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DAILY ROUNDUP OF NEWS AND EVENTS FROM AROUND METRO ATLANTA

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Staff

Article Text:

ATLANTA

Police ID teen killed in wreck during chase

The suspected thief of a stolen van who died after losing control while fleeing police has been identified as Roy Stevenson, 17, of Atlanta, according to a police report.

Stevenson died earlier this week when he lost control of the stolen Dodge Caravan that he was driving on a dead-end street in southwest Atlanta and slammed into a tree, the report said.

The van caught fire while Stevenson was trapped inside. An Atlanta police sergeant put the fire out while Stevenson was still breathing, but the teen died at the scene, the report said.

The incident happened shortly before 3 a.m. Monday on University Avenue, near Metropolitan Parkway.

An Atlanta police officer followed Stevenson after he sped past officers at Pryor Road and Thornton Street, the report said. The officer pulled Stevenson over but as the officer got out to talk to the driver, Stevenson sped away.

The van had been stolen from a home on the 1400 block of Almont Drive.

-- Tim Eberly

Strict energy building standards proposed

The city of Atlanta's Green Building Task Force is finalizing a proposed ordinance that would require new commercial and multifamily residential buildings and major renovations to meet strict energy- and water-efficiency standards beyond state and federal requirements.

The ordinance, which is being drafted by city officials, architects and engineers, would be phased in between 2010 and 2012 for all commercial buildings and residential buildings with at least four stories.

The fourth public hearing on the draft ordinance is from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday at the Southface Energy Institute next to the Boisfeuillet Jones Atlanta Civic Center, 241 Pine St.

The task force is part of Mayor Shirley Franklin's Sustainable Atlanta initiative to reduce the city's environmental impact.

-- Stacy Shelton

## CLAYTON COUNTY

### Dedication ceremony set for school today

Clayton County schools will dedicate its newest school, Mount Zion Primary School, this morning.

The elementary school at 2920 Mount Zion Road, Jonesboro, opened to students in August.

The ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony is scheduled for 10 a.m.

The \$14 million school can hold up to 750 students and was built to eliminate overcrowding at Mount Zion Elementary School, said Jacqueline Evans, a district spokeswoman. The school serves students in pre-kindergarten through second grade.

The schools features an outdoor amphitheater, 250-gallon fish tank, mini theater in the library and wireless Internet.

-- Megan Matteucci

### Riverdale Council to honor jazz singer

The Riverdale City Council will honor R&B and jazz vocalist Tabitha King at its Monday meeting. Councilman Kenny Ruffin invited King to the meeting after hearing her perform at Riverdale's fall festival.

King of Atlanta has performed with a range of artists, including Usher, Mary J. Blige, Regina Belle, Keith Sweat and Christopher Williams.

The presentation is scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday at Riverdale City Hall, 6690 Church St.

-- Megan Matteucci

### NAACP holds meeting on voting troubles

The Clayton County NAACP will conduct a gathering Monday for any residents who have had trouble voting.

"We know there are long lines, but we want to find out if anyone has had problems with voting," said Dexter Matthews, president of the Clayton branch of the NAACP.

The event is scheduled for 6 p.m. Monday outside the Clayton elections and registration office, Jonesboro Historical Courthouse, 121 S. McDonough St., Jonesboro.

-- Megan Matteucci

## COBB COUNTY

### Program coordinator earns top award

Keep Georgia Beautiful has honored the county's program coordinator as its Executive Director of the Year.

Gwen Baldwin of Keep Cobb Beautiful was recognized Thursday at the state organization's 30th annual awards luncheon at the Fox Theatre. The program honored individuals and organizations working to improve Georgia's environment.

The Cobb organization promotes and educates residents about recycling, litter prevention and environmental preservation.

In the last year, Cobb's group organized an electronics recycling program that collected more than 173,000 pounds of discarded electronics. It also worked with the county Parks and Recreation Department on a plastic and aluminum container recycling program among other activities.

-- Kent A. Miles

### Schools want fewer portable classrooms

Cobb County schools plans to eliminate as many portable classrooms as possible over a five-year period. Some redistricting will be required, particularly among elementary schools on the south side of the county.

Over the next five years, Cobb schools will eliminate 265 of its 335 portable classrooms from its campuses, according to a plan outlined by associated superintendent Gordon Pritz.

"We walk a fine line between having enough classrooms and having too many classrooms over time," Pritz told the school board Thursday night.

A special tax that begins Jan. 1, along with leftover funds from the current tax, will fund 363 new classrooms for the district.

