

County by county

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Atlanta

Onyx Con founder to speak at library

As part of Black History Month, Joseph R. Wheeler, founder of Atlanta's Onyx Con convention, will host a community discussion Thursday on how African-rooted culture appears in art and society, both historically and in modern times. "Introduction to the Black Age of Comics: Past, Present and Future" starts at 7 p.m. at the Auburn Avenue Research Library, 101 Auburn Ave. Information: 404-730-4001, Ext. 100. **JOHNNY EDWARDS**

Hospitality foundation plans job fair, trade show

The Hospitality Education Foundation of Georgia will hold a job fair and trade show Friday for high school seniors and juniors exploring careers in the hospitality and food service industries.

The Hospitality Expo will include colleges, businesses, industry associations and community organizations, with four industry leaders sharing personal stories in a career workshop. The expo runs from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at AmericasMart, Building 2W, first floor, 230 Spring St. **JOHNNY EDWARDS**

Ex-mayor to deliver State of Buckhead speech

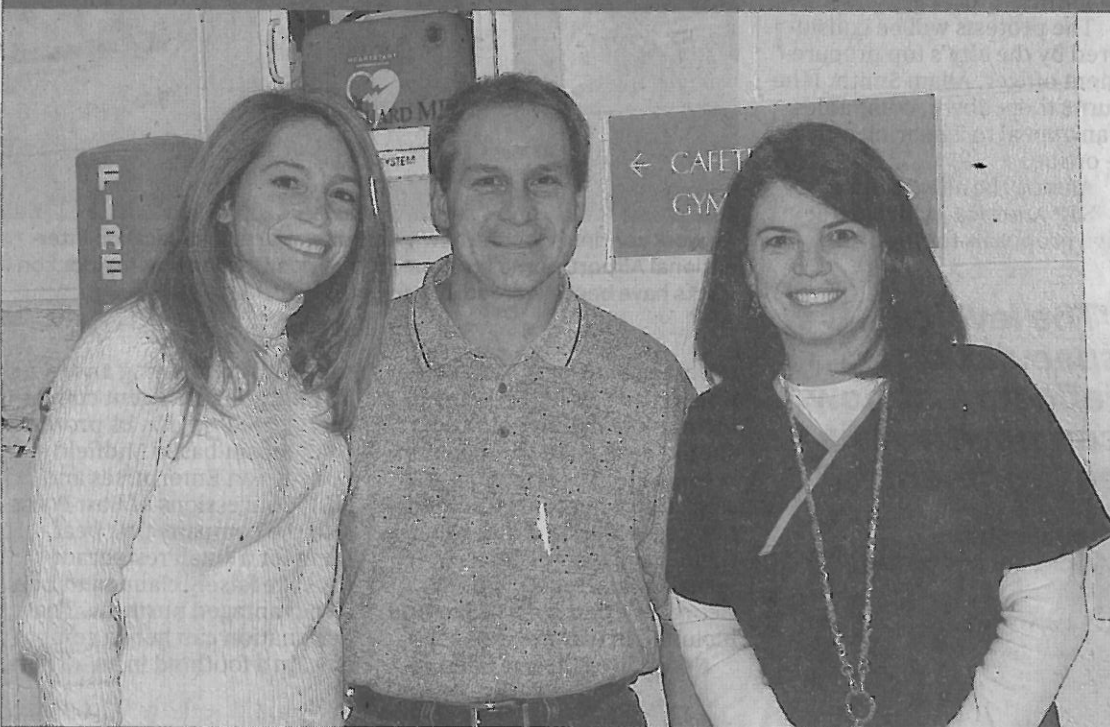
Former Mayor Sam Massell will deliver his annual State of Buckhead address at the weekly breakfast meeting of the Buckhead Business Association on Feb. 16 from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at the City Club of Buckhead. Tickets are \$10 for BBA members and \$20 for visitors and guests. Information: www.buckheadbusiness.org. **KENNETH MUSISI**

GSU solo exhibitions spotlight art program

The Ernest G. Welch School of Art & Design Galleries at Georgia State University presents a fresh series of M.F.A. solo exhibitions beginning Monday and running through May 11. The solo exhibitions are a culmination of the intensive full time three-year Master of Fine Arts studio program. Events are free and open to the public. For a calendar of reception dates, please visit www.gsu.edu. Information: 404-413-5230. **KENNETH MUSISI**

Hometown Heroes

Neighbors doing extraordinary things



Sam Hungerbuhler is alive thanks to the efforts of his wife, Trish, (left) and nurse Marty Bova-Banks after his heart stopped beating at a school basketball game. **Maureen Harkins Special**

Wife, nurse act fast with life-saving skills

Defibrillator, quick thinking save man after sudden cardiac arrest.

