

The Augusta Chronicle

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Monday, February 28, 2011

Daily Deal: Get your home bug-free. Details, 2A

SPECIAL



Lindsey's still a winner at home
Song doesn't snag Oscar; 'Speech' triumphs, 8A

FOR A COMPLETE LIST of Oscar winners, go to augustachronicle.com.

Match Play:
Luke Donald wins in Arizona. Golf, 1C

Making a good, clean living



Carolyn Green, 14, milks a goat at Shakerock Farm in Thomson. The Green family, which includes nine children, makes a living off products made from goat milk, including soaps and lip balm. Their products are sold in local stores, festivals and online.

Farm-fresh goat products become family business

By Lynn Davidson
Staff Writer

It's like a scene from the late 1800s — rolling acres of farmland; horses, cows and donkeys in the pastures; little boys with pocket knives whittling sticks; and little girls in dresses gathering eggs.

But modern cars are parked in the driveway and, when it snowed recently, the children sledged on Rubbermaid lids towed by a golf cart.

Kenny and Valerie Green live on Shakerock Farm in western McDuffie County with their nine children, who are homeschooled and heavily involved in taking care of the 90-acre farm.

"We are thankful to have a place for the kids to have responsibilities and to work with their hands and not sit idle in front of a television or video games all day," Valerie said.

When the sixth child, Thomas, was born with eczema, a family business was born. Valerie and eldest daughter Carolyn did research to find ways to treat the skin disorder, and what they discovered coincided nicely with one of Carolyn's pet projects. She had received three small goats for her birthday that year. Their research revealed that bathing the skin with goat milk soap would help the irritation.

"It started clicking," Valerie said. "We looked up the recipe and made a few bars for us and for the family."

"Then more people heard about it and wanted the soap, and it developed a life of its own," Kenny added.

Carolyn is in charge of milking at least one of the goats — there are now four — twice a day. It's a job that has to be done seven days a week, 365 days a year, so when Carolyn can't do it, her brothers — Joseph, 10, Benjamin, 9,



Thomas, 6, and Grace, 7, watch their sister Carolyn pour goat milk. The family makes about a dozen fragrances of soaps, which vary depending on the season.

and Thomas, 6 — fill in.

"I work with all the animals, but the goats are my favorite," Carolyn said.

She strains the milk and places it in the freezer "until slushy." Valerie then mixes in extra-virgin olive oil or palm oil.

"Carolyn and Valerie spent hours researching the proportion of oils to come up with a formula that won't dry the skin out," Kenny explained.

"We're very selective. Just because it's natural doesn't mean it's good for you," Valerie said.

Kenny makes a lye solution to add to the blended ingredients.

"Sugars in milk caramelize real easily,

so we have to constantly stir it to keep it from burning," he said. "I like to keep a thermometer in it, but Valerie and Carolyn don't need one."

The whole process takes about two hours. The next day, the soap is unmolded, cut into bars and placed on racks to air-cure for four weeks.

The younger siblings then help Carolyn cut fabric and raffia and wrap it around each bar. They place the bars on shelves in "the soap room" in the entryway of the house.

"Carolyn has an eye for picking out fabric to go with the scent of the soap," Valerie said.

Please see **FARM** on **PAGE 8A**

PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

Advocates, educators fight cuts

By Dorie Turner
and Shannon McCaffrey
Associated Press

ATLANTA — A plan to scale back Georgia's free, full-day pre-kindergarten program — the first of its kind in the U.S. — to a half-day has teachers fearing shrunken paychecks and working parents scrambling to find day care for their 4-year-olds.

Republican Gov. Nathan Deal has proposed shortening the pre-K day from 6½ hours to four hours, which GOP leaders say would save the 84,000-student program about \$54 million. Deal, who recently announced a dramatic overhaul plan that he says is needed to keep lottery-funded initiatives such as pre-kindergarten from going broke, also proposed adding 5,000 slots to ease a nearly 10,000-child wait list.

Many other states and private preschools already operate with a four-hour day, and schools should have plenty of time to teach if they plan well, Deal said when he announced the overhaul Tuesday. He has said schools could trim lunchtime and naptime to give students more learning time.

Studies show attending pre-K gives poor students a better chance of graduating high school and going to college.

Advocates fear low-income families could suffer the most, noting that 60 percent of children in Georgia's pre-K program come from families that earn less than \$40,000 a year.

Bobby Cagle, the head of the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, said Deal wants to help districts by providing more funding for aftercare programs for at-risk children

COLUMBIA COUNTY MAY CUT PROGRAM

Columbia County likely would eliminate its public school pre-K program if Gov. Nathan Deal's proposed cuts go through.

