

**SPORTS, 1B:** Dizzy Dean World Series starts today.

**LIFE, 5C:** Snakes are slippery, slimy and misunderstood.



# The Times

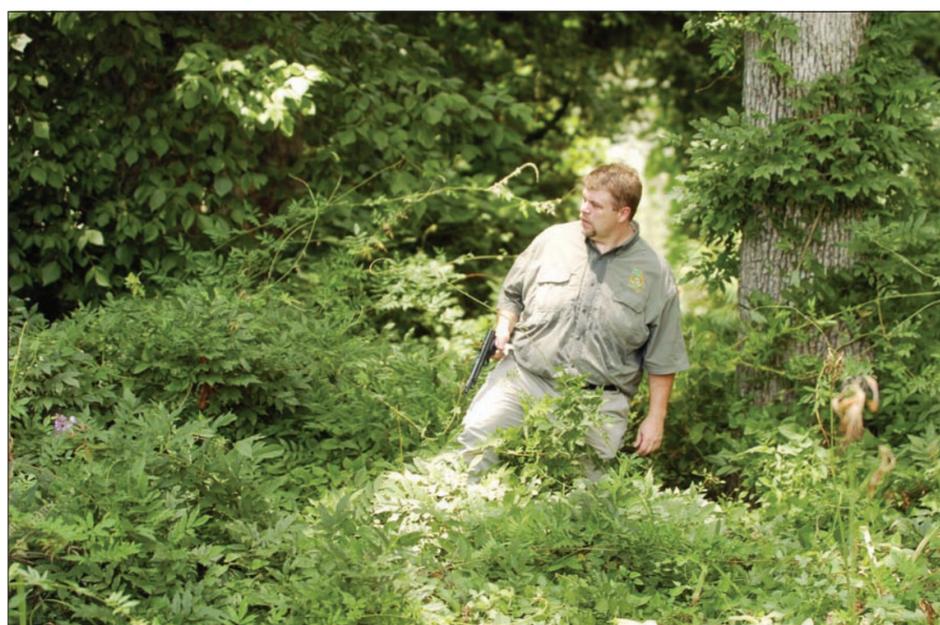
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GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA

**FRIDAY**  
JULY 16, 2010

50 CENTS

# A BEAR? WHERE?



TOM REED | The Times

Kevin Lowrey, Department of Natural Resources wildlife biologist, looks through a kudzu patch off Forrest Avenue for a reported bear in the area Thursday afternoon.

## Furry creature visits downtown Gainesville, eludes authorities

BY MIMI ENSLEY  
[mensley@gainesvilletimes.com](mailto:mensley@gainesvilletimes.com)

Janice Ludwig's back deck played host to an unexpected visitor Thursday morning.

The Ridgeview Drive resident went outside at 8 a.m. to the sound of her two small dogs barking at an intruder. She approached her sliding glass door and caught a glimpse of the bear that roamed through downtown Gainesville Thursday.

"The bear was running frantically from the dogs, so he clambered down the stairs, off the deck and over the back fence and then took off through the woods," Ludwig said.

She said some of her neighbors had seen the animal earlier that morning.

Lt. Carol Martin of the Gainesville Police Department said the department received a call Thursday morning regarding a sighting near Thompson Bridge Road, behind First Baptist Church.

"The best advice we have is don't leave food for it, and don't approach it," Martin said.

Kevin Lowrey, a Department of Natural Resource wildlife biologist, said he also received a phone message about the bear early in the morning.

Around 1 p.m., Lowrey trudged through thick kudzu near Sylvan Wood Lane behind The Times, hoping to find the bear. He said the bear, a male weighing about 100 pounds, started its journey in Forsyth County and has since traveled to Longwood Park and McEver

Road in the Gainesville area.

The bear is not aggressive and does not exhibit any of the typical behaviors that would trigger the need for DNR workers to track and trap the animal, Lowrey said.

"Most of the time, they find their own way," he said. "We rarely have to move one of these bears."

However, this particular bear has elicited so many phone calls and complaints that the DNR decided to pursue trapping.

Sonny West, who works on Forrest Avenue, said he saw the bear about 12:30 p.m. from a window in his office building.

"He wasn't walking, it was a slow gallop," West said. "I said, 'That doesn't look like a dog.'"

