

2014 Better Newspaper Contest



Magazine Product

Weekly

WEST GEORGIA LIVING

Nov./Dec. 2013

Life . Art . Music . People

THE FOOD ISSUE

HAVE A BLUE CHRISTMAS!

Bring the Taste of Summer to your Holiday
table with a Delicious Blueberry Pie

Local chefs highlight some of their
favorite seasonal recipes, page 45

West Georgia residents share
their festive traditions, page 32



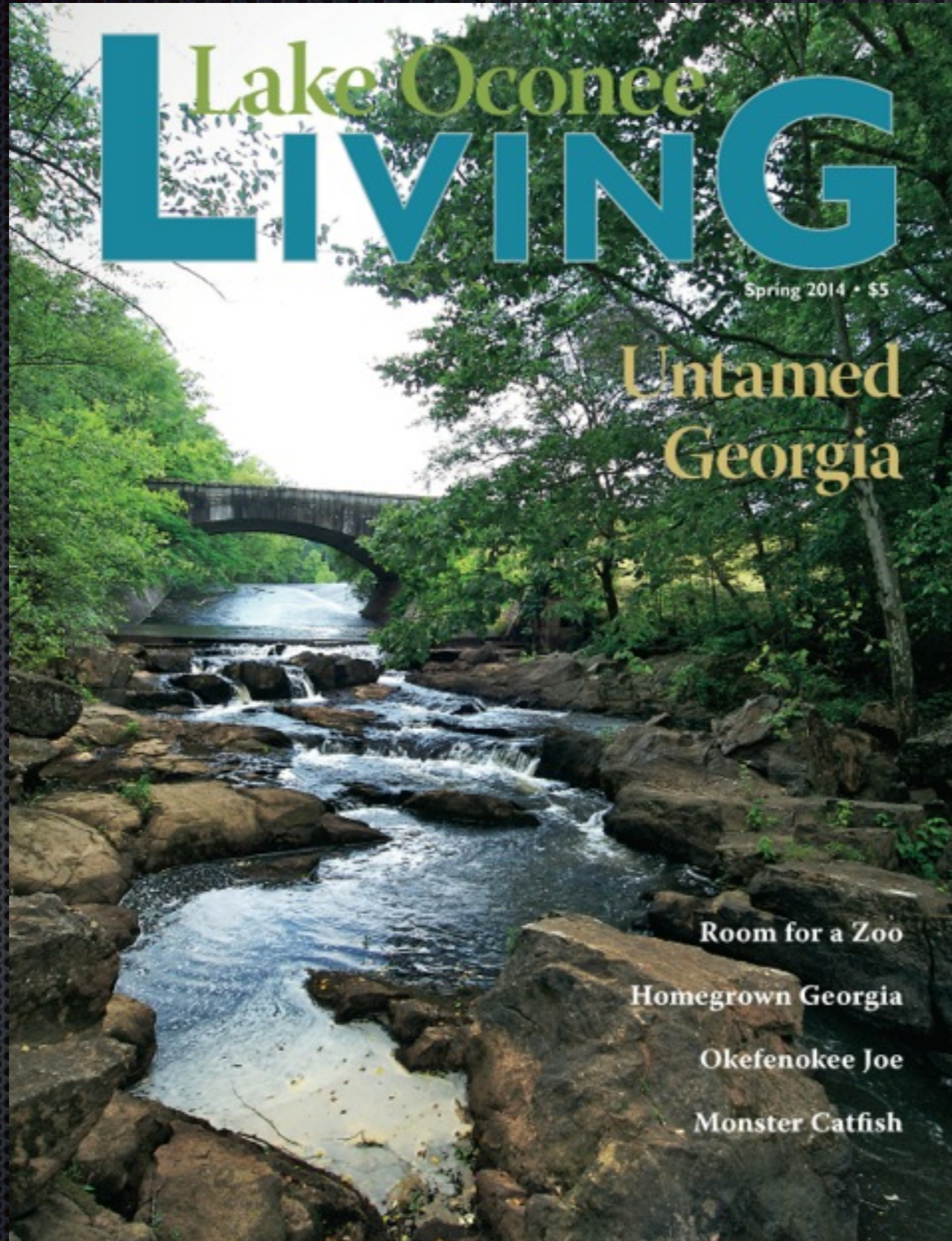
3rd Place

Douglas County
Sentinel,
Douglasville

*West Georgia
Living*

Magazine Product

Weekly



2nd Place

Morgan County
Citizen, Madison

*Lake Oconee
Living*

Magazine Product

Weekly



1st Place

The Coastal
Courier, Hinesville

Liberty Life

Magazine Product

Daily

Golden Isles

THE MAGAZINE FOR BRUNSWICK, ST. SIMONS ISLAND & SEA ISLANDS



3rd Place

The Brunswick
News

Golden Isles

Magazine Product

Daily



2nd Place

The Union-Recorder,
Milledgeville

*Milledgeville
Scene*

Magazine Product

Daily



1st Place

Savannah
Morning News

Savannah
Magazine

Best Photo Gallery on a Newspaper Web site

Daily



3rd Place

Marietta Daily
Journal

Kelly J. Huff

Best Photo Gallery on a Newspaper Web site

Daily

2nd Place

Athens Banner-
Herald

*Karah-Leigh Hancock
& A.J. Reynolds*

OnlineAthens

SLIDESHOW: SPRING CONCERT AT SANFORD STADIUM



2 of 105

Jake Owen performs during a concert at Sanford Stadium in Athens, Ga., Saturday, April 13, 2013. (AJ Reynolds/Staff)



Best Photo Gallery on a Newspaper Web site Daily

The Augusta Chronicle

SATURDAY AT THE BATTLE OF AIKEN



2 of 28

From left to right, Lucy, Alan and Kyle Lott gather around a campfire at their camp site before preparing for an artillery drill that was held before the reenactment Battle of Aiken, which took place at a grounds site off Powell Pond Road in Aiken, South Carolina on Saturday, February 23, 2013. Sara Caldwellstaff

1st Place

The Augusta
Chronicle

Sara Caldwell



Best Web Photo

Daily

3rd Place

The Champion,
Decatur

Donna Turner



Best Web Photo

Daily



2nd Place

The Times,
Gainesville

Scott Rogers



Best Web Photo

Daily



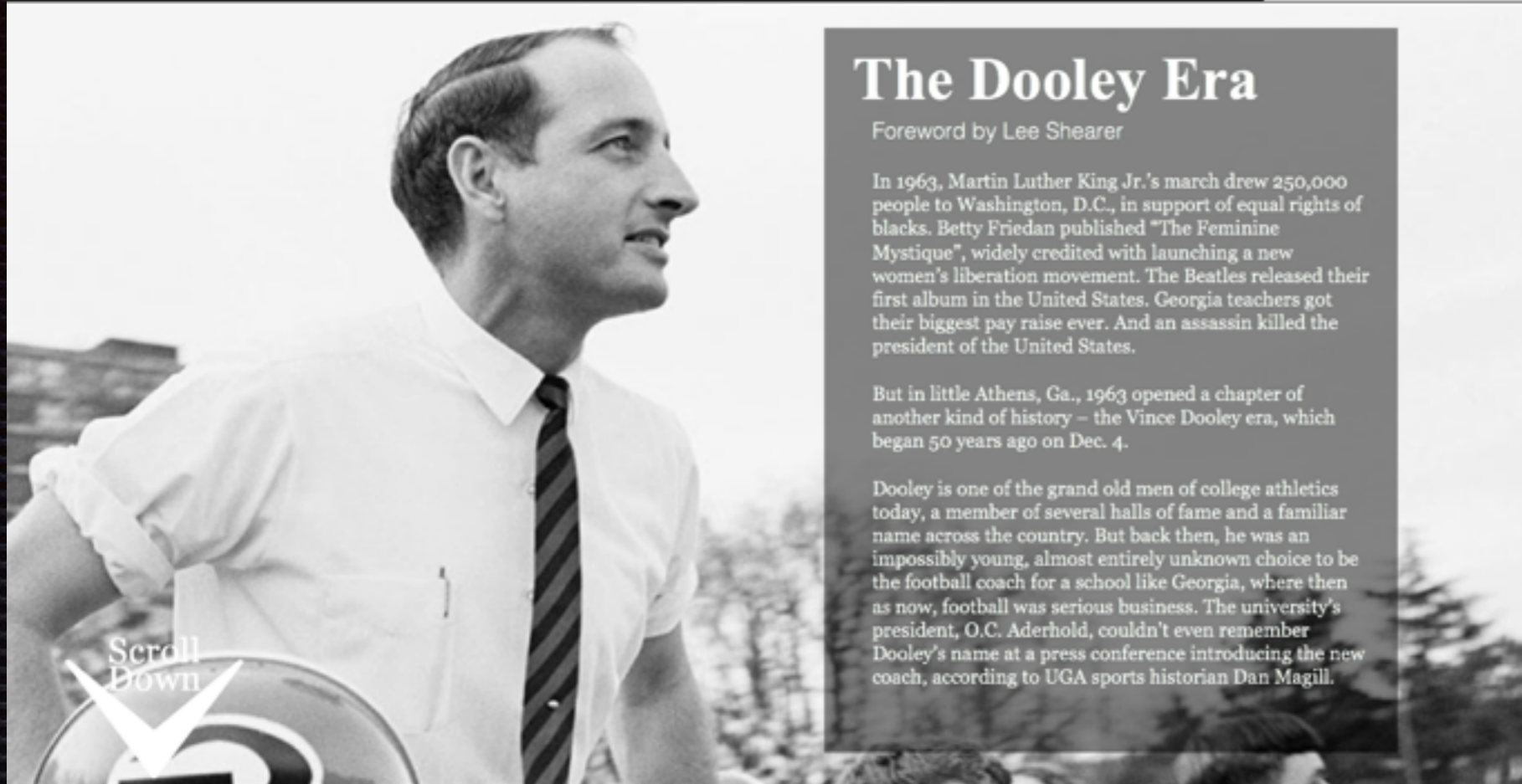
1st Place

The Augusta
Chronicle

*Jon Michael
Sullivan*



Best Online News Project Daily



The Dooley Era

Foreword by Lee Shearer

In 1963, Martin Luther King Jr.'s march drew 250,000 people to Washington, D.C., in support of equal rights of blacks. Betty Friedan published "The Feminine Mystique", widely credited with launching a new women's liberation movement. The Beatles released their first album in the United States. Georgia teachers got their biggest pay raise ever. And an assassin killed the president of the United States.

But in little Athens, Ga., 1963 opened a chapter of another kind of history – the Vince Dooley era, which began 50 years ago on Dec. 4.

Dooley is one of the grand old men of college athletics today, a member of several halls of fame and a familiar name across the country. But back then, he was an impossibly young, almost entirely unknown choice to be the football coach for a school like Georgia, where then as now, football was serious business. The university's president, O.C. Aderhold, couldn't even remember Dooley's name at a press conference introducing the new coach, according to UGA sports historian Dan Magill.

Dooley came at a low point for Georgia's football operation. Money was tight, and athletic director and longtime coach Wally Butts had resigned after being accused in a Saturday Evening Post article of conspiring with Alabama coach Paul "Bear" Bryant to fix a 1962 football game between the teams. Butts won his libel suit against the magazine in 1963, but the taint remained. But Georgia's fortunes changed dramatically with Dooley. His first team had a winning record, and his second team captured the imagination of the U.S. football world with an upset win over mighty Alabama on national TV.

For many fans, Dooley simply brought the fun back into football with calls like the flea-flicker lateral that beat Alabama in 1965.



When Dooley stepped down as coach after the 1988 season, his record was easily the best of any coach since UGA fielded its first team in 1892. His 25 teams had won 201 games and six Southeastern Conference championships, an especially notable feat considering that in most of Dooley's years, Bryant's Alabama teams dominated the conference. And of course the 1980 team won UGA's only national championship since 1942.

3rd Place

Athens Banner-Herald

Staff

Best Online News Project Daily

2nd Place

The Telegraph,
Macon

Staff

\$127 in coupons and special offers

The Telegraph macon.com

SUNDAY September 5, 2011
MIDDLE GEORGIA'S NEWSPAPER

Bulldogs make SEC statement, 1C

REFLECTING ON OURSELVES, OUR CITY

Macon IN THE mirror

PART 1 OF A 5-PART SERIES




VIDEO: Watch videos of people in the stories on macon.com.

OPINION: Members of the Telegraph's Editorial Board and Guest Advisory Board share their reflections on Macon. **3-5D**

Take a walk down Pio Nono with us and find out what people you share a city with think about their lives and futures

By DENISE K. Telegraph staff writer

There they sat outside Eason 50, two men and a woman in plain, practical clothes next to a flogging air machine at the power plant. They sat on a concrete ledge where they Don, Charles, Rick and Linda, Signe of Pio.

What I was looking for, None gave a full name, but they were glad to talk about their scene: a fading, hardscrabble neighborhood seen by anyone above passing the 5200 a week it costs to stay there. The Magnolia Court Motel in all its shabby-revered splendor is a welcome rest at a city's down town. Or is it a slum? Or is that city's back door, its long-crumbling bottom edge?

That, in part, was what I'd set out to learn one morning last spring. Not just there at The Nono American's deteriorating southern terminals, at a hotel that gave from a diner man in a polka shirt, not all along its 1.5-hour commute. The idea, more or less, was to go up to talk and ask, "Who are you and what's life like around here?"

"You want the inside-business version?" Rick asked.

He started just one of the month's venerable magazines, served an occupation that breeds 10 years of walls.

"I've been here five years, and the worst thing that I've seen since I came here is the way they've run this city," Rick said, a retired plumber, 60, 5'10", blue hair, a white-collared shirt. "You're kind of stupid to what it looks like. You think about a rubber coating in '93's trade," Charles, another metal worker, said. "These cars slipping by don't see the dirt... that's right, not of metal."

"You're kind of stupid to what it looks like," Rick went on. "We don't have a sidewalk here."

SEE MORE 1A

PART 2: The Telegraph reporter Don Kovic is the first to take the journey up Pio Nono.

THE RAIL
YOUR NEWS EXPRESS

Georgians treasure hunt at storage unit auctions

Crafting community growing in midstate

Mark your calendar: WR memorial race video chat

The Telegraph will host a video chat with Warren Robins memorial contributors at noon Thursday on macon.com. All six candidates — Mike Brashear, Chuck Clark, Eva Fisher, Charles Lee, Joe Montalvo and Francis Yarns — have been invited to participate. This week, candidates will introduce themselves to potential voters. In a future chat, they'll take questions from the audience. Join the conversation on Twitter and Facebook using #WRchat. You can also watch on video: WRchat.org.

Business 50 Community 50 Local & Travel 20 Sports 50
Classified 20 Entertainment 20 Markets 40 TV Schedule 40
Calendar 10 Living 10 Obituaries 40 Meetings 40

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Best Online News Project

Daily

1st Place

Savannah Morning News

Staff

The screenshot displays the Savannah Morning News website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, Get the App, Find a Copy, Events, Extras, About, and Login. The main content area features a large article titled "2013 Savannah Film Festival Schedule" with a sub-headline "An interactive timeline of scheduled special screenings during the 2013 Savannah Film Festival." Below this is a timeline interface showing the festival schedule for Saturday, October 20, and Sunday, October 21. The website also includes a sidebar with categories like Arts, Community, Food, Movies, and Music, and highlights such as Big Calendar, Social Wall, and Columnists. Several news articles are visible, including "Film Fest After Party at SCAD Museum", "Savannah Film Fest Monday Evening Premieres", and "Film Fest 2013: Opening Night". A social media feed on the right shows tweets related to the festival, including one from Paula Wallace (@paulawallace) mentioning the festival and asking for #SavFF next.

