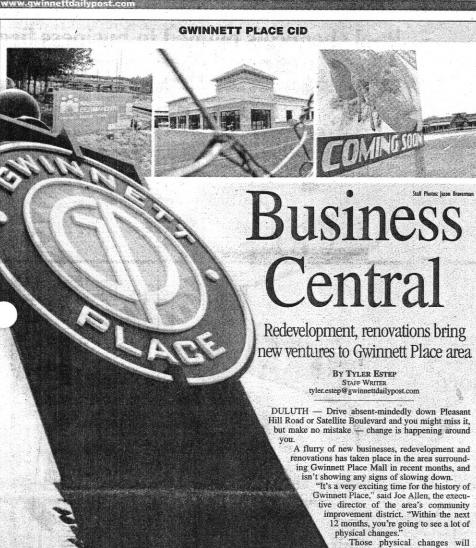
winnett Dail

"Paint your own" pottery discounts Page 4A

Vol. 41. No. 233



Study: GGC's economic impact at \$130.6M

BY HEATHER DARENBERG STAFF WRITER heather.darenberg @gwinnettdailypost.com

p left to right, Kais

WRENCEVILLE gia Gwinnett College had economic impact of \$130.6 million on the Gwinnett region during the 2009-10 fiscal year, according to an economic study recently released by the Selig Center for Economic Growth.

to right, Kaiser Permanente's new expansion, a new shopping center and restaurant The Lobster House, under construction in the former Smokey ocation, are all examples of improvements to the Gwinnett Place community.

GGC's economic impact included generating 870 jobs in the local community, in addition to 478 campus jobs, the report said. Daniel Kaufman, the college's president, said construction of campus facilities alone has generated more than \$300 million since GGC opened in

"Higher education drives a community's economic engine,' GGC president Daniel Kaufman said. "Colleges and universities educate the workforce, create innovations through research and help businesses become more competitive through collaborations. A college's very presence contributes to the local economy

through job creation and spend-

come in the form of planned

'streetscaping' projects and the beginning phases of the diverging diamond inter-

change at Pleasant Hill and

•See Business, Page 5A

Overall, the Selig Center in the University of Georgia's Terry College of Business found that the University System of Georgia had a \$12.6 billion economic impact on the state's economy during the 2010 fiscal year.

·See GGC. Page 7A

CHATTAHOOCHEE

Are strict rules the answer?

River fun but deadly respite from heat

By Josh Green STAFF WRITER josh.green@gwinnettdailypost.com

BUFORD - In mapping out a business plan eight years ago, Barbara Russell felt uneasy about putting inexperienced kayakers, canoers and tube-riders on the Chattahoochee River north of Garrard Landing Park, a Roswell greenspace off Holcomb Bridge Road.

Any farther north, Russell reckoned, her customers would have to contend with intense water releases from Buford Dam, located 16 miles upriver.

"You know, you don't have those gushes of water here," said Russell, general manager of Chattahoochee Outfit-ters in Sandy Springs.

On a typical summer Saturday, in

·See River, Page 3A

Daily Post picks up 9 GPA honors

JEKYLL ISLAND -- The Daily Post won nine awards in the Georgia Press Association's annual Best Newspaper Contest. The awards were handed out during this weekend's convention held at the Jekyll Island Club

Photo Editor Jason Braverman placed first for best sports photo and photographer Jonathan Phillips had first-place finishes for photo essay and sports feature photo and also placed second for best website photo gallery.

Copy Desk Chief Nate McCullough placed second in serious column writing and Sports Editor Will Hammock

placed third in sports writing.

The paper was also honored with a third-place finish in the Page One competition and earned third place for Layout and Design. The Daily Post also placed second for Best Sports

The Daily Post competes in Divi-sion A, which includes the largest papers in the state.

- From staff reports

INSIDE TODAY

Weather Highs in the mid-90s. Lows in the upper 60s.

Nation Huge Ariz. wildfire spreads, health conditions worsen



■ Local In quest for cityhood, Peachtree



WUSA Weekend Advice from actor Josh Duhamel on keeping the



Online

Looking for a movie to see?

