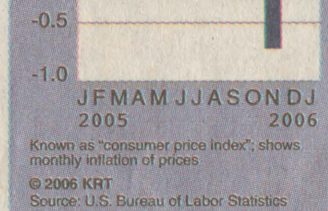


Soul food: Cooking lessons provide for a tasty celebration of Black History Month. Rain Smith. Kingsport Times-News.



Surgoinsville officer faces DUI charge in Sullivan

■ **Dustin Freeman** will remain suspended with pay until the charges are resolved in court.

By **JEFF BOBO**
jbobo@timesnews.net

SURGOINSVILLE — Rookie Surgoinsville police officer Dustin Freeman has been suspended with pay as a result of being arrested on a DUI charge early Wednesday morning in Sullivan County.



FREEMAN

Freeman, 26, 444 Devault Street, Church Hill, was hired by the Surgoinsville Police Department as a patrolman in October and achieved his state certification in law enforcement in December.

According to a report filed by Sullivan County Sheriff's Office Deputy Joe Stewart, Freeman was clocked driving 54 mph in a 35 mph zone on Route 36 early Wednesday morning and was pulled over by Stewart near the Interstate 81 interchange.

Stewart stated in his report he smelled a strong odor of alcohol on Freeman.

"The driver (Freeman) stated he drank seven beers earlier that night," Stewart stated in his report. "I gave several field sobriety tests, which he performed poorly on. Mr. Freeman stated he was trying to have fun with some friends."

Freeman was charged with DUI, violation of the implied consent law (for declining to submit to a Breathalyzer or blood test) and speeding. He was released on \$750 bond after spending about four hours in jail.

On Wednesday morning, Freeman waived arraignment in Sullivan County Sessions Court. A new court date of April 18 was set.

Surgoinsville Police Chief Dale Scalf said Wednesday that Freeman will be placed on suspension with pay pending the outcome of the charges.

holds," economist Joel Naroff said after the government reported Wednesday that consumer prices jumped ahead in January at the fastest pace in four months.

The most closely watched inflation barometer, the Consumer Price Index, advanced by 0.7 percent, compared with a 0.1 percent dip in December.

age weekly earnings, adjusted for inflation, dropped by 0.4 percent in January compared with a year ago. For most workers last year, paychecks didn't keep pace with inflation.

While the Bush administration has talked often about the generally good shape of the economy, Democrats have expressed wor-

December. More expensive clothing and new cars were mostly blamed for the slight pickup in core inflation.

Fed officials are especially interested in the core inflation readings. By excluding energy and food prices, which can swing widely from month to month, the core inflation gauge gives economists a better sense of

red," said Sherry Cooper, chief economist at BMO Nesbitt Burns. "The risks remain skewed to a mild up-creep in core inflation during the months ahead" and that keep the Fed on a rate-raising path, she predicted.

Please see **ENERGY**, page

soul food

Cooking lessons provide for a tasty celebration of Black History Month



■ **Riverview** Boys and Girls Club members made and sampled sweet potato biscuits, fried cucumbers, fried turnips and fish.

By **RAIN SMITH**
rsmith@timesnews.net

"We've got some things you probably haven't ever tasted," said Johnnie Mae Swagerty, unloading grocery bags. "You had fried cucumbers?"

Eight heads ages 4 to 10 shake back and forth. "Fried turnips?" "I have," says one little boy.

"Eggplant?" Swagerty asks. "Nooooooo!" the children answer in unison, high-pitched voices bouncing off the crowded kitchen's walls.

Within the hour, everyone at Riverview's Boys and Girls Club had sampled the above — and then some — taking in old-fashioned soul food as part of Black History Month.

Swagerty, of New Vision for Youth Outreach, starts Wednesday's adventure in the kitchen by spreading flour across a table before the children. She then gives each little hand two balls of dough to be rolled flat, the first step in making George Washington Carver Sweet Potato Biscuits.

"This is a mess waiting to happen," comments Boys and

Please see **SOUL**, page 2A



Erica Yoon — eyoon@timesnews.net



Above, from left to right, Makale Foreman, Eric Pray, LaQuan Turner, Johnnie May Swagerty, Malik Foreman, Michel Pray and LaVontae Turner cover their hands with flour before working with some dough during soul food cooking lessons at Riverview's Boys and Girls Club. At top, Michel Pray sprinkles seasoning over fish fillets. Malik Foreman, left, dumps out sweet potatoes as he works to make George Washington Carver Sweet Potato Biscuits, below.



City attorney Joh's vote on Crown Point broke no law

■ **'The conflict** of interest law in Tennessee is pretty narrow. ... You might get some benefit, but that doesn't mean it's a conflict.'

