



# GOING PRO

## UGA players Stafford, Moreno to enter NFL draft

Page 1B

# Raiders' Digest

## Southeast students report on school happenings



Page 5B

# THE DAILY CITIZEN

Thursday, January 8, 2009 • Dalton, Georgia • www.daltondailycitizen.com • 50 Cents

## 3 THINGS TO CHECK OUT ON THE INSIDE

Unless they are granted power by politicians, rich people have little power to force us to do anything. A lowly municipal clerk has far more life-and-death power over us.

See Walter Williams, 4A

Dalton to turn land near the old Crown Mill into greenspace.

See the story, page 5A

Family clothing store Goody's will be shutting its doors.

See the story, page 5A

### FROM TODAY'S FORUM

"I was pulled over for weaving on Airport Road. I told the officer I wasn't drunk, I was just trying to dodge the potholes."

"Minnesota Xeroxed enough ballots to finally declare Al Franken a winner."

See page 2A

Call 706-272-7748

### WEATHER

Forecast: Sunny  
Today's High: 50  
Tonight's Low: 28  
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# Getting swamped



MISTY WATSON/The Daily Citizen

Jason Watts of Eton looks out from his porch at a lake that used to be his front yard on Wednesday before nearby Mill Creek crested overnight Tuesday.

## Skies dump up to 6 inches of rain on area

BY JAMIE JONES  
jamiejones@daltoncitizen.com

ETON — Jason and Brandy Watts left their home on Old Federal Road late Tuesday night distressed, wondering whether ravaging flood waters from nearby Mill Creek would invade their lives.

They pictured the worst — their home, purchased just four months ago, swamped by water. The couple took shelter with Brandy's parents for an anxious night. When they finally returned Wednesday morning, their home had been spared.

"We both did not sleep at all last night," Brandy, 24, said after being awoken from a nap by a reporter's knocking late Wednesday morning.



**On the Web**  
More photos of area flooding available online at: www.daltondailycitizen.com

**Inside**  
Additional photos from Wednesday's flooding. Page 3A

"We were so worried, so afraid if the water would come into our home."

Torrential storms Monday night, much of Tuesday and Wednesday morning brought more than six inches of rain to parts of Murray

and Whitfield counties, turning many strips of dry land into makeshift lakes. There were no injuries reported in the two counties, although the Murray County

Rescue Squad rescued two kayakers on Jacks River after rising waters forced them to spend a restless Tuesday night under a rock ledge. Adding to the water problems was high winds that felled

power lines throughout Whitfield County, knocking out power to more than 3,100 customers.

The National Weather Service's flood warning issued Monday night ends at 8:30 a.m. today. Although no rain is expected for several days, the agency warned that rain runoff could cause creeks, rivers and streams to rise slowly throughout the day. There is a 30 percent chance of rain Friday and Saturday, with a 20 percent chance of rain early next week.

Murray County officials debated through Tuesday night whether to evacuate homes threatened by rising water. They did not order any

> Please see FLOOD, 2A

## Gunshot wound in Cohutta investigated

FROM STAFF REPORTS

COHUTTA — Officials with the Cohutta Police Department and the Whitfield County Sheriff's Office were investigating an incident resulting in a gunshot wound Wednesday afternoon at about 4:30 near Wolfe Street in Cohutta. One person was taken by LifeForce helicopter to Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga.

A call to the Cohutta Police Department was not immediately returned.

## Georgia asks for class-size waivers for school districts

BY DORIE TURNER  
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA — Georgia schools Superintendent Kathy Cox is asking that all the state's 180 school districts be allowed to increase the number of children in each classroom because of budget woes.

Cox sent a letter to the state Board of Education on Wednesday requesting that the state grant waivers of class size rules for the 2009-10 school year. Cox told the state school board that expanding class sizes in many districts could save \$200 million and help avoid layoffs.

"School districts are struggling,

and the biggest cost is personnel," Cox said during a committee meeting. "Maybe this means that paraprofessionals will stay on the payroll."

Under the plan, most classes would grow by two students, which would reduce the number of new teachers that districts would have to hire. Kindergarten would increase to 20; grades 1-3 would hit 23 and grades 4-8 would be 30. The enrollment



Cox

would not increase in special education, English as a second language, fine arts and foreign language classrooms.

The waiver would only be effective statewide for one year. After that, districts would revert to the usual system of applying individually for class-size waivers.

The board is expected to vote on the measure during its monthly meeting Thursday.

Cox stressed that the statewide waiver does not mean districts are required to expand their class size, but instead gives systems flexibility

> Please see CLASS, 2A

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2A Thursday, January 8, 2009

**TODAY'S FORUM**

**Editor's note: Please keep your comments as brief as possible. Get to the point! Longer comments should be submitted as letters to the editor. If you include a name, please spell it. Call 706-272-7748 to make a comment.**

"Vick should have to stay in prison for several more years for the terrible things he did to those dogs."

"That was a great sentence the DA and the judge came up with for the child molester. But how many years will he really serve? They need to castrate him and move on."

"What's next McDonald's, are you going to charge for parking?"

"Charging for condiments is a bad idea. You should add a few cents to the price of shakes and fries and no one will notice."

**Editor's note: Why punish people who don't use extra condiments?**

"Maybe when Obama does all this work-related stuff the counties of Whitfield and Murray will have enough money to paint yellow lines on the road you can actually see."

"Please don't try to stop the editor's comments. Some are very helpful and others are sarcastic, and I thoroughly enjoy those."

"Why would they put the four-way stop sign in Spanish when it's people who speak English who go through it."

"The editor's comments are one of the best things about the forum. Keep putting them in."

"I am still waiting for the boating and camping ground the city promised for Haig Mill Lake. Right now it's got a fence around it."

"Hamas isn't in Israel. Hamas is in Gaza."

"Are we going in to Clinton's third term. Obama is appointing a lot of Clinton's old cronies. Why not throw in Chelsea, too?"

"Why did Murray County have to buy a new Ford from Jacky Jones Ford? Why not from Chatsworth Ford?"

"Why doesn't Dalton Utilities and OptiLink bill all of it on one bill? Two separate bills each month are a waste."

"You think gas is high in Murray County, you should buy it in the south end of Whitfield County."

"Go ahead and flush. Our country is in the toilet."

"Minnesota Xeroxed enough ballots to finally declare Al Franken a winner."

"What part of the unemployed people and surrounding area is Hispanic and what part is American."

**Editor's note: What part is Hispanic AND American?**

"We want to thank the guys at the Waugh Street Fire Department for their help Sunday afternoon at Christ the King Church for helping us with a big problem."

"Higher taxes on alcohol or tobacco won't change the use of either substance."

"The only way to watch the Patriots in January is to rent the movie."

"I went to and from town and saw five cars not stop for school buses."

"I figured it out, McDonalds. All the oil companies must be buying into ketchup now."

"Come on Murray County Sheriff's Office, we need some more drug arrests."

"Zaxby's is the only restaurant I've ever been in that charges for condiments. I guess McDonalds wants to be like Zaxbys."

**Editor's note: Zaxbys does not charge for all condiments.**

"The letter in Tuesday's paper about the man who found the dog was very heartwarming. Great job Josh Tatum."

"If you live long enough, you'll be old one day, too."

"What do our Animal Control officers control? They don't pick up cats at all and they don't pick up dogs."

"Has anyone noticed that Coach Vaden and Coach Carter at Christian Heritage were on the Southeast coaching staff back in the 1980s when Southeast used to win? Maybe some of those coaches should have been given a chance to coach at Southeast."

"More taxes on cigarettes and alcohol? They need to tax the churches."

"To the guy who when he gets back from a business trip his toilet seats are raised up: I'm sorry."

"Mr. Mike Babb, when can we expect to hear from you about cuts in our county's property taxes? The city is getting way ahead of you."

"I am so thankful for the sound of this drought-breaking rain."

"I was pulled over for weaving Airport Road. I told the officer I wasn't drunk. I was just trying to dodge the potholes."  
**Call 706-272-7748 to make a comment.**



MISTY WATSON/The Daily Citizen

**The Conasauga River flows higher than normal under the bridge at the Whitfield-Murray line on Ga. Highway 2 Wednesday following heavy rains that moved through the area from Monday evening to early Wednesday morning.**

**Flood: Warnings continue**

> Continued from page 1A

mass evacuations, but did help a family on Third Avenue in Eton out of their home. Several parts of Murray County were flooded Wednesday, including Norton Bridge in the north end of the county, areas of Ga. Highway 225 North above Red Cut Road and Patricia Avenue in Spring Place. Rising waters caused officials to close Catoosa County Public Schools and Gordon County Public Schools because of flooding on several roads.

The scene was quieter in Whitfield County — until Wednesday afternoon.

Jeffrey Putnam, director of Whitfield County Emergency Services, said there was no significant flooding damage in the county. But as Wednesday wore on, soaked soil and whipping winds at about 4 p.m. caused trees to fall on power lines on Airport Road, Broadrick Drive, Indian Trail, LaFayette Highway, Lower Dug Gap Road, Tilton Road, Waring Road and other parts of the county.

Early Wednesday evening, about 2,000 customers of North Georgia Electric Membership Corp. were without power, spokesman Jeff Rancudo said. About 1,150 of those outages were concentrated near West Dug Gap Mountain Road.

"Of course we're working hard to get them back on as fast as possible," Rancudo said.

Georgia Power had 1,176 customers in Dalton and

about 2,500 in surrounding counties without power, spokeswoman Christy Hesser said. Dalton Utilities had no power outages Wednesday afternoon.

Several Whitfield County roads were closed — Chattanooga Road, Lower King's Bridge Road at the Murray County line and Peggy Lane — part of Wednesday. In Dalton, an oak tree destroyed a vacant home at No. 9 Cedar St.

"We were fortunate," Putnam said.

Fortunate, much like the two Polk County, Tenn., kayakers that set out at 1:45 p.m. Tuesday for a float down Jacks River. Their names were not immediately released. When they put in, the water was about one and a half feet deep. By 10 p.m., the water had ballooned to almost seven feet deep.

"The water rose a lot faster than they had anticipated," said Dwayne Bain, Murray County emergency management director.

Crews were not able to find the kayakers Tuesday night. Oran Hogan, a member of the rescue squad, said the search continued until midnight in stormy conditions.

"We searched every area and never could find anything," Hogan said.

The kayakers exited the river and stayed under a rock ledge, Bain said. Crews found them at about 10 a.m. Wednesday. They were only "cold and wet" and headed home later that morning, Bain said. The kayakers said the water was so swift it seemed like Class 5 rapids

(out of 6), telling the rescue crew members, "The Ocoee had nothing on this."

Back at the Watts' home in Eton, Jason surveyed the deluge from his front porch as strong winds made the standing water ripple. With a baseball cap pulled over his eyes, he recalled the scene Tuesday night. He could barely see the top of the mailbox, estimating the water reached at least two feet in the yard. The water grew so high he would not drive through it. Items stored in backyard sheds surely were damaged, but he had not yet checked. By Wednesday morning, water slapped at a swing tied to a towering tree in the front yard.

He referenced the December 2008 storms that dumped five inches of rain into Mill Creek. After the soaking recedes, he's bringing in fill dirt to prevent future flooding.

"This is the worst I've ever seen it," the 28-year-old said. "If you didn't know there was property here and a bridge over there, you would think this is a lake."

Their Old Federal Road neighbor, Evelyn Rapp, has seen worse. In her 15 years at her house, she's seen a stream of water stretching about 80 yards north to a nearby home. Although flood waters crept close to her house this time, Rapp stayed the night.

"I worried, but not as much as my husband," Rapp said. "I figured if it did (flood the house), it did. There was nothing I could do about it."

**Chipper operates Saturday**

Residents of Dalton and Whitfield County can bring their live, undecorated Christmas tree to Home Depot on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. as part of the statewide "Bring One For The Chipper" event. The local host is Keep Dalton-Whitfield Beautiful.

The idea is to provide tangible environmental benefits while helping local governments comply with state regulations that prohibit the disposal of yard trimmings in municipal landfills. Whitfield County public works will provide a chipper. The mulch will be used for public beautification projects and is free to residents of Whitfield County.

Local sponsors include the Dalton-Whitfield Regional Solid Waste Management Authority, the city of Dalton, Whitfield County and the Georgia Forestry Commission.

If residents can not participate on the day of the event, other opportunities are available. The city of Dalton public works department will collect trees from the curb. City residents

should call (706) 278-7077 for pickup.

All Whitfield County transfer stations and the landfill have drop-off locations. These stations collect yard debris year round.

If you want to recycle your

Christmas tree officials say all nails, hooks, wires, tinsel, lights and ornaments should be removed. Trees must be live; no artificial trees.

For more information, call Bridget Sanford at (706) 278-5001.

**TODAY'S CITIZEN**

**NAME:** Linda Lewis  
**AGE:** 46  
**HOME:** Dalton  
**FAMILY:** Daughters, Deanna Ponders, Crystal Bowling and Misty Rackley; 10 grandchildren  
**WORK:** Guest Inn Motel and Sassy Sisters Salon  
**PLAY:** Enjoying my grandchildren  
**SHE SAID:** "You're never too old and never give up."



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**Class: Size waivers**

> Continued from 1A

to deal with falling property tax collections and state funding.

Board members expressed concern that even modest class size increases will hurt how much one-on-one time teachers can spend with children, which can impair how much they learn.

"No one on this board wants to do this," said board member Mary Sue Murray. "But times are tough, and I think we're really going to have to go this way."

State lawmakers passed a law with class-size limits in 2006 to help improve students' performance on standardized tests and increase

high school graduation rates. Experts have long agreed that small classes are better learning environments, particularly in the elementary school grades.

It's important that the state not extend the inflated limits beyond one year, Georgia Association of Educators President Jeff Hubbard said.

"We're disappointed it's come to this," said Hubbard.

The 2006 law limits class sizes in core classes — math, science, social studies and language arts — from kindergarten through middle school. Georgia lawmakers tried but failed to pass similar ceilings for high school classes in 2007.

**CORRECTION**

A party on Jan. 24 to honor Sanna Wagner, who is retiring from AOG, will be at the Dalton Shrine Club from 7 to 10 p.m.

As of December 28, 2008, The Daily Citizen will no longer be delivering The Atlanta Journal Constitution to this area.





Ben Petty, who helps run the Petty Dairy Farm in north Murray County, looks out at waters flooding a wheat field early Wednesday afternoon. Petty estimated the waters rose from the Conasauga River some 800 yards away. The Conasauga runs just near the tree line in the background to the right. Several of the Pettys' fields were flooded Wednesday. Creek and river levels are expected to recede today.



Jason and Brandy Watts' yard in Eton flooded Wednesday when nearby Mill Creek spilled over following heavy rains that came through the area from Monday night to early Wednesday morning.



Coahulla Creek flows so high next to Prater's Mill on Wednesday afternoon the waterfall was no longer visible.



A block between First and Second avenues in Chatsworth was flooded Wednesday morning following heavy rains.



A truck drives through Mill Creek that spilled over Old Federal Road in Eton Wednesday.

PHOTOS BY  
**MISTY WATSON**  
The Daily  
Citizen

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### OTHER VIEWS

## Federal gas tax increase

Western Refining CEO Paul Foster raised eyebrows last week when he told Fortune Magazine that the federal gasoline tax should be gradually raised to \$2 a gallon. It's now 18.4 cents a gallon.

On one hand, this is certainly not the time to raise anyone's taxes. We are in a recession.

On the other hand, Foster is thinking of the future. As he said on the magazine's Web site, a higher federal gasoline tax, as is charged in some European countries, would help wean citizens off petroleum products and force everyone's hand at perfecting alternative — clean — sources of energy. ...

"I think the tax on gasoline needs to be at least \$2 a gallon," Foster said. "But I don't think you can go there all at once," he told the magazine. ...

We are certainly not proposing the federal government, or the state of Texas, raise its gasoline tax at this time.

However, by an oilman such as Foster airing his theories, it makes all stop and think about how important it is to eventually wean ourselves off the importation of foreign oil and devising ways to power our country with fuels that are renewable, less expensive and kinder to the environment. ...

**El Paso (Texas) Times**

## America's appetite

Obesity and hunger are two sides of the very serious public health problem of malnutrition.

It's no coincidence that some of the heaviest people typically have the worst diets — sugary soda for breakfast, fast food and convenience store cuisine. That's why we were glad to hear agriculture secretary nominee Tom Vilsack talk about putting "nutrition at the center of all food assistance programs administered by the department."

Some might argue that if people want to eat poorly, that's their right. But the country doesn't have to subsidize such self-destructive behavior and, in fact, has an obligation to encourage otherwise. ...

One of the ways child nutrition can be addressed is through school breakfast and lunch programs, which provide 40 million meals each day. ...

This is a prime time for Vilsack and others to create stronger links between good nutrition and food assistance. It's particularly relevant as the country's worsening economic problems are driving more people to seek food stamps and other assistance.

**The Denver Post**

## The smell of corruption

Democratic Gov. Bill Richardson of New Mexico, who ... withdrew from consideration for U.S. commerce secretary, is just the latest, sad example of a public official being investigated or sanctioned for questionable behavior.

Nationally, Democratic Gov. Rod Blagojevich of Illinois could face an impeachment vote next week for allegedly trying to sell Barack Obama's Senate seat. ...

The accused will have their day in court and are innocent until proven guilty. Nonetheless, the charges against them and other recently tainted public officials are disappointing, breaching the trust of all constituents, supporters and non-supporters.

These types of lapses certainly aren't new, seemingly going hand-in-hand with positions of power and authority. ...

That's why the public must demand stringent rules on the relationship between elected officials, state employees and those doing business with the state.

**The News-Press, Fort Myers, Fla.**

### WORDS OF WISDOM

**Bible verse:** "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

**Lamentations 3:22-23**

**Thought for today:** "In order to go on living one must try to escape the death involved in perfectionism."

**Hannah Arendt**  
American author and historian 1906-1975

# Rich people vs. politicians

Sometimes I wish there were a humane way to get rid of the rich. Without the rich for whipping boys, we might be able to concentrate on what's best for the 99 and a half percent of the rest of us.

Warren Buffett and Bill Gates, with about \$60 billion in assets each, are America's richest men. With all that money, what can they force us to do? Can they take our house to make room so that another person can build an auto dealership or a casino parking lot? Can they force us to pay money into the government-run retirement Ponzi scheme called Social Security? Can Buffett and Gates force us to bus our children to schools out of our neighborhood in the name of diversity? Unless they are granted power by politicians, rich people have little power to force us to do anything.

A GS-9, or a lowly municipal clerk, has far more life-and-death power over us. It's they to whom we must turn to for permission to build a house, ply a trade, open a restaurant and a myriad of other activities. It's government people, not rich people, who have the power to coerce and make our lives miserable. Coercive power goes a long way toward explaining political corruption.

Gov. Rod Blagojevich's hawking of Barack Obama's vacated U.S. Senate seat; Ways and Means Committee Chairman Charlie Rangel's alleged tax writing favors; former Rep. William Jefferson's business bribes; and the Jack Abramoff scandal are mere pimples on the



**Walter Williams**

all practical purposes the same thing, but simply legal corruption.

For example, according to the Miami Herald, by March 2008, the powerful Florida Fanjul sugar family had given over \$300,000 to politicians and political committees. They didn't fork over all that money to help politicians to uphold and defend the U.S. Constitution. Like businessmen who approach Charlie Rangel, Rod Blagojevich and William Jefferson, they give politicians money because they want a favor in return — namely import restrictions on sugar so they can charge Americans higher prices. In the case of the Fanjuls, and thousands of others buying favors, they are engaged in legal corruption.

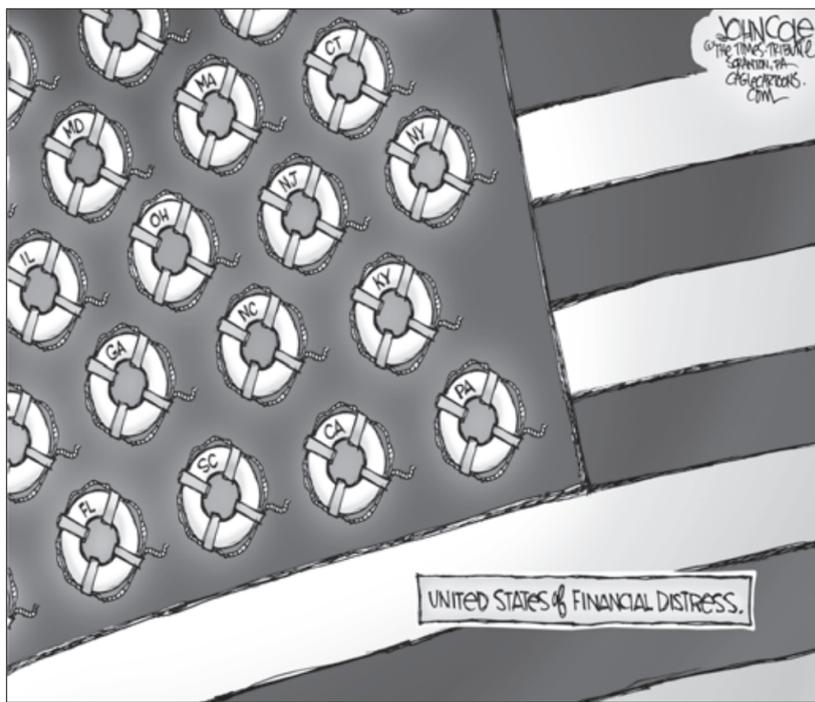
Legalized corruption is widespread and that's the job of 35,000 Washington, D.C., lobbyists earning millions upon millions of dollars. They represent America's big and small corporations, big and small labor unions and even foreign corporations and unions. They are not spending billions of dollars in political contributions to encourage and assist the

White House and Congress to uphold and defend the U.S. Constitution. They are spending that money in the expectations of favors that will be bestowed upon them at the expense of some other American or group of Americans.

