

Dalton man lands 49-pound catfish from Tenn. River

— Page 1B



Brickyard 400 Sunday at Indianapolis Motor Speedway

Page 5B

THE DAILY CITIZEN

Friday, July 24, 2009 • Dalton, Georgia • www.daltondailycitizen.com • 50 Cents

3 THINGS TO CHECK OUT ON THE INSIDE

Varnell City Council buys track of land for future City Hall.

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Federal minimum wage increase goes in effect today — to \$7.25 an hour.

See page 5A

Behavior problems in pets often can be fixed.

See Pet Connection, Page 1C

FROM TODAY'S FORUM

"Congratulations to Dalton Utilities for coming up with a creative way to save money on the sewer project to the new high school."

"What's the best way to find a job in our tough economy? Have a spouse on the Whitfield County Board of Education."

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WEATHER

Forecast: Mostly sunny
Today's High: 87
Tonight's Low: 65
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Plan of action unveiled Monday

By CHARLES OLIVER
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A group of local business leaders will unveil a plan Monday they say could provide more than 3,200 new jobs.

The Grow Greater Dalton Foundation will hold a press conference Monday at 1:30 p.m. at Dalton State College's James E. Brown Conference Center.

"It's a multi-party event. The

Officials say effort will spur economic activity, create jobs

Grow Greater Dalton effort involves the Chamber of Commerce, the Joint Development Authority, and a number of people and bodies, all of whom are interested in economic development in Dalton," said attorney John Neal, the general chairman of Grow

Greater Dalton.

"We are trying to coordinate the economic development efforts in Dalton," he said.

Neal declined to provide specifics on the program, saying they will be announced at the press conference. But a press release for

the event said the project "will both help existing businesses grow and attract complementary businesses. It will provide over 3,200 new jobs and vast other economic opportunities to citizens of the community."

"That's part of what we will be announcing Monday. We will announce specific plans for actions we will be doing," Neal said.

> Please see GROW, 2A

13% Area jobless rate up again

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The unemployment rate for Metro Dalton (Whitfield and Murray counties) increased to 13 percent in June, up from 12.5 percent in May, according to the Georgia Department of Labor.

In June 2008, Metro Dalton's jobless rate was 6.9 percent.

Hit by steep job losses in the floor-covering industry, Metro Dalton continues to have the highest unemployment rate among the state's 14 Metropolitan Statistical Areas. Metro Rome (Floyd County) had the second highest rate at 11.4 percent, followed by the 28-county Metro Atlanta area at 10.7 percent.

Whitfield County's unemployment rate increased to 12.8 percent in June, up from 12.2 percent in May. In June 2008, the county's jobless rate was 6.9 percent. Murray County's unemployment rate increased to 13.4 percent in June, up from 13 percent in May. In June 2008, the county's jobless rate was 6.9 percent.

The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate jumped to 10.1 percent in June, the highest rate ever recorded in Georgia. The rate was up from a revised

> Please see JOBLESS, 2A



MATT HAMILTON/The Daily Citizen

EARLY PRACTICE

Color guard member Maygan Headrick, 16, tosses her flag during practice Thursday at Dalton High School. The newer members of the color guard are practicing a week before the school's band camp begins on Monday.

Winners win trip

Place first in high-tech competition

By JAMIE JONES
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Two Georgia Tech students were determined to enter The Imagine Cup, Microsoft's global technology competition, but lacked an idea.

So former Dalton resident Marc-Antoine Paré and his partner, Kathy Pham, set aside a day for brainstorming last fall with the goal of 100 ideas. The possibilities were "all over the place," Paré said. Some were good, some were bad. Paré and Pham left that session without a solid idea.

"I was walking to class one day and the idea hit me."



Former Dalton resident Marc-Antoine Paré and Kathy Pham visit the pyramids near Cairo during the Imagine Cup finals.

said Paré, 21, a 2006 graduate of the McCallie School in Chattanooga. "The whole design came to me. It's just a spark, then you flesh out all of the details later. It's funny. It wasn't even one of the ideas we came up with."

That idea — using a combination of news feeds, computers programs and the social networking site Twitter to determine how people feel about the issues of the day — beat out teams from around the world and earned the duo a first place finish in

> Please see TRIP, 5A

Deadline today for out-of-zone enrollment in Whitfield schools

By RACHEL BROWN
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Today is the last day for parents to apply for their children to attend an out-of-zone school in the Whitfield County system.

The enrollment period began July 9. It's part of complying with a new state law, House Bill 251, that requires public school systems to allow students to attend schools in the same district but different attendance zones as long as there is space available. A student zoned to attend Antioch Elementary, for example, could apply to attend Beavercreek Elementary.