— Mike Billings

By **MATTHEW LANE**
mlane@timesnews.net

KINGSPORT — Alderman Valerie Joh not violate city code or state law when she voted in favor of tax increment financing (TIF) on a \$10 million redevelopment project that her real estate company stands to benefit from, Kingsport's city attorney said this week.

In January, Joh voted with a majority of Board of Mayor and Aldermen members to approve \$750,000 in TIF to the Glenwood Development Co. for the redevelopment of the Crown Point shopping center.

Blue Ridge Properties, which is owned by Joh, is marketing the potential vacancie the shopping center for Glenwood — something not disclosed to the BMA prior to TIF vote.

Colette George, a member of Kingsport Regional Planning Commission daughter of Joh and the managing broke Blue Ridge's Center Street office, also voted in favor of the TIF during the Planning Commission's December meeting.

Tax increment financing occurs when Kingsport Housing and Redevelopment Authority takes the projected growth in property taxes on the project and uses that money to secure a loan from a bank. That loan is t



JOH

Please see **CITY**, page

Food Lion at Kings Giant Plaza to close April 3

■ **Closure** will leave the closest Food Lion stores in Gate City and Church Hill.

The Food Lion closing follows on the heels of the 2005 closing of the Winn-Dixie on Memorial Parkway.

been as eager to leave Daytona as team owner Jack Roush. All of his drivers finished outside the top 10 in the Daytona 500. **PAGE 5C.**



DAYBOOK

Today

Wellmont Health System's Marsh Regional Blood Center will hold public blood drives from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Rye Cove High School, Clinchport; from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Kysor Panel, Piney Flats; and from 2 to 6 p.m. at Freedom of Worship, Norton. Donors must be 17 or older, weigh 110 pounds or more, and be in good health. Call 224-5888.

Rogersville Parks and Recreation Board will meet in a called session at 5:30 p.m. at Rogersville City Hall, 106 E. Kyle St., Rogersville.

Tomorrow

Wellmont Health System's Marsh Regional Blood Center will hold public blood drives from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the U.S. Federal Prison, Lee County, Jonesville, and from 2 to 4 p.m. at Robinette Co., Piney Flats. Donors must be 17 or older, weigh 110 pounds or more, and be in good health. Call 224-5888.

St. Mary's Health Wagon will hold an organizational planning meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Clinchco Senior Citizen building. The agenda includes community health fairs in Dickenson and Buchanan counties in April. Call (276)835-1300.

Kiwanis Club of Kingsport will meet at noon at Ramada Inn. Judge Steve Jones will speak.

Saturday

Greater Kingsport Ministerial Alliance will hold its annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast at 9 a.m. at the Ramada Inn, Kingsport. Mayor Dennis Phillips will speak, and Vice Mayor Larry Munsey will give the keynote address. Cost of breakfast is \$12. There is no cost to those who attend but don't eat breakfast. Call 357-3164 or 378-6800.

Andrew Jackson Gibbons, candidate for general sessions court judge, will kick off his campaign at 1 p.m. at the Kingsport Renaissance Center.

Dobyns-Bennett Band's Winterguard Unit will host a 31-unit competition and festival from 2 to 7 p.m. in the D-B dome. Admission is \$5. Children 5 and younger admitted free.

To submit notices to be published in Day Book, fax to 423-392-1385, attention Becky Whitlock; mail to Becky Whitlock, Kingsport Times-News, P.O. Box 479, Kingsport, Tenn., 37662; or e-mail to bwhitlock@timesnews.net

PLUGGERS

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Getting funky in China

SHANGHAI, China — The city: Shanghai. The venue: a drafty People's Liberation Army acrobatics theater. The event: James Brown.

The 72-year-old Godfather of Soul made his mainland China debut Wednesday, belting out classics such as "Get up Offa That Thing" before a capacity crowd.

"We are going to funk you up before we fin-

Not Kidding around

DETROIT — Kid Rock has won an initial victory in his attempt to stop a California company from releasing an explicit sex video featuring the rap-rock, former Creed singer Scott Stapp and four women.

U.S. District Court Judge John Feikens signed a temporary order that stops David



KID ROCK

Rock's lawyer, William Horton, told the Detroit Free Press. "But they're using this without his permission to drive the sales of other products."

"Even rock stars are entitled to privacy," said co-counsel Michael Novak.

Soul food makes a tasty celebration

Continued from page 1A

Girls Club Director Denise Sensabaugh-Davis, shaking her head with a smile.

As the children pound their dough flat, Swagerty grabs a volunteer to smash sweet potatoes.

"I've helped my papaw cook turkey before," says Laquan Turner, 8, working with his dough. "People like his turkey a lot."

"I've helped my mom make bacon," responds Makale Foreman, 8. "And eggs."

