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Lights, Camera, Action!



Comedienne Myra J, who plays Ms. Lucy in *The Clubhouse*, holds up a can of Arnold Palmer during shooting. The pilot episode for the mockumentary-styled sitcom was filmed Oct. 1 – 2 at Sugar Creek Golf Course in DeKalb. The pilot was written by DeKalb resident and former *Champion* writer Brian Eggeston. Photo by Travis Hudgons

Travelers returning to travel agents

Agents say benefits of their services are many

by Gale Horton Gay

The travel industry has had its share of ups and downs in recent years, thanks to high unemployment, economic uncertainty, political turmoil abroad and the public's embrace of technology and the Internet.

However, the skies appear increasingly bluer for travel agents, many of whom are experiencing greater traffic and revenue.

The American Society of Travel Agents released its *Leisure Trends Report* earlier this

year and determined that a large percentage of leisure-based travel agencies saw increased revenue (51 percent) and transactions (49 percent) last year compared to 2009, a positive trend that agents expect to continue through 2011 when 94 percent expect to make a profit.

Locally, several travel agents report that business is booming, with consumers seeking their services to book longer vacations to more exotic destinations.

According to **Alvilda Jones**

See Travel on Page 15A



History Center to feature Champions exhibit

The DeKalb History Center, in cooperation with *The Champion Newspaper*, will host a new temporary exhibit beginning Oct. 19.

The exhibit highlights 20 Years of Community Champions. As part of its 20-year anniversary in July, *The Champion* recognized newsmakers who have made positive contributions to DeKalb County during this time period.

This exhibit details the important contributions from these champions by highlighting their accomplish-

ments and achievements, and includes community leaders from all walks of life. The exhibit showcases personal items and memorabilia from many of the honorees.

The opening reception is Tuesday, Oct. 18, 5:30 – 7 p.m., and will include light refreshments. The exhibit will be on the first floor of the historic DeKalb Courthouse, 101 East Court Square, Decatur. The exhibit will be open to the public Oct. 19 to March 30, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

What's hot in travel now

River cruises on the Danube and the Rhine Mediterranean cruises

- *Celia Gardner*

**Dominican Republic
Punta Cana
Mayan Riviera
South Africa**

- *Alvilda Jones*

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Judge delays Neuman trial

by Andrew Cauthen
andrew@dekalbchamp.com

Hemy Neuman, who plans to plead guilty by reason of insanity for the November 2010 killing of a man outside of a Dunwoody daycare, will have to wait a little longer to get his day in court.



Neuman

The trial, which was set to begin on Oct. 17, has been delayed to sometime in February 2012 by Superior Court Judge **Gregory Adams**.

This date change came on Oct. 5 after concerns by the prosecution that more time is needed to allow a court-appointed psychologist or psychiatrist to examine Neuman in

reference to the insanity defense.

Last month, Neuman's attorneys filed a notice in court announcing his intention to plead not guilty by reason of insanity. Originally, Neuman's plea was not guilty.

Neuman was arrested in January and charged with the murder of **Russell Sneiderman**, a 36-year-old entrepreneur who was shot several times outside Dunwoody Prep daycare, where he had just dropped off his son.

On Oct. 6 Neuman's lawyers filed a motion asking the judge to rescind his order resetting the trial date, stating that there is no need for the change. The new trial date remains in February.

Neuman "partially waives his Fifth Amendment privilege to allow the state an opportunity to have its expert conduct an examination," according to court documents. "However, the defendant retains his Fifth Amendment right for all other purposes."

Neuman "does not intend to waive those rights beyond what is required to give the state a fair opportunity to present its own expert testimony," the documents state.

In another motion filed in the case, **Esther Panitch**, an attorney for Neuman's wife **Ariela**, asked the judge to reject a subpoena of her by Hemy Neuman's attorneys.

The motion states that any testimony Ariela Neuman would provide would be "hearsay and/or subject to the attorney-client privilege." Panitch represents Ariela Neuman pro bono, according to court documents.

The subpoena would "significantly embarrass, annoy, harass, oppress and burden" Ariela Neuman, according to the documents.



'Cash for Gold' school fundraising event canceled

by Daniel Beauregard
daniel@dekalbchamp.com

The principal of Robert Shaw Elementary decided to cancel a "Cash for Gold" fundraising event that was to be held at the school on Oct. 4 and 6.

According to school system spokesman **Walter Woods**, Principal **Edwina Boggs** contacted him and said that she was canceling the event for an unspecified reason.

The event, which was supposed to take place from 8 a.m. to noon in the teachers' lounge, was to be held in partnership with Midwest Gold Exchange, a Norcross-based company.

Paul Piwinski, owner and appraiser at Midwest Gold, said that he learned that Boggs had canceled the day before the event without giving a reason.

"They contacted my

event planner and I'm assuming that it was a DeKalb blog about it that tends to make principals nervous," Piwinski said.

A flier for the event was posted on the *DeKalb County School Watch* blog on Sept. 30. Boggs was contacted for the story but did not return repeated phone calls by deadline.

Piwinski said that the biggest misconception about events such as this is that many think they are open to the public. Piwinski said sometimes when the people hear about them, they automatically think the worst.

"It's an in-school event for just the staff members. It's not for the public, they automatically think that the school is opening up like a pawn shop," Piwinski said. "They're very discreet...the students don't even know they're there."

According to Piwinski, most events take place during the teachers' lunch break. Piwinski said the majority of items the staff brings in are small trinkets or costume jewelry they think is just junk.

"They usually think that what they have is worth nothing and they'll get paid an average of \$250," Piwinski said.

Piwinski, who has been in business for approximately three years, said that his company started doing "Cash for Gold" events at schools two years ago. So far, he said in many cases it is a morale boost for the teaching staff. At the end of the event, his company makes a donation to the school or its PTA.

"Those checks can be pretty substantial. A lot of teachers use some of the money to buy supplies and stuff," Piwinski said.

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DeKalb E-911 operator Barbara Carstarphen, right, who was recently named operator of the year by a national organization, trains a new employee. Carstarphen has worked for the county for 12 years and handled nearly 10,000 calls last year. Photo by Andrew Cauthen

E-911 operator wins national award despite personal challenges

by Andrew Cauthen
andrew@dekalbchamp.com

When DeKalb E-911 operator **Barbara Carstarphen**, of Ellenwood, was diagnosed with breast cancer in February 2010, she was in disbelief.

"It was unbelievable because I didn't think it would ever happen again," Carstarphen said. It was her second bout with breast cancer; the first occurred in 2000. And this diagnosis came a few days after her father died.

"When I came back from Alabama [after] burying him, I went to the doctor and I was diagnosed with breast cancer," Carstarphen said. "I never got to grieve my father because I went right into my ordeal."

During this time, Carstarphen underwent chemotherapy every two weeks, but never missed work.

"I came to work every day, sick or not," Carstarphen said. "I didn't let it get me. I still looked at my job as being important. It was something that I felt I needed to do because the citizens still needed me."

Because of her dedication, Carstarphen was recently named the 2011 Operator of the Year by the Association of Public Safety

Communication Officials.

"Barbara's contributions to E-911 center are an invaluable and integral part of what makes DeKalb County a safer place to live, work and play," said DeKalb CEO **Burrell Ellis** during a proclamation of Barbara Carstarphen Day on Sept. 27.

The county's E-911 center, which handles emergency and non-emergency calls, and after-hours animal calls, received approximately 1.4 million calls last year.

"It's a prestigious award," said **Alesia Guest**, a DeKalb County E-911 watch commander. "They chose our star."

Carstarphen, who often went to chemotherapy on her lunch break, once apologized for not coming in as often and for letting her team down, Guest said.

"She's a team player, has a lot of integrity and is a hard worker," Guest said. "She's our go-to person for all of us. She's one of the best."

Carstarphen, who has worked in emergency communications for 12 years, said, "It was a pleasure to get nominated because there are so many people within the center that could have won."

"I'm glad that someone

thought enough of me to nominate me because that means I must be doing something right," Carstarphen said. "But there are a lot of other people that do just as good as I do."

Carstarphen, a senior operator and trainer, usually handles fire calls, but will also lend a hand with armed robberies, shootings, burglaries, cardiac arrests and even stomach pains.

"Anything that you see going on TV or you see on *First 48* or *CSI*, we do it," Carstarphen said.

The Lower Peachtree, Ala., native said the job "has its good days and it has its bad, when you're dealing with the citizens."

"You may get cursed out on a daily basis but you just got to hold that composure, because you're doing something that's professional," Carstarphen said.

"We have the people that call and it just sounds like what they're saying is so true: 'My house is being broken into,'" Carstarphen said. "They're screaming. They're crying. They're whispering, 'I'm hiding in the closet.' And [the police] get out there and the person's really demented."

"We have stories to tell every day," said Carstar-

phen, who handled nearly 10,000 calls last year.

Carstarphen said she was never mean to anyone calling E-911 when she was dealing with breast cancer.

"I'm always pleasant because that's the way I was raised," Carstarphen said. "No matter what you got going on outside the door, don't bring it in."

Carstarphen, who has a 16-year-old son and a 25-year-old daughter, said she likes helping people through her job.

"I'm a people person and I'm about helping people," Carstarphen said. "This is a job that you help people more than anything, I think. I feel like I'm doing what I was called to do."



Zombie Attack Event

PG-13 event

Ticket cost: \$20.00



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The Newslady

iPads over we-people



by Steen Miles

America lost two titans Oct. 5 with the passing of civil rights icon Rev. **Fred Shuttlesworth** and Apple creator **Steve Jobs**. Both helped change the landscape of our human interaction—Rev. Shuttlesworth through the battle for civil rights and Jobs through the use of technology and the computer.

Both men etched indelible imprints on the fabric of our lives. The impact of the modern Civil Rights Movement reverberated all over the world. Rev. Shuttlesworth along with Dr. **King** was a founder of the SCLC

and once served as its president. The non-violent strategy of Rev. Shuttlesworth and others in the “movement” reverberated all over the world and even helped bring down the Berlin Wall where Germans locked arms and sang *We Shall Overcome*. Jobs’ iPhone, iPad, iPod, iMac and iTunes innovations have forever changed the way the world consumes media. But technology trumped people in the deaths of these two giants.

In the news media the importance of a story is readily determined by its placement, treatment and frequency. Is it the lead or first story in the newscast? That’s placement. Does a reporter do the story or is it merely a voice over with the anchor talking over pictures? That’s treatment. How often does the story run? That’s frequency. Rev. Shuttlesworth’s passing was a prominent story, but not a lead. Jobs’ passing was a two-day lead story, making it patently clear that to mainstream news media, Jobs’ passing was of

greater import than Rev. Shuttlesworth’s demise.

It is important to note that this observation is just that and not an indictment—just food for thought. We as a nation seemingly place a greater premium on things over people. The mastermind of the greatest revolution in personal computers is certainly worthy of the press he is given, especially when he fought so valiantly against the killer cancer and succumbed at such a young age. But one of the brave cornerstones of the modern Civil Rights Movement transitioning even at the ripe old age of 89 should be given equal treatment. For the sake of balance, it would seem that both were deserving of equal press but that would be an ideal world which doesn’t yet exist.

President **Obama** rightly called Jobs one of America’s greatest innovators who was “brave enough to think differently, bold enough to believe he could change the world and

talented enough to do it.” And of Rev. Shuttlesworth the president said, “He dedicated his life to advancing the cause of justice for all Americans. He was a testament to the strength of the human spirit. And today we stand on his shoulders, and the shoulders of all those who marched and sat and lifted their voices to help perfect our union. America owes Rev. Shuttlesworth a debt of gratitude.”

Both Jobs and Rev. Shuttlesworth were bright stars in the galaxy. The work of both men will live on well beyond our memories. That is why it is so vital that the record speak clearly and equitably of two titans who died on the same day. One championed the cause of *human* rights and dignity, the other whose *technological* creations have no equal.

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

Guest Editorial

To change DeKalb School Board, we must keep e-SPLOST

by Carla Roberts, M.D., Ph.D.

In November DeKalb voters will be asked to reapprove a 1-cent sales tax for the construction and capital improvements to school buildings across the entire county. This is not a tax increase; the education Special Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) is how DeKalb County Schools has funded school construction since 1996—when the SPLOST was first approved by the voters. It has been approved three times, and funded 22 new schools, 22 major renovations and dozens of capital renewal projects. SPLOST funds have also been used to improve technology in the classrooms to keep our students learning in a 21st century environment.

The Education SPLOST (e-SPLOST) is currently the only permanent funding mechanism for school improvement and construction in DeKalb County, and it has several advantages. First, SPLOST funds, by law, are required to be

spent only on those projects outlined in the project list, which is available for public inspection.

