

MARIETTA — Tonight, the Marietta school board is expected to announce the successor to retiring athletic director Jeff Wheeler.

It's a mystery whom Superintendent Dr. Emily Lembeck will recommend to be in charge of athletics for the district's high school and middle grades. She isn't saying and neither is Marietta

Colburn.

Board Chairman Tony Fasola and board members Jill Mutimer and Randy Weiner said Monday they didn't know.

Lembeck said Colburn brought her the recommendation, which she agreed with after also interviewing the candidate. Lembeck said she reviewed applications from the four other finalists as well.

"I think the candidate

recommended is one I'm comfortable with based on the principal's recommendation as well as my discussion with the candidate," Lembeck said.



the local school system.

In Marietta, he spent 20 years at the helm of the Blue Devils' wrestling program and was

family, but remained in charge of the athletic department. In 2006, he returned to the helm of the wrestling program, filling a need at the school.

Since his return, Marietta's wrestling program has seen a resurgence, finishing third at this year's Area 5AAAAA traditional championship and fourth in the county championship.

Lembeck said the job will be the responsibility

Some coaching positions will remain unfilled until the athletic director is hired, said district spokesman Thomas Algrin.

In other business, Lembeck wants the board to cut new teacher orientation from four days to two days since an enrollment drop has meant few teachers are being hired this year.

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Officials: Fraud brought in \$28M

Marietta man pleads guilty

By Talia Mollett
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MARIETTA — A man pleaded guilty in district court Monday to a Ponzi investment scheme that swindled more than \$28 million of at least 100 victims.

Robert P. Copeland, 57, pleaded guilty to wire fraud, which is the entirety of a 5-year-long scheme to the United States Attorney's Office. He will be sentenced July 10 before United States District Judge Beverly M. Martin.

Copeland faced up to 20 years in prison and a fine up to \$250,000, plus full restitution and forfeiture of the scheme.

"This is yet another case in which dozens of victims' hard-earned money turned out to be a long-running investment scheme. This case is a disturbingly common defendant was a senior citizen, some lost their life savings," Attorney David Nahm said.

"The defendant is now cooperating in the ongoing investigation and in our efforts to recover whatever assets are left. He will still face the punishment that this devastating crime requires."

Copeland, who practiced elder law from his Franklin Road offices in Marietta, specialized in estate planning and Medicare issues.

Authorities say he began the Ponzi scheme in 2004 by soliciting individuals through seminars and referrals. Some of his victims were senior citizens who believed they were investing their retirement funds,

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lower will also have the ability to compete with other cell phone providers, Simons said, limiting the need for more cell towers in the area.

Also during Monday's night's meeting, the council approved placing educational signs about Alaska's famous Iditarod race along the multi-use inner trail at Swift-Cantrell Park.

Kennesaw resident Bill Borden completed the Iditarod in 2002, and is said to be the only Georgian to complete the 1,151-mile sled dog race.

Borden said the signs wouldn't be as much about his adventure, but on the history of the Iditarod race, which starts in Anchorage, Alaska, and finishes in Nome, Alaska.

With his non-profit, Cool Dreams Foundation, Borden travels around to schools and civic groups across the country sharing his story. He said he's spoken to more than 300,000 school children.

The council also renamed the inner trail in memory of Borden's lead sled dog, Fisher-King, who died in November.

During the public comment portion of Monday night's meeting, Dr. Cris Esch

Kennesaw chiropractor

candidate for

TA: Tower concern report

Kennesaw City Council has approved a 150-foot tower property owned by AT&T at 3052 Mat

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Kennesaw is a great place ... formally announcing that I intend ... for City Council, Post 1," she said.

mer Post 1 Councilman John Dowdy ... ped down from his position in March.

The city has called a special election on June 16 to fill the remainder of Dowdy's term, which expires in 2011.

Cobb organizers gear up for Earth Day celebration

By Brandon Wilson
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COBB COUNTY — In conjunction with the 39th annual national Earth Day

Former U.S. Sen. Gaylord Nelson, a Democrat from Wisconsin, founded Earth Day. He was awarded the nation's highest civilian award, the Presidential

Gwen Baldwin, public program coordinator for Keep Cobb Beautiful, said she believes Cobb County was likely "on board" with Earth Day efforts, since its

products and creek activities. There will also be recycling crafts, games for the kids and booths informing people of what they can do to help preserve the earth. The alternate

Kennesaw State University

The Environmental Alliance, a student-led conservation and social aware-

will be distributed. Other activities include eco-art, potting and reusable bag giveaways.

Wednesday, 3 p.m.: The annual KSU Bike Day will