The potatoes are mashed, and Swagerty helps the children scoop spoonfuls into the middle of their dough.

"You're going to put it in the middle there," she says. "And then you just fold it over."

"It's like a taco," says one boy of the biscuit's shape, cracking

himself up as an uproarious laugh follows.

"I've got three (biscuits) together," says Savion Camp, 6, as Swagerty helps him move the mass of dough to a pan. "Look how big mine is."

"Oh, we've got a big one here," remarks Swagerty as she loads the biscuits into the oven. "Whoa horsey."

It's time to prepare the fried cucumbers, and Sensabaugh-Davis ushers children toward the sink to wash their hands.

"I've got a butter hand, eeww," says Janiya Foreman, 5, holding a messy hand in the air before breaking into song and dance. "I've got butter hand, I've got butter hand, I've..."

The children carefully watch Swagerty slice cucumbers and

turnips, then dip them in bread crumbs.

"Now kids, going back to the 1700s, the 1800s, when your ancestors and my ancestors were slaves, they started out gardening," Swagerty says, dropping coated vegetables into a frying pan. "That's how they got their turnips, cabbage. What else is in the garden?"

From the crowd behind her comes several answers: corn, broccoli, rabbits.

"Well, yeah, there were rabbits," Swagerty continues. "Has anyone ever ate rabbit? I've ate rabbit."

"Ewwww!" is the reply.

"Ever ate barbecue goat?"

"Ewww, noooo!" the children say, even louder than before.

"Ah man, ya'll don't know what

you're missing," Swagerty says, her back to the frowning brows and lips curled in disgust.

"Bring on the fish," says Makale Foreman, 10, and Swagerty obliges with a bag of whiting.

"Shake your money maker," Swagerty shouts to Malik as sprinkles seasoning over the fish. "Don't be scared, shake it there."

Pulled from the deep fryer, golden brown, the fish are more popular than vegetables.

Each cucumber and turnip spit in the trash is countered by hearty umm's and ahh's for whiting.

"Is there more fish?" asks a boy with an empty plate, handing his stomach and smile on his face. "Boy, I sure love soul food."

City attorney: Joh's Crown Point vote broke no law

Continued from page 1A

granted to the property owner to help offset redevelopment costs.

During a BMA work session on Monday and again at the BMA's regular meeting Tuesday night, Kingsport City Attorney and interim City Manager Mike Billingsley said Joh and George did not violate city code or state law.

Billingsley said there was no conflict of interest and he does not believe Joh had to announce to the BMA her company's involvement with Glenwood.

"I did some research at her request, I read state law, the city code

and some other opinions. There has been no violation of state law or city code by Alderwoman Joh or Ms. George, both in planning and on the BMA," Billingsley said.

For reference, Billingsley cites Article XX, Section 3 of City Code, which outlines the conflict of interest provisions. City Code then refers to Tennessee Code Annotated 6-54-107, 6-54-108, 12-4-101 and 12-4-102 as the guidelines for determining a conflict of interest.

In this case, Billingsley said Blue Ridge would have to have a contract with Kingsport before the conflict of interest statutes go

into effect. In other words, there is no conflict of interest without a contract, Billingsley said.

"If the BMA was voting on a contract for Blue Ridge Properties to do something, (Joh) would have to announce and declare her interests," Billingsley said. "The conflict of interest law in Tennessee is pretty narrow. A lot of people throw those terms around a lot, and when you actually look at what the law says, maybe it's different. You might get some benefit, but that doesn't mean it's a conflict."

When asked whether Joh should have recused herself or

disclosed her association with Glenwood, Mayor Dennis Phillips said he would leave that up to Joh's judgment and conscience.

"I'm not going to be critical," he said. "There was something illegal there, but I don't have an opinion, but she would have an opinion, but she it was ruled not illegal, I don't have an opinion," Phillips said.

Asked if he would have recused himself under a similar situation, Phillips said: "I don't know. It depends on how I would have thought about it. Sometimes if you don't really think about it, it's not a non-event with you. ... I'm not sure you would even think about it."

Food Lion set to close

Continued from page 1A

a 60,000-square-foot medical office building in 2004.

Wellmont spokeswoman Amy Stevens said Wellmont officials had no immediate comment on the closure or its effect on the outpatient campus.

Services available at the center include the Outpatient Diagnostic Center, Comprehensive Breast Center, Ambulatory Surgery Center and Rehabilitation Center.

"But we're always looking for opportunities to grow within our existing geographic footprint," Lowrance said, adding that he hopes Kingsport customers will go to other Food Lion stores. "We certainly thank them (Kingsport customers) for 20 good years of business there."

The chain operates 1,220 stores in 11 Southeastern and mid-Atlantic states.

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