If transfer requests exceed available spaces, the school system will hold a lottery drawing on July 31 at 3 p.m. at the services center at 201 E. Tyler St.

Judy Gilreath, the assistant superintendent of support services handling the applications, did not

immediately return a phone call seeking comment on Thursday. School system spokesman Eric Beavers said in an e-mail Thursday afternoon there had been between 10 and 20 applications.

"That shouldn't be a problem accommodating the few families that have applied," he said. "We have had a similar policy in place for quite some time, so this isn't a new concept in Whitfield County Schools."

Dalton Public Schools' transfer period is still open for grade levels that have not reached capacity, which is 97 percent of available slots. Those who weren't able to get in can apply again Aug. 17 in case there are new openings, officials said.

For a listing of grades that are closed for applications at each

> Please see SCHOOLS, 5A

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2A Friday, July 24, 2009

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Monthly: \$12.00 Yearly: \$135.24
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Methods of payment: Cash, check, bank draft, Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express
 Second class postage paid at Dalton, Ga., 30720.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Daily Citizen, P.O. Box 1167, Dalton, Ga., 30722.

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 reach Today's Forum.

"According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics the average wage is \$18.42 an hour. I'd like to know who's blowing that smoke."

"On Saturday July 25, from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. the South Bypass Church of Christ will be giving away clothing, shoes, toys, household items and toys. No charge. No obligation."

"I know Whitfield County school board members who are college graduates and who run their own business."

"I didn't realize there was so many ignorant people in Dalton, Ga., until I all started running the forum in the newspaper."

"All of this hype about bottled water being better for you? People need to just get it out of their hydrants."

"To the person who apologized for calling people cowards: The world needs more people like you."

"The Braves are really looking good. The starting pitching has been outstanding and the hitters are finally coming around."

"Mayor Pennington is doing a wonderful job in Dalton. Also, he is a very friendly and kind person."

"The artwork on the Kids Corner in Monday's paper was fabulous. I think their artwork is better than some Picasso's."

"Would the man who took the \$80 from the cashier at the Cleveland Highway Kroger please return it to customer service at Kroger? My grandson put that money up there to help pay for our groceries without me knowing it."

"Congratulations to Dalton Utilities for coming up with a creative way to save money on the sewer project to the new high school."

"I am sitting here reading the forum. If anyone in the Dalton area has never made a mistake, why don't they say so. If you have made a mistake, please write in and complaining."

"They need to eliminate the code enforcement office in Murray County. I can't figure out what they do and you can't get them to help you when you need them."

"The Murray County commissioner needs to drive down Dunn Road West and see the grass growing out of the potholes on the road they were supposed to pave several years ago."

"Here we go again. Another Whitfield County school board member's wife gets hired by the school system. Whatever happened to equal opportunity?"

"For all you Medicare recipients opposed to socialized medicine, one word: hypocrite. Look it up."

"It took Jimmy Carter three years to become the worst president we've had. Back Obama has beat him in six months."

"Beautiful of Dalton is wonderful but when I go out on my front porch I see 13-18 trucks and cars and beer cans. That is Dalton, too."

"I'd like to know about the personal paper shredding, too. I recently drove to Flintstone to get my paper shredded."

"What's the best way to find a job in our tough economy? Have a spouse on the Whitfield County Board of Education."

"Hey Jimmy, I was in the CETA program. It helped me and I'll bet it helped you, too."

"Why do insurance agents make more money than primary care doctors? When insurance rates rise, that means more money for the insurance agents, not the doctors."

Editor: Any facts to back that claim up?

"The new bikini coffee shop in Chatsworth is gross. Shut it down."

"The Bible verse is important no matter where it appears in the paper. Just be thankful that it's in there."

"Mr. Editor, I stand corrected about the debt and deficit. I loved Ronald Reagan but he cut taxes for the wealthy and programs for the poor. On the other hand, Bill Clinton raised taxes on the wealthy and cigarettes."

Editor: What programs for the poor did Reagan cut?

"What's up with the bikini clad young girls collecting money for cheerleading?"

"People who complain to the forum about not getting a raise should be glad they have a job. It's better than standing in line for food stamps."

"We don't need the Bible verse in the newspaper at all. Bible thumpers are never satisfied."

"The Whitfield County school board family members who are employees of the school system were already employees when the members were elected."

"I would like to get some Plum Granny seeds from someone. Please call (706) 529-4909."

"To the person who called in about the light at Tyler and Hamilton streets: I took my lunch hour time and sat in the parking lot and witnessed nine different cycles. The longest anyone had to wait was 18 seconds. They need to get off their cell phones and drive."

"A word of praise to our public works department. I called about a dangerous tree about to fall across Haig Mill Road. They were there within five minutes, taking that tree down. Big praise ..."

