

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Alpharetta man invents Good Nite Lite for kids

Sample fare from the city's finest chefs

Cover story

Stimulus report card due on jobs

But the grade is likely to be debatable.

Some say funds averted layoffs, didn't create jobs; numbers disputed.

By **Jeremy Redmon**
jredmon@ajc.com

The federal government is preparing to report this month how many jobs have been created or saved through stimulus spending, giving a first look at how the program is working in Georgia and the rest of the nation.

Under the bill that created the \$787 billion program in February, states, counties and school systems that receive the taxpayer money are required to report quarterly to the federal government on how they are spending it and how many jobs have been created or retained. The first reports are due Saturday.

Federal and state officials say they plan to make the information public Oct. 30. They caution, however, not to draw strong conclusions from the reports because only a fraction of the \$6.4 billion set aside for Georgia has been spent.

Some economists say the spending has at least reduced the severity of the recession.

"The fiscal stimulus was needed and necessary and I actually think it is serving its purpose," said Jeff Humphreys, director of

Stimulus continued on A14

Today in Business

» Fewer Georgians filed for unemployment benefits in September than in August. **A15**

» Sales in retail stores rose for the first time in more than a year. **A15**

Uncertain demand for vaccine

State has nasal mist to fight swine flu, but response has been slow.

By **Shelia M. Poole**
spool@ajc.com

State officials say it's too early to determine how much demand there will be for the swine flu vaccine.

Dr. Rhonda Medows, commissioner of the state Department of Community Health, said people have a lot of questions about the virus and the vaccine, and she called that questioning "healthy."

The state this week received its first shipment of vaccine, 54,800 doses of a nasal mist using a weakened live virus. Georgia officials expect to receive 2 million doses by the end of the month, including a shipment of about 50,000 doses of injectable vaccine within the next week.

Federal health officials have strongly urged people to take the vaccine, which they say is the best protection against swine flu, also called the H1N1 virus. But some people are still undecided whether they will take it.

Demand for the spray mist vaccine has been slow in the 12-

Vaccine continued on A10

Today's news

17 die in car bombing claimed by Taliban

A suicide bomber detonated his vehicle outside the Indian Embassy in the bustling center of the Afghan capital of Kabul on Thursday, killing 17 people in the second major attack in the city in less than a month. The Afghan Foreign Ministry hinted at Pakistani involvement — a charge Pakistan denied. **World, A3**

U.S. House votes to expand hate crime law

Democrats and advocates hailed the 281-146 vote Thursday to expand the definition of violent federal hate crimes to cover those committed because of a victim's gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability. **Nation, A6**

Tom Joyner requests pardon for ancestors

The nationally syndicated radio host is asking South Carolina to posthumously pardon two of his great-uncles — black landowners executed in 1915 after being convicted of murdering an elderly Confederate Army veteran. **Nation, A9**

Fewer jobless claims no cause for elation

Though fewer Georgians are losing their jobs, even fewer of the jobless are apparently finding new employment. In September, 66,614 people filed new claims for unemployment insurance benefits, the state Department of Labor reported Thursday. That compares with about 70,000 in August and 94,000 in July. **Business, A15**

A sign of hope for the holiday-buying season?

The nation's stores saw their first sales gain in 14 months in September. **Business, A15**

A demand for answers about jail crowding

A federal judge ordered Fulton County Sheriff Ted Jackson to report to him within 30 days why he has "opted to spend millions of dollars" housing inmates in other counties rather than find room for them in the county jail. **Metro, B1**

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Check throughout the day for these stories we're following:

» **Nobel Peace Prize:** This year's recipient will be announced today in Oslo, Norway.

» **George Maloof:** Photos from the Mass for the late football coaching legend at St. Pius X Catholic High School.

» **Hey, wiseguy:** Are you smart enough to be an Atlantan? A recent ranking didn't rate the city high for smarts. Test yourself with our quiz.