This power helps explain, for example, why a seat on the House Ways and Means Committee, not to mention its chairmanship, is so highly coveted. For the right price, a tax loophole, saving a company tens of millions of dollars, can be inserted into tax law, a la the Charlie Rangel scandal. At state levels, governors can award public works contracts to a generous constituent. At the local levels mayors can confer favors such as providing subsidies for sports stadia and convention centers. When politicians can give favors, they will find buyers.

The McCain-Feingold law was to get "money out of politics" but more money was spent in the 2008 election cycle than ever. The only way to reduce corruption and money in Washington is to reduce the power politicians have over our lives. James Madison was right when he suggested, "All men having power ought to be distrusted to a certain degree." Thomas Jefferson warned, "The greatest calamity which could befall us would be submission to a government of unlimited powers." That's what today's Americans have given Washington — unlimited powers.

**Walter Williams is a professor of economics at George Mason University.**



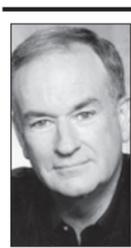
## Some things I learned in 2008

Tough year, 2008. Many Americans got badly hurt by the economic chaos, which hit them like a back alley mugger. What a disgrace. Wall Street hustlers gamed the system by trafficking in bad loans, while Congress and the Securities and Exchange Commission looked the other way. Awful.

So, I learned a painful lesson from all that: Big Brother is not watching out for us. Orwell had it wrong. We are pretty much on our own as the federal government simply cannot or will not protect the folks from danger. Never again will I assume the feds are looking out for me.

I understand that sounds cynical. And I do believe that the Bush administration did apply very tough policies that made it much more difficult for terrorists to attack us. But on the homefront, the federal and state governments continue to tax workers to the max while wasting much of the revenue on foolish projects designed to get politicians votes. If this continues, it is only a matter of time before America's economy completely tanks.

But many Americans, perhaps most,



**Bill O'Reilly**

Obama has learned from that. If he has not, duck.

The past year also taught me that the media can no longer be trusted. This has been developing for a long time, but media bias reached critical mass during the presidential campaign. Many in the press slanted their reporting to help Barack Obama, every independent study shows that. And all you have to do is compare the treatment Obama received to how the media portrayed Sarah Palin. That's all you have to do.

So, the lesson here is clear: No longer can the American media be relied upon to bring us fact-based information. The news media has entered the ideology business much like talk radio. This will greatly harm the nation, as unbiased information is critical for an informed citizenry. The collapse of journalistic standards was a huge but largely untold story in 2008.

Finally, I learned last year that despite the terrible economy, Americans continue to be a generous people. My Web site has been able to donate hundreds of thousands of dollars to help poor children, wounded vets and their families, and the homeless. We were able to do this because folks bought stuff on the site knowing the money they spent would flow to the less fortunate.

That's a big positive story of 2008. Despite the cruel economic blows, the generous spirit of Americans remains intact.

**Bill O'Reilly is a nationally syndicated columnist and the host of the top-rated O'Reilly Report on Fox.**

### TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is **Thursday, Jan. 8**, the eighth day of 2009. There are 357 days left in the year.

**Highlight in History:** On Jan. 8, 1935, rock-and-roll legend Elvis Presley was born in Tupelo, Miss.

**On this date:** In 1798, the Eleventh Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was declared in effect by President John Adams nearly three years after its ratification by the states; it prohibited a citizen of one state from suing another state in federal court.

In 1815, U.S. forces led by Gen. Andrew Jackson defeated the British in the Battle of New Orleans, the closing engagement of the War of 1812.

In 1918, President Woodrow Wilson outlined his "Fourteen Points" for lasting peace after World War I. Mississippi became the first state to ratify the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, which established Prohibition.

In 1959, Charles de Gaulle was inaugurated as president of France's Fifth Republic. In Cuba, Fidel Castro and his army arrived in Havana in triumph following the overthrow of Fulgencio Batista.

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson declared a "War on Poverty" in his State of the Union address.

In 1973, the Paris peace talks between the United States and North Vietnam resumed.

In 1987, for the first time, the Dow Jones industrial average closed above 2,000, ending the day at 2,002.25.

In 2003, a US Airways Express commuter plane crashed at the Charlotte, N.C., airport, killing all 21 people on board. A Turkish Airlines jet crashed in Turkey, killing 75 people.

**Ten years ago:** By a unanimous vote, senators formally ratified the rules for President Bill Clinton's impeachment trial.

**Five years ago:** Libya agreed to compensate family members of victims of a 1989 bombing of a French passenger plane over the Niger desert that killed 170 people.

**One year ago:** Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton and Republican John McCain won the New Hampshire primaries.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actor-comedian Larry Storch is 86. Actor Ron Moody is 85. Comedian Soupy Sales is 83. Broadcast journalist Sander Vanocur is 81. CBS newsmen Charles Osgood is 76. Singer Shirley Bassey is 72. Game show host Bob Eubanks is 71.

**BRIEFS**

**Obama pledges more reforms**

WASHINGTON — President-elect Barack Obama said Wednesday that reforming massive government entitlement programs — such as Social Security and Medicare — would be “a central part” of his effort to control federal spending. Obama made the pledge but provided few details as he named Nancy Killefer as his administration’s chief performance officer, creating a new White House position aimed at eliminating government waste and improving efficiency. Noting that the Congressional Budget Office had just estimated he would inherit a \$1.2 trillion federal deficit for fiscal 2009, Obama promised to cut unnecessary spending. For the first time, Obama gave a ballpark price tag for his massive economic plan aimed at generating jobs and jolting the country out of recession. Aides have said it could cost as much as \$775 billion over two years.

**Airstrikes, Hamas rockets resume**

GAZA CITY, Gaza — Israeli airstrikes and Hamas rockets resumed after a brief pause Wednesday to allow food and fuel to reach Palestinian civilians in Gaza, where an Israeli warplane dropped leaflets urging some residents to flee because of imminent attacks. Even as the Israeli government tentatively welcomed a cease-fire proposal from Egypt and France, its military was instructed to continue its assault on Hamas. The proposal could mark the first sign of a possible exit from 12 days of bloodshed in Gaza. But Israel says it needs guarantees that any cease-fire will halt rocket fire and prevent Hamas from rearming, while Hamas demands that Gaza’s blockaded border crossings be opened.

**Burris confident he’ll get seat**

WASHINGTON — Roland Burris said Wednesday he should be able to join the Senate “very shortly,” after talking to newly supportive Democratic leaders and working on lingering legal obstacles. Talking to reporters on the second day of a Washington power odyssey that would intimidate many, the 71-year-old Burris declared himself happy and said he was pleased with his meeting with Sens. Harry Reid and Dick Durbin. Burris’ legal issues include a pending decision on whether Secretary of State Jesse White’s signature is required on his certification papers.

**Minn. Senate race to drag on**

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Minnesota’s grueling U.S. Senate race, already dragging on two months past Election Day, has now moved even further from the voters — and into the hands of lawyers. Republican Norm Coleman filed a lawsuit Tuesday challenging Democrat Al Franken’s apparent recount victory, likely keeping one of Minnesota’s two U.S. Senate seats unoccupied for weeks or even months. It promises to reopen many of the disputes that arose during the recount, and to raise new questions about the conduct of the election and the counting of ballots.

# Dalton to get more greenspace

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Dalton City Council voted 4-0 Wednesday to accept a small parcel of property on Chattanooga Avenue near the old Crown Cotton Mill from developer Lowell Kirkman. Council member Charlie Bethel said the property, well under an acre, will be used solely as greenspace. “Grass and trees will be all

you see there,” he said.

Bethel said recent rains should remind people how valuable greenspace and impermeable surfaces are.

The council also voted 4-0 to provide administrative workers who take early retirement credit for up to two years of service or age for pension purposes. Council members voted to cut four positions from administra-

tive staff in December. Human resources director Greg Batts said then one of those workers qualified for early retirement.

The council also re-appointed: ■ Carolyn Hawkins, to the animal control board, four-year term

■ Jim Bisson, city attorney, two-year term

■ Jeff Dugger, fire marshal, one-year term

■ Dick Lowrey, mayor pro tem, one-year term

■ John Didier, tree board, one-year term

■ Melvyn Ottinger, tree board, three-year term

■ Melva Purvis, tree board, one-year term

■ Chris Stearns, tree board, three-year term

■ Kris Thomas, tree board, one-year-term

# Goody’s liquidates remaining stores

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Discount clothing chain Goody’s Family Clothing will begin liquidating its stores, including a store in Dalton, on Friday as the retailer becomes one of the year’s first victims of the worsening economy.

The move, which comes less than four months after the privately held retailer emerged from Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, affects the Knoxville, Tenn.-based chain’s 287 stores scattered throughout 20 Midwestern and Southern states, said Cathy

Herschopf, a partner at Cooley Godward Kronish LLP. Goody’s has a store at Walnut Square Mall in Dalton and nearby stores in Calhoun and Fort Oglethorpe.

A local store official referred questions to Goody’s corporate office. A phone call there Wednesday afternoon resulted in an after hours message.

The firm is working with Goody’s vendors and its parent, PGDYS Lending LLC. It’s uncertain what will happen to the company’s 9,800 workers after the liquidation — being handled by a joint venture

between Gordon Brothers Retail Partners LLC and Hilco Merchant Resources LLC — is completed by the end of March. But without a last minute buyer or an investor to purchase high-performing stores, their job outlook is grim.

“Any loss of commerce is a concern,” said Brian Anderson, president and CEO of the Dalton-Whitfield Chamber of Commerce. “This isn’t necessarily unexpected. Not just Goody’s, but all of the national news and regional news is that there will be continued fallout in the retail category. They’ve had

some concerns over the last couple of years even before the current slowdown. This is just more evidence that the retail sector is going to be as hard hit as anybody.”

Anderson said the area, which has seen unemployment reach 10.4 percent, “can’t afford any loss of jobs.”

“People will still do some shopping,” he said. “The question would be does it migrate to a different outlet in the community. One of our concerns is retail leakage” outside the community.

Anderson said the Dalton-Whitfield Joint

Development Authority is developing tax incentives for retail expansion and new retail.

“Short term, we are all in this concern cycle in that we don’t know what’s going to come next,” he said.

Herschopf said lack of consumer confidence has been a problem.

“I think every retailer experienced a great deal of pressure this holiday season because of the lack of consumer confidence,” Herschopf said. “But under-capitalized companies like Goody’s experienced more pressure from their lenders and from their vendors.”

## LEGISLATORS GATHER



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Attending Dalton State College’s annual legislative breakfast and briefing recently were members of the Georgia General Assembly, representing the Northwest Georgia region. From left are Rep. Jay Neal of District 1, Rep. John Meadows of District 5,

Rep. Tom Dickson of District 6, Rep. Roger Williams of District 4, Rep. Tom Weldon of District 3 and Sen. Jeff Mullis of District 53. Issues of importance to the college and the University System of Georgia were discussed.

## Hunting meeting tonight

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources’ Wildlife Resources Division wants to know what you think about hunting regulations. The division is holding a public meeting tonight at Dalton State College to receive comments on the development of hunting regulations for the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 hunting seasons.

The meeting will begin at 7 in the Goodroe Auditorium of Memorial Hall. You are required to register upon arrival and say whether you plan to give a statement. Officials say statements must be concise to allow everyone a chance to speak.

Proposed changes to hunting regulations will be considered by the Board of Natural Resources in May.

For more information, visit the Wildlife Resources Division Web site at [www.gohuntgeorgia.com](http://www.gohuntgeorgia.com) or contact Hunter Services at (770) 761-3044.

## Safer C-sections

NEW YORK (AP) — Babies do better after a scheduled Caesarean section if they’re born no sooner than seven days before their due date, a new large study of U.S. births shows.

Those delivered earlier had more complications, including breathing problems, even though they were full term, the researchers reported in today’s New England Journal of Medicine. Even just a few days made a difference, they said.

## AREA ARRESTS

• Allen Lee Barton, 53, 6230 Highway 411 North, Chatsworth, was charged Tuesday by the Murray County Sheriff’s Office with possession of firearms by a convicted felon.

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**CROSSWORD**

**ACROSS** 38 Dynamite inventor  
1 Heche or Hathaway  
5 Kine  
9 Aries  
12 "Groovy"  
13 "Hi, sailor!"  
14 First lady?  
15 "Becker" star  
17 Part of DJIA  
18 Record container  
19 Go on all fours  
21 Concerning  
22 Plant louse  
24 Nose lengtheners?  
27 Snake eyes  
28 Lum-moxes  
31 Anti-quoted  
32 Toward the stern  
33 Savings acronym  
34 Puff  
36 Greek consonants  
37 Let fall

**DOWN** 20 "Flying Down to —"  
22 Terrible  
23 Cookware  
24 High-arc shot  
25 Under the weather  
26 Al  
30 Tree fluid  
33 Took the prize  
37 Grayish red  
39 Skeleton components  
40 Milwaukee product  
41 Long lunches  
42 Small combo  
43 Sleeping  
44 Sgt. Snorkel's dog  
45 Undo a dele  
46 Glitch in print  
49 Historic time  
50 Cacophony

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

A	P	S	E	M	A	P	A	C	M	E	
C	O	E	D	E	W	E	G	O	O	P	
H	O	T	W	A	T	E	R	A	L	T	O
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**Yesterday's answer 1-8**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15			16					17		
18							19	20		
			21			22	23			
24	25	26		27			28	29	30	
31				32				33		
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41	42					43		44	45	46
47				48	49	50				
51				52				53		
54				55				56		

**BRIDGE**

**Elegant defensive play**

The attitude of a defender should always be that a lie of the cards exists which allows the contract to be defeated. This often entails crediting partner with the possession of a particular card or distribution, and then acting on that assumption.

Consider this deal where South wound up in four spades on the bidding shown. West led the king of hearts and saw his prospects take an immediate nose dive when South ruffed.

Declarer played the A-K of spades and, upon discovering that he had a trump loser, began to run his clubs. West waited until the fourth round to ruff in, temporarily cutting declarer off from dummy's fifth club. The critical moment was now at hand.

Since the seven of spades was an entry to dummy's last club, it was clear to West that unless his side could cash three diamond tricks immediately, South would make his game, scoring six spades and four clubs in all. West therefore had to assume that his partner had the king of diamonds, because if declarer had that card, the contract could not be defeated.

Simply presuming that East had the king, however, was not enough, for there was the collateral question of who had the ten. If East had that card, it did not matter what West did next. But if South had the ten, West could not cash the ace of diamonds or lead the nine without handing declarer a diamond trick. On the lead of the nine, for example, South could simply play low from dummy to force East's king, promoting dummy's queen into a third-round trick.

West therefore returned the jack of diamonds, and declarer was helpless. No matter what he did, he had to lose three diamond tricks and go down one.

**Tomorrow:** Bidding quiz.

**CRYPTOQUIP**

W N F Q A T Y X L N H W R Z O A T I G V H  
Y L B V H W F T R V T Z F Z V H W T  
F B L Q Q O F D G , D L A G H I X F I

Q V F G F A Z X O W L I ?  
**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** POPULAR ANIMATED MOVIE THAT DEPICTS SUPPOSED EVENTS IN HOMER'S "ILIAD" EPIC: "TROY STORY."  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals B

**HOROSCOPE**

**Happy Birthday:** You can engage in many different projects this year but be sure to protect your heart. You have everything going for you but, when it comes to your personal life, there will be plenty of choices to make. Focus on the present and the future, not the past. Stand tall and be successful. Your numbers are 6, 9, 11, 24, 28, 31, 40.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Take the initiative and show everyone what you have to offer. You can make it on your own, so stop waiting for others to make a move. Once you start moving in a direction that suits you, nothing will be able to slow you down. 4 stars

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Concentrate on getting ahead and do not leave room for error. Love is looking positive and pursuing something with that special person that could be prosperous, will bring you closer together. Follow your dreams. 3 stars

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Set your sights high and do not deviate from them even if someone you are impressed with tries to sway you. You must be true to your goals if you want to be successful. Don't let anything deter you from getting what you want. 3 stars

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Pour your heart out if it will help you solve a pending problem. A change of heart or partnership will do you good. A passionate encounter is in the stars and a serious commitment can be made. 3 stars

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Someone from your past is likely to surprise you. Expect the unexpected but don't fall for the same trick twice. Do a little research in order to realize what you should do next. Talk to your boss or a colleague about your goals. 4 stars

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** You have to stop being so hard and critical and start to enjoy your time with

friends and colleagues. Having a common bond or interest can work to your advantage. Firm up on work-related friendships and prosper. 2 stars

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Be open, honest and fair. A trip or chance to experience a different culture or lifestyle will inspire you to make some adjustments to your own everyday routine. Share your thoughts with people from different backgrounds. 5 stars

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Wasting time trying to do what's impossible will leave you frustrated and stagnant. Love and romance are in the stars, so put time aside to nurture your most important relationships. A strong home base will help you get ahead in all facets of life. 3 stars

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** The future looks bright if you are willing to forego the past and focus on the possibilities that face you. Think big but don't overdo without having the funds to cover your costs. Emotions may cause an impulsive action. 3 stars

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Your dedication will bring you the success you desire and your ability to shuffle and adapt to whatever you face will ensure you are heading in the right direction and are unstoppable. Give your all and that's what you'll get in return. 3 stars

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** You can benefit from working from home or developing a means to make extra cash. Check out your options and let your imagination lead to an interesting way to market something you have to offer. 5 stars

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Don't give in to emotional blackmail. Be true to yourself if you don't want to end up being taken advantage of. Question your motives as well as the motives of the people you are involved with. 2 stars



**Eugenia Last**

**Zumba adds spice to fitness course**

SUBMITTED BY DALTON STATE COLLEGE

"Ditch the workout and join the party!" is the battle cry of Zumba fanatics everywhere.

Zumba is one of the fastest-growing fitness crazes around the globe. Combining the driving rhythms of Latin music, sizzling dance moves and routines that work almost every muscle in the body, Zumba is truly a fitness phenomenon. Dalton State College offers Zumba as part of its winter session menu of fitness courses.

Fitness professional Hong Trimble, certified through the American Council on Exercise and the Aerobics and Fitness Association of America, will lead the class. She brings a wealth of fitness education and training as well as an exuberant personality to the class.

"Zumba will leave you laughing, sweating, building muscle and burning fat," Trimble said. "Zumba provides an atmosphere that will make you forget you are working out. It's an exercise class that looks and sounds more like a celebration. This is a dynamic fitness program that is different from anything else you've done before. You will not be bored!" Zumba coined the concept of fitness-party and has become nothing short of a revolution. It's a system designed for both the body and the mind.

According to WebMD, Zumba is one of the top three hot fitness trends for 2009.

Trimble will also be teaching Zumba Gold and pilates through continuing education. Zumba Gold takes all of the moves created in the original Zumba program and modifies them for the active older adult, beginner or anyone needing some slight moderations for a successful class. Zumba Gold is a treat for the body, mind and soul



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Hong Trimble helps people "ditch the workout and join the party" during a Zumba class.**

and will be offered during the day, said program coordinator Kelly Snyder.

Pilates is a fitness regimen that helps students improve their posture, develop long and lean muscle definition without bulk, create a strong core, and reduce stress through strength and flexibility training.

"The most enjoyable and most rewarding aspect of my job is providing a program that will motivate, encourage and help others make physical fitness part of their lifestyle," Trimble said. "I love to see students and clients become addicted to fitness. This is when they realize it is not about the New Year's resolution but about living a healthy and active life. The icing on the cake is when I hear the excitement in their voices when they tell me how much weight they've lost, if that was their goal."

"Being fit can enrich a person's life," Trimble con-

tinued. "Depending on the individual's goal, benefits can include weight loss or weight gain, reduction in risk for heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes and stress. Other benefits include an increase in cardiovascular fitness, muscle strength, flexibility, bone density and more energy. The benefits are truly too numerous to list all of them."

Trimble likes the idea of fitness classes because of the extra benefits a "class" atmosphere offers students, Snyder said. She noted that psychological benefits from a fitness class include associating with a group of people who have similar goals, having people to exercise with, and forming a bond with other fitness participants.

"I also think the best benefit people can have mentally and emotionally is being happy with the body they are in," Trimble said. "As people see results from a consistent

fitness regimen, they feel better about themselves. It is never too late to begin a fitness program at any age. A fitness professional can assist you in finding the correct program to safely meet your needs.

"It's always smart to consult a physician before beginning any new fitness regimen," she continued. "Having a regular fitness program can increase your life expectancy, act as a 'fountain of youth' by keeping your skin supple and muscles toned, improve balance, flexibility, work your brain as well as the most important muscle in your body: your heart."

"You only have one body," Trimble said. "Have fun and make the most of it!"

For more information or to register for Zumba, Zumba Gold or pilates, please call (706) 272-4454 or log on to www.daltonstate.edu/ccc. Classes begin soon.

**Whitfield gets federal funds**

Whitfield County will receive \$72,425 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the county.

The selection was made by a national board chaired by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and consisting of representatives from the Salvation Army, American Red Cross, United Jewish Communities, Catholic Charities USA, National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA and United Way of America. Local boards distribute the funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas.

The local board here includes representatives from the city and county. It will determine how the funds awarded to Whitfield County will be distributed among emergency food and shelter programs run by local service organizations.

