GOOD WEEK/BAD WEEK

March 22, 2009

A good week for …

> Andrew Wordes. The Roswell man may have some fowl friends, but he's no chicken. When the city cited him for having banned livestock in his backyard, Wordes decided to fight for his right to keep clucking comrades RooRoo, Henrietta, Red Man and nine other chickens as pets. Former Gov. Roy Barnes even swooped in with some pro bono legal help at a municipal court hearing Thursday. The judge postponed a decision until May.

> Aggressive brides-to-be. Hundreds of penny-pinching brides Friday braved Filene's Basement's "Running of the Brides" sale for a chance to find the wedding dress of their dreams. The Buckhead store featured 2,200 designer gowns —- normally priced from $900 to $10,000 —- for $249 to $699.

> Panda fans. Zoo Atlanta's popular PandaCam is up and running again, thanks to a partnership with New Jersey-based EarthCam and a $10,000 donation from Burke, Va., resident Mara Strock. Tech-savvy animal lovers can sneak a peek at baby Xi Lan and family from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays at www.zooatlanta.com.

A bad week for …

> "Little Houdini." A well-known escape artist accused of stealing big rigs couldn't evade police this time. Authorities last week recaptured Christopher Daniel Gay —- who slipped away from a Coffee County, Tenn., sheriff's deputy in Kennesaw earlier this month —- in Lakeland, Fla. Gay also escaped from police in 2000 and 2007.

> County governments. A spike in the number of residents challenging property values could mean trouble for county tax revenue. More than 32,000 property owners in five metro Atlanta counties are contesting assessments this year. The counties —- Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton and Gwinnett —- typically receive fewer than 9,000 filings.

> Kennesaw kids who like to play hooky. The next time a "skip day" rolls around, you probably should give in and head to class. The city is cracking down on truancy with a new ordinance: Youngsters can't hang out in public places from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on school days. There are some exceptions to the rule, which doesn't apply to home-schoolers.

Send your nominations for Good Week/Bad Week to staff writer Michelle Ewing at mewing@ajc.com.