

Sports: Raiders fall to Veterans, 5-4

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Georgia leads nation in women's business growth Local trailblazers offer perspective

By JASON HALCOMBE and THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A new study shows Georgia leads the nation in the growth of new women-owned businesses for the first time.

The number of firms started by women since 1997 has shown faster growth in Georgia than

anywhere else in the nation, expanding by more than 111 percent, according to a report commissioned by American Express OPEN.

Georgia was the only state to see triple-digit growth, according to the study, and businesses owned by females will contribute more than \$44 billion to

the state's economy this year.

Local small business owner, and the first female Dublin-Laurens Chamber of Commerce chairperson Geva Alexander remembers a time when women entrepreneurs like herself were few and far between.

"It sounds good," Alexander

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Photo by Jason Halcombe

Alexander, the first female chairperson for the Dublin-Laurens Chamber of Commerce, said she was excited over the news that Georgia women led in small business growth.



Oz & Roizen

When mommy's a junk-food junkie

2a



Dear Abby

Girl's racy Facebook profile makes grandma look askance

2a



Keyboard Praise Sunday

Pianists practicing for the Keyboard Ensemble concert at First United Methodist Church include: Rachel Brown, Camille Carruth, Rev. Thad Haygood, Betsy Moran, Marianne Norris, Robert Norris, and Patricia Nuss. Also performing will be organist Michael McGhee, a Dublin native. The concert will be held Sunday, April 14 at 3 p.m. in the sanctuary. (Photo by Jason Halcombe)

Third annual car show gearing up for April 20

By PAYTON TOWNS III

Cars and other vehicles will be lining up to be shown off at the third annual Moore Station on April 20. And it's all for a good cause.

The third annual Moore Station Village Car Show, benefitting Habitat for Humanity, will be setting up on April 20.

The show is free to the public. Entry fee for the vehicles is \$20. The show will go from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Moore Station Village.

The sponsors for this year's event are Dublin Heating and Air Specialists, Bridges Electric and

Motor Services, Middle Georgia Mechanical Heating and Air Conditioning, Allgood, Morris Bank, City of Dublin, Pitts Toyota, The Courier Herald, Choo-Choo Build-It Mart, Dublin-Ford, Dublin-Chevrolet, Moore Station Village, Premier Custom Homes Group, Curry Companies and Choice Care Ambulance.

The money that Habitat gets comes from the car entry fees.

Tracy Kinney, executive director of Habitat,

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Pam Tebow to speak at ABC fundraiser

By PAYTON TOWNS III

Tim Tebow's mother is coming to Dublin.

Pam Tebow will be speaking at the "Gift of Life" Fundraiser which will be held from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church Family Life Center on May 2. The fundraising event will benefit Sav-A-Life Ministry of Dublin, Inc., also known as the ABC Women's Clinic.

"We are excited," said ABC Women's Clinic executive director Becky Wood. "We are inviting people to get tickets and the tickets are free. We'd like for them to be picked up so that we can have a head count and know how many people are coming...This is for both men and women. We have a lot of men who are excited about hearing her too."

Tickets can be picked up in Dublin at ABC Women's Clinic, The Olive Branch and First Baptist Church, the Cochran Eye Center in Cochran, Piddlin Peddler in Eastman and the Jet Corporate office in Sandersville.

Child care service will not be provided for the program. The event will be different



TEBOW

than in the past.

"We won't have any food or deserts," Wood said. "It's just an event where you can come hear her story and you'll hear very briefly what we've done and maybe a patient testimony. This is a good chance for people who don't know anything about us."

Wood said they contacted Tebow about speaking for their fundraiser. Tebow's son, Tim, won the Heisman Trophy in 2007. Doctors encour-

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Investigation leads to arrest of Treutlen jailer

By JONATHAN FINLEY

An investigation into misconduct at the Treutlen County Jail led to the arrest of a Treutlen County jailer.

According to Treutlen County Sheriff Tommy Corbin, on Friday the Sheriff's Office received information regarding misconduct of an officer in the jail.

This information was turned over to Investigator Ron Bivins and he was able to confirm the allegations.

According to Corbin, Bivins then interviewed jailer Michael Horne who admitted to the allegations.

Horne was arrested on April 6 and charged with sexual assault by law enforcement with an individual in custody, possession of a schedule II substance and violation of oath by a public officer.

Information leads to

drug arrest in 'the bottom'

Information from a concerned citizen led to the arrest of a Soperton man on Thursday evening.

Treutlen County Sheriff Tommy Corbin and Sheriff Deputy Felton Strickland responded to "the bottom" after receiving information that Hollis Stanley was in possession of drugs.

According to Corbin, when arriving in "the bottom," Stanley was standing on the sidewalk.

Both Strickland and Corbin searched Stanley and found a small clear vial with nine rocks of crack cocaine and a bag of marijuana.

Stanley is charged with possession with intent of crack cocaine and possession with intent of marijuana.

