

Auction has bit of Berlin Wall up for grabs



Office pools chip in to share record jackpot



More rain
High: 79, Low: 64
70% chance of rain

Sunday: Rain, 82/65
Monday: Cloudy, 87/67

Details on the back of Metro



When you see the red "MyAJC.com" icon in our newspaper, it points to our new subscriber website. It's free to our subscribers and provides total access to all of our in-depth coverage from the print edition plus more. It's designed in an easy-to-follow format to read stories, comment and share. The digital format also allows us to provide you with more through interactive features and tools that enhance your reading experience – and deepen your understanding of the world and your community.

Obama goes on jobs tour amid political battles

In Baltimore on Friday, President Barack Obama tried to leave behind the political battles that have overshadowed his second-term agenda, saying lawmakers should work on creating more middle-class jobs in the slowly growing economy. Republicans criticized the trip as stagecraft, **A3**



"The Affordable Care Act is bringing the cost of health care in our country down."
– U.S. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi during an interview May 13 on MSNBC, **B1**

NATION & WORLD Russian missiles to Syria frustrate U.S.

The Obama administration denounced Russia for providing Syrian President Bashar Assad's regime with anti-ship missiles, **A2**

» **Senior Executive Service:** An elite group of federal employees is set to receive cash bonuses despite this year's automatic budget cuts, **A3**

BUSINESS Gauge of economy's future health up

A measure of the U.S. economy's future health rose 0.6 percent in April, **A12**

» **Lawsuit:** Microsoft is suing Ebix, an Atlanta-based provider of software to insurers, **A12**

METRO Reed proposes raises for city workers

Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed announced a plan to increase the salaries of most city employees in the fiscal year 2014 budget, **B1**

» **Georgia GOP convention:** Karen Handel announced her intention to run for Senate just hours before the state's officers gathered, **B1**

SPORTS Derby-winning jockey at the top of his sport

Jockey Joel Rosario has been piling up wins heading into today's Preakness, **C1**

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- Dear Abby** D2
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- Puzzles** D3
- Television** D3
- The Vent** B2



The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

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OFFICER MISCONDUCT

Who polices DeKalb police?

Missed red flags lead to series of arrests, damage public trust.

By April Hunt
ahunt@ajc.com

At least 16 DeKalb County police officers have landed in handcuffs in the past 18 months, an embarrassing record that has eroded public trust in the force. In nearly every

case, the officers' previous records were littered with citizen complaints – signals that experts said should have prompted sterner responses by department officials.

In the wake of the arrests, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution obtained detailed internal affairs data on the department through open records requests. Those records reveal weaknesses in both DeKalb's internal affairs unit, which investigates complaints against

officers, and its early warning system, designed to keep problem officers from getting out of hand.

Among them, the arrested officers were the subject of 32 internal affairs investigations in the past five years. Those probes encompassed 41 different complaints; 24 of them were found to be valid.

"We would call that a clue," said Ryan Powell, director of

DeKalb police continued on A10

INSIDE, A10

Two case studies take a closer look at misconduct complaints against DeKalb police officers.



Go online to search our database of police complaints from 2007-12. Get news where and when you want it: from your computer, tablet or smartphone at MyAJC.com.

NEW DETAILS IRS SCANDAL

Treasury told in June inquiry would occur

Agency official: Some in administration knew during campaign.

IRS's former leader says agents broke no laws.

By Stephen Ohlemacher
Associated Press

Senior Treasury officials were made aware in June 2012 that investigators were looking into complaints from tea party groups that they were being harassed by the Internal Revenue Service, a Treasury inspector general said Friday, disclosing that Obama administration officials knew there was an inquiry during the heat of the presidential campaign.

J. Russell George, the Treasury inspector general for tax administration, testified alongside ousted IRS head Steven Miller, who did little to subdue Republican outrage during hours of intense con-



J. Russell George (left), a Treasury inspector general, and ousted IRS chief Steven Miller testified on Capitol Hill on Friday. ASSOCIATED PRESS

gressional questioning.

Both defiant and apologetic, Miller acknowledged agency mistakes in targeting tea party groups for special scrutiny when they applied for tax-exempt status, but he insisted that agents broke no laws and that there was no effort to cov-

er up their actions.

