

LIFE, 3C: A local chef showcases his creations on YouTube.

SPORTS, 1B: Johnson boys beat North Hall on the soccer field.

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GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA

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Court clears way for S. Hall hospital



For The Times

The current Medical Plaza 1 Building in Braselton.

Barrow judge's decision reversed in medical center case

BY STEPHEN GURR
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The Georgia Court of Appeals ruled Tuesday that Northeast Georgia Medical Center can build a new South Hall hospital in Braselton, clearing the way for construction of a facility that could serve 100 acute care patients and employ nearly 600 people.

The court's decision to reinstate state certification needed to build the facility reversed a December 2008 ruling by Barrow County Superior Court Judge Robert Adam-

ONLINE

Read the Georgia Court of Appeals decision issued Tuesday in Northeast Georgia Medical Center Inc. v. Winder HMA Inc.

son, who ruled in favor of Barrow Regional Medical Center when that hospital filed suit to prevent the new facility from being built.

Officials with the Winder hospital argued that the Georgia Department of Community Health did not follow the proper procedures

in granting Northeast Georgia Medical Center a "certificate of need" required to build a new 100-bed hospital.

In an opinion written by Appeals Court Judge A. Harris Adams with concurrence from Judges G. Alan Blackburn and Sara Doyle, the panel said the Department of Community Health "had a rational basis for granting NGMC's application for a certificate of need for the proposed South Hall hospital."

■ Please see **HOSPITAL, 4A**

ELECTION 2010

Ex-legislators resign to run for Congress

Lee Hawkins, Tom Graves will be on the ballot in April

BY ASHLEY FIELDING
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At a key time in the legislative session, two state lawmakers are leaving to pursue their campaigns for the U.S. Congress.

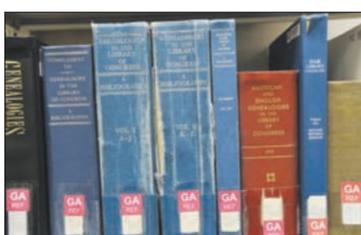
Both state Sen. Lee Hawkins, R-Gainesville, and state Rep. Tom Graves, R-Ranger, resigned Tuesday from the Georgia General Assembly.

Both plan to qualify for a special election to fill a vacancy left in the U.S. House of Representatives by Nathan Deal. Deal resigned Sunday, leaving the post nine months early to focus on his gubernatorial campaign.

"I feel the greater fight now is in Washington," Hawkins said.

A third Republican state lawmaker in the 9th District race,

■ Please see **RESIGN, 4A**



The Gainesville library is a good place to start the search for one's family history.

CENSUS TREASURES



Photos by **SARA GUEVARA** | The Times

Genealogy and local history librarian Ronda Sanders on Tuesday flips through Georgia maps located in the Sybil Wood McRay Genealogy and Local History Collection at the Gainesville library.

Records can be key in genealogists' searches

BY MELISSA WEINMAN
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When filling out the 2010 census, few are thinking about how their answers will affect their great-great-grandchildren.

But to genealogists, every census is a treasure.

"You'll hear the census referred to as the basic building blocks, or the skeleton, of genealogy," said Ronda Sanders, the genealogy and local history librarian for the Hall County Library System.

People use U.S. Census Bureau records, which are collected every 10 years, to locate their ancestors.

"That gives you an idea of where the family was living in a time period," Sanders said.

Location is crucial to learning more about relatives. Sanders said once a person finds out where their family was living, they can research marriage licenses, military records, death records, wills, deeds and store record books from that area.

"There are all sorts of things you can look for once you find out where they're living," Sanders said.

One of the interesting things about census surveys is that the questions have changed slightly with each census over the years.

The earliest census questions were very vague.

"It can give you just as basic facts in the early ones as the head of the household's name and whether there were males or females living in the house and the age range, not even a particular age," Sanders said.

From 1850 and on, the census

■ Please see **CENSUS, 4A**

Second teen is charged in killing

Authorities: Suspects are all gang members

BY STEPHEN GURR
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Robbery was the motive behind last week's bludgeoning death of a 68-year-old Gainesville man, with three teenage gang members from Athens suspected in his killing, authorities said Tuesday.

Nelson Vaca, 17, was the second person charged in the death of Ramon Hernandez, whose dead body was found Thursday morning in the trailer where he lived alone in the East Ridge Mobile Home Park off Marlow Drive. Vaca is charged with party to the crime of murder, Hall County Sheriff's Col. Jeff Strickland said.

Vaca was picked up by investigators at an Athens manufacturing facility where he worked, Strickland said. Vaca is the cousin of Daniel Vilchis-Ayala, 16, who was arrested at his Athens home last week and charged with murder.

A third suspect, 16-year-old Brian Martin Rivera of Athens, is being sought on an

■ Please see **TEEN, 4A**



Rivera



Vaca



Vilchis-Ayala



INSIDE

Advice	5C	Life	3-4C
Bridge	5C	Lottery	2A
Business	1D	Local	1C
Calendar	2A	Opinion	5A
Classified	2D	Sports	1B
Comics	4B	TV/puzzles	5C

WEATHER 2A

High **72** Low **51**
Lake Lanier level: **1,070.50 feet**
Down 0.02 feet in 24 hours

DEATHS 2C

Francisco Diaz, 53
Ricky E. Foster, 52
Uriel W. Hadley, 51
Annie Mae Hamilton

Montine Edith Nix, 85
Lenox Thompson Thornton, 86
Glinda Bonnia Vaughn, 44



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