Newspaper Web site

Weekly

3rd Place

Columbia County
News-Times,
Evans

May 27, 2014 | 10:58 am LOGIN | JOIN NOW! | SUBSCRIBE

THE COLUMBIA COUNTY News-Times

See

Home News Sports Opinion Odds & Ends Slideshows Video Calendar Contact Us iPad Real Estate Jobs Classifieds Legal Notices

Archive Staff

 **73°**
Clear Sky
[MORE WEATHER](#)



High school students published in literary magazine

Some Columbia County high school students became published authors on Tuesday.

[Read More](#)

Former Electric Medic arrested again

Latest News »

- Memorial Day events
- Remembering Memorial Day
- The cost of freedom continues to be paid
- Three arrested after two ran from Grovetown hotel
- Doctors Hospital files to build

Slideshows »

 <p>■ Columbia County Bookings May 12-19</p>	 <p>■ Greenbrier vs Bainbridge Soccer</p>
 <p>■ Columbia County Bookings April 28-May 5</p>	 <p>■ Columbia County Bookings April 21-28</p>
 <p>■ Columbia County Bookings April 14-21</p>	 <p>■ Evans vs Northside Soccer</p>

Follow News-Times:

 Ashley Brown »

Tradition never graduates at Greenbrier

"Tradition Never Graduates" That's what it says when you go to the Greenbrier High School's baseball Web page. I felt it was the perfect way to describe what happened in 2014 with Greenbrier's young team. This was supposed to be a rebuilding year.

 Scott Rouch »

Rousing finishes mark year's conclusion

Well, the school year has come to a close and what a finish there was to it. It almost couldn't have ended any better. On Monday, the golf season came to a rousing conclusion.

Upcoming events »

 <p>Augusta Jewish Community Center Day Camp Tue, 05/27/2014 - 9:00am</p>
 <p>GLOW Augusta Aglow Meeting Tue, 05/27/2014 - 10:00am</p>
 <p>BULLS Bulls Soccer Club Fall 2014 Evaluations U8-U13 Tue, 05/27/2014 - 6:00pm</p>

Newspaper Web site

Weekly

2nd Place

The Champion,
Decatur

The screenshot shows the homepage of 'The Champion' newspaper website. At the top, the logo 'The Champion' is displayed in a blue header. Navigation links include 'Contact Us', 'Legal Ads Dept', 'Free Press', 'Around DeKalb', and 'Photo Gallery'. Below the header, a secondary navigation bar lists categories: 'DEKALB NEWS', 'BUSINESS', 'EDUCATION', 'GOVERNMENT', 'LIFESTYLE', and 'SPORTS', along with a search bar. The main headline reads 'Where weight meets control' with a sub-link 'CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR SURGICAL WEIGHT LOSS OPTIONS' and the 'DeKalb Medical' logo. A large featured article on the left is titled 'Math games add up to serious fun', featuring a photo of students with awards. To the right of this article is a 'Categories' dropdown menu and a 'Quick Finds' section with buttons for 'LEGAL LOGIN & Subscriptions', 'LOCATE News Stands', 'FREE PRESS Archives', and 'PHOTO GALLERIES'. Below the main article are three smaller article teasers: 'Math games add up to serious fun' (dated May 27th, 2014), 'DeKalb alums sign with NFL teams' (dated May 23rd, 2014), and 'Chamblee librarian seeks to form close-knit group' (dated May 21st, 2014). At the bottom right, there is a 'Get Social' section with icons for Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, YouTube, and Email, and a Facebook widget for 'The Champion Newspaper' showing 1,072 likes and a grid of profile pictures.

Newspaper Web site

Weekly

1st Place

The Coastal
Courier, Hinesville

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Coastal Courier website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for HOME, COMMUNITY, SPECIAL SECTIONS, E-EDITION, and CONTACT US. The main header features the website's logo, "coastalcourier.com", and the tagline "LIBERTY'S ONLINE GATHERING PLACE". A search bar and social media icons are also present. Below the header, there is a red navigation bar with various categories like News, Videos, and Sports. The main content area is divided into several sections: "Top headlines" with a list of news items, "Area public pools open" with a photo of children at a pool, "Sports headlines" with a list of sports news, "Hot topics" with a list of trending subjects, and "Courier Friends to follow" with a list of local news items. There are also advertisements for Jones Osteen & Jones and Geovista Credit Union.

HOME COMMUNITY SPECIAL SECTIONS E-EDITION CONTACT US

coastalcourier.com
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HOMES for SALE or RENT

Log In | Subscribe | Advertise

Search

News Videos Obits Sports Events Education Opinion Lifestyle Buy/Sell TV Hot Topics Connect Stewart/Hunter Jobs

JONES OSTEEEN & JONES
Diversity For All Your Law Needs

Two locations in Hinesville: 206 E. Court St. & 608 E. Ogelthorpe Hwy

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION

Top headlines

- Area public pools open
- LCPC talks planning in Fleming
- ExChange G.T.B. hosts teen banquet
- Farm Day held in Long County
- Attorneys renew oaths for Law Day
- Long County honors seniors

More

Area public pools open

Both the Hinesville swimming pool and the new pool at the Liberty County Community Complex in Midway opened Saturday.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

Trending

Courier tweeters

Tweets from a list by Coastal Courier
Employees and friends of the Courier

Hollie MooreBarnidge 19h
@CCHBarnidge

It was soggy out at Fort Morris' Memorial Day event, but everyone seemed to have a good time dodging those raindrops!
pic.twitter.com/0th4bdg1pD

Show Photo

Mike Riddle 20h

Sports headlines

- BI's Diggs headed to M... Bradwell Institute football player Zi...
- FPCA's Hart signs to p... First Presbyterian Christian Academy ...
- Georgia Ballers win Re... The Georgia Ballers won the title at ...
- Sports briefs Athletic-training camp for students p...

More

Hot topics

- Nursery rhyme's advice... How prepared are you to face an em...
- 'Welfare queen' label ... The poor, unmarried women who have...
- Finding the funny in life Laughter is nature's medicine for ...
- Global poverty down; n... In the past 30 years, the number

Courier Friends to follow

10:10AM **Fort Stewart Frontline: The Soldiers and Family Members, assigned to 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, continued its proactive approach against domestic... ('Providers' ensure success at 3rd annual Parenting Day)**

May 26 **Liberty Regional Medical Center: Come out and enjoy lots of family fun at our Community Outdoor Health Expo on June 7th! There will be all sorts of health screenings with important... (View photo)**

May 26 **Fort Stewart Frontline: Soldiers and Family Members assigned to the 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd. Infantry Division were treated to... ('Gary Owen' hosts Family day)**

May 26 **Segar: "Cynthia, from the light on..." on their own**

Newspaper Web site

Daily

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gainesvilletimes.com
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Search Archive GO

TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2014 GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA

NEWS SPORTS LIFE GET OUT DINING GUIDE LOCALLY OWNED CLASSIFIED/ LEGAL ADS COMMUNITY

Local Elections Obituaries Business Video Viewpoint Columnists News Services Nation/world Resources times2go Weather Dining

TOP STORIES

Fisherman in critical condition after falling into Lanier

UPDATED: 1 minute ago



A VIDEO PRESENTATION

Area events honor armed services

Hall commissioners host budget open house tonight

Comments (0)

Hall offers parents chance to pay late child support

Clermont businesses say they lose without booze

Comments (1)

The Local Agenda: Gainesville City Council moving toward budget adoption

Comments (0)

Blackwood chosen to national advisory board

Comments (2)

< Previous Next >

LOCAL

Suspects detained on theft charge

Montaluce vineyard in Lumpkin County to be auctioned

Class Notes: Gainesville professor honored by regents

Memorial Day especially meaningful for some

Local restaurants part of nationwide renovation trend

SPORTS

Red Sox rally past Braves, 8-6, end 10-game skid

Michigan men claim 7th straight rowing title at Lanier

Johnson ends drought at Coca-Cola 600

Gattis homers twice in Braves' 7-0 win over Rockies

Georgia Tech beats Maryland, 9-4, for ACC baseball title



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Summer semester starts

May 19th.

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LANIER

Technical College

www.laniertech.edu

EOI

3rd Place

The Times, Gainesville



Newspaper Web site

Daily

2nd Place

The Augusta Chronicle

The screenshot shows the homepage of The Augusta Chronicle. At the top left is the newspaper's logo, "The Augusta Chronicle", with a weather icon showing 73° and clear sky, and a link to the 5-day forecast. To the right are social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn, and a "Subscriber Services" button. Below the logo is a navigation bar with "HOME", "HELP", "E-EDITION", "TXT", and "APPS". A secondary navigation bar includes "SUBSCRIBE" and "ACTIVATE". A third bar lists various news categories: "News", "Obits", "Sports", "Business", "Opinion", "Life", "Things to Do", "Blogs", "Photos", "Video", "Data", "Jobs", "Homes", "Cars", and "Buy/Sell". Below this are "SUBSCRIBER REWARDS" and "THINGS TO DO" sections.

A large yellow banner for "MILTON RUBEN TOYOTA SUPERSTORE" advertises "BUY ONE CAMRY, DRIVE TWO!". Below this is a "SLIDESHOWS" section with four photo thumbnails: "Banjo-B-Que", "Evans High School graduation", "Greenbrier High School graduation", and "Lakeside High School Graduation". To the right is a "CLAIM YOUR SUBSCRIBER REWARDS" box with a gift icon and a "START SAVING NOW" button.

The main content area features a large photo of a police officer standing next to a patrol car. The headline reads "Small town suits Jackson officer". The sub-headline says "Patrolman John Hicks is part of a four-man police department in the small town of Jackson, S.C." and the byline is "BY BIANCA CAIN JOHNSON".

To the right of the police officer photo is a "GOVERNMENT" section with the headline "Garbage service billing change before commission today". The sub-headline says "Augusta's Environmental Services chief is proposing a change in billing for garbage service to make it uniform throughout Augusta-Richmond County." and the byline is "BY SUSAN MCCORD".

Below the garbage article is a "LATEST NEWS" section with the headline "Man charged in wreck that killed wife". The sub-headline says "A Windsor, S.C., man has been charged in a single-vehicle accident that killed his wife late Sunday in Aiken County, officials said." and the byline is "BY TRAVIS HIGHFIELD".

To the right of the "Man charged" article is a "BUSINESS" section with the headline "Reid's stores to close, reopen as Bi-Lo". The sub-headline says "Six Reid's grocery stores in South Carolina will close this week and reopen June 6 as Bi-Lo stores." and the byline is "BY BIANCA CAIN JOHNSON".

Below the business article is a "From the wire" section with the headline "Experts: Mass murderers are hard to predict". The sub-headline says "GOLETA, Calif. (AP) — Colorado movie theater shooter James Holmes. Sandy Hook school attacker Adam Lanza. And now Elliot Rodger." and there is a small photo of a person in a blue shirt.

Below the "From the wire" article is a "Weather service team to rate North Dakota tornado" section with the sub-headline "WATFORD CITY, N.D. (AP) — A National Weather Service team headed to western North Dakota on Tuesday to assess the strength of a tornado that injured nine people, including a 15-year-old girl who suffered critical injuries, and damaged or".

At the bottom left is a "Slideshow" section with the headline "Photos: Look at all the grads!". The sub-headline says "See who was Spotted among the hundreds of photos from this weekend's high school graduations." and there is a small photo of two graduates.

Below the slideshow is a "Latest updates" section with three items:

- SC coach arrested for slapping girl
- Missing plane found in SC, 2 dead
- Beach Boys to play in Augusta in July

At the bottom is a "MORE METRO NEWS" section with the headline "Aiken voters might see sales tax increase on ballot".

Newspaper Web site

Daily

Classifieds Jobs Cars Homes Apartments Place an Ad

78° Forecast

The Telegraph

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FIND & SAVE

TOP STORIES

Gratitude, respect fill Warner Robins Memorial Day event

Report details Macon plane crash, runway flaws

Mercer barely misses NCAA baseball tournament

17 dead in Georgia Memorial weekend accidents, 4 killed in midstate
2 hours ago

Northside spring football capsule
2 hours ago

Macon storm wipes out power to 2,300



As strong thunderstorm winds blew into Macon at about 6 p.m. Monday, 2,300 Georgia Power customers lost electricity. 2 hours ago

TOP PHOTOS



Editorial cartoons (05/27/14)



GHSA Class AAAAA title series



Andersonville Flags



Summer Water Safety

TOP VIDEOS

CLAIM BASIS

Check out AT&T's best-ever pricing for families.

Samsung GALAXY S3

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Report details Macon plane crash, runway flaws

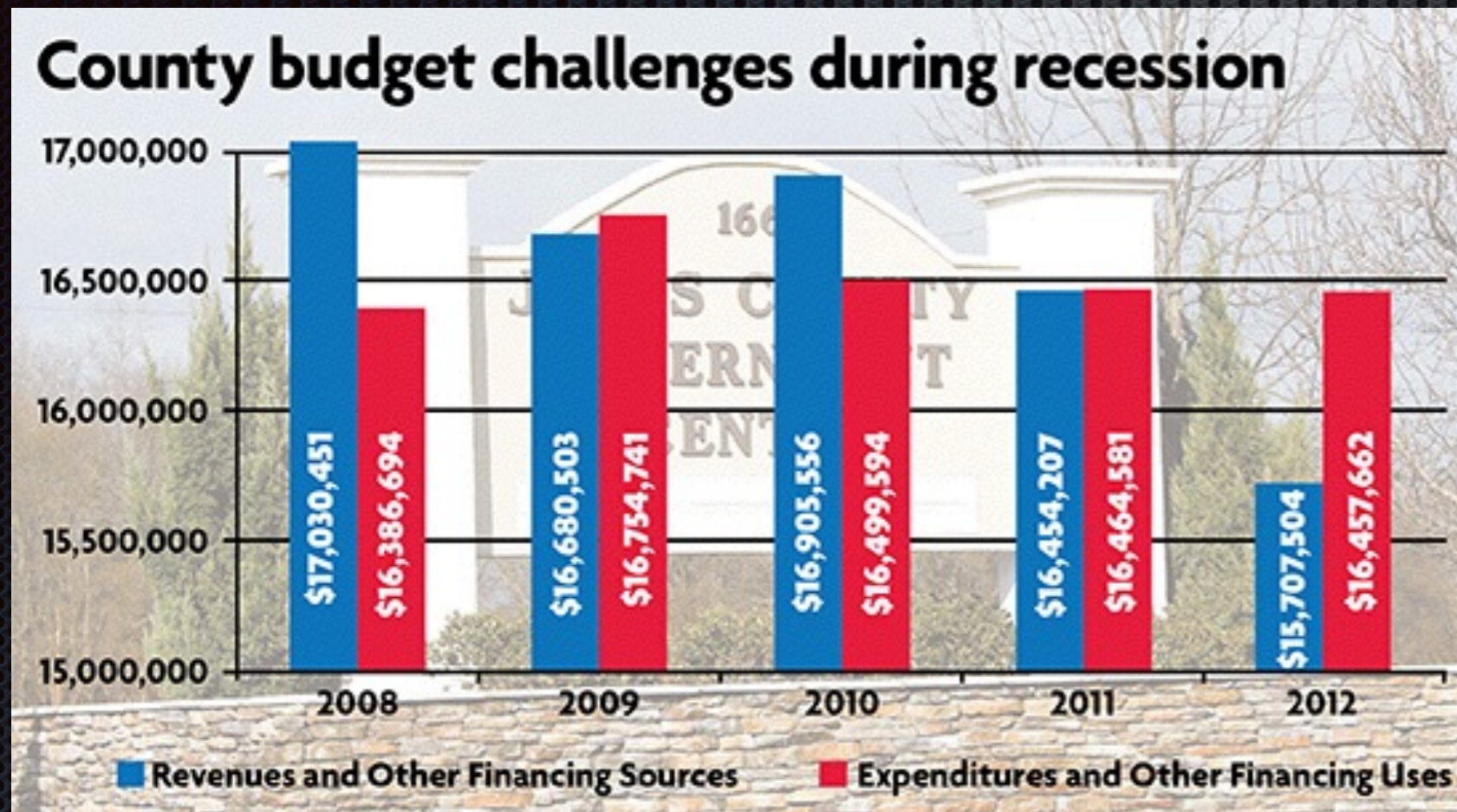
17 dead in Georgia Memorial weekend accidents, 4 killed in midstate