GOT AN OPINION? TELL IT!



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Three Ga.-based soldiers killed in Afghanistan attack

FORT STEWART, Ga. (AP) — Three soldiers based at Fort Stewart in southeast Georgia died in a weekend suicide bombing in Afghanistan that also killed a young American diplomat and a Defense Department civilian worker, the Army said Tuesday.

The military identified the slain soldiers as Staff Sgt. Christopher M. Ward, 24, of Oak Ridge, Tenn.; Spc. Wilbel

A. Robles-Santa of Juncos, Puerto Rico; and Spc. Delfin M. Santos Jr. of San Jose, Calif. All three served as cavalry scouts in the 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division.

They were among five Americans killed Saturday in a suicide car bombing while delivering textbooks to children in Zabul, Afghanistan. Al-

so slain in the attack was Anne Smedinghoff, a 25-year-old U.S. diplomat from suburban Chicago. The name of the civilian worker who was slain has not been released.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the bombing.

The soldiers were providing a security escort for Smedinghoff as she traveled by convoy to deliver the books to a school, said Ward's grandmother,

Nancy Ward.

"It's bad enough to be killed in action," she said. "But when you are trying to do something good, it seems like a double slap in the face."

While Ward has family in Tennessee, his grandmother said he grew up in Arcadia, Fla., and stayed with his grandparents to finish high school at Desoto County High School after his mother moved

to Oak Ridge.

Nancy Ward said her grandson knew he wanted to be a soldier during high school, when he was heavily involved in the ROTC program. He joined the Army in November 2005, according to Fort Stewart officials, and was serving his third overseas deployment.

"He had his mind made up that the Army was going to be his future," Ward's grand-

mother said.

Fort Stewart officials said both Santos and Robles-Santa were serving their second deployments.

A phone number for Santos' family could not immediately be found Tuesday. Robles-Santa's mother, Maribel Santa-Rivera, did not immediately return a phone message from The Associated Press on Tuesday afternoon.

High-ranking Georgia agriculture officials resign

ATLANTA (AP) — Two high-ranking officials have resigned at Georgia's Department of Agriculture.

Chief Operating Officer Billy Skaggs and the director of the food safety division, Oscar Garrison, both resigned on March 30. Department spokeswoman Mary Kathryn Yearata said she could not discuss why they left office, describing it only as a "personnel matter."

Skaggs and Garrison did not return phone calls seeking comment.

Agriculture Commissioner Gary Black, a Republican, appointed Skaggs to the job in 2011. He oversaw day-to-day operations of the department.

Garrison joined the agency in 1994 and was responsible for leading food safety operations. Yearata said he has been

replaced by interim director Mark Norton.

Department of Natural Resources considers shortening doe hunting season

ATLANTA (AP) — The Georgia Department of Natural Resources is considering shortening doe hunting season to stabilize the state's deer population.

John Bowers, of the department's Game Management Section, says a proposal to shorten doe hunting season by 25 days is a response to scientific data suggesting female deer now comprise 60 to 65 percent of the annual deer harvest. Additionally, Bowers says officials have noted a statewide decline in the fawn recruitment rate.

Bowers says hunters will

be able to hunt for bucks throughout the season if the proposal passes.

The department plans to hold three hearings in Tifton, Forsyth and Jasper this month to allow the public to weigh in on the proposal.

State agency struggles with computer outage

ATLANTA (AP) — Authorities say the Georgia Department of Driver Services has been struggling with a statewide computer outage at licensing and testing centers across the state.

CBS Atlanta reports that a software glitch either shut down or slowed computers throughout the day on Tuesday. Agency officials said the problems continued throughout the day.

Show

Continued from 1a

which is a partnered agency with The United Way, is excited about the event.

"I'm very thrilled about it," said Kinney the day the sponsor met to talk about this event. "Like our Daddy/Daughter Dance, this is something that has grown each year. I'm excited about everybody helping us build another house. It's good to hear that word has gotten out

and sponsors are coming to them. It's good to see that everybody is willing to lend a hand. It's very heartwarming."

Habitat will use the money it receives to help build its next house in East Dublin.

Laurens Lodge No. 75 will be cooking food for sale and another vendor will be serving Louisiana Gumbo. The Lodge gives its money to the Masonic Children's Home.

The show, which was held

April 28 last year, was moved up one week to avoid other events in neighboring counties.

The show will not feature motorcycles this year. There will be an Antique Tractor part in the program.

The plan is for the cars and vehicles to be set up just like it was last year.

For more information, call (478) 272-9000 or visit MooreStationVillage.com for details and directions.

Tebow

Continued from 1a

aged her to abort Tim when she was pregnant with him.

"If she would have done that, we wouldn't of had a Tim Tebow," Wood said. "They are a faith based oriented family and she speaks all over on behalf of life, adoption and women's issues in general. She has spoken to other centers in Georgia and we are looking forward to her coming to Dublin."

