



LIVING, D1

## What to buy in June

Find out what you should buy now, and purchases you should hold off on for another two months.



Partly cloudy

High: 86, Low: 63  
0% chance of rain



Wednesday: Partly cloudy, 86/65  
Thursday: Partly cloudy, 88/66

Details on the back of Metro

TUESDAY, MAY 28, 2013

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\$1

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### U.S., Russia discuss peace plan for Syria

Capping off an eight-day trip to the Middle East and Africa, Secretary of State John Kerry flew to the French capital to see Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and exchange updates on their respective diplomatic efforts to accelerate frustratingly slow peace efforts in Syria, **A2**

ajc Truth-O-Meter  
PolitiFact Georgia

**"The proposed raises for the Norcross City Council would put it in line with other like-sized communities."**

– Norcross City Council members in a May 9 news article, **B1**

### NATION & WORLD Obama, Christie to revisit N.J. shore

President Barack Obama will return to the state's shoreline today with Gov. Chris Christie to witness the recovery that has occurred since their post-Superstorm Sandy tour, **A3**

**» Breaking the obesity cycle:** New research suggests mothers who undergo weight-loss surgery may help prevent their future children from becoming obese, **A2**

**» 'Cadillac tax':** Workers are beginning to feel the effects of the part of the Obama administration's health care law that penalizes companies offering high-end health care plans to their employees, **A3**

### METRO

#### Local meth labs: same danger, but different

Highly flammable conversion labs, where liquid meth is turned into a solid, are becoming more common, **B1**

**» Higher education:** All 31 colleges in the University System of Georgia have developed detailed plans to meet Gov. Nathan Deal's goal of increasing the number of Georgians with degrees, **B1**

### SPORTS

#### Milton tops Roswell for state baseball title

Milton beat Roswell 2-1 in eight innings in the Class AAAAAA state baseball championship; it is the Eagles' third state crown, **C1**



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# The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

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## REMEMBERING VETERANS



Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Justin Brooks sprinkles soil from a helmet worn by Col. John Ruggles, 4th Infantry Division, at Utah Beach on D-Day. Soils from wars the U.S. fought were combined and distributed at Veterans Park. BOB ANDRES PHOTOS / BANDRES@AJC.COM

## Park pays tribute to all who served

Veterans Park is 'for anyone who has served and worn the uniform.'

By Mark Niesse  
mark.niesse@ajc.com

A serene park honoring military veterans, separated from Buckhead's bustle by trickling fountains and flapping flags, opened on Memorial Day as a tribute to those who served the country in times of peace and of war.

Veterans Park at the Atlanta History Center was dedicated Monday as hundreds of people gathered to remember both those who died and those who survived. Unlike other memorials, this new park honors all U.S. military veterans whether they saw armed conflict or not.

"It's not just for those who have fallen. It's for anyone who has served and worn the uniform. It's their park," said



Robert Hendershott (right) stands during the national anthem at Veterans Park at the Atlanta History Center; the park was dedicated on Memorial Day.

myajc.com

See more photos of the renovations at Veterans Park at the Atlanta History Center.

Maj. Scott Delius of the Army National Guard, who introduced speakers Monday and

Veterans Park continued on A10

### Honoring veterans

For Memorial Day, we honor the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. On Monday, Veterans Park at the Atlanta History Center was dedicated to all military veterans.

### Memorial Day coverage

» Americans remember country's fallen heroes, **A3**  
» More photos from local Memorial Day events, **B1**

### GEORGIA ECONOMY

## Condo market coming back

With sales volume and prices rising, developer team announces plans to construct 23 units in Midtown.

By Arielle Kass  
akass@ajc.com

The condo market in metro Atlanta, beaten nearly to a standstill by the housing bust and recession, is beginning to follow the path of single-family homes into recovery.

Sales volume and prices are up, while the glut of unsold units built during the boom is being whittled down.

Now the words "condo" and "construction" are even being used in the same sentence, with a developer team recently announcing plans for a new 23-unit building in Midtown. While small and aimed at higher-end buyers, it would be the first major condo project in Atlanta since 2007.

