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Immigration plans defined by memos

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump the presidential candidate made no secret of his desire to crack down on illegal immigration, but once elected, he repeatedly offered varying interpretations of just how tough he would be in the White House.

Now a pair of enforcement memos from Homeland Security Secretary

John Kelly lay bare exactly what the Trump administration plans to do and how many of the estimated 11 million immigrants living in the United States illegally will be targeted for deportation. The short answer: a lot.

A look at some of what the policy memos say the government will do.

SEND IMMIGRANTS WHO HAVE CROSSED THE BORDER
•See IMMIGRATION, page 8

ATRIP-2 MEETING IN LaFAYETTE — The third and final local meeting regarding a proposed gasoline tax for statewide road and bridge improvements was held Tuesday evening in LaFayette. A near capacity crowd gathered at the county highway department to hear Chambers County Engineer Josh Harvill (shown above) discuss aspects of the plan and its impact on area roads. (Photo by David Bell)

WestPoint Home donates towels to tornado victims

By **DAVID BELL**
Times-News Staff Writer

NEW YORK — WestPoint Home LLC has donated much-needed towels and accessories to people affected by a string of tornados that struck several southeastern states over the past few weeks.

Overall, 3,525 washcloths, 2,016 hand towels and 600 bath towels were distributed to those in need by local charities near Albany, Ga., one of the hardest hit communities.

“Our thoughts and prayers go out to all the areas impacted by these devastating storms,” said WestPoint

Home CEO Normand Savaria. “We hope our support can provide relief and be a stepping stone to full recovery.”

The donation was first delivered to Harvest of Hope Food Pantry in Americas, Ga., where volunteers assembled towel sets into individual bags. The sets were then apportioned among six local charities, including Boys and Girls Club, YMCA, Southwest Georgia Council on Aging, Salvation Army, Albany Rescue Mission and Amerco Mission.

In the Albany area alone, more than 600 homes were destroyed and

•See TOWELS, page 6

Where the money winds up question at ATRIP-2 meeting

By **DAVID BELL**
Times-News Staff Writer

LaFAYETTE — A near capacity crowd filled a meeting room at the Chambers County Highway Department Tuesday evening for the third and final public forum regarding a proposed gasoline tax for local road and bridge improvements. County

commissioners hosted two previous forums last week in the cities of Valley and Lanett, but according to chairman Debbie Wood, LaFayette had the largest turnout of participants.

Known as ATRIP-2, the Association County Commissions of Alabama (ACCA) is seeking state ap-

•See ATRIP-2, page 8

Troup will take hiring in-house

By **DAVID BELL**
Times-News Staff Writer

LAGRANGE — The Troup County Board of Commissioners approved a request from County Manager Tod Tentler Tuesday to change the way applicants are hired for county positions.

For the past several years, the Georgia Department of Labor office in LaGrange has accepted applications and resumes for all job openings in Troup County government. But in the near future, that procedure will no longer be in effect.

“We will be doing all of our hiring in-house and online,” said Tentler. “Openings will be posted on the commission’s website with easy-to-follow instructions on how to submit an applica-

tion.”

Even though the county still maintains a “hiring freeze,” positions occasionally become available when employees leave a job or are transferred elsewhere.

In other business, commissioners accepted a \$100,000 grant from the Georgia Department of Corrections to implement new GED inmate training, welder training and a barber school at the Troup County Correctional Institute. Executive assistant Dexter Wells said the grant will facilitate special opportunities for inmates to become employable following their release.

The board also approved a request from parks and recreation to submit a grant application for continued operation of Troup

Transit. Since 1999, the recreation commission has operated the transit system with funds allocated from the Department of Human Resources, providing transportation to elderly and disabled citizens. On average, the fleet of 10 transit buses handles approximately 3,500 trips per month.

The grant will provide \$300,000 annually to supplement the transit program.

And, commissioners decided a special committee should be formed to consider Sheriff James Woodruff’s request to hire an additional patrol deputy. The request was made during a work session on Friday when Woodruff discussed the growing number of traffic accidents in

•See TROUP, page 6



HISTORY TOUR FRIDAY — Lanett High School’s Freshman Academy is hosting a “Museum of African American History” Friday, Feb. 24 from 9 to 11 a.m. in the high school gym. Students will display exhibits and enlighten visitors on the contributions of African Americans to the advancement of not only our nation, but the world. Lanett students invite all family, friends and community members to come take a walk through history as you tour the “Museum of African American History.” The students have worked extremely hard and look forward to showing what they have done to enhance their knowledge of African American history.



