

IN METRO
THE GRADY CASE
 FIGHTING TO SAVE A HOSPITAL



IN LIVING
DOLLY DIPLOMACY
 GEORGIANS SEW FOR WAR KIDS



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Gentle and mild
 70° / 43°
 C14

INSIDE TODAY

New faces in a show about legs

"Dancing with the Stars" is back, with more celebrities, semi-celebrities and people who look good whoever they are. Check out some of the ones to watch. **Living, D1**

Maybe the bill got thrown away

The government of Atlanta owes \$2.7 million to a trash collection company. The city admits it didn't pay the company for months. Does this mean our trash will be ... returned? **Metro, B1**

Bargain buyout an ominous sign

Investment bank Bear Stearns, for years a big fish in the financial industry, is swallowed like a minnow by rival JPMorgan Chase after a dizzying drop in value. The Federal Reserve takes urgent measures to try to shore up the economy as worldwide indicators show growing uncertainty. **A3**

'Who' is No. 1 at the box office?

Exactly. The animated movie "Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who!" beats all its competitors. Says who? Says the box office. **Living, D2**

Keep the lions in a good mood

Folks at Zoo Atlanta don't want the big cats to get bored, so they give them toys to keep them occupied. Not little toys, either. **News for Kids, D5**

Feud over dog takes weird twist

A man who took a neighbor to court over a barking dog is now accused of trying to poison the animal. He says he didn't do it. **Metro, B8**

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Dog dash: 4 days to glory

By THOMAS STINSON / tstinson@ajc.com

The most improbable game in the most improbable tournament on the most improbable weekend ended in the most probable manner Sunday.

Leading from start to finish, disregarded Georgia defeated Arkansas 66-57 for the SEC championship and a spot in the NCAA tournament, concluding four days of upsets, coaching rumors, one natural disaster and in the end,

INSIDE

► In Sports: More on Georgia's breath-taking four wins in three days, and NCAA brackets. **C1, C11**

a simple magic that defied all hardcourt logic. As the sign in UGA's small but jubilant stands, "Worst To First (In Four Days)."

Winning the conference tournament for the first time since 1983 and only the second time

► Please see **BULLDOGS, A10**



Coach **Dennis Felton** displays the net that he and his Dogs cut down after Georgia chopped down Arkansas for SEC title. RICH ADDICKS / Staff

ATLANTA TORNADO: THE AFTERMATH

Big cleanup begins



Karen Tanner hugs Cabbagetown resident **Nathan Bolster** on Sunday. Tanner grew up in the area, which suffered extensive damage to homes from the tornado that hit Atlanta on Friday and the storms that followed on Saturday. JOHNNY CRAWFORD / Staff

'If you don't have to be in the affected area ... please stay out'

By DAVID MARKIEWICZ and ERNIE SUGGS
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Downtown workers, this might be your day to telecommute.

Traffic looks to be a mess, thanks to Friday's historic tornado and Saturday's trailing storms and numerous street closings needed to enable debris removal and repairs.

"It's a zone that has a lot of safety issues," Atlanta Police Department spokeswoman Judy Pal said Sunday.

Police can't tell business owners or employees to work from home, Pal said, but they think it's a pretty good idea. Referring to likely hot spots, such as Centennial Olympic Park, she suggested motorists and pedestrians alike, "stay out of those areas. If you don't have to be in the affected area ... please stay out."

Even on Sunday, with few cars downtown, barricades and detours confused drivers and created snags.

Around downtown and in nearby neighborhoods, though, the cleanup began in earnest following the first tornado in downtown's history, a blast that ripped through Vine City and Cabbagetown as well. The two-day wave of storms killed two people



Vine City resident **Thelma Hamilton**, 75, looks at the insulation covering her bedroom after a tree fell on her home of 37 years during the Friday storm. JESSICA MCGOWAN / Staff

in Georgia and injured dozens of others, resulted in damages initially estimated at \$150 million, and left Atlanta's skyline pockmarked with missing windows.

Gov. Sonny Perdue toured the damage zone by helicopter and then walked through the Georgia World Congress Center. Shards of glass crunched under the governor's boots as workers used dry vacuums to suck up pools of water, and sunlight danced through the ceiling in build-

ing B. Officials at the center scrubbed this week's events, which included a major volleyball-players convention.

Elsewhere in the damage zone: ► CNN Center and its food court were expected to be open today, and CNN tours will be conducted as usual. But 467 rooms in the South Tower of the Omni Hotel will be closed for two weeks, tourism officials said.

► The Georgia Aquarium and World
 ► Please see **REPAIRS, A9**

INSIDE

► Cabbagetown and Vine City struggle with damage. **A8-9**

► Damaged offices set to reopen. **A10**
 ► Community pulls together. **B6**

AJC.COM

► Go online for information on road closings, detours and photo galleries.

Delta set to tighten its belt as fuel soars

With airline likely to reveal its plan Tuesday, analysts expect to see fewer routes — and possibly fewer employees.

By RUSSELL GRANTHAM
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When Hurricane Katrina slammed into Louisiana and Mississippi three summers ago, Delta Air Lines felt the blow.

Within days, jet fuel prices zoomed almost 30 percent, hitting the unheard-of price of \$3.16 a gallon.

Two weeks later, both Delta and Northwest Airlines filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

Fast forward to now. Jet fuel prices have once again leapt to record highs, reaching \$3.32 a gallon on Friday.

Airlines are once again raising fares, grounding jets and looking for other ways to offset mounting fuel bills. Industry analysts are again forecasting heavy losses and saying fuel sticker shock could hasten consolidation.

But so far, there isn't the atmosphere of panic that enveloped Atlanta-based Delta before it filed bankruptcy on Sept. 14, 2005.

"It is tough. ... I don't want to leave anyone with the impression that it's not a significant hit for us," Delta President Ed Bastian said. But "we're in a very different place than we were."

Through its bankruptcy reorganization, Delta slashed \$10 bil-

► Please see **DELTA, A10**



Bastian

Erin go bragh in the ATL? Sorry, y'all

By MARY LOU PICKEL
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How Irish is Atlanta? Turns out, not very.

Even though the metro area has nearly a half-million people who claim Irish ancestry, that's less than 10 percent of the population, making it pale green at best compared to other cities in the United States.

Atlanta ranks 382nd among 465 metro areas in its degree of Irishness, according to an Atlanta Journal-Constitution analysis of 2006 U.S. Census Bureau data.

► Please see **IRISH, A10**

► **ALSO INSIDE:** Ancient Irish language survives in Georgia. **Living, D1**