By **Bill Hendrick**
For the AJC

Trish and Sam Hungerbuhler of Cumming were sitting on the third row of wooden bleachers in a school gym watching sixth-graders play basketball when all of a sudden he slumped over, bumped her shoulder and "slithered" to the floor without uttering a noise.

Only 42 and in great shape, Hungerbuhler didn't know what had hit him. Cheering one second, the next thing he experienced was a brief hallucination of "kids floating to the ceiling" and then he was out, as if someone had flipped off a light.

For all practical purposes, he was dead — and within a few minutes of becoming a victim of sudden cardiac arrest, which isn't the same as a heart attack.

Sudden cardiac arrest is the leading cause of death in the U.S. About 295,000 people suffer them every year outside of hospitals, and only 8 percent survive, according to the American Heart Association.

Fortunately, Trish is an intensive care nurse at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, and immediately started mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. Another nurse in the stands, Marty Bova-Banks, started chest compressions. And perhaps most fortunately, the Queen of Angels Catholic School in Roswell was equipped with an automated electronic defibrillator, or AED, which Hungerbuhler's wife screamed for someone to fetch.

Without an electrical jolt, the brain cells

of people who have sudden cardiac arrests start to die within a few minutes, usually before paramedics arrive, says Alison Ellison, a nurse at Children's Healthcare, who heads a statewide program aimed at saving kids and adults whose hearts stop at schools.

She says AEDs are easy to use and similar to robots in that they tell people in an electronic voice exactly what to do. If a victim's heart isn't beating, the machine senses that, then tells the user to push a button that triggers an electrical jolt to get the organ pumping again.

In this case, it worked, and Hungerbuhler, a respiratory therapist at Children's Healthcare, was joking with paramedics while hurtling toward St. Joseph's Hospital.

"I felt no pain," he says. "I had jogged with my wife two miles that week. I work out. But I still had a sudden cardiac arrest."

Ellison says most people aren't aware that there's a difference between sudden cardiac arrest and heart attack, also called myocardial infarction. Heart attacks are caused by blockages that stop blood flow to the heart, while cardiac arrests occur due to an electrical malfunction, killing 134,000 people a year.

"I thought, 'there's no way my husband is here, dying,' but at the same time I remembered everything I'm trained to do," Trish says. "We got his heart going with the AED."

"We are lucky," Hungerbuhler says. "It's great to be alive."

Suggest a Hometown Hero

Every other Wednesday, Bill Hendrick shines a spotlight on extraordinary and selfless acts by our friends and neighbors. To suggest someone for this feature, email writer@billhendrick.com.

DeKalb

Schools to hold forum on technology needs

The DeKalb County school system will host a public forum on Feb. 15 to gather opinions about technology needs for its triennial technology plan update.

Officials will assess technology needs in the classroom and offices before applying for grants, including federal eRate funds, to make upgrades.

The meeting is from 7 to 8 p.m. at school system headquarters, 1701 Mountain Industrial Blvd., Stone Mountain. **TYTAGAMI**

More asbestos work needed at rec center

Renovation of Decatur's Recreation Center will need further asbestos abatement work, costing an additional \$26,800. Deputy City Manager Hugh Saxon reports that additional asbestos materials were found under the gym floor, but he added that the center, which originally opened in 1958, should reopen next January as scheduled.

The \$6.9 million project includes a new gym and an elevated running track of approximately 130 yards. Other features include a climbing wall, catering kitchen and a computer lab for after-school programs. **BILL BANKS FOR THE AJC**

Diabetes workshop geared toward seniors

Senior Connections is offering a free workshop for senior citizens who are learning about how to live with diabetes.

The nonprofit will provide registered dietitians for a two-hour class March 3 at the Mack Love Community Center. Registration is limited so the session can be hands-on and as interactive as possible.

To register: www.seniorconnectionsatl.org or by mail to Diabetes Workshop, Senior Connections, 5238 Peachtree Road, Atlanta, GA 30341. **APRIL HUNT**

Stone Mountain CID to meet Thursday

The Stone Mountain Community Improvement District will hold its quarterly meeting Thursday.

The session will update security, landscaping and economic development efforts by the district. The meeting begins at noon at Eagle Rock Distributing on Beverage Drive.

More information: www.StoneMountainCID.com. **APRIL HUNT**