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FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2012

Milledgeville, Ga.



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SPORTS



Students build skills at Coach K's Soccer Camp.

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NEWS

■ Plantation Quilters meet.

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■ Digital Bridges Open Computer Clinic is open.

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■ AARP meets at Golden Corral.

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■ Fall Line Farmers Market is open Saturday.

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■ Harriet's Closet opens Monday.

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WEATHER

HIGH 92. LOW 74
Extended forecast, 2A



by **Rachel Mullis**

Creekside Elementary

OPINION POLL

This week's question: Are you familiar with the new requirements for driver's licenses in Ga.?

Vote online at

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To comment on this subject, please e-mail ndavis@unionrecorder.com

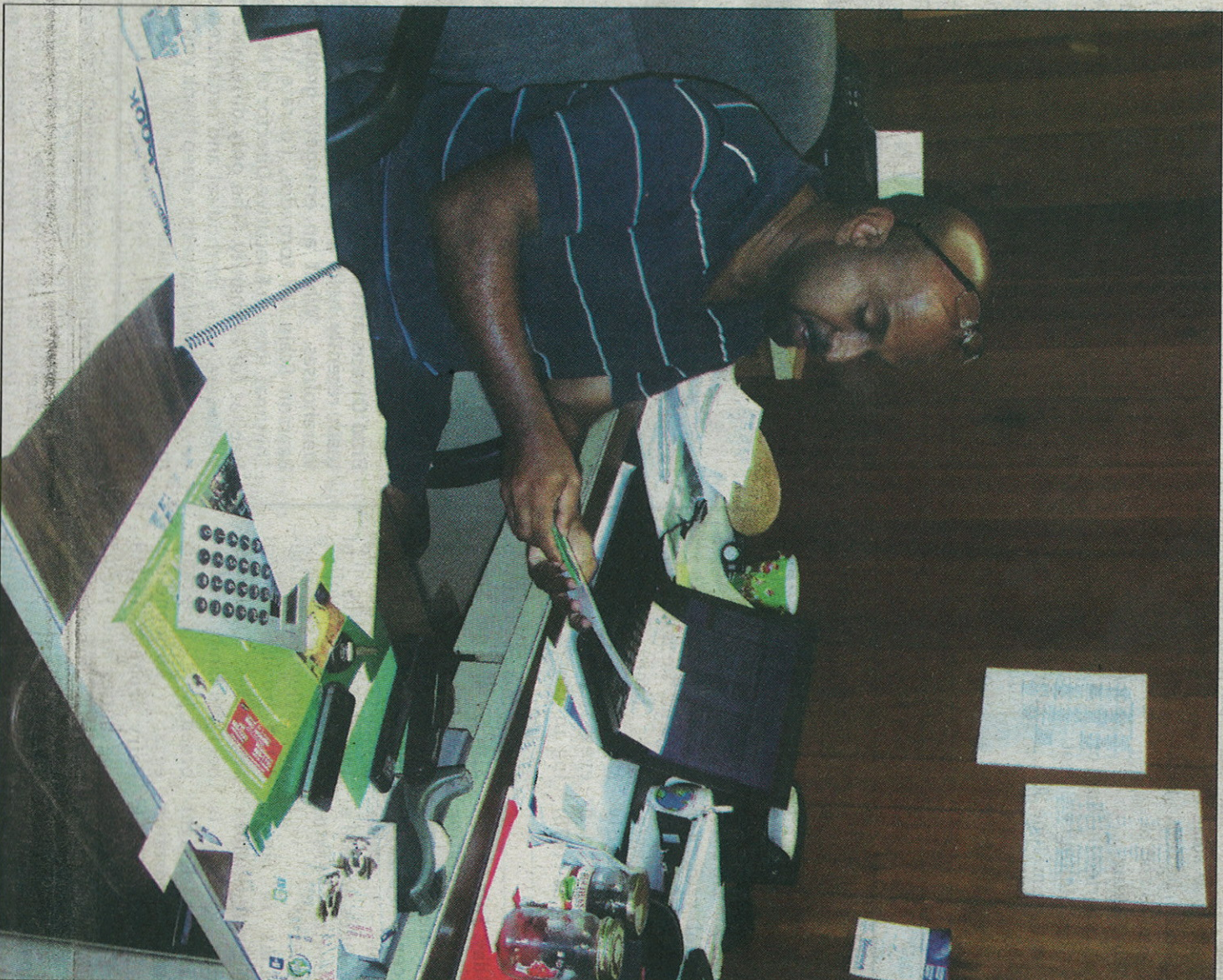
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CORRECTIONS