George said he had told the department's general counsel about his investigation on June 4, 2012, and Deputy Treasury Secretary Neal Wolin "shortly thereafter." But,

IRS continued on A4

LEGISLATOR INDICTED

Donors didn't vet groups

Firms such as Coke gave to Brooks nonprofits despite shaky records.

By Aaron Gould Sheinin
aaron.gouldsheinin@ajc.com

The purported charities State Rep. Tyrone Brooks is accused of stealing from have a poor record of filing records and of maintaining their status as qualified nonprofits. That didn't stop companies like Coca-Cola, Georgia-Pacific, Georgia Power or Northside Hospital from giving to one or both, in sums reaching into the tens of thousands.

Personal financial disclosures Brooks files annually with the state, meanwhile, show he reported little income outside his \$17,000 annual legislative salary. When asked previously where his income comes from, Brooks said he had a variety of business interests.

Brooks, 67, had a message Friday for U.S. Attorney Sally Yates, the day after he was indicted on 30 counts of mail, wire and tax fraud.

"One thing I want her to know is I'm not a thief and my mother didn't birth any thieves," Brooks said, giving the first hint that he will proclaim his innocence. "We don't have them in our family."

Records filed with the state and federal government show neither of Brooks' organizations, the Georgia Association of Black Elected Officials or Universal Humanities, is now an official charity, and GABEO hasn't even been a registered

Donors continued on A7

HOUSING CRISIS

Clayton sees recovery signs

Home sales, prices and demand rising in hard-hit county.

By Tammy Joyner
tjoyner@ajc.com

Skeptics still not convinced the housing market has turned the corner need only ride

through what was once considered the epicenter of metro Atlanta's housing crisis.

Individual homebuyers are crowding into Clayton County, where there's a bidding war for properties. A year ago you couldn't give away homes to individual homebuyers, who steered clear of the county because of its school accreditation problems, high unem-

ployment and perceived high crime. Investors looking for deep discounts to turn into rentals seemed to be the only ones venturing into the county then. They snapped up properties, often getting two homes for the price of one.

Not anymore. The stockpile of

Clayton continued on A6

COLLEGE GRADUATIONS

Sisters share top honors at Spelman College

Identical twins earn identical grades to become valedictorians.

By Mark Niesse
mark.niesse@ajc.com

Identical twins Kristie and Kristie Bronner match in every way, including the perfect grades that make them co-valedictorians.

The inseparable 22-year-old duo topped their class at At-

lanta's Spelman College, sharing academic honors that will be recognized when they graduate Sunday.

Perhaps the first twin co-valedictorians at an American college or university, they excelled not by competing with each other but by working together to study and plan their time. The sisters tackled their problems as one.

"We were definitely raised to value excellence and

College continued on A7



Kristie and Kirstie Bronner will team up for their valedictory speech, much as they did in their studies. JOHNNY CRAWFORD / JCRAWFORD@AJC.COM

ATLANTA

Raises proposed for city workers

Mayor's plan praised, but amount for public safety officers questioned.

By Ernie Suggs
esuggs@ajc.com

More than 6,000 city of Atlanta workers may soon see bigger checks. Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed announced late Friday after an early afternoon meeting with a group of city workers a plan to increase the salaries of most city employees in the fis-

cal year 2014 budget. Reed's recommendation would call for a 3 percent raise for all classified employees — ranging from sanitation workers to clerks to technical professionals — who currently make as much as \$61,000 a year. All other employees earning less than \$60,000, including sworn police and fire per-

sonnel, would receive a 1 percent salary increase. Employees who are making more than \$60,000 and are not considered classified would not get raises. The news mostly drew praise, though the union representative of police officers questioned the amount for public safety officers. It would be the first time in six years that employees who get paid out of the city's general fund, which is derived from property tax revenues, would be getting raises. (In 2011, police and fire personnel got 3.5

percent salary increases.) It also comes less than six months after the Atlanta City Council voted to give its members 50 percent raises. "My administration has worked to restore the overall fiscal health of the city by cutting inefficiencies and increasing our reserves," Reed said. "The city's general fund employees — who have not had raises for more than six years — have worked hard to improve services in a number of important areas, such as

Raises continued on B6

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FALCONS STADIUM

Finalists named for new stadium

Five construction firms on short list to build Falcons' next home.