Local groups chosen to receive funds must be private voluntary nonprofits or units of government, have an accounting system, prac-

tice nondiscrimination, have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and — if they are a private voluntary organization — have a voluntary board. Qualifying agencies are urged to apply. Last year, Whitfield County distributed \$48,964 to the Dalton Organizations of Churches United for People (DOC-UP), the Salvation Army, Harbor House, Oak Haven, Northwest Georgia Family Crisis Center and the Dalton-Whitfield Community Development Corp. These agencies provided homeless shelter and help with utilities, rent and food.

Agencies interested in applying for the funds must write Margaret Zeisig, Director of Community Solutions, United Way of Northwest Georgia, P.O. Box 566, Dalton, GA 30720-0566; call (706) 876-1599; fax (706) 226-1029; or e-mail mzeisig@whitfieldcounty-ga.com. The deadline for proposals is 5 p.m. on Jan. 21.

**Rock Hill School plans open house**

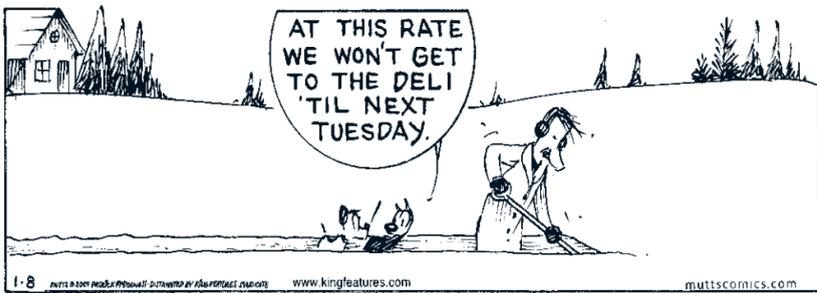
Rock Hill School will hold an open house/registration for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students ages 4-6 on Jan. 20 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the school, 506 Highland Drive in Dalton.

If you are unable to attend but interested in enrolling your child call

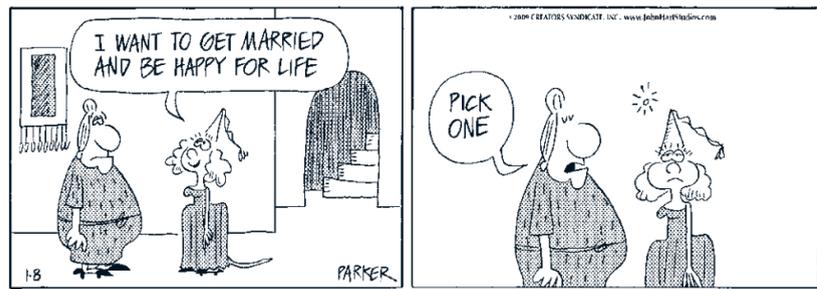
the school at (706) 226-6999 between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. prior to the open house.

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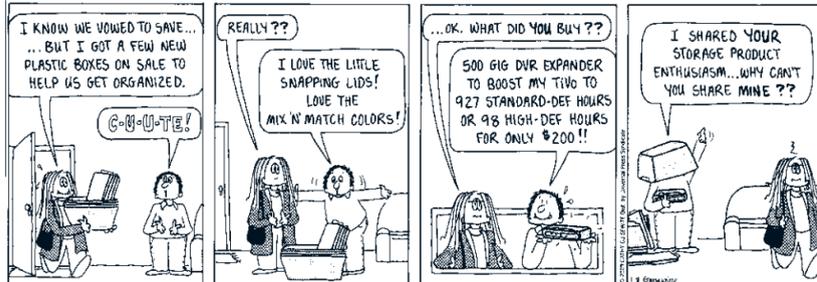
MUTTS



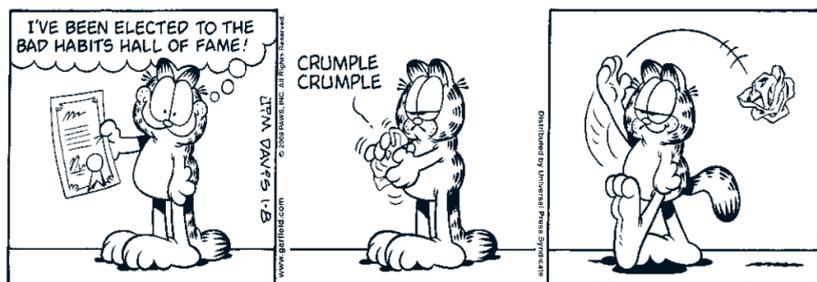
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CATHY



GARFIELD



SNUFFY SMITH



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



FOR BETTER OR WORSE



BLONDIE



BEETLE BAILEY



TUNDRA



DEAR ABBY

Couple tosses, turns over sharing covers

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I have a wonderful relationship, but there is one big problem. I don't like to share blankets at bedtime. The truth is, I like to sleep comfortably with my blankets tucked all around. I have honestly tried sharing, but I can't sleep that way or even get comfortable. My boyfriend thinks I'm weird and that I don't like being close to him at night. Isn't sharing a bed enough? — CREATURE OF HABIT

It down. He doesn't want to leave, and thinks that after we divorce our life can go on as it has been — although on paper we'll no longer be husband and wife.

My first thought was, No! We are husband and wife. I MEANT "for richer or poorer." We're in our 50s, and Darren says he is looking out for my future.

I am committed to my marriage and believe we're in this financial situation together. I didn't marry Darren for his money, and I certainly don't want to divorce him over money.

Darren swears this isn't an excuse to get out of our marriage. He says we can be married again as soon as we're back on our feet. Am I wrong about this, Abby? Should I "suspend" our marriage? It's breaking my heart to even consider it. — IN TEARS IN TUCSON



Jeane Phillips

DEAR CREATURE: In my opinion it is, but because your boyfriend doesn't agree with you, you DO have a problem. Getting enough sleep is important for maintaining one's health, and studies show that people aren't getting enough of it these days. Try explaining this to him, along with the fact that intimacy is what happens BEFORE you hit the sheets.

However, if he still doesn't get it, then he will have to decide whether your virtues outweigh your "idiosyncrasy." (Believe me, I've heard worse.)

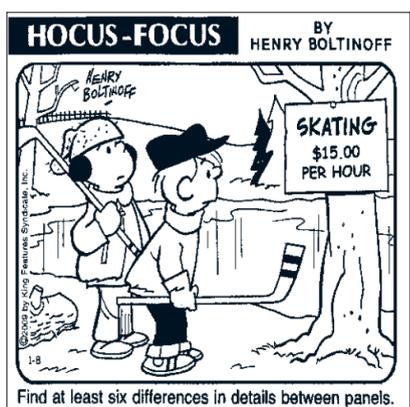
DEAR ABBY: My darling husband, "Darren," and I are soul mates, yet he has asked me for a divorce. He says it's not because he doesn't love me, but because he does.

Abby, we may be facing bankruptcy. Darren doesn't want to drag me and my cred-

DEAR IN TEARS: Dry your tears and make an appointment for you and Darren to consult your CPA. Your husband is either misguided, or he MAY be making an excuse to get out of the marriage.

Because the bills were run up during your marriage, divorce may not relieve you from liability. Of course, laws vary from state to state, however, it may be possible for your husband to file bankruptcy on his own. Furthermore, there needs to be a reason for divorce, and there are penalties for making false statements. So I don't recommend it.

HOCUS FOCUS



PEANUTS



ROSE IS ROSE



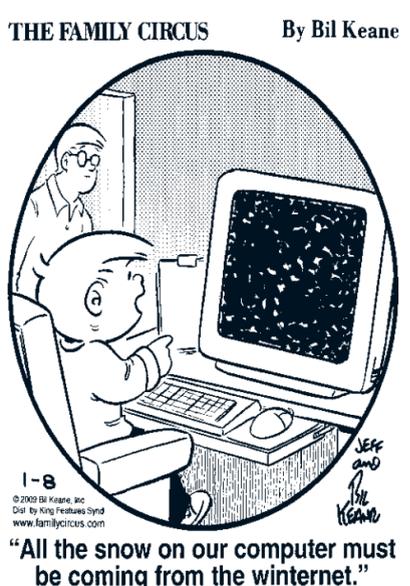
ZITS



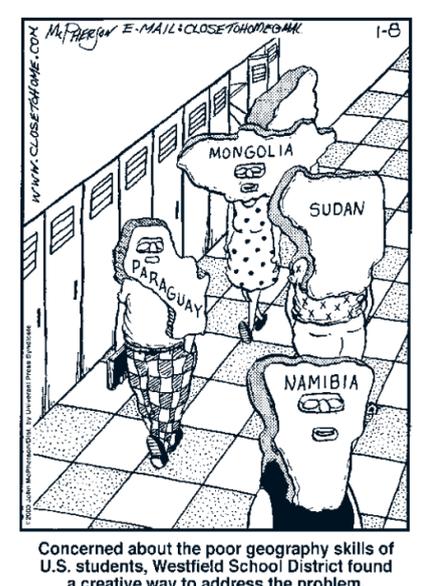
BABY BLUES



FAMILY CIRCUS



CLOSE TO HOME



Concerned about the poor geography skills of U.S. students, Westfield School District found a creative way to address the problem.



*"Simply the finest care in the area"*

**OBITUARIES**

- **Jonathan Dewitt Cronic, Dalton**
- **David "Freddie" Franks, Cohutta**
- **Alma Jean Gentry, Dalton**
- **Maurice McVicker, Dalton**
- **Robert E. Rutland Sr., Dalton**
- **Dorothy Beatrice Watkins, Tunnel Hill**
- **Dora Lee Bennett White, Chatsworth**

Obituary notices are posted online at [www.daltondailycitizen.com](http://www.daltondailycitizen.com)

**Jonathan Dewitt Cronic**

Mr. Jonathan Dewitt Cronic, 44, of Dalton, departed this life Monday, Jan. 5, 2009, at Hamilton Medical Center.

Mr. Cronic was born June 1, 1964, in Whitfield County. He was also preceded in death by his father, Dewitt P. Cronic; and sister, Billie Faye Cronic.

Mr. Cronic is survived by his mother and stepfather, Gladys and Robert J. Givens; brothers and sisters-in-law, Chris and Connie Cronic of Dalton, Bryan Givens of Calhoun, Dave and Beverly Cronic of Jasper, Ernest and Nancy Cronic of Rome and Glen Cronic of Carrollton; sisters and brothers-in-law, Cynthia and Frank White of Chatsworth, Angela and Mike Howard of Cleveland, Tenn., Nancy Cronic of Rome, Connie Pendergrass of Rome and Linda and Butch Cook of Acworth; several nieces, nephews, aunts,

uncles and cousins.

Services to celebrate the life of Jonathan Dewitt Cronic are today at 2 p.m. in the Melrose Chapel of Ponders Funeral Home with the Rev. Darey Kittle officiating.

He will be laid to rest in the United Memorial Gardens.

The family received friends at the Melrose Chapel of Ponders Funeral Home Wednesday.

Visit the Web site at [www.pondersfuneralhome.com](http://www.pondersfuneralhome.com) to share words of comfort and memories with the Cronic family.

Arrangements are by locally owned and operated Ponders Funeral Home, 138 Melrose Drive, Dalton; (706) 226-4002. Your selected independent funeral home. [www.legacy.com](http://www.legacy.com)

**David 'Freddie' Franks**

David "Freddie" Franks, 69, of Cohutta, passed away Monday, Jan. 5, 2009, at Hamilton Medical Center.

Mr. Franks was preceded in death by his parents, Glenn Franks and Grace Franks Bishop; sisters, Edith Barton, Lois Lingerfelt, and Gladys Colbert; and a brother, Troy Franks.

He was a member of Cedar Valley Cathedral of Praise.

Survivors include his wife, Myrtle Hollis Franks of the residence; a daughter, Angie White of Dalton; two stepdaughters and sons-in-law, Pat and Jim Moore of Dalton, and Delania and Chris Simms of Cohutta; two stepsons and daughter-in-

law, Michael and Laurie Hollis of Cohutta and Bruce Hollis of Dalton; a sister, Linda Brown of Dalton; two brothers and sisters-in-law, J.C. and Monica Franks of Dalton and Richard Bradley, Sr. and Edna Franks of Dalton; six grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

The funeral is today at 2 p.m. at the Pleasant Grove Chapel of Julian Peeples Funeral Home with the Rev. Clayton Brown officiating.

The family received friends at the funeral home Wednesday.

A graveside service will be at Chattanooga National Cemetery on Friday at 11 a.m. A white dove release will conclude the service.

An online guestbook can be viewed and signed at [www.julianpeeples.com](http://www.julianpeeples.com).

Julian Peeples Funeral Home, Pleasant Grove Chapel is in charge of the funeral arrangements. [www.legacy.com](http://www.legacy.com)

**Alma Jean Gentry**

Mrs. Alma Jean Gentry, 72, of Dalton, departed this life Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2009, at Heritage Health Care Center.

Mrs. Gentry was born Dec. 4, 1936, in Hamilton County, a daughter of the late Samuel and Jewel Wright Williams. She was also preceded in death by her sisters, Margie Eubanks and Margaret Williams; brothers, Samuel Williams and James Williams.

Mrs. Gentry is survived by her sons and daughter-in-law, Johnny Allen Gentry of Knoxville, Tenn., James

Newton and Debbie Gentry of Chickamauga; sisters, Peggy Williams Hughes of Ringgold, Bernice Williams Richardson of Rossville and Wendy Williams of Ringgold; four grandchildren, several nieces and nephews.

Graveside services are today at 11 a.m. from Little Prospect Memorial Gardens.

Visit the Web site at [www.pondersfuneralhome.com](http://www.pondersfuneralhome.com) to share words of comfort and memories with the Gentry Family.

Arrangements are by locally owned and operated Ponders Funeral Home, 138 Melrose Drive, Dalton; 706-226-4002.

Your Selected Independent Funeral Home. [www.legacy.com](http://www.legacy.com)

**Maurice McVicker**

Mr. Maurice McVicker, 91, of Dalton died Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2009.

Survivors and arrangements will be announced by Love Funeral Home, 1402 N. Thornton Ave., Dalton. [www.legacy.com](http://www.legacy.com)

**Love**

Funeral Home  
*Family Owned Since 1935*  
278-3313

**Robert E. Rutland Sr.**

Robert E. Rutland Sr. of Dalton passed away Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2009.

Survivors and arrangements will be announced by Love Funeral Home, 1402 N.

Thornton Ave., Dalton. [www.legacy.com](http://www.legacy.com)

**Love**

Funeral Home  
*Family Owned Since 1935*  
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Dorothy Beatrice Watkins Dorothy Beatrice Watkins, 92, of Tunnel Hill, died Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2009, at her residence.

Ms. Watkins was preceded in death by her parents, Joshua Toombs and Minnie Maude Silvey Watkins.

She is survived by nephew, Jerry (Margaret) Watkins, and niece, Janice Watkins, all of Tunnel Hill.

Services are Friday at 11 a.m. in the chapel of Jones Funeral Home of Tunnel Hill with the Rev. Leon Hullender officiating.

Burial will be in Salem Cemetery.

The family will receive friends today from 5 to 8 p.m.

Jones Funeral Home of Tunnel Hill is in charge of arrangements. [www.legacy.com](http://www.legacy.com)

**Dora Lee Bennett White**

Mrs. Dora Lee Bennett White, 87, of Chatsworth, died Monday, Jan. 5, 2009, at her residence.

She was the daughter of the late Wesley Davis Bennett and Lona Wimpey Bennett; was a longtime member of Mount Rachel Baptist Church and was preceded in death by her husband, Robert E. "Bob"

White; sisters, Lela Greenway, Eula Mae Thompson, Neta Thompson and Mary Lou Newton; brothers, Cleaburn Bennett and Arvil Bennett and her special granddaughter, Janna Johnson.

Dora Lee is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Patsy and L.D. Faw of Dalton; sons and daughters-in-law, Weems and Nedra White, Bobby and Dorene White all of Dalton; sister, Essie West of Dalton; grandchildren, Wendy and David Ensley, Amy and Burke Hayes, Tracy and Bill Grissett, Stacy and Nick Beason, Heather and Glen Johnson and Joshua Faw; great-grandchildren, Cody and Carly Ensley, Conner and Donovan Hayes, Caden Johnson, Emily and Will Grissett and Evie Beason; nieces and nephews.

Services are today at 2 p.m. in the chapel of Love Funeral Home with Dr. Larry Wood officiating.

Burial will be in West Hill Cemetery.

The family received friends at the Love Funeral Home Wednesday.

Words of comfort may be sent to the family at [www.lovefuneralhome.com](http://www.lovefuneralhome.com).

Love Funeral Home, 1402 N. Thornton Ave., Dalton (across from Hamilton Medical Center) is in charge of arrangements. [www.legacy.com](http://www.legacy.com)

**Love**

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Blake Adcock, left, president of the Carpet City Rotary Club, presents the John Hinkle Club Service Award to club member Will Robison during a recent meeting.

**Rotarian Robison earns Hinkle Award**

SUBMITTED BY THE CARPET CITY ROTARY CLUB

Will Robison received the John Hinkle Club Service Award at the December 2008 meeting of the Carpet City Rotary Club held at The Farm.

The award was established in honor of the club's first president, John Hinkle, and is given annually to the club member voted by the board of directors to "have made significant contributions in the area of club service for the year."

Robison has had a profound impact on the club since his induction in November 2000, club members said. Accomplishments include serving as international chairman for three years, sergeant-at-arms for two years, president-elect and president. In 2007, he provided leadership for the

club's fundraising event "Swing for the Green \$1 Million Shoot-out."

"Will's dedication and commitment to making our club stronger has been exemplary," said one nominator. "He almost single-handedly made 'Swing for the Green' a great success last year. He is a model of what we look for in Rotarians."

Carpet City Rotary meets Monday mornings at 7 at the Little Dipper at 238 N. Hamilton St. in downtown Dalton. For membership information, contact Blake Adcock at (706) 278-6554 or visit the Web site [www.carpetcityrotary.org](http://www.carpetcityrotary.org). The club sponsors the local winter and summer games for Special Olympics. Rotary International has 31,000 clubs in 165 countries and has been responsible for the almost total eradication of polio around the world.

**Murray seeks nominations**

The Chatsworth-Murray County Chamber of Commerce wants nominations for Business Woman and Man of the Year, Business of the Year and Humanitarian of the Year.

Please send nominations to

126 N. Third Ave., fax them to (706) 517-0198 or e-mail them to [murraychamber@windstream.net](mailto:murraychamber@windstream.net). Nominations should include information about the nominee. Judges are not from Murray County and will not know the nominees.

**High school offers tutoring**

Murray County High School is offering free tutoring. Families that meet income limits under the No Child Left Behind law will qualify. Tutoring is offered in the areas of math, reading and language arts.

Programs have been approved by the State Department of Education. Parents can view a list of providers at the Murray County Schools Web site ([www.murray.k12.ga.us/](http://www.murray.k12.ga.us/)). For more information or an application call the central office at (706) 517-8011.

**MUDDY FIELD**



MISTY WATSON/The Daily Citizen

This week's rains turned the future site of the new Whitfield County high school into a field of mud Wednesday. The site is off Ga. Highway 2 and Crow Road.

**THE MARKET**

Wednesday's Dow Jones: 8769.9 ▼ 245.2  
Wednesday's NASDAQ: 1599.1 ▼ 53.3

Tuesday		Wednesday			
Gold	848.2	848.5	IBM	89.23	87.79
Silver	11.20	11.38	Interface	4.97	4.72
Acuity	35.10	34.42	JCP	22.50	21.5
AAir	4.59	4.68	JNJ	59.69	59.13
Apple	93.02	91.01	Kroger	25.36	25.59
AT&T	28.30	27.21	Lowes	22.96	22.13
BAC	14.28	13.71	McDonalds	62.14	61.24
BB&T	25.68	23.36	Merck	29.97	29.49
BP	49.05	47.46	Microsoft	20.76	19.51
BristolMyers	22.35	22.18	Mohawk	45.08	43.22
HP-Compaq	39.31	37.84	Motorola	4.64	4.42
Chevron	77.35	73.96	Region-Fin	8.83	7.91
CocaCola	44.71	44.93	Rock-Tenn.	35.97	33.24
ConAgra	16.79	16.74	Sara Lee	10.49	10.2
ColonialBnk	2.43	2.19	SouthernCo	35.79	35.73
Coke Ent.	12.63	12.24	Synovous	7.29	6.99
CrackerBrl	20.89	19.51	SunTrust	28.30	26.68
CrwnCrafts	2.32	2.32	Torchmark	46.32	44.18
CSX	36.69	34.75	Total Sys	14.81	14.5
Dell	11.05	11.15	UPS	55.42	53.43
Delta	12.38	11.88	Vulcan	67.07	64
Dixie Group	2	2.03	Verizon	31.96	31.9
Dow	16.05	16.08	Wachovia	NA	NA
Duke	15.34	15.38	Wal-Mart	56.02	55.54
DuPont	27.65	25.66	Wendy's	4.92	4.79
Earthlink	7.20	7.17	Yum	32.81	31.64
Ericsson	8.19	8.22	Xerox	9.10	8.73
Exxon	80.30	78.25			
Ford	2.76	2.69			
FSG	4.90	5.09			
GE	16.86	16.11			
GM	3.94	4.13			
Goodyear	7.51	7.95			
HomeDepot	25.26	24.57			

Stock information as of market closing is furnished by Hilliard Lyons, 511 Benjamin Way, Suite 112, Dalton, (706) 279-1810 or 800-437-6450. Hilliard Lyons is a member of the New York Stock Exchange.

**Thomas re-appointed chairman**

State Sen. Don Thomas, R-Dalton, has been re-appointed chairman of the Health and Human Services Committee by Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle. Thomas, a physician, was first elected to the Senate in 1996.