There is no discretion by members of the Board of Education to redirect e-SPLOST funds for anything other than projects enumerated on the list. Property taxes levied by the Board of Education, however, can be used for whatever the board decides.

Secondly, e-SPLOST revenue is generated by sales taxes in DeKalb—including tourists, visitors and shoppers from other counties, which helps ease the burden of property taxes on DeKalb homeowners. Between 35 and 40 percent of all SPLOST revenue is generated by people who spend their money in DeKalb County, but who do not live here. That’s money that DeKalb taxpayers don’t have to pay. To generate an equivalent amount of revenue using property taxes, the board would have to increase property tax rates by more than two mills. DeKalb homeowners

and property taxpayers have seen property tax increases already this year, and shouldn’t be required to pay even more than they already are.

DeKalb is unique among counties in Georgia in that we have an additional \$2,500 added to the standard homestead exemption on our property taxes, (an exemption that’s 25 percent higher than any other county in Georgia)—but only as long as a sales tax for education is in place. If DeKalb’s e-SPLOST is not renewed, that exemption goes away, and property taxes go up automatically, even if the board doesn’t raise the millage rate at all.

Many parents, myself included, have expressed deep concern about the operations of the Board of Education, which seems prone to infighting and bickering. This year, State Rep. **Mike Jacobs** wrote and passed legislation to reduce the number of school board members from nine to seven. This is an important step in making the board more efficient and functional, and I applaud Rep. Jacobs’ good work at reforming the school board. But as written, the e-SPLOST must be

in place to cut the school board from nine members to seven. If the e-SPLOST is not renewed, DeKalb County will keep exactly the board it currently has.

A robust school system helps keep DeKalb County attractive to families and businesses and is the primary driver of property values. Keeping the e-SPLOST in place will help keep DeKalb property values high and prevent more property tax hikes. It will allow DeKalb County to keep our 25 percent extra homestead exemption, and it funds schools with revenue from anyone who shops here, rather than only taxing those who live here. Renewing SPLOST this November will also reduce the number of board members from nine to seven.

It may be tempting, in a down economy, to throw in the towel and stay home on Nov. 8. But to allow the e-SPLOST to go away would hurt homeowners, hurt students, raise property taxes and keep the current board exactly as it is. We all need to vote to keep the e-SPLOST.

Dr. Roberts co-chairs the Friends of DeKalb Education.



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One Man's Opinion

A super welcome for our new superintendent



"My husband asked as we were packing for this move, 'Are we bringing along this old typewriter?' My son said, 'What's a typewriter.' The typewriter stayed in Lorain."

— Dr. Cheryl Atkinson, DeKalb County's new superintendent of schools during a meeting with DeKalb business leaders and her second week on the job.

Our new DeKalb Schools superintendent, Dr. Cheryl Atkinson, made quite a favorable first impression on the DeKalb Chamber and business community during her debut luncheon on Monday, Oct. 3, at the Crowne Plaza Ravinia.

Most recently superintendent of Lorain City Schools in Ohio, Atkinson has had along and successful career in education administration in Kansas City, Mo., as well as Charlotte-Mecklenburg County Schools in North Carolina. She was

also selected as a finalist for the new superintendent slot for Atlanta Public Schools.

Though short in stature, Dr. Atkinson is long on energy, perseverance and drive. She has set an early goal of visiting each and every one of DeKalb's 137 schools during her first 90 days on the job. This was day 14, and she had already visited 41 campuses.

She reminded the audience—in light of recent focus on standardized test scores here and around the corner—that we should perhaps instead be focusing on the children around the world who will compete with our own for the jobs of tomorrow. She noted that there are now more proficient English-speaking students labeled "gifted" in classrooms in India than we have school-aged children in the entire United States.

Dr. Atkinson spoke of the importance of early intervention, and education never being too early. In addition to making more progress in pre-K, Atkinson noted in her post-speech remarks that DeKalb might pilot a program to work with mothers and at-risk children as young as 6 months. The sooner we begin, she clearly believes, the better our results will be.

"While I think it is wonderful that our nation can send \$100 laptops to children in developing

parts of the world, I worry that our children are still lugging textbooks and book bags. Textbooks are big business, but so are e-books and e-learning," said a superintendent who appears comfortable challenging the status quo.

Dr. Atkinson shared that her son who's unfamiliar with typewriters is also her on-site technical support for her iPhone.

"These kids can do way more than we can with a laptop, computer or even a smart phone. We can't run and hide from the Internet. We need to race to embrace the tools and technology of today, to help better train them for the jobs of tomorrow, which don't even exist yet today," Atkinson said.

As a product of DeKalb Public Schools, I want to help her return our system to its former days of glory, as well as acknowledge the challenges of limited resources and stretched taxpayers which exist today. Knowing that our new superintendent will not be afraid to make the case, or seek out new partnerships, alliances and even re-make DeKalb County Schools again into an innovator and catalyst in public education gives me new hope for our schools.

"Who of us is going to step up for the 90,000 DeKalb County schoolchildren? If not now, then

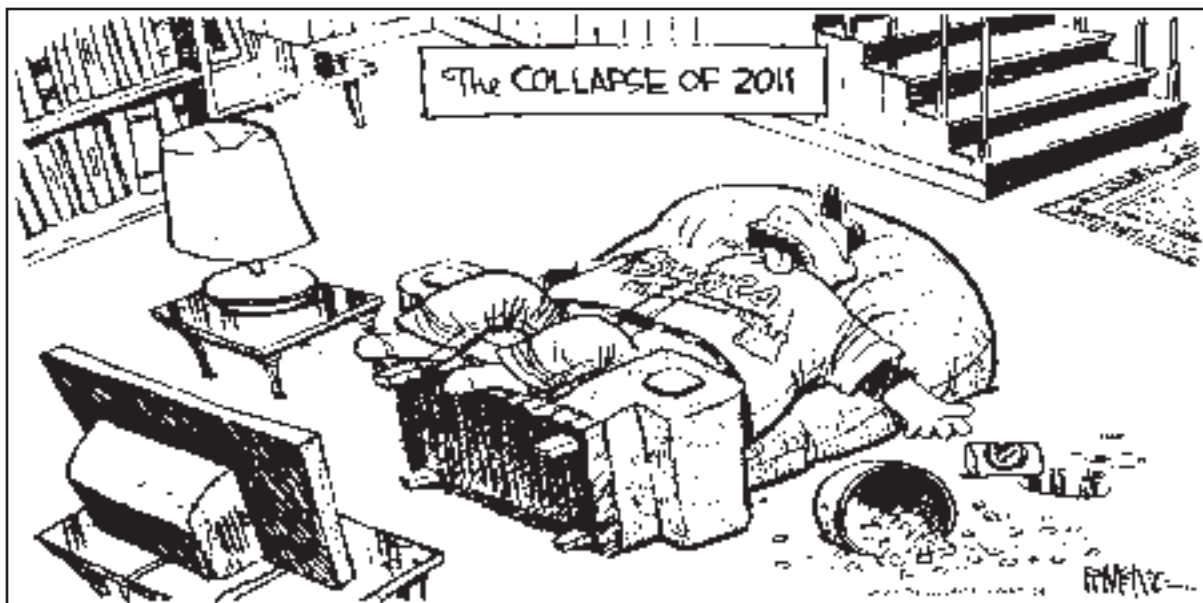
when? If not here, then where? If not you, then who?" Atkinson challenged her audience.

I also want to again give a tip of the hat to former acting Superintendent **Ramona Tyson**, who took on the less than enviable task of cleaning up after elephants when the circus has been in town. Tyson ably did her job, and set the stage well for a turnaround, which Dr. Atkinson can now lead, with Tyson remaining in the system and on her leadership team.

About two weeks earlier, Dr. **Eugene Walker**, an at-large member of the school board and longtime family friend, introduced me to our new super. It was clear to see in Doc's eyes the pride and faith he has in the selection and decision made by an often-divided DeKalb School board to select Dr. Atkinson by a solid majority.

Dr. Atkinson worked the room that night of several hundred community, civic and business leaders in just over an hour, and then went on to her next appointment of the evening. If nothing else, we certainly already know with this superintendent, if our community and business don't get on board in supporting our children and our schools, it will not be for lack of outreach or being asked.

Go get 'em, Dr. A!



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Gridlock and Bedlam

It's scary, but I'm starting to agree with my pessimist friend

by Donald Kaul
Columnist



My friend **Richard** is a little crazy and very smart. He spends his days filling the Internet with screeds and rants on his favorite subject—the continuing collapse of our society. I'd tell you his last name, but if you wrote him, you'd get his scary e-mails too.

Here's an excerpt from a recent effort after the stock market had a bad-hair day.

"As I've said all along, it's Depression II. The stock market is catching on. Dow is down 4.5 percent today. Has a long way to go (down) to get to a reasonable value considering the fundamentals...Corrupt and disintegrating governmental systems here and in England. Gridlock. Incompetence everywhere..."

Did I mention that he is an angry old man? He seems to have caught the zeitgeist, however: that vague feeling of terror caused by being at the mercy of mysterious forces we can't control.

To scroll through a good newspaper (there are still a few) is to be confronted with one horror story after another.

If the "Arab Spring" isn't threatening to go sour on us, the Israelis and Palestinians are making rude Italian gestures at each other in the United Nations. Every time the Greek government blows its nose, financial markets throughout the Western world get pneumonia. Pakistan's military is preparing its country for war, quite possibly with us — even though we supply them with weapons and money. Every other month or so Congress goes to the brink of shutting down

the government and with it the economy, which is already dead in the water and sinking, slowly.

In 18th-century London people used to go to Bedlam, the city's mental institution, to amuse themselves by gawking at the insane, sometimes paying a penny for a special peek. Today we watch Republican presidential debates.

So far we have heard cheers for both executions and America's shortage of health insurance. There have been boos for a soldier who served in Iraq because he was gay. During each of those appalling moments, no candidate raised his or her voice in protest.

We have seen **Mitt Romney** and **Rick Perry** back away from their most noble achievements as governors simply to appease the unappeasable.

We have witnessed **Michele Bachmann** make a fool of herself time after time with no one, apparently, noticing.

What an awful bunch. It's like an early round of *American Idol*. I suppose Romney is the least worst of them. If elected, he's likely to abandon his current positions as readily as he did most of his previous positions.

Barack Obama has been no great prize either. He holds his great achievements—the health care bill and the rescue of the auto industry—at arm's length, as though he doesn't want them to stain his suit.

The world has begun the fourth year of a financial crisis with no end in sight. Our leaders not only don't have the answers; they don't seem to know the questions.

I don't agree with everything my friend Richard says, but I'm beginning to share his rising sense of panic.

OtherWords columnist Donald Kaul lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan.
<http://otherwords.org>



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

Proposed Clifton corridor rail project targeted for cuts

I try not to be cynical, but I don't see any of these projects ever coming to fruition. I have been working on these Clifton Corridor and South Dekalb transportation proposals for over 30 years and I still don't see anything to show for such efforts. This latest round just looks like more of the same - always funding issues, somebody throwing in the race card, threats of litigation, and then it will die away due to waning interest only to be resurrected by some other group again. It is an endless cycle.

—Thompson posted this on 10/7/11 at 2:20 p.m.

Residents say new code enforcement ordinance not strong enough

On your computer Google the: Georgia State Study on DeKalb County.

Read the study !

Vote !

DeKalb County once a Model County = Now, what ain't broken is bent !Who is to blame ? You or The Board of Commissioners and Burrell Ellis ?

— No1Safe N DeKalb posted this on 10/8/11 at 9:30 p.m.

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Transportation tax project list expected Oct. 13

by Andrew Cauthen
andrew@dekalbchamp.com

After months of planning, rallying and political maneuvering, DeKalb County residents will learn which projects will be on the 2012 transportation referendum.

The Atlanta Regional Transportation Roundtable is required to decide on Oct. 13 which projects will go to voters in the 10-county metropolitan Atlanta region.

Enacted last year by Georgia's legislature, the Transportation Investment Act (TIA) provides for regional referendums in 2012. Voters will decide whether they want to pay a penny-sales tax to fund various transportation projects including transit, roadway safety, and bicycle and pedestrian improvements.

In DeKalb County, many residents have held rallies and meetings designed to urge transportation roundtable members to include on the list of proposed projects a plan to build a heavy rail system from the Indian Creek MARTA station to Stonecrest Mall in Lithonia.

As of Oct. 7, approxi-

mately 300 supporters of the I-20 project had signed an online petition asking the transportation roundtable to fully fund the project.

"If any counties deserve the rail, DeKalb should be at the top of the list," wrote **Carolyn Green** of Decatur, on the petition. "We have been paying for it for over 30 years."

