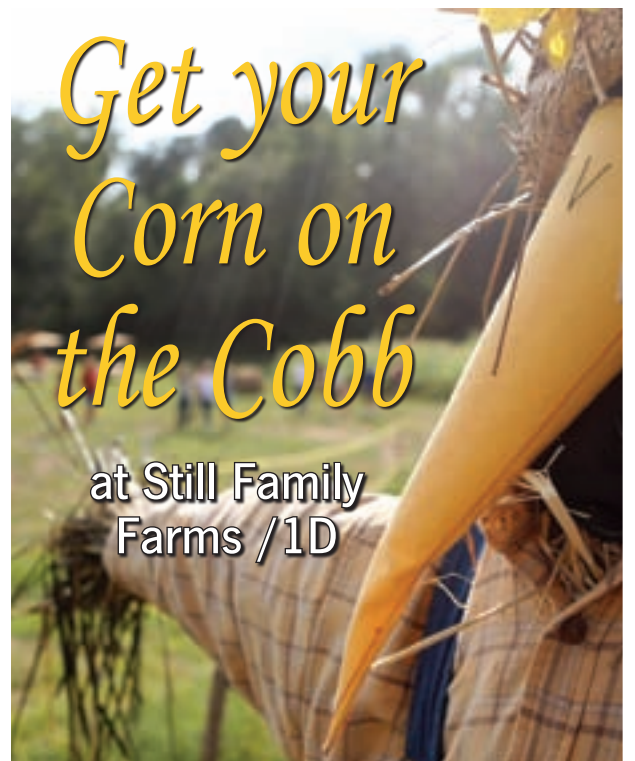




FACES OF KELLY BARNHILL
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COBB'S LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1866

Marietta Daily Journal

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2014 ♦ MDJONLINE.COM ♦ 75 CENTS

WEATHER: 89 | 70



STRAY AFTERNOON THUNDERSTORM > 8C

OPINION: COLUMNIST YARBROUGH'S THOUGHTS ON 'SEPTEMBER'S SONG' > 6A



Connie Engel, a Cumberland CID board member, looks out over the expanse of the Galleria, near where the Braves will be relocating.

Kelly J. Huff

On a clear day you can see ...

Economic impact

4,014: Total new jobs

1,926: Total new jobs for Cobb residents

\$60.8M: Total earnings for year

\$4M: Tax revenue per year

*Brailsford Analysis

Connie Engel

- ◆ **POSITION:** Partner with Childress Klein Properties and board member of the Cumberland CID
- ◆ **HOME:** The 30-year Cobb County resident lives in Vinings
- ◆ **FAMILY:** Pete Watson, husband; Jackie Grech, 32, daughter; Sarah Oddsen DeCaro, 31, daughter; Ellis Watson, 21, son
- ◆ **EDUCATION:** University of Iowa, majored in communications

What the Braves will mean, financially, to local business

— By Ricky Leroux / rleroux@mdjonline.com —

CUMBERLAND — Commercial property owners in the Cumberland area will contribute a total of \$5.15 million each year to help fund the construction of the new \$672 million Atlanta Braves stadium, but leaders of the Cumberland Community Improvement District expect nearby businesses will see a significant return on this investment.

On Feb. 25, the Cobb Board of

Commissioners approved the creation of the Cumberland Special Services District II, a district with the same boundaries as the Cumberland CID that requires owners of commercial properties to pay an additional 2.7 mills in property tax to bring in the required \$5.15 million. The millage rate could possibly be lowered as the value of

BRAVES, 5A

COBB | TAX REFERENDUM

Advocate committee for \$750M SPLOST formed

Anti-SPLOST group: County 'overly dependent' on funds

By Ricky Leroux
rleroux@mdjonline.com

MARIETTA — The committee tasked with campaigning on behalf of a proposed one percent tax to begin in 2016 was announced late Tuesday night and includes a lawyer from Marietta, a business consultant and a member of the South Cobb Redevelopment Authority. If passed, the special purpose local option sales tax is expected to raise \$750 million for Cobb County over its six-year term. The Cobb Board of Commissioners voted 4-1, with Commissioner Bob Ott opposed, on July 22 to allow Cobb citizens to vote on the SPLOST's

approval on Nov. 4. According to a news release, the group will be known as "Secure Cobb's Future" and will be co-chaired by Justin O'Dell, Dale Hughes and Darhyl Watkins. Steve LaMontagne, a partner at Moore Colson, is the committee's treasurer. The release was sent to the Marietta Daily Journal by Jeremy Brand, a political consultant who worked on Cobb Chairman Tim Lee's 2012 re-election campaign. Calls made to Lee late Tuesday were not returned by press time.

SPLOST, 4A



Justin O'Dell



Dale Hughes



Darhyl Watkins

MDJ unveils new look, news lineup

Staff reports

The Marietta Daily Journal is introducing a redesign of our editorial product today that includes a new look and several new features.

The redesign includes the use of more color photos and graphics and more space between story elements that we hope will steer your eye to the different components of the page. We will also be adding a set of fonts to create continuity throughout the entire paper.

New section banners will be color coded and will provide referral lines to stories inside.

"Months of planning have gone into this redesign project, and it's all geared toward making our newspaper more engaging, informative and enlightening

“(The redesign) is all geared toward making our newspaper more engaging, informative and enlightening to our readers.”

— Billy Mitchell, MDJ managing editor

NEW LOOK, 4A