1st Place

The Telegraph, macon

Information Graphics

Weekly



3rd Place

The Jones County
News, Gray

Josh Lurie

Information Graphics

Weekly

2nd Place

The Post-Searchlight, Bainbridge

Staff

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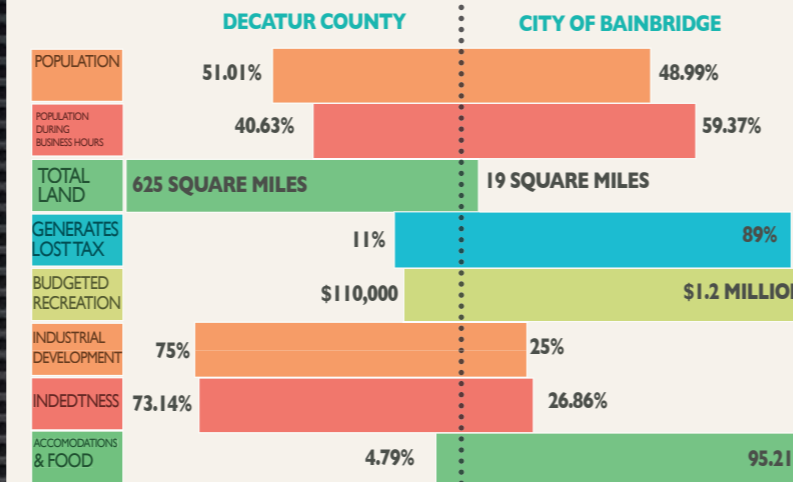
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The Post-Searchlight

THEPOSTSEARCHLIGHT.COM SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2013 • 50 CENTS

Who *chips in* for what



A BREAKDOWN of who pays what was created using information given to the Post-Searchlight by the City of Bainbridge, Decatur County and city and county budgets.

In order to get more of the LOST Tax, it's county vs. city on who pays for services

BY ASHLEY JOHNSON AND POWELL COBB
The Post-Searchlight

Last week the City of Bainbridge and Decatur County shipped off an agreement to Atlanta, approving of the current distribution of Local Option Sales Taxes. Strangely, the quick agreement came after an entire year of back-and-forth, chiding emails and attempted and failed negotiations.

So how did a one-year fight with 13 years of baggage attached get resolved in a matter of hours last Tuesday?

A Supreme Court decision in mid-October was the reason Bainbridge and Decatur County had to make a resolution so quickly. The court decided that courts should not be the deciders of county-city LOST tax negotiations. Therefore, the government

See LOST, Page 7A



VOL. 108, No. 87

TWO SECTIONS

BAINBRIDGE, GA.
39817



5 18061 00001 5

OBITUARIES:

Full obituaries can be found inside this edition on page 8A.

- Zenie Earnest
- Billy Rentz
- Judy Ann Cook
- Billie Zorn
- Gloria Odle
- Betty Hamilton
- Dorothy Richmond
- Robert Dismuke

WEEK AHEAD:

Full calendar can be found in this edition on page 2A.

Saturday

• There will be a H&O-Women Pro Costume Contest on Saturday, Oct. 26 in Willis Park beginning at 10 a.m. There will be a cake walk and other activities. There will be a \$5 entry fee that will go towards the Bainbridge Decatur County Humane Society.

• There will be an electronic recycling beginning at 9 a.m. to 12 noon in the Wren Dixie parking lot.



YOUR NEIGHBOR:

Good Morning to

JAMES WILLIAMSON

James lives in Eldorado, and has worked at Stones for 23 years. He is also pastor of Mt. Olive Baptist Church, which he has served for 13 years.

INSIDE:

Local softball fanatic battles cancer, plays for a cause, page 2B



Bius crowned BHS 2013 Homecoming Queen



A CROWNING MOMENT: Bainbridge High School crowned the 2013 Homecoming Queen and Maid of Honor Friday night at half-time. Senior Hannah Bius was named queen and Taylor Austin maid of honor. The two were chosen in a vote by their peers throughout the week — which was spirit week at the school. Pictured left to right: Tommie Howell, Taylor Austin, Hannah Bius and 2012 Homecoming Queen, Jada Smith.

**Please Pardon
Our Progress to
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Information Graphics

Weekly

1st Place

Douglas County Sentinel, Douglasville

Mitch Sneed

LOCAL, A11 Charges multiply for alleged sexual predator.

douglas county

Sentinel

SUNDAY August 4, 2013 Local News. First. \$1.50

Community, B1 Local fundraiser aims to help save Sun Valley Beach



TRACKING THE RAIN

2013	AVERAGE
Jan. 8.48	4.81
Feb. 7.58	4.99
March 5.88	5.19
April 6.14	3.88
May 5.19	4.83
June 5.36	4.19
July 8.46	5.85
Total 44.88	33.04

Source: WSA. Measurements taken at water treatment plant off Dig A Road. Average compiled from totals recorded from 1981 to present.

Tax appeals fall to 3,200

BY RON DANIEL

The deadline to appeal property tax assessments came and went last Monday. By Friday afternoon, Douglas County Chief Appraiser Bruce Waldrop has a pretty good idea of how many appeals he's looking at for the 2013 tax year.

Waldrop said his office received rights to 3,200 appeals and may get a few more trickling in through the mail that will be accepted as long as they were postmarked by July 25.

Waldrop said the number of appeals this year is down from about 4,300 last year and 4,800 in

|| TAX PAGE A3

Rain, rain, go away

Near-record rainfall proving to be a mixed blessing

BY MANTEN WILKS AND MICHELLE BRIDGES

It wasn't all that long ago that Georgia's governor groined for rain to end a horrible drought. Douglas County has had 44.88 inches of rain, second only to the same period from 2003 when 50.02 inches fell in a seven-month period.

"We are about 11 inches above normal," Patton said. "Having gone through more than a decade of drought, this is a good thing for us. After years where we were nervously watching water levels, this year from January the reservoir has been full and overflowing."

Lake Bryan may sing "rain is a good thing," but there's also an old saying about too much of a good thing. When it comes to agriculture, the rain is proving to be a mixed blessing.

"It's been pretty hard," said Douglasville's James Henderson, landscape superintendent at the University of West Georgia and owner of Henderson Lane Lawns in Villa Rica. "It's a blessing of course to have adequate rainfall, but to have so much as we've had has really

|| RAIN PAGE A7

Council may name community center after Owings

BY KRISTINA THOMAS

The Douglasville City Council will consider adopting a resolution Monday to name Hunter Park Community Center in honor of Ben Owings, the first president of the park's little league.

The old Ben Owings Community Center next to downtown in 2010 as part of the renovations at Hunter Park.

"This had been presented several weeks ago with a petition to people asking that you name the Hunter Park Community center after Ben Owings," City Manager Bill Osborne said during Thursday's work session. "You have

|| CENTER PAGE A10

Storybook Dog Tale

New Jersey town opens heart after crash on trip to save local shelter dogs

BY RON DANIEL

Crash victims tend to bring out the best in people. Especially when an SUV filled with 10 dogs is involved.

But not one, including volunteers from Douglasville to the rescue group in Madison, was expecting the outpouring of support they received from a New Jersey town two weeks ago.

Douglasville resident Jamie Craig was driving her Chevy Suburban with 10 dogs— including six 6-week-old beagle

puppies — from Douglas County to Liberty's Legacy, a rescue group in Madison, when her vehicle overturned about 17 hours into the 24-hour road trip.

The accident happened on Interstate 78 near Lebanon, N.J., at around 2:30 a.m. on July 20. Craig was injured, and five of the dogs got loose.

If it sounds like disaster struck, it sure seemed that way at the time to everyone involved in the transport.

Dogs went from being on the kill list at the Douglas County Animal Shelter to an Interstate 78 wreck near Lebanon, N.J., to the loving arms of their young benefactors. From left, Mikha Reeser, Jan Baham, Marfonia Sufiani, Tucker Harding and Jon and Becky Wattalstein.

|| DOG PAGE A16



Information Graphics

Daily

3rd Place

The Times,
Gainesville

R. Keith
Hatchell

CHAMPS
Chestatee wrestlers win school's 1st-ever Hall County title.
SPORTS, 1C

BREWING A FUTURE
Honduran teen grows coffee to pay for college
LIFE, 1E

The Times SUNDAY
JANUARY 27, 2013

Your news. Your Times. gainesvilletimes.com 81 00 GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA

A renter's market
High number in Gainesville don't own their homes. Is that a plus? Views vary.

RENTERS
Renters account for 65 percent of the households in Gainesville.

OWNERS
Home-owning households increased last year to 34 percent in 2012 and early 2013.

HOW WE STACK UP
GAINESVILLE: 65/35
ATLANTA: 45/55
ROME: 50/50
MACON: 56/44
GEORGIA: 34/66

Hall sheriff follows a long road to Mayberry
Couch began career path aiming for forest ranger position

Gainesville, Latino group at odds over fall elections
At-large voting system may be headed for court

INSIDE
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Sarah Ann Shirley Patterson, 71

LOCALLY OWNED BUSINESSES



2nd Place

Athens Banner-Herald

Kristen Morales

CASHWORD: NO WINNER THIS WEEK • JACKPOT INCREASES TO \$1,000, 746,625

WILSON'S WAY SEE THE DAILY DEAL AT ONLINEATHENS.COM
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BOOKSTORE DRAWN TO EPPS BRIDGE B5

ATHENS BANNER-HERALD

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 2013

The rise and fall of teen pregnancy

ONCE TOPPING THE CHARTS: While birth rates have dropped, 'we're nowhere near solving that problem'

FUNDING DROPPING: Local advocates worry cuts in funding for teen pregnancy prevention programs could stop the downward trend.

BIRTHRATE NUMBERS VARY: More than two decades later, the rate of children born to teen mothers is about half what it was nationwide, in Georgia and in Clarke and neighboring counties.

\$8.7 MILLION: Amount the state of Georgia provided in 2008 for adolescent health and youth development.

21.2 59

BEYOND THE STEREOTYPE: Young mom aims to overcome the odds

IN LIVING: More women ages 40-44 now having children

FORECAST
91°
73°
FULL DETAILS, PAGE 2

INSIDE
Halter \$1
Business \$5
Classifieds \$25
+Auto \$5
+Home \$5
+Jobs \$5
+Sports \$5
+Real Estate \$5
+TV Listings \$5

This THURSDAY, August 15, 2013

Dine Out For Kids

Family Connection

Communities in Schools



Information Graphics Daily

1st Place

Savannah Morning News

Heather Henley & Phillip Ameling

PIANO TEACHER DEVOTES MONTHS TO PREP FOR ANNUAL CONCERTS

UP TO \$82 IN COUPONS!

Savannah Morning News: **SUNDAY** ARTS & CULTURE 1C

\$2.00 SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 2013 SAVANNAHNOW.COM LIGHT OF THE COASTAL EMPIRE

Missing man's body parts found at standoff scene

Wife, brother-in-law of suspected captor killed Friday charged with concealing body

BY DEANN EDWARDS
912-432-1210
deann.edwards@savannahnow.com

Friday's hostage-taking in Effingham County's rural area where investigators discovered some body parts of a missing Chatham County man, including the house of Chad Morris, 34, of Rivers, Morris was shot to death Friday by the Savannah-Chatham SWAT team.

The partial remains are believed to be that of Charles Ray, 36, of Washington Island. Ray had been missing since New Year's Eve.

In another bizarre twist to the case, other partial remains of Ray were found in a storage unit in Jasper County, S.C.

The Effingham County Sheriff's Office will likely keep this home at 205 Whitehall Ave. as a crime scene until Monday. Investigators found partial remains of a Chatham County man in the home Friday after an almost five-hour standoff. The suspected hostage-taker, Chad Morris of Rivers, was shot and killed by a SWAT team member. He is the main suspect in the homicide, and his wife and brother-in-law have been charged with concealing the body.

ON THE WEB
Check for updates on this story and watch video of Effingham County Sheriff's Office spokesman David Chappin talking about the situation at savannahnow.com.

SEE BODY, PAGE 3







Homeless in Savannah Residents seek identity; agencies seek solutions

BY JAN SKUTCH • 912-432-0356 • jan.skutch@savannahnow.com

Bradford is a tall, fairly well-spoken man. On this chilly December day, he is huddled down in his home under a local viaduct, where sleeping bags and wool blankets provide protection against the elements.

"I don't tell people I am homeless, they don't know," the 37-year-old North Carolina native said. "If I tell them I'm homeless, they don't believe me."

Bradford lost his job with TFC on Blintchessen Island in 2008 and, despite his address, says he dresses presently and "I talk sensibly and smart goods."

He is one of the 4,200 homeless people counted by the Chatham-Savannah Authority for the Homeless last year.

'They know how to survive'

While many may be looking for services to help them cope with their homelessness, others like Bradford choose to avoid the rules and order of a shelter and find for themselves in nature. Advocates estimate a large number may be dealing with mental illness, substance abuse or both.

COMING MONDAY
The numbers on exactly how many people are homeless are somewhat elusive and depend on the provider involved. Read more about the problem in Monday's Savannah Morning News.

INSIDE
Find maps and statistics on local homeless on Pages 4 and 5.

ON THE WEB
Read Savannah-Chatham police Capt. Mike Wilkins' Aug. 17 email to downtown businesses and residential groups on dealing with the homeless in Savannah. You can also see the Union Mission services center at savannahnow.com.

Also online, look for several videos featuring city leaders discussing homeless issues: savannahnow.com/videos.

SEE HOMELESS, PAGE 4




Active, 26, gives her husband, Anthony "Sam," 30, a boost to put in his bag as they prepare to leave their camp near the Talmadge Bridge. The couple has been married for a year and homeless since September, when they could no longer afford to pay the rent in a local motel.

Anthony "Sam" Tany" makes money as a day-qualified public worker. He can sell his creative on public rights of way for donations only, but is excluded from squares.

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TODAY
11:00 | 6:00
Hot Sun in the whitehouse. 2
Dancing in Space Station. 1
Headline: Savannah School

CONTACT US
CORRECTIONS: If you spot an error of fact, call Susan Carter, executive editor, at 912-432-0321

NOVEMBER YEAR-END ISSUE NO. 11
11-2013-001750

FOR DELIVERY OR BILLING PROBLEMS: 912-251-0371

OPEN HOUSE
The Lower & Middle School at DeRenne
Nov. 29th at 10 am

RECOGNIZE TRUTH



Photo Illustration

Weekly

3rd Place

Morgan County
Citizen, Madison

What you'll
learn about
Graduation
this week



The stars are in, and the year's group of Senior Superheroes is online. Check out which students were awarded these titles. C4 to C12

Saladictorian Morgan Hidy, ~~reluctant~~ Mike's Karky and Jacob Muzica weigh in with some concluding thoughts for their classmates. C3 & C4

Morgan County grads are going all over the state, and all over the country, following graduation and the summer. Check out where they'll be. C11



2013 **Caption:** Because they're the Class of 2013, seniors chose the name 'Friday the 13th' as their theme for the year. But don't be scared! These are all stars to be Morgan County High School graduates. No students were harmed in the making of this picture.