■ Please see **BEAR**, 6A

## GNP GEORGIA NEWSPAPER PARTNERSHIP POLL

# Many OK with tax hike for education

BY CAROLYN CRIST  
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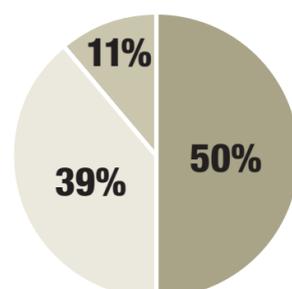
Teachers have been hit by furloughs. Budgets have been cut to shreds. Extracurricular programs have collapsed. Schools have closed.

The education system in Georgia is facing difficult times, but voters may know a solution — more taxes.

A recent poll shows that a large number of voters would support raising taxes for education, but local officials and parents still say it's not the time for an increase.

The Georgia Newspaper Partnership poll, which surveyed 625 registered voters, shows that 50 percent support increased taxes for education, 39 percent oppose the idea and 11 percent are undecided.

"Georgia Budget and Policy Institute research says that Georgia doesn't have a funding problem but a revenue problem," Gainesville City Schools Superintendent Merrienne Dyer said. "Looking at



### Tax increases for education funding

■ = Support ■ = Oppose ■ = Undecided

Source: Georgia Newspaper Partnership poll

## Who's ahead? Depends on who you ask

Three different polls have three different gubernatorial candidates in the lead heading into Tuesday's primary.

See the full story inside, **6A**

	<b>NATHAN DEAL</b>	<b>25%</b>
RASMUSSEN REPORTS POLL: JULY 13		
	<b>KAREN HANDEL</b>	<b>25%</b>
	<b>JOHN OXENDINE</b>	<b>20%</b>
	<b>UNDECIDED</b>	<b>14%</b>

	<b>KAREN HANDEL</b>	<b>24%</b>
INSIDERADVANTAGE POLL: JULY 14		
	<b>NATHAN DEAL</b>	<b>16%</b>
	<b>JOHN OXENDINE</b>	<b>15%</b>
	<b>UNDECIDED</b>	<b>22%</b>

	<b>JOHN OXENDINE</b>	<b>34%</b>
GEORGIA NEWSPAPER PARTNERSHIP POLL: JULY 8-13		
	<b>KAREN HANDEL</b>	<b>23%</b>
	<b>NATHAN DEAL</b>	<b>18%</b>
	<b>UNDECIDED</b>	<b>19%</b>

## GAINESVILLE

# Curbside trash service seems unlikely

BY MIMI ENSLEY  
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Gainesville will not likely change to a curbside garbage pickup service, officials said following Thursday's public meeting about solid waste services in the city.

Though the Public Works Department proposed an ordinance change in March that would allow trash collection services to go from twice-a-week back-door pickup to once-a-week curbside collection, residents attending the meeting wanted to maintain twice-

a-week service — even if that would result in a fee increase.

"I think that the people here tonight were pretty much willing to pay an extra fee for a service that they think is good and important," Mayor Ruth Bruner said after the meeting at the Georgia Mountains Center.

Bruner said she did not think the city would adopt the original curbside proposal, though she could not yet be sure.

Angela Sheppard, assistant city manager, said the city needed to change its solid waste service because of budget

shortfalls. The general tax fund has been supplementing the shortfalls in the solid waste fund, but the city does not want that to continue.

One solution was explored with a pilot program switching the city's trash service to once-weekly back door pickup. The results were revealed at the meeting.

The eight-week program saved a combined total of 48 labor hours per week, but that would not be enough to eliminate a crew member's position.

■ Please see **TRASH**, 6A



### INSIDE

- Advice **6C**
- Bridge **6C**
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- Classified **1D**
- Comics **7C**
- Life **5C**
- Lottery **2A**
- Movies **3C**
- Opinion **4A**
- Sports **1B**
- TV/puzzles **6C**

### WEATHER 2A

High **88** Low **72**

Lake Lanier level: **1,070.47 feet**  
Down 0.02 feet in 24 hours

### DEATHS 2C

- Virginia Abercrombie
- Charles Leonard Geiger
- Fred Gibson, 83
- Byron "Bud" Hopkins, 77
- Blanche Goodwin Moore, 87

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



... Thank you for our freedom. The Times [gainesvilletimes.com](http://gainesvilletimes.com)