"It means values are on the rise," said Scott Leventhal, president of Tivoli Properties, which is not the developer of the Midtown project but has built Atlanta condos in the past. "That's the thing that should be most comforting to existing condo owners."

When housing tanked in 2007, condo developers auctioned off units and slashed prices as demand evaporated. Some finished developments were turned into rental units.

The new project at Peachtree and Seventh streets in Midtown, ironically, was planned as apartments, but

Condos continued on A10

### Signs of recovery

● The average sale price for an intown Atlanta condo was **\$167,234** in 2012, up **19 percent** over 2011.

● The number of intown Atlanta condo sales rose **21 percent** in 2012.

● The number of new, unsold units was down **84 percent** from the 2007 peak, to 1,171 units at the end of 2012.

● Real estate consulting firm Haddow & Co. expects the number of new, unsold units to be well below 1,000 by this summer.

Source: Haddow & Co.

### U.S. SENATE RACE

## Newcomer Nunn built service career

Not having Washington background is a plus for her, supporters say.

By Daniel Malloy  
dmalloy@ajc.com  
and Greg Bluestein  
gbluestein@ajc.com

When Michelle Nunn started her career, she was the only paid staffer of a nonprofit operating out of a closet-sized office at a Days Inn that sought to inspire members of the 1980s "me" generation to serve others.

She carved out an image separate from that of her famous father – then-U.S. Sen. Sam Nunn – by helping to form an influential charity now called the Points of Light Foundation. In 2011, it brought in \$55 million in revenue and mobilized 4.3 million volunteers worldwide for a range of causes. Now Nunn

### AJC'S COVERAGE

This is one of an occasional series of reports scrutinizing the records of candidates for Georgia's open U.S. Senate seat in 2014.

appears to have another leap in her mind: the United States Senate.

As the daughter of the former senator, a four-term moderate Democrat, Michelle Nunn has a powerful political pedigree and a national fundraising base. Although she's not declared her candidacy, and wouldn't comment for this story, she's been quietly building support among prominent Democrats for a

Nunn continued on A10

### Replacing Saxby Chambliss

» See which key Republicans are running for the Senate seat, **A10**

### IN YOUR SCHOOLS

## Abuse-reporting law challenge for schools

Staffers are punished for not reporting child-abuse allegations.

By Daarel Burnette II  
dburnette@ajc.com

A law Georgia legislators passed to protect children has created confusion and other problems for school officials.

The law seems simple: Anyone who comes into contact with children is required to report allegations of abuse to police or the Division of Family and Children Services within 24 hours. Failure to do so could result in a misdemeanor or arrest, a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

But some school systems have experienced hitches in putting the "Mandated Reporter Law" into action.

In Cobb County, the difficulties have been much more severe, with 22 employees – seven times more than any other

### IN-DEPTH COVERAGE

The AJC education team is committed to covering issues that affect our schools and our children. Last year, more than 17,000 reports of alleged child abuse were made by school officials in Georgia. Today's story looks at the challenges that school districts face in complying with the 2009 Mandated Reporter Law, which was expanded this year to include volunteers.

metro Atlanta district – being disciplined for not reporting allegations in a timely manner. At least eight have lost their jobs, and some wound up in the justice system.

The difficulties can be

Abuse reporting continued on A5

### Procedure for reporting abuse

» Educators have rules to follow when divulging sexual abuse, **A5**



## From Page One

## Groups chafing at IRS tested law's limits

## Organized activities politically themed.

'You can look at some ... and see why questions were being asked.'

By Nicholas Confessore and Michael Luo  
New York Times

When CVFC, a conservative veterans' group in California, applied for tax-exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service, its biggest expenditure that year was several thousand dollars in radio ads backing a Republican candidate for Congress.

The Wetumpka Tea Party, from Alabama, sponsored training for a get-out-the-vote initiative dedicated to the "defeat of President Barack Obama" while the IRS was weighing its application.