■ If you spot an error of fact, call Managing News Editor Natalie

Re-building



Interim Executive Director Murali Thirumal of Habitat For Humanity says he no longer rushes out to open the mail hoping for rent checks from homeowners. Since he began working on a volunteer salary of \$1, Thirumal says he hopes to continue progressing in the Milledgeville community.

Habitat makes strides at revamping its efforts

By **CHAD PATTERSON**
cpatterson@unionrecorder.com

Former Arboretum executive director and now interim executive director of Habitat For Humanity Murali Thirumal continues to succeed in the transition of Habitat For Humanity as the nonprofit organization progresses its comeback from the red.

Thirumal, who has been the interim director since May 21, took the job under the salary of \$1 after the Habitat board approached him in the late spring about possibly taking the position



over after former director Jim Hickey stepped down due to health concerns.

"The mandate for Habitat is to build homes, and when I

started, we ran a strong risk of losing Habitat's charter from Habitat International because of the fact that Habitat was not doing well and homeowners were not paying their mortgages," Thirumal said. "With the Habitat model, if the homeowners do not pay, then you're really not getting any revenue to build the next house, pay the salaries, keep the lights on and so forth."

Thirumal has become a bright spot for Habitat For Humanity in Milledgeville, reaching out to homeowners

Georgia's jobless rate spiked in June, marking its first increase in nearly a year.

According to the Georgia Department of Labor, the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 9 percent last month.

The jobless rate for May was 8.9 percent.

State Labor Commissioner Mark Butler said the unemployment rate traditionally inches up in June.

He said that's because new graduates and people searching for summer jobs enter the job market at the same time that private and public schools are laying off employees for the summer.

State jobless figures spike in June

From staff reports

The national unemployment rate is 8.2 percent.

"The June job loss is a lot less than we anticipated, based on recent trends," said Butler, "and despite the overall loss, we gained 1,500 manufacturing jobs and 900 in construction. This is encouraging."

While Georgia lost 8,200 jobs in June, the state has averaged losing 27,100 jobs between May and June since 2008, according to a department of labor press release.

The number of long-term unemployed workers decreased to 230,100 in June, down 6,800 from 236,900 in May. And the number of long-term unemployed is down 20,400, or 8.1 percent, from 250,500 in June 2011. The long-term unem-

See **HABITAT**, page 3A

See **JOBLESS**, page 3A

GC Special Collections preserves Rotary

Special to The U-R

The Rotary Club of Milledgeville recently signed a repository agreement with Special Collections of Georgia College.



The agreement will ensure the preservation and access of Rotary Club

historical and contemporary materials.

“Special Collections is excited to take care of the materials of such an illustrious organization, and we look forward to working with them to document the group’s history,” said

Kate Pope, archival associate of Special Collections. The Rotary Club is donating the materials that it currently possesses, and members are seeking community members and past Rotarians for information.

Call Christa Kahae (478) 445-0995 or Kate Pope (478) 445-0988 to donate items or to find out more information.

Habitat

Continued from page 1A

and expressing the importance of paying their mortgages on time so Habitat can stay afloat and allow other projects to commence.

“If we didn’t make a radical change, we were going to be on the verge of folding pretty quickly,” Thirumal said. “We’ve been able to turn it around, and the homeowners have been very cooperative, and I cannot emphasize the importance of that. I have met nearly every single homeowner, and they’ve all pledged their support to keep

Habitat afloat and make payments on time.”

Thirumal says the homeowners understand the implications of not paying their rent after meeting with them.

As for the job itself, Thirumal has been giving back to the Milledgeville community nearly his entire adult life.

“I am absolutely loving it,” Thirumal said. “I worked corporate for the last five years and never woke up as excited in the mornings then as I do now to go to work. I realized that the need and requirement for serving people in a community is far more important than your own money. I don’t have the

luxury of spending as much, but it’s worth it.”

Making money has never been an emphasis to Thirumal, who has worked with multiple nonprofit organizations throughout his life, most notably at the Lockerley Arboretum for 20 years.

