

Ralston tells need to help southwest Georgia

By SYDNEY TAYLOR
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Georgia Speaker of the House David Ralston held a media advisory meeting to answer questions related to the special session called by Governor Nathan Deal to discuss Hurricane Michael

relief in southwest Georgia Friday, November 9.

Originally the expected amount to fund the relief was \$100 million. That amount has now grown to \$270 million.

"I think it's important that we get around, in a very concentrated way, to

helping southwest Georgia recover from the complete devastation resulting from Hurricane Michael," said Ralston. "I don't know how many of you have been down there since then, but I have been and I can tell you it will bring tears to your eyes to see all the

houses that have been damaged and destroyed and the damage to the agricultural sector of our economy is just beyond belief almost." The session will begin Tuesday, November 13, and Ralston believes it will end before the Thanksgiving holiday.

In July, Deal signed an executive order to stop collecting sales tax on jet fuel. The tax had previously been left in place following Delta Airlines suspension of their National Rifle Association discount program.

By law, members of the house are required to discuss and vote on the tax break for airlines decision during this session, however Ralston did not feel he could predict an outcome. "My view is that anytime

that we do preferential tax treatment for any entity, then I think the burden is on that entity to make the case for why it's necessary to the overall economy and to be candid with you I haven't had that case made yet," said Ralston.

He believed the primary focus would and should be on hurricane relief.

"I view this as a beginning, not an ending, in state assistance for that part of Georgia," said Ralston.

VETERANS HONORED AT MACA

News Observer photos by Lauren Bearden



Mountain Area Christian Academy students passed out thank you cards to all the veterans who attended the school's program to honor their service. Shown is Haley Brown handing a card to veteran David Buckner.



Many people, especially the veterans themselves, are overcome with emotion during heartfelt programs to honor those who served for our country. Shown is Mountain Area Christian Academy student Emma Thomas with her grandfather Aubrey Thomas. Emma Thomas sang the National Anthem during the school's veterans day program, November 9.



Veterans James Cook, left, and Kenneth Brendle, right, both served in Vietnam - Cook with the 23rd Infantry Division and Brendle with the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. The men read letters written by Mountain Area Christian Academy students in honor of Veterans Day, November 9.

RIGHT: Fourth grade students of Mountain Area Christian Academy performed a choral reading of the meaning of the American and Christian flags. Shown, from left, are: Tennon Collins, Rebekah Pickelsimer, Sara Bittel, Austin Beal, Addison Lance and Ella Coffey.



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NOTICE
The Blue Ridge Zoning Board of Appeals will meet December 4, 2018. The Board will hear a request for a Variance to the Low Density Residential District (RD) Minimum Lot Width Requirements, of the Zoning Ordinance. The applicant is Mark Watson.
The subject property is described as Land Lot 299 8th District 2nd Section Lots 22, 23 and 24 (B05 27A) located on Austin Street Blue Ridge, GA 30513.
The hearing will be held at 6:00 p.m., at Blue Ridge City Hall, 480 West First Street.
Any questions should be directed to the Zoning Department, 706-632-2091.

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