

# get out: your entertainment guide

Check out a twisted take on old tales, plus a songwriter tells all. **INSIDE**



# SPORTS, 1B: Smith works to leave brother's shadow.

# The Times

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USA  
GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA

THURSDAY  
JANUARY 14, 2010

50 CENTS

Edeline B. Clermont weeps in Miami Tuesday as she talks to her sister in Boston after both were unable to contact relatives in Haiti after hearing about earthquake that shook the island.



The Associated Press

## Haiti quake shocks area churches

BY JEFF GILL  
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Carlton Hicks was shocked by what he saw during a church mission trip in June. Haiti's poverty was absolute and widespread.

He was numbed again when he saw news reports Tuesday night of an earthquake that devastated the island nation, possibly killing more than 100,000 people.

"They've seen death before but not to this extent," said Hicks, student pastor at Concord Baptist Church in Clermont, on Wednesday.

Several area churches have strong ties to Haiti, having sent or planning to send groups on mission trips there or help with already established, well-entrenched ministries.

For many, Tuesday's earthquake, which toppled buildings and leveled villages, triggered first an emotional response and worry about the fate of relief workers based there, especially as communication and air travel were shut down.

And then, churches, along with relief agencies such as the American Red Cross, have been working on ways to provide much-needed, immediate relief.

"The easiest way (people) can help is to make a

■ Please see HAITI, 3A

### ONLINE

Listen to Carlton Hicks, student pastor at Concord Baptist Church, talk about visiting Haiti in June.

### INSIDE

More on Haiti disaster, 4A

## Evans bows out of race

Ex-legislator: 'Family first'

BY JENNIFER SAMI  
Times regional staff

Citing financial concerns, Mike Evans of Forsyth County announced Wednesday that he is dropping out of the 9th Congressional District race.

Evans said the decision came after he and his wife, Gena, looked ahead at the next six months.

"It was down to a choice between helping to provide for my family, or running for Congress," Evans said shortly after his announcement. "It became an easy choice that my family comes first."

Evans, former chairman of the state Department of Transportation, was the first Republican candidate to announce his bid after U.S. Rep. Nathan Deal said he was running for governor.

Evans, who is also a former state legislator, said he has notified the other seven Republican candidates, but has no plans to endorse anyone at this time.

State Sen. Lee Hawkins, R-Gainesville, is one of the candidates seeking the Republican nomination. He said Wednesday night that he and Evans have been friends over the years, and he knew the decision to drop out had been a difficult one.

■ Please see EVANS, 3A



Evans

**GOLD DOME 2010** ONLINE Read the State of the State address by Gov. Sonny Perdue.

## Gov.: Hard calls ahead

Perdue, in last State of the State, calls for 'culture of conservation'

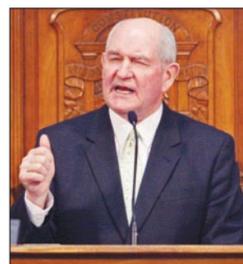
BY ASHLEY FIELDING  
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In his final State of the State address, Gov. Sonny Perdue urged state lawmakers to make painful cuts to the state budget now so that tomorrow's Georgia may prosper.

"I believe I stand with most Georgians when I say I am for doing with a little less if it means a lighter burden and a brighter

future for the next generation," he said.

Perdue, whose second and final term as governor ends this year, addressed a joint session of the General Assembly on Wednesday in a speech that was part history lesson, part motivational speech and one that focused very little on a specific plan for legislators as they sit down to carve



The Associated Press

Gov. Sonny Perdue makes his final state of the state address Wednesday.

■ Please see STATE, 3A

'Paying for performance is one of the ideas that I support conceptually, but the devil is in the details.'

Hall County Schools Superintendent Will Schofield



SCOTT ROGERS | The Times

Denise McConnell, a teacher at Enota Multiple Intelligences Academy, works Wednesday afternoon on a vocabulary lesson with fifth-grade students Fernando Covarrubias, left, and Manuel Rodriguez, bottom.

## Teachers wary of payment plan

Local officials support linking pay with student performance, but have concerns

BY JESSICA JORDAN  
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Local educators say they cautiously support Gov. Sonny Perdue's proposal to pay teachers based on student performance rather than teachers' levels of education.

"Many young people today have the idea that the salary ceiling is simply too low in teaching," Perdue said in his State of the State address Wednesday. "That perception effectively shuts

many of our best and brightest out of our classrooms."

Perdue called the initiative a commitment to "align our compensation with the mission of our schools," and said it would drive student achievement. The proposed payment system is a substantial portion of the state's Race to the Top proposal that seeks between \$200 million and \$400 million in federal funds.

While a 20,000-teacher survey indicates that teachers are open to student

achievement-based pay, some take issue with how exactly that achievement will be gauged.

Hall Superintendent Will Schofield said not enough information has been revealed on the issue to determine whether the proposed legislation will be popular with educators.

"One of the challenges public education has faced for generations is the perception, and often the reality, that we operate in an entitlement culture rather than a performance culture. Paying for performance is one of the ideas that I support conceptually, but the devil is in the details," he said.

If the student achievement data is evaluated solely on the state's standardized Criterion-Referenced Competency Test, many educators say they might be wary of the legislation.



Schofield

'There's just not enough information out there about it. What we prefer to do right now is to offer suggestions.'

Jeff Hubbard  
Georgia Association of Educators president

■ Please see PAY, 3A



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To all those who serve in the nation's military...



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