And the head of the Ohio Liberty Coalition, whose application languished with the IRS for more than two years, sent out emails to members about Mitt Romney campaign events and

organized members to distribute Romney's presidential campaign literature.

Representatives of these organizations have cried foul in recent weeks about their treatment by the IRS, saying they were among dozens of conservative groups unfairly targeted by the agency, harassed with inappropriate questionnaires and put off for months or years as the agency delayed decisions on their applications.

But a close examination of these groups and others reveals an array of election activities that tax experts and former IRS officials said would provide a legitimate basis for flagging them for closer review.

"Money is not the only thing that matters," said Donald B. Tobin, a former attorney with the Justice Department's tax division who is a law professor at Ohio State University. "While some of the IRS questions may have been overbroad, you can look at some of these groups and understand why these questions were being asked."

After the tax agency was denounced in recent weeks by Obama, lawmakers and critics for what they described as

improper scrutiny of at least 100 groups seeking IRS recognition, The New York Times examined more than a dozen of the organizations, most of them organized as 501(c)(4) "social welfare" groups under the tax code, or in some cases as 501(c)(3) charities. None ran major election advertising campaigns, according to the Campaign Media Analysis Group, the main activity of a small number of big-spending tax-exempt groups that emerged as major players in the 2010 and 2012 elections.

But some organized volunteers, distributed pamphlets and held rallies leading up to the 2010 elections or the 2012 presidential election, as conservatives fought to turn out Obama.

IRS agents are obligated to determine whether a 501(c)(4) group is primarily promoting "social welfare." While such groups are permitted some election involvement, it cannot be an organization's primary activity. That judgment does not hinge strictly on the proportion of funds a group spends on campaign ads, but on an amorphous mix of facts

and circumstances.

"If you have a thousand volunteer hours and only spend a dollar, but those volunteers are to help a particular candidate, that's a problem," Tobin said.

Agents may examine when and for how long a group advocates policy positions, in part to see whether those positions are associated with a specific candidate, which can be relevant to the group's tax status, tax lawyers and former IRS officials said.

Agents may look at what a group publishes in print or on a website, whether it provides funds to other organizations involved in elections or whether a group's officers are also employed by political parties. They may also consider other public information, former officials and tax experts said, though they are required to ask the organization to provide those materials or comment on them before the information can be included in an application review.

"My experience has been that the agents immediately start Googling to see what the organization is doing outside of the application," said Kevin J.

Shortill, a former tax law specialist in the IRS' exempt organization division.

Emerge America, which trained women to run for office, was granted 501(c)(4) recognition in 2006, but its status was revoked in 2012. Training people how to run for office is not in itself partisan activity, but the IRS determined that the group trained only Democratic women and was operated to benefit one party.

At least some of the conservative groups that are complaining about IRS treatment were clearly involved in election activities on behalf of Republicans or against Democrats.

Some groups appeared to be confused or misinformed about the IRS rules applying to their activity.

Tom Zawistowski, president of the Ohio Liberty Coalition, a Tea Party group that has complained about the scrutiny it received from the IRS, sent out regular emails to members about Romney campaign events and organized protests around the state to "demand the truth about Benghazi" when Obama visited before the 2012 election.

## Werfel brings experience to new job with IRS

## Former controller at OMB tapped to fix troubled agency.

By Renee Schoof  
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — It's a tall order straight from the president: Find anyone at the Internal Revenue Service who improperly targeted conservatives. Hold them responsible. Fix the system so it never happens again.

And you have 30 days. Report back then on your progress.

Daniel Werfel, who goes by Danny, might be used to it. He's spent most of his career since earning a master's degree in public policy from Duke University and a law degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill working for a Republican and a Democrat in the White House's Office of Management and Budget.

"We are confident that he will hit the ground running," Deputy Treasury Secretary Neal Wolin told the House Committee on Oversight and Government Re-



Daniel Werfel is the acting commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service, replacing Steven Miller, ousted amid a scandal at the federal tax agency.

form last Wednesday, Werfel's first day on the job.