-- Alexis Stevens

#### DEKALB COUNTY

Extensive repairs to City Hall near end

Workers have nearly completed about \$40,000 in repairs at Avondale Estates City Hall.

The 18-year-old building has suffered from lack of maintenance and regular wear on its wood frame. Last week, workers repaired holes in the roof and removed rotted shingles before replacing the decking and installing a new roof.

Crews also removed rotted wood from the sides of the Tudor-style building before putting on a fresh coat of paint, said City Manager Clai Brown. A new clock is planned for the building .

The city's 5 percent tax increase helped cover costs.

-- April Hunt

Fair helps owners take care of their old house

A daylong fair offering advice and services for owners of older homes is being held today in Decatur.

The Old House Fair runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Decatur. It features an exhibit hall for vendors in the businesses of home improvement, historic preservation and interior furnishings.

Seminars also will be held to offer hands-on demonstrations of restoration work and improving energy efficiency as well as classes on tax incentives for certified rehabilitation.

Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. Tickets are available at Decatur City Hall, Smith Ace Hardware, Intown Hardware, 17 Steps, Kudzu, Mission Motif and Intown Ace Hardware.

For information, visit [www .decatuoldhousefair.com](http://www.decatuoldhousefair.com).

-- April Hunt

#### FULTON COUNTY

Public Works director dies after cancer fight

Alpharetta Public Works Director John Moskaluk died last week after battling pancreatic cancer for about two years, said spokesman James Drinkard.

Deputy Director Pete Sewczicz will serve as interim public works director.

Moskaluk came to Alpharetta in 1998 after a stint as an engineering professor at Georgia Tech.

"We've been focused on things related to John lately," Drinkard said. "Some new projects under review may take longer without his eye on them. John could go through a set of plans superfast because of his years of experience."

-- Doug Nurse

Parks and Recreation earns accreditation

The Alpharetta Parks and Recreation Department has received a 10-year national accreditation. The department met all of the 155 standards set by the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies. In addition to good programs, the commission looks for professional competence and commitment, and community support, according to a prepared statement issued through the city.

"Being a nationally accredited agency is the difference between 'I think' and 'I know,' " said Jim Cregge, chairman of the Alpharetta Recreation Commission. "We think we have a great recreation and parks system in Alpharetta. By achieving and maintaining our accreditation, we know that we have a great recreation and parks system."

-- Doug Nurse

#### GWINNETT COUNTY

##### Pug pageantry on parade at PugFest

It's not even Halloween, and the pugs are ready for their close-up.

Devil pugs. Doctor pugs. Cheerleader pugs. Lady pugs. Shrek pugs. And that's just for starters. About 700 of the wrinkly, short-muzzled dogs will descend on the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds this weekend for PugFest 2008, one of the largest fundraisers for rescued pugs and pug mixes in the Southeast.

PugFest offers grooming services, raffles, a silent auction and a bake sale, but the main event is the costume contest, Tucker said.

Started about 15 years ago, PugFest will attract about 1,500 dog lovers from as far away as Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, said Randi Tucker, a volunteer for Southeast Pug Rescue & Adoption, which is hosting the event.

-- Shane Blatt

##### Seminar to aid Latin American students

Meadowcreek High School will welcome more than 1,000 Latin American students and their families to a college information seminar today.

The event "Steps for Success," is being hosted by the Hispanic Scholarship Fund. Speakers will discuss how to prepare for college and funding higher education. Some parent seminars will be offered in Spanish.

Fund leaders are partnering with Gwinnett Schools, Univision 34 and WUVG TV, a locally owned and operated affiliate for the national Spanish language television network, in the outreach effort.

The seminar will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Norcross school.

-- D. Aileen Dodd

#### GREATER ATLANTA

##### McDonough dedicates wall to honor veterans

The Veterans Wall of Honor will be dedicated officially at 3 p.m. on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, at Heritage Park in McDonough. The wall honor veterans from each branch of the U.S. armed forces.

Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle will deliver the keynote address, while U.S. Rep. Lynn Westmoreland, state Sen. John Douglas and Vietnam veteran Tommy Clask will also speak.

The project, which took five years to complete, is the brainchild of Joanne Mulvaney. The Navy veteran spearheaded the project as a tribute to her father, a World War II veteran.

The public is encouraged to attend. Heritage Park is at 101 Lake Dow Road just off Ga. 81 East in McDonough.

-- John Hollis

Caption:

Photo

KENT D. JOHNSON / [kdjohnson@ajc.com](mailto:kdjohnson@ajc.com)

Rainy day in Georgia

Motorists and pedestrians contend with wet, windy weather Friday morning as they make their way to work and classes downtown.

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