

Please Sign In and use this article's on page print button to print this article.

NEWS
THE INSIDER

Famous inventors: Edison? Bell? Szlam?

IN THIS ARTICLE

EVERY STORY | EVERY CITY

UPGRADE TODAY

UPGRADE MEMBERSHIP

GET NATIONWIDE ACCESS

well-known inventions in an upcoming Learning Channel documentary.

The documentary, untitled and set to run in October, will take one hour to feature frequently overlooked but widely used inventions and their creators.

Szlam and his predictive dialer, mainly used by call centers and first used in the mid-1980s by schools to call parents when their children missed a day of school, will share the spotlight with inventions such as the hot-air hand dryer, the leaf blower, Muzak, voice mail and the parking meter.

"I felt that we never got the recognition or even the mentioning that we deserved," Szlam said. "So we

... 1 1 . . . 1 1 "

EVERY STORY | EVERY CITY

UPGRADE TODAY

UPGRADE MEMBERSHIP

GET NATIONWIDE ACCESS

**UPGRADE TO
NATIONWIDE ACCESS**
**Get Industry Insights
From 45+ Major Cities**

PLUS ACCESS EVERY
STORY FROM EVERY
NEWSROOM

UPGRADE MY MEMBERSHIP

University of Georgia economist Jeff Humphreys is moving to Atlanta.

Humphreys is selling his home in Athens to move here, where his wife, Oksana, works as a research analyst at Southern Co.

Humphreys has been splitting time between his house in Athens and the couple's apartment on Cheshire Bridge Road since Oksana started working for Southern Co. in February. He will move to Atlanta after selling the Athens home.

Humphreys has been working in Atlanta one day a week at the Atlanta Financial Center office of UGA's Terry College of Business. He plans to work at least two days a week there after the move.

Even as a full-time Atlantan, Humphreys will spend several days a week in Athens tending to his duties as director of the Selig Center for Economic Growth. The trip usually takes

EVERY STORY | EVERY CITY

UPGRADE TODAY

UPGRADE MEMBERSHIP

GET NATIONWIDE ACCESS

"Being on the ground gives you critical insight," said Humphreys, whose economic forecasts are closely followed. "I can do a pretty good job on the statewide economy and national trends in Athens but there's some native intelligence to be gained being on the ground in Atlanta."

Little relief in sight

Financially struggling hospitals looking for relief from Uncle Sam will be hard-pressed to find a receptive ear when Congress reconvenes Sept. 5 -- unless they happen to be rural hospitals.

For two years in a row, the federal government gave back to hospitals some of the money it had taken by slashing Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements as part of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

But wide-scale "givebacks" aren't likely to happen again this

EVERY STORY | EVERY CITY

UPGRADE TODAY

UPGRADE MEMBERSHIP

GET NATIONWIDE ACCESS

especially those that treat a disproportionate number of poor and charity-care patients.

Georgia Hospital Association officials, sensing that legislators may be unreceptive to repeated pleas for help, have said the organization will support measures for better work-force compensation.

Georgia's U.S. senators, Democrats Max Cleland and Zell Miller, have supported wage and base payment improvement measures, which could bring up to \$28 million to Georgia hospitals.

Plan ahead

If you want to get a long-term perspective or have any kind of "visionary" types of questions for the head of BB&T Corp. you need to plan ahead, said A.-C. McGraw, the media relations manager at the bank. Way ahead.

EVERY STORY | EVERY CITY

UPGRADE TODAY

UPGRADE MEMBERSHIP

GET NATIONWIDE ACCESS

Why?

"He needs to have that information to make a determination," McGraw said.

What kind of determination -- whether he wants to be interviewed?

"It's helpful. That will help him prepare," she said. "It's primarily a scheduling challenge."

To run or not to run

State Sen. Sonny Perdue, R-Bonair, is tired of being asked if he will run for governor. He said he has not "really designed a career ladder in politics." And, frankly, he feels a bit battered and backed into a corner. So, he is considering.

"I haven't ruled out anything," Perdue said. "I am at the point where I am concerned for the future of Georgia. Someone

EVERY STORY | EVERY CITY

UPGRADE TODAY

UPGRADE MEMBERSHIP

GET NATIONWIDE ACCESS

The Republican Perdue, who was once a Democrat, is said to be a leading contender if he runs. His announcement would be in early October, if he decides to run.

"If I ran, I would run to win," Perdue said. "I am not running as a martyr."

Moving up, but not on

Longtime Atlanta radio executive John Hogan has been promoted to president and chief operating officer of Clear Channel Radio, a division of Clear Channel Worldwide of San Antonio, Texas.

But he won't be moving away.

"He likes Atlanta and he'll be in a plane most of the time anyway," said Pam Taylor, a company spokesperson.

Hogan was traveling in a plane and couldn't be reached for

EVERY STORY | EVERY CITY

UPGRADE TODAY

UPGRADE MEMBERSHIP

GET NATIONWIDE ACCESS

Help wanted

Georgia has an official state historian and poet laureate. There also is an official state insect, a reptile, a fish, a rock -- even an official state dance. By the end of the year, an official viticulturist should join the ranks.

