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Allied Mineral Products breaks ground on \$11 million expansion in Pell City

By DAVID ATCHISON Home staff writer

PELL CITY - Allied Mineral Products broke ground Wednesday for its \$11 million expansion. "This expansion is part of our strategic growth," said Allied Mineral Products President Paul Jamison.

and is retaining 30 jobs from its facility in Anniston with this expansion. "This is another phase in the Allied Mineral Products story, and it's a big one," said William Carmean, corporate vice president of affiliated operation.

shapes facilities and two research and technology centers. Jamison said Allied likes to locate close to its customer base. "That's why we are here today," he said. Mayor Bill Pruitt attended the groundbreaking, which was held at the former stockyard, where loggers use to bring their logs, off Truss Ferry Road.



Tucker Webb/The Daily Home

Allied Mineral Products held a groundbreaking Wednesday for its \$11 million expansion project. From left are Parker Morris, assistant plant manager; John Morris Jr., business vice president; Paul Jamison, Allied Mineral Products president; William Carmean, corporate vice president affiliated operation; and Jason Goodgame with Goodgame Company.

See Mineral, Page 4A

TALLADEGA FARMERS MARKET



Tucker Webb/The Daily Home

Homestead Farms has a booth set up at the Talladega farmers market. The booth is being run by Bobby Ray Holmes and Nick Ligon. Shopping at the booth are Latricia Kirksey and Valerie Truss.

Talladega school board to move forward today with finding next superintendent

By CHRIS NORWOOD Home staff writer

The Talladega City Board of Education will take the first steps toward naming a permanent superintendent during a special called meeting today at 8 a.m. in the central office.

Former superintendent Terry Roller resigned at the first of this month to accept a position with the state Board of Education in Montgomery.

After Roller left, the board advertised the position, using similar requirements to the ones used last time, on the system's website as well as the site for the state Board of Education.

The applications were sent to board attorney Charlie Gaines, where they have been held in confidence.

According to board chairman Jake Montgomery, the applications will be revealed publicly for the first time today. The board will then decide how many candidates to interview, which applicants will make the cut and when the interviews will be held, among other things.

According to a tentative agenda published Wednesday, the board will also go into executive session during today's meeting. The agenda does not say which exception to the state Open Meetings Law the board will be citing or how long they plan to be out before returning to public session.

Talladega BOE requesting designs for possible new middle school

By CHRIS NORWOOD Home staff writer

The Talladega City Board of Education voted 3-1 Tuesday to send out requests for proposals to various architectural firms regarding design for a new middle school.

Montgomery pointed out the board was simply asking for proposals to build a new school; no money has been set aside for the project and no final decisions have been made.

Dixon Middle School, which housed all of the system's sixth-graders until 2004, is being demolished. Because of the presence of asbestos and non-compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, among many other problems, renovating the old school would have been prohibitively expensive.

board's May meeting. McGhee accused Montgomery of violating the open meetings law and attempting to run the board as a dictator. Montgomery said the plans had been shared with other board members, including McGhee, and that they had come both free of charge and unsolicited by the board.

As for the action taken Tuesday night, "It just possibilities," Montgomery said. "We're contacting various architects and asking them to give us sketches. It's a free way to get ideas."

He added that there were probably between four and six architectural firms in Alabama specializing in schools, and that all of them would be contacted.

"Once we've advertised it a couple of times, I imagine the word will get out," he said. "There's no commitment. I would think we would want to utilize that big piece of property (Dixon), but nothing is set in stone. We will have a new superintendent soon, and a new board next year, and it may end up being up to them. There are a ton of issues, with the biggest one, of course, being cost, but we'll also be looking at what grades will be there and things like that."

Also Tuesday, the board:

- Approved bids for milk and produce for the child nutrition program.
• Accepted the resignation of Carrie Uptain, teacher at Graham and Houston elementary schools.
• Hired Matoya Tyler, first-grade teacher at Salter Elementary; James Haynes, special education teacher at Salter; Shaquoria Garrett, fourth-through sixth-grade history at Salter; and Margurette Cole, history teacher at Talladega High.
• Transferred Kayla Franklin from non-assigned teacher to Pre-K at Salter; Betty Street from Pre-K to kindergarten at Salter; and Rebecca Armstrong, kindergarten to reading coach at Salter.
• Reassigned Darian Simmons from math teacher at Talladega High to assistant principal at Zora Ellis Junior High.
• Nullified the contract with a 12-month custodian at Talladega High School Greg McKinney, then transferred him into a new contract, according to the published personnel actions.
According to Montgomery, McGhee also voted against the personnel actions, complaining that she had not received her packet 72 hours before the meeting.

Polarized? Not in Alabama, study says

By TIM LOCKETTE Consolidated News Service

Alabama residents aren't as politically divided as they seem, according to a study released Friday by a Birmingham think tank.

Black or white, Republican or Democrat, voters in the state list more or less the same top public policy priorities, according to a recent study by the Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama, a nonprofit research organization at Samford University.

"We contend that Alabamians are not polarized, but can be made to feel that they are polarized," said Ryan Hankins, executive director of the group.

PARCA is one of the few organizations that regularly polls wide swaths of Alabamians on politics. For their most recent study, the group interviewed more than 400 residents of the state, asking open-ended questions about the state's top needs.

Men, women, black and white residents and people in both major political parties seemed to agree that K-12 education and health care were among the top three priorities for the state. For every group, the top-10 priorities lists overlapped substantially. The result let the group to the conclusion, presented in bold face in the study, that "Alabama voters are not polarized."

That conclusion would seem to fly in the face of a lot of conventional political wisdom. Party identification in Alabama has for years split along racial lines. In 2016, Donald Trump picked up eight out of every 10 votes in overwhelmingly white counties such as Cleburne and Cherokee, while Hillary Clinton saw similar support in mostly black areas such as Greene County.

The Pew Research Center, which has studied polarization for years, found last year that partisan gaps in answers to key philosophical questions - such as whether the U.S. economic system is fair - have grown over the years. The group also found that majorities in both parties are motivated largely by a sense that the other party's

See Polarized, Page 4A

Navigation bar with sections: Inside, Weather, Obituaries. Includes a barcode and a list of obituaries: Lincoln 'Baby Brother' Shepard, Pell City; Rickford Louis Williams, Daphne.

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