

# Bedford: Incident 'low point in history of Senate'

By ED HOWELL  
Eagle Senior Writer

State Sen. Charles Bishop, R-Arley, said he tried to walk away from Sen. Lowell Barron, D-Fyffe, who pulled him to come back before Bishop hit him Thursday — an act Bishop said was the result of rules being ignored in the Senate.



Sen. Charles Bishop

State Sen. Roger Bedford said Sunday that he expects the Senate's Ethics and Conduct Committee to meet soon to review the matter to make a recommendation to full Senate.

"I think they'll take it up in the next two or three weeks," Bedford said.

Complaints were filed with the committee on the day of the punch. Bedford said Bishop has 15 days to respond once he hears from the committee. Bishop said he plans to hire a lawyer this week.

The Alabama Public Television video shows Bishop talking with Barron on the floor of the Senate before starting to turn away to leave. He then suddenly turns back and talks some more before hitting Barron.

As Bishop recalled on Friday, a young freshman senator from Mobile had been at the microphone on behalf of the minority faction's efforts to bring up a bill to ban transfers between political action committees. Bishop said the majority faction cut off the legislator against the rules.

"It was just as illegal as it could be. It was so obvious to the press that was sitting there," he said.

Bishop said that was when he walked over to Barron, during a recess, knowing Barron had a

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The crowd at the "Take A Kid Fishing" Day held Saturday at Memorial Park Lake was a hook. Officials said that 5 participated in the event. four-year-old Zay Davis gets some help from Rickton, a member of the Jasp Club, during the Bass Club Casting Competition, which also held Saturday at the right, six-year-old Justin M of Oakman gets a little help his papa, Bob Martin of O during the "Take A Kid Fishing" event.

# Warrior man, 24, dies in accident on Smith

By ELANE JONES  
Eagle Reporter

The body of a Jefferson County man was recovered Sunday near where he drowned following an accident on Smith Lake.

Jason Matthew Cannon, 24, of Warrior drowned around 6 p.m. Saturday while swimming on Smith Lake. He was not wearing a life jacket.

The accident happened on Ryan's Creek on the Cullman County side of Smith

Lake, said Alabama Ma David Cook, who pat County side of the lake

Cannon drowned whi of the water on a lad swim dock on a boat there's a possibility C been electrocuted whe ladder.

"We won't know for the autopsy report," Co

See I

grams at the facility  
ve its ability to care  
tients.

nk he (Havens) is  
or some fresh ideas.  
he wants to make  
anges with some  
nd I think there are  
ings they want to  
aid. "There are sev-  
gs in the works that  
od to Mr. Havens  
at will be coming in  
future."

lt like our resident  
on was growing and  
nd someone like him  
to assist our med-  
ctor (Bruce Russell)  
ld new programs,"  
aid.

ing to Twilley, one of  
ograms discussed is  
ibility of adding a  
enter, since there is  
n the Walker County  
there is a large need  
pecially for senior cit-

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n's body has been sent to the Alabama Department  
ics Science to determine an exact cause of death.  
ivers searched for Cannon's body Saturday  
or several hours but the search had to be called off  
of darkness.

arch resumed around 9 a.m. Sunday and camera's  
ught in to help in locate Cannon body, Cook said.  
n's body was located him around 1:15 p.m. Sunday  
67 feet of water, approximately 40 feet away from  
went into the water.

l agencies responded to the scene of the accident  
including members of the Alabama Marine Police  
life and Freshwater Fisheries divisions, Cullman  
heriff's Office and Cullman County Rescue Squad  
ns. The Walker County Sheriff's Office and Smith  
k Force dive teams also assisted in the search.

have been 36 fatalities on Alabama waterways so far

lar practice.

"It's very difficult," he said.  
"I think my involvement in  
the American Geriatrics  
Society and also the  
American Medical Directors  
Association for long-term  
care facilities has really  
opened my eyes to the long-  
term care need."

Havens said this determi-  
nation to improve care for the  
elderly is the main reason he  
wanted to get Twilley  
involved with the revitaliza-  
tion of Shadescrest.

"We feel really fortunate in  
having a physician whose  
love for the elderly is over-  
whelming," he said. "We feel  
fortunate to have a dedicated  
physician and resident advi-  
sor to come on board with the  
Shadescrest team to continue  
a proud tradition of excel-  
lence in patient care."

ing business to surrounding  
areas, such as Tuscaloosa and  
Birmingham.

The Walker County cities of  
Cordova, Kansas, Oakman  
and Parrish participated last  
year, and some businesses  
offered tax-free sales, paying  
the tax themselves.