On Day 2, Werfel replaced Lois Lerner, the head of the IRS unit that decides on tax-exempt status.

The IRS scandal makes the agency a hot potato. But colleagues say Werfel has the work ethic, skills and integrity for the job. Add a sense of humor. He keeps a photo of Heisman Trophy-winning Florida quarterback Danny Wuerffel in his office.

Werfel most recently was controller of the Office of Management and Budget. It's a job similar to a chief financial officer in a business. All the federal agencies reported to him about spending.

He had a central role in instructing them how to cut spending across the board in

the sequester. Before that, he helped manage President Barack Obama's stimulus spending.

Kenneth Baer worked with Werfel at that time in the OMB. People of both parties like to make fun of federal bureaucrats, said Baer, now a managing director at The Harbour Group, a Washington public relations firm.

"But the truth is, by and large there's a group of very senior managers who are 100 percent committed to good government, to delivering for the American people, to making sure every tax dollar is spent wisely in these very large organizations, and who just really give their all," he said. "And Danny is one of the best."

Now Werfel is moving from a senior job in a White House office with about 500 people, where he spent most of his career, to manage the IRS with its 90,000 employees and a budget of more than \$11 billion.

Baer entered the OMB when Obama started office. Werfel already was there in a senior position, having worked through the administration of President George W. Bush. The econ-

omy was in free-fall. Congress passed the economic recovery legislation, and Werfel had a key role in overseeing the stimulus spending.

"That's why we hit ground running in January 2009. Danny was there already," Baer said. "We could not have gotten that up and running without Danny and his ability to get his team to execute on that."

Stephen McMillin, who was deputy director of the OMB during the Bush administration, said Werfel was a nonpolitical career official who was "just no-nonsense, calm and understood his issues, which could be arcane at the controller's office at OMB."

As for the new job, "I wouldn't wish it on my worst enemy, of course, considering the circumstances the IRS finds itself in," McMillin said. "But I think he's an excellent choice to have his hand on the tiller, to right things while they look for longer-term leadership."

Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah, the top Republican on the Senate Finance Committee, met Werfel on Thursday.

"If I was the president I would

find the very best businessman I possibly could who'd be willing to take it (the IRS) over and have the authority to be able to straighten the mess out," Hatch said in a written statement. "I don't know whether Werfel has that kind of dimension or not, but I hope he does."

Werfel declined to comment for this article, but he talked in a 2007 interview about his career in the Bush administration.

"I never would have guessed that I would have ended up in financial management particularly," Werfel said. He began at the OMB's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, reviewing regulations, and found a niche in civil rights regulations.

He moved to working as a lawyer in the Justice Department's Office of Civil Rights for a couple of years. But he said he "realized that my home and my heart was at OMB," and he went back.

"Every time I worked on a management issue, I like to say that I was throwing right-handed because it seemed to come naturally to me and (was) something I could get very passionate about."

## Difficulties with law are cited

## Abuse reporting

continued from A1

traced to conflicting messages from central office staff and "severe" enforcement of a law that assumes school officials are guilty until proven innocent, said John Adams, the executive director of Educators First, a local teachers advocacy group. Some educators have also described difficulty in distinguishing legitimate accusations from gossip uttered at school or through social media.

"(Employees) have been so concerned with the policy that they've spent more time covering themselves than doing their jobs," Adams said. "They've almost been paralyzed."

Other school districts have described problems in implementing the 2009 law, which was expanded this year — following the scandal at Penn State University involving former assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky — to include volunteers.

For example, in Gwinnett County, "we can't logistically gather all 20,000-plus employees to remind them and inform them of this policy," said Jorge Quintana, a spokesman for the school system, the state's largest.

John Waller, a spokesman for Clayton County Schools, said his system's "biggest challenge is making employees understand that what happens in a child's life between the time they leave us in the afternoon and the time they arrive back at school in the morning is still our business."



John Adams, executive director of Educators First, a local teachers advocacy group.

