

Eye On Effingham

Fire caused by cigarette lighter

A fire that destroyed the upper level of a Pine Manor apartment Monday was caused by a 7-year-old playing with a cigarette lighter, said Rincon Fire Department Chief Corey Rahn.

Pine Manor resident Linda Bacon was home with her 7-year-old son, Oliver, when the fire occurred around 4 p.m. Neither was injured in the incident, which was contained to unit 1-A.

No charges have been filed, said Rahn. Pine Manor property manager Earnest Murphy could not be reached for comment.

County Commission gets plenty of petitions

Effingham County Commissioners were presented with two petitions at a meeting Tuesday night.

The first, which had more than 300 signatures, was on behalf of area senior citizens who want a break in paying school taxes. If seniors get their way, Effingham County residents 72 or older will receive a reduction in school taxes. Commissioners are exploring the possibility.

A second petition with more than 150 signatures was presented by residents upset about road conditions. County resident Ann Smart cited Sam Smart Road, Mount Pleasant Road, Corinth Church Road, Taylor Chappel Road and Old Augusta Road as roads with severe problems, especially during bad weather.

County administrator Lamar Crosby assured the residents that work would be done.

Overnight shelter for flood victims

MELDRIM — The Red Cross and the Meldrim Volunteer Fire Department opened an overnight shelter for Effingham County flood victims at the Meldrim United Methodist church, 116 Ohoopce Ave., two blocks behind the fire department. The shelter will be open 24 hours for flood victims.

For more information, call the church at (912) 748-6724.

Commission considers disaster area status

Effingham County commissioners are waiting to decide whether they should apply to the state for disaster area status until high water levels from recent flooding recede. Flooding and heavy rain have left more than 70 Georgia counties, including Screven, disaster areas. Since some areas of Effingham County are still inaccessible, it will probably take several days or weeks to assess damages, county officials said.

Savannah Morning News

Tidelands' board chairman resigns

Linda Parson-Quarterman, chairman of Tidelands Community Service Board, announced Thursday that she intends to resign from that board as soon as a replacement can be appointed.

Parson-Quarterman has served as chairman since July. She is one of the board's original members, having been appointed in 1995 after House Bill 100 created the community service boards. "I'll always be an advocate and supporter of Tidelands and its clients," she said.

She cited personal reasons, particularly added work responsibilities as the reason for her resignation. Parson-Quarterman is an assistant operations manager at Sitel Corp., a teleservicing company.

The Chatham County Board of Health nominates board members, who must then be approved by the Chatham County Commission.

Savannah Morning News

Effingham's landfill closed to commercial haulers

By Jennifer Rose Marine
Savannah Morning News

No trash allowed. Due to a combination of bad weather and an overabundance of garbage, Effingham County's public landfill has been closed three months earlier than expected to commercial haulers.

The aging landfill, which no longer meets state requirements, was supposed to close June 30.

But the landfill has become such a mucky mess that Effingham County Public Works Director Marshall W. Wolfe said he had no choice but to close it down.

"It's full," he said. "We've been working in the mud and the sludge for seven months. There's no more capacity left in the landfill."

Old garbage in underlying layers of the landfill surfaced in recent weeks due to heavy rainwater, said Effingham County administrator Lamar Crosby.

"It ended up stirring up the trash. With all the rain, we've had fairly significant erosion at the landfill."

Last year, when county officials learned they would have to close the landfill by June 30, they decided to make the best use of its remaining space, said Environmental Specialist Todd Wiederhold of the Environmental Protection Division in Savannah.

Haulers started bringing all Effingham County trash to the landfill. Waste Management of Savannah had been hauling some of it to Chatham County.

But the landfill filled up more quickly than expected, and the result was early closure.

"They hauled it there in an effort to save money — to make sure they used



Effingham County's public landfill no longer meets state requirements. The aging landfill has had recent environmental problems due to bad weather.

up all the space available that was left in the landfill," said Wiederhold, who oversees Effingham County landfills.

Concerned citizens should note that the landfill is closed to commercial haulers, not individuals. Those who need to drop off their personally transported garbage can still do so. County employees are in the process of plac-

ing at least eight trash containers at the landfill.

Trash deposited there will be hauled to a landfill in Chatham County, Crosby said. Effingham County's residential curbside garbage collected by Sullivan Environmental Services Inc. will be taken to a Wayne County land-

Heads up

The Effingham County Special Olympics scheduled for today have been rescheduled for 10 a.m. Monday at the Effingham County Middle School Rebel football field. Events are expected to last until about 1 p.m. For more information, call Susan Ambrose at 754-5544.

The Effingham County Rodeo Pageant will be held at 4 p.m. Saturday in the Effingham County High School cafeteria. There will also be a womanless beauty pageant during the intermission. Admission will be \$3 for adults and \$1 for students; children under 5 get in free. For more information, call 754-9825.

Trash produced

Effingham County's households and businesses generated 22,567 tons of solid waste in 1996, up 31 percent from 17,263 tons in 1992, according to past reports. Residents produce about 3.7 pounds of garbage daily, considerably less than the national average of about 6 pounds per day.

fill near Jesup.

Neither Wolfe, Crosby nor Wiederhold could determine the age of the landfill, but all said they think it's been there since the mid-'70s.

The landfill is an unlined landfill, a type of older landfill that's being phased out by law, said Crosby and Wiederhold.

The change in landfills will have no impact on solid waste fees for homes and businesses, Crosby said.

A temporary transfer station is being built at the landfill, Wolfe said. It should be finished in two to three weeks, and will be removed at a later date.

"That will relieve part of the problems we're having now," said Wolfe.

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