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January 20, 2011
Historical marker commemorates Civil War 150th
 Vaishali Patel
 The Union-Recorder



MILLEDGEVILLE — Community officials, local residents, students and visitors turned out Wednesday for a historical marker dedication outside the north gate of Georgia Military College commemorating the 150th anniversary of the secession debates.

The program kicked off with a color guard presentation by GMC cadets followed by a welcome and recognition by the Georgia Historical Society (GHS) President and CEO Dr. Todd Groce.

"The Georgia Historical Society is Georgia's independent statewide historical institution responsible for collecting, examining and teaching Georgia and American history," he said during his introduction. "The Georgia Historical Society is home to the oldest and most distinguished collection of archival material related to Georgia exclusively to Georgia history anywhere in the nation."

Groce proceeded to explain how GHS is responsible for administering the historical marker program for the state of Georgia, under a privatization arrangement, since 1998. In partnership with the Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD) and the Georgia Battlefields Association, the project will promote tourism and create better access to Georgia's Civil War history.

"It was only natural when the preparations and plans began for the Civil War [150th anniversary] that the Society would come forward with a proposal to put up new historical markers telling new stories that had not been told as a part of the Civil War through historical markers," he said to the intrigued crowd. "What we discovered was that over 90 percent of the historical markers were about battles and military engagements; there was nothing about African-Americans, there was nothing about women, there was nothing about the homefront and there was very little about politics and industry, so we knew where the holes in the stories were and that these would be the markers the Society would go about putting up."

Mayor Richard Bentley provided his community remarks afterward to those in attendance.

"I think we are indeed lucky to not only live in this great community but to be here at this time to witness a commemoration and celebration of the 150th anniversary of the secession and entry into the Civil War," he said.

State Sen. Johnny Grant was present to be part of the historical community marking and to introduce GDEcD Commissioner Chris Cummiskey for his partner remarks followed by Groce's keynote address.


"It is so important to tourism in Georgia for events like this, especially kickoff. People forget about tourism and the impact it has on the economy in Georgia," he said. "I didn't really realize until Deputy Commissioner Kevin Langston for the tourism division [at the GDEcD] sat me down one day and said 'do you know how much money tourism brings to Georgia? About \$30 billion in revenue.'"

Groce and Bentley unveiled the historical marker to the public before Charlie Crawford with the Georgia Battlefields Association read its words.

"On Jan. 16, 1861, the Georgia Secession Convention met here to consider seceding from the United States," Crawford said as he read the marker. "Secession began in response to Abraham Lincoln's election as president the previous November and the belief that his Republican party was 'anti-slavery in its mission and its purpose.'"

Local resident Quentin Howell shared his sentiments with The Union-Recorder on his thoughts about the historical marker.

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Mayor Richard Bentley provided residents and visitors his sentiments on highlighting Milledgeville as the capital of Georgia during the Civil War.

Vaishali Patel

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"This 150th anniversary really marks the end of, what was at the time, slavery," he said after the dedication. "I'm a firm believer in the county being able to bridge the understanding of the past to make a great future."

After the ceremony, those in attendance made their way to Georgia's Old Capital Museum for a reception and refreshments. Museum Executive Director Amy Wright said the historic marker will highlight Milledgeville as Georgia's antebellum capital during the Civil War throughout the United States and world.

"The marker calls attention to rich resources that surround those of us who live in Milledgeville," she said during the reception. "It is a most fitting event for this week of commemorating Milledgeville's signal role in the Civil War."

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Condemned Ga. man wants lethal injection details



A condemned Georgia man scheduled to die next week asked a judge Thursday to delay the execution because his lawyers claim the state won't hand over key details about a lethal injection drug that has been hard to track down amid a nationwide shortage.

January 20, 2011 | [Read](#)

Fun factory opens Saturday
At The Fun Factory, partners Lori Heayberd and Patti Rushin hope they can build a sense of joy and excitement for the community by following a simple commission — to make every child that crosses the threshold feel special.



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Feds: 3-man gun ring in Ga. dismantled
Federal prosecutors said they have uncovered and dismantled a three-man ring accused of plotting to smuggle semiautomatic assault rifles across the border to Mexico.



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Union or secession?
Principal characters brought to life the debate that ignited the Civil War Tuesday evening in a re-enactment of the Georgia Secession Convention debate in the former state capital building.



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BOE aims for Board of Distinction
After complying to the required Standards of the Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA), the Baldwin County Board of Education is finally ready to begin the process toward being recognized as a Board of Distinction.



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Atlanta public school system put on probation
An educational standards agency said Tuesday it has placed Atlanta Public Schools on probation and given the system nine months to make improvements or risk losing accreditation for its high schools.



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What a neat business. The Fun Factory opens Saturday in #Milledgeville.
<http://tinyurl.com/6yszwsf> about 15 hours ago

Baldwin BOE wants to be board of distinction.
<http://tinyurl.com/qbt6w3b> 1 day ago

Baldwin, Putnam, JMA, GMC Prep and Junior College closed Tuesday. 10 days ago

Georgia Office of Highway Safety issues driver precautions. <http://tinyurl.com/26qufzu> 10 days ago

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Community Calendar

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First Friday kicks off next month



The first Friday of every month will take on new meaning in Milledgeville come February, as the city kicks off its community-wide celebration of the arts.

January 18, 2011 5:56pm

Restoring the Dream



In a showing that would have made the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. proud, local areas residents from all walks of life — black, white, rich, poor, children and adults, students and citizens, community leaders and residents — came out in full force Monday for a day of service in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the federally recognized holiday.

January 18, 2011 5:56pm

DA: Woman released from prison too soon



A district attorney says a woman who was supposed to serve at least two years in prison after she was convicted of killing a baby was released a year too soon by mistake.

January 17, 2011 1:46pm

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Feb 3 **Jason Aldean**

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Our Weekly Poll

Do you agree with the Georgia Council on Tax Reform's recommendation to bring back the grocery tax and lower state income taxes?

- Yes
- No
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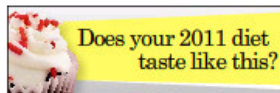
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