

Researching your

by Kalin Thomas

When Alex Haley's *Roots* first hit the small screen in 1976, it started a huge increase in African Americans tracing their ancestral histories. In this decade, TV programs like Dr. Henry Louis Gates' *African American Lives*, and *Who Do You Think You Are?* have rekindled that interest.

Dr. Lisa Bratton, a Lithonia resident, could easily be profiled on one of those programs. She has been researching her family history for 20 years and traced her paternal great-great-grandparents all the way back to Historic Brattonsville Plantation, where they were enslaved in York County, S.C.

"It's been fascinating to me to learn about how my great-great-grandparents can become land owners only 11 years out of slavery and then pay the land off 13 days early. It's been very exciting learning about the details of their lives," said Bratton. "But it's highly unusual to have a plantation still standing and documents that survived fires, floods, ants, etc. I had a lot more documents available for my research than 98 percent of Black Americans have."

Roots



Dr. Lisa Bratton with photo of Green Bratton



Bratton gives tour in front of Big House.

Still, Bratton did come across challenges during her research into **Green** and **Melinda Bratton**, her great-great-grandparents.

"I wasn't able to get past the vague reference to Green's mother, who would be my great-great-grandmother. I don't even have her name," she said. That's one of the reasons why Bratton is glad she joined the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society Inc. (AAHGS-GA). She said the society provides a wealth of information and support when one is researching one's roots.

The organization's meetings and workshops offer beginners and experienced genealogists tips and resources to help research effectively.

"We show them how to get started, explain what genealogy is, why it's important, how to put what they find in context, how to sustain their efforts, and how our society can help them with road blocks," said AAHGS-GA President **Gene Stephenson II**.

AAHGS-GA also offers field trips to such places as the regional office of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in Morrow – a resource for combing through census records.

Getting started in a genealogy search

- Interview the elders in the family (use a digital recorder with a jump drive).
- Fill out the Five-Generation Chart from the book *Unpuzzling Your Past* by **Emily Anne Croom**.
- Look for family death certificates.
- Look for ancestors through the 1930 U.S. Census (the latest one available until 2012). Blacks were first listed by name in the Census beginning in 1870.
- Be passionate about the research and don't give up!

Resources:

- Historical societies and groups like AAHGS-GA
- National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)
- U.S. Census
- Libraries
- Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, and other online sites
- Courthouse records
- Software like Family Tree Maker
- City directories – For African Americans, look for (c) meaning "colored"



Tyrone Hardeman, a senior crew member for DeKalb County, is responsible for setting up auditoriums and meeting rooms for county commission meetings, press conferences and special events. Photo by Andrew Cauthen

The set-up man Hardeman delivers behind the scenes

by Andrew Cauthen
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“Call Tyrone.”
That’s what DeKalb County employees say when they need to get something done.

“I know everything we call him for is not in his job description,” said **Dionne McKenzie**, special projects manager for the Board of Commissioners.

A 10-year veteran of DeKalb County, **Tyrone Hardeman** is a senior crew worker for the county. Hardeman’s responsibilities include setting up the county’s Maloof Auditorium; maintaining the audiovisual and electronic voting systems for Board of Commissioner meetings; preparing for press conferences; ordering tents for special outdoor events and delivering supplies.

“Every department in DeKalb County calls me,” Hardeman said. “They call me for everything. I don’t mind; I love what I do.”

Although his official hours are 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Hardeman generally works until about 6 p.m. and is on call. And he doesn’t like to take days off.

“If I’m not here, I don’t feel comfortable with someone else [doing the work] because they’re going to mess it up,” Hardeman said.

Before joining DeKalb County, Hardeman worked with Blackburn Construction, his father’s business. Hardeman has been married for three years to wife **Rebecca**, a supervisor with the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service. The couple has a 6-year-old daughter **Jazmya** and Rebecca is six-

months pregnant.

Trumondia Gates, a receptionist in the CEO’s office, said Hardeman is “very efficient, very detail-oriented.”

“He’s very pleasant,” Gates said. “I’ve never seen him in a bad mood. I don’t think I’ve ever seen him upset.”

Hardeman has a reputation in county government offices for playing practical jokes on his coworkers.

“He’s a prankster,” Gates said. “He’s always professional, but still is a prankster.”

One day, when a circus was in Atlanta, Hardeman called Gates saying he needed to set up the Maloof Auditorium, where the Board of Commissioners meets.

Hardeman told Gates she needed to reschedule a board meeting because he had been instructed by the CEO to set up the auditorium for an event involving circus animals in the auditorium.

Gates believed him and nearly called the board’s staff before Hardeman let her off the hook.

“You know I’m joking, right?” Hardeman asked.

Another time, Hardeman called Gates pretending to be a resident complaining about a corpse that had been in his yard for two days. Gates nearly called 911.

“He’s definitely a jokester,” McKenzie said. “He says whatever it is with a straight face.”

Hardeman once convinced a co-worker she had been talking to his twin, McKenzie said.

“Tyrone needs help,” McKenzie said. “He really needs help.”

METROPOLITAN ATLANTA RAPID TRANSIT AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS MAY 16 & 17, 2011

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority will hold public hearings for the purpose of considering

Proposed Fiscal Year 2012 Operating and Capital Funds Budget, Proposed Service Changes for September 24, 2011 and Proposed Fare Increases for October 2, 2011.

Monday, May 16

141 Pryor Street, Atlanta, 30303

ATLANTA

Fulton County Government Center

Community Exchange: 6:00 - 7:00 P.M.

Hearing: 7:00 P.M.

Riding MARTA: Bus route 49 from Five Points station.
Special bus shuttle also provided.

also on Monday:

5600 Stonewall Tell Rd, College Park, 30349

SOUTH FULTON

Service Center

Community Exchange: 6:00 - 7:00 P.M.

Hearing: 7:00 P.M.

Riding MARTA: Bus route 180 from the College Park Rail station.

Tuesday, May 17

1300 Commerce Drive, Decatur 30030

DEKALB

Maloof Auditorium

Community Exchange: 6:00 - 7:00 P.M.

Hearing: 7:00 P.M.

Riding MARTA:
Walk one block west of Decatur station.

also on Tuesday:

7741 Roswell Road, Sandy Springs, 30350

NORTH FULTON

Service Center

Community Exchange: 6:00 - 7:00 P.M.

Hearing: 7:00 P.M.

Riding MARTA: Bus route 87 from Dunwoody or North Springs rail stations.

PROPOSED BUS SERVICE MODIFICATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 24, 2011

Route 3 – Martin Luther King Jr. Drive/Auburn Avenue – Modify route to provide alternating trips via Barfield Avenue, Larchwood Street and Wynwood Drive until 8:00 PM.

Route 25 – Peachtree Industrial – Modify route to operate from Lenox Station to serve the Doraville Station (as currently operated) and the Medical Center Station on an alternating basis. The route will operate to the Medical Center Station via Brookhaven Station along Peachtree Road, Johnson Ferry Road and Peachtree Dunwoody Road.

Route 50 – Donald L. Hollowell Parkway – Modify route to operate within the Carroll Heights Loop as follows: Fairburn Road, Mercury Drive, Clovis Court, Croft Place, Bolton Road, Adkins Road, Crosby Drive, Alfred Drive, Amber Road, Fulton Industrial Blvd., Old Gordon Road, M.L. King Jr. Drive and Bolton Road then continue regular route during peak periods. Maintain current routing during mid-day and evening periods with selected trips operating via Harriett Darnell Senior Multipurpose Center.

Route 51 – Joseph E. Boone Blvd./Dixie Hills – Modify route to operate to/from West Lake Station via Anderson Avenue, Waterbury Drive, Anderson Avenue, Tiger Flowers Drive, Carver Drive, Hyacinth Drive, Verbena Street, Penelope Street, Wadley Street to Tiger Flowers Drive and continue regular route. Additionally, trips will alternate via Collier Heights Apartments until 8:00 PM. The segment along Verbena Street between Penelope Street and Chenault Place will be discontinued.

Route 99 – Boulevard/Monroe Drive – Modify route to operate from GA State Station on the Blue line to serve the North Avenue Station via North Avenue. The current service from GA State Station to Midtown Station will continue as currently operated on an alternating basis throughout the day on weekdays only. Additionally, the trips that operate via North Avenue will operate via the King Memorial Station via Jackson Street, Decatur Street, Hilliard Street and Edgewood Avenue to/from GA State Station on weekdays only. Saturday and Sunday services from GA State Station to Midtown Station remain unchanged.

Route 181 – Buffington Road/South Fulton Park& Ride – Modify route to operate to/from College Park Station via Roosevelt Highway to Buffington Road and continue regular route instead of as currently operated to/from College Park Station via Interstate 85 and GA-14- Spur to Buffington Road.

PROPOSED FARE CHANGES FOR OCTOBER 2, 2011

FARE CATEGORIES	CURRENT:	PROPOSED:
Base (one way)	\$2.00	\$2.50
Reduced (Half-Fare)	\$0.90	\$0.95
Mobility Base (one way)	\$3.60	\$3.80
7-Day Pass	\$17.00	\$23.75
30-Day Pass	\$68.00	\$95.00
Mobility Pass	\$115.00	\$122.00
TMA Discounts	0% - 10%	No change
Children (46" max, limit 2)	Free with Adult	No change

Information on the proposed fare and bus service modifications will also be available at MARTA’s Office of External Affairs, 2424 Piedmont Road, N.E. Atlanta, Georgia 30324 during regular business hours, Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sat 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon, and on the website www.itsmarta.com.

For formats (FREE of charge) in accordance with the ADA and Limited English Proficiency regulations contact (404) 848-4037. For those patrons requiring further accommodations, information can be obtained by calling the Telephone Device for the Deaf (TDD) at 404 848-5665.

In addition, a sign language interpreter will be available at all hearings. If you cannot attend the hearings and want to provide comments you may: (1) leave a message at (404) 848-5299; (2) write to MARTA’s Office of External Affairs, 2424 Piedmont Road, N.E. Atlanta, Georgia 30324-3330; (3) complete an online Comment Card at www.itsmarta.com; (4) or fax your comments no later than May 27, 2011 to (404) 848-4179.

The Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority complies with all federal regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national origin in its programs, benefits, services or activities. Complaints, or inquiries regarding Title VI compliance, may be directed in writing to the Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity at 2424 Piedmont Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30324 or 404-848-5240.

All citizens of the City of Atlanta and the counties of Fulton, DeKalb, Clayton and Gwinnett whose interests are affected by the subjects to be considered at these hearings are hereby notified and invited to appear at said times and places and present such evidence, comment or objection as their interests require.

Beverly A. Scott, Ph.D. General Manager/CEO
marta We Serve with Pride

Astronaut touches down in DeKalb Schools

by Daniel Beauregard
daniel@dekalbchamp.com

The Space Shuttle Discovery is now on its way to the Smithsonian but one of its former pilots made his rounds at DeKalb County Schools this past week.

Astronaut **Eric Boe** visited several schools throughout DeKalb to talk to students about his latest trip into space as the pilot of Discovery. Boe, who grew up in DeKalb and graduated from Henderson High School in 1983, had recently returned from his second trip into space.

On his visit to Fernbank Elementary School Boe showed a short documentary film of Discovery crew members, then fielded questions from students about what it is like to be an astronaut.

"It's awesome, the view is amazing... when you really see it in real life you can't even believe you're there; you look out of the window and try to take it all in," Boe said.

After graduating from Henderson, Boe attended the United States Air Force Academy and graduated in 1987 with a bachelor

of science degree in astronautical engineering. He then earned a master of science degree in electrical engineering from Georgia Tech in 1997. Boe now lives in Texas with his wife and two children.

"What do you eat in space?" one of the students asked. Boe then dug his hand into a bag and said, "Hmm, lets see what we've got here." As he passed around freeze-dried turkey tetrazzini and macaroni and cheese for the kids look at, he spoke about what it was like to float around in space.

"It's one of the coolest parts of the job," Boe said. "You get so used to [zero gravity] and your brain adjusts to that so quickly," he said with a chuckle, explaining that on more than one occasion he has witnessed his fellow crew members fresh from a trip forget that they were back on Earth and toss an object to someone, expecting it to float, only to have it quickly hit the ground.

Boe was selected as a pilot by NASA in 2000 and was a member of the space shuttle Endeavor crew in 2008. With his recent trip on the Discovery, Boe has logged 27 days in space.



Astronaut Eric Boe, pilot of the recent Discovery Space Shuttle mission, takes questions from students attending the after school program at Fernbank Elementary. Photo by Daniel Beauregard



Pine Lake restoring natural habitat

by Andrew Cauthen
andrew@dekalbchamp.com

A project is under way in the city of Pine Lake to protect, restore and stabilize the natural habitat around its lake and Snapfinger Creek, which runs through the city.

The project, funded by DeKalb County and the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA), is designed for stream restoration, water quality improvement, habitat replacement, stream bank stabilization and water pollution.

In April, DeKalb County contributed \$810,000 in Department of Watershed Management funds, while the remainder of the \$1.3 million for the project will come

from GEFA.

"If it weren't for the initiative of DeKalb County, we wouldn't be able to do this," said **Phil Howland**, Pine Lake's director of public works

The county "wants to work to clean the environment," Howland said. "That's the main reason the county is involved."

Currently, the lake is being drained so that workers can clean out all the suspended solids, such as silt, fertilizers and nutrients that are not supposed to be there, Howland said.

A bioretention feature will also be installed, which will clean runoff water before it enters the lake. This decorative feature is essentially a

large rain garden, a depression in the ground filled with gravel, sand and native plants.

"The plants process and break down a lot of the petroleum products," Howland said.

A 500-foot section of the road beside the lake will be lowered about 12 inches to allow rainwater to flow downstream instead of flooding yards and the lake's earthen dam.

The restoration project began in 2007 with the construction of wetland cells, marsh-like depressions near the lake that temporarily hold rainwater until it is soaked into the ground.

The restoration project is scheduled to start this month and is

expected to take 150 days to complete.

The project covers approximately 15 acres, including the 10.75-acre lake. A 1.25-mile recreational trail crosses the watershed.

During the past few years, volunteers have removed invasive plant species, such as English ivy, from the lake area, adding about five acres of park area to Pine Lake.

Howland said the city has benefited from the "fabulous volunteer support of the residents."

"On any given day, I can get 40 volunteers out," Howland said. And that's a significant turnout in a town of approximately 730 residents.

The Newslady

On papers and pictures



President **Obama**, the highest elected official in the United States of America, commander-in-chief, and leader of the free world is a U.S. citizen. He produced the papers to prove it. And, **bin Laden** has been a terrorist, been on the run for nearly a decade and now he's been dead for a couple weeks.

Birthers, bigots and **Donald Trump** need to get over themselves. No more "papers" need be produced to show the president's citizenship. No grisly, ghoulish, macabre pictures of a dead bin Laden with bullet wounds in his head need be paraded out. To do so would prove nothing to the president's detractors. They would simply say the pictures were photoshopped.

In short, there is nothing President Obama can do to please

these people except go back through conception and come out a full-blooded White man. The birthers and the picture-proof advocates are cut from the same cloth. They are bigots and racists and a sensitive nose can sniff their stench before the door opens.

More than a half century of experience as an African American living, going to school and working in predominately White environments gives one considerable expertise in recognizing bigotry. This is not a theoretical supposition, but an axiomatic truism. Bigots never think of themselves as such. After all, they don't burn crosses on lawns when Black families move into the neighborhood. They just run when too many of "them" move in. And, they're quick to call the police to demand your "papers." Who are you? Why are you in this neighborhood? Even in a 2011 social setting if you aren't readily recognized, you have to prove your legitimacy. What do you do?