"I believe that the residents of south DeKalb have earned the right to this choice as seasoned investors through the first penny sales tax already contributed," wrote another resident, **Sandy Johnson** of Decatur.

"Additionally, the investment already made in the Wesley Chapel LCI and others would strongly suggest from authoritative sources that a rail line is vital to the success and sustainable growth in this part of the county," Johnson stated.

Decatur resident **Sandra Morgan** wrote, "Common sense and a blind person ought to see that there is money to be made and benefits to be attained from installing rail service along the I-20 corridor."

The petition was started by DeKalb Commissioner **Larry Johnson**, who has

been at the forefront of the push for the I-20 rail project. Johnson said south DeKalb residents think the transportation tax would be unfair without the I-20 project.

"You can't ask a group of people who invested 30 years of money and made the \$6 billion [MARTA] system the ninth-largest transportation system in the country to pay an additional penny but then say, 'you can keep getting the bus,'" Johnson said.

DeKalb County CEO **Burrell Ellis**, who, along with Decatur Mayor **Bill Floyd**, represents the county on the roundtable, said his goal is to increase regional funding for transit.

Ellis said he would like 60 percent of the revenues from the proposed transportation tax to go toward transit systems.

"We're trying to move toward equitable funding," Ellis said. "We need transit projects to get to a place where we have a regional transportation plan. That's the only way we're really going to accomplish our goals of alleviating congestion, improving air quality and improving economic growth within the region."



Champion of the Week

William E. Wright Sr.



William E. Wright Sr.

happened upon the office of disAbility Link in Decatur early in 2010 when he was on his way to a Veterans Administration clinic. He inquired about volunteer opportunities and has been helping to improve the lives of disabled residents since.

He began by helping with employment workshops and taught attendees how to write resumes, how to prepare for job interviews and how to ask questions at interviews, among other things.

Wright, a disabled veteran who served four years in Vietnam, draws on his time in the military and from 34 years as a public servant working in the federal government. He worked for the Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Customs and retired from Housing and Urban Development in 2007. Two years later Wright moved to Stone Mountain and soon after found his calling with disAbility Link.

In an effort to help other disabled veterans, Wright created for disAbility Link the Right Flank March program, a workshop to help veterans acclimate themselves into society.

"The single objective is to create an environ-

ment where veterans with disabilities may gain or enhance personal tools to improve their independent living experiences," Wright said.

"Being a veteran with multiple disabilities myself, I feel the pain of other veterans and know the isolations of persons with disabilities," Wright said. "Sometimes they think they have nothing more to contribute. We need to wake up that spirit and get them into the role of being a positive and productive citizen."

The five-week workshop, which consists of one class per week, promotes self sufficiency and covers communication skills, social media, finances, diversity and other topics. The first workshop was held in March and another session is set for later this month.

"After the classes, they're pretty fired up. It's self-motivating," Wright said.

Also, Wright does peer support training and visits veterans at the VA Hospital on Clairmont Road.

In addition to his work with disAbility Link, Wright volunteers at his church, Stone Mountain First United Methodist. He teaches adult Sunday School classes and is a member of the church council.

Also, Wright recently was named vice president for the Sunrise Service Association, a newly formed organization of churches responsible for planning and conducting Easter sunrise services at Stone Mountain Park. The service has been a mainstay at the park for more than 60 years and has drawn thousands of visitors.

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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.



Since 1964, the DeKalb Symphony Orchestra has been bringing classical and contemporary music to the residents of DeKalb County. Photos provided

DeKalb Symphony largely volunteer based

by Daniel Beauregard
daniel@dekalbchamp.com

In the 1970s, **Joel Margolies** was a professional musician playing French horn in the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra. In 1975 he decided he wanted to pursue a career as a chiropractor and he put his horn away.

Throughout the three years when Margolies was studying to become a chiropractor, he said he didn't touch his horn. Then, he picked up a *Creative Loafing* and read that the DeKalb Symphony Orchestra (DSO) was holding auditions.

Margolies said he took his horn out of its case, made sure the valves didn't stick and auditioned in front of then-orchestra manager **Tom Anderson** with the preface, "It has been three years since I last played." That was 25 years ago.

"I gave it a shot. I'm one of those that don't get paid. Most of the folks are community people," Margolies said.

Since 1964, the DSO has been performing concerts with both contemporary and symphonic repertoire. Only 12 of the 85 members get paid a small stipend, the rest are volunteers from the community.

"We rehearse about three hours a week and then we do eight hours of rehearsals before the concert. It's mostly practicing in between that takes up the most time," Margolies said.

Margolies said that he liked that fact the DSO is a community orchestra. Twice a year it performs two free concerts—a children's concert in January and a concert on the Decatur

Square in June—and he said that it's always a really positive thing for the community.

"We do our best to offer the community a broad spectrum of classical music. We need to get some younger folks in there though. This is one of the few professional groups that play in the city," he said.

Margolies said over the past several years, the orchestra has been revitalized by its conductor **Fyodor Cherniavsky**.

"Fyodor brought a different perspective to the orchestra and a new musicality," Margolies said, pointing to the orchestra's most recent performance as evidence.

On the opening night of DSO's season, the orchestra played a variety of music, including a lesser-known violin concerto by Russian **Dmitri Kabalevsky**, which featured Atlanta Opera Concertmaster **Peter Ciaschini** on violin. It also performed **Modest Mussorgsky's** piece *Night on Bald Mountain*.

"It's a little bit like putting together a recipe or a meal; there's an appetizer and a main course," Cherniavsky said about the program.

Cherniavsky, who has been conductor and musical director for six years, said he has seen the orchestra grow during his tenure as he introduced music more technically difficult and obscure.

"If you're an orchestra builder you're seeking pieces which enable the orchestra to grow both artistically and technically. With a community orchestra it's a real challenge because it has to be music within their means technically but you

also have to think of the audience," Cherniavsky said.

A fan of modern and contemporary music, Cherniavsky said that when creating a program he must balance the more cutting edge music with familiar classics.

"I have to really think about the audience that is supporting us," he said.

Another DSO veteran, **James Baugher**, has been playing violin in the orchestra for the past 20 years. Baugher was looking for symphonies in DeKalb and stumbled across an ad for the DSO. He called orchestra manager **Rick Rodgers** for an audition.

"I love my friends that are in the orchestra and I particularly appreciate the challenge that Fyodor gives us musically," Baugher said.

Baugher, who studied music throughout grade school and college, now owns a woodworks and remodeling company in DeKalb. He said he averages approximately 200 hours of rehearsal time each year. However, he said that time doubles with the amount of practice required.

"It's one of the priorities in my life and I believe that we are sorely lacking in the arts. Being able to make it available to the residents in DeKalb County is pretty phenomenal," Baugher said.

Baugher said that he's never gotten tired of it and he enjoys the different venues the DSO plays. His wife doesn't mind, he said with a laugh.

"I plan to continue to do it until I can't. My wife fully supports it and attends almost every concert," he said.



Violinist James Baugher, Conductor and Musical Director Fyodor Cherniavsky and French Horn Player Joel Margolies. Both Baugher and Margolies have been volunteering with the orchestra for 20 years or more.



CALL FOR AND NOTICE OF CITY OF DUNWOODY, GEORGIA
NOVEMBER 8, 2011 BOND ELECTION

TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE CITY OF DUNWOODY, GEORGIA:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that on the 8th day of November, 2011, an election will be held in the City of Dunwoody, Georgia (the “City”) at which time there will be submitted to the qualified voters of the City for their determination the question of whether or not City of Dunwoody General Obligation Bonds in one or more series (the “Bonds”), payable from the levy of a tax, resulting from an increase in the millage rate imposed on all property subject to ad valorem taxation within the territorial limits of the City, shall be issued by City in the aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$33,000,000 for the acquisition and remediation of land to be used for parks and greenspace and the costs associated therewith (“Land Acquisition Project”).

The Bonds relating to the Land Acquisition Project, if approved by the voters, may be issued in whole or in part in one or more series in the aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$33,000,000, and would bear interest at a rate or rates not to exceed 7.0% per annum, payable semiannually until paid. Such Bonds, if approved by the voters, shall mature or have principal payable in the years and the principal amounts as follows:

Year	Principal Amount		Year	Principal Amount		Year	Principal Amount		Year	Principal Amount		Year	Principal Amount
2012	-												
2013	645,000.00		2019	720,000.00		2025	885,000.00		2031	1,150,000.00		2037	1,540,000.00
2014	655,000.00		2020	740,000.00		2026	925,000.00		2032	1,205,000.00		2038	1,625,000.00
2015	665,000.00		2021	765,000.00		2027	960,000.00		2033	1,265,000.00		2039	1,710,000.00
2016	675,000.00		2022	790,000.00		2028	1,005,000.00		2034	1,325,000.00		2040	1,795,000.00
2017	690,000.00		2023	820,000.00		2029	1,050,000.00		2035	1,395,000.00		2041	1,890,000.00
2018	705,000.00		2024	850,000.00		2030	1,100,000.00		2036	1,465,000.00		2042	1,990,000.00

The Bonds, if approved by the voters, shall contain such other provisions for redemption, registration and other matters as may be specified by the City in a subsequent resolution or ordinance.

If the Bonds are authorized by the requisite number of qualified voters, then the City shall levy, a tax, resulting from an increase in the millage rate imposed on all property subject to ad valorem taxation within the territorial limits of the City in sufficient amount to pay the principal of and interest on said Bonds and their respective maturities and the proceeds of such Bonds shall be held by the City separate and apart from all other of its funds and shall be used by the City for the purposes and to accomplish the undertakings hereinabove set forth.

The ballots to be used at said election shall have written or printed thereon substantially the following:

YES	[]	Shall land be acquired and remediated for parks and greenspace by the City of Dunwoody through the issuance of general obligation bonds in the amount of \$33,000,000?
NO	[]	

The regular places for holding said election shall be at the regular and established voting precincts and election districts of DeKalb County, Georgia within the City and the polls shall be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the date fixed for the election.

Those residents qualified to vote at said election shall be determined in all respects in accordance with the election laws of the State of Georgia.

THE CITY WILL NOT CONDUCT ANY PERFORMANCE AUDIT OR PERFORMANCE REVIEW WITH RESPECT TO THE BONDS AS SUCH TERMS ARE DESCRIBED IN SECTION 36-82-100, OFFICIAL CODE OF GEORGIA ANNOTATED.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 36-82-1(d) of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, any brochures, listings or other advertisements relating to the Bonds issued with the knowledge and consent of the City, as evidenced by a resolution adopted by the City, will be deemed to be a statement of intention of the City concerning the use of the bond funds.

This notice is given pursuant to a resolution of the City adopted on July 25th, 2011.

CITY OF DUNWOODY, GEORGIA
By: Ken Wright, Mayor
By: Sharon Lowery
Clerk of the City of Dunwoody,
Georgia, as Municipal Election Superintendent

CALL FOR AND NOTICE OF CITY OF DUNWOODY, GEORGIA
NOVEMBER 8, 2011 BOND ELECTION

TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE CITY OF DUNWOODY, GEORGIA:

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The Bonds relating to the Parks Project (the “Park Bonds”), if approved by the voters, may be issued in whole or in part in one or more series in the aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$33,000,000, and would bear interest at a rate or rates not to exceed 7.0% per annum, payable semiannually until paid. Such Bonds, if approved by the voters, shall mature or have principal payable in the years and the principal amounts as follows:

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2018	705,000.00		2024	850,000.00		2030	1,100,000.00		2036	1,465,000.00		2042	1,990,000.00

The Bonds, if approved by the voters, shall contain such other provisions for redemption, registration and other matters as may be specified by the City in a subsequent resolution or ordinance.

If the Bonds are authorized by the requisite number of qualified voters, then the City shall levy, a tax, resulting from an increase in the millage rate imposed on all property subject to ad valorem taxation within the territorial limits of the City in sufficient amount to pay the principal of and interest on said Bonds and their respective maturities and the proceeds of such Bonds shall be held by the City separate and apart from all other of its funds and shall be used by the City for the purposes and to accomplish the undertakings hereinabove set forth.

The ballots to be used at said election shall have written or printed thereon substantially the following:

YES	[]	Shall the park system of the City of Dunwoody be improved by the issuance of general obligation bonds in the amount of \$33,000,000?
NO	[]	

The regular places for holding said election shall be at the regular and established voting precincts and election districts of DeKalb County, Georgia within the City and the polls shall be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the date fixed for the election.

Those residents qualified to vote at said election shall be determined in all respects in accordance with the election laws of the State of Georgia.