The University of Georgia Extension Service plans to soon begin advertising for a new viticulturist extension agent to advise the state's growing number of vineyards and wineries on such matters as how to grow bigger, tastier grapes; how to fertilize soil and how to protect grape vines from frost, bugs and blights, said Douglas A. Bailey, the head of UGA's Department of Horticulture. The viticulturist will report to Bailey.

Officials do not expect to be squashed by a flood of applications from Georgia.

EVERY STORY | EVERY CITY

UPGRADE TODAY

UPGRADE MEMBERSHIP

GET NATIONWIDE ACCESS

Just to ensure a good crop of applicants is ready to get picked by the Nov. 15 deadline, UGA is sending e-mail notices to all U.S. agricultural schools and placing job advertisements in agricultural trade journals. The position requires a master's degree, and pays "in the mid-\$40,000s, depending upon experience," Bailey said.

Sign of competition

The hottest topic right now for the mayor's race for the city of Atlanta is not education or public tax dollars at work. It is the illegal posting of signs.

Candidates say their signs are being stolen and then illegally posted in public right of ways and nailed to trees. And most of this thievery is occurring on the south side of Atlanta.

"It's out of hand," said candidate Gloria Bromell-Tinubu. She sends her task force out to take signs down that have been

EVERY STORY | EVERY CITY

UPGRADE TODAY

UPGRADE MEMBERSHIP

GET NATIONWIDE ACCESS

Some of the finger-pointing has been aimed at Shirley Franklin's campaign, but Franklin too says she's dealing with stolen signs. Her campaign posted 1,000 signs in southwest Atlanta and they have all been removed.

"Including one in my yard," she said.

Candidates running for city council offices have asked Pitts to ensure that the law is followed, but, even though he is the current council president, he said he has no power.

"The city won't enforce the law," he said.

The law is that campaign signs cannot be any bigger than 35 square feet and may be displayed on private property. Signs are specifically prohibited, under city ordinance Sec. 16-28A.007, from being in public rights of way and public property.

EVERY STORY | EVERY CITY

UPGRADE TODAY

UPGRADE MEMBERSHIP

GET NATIONWIDE ACCESS

Expect to see the Hammerin' Hank Aaron starring in commercials for the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce's new "Make an Educated Choice" campaign this September. Aaron, who was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1982, agreed to do the commercial with four kids from Centennial Place Elementary School. The spot will air on WABE, and his voice will be used for radio commercials.

The commercials will be part of the chamber's campaign effort, which includes 50 donated billboards, to encourage residents to vote for their school board. Laura Kane, a spokesperson for the chamber, said people need to be aware that the school board makes decisions affecting local property taxes and budgets. Candidates for the school board have until Sept. 14 to register.

We're about quality

Lamenting over a recent dinner about missing Madonna's step

EVERY STORY | EVERY CITY

UPGRADE TODAY

UPGRADE MEMBERSHIP

GET NATIONWIDE ACCESS

the major health insurers serving northern metro Atlanta, leaving many of its competitors wringing their hands.

The contracts often dictate that patients living in certain ZIP codes visit only Northside for all of their medical care. That means fewer patients and less money for rival hospitals, and forces some consumers to bypass their own community hospitals.

When a "public awareness" campaign, launched by North Fulton, brought pressure from lawmakers earlier this year, Northside didn't budge. When Aetna U.S. Healthcare walked away from negotiations with Northside in August, refusing to sign an exclusive contract, the hospital didn't waver, Kirschner said.

But when the carefully drawn lines around Northside's reputation began to blur, and when patients began to grow

1 **.1** **'**

EVERY STORY | EVERY CITY

UPGRADE TODAY

UPGRADE MEMBERSHIP

GET NATIONWIDE ACCESS

Undeniably Northside has become a favorite among mothers-to-be and has successfully branded its name, devoting millions to establishing a full range of women's services, delivered in a state-of-the-art women's center.

Some consumers have asked for better access to more hospitals, but whether or not they choose to use that access remains to be seen, Kirschner added.

Edited by Jim Molis.

Contributing writers include Charles Arnold, Julie Bryant, Jim Lovel, Sarah Lunday, Megan McRaney and Jim Molis.

Latest BizSpotlight

[More >](#)

AMMUNITION

FEATURED

EVERY STORY | EVERY CITY

UPGRADE TODAY

UPGRADE MEMBERSHIP

GET NATIONWIDE ACCESS

Society of America (PRSA) during an awards c...

Mad Hat Creative, an Atlanta-based video and content...

FEATURED



MANAGEMENT CONSULTING

The Workplace Coach

General News

ATLANTA, June 7, 2023 – Executives who adopt a coaching mindset dramatically boost their impact and effectiveness as people leaders, according to The ...

Back to Top ▲

ATLANTA BUSINESS CHRONICLE

[User Agreement](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Ad Choices](#) |  [Cookie Settings](#)

EVERY STORY | EVERY CITY

UPGRADE TODAY

UPGRADE MEMBERSHIP

GET NATIONWIDE ACCESS