A publication of the MORGAN COUNTY CITIZEN MAY 24, 2013

Photo Illustration

Weekly

2nd Place

The Walton Tribune, Monroe

Robbie Schwartz

► In SPORTS, B1



Red Devils ousted from playoffs.

► In LIFESTYLES, B1



Music guild helps local program.

► Special Section, INSIDE



Walton County's Class of 2013.

The Walton Tribune

Named Best Newspaper in Georgia for General Excellence by the Georgia Press Association

WaltonTribune.com
WEEKEND EDITION • May 18-19, 2013
One Dollar

GARRETT ALLEGES THREAT MADE

Told arrest would come out if didn't leave race; Richardson denies

By **ROBBIE SCHWARTZ**
Managing Editor
robbie.schwartz@waltontribune.com

Norman Garrett knew his armed robbery arrest would become an issue. But he is ready to take his seat back on an attempt to win the District 8 seat on the Monroe council.

"On April 26, I met with District 8 Councilman Jimmy Richardson at his office. He told me if I didn't get out of the race that this was going to come out," Garrett said, adding he felt it was a threat from the incumbent. "I don't have a problem with that and that is what I told him. When we run for public office, our lives become an open book. I feel so strongly about making positive changes in our community that I decided that I would not let my pride get in the way of helping the people of Monroe. I am not proud of what I did 30 years ago and I am very sorry it ever happened. One thing is for sure, I don't have a problem with that and that is

See RACE, Page A3

Congratulations 2013
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"Experience the Difference"

Locals leery over lowering of DUI threshold

Photo Illustration by ROBBIE SCHWARTZ

Federal officials want limit lowered to .05

By **ROBBIE SCHWARTZ**
Managing Editor
robbie.schwartz@waltontribune.com

The National Transportation Safety Board offered 20 recommendations last week to reduce drunk driving in the U.S., but only one made headlines: lowering the blood alcohol content threshold from .08 to .05 for driving under the influence arrests.

"Our goal is to get to zero deaths because each alcohol-impaired death is preventable," NTSB Chairman Deborah Hersman said. "Alcohol-impaired deaths are not accidents — they are crimes. They can and should be prevented. The goal is zero."

The new level would mean no more than one drink per hour for a woman weighing less than 130 pounds and no more than two drinks for a man who weighed less than 160 pounds.

Any such move would require an act of the Georgia legislature and Walton County's delegation wasn't quite ready to offer any Southern hospitality to anything

See DUI, Page A3

followers weigh in on if the threshold for being charged with driving under the influence should be lowered from .08 to .05?

Debbie Pitts Hendrix: That's pretty much zero tolerance. Wondering if that will clog our court system even more. Gonna be difficult to have a drink anywhere. Even a beer with pizza or at a baseball game. Sit, drink and drive don't mix.

Shelby Victoria Coulter: There are multiple studies showing that BAC isn't a very good way to measure how drunk someone is or how impaired because everyone's metabolism, especially for alcohol, varies so much depending on weight, height, how much you've had to eat, etc. So lowering a level that is already arbitrary isn't a good idea.

Sarah Ann Mills-Forester: Yes I think it should. So many people drink and drive and think nothing of it. You go in a grocery store and beer, wine, alcohol is everywhere. You go in to eat and they have alcohol in all the restaurants. People feel as if they can drink and have no consequences. I feel it should be lower — zero tolerance for such the choice you may make. If you drink I agree with having someone with you to drive that is not drinking.

Beverly Durden Brooks: I do not think changing it will make people stop driving drunk but I do think it has a lot to do about money.

Dana Beck: My son is a victim of a drunk driver — he will never be the same. At 27 years of age, he must start over. We have [zero] tolerance in our schools, why not on the road?

See BRIDGE, Page A3

New program offers free meals to local children

Joins FISH4Kids in providing food to youth during summer

By **STEPHEN WILLIAMS**
Staff Writer
stephen.williams@waltontribune.com

MONROE — Children at the Walton County Boys & Girls Club will be able to eat their fill this summer as a partnership with Georgia Nutritional Services will provide hot meals for members.

The club will serve two meals a day, Monday through Friday, starting June 1, with breakfast at 8:30 a.m. and lunch at 11:30 a.m. for all club members.

"The meals are provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture," said Patricia Brumfield, director of the local Boys & Girls Club. "It's the same sort of stuff you get in a school lunch."

Meals of chicken nuggets or hotdogs, green beans or french fries and more, will be an offer every day, providing members with balanced, healthy meals.

See MEALS, Page A3

Funds approved for bridge replacement

Mount Carmel Church Road project will use state, county funds

By **ROBBIE SCHWARTZ**
Managing Editor
robbie.schwartz@waltontribune.com

MONROE — The bridge going over Turkey Creek on Mount Carmel Church Road has been closed for years, but the county is moving forward to replace the bridge after spending four million bids for the project recently.

The board of commissioners earlier this month formally approved accepting the low bid for the project, which will use state and Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax money to pay the \$140,000 prime tag.

The bridge was closed initially after age took its toll in overloading the structure. County officials deemed it necessary in August 2012 to begin working toward replacing the structure.

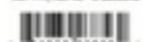
Delays came as a result of the design of the structure and what could be done utilizing

See BRIDGE, Page A3



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INSIDE
GRW's valedictorian
Maya Tami is among the 14 students recognized as the brightest of the class of 2013 in EDUCATION, D1.

WEEKEND WEATHER
SAT: 81°
SUN: 79°
HIGH 81 79
LOW 64 64
Brassy 50 percent chance of rain both days.



Photo Illustration

Weekly

HENRY DAILY HERALD LIFESTYLES FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2013

Remembering the Holocaust

Henry students examine history, World War II

By Jessica Warren
jwarren@herald.com

McDONOUGH — Helen Fromowitz Weingarten is 88, but there are some things the passage of time will never cause her to forget.

"I may not be able to remember what I had for breakfast," Weingarten said. "But I remember everything that happened to me at Auschwitz."

A survivor of the Holocaust, Weingarten was Henry County Middle School's special guest Monday night, celebrating the school's month-long study of World War II. Those who listened were riveted.

Her story of survival began at the homecoming of 1941, with audience members gasping and wiping away tears as she described vivid details of her experience living in the concentration camps and ghettos.

"I will have nightmares," she said.

Memories of witnessing hundreds of her close friends and family members beaten, murdered, and deprived of food.

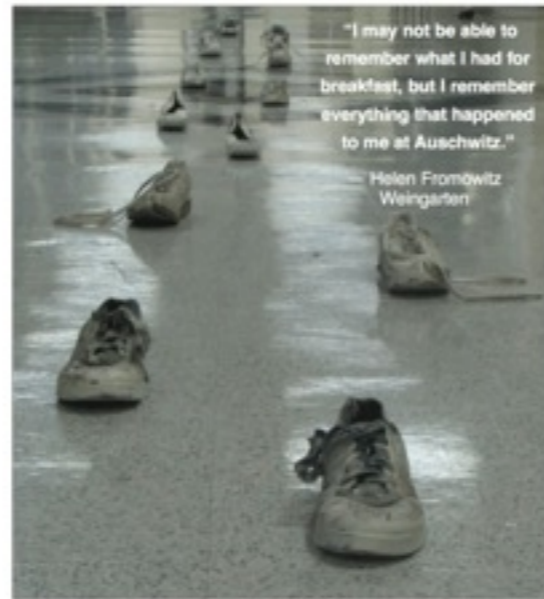
"We were treated like animals," said Weingarten.

Principal Kimberly Anderson said students and staff of the school explored the depths of one of the most tragic periods in the history of the world. The school partnered with the Kennesaw State University Museum of History and Holocaust Education and Georgia University, which provided the students with "unique opportunities" to research many different facets of that era. She said it was also to show the students the correlation between the Jews and the African-American experience.

Weingarten remembers the numbers treaded across her uniform — "44831."

"I will never forget that," she said. She even described seeing the shadows of bodies coming up from the window after the Jews were killed in the gas chambers that taken to the crematory.

Helen said it was in 1942 when her life was changed.



"I may not be able to remember what I had for breakfast, but I remember everything that happened to me at Auschwitz."

Helen Fromowitz Weingarten

Old boots and shoes put on display by Henry County Middle School students signify the struggles of young people during World War II and the Holocaust.



Helen Fromowitz Weingarten prepares to speak to guests at Henry County Middle School on surviving the Holocaust.



Guests rush to give Helen Fromowitz Weingarten hugs after she shared her heart-wrenching story about surviving the Holocaust.

WITNESS TO HISTORY

Gray shares her Obama experience with Henry students

Photo by Jeylin White
Jeylin White
and Kaitlyn
Hansen, each
grades 10-11
members of
Lanoka Middle
School's Black
History program.



By Jessica Warren
jwarren@herald.com

LUCKY BY CHANCE — Sen. Barbara Gray had her second stop in Washington, D.C., to witness the first African-American President, Barack Obama, get elected to serve his second term.

"Sen. Gray" as the students affectionately refer to her, sat quietly, while she engaged the students with a video presentation of her journey to the nation's capital to be a "witness to history," attending

the historical 20th and 57th Presidential Inauguration with her son, Channing — all in recognition of Black History Month.

"How many of you know that you were born to be great?" Gray asked the students. One by one, the students hands spring up.

"This is the time I want you to empower yourself," she commanded the students. "I want you all to know that you can be anything that you want to be. But you have to get involved... I love to be involved in my community. You have to be involved in what is going in your community."

Gray was selected to serve as a witness

1st Place

Henry Daily Herald, McDonough Jeylin White

Photo Illustration

Daily



3rd Place

The Cherokee
Tribune, Canton

Todd Hall

Photo Illustration

Daily

2nd Place

The Cherokee
Tribune, Canton

Todd Hall



Photo Illustration

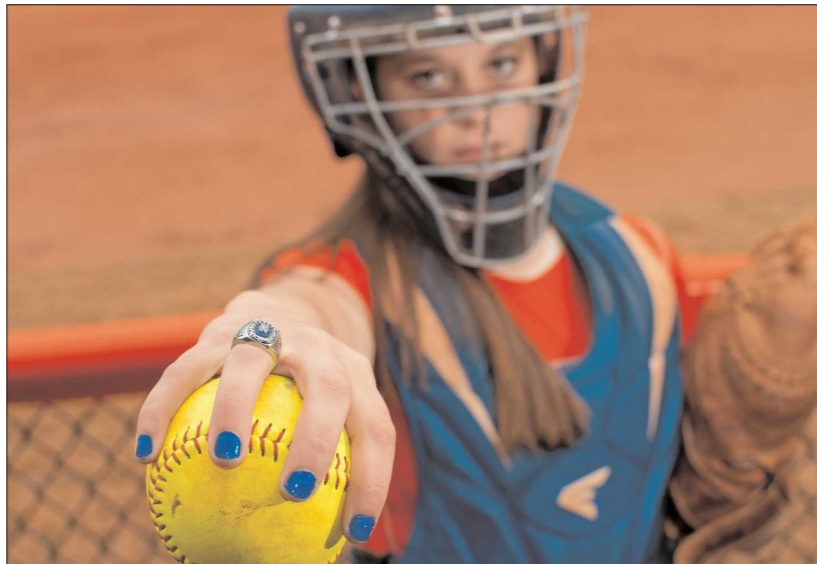
Daily

B SPORTS

Sunday, December 8, 2013 • www.daltonnow.com

PREP SOFTBALL: ALL-AREA TEAM AND PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Powerful performance



Merry Watson/The Daily Citizen

Northwest Whitfield senior Bayli Cruse finishes her high school career with no shortage of honors or hardware, including a ring in recognition of the Lady Bruins' success at the state level. Cruse was instrumental as the Lady Bruins won the Class 4A championship for the second year in a row, providing power at the plate, strong defense in the field and leadership in the dugout. Cruse finished the season with a .464 batting average, 62 RBIs, 21 doubles, 10 home runs, an .833 slugging percentage, a .500 on-base percentage and a 1.333 on-base-plus-slugging percentage. She is The Daily Citizen's 2013 All-Area Softball Player of the Year.

Cruse was emotional leader for Lady Bruins in state title repeat

By DEVIN GOLDEN
devingolden@daltoncitizen.com

Whatever situation Northwest Whitfield High School's softball team found itself in this season, senior catcher Bayli Cruse's emotions were in step with the Lady Bruins' pulse. When Northwest lost the Region 7-4A championship in heart-breaking fashion, Cruse cried because it was the last chance she and five other Lady Bruins seniors had to win another league title. When the Lady Bruins won the Class 4A state title for the second year in a row, she celebrated because winning proved Northwest could be just as successful after the graduation of standout pitcher Emily Boyd. And whatever the situation, turning to Cruse for help often yielded positive results.

When Northwest needed a baserunner, she led the usual dugout chants. When the team needed to calm down in the field, she walked to the pitcher's circle. When the Lady Bruins needed a big hit, she often came through. Through words, actions and emotions, Cruse was unequivocal in her status as the Lady Bruins' leader — and she always instilled confidence in her coaches and teammates that she'd come through when it mattered most. "When she steps to the plate," Northwest coach Jason Brooker said, "I don't know, there's this feeling I have that she's thinking, 'I'm going to knock the cover off the ball.' It's a good feeling to have." Brooker called Cruse the heart and soul of this year's team, and she also was the biggest threat in an already-threatening lineup, the largest vocal presence in an already-loud dugout and the leader on the field in an experienced lineup. All of those things made Cruse the all-around standout she was this season, and because of that, she is The Daily Citizen's 2013 All-Area Softball Player of the Year. Joining Cruse on the All-Area Softball Team are teammates BriLeigh Baggett, Hannah Godfrey, Colbie Thomas, Alyssa Ward and Macy Weeks. Also on the team are Coahulla Creek's Baylee Adkins, Murray County's Aubrie Osborne, North Murray's Megan Pittman and Baylee Sutton and Southeast Whitfield's Sydney Covington. All-Area honorees were selected by the newspaper's sports staff based on input from area coaches.

> Please see ALL-AREA, 6B

THE 2013 ALL-AREA TEAM

BEST of the BEST

Baggett (P), Cruse (C), Adkins (1B), Godfrey (2B), Pittman (3B)

Sutton (SS), Thomas (OF), Ward (OF), Weeks (OF), Osborne (DH), Covington (UT)

HONORABLE MENTION

CHRISTIAN HERITAGE — Erin Leonard (Fr, P), Julia McDonald (So, OF), Halle Poteet (Fr, 2B); COAHULLA CREEK — Emily Banks (Jr, C), Shelbe Dilbeck (Jr, 2B), Erin Harden (Sr, P), Madeleine Kalafut (Jr, OF); DALTON — Kylee Harris (Jr, UT), Hailey Jones (Fr, UT), Christen Pender (Jr, 1B), Ali Swinford (Fr, UT), Blayne Thomason (So, OF); MURRAY COUNTY — Lindsey Dunn (So, UT), Whitney Gribble (So, UT), Shea Pendley (Jr, SS), Ashlee Strong (Jr, OF); NORTH MURRAY — Kara Deal (Sr, UT), Samantha Stafford (Sr, C); NORTHWEST WHITFIELD — Ashley Conner (Sr, SS), Mallory Souther (Sr, 1B); SOUTHEAST WHITFIELD — Chaya Drury (Sr, UT).