"(Employees) have been so concerned with the policy that they've spent more time covering themselves than doing their jobs. ... They've almost been paralyzed."



Sen. Renee Underman, R-Buford, who wrote the original legislation.

Underman said she hasn't heard districts are having problems complying with the law, which, she said, has helped protect Georgia's children.

Cobb's difficulties have been of a higher profile, though.

Shortly after officials dismissed cases against two popular principals, Mary Finlayson, the district's top investigator, was given 27 minutes to leave the building after being told her job was eliminated due to budget cuts. Another investigator, John Morrissey, has since turned in his resignation letter.

Administrators stopped short of tying the elimination of Finlayson's position and Morrissey's resignation to recent complaints about the policy.

But the district has changed the language of its policy twice in the past year, and the superintendent and the board chairman say they are now re-evaluating their approach to the law.

"We take the concerns very seriously and have spent the



Cobb Superintendent Michael Hinojosa (left) and Board Chairman Randy Scamihorn.

"We take the concerns very seriously and have spent the last several weeks looking at changes that need to be made. Our senior leadership and human resources staff have committed to learn from past decisions."

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last several weeks looking at changes that need to be made," Superintendent Michael Hinojosa and Board Chairman Randy Scamihorn said in a joint statement. "Our senior leadership and human resources staff have committed to learn from past decisions."

More than 17,000 reports of alleged child abuse were made by school officials across the state last year — 3,500 more reports than before the law was expanded. Cobb doesn't keep track of its reports.

Sen. Renee Underman, R-Buford, who wrote the original legislation, said she hasn't heard districts are having problems complying with the law, which, she said, has helped protect Georgia's children.

Cobb offers an hourlong training program that details

## PROCEDURE FOR REPORTING ABUSE

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission has rules for educators who receive reports of sexual abuse or sexual misconduct by a teacher, administrator or other school employee.

● They must immediately "make an oral report" of the suspected abuse to the principal or the principal's designee.

● They have 24 hours to file a written report of the incident to the principal or designee.

● Georgia law requires that the Division of Family and Children Services be notified no later than 24 hours from the time there is reasonable cause to believe a child has been abused.

● A staff member who makes a report to the "person in charge of the facility" or their designee has complied with the requirement.

To report child abuse, call DFCS at 1-855-GACHILD (422-4453).

what child abuse is, how to detect it and the employees' responsibilities. Employees are required to report allegations of abuse to the principal or the principal's designee.

But administrators and teacher advocates say that, despite the training, there is still confusion about who is ultimately responsible for reporting allegations and whether district officials should investigate on their own before they make a report. Some express concerns about rumors being passed among classmates or through social media.

"The training is inconsistent with the policy as it was being interpreted and enforced," Awtrey Middle School principal Jeff Crawford said.

Earlier this year, Finlayson's office attempted to suspend

Crawford for insubordination and failing to properly report a student's rape accusation. The accusation involved a teenager the same age as the female student. The school was not the site of the alleged incident.

Crawford's lawyer said the rape allegation was never made to school officials and Crawford was barely involved.

Administrators later dropped that case.

Last year, Trudie Donovan, then principal at Kell High School, was charged with a misdemeanor after she was accused of failing to report the abuse of a student by a teacher in a timely manner. She retired shortly after the incident. A counselor involved in the incident resigned but was not charged criminally.

"I did not think that I should be reporting to anyone other than HR because it was an employee," Donovan said in letter to the district. "In no way was I deliberately trying to not do my job."

A judge later dismissed the criminal charge against Donovan.

Last year, Tapp Middle School principal Jerry Dority and counselor Yatta Collins were fired after waiting two days to report to DFCS a student's accusation that her stepfather sexually abused her.

Finlayson, who spent nine years working for the Crimes Against Children Unit of the Cobb County Police Department before coming to the district, said her investigations were thorough and fair. The dismissal of several principals were decisions made by higher-ups, not her, she said.

"It seems that every organization looks for a fall guy to take the heat when political criticisms arise," she wrote in a May 12 letter to the school board. "And it appears I am the fall guy."