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CITY OF DUNWOODY, GEORGIA
By: Ken Wright, Mayor
By: Sharon Lowery
Clerk of the City of Dunwoody,
Georgia, as Municipal Election Superintendent

Decatur schools rolls out five-year plan to better serve students, teachers and increase efficiency

by Daniel Beauregard
daniel@dekalbchamp.com

In 2008 Lt. Gov. **Casey Cagle** created a bill in the Georgia Legislature that would allow the creation of charter school systems in Georgia, and City Schools of Decatur decided to take a risk and seize the opportunity.

Associate Superintendent **Thomas Van Soelen** said that by doing this, the CSD Board of Education was taking a gamble.

"In this case we said, 'Let's be one of the first through the door,' and in many ways we took a risk because there was some decision making the board would give up," Van Soelen said.

Van Soelen said now each school has a governance team that allows them and the board to share responsibility in running the school.

"With that flexibility [CSD] can set accountability standards above No Child Left Behind [the federally mandated student assessment system]," Van Soelen said.

Recently, CSD unveiled a new strategic plan to address what it hoped to accomplish in the next five years. Several of the items in the new plan include a new evaluation system for all CSD employees, rewarding high-performing teachers and implementing pilot programs to increase efficiency.

Van Soelen said CSD will use

its teacher-evaluations system as a template to evaluate other positions such as cafeteria employees or administrative positions.

"We've now moved to a system based in rubrics and those are descriptions in practice," Van Soelen said. He explained that throughout the year, each teacher is observed by five different people, only one of them their primary observer at the school where they are employed.

"All of the people that do the observing have to agree on what they see. Now, we need to look at other groups and apply what we learned across the board," Van Soelen said.

According to Van Soelen, the system is also interested in perfor-

mance-based pay, which would allow teachers to be evaluated on levels of student success and be paid according to those results.

"We actually have an assessment that allows us to measure growth, because our students take the MAP test. But, that is very much in the infant stages," Van Soelen said.

The plan, which is available on the system's website, also states an objective to "design and implement pilot studies to test proposed practices or selectively abandon current practices for more impact and better results."

Van Soelen said the school system is looking for ways to increase efficiency. Although it is a small system, he said the way schools

See Schools on Page 11A

NEWS BRIEFS

Former police officer indicted on vehicular homicide charges

A former DeKalb County police officer was indicted Oct. 4 by the DeKalb County grand jury on charges of vehicular homicide (two counts), reckless driving and violation of oath by public officer. **Kristina Hambie**, 25, allegedly was traveling faster than 30 mph over the posted speed limit in Avondale Estates when her police car stuck another vehicle. **Cheryl Blount Burton**, 51, and **Shelley Amos**, 56, were killed in the crash. The incident occurred Feb. 19 at the intersection of Kensington Road and Covington Highway.

Hambie was on duty at the time of the incident. She is no longer employed by DeKalb County Police Department.

Man arrested after biting police officer

A man who ran into the westbound lanes of I-285 at Ashford Dunwoody Road on Oct. 4 faces aggravated assault charges after biting a police officer who was trying to restrain him, according to a Dunwoody Police spokesman.

Police officers from the Dunwoody and Sandy Springs police departments tried to restrain 22-year-old **Andrew Thelwell** of Conyers, who was barefoot, wearing a torn shirt and carrying a stick. He resisted and bit a Sandy Springs officer before being Tasered by a Dunwoody officer, police said. Thelwell was arrested and taken to Grady Hospital. The officer who was bitten was treated for his injury and released, according to police.

Two dates set for Great DeKalb Cleanup

The Great DeKalb Cleanup returns for two events this month. The first cleanup will be held Saturday, Oct. 15 at the old Community Development Office at 1807 Candler Road in Decatur. Another will be held the following Saturday, Oct. 22, at the flea market at 45245 Glenwood Road near I-285.

The cleanup is designed to have a maximum level of impact on the worst affected areas by encouraging the involvement of neighborhood associations and the community in policing and maintaining these areas in the future. County employees and community service workers will document and remove illegally posted signs in the right-of-ways, remove litter including tires and grocery carts, conduct MARTA bus stop maintenance and clear the roadway of old Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) materials.

Both cleanups begin at 9 a.m. The Oct. 15 cleanup will focus on Columbia Road and Memorial Drive to Candler Road, and Columbia and Glenwood roads to Candler Road. The Oct. 22 project will focus on Covington Highway, Glenwood Road and W. Austin Drive.

Officers patrolling Stone Mountain CID district

Uniformed public safety professionals are patrolling areas daily represented by the Stone Mountain Community Improvement District (CID).

The CID recently contracted with Plaza Security LLC to provide coverage during the evening hours. The CID has also arranged for off-duty DeKalb County Police officers to patrol the area, creating a combined, daily public safety presence.

"We are committed to the mission of the Stone Mountain CID to reduce crime in the area through police patrols, enforcement efforts and forming a strong partnership with our CID business community," said DeKalb County Police Major **P. H. White**.

Plaza Security officers will use a special patrol vehicle that includes logos and other indications that they work on behalf of the Stone Mountain CID. In addition to the security patrols, CID staff and board members work in close cooperation with DeKalb County Police to quickly address any problem areas.

Seminar offers tips for small businesses

Lithonia business attorney **Dar'shun N. Kendrick**, owner of Kendrick Law Practice will present a free Brown Bag Seminar, "Ten Tips for Small Business Success," at the DeKalb Maloof Center Auditorium, Thursday, Oct. 20, 12:30-2 p.m. During this seminar, attendees can learn the valuable resources and top ten tips to business success, including legal and practical business advice.

Brown Bag Seminars are sponsored monthly by the DeKalb County Office of Contracting and Compliance is free and open to the public. Those attending can bring a bag lunch (dessert and beverages provided). "I am thankful DeKalb County realizes the importance in providing these services and seminars to small business owners, who are the backbone of the American economy. My residence and my firm are located in this county for that very reason," Kendrick said. Kendrick Law Practice is a boutique law firm practicing business law exclusively for Georgia small business owners. Those interested in attending the seminar, should visit <http://october2011brownbag.eventbrite.com>. The Maloof Auditorium is located at 1300 Commerce Drive, Decatur.

Clarkston leaders focus on preventing crimes against refugees

by Andrew Cauthen
andrew@dekalbchamp.com

Refugees and immigrants living in Clarkston are considered easy prey by criminals, said the city's police chief during a recent meeting about crime prevention.

"All of our violent crimes that we've dealt with in the past five years have been [by people] from southwest and southeast Atlanta," said Clarkston Police Chief **Tony Scipio** to a group of apartment managers, refugees and community leaders who want to reduce the crimes against refugees and immigrants.

"What we're finding out from interviewing these suspects and perpetrators is that all eyes are on Clarkston because of the large influx of refugees and immigrants," Scipio said. "They are easily preyed [upon]."

Scipio said that 69 percent of the crimes within the city limits are committed by nonresidents, many

of whom live in the city of Atlanta.

Many criminals "plan their crime; they look at the area, they watch what you do every day," Scipio said. "If you are not aware of your surroundings and your environment, and if you are not taking the necessary precautions, then eventually you're going to become a victim, especially late at night."

Scipio said many of the victims in Clarkston during the past three months were out late at night, small in stature and carrying large sums of money.

Scipio's comments were part of a meeting during which Clarkston community leaders met with Clarkston and DeKalb law enforcement officials to discuss crime prevention in the city.

"Each of you represents a key piece in trying to solve the crime and safety issues that we're all facing," **Susan Pavlin**, director of policy for Refugee Family Service,

es, told the group.

Officer **K.C. Payton** said that when residents do not care about their communities, "criminals will recognize that and they will move in and set up shop."

"If you see any litterers, call 911," Payton said. "If you see anybody that doesn't belong in the community, call 911. If you have abandoned houses or abandoned cars, call code enforcement."

Payton said criminals use tall hedges around houses to their advantage.

"Criminals can conceal themselves and actually work on your doors and go inside and go shopping, come out and nobody's seen anything," Payton said. "Don't give a way for criminals to conceal themselves and thrive in your communities."

Tonaya Moss, a public education specialist with the DeKalb Police Department, said communication is a key to preventing crimes.

"Communicate with the police," Moss said. "If they don't know what's going on in your community they're not going to show up. The communication starts with the residents."

Because most neighborhoods do not have police officers living in them, residents must take on the responsibility of monitoring their own communities, Moss said.

"The residents see the incidents first," Moss said. "They hear it. They see it. But the next step is to call 911."

October is Crime Prevention Month in DeKalb County and Moss encouraged the group to set up neighborhood watch programs.

"You need a team of people to be nosy neighbors with you," Moss said. "We know there's crime. Without your help it's not going away."

Schools

Continued From Page 10A

are physically located throughout Decatur can pose some problems, one being transportation.

"We have about 40 percent ridership," he said.

CSD doesn't own the buses it uses to transport students; they are leased from DeKalb County Schools.

"One thing we want to study in this strategic plan is if this is the best way to do things. We really want to beef up the walkability and develop better paths to school," Van Soelen said.

Van Soelen also pointed out a fact he thinks not many people know that CSD hopes to improve with its new plan.

"We only have three kitchens in the system where food is prepared. For the rest of the schools, food is prepared in advance and then transported to the school," Van Soelen said.

Police searching for hit-and-run driver

DeKalb Police are searching for a dark-colored BMW in connection with a hit-and-run on I-85 that left one person dead.

William Kear, 61, was killed when he was hit by a car as he ran across the northbound lanes after checking on a motorist who was involved in an accident in the HOV lane, according to police spokeswoman Lt.

Pam Kunz. Kear had been changing a tire on his own car on the right shoulder when he saw the accident across the highway and ran to help.

The incident happened at approximately 5:30 a.m. on Oct. 8, according to police.

The driver of the car that hit Kear did not stop. Kear was taken to an area hospital and later died,

Kunz said.

Based on evidence recovered at the scene of the accident, detectives are searching for a 300 series BMW made in the 1990s, police said. According to police, the vehicle is navy blue and should have moderate damage to the area of the front right grille, headlight and possibly hood and windshield.

Anyone with any information of a vehicle matching this description is asked to contact the Traffic Specialist Unit at (770) 724-7610.

CITY OF DUNWOODY PUBLIC NOTICE OF ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that on November 8, 2011, in conjunction with the General Municipal Election, there shall be conducted in the City of Dunwoody, Georgia an election for the purpose of submitting the question of Sunday package sales by retailers of malt beverage, wine, and distilled spirits in the City of Dunwoody to the electors of the City of Dunwoody for approval or rejection. The ballot shall have written or printed thereon the words:

- () Yes Shall the governing authority of the City of Dunwoody, Georgia be authorized to permit and regulate package sales by retailers of malt beverages, wine and distilled spirits on Sundays between the hours of 12:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m.?
- () No

This notice is given pursuant to a resolution of the City adopted on June 20th, 2011.

CITY OF DUNWOODY,
GEORGIA
By: Sharon Lowery
Municipal Elections Superintendent



www.MyPigeonForge.com

Community

**YARD
SALE**

TIME 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

November 5th - Decatur

Storage World

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To participate please call

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This is a great opportunity to sell some unwanted items or to find some bargains.

STORAGE World
Your Storage Headquarters

The **CHAMPION**
Newspaper

Recent DeKalb County Schools SAT scores show improvement but remain below state average

by Daniel Beauregard
daniel@dekalbchamp.com

Recent Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) results from the College Board show most DeKalb County Schools remained relatively stagnant and below the state average in 2011, while Decatur High School scores improved.

Approximately 4,144 DeKalb County School System (DCSS) students took the SAT this past year out of nearly 6,130 graduating students. The system's overall average rose from 1328 to 1334.

According to the Georgia Department of Education (GDOE), the state average dropped from 1453 to 1445 while the national average dropped from 1509 to 1500. However, Chamblee Charter High School, DeKalb School of the Arts and Lakeside High School remained above state and national average.

DCSS spokesman **Walter Woods** said the system

makes an effort to give every student the opportunity to succeed on the SATs.

"We pay for all ninth graders to take the PSAT. At the same time we have an ongoing cooperation with teachers and offer after-school prep courses. I don't think we're showing a drop, which is a good thing that the scores are holding up," Woods said.

Over the past year, the system has also developed a written curriculum and Woods said schools would most likely see a more substantial increase in scores in the years to come. Additionally, students are encouraged to take online prep courses, which are offered throughout the year.

"If a student wants to go to college we encourage those who are on that track to take the test; I think it's up to the students. We want to provide every opportunity for every student and encourage them to look at all their

options. We don't want them to leave something off the table," Woods said.

