

GREENBACK TACKLES GRACE CHRISTIAN IN BIG RIVALRY MATCHUP. 1B



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AMERICAN PROFILE CATCHES UP WITH 'NCIS' CREW. INSIDE

FOURTH-GRADERS PARTICIPATE IN BLOUNT FARM TOUR. 11A



Foreign hackers target emails of senators, aides

BY FRANK BAJAK
and RAPHAEL SATTER
AP Cybersecurity Writers

Attempts by foreign government hackers to break into the personal email accounts of U.S. senators and their aides persist — yet the Senate's security office is refusing

“in the last few weeks or months.” The aide spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the issue publicly.

Email theft is favored by hackers the world over, including the Russian military agents accused of leaking the content



DEBORAH HENRY-TYSON ENJOYS A warm summer evening Thursday on the front porch of her Habitat for Humanity home she helped build in 2013 in the Hall Community of Alcoa.

ROBERT BERLIN | THE DAILY TIMES

'Very much a blessing'

Habitat for Humanity to develop subdivision in Alcoa

BY SARAH GRACE TAYLOR

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Blount County Habitat for Humanity is one step closer to housing 20 additional families following the Alcoa Municipal/Regional Planning Commission's preliminary approval for development at a meeting late Thursday.

In June, the BCHFH was offered a deal on a 4.85-acre plat of land at the end of Ohm Street by the Airport Center Development Corp. Habitat for Humanity purchased the undeveloped land near Pistol Creek for \$170,000 to construct a 20-home subdivision.

HFH is an international nonprofit that seeks to build and provide affordable houses to families in need. According to Blount County HFH Director Kathy Jackson, the affordable land in Blount County offered the nonprofit an unexpected chance to serve a larger base.

"It was very much a blessing," Jackson said. "There's definitely not a lot



SEVEN HABITAT FOR HUMANITY Homes stand along East Bell Street in Alcoa, where ALCOA Inc. provided land for the project to celebrate the company's 100-year anniversary in 2013.

of affordable land in Blount County, which makes it hard to make affordable housing available."

The subdivision will be Blount

County HFH's largest independent development, a feat that could not

SEE MICH 3A

BY FRANK BAJAK
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AP Cybersecurity Writers

Attempts by foreign government hackers to break into the personal email accounts of U.S. senators and their aides persist — yet the Senate's security office is refusing to defend them, a lawmaker says.

Sen. Ron Wyden, an Oregon Democrat, said in a Wednesday letter to Senate leaders that his office discovered that "at least one major technology company" has warned an unspecified number of senators and aides that their personal email accounts were "targeted by foreign government hackers."

On Thursday, Google spokesman Aaron Stein confirmed that his company had notified the Senate targets.

Neither Stein nor Wyden provided any indication as to who might be behind the attempted break-ins, whether they targeted lawmakers from both political parties or their timing, though a Senate staffer said they occurred

"in the last few weeks or months." The aide spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the issue publicly.

Email theft is favored by hackers the world over, including the Russian military agents accused of leaking the content of Democrats' inboxes ahead of the 2016 elections, and personal accounts have proven to be the easiest targets.

Wyden noted that the Office of the Sergeant at Arms, which oversees Senate security, had informed legislators and staffers that it has no authority to help secure personal, rather than official, accounts.

"This must change," Wyden wrote in the letter. "The November election grows ever closer, Russia continues its attacks on our democracy, and the Senate simply does not have the luxury of further delays."

A spokeswoman for the security office said it would have no comment.

Wyden has proposed

SEE TARGET, 3A



JACQUELYN MARTIN | THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEN. RON WYDEN, D-ORE., ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee, speaks June 28 during a hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington.

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SEE MUCH, 3A



JACQUELYN MARTIN | THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEN. RON WYDEN, D-ORE., ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee, speaks June 28 during a hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington.

School board selects contractor for Alcoa Intermediate expansion

BY AMY BETH MILLER
amy.miller@thedailytimes.com

The Alcoa Board of Education on Thursday selected Joseph Construction as the general contractor for its intermediate school expansion and renovation. The Public Building Authority will need to approve the the company too, and that is expected within the next month.

Barry Brooke, executive vice president for Lawler-Wood LLC, which is managing the project, took the board members through multiple criteria used to evaluate the proposals from six firms during a work session last week.

Joseph was ranked first and was the low bid on the total estimates for the general requirements and fee, at \$427,500.

The company has been involved in many other school projects in the county, from a similar project renovating Fairview Elementary in 2004 for Blount County Schools to renovating Maryville College's historic Anderson Hall in 2015.

"They're going to be a good team member," Director Brian Bell told the board during the work session Sept. 14.

