

St. Pius vs. Marist in 'High Q'

— Page 2



DUNWOODY CRIER

Austin names Teacher of the Year

— Page 7



Serving the community since 1976

March 7, 2012

www.thecrier.net

Aiming at Andrea

By John Schaffner
For The Crier

"If there is evidence that there was a plan... that the two (Hemy Neuman and Andrea Sneiderman) were in this together," Assistant District Attorney Don Geary asked forensic psychologist and defense witness Adriana Flores Monday, "would you change your opinion that (Neuman) didn't know right from wrong" when he killed Russell Sneiderman in Dunwoody in 2010?"

This was the first time, as the murder trial of Neuman entered its third week, that a direct reference was made to the potential of a plot

between Neuman and the victim's widow that resulted in Rusty Sneiderman being shot four times in the parking lot of Dunwoody Prep daycare that morning.

Neuman, through his attorneys, pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity in September that he was the person who killed Sneiderman just moments after he dropped off his then 2-year-old son Ian at the daycare center.

Responding to the hypothetical situation posed to her by Geary during her second almost full day on the witness stand, Flores answered, "Yes, if I found out they collaborated together, I would

TRIAL, page 6

The Sneidermans and the Neumans, two families with different finances



L-R: Andrea Sneiderman, Rusty Sneiderman, Hemy Neuman

By John Schaffner
For The Crier

The two principal characters in the story that is playing out in the DeKalb Superior Court of Judge Gregory A. Adams—and

their family financial positions—are diametrically opposite of each other, according to testimony that has been presented in the Hemy Neuman murder trial.

It came out in testimony during the trial of Neuman for the murder of Russell "Rusty" Sneiderman in November of 2010, that Sneiderman and his widow, Andrea, had \$800,000 in a bank savings account, owned two houses—

one in Dunwoody which they paid \$920,000 for and a second at Lake Oconee, and Andrea was making a salary of \$120,000 a year at G.E. Energy in Cobb County at the time of her husband's death.

When the couple lived in Boston prior to moving to the Atlanta area, Andrea worked for Harvard University. When they moved to Dunwoody, she continued to do project consulting work for Harvard's Business

FINANCES, page 5

DHA: Stop this dump

By Dick Williams
For The Crier

A routine agenda for the board of the Dunwoody Homeowners' Association Sunday turned into a heated, prolonged debate over a permit issued by the city of Dunwoody to allow the dumping of tons of dirt onto vacant land at the end of Glaze Drive.

A board member, Larry Adams, who lives on the dead-end street in the northeast corner of the city, said the permit would allow 5700 cubic yards of dirt to be dumped on eight-tenths of an acre. He said it would require more than 500 dump trucks to traverse a street not paved for such a load.

Adams was joined in his complaint by three other Glaze Drive residents who decried

the noise, safety hazards and disruption. According to the Glaze Drive homeowners, the dirt is to be hauled from the construction site of the new Chamblee High School.

The site was once a landfill but was closed by DeKalb County in the 1970s. It had been used as a dump by General Motors, Precision Paint and other companies.

Steve Dush, Dunwoody's new community affairs director, and the city engineer, Richard Edinger, said that since hearing of the situation, the city has learned that the street already is posted for much lower weight limits — those the size of a pickup truck.

"As of Friday," Dush said, "I think there's a strong case of make that we should honor that

DHA, page 15

DeKalb schools take hit

By Rebecca Chase Williams
For The Crier

The DeKalb County Board of Education is set to vote on cuts to scheduled school improvements to make up for the recently discovered \$41 million dollar shortfall in the school construction fund. On the chopping block is \$1.25 million to finish the renovation of Dunwoody High School, \$250,000 for a new track at Peachtree Middle School, \$1.5 million for a new ventilation system at Montgomery Elementary, and thousands of dollars for Kingsley and Hawthorne Elementary for handicapped access improvements.

"I'm angry that mistakes were made that never should have been made and the children will suffer for it," said District 1 school board member, Nancy

Jester. "It bothers me and it should bother all of us."

Last week, DeKalb Superintendent revealed to the board that a \$41.35 million shortfall had been discovered in the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) program started in 2007. The problem was discovered when an audit revealed that the \$69 million reconstruction at Chamblee Charter High School was \$10 million too low. The big problem turned out to be that \$26 million in interest and financing expenses were not accounted for. Another \$5 million in state money didn't materialize and the sales tax came up \$500,000 short.