THE GLENN STONE FAMILY

Glenn Stone, a great man, died tragically leaving behind a wife and 3 children with no life insurance. The community loved him, he willingly gave his time coaching children in all sports.

He was always willing to help anyone do anything.

A donation fund has been set up at BB&T for donations toward expenses incurred.

The Glenn Stone Donation Fund account number is 5240394237. All donations will be much appreciated and accepted at any BB&T branch.

The family would like to thank everyone for donations, thoughts and prayers.

The Family of Glenn and Lisa Shelton Stone.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hamilton Ambulatory Surgery Center provides pre-operative services, operating suites and recovery.

## HMC's surgery center earns national award

SUBMITTED BY HAMILTON HEALTH CARE SYSTEM



Press Ganey Associates, the health care industry's top satisfaction measurement and improvement firm, has named Hamilton Ambulatory Surgery Center (HASC) a Summit Award Winner for the third consecutive year.

The Summit Award, Press Ganey's most prestigious award, recognizes top performing facilities that sustain the highest level of customer satisfaction for three or more continuous years. HASC continues to rank in the 99th percentile, among the very best out of more than 900 centers throughout the nation, for patient satisfaction.

"Once again, this award is an indication that we're doing what's right, which is taking care of our patients," said Dr. Richard Fromm, who serves as chairman of Hamilton Surgeons' Management Company. "And it reinforces that we're doing what's right in the right ways, which means staying focused on their comfort and unique needs."

"We are extremely proud of what our talented team of surgeons and staff have accomplished," said John Bowling, president and CEO of Hamilton Health Care System. "In addition, we want to thank each and every patient we have had the priv-

ilege to serve. Their positive feedback is a testament to our ongoing commitment to offering advanced surgical options with award-winning patient satisfaction."

HASC was one of only eight ambulatory surgery centers in the nation to receive the Summit Award. The award is the health care satisfaction industry's most coveted symbol of achievement.

Press Ganey Associates is a nationally recognized company that partners with health care facilities to measure customer satisfaction and improve their quality of health care delivery. "We are proud partners with Hamilton Ambulatory Surgery Center," said Dr. Melvin F. Hall, president and CEO of Press Ganey. "Hamilton's efforts benefit the communities of north-west Georgia and lead to improved delivery of health care."

Hamilton Ambulatory Surgery Center Inc. is a non-profit organization owned by Hamilton Medical Center in Dalton. Providing preoperative services, operating suites and recovery, the center offers the latest medical technology and expert staff under management of Hamilton Surgeons' Management Company.

# Conasauga friends honored

SUBMITTED BY THE CONASAUGA RIVER ALLIANCE

The Conasauga River Alliance recognized the volunteer contributions of five people who worked to improve the quality of life of the river in 2008 during the board of directors' annual Christmas meeting.

■ Frank Adams, director of Keep Chatsworth-Murray Beautiful, was recognized for his many years of service and organization of the river cleanups in Murray County. Adams has been a prominent supporter of clean water in Murray County through his efforts with students and community groups.

■ Doyle Dobson, director of Whitfield County public works, was recognized for his many years of support on a variety of Clean Water Act projects in the Conasauga River, from the stormwater treatment demonstration at the public works yard to annual river cleanup help and other projects.

■ Randy Hale of Chattanooga was recognized for the aerial photo-posters used during the Earth Day 2008 fly-over event with local elected officials. The fly-over provided a bird's eye view of the river and the changes in quality from the headwaters in the Blue Ridge mountains in



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left are Tracy Spurlock, Bill Morgan, Doyle Dobson, Randy Hale, Frank Adams and Joe Davis, president-elect of the Conasauga River Alliance.

Murray County downstream to the confluence with the Coosawattee in Gordon County.

■ Bill Morgan of Varnell was recognized for his tireless efforts in the restoration of the Varnell Springs project. Varnell Springs has received several national restoration grants to protect and restore the springs site, in part to Morgan's leadership in recruiting volunteers to

help with the project.

■ Tracy Spurlock with Indian Trace Golf Course in Chatsworth was recognized for his efforts with the annual Sparkling Water (Cherokee for Conasauga) Golf Tournament fundraiser. Proceeds are used for local community outreach projects with schools and student groups.

Joe Davis is the president-elect of the Conasauga River Alliance. Davis lives

in Cleveland Tenn. His family owns one of the larger farms along the Conasauga River and were founding members of the Conasauga River Alliance in the mid-1990s.

The alliance continues to recruit and recognize individuals and organizations with a desire to leave the Conasauga a cleaner river. To find out more about the alliance, call (706) 965-7069.

## Walker joins Alliance National Bank

SUBMITTED BY ALLIANCE NATIONAL BANK

Jackson P. Turner, chairman of Alliance Bancshares Inc., and Alliance National Bank announced that veteran banker Andrew K. Walker has joined the holding company as vice chairman and president/CEO and the bank as vice chairman and CEO.

Walker follows Charles Allgood, who recently retired from those positions. Allgood had been with the bank since its inception in 1999.

"We appreciate all that Charles has done for our bank and his exemplary service in our community," Turner said. During Walker's 34-year

banking career, he has served as a president and CEO for more than 24 of those years.

Walker began his career in Gainesville where he later led Georgia First Bank for 11 years. Walker chartered two new banks in Forsyth County. In 1998, he was an organizer for First National Bank of Johns Creek, which several years later sold to Main Street

Bank, now owned by BB&T. Five years later, he organized the First National Bank of Forsyth County, which sold to Buckhead Community Bancshares. He most recently worked there as director and regional president for the Forsyth and Hall units.

Walker has a Westcott Fellowship Designation from the Whitfield Healthcare

Foundation. He is a 1995 graduate of Leadership Georgia and a lay eucharistic minister in the Episcopal Church.

Walker is married to the former Janet Turner of Dalton. They have one son, Drew.



Walker

# JANUARY CLEARANCE SALE

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SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE!

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CUTTER & BUCK  
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COUNTRY TWEEDS  
BLAZERS  
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ASSORTED BRANDS  
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BERLE • CORBIN  
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SWEATER VEST  
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JACKETS  
**ALL REDUCED**

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ASSORTED BRANDS  
VALUES TO \$65  
**NOW \$19.99**

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AccuWeather.com® 5-Day forecast for Dalton

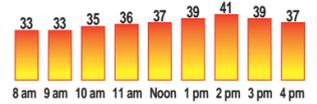
Today	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
49° 29°	56° 40°	48° 24°	44° 30°	48° 28°
Partly sunny	Not as cool	Windy	Bright sunshine	Partly sunny

Almanac

Statistics for Chattanooga through 3 p.m. yest.  
**Temperature:**  
 High ..... 55°  
 Low ..... 45°  
**Precipitation:**  
 24 hrs. through 3 p.m. yest. .... 1.97"

Real Feel Temperature®

The patented AccuWeather.com RealFeel Temperature is an exclusive index of effective temperature based on eight weather factors. Shown is the highest values of the day.



Sun

Sunrise today ..... 7:47 a.m.  
 Sunset tonight ..... 5:45 p.m.

Moon Phases



Weather History

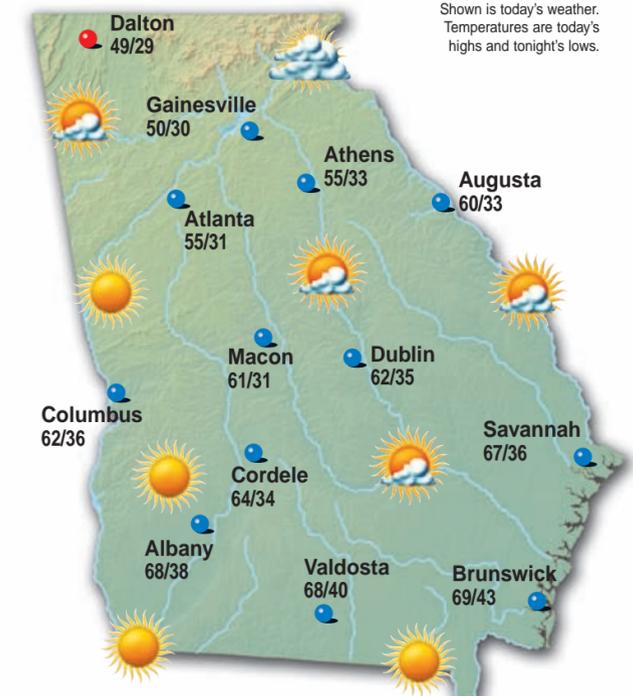
The temperature stayed below zero in New York City for an entire day only once, Jan. 8, 1859. During the same cold snap, Toronto had its coldest January temperature ever.

Weather Trivia™

Q: A storm tracking up the East Coast of the United States is called what?

A: A nor'easter.

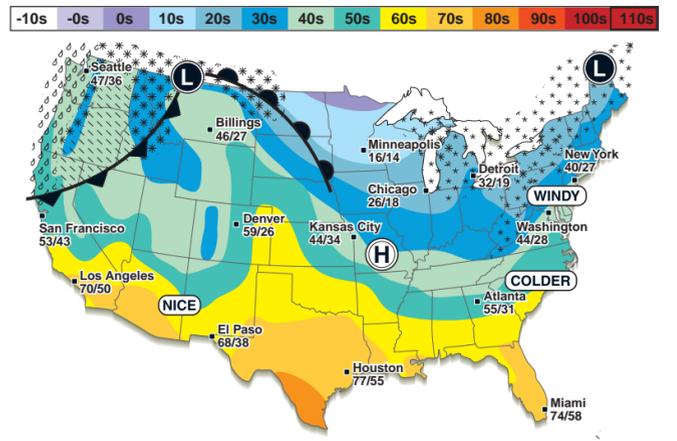
Georgia Weather



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

City	Today	Fri.	Sat.	City	Today	Fri.	Sat.
Albany	68/38/s	67/41/s	65/36/pc	La Grange	57/32/s	58/37/s	53/25/c
Atlanta	55/31/pc	57/41/s	54/29/c	Macon	61/31/pc	62/38/s	63/31/c
Athens	55/33/pc	56/39/s	56/27/c	Marietta	53/29/pc	59/35/s	56/28/c
Augusta	60/33/pc	59/34/s	62/34/pc	Newton	68/39/s	68/42/s	69/37/pc
Brunswick	69/43/s	60/45/s	68/47/pc	Rome	48/28/pc	57/40/s	53/28/c
College Park	55/31/pc	57/41/s	54/29/c	Savannah	67/36/pc	62/39/s	67/42/pc
Columbus	62/36/s	62/42/s	60/33/c	Sparta	60/31/pc	58/32/s	64/30/pc
Gainesville	50/30/pc	55/40/s	53/27/c	Valdosta	68/40/s	66/40/s	70/45/pc

National Weather for January 8, 2009



Shown are near positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

City	Today	Fri.	Sat.	City	Today	Fri.	Sat.
	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W		Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Albany	30/13/sf	20/11/pc	22/14/sn	Memphis	53/38/s	59/39/pc	42/30/pc
Anchorage	1/-4/c	9/-2/sn	9/-2/sf	Miami	74/58/s	75/62/s	78/60/s
Baltimore	42/26/pc	40/29/s	43/25/c	Milwaukee	26/19/c	28/21/sn	27/16/pc
Billings	46/27/c	35/22/pc	38/22/pc	Minneapolis	16/14/pc	25/10/sn	19/15/pc
Boise	41/29/c	36/23/s	37/25/pc	New Orleans	71/52/s	72/60/pc	68/44/c
Buffalo	28/16/sf	26/21/sf	30/16/sn	New York	40/27/pc	34/28/s	38/27/sf
Charlotte	53/28/pc	50/35/s	55/30/c	Okla. City	62/39/s	62/26/s	46/27/s
Cheyenne	56/29/pc	38/17/sn	41/20/s	Orlando	70/47/s	72/48/s	77/51/s
Chicago	26/18/pc	32/22/sn	26/17/pc	Philadelphia	40/26/pc	38/28/s	40/24/c
Cincinnati	34/20/pc	44/30/c	39/20/sf	Phoenix	73/45/pc	70/45/s	68/44/s
Cleveland	30/21/sf	31/30/sf	34/20/sn	Pittsburgh	28/20/sf	30/25/sf	35/20/sf
Dallas	70/46/s	74/38/pc	50/31/pc	Portland, OR	48/33/r	42/31/pc	48/38/c
Denver	59/26/pc	42/15/pc	45/19/s	St. Louis	38/29/pc	46/26/pc	32/24/s
Detroit	32/19/sf	28/25/c	31/18/sn	Salt Lake City	44/26/pc	39/20/sn	34/20/s
Indianapolis	32/19/pc	41/29/c	33/23/pc	San Francisco	53/43/sh	59/43/s	60/44/s
Kansas City	44/34/pc	44/19/pc	34/19/s	San Diego	64/51/s	66/49/pc	68/46/s
Las Vegas	63/40/s	61/38/s	60/34/s	Seattle	47/36/r	43/34/pc	46/40/r
Los Angeles	70/50/s	70/48/pc	76/46/s	Wash., DC	44/28/pc	43/30/s	45/30/c

W-weather, s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

The World

City	Today	Fri.	Sat.	City	Today	Fri.	Sat.
	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W		Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Athens	54/46/pc	55/45/r	50/43/r	Jerusalem	59/41/c	56/40/pc	57/43/c
Auckland	81/64/s	77/67/pc	71/67/r	London	39/27/pc	37/28/s	41/30/pc
Amsterdam	34/25/pc	34/23/pc	36/27/s	Madrid	36/27/sf	38/28/sn	39/32/sf
Baghdad	63/40/s	62/40/s	57/34/s	Montreal	28/12/sf	14/3/c	12/1/sn
Beijing	28/9/s	28/10/s	34/12/s	Moscow	16/0/sn	12/7/sn	12/-6/c
Berlin	25/22/s	33/29/c	37/29/c	Paris	32/21/s	34/23/pc	34/27/s
Buenos Aires	81/68/c	81/64/pc	81/64/c	Rio	82/71/pc	80/71/r	85/69/sh
Cairo	68/46/pc	70/49/s	71/56/pc	Rome	52/43/sh	54/41/c	50/37/pc
Calgary	23/3/sn	15/8/c	30/21/c	Seoul	37/13/pc	25/2/s	22/4/s
Cape Town	79/63/s	74/61/pc	77/61/s	Singapore	85/73/sh	83/75/c	79/74/r
Caracas	84/66/pc	77/53/pc	75/53/pc	Sydney	77/63/sh	72/59/pc	75/57/s
Chicago	41/32/pc	43/34/s	43/36/pc	Tel Aviv	67/49/pc	66/49/pc	66/52/c
Dublin	44/34/pc	35/30/s	38/30/s	Tokyo	50/41/pc	50/39/r	48/34/s
Geneva	35/28/pc	35/30/s	38/30/s	Toronto	26/14/sf	28/19/c	28/16/sn
Hong Kong	66/54/s	63/48/s	61/48/s	Warsaw	21/16/c	27/21/sn	32/23/sf
Istanbul	43/32/s	33/26/pc	40/28/pc				

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# B SPORTS

Thursday, January 8, 2009 • www.daltondailycitizen.com

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL: UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

# Stafford, Moreno enter the NFL draft

By CHARLES ODUM  
Associated Press Writer

ATHENS — With Matthew Stafford and Knowshon Moreno headed to the NFL, Georgia probably won't have to worry about another preseason No. 1 ranking in 2009.

Stafford, a junior who set a school record with 25 touchdowns passes this season, and Moreno, only the second Georgia player to rush for more than 1,000 yards in consecutive seasons, said Wednesday they are leaving school to enter the NFL draft.

Neither decision was a surprise. Each is a projected first-round pick.

After the two announced their decisions, Georgia coach Mark Richt offered advice for NFL executives: "Trade up for them, if

you're smart."

"I think whichever NFL teams get them will be very excited and very blessed by it," Richt said. "They'll not only be good players but they'll be good in their locker rooms and good in their communities. They're gonna do well."

Stafford returned to campus from his family's home in Dallas for Wednesday's announcement. Moreno made the trip from Belford, N.J.

Todd McShay, director of college football scouting for Scouts Inc., said Stafford (6-3,



Stafford



Moreno

230) may be the top pick in the draft.

"Matthew Stafford drives NFL scouts crazy because he's got it all," McShay said. "He has it all. Prototypical size, a rifle arm."

McShay said Stafford and Oklahoma's Sam Bradford could be the two top quarterbacks in the draft, assuming Bradford also declares early. The Sooners play Florida for the BCS national championship tonight.

One of the two quarterbacks could end up in Detroit, which has the No. 1 pick, and playing for the first 0-16 team in league his-

tory doesn't seem to bother Stafford.

"That's fine with me," Stafford said. "I'd love to play anywhere that wants me to play and try to make them a winner."

Stafford said he was advised by the NFL draft board that he'd be a first-round pick, but he said he wasn't advised how high in the round he could expect to be taken.

Moreno, a third-year sophomore, didn't have the benefit of advice from the NFL draft board.

"I didn't get my papers in on time," Moreno said with a smile, causing Richt to laugh, shake his head and briefly cover his eyes.

➤ Please see **DRAFT, 2B**

## PREP WRESTLING

# Area Duals expected to be 'bit crazy'

By LARRY FLEMING

larryfleming@daltoncitizen.com

Northwest Whitfield coach Allen Tucker says the Area 7-4A Duals, which starts Friday at South Paulding High School in Douglasville, will be so competitive that only way to pick a pre-tournament favorite would be to flip a coin.

Dalton coach Charles Mitchell says the two-day duals may be "a bit crazy."

And Chris Thornbury, the veteran Murray County coach, said the top two teams still standing on Saturday will have "some luck" and several kids "to step up" to the level of competition they'll be facing.

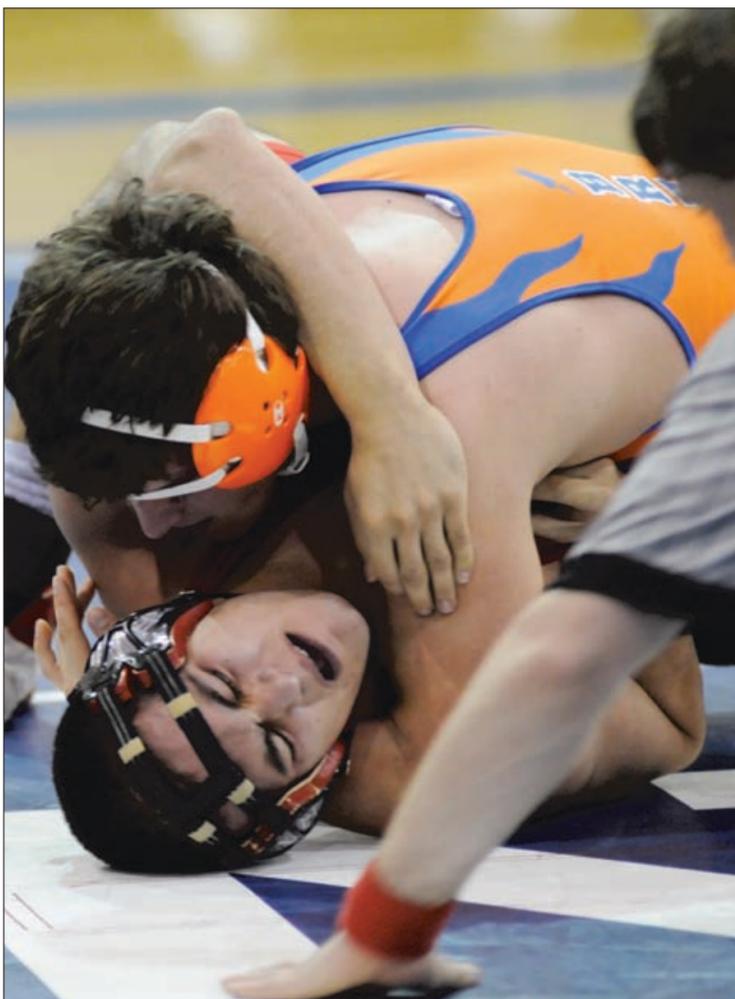
"I don't necessarily think the best team will win this thing," Mitchell said. "I think the toughest two teams may wind up going to state. I just believe the two teams that are focused and tough-minded will separate themselves from the rest."

Cass, the defending Class 3A co-champion with Henry County, will be the No. 1 seed for the Area 7-4A North duals with Northwest No. 2, with positions 3-6 waiting for the outcome of the Woodland-Rome match on Wednesday night. Those four spots are likely to be filled by Dalton, Murray County, Woodland and Rome, Mitchell said.

The seeds are set in the south division. South



Mitchell



MISTY WATSON/The Daily Citizen

Northwest Whitfield wrestler Ryan Banks, top, will try and help the Bruins use Tuesday's Conasauga Cup victory as a springboard to the Area 7-4A Duals title at South Paulding High School on Friday and Saturday.

➤ Please see **DUALS, 2B**

## COMMENTARY

# Conasauga Cup deserves spotlight

For the first time in four years covering the Conasauga Cup, I went into Tuesday night's quad meet among the wrestling programs from Murray and Whitfield counties unable to come anywhere close to picking a likely winner.

Dalton had been on a self-discovery tour of sorts, with the Catamounts spending the past few weeks wrestling mostly outside the area and proving just how far they'd come in three seasons under coach Charles Mitchell.

Northwest Whitfield, already reestablished as a power during a rise to Area 7-4A dominance the past two years — two area traditional titles, two area duals runner-up finishes, high finishes at state traditional and duals, multiple area and state medalists, etc., etc., etc. — had been proving itself for the past month, too. The Bruins, hurting from the frustration of a loss to rival Murray County in early December, had been healing those wounds the best way they could — by succeeding on the mat pretty much wherever they went — until they saw the Indians head-to-head once more.