The recent scores showed Decatur High School seniors scored above state and national averages. Eighty-nine percent of the school's graduating class took the SAT and its average score increased from 1513 to 1518. City Schools of Decatur Assistant Superintendent **Thomas Van Soelen** said that each year approximately 90 percent of the graduating seniors attend two- or four-year colleges.

"They are very multitudinous," Van Soelen said of the annual results. "That's the word we like to use to describe them because we are a very small school system so our data can go up or down."

Decatur High School has several hundred students in comparison to DCSS, which has thousands. Van Soelen said it was much easier to predict annual trends in a larger system.

The school's highest



scores were on the critical reading portion of the test with an average of 516, which is 19 points above the national average and 31 points above Georgia's average. The school's math scores remained at 503 but Van Soelen said that was not

such a bad thing.

"Do we have a trajectory of going up each year? No. But in some ways we weren't sad that our math didn't change when we look at our scores in comparison with the state and national averages," Van Soelen said.



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2011 FALL OPEN HOUSES			
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October 18	Dunwoody	Building NB	5pm-7pm
October 19	Decatur	Building SF	5pm-7pm
October 20	Newton	Building 2N	5pm-7pm
October 24	Alpharetta		5pm-7pm

Visit gpc.edu for more Open House information.

DeKalb seeks moratorium on new cities

by Andrew Cauthen
andrew@dekalbchamp.com

A movement to form a new Brookhaven city may be delayed if the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners gets its way.

The board is considering to ask the state legislature to place a moratorium on annexation and incorporation in DeKalb County to allow an analysis by a committee.

Recent incorporations of Sandy Springs, Johns Creek and Milton in Fulton County, and Dunwoody in DeKalb County have occurred without any consideration to the effect on the remaining unincorporated areas of those counties, said Commissioner **Jeff Rader**, who sponsored the resolution supporting the moratorium.

Often the new incorporations “seem to be formed around a political group” that adds a “tax base that has really nothing to do with their city,” Rader said.

The cities are “not really going at it on their own because they’re relying on a tax base they had no part in creating,” Rader said.

Incorporation needs to be based on some theory of urbanized organization “so we don’t end up with a part of the county that can’t support its basic services,” Rader said.

Rader said he does not necessarily oppose Brookhaven cityhood but “the way it is laid out destabilizes the rest of the county.”

The annexation and incorporation study committee would create standards for evaluating incorporations that include criteria for determining reasonable boundaries for the existing or new cities; an analysis of the tax base within the proposed boundaries of the new city and in the remaining unincorporated areas; an analysis of the impact of widespread annexation or incorporation on the provision of higher level services such as E-911 service, non-basic police services such as aerial support unit, SWAT team, bomb squad unit, intelligence and permits, K-9 division, gang task force, drug task force, and an analysis of alternatives to annexation and incorporation.

The incorporation resolution was one of several resolutions the Board of Commissioners wants the state legislature to consider in the next session, which starts in January.

Another resolution asks the legislature to create a charter commission to re-examine the form of government.

The “delineation of powers between the executive and legislative branches of

DeKalb County government has been an ongoing source of conflict that has impeded the efficiency and effectiveness of the county government,” the resolution states.


DeKalb’s CEO-commission form of government is patterned after the federal government and a strong mayor form of government.

“But it doesn’t have some of the checks and balances that those forms have,” Rader said.

The DeKalb Organizational Act—the state law that directs the county’s form of government—“is not the U. S. Constitution and has quirks and anomalies that cause problems,” Rader said.

Other resolutions passed by the board on Oct. 11 included ones asking for respect by the legislature for the county’s authority to rule itself, a requirement that the county’s CEO establish a

codified purchasing policy, representation by a county commissioner on the Atlanta Regional Commission council, a regional transit governance body with local representation, and openness and transparency in the budgets of elected officials and the library system, and lengthening the foreclosure process from the current 30 days to 90 days.



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

Seven Day Forecast

THURSDAY
Mostly Sunny
High: 76 Low: 54

FRIDAY
Sunny
High: 75 Low: 48

SATURDAY
Sunny
High: 75 Low: 50

SUNDAY
Sunny
High: 79 Low: 54

MONDAY
Sunny
High: 77 Low: 51

TUESDAY
Partly Cloudy
High: 73 Low: 51

WEDNESDAY
Mostly Sunny
High: 76 Low: 52

Local UV Index

0-2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11+
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UV Index
0-2: Low, 3-5: Moderate, 6-7: High, 8-10: Very High, 11+: Extreme Exposure

Oct. 13, 2011

In-Depth Local Forecast

Today we will see mostly sunny skies with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms, high of 76°, humidity of 60%. West wind 5 to 15 mph. The record high for today is 86° set in 1954. Expect mostly clear skies tonight with an overnight low of 54°.

Date	Hi	Lo	Normals	Precip
Tuesday	80	45	77/57	0.00"
Wednesday	83	51	76/57	0.00"
Thursday	80	53	76/57	0.00"
Friday	77	57	76/56	0.00"
Saturday	78	56	75/56	0.00"
Sunday	71	61	75/55	0.00"
Monday	68	62	75/55	0.25"

Rainfall0.25" Average temp . .65.9
Normal rainfall .0.72" Average normal 65.9
Departure-0.47" Departure0.0
*Data as reported from De Kalb-Peachtree Airport

*Last Week's Almanac

Date	Hi	Lo	Normals	Precip
Tuesday	80	45	77/57	0.00"
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Rainfall0.25" Average temp . .65.9
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Departure-0.47" Departure0.0
*Data as reported from De Kalb-Peachtree Airport

Local Sun/Moon Chart This Week

Last	Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset	First
10/19	Thursday	7:40 a.m.	7:06 p.m.	7:49 p.m.	9:05 a.m.	11/2
	Friday	7:41 a.m.	7:05 p.m.	8:28 p.m.	10:00 a.m.	
	Saturday	7:42 a.m.	7:04 p.m.	9:11 p.m.	10:55 a.m.	
	Sunday	7:42 a.m.	7:03 p.m.	9:59 p.m.	11:47 a.m.	
	Monday	7:43 a.m.	7:01 p.m.	10:52 p.m.	12:38 p.m.	
	Tuesday	7:44 a.m.	7:00 p.m.	11:49 p.m.	1:25 p.m.	
	Wednesday	7:45 a.m.	6:59 p.m.	No Rise	2:08 p.m.	

Tonight's Planets

	Rise	Set
Mercury	8:31 a.m.	7:33 p.m.
Venus	8:55 a.m.	7:51 p.m.
Mars	2:28 a.m.	4:11 p.m.
Jupiter	7:53 p.m.	9:09 a.m.
Saturn	7:41 a.m.	7:14 p.m.
Uranus	6:14 p.m.	6:22 a.m.

Weather Trivia

What is the rule of thumb for determining wind chill?

Answer: Subtract 1 degree of temperature for every 1 mph of wind speed.

www.WhatsOurWeather.com

StarWatch By Gary Becker - Comet Garradd on the Loose

There is a comet roaming the heavens, and as soon as the moon's brightness clears the early evening sky next week, it should become visible to observers with telescopes and binoculars who live in suburbia and darker locales. Comet Garradd, also named C/2009 P1 (Garradd), was discovered with the 0.5-meter Uppsala Schmidt telescope in Australia at Siding Spring Observatory, 235 miles NW of Sydney on the evening of August 13, 2009. I spent three weeks photographing from that observatory in February 2000. Orbital calculations showed that Garradd would brighten significantly, passing closest to the sun on December 23, 2011 and then passing closest to the Earth on March 5, 2012. At that time Garradd's distance will be 1.27 astronomical units or 118 million miles. One AU equals the Earth-sun distance of 92.8 million miles. What makes Garradd unusual is its very long period of brightness which began in September and will continue into next spring. It is a big comet that is traveling in a sideways path nearly perpendicular to the plane of the solar system and which favors the northern hemisphere. Unfortunately, there is a "but." Garradd gets no closer to the sun than Mars' average solar distance of 1.5 AU. This means that we have a grand view of the comet for a long, long time, but it doesn't get really bright enough to become an easy naked eye target for the average person. When Garradd passes closest to Earth in March of 2012, and is at its brightest, it will already be headed away from the sun. After this time the comet fades rapidly, never to be seen again. Garradd is in a hyperbolic orbit which means that it is destined to wander the galaxy, kicked from our solar system nest by the gravitational tugs and pulls of the planets. A map showing Garradd's path through October can be found in the web version of this article at the URL below. More about Comet Garradd next week... www.astronomy.org

CDC: Miners, construction, food workers smoke most

by Mike Stobbe

ATLANTA (AP) Construction workers, miners and food service workers top the list of occupations that smoke the most, according to a new government report. Experts say it might have as much to do with lower education levels as the jobs themselves.

"There may be other characteristics that are clustering in these industries," said Dr. **Tim McAfee**, director of the Office on Smoking and Health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Traits linked to higher smoking rates and seen in employees in these industries

include being younger, having fewer years of education and making less money.

Also, some people who work outdoors are less likely to face the kind of indoor smoking bans seen in white-collar workplaces like schools, hospitals and office buildings, McAfee said.

The CDC study found 19.6 percent of working adults smoke, but as many as 30 percent in the mining, construction and food service industries smoke. Librarians and teachers smoked the least, at less than 9 percent.

For decades, the biggest smokers by profession have been roofers, drywall install-



ers, brick and stone masons and other workers in construction trades. But health officials have warned construction workers may be at elevated risk from smoking, especially if they are exposed to asbestos. Studies have shown that people who work

with asbestos are more likely to develop lung cancer if they also smoke.

Smoking also can pose extra danger for miners, who might ignite methane gas with matches or cigarette lighters. Federal officials say that since 1977, four major

mine explosions have been blamed on smoking that combined killed 24 miners.

The CDC study is based on in-person interviews of more than 113,000 working adults in the years 2004 through 2010.

New program speeds up cardiac emergency care

DeKalb Medical recently announced the launch of its Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI) program. PCI, also known as coronary angioplasty, is a minimally invasive procedure that quickly allows cardiologists to both examine and immediately unblock blood flow to the heart.

DeKalb Medical's PCI program helps patients in cardiac emergency get life-saving treatment faster because it eliminates transfers to other hospitals in many cases. Patients now move from the emergency room door to the cardiac catheterization lab in less than the national 90 minutes average. DeKalb Medical's current door-to-balloon rate averages 68 minutes. In addition, with timely access to PCI, patients return home quicker.

The PCI Center at DeKalb Medical's North Decatur hospital houses two cardiac cath labs and 15 patient bays that provide cardiac emergency coverage. "We are fortunate to have the services of three experienced and respected interventional cardiologists **Mirza Ahmed**, M.D., **Marc Unterman**, M.D. and **Larry Van-Thomas Crisco**, M.D., along with the enthusiastic and active involvement of both the Hospitalist Group and Emergency Department physicians and staff," said **Patrick Green**, executive director of heart and vascular services.

The PCI program culminates more than two years of planning, training and implementation. Throughout the development process, DeKalb Medical worked with Corazon Inc., a leader in heart and vascular strategic program development that has helped hospitals throughout the United States ensure the quality of their PCI programs. "Our engagement with Corazon provides us the benefit of experience from similar programs as well as input from an objective outside voice," Green added.

DeKalb Medical at North Decatur was approved by the state of Georgia Department of Community Health in 2010 to become a Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI) provider. The state began allowing hospitals without on-site open heart surgery programs to offer angioplasty in 2008, provided that they can demonstrate adherence to strict quality criteria. This decision follows an extensive study which concluded that co-location of cardiac surgery sites is not necessary to improve cardiac patient outcomes.

Ambulances are on standby to transfer high-risk patients to St. Joseph Hospital for further evaluation and treatment. Other Atlanta-area hospitals successfully performing PCI without an on-site cardiac surgery center include Gwinnett Medical, Emory Johns Creek, Northside-Atlanta, Northside-Forsythe and Southern Regional Medical Center.



The Office of School Improvement-Title I
in collaboration with
The DC Blazers Youth Organization
Present

The Annual Title I Countywide
Financial Aid Workshop and College Fair
Representatives from colleges, universities, and technical institutions will be available

- The Financial Aid Workshop targets parents and high school students who are juniors and seniors in the DeKalb County School System.
- This session is designed to help parents and students become familiar with financial assistance services offered by colleges, universities and technical institutions through state and federal programs.
- A College Fair will be held immediately after the session. Parents and students will have the opportunity to immediately utilize the information they receive as they speak with college representatives.

