

**JH** THURSDAY, FEB. 28, 2008  
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# NorthSide

NORTH FULTON, EAST COBB, DUNWOODY, FORSYTH



**On EveningEdge.com:** Get our daily What's for Dinner? newsletter with tips and ideas for tonight's meal.

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**GREAT IDEAS FOR THE WEEKEND**

**ALPHARETTA**  
**Slick, slippery fun**

Lace up and enjoy ice skating. Call or check Web site for times. Daily, \$7; \$8 Friday and Saturday nights and Sunday afternoons; \$4 ages 5 and younger; \$3 skate rental. The Cooler, 10800 Davis Drive. 770-649-6600, www.cooler.com.



**DULUTH**  
**Just for women**

ATL Women's Expo features information and products for women, including cooking demonstrations, fashion shows, makeovers and more. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday; noon-5 p.m. Sunday. \$6; \$5 senior citizens; ages 12 and younger free. Gwinnett Convention Center, 6400 Sugarloaf Parkway. 770-355-4648, www.atlwomensexpo.com.

**IN HOMESTYLE**

**A quadruple challenge**

Patterson Parker is 2 years old. So are three of her sisters. Now see the design Vern Yip created for this busy family. **HS1**



## PUTTING ON A SHOW



Children at New Prospect Elementary School in Alpharetta will perform the play "Happily Ever After" on Friday and Saturday, aided by parents who volunteered their time to direct, build sets and sew costumes. Above, Whitney King (left) and Terri Harof work on part of the stage set at King's home. Above right, Mary Helen helps Eric Cave with his scarecrow costume. Right, Mary Helen observes as (left to right) Abigail Martin, Carson Camera, Kenedy Thorne and Shannon King try on costumes at Whitney King's house. Below (clockwise from left), Katie Lawrence, Carson Camera, Shannon King, Kenedy Thorne and Abigail Martin work on a set.



Photos by BOB ANDRES / Staff



# Too few students in Cobb?

**State counts empty seats, but school officials say numbers ignore circumstances mandated by law.**

By DIANE R. STEPP / dstepp@ajc.com

Nearly 60 percent of Cobb schools are under-enrolled, a trend that may intensify as the district's growth boom slows for the first time in several decades.

Yet, there are more than 100 portable classrooms on campuses that aren't full by the state's counting.

The simple math is misleading, Cobb school officials say.

The state tally doesn't take into account programs for special education, gifted, at-risk students and other special programs, some of them mandated by state or federal law, that don't fill classrooms to capacity.

The majority of vacant classroom seats are in elementary schools, according to the district's latest accounting.

An analysis of data of school capacity and enrollment in the district's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report 2007 released this month shows 63 of the district's 107 schools below capacity and 44 over capacity.

► Please see **COBB, JH9**

**INSIDE**

► Outlook good for Cobb school budget. **JH3**

► A school-by-school look at enrollment. **JH9**

## Milton residents fight sewer plan in Cherokee

By DOUG NURSE / dnurse@ajc.com

Milton residents' hostility to sewers does not end at the city limits.

Concerned about a proposed 2 million-gallon-per-day sewer plant planned in neighboring Cherokee County, Milton community leaders mounted an e-mail and letter-writing campaign. They demanded that the state Environmental Protection Division conduct a public hearing before deciding whether to issue a permit for the facility.

After receiving 250 letters and e-mails, the state relented and scheduled a hearing for March 18 at 7 p.m. at Canton City Hall.

"Usually, we don't hold hearings on draft permits," said David Bullard of the EDP Watershed Management Branch. "When we started getting letters asking us to hold a public hearing, we decided to do it."

► Please see **SEWER, JH4**

**TENNIS TWINS**

**Package deal for KSU**

Justin and Andrew Suesserman of St. Francis High School will take their game to a new level — Division I — as members of Kennesaw State University's first men's tennis team. The brothers even plan to be roommates. **JH12**