HUMANE SOCIETY AUCTION ITEM — The firearm shown above is a Henry Frontier Express, 17 HMR rifle, and will be available for auction at this year’s fundraiser for Chattahoochee Humane Society. The fun event is themed “Mardi Gras Casino,” with funny money gambling, silent and live auctions, dancing and cash bar. Casual dress is just fine but Mardi Gras costumes are encouraged. Chambley’s Bait and Tackle, on Highway 29 in Valley, is sponsoring this Golden Boy gun for auction at this Saturday’s fundraiser. The event is at the Valley Community Center, starting at 7 p.m. Tickets will be available at the door, couples \$50, single \$35.

Court denies inmate appeal

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Alabama can again try to execute a convicted killer who has been on death row for 30 years and had seven execution dates postponed, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled Tuesday.

The justices turned down an appeal from Tommy Arthur, who investigators said was having an affair with a woman who paid him \$10,000 to kill her husband.

Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Stephen Breyer said they would have heard the appeal, which centered on a requirement that condemned inmates challenging their method of

execution name a feasible alternate method that is also allowed by state law.

Sotomayor said in an 18-page opinion that Arthur had presented considerable evidence that Alabama’s lethal injection procedures “will result in intolerable and needless agony” and had suggested a firing squad as an alternative.

The Supreme Court’s refusal to hear Arthur’s appeal came after the court issued a last-minute stay in November, blocking Arthur’s execution as he sat in a holding cell outside the state’s lethal injection chamber.

Chief Justice John Roberts said

•See APPEAL DENIED, page 6

QUICK CHECK



National Weather Service Local Forecast

Today, cloudy. Chance of rain showers in the late morning and afternoon. Highs around 70. Chance of rain 80 percent. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Patchy fog after midnight. Lows in the upper 50s. Thursday, mostly cloudy in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s. Thursday night, partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy. Lows in the mid 50s. Friday, partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s. Friday night, mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of rain showers. Lows in the mid 50s. Saturday, cooler. Mostly cloudy in the morning then clearing.

YESTERDAY’S TEMPERATURE High...66°.....Low...55°.....Today at 8 a.m.....61°
RAINFALL (measured at West Point Dam).....Yesterday...1.04”...February...3.02”...2017...10.24”
WEST POINT LAKE LEVEL..Today.....630.14.....Yesterday.....629.98.....Generation.....7-11 p.m.



Today’s Bible Thought

Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your law, ‘I have said you are gods?’ If he called them ‘gods,’ to whom the word of God came — and the Scripture cannot be broken — what about the one whom the Father set apart as his very own and sent into the world? Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, ‘I am God’s Son’? Do not believe me unless I do what my Father does.”

John 10:34-37

Briefly Told

Briefly told items may be emailed to reporter@valleytimes-news.com. Please keep brief. Announcements are published twice a week.

• **Point University's Fine Arts Department** will present a concert choir, "Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs," Sunday, Feb. 26 at 4 and 6 p.m. at the Scott Fine Arts Center Performance Hall.

• **Lanett High School** will host a Science & Technology Fair Thursday, Feb. 23 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the high school gym. Family, friends and community members are welcome to visit the exhibit and view students' projects and demonstrations. This year's theme is "Innovative Discoveries." The awards ceremony will be held at 2:30 p.m. in the auditorium.

• **A St. Jude Walkathon** and blood drive will be held Saturday, March 11 at 9 a.m. CST on the Chambers County Courthouse Square sponsored by Usher Ministry of Mt. Zion Baptist Church. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. For more information contact Whit Allen or Felecia Brock at 334-497-2653.

• **The City of Valley Tree Board** will be giving away Arbor Day trees Saturday, Feb. 25 at the city hall parking lot beginning at 8 a.m. A limited number of trees will be available, including fruit trees, pink dogwood and an evergreen.