Work could begin on the Alcoa Intermediate School site in May.

The general contractor will work with the architect and engineering firm, Lewis Group, on cost estimates and how to phase the work.

"We still don't know the sequence in which we're going to build the project," Brooke told the board at the work session. "We're going to figure out what \$9 mil-

lion will buy us."

The school, which opened in 2002 as a middle school, needs structural repairs, an expansion to accommodate growing enrollment among the third- through fifth-graders that now attend the school, and renovations to existing classrooms, which are undersized.

The total project is expected to cost at least \$24 million, but not all the

money is currently available.

ONE-WEEK SPRING BREAK

The school board unanimously approved a 2019-20 calendar that will cut Alcoa's spring break to just one week instead of two for the first time in about 15 years.

SEE BOARD, 3A

Round Records.....4A	Crossword.....11B	Horoscope.....11B	Opinion.....6A
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Classified.....6B	Dear Abby.....13A	Money.....8A	Sudoku.....11B
Comics.....10B	Deaths.....4A	Nation & World.....5,15A	Weather.....11B

Partly sunny,
warm and humid
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MUCH: Development on subdivision will begin in 2019

FROM 1A

have been realized without the support of the city of Alcoa, Jackson said.

"We are very grateful that Airport Center Development reached out to us about this opportunity, and our partnership with the city of Alcoa and Sterling Engineering has made the preliminary work very simple," Jackson said after the Planning Commission unanimously voted in favor of the preliminary plan for development.

"The city really has been so thorough and so helpful," Jackson added. "They did a great job making it easy for us to make this decision by explaining restrictions and assuring us. Nobody wants to buy this much land and then find out that it can't be used how you imagined."

Per Thursday's vote, the organization will make several minor changes to the preliminary plan to reflect zoning and construction standards. Development will begin in 2019, and Jackson anticipates another year before construction gets underway.

Once construction is finished, the subdivision

houses go to people with no income," Jackson said. "We serve people you deal with every day — people at the grocery store, in the medical profession, service positions. ... I mean, it's just like your mortgage or my mortgage, you have to qualify for it, we just layer it with sponsorships to make it more affordable."

Even with HFH's 160 houses currently in the county and the addition of this subdivision in the future, Jackson said the need for affordable housing in the area is rampant, making this development vital.

"There is definitely a higher demand and need than what we are able to meet," Jackson said. "The land is expensive and hard to find, and then there are construction costs. We are glad to have the ability to help those we can, but there is definitely a need for attainable housing in the area."

BCHFH does not receive funding from Habitat for Humanity International and will fund the project with local fundraising, grants and profits from the



ROBERT BERLIN | THE DAILY TIMES

DEBORAH HENRY-TYSON ENJOYS A warm summer evening Thursday on the front porch of her Habitat for Humanity home she helped build in 2013 in the Hall Community of Alcoa.

tenths of a mile away a Habitat homeowner was enjoying the end of a hot day seated on her front porch.

Her home on East Bell Street was the second of seven homes built in 2013 on property donated to Blount County Habitat by ALCOA Inc. to mark the aluminum company's 100-year anniversary celebration.

Deborah Henry, now Henry-Tyson, put in more than 300 hours of work on her home, attended budgeting classes and continued to volunteer after taking over

Street across Bell Street, and to curve around behind the ALCOA project homes.

She's grateful for what her own Habitat project meant to her family.

"It was truly a blessing. I was able to give my grandson a home, which was what I always wanted, a home of my own," Henry-Tyson said as the sun dipped toward the horizon, promising a cooler evening to come as she relaxed on the porch with company.

Henry-Tyson was happy to learn the extension of Ohm street would end in

TARGET: Letter cites work by Russian hacking group

FROM 1A

legislation that would allow the security office to offer digital protection for personal accounts and devices, the same way it does with official ones.

The Wyden letter cites previous Associated Press reporting on the Russian hacking group known as Fancy Bear and how it targeted the personal accounts of congressional aides between 2015 and 2016. The group's prolific cyberspying targeted the Gmail accounts of current and former Senate staffers, including Robert Zarate, now national security adviser to Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, and Jason Thielman, chief of staff to Montana Sen. Steve Daines, the AP found.

The same group also spent the second half of 2017 laying digital traps intended to look like portals where Senate officials enter their work email credentials, the Tokyo-based cybersecurity firm Trend-Micro has reported.

Microsoft seized some

when it seized several internet domains linked to Fancy Bear, including two apparently aimed at conservative think tanks in Washington.

Such incidents "only scratch the surface" of advanced cyberthreats faced by U.S. officials in the administration and Congress, according to Thomas Rid, a cybersecurity expert at Johns Hopkins University. Rid made the statement in a letter to Wyden last week.