- Financial Aid Workshop
Saturday, November 5, 2011
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- College Fair 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- At the DeKalb County School System
Administrative & Instructional Complex
Auditorium
1701 Mountain Industrial Blvd.
Stone Mountain, GA 30083

For Additional Information Contact
Anderia Russell
Parent-Community Liaison Specialist
The Office of School Improvement at
678-676-0312 or
anderia_russell@fc.dekalb.k12.ga.us

Travel Continued From Page 1A

of Inspired Travel in Stone Mountain, 2011 is shaping up to be a good year.

"I am seeing a lot more people using travel agents again," said Jones, who runs a home-based travel business.

Jones said customers are booking longer vacations and venturing farther from home.

Before the recession, she said one- to two-week trips were routine. That changed to three- to four-day vacations during the recession.

"Now it's five to eight days as well as taking more deluxe vacations," she said. "Instead of saying 'I need the cheapest thing' now they are looking for quality."

Celia Gardner, owner of Travelfaire of Dunwoody, has been in the travel industry for 28 years. Escorted tours as well as independent travel are two areas in which her company specializes.

"What we are seeing is more new clients coming in," said Gardner. "Our regular clients never really stopped traveling."

Both Jones and Gardner agree that while the Internet is a useful tool for gathering travel information, the counsel and expertise of a travel agent is invaluable.

"We treat clients like family. We are hand-holders. We want them back," said Gardner.

Gardner cautions those who rely on the Internet for all their travel planning that when problems arise "you are on your own."

"They are looking at prices. They aren't looking at quality," said Gardner of online travel shoppers.

She points out that travel agents can fix problems that arise during a trip as well as get reimbursements for parts of an itinerary that aren't up to par or not delivered.

Jones said travel agents have priceless product knowledge and can offer advice about which cruise lines are best for specific families or individuals.

Jones, who specializes in the Caribbean and travels there every other month evaluating properties, noted that many destinations, properties and cruises are particularly friendly to specific demographics, citing families, couples and gays and lesbians.

"Most people when they go online they are just looking at price," said Jones.

Jones said travel agents also provide recommendations on places to go and warnings about places (and activities) to avoid.

And when inclement weather hits—as it did several weeks ago during a hurricane—a relationship with a travel agent can be precious. Jones noted that during that storm one cruise line had to leave a port early in Puerto Rico because the port was shutting down and several of the ship's passengers who were on shore excursions were left.

"A lot [of them] didn't have a travel agent and had to fend for themselves," she said. "The ones that had a good travel agent got help with lodging and had a liaison between the clients and the cruise line to recover losses. We save people tons of time, especially in problem resolution."



Charity director Evalyn, played by Elisabeth Omilami, foreground, helps the family put their money problems into perspective.



Still thinking like a corporate executive, Liz, played by Tess Malis Kincaid, creates a chart to help the family plan a budget.

Broke masterfully takes audiences into the world of the suddenly financially challenged

by Kathy Mitchell

I was introduced to Atlanta playwright **Janece Shaffer** in the lobby of the Alliance Theatre as I was about to go inside to the world premiere of Shaffer's new play *Broke*. I told her that I had enjoyed her other plays and was looking forward to this one. She warned me, "This one isn't a comedy."

Indeed, it isn't. *Broke* is about a subject painfully familiar to many Americans. It's the saga of an affluent family that suddenly finds its cozy financial rug snatched from under it. Still, it has wonderfully humorous moments much like those in Shaffer's earlier plays. The fact that funny lines are infused into moments of high drama actually makes them funnier.

The comfortable lifestyle that the Eliasons are living is attributable to the six-figure income Liz Eliason brings home as a high-level marketing executive. By comparison, her husband's job as owner of a children's shoe store seems almost a hobby. Liz actually has no idea what her husband makes until her company goes

belly up, taking with it their entire retirement portfolio.

Suddenly, the Eliasons are faced with having to decide which of their normal expenses are for things they actually need, and which are for things they can do without. Still thinking like a corporate executive, Liz makes a board with expenses on sticky notes and moves them among columns marked "assets," "liabilities," "keep" and "chuck." Some items—the personal trainer, the yard service—are relatively easy, but can she move her demented mother to a more affordable, but less attentive, care home? Can the family manage with one car instead of two? What about expenses for their daughter just ending her junior year in college?

As such decisions are made, family relationships that were easy when money was plentiful become difficult, even harsh.

During a forum held before the Sept. 27 premiere, Alliance officials explained that the play had undergone a number of changes as it moved toward production. Originally, *Broke* was a three-person play with

just the family members. A fourth character, the operator of a children's charity, was added. Local actress and actual operator of a charity—Hosea Feed the Hungry and Homeless—**Elisabeth Omilami** as Evalyn comes into the family members' lives and provides perspective to their values and assumptions.

Even for those who have kept their footing through rough financial times, *Broke* strikes right at the heart. Most of us know families hit hard by the recession and have no difficulty imagining how it might affect us.

The emotionally wrenching roles are beautifully performed by not only Omilami, but **James M. Leaming** as the husband, **Galen Crawley** and the daughter and—leading the cast—**Tess Malis Kincaid** as Liz.

Broke is on the Alliance Theatre's Hertz Stage through Oct. 23. For dates, times and ticket information, call (404) 733-5000 or visit www.alliancetheatre.org. The Alliance Theatre is located at the Woodruff Arts Center, 1280 Peachtree St., NE, Atlanta.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER



Target employees put finishing touches on Knollwood Elementary's newly renovated library as DeKalb County Schools officials chatted before the ribbon cutting. Photos by Daniel Beauregard



Knollwood Elementary gets library makeover

by Daniel Beauregard
daniel@dekalbchamp.com

Prior to the ribbon cutting, volunteers in red T-shirts ran back and forth, lifting tables and chairs, and touching up last-minute paint jobs to make sure everything in the Knollwood Elementary media center looked perfect.

Over the past several days, Target employees and members of the Heart of America Foundation had been working in the library and throughout the school. Now, the day had finally come to let everyone see the results of the makeover.

Cosette Gutierrez, Southeast regional manager of education and community relations for Target, said the school looked a little hectic because the volunteers were trying to finish their tasks in time for the ribbon cutting ceremony.

"I think we've got over 150 volunteers divided up into different teams. There's a team here that is putting together the books that the children will take home," Gutierrez said pointing to the stage, which was filled with volunteers stuffing books into small tote bags.

Gutierrez said there will be 42 library makeovers and eight in the Southeast, including Knollwood this fall. She said that Target works together with the Heart of America Foundation to identify the schools to make over.

"It's primarily Title I schools. We're going to finish 118 at the end of this year," she said.

Knollwood Media Specialist **Mary Nevil** has been at the school for 16 years and said this is the first time the library has seen any significant im-

provements.

"The school has been open since 1956 and I think since the 1960s they've had this space and it has looked it; it was very old," Nevil said.

Before the makeover, Nevil said she had a hard time seeing children because the bookshelves were so high. Now, the new shelves that line the room are much shorter. She said this would make her job easier.

"Kids would come in and I wouldn't even know they were here and they'd do cartwheels behind the stacks. Now it's great, I can see everything. There's lots of room and it seems about three times bigger than it did before," Nevil said.

The media center was also furnished with several computer workstations and 17 iPads for the students to use. Principal **Sheila Hollins** said Knollwood was chosen out of seven schools that applied for the makeover project.

"I can't wait to see the students' faces because they haven't seen the media center since the end of school last year. It's been closed off and they've been doing the remodeling," Hollins said.

Target also donated 2,000 books to the library's existing collection and Hollins said these changes would have a profound effect on the day-to-day lives and education of the students.

As children sat cross-legged on the floor in the library, Superintendent Dr. **Cheryl Atkinson** told those present that to be successful and compete in today's world, children needed access to technology.

"We, as a society, are sending laptops to children in developing countries but children in our own schools don't have the tools that they need to succeed," Atkinson said.

"Part of ensuring success is by providing our students with the latest and greatest tools and technology to help them learn, achieve and grow," said Atkinson.



As school foundations in DeKalb grow, some see need for more

by Daniel Beauregard
daniel@dekalbchamp.com

Several schools in the DeKalb County School System have foundations to raise money and offer support to students, but some feel not enough is being done for schools in Title I areas.

Any community can start a non-profit organization for their school but some communities in low-income areas might lack the resources or connections to do it. **David Schutten**, president of the Organization of DeKalb Educators, said that's because a lot of it has to do with parental involvement.

"What's even more telling would be to compare the PTA budget at Fernbank Elementary to the PTA budget at Dresden Elementary. Fernbank has a six figure PTA budget and we have PTAs that don't even have a \$10,000 budget," Schutten said.

Many of the schools with foundations such as Lakeside, Tucker and Chamblee high schools are located in more affluent areas.

Schutten said starting a foundation or increasing parental presence at PTA meetings was more difficult than rallying a few parents together. "It's shifting the culture of a whole community when you're trying to do that," he said.

Jennifer Hiott, director of the DeKalb County Public Schools Foundation (DCPSF), said one reason schools might shy away from

starting a foundation was because some might think it would interfere with the fundraising a school's PTA or booster club does.

"It really doesn't though, because a foundation has different fundraisers than a PTA and will target a lot of the businesses around them," Hiott said.

Hiott said most businesses in a community will only back a foundation if it has 501-(c)-3 tax-exempt status and the DCPSF allows foundations to use its tax-exempt status initially until the startup is able to become an independent entity.

"We let people use our 501-(c)-3. We're kind of like a bank and when they get ready we just close their accounts out and give them a check. We do that with a lot of our schools," Hiott said.

DCPSF has been in operation for three years. Hiott said the board consists of business members in the community rather than school system personnel.

Recently, parents from the community around Evansdale Elementary in Doraville started a foundation and used DCPSF as an umbrella organization.

"The impetus behind establishing it was projected DeKalb County budget cuts. Evansdale is a math and science magnet school and we were concerned about losing those magnets," said Phil Castro, board chairman of the Evansdale Education Foundation.

Castro said the founda-

tion began in the summer of 2010, and members initially felt it would be quicker and easier to work under DCPSF. Castro said this allowed them to raise money like any other non-profit would for the first year.

"I would be surprised if more schools haven't established foundations within the next couple years," Castro said.

Like Schutten, Castro said he thought one of the challenges in creating a foundation is getting the parents involved.

"I think the biggest hurdle is that you need to have a dedicated parent community

willing to spend the time and the energy, and has the expertise to make it happen," Castro said. "We benefit from virtually 100 percent PTA membership and a tremendous amount of parental support. I think without that it's very difficult."

Castro said although he feels that having more foundations throughout the county would be a good thing, he would be hesitant to support a system-wide initiative that reached out to communities and encouraged them to start their own foundations.

"I think the concern that some foundations have is, we need to be doing what we're

doing, but there is some risk involved; the county might assume that the foundations would take care of things," Castro said.

If the county went down that path, Castro said, he would question its motives. He said he would rather spread the word about DCPSF more aggressively.

"I think it's something that needs to come from within. I would love to see them increase awareness of the DCPSF and how interested communities can leverage them and form a foundation," Castro said.

FOR SALE

Two Properties

Bank Owned

Former Church Buildings



2178 Highway 138, Stockbridge, Henry Co., GA 30281

Features:

51,472 SF Church / School

54± Acres

2 Buildings



2600 H.F. Sheperd Drive, Deatur, DeKalb Co., GA 30334

Features:

53,000 SF Church / School

15± Acres

2-Story Building

NAI Brannen Goddard

404 812 4000 | fax 404 816 3939 | www.naibg.com

Suite 1100 | 5555 Glenridge Connector | Atlanta GA 30342

Information is deemed from reliable sources. No warranty is made as to its accuracy.

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SETTING THE STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE IN PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Educating, Engaging, and Empowering Parents

Title I Annual Meeting: Parental Involvement Conference

Saturday, October 15, 2011

8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Stone Mountain Middle School

4301 Sarr Parkway, Stone Mountain, GA 30083

Conference Highlights

» Panel Discussion for Parents: Improving Student Achievement...What is My Role?

» Panel Members: Interim Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, a DeKalb County School Board Member, a principal, parents, and other community leaders

» Math, Reading and Language Arts Workshops on all Grade Levels

» Special Education Workshops

» Early Childhood Workshops for Pre-K and K

» Language Translators/Interpreters

» Title I Parental Involvement Policy and Budget Update

» Childcare for School-Age Children

» Special Workshops for Middle and High School Students

» Exhibitors from: DeKalb County Schools, Community Agencies and Educational Companies

» Light refreshments will be served

» Door Prizes (Donated by Exhibitors)

For additional information, contact Jackie Marshall at 678-676-0376 or by email:

Cleaning up the mess—Chamblee business specializes in making things right after they've gone all wrong

by Kathy Mitchell
kathy@dekalbchamp.com

Larry Fried, president of SERVPRO of Chamblee Dunwoody, has traditional business cards, but he also never fails to leave customers, potential customers and others he meets with a bright yellow rubber ducky imprinted with his business name and phone number.