How often do we hear these statements: "After all we went to school with Blacks and Hispanics and members of the Jewish faith."

"Why, we had a Black maid who was like family." "We work with 'them' on the job." "We have a family in the neighborhood that keeps up their lawn better than ours." "I don't see color." "I served in the military with them." But these are the same "fair-minded, color blind" individuals who would line up behind a **Donald Trump** demanding the president of the United States show his birth certificate. "Taxpayers" have a right to know. You do know only White America pays taxes?

This paper's business harkens back to a very dark period in our country when men and women of African descent had to produce identification for walking down the street, or being out at dark or traveling from Northern cities to the South. I recall vividly traveling with the family to Mississippi in the early '60s to visit relatives. We were invariably stopped because of our Indiana license plates. The difference between the flashlights in our sleepy faces and being maimed or killed was my father's height and demeanor. He lowered his 6-foot-4-inch frame so as to not appear intimidating and appropriately and

politely said, "yes, sir, and no, sir." Fast forward from the 1960s to the 2000s. We're still having to produce papers. The birthers and bigots simply do not like the fact that a Black man and his family occupy the White House.

If Barack Hussein Obama were not African American he would this day be one of the most revered and celebrated presidents in history. He is a wonderful role model, a God-centered, family man who loves and respects his wife **Michelle** and their girls. He loves this country. He is a brilliant man of integrity, demonstrated courage, compassion and vision. If President Obama is supported, he will put us on a path to regaining the respect and prosperity this country lost the past decade. The birthers and bigots know this. The president is a United States citizen. bin Laden is dead. No more papers and no pictures necessary. End of story.

Steen Miles, The Newslady, is a retired journalist and former Georgia state senator. Contact Steen Miles at Steen@dekalbchamp.com.

Smarter on crime

by Judge Greg Mathis

The nation's decades long war on drugs and "tough on crime" posture has failed to reduce crime rates and control the rising prison population. Additionally, our current crime fighting strategy puts us at a disadvantage in other critical sectors, namely education. Knowing what we now know, it is clear that it's beyond time to take a different approach on crime—a smarter one.

According to a recently released NAACP report "Misplaced Priorities: Over Incarcerate and Under Educate," state spending on prisons in the last 20 years grew six times faster than education spending. In fact, 33 states increased prison spending in 2009 while simultaneously reducing education funding.

Much of this increase in prison spending can be blamed on mandatory sentencing laws that require mandatory jail time for even low-level, non-violent offenses rob the sentencing judge of the ability to hand down a punishment that is more suitable to the crime. Instead, offenders who might be better served in a drug rehab program are sent to prison, causing prison populations to go up and requiring prison budgets to increase to keep up with the "demand."

As states around the country are forced

to make tough cuts to balance their budgets, very few are pulling funds from those allocated for prisons. Instead, they are pulling money from education, healthcare and social services, programs that serve those in need. This is definitely not the right approach.



Mathis

Reducing the prison population and, in turn, reducing prison budgets, stabilizes state budgets so that other key programs won't have to take such hard hits. Restoring the judge's ability to use creative sentencing for non-violent offenders is one way to reduce prison populations around the country. Employing alternative sentencing methods, such as home confinement and drug treatment, is another.

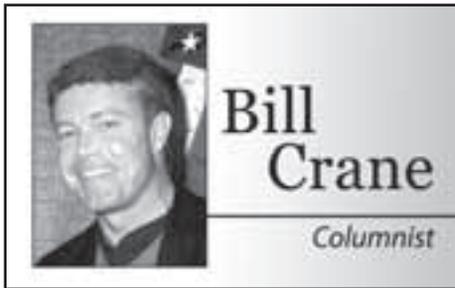
Our priorities as a nation are currently skewed. We are placing far more emphasis on incarcerating people than we are on educating and healing them. By taking a smarter approach to crime, one that looks for lower cost ways to punish and rehabilitate offenders, we can free up billions of dollars that can be put to much better use.

Judge Greg Mathis currently provides legal advice to more than three million listeners on the Steve Harvey Morning Show and also on his website, www.askjudgemathis.com.



One Man's Opinion

Please release the photos, Mr. President



"The press of Italy is free, freer than the press of any other country, so long as it supports the regime,"
Benito Mussolini, (1883-1945)

I would think, after digging up his birth certificate to end nearly three years of conspiracy theorist rumor mongering, that President **Obama** would better understand and appreciate the public's *need and right to know*.

I believe the White House account of the raid in Pakistan, and that **Osama bin Laden** is finally no longer a threat to the United States.

But I also believe that every U.S. citizen, and particularly the friends, family and related survivors of the nearly 2,800 civilians who lost their lives on 9/11, deserve the closure of seeing and knowing that bin Laden's days of planning and executing the murders of innocent men, women and children are over.

The United States is not an an-

gry mob. I am not suggesting we sell tickets to view the bin Laden bloody raiment, or that we cut off an appendage, as former Italian dictator Mussolini's corpse supposedly suffered before being hung upside down in a town square near Milan. But the Italians then all *knew* Mussolini was dead.

Hitler was reported to have committed suicide on April 30, 66 years ago, while stories of his death being a hoax circulated for decades. Some believe he later escaped with other Nazis to Brazil. Varying accounts of the suicide, no corpse or DNA and differing versions of the distribution of his cremated ashes still fuel this controversy.

And while our military and intelligence operatives clearly took significant measures to properly cremate and bury bin Laden in a manner, ritual and custom in accordance with his faith, burial at sea was the only practical option. Finding a country to accept his corpse or ashes would have been quite diplomatically and logistically challenging given the timing requisites of the Muslim faith.

But instead of focusing our attention on the potential reprisals this long sought victory and capture may bring, or bearing down on the intelligence gathered from the bin

Laden compound, we are debating whether or not releasing these photos—already leaked elsewhere on the internet—might be insensitive or otherwise inflame our allies in the Muslim world.

The American people, despite their more than occasional disdain for the working press, believe strongly in their right to know, see, hear and sift out the details on their own. Withholding these photos will smack of censorship, or mollicodding and cowing to any possible offense taken by Muslims across the globe, rather than offering closure and some degree of justice for the families of 9/11 victims and survivors as well as our veterans, lost soldiers and impacted military families from the conflicts which followed.

Dozens who died on 9/11 had their deaths chronicled on live TV. As our troops returned home in caskets, many a camera awaited their arrival and later burial. Our free press has captured the many atrocities of war, as well as several of our poor choices at Abu Ghraib Prison in Baghdad and Guantanamo Bay Detention Center in Cuba.

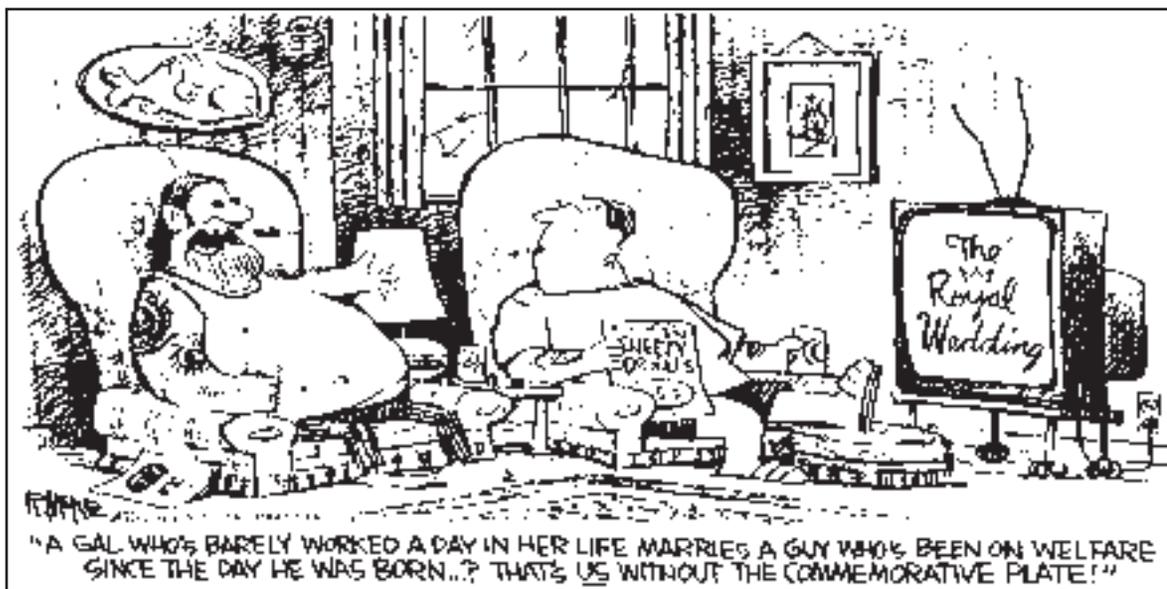
Yet it is somehow "too much" to release a handful of photographs confirming that one of the greatest murderers in the history of our

nation is in fact no longer living? *Wall Street Journal* reporter **Danny Pearl's** beheading can be found on the Internet, and our own government tells us we do not have a right to see the absence of life in the eyes of a man who rained death and terror on our people for nearly two decades?

You are a smarter man than this Mr. President. This blockade and embargo will not stand. These images may find their way to a free press via WikiLeaks or some other source, but you should well consider and remember that this deserved spike in your approval ratings, as well as potential re-visitation of your record on national defense, lie largely with your own decision about whether to share a few less-than-flattering Kodak moments.

Do the right thing President Obama. Share what we have from "lights out night" for Mr. Osama.

Bill Crane is a DeKalb County native and business owner, living in Scottdale, Georgia. He also serves as chief political analyst and commentator for 11Alive News and WSB Radio, News/Talk 750. Contact Bill Crane at Bill@dekalbchamp.com.



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Bachmann may surprise us yet

Republican primary voters like weird, and when it comes to weird, Rep. Michele Bachmann tops the list.

Hey! How about some love for Rep. **Michele Bachmann**?

A while back *TIME* magazine listed the 10 top Republican candidates for president without so much as mentioning Bachmann, the madcap Minnesota Republican.

Besides the usual suspects, the magazine named duds like Rep. **Mike Pence**—who isn't even running anymore, if he ever was (no one's ever seen him in the daytime)—and Ambassador **Jon Huntsman**, who isn't a household name even in his own home. But no Bachmann.

Shame on *Time*. (I'm taking away its capital letters in protest.)

Michele Bachmann isn't merely a legitimate candidate for the Republican nomination—she is the most legitimate. She is the quintessential modern Republican. Call her the 21st Century version of **Robert Taft**.

Consider her resume:

She voted to repeal President **Obama**'s health care plan, which she always refers to as "Obama-Care."

She voted against the regulatory reforms intended to forestall another financial collapse like we suffered in 2007-08.

She supports the teaching of "intelligent design" in public schools, stating that evolution is merely an unproven theory.

by Donald Kaul
Columnist



She wants to cut off federal funds to Planned Parenthood and has referred to AmeriCorps programs, which direct bright college graduates into teaching and public service, as "re-education camps."

She has indicated a willingness to phase out Social Security and Medicare and has expressed a desire to opt out of the global economy.

She has also regaled supporters with the absurd claim that President Barack Obama's recent trip to Asia cost \$200 million a day, and she credited **John Quincy Adams** with being one of the "Founding Fathers" who fought against slavery—apparently confusing him with his father. **John Adams** was the second U.S. president. John Quincy Adams was the sixth.

In short, she is the very embodiment of Republican truth, virtue and intelligence.

Her professional resume is a little light—she's been in Congress four years. Before that, she was a tax attorney—but that doesn't seem to matter much these days.

She has not yet declared her candidacy (unless you count saying "I'm in, I'm in" to

a crowd in Iowa), but it seems only a matter of time. She has Big Mo, if not *Time*, on her side.

If I were one of her advisers, I'd suggest this bumper sticker: "More conservative than **Mitt Romney**, better looking than **Newt Gingrich**." I think it would be a winner.

I know I'm not supposed to say that. Nice columnists are not supposed to take note of the appearance of female candidates. It's sexist. But there's no denying that **Sarah Palin**'s good looks are an important part of her appeal. And good looks help men win campaigns too—why do you think **John Kennedy** beat **Richard Nixon** in 1960?

I'm not counting out anybody yet for the Republican nomination. Why, just the other day the governor of New Mexico (which they tell me is an actual state) walked into the contest, and **Donald Trump** keeps showing up on TV in his clown suit.

But neither would I count out Bachmann. Republican primary voters like weird, and when it comes to weird, she tops the list.

Particularly if you don't count Trump.

OtherWords columnist Donald Kaul lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan. www.otherwords.org



The following comments are pulled straight from our website and are not edited for content or grammar.

County faces additional \$25 million deficit

I really hate to seeing such high deficits, especially when they result in property tax increase that many homeowners are simply unable to pay right now. With families continuing to lose their homes to foreclosures due to an inability to pay their bills and high unemployment--increasing property taxes will only add more strain to these families in need.

—John Evan Miller posted this on 5/5/11 at 6:54 p.m.

*Typical Democrat, the county don't have enough money because of HIGH salary's officials have in Dekalb county. Why don't you all cut back on your Income and see how you would feel, but know, you say the taxpayer has the money. I don't see how you, Burell Ellis, think that raising taxes fix anything but Your Pocket. If taxes weren't so high, people would have money to BUY Houses in Dekalb county and that would give you the money, you say , that you need. Dekalb county has plenty of Employees !! DON'T RAISE TAXES
!!!!*

—William posted this on 5/5/11 at 07:37 a.m.

Increase property tax! Again, how long are they going to keep increasing property value. Had they see that people hardly afford to keep their homes. This is insane. No wonder people just abandone their homes and don't care because they cannot afford to keep their hight mortgage, home values is depreciating and unemployment is very high. They put the burden on all this people which is not fair and they don't care. I wish I can leave my home and say forget it. It's not worth keeping a home nowadays.

—maribel posted this on 5/5/11 at 5:37 a.m.

Proposed DeKalb Schools' budget restores furloughs, pre-k program

This really goes to show the people of this screwed up county what the board of education can do when in a tight spot. Aside from raising taxes (which they most often) the BOE decided not to do that this year probably because of certain members up for re-election. Rasing taxes in an election year is not a good idea when running for office.

The BOE can trim a lot of wasted fat from their budget if pushed against the wall. They can salaries, eliminate promotions and pork bonuses, save some gas money, etc.

The idea of further trimming remains to be seen. The BOE is off to a good start, and another way of saving a big chunk, is not giving a multi-thousand dollar contract to the new future superintendent, with lots of bells and whistles as added perks. Let the super work for \$15.00 per hour like the rest of us before taxes

— Gracie posted this on 5/3/11 at 7:47 p.m.

—Akina posted this on 4/27/11 at 10:35 p.m.

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John Russell Carter. Photo by Andrew Cauthen

Alleged church rapist pleads not guilty

by Andrew Cauthen
andrew@dekalbchamp.com

The man accused of the rape of a Stone Mountain church worker in February waived his arraignment and pleaded not guilty in court on May 3.

John Russell Carter, 50, of 157 Mill Court in Atlanta, was indicted last month for the Feb. 26 rape of a female worker at St. Timothy United Methodist Church, located at 5365 Memorial Drive. The 12-count indictment includes: rape, armed robbery, aggravated battery, aggravated assault, false imprisonment, kidnapping, burglary and possession

of a knife during commission of a felony.

Superior Court Judge **Michael Hancock** granted Carter's public defender 10 days to file motions in the case. DeKalb District Attorney **Robert James**, who is serving as lead prosecutor in the case, was on hand for the proceedings, but did not address the court.