At last week's board meeting Superintendent Cheryl Atkinson told the board, "Something messed up, something hap-

SCHOOLS, page 14

Leak draws public outcry

By Sue Stanton
For The Crier

Nearly a month after a reported leak from the Feb. 3 city council executive session about the city's plans to sell the 16-acre lot known as the PVC farm, council continues to hear from citizens about the breach and the subject of the sale.

Joe Hirsch and Ann Hicks spoke during the public comment period at council's meeting last week. Hirsch's comments were mostly geared to the legality of the meeting and documentation, while Hicks expressed her hope that council would retain some park land in the Georgetown / North Shallowford area.

According to the minutes from the Feb. 3 meeting, the city went into executive session to discuss real estate, legal and personnel matters. However, said Hirsch, personnel matters were not discussed according to a reply he received from the city via an open records request.

"You are required by law to actually say with accuracy what exemption in the executive session precludes you from it being held in public," said Hirsch.

Hicks, president of the board of directors of the Dunwoody Nature Center, told council that the issue of the executive session breach fell within the city's code of ethics.

"I haven't read anything that

COUNCIL, page 15

Back to Africa for Dunwoody woman



Elena Arosemena with a friend from West Africa

By Carol Niemi
For The Crier

Recently, an IT manager from Dunwoody spent her 20-day Christmas vacation in a poverty-stricken hot and dusty little village in West Africa, using a bucket of cold water for her daily shower, eating only one meal a day, sharing a cement block hut with no air conditioning and eating pizza for Christmas dinner.

She can't wait to go back.

Dunwoodian Elena Arosemena said the trip "was a life-changing experience" that would never have happened but for a

chance encounter on the internet.

In June 2011, while shopping online for jewelry made from recycled glass beads, she found what she was looking for, made by the students at the Mawuvio's Outreach Programme (MOP), a school located near Accra, the capital of Ghana.

A correspondence ensued between her and the school's co-director, Renée Farwell.

Out of curiosity, she wrote, "Who are you and what do you do?"

The response piqued her cu-

AFRICA, page 12

Africa, from page 1

rosity even further. Her correspondent was a 22-year-old girl from Goose Lake, Iowa, a rural farming village with a population of just over 200.

How did such a girl become a director of a school for impoverished children in a place so far away?

Just as it was "a random Google search" that led Arose-

mena to Farwell, it was a random encounter that led Farwell to MOP.

An exchange student at the University of Ghana, Farwell by chance met 27-year-old Kwame Agoe, who told her of his project to feed, clothe and educate the poorest children in the very poor place of his birth, Kissema Village.

Farwell now spends most of her time in Kissema, working with Agoe. Their school teaches 60 children, ages 4-14, on the porch of Agoe's Aunt Cecilia's and in the adjacent dusty courtyard.

After learning Farwell's story, Arosemena wanted to learn about the children.

"Two or three clicks later," she said, "I was face to face with the children of Mawuvio's: their voices, their smiles and their possibilities," captured on video.

Two months later, she was on a plane to Goose Lake to meet Farwell and her parents, major supporters of the project.

What she learned there convinced her that she wanted to be part of their project. The only way to know how was to go see.

In December, she made the ten-hour flight to Accra. A short bus ride took her to Kissema Village - where for 20 days she would live close to the native culture and teach English and art to the children at MOP.

Located on Africa's west coast between Côte d'Ivoire and Togo, Ghana has one of Africa's strongest economies, yet for most Ghanaians, poverty is a way of life. Subsistence agriculture employs 55 percent of the workforce and accounts for 35 percent of GDP.

Although Accra is a modern city, the neighboring villages are not. Kissema, though surrounded by paved roads, has not a single paved road of its own. Most people live in shacks made of plywood or cardboard, with neither running water nor electricity.

Before MOP, few children in Kissema attended school because, though Ghana's public schools are officially free, poor children cannot afford the uniforms, books and supplies required to attend.

Many of the children of Kissema are orphans, whose parents have either died or simply abandoned them.

Despite their poverty, Arosemena found the children "happy, curious and polite."

"Manners are part of their culture," she said.

So is generosity. Even though they eat only one meal a day, the children never started theirs without first offering some to her.

In addition to polite and generous, the children of Kissema are also bilingual. Though English is their official language, they speak Ewe, a native dialect, at home and spend much of their school day reading and writing in English.