By Katie Leslie
kleslie@ajc.com
and Tim Tucker
ttucker@ajc.com

Plans for the new Atlanta Falcons stadium moved ahead Friday as five construction firms made the short list to become the lead contractor for the billion-dollar project. The finalists are Holder Construction of Atlanta; Arizona-based Hunt Construction Co. and Skanska USA, both with corporate offices in New York; and Bethesda, Md.-based Clark Construction Group, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution has learned. Skanska USA and Turner also have Atlanta offices.

The deal to build the retractable-roof stadium received governmental approvals in March and April from the Atlanta City Council, the Georgia World Congress Center Authority board and the board of the city's development authority, Invest Atlanta. The stadium is to be built on the Congress Center campus on one of two sites near the Georgia Dome, which will be demolished after the new facility opens in 2017. The Falcons and the GWC-CA jointly hired a lead architect, Kansas City-based 360 Architecture, late last month to design the stadium. The firm is in the process of conceptual planning.

Stadium continued on B8

SUWANEE



Dianne Meuse with her friend Adam Pietroski, both of Buford, check out a section of the Berlin Wall on display at Suwanee City Hall on Friday. The wall will be sold May 25. HYOSUB SHIN / HSHIN@AJC.COM

Section of Berlin Wall to be sold at auction

Sale in Suwanee will help reimburse victims of Ponzi scheme.

By Dan Klepal
dan.klepal@ajc.com

A piece of Cold War history hits the public trading block next week, when an 8,000-pound section of the Berlin Wall goes up for auction May 25 as part of a liquidation to reimburse victims of a Ponzi scheme busted up by federal investigators last year. The 12-foot-high chunk of historic concrete is currently on display in front of Suwanee City Hall. It was previously owned by Benjamin Daniel DeHaan, who pleaded guilty earlier this year to defrauding clients of his

Get ready to bid

The wall will be sold in a live webcast auction May 25, at 4:30 p.m. Bids may be made in person at Town Center Park outside Suwanee City Hall, or by registering to bid online at www.auctionEbid.com. Online bidders may place a pre-bid, and will be able to bid in real time through an online interface.

company, Lighthouse Financial Partners. Prosecutors say DeHaan used at least \$7.3 million of his clients' money to buy things like a house and a stake in a Nashville restaurant. Greg Hays, the court-appointed receiver of DeHaan's proper-

ty, said the wall is the last item to be auctioned. The sale of DeHaan's other property raised about \$1 million for his victims, Hays said, and he's not sure how much the wall will fetch. Hays said the piece was encased in a wooden crate and kept in a storage unit when he took possession. "It was hard to tell what it is," Hays said. "We needed to get it out and displayed someplace." That turned out to be Town Center Park in front of Suwanee City Hall, where it's been since late April. Auctioneer Jeb Howell said it will be a bit of a fishing expedition to determine where to start the auction. He said it could be \$1,000 or \$50,000. "It doesn't matter as much

Berlin Wall continued on B8

GOP CONVENTION

Handel to run for U.S. Senate

Former secretary of state is 4th candidate.

As convention opens, talk is about abortion, brewing IRS scandal.

By Daniel Malloy
dmalloy@ajc.com

ATHENS — Karen Handel paused for the latest in a long string of handshakes and small talk at the Georgia Republican State Convention.

"Are we thinking about the Senate?" asked GOP delegate Jean Studdard.

"I'm running. I'm in," Handel replied. "Oh, you are!" Studdard practically squealed. "I'm with you."

Former Georgia Secretary of State and gubernatorial hopeful Handel dropped the much-anticipated announcement just hours before the state's officers gathered for the convention, where they will elect a new chairman Saturday.

She became the fourth declared candidate to replace U.S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss, joining a trio of congressmen: Phil Gingrey of Marietta, Paul Broun of Athens and Jack Kingston of Savannah. David Perdue, former CEO of Dollar General and a cousin of former Gov. Sonny Perdue, has formed an exploratory committee.