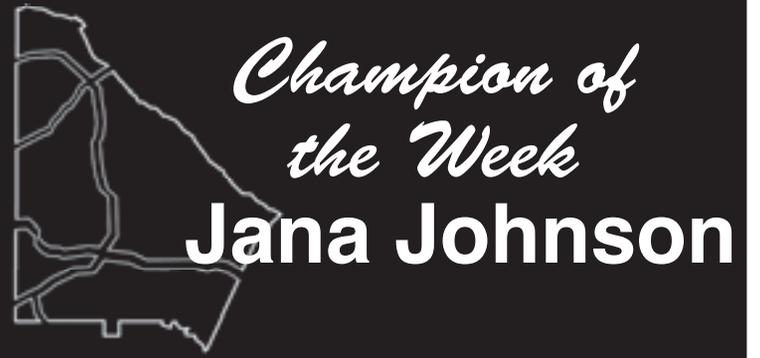
According to police, the 53-year-old female victim was working in a church office on a Saturday afternoon. When she answered an exterior office door, the suspect allegedly forced his way into the building and attacked the victim.

On March 16, DNA evi-

dence processed by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation linked Carter to the case. At that time, Carter had been in custody at the Fulton County Jail after a March 7 arrest for violating his parole for possession of cocaine charges in 2007 in Richmond County.

NOTICE OF CANCELLATION OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Board of Appeals of the **City of Avondale Estates** has cancelled the public hearing scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17, 2011.



Jana Johnson, the Board President of PRISM, said that helping others has always been a part of her life in some way.

"The legacy that was left to me by my grandparents was a legacy of service; you're not here to help yourself, you're here to help others," Johnson said.

PRISM, Pride Rings in Stone Mountain, was founded in 1995.

"PRISM is an advocacy organization for the heart of DeKalb. We try to educate the community and keep them informed of what's happening," Johnson said.

Johnson, a New York transplant, has been affiliated with the organization for nearly a decade and has been the board president for the past two years.

"It was created initially because they saw [there was] a disconnect between the community and its leaders," she said of the organization's founders.

Johnson said that PRISM is focusing on bringing together county and state officials, and residents, to develop a more open relationship and give the community a platform to voice their concerns.

The organization is also working with Chick-fil-A franchisee **Nick Goebeler** to bring together local business leaders along Memorial Drive to create a business alliance.

"We want to bring business leaders together with county officials so the residents and businesses in the area can play a direct role in the revitalization of Memorial Drive," Johnson said.

She said that it is only through dialogue and working relationship that the best interests of the community could be preserved.

"I want to see [PRISM] grow with the community as the community grows and changes," she said.

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If you would like to nominate someone to be considered as a future Champion of the Week, please contact **Kathy Mitchell** at kathy@DeKalbchamp.com or at 404-373-7779, ext. 104.



Singer Casuell performed with her band The Soul Kitchen at the first Sunset n' Jazz Concert Series at Wonderland Gardens. Photo by Pierre Travis

DeKalb Jazz tribute to leaders, health and community

by Daniel Beauregard
daniel@dekalbchamp.com

As the sun began to fall behind the trees May 6, the first Sunset n' Jazz Concert Series kicked off in the field at Wonderland Gardens next to the Porter Sanford III Performing Arts Center on.

Each concert is dedicated to a former DeKalb County leader and all of the proceeds benefit the Wonderland Gardens Health Initiative.

"We all got together and talked about how we could do something to bring the community together," said **Edward Anderson**, one of the series' promoters.

Anderson said that as they were brainstorming for the concerts, they came up with the idea of honor-

ing such leaders as **Porter Sanford III, Lou Walker, William C. Brown** and **Hosea Williams** because these leaders played such a large role in making DeKalb County the place it is today.

Sheldon Fleming, who founded the garden in 1995, said for him the series is a way to bring the community together and stop the violence in the area.

"My sister was murdered in 1986 off of McAfee and Candler road[s], five minutes from here... for me this was more of a way to stop the violence," Fleming said.

The series also focuses on spreading awareness of the health issues that have been plaguing the county.

"We're very blessed to be able to try to make a difference in the health dispari-

ties that our community is suffering from," **Deborah Summerville**, director of special projects at Wonderland Gardens said.

As Summerville took a break from serving the hummus, smoked salmon salad and fresh lemonade that wouldn't ordinarily be served at a concert, she said that a big problem in the area is people not realizing that what they are eating is, in many ways, killing them.

"A lot of people don't even realize they need to make a change until they've already gotten sick; they've got high blood pressure, they've got diabetes, obesity or all three, then the doctor just tells you that you need to change what you're eating but nobody tells you how to change what you're

eating," Summerville said.

Summerville said that one of the most important parts of helping people change their eating habits is developing a support system, an issue that they've addressed in the weight loss program.

The WOW Factor—which stands for Weight off Wisely—is a weight loss program where participants attend a support meeting once a week. After the meeting they have their blood pressure and weight taken and then attend an hour-long fitness class. After working out, members attend a nutrition class and a cooking demonstration by Fleming and Summerville.

"We like to practice what we preach and it's not a first," Fleming said as he

served up some salad, which was quickly beginning to disappear.

As the band began to wind down, Fleming said that the series was more about people coming together rather than what they would walk away with.

"I don't want them to walk away. It's about relationships... we're going to be telling people, 'Get to know your neighbors,' like it used to be... we need to connect with each other, so it's about relationships and saving lives," Fleming said.

The remaining concerts will be held every other Saturday through July 2. For a schedule visit www.wonderlandgardens.com.

Board considers \$15.8 in infrastructure projects

by Andrew Cauthen
andrew@dekalbchamp.com

DeKalb County's Board of Commissioners has made a list of \$15.8 million in proposed infrastructure projects to be paid for with sales tax funds.

The funds, generated by the Homestead Option Sales Tax (HOST), would be divided among 23 projects. Among the projects, the county plans to use \$3.5 million on countywide resurfacing; \$1.25 million for

a Church Street trail project; \$1 million for school corridor sidewalks; and \$1 million to widen Panola Road.

Most of the projects have matching state and federal funds totaling \$65.9 million. Since DeKalb County did not appropriate HOST funds in 2009 and 2010 for infrastructure matches, many of the selected projects were in danger of losing matching funds.

The county also plans to add \$250,000 to \$1 million

in matching funds to update its comprehensive transportation plan.

In other business, the Board of Commissioners amended the county's sign ordinance to allow any county employee with a county vehicle to remove any prohibited sign from the dedicated right-of-way of any public road.

Code enforcement officers are "unable to keep pace with the frequency with which the signs are placed on utility poles,

See Meeting on Page 10A

Afeni Shakur
IN HER DEFENSE
A short play & exhibit
Directed By Hilda Willis
Inspired by the trial of the NY Panther 21,
one of the most expensive political trials
in New York State History

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matter of fact against my own intellect,
whatever that is."
From: *Black Opium* (New York, Fall 1969)

For tickets, group rates,
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Opening Night: "In Her Defense"
4:00 PM Contemporary Art Show
& 6:00 PM Reception 6PM Show
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Additional Performances:
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May 14 - May 21, 2011 • 6PM
\$10 adults / \$5 students
6PM Show
\$10 adults / \$5 students

NEWS BRIEFS

Snapfinger Lake residents, county discuss road problems

by Andrew Cauthen
andrew@dekalbchamp.com

Residents of Snapfinger Lake subdivision met with county officials late last month to voice complaints about a road-widening project in front of their neighborhood.

Snapfinger Lake residents are upset because they say the widening of Snapfinger Road will allow 18-wheelers and large work vans to turn onto Snapfinger Lake Drive, their neighborhood's main road.

Because of state concessions to **Jack Wilson II**, owner of Wilson Welding, a driveway to the steel fabrication company is being constructed off of the subdivision's main road.

Wilson Welding, which has been in business since 1954, needs the driveway to make left turns onto Snapfinger Road now that a median is under construction.

"The property owner has the right to negotiate with the state," said **Ted Rhinehart**, deputy chief operating officer for the county's infrastructure group. "That's what happened."

Residents said the concessions were unnecessary and blamed county and state officials for not addressing their concerns prior to the construction.

"I acknowledge that there's been a lot of fault," Commissioner **Stan Watson** told residents. "We've got to move forward now."

Currently owned by the state, Snapfinger Road will revert back to the county after the construction ends. County officials promised residents to explore the possibility of adding an opening in the median.

The county will also landscape the entrance to Snapfinger Lake, reconstructing two neighborhood entrance signs and lighting.

The Snapfinger Road widening project, led by the Georgia Department of Transportation, is expected to be completed November 2012.

DeKalb increases emergency shelters

DeKalb County Chief Executive Officer **Burrell Ellis** and Public Safety Director **William Z. Miller** are partnering with the American Red Cross to designate 12 new emergency shelters throughout the county.

"The Red Cross has worked very hard with us to identify and establish shelters situated throughout DeKalb County and our neighboring jurisdictions that will be responsive to the needs of our citizens in times of emergency," Miller said.

The agreements are part of on-going efforts by DeKalb's Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) following a charge by Miller to address community concerns as well as to ensure the county has the adequate number of shelters in proportion to its population and geography. DEMA personnel have been working with local organizations, surveying potential sites to ensure locations meet the guidelines and requirements set forth by the American Red Cross.

Service, the Georgia Department of Defense, the Veterans Benefits Administration, and the Veterans Health Administration.



Local consignment shops collect sanitary supplies and donations for refugee girls

Avondale resident and owner of Finders Keepers Consignment shops, **Bonnie Kallenberg**, recently spearheaded an effort to raise awareness and collect donations of hygiene products for girls served by Refugee World Relief.

Kallenberg was made aware that girls in metro area refugee communities often do not have adequate access to feminine hygiene products. Food stamps do not cover the purchase of these items, according to Kallenberg.

Ann Van Slyke, who owns Mingei World Arts in downtown Decatur and is involved with an organiza-

tion that raises money and awareness for the needs of girls in third world countries, told Kallenberg about the situation in other countries. "Apparently, one week a month, girls cannot go to school if they are menstruating because they have no means to buy needed supplies; so they stay home, get behind, drop out or marry at a very young age," Kallenberg said.

Kallenberg, who for many years has provided assistance to refugee communities, was compelled to do something to help address the issue locally. "When [Van Slyke] told me this, it struck a chord with me since I work to support some local refugee programs. We quickly put an Earth Day e-mail together that said basically, 10 percent off your total purchase on Friday, April 22, and Saturday, April 23, if you bring in a package of sanitary supplies to any of the three Finders Keepers locations. We also explained the reason behind it," Kallenberg said.

Kallenberg said that a total of \$127 in cash was collected. "I was happy

with the end result—we raised awareness about this problem in our refugee communities as well as in third world countries, while collecting products for World Relief to distribute," she said.



Grand opening held at Mary Scott Park

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held May 7 for Mary Scott Park at 4150 Briarcliff Road in Atlanta. The park includes a children's play area and a nature trail that leads to an old homestead.

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Veterans receive help at expo

More than 400 veterans, military personnel and their families received assistance at Rep. **Hank Johnson's** (GA-04) 2011 Veterans and Armed Forces Expo on April 29 at DeKalb Technical College in Clarkston.

"Helping veterans and military personnel receive the benefits they deserve is one of the main reasons I serve," said Johnson, a member of the House Armed Services Committee.

On-site assistance with benefits, including employment opportunities, housing, health care, education and filing Veterans Administration claims was available to those who attended.

Organizations providing services were the Georgia Department of Veterans



DeKalb County
Department of Watershed Management



PUBLIC ADVISORY
Embry Circle Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project

April 28, 2011
Advisory Issue Date

May 28, 2011
Advisory Close Date

This advisory is issued to inform the public of a receipt of an application for a variance submitted pursuant to a state environmental law. The public is invited to comment during a 30-day period on the proposed activity. Since the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has no authority to zone property or determine land use, only those comments addressing environmental issues related to air, water, and land protection will be considered in the application review process. Written comments should be submitted to: Program Manager, Non-Point Source Program, Erosion and Sedimentation Control, 4220 International Parkway, Suite 101, Atlanta, Georgia 30354.

Type of Permit Application: Variance to encroach within the 25-foot State waters buffer.

Applicable Law: Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Act O.C.G.A. 12-7-1 et seq.

Applicable Rules: Erosion and Sedimentation Control Chapter 391-3-7

Description and Location of Proposed Activity: Applicant proposes to impact 3,000 linear feet of buffer along North Fork Peachtree Creek to conduct sanitary sewer rehabilitation along Embry Circle between Special Money Blvd. & Valley Bluff Way. Map of the project worksite and location can be seen on the DeKalb County Watershed Management website at <http://dekalbwatershed.com>

DeKalb officials seek answers in Washington

by Gale Horton Gay
gale@dekalbchamp.com

DeKalb's top officials made a quick trip to Washington, D.C., last week seeking information they hope could help in dealing with the myriad of local issues and fiscal challenges.

On May 3, DeKalb CEO **Burrell Ellis**, with DeKalb commissioners **Larry Johnson**, **Lee May**, **Sharon Barnes Sutton** and Fulton County Commission Chairman **John Eaves** met with President **Barack Obama** and Vice President **Joe Biden** at the White House to address issues important to counties, Ellis said.

He said the meeting was attended by about 75 to 80 officials from counties nationwide.

Several other federal officials were also in attendance, including **David Agnew** and **Cecilia Munoz** with the White House Office Intergovernmental Affairs, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services **Kathleen Sebelius**, Secretary of Homeland Security **Janet Napolitano**, Secretary of Transportation **Ray LaHood** and EPA Administrator **Lisa Jackson**.

Ellis said there was "no final conclusions but ongoing dialogue" and he termed the meeting "a good sharing and listening opportunity."

The officials discussed the need to break the cycle of recidivism, the debt ceiling, cuts to community programs and services, how the federal government could partner with counties on infrastructure needs, health care reform and the impact the national fiscal picture

has on local communities.

Ellis said he spent part of the one-day trip conferring with county executives from other communities.

Ellis said he learned there are limited funding opportunities still available from the federal government. However, the president "cautioned" that there "won't be as much different funding to local and state governments."

DeKalb's CEO added he was impressed that with all the president had to concern himself with—killing of **Osama bin Laden**, flooding in the Midwest and devastation in Alabama—he still took time to meet with leaders of counties nationwide.

Prior to leaving Georgia for Washington last week, Ellis authorized communication to county employees and residents about the critical nature of the county's financial footing.

In an e-mail to residents about the county's cash flow problems, Ellis indicated that Standard and Poor's had withdrawn the county's rating and that a minor downgrade by Moody's was possible.

"We are in good shape with Moody's," Ellis said on May 3, explaining that he had spoken to representatives at Moody's that day and he was confident the rating agency wouldn't take "any further action against us."

Ellis said the county planned to provide Moody's with additional information.

"They understand what our timetable is... They are going to wait 90 days and see what steps the board [of commissioners] takes," he said.



From left, **James Tsismanakis**, executive director and CEO of the DCVB, **Ivan Surcy** (Hilton Garden Inn-Perimeter), **Amber Dillard** (Hilton Garden Inn-Perimeter) and **Sharon Dupont**, tour and travel manager, DCVB.

Convention and visitors bureau open house draws large crowd

The DeKalb Convention and Visitors Bureau (DCVB) on May 9 held an open house at its Tucker office for representatives of local cities, DeKalb County and travel industry professionals. The public was also invited to attend.

The event was held in conjunction with National Travel and Tourism Week, a tradition first celebrated in 1984. It was also an opportunity for new DCVB Executive Director and CEO **James Tsismanakis** to meet with guests and members of the community.

"As the first open house for DCVB since I've joined the staff, I consider it a huge success. It was a casual, come-as-you-are event that was designed as an opportunity for people to see the newly renovated facility, meet our staff and see our new marketing pieces. We wanted people to know where we are and where to come if they need help or information from our office," said Tsismanakis.