And Murray County, despite an underwhelming finish at the McCallie Invitational the same day the Bruins took a big step forward, had no reason to feel like an underdog against either Dalton or Northwest, neither of whom had beaten the Indians in the two-county quad meet since it began in the 1980s.

The turtle — that would be the trophy for the Conasauga Cup, which was given a formal name and proper award three seasons past — had always rested on Murray County's side of the river, and there was no reason to think the Indians were going to give up their reptile friend easily. Despite a rebuilt lineup this season, they'd shown typical Murray County toughness — varsity experience or not, they bore that program's trademark desire to pin and fight off the pin.

It got no easier to pick a likely winner as Tuesday night went on, either. On the strength of back-to-back pins from brothers Henry and Renaldo Torres and a two-point decision from Dontate Washington, Dalton drove the first nail of the night with a 34-29 win against Murray County. Then Northwest — also 1-0 after a round of Cup duals via a win against Southeast — sent the emotional shock the Cats' way when the Bruins won their dual with Dalton via criteria after it ended tied at 36 points.

That meant a win by Murray County — which had also beaten Southeast, as Dalton did in quick fashion in the night's final round of duals — against Northwest would leave the top three teams each at 2-1 and leave deciding the new Cup's champion to tiebreakers.

It never got to that because the Bruins' veterans came through late against Murray County, giving Northwest something new to celebrate.

But here's the thing, with all due respect to Northwest — I'm still not sure we know who the area's best wrestling team is. Not because the Bruins didn't earn their Cup victory. They did. But the same quad meet could be staged today and Dalton might beat both Murray and Northwest. Or Murray might beat the other two. Or Northwest might beat each again.

These three teams are just all that close right now. When they face off, each side has a few guys so good they're almost automatic victories, if not pins. But it's the chess match of duals wrestling — where coaches bump wrestlers up a weight class or hold them back to set up a different matchup — and the maybe guys, those still improving or learning who haven't yet proven themselves in the pressure situations, that make for plenty of mystery.

When asked about the Cup's prospects for parity on Monday night, Murray County coach Chris Thornbury pointed out that the team that won Tuesday's title might come up empty at



Marty Kirkland

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL: FLORIDA VS. OKLAHOMA



Oklahoma's Lendy Holmes, right, and Alan Davis admire the BCS Championship trophy earlier in the week at media day at Dolphin Stadium in Miami. The No. 2 Sooners will play No. 1 Florida tonight for the NCAA football title. Both teams are 12-1.

AP PHOTO

# Gators, Sooners eye the crystal ball

By BEN WALKER

Associated Press Writer

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Bob Stoops posed next to the crystal football and played along with a wave of photographers.

They asked him to look to the left, he did. They asked him to smile, he did. Any shot they wanted Wednesday inside a hotel ballroom, he gave them.

Then a shutterbug shouted to the Oklahoma coach, telling him to hold up his finger, showing who's No. 1. Stoops tilted his head, stared at the guy and kept his hands still.

"Too soon," he said.

First, there's a game to play. The hurry-

up Sooners and speedy Florida meet tonight for the BCS championship, a matchup that includes a pair of Heisman Trophy winners, an SEC vs. Big 12 debate and more than its share of trash talk.

Besides, enough teams already are claiming the top spot. Southern California, Utah and Texas hope their bowl wins impressed enough voters in The Associated Press poll, which will be released in the wee hours Friday.

Heck, how about New Hampshire? The Wildcats beat Army, which beat Louisiana Tech, which beat Mississippi State, which beat Vanderbilt, which beat Mississippi, which handed the No. 1 Gators their only loss.

No wonder college fans from President-

elect Barack Obama on down want to see a playoff system.

"I think at some point in time it might happen," Florida coach Urban Meyer said Wednesday. "I didn't believe that a few years ago, but I feel now the discussion is out of control. I can't imagine any guy that enjoys football not discussing that wherever he's at. So I imagine at some point that might happen now."

As to whether it should be a tournament for four, eight or 16 teams, that's someone else's department.

"It's not my job to figure that out,"

➤ Please see **BCS, 4B**

➤ Please see **KIRKLAND, 2B**

## PRO GOLF: MERCEDES-BENZ CHAMPIONSHIP

## Kim, Villegas try to move toward top

BY DOUG FERGUSON  
Associated Press Writer

KAPALUA, Hawaii — Tiger Woods sometimes will glance over his shoulder on his highway to history, not worried about anyone on his bumper but curious to see what the traffic looks like behind him.

He noticed Anthony Kim and Camilo Villegas when they effectively were still learning to drive.

Villegas was still a raw but talented rookie when he livened up the Miami crowd and finished second to Woods three years ago at Doral. Kim joined the tour a year later, mostly making news with his mouth, but showing enough game to get the attention of golf's best player.

Woods had a clear view of their potential while recovering from two knee surgeries last year.

Kim broke Woods' scoring record at the Wachovia Championship with a five-shot victory, then won Woods' tournament with a 65 at Congressional in the AT&T National. He was sixth on the PGA Tour money list and moved up 63 spots to No. 12 in the world ranking.

Villegas took baby steps until bursting through with victories in the BMW Championship and Tour Championship — both won by Woods the previous year — to finish second in the FedEx Cup and move up 49 spots to No. 7 in the world.

"You knew that was coming, their talent," Woods said last month. "That was just a matter of time before they broke through and



AP PHOTO  
Anthony Kim hits a drive on the ninth tee during a pro-am of the Mercedes-Benz Championship on Wednesday. The tournament begins today in Kapalua, Hawaii.

won events. To see the young guys playing better only is going to make it ... more difficult to win events."

The question is whether their time is now. Kim and Villegas, two players who emerged during Woods' absence, will be paired together in the second-to-last group when the 2009 season gets under way Thursday at the Mercedes-Benz Championship, a winners-only field of 33

players missing the top four from the world ranking.

"I've been looking forward to this tournament for a long time," said the 23-year-old Kim. "I feel like I've come a long way with my game and my attitude. And hopefully, if I can just stay on this roll, I feel like I've turned a corner. And if I can just keep my head down and stay focused, I'm going to be in good shape for this year."

## Kirkland: Lane is blossoming

➤ Continued from page 1B

this weekend's Area 7-4A duals, where his Indians will join the Bruins and Cats on the quest for that trophy. (And 7-4A's talent doesn't all lie in these two counties, it's worth pointing out. Cass, Rome, Woodland and others are likely to have something to say about the outcome, too.)

Thornbury's pondering may prove right. I'm just not sure Tuesday's duals told us anything we didn't know when it comes to figuring out who might have the mental edge at area. All three local Area 7-4A teams are good, all three teams are very close in terms of talent.

Yeah, we knew that. But here are a few things that were clearly displayed Tuesday night at the Cup:

■ If Northwest does win this season's area duals title, it will be because of the rock solidness of veterans David Lewis, Josh Lewis and Kenny Michael, plus the step-up efforts of youngsters on the rise like Connor Hayes, who came through with the decision that made Tuesday's win against Dalton possible. That's the kind of combination that makes for a hard-to-beat duals team.

■ Michael has taken ownership of his team as well as any senior wrestler on any local team in recent memory. He spoke out with concern when the Bruins lost to Murray County in December, wondering where his team's energy and heart was that night.

He praised his teammates for being on the other end of the spectrum this time around, though, crediting that with helping in the wins against Dalton and Murray. He's clearly wrestling as if it's his final go-round — because it is — and that seems to be trickling down even to teammates who have some years remaining.

■ It's scary to think how good Murray County's Dalton Lane might be by the end of his high school career. The sophomore bears the marks of a college wrestler when he's on his feet, constantly working, refusing to give up the easy takedown and pushing and pushing until he scores one of his own. He came out of Tuesday's wrestling with two major decisions and a first-period pin, and he's better in January than he was in December. If he's better in February, look out.

■ Dalton's been tough at the lower weights for a couple years now. The difference this season is coming from even bigger

dominance at those weights — more major decisions, technical falls and pins — plus a more solid lineup from top to bottom and the consistency of guys like Taylor Duckworth (160 pounds) and Henson Toland (189) at the other end. Despite a very busy two weeks on the tourney circuit, Dalton looked ready for Tuesday's wrestling, even if the Cats came short of their goal. I don't think the Cats — and this certainly isn't a bad thing — can paint themselves as underdogs anymore. They've arrived.

■ Southeast is having to wrestle in the shadow of three state-level programs right now and there's no forgiveness when they compete in their own Area 6-3A, either — this weekend, they'll host area duals and welcome top-ranked LaFayette, Lakeview-Fort Oglethorpe and sixth-ranked Heritage-Catoosa to their house. But the Raiders, still young, still learning, have some talent in their ranks who would be good enough to challenge for a starting spot — if not flat out take one — at Dalton, Murray or Northwest. Southeast 140-pounder Andy Pichardo, a *Daily Citizen* All-Area selection last season, won three matches Tuesday, two of them close decisions and one in overtime — against Northwest's Michael, by the way — the type of tests he seems to be developing a knack for passing. Tanner Phipps and Randy York each won two Cup matches and there are other Raiders who could be a threat to medal at the 6-3A traditional next month.

■ The Cup has become a major event on the local wrestling scene. When it was given a formal reintroduction during the 2005-06 season, it was held on the first day of the season. It has since moved to a semi-steady date of the week between the end of the holiday break and area duals. But it's big enough now that it deserves either a week-end date or a spot during the holidays when it's not rushed the way school night duals must be to honor GHSA time rules. And just a few years from now, there will be a new Whitfield and new Murray school in the mix, making the Cup a six-team competition and a major monster to manage. It's time to give the Conasauga Cup a permanent spot on the calendar on a day when it can get the local sports spotlight all to itself. And maybe it's time to print some T-shirts, too, coaches. This thing's kind of a big deal now.

Marty Kirkland is a sports writer for *The Daily Citizen*. You can contact him at [martykirkland@daltoncitizen.com](mailto:martykirkland@daltoncitizen.com)

## Draft: QB role likely to Cox

➤ Continued from page 1B

Moreno said he consulted only with his college coaches and family.

"I prayed a little bit also about my decision," he said.

Stafford and Moreno formed one of the most productive backfield tandems in school history.

The two stars led Georgia to 12 wins and a No. 2 finish in the final poll last season, and they helped make the Bulldogs the preseason No. 1 pick this season.

Georgia finished a disappointing 10-3, but Stafford and Moreno had big years.

Moreno had 1,400 yards rushing with 16 touchdowns this season to join Herschel Walker as the only players in school history with back-to-back 1,000-yard seasons. Stafford, protected by a young offensive line, passed for 3,459 yards and set a school record with 3,499 yards of total offense.

Stafford passed for 250 yards and three touchdowns and was most valuable player of Georgia's Capital One Bowl victory over Michigan State. He said Wednesday that he was leaning toward entering the draft after

the regular season but had second thoughts after the bowl win.

"Taking off the pads for the last time was really tough," Stafford said. "That was the toughest part for me, the fact that it came to a head that it was really over, but I know this was the right decision for me."

After Wednesday's news conference, Stafford ducked into the locker room at Georgia's football facility and emerged holding the nameplate from his locker.

Georgia loses some other familiar names from its offense, including receiver Mohamed Massaquoi, fullback Brannan Southerland and tight end Tripp Chandler.

Caleb King and Richard Samuel, who played behind Moreno as freshmen this season, will move up at tailback, while senior Joe Cox will likely get the starting job at quarterback.

Cox said the loss of so many players should lead to less pressure.

"It's going to be a big help not to be pre-season No. 1," Cox said.

Cox, a junior from Charlotte, N.C., completed 11-of-15 passes for 151 yards and two touchdowns in three games this season.

## Duals: Several teams can win

➤ Continued from page 1B

Paulding is No. 1 followed by Hiram, Sprayberry, Paulding County, Hillgrove, Allatoona, North Paulding and Osborne.

"You can't count anybody out," said Mitchell, whose Catamounts (27-7). "The way the season has progressed, it wouldn't be fair to say Cass or Northwest will run away with it. Look at the dual meet scores. Just about every one of them was close. It's going to be a bit crazy. A lot of people will be pulling their hair out. I wish I could say there was a clear-cut favorite, but I can't. It's too close. It's really going to be interesting. These teams are going to have to fight for their lives."

The latest GaSports.com wrestling rankings have Cass at No. 1, Dalton at No. 5 and Northwest Whitfield at No. 10. "This thing could come down to the team getting the most bonus points and the teams with kids who refuse to get pinned, and Murray has the edge in that," said Tucker, whose Bruins (22-4) captured their first Conasauga Cup championship on Tuesday by beating Dalton, Murray County and Southeast. "Those Murray kids fight like heck off their backs."

Northwest easily handled Class 3A Southeast 57-10, but edged Dalton on criteria after the match ended tied at 36 and slipped past Murray County 33-29. Murray had won the three previous Conasauga Cup titles. "This weekend there's going to be a lot of nail biting and antacids," Tucker said. "When the north teams match up, every match could go down to the last weight class. This area is as balanced as I've seen it in a long time. I really believe the two teams that advance to the state will come from the north."

Tucker said his Bruins are wrestling "about as well as they could." One strength of the Bruins' surge heading into the area duals is wrestlers turning around the outcome of early-season matches against area foes.

"Like Seth Coley at 130 (pounds)," Tucker said. "He got pinned by the Murray kid but (Tuesday) night he got a decision. Our 103 kid (Dalin McClure) lost 4-0 earlier in the season. But instead of giving up six points this time, he only gave up three. Our young kids are fighting for team points. And for us to win, our young kids, our freshmen and sophomores, have to fight when they're overmatched not to get pinned."

"If that happens, we'll have a chance in every match. It's going to be unbelievably tough."

Villegas, the Colombian who turned 27 on Wednesday, will be going for his third straight PGA Tour victory while trying to forget the enormous success he had at the end of last year.

"It was a great finish to the year," he said. "But on Thursday, we start from zero."

Woods is still recovering from knee surgery and won't play for at least another two months, perhaps enough time to lose his No. 1 ranking to Sergio Garcia, who turns 29 this week and arguably played better than anyone over the last nine months. Garcia is skipping Kapalua because he is home in Spain and is playing next week in Abu Dhabi.

Also missing is British Open and PGA champion Padraig Harrington, who is taking his winter break; and Phil Mickelson, who stopped coming to Kapalua in 2002.

But there are plenty of new faces at the Plantation Course — only six players were in the field a year ago, and 13 newcomers to the event include Andres Romero of Argentina, the PGA Tour rookie of the year and another young star who gets overlooked.

Defending champion Daniel Chopra will play with FedEx Cup champion Vijay Singh. Even so, the focus is on youth.

Zach Johnson, the former Masters champion, was talking about Kim as a young player who is "up and coming" until he stopped himself in mid-sentence and smiled.

"I shouldn't say 'up-and-coming.' He's here," Johnson said. "He's established himself. But he's one of those kids that could really take golf to another level."



Tucker



Thornbury

Tucker said Josh Lewis (145), Kenny Michael (140), Adam Wilkins (heavyweight), Ryan Banks (171), David Lewis (135) and Russell Royal (112) are wrestling extremely well at this point in the season.

"Wilkins has won 11 of his last 12 matches," Tucker said.

"All those guys have around 30 wins, and Garrett Henderson, a sophomore, has 32 wins. Those guys have been giving us key wins and key times in matches."

Mitchell said his strongest wrestlers going into the duals are Eduardo Gutierrez (103), Jordan White (112), Christian Washington (119), Henry Torres (125), Renaldo Torres (130) and Taylor Duckworth (160).

"Without question those guys have been the most consistent guys for us," Mitchell said. "But we have to be disciplined as a team, fight a little extra hard and it has to be a total team effort. If we do those things, we have a shot to win."

While saying he didn't want to dwell on the Conasauga Cup results, Thornbury said it was a good example of the parity in the Area 7-4A's north division.

"We were in a position to be the No. 1 seed," said Thornbury, whose Indians are 15-8. "But after (Tuesday) night we could fall all the way to No. 5 or No. 6. That shows how close and even it is. Somebody is going to have to have some luck and have kids step up."

"Basically, you're wrestling Friday to get into the tournament on Saturday, and Saturday is going to be a beast."

Friday will see teams competing in four pools of four, with that action starting at 5. The top two in each of the four pools advance to Saturday's wrestling beginning at 9 a.m.

"It makes for an exciting event," Thornbury said. "I think my guys are wrestling pretty well right now. We're a young team that makes mistakes, but I like my guys. I wouldn't trade them with anybody else."

Thornbury said Dalton Lane (135), Jake McConathy (heavyweight), Josh Webb (103), David Thornbury (171), Kolby Youell (152) and Zac Dills (189) go into the duals wrestling well.

The Indians coach also said the power of Area 7-4A lies with the teams in the north.

"I probably shouldn't say this, but I would think our top six could beat the south's No. 1," Thornbury said.

On Saturday, Southeast will host the Area 6-3A duals.

## Cowboys release Pacman Jones

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Troubled cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones must look elsewhere in the NFL for another chance. The Dallas Cowboys are done with him.

Jones was released Wednesday by the Cowboys following a turbulent season in which he was suspended six games for an off-field scuffle and made little impact on the field.

Jones, expected to give the Cowboys a boost on defense and special teams, had no interceptions and averaged just 4.6 yards per punt return. His release will become official Feb. 9, the first day NFL teams can make waiver requests.

"He was surprised, and I think he was obviously somewhat hurt," said Worrick Robinson, Jones' Nashville, Tenn.-based attorney.

Robinson added he expects the cornerback will be back with some team in 2009.

"He is young. He has a lot of ability and he is eager to get back on the field," Robinson said.

Cowboys spokesman Rich Dalrymple declined to comment on the team's decision and said owner Jerry Jones was unavailable. Coach Wade Phillips and linebacker Greg Ellis, who is the team's representative to the player's union, did not immediately return

messages left by The Associated Press.

The Cowboys traded for Jones despite the cornerback's suspension for the 2007 season after multiple off-field incidents while with the Titans. He was given another chance and cleared to play in 2008 by commissioner Roger Goodell.

But on Oct. 7, Jones got into a scuffle with a bodyguard who was part of a team-employed security detail. A week later, Goodell suspended the cornerback indefinitely, which eventually turned into a six-week suspension. Jones missed a seventh game later in the season with an injury.

## Want more?

For additional sports news, visit our Web site at [www.daltondailycitizen.com](http://www.daltondailycitizen.com) and click on the digital edition. Then turn to page 9B where you can read about the NFL playoff picks of *St. Petersburg Times* writer Tom Jones.

There's also a story on two Carolina defensive linemen returning for the Panthers' game against Arizona.

# WCRD results

The Whitfield County Recreation Department Youth Basketball League continued games Tuesday, Jan. 6, with 13 games played. All Scores and outstanding players:

### Mite 9-10 Girls

Eastside Hoopsters 18, Tunnel Hill Hawks 16 – (ES) Katy Buckner 10. (TH) Cynthia Coronel 10.

Dug Gap Lady Raiders 27, Westside Lady Bruins 12 – (DG) Madison Pearson 11, Cheyenne Bradford 8. (WS) Holly Gilreath 6.

Antioch Lady Stingers 12, Tunnel Hill Flames 3 – (A) Jennifer Flores 6.

### Mite 9-10 Boys

Westside Tar Heels 16, Antioch Raiders 11 – (WS) Coby Griffith 6, Jacob Stepp 5. (A) Gerado Hernandez 5, Varnell Heat 26,

Beaverdale Wildcats 15 – (V) Conner Meyer 8, Issac Elrod 6. (B) Jonah Faulkner 10, John Kittle 5.

New Hope White Grizzlies 39, Pleasant Grove Flight 25 – (NH) Paxton Pardee 13, Trey Mantooth 10, Caleb Ramsey 8. (PG) Carson Brock 6, Michael Pipkin 6, Devin Wellborn 5.

Pleasant Grove Magic 39,

New Hope Orange Grizzlies 26 – (PG) Jay Jones 16, Tate Higgins 14, Garrett Weaver 5. (NH) Dustin Kyker 16.

Westside Slammers 32, Dawnville Yellow Jackets 19 – (WS) Grant Terrell 16, Tommy Davis 6. (D) Hayden Lock 8, Josue Dominguez 6.

Cohutta Bulldogs 32, Tunnel Hill Spurs 19 – (CB) Phillip Taylor 16, Tyler Phillips 8, Landon Vanoe 6. (TH) Stone Pitts 13.

Dug Gap Hawks 47, Westside Sky Hawks 17 – (DG) Harrison Norman 11, Sam Stepp 11, Heath Hardaway 9, Allen Behr 8. (WS) Zak Smith 9.

### Midget 11-12 Boys

New Hope Orange Grizzlies 26, Cohutta Road Runners 14 – (NH) Jamon Home 11, Cyrus Addison 6, Clayton Beard 5.

New Hope Blue Grizzlies 34, Beaverdale Wildcats 21 – (NH) Landon Pickle 13, Connor Beard 10, Gavin Thompson 6, Brandon Layman 5. (B) Brandon Wood 9, Raekwon Watson 5.

Dug Gap Red Devils 40, Valley Point Heat Wave 13 – (DG) Wyatt Erwin 12, Chase Westfall 11, Garrett Peeples 5. (VP) Christian Bautista 6.

## PRO BASKETBALL

# Magic halts Hawks

### THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA — The Orlando Magic built a big lead, then held on to hand the Atlanta Hawks a rare loss at home.