The children of MOP are also grateful. On Christmas Day,

Arosemena and Farwell took 11 of them to the Accra Mall for pizza. Though it is only minutes from Kissema, seven of them had never been there.

"Going to the bathroom was like a trip to Disneyworld," she said.

Mawuvio means "God's children" in Ewe. The school's motto is "providing education and care for all of God's children."

Though "a random Google search" led her to the children of Kissema, Arosemena believes more was involved.

"I didn't go looking for this," she said. "God put these children in my path."

Now secretary of MOP's governing board, Arosemena writes a blog to promote awareness of the program and help raise funds to build a real school building.

"They turn away children every week," she said, because the porch and courtyard, now at capacity, were never meant to be permanent.

The foundation of the new building is in place, with construction to resume when funds allow. According to the builder, the school needs approximately 28,000 more cement blocks at the cost of 50 cents per block.

Most of the funding has come from the little town of Goose Lake, but recently some has come from friends and readers of Arosemena's blog. She hopes more will come as Dunwoodians learn of the project.

Anyone interested in donating or learning more about the project can email Arosemena at elena1025@comcast.net or visit her blog at elenatraveltoghana.blogspot.com.

Johns Creek Limo

Town car/sedans **\$59⁰⁰** + Gratuity

Other services:
To & From Airport
Proms
Weddings
Tours/Charters

404-207-9670
www.johnscreek4limo.com
Major Credit Cards Accepted

"Your satisfaction is our #1 goal."

Life at Home is the Key to IndependenceSM

Our staff is dedicated to enhancing the quality and security of your life by providing in home services customized to your needs.

- Nursing Care
- Personal Care
- Respite Care
- Preventative Care
- Concierge Services
- Companion Care

CareMinders[®]
HOME CARE

We specialize in customized services dedicated to meeting the needs of those who choose to have their healthcare and support services delivered at home...

Lisa M. Reisman, RN, CPNP
(770)551-9533

Licensed • Insured • Bonded
All caregivers are checked using an industry exclusive background screening process.
Each CareMinders Home Care franchise is independently owned and licensed to operate under the Franchise Agreement.

CareMinders has been awarded the highest achievement for quality in the industry, the gold seal of accreditation from the Joint Commission.

www.careminders.com

Just Listed Stephens Walk



2221 Stephens Walk Stepless beauty in Dunwoody's sought-after gated Bill Grant community. 3 BR/2.5 BA luxurious home with all the appointments; fabulous backyard water feature and lush landscape. Hardwoods, oversized master with seating area and two walk-in closets, keeping room, rich moldings, more. \$585,000. Hurry!

Tom & Kathy Florence
404-402-8062
www.redrabbitteam.com

Swift, professional real estate services. Trust the Red Rabbit.

	D	A	F	F		M	A	N	D	A				
	E	R	E	C	T		K	N	E	E	L			
A	S	C	E	N	D			D	A	R	I	N	G	
K	N	I	T	S				T	R	E	A	D		
S	A	M	E			D	I	T		I	N	G	E	
U	F	A		S	C	O	T	S	M	E	N			
M	L	T	I	T	A	S	K	I	N	G				
		S	I	R				E	E	C				
		M	E	R	Y	L	L	S	T	R	E	E	P	
		E	N	V	E	L	O	P	S		D	A	L	
M	A	D	S		P	B	S		R	I	G	A		
B	R	A	H	E					D	A	L	L	Y	
D	A	M	A	G	E				T	A	B	L	E	S
	E	R	A	S	E			S	A	N	A	A		
	S	E	D	E	R			M	O	A	T	S		

The Dunwoody Bistro
DUNWOODY'S ORIGINAL EUROPEAN BISTRO

~Small
~Intimate
~Cozy

Date Night in March
~offering an extended menu~
\$15 bottle of wine or \$10 off 2 entrees

2482 Jett Ferry Rd.
Williamsburg Shopping Center

770-206-5200

That's sew Dunwoody!

Custom-made pillows, scarves, cards and more — with a Dunwoody spin!

designs by
The Middle Sister

Background is a map of Dunwoody — or any home town!

ORDER EARLY FOR EASTER OR MOTHER'S DAY



Personalized Family Pillow
100% Ramie - 20" x 26"
Handmade stitched pillow features customized figures for all the "characters in the family."

770-309-4758