"Her story is very compelling," she added. "God knows the plans for every person He creates. Her story is one about how when you place your faith in Him, and you do what He tells you is right, then

even against all odds it works out for good."

During the 2012 Super Bowl, Tebow ran a commercial about her situation.

"A lot of people were very upset about that commercial," Wood said. "It was very simple and very powerful. That kind of spring boarded her career on speaking on behalf of life."

The underwriters for the event are: Taylor and Karoly, OB/GYN, Dublin Eye Associates, Friendly Gus Corporation, Medical Center, LLP, Dublin Women's Center, OB/GYN, Gayco Healthcare and Shelia Fordham, Independent Consultant, Mary Kay Cosmetics.

"They are a very critical part to this whole event," Wood said. "The underwriters cover the cost of the event so that every thing that is received that night goes directly to helping women. That's why we are excited about it."

The clinic will be asking for donations.

For more information, call (478) 275-9455 or email susan@abcwomensclinic.org

"We are excited about what God has done with us so far and how He is bringing us to new levels," Wood said. "We're so excited about her coming because she will introduced more people to what we do."

Women

Continued from 1a

said of the news. "The great Iron lady of England said it so well. I want to be chosen because I'm the person for the job, not because I meet a quota for a certain number of women. I think anyone who goes into business needs to plan to meet certain goals."

Back in 1964, Alexander, a former Dublin High School teacher, made starting her own business a goal after being dared by Farmers Furniture founder Sherwin Glass.

"I had gone to work for a friend whose business was floundering," Alexander said. "They wanted me to buy the business. I said, 'I couldn't do that.' Sherwin Glass said, 'You'll never be able to go into business for yourself.' I said, 'I bet I can.'"

Alexander proceeded to then Morris State Bank, where she obtained a loan for \$1,500 through the help of her husband ("Back then, a woman couldn't sign a note," she said), with an understanding she could borrow an additional \$1,500 more.

Nearly a half-century later, Alexander remains one of the few women in the office supply business, but she said Tuesday's announcement was news to her ears.

"If you're in a man's world, you have to play the man's game," Alexander said. "You can't go in and say, 'I'm a little lady,' drop your handkerchief and expect to get your way. You've got to be the right person for the job or it will never work."

The report highlighted the number of businesses owned by women, their sales and the number of people they employ. The state has over 308,000 women-owned firms.

Women are expanding their businesses and delighting in the competition.

For Georgann Hoyt, who's entering her 31st year in busi-

ness at local jewelry store Graceful Gold, her early successes began before she even had a permanent storefront.

"I had worked retail in high school, and my husband Bill was in retail. When I first started I did it part time. I developed a customer base before I had a permanent place."

For her first nine years, Hoyt sub-leased space in the Williamsburg Shopping Center before setting up a storefront that had been an anchor in that same shopping center.

Tomorrow, Hoyt will hold a ribbon cutting on a new storefront that is three times larger than that previous location; a testament she said to an attention to customer satisfaction that can be found on a mouse pad at the cash register.

"We have a mouse pad that says 'Take care of your customers, or someone else will,'" Hoyt said. "I'm moving to a space three times as big. Wanted to be able to better serve (customers), have a better presentation and continue to grow my business. You have to morph your business and change it. You have to be willing to adapt to change."

"Doing this has allowed me to watch families grow up. I like watching families grow up. My customers became my friends, and my friends became my customers."

Over the past 15 years, the state has nearly doubled the national growth rate of 59 percent. In spite of the national downturn, employment numbers rose by 24.7 percent.

Over that same time span, Kim Hatchett began her women's clothing store Plum Alley. She's seen the emergence of big box stores, but said her store has held strong thanks to "loyal customers."

"Perseverance. Sticking with it," Hatchett said of her success. "Not giving up when the times

were tough. Because there have definitely been some tough times. I still have those loyal customers who look to me to help them out. I think because more women are unsatisfied in the workplace, there are more trying to do their own thing."

The report states that revenue growth is stronger among firms owned by women of color and that could indicate that business ownership is an attractive pursuit for them. The report said that "While firms owned by women of color are smaller than non-minority women-owned businesses both in terms of average employment and revenues, their growth in number and economic clout is generally far outpacing that of all women-owned firms."

Nationally, the number of companies owned by African-American women is up 258 percent from 1997 to 2013, according to Womenable, the firm commissioned for the report. New enterprises owned by Georgia's African-American women have grown more than 254 percent over that time.

Health care and social assistance have the largest share of women-owned businesses followed by educational services like private schools, cosmetology or training schools, other services such as beauty salons and pet sitting, and administrative and waste management services. The industries with the lowest concentration of women-owned firms are construction and transportation and warehousing.

Ultimately, Alexander hopes the news will mean more women just like her are open to starting, running and succeeding in the world of small business.

"There's a lot to say and do when you decide to go into business," Alexander said. "God knows I hope they all succeed."

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