

'DO WHAT IT TAKES'

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SEC CHAMPIONSHIP

The Georgia Bulldogs complete an improbable run and now face Xavier in NCAA tourney

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Photos special to the MDJ

From left, Mark Jarvis, Lockheed Martin senior program manager; Col. Geir Wiik, Royal Norwegian Air Force; Ray Burick, Lockheed Martin Aeronautics vice president; Kirsti Skjerven, counselor of defense and security policy at the Royal Norwegian Embassy; Col. Nicole Plourde, commander of Defense Contract Management Agency; Denise Rakestraw, business agent for the International Association of Machinists; and Shan Cooper, with Lockheed Martin, cut the ribbon to officially open the new P-3 wing production line at Lockheed Martin in Marietta.

Soaring on new wings

Lockheed to extend life of P-3 Orions for Norway air force

By Marcus E. Howard
Marietta Daily Journal Staff Writer

MARIETTA — Lockheed Martin begins its first full week of production for its new P-3 wing production line today.

The Marietta plant will extend the life of the aircrafts, originally designed as Cold War-era submarine hunters.

Norway is the company's first customer to take advantage of its Aircraft Service Life Extension program.

According to Lockheed, such programs are becoming a preferred method in the field of aeronautics for continuing the longevity of some aircrafts.

"Because the business practice

across aeronautics is not just aircraft production, but also aircraft maintenance," said Rob Gross, Lockheed spokesman.

The company was awarded the \$95 million contract with the Royal Norwegian Air Force in February 2007 to replace wings on six P-3 Orions.

As part of the contract, Norway will receive six life extension kits, two conditional kits and engineering support. Each kit replaces the outer wings, center wing lower surface assembly, horizontal tailplanes, wing and tailplane leading edges and various fillet fairings, Gross said.

The work done on

the production line extends the life of each plane by decades, according to Lockheed.

Canada and several other countries interested in the extension program are presently in contract discussions with Lockheed, Gross said. He said the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency is also interested.

Besides finding submarines, P-3 Orions are also used for maritime patrols and land surveillance.

The aircraft first went into production in the U.S. in 1964 for the Navy, Gross said. He said the last P-3 Orion produced in the U.S., for the Marines, left the assembly line in 1995.

On Thursday, a brief ceremony celebrated the opening of the production line.

Col. Geir Wiik of the Royal Norwegian Air Force expressed

Many Royal Norwegian Air Force P-3 Orions, right, are scheduled to receive new parts at Lockheed Martin in Marietta.



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LOSING IT FOR ST. BALDRICK'S



Staff photos by Daniel Varnado

As a sign of solidarity with children suffering from cancer, college students from KSU shaved their head at yesterday's 'Greeks Go Bald' event at Barnacles on 2475 Chastain Meadows Parkway. Prior to Saturday's event, the KSU students formed teams and raised money for St. Baldrick's Foundation for children's cancer research. The foundation, started in 1999, gets its name from a play on St. Patrick's Day. The goal for 'Greeks Go Bald,' was to raise \$10,000. Above: Ryan Hoover, a student at KSU, prepares to have his head shaved as part of the 'Greeks Go Bald' fundraiser. Below: Hoover shows off his shaved head. For St. Patrick's event photos, see Page 1B.



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Atlanta assesses storm's price tag

By Errin Haines
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA — Cleaning up the shattered glass, torn roofs and debris-littered streets of downtown Atlanta will be a much quicker task than repairing the financial damage caused by a tornado that ripped a multimillion dollar path of destruction through the city's core.

Several landmarks — including the Georgia World Congress Center, the Westin Peachtree Plaza and the Equitable Building — were in the 6-mile path of the storm, which danced along the Atlanta skyline for about 20 minutes on Friday night. The city's main convention center



The Associated Press

Blown out windows can be seen behind the rubble of a heavily damaged building, which was caused by a tornado that struck Atlanta late Friday night.

and two major hotels — both of which do brisk business — are now hobbled at the start of the convention season.

This weekend alone, with the closing of the Georgia World Congress Center — which includes the 3.9 million square-foot convention center, the Georgia Dome and Centennial Olympic Park — the facility lost the Atlanta Home Show, a dental convention and the Southeastern Conference Basketball

Tournament.

Although tornado-damaged hotels have had to find beds for guests elsewhere in the city, hotel officials said they were more worried about getting the Georgia World Congress Center back into shape as a conference venue.

"All the major hotels downtown rely on the Congress Center as part of the package of bringing conventions to the city," said

See Cleanup, Page 3A

Experts: More tests needed on tap water

By Martha Mendoza
Associated Press Writer

Test it, study it, figure out how to clean it — but still drink it. That's the range of reactions raining down from community leaders, utilities, environmental groups and policy makers in reaction to an Associated Press investigation that documented the presence of pharmaceuticals in major portions of the nation's drinking water supplies.

"There is no wisdom in avoidance. There is wisdom in addressing this problem. I'm not suggesting that people be hysterical and overreact. There's a responsible way to deal with this — and collectively we can do it," said Washington-based environmental lawyer George Man-

nina.

A five-month-long inquiry by the AP National Investigative Team found that many communities do not test for the presence of drugs in drinking water, and those that do often fail to tell customers that they have found trace amounts of medications, including antibiotics, anti-convulsants, mood stabilizers and sex hormones. The stories also detailed the growing concerns

among scientists that such pollution is adversely affecting wildlife and may be threatening human health.

As a result, Senate hearings have been scheduled, and there have been calls for federal solutions. But officials in many cities say they aren't going to wait for guidance from Washington to begin

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