Superintendent Charles Nagle said local taxpayers subsidize the county's 20 pre-K classrooms with about \$100,000 per year. That allows the system to take a 6½-hour pre-K program up to a full day so the pupils can ride to and from school on a regular bus schedule.

Cutting back to half-days would require additional bus service to take those roughly 400 children home in the middle of the day, Nagle said, or it would force the county to pay for extending the program to a full day. Either way, local costs would rise to about \$500,000 — and the county can't afford it.

"It's going to be very difficult for us to justify that," Nagle said. The school board hasn't deliberated on the proposed changes, he added.

Nagle said the school system likely would be able to absorb the staff into other elementary school positions, but he's less certain whether there is enough private child-care capacity in the county to handle the additional children — particularly in the Appling, Harlem and Grovetown areas.

"My guess would be we're going to have to be the bad guy and tell some of these people to get on the list for day care," Nagle said.

— From staff reports

MORE ON PRE-K CUTS

► Richmond County weighs impact of cuts/8A

Please see **PRE-K** on **PAGE 8A**



Pre-kindergartner Marcus Singletary attended a Pre-K Day ceremony at the Capitol in Atlanta on Tuesday. Advocates gathered to push for more early education for Georgia's children on the same day Gov. Nathan Deal proposed cuts.

WEATHER



Increasing clouds
High: 84 Low: 50
More weather on Page 8C

See it now

BROWSE AND SHARE photos from weekend events at spotted.augusta.com.



INDEX

Section A	
Nation	3A
World	4, 5A
Editorial	6A
Oscars	8A
Section B	
Metro	1, 2B
State	2-4B
Obituaries	6B
Science	7B
Business	8-10B
Section C	
Sports	1-5C
Baseball	3C
Auto racing	3C
Golf	4C
Basketball	4, 5C
Television	6C
Bridge	6C
Comics	7C
Puzzles	8C
Section D	
Classified	1-10D

DEATHS

Mr. Clarence H. Atkinson	Matthews, Ga.
Mrs. Helen D. Best	Ellijay, Ga.
Mrs. Lois M. Effingham	Augusta
Mr. Frederick C. Evans Jr.	Bartow, Ga.
Mr. Willie L. Goff	Augusta
Mr. Morris Grissom	Thomson
Mrs. Brenda C. Mack	Thomson
Mr. Phillip S. Page	Virginia
Mrs. Virginia S. Page	Augusta
Mrs. Betty A. Richardson	Augusta
Mr. Carl Toney	Athens, Ga.
Mrs. Charlotte Walden	Beech Island
Mr. LeRoy Williams	Augusta

Price at the pump could slow recovery

Associated Press

NEW YORK — High fuel prices are putting the squeeze on drivers' wallets just as they are starting to feel better about the economy. They're also forcing tough choices on small-business owners who are loathe to charge more for fear of losing cost-conscious customers.

Gasoline prices rose 4 percent last week to a national average of \$3.29 a gallon. That's the highest level ever for this time of year, when prices are typically low. With unrest in the Middle East and North Africa lifting the price of oil to the \$100-a-barrel range, analysts say pump prices are likely headed higher.

For drivers such as Robert Wagner, 51, a high school teacher from Thornton, Colo., the higher fuel costs mean cutting back on movies and dinners out for his family.

"We're very, very frugal right now," he



Over a year, analysts estimate, oil at \$100 a barrel would reduce U.S. economic growth by 0.2 or 0.3 percentage points. Rather than grow an estimated 3.7 percent, the economy would expand 3.4 percent or 3.5 percent. That would mean less hiring and higher unemployment.

said as he trickled enough \$3.09-a-gallon gasoline into his Chevrolet Suburban to get him to his next pay day.

Analysts and economists worry that by lowering profits for businesses and reducing disposable income for drivers, high fuel prices could slow the recovery.

Americans are less prepared to absorb the spike in gasoline prices than they were the last time prices rose this high, in 2008, because unemployment is higher and real estate values are lower, says David Portalatin, an analyst for the

market research firm NPD Group.

It has been four months since gasoline topped \$3 per gallon. In that time, drivers have spent \$14 billion more on fuel than they did a year ago, Portalatin says.

Diane Swonk, chief economist at Mesirow Financial in Chicago, says this year's cut in payroll taxes offers consumers a buffer against higher fuel prices. Still, she expects all but the wealthiest Americans to cut back on discretionary spending. And the longer prices stay high, the more damage they do.

Gasoline prices rose throughout last fall as the developing nations of Asia and the recovering economies of the West began using more oil.

Much of the recent unrest took place in countries that are not big producers of oil. But when Libya plunged into chaos, there were disruptions in shipments of its high-quality crude, which is well-suited to making gasoline.