

# Marietta Daily Journal

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**WALKER, KEPPLER WIN INVITATIONAL TITLES // 1C**

**EAST COBB | CRIME**

## Father to serve 2 years, son 10 for stealing from widow



Joseph Carr and his son, Jeffrey Carr, enter a Cobb Superior courtroom Tuesday to be sentenced by Judge Robert Leonard for violating the RICO act by swindling an east Cobb widow of millions of dollars. The elder Carr will serve two years behind bars while his son is set to serve 10. They also have to pay back more than \$300,000. / Staff-Kelly J. Huff

Pair were convicted of swindling \$4.1M from 93-year-old woman

By Brittini Ray  
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**MARIETTA** — A father and son were sentenced Tuesday to a total of 12 years in prison, after being convicted of robbing an east Cobb widow of millions.

Jeffrey Carr, 41, and Joseph Carr, 67, both of Gainesville, were convicted by a Cobb jury March 3 of stealing \$4.1 million from 93-year-old Frances Perkins of east Cobb. Jeffrey and Joseph Carr were convicted of three counts of violating Georgia's Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act.

“Carr and Carr abused the trust of an elderly lady who was starting to go, mentally. We cannot allow this in Cobb County.”

— John Melvin, deputy chief assistant district attorney

“So often in these cases, there’s a tendency for some people to say, ‘It’s just theft,’” Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney John Melvin said at Tuesday’s sentencing hearing. “This is a financial abuse case. Carr and Carr abused the trust of an elderly lady who was starting to go, mentally. We cannot allow this in Cobb County.”

In 2009, Jeffrey Carr befriended one of Frances Perkins’ daughters,

Linda Perkins, and received \$500,000 from her. He then befriended Frances Perkins and acquired 33 acres of her property under the pretense of investment. Jeffrey Carr engineered the sale of the 33-acre property on Johnson Ferry Road for \$12 million and convinced Frances Perkins to give him a 20 percent commission of the sale price. Jeffrey Carr also held power of

**SERVE, 6A**

**KENNESAW | RECOVERY**

## FedEx shooting victim faces more complications

By Michelle Babcock  
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**CANTON** — After what was supposed to be his last surgery, the security guard seriously injured in the shooting at a Kennesaw FedEx facility in April suffered more complications. Christopher Sparkman, 29, of Canton has endured dozens of surgeries since the shooting, and now has another tough year ahead of him, his wife said this week.



Christopher and Jamie Lynn Sparkman were married in May 2013. Christopher Sparkman has endured more than two dozen surgeries since he was severely injured in the shooting at a FedEx facility in Kennesaw last year.

Special to the MDJ

**VICTIM, 6A**

**COBB | I-285**

## BoC OKs \$804K bridge contract

Los Angeles-based firm approved in 5-0 vote to design, engineer project

By Ricky Leroux  
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**MARIETTA** — The Cobb Board of Commissioners unanimously approved a contract worth about \$804,000 Tuesday for a firm to design a multi-use bridge to span Interstate 285 and connect the Cobb Galleria area with the new Atlanta Braves stadium in Cumberland.

The Board of Commissioners voted 5-0 to approve awarding an \$804,321.44 contract to Los Angeles-based AECOM Technical Services Inc. to design and engineer the bridge, which Cobb Chairman Tim Lee has said will cost \$6 to \$9 million to construct.

A \$600,000 federal grant will cover most of AECOM’s contract, according to Faye DiMassimo, director of the Cobb DOT. The

**BRIDGE, 3A**

**LEGISLATURE | SAVINGS ACCOUNT**

## Cobb leaders: Bill takes from public schools

Rep. Setzler says legislation will expand student choice

By Philip Clements  
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**MARIETTA** — A Marietta mother of two says she supports a pair of bills in the Georgia Legislature that aim to create a savings account for students who choose not to enroll in public schools.

Macari Diaz has a 6-year-old daughter at Keheley Elementary School and a 3-year-old daughter who will be enrolling in kindergarten in the 2016-17 school year.

Diaz said she supports the bills because she doesn’t like the large class sizes in public school and wants the choice to enroll one of her daughters in a private school with a lower student-to-teacher ratio.

“I do like public schools, I don’t have a problem with public schools. But I think, as far as benefiting parents — like in my case — sometimes the student/teacher ratios in public school is pretty high. It’s a large number,” Diaz said. “Being able to have a choice and the possibility of putting my

**SCHOOLS, 3A**

