancer to claim more black males in Alabama's Black Belt than rest of nation

Lack of knowledge and the fact you just don't like to see a doctor may kill you.

Men in Sumter County, especially blacks, are dying at one of the highest rates of prostate cancer than anywhere else in the nation.

Alabama ranks third in the nation and the the Black Belt ranks second among the most affected areas of the country.

One in every six men will get prostate cancer in his life. Over 186,320 new case are expected this year.

Washington D. C. ranks above the Alabama

Free prostate cancer screening to be held at Sumter County Health Department in Livingston on Saturday, April 11

only in the number of men, especially black men, who die with prostate cancer, according to Dr. Thomas Moody.

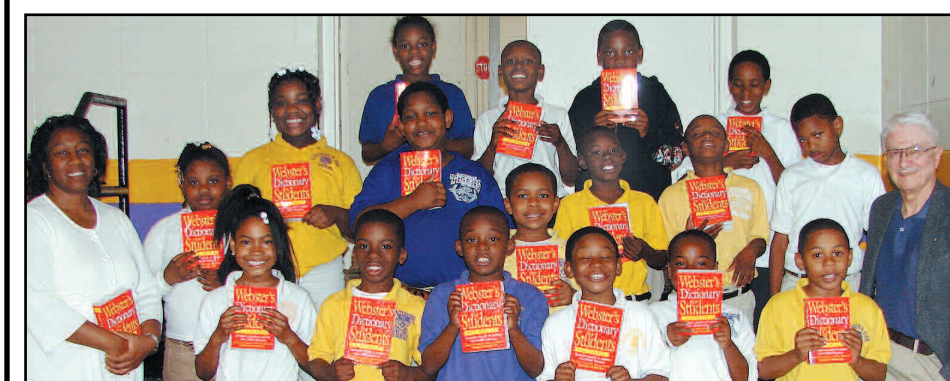
Moody is one of 17 Physicians, surgeons that want to make a difference in the lives of men who

may have the disease. "You don't have to die from it if you are screened and the symptoms are treated early. Putting the exam off may increase your chances of dying with the disease," according to Dr. Moody.

Moody and Sherry Wilson were in Livingston

continued page 2-A

Rotary gives third grade students their own dictionaries



Kinterbish Junior High School Third Graders were happy to receive a personal dictionary from the Sumter County Rotary Club Students are, front row, left to right, Principal Rita Ertha, Wondora Smith, Darshann Washington, Jacorey Turnipseed, Ke'shun Dubose, Desmond Ward, Martinez Donald, and Rotary Club President Richard Losch Middle row, left to right, Arivan Johnson, Phyllis Watkins, Trevor Wade, Mailk Tucker, Anton Jackson, Glendrick Collins, and Jovon Blakely, back row, left to right, Gweneja Watkins, LaPatrick Ward, Anthony Hill, and Tyler Presswood.



York WEJHS Third graders who received dictionaries are, front row, left to right, Coley Rogers, Barry Thompson, Malik Collins, Lakita Lewis, Anin Hunt, Michael Day, Quindarius Noble, Darvies Thomas, second row, left to right, Trymone Nixon, Jeronica Watkins, Xavier Wilson, Robert Johnson, James Reed, Back row, left to right, Mrs. Johnnye Watson, Teacher, Marion Brown, Keilan Hamilton, Eddarius Wallace, LaQuonda Smith and Richard Losch.

Rotary Club donates dictionaries

York Rotary Club President Richard Losch encouraged students to "take the dictionaries home and learn words to impress your teachers," as the York Rotary Club distributed dozens of dictionaries to students in the third grade classes in the Sumter County Public School system.

President Losch and Rotary Club member

Tommy McGraw hand delivered the 'Webster Dictionaries For Students' to students at Kinterbish Junior High School and York West End Students on Tuesday, March 24.

The York Rotary club is scheduled to hand out the Webster Dictionaries at North Sumter Junior High School and Livingston Junior High School in April.

This is the third year the dictionaries have been given to the students form Rotary to keep for tier own. Losch encouraged students to "write your names in the front because it is yours to keep."

The goal of Rotary Dictionary program is to assist all students in completing the school year as good writers, active readers

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York WEJHS Third graders who received dictionaries, front row, left to right, Shaylon Hamilton, Raykal Brooks, Kymteria Young, Johnarious Altman, Simmoe Noble, Christopher Sillimon, Tra'Darrius Clark. Back row, left to right, Gustavis Nave, LaKenya Graves, Jalannie Sturdivant, Demetris Lake, Octavious Terrell, Gregory Brunson, Frankie Williams and Richard Losch.

Sumter County's 7-Day Forecast April 2-8

This Week's Local Forecast						
Thursday T-storms 78/52	Friday Sunny 71/46	Saturday Mostly Sunny 75/58	Sunday T-storms 73/50	Monday Mostly Cloudy 71/53	Tuesday Mostly Cloudy 70/51	Wednesday Partly Cloudy 73/55
Precip Chance: 60%	Precip Chance: 0%	Precip Chance: 5%	Precip Chance: 40%	Precip Chance: 20%	Precip Chance: 10%	Precip Chance: 10%

Weather Trivia

What is the coldest recorded temperature in the United States?