In an interview with The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Handel said she stands out from the declared crowd because she does not have the taint of a career in Washington and because she has run a statewide race before.

"I've stayed in touch with — as you can see — a lot of my friends around the state," Handel said. "And just having run statewide in a contested race really toughens you up and gets you ready. I would say, clearly, I've been vetted."

Convention continued on B6



U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson speaks during the first day of the Georgia GOP Convention. JASON GETZ / JGETZ@AJC.COM

COMING SUNDAY



Teo Brown, 6, eyes an albino Burmese python in class at Northwood Elementary School.

Making the grade

In 2011, Northwood Elementary School in Roswell failed to make adequate yearly progress. This year it got a 96.6 on the new grading system, which won't brand a school a failure if a handful of students struggle.

ajc Truth-O-Meter
PolitiFact Georgia

Much unexplained about slowing health care costs

"The Affordable Care Act is bringing the cost of health care in our country down."
U.S. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi during an interview May 13 on MSNBC
Pelosi

By Becky Bowers
PolitiFact

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi says Democrats care about frugality — and President Barack Obama's health care law is one example. It's bringing down the cost

of health care, she told MSNBC host Chris Hayes. While key elements of the Affordable Care Act don't go into effect until 2014, we wondered whether the law has already brought down the cost of care. It depends partly on what you mean by "down." Hayes and Pelosi chatted May 13 about Republicans' focus on reducing the deficit. "It strikes me that they have been remarkably successful in doing that," Hayes said. "When you look at the debt ceiling debacle that led to the Budget Control Act, which has now led to the sequester, that actually ..." Pelosi interrupted.

"Oh, please, thank you for this question. This is so far off the course." "First of all, the actions taken by President Obama and the House Democratic Congress, House and Senate, when he became president was the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. "Many of the initiatives that he passed are what are coming to bear now, including the Affordable Care Act. The Affordable Care Act is bringing the cost of health care in our country down in both the public and private sector. "And that is what is largely

AJC PolitiFact continued on B8

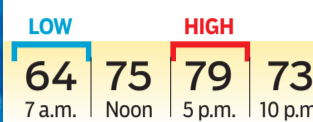
Weather



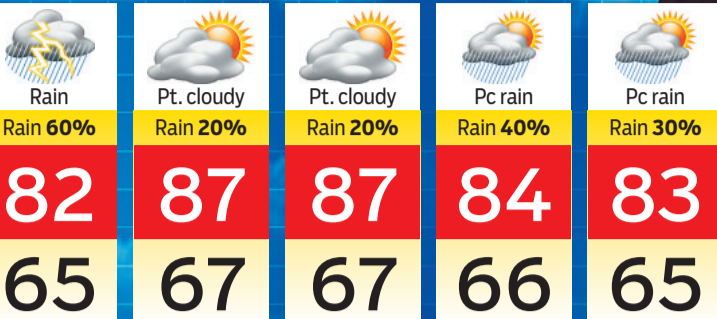
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TODAY IN METRO ATLANTA

Rain
Rain with some thunderstorms and a high temperature of 79.
Rain 70%



SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY



GEORGIA

Mountains

City	Hi	Lo	Sky	Hi	Lo	Sky
Blue Ridge	74	60	tstrm	76	61	tstrm
Clayton	75	59	tstrm	76	61	tstrm
Dalton	79	63	tstrm	81	67	tstrm
Ellijay	75	62	tstrm	78	62	tstrm
Rome	81	63	tstrm	84	66	tstrm

Piedmont

City	Hi	Lo	Sky	Hi	Lo	Sky
Athens	83	64	tstrm	83	66	tstrm
Augusta	88	64	tstrm	86	64	tstrm
Columbus	86	67	ptcldy	87	67	tstrm
Gainesville	80	63	tstrm	81	66	tstrm
Macon	85	64	tstrm	86	66	tstrm
Marietta	81	64	tstrm	82	64	tstrm
Peachtree City	81	64	tstrm	84	64	tstrm