"The liberals and the press did such a good job of demonizing Bush and Cheney that the people elected a community organizer with a clipboard for president. We will suffer for 15 years."

"Do we have a Bible verse plastered on our city streets, on the front page of every book we read, quoted on TV continuously? Of course not. So why does the caller keep insisting that it needs to be on the front page of the newspaper? Why is the newspaper held to this standard?"

"When the Constitution was signed by the 13 states, one wise man said that America can only be destroyed from within. I hope we haven't reached that point, but it looks like we have."

"We already have a form of national health care. Ask any illegal and green card holder who doesn't take out health care."

"Jimi Hendrix said, 'When the love of love overcomes the love of power, then we'll see what this world can really be.'"



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO BY TIM SMALL

More than 120 people attended a lecture by Civil War author Robert "Bob" Jenkins, a Dalton attorney, recently at the Bobby Jones Golf Club. The event was sponsored by the Buckhead Heritage Society to commemorate the 145th anniversary of the Battle of Peachtree Creek. The Battle of Peachtree Creek was fought on July 20, 1864. It was the first of four major conflicts fought around Atlanta in July and August for possession of the city during the Civil War. From left are Jenkins, Nancy Bland, Claudia Barnes and Dr. John Barnes.

Grow: Local funds requested

> Continued from page 1A

Dalton City Council members considered a request at their meeting Monday for \$1.5 million over four years to fund Grow Greater Dalton. Neal said the organization has requested a similar level of funding from the Whitfield County Board of Commissioners.

The City Council took no action on the request. But Mayor David Pennington urged council members to talk to chamber officials about the project and decide what action they want to take.

"We support the concept. But that doesn't mean we will give them any money," said Pennington.

"It's basically a campaign around growing public and private resources behind economic development and community visitors," said Dalton-Whitfield Chamber of Commerce president Brian Anderson on Monday.

One of the speakers at the press conference will be Mel Garber, director of the University of Georgia's Archway Partnership. Garber said Thursday that Dalton is one of just eight communities in Georgia chosen

to take part in the partnership, which tries to increase those communities' access to all of the services and resources of the university to address local issues.

"The community determines the priority needs, issues and directions they want to go in. Then we say 'What are the higher education resources that could assist with that' and try to get this institution or other institutions to assist with that," he said. "It's based at UGA, but we've broadened it to other institutions. We'll be working very closely with Dalton State College."

Jobless: More unemployed

> Continued from page 1A

9.6 percent in May. Last month, 483,394 unemployed Georgians were looking for work, an increase of 65 percent from June 2008. Of that number, 160,249 — or 33 percent — are receiving state unemployment insurance benefits, while approximately 93,000 are receiving federal extended benefits.

The June jobless rate was up 4 percentage points from 6.1 percent at this time last year.

Georgia's unemployment rate remained above the national rate of 9.5 percent for the 20th consecutive month.

The number of payroll jobs in June decreased by 209,500, or 5.1 percent, from June of 2008. The losses came in professional and business services, including temporary employment agencies; manufacturing; trade; transportation and warehousing; and in the construction industry. Health care and educational services showed a combined increase of 12,000 jobs.

'Twilight' sequel draws fangirls by the thousands

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Most camped out overnight. Some spent two nights outside the San Diego Convention Center. They wore homemade T-shirts, made friends with fellow fans and talked about their allegiance to Team Edward or Team Jacob.

They are the "Twilight" fangirls, and they came to Comic Con by the thousands to see the movie's stars in person at a panel Thursday for the film's sequel.

Director Chris Weitz was joined by Robert Pattinson,

Taylor Lautner, Kristen Stewart and Ashley Greene.

High-pitched screams drowned out the introductions.

Those same shrill screams (of joy) also threatened to overwhelm the dialogue during the clip film-makers showed.

The clip shows Jacob (Lautner) teaching Bella Swan (Stewart) how to ride a motorcycle, but she's distracted by visions of the vampire Edward (Pattinson) with whom she fell in love. She crashes, and Jacob takes off his shirt to soothe her

wound, provoking more fangirl screams. Lautner famously gained more than 20 pounds of muscle since for the role.

Pattinson, who was greeted with adoring screams when made his Comic Con debut with "Twilight" last year, said the event was "an eye-opener, and it's just gotten bigger and bigger since."

"None of us saw it coming," Lautner added.

"It's a little overwhelming to have so many people here," Stewart said. "But I guess it's a good thing."

TODAY'S CITIZEN

NAME: Erin Bartley
AGE: 25
HOME: Dalton
FAMILY: Husband, Wes Vaughn; daughter, Kaleigh Vaughn
WORK: Gingerbread House Inc.
PLAY: Work, play with my animals, camping, being with my family
SHE SAID: "I love my family more than all the Skittles in the world."

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