Dwight Howard had 23 points and 19 rebounds, helping the Magic hold on for a 106-102 victory Wednesday night in a matchup of the top two teams in the Southeast Division.

Orlando nearly squandered a 21-point advantage, catching a huge break when Mike Bibby missed a breakaway layup that should have pulled the Hawks within two points with just under 1 1/2 minutes remaining. The Magic went nearly 5 minutes without scoring in the final period, but the Hawks couldn't hit enough shots to complete the comeback.

Josh Smith led Atlanta with 21 points, but he missed all four of his free-throw attempts — the worst culprit in a 14-of-25 performance at the line that came back to haunt the Hawks at the end.

Atlanta lost for only the third time in 18 game at Philips Arena. The Magic stretched its lead on the second-place Hawks to five games in the first of a home-and-home between the division rivals. The teams meet again Friday night in Orlando.

The Magic could hardly miss through the first three quarters, shooting better than 55 percent. Orlando made 10-of-16 in the second period, a sharp-shooting display that Rashard Lewis finished off by banking in a desperation 3-pointer just ahead of the 24-second buzzer, pushing Orlando to its biggest lead of the half at 60-45.

Orlando stretched it to 76-55 on Courtney Lee's 3-pointer with just over 6 minutes remaining in the third and was up 86-70 heading to the final period.

■ **Rockets 89, Celtics 85:** At Boston, Von Wafer hit a 3-pointer with 44 seconds left to give Houston the lead and the Rockets beat Boston.

It was the sixth loss in eight games for the defending NBA champions, but their first at home since a Nov. 14 defeat to Denver sent them on a 19-game winning streak.



**AP PHOTO**  
**Orlando's Rashard Lewis (9) goes to the basket while defended by Atlanta's Josh Smith during their NBA game Wednesday in Atlanta.**

Yao Ming had 26 points and eight rebounds, scoring on a putback with 12.9 seconds left to help the Rockets snap a three-game losing streak and a five-game road skid.

Paul Pierce scored 26 points, and Kevin Garnett had 18 and eight rebounds for the Celtics.

■ **Nets 100, Grizzlies 89:** At East Rutherford, N.J., Vince Carter had 25 points and a season-high 12 assists, and New Jersey defeated Memphis for its third straight home victory.

Despite playing without leading scorer Devin Harris (sore right hamstring), the Nets enjoyed one of the easiest nights a team could have. They raced to an early double-digit lead, kept it most of the way, and never trailed in the game.

Yi Jianlian added 20 points, and rookie Brook Lopez had 17 for the Nets.

Rookie O.J. Mayo scored 26 points, and Rudy Gay had 23 for the Grizzlies.

■ **Cavaliers 111, Bobcats 81:** At Cleveland, LeBron James scored 21 points before grabbing an early seat on the bench. Mo Williams added 15 points and Cleveland warmed up for its highly anticipated matchup with Boston by blowing out Charlotte, raising the Cavaliers' home record to 18-0.

Daniel "Boobie" Gibson and Wally Szczerbiak scored 15 apiece and Anderson Varejao 14 for Cleveland.

## LOCAL

### Prep Schedule

**Today**  
**Varsity basketball**  
Christian Heritage at Colledgeale, 6  
**Freshman basketball**  
Northwest Whitfield at Murray County, 6  
**Middle school basketball**  
Berry at Christian Heritage, 5  
New Hope girls at Valley Point, 4:15  
Valley Point boys at New Hope, 4:15

**Friday**  
**Varsity basketball**  
Harvester Christian at Christian Heritage, 6:30  
Southeast at Heritage-Catoosa, 7  
Hillgrove at Northwest Whitfield, 7  
Murray County at Rome, 7  
**Varsity wrestling**  
Dalton, Murray County, Northwest Whitfield at Area 7-4A duals at South Paulding, 5

**Junior varsity basketball**  
Harvester Christian at Christian Heritage, 4  
Murray County at Rome, 4  
Northwest Whitfield boys at Hillgrove, 5:15  
**Middle school wrestling**  
Westside at Ocoee JV tournament, 4:30

**Saturday**  
**Varsity basketball**  
Northwest Whitfield at LFO, 2:30  
Dalton at Murray County, 3  
Southeast at Trion, 6

**Varsity wrestling**  
Dalton, Murray County, Northwest Whitfield at Area 7-4A duals at South Paulding

Area 6-3A duals at Southeast, 9 a.m.  
**Junior varsity basketball**  
Murray County at Rome, noon  
Northwest Whitfield at LFO, 11:30 a.m.

**Freshman basketball**  
Northwest Whitfield boys at LFO, 10 a.m.  
Dalton boys at Murray County, 10:30 a.m.

**Middle school basketball**  
Seventh grade tournament  
**Middle school wrestling**  
Westside at Cleveland, Tenn., tournament

## TELEVISION

### On Today

**COLLEGE FOOTBALL**  
8:15 p.m.  
FOX — BCS National Championship Game, Oklahoma vs. Florida, at Miami

**GOLF**  
6 p.m.  
TGC — PGA Tour, Mercedes-Benz Championship, first round, at Kapalua, Hawaii

**MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL**  
7 p.m.  
ESPN2 — Minnesota at Iowa

## HOCKEY

### NHL Glimpse

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**  
**Atlantic Division**

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
N.Y. Rangers	24	15	3	51	115	115
Philadelphia	21	10	9	51	133	122
New Jersey	23	13	3	49	119	101
Pittsburgh	20	17	4	44	124	125
N.Y. Islanders	12	25	4	28	107	149

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	29	7	4	62	143	89
Montreal	23	10	6	52	121	103
Buffalo	20	15	5	45	117	113
Toronto	16	18	6	38	121	142
Ottawa	13	19	6	32	89	111

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	27	11	3	57	135	117
Carolina	21	15	5	47	108	118
Florida	18	16	6	42	108	113
Tampa Bay	11	18	10	32	95	121
Atlanta	13	23	5	31	116	149

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	27	7	5	59	144	111
Chicago	22	8	7	51	138	96
Columbus	18	14	4	40	104	112
Nashville	17	19	3	37	94	114
St. Louis	15	21	3	33	112	132

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Calgary	24	12	4	52	125	119
Vancouver	21	15	5	47	117	108
Minnesota	20	16	3	43	97	87
Colorado	20	19	1	41	106	116
Edmonton	19	16	3	41	108	114

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
San Jose	29	5	6	63	135	95
Anaheim	21	15	5	47	116	113
Phoenix	19	17	5	43	102	118
Dallas	17	16	5	39	111	129
Los Angeles	16	17	6	38	98	106

Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss or shootout loss.

**Wednesday's Games**  
Montreal 6, N.Y. Rangers 3  
Vancouver at Edmonton, late

**Today's Games**  
Ottawa at Boston, 7 p.m.  
Atlanta at New Jersey, 7 p.m.

# SCOREBOARD

Minnesota at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.  
Dallas at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.  
Toronto at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.  
Carolina at Florida, 7:30 p.m.  
Pittsburgh at Nashville, 8 p.m.  
Chicago at Colorado, 9 p.m.  
Tampa Bay at Phoenix, 9 p.m.  
N.Y. Islanders at Calgary, 9 p.m.  
Anaheim at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

## FOOTBALL

### NFL Playoff Glimpse

**Wild-card Playoffs**  
**Saturday, Jan. 3**  
Arizona 30, Atlanta 24  
San Diego 23, Indianapolis 17, OT  
**Sunday, Jan. 4**  
Baltimore 27, Miami 9  
Philadelphia 26, Minnesota 14

**Divisional Playoffs**  
**Saturday, Jan. 10**  
Baltimore at Tennessee, 4:30 p.m. (CBS)  
Arizona at Carolina, 8:15 p.m. (FOX)  
**Sunday, Jan. 11**  
Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m. (FOX)  
San Diego at Pittsburgh, 4:45 p.m. (CBS)

### Conference Championships

**Sunday, Jan. 18**  
**NFC**  
Arizona-Carolina winner vs. Philadelphia-N.Y. Giants winner (FOX), 3 p.m.

**AFC**  
Baltimore-Tennessee winner vs. San Diego-Pittsburgh winner (CBS), 6:30 p.m.

**Super Bowl**  
**Sunday, Feb. 1**  
Tampa, Fla. (NBC)  
AFC vs. NFC, 6 p.m. (NBC)

**Pro Bowl**  
**Sunday, Feb. 8**  
At Honolulu  
AFC vs. NFC, 4:30 p.m. (NBC)

## TRANSACTIONS

### Wednesday's Moves

**BASEBALL**  
**American League**  
KANSAS CITY ROYALS—Agreed to terms with C Vance Wilson on a minor league contract.

**OAKLAND ATHLETICS**—Agreed to terms with 1B-DH Jason Giambi on a one-year contract. Designated INF Joe Dillon for assignment.

**National League**  
CINCINNATI REDS—Agreed to terms with IN-OF Jerry Hairston Jr., a one-year contract.

**FLORIDA MARLINS**—Agreed to terms with RHP Logan Kensing on a one-year contract.

**PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES**—Agreed to terms with LHP Antonio Bastardo, RHP Yorman Bazardo, INF Jason Donald, OF Jason Ellison, INF Marcus Giles, C Tuffy Gosewisch, C Paul Hoover, RHP Gary Majewski and OF Jeremy Slayden on minor league contracts.

**American Association**  
GRAND PRAIRIE AIRHOGS—Signed RHP Luke Prihoda.

**SHREVEPORT SPORTS**—Signed OF Selwyn Langaigne, RHP Josh Bone and OF Jonathan Reynoso.

**Eastern League**  
ALTOONA CURVE—Announced the resignation of director of broadcasting and communications Jason Dambach.

**BASKETBALL**  
**NBA Development League**  
RIO GRANDE VALLEY VIPERS—Acquired F Marcus Hubbard.

**Women's National Basketball Association**  
SEATTLE STORM—Re-signed G Tanisha Wright.

**FOOTBALL**  
**Canadian Football League**  
MONTREAL ALOUETTES—Signed OT Josh Bourke to a two-year contract and WR Jamel Richardson to a three-year contract.

**HOCKEY**  
**National Hockey League**  
NHL—Suspended Ottawa F Jarkko Ruutu for two games, without pay, for an altercation in a game on Jan. 6.

**COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS**—Recalled C Nikita Filatov from Syracuse (AHL).

**OTTAWA SENATORS**—Recalled D Matt Carkner from Binghamton (AHL).

**MOTORSPORTS**  
SPORTS CAR CLUB OF AMERICA RACING—Named Randy Hembrey Trans-Am Series manager.

**SOCCER**  
**Major League Soccer**  
D.C. UNITED—Re-signed D Marc Burch.

**NEW YORK RED BULLS**—Signed D Carlos Mendes.

**COLLEGE**  
SOUTHLAND CONFERENCE—Named Jim Donovan media services intern.

**BOSTON COLLEGE**—Fired football coach Jeff Jagodzinski.

**FLORIDA STATE**—Announced DE Everett Brown will enter the NFL draft.

**GEORGIA**—Announced QB Matthew Stafford and RB Knowshon Moreno will enter the NFL draft.

**GEORGIA STATE**—Named Bill Curry interim athletic director in addition to his duties as football coach.

**ILLINOIS STATE**—Named Jay Peterson linebackers coach.

**IUPUI**—Named Chuck Koeppen men's cross country coach.

LOUISVILLE—Announced QB Matt Simms is transferring.

OREGON—Announced G Ben Voogd is leaving the men's basketball team.

YALE—Named Tom Williams football coach.

## BASKETBALL

### NBA Glimpse

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	29	8	.784	—
New Jersey	18	18	.500	10 1/2
Philadelphia	15	20	.429	13
Toronto	15	21	.417	13 1/2
New York	13	20	.394	14

Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	28	8	.778	—
Atlanta	22	12	.647	5
Miami	18	15	.545	8 1/2
Charlotte	13	23	.361	15
Washington	7	27	.206	20

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	28	6	.824	—
Detroit	21	11	.656	6
Milwaukee	17	20	.459	12 1/2
Chicago	15	20	.429	13 1/2
Indiana	12	22	.353	16

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New Orleans	23	10	.677	1/2
San Antonio	21	11	.676	—
Dallas	21	13	.618	2
Houston	22	15	.595	2 1/2
Memphis	11	25	.306	13

Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	24	12	.667	—
Portland	20	14	.588	3
Utah	20	15	.571	3 1/2
Minnesota	10	25	.286	13 1/2
Oklahoma City	5	31	.139	19

Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	27	6	.818	—
Phoenix	19	12	.613	7
Golden State	10	26	.278	18 1/2
L.A. Clippers	8	26	.235	19 1/2
Sacramento	8	28	.222	20 1/2

### Wednesday's Games

Orlando 106, Atlanta 102  
Toronto 99,

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL: MEYER VS. STOOPS

## Coaches quick to success

BY RALPH D. RUSSO

Associated Press Writer

MIAMI — Urban Meyer was about 8 years old when he knew he wanted to be a football coach.

Bob Stoops is the son of a coach, so you might say coaching is in his genes.

Now, at relatively young ages, Meyer and Stoops have risen to the top of their profession. Their salaries top \$3 million dollars per year. Their teams have won more than 80 percent of their games.

They're both on the fast track to the Hall of Fame, and one will take another giant step in that direction Thursday night, when Stoops' Oklahoma Sooners and Meyer's Florida Gators play in the BCS national championship game.

The winning coach will have two national titles on his resume before he turns 50. With so much success so soon — and no signs of slowing down — Meyer and Stoops could be racking up victories for decades to come.

They could even become this generation's Joe Paterno and Bobby Bowden, the winningest coaches in major college history. At 82 and 79 respectively, they're each within 20 wins of 400 career victories.

Or maybe not.

"There will be no chance I'm doing this in my 70s or 80s," the 44-year-old Meyer said Wednesday in his final news conference before the championship game.

The 48-year-old Stoops laughed off the idea, too.

"I don't know if I'll make it to 60," he said.

Meyer is 82-17 (.828) in eight seasons as a head coach with Bowling Green, Utah and the Gators. He's 43-9 since taking over a Florida program in 2005 that had taken a downward turn after Steve Spurrier left. When the Ol' Ball Coach



AP PHOTO

Florida's Urban Meyer, left, and Oklahoma's Bob Stoops shake hands in front of the BCS championship trophy during a press conference in Miami.

surprisingly decided to try the NFL in 2002, Florida athletic director Jeremy Foley reached out to Stoops, the Gators' former defensive coordinator, to come back Gainesville.

Stoops had only been at Oklahoma for three seasons. Like Meyer later did with Florida, he had won a national title in his second season with the Sooners — restoring pride to a football program that had long been searching for a Barry Switzer replacement.

When the Gators came calling, the chance to follow Spurrier, a mentor and good friend, piqued Stoops' interest, but that was about it.

"I don't think he was ever close to taking the job," Foley said.

Foley ended up hiring Ron Zook and the Gators fell from their place at the top of the Southeastern Conference.

Zook was fired in 2004 and Florida hired Meyer away from Utah, where he had just led the Utes to an undefeated season using his spread offense.

Before he took the job, Meyer spoke to Stoops to get the scoop on Florida. The two weren't close, but both were from Ohio, in

their 40s and married with three kids. Meyer figured Stoops would have a similar perspective.

"Everything I've heard about Bob Stoops is why I entrusted a phone call to him four or five years ago, not because the relationship was that tight, it was just because I kind of admired what he did," Meyer said.

Stoops, who still says he has a little Gator in him, gave Meyer the thumbs up.

In five years, Meyer went from landing his first head coaching job in the Mid-American Conference to taking over one of the elite programs in the Southeastern Conference.

In 2006, his Gators beat Ohio State in the BCS title game to complete a meteoric rise for a kid who became intrigued with coaching as a boy going to Cincinnati Bearcats games with his father.

"I did not have goals set out, by this time I want to do this, this, this and this," Meyer said. "I wanted to coach football, and I knew that at a very early age."

Stoops' father was a teacher and defensive coordinator at Cardinal Mooney High School in Youngstown,

Ohio, for 28 years. Ron Stoops died of a heart attack in 1988 on the sideline during a game. He was 54.

"You know my Dad died young, so I can't say that he gave me any real particular direct advice as far as coaching. But I took his example, I believe, as a man, as a father, as a husband, in how you live, in not letting wins and losses, not letting the game define you and what really matters in life," Bob Stoops said.

In the football world, Stoops is defined by winning.

He is 109-23 (.826) in his 10 years at Oklahoma. If the Sooners beat Florida, Stoops will move ahead of Meyer and have the second-best winning percentage among active major college coaches.

Southern California's Pete Carroll is tops at .854.

A victory against Meyer would also restore some of the luster that's come off Stoops' reputation recently. He was dubbed Big Game Bob early in his career for winning his first two BCS bowls and dominating the rivalry with Texas.

After losing his last two trips to the BCS title game, and four consecutive BCS bowls overall, even some Sooners fans have wondered if Stoops has lost his magic touch.

Meyer is now where Stoops was before the BCS losses. Another title would put Meyer and Florida on equal — or very close to equal — footing with USC, the current gold standard in the sport.

Carroll is one of 16 coaches to win at least two Associated Press national titles, along with Bowden and Paterno. Alabama great Bear Bryant has the most with five.

Either Meyer or Stoops can become the 17th, and first to win two BCS titles.

## BCS: Crystal prize

➤ Continued from page 1B

Meyer said. "I think it would be hard. I don't know how you do it."

Echoed Stoops: "That's not for me to do. They're all good football teams; everyone realizes that. So again, that's for you guys to choose."

There's plenty of time to think about it. The BCS' latest TV deal with ESPN ensures there won't be a playoff until at least 2014.

Meanwhile, there's a pretty attractive game brewing at Dolphin Stadium between 12-1 teams.

The winner gets the glistening crystal prize. That could come in handy for the Gators — they won the trophy two years ago, but a recruit accidentally bumped into it in April, shattering the \$30,000 football.

Fortunately for them, it was insured.

Tim Tebow was a freshman backing up Chris Leak when Florida stomped Ohio State for the title. Tebow won the Heisman last season and now will try to add a second title.

The Rambo-style quarterback will soon explore his NFL options, deciding whether to enter the draft or return for his senior season. Tebow is not exactly elegant with his left-handed tosses, and some scouts project he'll wind up as a tight end in the pros.

"I'll hear something about Tim's throwing motion or the NFL is looking for — I sometimes get confused," Meyer said. "Do they want a guy that's going to lead a team to win games? I don't know if there's any better than Tim."

Tebow drew the most first-place votes in the Heisman balloting last month, but finished third overall.

Oklahoma quarterback Sam Bradford took home the trophy — he said his parents now have it somewhere in their house.

Bradford, a sophomore, also has submitted paperwork to the NFL's advisory board to see how highly he could get picked in the draft.

Tebow and Bradford expect to make their decisions a few days after the big game.

While Florida boasts great speed, the second-ranked Sooners operate at a blink-of-the-eye pace. They set a modern record for points this season, averaging 54 a game.

With their linemen, receivers and backs rushing downfield, their no-huddle offense often leaves opponents gasping and disorganized.

Teams are allowed 40 seconds to run a play; Oklahoma tries to snap the ball in half that time.

Given more than a month to prepare, Meyer said it's still hard to simulate what the Sooners do.

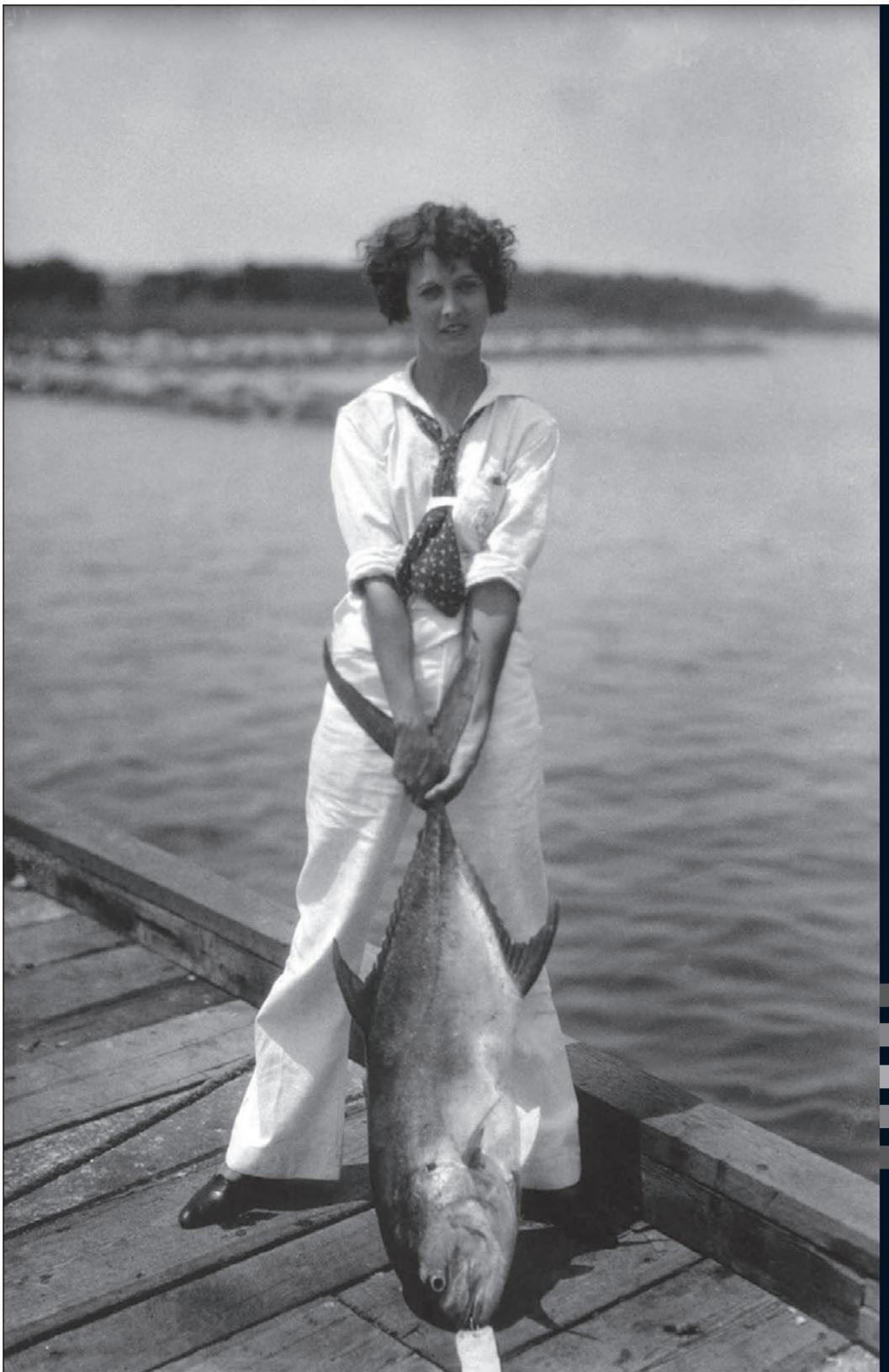
"You don't understand you have substitution limitations because of tempo, you have the fatigue factor and you have the chaos factor where you like to line up," he said.