• **Chambers County Foster and Adoptive Parent Association** will have a Boston butt sale fundraiser April 14. Place orders now for a 5-7 pound Boston butt. Ordes must be placed by March 31. Butts can be picked up at the DHR office in LaFayette or at Valley First Baptist Church between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. To order contact Karla Riley at therileys05@gmail.com.

• **Lanett Junior High PTSO** meeting scheduled for Feb. 13 has been rescheduled. The meeting will now be held Monday, Feb. 27 at 6 p.m. in the Lanett High School Auditorium. The theater class will perform "The Miracle Worker." All family and friends are invited to attend.

• **Young Adults ages 16-24.** Do you need a GED? A job? Or assistance with enrolling in college? Attend the YES! Project Orientation at the Circle of Care Center for Families Thursday, Feb. 16 from 10-11:30 a.m. to see if you may be eligible for this excellent opportunity. Eligible participants must be 16-24, not attending high school (withdrawn) without a diploma, or low income high school graduate with a qualifying barrier. The YES! Project will improve your chances of getting a job, find a better job, assist with educational needs for receiving a G.E.D. or degree, technical certificate or skill with paid incentives, support services, college scholarships and most of all work ready to maximize employment opportunities and fill the need for a successful workforce. For more information contact Julie, Amanda or Brad at (334) 768-4091 or stop by the Circle of Care Office, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

• **Bradshaw Library** will host a Lunch N Learn and book-signing Friday, Feb. 24 featuring Kaye Minchew who will discuss her book "A President in our Midst: Franklin Delano Roosevelt in Georgia." Pre-registration to attend is required. Please call (334) 768-2161 or email conniebeilfuss@chamberscountylibrary.org by Feb. 23 at noon to make your free lunch reservation.

• **Beulah Senior Center**, located beside Beulah High School, offers activities such as Rook Bingo, SkipBo, public education lunch, health promotion, aid, refreshmentss and daily exercise from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. EST Monday through Friday for senior citizens 60 and older. Call Carolyn Davis, center manager, at 334-749-5928 for more information.

• **Chambers-Tallapoosa Head Start Program** is taking applications for the 2017-18 program year for children ages 3-4. The two locations in Chambers County are the Bowen East Center in Lanett and the LaFayette Center. Several items of documentation are required to register a child. For more information call 334-576-5196 or 334-864-2872.

• A dinner-dance concert celebration featuring the **Choral Society of West Georgia and Fidelity Jazz Quartet** will be held Saturday, Feb. 25 at Highland Country Club beginning with cocktails at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$45 per person and seating is limited. To make reservations call Lisa Julien at Highland Country Club, 706-884-1727.

• **The Christian Service Center**, located at 5342 Cusseta Road Lanett, in the Huguley community, is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please call 334-576-3552 for an appointment. Closed second Tuesday of each month.

• **Free Lunch every Thursday** at noon, with music, fellowship and message from noon to 1 p.m. at **Unity of Faith Outreach** campus, 91 River Road, Valley (CharterBank building in Fairfax). All welcome. (Lunch every week, but Clothes Closet only on third Thursdays.)

• **Opelika High School Class of 1987** is planning its 30-year reunion and is looking for classmates. If you graduated in 1987 or have contact information for any classmates that may not have been contacted yet, please contact Rhonda Fields at fieldsr2@yahoo.com or 334-332-2411, or look us up on Facebook at Opelika High School Class of 1987. The reunion is planned for June 10, 2017.

• Are you having trouble coping with your diabetes? The **Diabetes Community Support Group** meets the first Wednesday of every month from 5 until 6 p.m. CDT in the Health Resource Center across the street from East Alabama Medical Center in Opelika. The support group is provided free of charge by the Diabetes and Nutrition Center and is a member-driven community of individuals guided by member needs and facilitated by a behavior health specialist.

• **Huguley Sobriety Alcoholics Anonymous** group meets every Thursday and Sunday at 7 p.m. at the Chattahoochee Valley Clubhouse, 501 South Fifth Ave., Lanett. Twenty-four-hour help line for those suffering from alcohol addiction, 706-518-9744.