Tours of the newly redecorated facility showcased new promotional posters and maps of DeKalb County produced by the bureau as well as a variety of DeKalb specific artwork. Each conference room and several public areas are decorated with signed prints from local artist **Thomas Burns**, who has produced a series of vintage travel-inspired prints that depict such well-known DeKalb sites as Oglethorpe University, Stone Mountain, downtown Decatur, Emory University, Agnes Scott College, the historic Dunwoody farmhouse, as well as the original locations for both Waffle House and Huddle House.

Guests at the event were treated to a buffet featuring either breakfast or lunch entrees, fruits, pastries and drinks. Promotional materials included in guest bags given to each attendee provided statistical information gathered by the U.S. Travel Association

that emphasized the impact of travel related expenditures on the national, state and local economies.

For example, in the United States, travel and tourism generates an average of \$1.8 trillion in annual revenue; \$118 billion in tax revenue for local, state and federal governments; and lowers the each U.S. household's annual taxes by \$1,000 per year, according to the provided information.

During National Travel and Tourism Week, events are held in cities, states and travel businesses nationwide to promote the economic, social and cultural impact of travel. It was established as National Tourism Week when the U.S. Congress passed a joint resolution in 1983 designating the week to be celebrated in May. In a White House ceremony, President **Ronald Reagan** signed a presidential proclamation urging citizens to observe the week with "the appropriate ceremonies and activities."

NOTICE CITY OF DORAVILLE

There will be a Public Hearing of the City of Doraville Mayor and Council in the City of Doraville Council Chambers on Monday, June 6, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. located at 3725 Park Avenue, Doraville, Georgia 30340-1111 to hear the following matter(s):

Show Cause Hearing for Conditional Use Revocation— City Initiated:

The City of Doraville Georgia, Mayor and Council, will consider for review the revocation of the Conditional Use issued on 6-30-2010 to Applicant Hye (Lisa) W. Shin, Land Lot 297 of the 18th District, property described as 5141 Buford Highway, Suite B (Parcel ID #18-297-10-021), a Conditional use application for "massage therapy as defined by state law with all parties holding a valid massage therapy license issued by the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy" within property zoned C-2 (General Business District) being .809 +/- acres.

Reference Conditional Use(s) per Ordinance 2008-33 and Article XV.

Any applicant for rezoning action who has made, within two (2) years immediately preceding the filing of an application for rezoning, campaign contributions aggregating \$250.00 or more to a government official who will consider the application, must file a disclosure report pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 36-67-A-1, *et seq.* with the governing authority showing:

- (1) The name and official position of the government official to whom the campaign contributions was made; and
- (2) The dollar amount and description of each campaign contribution made by the applicant to the government official during the two years immediately preceding the filing of the application for rezoning action and the date of each such contribution.

The disclosures shall be filed within ten (10) days after the application for the rezoning action is first filed.

An entity who wishes to present evidence, data, or opinions in opposition to the rezoning request must comply with O.C.G.A. § 36-67-A-1, *et seq.* and, if any such entity has contributed \$250.00 in aggregate or more during the two (2) years preceding the rezoning request to any government official, the opposing entity must file a disclosure in writing at least five (5) days before the first hearing on the matter.

Meeting

Continued From Page 8A

stops signs and in the medians of the county roadways," the resolution stated.

Commissioner **Larry Johnson**, who sponsored the ordinance amendment, said change is designed to assist code enforcement.

Johnson complained about the "We buy junk cars" signs he sees all over his district.

"We're really trying to go forward in our beautification efforts," Johnson said.

"These illegally placed signs are a lot like graffiti," Commissioner **Jeff Rader** said.

County facing \$25 million shortfall, credit rating downgrade

by Andrew Cauthen
andrew@dekalbchamp.com

Diminishing property values and a possible credit rating downgrade are forcing DeKalb County officials to reconsider a tax increase.

Less than six weeks after Standard & Poor's (S&P) Ratings Services downgraded its ratings on some of DeKalb County's debt, Moody's Investors Service announced that it is reviewing the county's debt for a possible downgrade.

Under review are the county's Aa3 rating on \$415 million of outstanding general obligation debt and its A1 rating on \$18.9 million of appropriation-backed debt.

In statement released on May 3, Moody's said it expects the review to be complete in the next several weeks with an anticipated downgraded rating in the A-range.

The agency stated the review was initiated because of "the county's strained liquidity position, concerns over the ability of the county to achieve structural

improvement this fiscal year and in future years, and the impact of a larger-than-expected tax base decline on county operations."

During a media briefing before the announcement, DeKalb County CEO **Burrell Ellis** called the possible downgrade "an appropriate action."

"We do believe that they will take action to downgrade us again, but we think it's going to be a minor downgrade," Ellis said. "We think it is consistent with the liquidity problems that we are addressing."

High foreclosures, the 2008 incorporation of Dunwoody, and increasing costs and declining revenue have contributed to financial difficulties.

"We have a cash flow problem," Ellis said.

In February, the Board of Commissioners rejected Ellis' proposed \$563 million budget containing a 2.32-mill property tax increase in favor of a zero-tax-increase, \$529 million budget.

That vote only provided for a \$12 million reserve. Officials say the reserve

should be at least \$45 million—the amount needed to run the government for a month.

"We've drawn down our reserve balance in order to continue to operate the county without any kind of millage increase," Ellis said.

To fix its cash flow problem, the board authorized county officials to take out a tax anticipation note of up to \$150 million.

DeKalb's budget is taking an additional \$25 million hit due to declining property values in the county. While property values have dropped 10 percent, county officials only allowed for a 4 percent drop when the budget was prepared.

Commissioner **Jeff Rader** has proposed a 3.3-mill tax increase that would bring an additional \$51 million in revenue to address the county's reserves and general budget.

"The one good thing about commissioner Rader's proposal is that it addresses the problem with the budgetary reserve," Ellis said. "And that's one of the things

the bond rating agencies are very concerned about."

In the event that the Board of Commissioners raises the millage, Ellis said he and several county officials intend to travel to New York to talk face-to-face with the rating agencies to discuss how the county has addressed its liquidity issues.

The county will then ask the agencies to change its ratings, Ellis said.

"At the end of the day, if we take appropriate, swift action... both rating agencies will restore our ratings," Ellis said.

Moody's said its review will focus on the county's efforts to restore structural stability, including a possible millage increase in June and potential budget cuts.

Last month, S&P lowered the county's general obligation debt rating BBB and its long-term rating on the county's appropriation-backed debt BBB-. The rating on DeKalb's outstanding water and sewer bonds was dropped to AA-. After the ratings were lowered, they were withdrawn by S&P.

Trial date set for Dunwoody murder case

by Andrew Cauthen
andrew@dekalbchamp.com

The trial for **Hemy Neuman**, suspected of the murder of Dunwoody entrepreneur **Russell Sneiderman** late last year, has been set for Oct. 17.

During a May 5 hearing to schedule the trial, Judge **Gregory Adams** also said he plans to allow pre-trial motions in August.

DeKalb District Attorney **Robert James** said he is ready to go to trial, while Neuman's attorney **Doug Peters** said his team is working diligently but it is premature to say they would be ready to present their case.

Peters estimated that the trial would take about 30 days.

Last month, Neuman, 45, pleaded not guilty to charges of malice murder and possessing a firearm during the commission of a felony.

The charges stem from the November 2010 death of Sneiderman, 36, who was shot multiple times outside Dunwoody Prep daycare, where he had just dropped off his son.

Neuman is also facing allegations by his wife **Ariela** that he had an affair with **Andrea Sneiderman**, the victim's wife. Andrea Sneiderman worked under Hemy Neuman, an operations and quality manager at GE Electric Energy in Marietta.

Ariela Neuman filed for legal separation from her husband in February.



DeKalb County
Department of Watershed Management



PUBLIC ADVISORY
Superior Avenue Sanitary Sewer Improvements Project

April 28, 2011
Advisory Issue Date

May 28, 2011
Advisory Close Date

This advisory is issued to inform the public of a receipt of an application for a variance submitted pursuant to a state environmental law. The public is invited to comment during a 30-day period on the proposed activity. Since the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has no authority to zone property or determine land use, only those comments addressing environmental issues related to air, water, and land protection will be considered in the application review process. Written comments should be submitted to: Program Manager, Non-Point Source Program, Erosion and Sedimentation Control, 4220 International Parkway, Suite 101, Atlanta, Georgia 30354.

Type of Permit Application: Variance to encroach within the 25-foot State waters buffer.

Applicable Law: Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Act O.C.G.A. 12-7-1 et seq.

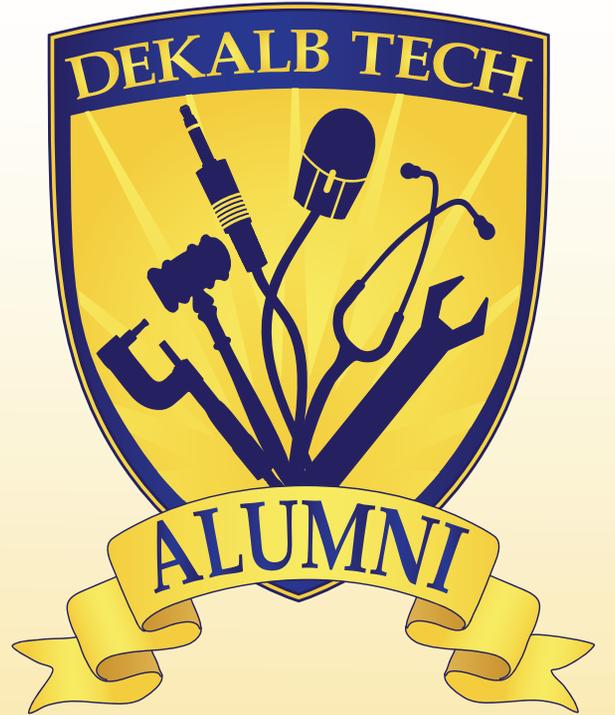
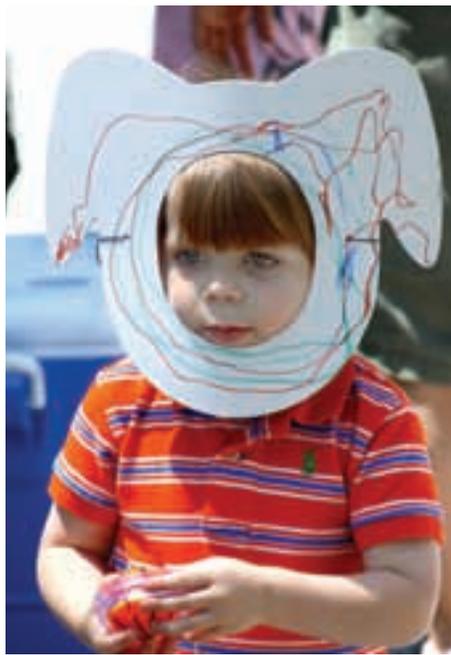
Applicable Rules: Erosion and Sedimentation Control Chapter 391-3-7

Description and Location of Proposed Activity: Applicant proposes to impact 300 linear feet of buffer along a tributary of South Fork Peachtree Creek to conduct sanitary sewer improvements along Superior Avenue near the intersection with North Decatur Road. Map of the project worksite and location can be seen on the DeKalb County Watershed Management website at <http://dekalbwatershed.com>



Art - B - Que

Avondale Estates hosted its fourth annual Art-B-Que festival. Located in the Rail Arts District, the festival featured an artist's market, food, live music, a kids' zone and a car show. Photos by Travis Hudgons



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- We accept Medicaid



Labor dispute spreads to Emory campus

by Nigel Roberts

In a scene reminiscent of the 1960s, police officers removed student protestors in April from a tent they had set up on the Emory University campus. According to school officials, the students had refused to vacate the campus quadrangle and were charged with trespassing.

A dispute between Sodexo and Service Employees International Union (SEIU) is at the heart of the ongoing strife between students and Emory officials.

Sodexo, a global food services corporation, is Emory's food and beverage vendor. And according to the campus organization Students and Workers in Solidarity (SWS), Sodexo engages in unfair labor practices against its campus employees. Consequently, SWS wants the university to terminate its contract with the company.

But school authorities announced that they have not seen evidence of campus employee mistreatment and will not get involved in the ongoing legal dispute between the two parties.

On March 17, Sodexo filed a civil lawsuit against SEIU to stop alleged extortion against the company. According to the suit, SEIU has engaged in a "barrage of unlawful tactics" designed to intimidate Sodexo into agreeing to labor demands. SEIU agents have placed plastic roaches on food Sodexo served at high profile events and insinuated to hospital patients that Sodexo's food contained bugs, rat droppings and flies, according to the lawsuit.

SEIU, which has more than 2 million members in North America, described the lawsuit as "bogus litigation" intended to deprive workers of collective bargaining rights. And it accused Sodexo of engaging in a range of other "anti-union" activities.

Student protestors said they got involved in the dispute last year when Sodexo's campus employees shared "personal accounts of disrespect and intimidation" from supervisors. The food service workers told students that Sodexo "targeted" them because they expressed interest in joining a union.

SWS brought their con-

cerns to Emory officials and engaged them in an ongoing dialogue that broke down on April 25. Each side blames the other for the events that ultimately led to the arrests.

"Of all the actions that I have authorized in my professional life, the decision to have students removed from tents in the quadrangle was among the most difficult," Emory President **James Wagner** said. "No one involved in the events of Monday evening could have felt that the incident was anything but disturbing."

In a letter addressed to SWS, Wagner wrote that the school has not found evidence that Sodexo's Emory campus workers are subject to systematic violations of the university's code of ethics or the company's internal policies. With regard to alleged Sodexo violations at other locations, "our judgment is that the unresolved charges and counter-charges do not warrant terminating Sodexo's contract on the Emory campus," Wagner stated.

Laura Emiko Soltis, one

of the students arrested, stated that SWS's dispute with Emory officials goes beyond concerns about Sodexo employees. According to Soltis, the student organization is also protesting what it describes as a "two-tier labor system on campus."

SWS states that individuals employed directly by the university enjoy protections under Emory's code of business ethics, as well as other benefits that subcontracted employees—such as Sodexo workers—do not receive. Consequently, the protesters

felt ethically bound to defend Sodexo workers, she continued.

Wagner encourages debate and calls for mutual respect when differences go unresolved. "What is at stake is the right of members of our academic community to hear from each other, determine the validity of what they hear and then respond in a way that guarantees that their own response will be respected," he said.



DeKalb County Wants to Hear From You Regarding the Proposed Franchise Agreement Renewal with Comcast Cable Communications

Send your comments and/or concerns regarding Comcast's current performance under the current franchise agreement and/or the future cable-related needs and interests of your community to cable@co.dekalb.ga.us.

The Champion Weather

May 12, 2011

Seven Day Forecast



THURSDAY
Mostly Sunny
High: 89 Low: 64



FRIDAY
Scat'd T-storms
High: 84 Low: 60



SATURDAY
Isolated T-storms
High: 83 Low: 58



SUNDAY
Scat'd T-storms
High: 78 Low: 56



MONDAY
Isolated T-storms
High: 76 Low: 54



TUESDAY
Partly Cloudy
High: 80 Low: 59



WEDNESDAY
Partly Cloudy
High: 80 Low: 58

In-Depth Local Forecast

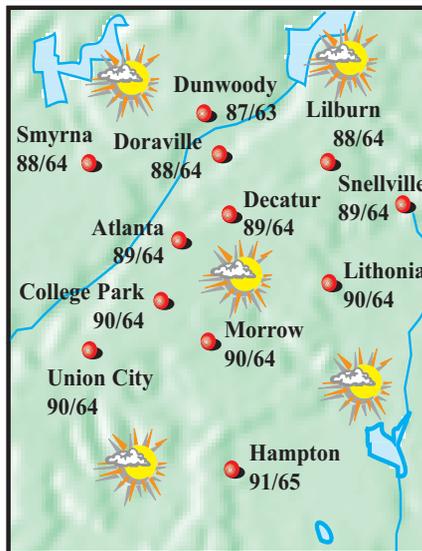
Today we will see mostly sunny skies with possibly a record-tying high temperature of 89°, humidity of 45%. West wind 5 to 10 mph. The record high temperature for today is 89° set in 1936. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms, overnight low of 64°.