1st Place

The Daily Citizen, Dalton

Misty Watson



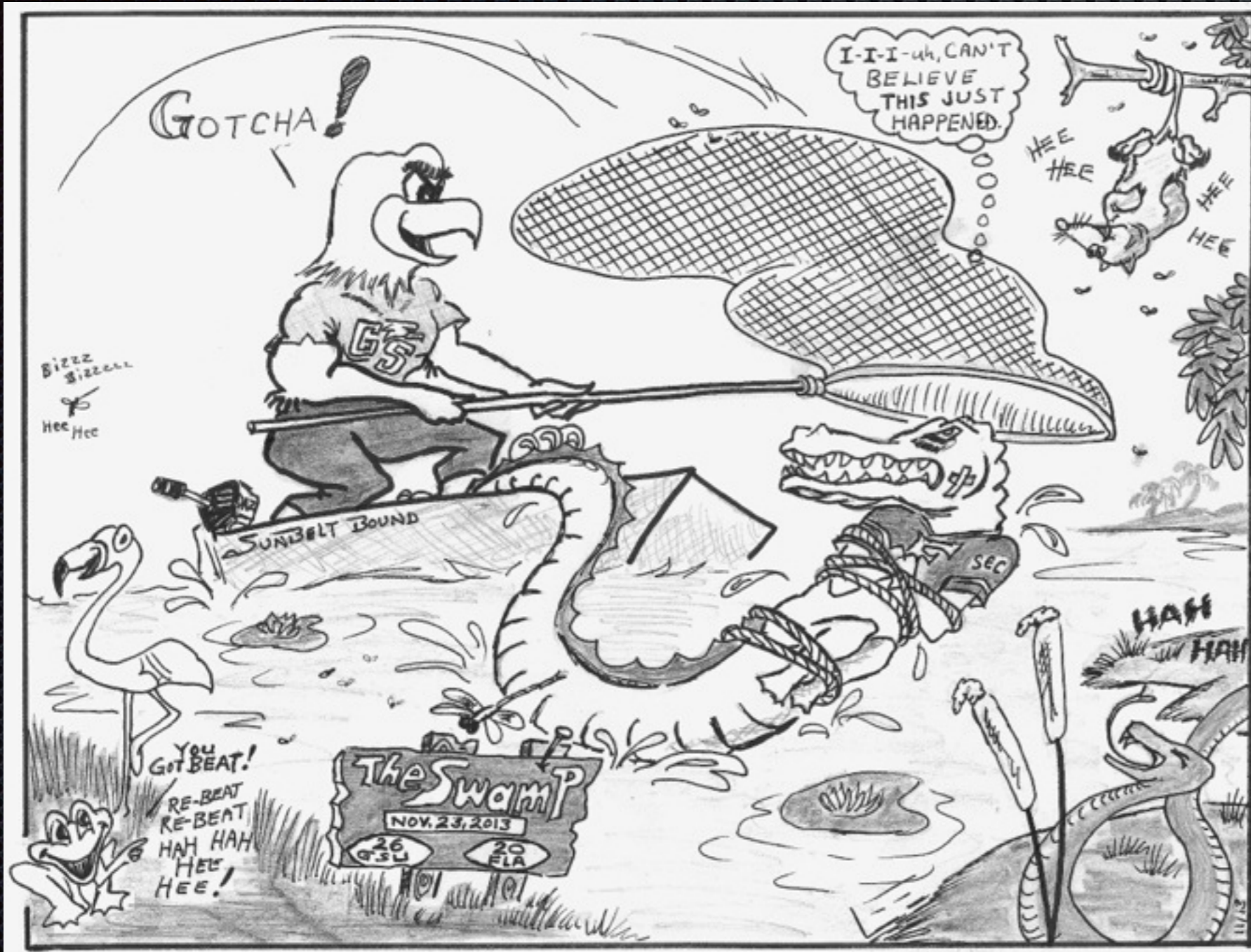
Editorial Cartoonist

Weekly

3rd Place

Sylvania
Telephone

Robert Lee Davis



Editorial Cartoonist

Weekly

2nd Place

Cherokee Ledger-News, Woodstock

Mario Luque

OPINION

THE CHEROKEE LEDGER-NEWS MANAGING EDITOR DEBRA WELLS SEPTEMBER 11, 2013

CHEROKEE VOICE

ISSUE: Sept. 11 marks the 12th anniversary of the largest loss of life from a foreign attack on American soil.

QUESTION: Where were you when you heard about the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks?

War isn't always the answer

Twelve years ago on this day, I was awakened early in the morning by the ringing phone. Back then, as a college student also working a full-time job, I tended to sleep in after a late night of work and/or studying. Back then, this day was much different.

I answered the phone and heard the horror in my father-in-law's voice. "Turn on the TV," he said. Just minutes after turning on the news, my husband and I stared in dismay at the television as the world commercial airplane crashed into the World Trade Center.

We were shocked. At that moment, it was like time stood still. Things were never going to be the same.

The bubble that Americans had been living in, feeling protected from the evils of the world, was gone.

With family living in New York and working in Manhattan, we seriously realized what that they were OK.

It wasn't until late that night that we finally got a call through the phone tree that our loved ones had made it safely back home.

Thousands of others who had just caught a plane that morning or simply went to work like any other day weren't so lucky.

They left behind husbands, wives, children and siblings. And at every anniversary of that horrific day, the bells chime in New York City for each life lost on Sept. 11, 2001.

My heart was correct that morning as I thought to myself that things would never be the same. Things have changed.

It's no longer easy to take a flight — we must go through security screenings, get downs and/or body scans. You can't carry on your champagne and caviar, unless you stick to 3 ounces or less. Mothers who have been away on business trips have been forced to pour out breast milk moments before their grieving baby at home. After much protest, teachers are now allowed to board a flight with expressed breast milk.

We can no longer bring bags into sporting events and what used to be courtesy searches at some places, now have changed to someone ransacking through your purse.

A day they planned for running a marathon or standing on the sidelines no longer is without apprehension.

Earlier this year, two brothers — one of whom characterized himself and his brother as self-radicalized Islamic extremists — chose to set bombs off at the Boston Marathon, killing three and harming more than 200 people who just wanted to run or watch a marathon.

In the heart for the two suspects, an MIT police officer was shot and killed, and several other people were wounded.

As time passes and we get busy with our daily lives, we sometimes forget to keep an eye on our surroundings and what may be going on in our back yard.

We can't forget that the terrorists responsible for 9/11 trained in U.S. flight schools. They lived among average American citizens. They were Average-Joes in the eyes of those who use them in their neighborhoods, they didn't bring attention to themselves.

There is no doubt in my mind that there are others in the U.S. blending in with our daily lives — people who are hiding their true self until they are called upon.

While we worry about what could happen here, those with family in the military also must be thinking about the next deployment their loved one will be called to.

Some have already seen three, four or five deployments to countries like Iraq and Afghanistan.

They've fought on the battle lines. Some have come home with open arms to their loved ones — others have come home to be buried.

Terrorism in the Middle East isn't getting any better, and many leaders in Washington are so enamored with their power that they don't seem to care what the people who elected them want them to do.

But, the opinions of the American people are split.

We're already fighting a war that seems to be never-ending, and with the Syrian government's alleged actions of using chemical weapons on their own people in August, the U.S. keeps creeping down a path to getting involved.

That could be the start of World War III if the U.S. takes military action. Russian President Putin already has said that Russia will bomb Saudi Arabia if the West goes involved. The British Prime Minister and Parliament have said they will not support us because the people of Great Britain don't want them to.

France seems to be behind us, but according to news reports, President Francois Hollande is waiting to see what the U.S. Senate will do (likely this week) before addressing the French public.

Hopefully some resolution will be made at the G-20 Summit taking place in Russia, which, according to news reports, was to mostly focus on military intervention in Syria, instead of its intended purpose of discussing the global economy.

While the U.S. Senate resolution contains wording that forbids ground forces in Syria, military strikes are not the answer.

I agree with Pope Francis and European Council President Herman Van Rompuy, who are pushing for peaceful talks and resolutions to the deadly problems in Syria.

Potentially killing more innocent Syrians is not the way to go.


The U.S. needs to play the role of honest broker and help those who are seeking political asylum.

Our country continues to change and the turning point was that warship morning, cloaked by fog, smoke and death more than a decade ago.

I don't have all the answers to this horrendous issue — I'm lucky if I even have one. But, I know that I don't want my son to live in a world of never-ending war.


It doesn't always take war to end war, and while we captured Saddam Hussein and killed Osama bin Laden, the terrorist cause continues to spread like an incurable disease.

The vaccine isn't necessarily war, and it's important that cooler heads prevail.




Vicki Whittiger
Woodstock

"In Russia looking for a place to live, we were moving from New Jersey. When we stopped in by breakfast, someone told us about it."




Lauren Herdell
Acworth

"I was in math class in sixth grade."




Kendall Hubbs
Woodstock

"I was in Houston, Texas in my work office."




Taylor Barnes
Canton

"On the school bus."



Kaitlin Barnes
Ball Ground

"I was in my fifth grade classroom."



Tim Whitson
Marietta

"I was just getting off the night shift at work. I worked for the airlines, and the Lord just said to turn on the TV and there it was."

CHEROKEEANS by Mario Luque 9/11/13



BEFORE 9/11 JUST AFTER TODAY

Cherokee County will always honor our military, police, firefighters, and medical professionals!

THE CHEROKEE LEDGER-NEWS

Publisher: **DEBRA WELLS** Managing Editor: **DEBRA WELLS**

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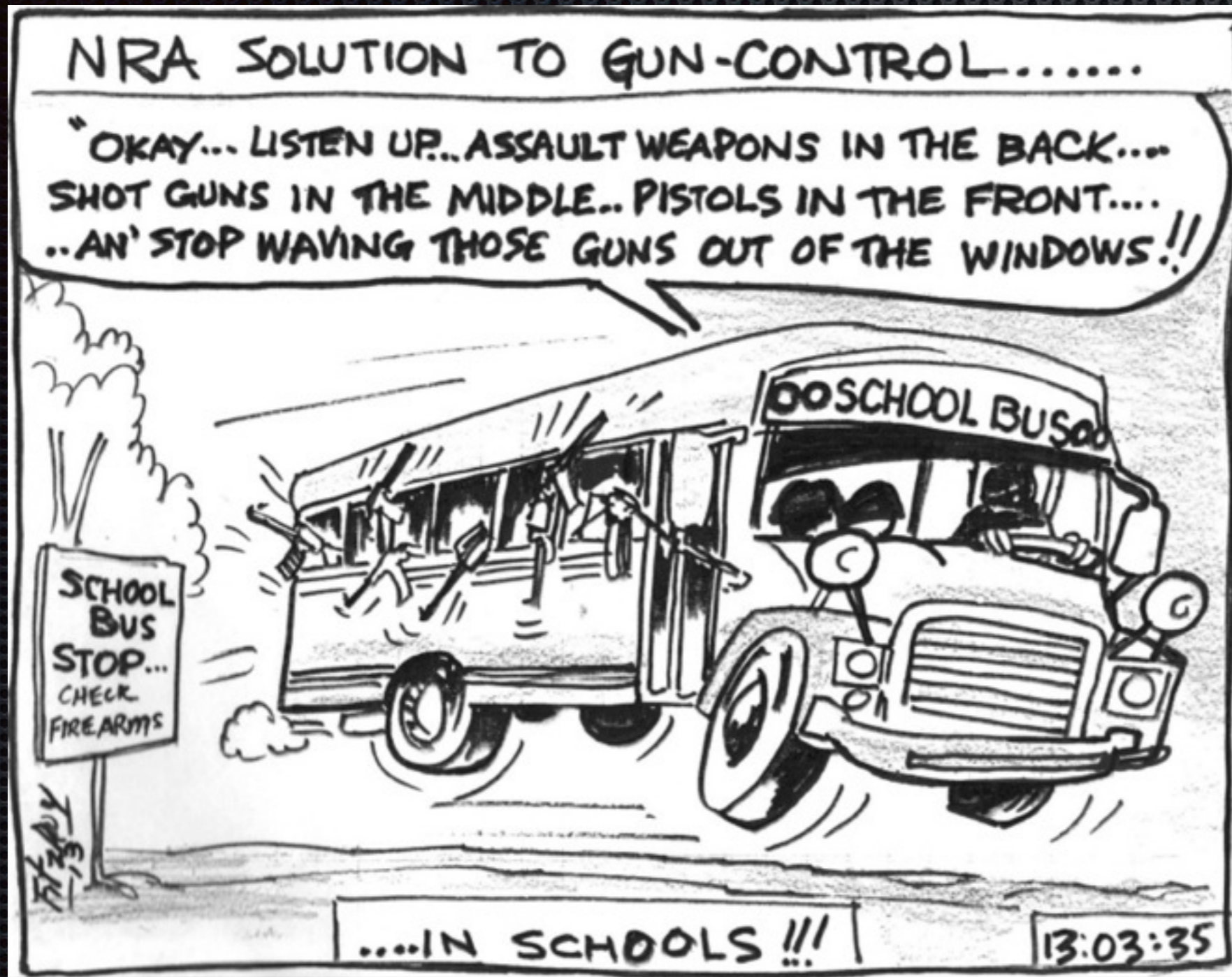
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Daily

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Savannah Morning News

Mark Streeter

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OPINION

MICHAEL C. TRAYNOR
THOMAS S. BARTON
SUSAN M. CATRON
GALE BALDWIN

CATCH UP ON YOUR READING
Catch up on Editorial Page Editor Tom Barton's columns. Go to savannahnews.com and select News to read his columns or see recent Mark Streeter cartoons.

REFINERY EXPLOSION
Blind Justice

IT'S DISAPPOINTING that federal prosecutors in Savannah have decided not to file criminal charges against operators of the Imperial Sugar refinery in Port Wentz, site of a massive explosion and fire in June that killed 14 employees.

Federal safety officials had concluded that "willful" violations of rules that protect workers' lives occurred at the massive plant, which became a toxic trap after sugar dust ignited inside facility. They also found that the catastrophe was "entirely preventable."

Yet Samuel J. Tarver, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, seemed to disagree with the federal government's own findings.

"There was insufficient evidence of intentional disregard or plain indifference to the requirements of OSHA general housekeeping standards to charge Imperial Sugar with criminal violations," Mr. Tarver said in a news release that split the narrowest of hairs.

Then, he continued to substitute more fallacies. He declared that his decision to sit on the explosion was based in the lack of laws "specifically addressed to the safety of workers within the sugar industry at the time of the Imperial Sugar explosion."

This doesn't make sense. Apparently, Mr. Tarver ignored the 2006 testimony of former Imperial Sugar executive Graham H. Graham, a Scotman with extensive experience in manufacturing operations.

Mr. Graham, who was vice president of Imperial's operations at that time, told a U.S. Senate panel that he worried the company's CEO John Shapiro and managers at the company's Port Wentz and Ogeechee, Ga., refineries that their plants were riddled with safety hazards. He said he listed about 400 safety hazards during a five-day walk through. That included potentially explosive areas and waste deep in plants, fire hoses that were missing, fire extinguishers that had not been checked as required and employees that could not recall the last time they had participated in a fire drill.

"And what was the best response?" Mr. Graham said he was shocked for being "overly eager in addressing the refinery's problems." He also said he advocated closing down the plant for cleaning, adding that "I told Mr. Shapiro I was surprised we hadn't killed anybody already because the plant was so dangerous."

That explains why the U.S. Department of Health and Safety Administration hit Imperial Sugar with charges of "willful" violations of workplace safety rules. Explainer that doesn't accidentally accom-

late to some drill-sized jokes. Five hours riddled with dry rot each to themselves, someone decided that it wasn't important to check fire extinguishers or hold fire drills in a place where a single spark could blow the roof off — and did.