Georgia Lottery Numbers

PowerBall Jackpot \$403 million	Cash 3 - Yesterday 3-5-6 (PM)
Mega Millions Drawing 09-21-30-32-75 MB 09	Cash 4 - Yesterday 4-2-5-6 (PM)
Fantasy 5 13-25-33-36-37	Jumbo Bucks Lotto 01-17-24-31-35-44

IMMIGRATION

Continued from page 1

ILLEGALLY TO MEXICO — EVEN IF THEY'RE NOT MEXICAN

A border security memo calls for the use of a long-standing but obscure U.S. law to send some immigrants who have crossed the border illegally back to Mexico even if they are from other countries. The memo and the law it cites don't include details on how or if the U.S. can force the Mexican government to allow foreigners to wait in that country while U.S. officials decide their fate. Historically, the U.S. has jailed and tried to deport foreigners from countries other than Mexico, while Mexican nationals could be easily and quickly sent back over the border. The proposal is likely to come up in discussions this week in Mexico between Kelly, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and the Mexican government.

UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN

One of Kelly's memos directs the Homeland Security Department to stop providing some legal protections to child immigrants caught crossing the border alone if they are reunited with their parents or a legal guardian inside the United States. The protections generally allow for those children to have their case decided by a judge, but the new policy would likely subject them to fast-track deportation proceedings that don't require a judge's approval. The memo also calls for the government to investigate the immigration status of those parents or guardians and any possible criminal activity connected to bringing the children into the United States.

Immigration advocates decried the effort to target parents of child immigrants who they say are largely fleeing violence in Central America. Jen Smyers, director of policy and advocacy for Church World Service's Immigration and Refugee Program, said those parents are focused on getting their children to safety.

LOCAL POLICE ENFORCING FEDERAL LAWS

Under the Obama administration a program allowing local police and jailers to act as immigration agents was curtailed as the government narrowly focused immigration enforcement. Communities also complained that some jurisdictions were overly aggressive in enforcing federal laws.

The Secure Communities program, which uses fingerprints collected in local jails to identify immigrants in the U.S. illegally, was halted amid complaints and court rulings barring some jurisdictions from detaining immigrants for federal authorities.

Kelly's memos make clear that the government plans to restart those programs.

JAIL AND PROSECUTE MORE PEOPLE CROSSING THE BORDER ILLEGALLY

Kelly's directive calls for more people caught crossing the border illegally to face criminal charges. It is illegal to cross the border without permission, and the government does charge immigrants with crossing the border for the first time or coming back after being deported, a felony. But to do that on a wide scale, as was done along at least one section of the border in Texas under President George W. Bush, is costly and resource intensive.

One of the Kelly memos also calls for more jails. The government currently has the space and

TOWELS

Continued from page 1

another 11,000 sustained major damage, displacing over 3,000 children.

WestPoint Home maintains offices and retail stores in Dawsonville and Dalton, Ga., Valley and Chipley, Fla., all within the path of recent tornados. The company is a leading supplier and retailer of high-quality bed and bath products.

With a legacy dating back to 1813, WestPoint Home continues to design and manufacture sheets, towels, blankets, quilts, comforters, decorative pillows and bath accessories for the retail and hospitality markets under the brand names Martex, Vellux, Grand Patrician and Nostalgia Home.

With corporate and design headquarters in New York City, WestPoint Home operates additional offices in Shanghai, China, Bahrain and Clemson, S.C.

APPEAL DENIED

Continued from page 1

Arthur's appeal "does not merit the court's review." Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall praised the decision.

"The long wait for justice may be nearing an end for convicted killer Thomas Arthur," Marshall said in a statement. "For more than 30 years he has fought to delay his execution for the 1982 cold-blooded murder of Troy Wicker."

Arthur was convicted of killing Wicker as he slept inside his Muscle Shoals home. At the time, Arthur was in a prison work-release program for the slaying of his sister-in-law.

Arthur has maintained his innocence in the Wicker killing. His attorney Suhana Han declined to comment.

The decision in the Arthur case was handed down as the Supreme Court also rejected an attempt by Arkansas inmates to stop their executions over claims that their deaths would be "intolerably painful."