Oklahoma has lost four straight BCS games, including two for the national title. Down here in Gator country, both teams got in early shots this week.

Sooners cornerback Dominique Franks went first, saying Tebow would be nothing more than the fourth-best quarterback in the Big 12. The next day, Florida linebacker Brandon Spikes called Big 12 defenses "a joke."

Usually, teams try to avoid giving their opponents something to tack up on the bulletin board. This time, Meyer seemed more than fine with the barbs. His team was a four-point favorite, and he wanted to avoid any chance of complacency.

"If I had my druthers, I'd rather coach a very mean, angry, nasty, upset team," he said. "I have to get to that point."



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A publication of  
Southeast Whitfield students

Volume 7 Issue 5

# Raiders' Digest

WORK HARD ... PLAY FAIR ... DREAM BIG ... MAKE A DIFFERENCE, BE PROUD OF WHO YOU ARE ... MAKE WISE DECISIONS

## Stepping up, standing out

Southeast Whitfield FFA participates in 'Pop-A-Top' competition

Matthew Waters, Southeast Whitfield FFA advisor, has been keeping the school abreast of Southeast FFA's participation in the "Pop-A-Top" competition. The Southeast Whitfield FFA chapter took on a new community service project and asked for the help of every first period class.

The "Pop-A-Top" competition challenged every classroom to bring in and collect the most pop-tops off of their soda cans. The winner of the 2008 Pop-A-Top collection competition at Southeast High School is: Ms. Flowers first block class, with a total of 31.12 pounds of pop-tops.

Flowers' first block received free Chick-fil-A biscuits for each student in the class and Flowers received a Longhorn gift card.

Combined, the class donations totalled 74.87 pounds. With the total from Mr. Waters' classes and Ms. Bushey's second block (who did not participate in the contest) the total came to 85.82 pounds donated school wide. The tops will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House Charities.

FFA members would like to say "Great Job" to everyone who participated in this event and Thank You for your support. The FFA officer team is considering offering this competition between first block classes again spring semester so teachers were asked to encourage their students to save their tabs over the holidays.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left are Ms. Roxianne Flowers and Matthew Waters.

### Totals for participating first period classes

Ms. Flowers: 31.12 lbs.	Mrs. Thomason: 3.50 lbs.	Mrs. Bryant: 2.12 lbs.
Mrs. Poole: 13.94 lbs.	Mrs. Hudson: 3.12 lbs.	Ms. Randolph: 13.41 oz.
Mrs. Childers: 8.25 lbs.	Mrs. Gibson: 2.82 lbs.	Ms. McCurry: 6.318 oz.
Ms. Bushey: 7.17 lbs.	Mrs. Kimbrough: 1.60 lbs.	

## Teacher takes trip across the world

By AMBER WILLIAMS

A teacher at Southeast Whitfield High School recently got to take an amazing trip across the world.

Dr. Billie Abney went to Saudi Arabia. She and her sister were contacted by the ADHD people of Saudi Arabia to help them educate doctors, teachers and parents of children with ADD and ADHD.

I got to personally interview Dr. Abney about her trip and find out what it was all about. I asked her if going to Saudi Arabia became a life changing experience for her. She said, "I was kind of nervous about going because of the whole 9/11 thing, but once I got there I realized that they were the kindest, most generous people. They want Americans to actually like them, and they are truly sorry about 9/11."

Another question that I asked Dr. Abney was, "What

was the best and worst part about going?" She replied, "The best part was that I got to ride a camel. It was so much fun! Working with the people was also fun. They were all beautiful and nice. The worst part about going was that even though the food was good, I didn't know what I was eating. I also disliked the jetlag."

Dr. Abney and her sister are planning on going back to Saudi Arabia sometime in the late summer or next fall.

Dr. Abney said that the people were so easy to interact with and that they were so sweet. She said that not only did she and her sister cry when they left, but the people there cried too.

Dr. Abney received quite a few awards. The first night that she was there she received a Crystal Award from the prince of Saudi Arabia. The main doctor that asked her to come to Saudi Arabia, Dr. Soad Al-Yamani,

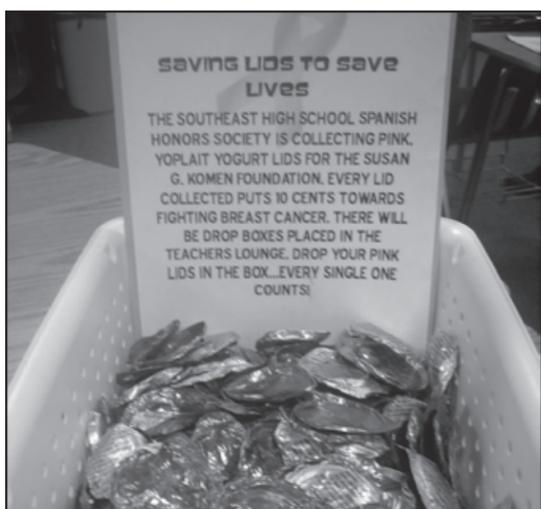


CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dr. Abney wearing some of the traditional garb from her trip. The crown is part of her award as Southeast High School Teacher of the Month for October.

gave her a Crystal Award also. Many of the teachers gave her a Crystal Award, too. The crystals were the local

equivalent of commemorative plaques, one of which depicted one of the many elegant mosques of Saudi Arabia.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Saving lids to save lives

By AMBER WILLIAMS

The Southeast Spanish Honors Society has been collecting pink, Yoplait yogurt tops to help raise money for breast cancer research, and to help the global community. They began collecting these tops in October in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

They ended up collecting 146 of the tops.

I asked the Spanish Honors Society club advisor, Ms. Erica McCurry, how this will help her students later in life. She said, "This is a little project that takes little effort,

so it shows that any little thing they do can help a big cause. Through this, we really only raised \$14.60, but that is money that would have been wasted had we thrown the lids away."

I also wanted to know what the participants were going to do after we returned the lids to them. Yoplait is going to give 10 cents per lid to Susan G. Komen, for the Cure for Breast Cancer research.

Hopefully, the Spanish Honors Society's participation in this fundraiser will help find a cure for breast cancer.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Wal-Mart representative Rhonda Glover, left, presented the Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year award to Emily Dunn.

## Dunn is Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year

By SHANNON COLE

Each year Wal-Mart puts out ballot boxes nationwide for people in local communities to nominate a teacher they believe is most deserving for the Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year.

Students, parents, and fellow teachers can nominate teachers from any local school and every grade level is eligible for the drawing. Both of Whitfield County's Wal-Marts participate in this program.

The Walnut Avenue Wal-Mart selected Southeast High School English teacher Emily Dunn as the Wal-Mart 2008 Teacher of the year. Ms. Dunn received a \$100 gift card for her personal classroom use. Wal-Mart also presented Southeast High School a \$1,000 grant check to be used in Ms. Dunn's teaching specialty, which is English. Rhonda Glover, mother of Southeast senior Kayla Yother, presented the grant check and gift card. Congratulations Ms. Dunn.

## Holiday season rewind

By MARISA GOSWICK

As the holiday season fades with the old year, the fact is that there might have been some kids who didn't have a nice Christmas, if someone didn't help.

Do you know the name of the program that does help needy families give their kids a Christmas? The Toys for Tots Program is a Marine Corps Reserve-based program to help parents give their kids gifts. The Christmas Angels Program is another program which is sponsored by the faculty at Southeast.

Toys for Tots began in 1947, when Major Bill Hendricks, USMCR and a group of Marine Reservists in Los Angeles collected and distributed 5,000 toys to needy children. This idea was actually thought of by Hendricks' wife Diane.

The USMC adopted

Toys for Tots in 1948 to begin a nationwide campaign. The initial objective of the program is to "Bring the joy of Christmas to America's needy children." Toys for Tots collected several toys this year at Southeast in addition to the \$100 of monetary donations.

The Christmas Angels program is designed to help with the needs of high school students specifically from Southeast. Many giving citizens will buy for young children, but teenagers are often left out. With the money that was left over from last year's donations, 99 students were served through the Christmas Angels Program this year alone. These programs show a glimmer of the Southeast family kindness that is only magnified by the Christmas season. Now, another year begins.

## Southeast's Khote honored

Recently, Mr. Nihal Khote of Southeast was honored by being named as the region representative for the Georgia State TESOL Program.

To answer the question, "What is TESOL?" Ms. Marie Varela, another TESOL teacher, directed us to the following information at [www.tesol.com](http://www.tesol.com).

### TESOL's mission:

TESOL's mission is to develop and maintain professional expertise in English language teaching and learning for speakers of other languages worldwide.

### TESOL's values:

1. Professionalism in language education
2. Individual language rights
3. Accessible, high-quality education



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nihal Khote is pictured in class.

4. Collaboration in a global community
5. Interaction of research and reflective practice for educational
6. Improvement
7. Respect for diversity and multiculturalism

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Toll Free 877-217-6397 or 706-272-7703/7707 Fax 706-272-7743 Open Monday-Friday 8:30-5:00



## Wheels



**NOW MONSTER WORKS WITH DALTONDAILYCITIZEN.COM**



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## Homes



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**www.daltondailycitizen.com**

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## Jobs



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## Stuff



@

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**SHOP 24 HOURS A DAY 7 DAYS A WEEK**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### 103 Found

Found brown & black Rottweiler pup on Dec. 24th on Dug Gap/Threadmill Rd. Approx. 8 weeks. Call 706-483-4524.

Found small 10 lb. black male long hair dog, approx. 1 year old on Hwy 41 close to Whitfield Co. Central office. 706-278-1113

#### 104 Lost

Lost blonde Cocker Spaniel, female, in the Rocky Face Circle area. Older dog wearing tags. If seen call 706-980-3878 or 706-278-7833

Lost dog in Dawnville area. Reward for return. Golden Retriever answers to "Koda". Please call 706-229-0592 or 706-263-1513

Lost pair of reading glass in at Walmart on Shugart Rd (left in buggy) on Dec. 31st. Call if found 706-483-3640.

Missing Chinese pug in the Beaverdale area. Beige, only has 1 eye, male. \$100 Reward!! 706-259-8637 - 706-980-9022.

### FINANCIAL

#### 252 Business For Sale

**Trendy, upscale salon for sale.** 8 stations, manicure/pedicure station, make up station, 3 computers, Wi-Fi, over 500 repeat clients. This is your opportunity to purchase a fully operating salon at a huge discount. 2008 Revenue over \$125,000 w/ partial staff—turn key operation w/ plenty of room for growth can be yours for only \$75,000. **706.271.6549.**

Turn Key business for sale, downtown Dalton location. Fully furnished, including kitchen & sec. equip. Call for specific details 1-717-383-2787 lve msg.

### EMPLOYMENT

#### 310 General

GLOBAL BUILDING & REMODELING LLC needing part time secretary, some computer knowledge necessary, & valid drivers license needed. Call for interview 706-260-7731

Pain Exterminating. We're Expanding. Currently Seeking Termite Technician for F/T position. Will train. Apply in person at: 203 MLK Jr. NO Phone calls, please!!

Seeking Insurance Clerk. Duties include: Data entry, customer service and other miscellaneous duties. Medical background a plus. Hours 8am to 5pm daily. Send resumes to: Blind Box R-8 c/o The Daily Citizen PO Box 1167 Dalton GA 30722

#### 311 Health Care

F/T Lab Tech for single dr med office. Phleb. & lab equip. Prefer certification. Fax: 706-278-6360.

Part time person needed to scan medical charts in a doctor's office. Bilingual a plus. Mail resumes to: 302 Point North Place, Dalton, GA 30720 or fax to 706-279-3969

#### 315 Office & Clerical

Firm seeks secretary-receptionist qualifications consist of computer knowledge, multi line phone, customer service, multi tasking, and general office duties. Please send resume to: sent2myfirm@yahoo.com

#### 318 Restaurants

Restaurant help needed - Cook, Server and Cashier. Must have experience. Call 706-537-6547 ask for Faye.

#### 322 Sales

New Home Sale. Great opportunity for result oriented sales professional. Draw + commission. Fax resume to Dan at 706-629-8088

### PETS/LIVESTOCK

#### 501 Pets for Sale

8 week old Lab mixed puppies. \$35.00 each to cover 1st shots. Blond, Black and black and tan. Call 706-280-8070.

#### 502 Free Pets

Free puppies to a good home. Beagle mix, medium size brown pups. 706-583-0806 or 706-529-8040

#### 704 Land & Lots

Bank Foreclosed, Priced to Sell! 1106 Mayfield Ln, Ranger Ga. Approx. 2.04 acres. Appraise value \$35,200. Asking \$14,000 neg. Call 912-536-7918 cell or 912-489-9261

#### 705 Homes For Sale

\$2,000Dn. Starting at \$700/mo. OWNER FINANCING. Several 3Bd/2 Ba. homes in Whitfield & Murray Remodeled, very nice. Owner/Broker 706-529-0650

Lease Purchase - 3 bd/2baths. \$1,000 down and \$700/month. 355 Woodbranch Dr. Dawnville. 706-260-9183

### No Credit Check. Owner Financing. Rent to Own or Lease Purchase.

**STOP RENTING TODAY MOVE IN TOMORROW!!!!** Don Babb 706-463-2333 hnf@vol.com or Mark Burnett 706-529-5901

**DALTON** 2303 First Street (behind Carolyn Baptist Church) 2 BR 1 BA w/garage \$89,900, \$1,000 dn, as low as \$650 mon.

1911 Bobby Drive, 3BR 2BA, \$115,000 \$1000 dn, as low as \$895 mon

2015 James Court 3 or 4BR, 2BA, \$99,900 \$1000 down, as low as \$750 month as is.

207 C Shady Dr. 2/1 house and a fixer upper mobile home \$69,900, as low as \$595 a month w/\$1000 down

300 Sycamore Circle (next to Queen Carpet) 4BR 1BA \$110,000 \$1000 down, as low as \$750 month

1211 Nelson St. 2BR 1BA, \$69,900, \$1,000 as low as \$425 mon

**Tunnel Hill** 603 Pine Oaks 3BR 2BA \$129,000 \$1,000 down, as low as \$995 month.

210 Norris Cir. 5 BR 2 BA, \$141,000, \$1,000 down, \$995 month.

**Rates Have Never Been Better!** Brand new houses 1100 - 1300 square feet. 3 bdrms 2 full bath, 2-car garage. \$500 down, \$550 month. 678-766-0200

#### 726 Commercial Buildings

**check this out** \*19,000 sq.ft. - 2105 E. Walnut Ave. Retail space, Next to Hobby Lobby, across from Mall. \*97,000 sq. ft., 454 Hwy 225 (Bretlin)

\*Retail space - Dalton Place Shop. Ctr. 2518 Cleveland Hwy. 1200, 1400, 44,000 SF avail. 706-279-1380 Wkdys 9-5:30

1 -12,500 sf & 1 -10,000 sf bldgs for sale by owner. Dalton. Docks. Suitable for light manfg. or wrhg, offices w/ c/h/a. Pery 706-275-0862

**Cash In**



#### 728 Commercial Rental

**LOOK!** \*302 S. Thornton 5,500 SF, includes utilities, between Newspaper office & Bank of Am. \*1515 Abutment Rd. 10,000 sq. ft. includes utilities. Many sizes or suites. 1.3 mi. S. of Walnut

\*Camelot Bldg. Near I-75, 1514 W. Walnut Ave. Between Long John Silvers & Burger King. 5,500 S/F. 706-279-1380 wkdys 9-5:30.

### Doctor's Offices for Rent

Medical Suites, 2500 SF avail., 1008 Professional Blvd., Dalton. Distinctive Modern Bldg., 3rd floor w/elevator. 706-279-1380 wkdays 9-5:30

Office: 2700 S.F. Excellent condition. 1143 E. Walnut Ave. Call: 706-581-1037

Restaurants for rent: \*410 S. Hamilton (fmrly Bailey's Diner) Incl. equipment \$3,495 mo. \*801 E. Walnut Ave. Barrett Marketplace \$2995/Mo. \$2000 dep. (fmrly El Taco) fully furnished. 706-279-1380 wkdy 9-5:30

Retail and Office Space for Lease. Walnut Ave. + other locations 706-278-1566

Retail Shop for Lease. 3000 SF total. \$1375.00 mth \$500.00 Deposit. Chatsworth Area, Great Location. 706-483-9187

### RENTAL HOUSING

#### 751 Apartments

**!! TWO MONTHS FREE !!**

### HUGE TOWNHOME SUPERIOR AMENITIES

**706-279-1801**

\$100 off 1st month rent. 3 BR, \$580/mo., \$300/dep. 2 Br, \$480/mo., \$250/dep. 1 BR \$400/mo. Appliances, c/h/a, W/D hookup, close to mall, no pets. 706-278-4209 or 706-463-1344 or 706-280-9861

\$25 off every wk for 3 months to qualified tenants. Ask about other specials. 1 & 2 bdrm units in Dalton. 706-264-8867

**\*\*2BR/1BA DUPLEX** Central H/A, W/D hookup, kitchen appliances furnished. \$250/Deposit, \$475/month. NO PETS! Call 706-673-2177

### LOOK HERE!

\*\*1130/1132 Burleyson 2 BR, 1 BA \$485/mon, \$240/dep. \*\*707-2 Lance 2 BR, 1.5 BA, Newly remodeled. 1st week FREE w/1 yr. lease. 706-279-1380 wkday 9-5:30

1 & 2 bedrooms available, we have apartments in Dalton, Chatsworth, Spring Place & Eton. Call now 706-278-3776 or 706-695-4880.

1 STORY completely furn. effic. Cable TV, phone, microwave, kitch. supplies, linens, utilities furniture North Tibbs Road. \$149/weekly, 278-7189.

**1, 2, & 3 Bd Apt's - Starting at \$100/week. Power, water, cable, furnished. For details. 706-463-0672, 706-463-0671 & Español 706-463-0945**

1/2 off 1st Mo.- 2BR, 1BA, C/H/A, W/D Connection, Near Conn 3 & I-75. Lafayette Hwy.- 2BR, 2BA, Mobile Home. Monthly or wkly rates. 706-673-4808 or 706-264-6786.

1st week free w/ deposit! 2 bd. 1 ba, laundry room close to downtown. Utilities furnished. \$175/wk or \$650/mo., \$200/dep. 706-581-4615

**1st WEEK FREE!!** 2 bdrm, 2 ba. A/C, cable, parking, on-site laundry. \$155 week. No Pets! Renovated. **706-370-5705**

#### 751 Apartments

2 BR 1 BA - 603 Wills, \$465 month, \$230 dep. 706-279-1380 wkdays 9-5:30

271 Broadacre NW Rd. 2 br, 2 ba., Central H/A, W/D hook ups, water furn. \$480 mo \$100 dep. or \$125 wk. \$200 dep. 706-508-4158.