Coastal Plain

City	Hi	Lo	Sky	Hi	Lo	Sky
Albany	90	65	ptcldy	90	65	ptcldy
Brunswick	85	69	tstrm	84	67	tstrm
Mt. Vernon	89	67	tstrm	88	68	tstrm
Savannah	86	69	tstrm	84	68	tstrm
Valdosta	91	63	tstrm	90	65	ptcldy
Waycross	90	66	tstrm	87	67	tstrm

LAKE LEVELS

Lake	Full	Yesterday	Change
Allatoona	840.0 ft.	843.17 ft.	-0.66
Blackshear	2370 ft.	2370.00 ft.	0.01
Blue Ridge	16870 ft.	1686.75 ft.	0.06
Burton	1865.0 ft.	1864.94 ft.	-0.05
Carters	1072.0 ft.	1082.23 ft.	-1.14
Chatuge	1926.0 ft.	1926.21 ft.	-0.03
George	190.0 ft.	188.74 ft.	0.30
Harding	521.0 ft.	520.62 ft.	-0.07
Hartwell	660.0 ft.	659.77 ft.	-0.13
Jackson	530.0 ft.	528.62 ft.	-0.20
Lanier	1071.0 ft.	1072.32 ft.	-0.18
Nottely	1777.0 ft.	1777.01 ft.	-0.07
Oconee	435.0 ft.	435.04 ft.	0.02
Russell	475.0 ft.	474.74 ft.	0.04
Seminole	77.5 ft.	77.11 ft.	0.03
Sinclair	339.8 ft.	338.88 ft.	0.01
Thurmond	330.0 ft.	329.00 ft.	0.10
Weiss	564 ft.	564.00 ft.	0.0
West Point	635.0 ft.	635.31 ft.	-0.11

ALMANAC

Temperature	81/65	Precipitation	0.00 in.
Hi/Low Fri.*	81/65	Rain Fri.*	0.00 in.
Norm / Fri.	80/61	Max. hum.	76%
Year ago Fri.	84/62	Rain May	4.46 in.
Rec. high '90 (1996)	90	Rain 2013	26.95 in.
Rec. low '46 (1967)	46	Normal	19.15 in.

* as of 4 pm yesterday

SOUTHEAST

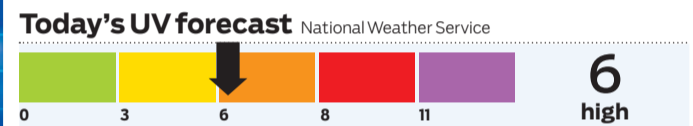
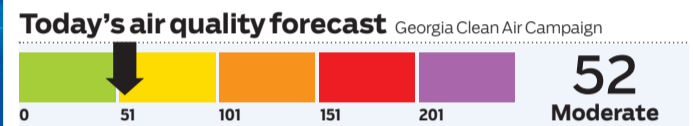
City	Hi	Lo	Sky	Hi	Lo	Sky
Asheville	76	58	tstrm	74	60	tstrm
Baton Rouge	88	69	ptcldy	90	71	sunny
Birmingham	82	68	tstrm	84	67	tstrm
Charleston, SC	84	68	tstrm	84	67	tstrm
Charlotte	83	64	tstrm	81	65	tstrm
Chattanooga	77	64	tstrm	81	64	tstrm
Columbia	87	65	tstrm	85	64	tstrm
Daytona Beach	86	69	tstrm	85	70	tstrm
Greensboro	79	64	tstrm	77	64	tstrm
Greenville, SC	80	64	tstrm	81	64	tstrm
Jackson	87	68	ptcldy	87	69	ptcldy
Jacksonville	87	67	tstrm	86	67	tstrm
Key West	86	79	shwrs	86	79	ptcldy
Memphis	87	72	tstrm	90	69	ptcldy
Miami	87	75	ptcldy	87	76	tstrm
Mobile	85	67	ptcldy	86	67	ptcldy
Montgomery	85	67	tstrm	86	67	ptcldy
Naples	90	71	ptcldy	90	70	tstrm
Nashville	81	67	tstrm	85	68	tstrm
New Orleans	86	71	ptcldy	87	71	ptcldy
Orlando	90	68	tstrm	90	69	tstrm
Panama City	83	67	ptcldy	83	69	ptcldy
Pensacola	83	70	ptcldy	83	70	ptcldy
Raleigh	80	66	tstrm	80	67	tstrm
Richmond	75	63	tstrm	76	64	tstrm
Shreveport	88	69	ptcldy	89	70	ptcldy
Tallahassee	90	64	ptcldy	90	65	ptcldy
Tampa	90	74	ptcldy	89	71	tstrm
West Palm Beach	85	73	ptcldy	86	74	tstrm

UNITED STATES

City	Hi	Lo	Sky	Hi	Lo	Sky
Austin	95	72	ptcldy	92	72	ptcldy
Baltimore	72	57	tstrm	71	61	shwrs
Boston	66	50	ptcldy	63	54	cldy
Buffalo	75	56	ptcldy	75	60	shwrs
Chicago	72	61	ptcldy	82	65	ptcldy
Cincinnati	77	63	tstrm	80	65	tstrm
Cleveland	74	56	ptcldy	81	60	cldy
Dallas	92	71	ptcldy	89	70	ptcldy
Dayton	76	63	ptcldy	79	65	cldy
Denver	77	49	tstrm	68	45	ptcldy
Detroit	75	55	ptcldy	79	60	tstrm
Houston	88	72	ptcldy	88	73	ptcldy
Indianapolis	77	63	ptcldy	82	67	tstrm
Las Vegas	87	69	sunny	90	68	sunny
Little Rock	86	69	ptcldy	87	69	ptcldy
Los Angeles	86	60	ptcldy	72	60	sunny
Minneapolis	82	68	tstrm	81	63	tstrm
New York City	74	57	ptcldy	69	56	shwrs
Philadelphia	73	57	tstrm	70	58	shwrs
Phoenix	92	69	sunny	96	72	sunny
Pittsburgh	77	58	cldy	77	57	tstrm
Portland, OR	60	50	shwrs	64	47	ptcldy
Sacramento	82	57	sunny	86	57	sunny
St. Louis	85	68	ptcldy	91	70	ptcldy
Salt Lake City	67	46	shwrs	63	43	tstrm
San Diego	68	60	ptcldy	70	61	sunny
San Francisco	70	51	ptcldy	74	52	sunny
Seattle	60	51	shwrs	64	50	ptcldy
Washington, D.C.	71	60	tstrm	72	64	shwrs