These may be considered mere "housekeeping violations" that merit misdemeanor offenses, as opposed to felony charges. But that doesn't excuse looking the other way when 14 people are dead.

There's an old saying that's tried and true: The buck stops here. The buck for the Feb. 3, 2006, accident that the U.S. Chemical Safety Board declared "entirely preventable" stopped at the desk of corporate lawyers in Sugar Land, Texas, where Imperial Sugar was headquartered.

Mr. Tarver said he lacked sufficient evidence of intentional disregard or plain indifference. Yet a high-level corporate whistleblower was already on the record, suggesting exactly that. This just doesn't add up.

Imperial has paid a \$4 million fine. Until Tuesday, the only question was whether company execs would have to do more than write a check for this industrial nightmare.

Federal prosecutors have tremendous discretion in deciding which cases they take to grand juries. Some are like dust clouds in gaping caverns. Others may be 20-20. Or less.

But sometimes, prosecutions serve a healthy purpose — wise or less. They send a message that the federal government will hold people accountable for their behavior, which the public often needs to hear.

Connect Mr. Tarver's decision with the dots, no economic action of his counterpart in Mexico, Michael J. Moore, U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Georgia.

Last week, a grand jury in Middle Georgia returned a 76 count indictment against four former parent-company officials connected to a Georgia power plant, which was linked to a 2009 salmonella outbreak that killed nine people. That plant suffered from atrocious housekeeping, too.

Mr. Moore may not win that case. But it served as a healthy warning to local manufacturers who may compromise consumer safety in search of higher profits.

Mr. Tarver has a good reputation and some excellent prosecutors. That's why Tarver's decision is more than disappointing. It's baffling.

"You can't count on the U.S. Attorney's office," said Tarver, a Savannah trial lawyer who represents several people who worked for Imperial.

No kidding.

This is one time when the Justice Department — as opposed to justice — was blind.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
Man up, Mr. President, and do your job

Good grief, Mr. President. Stop whining about the economy, cut the spending and do what you were hired to do.

Four times in my 30 years teaching college in Kentucky, the governor sent directives to the university presidents to raise their budgets by 1 to 2 percent.

Each president had the authority to designate how his or her budget would be cut. Sometimes they found savings by freezing new hiring or saving on energy by turning off unnecessary lighting and lowering thermostat to prevent cooling-winter. But twice I had to accept a salary cut of 2.5 and 2 percent.

Have federal employees ever taken a salary cut? I doubt it, but many people in business have.

Most federal employees can make more in salary and benefits than their counterparts in private business.

You get a tax increase that results in more the amount the taxpayer will cut, and now you want more. More, more, more. Few politicians are ever satisfied with what they get in taxes.

Maybe it's time to send people to Washington who know how to balance a budget and who can make intelligent decisions when spending our money. If you think an 800 billion cut, which only reduces the spending increase but not the debt, will cause a real catastrophe, just think about the real catastrophe that can happen if the economy collapses.

Every director of every program can find ways to cut their budget if he'll do so. Man up, and direct them to do so. Man up.

JAMES HICKEL
Savannah

Loss of family values behind violence problem

TV news headlines scream for a solution to youth gun violence in our country, and yet media and government support for the most obvious solution is withheld.

Although availability of guns and violent movies, TV and video games are blamed as the culprit (with some justification), it is unpopular to suggest the roots of the problem — encouraged casual sexual relationships, failed marriages, broken homes and children being raised by a third generation of parents who've been non-parental themselves.

Very little support for strong marriage and intact families in general is being expressed.

We have overfed, angry,

depressed children and not enough needs or government support for the very institutions (schools) that nurture and supports a healthy society.

It's the perfect storm.

MARGARET EDWARDS
Savannah

Keep bridge name simple, and don't upset S.C.

Concerning Trey Pelly's response of bridge renaming in his Feb. 23 letter to the editor to take it a step further, so as not to upset our South Carolina friends to the north, we might as well rename it "The Bridge."

JIM LEITH
Savannah

Savannah's best assets: All the charming people

We left Pennsylvania and the cold weather to visit your community for two months, and it will be tough to leave in a few days.

Like all of the brochures say, you are filled with history, charm, great food and nice weather.

What the brochures cannot tell is a potential visitor is that it is really the charming people of Savannah who make this city a warm destination. With people like these, this city will always be a special place to visit.

DIKORIAN and LEN ALFANO
Savannah

Follow Iceland's example, lock up the bankers

Having top-shelf regulations in global economics, Christine Lagarde, Jim Rogers, Peter Schiff, Paul Craig Roberts, Gerald Celente and Max Keiser are all predicting our economic collapse in 2010.

A major cause is our national debt. In the last few years, it has grown so large, we could not pay it off in 1,000 lifetimes.

I understand that the Department of Homeland Security just sent memos to all field offices, telling them to prepare for civil unrest this summer. The belief is that society should break down after our economy collapses.

What can we do other than sit and wait?

We should follow Iceland's example. On the verge of collapse, Iceland arrested their central bankers and lay incumbent politicians. They are serving prison terms. Iceland now has one of the world's safest economies.

NICHOLE NUTTLETON
Savannah, Ga.

Pedestrian flattened by reckless cyclist

On Feb. 20, while visiting Savannah, I was run over by a speeding bicyclist in the crosswalk at State and Bull streets. There were at least six or so oncoming, and I was the unlucky one.

This young woman broke my camera, bruised my leg and left me bleeding from my eyes, when my employees hit the pavement.

After picking up her bike, her only remark to me was, "You should have kept walking! I was going to go between the two of you!"

Then she rode off.

Beware of this cyclist — a white woman in her late teenage years, with a few green hair and yellow tires. Do not get the idea I hit a small child or very elderly person. The media could have been much more.

NICHOLE NUTTLETON
Savannah, Ga.

BYE-BYE, BENEDICT

THEY'LL NOT BE SWEET




1st Place

The Augusta Chronicle

Rick McKee

4A Thursday, May 14, 2013

OPINION

The Augusta Chronicle
The South's Oldest Newspaper - Est. 1786

WALTER'S HUMOROUS PUNISHMENT
FOR WHICH HE PROPRIETOR
RECEIVED FROM EDITORIAL BOARD EDITOR
WALTER'S HUMOROUS PUNISHMENT

Write in perhaps the only profession
in which no preparation
is thought necessary.
- Robert Louis Stevenson

Get the best
of the nation,
for free, also about
it after you've read
- Shakespeare 1513

EDITORIAL

Is 'Obamian' now a word?

President's unfolding scandals could overshadow Watergate

Comparisons have been made recently between the long economic, foreign and Vietnam presidencies of Nixon and Obama presidencies. There may have just been one difference.

Certainly Nixon unambiguously rolled over people and the Constitution to cover up a Southside burglary and get caught. But the executive effort of the Obama administration scandal - Benghazi, the 2011 targeting of non-Americans, the Justice Department's secret seizure of Associated Press phone records, and left's and right's Part and Partisan spin-creating scandal, may add up to much more than even Watergate.

In two of the four Obama administration scandals - Benghazi and Part and Partisan - people have died.

In the two longest-lasting scandals - Part and Partisan and Benghazi - there has also been stonewalling and obstruction by this administration. The attorney general's case against the administration's failure to come clean on its allowing illegal powerful weapons to "walk" into Mexico and into the hands of ruthless drug cartels.

In two of the scandals - Part and Partisan and Benghazi - we still have victims. Benghazi search-

ing for answers as to how and why their loved ones died.

In the Benghazi scandal, high-placed Obama administration officials looked into the eyes of grieving relatives and told them an Internet video was to blame - which they knew to be a lie.

The AP scandal alone was termed a "nuclear event" by Watergate legend Carl Bernstein who has been conspicuously and heavily slow to believe any allegations of impropriety coming from this White House.

"This is outrageous," Bernstein said in a television interview this week. "It is totally unacceptable. This administration has been terrible on this subject from the beginning."

"The object of obtaining phone records is to intimidate people who talk to reporters. This was an accident waiting to become a nuclear event, and now it's happened."

But would it be out of character: This administration - judged say for its delicate rhetoric with regard to terrorism - has been simply too flustered with white-blowing, denial, Benghazi white-thelovers have said they have either feared, been threatened with or actively hit with retaliation for saying what they know. And a report says "Six current and former government officials have been indicted in leak-related cases, twice the number brought under all previous administrations combined."

The secret seizure of Associated Press phone records may be the next lightning of all the Obama scandals. It's a transparent attempt to punish truth-tellers and to intimidate reporters and their sources into silence.

It's alarming that the government would have the gall to even say private phone records will not be given or a specific warrant to do so at a news gathering agency is a manifest attempt to chill freedom of speech and the free flow of information that is vital to a self-governed people.

The authority of the people and the press to operate without such government intervention, and to be exempt in our papers, homes and offices, was recognized by the Constitution in our Bill of Rights.

Yes, as most of us know, because of the raw and often unbridled power of government, those rights can be as easily cut through as reed-stems. The danger between the press and the government is a delicate one; it requires a respect on the part of government for our basic freedoms and the crucial role the press plays in exercising them.

God help us if that respect has been forever altered. If this investigated assault on freedom is left unchanged, then the altering has begun.



EDITORIAL
Is 'Obamian' now a word?
President's unfolding scandals could overshadow Watergate

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I just don't believe Obama

On May 8, President Obama addressed Ohio State University's graduating class. He remarked, "I've grown up hearing words that increasingly seem of government as solving more than some separate, distinct entity that is the rest of all our problems." Obama continued, "They were that primary is always built up and growing the better. You always spend these words. Because what they suggest is that our laws and constitution and justice department is all right in whatever just is done with which we must be treated."

Over the past 30 days, the American public has learned that under the Obama administration, FBI and agents apparently have illegally discovered rights of citizens under the guise of governmental activities.

On Friday we learned that the Internal Revenue Service targeted groups for intense and unprovoked scrutiny based solely upon political views. It just so happens that the targeted groups are conservative entities that work to educate the public and to reform the taxation practices of the federal government. In closing we learned of the Department of Justice seized the phone records of numerous Associated Press reporters and editors. The actions of the Department of Justice represent an egregious and unprovoked attack on journalistic freedom and their responsibility to inform the public of the activities of the government.

We have treated our government with the utmost respect and honor as of us, liberty and property. However, the Constitution clearly states that we are protected from such details in the process and respect for our liberties and the law.

The residents of the past few days (Obama) that our government agents are capable of secretly, illegally and unprovoked activity. Obama reports to the American public to trust him and his family before that our government acts in the best interests of its citizens. I don't believe him. Actions speak louder than words.

By T. DeWitt
New York, N.Y.

Faxes investigate chickens

The president has confirmed that the FBI has been secretly spying on conservative groups since the 2007 that will include (Obama). Report another round of worldwide satellite phone tapping records to the phone records of the Obama administration.

Before the U.S. Internal Security Act (ISIA) the law has been strictly limited to the use of telephone, radio, television, and other electronic communications. It is not clear how the law has been expanded to include satellite phones and other electronic communications.

Four months before the end of the Obama administration, the Obama administration and the Democratic Party want to lock the records under the ISIA and require the records to be destroyed. We have a 2011 federal law apparently with no intention of ever paying the bill. This makes Congress a bunch of liars.

We have had these confidential congressmen going up for hearings on the records and they in the past, the law has been used to investigate military officials. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is correct. "At this point, what reference does it make?"

Walter McKee
Florida

Halt-staff flags? Here's why

We are our flags normally at half-staff? Because there's some to our loved ones the point of our own. They came to take our liberties, to take the freedoms of our world, to take the rights of citizens and to wear the flag. Our flag is not just a flag. It is a symbol of our freedom and our rights. It is a symbol of our freedom and our rights. It is a symbol of our freedom and our rights. It is a symbol of our freedom and our rights.

By T. DeWitt
New York, N.Y.

Too many teachers are indoctrinating pupils to hate America

Boston's Thomas and Deborah Thomas, who are owners of the Boston-based company that provides the curriculum for the Boston School District, have been accused of indoctrinating children to hate America. The Thomases, who are also the authors of the curriculum, have been accused of indoctrinating children to hate America. The Thomases, who are also the authors of the curriculum, have been accused of indoctrinating children to hate America.

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WALTER WILLIAMS
Columnist

Professor Garcia frequently in an editorial position to teach. He is a professor of law at the University of South Florida. He is a professor of law at the University of South Florida. He is a professor of law at the University of South Florida.

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Cherokee Ledger-News, Woodstock

Carolyn Mathews

CHEROKEE LIFE

MARCH 15, 2013 THE CHEROKEE LEDGER-NEWS 19



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JESSICA WAGNER, LEDGER-NEWS

Capturing 'The Magic of a Moment'

Little River special education student to be honored in Atlanta for PTA Reflections contest entry

BY CAROLYN MATHEWS
cmathews@ledgernews.com

Little River Elementary School second-grader Christopher Yancy sees life through a lens — and uses his photographs to produce award-winning art.

Nine-year-old Christopher, son of Brenda Page and Fred Yancy of Woodstock, was born with Down syndrome. He is in Katy Nix's special education class.

This past fall, Christopher entered the PTA Reflections Art competition under the category of photography with his "self-portrait," a series of photos of himself taken rapid-fire with his iPad, using the PhotoBooth "visual" effect.

The National PTA Reflections program is PTA's cornerstone arts program.

It was developed in 1989 by Colorado's PTA President Mary Lou Anderson to encourage students to explore their talents and express themselves. Since then, the Reflections program has inspired millions of students to reflect on a specific theme and create original artwork.

Each year, students in grades Pre-K through 12 are recognized for bringing the theme to life through dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography and visual arts. In 2012, the Special Artist Division emerged as an optional division for students whose physical, cognitive or mental health challenges meet Americans With Disabilities Act guidelines.

However, Christopher's entry was judged along with more than 3,000 entries at the state level ranging from K-12 grades, from all intellectual abilities. There were only 25 finalists from the 2,666 entries.

The theme of the contest was "The Magic of a Moment."

"He took the whole sequence of self-portraits and put them in a row," his mom explained.

She said she did not even realize Christopher's iPad took pictures until he showed her how to do it one day.

Photos, above, from left: 1. With his camera in hand, 9-year-old Christopher Yancy tests his camera before setting up his subject; 2. Christopher situates The Cat in the Hat "just so" in a chair before using him as a photography subject; 3. Christopher shows his Cat in the Hat photo to Little River Principal Christian Kirby. Photos by Carolyn Mathews | Ledger-News.

SEE PAGE, PAGE 11

Full circle

Land once tended to by Canton native's family now is home to community garden

BY JANET REITER
jreiter@ledgernews.com

When news traveled to the Georgia-Tennessee line home of Tina Theeke that Canton was opening its first official public garden, it was a full-circle moment. The site of the Canton Community Victory Garden East at 148 Big Oak Drive is where her great-grandfather used to till the land.

The garden opened with 36 beds filled with top soil last April, on Earth Day. Theeke heard about the garden through a news report, which brought a big smile to her face. In 1948, her grandfather and grandmother purchased a large swath of land on Big Oak Drive, just off Ga. 26 and west of the now-Canton Marketplace. Owney and Lulu Thompson made the parcel home.

"My great-granddaddy had a gigantic garden, fruit trees, and my great-grandmother was an expert canner," Theeke said, adding that the slope of the land, location of septic lines and amount of sunlight made it perfect for planting. "She canned everything. Her cooking is legendary. You know how that goes — everybody has that grandmother in their family."