WEATHER & AIR QUALITY



Chance for rain. 83 / 64
Weather, C10

Dear Abby D12 **Peach Buzz B2**
Classifieds E **Puzzles D13**
Comics D14 **Television D13**
Obituaries B4 **The Vent B2**

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Mayoral hopefuls reach far for funds

As recession cuts into cash from Atlantans, outside donors fill gaps.

By **Eric Sturgus**
esturgus@ajc.com

The economic recession is continuing to take its toll on Atlanta's mayoral race — which is forcing the candidates to search here and outside Georgia for contributions.

The leading candidate in the money race, Kasim Reed, has raised \$1.4 million, campaign records show. By contrast, Shirley Franklin raised \$2.65 million by this point in her successful 2001 mayoral bid.

Mayoral race continued on A10

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Learn more about the candidates at ajc.com/voterguide.



Kasim Reed

Top contributors:
● North Georgia Labor Council
● International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
● Communication Workers of America



Mary Norwood

Top contributors:
● Superior Court Judge T. Jackson Bedford
● Fulton County Taxpayers Association leader John Sherman
● Former GOP gubernatorial candidate Guy Millner



Lisa Borders

Top contributors:
● Former state Supreme Court Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears
● Ebenezer Baptist Church Pastor Raphael Warnock

Health reform bill coming up



Finance Committee member Sen. Charles Schumer of New York (center) heads to the Senate Thursday. Connecticut Sen. Joseph Lieberman (right) and Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown join him. The panel agreed to vote on its health care reform bill Tuesday. The full House and Senate can debate it after that. **Article, A6**

Harry Hamburg Associated Press

Future Trumps learn business savvy in class

By **Rana L. Cash**
rcash@ajc.com

Rodney Smith operates two upstart companies — Fresh Prince Investments and Sports, Inc. When those ventures aren't demanding his attention, he's sweating over ways to earn back the thousands he has lost with MGM in stock market investments.

That's enough to stress anyone out, let alone a 13-year-old.

It's all in nine weeks' worth of work in the Business and Computer Education class at Crews Middle School in Lawrenceville. While many adults are challenged in financial literacy, students in Rod Hames' classes are learning about investing, saving, spending and building businesses.

Most would agree it's far afield

for eighth-graders. Even Mark DiGiovanni, a certified financial planner who visited the class during Georgia's Financial Planning Week, spent no time talking about saving allowances — the more typical money-related topic for kids this age — and instead focused on prioritizing profits and customer service when growing a business.

"I get a lot of questions about what's the value in teaching the stock market to kids when legally, they can't even do anything," Hames said. "When we were in school, it wasn't relevant. But now, with credit being such a big deal, parents not saving money, the crisis we're in, it all seems more relevant."

Rodney and his classmates, after getting a Crews brokers' li-

Class continued on A17

GWINNETT COUNTY

Tax ire again stirs up citizens

Hike would average \$150 per household.

Levy would bring back basic services trimmed in prior budget cutting.

By **Patrick Fox**
pfox@ajc.com

The heat may be back on Gwinnett County commissioners as anti-tax organizers mount a drive to head off a suggested property tax increase that may raise the average homeowner's bill by as much as \$150.

So far, at least two groups have combined to sponsor a town hall meeting for late this month to address whether the county is doing everything it can to avoid raising property taxes.

"My position now is the same as when they initially discussed having a tax increase [in June]," said Sabrina Smith, chairwoman of Gwinnett Citizens for Responsible Government. "I was opposed to it because I felt they had not justified the need for the tax increase. We're back in that same position now."

Smith's group is teaming with Gwinnett Freedomworks to host a forum on the issue Oct. 29 at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville.

As talk swirled by phone and e-mail about the resurrected tax issue Thursday, about 40 residents gathered at Gwinnett Center to begin drawing up proposals for future county budgets.

The Engage Gwinnett committee, commissioned by county officials, will meet during the next six months to identify needed services and revenue sources to support future county operations. A cross section of private residents, and business, education, social and political leaders make up the group.

The county had originally sought a property tax increase of 28 to 30 percent last spring, but commissioners voted it down af-

Taxes continued on A13