*Last Week's Almanac

Date	Hi	Lo	Normals	Precip
Tuesday	84	49	77/56	0.88"
Wednesday	65	45	77/56	0.01"
Thursday	68	39	77/56	0.00"
Friday	73	45	78/56	0.00"
Saturday	78	47	78/57	0.00"
Sunday	82	54	78/57	0.00"
Monday	86	61	78/57	0.00"
Rainfall0.89" Average temp62.6			
Normal rainfall0.89" Average normal 67.0			
Departure0.00" Departure-4.4			

*Data as reported from De Kalb-Peachtree Airport

Today's Regional Map



Weather History

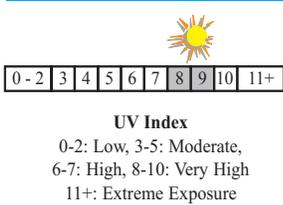
May 12, 1971 – Dust storms suddenly reduced visibilities to near zero on Interstate Highway 10 near Casa Grande, Ariz. Chain reaction accidents involving cars and trucks resulted, killing seven people.

May 13, 1930 - A man was killed when caught in an open field during a hailstorm northwest of Lubbock, Texas. It was the first and perhaps the only authentic death by hail in United States weather records.

Local Sun/Moon Chart This Week

	Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset	
Full 5/17	Thursday	6:39 a.m.	8:29 p.m.	3:22 p.m.	3:05 a.m.	New 6/1
	Friday	6:38 a.m.	8:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	3:40 a.m.	
	Saturday	6:37 a.m.	8:31 p.m.	5:40 p.m.	4:16 a.m.	
Last 5/24	Sunday	6:36 a.m.	8:31 p.m.	6:51 p.m.	4:55 a.m.	First 6/8
	Monday	6:36 a.m.	8:32 p.m.	8:03 p.m.	5:38 a.m.	
	Tuesday	6:35 a.m.	8:33 p.m.	9:11 p.m.	6:28 a.m.	
	Wednesday	6:34 a.m.	8:34 p.m.	10:14 p.m.	7:23 a.m.	

Local UV Index



National Weather Summary This Week

The Northeast will see mostly clear to partly cloudy skies with a few thunderstorms today, scattered showers and thunderstorms Friday and Saturday, with the highest temperature of 86° in Wilmington, Ohio. The Southeast will see mostly clear to partly cloudy skies with scattered thunderstorms today through Saturday, with the highest temperature of 95° in Sanford, Fla. The Northwest will see mostly clear to partly cloudy skies with a few showers today through Saturday, with the highest temperature of 77° in Boise, Idaho. The Southwest will see mostly clear skies today through Saturday, with the highest temperature of 96° in Yuma, Ariz.

Weather Trivia

What U.S. city holds the record for the highest temperature?

Answer: Yuma, Ariz., with a high of 124 degrees.

www.WhatsOurWeather.com

StarWatch By Gary Becker - One Shift Two Shift Redshift Blueshift

As a railroad buff for most of my life, I was ecstatic when the company that I worked for offered me the opportunity to own a real locomotive air horn. When I hooked up the horn to an air compressor in my Moravian College dorm room and proceeded to impair the hearing of a significant number of students, I noticed that the stationary horn lacked the familiar higher to lower pitch shift of railroad horns as they pass an observer. This change of pitch is called the Doppler effect. In the case of locomotive horns, a moving engine compresses the sound waves in front of the horn and stretches them in the back. This causes the number of wavelengths per second (frequency) to be greater if standing in front of the train and fewer if in back of the engine. The pitch of the sound goes from higher to lower. However, the Doppler effect impacts astronomy as well. Shifting sound waves can also be applied to light waves, even though they are not the same phenomenon. Visible light is compressed as a luminous object in space, such as a galaxy, moves towards the Earth, and stretched if the object is traveling away from our planet. As light waves are compressed, the frequency increases, and the color shift is towards the blue. The light is said to be "blueshifted." When an object moves away from us, light waves are stretched, decreasing the frequency and moving the light towards the red end of the spectrum. These waves are said to be "redshifted." Astronomers can measure the amount of redshift of an astronomical object with extreme precision and use this data to calculate the approach and recession velocities of objects relative to the Earth. Virtually all of the light that is seen from galaxies is redshifted, with the amount of cosmological redshift increasing with distance. The universe is expanding, actually accelerating. Even the super hot energy of the Big Bang can be identified, redshifted into cool, invisible microwaves. This article was written for StarWatch by Rudy Garbely of Moravian College, Bethlehem, PA. www.astronomy.org

Could social media like 'Twitter' be the next 9-1-1?

Web-based resources such as Twitter and Facebook may be ushering in a new era in life-saving communication tools

If a critically ill woman in rural south Georgia needed immediate specialized medical care, would anyone more than 150 miles away hear her family member's desperate "tweets" in time to send a life-saving helicopter?

The answer to that question was an incredible "yes, we did and sure we can."

Social media technology has been credited in recent years with everything from reuniting lost friends and loved ones to starting a couple on the path to wedded bliss (or divorce), to even starting an organized nationwide revolution in Egypt. But a recent connection in cyberspace starting in rural southern Georgia may be another first in social media's rise.

At 11:06 a.m. on April 25, Emory Healthcare Web and social media specialist **Morgan Griffith** received a "tweet" from Connecticut resident **Matthew Browning**, who was playing a critical role in helping his wife and family in getting through a crisis situation.

The grandmother of Browning's wife was suffering from a host of dangerous medical issues, including, most urgently, a ruptured aorta. Being in a highly rural area, no local hospitals were equipped to accept or care for a patient with such complex needs.

Browning immediately took to Twitter and thus began a new journey between patient, concerned family member, a social media manager and a hospital admissions unit.

"There has existed an inherent conflict between health care and social media for quite some time. Health care is innately private, secure and confidential, and that makes people worry when coupled with such a fast, open and uncensored dialogue as the one taking place in the social media space," said Griffith. "On that incredible Monday, we got a glimpse of the potential these two realms have in be-



coming an extremely useful, successful and potentially life-saving duo. It was a truly moving and powerful experience to be a part of."

Browning's first "tweet" read as follows, "@emoryhealthcare (Emory's Twitter account address) NEED HELP NOW!! Grandma w/ RUPTURED AORTA needs Card Surgeon/OR ASAP, STAT! Can you accept Life Flight NOW!!?"

"While much of our social media is proactive and conversational, when we receive a tweet like Matthew's, everything changes. We must immediately throw out the process flowcharts, remove all barriers, and act. Instantaneously, things shift into high gear and a number of contacts in a variety of departments are contacted to get the right information as quickly as possible," said Griffith. "Within minutes, we tweeted back to Matthew, '@MatthewBrowning Matthew: please either call 911 or have your grandma's doctor call our transfer service to get immediate help at 404-XXX-XXXX.'"

At this point, the most important thing was giving Browning information he could act on. When using Twitter, messages can only be 140 characters, so it was critical to include the most necessary information for

him to get immediate assistance, explained Griffith.

Four minutes later, at 11:21 a.m., Browning responded, "@emoryhealthcare: We are doing that! She is in small South Georgia hosp right now- but needs MAJOR help- We are calling, thanks!"

Griffith responded, "@MatthewBrowning keep us posted & please let us know if there is anything else we can do to help. We're keeping you both in our thoughts." One minute later, Browning responded back "@hospital-

policygrp, @emoryhealthcare: Thank you for your help!" Followed by: "@emoryhealthcare: Look for STAT Transfer from South Georgia, accept her if able and we'll see you soon. Thanks!"

Sixteen minutes later, at 11:41 a.m., the patient was on a helicopter to Emory University Hospital in Atlanta.

"@emoryhealthcare: Thank you for accepting her. She is on the Life Flight to you now- Bless you all and Thank you!!"

Unfortunately, the patient would not survive her trau-

matic illness, but, according to both Griffith and Browning, the experience is now a textbook lesson—proving that social media technology and the vast network it has created can allow more than one person to hear the tree falling in an even larger forest; hence, offering new life-saving opportunities not existent just a few short years ago.

"Our dialogue with Matthew on Monday continued on through the day, and not all of the tweets we received or sent are included above, but if that doesn't show you the power of social media, I don't know what will," said Griffith. "It's true that the same outcome may have taken place if it had not been for social media. But when a life is hanging in the balance and minutes—not hours—make the difference, the risk of ignoring technology such as social media to intervene and save a life is one we're not willing to take."

The last message from Browning was, "@emoryhealthcare: Thank You for your valiant efforts on behalf of our Grandmother – your team is awesome and their compassion unrivaled- thx."

NOTICE CITY OF DORAVILLE

There will be a Public Hearing of the City of Doraville Mayor and Council in the City of Doraville Council Chambers on Monday, June 6, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. located at 3725 Park Avenue, Doraville, Georgia 30340-1111 to hear the following matter(s):

Conditional Use – Applicant Initiated:

Applicant Fu Ping Liu, Foot Reflexology, Land Lots 297 and 310 of the 18th District, property described as 5189 Buford Highway, Doraville (Parcel ID #18-311-06-006), a Conditional use application for a massage therapy spa on a multi-tenant property zoned C-2 (General Business District) being 13.98 +/- acres as per application received March 30, 2011.

Any applicant for rezoning action who has made, within two (2) years immediately preceding the filing of an application for rezoning, campaign contributions aggregating \$250.00 or more to a government official who will consider the application, must file a disclosure report pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 36-67-A-1, et seq. with the governing authority showing:

- (1) The name and official position of the government official to whom the campaign contributions was made; and
- (2) The dollar amount and description of each campaign contribution made by the applicant to the government official during the two years immediately preceding the filing of the application for rezoning action and the date of each such contribution.

The disclosures shall be filed within ten (10) days after the application for the rezoning action is first filed.

An entity who wishes to present evidence, data, or opinions in opposition to the rezoning request must comply with O.C.G.A. § 36-67-A-1, et seq. and, if any such entity has contributed \$250.00 in aggregate or more during the two (2) years preceding the rezoning request to any government official, the opposing entity must file a disclosure in writing at least five (5) days before the first hearing on the matter.



There's truth to the rumor that there's quality theater in south DeKalb

From set design to direction to performances Neil Simon's Rumors is excellently executed

by Kathy Mitchell

Audiences can always depend on **Neil Simon** for laugh-out-loud comedy. The man who brought the world *The Odd Couple*, *Barefoot in the Park* and *Come Blow Your Horn* is one of America's premier playwrights and one of its funniest writers ever.

Still, *Rumors*, now on stage at the Renaissance Project Theatre, is the only pure farce in Simon's repertoire. While Simon's other plays deliver sharp wit and funny situations, there usually are tender moments along with the humorous ones. In *Rumors* outrageous scenarios are played for non-stop laughs.

Guests arrive at the upscale home of the city's deputy mayor for a 10th wedding anniversary party but find the hostess and the servants missing and the host in his bedroom suffering from a minor gunshot wound. Hilarity ensues as the upper crust guests try to hide the truth—or as much truth as they are able to figure out—from the police and the news media. Adding to the drama

are a woman suffering through cigarette withdrawal and another coping with sporadic back spasms.

Although the story is basically a live-action cartoon with one improbable event after another building into an ever-wilder situation, there is an undercurrent theme of the powerful and successful being less than they appear on the surface. Sophisticated high society folks' cool exteriors break away quickly under pressure, revealing them as the insecure, neurotic people they really are.

The original 1988 play, like most of Simon's plays, was set in New York City. This version substitutes Atlanta for New York dropping in such familiar places as West Paces Ferry and Grady Hospital.

The cast, under the able direction of **Michael Cole**, brings it all together beautifully. I especially enjoyed **Davin Grindstaff** as the excitable lawyer and **Matthew Cornwell** as an accountant with a flare for improvisation. Also delivering stellar performances are **Jeff Paige**, **Quynh Phi Le**, **B.J. Win-**

frey, **Kristyl Dawn Tift**, **Monique Somervell** and **Meagan Thomas**.

Rumors is two hours of non-stop fun. I can't remember when I've had such a good time at the theater. From the performances to the beautifully designed set, this is quality theater—something south DeKalb County has needed for a long time. Those who want to see well done entertainment in the south end of the county would do well to encourage such efforts with their attendance. The opening performance of *Rumors* played to a larger audience than I've seen before at Renaissance Project Theatre. There were, however, empty seats. I urge you, come fill them. You won't be sorry.

Performances are Friday, Saturday and Sunday through May 22. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$18 at the door. To purchase tickets, visit www.brownpapertickets.com or call (678) 250-4800. For more information, visit www.trpatl.org. All performances are at The Renaissance Project Theatre on the campus of Traveler's Rest Church, 4650 Flat Shoals Parkway, Decatur.

Roots Continued From Page 1A

"The 1870 Census was right after Emancipation, so that's the first one where African Americans were listed by name — before that they were listed as property. So it's more challenging for African-American researchers to find family names before the 1870 Census," said **Reginald Washington**, archivist/African American genealogy specialist for NARA.

AAHGS-GA, which meets monthly in metro Atlanta, also teaches researchers how to use online resources such as Ancestry.com.

"It's the world's largest online family history resource with four billion records and 25 million hits per day," said Content Manager **Lisa Arnold**. The African-Amer-

ican collection includes slave narratives and slave manifests, U.S. Colored Troops from the Civil War, Freedman's Bank Records, Caribbean slave records, Virgin Island slave records, marriage records, newspapers, photographs and World War II draft cards.

Bratton said she likes the camaraderie of the members of AAHGS-GA.

"And I like the fact that they connect me with other people who are researching family in South Carolina, which allows us to help each other," she added.

Bratton is finishing a book on her ancestors entitled, *I Am the Forever*, which she expects to get published this year. She said it's an emotional process.

"Green and Melinda couldn't read or write, and now here I am — their great-great-granddaughter — with a Ph.D.," she said. "And now the plantation, where they had to work for no pay as slaves, pays me to consult and write skits about the Black Brattons. So my book will be a tribute to my ancestors and a gift for my family and the generations unborn."

Stephenson concluded, "Not having a sense of our history and culture puts us at great risk. We need to reacquaint ourselves spiritually with our ancestors."

The next AAHGS-GA chapter meeting is Sunday, May 22, at the Auburn Avenue Research Library in Atlanta. It is free and open to the public.

Technology changing how we pray

by Nigel Roberts

Technology has revolutionized many aspects of our lives, including how we pray. Recently, an app designer released an iPhone application—dubbed iPray—that promises to simplify how many in the Anglican Communion and the Episcopal Church use the traditional Book of Common Prayer.

Originally compiled in the mid-1500s, the Book of Common Prayer contains the words of structured liturgical services of worship. It also provides an ordered method for daily Bible reading through the year.

"Before this app was developed, one would need to refer to the church's calendar, look up the lessons in the lectionary and find the appropriate psalms for the day in the psalter," said the Rev. **Patrick Bright**, a spokesman for the company that developed the app. "With iPray, all the appointed lessons of scripture, psalms and prayers particular to the day are loaded automatically in this easy to use and understand application."