"I wanted to give people something that would make them think about us," explained Fried, whose business is restoring buildings that have been damaged by fire, flood and other catastrophes. "Ducks are associated with water so I thought they'd make a good symbol for us. We had a duck before AFLAC had a duck."

He has at least one story in which the duck marketing worked. "This man called me after an emergency at his house. He said, 'I couldn't find your business card and I couldn't find the refrigerator magnet you gave me, but I had the duck. I sent my 7-year-old upstairs to get it out of the bathtub.'"

SERVPRO is a nationwide franchised business, but only Fried's independently owned and operated company has the rubber ducky.

With three service vans, sophisticated equipment for measuring and repairing damage, and a team of five technicians and support staff, SERVPRO Chamblee Dunwoody is ready around the clock wherever disaster strikes. "Whether it's a home or a business, people want to get things back to normal as quickly as possible. Our motto is 'like it never even happened,' and that's what we work toward."

Fried said that there's never a season when he and his crew aren't busy. While fires and floods are more likely at certain times of the year, pipes and water heaters can burst at any time. "We get all kinds of things," he noted. "No two jobs are ever

alike. Each one is different and each has its own challenges."

The business actually belongs to Fried's wife, **Diane Williford**, who owned it when they married. "We were both in the insurance business—that's how we met. Our original plan was for me to build up the SERVPRO business then sell it."

While they were searching for a buyer in 1996, the call of a business lifetime came in; a pre-dawn fire at an Atlanta landmark, the Fox Theatre, had caused more than \$2 million in damage. SERVPRO of Chamblee Dunwoody was called to handle the restoration. That convinced

Fried that he wanted to keep the business. Today he is so proud of the work he did at one of Atlanta's most famous buildings that his business cards include the phrase, "entrusted to restore the Fox Theatre."

The company's franchise agreement allows it to solicit business only in a section of DeKalb County north of Lavista Road. However, it is allowed to accept any business initiated by the customer, no matter the customer's location. With large jobs, SERVPRO franchises often call other franchises for help. With the Fox job, Fried called for help from 11 other SERVPRO companies.

SERVPRO is not an insurance agent or adjuster, but works with insurance companies and building owners to get homes and businesses functioning again. Fried said he takes a special pride in that, adding that he's happy that he



SERVPRO of Chamblee Dunwoody has three service vans and President Larry Fried's special promo item—yellow rubber ducks. Photo by Kathy Mitchell

didn't go through with the plan to sell his business. "I love it. I love helping people," Fried said. "To be willing to get up at 3 in the morning and clean up a sewage spill, you've got to love it."

CITY OF CHAMBLEE – PUBLIC NOTICE Special Election for Sunday Sales Alcohol Referendum

Notice is hereby given that the City of Chamblee will hold a Special Election on Tuesday, November 8, 2011, for the purpose of submitting the question of Sunday package sales by retailers of malt beverages, wine and distilled spirits to the electors of the City of Chamblee for approval or rejection. The question on the ballot will read as follows:

- () Yes Shall the governing authority of Chamblee be authorized to permit and regulate package sales by retailers of malt beverages, wine, and distilled spirits on Sundays between the hours of 12:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m.?
- () No

The last day to register and be eligible to vote in these elections will be October 11, 2011. The polls will be open on November 8, 2011 from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Absentee Voting and Advance Voting will be at the DeKalb County Board of Registrations and Elections facility at 4380 Memorial Drive, Decatur, GA Monday, October 17th through Friday, November 4th, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Absentee ballot applications and voter registration forms may be obtained by contacting the DeKalb elections office at 404-298-4020 or www.co.dekalb.ga.us.
Nancy Williams – Chamblee City Clerk/ Municipal Elections Superintendent

"NOTICE OF REFERENDUM ELECTION"

Notice is hereby given that a Question will be placed on the November 8, 2011 Election ballot for the City of Doraville, Georgia, pursuant to Title 3, Alcoholic Beverages, Act 48; Senate Bill 10 as passed by the 2011 Georgia Legislature, for a Referendum vote of a majority to approve the following:

() YES () NO

"Shall the governing authority of the City of Doraville, Georgia, be authorized to permit and regulate package sales by retailers of malt beverages, wine, and distilled spirits on Sundays between the hours of 12:30 P.M. and 11:30 P.M.?"

Any questions may be directed to the Doraville City Clerk, 3725 Park Avenue, Doraville, Georgia 30340."



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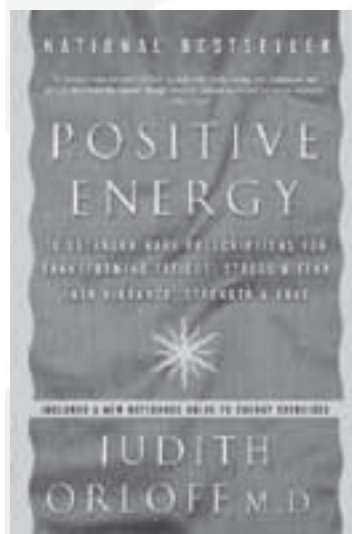
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ATLANTA

Akoma Book Club to discuss *Positive Energy*



The Akoma Book Club (of Women Healing Women) will meet Saturday, Oct. 15, 10:30 a.m. – noon at Charis Books & More, 1189 Euclid Ave., NE, Atlanta. October's book pick is *Positive Energy* by **Judith Orloff**. This event is sponsored by Charis Books and Women Healing Women Inc. The Akoma Book Club is open to any woman seeking camaraderie with like-minded women for fun,

self-empowerment and growth. Those who haven't read the book, but are willing to talk about the principles in the book, can join the discussion. According to Charis, the book is for women who are exhausted, overcommitted and short on time. The author offers a "complete prescription that will stop you from feeling constantly drained and enable you to live a more vibrant life."

Reformation Day to celebrate Luther's role in King James Bible

Emory University's Candler School of Theology celebrates the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Bible and welcomes **Jürgen Moltmann**, one of the world's most prominent theologians, to campus for its 24th annual Reformation Day celebration Oct. 27.

An address by celebrated theologian Moltmann highlights this year's daylong festivities, themed "Luther and the Translation of the Bible." Emory's Reformation Day marks **Richard** and **Martha Kessler's** 1987 donation of their private collection of Reformation imprints and manuscripts to Candler's Pitts Theology Library. The Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection contains more than 3,500 Reformation-themed items and is home to more than 1,000 pieces written by **Martin Luther** himself. No other American library has more.

All events are free and open to the public. For more information about Candler's Reformation Day celebration and to see the full schedule, visit www.pitts.emory.edu/community/reformationday.cfm.

DECATUR

Businesses promote health, education for girls worldwide

On Saturday, Oct. 22, nearly 40 Decatur restaurants and retail shops will come together to support 50 Cents. Period, a Decatur-based organization providing support

for girls in developing countries and refugee women in the Atlanta area.

The mission of 50 Cents.Period is to help further the education of girls in or from developing countries by providing sanitary products, facilities and health education to young women who would otherwise miss a week of school a month during menstruation for lack of funds. The cost of these sanitary supplies at two pilot schools in Hyderabad, India, is just 50 cents a month per girl.

"Fifty cents can literally change the future for these girls," said **Ann VanSlyke** of Mingei World Arts and a founder of 50 Cents.Period. "Typically, once the girls in poor communities begin their periods, they fall further and further behind in their studies, drop out and start having children. Something so simple as access to sanitary supplies, toilets and clean water can enable girls to succeed in their educations, creating pathways out of poverty for whole families."

Following the theme of the day, Turn DecaturRED, participating businesses on Oct. 22 will devote proceeds from the sale of certain items or donate a percentage of the day's profits, among other creative ideas. The businesses will be flagged with red balloons and red sidewalk chalk. Volunteers for 50 Cents.Period will roam the streets as "reducators," handing out information, answering questions and directing visitors to participating DecaturRED businesses. The gazebo on the Decatur Square will also be staffed with volunteers answering questions and directing people to participating businesses. "We will also be collecting packages of sanitary napkins to be distributed to local refugee women through our sister project Period at Home," said VanSlyke. "If you bring a full package of sanitary napkins, you will be entered into a raffle for a gift card to Cakes and Ale."

For a complete list of participating Decatur businesses or more information, visit www.50centsperiod.org.

Motorcycle license testing offered

The Georgia Motorcycle Safety Program (GMSP), a part of the Georgia Department of Driver Services will host Motorcycle Mondays Mobile License Testing (MLT) at the Decatur Customer Service Center on Monday, Oct. 24, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. GMSP will offer motorcycle testing with no appointment needed. The center is located at 2801 Candler Road, Suite 82, Decatur.

The MLT program gives Georgia license holders the opportunity to obtain their Georgia Motorcycle Class MP (permit) or M (license). If the rider successfully passes the skills test, he or she receives a 90-day license test waiver to bring to a DDS customer service center to acquire a motorcycle permit or license.

DORAVILLE

Zumba dance classes offered

The Doraville Recreation Department will begin Zumba fitness classes on Thursday, Oct. 13. According to the release, Zumba is the largest Latin dance fitness craze.

Classes will take place on Thursdays from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Forest Fleming Arena, 3037 Pleasant Valley Drive in Doraville.

A class card may be purchased on the first day of class at rates of 10 classes for \$100, four classes for \$48 or one class \$15. Class card may be used at any ZumbaAtlanta.com class. Group rates are available for groups of 10 or more.

It is recommended that participants wear comfortable active wear, fitness shoes and bring a towel. It is also suggested to bring plenty of water.

For registration, directions or for a full Zumba Atlanta.com class schedule visit www.ZumbaAtlanta.com or call **Janet** at (404) 664-4509.

DUNWOODY

Church to hold Great Day of Service

More than 700 volunteers from Dunwoody United Methodist Church are expected to take part in the Great Day of Service on Saturday, Oct. 15. They will spend the morning volunteering to help more than 40 agencies and ministries around Dunwoody, Sandy Springs and Atlanta. The event will be 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. with breakfast at 8 a.m. and projects starting at 9 a.m. Dunwoody United Methodist Church is located at 1548 Mt. Vernon Road, Dunwoody. For more information, visit www.dunwoodyumc.org.

STONE MOUNTAIN



Park holds ninth annual Pumpkin Festival

Stone Mountain Park's ninth annual Pumpkin Festival is under way and continues through Oct. 30. Events at the family festival include the new Pumpkin Palooza, a high-energy game show for the entire family at the Dogwood Entertainment venue; Kids Trick or Treat Scavenger Hunt; the Family Scavenger Hunt; the Great Pumpkin Puppet Parade; the children's costume contest; storytelling; a pie-eating contest and the Pumpkin Party Patch. For more information, visit www.stonemountainpark.com.



DeKalb High School Sports Highlights

FOOTBALL

Marist 53, Lakeside 0: **Gray King** ran for two touchdowns and scored on an 86-yard kickoff return for the War Eagles (5-1 overall and in Region 6-AAAA). **Michael Toner** also ran for two touchdowns and **Michael Anhut** scored one as 13 players carried the ball for the War Eagles. The defense had four sacks and held Lakeside to 73 yards total offense, including 6 yards rushing. **Jonah Cashdan** led the Marist defense with five tackles while **Nick Carrier** had four tackles and recovered a fumble.

Tucker 50, Mays 7: The No. 1-ranked Tigers separated themselves from the rest of Region 6-AAAA against the previously unbeaten Raiders. **Yusuf Minor** had touchdown receptions of 25 and 50 yards, and returned a kickoff 91 yards for a touchdown. **Dallas Rivers** rushed for 116 yards and two touchdowns for the Tigers (6-0 overall and in the region), who rushed for 259 yards. Also, **Terrell Simmons** scored on a 74-yard interception return.

Stephenson 34, Newton 6: **Mike Davis** rushed for more than 200 yards and scored three touchdowns for the Jaguars (6-0, 3-0 Region 2-AAAAA). **T. J. Moon** also ran for a touchdown and **Joshua Parks** caught a touchdown pass. The defense had its best game since a 14-3 win over Parkview in the season opener. **Kyle Fleetwood** returned an interception for a touchdown. **Jarrod Turner** and **Darrieon Herring** also had interceptions, and **Jarontay Jones** played well on the defensive line.

