

## Georgia glimpses

- Pancakes with a side of charity are on the menu across the country Feb. 26 at IHOP, with the celebration of National Pancake Day. The national pancake chain will serve patrons a free short stack of pancakes from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. while taking donations to children's charities, including First Book, a national nonprofit organization that gives children from low-income families the opportunity to own their first new book. For a listing of the 54 IHOP locations in Georgia, visit [www.ihop.com](http://www.ihop.com).

- Officials for Americus-based Habitat for Humanity announced that their headquarters will remain in the Southwest Georgia town, with plans to establish an administrative office in the greater Atlanta area. Dedicated to eliminating poverty housing worldwide, Habitat completed its 200,000th home in 2005, housing its millionth person since 1976. Find them online at [www.habitat.org](http://www.habitat.org).



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- IKEA officials and Gov. Sonny Perdue recently announced that IKEA will build a 1.7-million-square-foot distribution center at the Savannah River International Trade Park, not far from the Port of Savannah. IKEA, the world's largest home furnishings retailer, plans for the first phase of its distribution center to be fully functional by summer 2007, serving as a primary inventory point for IKEA stores in the Southeast and Texas, as well as other stores across the country as needed.

- The Georgia Perennial Plant Association celebrates the floral beauty of the state in its upcoming meetings at the Atlanta History Center's McElreath Hall. The Feb. 21 program, "Trekking in Bhutan: A Search for Rare Finds," features Scott McMahan, who has traveled the world looking for plants to propagate for Southern gardens at his cutting-edge nursery in Clermont. More trillium species are native to Georgia than any other state, and David Mellard will address many of the species he cultivates in his "Trilliums for Georgia Gardeners" lecture, set for March 21. For more on these events that are open and free to the public, visit [www.georgiaperennial.org](http://www.georgiaperennial.org) or call (404) 876-0813.

## Education in the Loop

Students love field trips. But how much learning actually takes place on the traditional field trip? The Georgia Aquarium is exploring new depths in this age-old experience with the launch of their new educational program.

Loosely based on the traditional trip, the Aquarium's Educational Loop offers so much more by becoming an extension of the classroom. The program is interactive and allows students to work with scientists, veterinarians and the animals; it's also interdisciplinary, incorporating subjects like social studies, language arts, biology, conservation and mathematics. And four different educational levels, targeting specific age groups, meet the state's curriculum requirements. Even teachers are provided professional development opportunities with two summer field experiences (with continuing education credit) available in 2006.

The Loop's facility, separate



GA-AQUARIUM

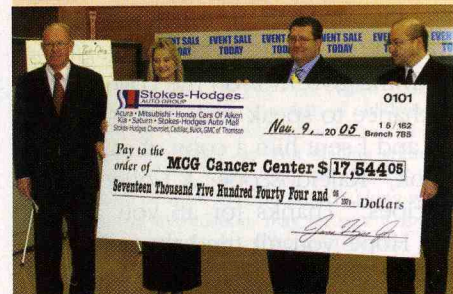


from the general public area, includes classrooms, labs, observation decks and a separate lunchroom, providing students with a unique learning opportunity. Teachers may contact the Aquarium for further

information or visit [www.georgiaaquarium.org](http://www.georgiaaquarium.org).

—Glenda Rogers

## \$17,500 raised for MCG Cancer Center



The inaugural Greg Hodges Golf Tournament in Augusta recently donated more than \$17,500 to the MCG Cancer Center, which offers regional and national clinical trials and cutting-edge treatment such as the Gamma Knife to oncology patients in the Southeast. Pictured, from left to right, are James "Cotton" Flynn, general manager of Acura of Augusta and the Stokes-Hodges Auto Mall; Jan Hodges, co-owner of the Stokes-Hodges Auto Group; Shawn Vincent, MCG Health Inc. administrative director of Cancer Services; and MCG neurologist Dr. Alfredo Voloschin.

## Did you KNOW?

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division officials noted more than 1,800 wood stork nests in the state in 2005. Up from 1,595 nests in 2004, these lanky endangered birds call South Georgia's wetlands home.