In 1981, Theeke's parents purchased a portion of the property from her great-grandfather and built a home where the community garden now is located. As the house was being built, Owney Thompson died suddenly and never got to see it completed.

Theeke's father, Tommy Smith, owned the house until 1989. After that, it became a rental home for several years.

SEE PAGE 11, PAGE 11



PHOTO SPECIAL TO THE LEDGER-NEWS

A goal of saving lives

BY JESSICA WAGNER
jwagner@ledgernews.com

As a veteran firefighter with 33 years of service, Steve Williams has made a career out of saving the lives of others. After retiring from the Fulton County Fire Department, however, he embarked on a journey to save the lives of those he calls his "Yan family."

Williams, who volunteers as a fireman in the Woodstock Community, created what he called a lifesaving product for not only the public safety sector, but for children, as well.

AROGS, which stands for A Way Of Getting Seen, has only been on the market for eight months, but already is utilized in 36 states and five countries. The idea to create a lifesaving system, Williams said, started more than a decade ago after six firefighters lost their lives in Massachusetts.

SEE PAGE 11, PAGE 11



Education Coverage

H

2nd Place

Cherokee Ledger-News, Woodstock

Megan Thornton

THE CHEROKEE
LEDGER-NEWS

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Local author, illustrator make their mark with their first book
Former police sergeant pleads guilty in prescription drug case
Cherokee squads pull sweep of Lanier in Region 5AAAAA affairs

INSIDE: ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT 23 CLASSIFIEDS 25 CROSSWORD 32 LAW & ORDER 9 OPINION 6 RESTAURANT REPORTS 26 SOAPBOX 7 SPORTS 13 SPOTLIGHT 31

Detectives investigate Woodstock homicide

BY JESSICA LINDSEY
jess@ledgernews.com

The Cherokee Sheriff's Office is investigating the death of a 47-year-old Woodstock man who was found shot to death inside his home.

A spokesman for the department said Christopher Piarro's body was discovered by his father on Sunday evening.

Lt. Jay Baker said investigators do not believe this is a random crime and think the suspect(s) knew Piarro, who lived alone in the home off Misty Hollow Way where his body was discovered.

"Investigators continue to work on identifying a suspect(s) and establishing a motive," Baker said, adding a weapon was not found at the crime scene.

Investigators will be interviewing family members and acquaintances of Piarro.

press time Dec. 5, and no charges had been filed. Anyone with information is asked to call investigators at (770) 928-0234.

For information on any developments in this investigation or any breaking news throughout the week, visit www.ledgernews.com.

School board nixes anonymous donor idea

BY MEGAN THORNTON
meg@ledgernews.com

The Cherokee County Board of Education voted against accepting funds raised by a private group of residents looking to extend the fiscal year presentation at the board's January meeting.

In a 3-0 vote, with board members Kelly Marlow and Michael O'Neil in dissent, the board rejected Marlow's proposed motion that the board accept an unknown amount of money raised by an anonymous group to extend the time — but not to defray the existing cost — for the presentation by Financial Auditing Firm Novell and Jenkins on the Fiscal Year 2011 audit.

SEE SCHOOL, PAGE 11

Puppy Love Christmas

Over the weekend, the Cherokee Animal Shelter hosted a Home for the Holidays event where more than 75 pets were adopted at no cost. The shelter's annual holiday open house was also an opportunity for residents to take a photo with Santa and their pet. Pictured, at left, Serria visits with Piper, who was adopted from the shelter by Amanda and Ken Lohse, a Cherokee Sheriff's Office captain.

JESSICA LINDSEY / LEDGER NEWS

Wreaths to be laid on Saturday at National Cemetery

BY JILL RICHSTONE
jill@ledgernews.com

The holidays are a chance for families and friends to spend time with one another and to give thanks for their blessings throughout the year.

However, the holidays also can be full of painful memories of lost loved ones who won't be home for Christmas.

Wreaths Across America is a national organization that coordinates wreath laying ceremonies on a specified Saturday in December at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as veterans' cemeteries and other locations across the country each year.

This year, Wreaths Across America will take place on Dec. 14. One local ceremony will be happening at the Georgia National Cemetery, 1080 Veterans Cemetery Road, Canton.

The wreath laying will begin at 10:00 a.m., rain or shine. Volunteers who wish to participate should be at the cemetery section they wish to lay wreaths at by 11 a.m.

SEE WREATHS, PAGE 11

Officials consider Flash Foods request

Holly Springs City Council hears applicant's requests during work session

BY JESSICA LINDSEY
jess@ledgernews.com

After taking a month to address some of the concerns voiced by Harmony on the Lakes residents, the applicant seeking to construct a gas station on Hickory Flat Highway appeared again before the Holly Springs City Council last week.

Jim Rollins of Peach Consolidated Properties is seeking to annex about 3 acres of land near the north entrance to the Harmony on the Lakes subdivision and rezone the property from residential to general commercial. Rollins also has applied for a conditional use permit to operate a 4,000 square-foot, 24-hour Flash Foods gas station and convenience store on the property.

"The Holly Springs Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval for the proposed gas station in September, and the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners also agreed not to protest the annexation request that same month.

The applications made their way to the City Council in October, but were pulled from the agenda at the voting meeting after Rollins requested more time to address some of the concerns residents voiced at previous meetings.

SEE HOUSING, PAGE 18

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Education Coverage

H

COMMUNITY Halloween #B5

SECTION WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2013 bayonetandsaber

Leaders renew warrior health care covenant

By ADRIENNE ANDERSON
www.bayonetandsaber.com

Top leaders at Fort Benning signed the Army Warrior Healthcare Covenant today, renewing their dedication to improving the quality of care for Soldiers and their Families. November is Warrior Care Month.

"This month reminds us to take a moment and rededicate ourselves to our creed to never leave a fellow Soldier," said Lt. Col. Kyle Fegan, Warrior Transition Battalion commander. "To follow through with our bond, our covenant states we will always take care of our wounded, ill and injured Soldiers and Family members with the utmost care and compassion."

The Army Warrior Healthcare Covenant was established in 2007.

Col. Scott Avery, MEDDAC commander, said taking care of Soldiers was their No. 1 priority.

"We recognize that the last 11 years have tested our Soldiers and our Families," he said. "We recognize, treat the invisible wounds of war and ... help our teammates cope with the daily rigors of Army life. We gather today to renew our pledge of commitment to our fine Soldiers and their Families."

Less than 2 percent of the nation serves, said Maj. Gen. H. R. McMasters, Fort Benning's commanding general and guest speaker at the event.

"It is unprecedented in our nation where we would only go on fire to fight enemies for so long," he said.

McMasters said it's important to remain strong in order to define the essence of our civilized people through trust and treatment and the partnership with the community — those whose freedom Soldiers fight for.

"It's really all of our commitment as individuals to be tough, to set high standards for ourselves and our fellow Soldiers and their most precious expectations," he said.

Fegan said he sees WTB Soldiers every morning at the gym.

"They inspire me everyday to be happy with the blessings we all have and to dream on in the face of adversity," he said.



Don't do drugs!
Students get firsthand look at drug dangers

By ADRIENNE ANDERSON
www.bayonetandsaber.com

I wasn't ghosts and goblins that scared Faith Middle School students on Halloween — it was images of people who put harmful chemicals in their bodies. During Band Kidbox Week, students attended Linda Dault's Dose of Reality assembly, which literally showed what drugs and alcohol can do to the body.

Dault, an emergency department nurse from Maine, travels around the country teaching students about the dangers of harmful substances.

"The pictures were really scary," Angelica Chandler, an eighth grader, said. "Drugs can make you look really old. I thought the program was a very good lesson for some people who are thinking about doing drugs."

The program included student interaction. Jonathan Myrtil, a seventh grader, was one of the students to participate on stage. During the scene, Dault explained how emergency hospital staff pumped toxic substances out of the body by using a tube that goes down the nose. Jonathan was chosen to play the patient.

"It is not real I would have been scared," he said. "But yet, I would know that they were trying to get the poison out of my stomach. I would never (use) alcohol."

◆ DRUGS, BY



Each grade's theater class, led by Caroline Light and seventh grader Ryan Prather, show the audience great things to remember after Linda Dault explains why it's not safe to take pills when you don't know what they contain.



Post office to hold Passport Day on Nov. 16

Frequently asked questions

How much does a U.S. passport cost?
A: The cost of your U.S. passport will depend on the type of passport you request and how quickly you need it. Visit travel.state.gov for more information on the cost of a U.S. passport book or a U.S. passport card and all associated services.

I am preparing for official travel. How do I obtain my diplomatic, official or regular no-fee passport?
A: The Special Issuance Agency, located in Washington, D.C., issues no-fee passports to citizens traveling abroad for the U.S. government, their dependents (if permitted to accompany them), and certain others who are exempt by law from payment of the passport fee.

My passport has already been issued.
A: The cost of your U.S. passport will depend on the type of passport you request and how quickly you need it. Visit travel.state.gov for more information on the cost of a U.S. passport book or a U.S. passport card and all associated services.

Passport Day
Date: Nov. 16
Time: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Where: Downtown Station post office, 120 12th St.

If interested in attending, email us at benning@travel.state.gov with the number of people interested in applying for passports.

and mailed to me, but I have not received it. What do I do?
A: Contact the National Passport Information Center. A customer service representative will confirm the date your passport mailed to you, the address to which it was mailed and, if necessary, help you report the non-receipt of your passport. You have 90 days from the date your passport was issued to report that you have not yet received it in the mail. If you do not report the non-receipt of your passport within 90 days of the issue date, you will be required to reapply and submit the full passport fee.

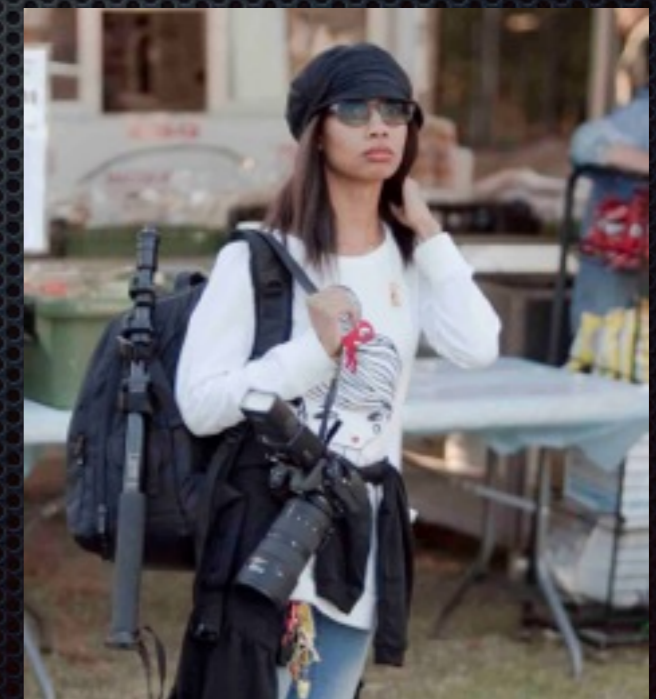
How long does it take to get a passport?
A: Processing times can vary depending on workload and occasional unforeseen circumstances such as natural disasters. During busier times, such as the summer travel season, we encourage customers to expedite their applications if traveling in less than 10 weeks.

For more information, visit http://travel.state.gov/passport/day/faq_1741.html

1st Place

Bayonet and Saber, Fort Benning

Adrienne Anderson



Education Coverage

G

Students arrested after joining 'fight club'

By Susan Norman
 www.barrowjournal.com

Three juvenile Apolache High School students were arrested last week and charged with disorderly conduct after police got wind of a secret "fight club" that had been organizing beat fights during school days and giving the clubs names.

Fight clubs have surfaced in bars, schools and other places since the 1990s release of the movie, "Fight Club." The club wasn't a knockoff, but because a cult classic particularly among young men and teen-age boys. Some 13 years later, original clubs continue to form and to operate under the radar until they are discovered and shut down. That's what police and school administrators are trying to do in the so-called "13 Seconds" club at AHS.

"The boys that have been caught fighting so far have been appropriately disciplined and the administration is hoping it be known that, going forward, any student caught participating in any way, whether physically or as a planned spectator to a match, will be disciplined at the highest level possible up to and including expulsion," said superintendent Woods. "We had a serious response to the newspaper's inquiry about the incident."

Chris McMichael, executive director for teaching and learning, said all students found to be involved "in any way" were disciplined.

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT
 According to published reports, the first rule of a fight club is to never talk about it. That's also the second rule. But an AHS student noted about the potential for serious injuries did just that. The unidentified student told school resource officers Scott Yule and Ben Maxwell of the Barrow County Sheriff's Office that multiple fights were occurring weekly in a designated boys' restroom throughout the school day. Each bout lasted only 15 seconds, and video clips of two fights that were posted on Facebook showed the fighting was consensual.

"It was apparent from the footage the fights were agreed upon," states the deputies' report of the incident. "Before each fight the boys would touch hands in a show of sportsmanship. Similar to what you would see before a boxing match."

Deputies interviewed the boys involved in the recorded fights on Feb. 11.

"The fights were planned and the rules were established and agreed upon," the report states. "There were to be only open-handed strikes to the face and closed hand punches to the body. The boys referred to it as 'tag fighting.'"

The notes told the deputies that they were all friends and "that's what friends do, they have a fight."

However, the deputies used the videos of the boys' fights to make the point that even friendly bouts can go bad.

See **Fight** on Page 18

Barrow Briefs:

Rotary Club to celebrate 50th anniv.

The Rotary Club of Winder will hold its "50th Anniversary Dinner & Gala" Friday, March 8, from 6:30 to 10 p.m. at The Georgia Club in Suwanee.

The event will feature dinner, award presentations and dancing with the Dixie Bowlall band, in the Everwood Ballroom.

Proceeds from the event will benefit The Tree House and Pediatric CASH.

Tickets are \$75 per person. A cash bar will be available. Seats in March 10.

For tickets or information, contact Christine White at 770-867-8470, Louise Beale at 478-867-7808 or Rotary Club of Winder at P.O. Box 1091, Winder, GA 30686.

Sign-ups taken at Head Start

Barrow County Head Start is a free preschool program for 3- and 4-year-olds. Children must have turned 3 or 4 by Sept. 1, 2012.

Classes are held Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Applications are currently being accepted at 75 Maynard Street in Winder.

For more information on enrolling, call Head Start at 770-867-6167.

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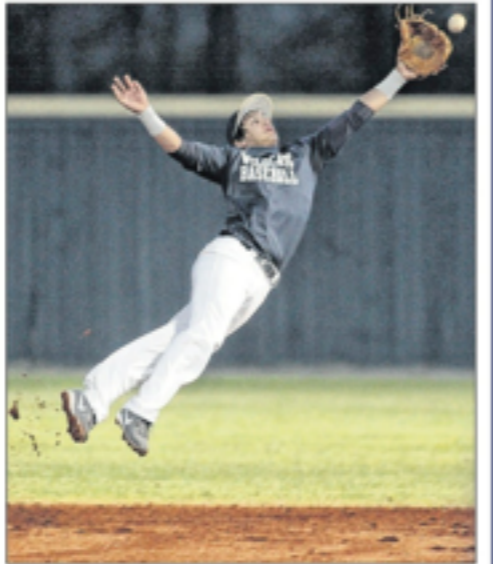
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 Horace Murphy

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Baseball Returns



DIAMOND BOYS ARE BACK
 While the weather is not completely spring like yet, high school baseball has returned for another season. The Apolache High School Wildcats hosted Morgan County High School for a scrimmage Friday. Chance Rodriguez (shown making a play during the contest) and the Wildcats rallied for a 4-3 win. The weather was a little on the chilly side, especially once darkness fell. Those who attend AHS games each spring know all too well the cold temperatures "on the hill" at the Ches. See more coverage in today's sports section beginning on page 1B.
 Photo by Jessica Brown

State of the Cities: Carl industrial plant to start construction

By Susan Norman
 www.barrowjournal.com

The mayor of Barrow County's five towns and cities gave their annual "State of the Cities" presentations to the Barrow County Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday.