Despite its reputation for clinging to tradition, in 2008 the Vatican embraced the iPhone app technology when it endorsed the iBreviary, an iTunes application created by a tech savvy Italian priest, the Rev. **Paolo Padriani**. The application includes the Breviary prayer book in multiple languages, the prayers of the daily Mass and various other prayers.

Many—especially young Catholics—reach for their iPhone before they get out of bed in the morning. And the church is adapting to this global culture change by making prayer more accessible.

"Instead of a paperback missalette, there's iMissal. Instead of prayer cards, there's a touch-screen Saint A Day. Instead of randomly jotting down prayer requests, there's a digitally organized list in Prayer Steward," observed the Catholic News Service.

Other faith communities have also embraced prayer apps revolution. The Send a Prayer app allows Jews living far away from Jerusalem to participate in an important tradition: slipping a written prayer into the cracks of the Western Wall in Jerusalem. For 99 cents, the iPhone app enables users to write a prayer request on their smart phone screen and beam it to a company that receives the prayer, jots it down and places it in the wall within 24 hours of receiving the prayer. The app also enables users to see a log of past prayers on your own personal "Prayer Wall."

Software developers are beginning to create Buddhist prayer apps too. Several apps already exist that facilitate meditation. One interactive app called iShrine enables Buddhists to practice meditation anywhere, at an interactive altar on their smart phone. This virtual altar includes candles and incense that users could choose to light with a virtual match.

iPuja is a Hindu prayer iPhone app. Features include important Hindu deities and the respective mantras to chant as an aid in meditation. Users could set the mantras on a loop to listen to continuous chanting.

While many traditionalists in the various faith groups are unsettled by how technology is impacting prayer life, others embrace it as a way to meet spiritual needs in the modern world.

DeKalb students awarded Gates Millennium Scholarship

by Daniel Beauregard
daniel@dekalbchamp.com

Mpaza Kapembwa, a student at Cross Keys High School, used his circumstances to develop leadership qualities that helped him become one of 94 students in Georgia to earn the Gates Millennium Scholarship.

Seventeen-year-old Kapembwa moved to Atlanta from Zambia in December 2006. His mother, who had moved five years earlier, felt that they might have more opportunities in the United States.

Aside from being captain of the Cross Keys soccer team and an exceptional student, Kapembwa didn't have a host of extra-curricular activities or club involvement on his resume when he applied for the scholarship, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

"For me it was not so much about what I was involved in but who I am, where I come from and just letting them know [those things] rather than telling them what I thought they wanted to hear," Kapembwa said.

The Gates Scholarship, which receives thousands of applications each year, is awarded to 1,000 minority students who have significant financial needs. Out of the recipients this year, 94 were in Georgia and 22 were in DeKalb County.

Kapembwa said that when he wrote the essays for the scholarship he focused on experiences outside of school that proved his ability to take the reins, like when his mom was out of work and he helped support the family.

"I just worked 40 hours a week trying to help my mom in whatever way I could; it was over the summer and I guess it's the most important leadership quality I've ever shown—a 15-year-old trying to work and help his mom," he said.

Kapembwa, who has a 4.12 GPA, was also awarded a host of other scholarships, all of which he expressed gratitude for. He said that the Gates Scholarship will open



Mpaza Kapembwa

a lot of doors for him.

"It pays for whatever you cannot pay for; it also pays for certain graduate programs and I think it will pay for the program that I'm interested in, so for me, it's like a lifetime of free education," Kapembwa said.

In the fall he will be attending Williams College in Williamstown, Mass., and will pursue a degree in the political economy program.

"I'm surprised not a lot of people know about it because it was ranked the No. 1 college by *Forbes* magazine," Kapembwa said of the school.

Kapembwa said he wants to study politics and economics because he likes to engage in civic debate and he thinks he can use his knowledge to help others.

"In my ninth grade civics class our teacher challenged us to think about what was going on around us...if you use your power correctly, you have the ability to help a lot of people," Kapembwa said.

Kapembwa is also interning with Bank of America this summer to learn more about non-profit organizations.

"They chose five students who will work with Bank of America for United Way; we'll be [learning] about non-profit organizations and how they operate...then for a

week in July we'll go to Washington, D.C., for a leadership conference," he said.

Kapembwa said that the world right now is lacking compassion and there are too many instances where political ambitions and emotions cloud our humanity.

"If I had a chance to become a world leader I think I would really spend time just bringing the best out of human beings. I think it's time that people really started turning to morals and trying to be more humanitarian to each other," Kapembwa said.

He hopes to eventually go into business and give others a chance to succeed like he did.

"I want to see myself helping those who are less fortunate; helping kids like me who came from nothing and give them a chance. I want to see myself making an impact with students like that," he said.

DeKalb's 2011 Gates Millennium Scholars

Chardé Acie	Cedar Grove High School
Yared Aklilu	Cedar Grove High School
Amanda Bradley	Marist School
Natalie Cook	DeKalb School of the Arts
Brianna Crittenden	Stone Mtn. High School
Aisha Davis	DeKalb School of the Arts
Terence Gipson	Lakeside High School
Jaisa Gooden	Druid Hills High School
Mickhale Green	S.W. DeKalb High School
Darrius Hamilton	Dunwoody High School
Leticha Heflin	Arabia Mtn. High School
Jada Henderson	Avondale High School
Jeffrey-Michael Holiday	Redan High School
Jasmyne Jackson	M.L. King Jr. High School
Mpaza Kapembwa	Cross Keys High School
Fadhil Moore	S.W. DeKalb High School
Rekeyia Sherrell	Holy Innocents Episcopal School
Ram Siwakoti	Clarkston High School
Raven Smith	M.L. King Jr. High School
Ryan Starks	S.W. DeKalb High School
Re'Kieya Ward	Redan High School
Shannon Williams	Towers High School

Open House

MARTA and the Clifton Corridor Transportation Management Association (CCTMA) is undertaking the Clifton Corridor Transit Initiative to investigate the need for high-capacity transit connections between MARTA's Lindbergh Center/Armour Yard area in north-central Atlanta to Emory University and the City of Decatur in west-central DeKalb County. This public meeting will present alternatives advancing to the next phase of analysis.

Thursday, May 19

4-7 p.m.

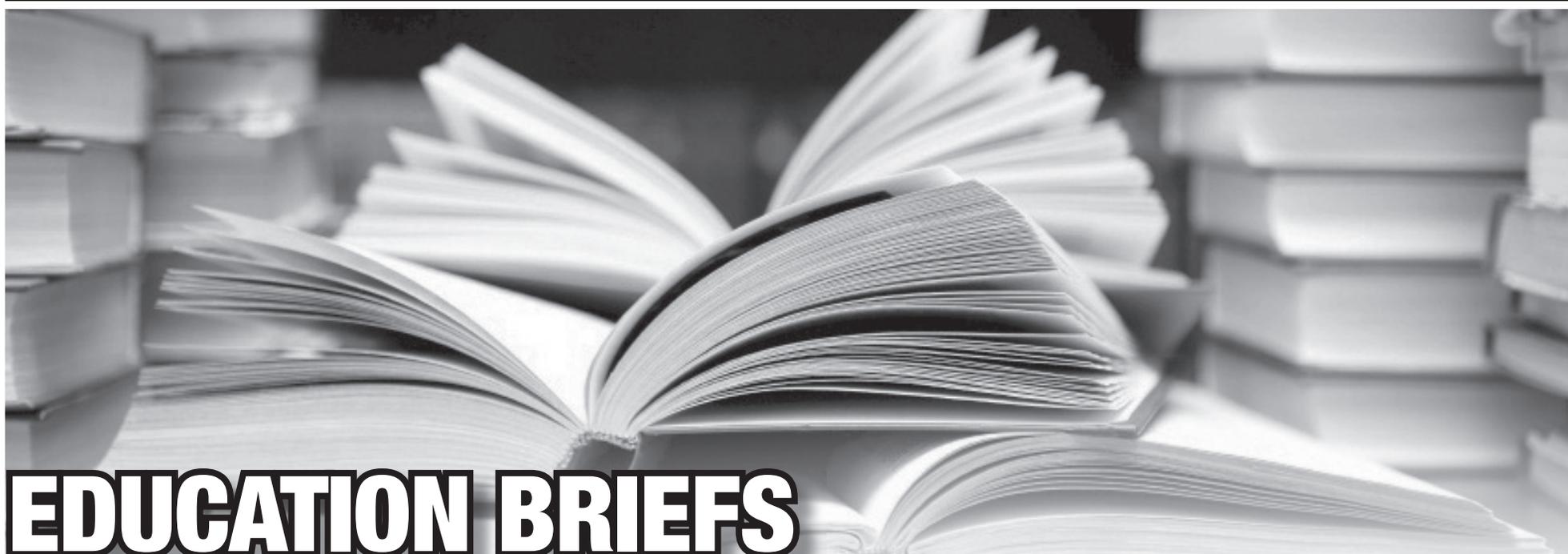
Emory University Conference Center
1615 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30329

For more information, please contact
Leah Vaughan, 404-377-9147
leahvaughan@sycamoreconsulting.net

<http://www.itsmarta.com/Clifton-Corr.aspx>

check us out on Facebook: Clifton Corridor Transit Initiative





EDUCATION BRIEFS

Paideia students win Shuler Awards for *Les Misérables*

Three students from the Paideia School were presented with the Shuler Hensley Award for Excellence in High School Musical Theatre at a Tony-style awards ceremony at the Cobb Energy Center on April 26.

The awards were given to the students for their involvement in *Les Misérables*. **Jane Price Harmon** won for costume design, **Jeremy Shaffer** for featured performer and **Alex Waldon** for best supporting actress in her role as Eponine.

Forty-one high schools from 12 counties representing 14 school districts as well as private schools in the greater Atlanta area participated.

A team of more than 30 Atlanta-based arts professionals evaluated the participating productions and the show featured an opening number starring **Shuler Hensley**, who was joined by representatives from schools participating in this year's competition.

Hensley's credits include the country-rock and blues musical *The Great American Trailer Park Musical* of 2004-05; the Disney musical *Tarzan*, featuring Hensley in the role of Kerchak; and, most recently, **Mel Brooks'** stage musical *Young Frankenstein*, in which Hensley played the monster. His distinctive work in *Young Frankenstein* earned him nominations for both the Drama Desk Award and the

Outer Critics Circle Award in 2008. In 2002, Shuler received the Tony Award, the Drama Desk Award and the Outer Critics Circle Award for his performance as Jud in the revival of *Oklahoma!*

Emory professors receive research awards

Three professors at Emory University's Candler School of Theology have been honored this spring with awards totaling more than \$200,000.

Steven M. Tipton received a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, a Louisville Institute Sabbatical Grant for Researchers and a grant from the Religion Division of the Lilly Endowment.

Andrea C. White was chosen for a Lilly Theological Research Faculty Fellowship, a Louisville Institute First Book Grant and a Wabash Summer Research Fellowship.

L. Edward Phillips has collected a Louisville Institute Sabbatical Grant for Researchers.

GPC offers at-risk students a second chance

Georgia Perimeter College's Gateway Program held its Second Chance Fair on April 30 at its Clarkston campus to help struggling high school students develop a plan for graduation. "We're a good place to re-start," said Gateway

Director/Principal **Robert Wigfall**. "Our kids are at risk for a number of different reasons that are sometimes personal and not always centered on academics."

The fair consisted of several presentations from Gateway administrators but prospective students also had the chance to hear from past Gateway graduates.

"I may not have made it without Gateway, because this environment is not like high school. You're on a college campus. That makes a difference and everyone here is also helpful," said **Jovanna Gibbs-Arnold**, who graduated from Gateway last spring.

The program also gives qualified students early exposure to college-level work through dual enrollment classes. To enroll in Gateway, a student must be between 16 and 20 years old and eligible to attend a DeKalb County school.

Gateway is free for DeKalb County residents but there is a \$255 fee that is paid to Georgia Perimeter College each semester.

For more information on Gateway, contact **Clifton Rawles**, at (678) 891-3223.

Beulah Heights students receive awards for leadership

Two Beulah Heights University students were awarded the Transformational Leader and Community Developer Award for outstanding leadership and community development.

Darci Perry received the award for her community development work with a national nonprofit organization, Center for Urban Solutions. "She has given exceptional leadership to

this new initiative and implemented several impactful programs in the Greenbriar community," said **Betty Glover**, chairperson, department of leadership studies at Beulah Heights.

Gladys Dark was the recipient of the second award. She was recognized for her work in Gwinnett County's Parents Against Injustices Program. Her ministry, Reflecting Light World Inc., focuses on community work in West Africa.

In addition to receiving the award, each recipient received \$500. For the second year, the award was funded by Ace III Communications, who publishes *The Champion Newspaper*, the legal organ in DeKalb County. **Dr. Earl** and **Mrs. Carolyn Glenn**, who are frequent guest lecturers at BHU, are the owners of Ace III Communications.

— Briefs compiled by Daniel Beaugard

NOTICE CITY OF DORAVILLE

There will be a Public Hearing of the City of Doraville Mayor and Council in the City of Doraville Council Chambers on Monday, June 6, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. located at 3725 Park Avenue, Doraville, Georgia 30340-1111 to hear the following matter(s):

Conditional Use – Applicant Initiated:

Applicant Guang Zheng, Treat Your Feet Massage and Spa, Land Lot 311 of the 18th District, property described as 5382 Buford Highway, Doraville (Parcel ID #18-311-06-006), a Conditional use application for a massage therapy spa on a multi-tenant property zoned C-2 (General Business District) being .46 +/- acres as per application received March 30, 2011.

Any applicant for rezoning action who has made, within two (2) years immediately preceding the filing of an application for rezoning, campaign contributions aggregating \$250.00 or more to a government official who will consider the application, must file a disclosure report pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 36-67-A-1, *et seq.* with the governing authority showing:

- (1) The name and official position of the government official to whom the campaign contributions was made; and
- (2) The dollar amount and description of each campaign contribution made by the applicant to the government official during the two years immediately preceding the filing of the application for rezoning action and the date of each such contribution.

The disclosures shall be filed within ten (10) days after the application for the rezoning action is first filed.

An entity who wishes to present evidence, data, or opinions in opposition to the rezoning request must comply with O.C.G.A. § 36-67-A-1, *et seq.* and, if any such entity has contributed \$250.00 in aggregate or more during the two (2) years preceding the rezoning request to any government official, the opposing entity must file a disclosure in writing at least five (5) days before the first hearing on the matter.



Dee Keeton prepares to open a time capsule as part of the celebration.



Among the special guests is Carl Strass, center with notebook, the father of the first boy-girl twins born at DeKalb Medical. Photos by Kathy Mitchell



DeKalb Medical President and CEO Eric Norwood is on hand to honor all who gave their time and effort to the hospital over the years.

DeKalb Medical celebrates 50 years

by Kathy Mitchell
kathy@dekalbchamp.com

DeKalb General Hospital, now DeKalb Medical, opened its doors at 9 a.m. on May 1, 1961. That afternoon hospital staff delivered the hospital's first baby, the daughter of a Chamblee High School coach.

Fifty years and a day later, a group of employees, former employees and well wishers gathered in the hospital's theater to celebrate its landmark anniversary. "The exact anniversary was May 1, but that was a Sunday this year and we didn't want to make all of you come out on a Sunday," explained **Dee Keeton**, director of patient relations, who was on hand to open a time capsule.

The small capsule, which Keeton joked might not have been opened on schedule after all, contained publications, papers and a few small instruments. "We thought it was right under the plaque, but it turned out not to be there—but we found it," she said.