The Alabama Department  
of Revenue's Web site reported  
sales in the state were up 10  
percent last August over the  
previous year. Some state  
businesses that specialize in

es and I haven't talked to any  
of the board members about it.  
We'll miss a few dollars but I  
think it is a good thing."

Beaty said the school sys-  
tem requests parents pur-  
chase so many things these  
days.

"For those with multiple  
children in school, I know it's  
hard. I've been there," Beaty  
said.

Sparkman said he and  
Beaty could give an opinion  
and it wouldn't matter, as it

you really don't know how  
much it impacts things,"  
Sparkman said.

Sparkman said he thinks  
the views of business owners  
who felt they were missing out  
on revenue last year are lead-  
ing government leaders to try  
out the sales tax holiday this  
year to gauge its impact.

He also was "greatly appre-  
ciative" of the city's decision to  
reimburse any revenue the  
schools might lose from the  
sales tax holiday.

Association will host a meet-  
ing for businesses on the sales  
tax holiday in Jasper. The  
meeting will be at the  
Community Health Systems  
Activity Center on Friday,  
July 13, from 9-10:30 a.m.,  
with registration required  
through the Chamber of  
Commerce of Walker County.

On the Net:

[www.revenue.alabama.gov/  
salestax/SalesTaxHol.htm](http://www.revenue.alabama.gov/salestax/SalesTaxHol.htm)

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## Bishop

hand in the decision. Their conversation  
lead to Bishop hitting Barron.

"I said, 'I'm disappointed that you  
would go that far. You just about carried  
this stuff too far, just completely ignor-  
ing your own rules and the constitution  
of Alabama. This is a mockery in this  
Senate.'"

"I don't know what in the hell you're  
talking about," Barron replied, accord-  
ing to Bishop.

"You know what I'm talking about,"  
Bishop said. "I've been down here a long  
time. What goes around, comes around.  
I'll get my shot at you, and I'll take it  
when I get it. You won't know when it is  
coming, but I'll get it. I want you to feel  
what these other people feel, and I'll get  
it."

Bishop — who said he meant "shot" to  
mean a political action — then turned  
around to walk off, as seen on camera.  
However, off camera Barron grabbed  
Bishop by the arm or coat, and Bishop  
turned around. Bishop said he had told  
him all he had to say.

"Barron said, 'Don't you threaten me,  
you son of a b----,' and that's when I hit  
him," Bishop said.

Bishop later added that sometime in  
the conversation he originally thought  
he had told Barron he would "scr-- you,

just like you did that young man," but a  
trusted witness corrected him, as  
Bishop told Barron he would "f---" him.

Barron recalled Bishop using the "F"  
word, but denied calling Bishop a "son of a  
b----." Bishop said the witness backs  
up that Barron said the statement.

Barron on Thursday said Bishop  
approached him.

"He said 'you better watch your back,'"  
and used a foul expression, Barron said.  
"I said I don't give a damn what you do."

State Sen. Roger Bedford, D-  
Russellville, said Sunday Bishop  
approached Barron "cussing and stomp-  
ing like he normally does." Bedford  
started walking away because it sound-  
ed like "a normal Bishop ranting and  
cussing."

"The truth is, if this had happened at  
an Alabama school, Bishop would have  
been suspended. If it had happened at  
an Alabama college, he would have been  
expelled. If he did this in a ballpark, he  
would be banned. If he did this in a bar,  
he'd be in jail. If he did this in jail, he'd  
be in solitary. If he did it in the work-  
place, he'd be fired.

"This is conduct unbecoming of an  
adult. It was the low point in the histo-  
ry of the Senate," Bedford said.

He said he told Bishop at the micro-

phone that Bishop had been a friend  
since 1982 but that "this is wrong, he  
should be ashamed of himself and go  
home." He called it the most embarrass-  
ing thing he had ever seen in the  
Senate.

"He committed an outrage in the  
Senate that was intentional, it was pre-  
meditated and he ought to be ashamed  
of himself," he said, calling it "childish  
and criminal behavior."

Bedford, who said he still considers  
Bishop a friend, said Bishop has a histo-  
ry of performing similar acts.

"Charles has cussed people. He's  
threatened to whip their butts every  
since I've known him," he said. "I  
remember in the 1980s when he threat-  
ened to whip Larry Dixon. I was there  
when he talked about spraying Vivian  
Figures. I saw him threaten to whip Zeb  
Little's rear end."

Though Bishop has said he only dis-  
cussed meeting someone outside to dis-  
cuss matters, Bedford said, "He's done a  
lot more than that."

Bedford, who is not a member of the  
Ethics and Conduct Committee, said the  
Senate would have censured him the  
night of the incident had Bishop not left  
early. He said that Bishop could still be  
banned from coming to the Senate.