“The only benefit I seen in corporate work is making money,” said Thirumal. “Clearly, making money isn’t everything in life. Giving back, on the contrary, is.”

Thirumal says his time as interim director ends in December and that it will be the board’s decision on whether they want him to continue as director.

“In all honesty, if I want to stay

and they really want to keep me, that’s an option to look at,” Thirumal said. “My tour of duty ends in six months to help out and turn the place around, and I think I have done that.”

Habitat is currently looking for more and more volunteers to help with projects. Habitat also continues its search for quality furniture, non-fabric clothing and metal appliances such as washers, dryers and stoves for its ReStore. Habitat will also be open on Saturdays starting in August.

For more information on Habitat for Humanity, call (478) 453-9617 or visit the organization at 730 N. Wayne St.

SELF HELP

AA: The Baldwin County Group meets at noon Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; at 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays; and 10 a.m. Saturdays at First United Methodist Church on Log Cabin Road. Call (478) 453-4235.

AA: The Milledgeville Group meets at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Monday and Thursday at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church.

AA: The Southside Group meets at noon and 6 p.m. Monday through Sunday at 111 Caraker Street.

Agape Hospice is looking for caring individuals in Milledgeville or surrounding areas to make a difference in a hospice patient’s life. If you would like to know more about the volunteer program in a Hospice setting please contact Mary at (478)

every program, is held at Northside Baptist Church, 1001 N. Jefferson

Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary. All interested persons are invited to attend. There is no cost for this ministry. For more information please call (478) 456-4688.

Georgia Technical College Adult Education Program announces Literacy Awareness in Baldwin County. CGTC offers GED enrollment, remediation of skills, tutorial services, basic life skills, community resource availability, and volunteering opportunities. Call (478) 445-5669

Monday through Friday for more information. **Central GA CHADD**, a satellite of CHADD National, meets every other month. For more information, contact Nancy Sammons, ne-

sammons@yahoo.com or (478) 452-9235.

CWMG (Christian Widows/Widowers Ministry Group) meets the second Monday of each month at the Golden Corral Restaurant in Milledgeville at 1 p.m.

The group promotes fellowship among widows and widowers and reaches out through Christian love to newly bereaved individuals. Contact the Rev. Paul Lewis (478) 454-8694 for more information. All widows/widowers are encouraged to attend.

Diabetes Support Group meets the second Tuesday of

January, March, May, July, September and November at 6 p.m. at

See **HELP**, page 4A

LOCAL STOCKS

Name of Stock	Last	Change	Market Watch
AFAC Inc.	44.04	+0.14	July 19, 2012
AGL Resources	39.80	+0.50	
AT&T	35.48	-0.71	Dow Jones +34.66
BB&T Corp.	32.00	+0.39	12,943.36
Citigroup	26.59	-0.51	Nasdaq +23.30
Coca-Cola Co.	77.55	+0.11	2,965.90
Ga. Power	30.48	+0.25	Standard & Poor's 500 +3.73
Gen. Electric Co.	19.80	-0.04	1,376.51
Home Depot Inc.	50.96	+0.05	Russell 2,889
Intel Corp.	26.06	-0.15	802.17
Lockheed Martin	88.51	-0.09	NYSE diary
McDonald's Corp.	92.76	+0.54	Advanced: 1,578
Microsoft Corp.	30.67	+0.22	Declined: 1,421
North. Grumman	65.12	0.00	Unchanged: 146
Rayonier	47.10	+0.10	Volume: 3.9 b
Southern Co.	47.70	-0.11	Nasdaq diary
SunTrust Banks Inc.	24.24	-0.50	Advanced: 1,063
Verizon Comms.	44.54	-1.35	Declined: 1,387
Wal-Mart Stores	71.53	-1.32	Unchanged: 121
Windstream	9.94	-0.02	Volume: 1.7 b

Jobless

Continued from page 1A

played, those out of work for more than 26 weeks, make up 53.4 percent of those unemployed in Georgia.

According to the labor department, Baldwin County saw 185 initial unemployment insurance claims last month, down from 228 claims in May.

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Volunteers Needed

Thursday, August 9
7 a.m. - noon



Join the Cat Crew

and be the first to welcome the Georgia College freshman class by