Southwest DeKalb 24, Dunwoody 7: The Panthers kept pace with Miller Grove for the No. 4 playoff spot in Region 6-AAAA. **Malik Wright** ran for 133 yards as the Panthers gained 242 yards on the ground. **Toran Davis**, **Jalil Young** and **Kori Thomas** each ran for touchdowns. The Panthers (4-2 overall and in Region 6-AAAA) are tied with Miller Grove for the fourth playoff spot. Dunwoody missed a field goal and fumbled in the first half that led to a Southwest field goal and a 10-0 halftime lead. Dunwoody scored on a 1-yard run by **Justin King** in the fourth quarter to cut the deficit to 17-7, then had a chance to score but turned the ball over on downs on its next possession at the Southwest 21.

M.L. King 49, Luella 42: **Jonquel Dawson** passed for 449 yards and four touchdowns for the Lions (6-0, 2-0 in Region



Dallas Rivers (25) scores one of his two touchdowns for Tucker in the Tigers' 50-7 win over Mays on Oct. 7 at Adams Stadium. Photo by Travis Hudgons

See Highlights on Page 22A

Volleyball

St. Pius rides momentum of fourth straight area title into state

by Robert Naddra
robert@dekalbchamp.com

St. Pius will try to use momentum from capturing its fourth straight area volleyball championship to win its first state title.

The No. 1 ranked Golden Lions (45-5) opened the Class AAA state tournament against Troup on Oct. 12.

Two other DeKalb teams—Arabia Mountain and Lakeside—also qualified for state tournaments. Arabia Mountain (26-16) became the school's first female team in any sport to qualify for state and faced Locust Grove in the first round of the Class AAA tournament. The

Rams finished fourth in Area 1. Lakeside battled through the losers bracket in Area 6-AAAA to finish third and played Sprayberry in the first round of the AAAA tournament on Oct. 12.

St. Pius' best finish in the state tournament was runner-up in 2008. The Golden Lions overcame a loss in the first game of the championship match to beat Riverwood 17-25, 25-23, 25-19, 25-20 in the region finals Oct. 8.

Alex Bidgood made a big play to close out Game 2 and **Jessie Place** had the game-winner in Game 3 for the Golden Lions. Bidgood and **Kallen Arvidson** played well in the middle for the Golden Lions.

The team also got solid placement hitting from **Emily Morrison** and **Leah Hardeman**. **Ella Anastasiades** and **Bianca Borough** provided solid defense throughout the match.

Arabia Mountain, which finished fourth in the area in the regular season, lost to Drew in the area tournament in a match to decide third place. Coach **RJ Middlebrooks** loses only two seniors, **Kim Baker** and **Lauren Sims**, both of whom have signed volleyball scholarships to Voorhees College in South Carolina.

"We're going to be great next year," said Middlebrooks, who starts three sophomores and a freshman this season. "It's a matter of

building the program and changing the mindset."

The Rams have gotten solid play from freshman **Alexis Richards**, who is averaging 5.9 aces and 8.7 assists per match.

Lakeside enters the Class AAAA tournament after rebounding from an opening loss in the area tournament with three straight wins. The Vikings (21-7) lost to Lambert, then rolled through the loser's bracket by defeating Marist, Dunwoody and Lambert without losing a game to finish third.

The Vikings have won first-round matches in the state tournament in each of the past two seasons.

Highlights

Continued From Page 21A

2-AAAAA). **Cornell Boyd** caught a 55-yard touchdown pass from Dawson to break a 42-42 tie with four minutes remaining. Boyd had eight catches for 122 yards, **Joshua Stanford** caught seven passes for 111 yards and a touchdown, and **Blake Tibbs** had six catches for 119 yards and a score. Stanford also returned a kickoff 86 yards for a touchdown. Luella’s defense scored on a fumble return and a kickoff return, and also got a touchdown on a kickoff return. Defensively, **Carlos Garrett** had 12 tackles, **Toronto Thomas** had nine tackles and **Kendarius Whitehead** had eight with two sacks.

Stone Mountain 28, Towers 2: William Parker rushed for 179 yards and two touchdowns to lead the Pirates (5-2, 2-2 in Region 5-AAA, Division B). **Fred Scott** returned a kickoff for a touchdown.

Cedar Grove 40, Arabia Mountain 0: Jonathan McCrary threw four touchdown passes and ran for a score for the Saints (5-2, 4-0 in Region 5-AAA, Division B). McCrary has thrown 17 touchdown passes this season. Defensively, the Saints have allowed only 21 points in four region games. The Rams (2-4, 1-2 in Region 5-AAA), have lost two in a row.

Druid Hills 7, Riverwood 3: The Red Devils (4-3, 3-1 in Region 5-AAA, Division A) remained in playoff contention with the win. **Dia Andrews**, who rushed for 61 yards, scored on a 46-yard run in the third quarter for a 7-0 lead. The defense stopped Riverwood inside the Red Devils’ 10-yard-line in the final seconds to preserve the win. A sack by **J.D. Cromartie** was the big play in the series. Cromartie and **Damani Debeatham** recovered fumbles for the Red Devils, who play at St. Pius on Oct. 14 for first place in the subregion.

CROSS COUNTRY

DeKalb County Race 1, Oct. 4

Boys
Team scores: Stone Mountain 21, Dunwoody 65, Redan 79, Stephenson 109; M.L. King 138, Arabia Mountain 168.
Top five individuals: 1. **Abel Abay**, Stone Mountain, 18:48; 2. **Nahome Abera**, Stone Mountain, 18:49; 3. **Abdullahi Ahmed**, Stone Mountain, 19:09; 4. **Darren Rogoff**, Dunwoody, 19:13.38; 5. **Micah Richards**, Redan, 19:47.60.

Girls
Team scores: Dunwoody 44, Stephenson 61, Redan 79.
Top five individuals: 1. **Christian Pryor**, Cedar Grove, 23:32.86; 2. **Destiny Reid**, Redan, 27:35.74; 3. **Brittany Davis**, Stephenson, 27:36.10; 4. **Jessie McCall**, Stephenson, 27:36.53; 5. **Emily Cyr**, Dunwoody, 27:55.52.

DeKalb County Race 2, Oct. 4

Boys
Team scores: Lakeside 15, Cross Keys 65, Chamblee 115, Tucker 205, Clarkston 354, Towers 373.
Top five individuals: 1. **Brian Song**, Lakeside, 18:27.56; 2. **Brent Reynolds**, Lakeside, 18:52.95; **Josh Traynellis**, Lakeside, 19:03.34; 4. **James Strickland**, Lakeside, 19:06.12; 5. **Connor Keisling**, Lakeside, 19:14.07.

Girls
Team scores: Lakeside 18, Cross Keys 65, Chamblee 94.
Top five individuals: 1. **Jenn Cora**, Lakeside, 21:46.35; 2. **Hayley Keadey**, Lakeside, 21:46.43; 3. **Maddy Wetterhall** Chamblee, 22:59.91; 4. **Grace Clark**, Lakeside, 23:27.10; 5. **Clarissa Keisling**, Lakeside, 23:32.62.

Southeast Showdown, Hoover, Ala.

Alex Cameron placed sixth in the girls’ all-American division with a time of 20:29.71 to lead Dunwoody to an eighth-place team finish. In the boys’ race, Dunwoody’s **Kyle Sexton** also placed sixth with a time of 16:48.49 as the Wildcats boys’ team finished eighth overall.

Asics Invitational, Whitesburg

Maddy Wetterhall placed 10th overall in the girls’ varsity division with a time of 19:55.12. In the boys’ varsity race, Chamblee’s **Jermaine Ingram** placed 42nd with a time of 17:39.65 as the Bulldogs placed 12th among 37 teams.



Jordan Landry, top photo, helped Tucker gain 259 yards rushing while Josh Dawson, middle photo, was one of the defensive leaders for the Tigers. Tucker’s Yusuf Minor, bottom photo, grabs a pass for a touchdown between two Mays defenders in the Tigers’ 50-7 win. Photos by Travis Hudgons

Marist, Lakeside developing rivalry on softball field

by Robert Naddra
robert@dekalbchamp.com

Lakeside and Marist needed extra innings to decide the outcomes of its first two games this season.

Marist won both, the second in the Region 6-AAAA playoffs. The two teams met for the third time in the Region 6-AAAA tournament finals Oct. 6 with Marist prevailing 7-1 over a Lakeside team that played four tournament games and 32 innings in three days.

Despite the lopsided score in the region finals, it's not a stretch to imagine both teams making the eight-team field for the state Class AAAA finals beginning Oct. 27 in Columbus.

"They're a scrappy bunch," said coach **Mike Trapani** of Marist, which is the only team to beat the Vikings this season. "They're a tough team, there's no question about that."

Both teams will host first-round games in the state tournament. Marist plays Kell while Lakeside faces Chapel Hill. Dunwoody finished third in the region tournament and faces Pope in the first round at state while No. 4 seed Chamblee plays Paulding County.

In Class AAA, St. Pius won its fourth straight region tournament and faces Central Carroll in the first round of the state tournament. The Golden Lions beat Woodward Academy twice for the region title and outscored the opposition 42-6 in four tournament games.

The Golden Lions scored four runs in the sixth inning to beat Woodward 5-4, then won 10-2 to clinch the region title. **Natasha Sherrod** and **Dylan Krause** each drove in two runs in the 10-2 win.

Marist swept through three games in its region tournament by a combined score of 24 -7. The lone close call was a nine-inning 7-6 win over Lakeside in the second round. The War Eagles, state champions in 2008 and 2009, are looking for a deep run in the state playoffs again after a first-round exit last season.

"We're getting better," Trapani said. "Our pitching is better and I'm proud of our defense. I think we're more mature compared to last year when we had only two seniors. We hit much deeper into the lineup this year."

That has been evident all season and was again in the region tournament. Marist scored five runs in the first inning in the finals with RBIs from **Ashlyn Johns**, **Kendall Chadwick** and **Natalie Zink**.

Pitching and defense also has been a strength for the War Eagles. Freshman pitcher **Grace Packer** has proved to be hard to hit all season.

Senior **Maddie Jewell** was solid at second base and made two plays that helped keep Lakeside from mounting rallies in the finals. Running toward first base in the outfield grass, she made a diving catch of a pop-up. Later she made a bare-handed grab of a grounder that deflected off the first baseman's glove and threw out the Lakeside runner.

"The close games we've had against Lakeside I think help us and the schedule

we had outside the region helps prepare you for the state tournament," Trapani said.

Despite the losses to Marist in the region tournament, Lakeside coach **Tricia Newmyer** is looking forward to her team's first trip to the state playoffs since 2003.

"This team never gives up," Newmyer said. "We came back to beat Dunwoody, and even against Marist when we were down 7-0, we still came back, got people on base and scored."

The Vikings were trailing several times over the final innings against Dunwoody before pulling out a 5-4 win in 10 innings that put them in the finals. **Susanne Boden** hit a two-RBI triple in extra innings, then doubled to score the winning run in the 10th.

"I try to tell the kids to enjoy the moment," Newmyer said. "We haven't been this far since 2003. It would be nice to be able to see [Marist] again in the state finals."



Marist freshman pitcher Grace Packer held Lakeside to three hits in the War Eagles' 7-1 win in the Region 6-AAAA championship. Photo by Robert Naddra



Lakeside's Marie Collop (17) and Susanne Boden have helped deliver the Vikings to their first state playoff appearance since 2003. Photos courtesy of Michael Boden Photography



The Champion chooses a male and female high school Athlete of the Week each week throughout the school year. The choices are based on performance and nominations by coaches. Please e-mail nominations to robert@dekalbchamp.com by Monday at noon.

MALE ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
Cornell Boyd, M.L. King (football): The receiver caught eight passes for 122 yards and two touchdowns Oct. 8 in the Lions' 49-42 win over Luella. His 55-yard scoring reception with four minutes remaining broke a 42-42 tie.

FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
Alex Bidgood, St. Pius (volleyball): The senior captain led the offensive attack as the Golden Lions claimed their fourth straight Area 5-AAA title with a win over Riverwood in the championship match.. Bidgood made a big play to close out Game 2, a 25-23 win.

Tucker football team honors school secretary for Cancer Awareness

by Mark Brock

Tucker High School's long-time secretary **Linda Link** was recognized as an honorary team captain before the Tigers' homecoming football game against Mays on Oct. 7 at Adams Stadium.

The team and school wanted to honor the cancer survivor as part of Cancer Awareness Month.

The Tucker players wore pink stickers with Link's initials (LL) on their helmets and the Tiger coaches wore the stickers on their headsets during the game.

Link was escorted out with the Tucker team captains by Peach State referee **Larry Hobgood** as an honorary captain to participate in the pregame coin toss. Link shook hands with the team captains from both Tucker and Mays as the squads prepared for the coin toss.

Link serves as secretary to Tucker Principal **James Jackson** while also handling many other duties, including acquiring substitute teachers, payroll and working on employee benefits.



Photos by Travis Hudgons



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