Answer: Prospect Creek, Alaska was -80 degrees on Jan. 23, 1971.

SECOND FRONT

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO: SUMTER COUNTY RECORD- JOURNAL,
PO Box B, LIVINGSTON, AL 35470



Sumter County Health Director Ashvin Parikh, left, Sherry Wilson, Health Education Specialist, center and Dr. Thomas E. Moody, right, will be screening men for prostate cancer at the Sumter Health Center on Washington Street in Livingston, Sat., April 11. The clinic is free for those who wish to participate. Moody is a partner with the Urology Centers of Alabama in Birmingham, one of the largest prostate practice groups. They have prostate cancer patients from all over the world.

More prostate ... from front

promoting the Free Prostate Cancer screening to be held at the Sumter County Health Department at 1121 N. Washington Street in Livingston.

The Moody and Wilson will be in Livingston Saturday, April 11 for a FREE prostate screening. The special event is free for all who come and will "only take about ten minutes" according to Dr. Moody.

Moody is a partner with the Urology Centers of Alabama located in Birmingham, one of the largest prostate practice groups. They have prostate cancer patients from all over the world. Their practice is among the leading four urology clinics in the world. Wilson is a health educator and will consult with patients during the screenings if needed.

The reason Dr. Moody and his fellow Doctors want to give back to their state and community is because they want to return what has been given to them, blessings.

"Because we have been so blessed to have such a successful practice, we feel like it is our responsibility to help with the screening for those who don't have the wherewithal and to help those who need our help."

Get checked annually suggest Dr. Moody and Wilson as they visited the *Sumter County Record Journal* Tuesday, March 31.

Moody said Alabama has the third highest death rate in the nation from prostate cancer.

"The reason it [cancer rate among blacks] is so high is because people are not getting

screened. Among black men it is the second highest in the nation," he said.

The reason more black men die is because prostate cancer occurs early and more vigorously than in other races.

Moody said there are more concentrations of blacks in the Black Belt Counties and a lot of men don't have insurance coverage or don't have access to a health clinic.

Moody said his company began the prostate screening two years ago and have performed about 1,000 screenings across the state.

Lack of money has been a problem, but Moody got help this year from the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA).

Moody said he asked the ADECA director if funds could be appropriated for men's cancer like there was for women's breast and cervical cancer screenings.

"ADECA was funding \$400,000 a year for breast and cervical and none for screening for prostate cancer. Director Bill Johnson granted us \$50,000 this year for the screenings" said Moody. The money goes to the State Health Departments for assistance with the screenings.

So far Moody and his group, with the assistance of the Public Health Departments, have done screenings in Perry Wilcox, Hale and Marengo Counties. "We had a large turn out in Linden recently," said Moody. The more often we have the screenings the more men become aware and get the testing."

Moody continued, "We fortunately made some good friends in the legislature and we got \$100,000 [from the legislature] to fund the State Health Departments with the screening process," said Moody.

"The Public Health people have been great about working with us and the grant will pay them.

Moody said, "We've made a commitment to take care of the patients problem to the best of our ability. We are not going to leave them without treatment."

Moody said the screening process will consist of a rectal exam and a (PSA) blood test which last about ten minutes.

Moody explained PSA is an acronym for Prostate-specific antigen. PSA is a protein produced by cells of the prostate gland. The PSA test measures the level of PSA in the blood.

Wilson added, "Yes, and that ten minutes can save your life."

Moody said it is easy for men to put off the tests but, "we've found out that the woman in the house are the main medical caretakers," and have pushed and prodded the men to get the exam to their benefit. "After they are examined, the guys find out that the exam is no so bad," Wilson said.

Moody said next year looks like a bleak year for grants so the funding may not be available for the screenings next year. Moody says those interested should get the prostate test in Sumter County next week on April 11.

Moody said, "Early detection is the key if you have the disease. Cancer can be cured. We feel like if we can get to these guys early and take care of them, we can save a lot of money on the front end of the health care process. In the health care field, it makes sense financially to screen, diagnose and treat early rather than paying the expensive hospital visits after the disease takes hold."

Dr. Moody is a graduate of the University of Alabama School of Medicine in Birmingham. He completed his residency in urology at the University of Virginia Hospital. Dr. Moody has been published in several major medical journals and has been recognized for research he has done in various areas of urology. He is a member of the American Medical Association, the American Urological Association, the Medical Association of the State of Alabama, and the Jefferson County Medical Society.

Dr. Moody is certified by the American Board of Urology and is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

Dr. Moody and his wife, Sarah, have two daughters.

First \$2,400 of unemployment benefits tax free for 2009

All or part of unemployment benefits received in 2009 will be tax free for many unemployed workers, according to the Internal Revenue Service.

"This morning we learned that a record 5.6 million people were receiving unemployment benefits in the middle of March. This underscores the need for the relief provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which includes making the first \$2,400 of unemployment insurance exempt from tax," said IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman. "I urge all unemployed workers to take this special tax break into account as they plan their tax withholding and quarterly estimated tax payments for the year. This change offers a helping hand to millions of Americans who are out of work and struggling to make ends meet."

Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, enacted last month, every person who receives unemployment benefits during 2009 is eligible to exclude the first \$2,400 of these benefits when they file their tax return next year. For a married couple, the exclusion applies to each spouse, separately. Thus, if both spouses receive unemployment benefits during 2009, each may exclude from income the first \$2,400 of benefits they receive.

The new law doesn't affect the return taxpayers are filling out now. Unemployment benefits received in 2008 and prior years remain fully taxable.

Unemployed workers can choose to have income tax withheld from their unemployment benefit payments. Withholding on these payments is voluntary. However, choosing this option may help avoid a

surprise year-end tax bill or a possible penalty for having paid too little tax during the year. Those who choose this option will have a flat 10 percent tax withheld from their benefits.

Unemployed workers who expect to receive more than \$2,400 in benefits this year should consider having tax withheld from their benefit payments in excess of that amount. Those unemployed workers who have already chosen to have tax taken out of their benefits should consider the \$2,400 exclusion in determining whether to continue to have tax withheld.

Use Form W-4V, Voluntary Withholding Request, or the equivalent form provided by the payer to request withholding to begin or end. Form W-4V is also available on IRS.gov or by calling the IRS toll-free at 1-800-TAX-FORM (829-3676).

Livingston Police report

Police make DUI, Paraphernalia arrests, investigate thefts

Arrests
William Brown, 52, of Livingston was arrested on March 29 and charged with Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

Brown was arrested after the vehicle he was driving was stopped for a minor traffic violation and officers discovered paraphernalia in his possession.

Shaundra R. Gibson, 26, of Boligee was arrested on

March 30 and charged with Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol. Gibson was arrested after the 2006 Ford Mustang she was driving was stopped for a minor traffic violation.

Incidents without arrest:

A resident in the 100 block of Meadowbrook Drive reported on March 24 that sometime between March 22 and March 24

someone removed a trailer with a lawn mower on it. Case is under investigation.

A resident of a local apartment complex reported on March 27 that while he was gone from his apartment, someone entered through an open window and removed a laptop computer and games. The case is under investigation.

More sheriff ... from front page

on a Grand Jury Indictment March 19 and charged with Discharging a Firearm, Second Degree into an occupied vehicle. His bond was set at \$40,000.

Killings said he "was not in town" when the alleged incident occurred and that "someone else had already been arrested for the same charge."

Sumter County Sheriff Johnny Hatter did confirm

that two other men had already been arrested and charged with the same crime.

Sheriff Hatter said Edward Evan Kennedy, 19, of 1375 Hwy. 39 in Epes 19 was arrested on June 9, 2008 for Discharging a Firearm into and occupied vehicle and Joseph Bizzell, 20, of 1021 Hwy. 28 West in Livingston was also arrested for the same

charge. Both men were taken to the Sumter County Jail. Sheriff Hatter said he could not discuss details concerning the arrest and that the case is under investigation by the District Attorney's Office.

Sheriff Hatter said the arrest of Killings was ordered by the Sumter County Grand Jury and not the sheriff's office.

More Barber's fraud ... from front

2005 to October, 2007.

Jones, in her duties as a company clerk and exclusive administrator of the company's Fuelman Credit

Card system, used and caused the use of company credit cards to service personal vehicles at an Express Oil Change Company in Birmingham.

From July to September, 2007, she aided and abetted Lee's use of a company credit card to make purchases of diesel fuel for his company trucks from the York Travel Plaza, York where he resides, and from the Texaco/Shell Truck Stop, Livingston.

Each could be sentenced to prison to a maximum of 20 years for each wire fraud count, 10 years each on the

credit card count and a fined up to \$250,000 on each count.

Both Jones and Lee also pled guilty to a \$256,000.00 forfeiture count in the indictment.

Sentencing will be scheduled at a later date before United States District Judge L. Scott Coogler.

Special agents of the U.S. Secret Service and detectives of the Birmingham Police Department worked this case. Assistant United States Attorney Frank M. Salter prosecuted the case on behalf of the United States.

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In-County Subscriptions	Out-of-County	Out-of State Subscriptions	Internet Subscriptions
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More Rotary donates ... from front

and creative thinkers by providing students with their own personal dictionary. The dictionaries are a gift to each student to use at school and at home for years to come.

Reading is the most important skill of all. It is the starting point for all the economic and social opportunities this world has to offer. Educators see third grade as the dividing line between learning to read and reading to learn.

Rotary Clubs across the world have made tireless efforts to improve literacy and the quality of life in their communities. Rotary Club volunteers are the breath of life of The Dictionary Project. Rotary believes the people feel empowered to effect change and improve education, so children will grow up better prepared to compete in the local and U.S. economy.

THURSDAY

Plus Your Phone Calls

Host Terri Brewer and Attorney Bob Prince

Topic: Meet the Judge

Guest: Judge Don McMillan

Host: Matt Glover

email us your legal questions anytime!
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This Thursday night at 6:30

No representation is made that the quality of legal service is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers.