

News at a Glance

Augusta has new protester regulations

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — A divided Augusta-Richmond County Commission has created new regulations for protests against the all-male membership at Augusta National Golf Club.



Burk

The law, approved by a 6-5 vote Tuesday, requires protesters to apply for a permit 20 days before a demonstration. If denied, the protesters can appeal, and the city has seven days to respond.

Augusta expects the National Council of Women's Organizations and the Rev. Jesse Jackson's Rainbow/PUSH Coalition to protest during the Masters tournament in April.

The city's lawyer said the old ordinance, which gave the sheriff authority to approve or deny protest permits, could be too vague to withstand a court challenge.

Martha Burk, chair of the National Council of Women's Organizations, had previously denounced the regulations as an attempt to stifle free speech.

Twice in the past month, a racial stalemate stopped the commission from adopting the new regulations. The five white commissioners supported the new law; all five blacks opposed it.

Augusta Mayor Bob Young, who is white, cast the deciding vote Tuesday to break a 5-5 tie. In the earlier votes, Young was not able to break the tie because one black commissioner, Marion Williams, abstained.

Commissioner Bill Kuhlke said the successful vote was the result of a compromise that puts the city's Fire Department in an inner-city office building. In exchange, Williams agreed to vote against the regulations, setting up a tie for the mayor to break, Kuhlke said.



Jackson

St. Louis is home to largest archive of slavery lawsuits filed in the 19th century

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Hundreds of lawsuits filed by freedom-seeking slaves passed through St. Louis in the 19th century. Now, those suits can be seen in an online archive that offers a glimpse at what might be considered the genesis of America's Civil Rights Movement.

The archive, available at www.stlcourtrecords.wustl.edu, was unveiled last week during a news conference at the Old Courthouse, where history's most significant slavery lawsuit — the Dred Scott case — initially was heard in 1846. The Supreme Court eventually ruled against Scott, saying in a ruling that pushed the country closer to Civil War that no blacks, free or slave, could be U.S. citizens.

Though the most significant, the Dred Scott case was just one of hundreds filed in St. Louis by slaves seeking their freedom in the 1800s. The St. Louis Circuit Court Historical Records Project consists of some 280 legal documents filed between 1814 and 1860.

Committee gives awards to honor civil rights champion Daisy Gatson Bates

LITTLE ROCK (AP) — Civil rights activist Daisy Gatson Bates has been remembered with awards given in her name to those who work to evoke social change.

The Daisy Gatson Bates Holiday Committee distributed the awards on Monday, which was declared Daisy Gatson Bates Day by the state Legislature in 2001.

Bates provided major assistance to nine students who were the first blacks to attend Little Rock Central High School in 1957. Afterward, she continued as a major civil rights activist in Arkansas. She died in 1999 at age 84.



Bates

Speaking at the ceremony at Little Rock's Doubletree Hotel, Lt. Gov. Win Rockefeller said Bates had compassion for all she came in contact with.

"With Daisy Bates, you have a woman who displayed such tremendous courage and tremendous wisdom," Rockefeller said.

Magnolia school principal Rucker Clayton won the education award for decades of service. Little Rock National Association for the Advancement of Colored People chapter president Dale Charles was honored for individual courage.

Arkansas Department of Human Services ombudsman Pat Bell and her husband, Harvey, won the family award for foster parenting their son Daniel after he was brought to the hospital 15 years ago suffering from severe abuse.

And the nonprofit Positive Atmosphere Reaches Kids won the award for community service. The after-school program offers children in junior high and high school help on their homework.

Officials resign over alleged racial remark

IRWIN, Pa. (AP) — Two planning officials in a western Pennsylvania borough said they will resign after being accused of making a racially insensitive comment during a public meeting.

Officials in Irwin said they had planned to ask Planning Commission member Tom Poppa to resign over the comment allegedly made at a Jan. 27 public hearing on a proposed housing development in the borough about 15 miles east of Pittsburgh.

At least three Irwin officials, including a fellow commission member, said Poppa told residents that a proposed 17-lot development contained pricey homes and the borough wasn't "trying to slip blacks into your neighborhood."

Poppa, who has been on the planning commission for seven years, said he would resign, although he doesn't recall making the statement.

"Maybe I said something the wrong way. If I said something, they took it out of context. If I said something by mistake, I am sorry," said Poppa. "This is the strangest thing that has ever happened to me."

Claire Halucka said she would resign because she did not confront Poppa about his comment and the borough took more than a month to ask him to resign. The Jan. 27 meeting was her first.

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Flag fight threatens city's reputation

BY KRISTEN WYATT
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA — Georgia's capital city may be the only place that ever turned into a booming metropolis by keeping itself out of the news. Business leaders in Atlanta are fretting that could change because of a bitter racial battle over the Confederate battle emblem.

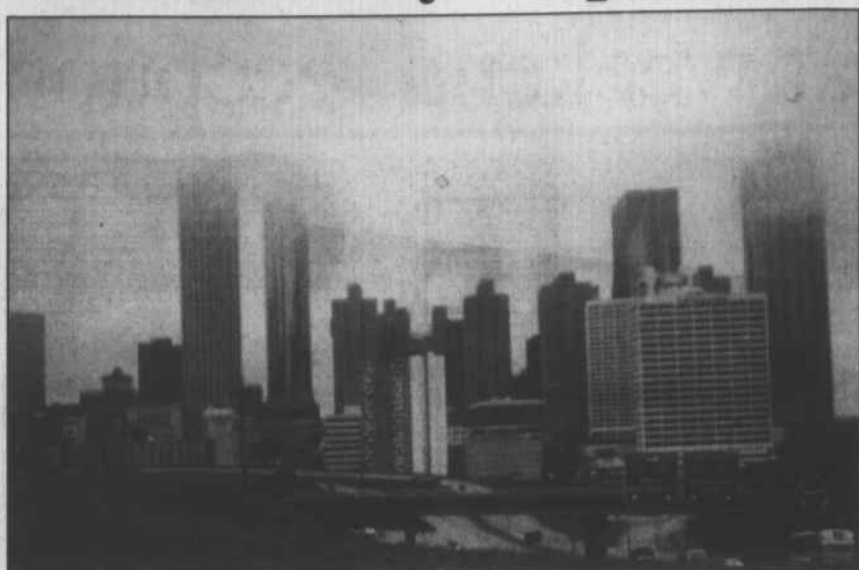
Through decades of civil rights turbulence, Atlanta was both the cradle of the movement and untouched by race riots. While the nation watched violent showdowns in Alabama and Mississippi, Atlanta leaders enticed Yankees and their businesses with a simple message: We're the city that's too busy to hate.

But a simmering unrest over the state flag — and the election of an outsider governor who promised to let people decide if they want a return to the old flag and its racially divisive Confederate symbol — has some business leaders worried the South's biggest city is in store for an embarrassing, drawn-out fight that could cost the state billions.

Already reeling from thousands of job losses in the industries that made it big — tourism and transportation — businesses are skittish that the fight will scare away conventions and new business.

"We could lose an extreme amount of business over this," said Bill Howard, vice president of the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Board. "I don't think it's exaggerating to call it a crisis."

The debate over Georgia's flag is more than a public relations pickle for Atlanta businesses. The rebel banner that won't go



Smog covers the peak of Atlanta's growing skyline.

File Photo

away is a signal to some leaders that Atlanta's recipe for success is in serious danger.

Longtime residents of the city know all about The Atlanta Way. It's the cozy partnership between industry and government, a marriage designed to portray Atlanta as progressive.

In 1959, a reporter for Newsweek magazine asked Mayor William Hartsfield how Atlanta managed to avoid racial strife.

"We roll a red carpet out for every damn Yankee who comes in here with two strong hands and some money," Hartsfield said.

The plan worked for decades, helping Atlanta build a reputation for Southern hospitality minus the redneckedness.

"There was an effort to keep the peace that was very much business-related," said Ronald Bayer, a Georgia Tech history professor.

Thanks in part to its progressive reputation, Atlanta won bragging rights for more than just The Coca-Cola Co. Coke was joined by Delta Air Lines, UPS and four major-league sports teams. Homegrown businesses including Citizens Trust Co. and The Home Depot grew to national prominence.

In 1948, Atlanta was about the same size as Birmingham, Ala. By the turn of the century, Atlanta was three times bigger, with a metro-population bursting past 4 million.

Sam Massell, Atlanta's mayor

in the early 1970s, remembers the city's efforts to avoid Birmingham's reputation.

"You'd see them on TV over there, and it was good ol' boys talking. We decided when the cameras were in Atlanta we wanted to see the brightest, most progressive leadership talking," Massell said.

Business didn't always get along with Georgia governors and city mayors, but The Atlanta Way held for decades, culminating in the 1996 Summer Olympics.

A few years later, when the NAACP singled South Carolina out for boycotts because the Confederate flag flew on its Capitol, business leaders in Atlanta were

See Atlanta on A9

Brooklyn's 'walking history book' dies at 100

FROM THE AFRO TIMES

BROOKLYN, N.Y. (NNPA) — The devoutly religious great-great-grandfather whose life story was told by major newspapers, radio stations and national television networks has died in Brooklyn. His face was on the cover of the Sunday Daily News Caribbean Magazine — "Celebrating a Century." As usual, MacNeil Jordan was preparing for Sunday morning church service.



Jordan

He was getting ready to go to church, but when he didn't

go upstairs from his apartment, a granddaughter, Vernita Charles, went to find out what had happened and she found him dead," said Margot Jordan, another of his grandchildren and an Afro Times Lifestyles writer.

"His clothes were there ready, and everything was prepared for him to go to church. But that was not to be. He seemed to have died of natural causes. He passed away peacefully."

"He brought immense joy to many lives," Margot Jordan said.

Just last week, he was mobbed by hundreds of students when he appeared during a Black History Month celebration at PS 219 in Brooklyn. Jordan talked about his life and answered questions from the first- and second-graders who wanted to know the secret of his longevity, the details of his life, his children and grandchildren and daily routine.

"These children were inspired! They mobbed him and told him how much they admired him and loved him," Margot Jordan said. "It was an unbelievable event to see how the children treated him and how he responded to them with his answers, his affection and his interest in them."

Jordan's death came 10

days before he was to leave New York City to spend a month with relatives in Barbados. Weeks before, Air Jamaica presented him with two first-class round-trip tickets during a reception. On that occasion, he recited from memory a 12-verse poem that he had learned in elementary school in Barbados at least 86 years ago. He was scheduled to be the guest of honor at a

number of functions in his homeland.

Jordan also was to be interviewed as part of an oral history project at the Ellis Island Immigration Museum. He was 21 when he came to New York on the "Vauban," a ship that left Bridgetown on March 7, 1924, and arrived at Ellis Island seven days later.

Barry Moreno, Ellis Island's historian, says it's

likely the ship stopped at Havana, Trinidad, Jamaica and other British colonies that shipped tens of thousands to New York in the early 1900s. Like Jordan, most came for economic opportunity.

"Things were very prosperous here," said Jordan, "better than my island."

Jordan credited his longevity and good health to a

See Jordan on A9

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