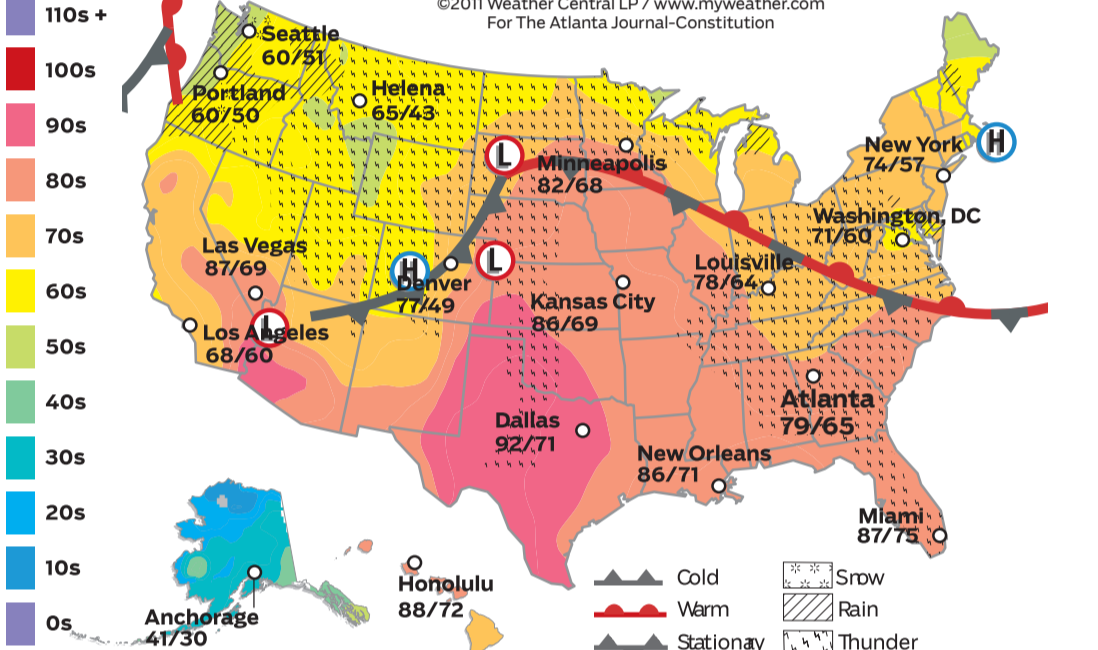
WORLD

City	Hi	Lo	Sky	Hi	Lo	Sky
Amsterdam	57	48	cldy	66	46	ptcldy
Athens	84	67	sunny	88	68	ptcldy
Baghdad	97	79	sunny	101	82	ptcldy
Beijing	91	68	ptcldy	86	70	sunny
Beirut	82	69	ptcldy	81	68	cldy
Buenos Aires	63	54	shwrs	66	52	ptcldy
Cairo	101	74	sunny	104	67	ptcldy
Copenhagen	73	54	ptcldy	74	55	ptcldy
Dublin	51	47	rain	57	45	cldy
Frankfurt	69	49	ptcldy	66	49	shwrs
Geneva	53	42	rain	55	43	shwrs
Hong Kong	80	77	tstrm	82	73	rain
Jerusalem	87	67	cldy	84	65	ptcldy
Kabul	88	54	sunny	87	54	ptcldy
London	62	45	cldy	56	43	shwrs
Madrid	58	41	shwrs	60	41	shwrs
Mexico City	82	63	tstrm	78	59	tstrm
Montreal	70	52	sunny	68	63	shwrs
Moscow	80	53	ptcldy	68	48	cldy
New Delhi	114	88	sunny	115	91	sunny
Oslo	75	59	rain	76	60	shwrs
Paris	68	44	shwrs	58	47	shwrs
Riyadh	94	74	sunny	98	79	sunny
Rome	70	63	sunny	70	57	tstrm
San Juan	83	74	tstrm	82	75	tstrm
Seoul	78	59	sunny	72	60	shwrs
Sydney	64	48	ptcldy	62	47	sunny
Tokyo	70	60	ptcldy	71	59	shwrs
Toronto	66	52	ptcldy	72	59	ptcldy



IN THE SKY

Planet	Rise	Set
Sun	6:35 a.m.	8:34 p.m.
Moon	1:56 p.m.	2:07 a.m.
Venus	7:22 a.m.	9:38 p.m.
Mars	6:13 a.m.	7:58 p.m.
Saturn	6:39 p.m.	5:46 a.m.
Jupiter	8:06 a.m.	10:21 p.m.



Health care costs debated

AJCPolitiFact

responsible for the deficit coming down.”
We asked Pelosi’s office for evidence that the Affordable Care Act “is bringing the cost of health care in our country down.”
She meant that the law has reduced the speed of growth in health care costs – not that they’re actually lower than before, it responded.
“Down does not mean below zero,” said Drew Hammill, a spokesman for Pelosi. “It means below recent projections and compared to historical trends.”
U.S. health care spending has grown at historically low levels,

just 3.9 percent a year in 2011 and 2010. But it was also at 3.9 percent in 2009, before the law passed.
“Health care costs have not been going down. They have been rising more slowly,” said Michael Tanner, a senior fellow at the libertarian Cato Institute and a vocal critic of the law.
There’s controversy among health care economists over just why that slowdown’s happening, whether it’ll continue and what role the law may play.
The recent slowdown actually began in 2003, said Jessica Stone, a policy analyst for the budget-hawk Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, and it continued to fall as the economy weakened.
But four recent studies agree that there’s more at work than just the economy.
Does the Affordable Care Act play a role?
It might.
“They all agree that the unexplained part is large, making the ACA one likely explanation,” said David Cutler, a Harvard economist who advised

Obama during the 2008 campaign.
His study, published in the May issue of Health Affairs, says the 2007-09 recession accounted for 37 percent of the slowdown. Eight percent he attributes to a decline in private insurance coverage and cuts to some Medicare payments.
That leaves 55 percent of the slowdown “unexplained.”
He points to a few ways the Affordable Care Act is involved, including a reduction in Medicare Advantage payments and greater efficiency from health care providers – such as a reduction in hospital-acquired infections and readmissions, which he says are directly related to payment incentives in the health care law.
“So the ACA is a big deal in this – not the only factor, to be sure, but one important factor,” he said.
A second analysis, by the Kaiser Family Foundation and the Altarum Institute, found a much larger role for broader changes in the economy: 77 percent. Structural changes in

the health care system “may be playing a modest role.”
And, it said, changes yet to come under the Affordable Care Act could also affect such trends “significantly.” Savings in Medicare and creation of health insurance exchanges could curb growth.
Meanwhile, spending might bump upward as people who were previously uninsured get covered next year. (Indeed, the Medicare actuary assumed back in 2009 that increasing the number of people who are insured would for a time outweigh the law’s downward impact on growth rates.)
But that will likely happen around the same time as the economy strengthens, which may raise health care spending on its own.
So once again, it’ll take closer study to tease out the role of changes under the law.
“We will only know a couple of years after robust economic growth is occurring and the current round of innovation has had some time to play itself out,” said Gail Wilensky, a

health care analyst who ran the Medicare program under President George H.W. Bush. “Everything until then is reading tea leaves – frequently through a biased filter.”
Pelosi said “the Affordable Care Act is bringing the cost of health care in our country down.” But it’s the rate of growth that’s dropped, not the actual cost of care – which is still rising.
Meanwhile, recent studies agree that something more than just the recent recession has driven that lower growth rate. Some experts say that includes provisions of the health care law, such as lower Medicare Advantage payments and incentives for greater efficiency from hospitals. Others say it’s simply too soon to say.
Spending may increase as more people become insured, but for now, there’s divided support for Pelosi’s statement. We rate it Half True.
For a list of sources, go to www.politifact.com/georgia.

Applicants whittled down to five

Stadium

continued from B1
Though the architectural selection process was led by an eight-member committee composed of both Falcons and GWC-CA representatives, the Falcons have spearheaded the general

contractor selection.
The applicants were whittled to five after responding to a request for qualifications. Interviews were held this week. The finalists will now submit a bid through a request-for-proposal process. Further interviews will be held.
The parties have agreed the Falcons will make a recommendation to the GWCCA, which has the ultimate approval of the contractor and the terms of the deal. The lead contractor is expected to be named in June, the GWCCA board has been told.
Falcons officials could not be reached for comment late Friday.

Shannon Hines, a senior vice president with Turner, confirmed the company’s status on the final list.
“The project will change the skyline of Atlanta and we are certain it will have a long and positive impact on the surrounding communities,” he said in an emailed statement.
Turner’s Georgia projects include Georgia Tech’s Bobby Dodd Stadium renovations, Atlanta’s public safety headquarters, the Cobb County Superior Courthouse and the Roybal campus for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The company’s stadium projects include work

on Yankee Stadium and the Philadelphia Eagles’ Lincoln Financial Field.
Skanska USA, which acquired Atlanta-based Beers Construction in the 1990s, built the original Georgia Dome and other major attractions such as Philips Arena, Turner Field and the Bank of America Field. The international company is also known for MetLife Stadium, the home of New York’s two NFL teams in East Rutherford, N.J., which was designed by 360 Architecture.
Holder Construction has built such local structures as the new World of Coca-Cola, the Mansion on Peachtree and the Cox En-

terprises corporate headquarters. Holder officials could not be reached for comment.
Hunt has built several stadiums across the country, including Washington’s Nationals Park, Miami’s Marlins Park and the New York Mets’ Citi Field, according to its website.
Clark Construction’s stadium projects include FedEx Field, as well as Nationals Park with Hunt Construction. Locally, the firm completed an expansion project at Atlanta’s R.M. Clayton Water Reclamation Center, a wastewater treatment facility, according to its website.

Auction will help scam victims