No one related to the baby born on opening day came forward, but **Carl Strass**, the father of the first boy-girl twins born at the hospital was present to relate his story. He reported that the family had moved to Texas, where the twins are pursuing



A plaque marks the time capsule opened at the 50th-year anniversary ceremony.

professional careers. As a widower, Strass returned to Georgia for a Decatur High School reunion and reconnected with a friend from school. She is now his wife.

Another special guest was **Louise Hinesley**, DeKalb Medical's longest active employee. She has been with the hospital since Aug. 17, 1963. Hinesley led a long parade of employees and retirees who have worked at least 15 years with the hospital as they stepped one at a time on the stage to have a photo taken with DeKalb Medical President and CEO **Eric Norwood** and to receive a special gift—a copy of the book *The DeKalb Medical Story From Berry Patch to Healthcare System* by **Wytch**

Stubbs, M.D., and Susan Parry, R.N.

The hospital opened in 1961 on the current site, formerly a berry patch. The newly created hospital authority decided that it should purchase the entire 40 acres—at \$4,000 an acre—because "we realize that it will not be needed immediately for the hospital contemplated, but we are confident that DeKalb's growth will make additions to the hospital necessary within the next few years,"

Julius McCurdy, the authority's secretary-treasurer wrote in a letter to **Milton C. Scott**, who represented the Scott estate, owners of property.

The prediction proved accurate. The next few decades turned out to be characterized by growth and expansion for the hospital. Among the facilities later opened at the North Decatur Road campus is the Women's Wellness Center, the first facility of its kind in the southeastern United States. It opened in 1985. A maternity surgery pavilion was completed in 1993.

In the preface to *The DeKalb Medical Story*, Norwood noted that the hospital was built on a berry patch where people in the community were allowed "to help themselves to

the delicious fruit free of charge."

"What a word picture of what DeKalb Medical has become over the last 50 years," he wrote. "It is a place where the community

can still help itself to produce good fruit through the faithful investment of time, talents and treasure for the common good."

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AROUND DEKALB



ATLANTA

Dance performance to be at Emory

TEMPO: A Non-fiction Dance Performance will be presented at Emory University May 20-22. Emory dance faculty member **Gregory Catellier** explores the human experience of time versus its universal reality in his latest choreographic work. This multi-media event features the professional dancers of Catellier Dance Projects, music by **Kendall Simpson**, and video by Seattle-based dance and new media artist **Jeffrey Curtis**. General admission tickets are \$12; tickets for discount category members are \$10 and student tickets are \$5. Performances are May 20-21 at 8 p.m. and May 22 at 2 p.m. in the dance studio of the Schwartz Center for Performing Arts, 1700 N. Decatur Road, Atlanta. For more information, call (404) 727-5050, e-mail boxoffice@emory.edu or visit www.arts.emory.edu.

Storytellers to be at Callanwolde

Troupe of Storytellers will be at Callanwolde Fine Arts Center Friday, May 13, at 7 p.m. Coordinated by Callanwolde instructor and storyteller **Bev Center**, the evening features the Troupe of Storytellers, a group of emerging voices from Emory's lifelong learning classes. The evening of humorous stories and folktales about family and childhood is for audiences of all ages. The event will be held in the Retreat at Callanwolde, 980 Briarcliff Road, NE, Atlanta. Tickets are sold at the door. General admission is \$3; admission for children is \$1. For more information, call (404) 872-5338.

AVONDALE ESTATES

Silent auction slated for May 21

The Avondale Community Club will present a silent auction on May 21. The event will be hosted by entertainer **Dean Crownover**. Services and packages will be up for bid, including beach getaways, gourmet dinners and fine art. The event is open to all residents of Avondale Estates. Anyone wanting to contribute items for the auction should contact **Connie Bryans** at (404) 408-9644 or at lbryans@bellsouth.net.

BROOKHAVEN

Diabetes classes offered

The Georgia Medical Care Foundation is offering free diabetes self-management education classes on Tuesdays in May. The classes, taught by trained health care professionals, will provide information to assist persons living with diabetes. The remaining sessions are May 17, 19 and 26, 1-3 p.m., at the Brookhaven Library, 1242 N. Druid Hills Road, Atlanta. For more information, call (404) 848-7140.

CHAMBLEE

Discussion to focus on homelessness

A panel discussion with Atlanta's Faces of Homelessness Speakers' Bureau will be held at the Chamblee Library on Tuesday, May 17. The program will explore statistics and stereotypes, causes of homelessness, personal accounts from speakers and ways the community can get involved in the fight to end homelessness. The event will be 6-7 p.m. at the Chamblee Library, 4115 Clairmont Road, Chamblee. For more information, call (770) 936-1380.

DECATUR

The Great Speckled Bird opening reception and exhibit announced

The DeKalb History Center will host an opening reception for *The Great Speckled Bird*, on May 17, from 5:30 - 7 p.m. in the lobby of the historic Courthouse in downtown Decatur. The reception and exhibit are open to the public free of charge.

The History Center will showcase the enhanced and expanded 40th anniversary exhibit of the South's standard underground newspaper, which chronicled what some describe as turbulent times in Atlanta from 1968-76. *The Bird* began publishing in the midst of national upheaval. The country was polarized by the Vietnam War and struggled with discrimination issues. A growing youth culture with strange clothes, hair, music, drugs and a wholesale rejection of middle-class values bewildered or angered many in the older generation. From the first issue of *The Bird*, which castigated Atlanta icon **Ralph McGill** for his support of the war, there was little doubt whose side the newspaper was on. For more than eight years it was the "voice of the voiceless" – African-Americans fighting Jim Crow in the

South and institutionalized racism in the North; striking garbage and farm workers; Vietnamese peasants being slaughtered by American bombs and napalm; women taking control of their bodies; students demanding meaningful educations; and young people seeking new ways to live. At its height, with a circulation around 22,000, *The Bird* was the most widely read weekly newspaper in Georgia.

The exhibit is in the main gallery and will be open for expanded hours during the Decatur Arts Festival, May 28 (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.) and May 29 (noon - 5 p.m.). Following the festival, the exhibit will be open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Wesley Chapel design workshop scheduled

DeKalb County invites members of the Wesley Chapel Community to participate in a design workshop for the Wesley Chapel Livable Centers Initiative (LCI). The event will be held Saturday, May 14, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Word Church International, 2030 Wesley Chapel Road in Decatur. For additional information, **Jessica Guinn** at (404) 684-7031 or **Sidney Douse** at (404) 371-2178.

Novelist to appear at library

Edgar Award-winning author **Tom Franklin** will be at the Decatur Library on Tuesday, May 17, to talk about his most recent novel, *Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter*. "Critics have called it 'his most accomplished and resonant novel so far,' and readers agree. Set in rural Mississippi in the 1970s, the story centers on two men, once boyhood pals, who must face the consequences of a long-ago incident. It's a powerful, riveting tale, brilliantly told by Franklin, the Alabama-born writer who is so very popular across the South," according to an announcement from the library. His prize-winning books include *Hell at the Breech*, *Poachers: Stories* and *Smonk*. The event will be at 7:15 p.m. at the Decatur Library Auditorium, 215 Sycamore St., Decatur.

DORAVILLE

Music to highlight Asian culture

Spring's Music School will perform pieces from Asian culture at the Doraville Library on Saturday, May 14. Singers and musicians will take the audience on a journey through sound, according to an announce-

ment from the library. The event is 1-2 p.m. at the Doraville Library, 3748 Central Ave., Doraville. For more information, call (770) 936-3852.

How-to on container gardens announced

Award-winning landscape artist **Tracy King** will give a presentation on how to create beautiful container gardens Saturday, May 21, just in time to plan a summer patio. The event will be 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. at the Doraville Library, 3748 Central Ave., Doraville. For more information, call (770) 936-3852.

STONE MOUNTAIN

City-wide yard sale plans announced

Stone Mountain Village will host the annual community-wide yard sale on Saturday, May 28, 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The event will be held on the First Baptist Church lawn in downtown Stone Mountain. Set up begins at 7:30 a.m. on the day of the sale—tables will not be provided. A limited number of 10-foot-by-10-foot spaces under the pavilion are available at \$20 each on a first come, first served basis or 10-foot-by-10-foot lawn spaces can be rented for \$10 each.

For a fee of \$5 for city residents or \$10 for those in close proximity to the city limits, individuals may have their own yard sales and be listed on the 'Yard Sale Trail' map. A list of 'Trail' participants will be given to shoppers who visit the pavilion and lawn on the day of the sale. For additional information contact **Susan Coletti** at (404) 444-5607 or Stone Mountain City Hall at (770) 498-8984. No food vendors, no refunds and no rain date.

TUCKER

Trees tour set to open

The grand opening of Trees of Tucker Tour will be held Thursday, May 19, 4 - 6:30 p.m. at the Tucker Recreation Center, 4898 La Vista Road. Tucker's new self-guided tree walk through an urban forest was created by GA Master Gardeners in DeKalb. For more information, contact **Pam McNall** at parks@tuckercivic.org.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTICE OF LOCATION AND DESIGN APPROVAL
Streetscape Design Services: Lake Hearn Drive, Perimeter Summit Parkway, and Parkside Place DeKalb County P. I. No. 0010164 Notice is hereby given in compliance with Georgia Code 22-2-109 and 32-3-5 that the Georgia Department of Transportation has approved the Location and Design of this project. The date of location approval is April 18, 2011 Proposed streetscape construction along Perimeter Summit Parkway (0.74 miles), Lake Hearn Drive (0.61 miles), and Parkside Place (0.27 miles) includes overall pedestrian access improvements that include the addition and/or renovation of sidewalks, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant facilities, street and pedestrian lighting, street furniture, landscape improvements including new/larger medians and islands, restriping and/or addition of crosswalks. Lane widths will be narrowed on Lake Hearn Drive, Perimeter Summit Parkway (from Parkside Place to Ashford Dunwoody Road), and Parkside Place for traffic calming and to accommodate the landscape and pedestrian improvements. Furthermore, the driveway for the Hilton Garden Inn hotel on the one way portion of Lake Hearn Drive will be modified to restrict exiting traffic to turning movements in one direction only. Intersection improvements will consist of traffic signal upgrades to mast arm type installations at the intersections of Perimeter Summit Parkway and Parkside Place and Lake Hearn Drive and Parkside

Place. The intersections of Lake Hearn Drive and Parkside Place and Lake Hearn Drive at the Cox Enterprises, Inc. driveway will be raised to help mitigate excessive vehicle speed along Lake Hearn Drive. An 8 foot to 10 foot wide concrete multi-use trail is proposed on the south side of Lake Hearn Drive/Perimeter Summit Parkway extending from Perimeter Center Parkway to Ashford Dunwoody Road. This project is located in DeKalb County in Land Lots 329 and 330; and is in Land District 18. Drawings or maps or plats of the proposed project, as approved, are on file and are available for public inspection at the Georgia Department of Transportation: Thomas Parker Area Engineer 805 George Luther Drive Decatur, GA 30032 404-299-4386 tparker@dot.ga.gov Any interested party may obtain a copy of the drawings or maps or plats or portions thereof by paying a nominal fee and requesting in writing to: Bobby Hilliard, P. E. State Program Delivery Engineer Georgia Department of Transportation 600 West Peachtree Street Atlanta, GA 30308 404-631-1122 bhilliard@dot.ga.gov Any written request or communication in reference to this project or notice SHOULD include the Project and P. I. Numbers as noted at the top of this notice.

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computer. Part-time, up to 25 hours/week, mostly nights and weekends; car required. Must be able to attend out-of-town training in mid-August 2011. Pay rate based on experience; mileage reimbursed. Assignment runs from mid-August 2011 to end of March 2012. EOE www.Westat.com/fieldjobs Enter Job ID: 3928 BR

The Claxton Enterprise is seeking a full-time editor to write local news, Features, and handle some page layout. Experience with QuarkXpress, Networked iMacs, and digital photography helpful. Compensation open to match Individual's ability, work ethic, and commitment to community journalism. Send resume' to Editor's Position, The Claxton Enterprise, P.O. Box 218, Claxton, GA 30417; email: mpeace@claxtonenterprise.com.

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Parents know best

Towers grad follows advice to fulfill NFL dream

by Robert Naddra
robert@dekalbchamp.com

One piece of advice stuck with **Da'Norris Searcy** as he pursued his dream of playing professional football.

"I grew up understanding if I wanted something I had to work hard for it," Searcy said. "My mom and dad raised me that anything I wanted I could get if I worked hard enough. They said if I wanted to play in the NFL I had to work harder than everybody else to get it. I took that to heart."

Turns out **Donald and Tracy Searcy's** advice panned out. Da'Norris Searcy, who graduated from Towers and played college football at the University of North Carolina, was one of three DeKalb players chosen in the 2011 NFL Draft last month.

Searcy, a defensive back, was taken by the Buffalo Bills as the 100th overall pick in the fourth round. Former Stephenson standout **Kelvin Sheppard** of LSU was drafted in the third round (68th overall) by the Bills. Also, Tucker graduate **Dwayne Harris** of East Carolina was drafted in the sixth round by the Dallas Cowboys with the 176th overall pick.

Searcy said he was at his parents' home with 10 to 15 close friends and family members when he got the call from the Bills.

"It was a number I didn't recognize, so I was hoping it was one of the



Da'Norris Searcy

games," said Searcy, who had visited several teams before the draft, including Buffalo, Dallas and St. Louis. "I was very excited because I've talked about it ever since I was 4 years old. My parents told me I've come a long way and battled a lot of adversity."

During his senior season at North Carolina, Searcy was one of 13 players who missed the season opener in 2010 while the NCAA reviewed possible agent-related benefits and possible academic violations concerning the football program. Searcy was cleared to play after missing three

games.

He made the most of the opportunity, leading the team with four interceptions and making 37 total tackles in 10 games. The Tar Heels finished the season 8-5, including a win over Tennessee in the Music City Bowl.

Former Towers coach **Philip Nobles** said he recognized Searcy's work ethic from the start. Searcy, the first player from Towers ever drafted in the NFL, rushed for 1,607 yards and had 71 tackles during his senior season with the Titans.

"He was the hardest worker I'd ever had as a football coach," Nobles said. "That was the first thing I noticed about him. His work ethic was very good and he was very cognizant of the game."

"I'm proud of him," Nobles continued. "I told him to stay hungry and humble and you'll be fine."

Searcy went into draft day with a quiet confidence after being contacted by several teams.

"I felt positive about being drafted, but I was a little nervous," Searcy said. "I worked all my life to get to draft day, and I knew I was just moments away from living my dream."

With the draft behind him, Searcy and the other draftees must play a wait-



Searcy, who led North Carolina with four interceptions in 2010, was drafted in the fourth round by the Buffalo Bills. Photos courtesy of UNC Athletic Communications

ing game while the owners and the players' union try to reach an agreement. But Searcy still keeps his parents' advice close at heart.

"I'm working out and trying to stay focused and stay in shape," Searcy said. "I've got to be ready to go because things could change at any minute."

Pirates' Johnson wins two events at state track meet

by Robert Naddra
robert@dekalbchamp.com

Stone Mountain has produced some of the top high school sprinters in the state over the past decade. **Tamaric Johnson** continued that tradition May 5-7 in the Georgia Olympics.

Johnson won the 200 and 400 meter races in the Class AAA track and field championships in Jefferson. He was

one of three individual state champions from DeKalb and is the third Pirates' runner to win multiple races in the state meet since 1999. **Evander Wells**, who had a successful career at Tennessee, won the 100 and 200 in 2006, and **John Williams** won both events in 1999 and 2000.

Johnson's 20 points for winning both races landed Stone Mountain in ninth place in the AAA team

standings.