"The personal accounts of senators and their staff are high-value, low-hanging targets," Rid wrote. "No rules, no regulations, no funding streams, no mandatory training, no systematic security support is available to secure these resources."

Attempts to breach such accounts were a major feature of the yearlong AP investigation into Fancy Bear that identified hundreds of senior officials and politicians — including former secretaries of state, top generals and intelligence chiefs —

men and our nation can be used how you imagined."

Per Thursday's vote, the organization will make several minor changes to the preliminary plan to reflect zoning and construction standards. Development will begin in 2019, and Jackson anticipates another year before construction gets underway.

Once construction is finished, the neighborhood likely will cater to a mixed-income clientele, as Blount County HFH plans to absorb the Foothills Community Development Corp. by the end of the year.

"One of the most difficult things we face is this misconception that the

to find, and then there are construction costs. We are glad to have the ability to help those we can, but there is definitely a need for attainable housing in the area."

BCHFH does not receive funding from Habitat for Humanity International and will fund the project with local fundraising, grants and profits from the ReStore in Maryville that resells donated items to support housing projects.

HABITAT'S LIVING HISTORY

While the Alcoa Planning Commission was acting to expand Habitat's presence in Blount County, just six-

street to her family. "It was truly a blessing. I was able to give my grandson a home, which was what I always wanted, a home of my own," Henry-Tyson said as the sun dipped toward the horizon, promising a cooler evening to come as she relaxed on the porch with company.

Henry-Tyson was happy to learn the extension of Ohm street would end in a cul-de-sac. Her home is popular with neighborhood kids, as shown by toys scattered on the lawn. She has no desire for more cars passing through to get somewhere else.

As for children: "More kids. We'll take 'em."

Marco Rubio, and Jason Thielman, chief of staff to Montana Sen. Steve Daines, the AP found. The same group also spent the second half of 2017 laying digital traps intended to look like portals where Senate officials enter their work email credentials, the Tokyo-based cybersecurity firm Trend-Micro has reported. Microsoft seized some of those traps, and in September 2017 apparently thwarted an attempt to steal login credentials of a policy aide to Missouri Sen. Claire McCaskill, the Daily Beast discovered in July. Last month, Microsoft made news again

mandatory training, no systematic security support is available to secure these resources."

Attempts to breach such accounts were a major feature of the yearlong AP investigation into Fancy Bear that identified hundreds of senior officials and politicians — including former secretaries of state, top generals and intelligence chiefs — whose Gmail accounts were targeted.

The Kremlin is by no means the only source of worry, said Matt Tait, a University of Texas cybersecurity fellow and former British intelligence official.

BOARD: Spring break cut to one week in 2020, summer vacation to start earlier

FROM 1A

That will give students five more days of instruction before state testing begins in late April, and start summer vacation earlier.

If money is available, renovations to the existing AIS classrooms could be done that summer, so having students out of the building would allow work to begin earlier.

Alcoa City Schools classes will begin July 24, 2019, and end May 14, 2020. Students still will have the first two weeks in October as fall break, and from Dec. 23, 2019, through Jan. 3, 2020, as winter break.

However, spring break will

be only March 16-20, 2020, the same as Blount County and Maryville City Schools, which previously approved their calendars.

BCS plans to start classes July 30, 2019 and finish May 22, 2020, while the MCS classes run from Aug. 6, 2019, to May 21, 2020.

Although the board voted only on one calendar year, Bell said the change to a one-week spring break likely will continue the following year.

When the board votes next year on the 2020-21 calendar, he explained, the district won't yet have experienced the impact of a one-week break.

During the work session Bell also told the board that

students who take Advanced Placement classes likely will have to return to take those exams, because the dates are set nationally. The district doesn't know those testing dates until January, and usually they are around May 18-20, he explained.

BUDGET AMENDMENT

In other action the board approved amendments to the 2017-18 general purpose budget that raised the total to \$21.71 million.

Among the changes are \$164,000 in additional state funding because of enrollment growth, which came in later than usual in the school year.

For the current budget

year the district has only about \$133,000 in its fund balance above the amount required by law to maintain in reserve when setting its budget.

"One boiler or HVAC system could wipe that out," Bell noted during the work

session, citing the impact of potential unexpected expenses, such as a need to replace a heating, ventilation and air conditioning unit.

The Alcoa Board of Education also passed the first reading of a new policy

required by state law to test the drinking water for lead every two years in all school facilities built before 1998.

Bell told the board he has been talking with the city about having its water department conduct the tests.

ELECTION NOTICE
**Federal & State General, Alcoa,
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Election**
Tuesday, November 6, 2018

****ATTENTION Registered Voters with a disability
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