The nine inmates asked the justices to review an Arkansas Supreme Court decision upholding a law that keeps the source of the lethal injection drugs secret. Arkansas has not executed an inmate since 2005 because of legal challenges and the difficulty of obtaining execution drugs. A batch of one of Arkansas' execution drugs expired New Year's Day and an agency spokesman said Tuesday that it had not acquired additional doses of potassium chloride.

money to jail 34,000 people at a time. Congress will likely have to approve tens of millions of dollars for new construction and staff for the facilities or fund contracts with private prison companies.

HIRE 15,000 BORDER AND IMMIGRATION AGENTS

The Trump administration announced plans to hire 5,000 new Border Patrol agents and 10,000 Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents. That will be a tall order. Customs and Border Protection, the parent agency of the Border Patrol, is already having trouble hiring new agents, as about 2 out of every 3 job applicants fails the agency's polygraph test. There are already about 2,000 Border Patrol vacancies, a deficit largely attributed to the polygraph fail rate.

Kelly suggested to lawmakers earlier this month that the hiring would be slow and deliberate, and the agency would not lower its standards.

PRIORITIZE CRIMINALS AND SUSPECTED CRIMINALS

One of Kelly's memos outlines that criminal immigrants will be a top priority. But that category is broad and includes anyone convicted, arrested or suspected of a crime. That means anyone arrested for even a minor traffic violation or suspected of crossing the border illegally will now be a priority.

More than half the estimated 11 million immigrants living in the country illegally are believed to have crossed the border illegally. Immigrants who have overstayed a visa have not committed a crime but a civil violation. Still, those immigrants could also face deportation if they are arrested for just about any offense or simply encounter immigration officials looking for someone else.

YOUNG IMMIGRANTS PROTECTED BY OBAMA

Kelly's memos do not rescind or change the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program that protects more than 750,000 young immigrants from deportation and allows them to work.

Trump decried the effort as an "illegal amnesty" during the campaign but softened his stance on the issue after winning November's election. The administration has not said how long the program will continue, but White House spokesman Sean Spicer said Tuesday those protections will remain in place so long as those immigrants don't commit a crime or otherwise become a security threat.

ATRIP-2

Continued from page 1

proval during the upcoming legislative session to impose a three-cent-per-gallon tax on gasoline and diesel sales to support a statewide \$1.2 billion bond issue for transportation infrastructure improvements. Based on the distribution formula, Chambers County would receive an estimated \$12.7 million.

County Engineer Josh Harvill said a joint study by the Association of County Engineers of Alabama and the Alabama Department of Transportation indicated that Chambers County should be expending \$5 million per year on a 15-year cycle to resurface its 437 miles of paved roads. And, an additional \$1.1 million annual expenditure is needed to replace and rehabilitate the 146 county-owned bridge structures on a 50-year cycle.

"The current average per-mile cost to resurface a road with asphalt is about \$200,000," said Harvill. "The money that would be provided by this proposal is not a cure-all, but it would definitely make a positive impact."

Harvill and his staff have developed a priority list of the roads in greatest need of improvement according to their current condition and the number of businesses/residences served by each.

"Out of our total county road system, only 92 miles are considered excellent by Department of Transportation standards, with the majority rated as average or below," added Harvill.

As proposed, ATRIP-2 would cost the average driver approximately \$1.50 per month based on average gasoline purchases. The bond issue would have an expected life of not more than 15 years, at which point the three-cent tax would end. But Harvill pointed out that the final version of the plan rests in the hands of state legislators.

"The 67 counties of Alabama have gotten together and said this is what we want. They each felt that three cents was an amount most people would be able to afford. That's why it is absolutely critical for citizens to contact their local state representatives and express an opinion, whether it's in favor or against," said Harvill.

Several of those in attendance were representatives of the local timber industry, who said they could support the three-cent tax only if the money was divided among counties and none of it retained by the state. They said they would be reluctant, however, to support such legislation if the tax was set at a higher amount.

If approved by the state, Harvill said paving could begin in Chambers County later this year.

TROUP

Continued from page 1

the county.

According to the sheriff, deputies assigned to answer calls from citizens are being diverted to wreck scenes for traffic control with greater frequency than before, which leaves certain areas vulnerable in emergency situations. Therefore, he is seeking to hire one more patrol officer to assist with traffic-related incidents during peak daytime hours.

Commission chairman Patrick Crews asked County Manager Tentler to propose a recommendation at the next work session identifying specific individuals who will comprise the committee.