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Local in brief

By Jeffrey Scott, Joe Guy Collier, Leon Stafford, Michelle E. Shaw
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
Thursday, July 09, 2009

New poultry rules target contamination

Chicken growers and processors in Georgia, the nation's largest poultry and egg producing state, don't know yet what new procedures announced this week by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Food and Drug Administration will cost them when rolled into place a year from now.

The new inspection and food safety regulations will generate \$1.4 billion in public health "benefits" — or reduced cost of medical care for people sickened from eating contaminated chicken and eggs — according to FDA spokeswoman Susan Cruzan. The rules will cost the poultry industry about \$81 million to enact.

Georgia produced about \$3.94 billion worth of poultry and eggs last year, out of \$35.9 billion worth for the whole industry. Cruzan said state agricultural departments will play a role in enforcing the new regulations.

The FDA estimates the new rules will help reduce the number of food-borne illnesses associated with the consumption of raw or undercooked contaminated eggs by 79,000 or about 60 percent. The regulations will take effect with the largest producers in a year; smaller producers have three years to follow them, said Cruzan. JEFFRY SCOTT

New pizzeria set to open near CNN Center

Concentrics Restaurants announced this week the opening of Max's Coal Oven Pizzeria in downtown Atlanta. The restaurant, at 300 Marietta St. NW near CNN Center, features New York-style pizza baked in a coal oven.

It's the latest restaurant from Concentrics, which owns a host of Atlanta restaurants including One Midtown Kitchen, Two Urban Licks, Tap, Parish and Stats. The company recently opened 30 Tables and 11 Stories at the Glenn Hotel in downtown Atlanta. JOE GUY COLLIER

Chick-fil-A plans to open 80 stores this year

Backed by strong sales through the first half of the year, Atlanta-based Chick-fil-A increased projections Wednesday for the number of stores it expects to open in 2009.

Chick-fil-A, which has more than 1,400 outlets, expects to open 80 new locations in 2009, up from 76 openings it projected in January, the company.

Chick-fil-A has opened 31 new restaurants so far this year. Its systemwide sales are up about 10 percent through June.

The chicken sandwich chain will celebrate Friday its fifth-annual "Cow Appreciation Day," offering a free meal to customers fully dressed as a cow. JOE GUY COLLIER

Duvall coming, Johnson going at GWCC

Georgia World Congress Center assistant general manager Kevin Duvall has been named chief operating officer for the Georgia World Congress Center Authority, the No. 2 position behind Executive Director Dan Graveline.

Duvall takes over for Khalil Johnson, who leaves the position at the end of July.

Duvall was named assistant general manager of GWCC in 2006. Prior to that, he was assistant general manager of the Georgia Dome for four years. Before coming to the GWCC, Duvall spent 10 years at the Alamodome in San Antonio, where his jobs included event staff coordinator and facility manager.

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Johnson, who has been at the GWCC for 30 years, leaves July 31 with plans to spend time with family. Before being tapped to be COO, Johnson was general manager of the dome. He also has been director of event services for the GWCC. LEON STAFFORD

Web site created to meet bank loan demand

Coldwell Banker NRT Development Advisors has launched a Web site to meet the growing demand for bank-owned residential real estate. The site, www.cbbankowned.com, was created by Atlanta-based creative services agency Mock and is designed to be an educational tool as well as a house-hunting guide, said Lesile Williamson, spokeswoman for Coldwell Banker.

The site includes a resource guide to help potential buyers understand the properties on the site and upcoming auctions, she said. MICHELLE E. SHAW

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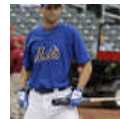
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