2BR 1.5BA Townhouse. Washer/ dryer conn., c/h/a, utilities & cable furn. \$160/wk or \$660/mo No Pets. 706-463-3171

3 BED 2 BATH Duplex. C/H/A, All appl. furnished. \$550/ mo., \$300/dep. No pets. Call: 706-259-8474 or 706-271-6900

Apartment for Rent. 2BR/1 BA located in Chatsworth. \$435.00 mth \$300.00 Deposit. NO PETS 706-483-9187

Awesome apartment you can afford! Well maintained. Convenient location! Call 706-226-6054 Email: parkcanyon@optilink.us

**Brand New** 2 bdrm 1 bath Apartments \$125 wk. \$0 dep. 1-2 BR 1 BA - \$75wk, \$0 dep **706-278-6485**

City west near Creative Arts Guild. 2bd 2ba, CHA, WD conn. Lease, references req'd \$600 mon \$300 dep. 706-463-3171

For Rent: **843 Carbondale Rd.** South - 2 bdrm 2 bath. **107 Marla Dr.,** North- 2 bedroom 1 bath. Call **706-277-2595**

HUGE 4 bedroom apt. In Dalton. \$590/month or \$150/wk. 706-260-9183

Luxurious Townhouse in Eton, newly renovated, ceramic tile, wood flrs, new carpet. 2 bd, 1.5 ba. move in special 1st mon \$250, no deposit 706-980-3361

Luxurious Townhouses, Dalton, newly renovated, ceramic tile, wood flrs, new carpet. 2 bd, 1.5 ba. move in special 1st mon \$250 no dep. \$500. mo thereafter. 706-980-3361

Motel Rooms For Rent: 2107 S. Dixie Hwy. 41. Standard - \$95/wk. Lg.- \$125/\$135wk. Dep.= 2 wks. rent. Furnished + TV, basic cable, private phone. 706-279-1380 wkdys 9-5:30

**MOVE RIGHT IN, 1 & 2 BD** efficiency apts, furnished, all util's, w/d furnished, TV, in Chats., & Dalton, near hospital. 706-313-1733 or 695-0625

**MUST RENT THIS WEEK!!**

**\$99 MOVES YOU IN** Super Deluxe Townhome 2 BR 1.5 Bath, Huge Closets Woodburning Fireplaces, Best Deal in Dalton Best Location, True Luxury **706-934-3787**

NICE 3 BR 2 BA duplex. Pleasant Grove area. Yard work furnished. 706-259-4067 or 407-314-4195

**STAY LODGE** Effic. Apt. with kitchen. Furn w/all utilities. Laundry fac., basic cable. Private phones furn. Starting at \$129.99/wk plus tax **Suite Deals** 1BR \$175.00 per week. Call 706-278-0700

STAYLODGE - WILLOWDALE **MOVE IN SPECIAL** 1st Week \$100.00 706-278-0700

Townhouse for Rent. 2BR 1.5 BA WM/Dryer \$475.00 mth \$300.00 Deposit NO PETS. 706-483-9187

**UNDERWOOD LODGE** Furnished Efficiency with kitchenette. All Utilities & Cable!! Laundry Facility Available. Deposit Specials \$50.00!

Only \$85-\$115 per week! 706-226-4651

Upgraded spacious 2 bd @ 900 Vernon Ave. Call for rates! Partial utilities included. 706-279-3998

## UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

5	8			1	4			
6		7	5	8		4		
	1							
2					1			
	4		6		5		7	
		9						5
							4	
	5		2	9	6			1
		4	6				5	8

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Look for the solution to today's Sudoku Puzzle on page 7B of the classifieds.

#### 751 Apartments

### Duplex

1BR off S. Bypass on Collins Rd. near SE High. New carpet & paint. \$150dp. \$125wk, power & water furn. 706-463-0672

#### 752 Homes For Rent

\*2 and 3 bedroom homes for rent starting at \$495 month. Call 706-463-2332 or 706-397-2087 hnf@vol.com

1st Week Rent Free. Apts., condos, mobile homes, and houses. Dalton, Chatsworth, and Tunnel Hill. Call 706-275-0460

2 bedroom 1 bath home, large lot, garage and carport. \$500 month plus deposit. Haigmill Rd off Reed Rd. 706-673-7716

2 bedroom, 1 bath house near Varnell. Big Yard. \$100/wk, \$250/dep. Water, fridge and stove included. No pets. 706-673-2599 between 9a-9pm.

2008 Abutment 4 BR 2 BA, Sunporch & garage. \$185 wk mon \$370 dp. 706-279-1380 wky 9-5:30

3 BR 2 BA, brick home in the country. CHA, gas logs, eat in kitchen, living rm, den, screened porch, big level yard. \$750 mon. \$550 dep. References required. 706-277-9096

5 bedroom, 2 bath, formal dining room, bonus room, sun room, 2935 sq. ft. Lease with option. \$1200/mo. \$1000/dep. 423-596-1465

808 5th Ave - Dalton. 3 bedroom 1 bath, \$500 per month, \$250 deposit. 706-278-0549 or days evening 706-277-2814.

#### 753 Condos For Rent

2 bedroom, 2.5bath Condo in Dalton city. Hardwood & ceramic floors., fireplace, appliances furnished. \$750/mo \$350/dep. Also, 2 bdrm w/garage \$800 mon. \$500 dep. 1-706-397-9987 or 706-264-2976

New Condos in Hammond Creek, lease w/option to buy. 2 bd, 2.5 bath. Gated community & swimming pool. Starting \$900 mon (includes monthly fees) daltoncustomhomeconstruction.com 706-673-2121 or 706-581-2778

### ATTENTION!

**Winter Special - 1st wk. FREE + pay only 1/2 dep. w/1 yr. lease - Sweetwater Road 3 BR 2 BA, \$145wk, \$290dep.** South end of Murray Co. off Hwy 225 S. 1/2 + acre lots, beautiful country setting. Several to choose from. Sweetwater Rd., Chatsworth Hwy. 225 Fm Chats Hwy. Take Hwy 225 S 13 mi. Fm Calhoun, take Hwy 225 N, 6 mi past Elks Golf Course, 1 mi N. of 4-way at Nickelsville. 706-279-1380 wkdys 9-5:30

**EVERYTHING From AZ**

### The Daily Photo



Submitted by Wayne Cofield:  
Roy Tinsley's Dogs in his Truck; Dalton, GA  
**To submit your photo, email photo, name and city to: lauramartin@daltoncitizen.com**

**MOBILE HOMES**

**778 Mobile Homes For Rent**

2 & 3 BR, 2 BA mobile home in Nice Neighborhood. Refrigerator, stove and water furnished. 706-217-7233 - Jim

2 BR 1 BA - 2012 -1 Abutment 122 Fields - Rocky Face. \$100/wk, \$200 dep. 706-279-1380 wkdys 9-5:30.

3 bd 2 ba. 968A Beaverdale Rd. Quiet. Water, lawn maint. furnished, CHA, hrwdw floors, reffrig & stove. \$125 wk, \$200 dep. No Pets. 706-271-6718.

3 bd, 2 bath new model doublewide in Eton. \$500/mo. or \$125/week. No deposit. Call: 706-669-0189

3 BR 2 BA - 214 New Dr. CHA, \$145 wk, \$290 dep. 706-279-1380 weekdays 9-5:30

**Down Sizing?** Owner Finance. Flexible down payment. \$650/mo. 3 bdrm 2 bath, 1 acre lot in Tunnel Hill. Will go quick. Call Steve 706-270-1342.

**Holiday Discounts!**

2 & 3 BD homes, many w/ hwdw floors. Country setting. Large lots & private pond. Carbondale area. \$110-\$135/wk. 706-217-2385.

Hwy 41 S. area in small quiet park with manager on site. 2 bedroom mobile homes. \$100. week plus \$150. deposit. No pets. 706-428-9443 or 706-980-3510.

**Move in Special!** 1/2 Price. Quiet community. From \$95 to \$135 week. Utilities included. 706-506-3561 or 678-910-5776

**NEW YEAR DISCOUNTS!**

2 & 3 BD homes, many w/ hwdw floors. Country setting. Large lots & private pond. Carbondale area. \$110-\$135/wk. 706-217-2385.

Very nice 2 bd, 1 bath off Connector 3 and I-75. 2 covered porches, \$150/wk includes all utilities. Call Leo 678-641-9685

Westside Area: 1 and 2 bedroom mobile homes. Beginning at \$65/weekly and \$240/monthly. Call 706-673-4000

**TRANSPORTATION**

**801 Antiques & Classics**



1966 Mustang Conv., black w/red interior. New top, new brakes, 68K miles, two family owned. Serious Inquires 706-271-6224. Christmas Special \$19,995.



1968 Dodge Charger, Vibrant Red, Completely Restored, 454 High Perf. Engine, Very Sharp \$29,500. Call 706-618-7899 or 706-695-8643.



1971 Chevelle SS454, very nice car, completely restored, strong runner, A MUST SEE! \$18,000. Call 706-618-7899 or 706-695-8643

**806 Domestic Autos**



1999 Lincoln Towncar Exec. Series. Very nice car. 24MPG, 127,700 miles. \$3600.00 Call 706-537-2461



2006 Cadillac STS, 6 cycl, nav, sunroof, heated & cooled seats, fully loaded, white diamond. 29,000 miles. \$21,900. 706-277-3729



98 Pontiac Bonneville, loaded with all options including power windows and locks, CD player, automatic, has a V-6. This Pontiac has 177K miles and it looks and drives like it is new. I am asking \$2500. for it or Best Offer. Call 762-201-5483. My number is a Dalton number.



Well maintained 2004 Buick Lesabre custom w/101k miles. White ext., Gray int., 4dr, automatic. Front WD, 6 Cyl., Gas engine. \$5,200. Call Roy: 706 673 2209 - 706 618 8076.

**807 Import Autos**



04 Nissan 350Z, Touring & Rdster. Red, automatic-5-speed. 71,000 miles, leather, heated seats, many extras! \$23,800. 706-217-9326.



1995 BMW, 325i. 4 door, automatic, white with tan leather interior. One owner. 100k miles. \$6,500. OBO. 706-581-8465



1999 Mercedes E430. Sedan. V-8. Silver, leather, all records, excellent condition. Sunroof, 94k miles. Asking \$9,700. Call: 706-673-1902 or email danny@herbshop.com

2000 Mercedes Benz E320. Silver, auto, leather, clean condition, like new. Great on gas. 35K miles. \$10,500. 561-512-7521.

2000 Mercedes SLK 230 hardtop convertible, low miles, excellent condition, service records, \$12,000. 706-280-4552



2001 - Jaguar, 4.0, S-Type. 67,458 Miles. \$ 12,200. Call: 706-217-8171



2005 BMW M3 Cabriolet, 36k miles, 6 sp., still under factory warranty, carbon black on black, Harman/Kardon sound, navigation, heated seats, xenon headlights, garage kept, one owner, asking \$43,000. Call: 706-260-1673

**807 Import Autos**



2005 Super Charged Mini Cooper. 6 speed. Convertible. Premium Sport Package. One owner. 40,000 miles, Harmon/Kardon parking sensors, cruise control, auto air. Price \$21,000. Call: 706-313-1119.



2006 Honda Accord EXL. Like new. Gray. Full warranty. 30k miles. Loaded. Leather seats, XM radio, sunroof, 34mpg. Like new. Great Cond. Must sell! No tax! \$18,495. obo. 706-614-7719



2007 LEXUS IS-250, 11,500 mi., loaded, \$25,900, 706-673-4808.



Well Maintained! 2004 Mercedes CLK 320 Coupe with 69,500 miles. Black ext., Beige int., 2DR, Semi-Automatic, Rear WD, 6 Cylinder, Sunroof, 6 Disc Changer, Push Button Start/Stop, ASKING: \$24,500/obo. Call 706-459-0326

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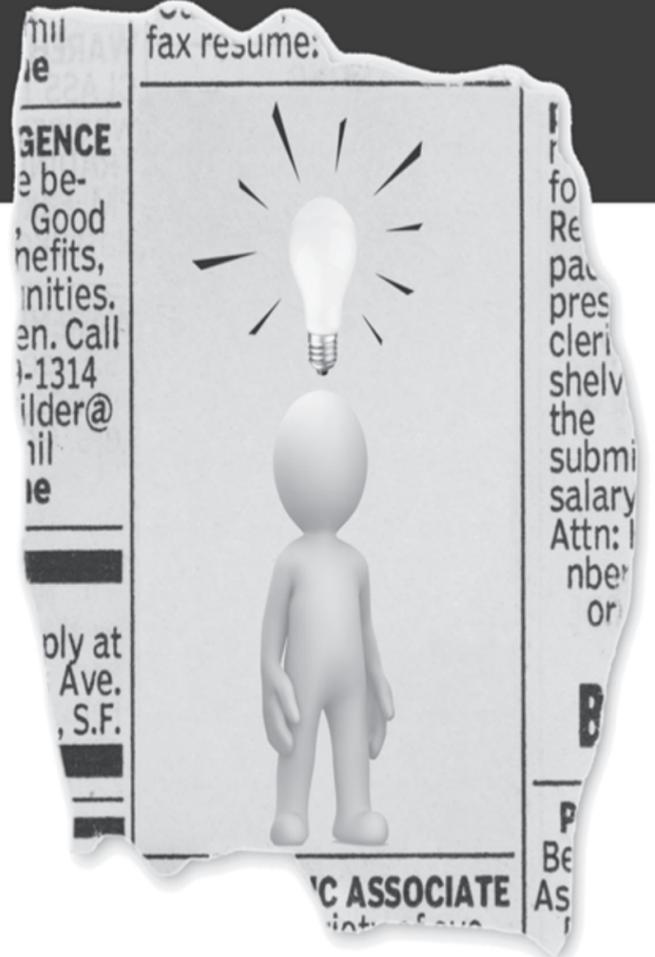
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# Rematches highlight playoffs

## Panther linemen return

By **TOM JONES**  
St. Petersburg Times

How interesting that each of the four NFL playoff games this weekend features a rematch of games played during the regular season.

Here's a look back at the regular-season matchups and what they might have told us about the playoff rematches.

### Pittsburgh Steelers vs. San Diego Chargers

When they met: Nov. 16 at Pittsburgh.

What was at stake: Both teams needed a win badly. The Steelers were coming off a disappointing home loss to Indianapolis, their second loss in three games. Meantime, the Chargers had lost two of three as well.

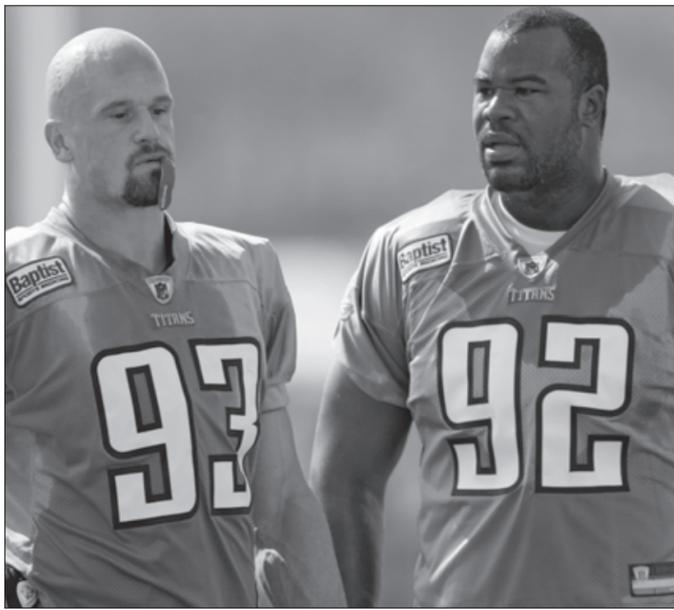
What happened: The Steelers won the NFL's first 11-10 game ever on Jeff Reed's 32-yard field goal with 11 seconds left. The game was a tale of two quarterbacks. Steelers QB Ben Roethlisberger had his second-most prolific game of the season by tossing for 308 yards. Chargers QB Philip Rivers struggled, throwing two interceptions and just 164 yards. The Steelers had nearly twice the offense, 410 yards to 213 in a game that featured a snow storm right before kickoff that left the field a frozen mess.

What it meant: The Steelers stretched their regular-season record against the Chargers in Pittsburgh to 13-0. But it should be noted the Chargers have won both playoff games against the Steelers in Pittsburgh. The victory propelled the Steelers to a five-game win streak, while San Diego continued to struggle.

What the game told us: The Chargers had trouble running, gaining only 66 yards on the ground. Meantime, Steelers RB Willie Parker rushed for 115 yards. Statistically, the Steelers dominated, but they needed three goals and a safety to win.

### Baltimore Ravens vs. Tennessee Titans

When they met: Oct. 5 at Baltimore.



AP Photo

**This July 26, 2008 file photo shows Tennessee Titans defensive tackle Albert Haynesworth (92) and defensive end Kyle Vanden Bosch (93) talking between drills during football training camp in Nashville. Albert Haynesworth says it's time for the grizzly bear to come out of hibernation. That would be Haynesworth, Tennessee's top sacker who is back from a sprained knee.**

What was at stake: Two teams wanting to prove they were serious postseason contenders. The Titans were off to a solid 4-0 start, while the Ravens were 2-1 after an overtime loss the week before to archrival Pittsburgh.

What happened: QB Kerry Collins led the Titans on an 11-play, 80-yard drive culminating with an 11-yard TD pass to Alge Crumpler with 1:55 left to give Tennessee a 13-10 victory. Not surprisingly, the defenses controlled the game. Collins and Baltimore rookie QB Joe Flacco each threw two interceptions and for fewer than 164 yards.

What it meant: The Titans' victory gave them a 5-0 record — a perfect mark that would last until a loss against the Jets in their 11th game. Meantime, the Ravens were blown out by the Colts 31-3 the following week to fall to 2-3 before getting hot.

What the game told us: That both offenses might have trouble moving

the ball. The Ravens defense stifled the Titans, which came into the game averaging more than 27 points. And there were 21 penalties called for 179 yards. Both Baltimore scoring drives were aided by 15-yard penalties, and the Titans' winning drive was kept alive because of a shaky roughing-the-quarterback penalty. But if one thing stood out, it was the Ravens running attack, which rushed for 132 yards compared to Tennessee's 47.

### Arizona Cardinals vs. Carolina Panthers

When they met: Oct. 26 at Carolina.

What was at stake: The Cardinals came in with a 4-2 record and a hot quarterback (Kurt Warner) with 12 touchdown passes in the first six games. Carolina was 5-2 and coming off an impressive 30-7 victory against New Orleans.

What happened: The Panthers

overcame a 17-3 third-quarter deficit to rally for a 27-23 victory. QB Jake Delhomme threw for 248 yards and two touchdowns, including a 65-yard score to Steve Smith late in the third quarter that put the Panthers up for good.

What it meant: The Panthers, who would go 6-2 the rest of the way to finish a perfect 8-0 at home while the Cardinals showed their vulnerability on the road, where they finished 3-5.

What the game told us: That the Cardinals can throw against the Panthers. Warner threw for 381 yards. But it showed that the Cardinals, like every other NFL team, couldn't stop Smith, who caught five passes for 117 yards and two touchdowns. Meantime, Panthers RB DeAngelo Williams rushed for 108 yards on 17 carries, while the Cardinals had only 50 yards rushing.

### Philadelphia Eagles vs. New York Giants

The teams split a pair of games. In Part I Nov. 9 at Philadelphia, The Giants sent a message that they were the team to beat in the NFC by winning their fourth straight game in Philly. Eli Manning threw two touchdowns and Brandon Jacobs rushed for 126 yards and two touchdowns in the Giants' 36-31 victory. The Giants' defense also stopped Eagles all-purpose back Brian Westbrook, who had only 59 total yards.

In Part II Dec. 7 in East Rutherford, N.J., the desperate Eagles, clinging to slim playoff hopes with a 6-5-1 record, rode Westbrook's 131 yards on 33 carries (he also caught six passes for 72 more yards) with two touchdowns in an impressive 20-14 victory.

Playing their second game after Plaxico Burress shot himself in the thigh, the Giants finished with a mere 211 total yards.

Manning threw for only 123 yards — his lowest total of the season when he played the entire game.

It meant little ultimately as New York eventually clinched the NFC East and home-field advantage for the playoffs. The win ultimately helped Philadelphia squeeze into the playoffs with a 9-6-1 mark.

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — The Carolina Panthers should have starting defensive tackles Maahe Kemoeatu and Damione Lewis back for Saturday's NFC divisional playoff game against Arizona.

Kemoeatu, Lewis and right offensive tackle Jeff Otah practiced Wednesday after being sidelined by injuries late in the regular season.

"We had a little hiatus, but we got them back. That was a good reason for the bye," coach John Fox said. "We should be at full strength."

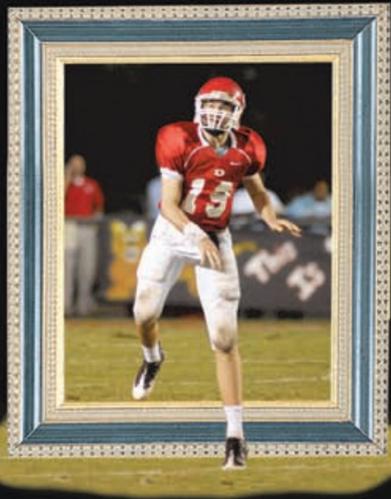
The Panthers' only injury concern is right guard Geoff Hangartner. He missed practice with a sprained left ankle and could miss Saturday's game.

Hangartner and Jeremy Bridges have split time at right guard after Keydrick Vincent was placed on injured reserve last month with a groin injury. Bridges is expected to start Saturday.

Kemoeatu left in the second half of Carolina's win over Denver on Dec. 14 and missed the next two games, leaving Carolina without its top run stuffer. That helped the New York Giants rush for 301 yards in an overtime victory that prevented the Panthers from securing the No. 1 seed in the NFC.

"I feel 100 percent and I'm ready to go," Kemoeatu said.

Lewis injured his shoulder in the second half against the Giants on Dec. 21 and missed the regular-season finale at New Orleans.



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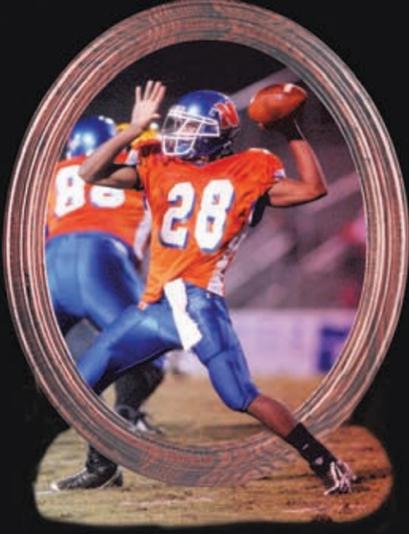
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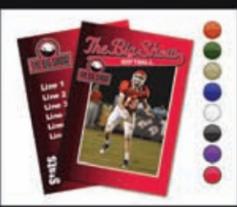
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