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MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2009 75 CENTS



HIGHLIGHTS

Ruth man drowns at Ala. hotel

A Ruth man drowned early Sunday while he was apparently swimming in a pool at a Sylacauga, Ala., hotel where he was staying with friends.

According to Sylacauga police, Jeffrey Davis, 26, whose address was listed as Highway 570, was found floating in the hotel pool about 4 a.m. Sunday.

Preservationists seek to move depot

BY MATT WILLIAMSON
ENTERPRISE-JOURNAL

A 107-year-old building that once put people on the move may be seeing a move of its own.

The old Liberty-White Railroad depot at Holmesville, which has been decaying in woods for years, is the focal point of a joint project proposed by the Summit Historical Society

and the town's historic preservation commission.

Those groups want to move the depot from Holmesville, place it along the railroad tracks in Summit and turn it into a museum honoring the history of the railroad and timber industries in Summit.

The Holmesville depot was at the eastern terminus of the Liberty-White Railroad, which was established

by Pike County timber magnate J.J. White.

Historical society members say that although White made a name for himself as a captain of industry in early McComb history, he got his start in Summit, where his lumber yard was located.

White built the narrow-gauge rail line in 1873, and it ran from Liberty to Holmesville.

Historical society members say White was the first person in Mississippi to build a locomotive-equipped tram for the purpose of hauling logs.

The railroad featured five locomotives, a mail and baggage car, six passenger cars, a passenger motor car, two cabooses, four tank cars and 14 box cars. Personnel included a train master, roadmaster, six station agents,

12 enginemen, 10 trainmen and several crews of trackmen, according to the historical society.

Historical society members told the town council last week that they'd like the town to lease them a patch of town-owned land next to the railroad tracks for about \$10 per year for 99 years as a site for the depot.

SEE DEPOT, PAGE A2

Awful abuse

Louisiana child

Obama, Calderon

for the plane's pilot and an adult passenger today.

DEPOT: Backers cite need to act quickly

FROM PAGE 1

They also requested the town provide sewer and water hook-ups and service, as well as garbage pickup. Town officials haven't formally responded to that request, but they may take it up at Tuesday's board meeting.

Summit Historical Preservation Commission member Delores Feldman said last week that she and others recently inspected the depot. She described it as "rotting down" and "really up in the woods" in Holmesville on land owned by Sue White, who has reportedly given her support to the project.

"It's in really bad condition but not so deplorable that it can't be revitalized," Feldman said.

The depot, built in 1902, is about 20 by 30 feet and has a main room and a smaller baggage room. It would likely need to be moved in two pieces, she said.

Historical Society member Trudy Berger said the organization can apply for a grant to assist with moving and renovating the building, but an Oct. 9 deadline looms over securing a title to the land from the town and getting building.

Feldman also stressed the importance of moving forward with the project, saying she'd like to see the building in place by the time the historic preservation commission conducts a survey of historic property in town that will be used to draw up boundaries for the town's historic district.

Berger also noted that the depot moved could be done in conjunction with the town's upcoming work to downtown as part of a \$1 million aesthetic overhaul. But with work on the project expected to begin in a matter of weeks, Berger stressed the need to move quickly.

Partly cloudy
Hi: Low 90s
Lo: Mid 70s

Flood Stage

Cairo	40
Memphis	34
Greenville	48
Vicksburg	43

Flood Stage

Jackson	28
Rockport	25

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nobody won the
and multistate
are the weekend

**Powerball: 4-
Next
Louisiana Lotto
Sunday**



by
Director,

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