Duncan working on 'plan B' for US schools

By DORIE TURNER The Associated Press

strated by what he called a "slow motion train wreck" for U.S. schools, Education Secretary Arne Duncan said he will give schools relief from federal mandates under the No Child Left Behind law if

Congress drags its feet on the law's long-awaited overhaul and reauthoriza-

That could mean everything from granting waivers on test score requirements to flexibility on how schools spend federal funding, though Duncan offered few details because he said

the department is just for Congress to rewrite the could be labeled failures beginning to work on its

The Obama administration has called for an overhaul of the 9-year-old federal education law by the fall, but lawmakers have indicated that won't be possible. Duncan told reporters Friday that his first goal is 82 percent of U.S. schools

law but he wants to put other plans in place in case that doesn't happen this

"This is absolutely plan" Duncan said. "The B," Duncan said. "The prospect of doing nothing is what I'm fighting against."

Duncan has warned that

Behind isn't changed. Education experts have questioned that estimate.

Still, no one thinks states having 100 percent of students proficient in math and English by 2014. A school that fails to meet targets for

several consecutive years next year if No Child Left faces sanctions that can include firing teachers or closing the school entirely.

And Duncan hasn't been

shy about granting waivers. will meet the law's goal of In 2009, he granted more having 100 percent of stu-than 300, significantly higher than the number given out a year earlier by his predecessor.

- Business

•From Page 1A

Interstate 85.

Already happening, though, is an influx of business redevelopment.

Four new stores inside the actual mall aside, several restaurants have recently made their debut or will soon. Existing sites, including the KFC on Mall Boulevard and the Bruster's Ice Cream on Pleasant Hill, have remodeled or reopened with a fresh coat of paint or new

ownership.
The state's largest Quik-Trip gas station has opened the former Macaroni Grill location near Sweetwater Road, and the Mall Corners Shopping Center has been redeveloped with an AT&T store and several other new businesses.

Large corporations like

NCR and Kaiser Permanente have recently expanded their Duluth operations.

A massive, shining silver mantle already on display, Gwinnett Place Ford offers the most striking symbol of the area's budding resur-gence. The dealership owned and operated by Casey Coffey has poured money into its in-progress expansion, buying out nearby vacant shopping centers and making use of previously uninhabited

"You can drive up and down Satellite Boulevard and see multi-million-dollar properties and business-es that are thriving," Coffey said. "We are very confident in our location as being a great place to do business here in Gwinnett."

Kenny Ly is the director

of operations for The Lobster House, a Buckhead-feel "lounge restaurant" that is scheduled to open in two to three months in the former Smokey Bones location.

"There's less traffic ed for redevelopment." oing on in Gwinnett Place Mall, but Pleasant Hill financing supports projects itself has always been a busy place," Ly said.

"Based on what I see right now, I expect (the restaurant) to do very

The resurgence in Gwinnett Place can be attributed to, in part, the cautious recovery of the economy as a whole, and Allen expects the area to "continue to stabilize and push up." The influence of government programs and other tools will likely help that.

At the start of last year, greater Gwinnett Place was officially recognized as a

tax allocation district, or TAD. Also called tax increment financing, TADs offer economic development benefitting incentives "underutilized areas target-

In short, the government that produce increased property values, reduce crime, create new jobs and revive underused commercial land.

Allen said he also expects the area to soon qualify as an "opportunity

zone," which would give businesses tax credits for the creation of new jobs.

All that will be needed for Gwinnett Place to battle its biggest demon much-maligned public per-

ception.
"I think that's our greatest enemy, perception," Allen said, "especially for people that have been in Gwinnett a long time ... We think we remember how things were way back when. And there have been some changes in this area.'

Among those changes, though, Allen is quick to point out, is that crime in greater Gwinnett Place has decreased in each of the last four years. In 2010, 1,504 illegal signs and 8.5 tons of trash were removed from 10 miles of roadway through CID-led efforts.

Gwinnett Place, Allen maintains, is still county's central business district."

"I think people know there's still a lot of vitality in this area," he said.

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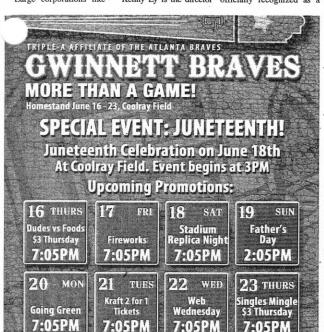
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