Cedar Grove placed third in AAA, with first-place finishes in the 4x100 and 4x400 relays. Also, **Marlon Coley** placed third in the 100 and **Kwenton Womack** was second in the 200 for the Saints.

Nikita Kirillov of St. Pius won the pole vault, helping the Golden Lions finish eighth in the team standings. **Brendan Hoban** was third in the 3,200 and fourth in the 1,600 for the

Golden Lions. Other top DeKalb finishers in the AAA meet were **Bryan Earl** of Towers (fourth, 300 hurdles) and **Anthony Loyd** of Druid Hills (second, triple jump).

Dunwoody placed fourth in the AAAA meet with 28 points, eight points behind champion Clarke Central. **James Dwyer** won the 1,600 and was second in the 3,200 while **Kuaniyal Chol** was second in the 800 for the Wildcats.

Other top DeKalb finishers in AAAA were **Miles Harris** of Tucker (fourth, 400), **Chris Morris** of Southwest DeKalb (fourth, 300 hurdles) and **Malcolm Brock** of Southwest DeKalb (third, high jump).

In the AAAAA meet, **Amos Harper** of Stephenson was second in the shot put.

In AA, **Leonel Ayala** of Cross Keys finished second in the 3,200 and fourth in the 1,600.

DeKalb High School Sports Highlights

BASEBALL

Dunwoody: Logan Elliot pitched a complete-game shutout as the Wildcats beat Flowery Branch 3-0 to clinch the best-of-three series in the first round of the Class AAAA state tournament. Elliot, who has not lost in more than a month, allowed six hits, no walks and no runs while striking out seven. The Wildcats, who faced Lambert on May 11 in the second round, had not allowed a walk in 20 innings. Offensively, Cam Young hit a home run, while Stelen Stulberger and Chris Hale each had an RBI. In the opener, the Wildcats scored two runs in the bottom of the ninth inning to beat Flowery Branch 8-7. Trailing 7-6 after Flowery Branch scored a run in the top of the ninth, Zach Tonner scored on a passed ball, then Hale hit a home run to win the game. James Cunningham had three hits and an RBI, Jerric Johnson had two hits and an RBI and Blaine Broth drove in three runs for the Wildcats. Elliot earned the win by allowing no runs in the ninth inning. The Wildcats won the opener 3-0.

Marist: The War Eagles opened defense of their 2010 Class AAAA state title by sweeping Madison County 10-0 and 4-0 in a best-of-three series in the first round of the AAAA state tournament May 6. Blake Stevens pitched a one-hit shutout and struck out 10 in the first game. Offensively, Andy Sherlag hit a two-run homer while Brett Dolan, Chesny Young, Kevin Gale and David Bourbonnais each had at least two hits. In the second game, pitcher Brandon Liebrandt improved his record to 9-0 by allowing five hits over six innings. Dolan had two hits and Gale hit a home run to lead the offense. The War Eagles faced Creekview on May 11 in a best-of-three series in the second round.

Chamblee: The Bulldogs were eliminated in the first round of the Class AAAA state playoffs by Winder-



Cross Keys players Mpaza Kapembwa (11), left photo, and Lazaro Martinez (16), right photo, elude Toombs County defenders in the Indians 4-0 win May 4 in the second round of the Class AA state playoffs. Photos by Travis Hudgins

Barrow in the best-of-three series. In the Bulldogs' lone win in the series, pitcher Joe Albertson scattered eight hits and struck out seven in a 4-3 win in Game 2. Patrick Eastham earned the save. With the score tied 3-3, Stephen Gaulden singled to drive in the winning run in the fifth inning. Anthony Brown and Somto Egbuna also had RBIs for the Bulldogs. Chamblee lost Game 1 16-6 and lost Game 3 16-0 in three innings.

Redan: The Raiders lost to Loganville 4-1 and 13-1 on May 6 in the first round of the Class AAAA state tournament. Wesley Jones hit a home run for a 1-0 lead in Game 1, but Loganville hit a grand slam in the sixth inning for the win. The Raiders have made the state playoffs 10 times in the past 11 seasons.

St. Pius: The Golden Lions were eliminated in the first round of the Class AAA state tournament by Allatoona in a best-of-three series. After winning the opener 3-1, St. Pius lost 14-4 and 9-5.

BOYS SOCCER

Cross Keys: The Indians defeated North Murray 3-1 and Toombs County 4-0 to advance to the

semifinals of the Class AA state tournament. No other Indians team in any sport has advanced this far since the boys basketball team won the state championship in 2002. Against North Murray, Lazaro Martinez, Moises Medina and Jordy Banegas each scored a goal. Banegas, Medina, Jose Soto and Jeffrey Arevalo each scored goals in the win over Toombs. Goalkeepers Roberto Ramos and Eduardo Espinosa combined for the shutout. The Indians played Westminster on May 11 in the semifinals.

St. Pius: The Golden Eagles beat Gainesville 2-0 on May 4 and Perry 2-0 on May 7 to advance to the Class AAA semifinals. Tyler Alexander scored a goal in each game. Alex Kowalski had a goal against Gainesville and Drew Morgan scored against Perry. Goalkeeper Andrew Wolverton earned the shutout in both games. St. Pius has outscored its opponents 8-0 in three playoff games. The Golden Lions faced Southeast Whitfield in the semifinals May 11.

Paideia: The Pythons defeated Pacelli 4-0 and Aquinas 2-0 in the first two rounds for the Class A state tournament. Eli Pinner, Tim Brooks, Parker Tindall and Coleman Parks each scored a goal



Cross Keys players Mpaza Kapembwa (11), left photo, and Lazaro Martinez (16), right photo, elude Toombs County defenders in the Indians 4-0 win May 4 in the second round of the Class AA state playoffs. Photos by Travis Hudgins



Cross Keys' Lazaro Martizez, middle, is embraced after scoring a goal while Jordy Banegas (10), who also scored against Toombs County, rushes to join the celebration.

against Pacelli. Against Aquinas, Brooks and Parks scored second-half goals. The Pythons (17-1) faced Walker in the semifinals on May 11.

Marist: The War Eagles were eliminated in the second round of the Class AAAA playoffs with a 2-1 loss to Chattahoochee in overtime on May 4. Thomas Withorn's goal tied the game at 1-1 in the second half.

Lakeside: The Vikings failed to make it past the second round of the state playoffs for the first time in six years. Lakeside lost 2-0 to Lambert on May 4 in the Class AAAA round of 16.

GIRLS SOCCER

St. Pius: The defending Class AAA state champions advanced to the state semifinals with wins over

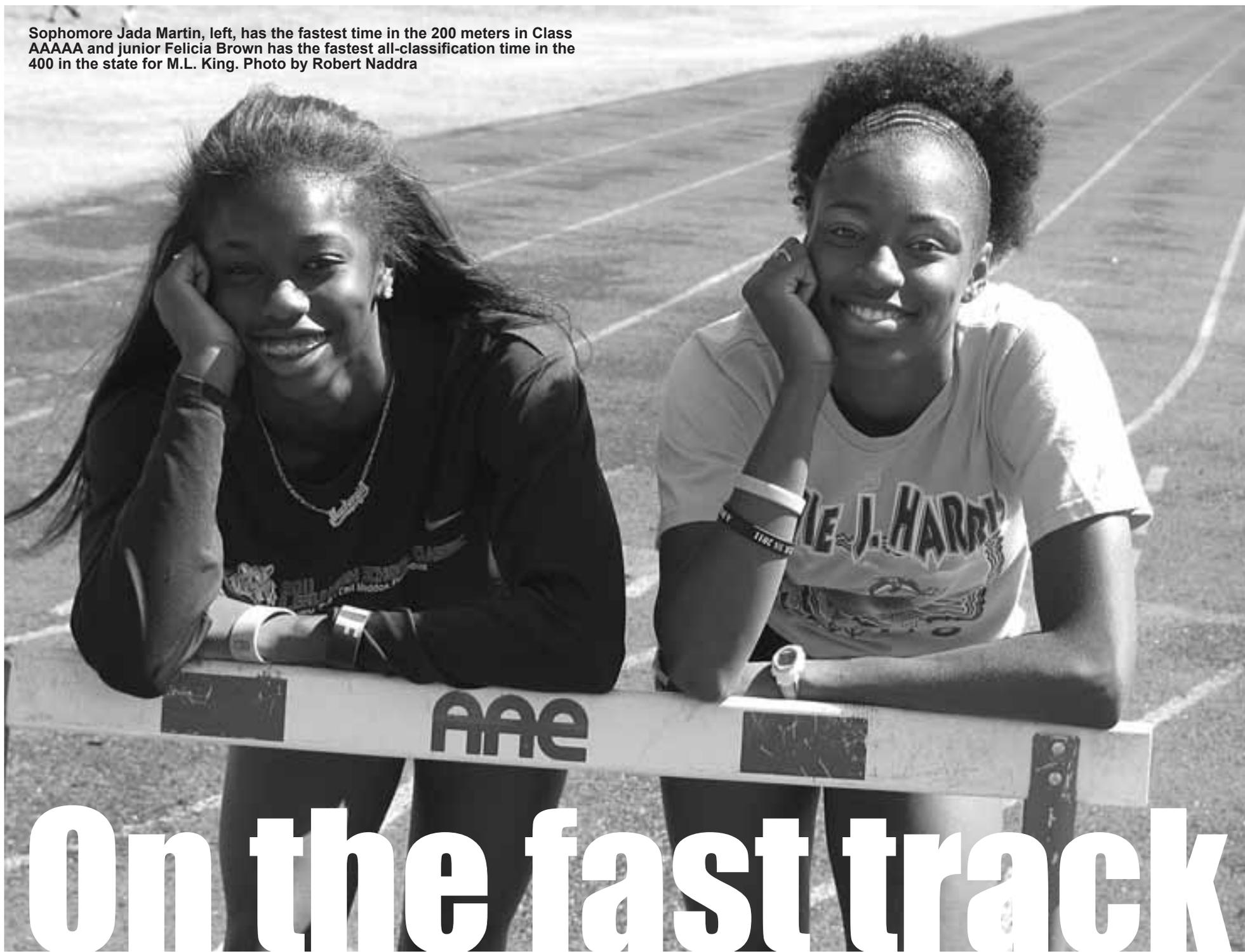
Columbus (3-0) and Mary Persons (10-0). The Golden Lions, which have registered five straight shutouts, faced Allatoona on May 11 in the state semifinals.

Paideia: The Pythons beat Our Lady of Mercy 7-0 in the first round and Savannah Country Day 7-0 in the second round of the Class A state tournament. The Pythons played Athens Academy on May 10 in the state semifinals.

Marist: The War Eagles were eliminated in the third round of the Class AAAA state playoffs after a 2-0 loss to Starr's Mill on May 7. Marist had beaten Chattahoochee 2-1 in the second round on May 4.

Lakeside: The Vikings lost to Pope 5-0 on May 6 in the second round of the Class AAAA state playoffs.

Sophomore Jada Martin, left, has the fastest time in the 200 meters in Class AAAAA and junior Felicia Brown has the fastest all-classification time in the 400 in the state for M.L. King. Photo by Robert Naddra



On the fast track

M.L. King duo leads charge toward state title

by Robert Naddra
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No matter what time of year it is, it's probably track season for the M.L. King girls team.

In addition to the traditional spring high school season, most of the girls are on club track teams and see each other during outdoor club season in the summer as well as indoor season in the winter.

All that time together has helped form one of the top girls high school track teams in the state. The Lions, led by sprinters **Felicia Brown** and **Jada Martin**, won five running events last month at the Region 2-AAAAA track meet and have the fastest time in the state in two events.

"They're with each other year-round," M.L. King coach **Brandi Bush** said. "That decreases the amount of time we have to spend on things like conditioning, technique and exchanges."

And it shows. Brown, a junior, has the top high school time in the state in any classification in the 400 meters with a season-best of 54.19 seconds. Her time is more than a half-second faster than any other runner in the state in that event. Brown and Martin are part of the Lions' 4x100 relay team that has a state-best time of 46.34 seconds. Westlake, the second-fastest team, is nearly a second behind.

Martin, a sophomore, has the second-fastest all-classification time in the state in the 200 at 24.26 and the fastest time in Class AAAAA.

"The good thing about it is all of our kids are track girls," Bush said. "We don't have a lot of multi-sport athletes. They're really motivated for track and they see a championship in their eyes and they're going for it."

Brown, outspoken with the talent to back it up, is the leader of the charge. She made a name for

herself as a freshman on the varsity team and has improved every season. When she won the 400 at the Region 2-AAAAA meet last month with the fastest time in the state, she shaved 3.5 seconds off her winning time from the county meet two weeks earlier.

"My freshman year nobody liked me because I was fast," Brown said. "Nobody wanted to practice with me, but as the year progressed, they started taking me in."

Now, the group is like a family with one common goal. While Brown has owned the 400 at every meet this season, Martin has made the first-place podiums for 100 and 200 her own private property. Martin won both events at the county and region meets, and should be a contender for both at the state meet May 12-14 in Albany.

"We've all grown up running together and we've grown to like each other," Martin said. "That

will make a state championship that much sweeter. I came up behind Felicia and wanted to get to where she was."

The competition between the two, and the rest of the team, has helped the Lions distance themselves from most of the other teams in the region and state. Despite placing second in the region meet, the team has its sights set on a state championship.

"We're more focused on winning this year," Brown said. "We didn't lose anybody [to graduation]. Not winning region was a little disappointing, but people still know MLK is a good team."

M.L. King's girls have never won a state team title in track, but there have been individual champions. **Tanisha Dyess** won the 400 in 2007, and **Ayesha Famble** won the 800 in 2005 and 2006.

"Everybody wants everybody to get better," Martin said. "I know we have high expectation to uphold."



Oglethorpe qualifies for NCAA golf championships

Oglethorpe won its ninth Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference men's golf championship and qualified for the NCAA Division III national championship. **Craig Stevenson** finished second, posting a three-day total of 21-over-par, and led the Petrels to a 29-stroke victory over second-place Centre College in Horseshoe Bay, Texas. **Patrick Cansfield, Eric Quinn** and **Jordan Hall** also finished in the top 10. The Petrels will participate in their 13th NCAA golf championship that concludes May 13 in Greensboro, N.C.

Stephenson's Tinch signs scholarship

Jonathan Tinch recently signed a basketball scholarship with the University of Mobile in Alabama, a NAIA school. The 6-foot-2 guard averaged 21 points, seven rebounds and three steals for the Jaguars during his senior season. Mobile finished 15-14 last season and is a member of the Southern States Athletic Conference.

Baseball all-star games set

The annual junior and senior DeKalb County All-Star Baseball Classics are scheduled for next month. The ninth annual senior game is June 2 and the third annual junior game is June 3. Both games will begin at 5:30 p.m. at Shamrock Middle School. Admission to each game is \$5. The games feature the top 30 junior players and the top 36 senior players in a North vs. South format.

Dunwoody football players sign scholarships

Dunwoody football coach **Jim Showfety** announced that five Wildcat seniors signed football scholarships after National Signing Day in early February. Linebacker **Aaron Easterling** (Gardner-Webb), running back **Tracey White** (Fort Valley State), defensive back **Breon Isaac** (Virginia Union), defensive back **DeWayne Brown** (Lane) and linebacker **Brandon Nick** (Atlanta Sports Academy), will take part in a signing celebration at the school May 16.



New Oglethorpe women's basketball coach Aaron Nester.

Oglethorpe hires women's basketball coach

Aaron Nester has been hired as the new women's basketball coach at Oglethorpe University. Nester spent the previous five seasons as an assistant coach at Wartburg College in Iowa and has nine years coaching experience at the NCAA Division III level. Nester takes over after the resignation of **Ron Satelle**, who was 115-64 in seven seasons at Oglethorpe.

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