Within the speeches were two major announcements — the biggest, tentatively from the mayor of the smallest town.

Carl Mayor David Brock said Schen Container Systems Inc., a German plastics manufacturer, would begin construction of its new plastic recycling plant this year.

The company purchased the site — three tracts with almost 36 acres between Hwy. 1 and Railroad Highway — almost five years ago and in 2010 announced plans to build almost 600,000 square feet of industrial space and to create hundreds of jobs.

However, the economic recession, coupled with the company's redesign of the project, put the project on hold.

Brock told the business leaders at the luncheon that that is about to change.

"We've got good news," he said. "Schen is going to break ground this year."

The mayor provided no further details, but noted that Winder would provide water service to the site and Barrow County would provide the sewer service. He said the town plans to widen a local road to accommodate the plant.

Brock also noted that the plant development would further bolster the town's rapidly increasing rate of commercial and residential development, which he said currently is 50 percent commercial and 50 percent residential.

See **State of the Cities** on Page 1A

Winder sets policy to fill Eberhart seat

By Susan Norman
 www.barrowjournal.com

Winder city officials have changed their minds about the process for filling the Ward 2 city council seat vacated by the recent death of longtime councilman Charles Eberhart.

Mayor David Maynard said although the charter makes the city council responsible for filling the seat and makes no provision for a candidate qualifying process in situations like this, he has decided to establish one so that anyone seriously interested in the post can have a fair chance to be considered.

Qualifying will take place from 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 25, through Wednesday, Feb. 27, at the Barrow County Vice Registration & Elections Office, 233 E. Broad St., Winder. Election supervisor Monica Franklin will qualify candidates.

Candidates must be at least 21 years old, be qualified to vote in the city, and be a resident of Ward 2 for at least one year. The mayor said he and mayor pro-tem Sonny Morris likely would interview the candidates individually and explain what the post requires.

Winder council convention meets weekly, and the full council meets typically on the first Monday of each month.

"There's a great lot of studying and reading outside of this," the mayor said.

See **Winder** on Page 3A



A CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS...
 ...a big success. The benefit ball raised over \$10,000 for Peace Place, a domestic violence shelter that also provides outreach services to victims of domestic violence in Barrow, Banks and Jackson Counties. In addition to a 24-hour Crisis Line, Peace Place provides transitional housing, support groups, legal assistance, advocacy and referrals. The black tie optional dinner and dance featured silent and live auctions and was held at the Winder Community Center on Feb. 16. See complete coverage of the fundraiser into today's Community section beginning on page 1C.
 Photo by Lynn Sims-Clark

3rd Place

Barrow Journal, Winder

Susan Norman

Education Coverage

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LONGTIME CMH EMPLOYEES HONORED... Page 5 VALCOURT CLINIC HOLDS OPEN HOUSE... Page 10

The Clinch County News
We give the skinny to you can chew the fat

19th YEAR, ISSUE 30 12002 THE CLINCH COUNTY NEWS Wednesday, June 26, 2013 HOMERVILLE, GEORGIA 10 PAGES, ONE SECTION

COMMUNITY CALENDAR
What's going on in your community

Farmers Market set for Thursday, June 27
Clinch County's Farmers Market is set for Thursday, June 27, from 9-5 p.m. Everyone is invited. The Dollar Homestead Program is looking for all types of growers and hobby gardeners to showcase and will produce on that date. Please contact Joyce Robbins at 912-487-4900 or e-mail jrobbins@clinchcountyga.gov for more information.

New Vision to hold July 4th celebration
New Vision Church of God will be having a 4th of July Celebration on Thursday, July 4, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at the church. There will be games for all ages, water slides, a honey lemon, hot dogs, and free hamburgers, hot dogs, and cotton candy. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Fundraising golf tournament is Saturday
A golf tournament fundraiser will be held Saturday, June 28, at the Fazio Golf Course starting at 9 a.m. Cost is \$100 per team. Millions are \$1 each (1 per team max). A driving contest will be held and cost is \$1 per ball (max of 3 balls). Hole sponsorships are \$100 per hole. For information, contact Renee Morgan at 912-470-0001.

Fifth Sunday Service to be held at Shiloh
The 5th Sunday Community Service will be held at Shiloh Congregational Methodist Church on Sunday, June 30, at 9 p.m., with Rev. James Davis of Homerville United Methodist Church speaking. Everyone is invited to attend this community-wide worship service.

Color Guard holding doughnut fundraiser
Clinch County High School Marching Band Color Guard is selling Krispy Kreme doughnuts to raise funds for uniforms. Color Guard members will be taking orders through Tuesday, July 9. Be glad or cheer-ful! Donate doughnuts. For information or to place an order contact Color Guard Sponsor Chris Moore at 912-728-9954.

St. Paul celebrating pastor's anniversary
St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church will celebrate the Pastor's 25th anniversary Monday-Wednesday, July 1-3, Friday, July 5, and Sunday, July 7. Week night services will be at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday services will be at 9 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

CCMS football starting football workouts
Washington Clinch County Middle School football will start Monday, July 8, at Clinch County High School. Workouts will be from 9 a.m.-11 a.m. Any rising 6th-9th graders planning on playing for CCMS need to have physicals updated prior to workouts.

Revival services at New Vision COG
New Vision Church of God is having Revival services with Jan Albridge from Wednesday, June 26-Friday, June 28. Services begin nightly at 7 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

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WORTH THE 'TRIP'
Dr. Gayle Hughes reflects on educational career on eve of retirement as superintendent

By Tony O'Berry
Contributing Writer

Most people begin a career with the idea of retirement as the destination, but for retiring Superintendent Dr. Gayle Hughes, her career has been about the "TRIP."
"Our system has been successful because we have Trust, Respect, Integrity, and Pride, TRIP," which has led to our progress," said Hughes, whose retirement is effective at the end of June. "We will never reach our destination because even as I leave, I know our system will continue to commit to our children and ensure the TRIP continues so we reach all the children we deserve."
Gayle Hughes' trip began in Brunswick, where she was born while her mother waited on her father to return from his stint in World War II within 15 days after her arrival. Emerson and Helen Chase moved to his hometown of Crossfield, where his two brothers and sister lived. It was here Hughes received her education at Alexander Stephens Institute until she left high school early and attended Oglethorpe at Emory and completed her first degree at Emory.
"My parents had a huge impact on my entire life," she said. "I would have ended up majoring in English and journalism at Emory during the late 1960s, but I realized I needed to have a profession where I could be genuinely employed as my daily called it."
At the encouragement of her mother, she took courses that would enable her to teach, but she met Homerville native John Hughes, and his career in the military took them out of Georgia until 1976.
"Neither of my children was born in Georgia," she said. "John (my son) was born in California and Teris was born in Texas. John made the decision to come home, and we arrived here in 1976."
When she arrived in Clinch County, Hughes plunged into Homerville life not realizing she had found her life's work.
"I thought I wanted to be part of the community and felt like the path was teaching," she recalled. "I never looked back. I didn't always know what I wanted to do, but it was the opportunity of a lifetime."
Hughes began teaching English and journalism at the old high school — in the same campus where she returned 10 years later as the principal director. She served as the Literary Coordinator, Junior Beta and Cheerleading sponsor, while serving as a class sponsor for the classes of 1980 and 1986. She was named STAR teacher also during her time in the classroom.
In reflecting on her career, she recalls her days in the classroom as among her favorites.
"The beauty of my years, truly, has been in the range of students," she said. "I was very fortunate to have taught students who were college prep, vocational and comprehensive, plus the journalism students and literary team students. You

Zoning change clears way for new business
By Len Robbins
Editor/Staff

A new business that could bring as many as 30 jobs to Homerville passed a hurdle Friday, as the Homerville City Council approved a zoning change.
The Homerville Zoning Board recommended that the zoning of a Gilman Circle residence be changed from commercial to R1. At a public hearing Friday, the council approved that recommendation, clearing the way for Best Care Senior Life of Georgia to place a "community living arrangement" group home for disabled residents on the property.
Sharon McInsters, executive director of BestCare of Valdosta, said the home will employ between 15-20 people, mostly CNA's who will care for five wheelchair-bound residents. She said BestCare will then lease the building, according to the arrangement.
McInsters said the residents, formerly the home of Jim and Mabel Chastner, was chosen because of its proximity to Clinch Memorial Hospital, and retail outlets in the city.
McInsters said they hope to have the home in operation by August or September.

Annual Family Fun Day to be held Friday at John Cooper Park
By Len Robbins
Editor/Staff

Community. Daniels said this year's event will have games, a water slide, a honey lemon, hot, and more.
"We'll also have some learning opportunities for kids this year, with a speaker from the armed forces, and others," said Daniels. "We'll also have fireworks, live music, and live hot dogs, hamburgers, and drinks for those who attend."
Daniels and other organizers started the fun day last year in an effort to bring the community together and sponsor positive activities for local youth and families. He asked that anyone wanting to help with the event, or call him at 912-487-6118 or stop by Chamon's Beauty Supplies on North Church Street in Homerville.
Tickets for the event are also on sale and can be purchased from Daniels at Chamon's Beauty Supplies or by calling Daniels.

School board considering November date for SPLOST vote
By Len Robbins
Editor/Staff

The Clinch County Board of Education is voting a November date for a SPLOST renewal date. At a public meeting Monday, board members discussed having the renewal referendum for SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) on the November 5 general election ballot. "SPLOST is the potential third, one-cent sales tax that will go toward educational projects and facilities in Clinch County school system history, would ask voters to renew the tax for another five years.
At Monday's meeting, Superintendent Dr. Gayle Hughes said she would like to see the tax renewed for five years.

'Blend' bringing unique sound to Homerville
Blend, an a cappella duo group, will bring their unique sound to Homerville Wednesday, June 26, performing at the United Methodist Church social hall at 6:30 p.m. Blend performs around the nation, singing renditions of music from the '50s and '60s with no instruments other than their voices. Everyone is invited to attend this special performance.

Color Guard holding doughnut fundraiser

St. Paul celebrating pastor's anniversary

CCMS football starting football workouts

Revival services at New Vision COG

Annual Family Fun Day to be held Friday at John Cooper Park

School board considering November date for SPLOST vote

'Blend' bringing unique sound to Homerville

2nd Place

The Clinch County News, Homerville

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Education Coverage

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1st Place

Walker County Messenger, Lafayette

Matt Ledger

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2013

ONLINE: www.walkercountymessenger.com

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Walker County Messenger

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Two Gordon Lee athletes win state track titles; Indiana calls for a Panther.

Sports

Editor: Matt Ledger

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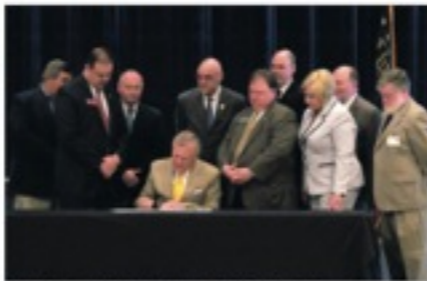
Walker County Messenger

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Walker County Messenger

Governor Deal signs legislation in Walker County

By Christi McIntyre
Walker County's new hospital is set to open in 2014. Georgia governor Nathan Deal signed legislation on Wednesday, May 8, to retroactively sign two state bills into law. Both bills were put forward to their respective houses of general assembly by a local Walker County representative, and both are advantageous for the county. House Bill 826, put forth by LaFayette County and State House District 2 Rep. Jay West, a Republican from Chickamauga, effectively "change the method of filling vacancies in the Walker Deane Catons Hospital Authority in



Georgia governor Nathan Deal signs HB 826 into law. (Messenger photo/Christi McIntyre)



Two Gordon Lee athletes win state track titles; Indiana calls for a Panther.

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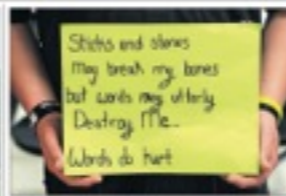
Walker County Messenger

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Teens take a stand against bullying

By Matt Ledger
A group of students at the LaFayette High School Drama Club made a powerful statement to their peers about bullying in a dramatic performance. The students made signs that they were, "tearing their garments over horrific behavior by other teens. Some wrote specific instances of how bullying has affected their lives. They were singing,



Students fluorescent signs convey emotion and strength regarding bullying behavior. (Messenger photo/Matt Ledger)

Rossville Elementary's emotional Relay for Life journey

By Matt Ledger
The Walker-Catons Relay for Life marathon has wide-ranging cancer research and has a necessary can rally around those affected by the disease. More than 67,000 was raised among the 43 teams that took part in the annual event in Fayette County, Ga. Several of the teams were staff members from the Walker County school system, including a team



Matthew Williams (third from left) and representatives of the LaFayette DDA and city of LaFayette ceremoniously dig in their shovels in front of the collapsed bridge, which will be restored as part of Depot Park. (Messenger photo/Christi McIntyre)

Discarded lunch sets off bomb scare.

News



LHS graduate proudly serving his country.

Sports

Walker County Messenger

Walker County Messenger

LaFayette breaks ground to renovate old trail into new park

By Christi McIntyre
Members of the LaFayette DDA, in partnership with the city, held a ceremonial groundbreaking Friday afternoon, May 3, in anticipation of the work which will soon begin on the new "Depot Park." First announced some months ago, the plan to create a park for the neighborhood of the bridge and its adjacent walking trail. Play areas for children will be included as well as a swing set, picnic area and more. The city of LaFayette is currently in the process of securing the necessary equipment to build the park, which will be a great asset to the community.



Matthew Williams (third from left) and representatives of the LaFayette DDA and city of LaFayette ceremoniously dig in their shovels in front of the collapsed bridge, which will be restored as part of Depot Park. (Messenger photo/Christi McIntyre)

Education Coverage

F

3rd Place

Franklin County
Citizen Leader,
Lavonia

Kandice S.
Eberhardt

School system shakeup



BOE shuffles principals, combines Carnesville/Central Franklin schools

By Louise A. Eberhardt and Steve Thomas

CARNESVILLE — Franklin County Schools are going to see some changes next school year.

Tuesday night, the Franklin County Board of Education approved a new plan for organizational restructuring of the school system.

The plan was presented during the board's work session last Thursday night by Franklin County Schools Superintendent Dr. Keith O'Dell.

During an interview Monday, O'Dell said it was highly unusual to discuss personnel in the way that is being done with the restructuring of leadership at the schools.

Normally, the superintendent makes a recommendation to the board and they vote on the matter.

"Everyone's contract, including mine, is with the board of education. So our contract is with a particular school," O'Dell said. "The board knew this would be of great interest to the public. That's why we're trying to do this like we can."

During the meeting Tuesday night, which included a meeting open to all of Franklin County residents, O'Dell said she would never call out any individual teachers and discuss them the way the leadership was being done.

"I'm not very comfortable with this, but I'm going along with it in order to be transparent," O'Dell said. "I don't want anyone thinking I'm sitting in a room thinking away thoughts."

The restructuring plan came out of the board's meeting in concert with leadership development and succession. O'Dell said the board voted their feelings for wanting to develop the people already in the school system.

See SCHOOLS, Page 10A

The Franklin County Board of Education approved a plan Tuesday devised by Superintendent Dr. Keith O'Dell to move three principals to new positions and combine Carnesville and Central Franklin elementary schools.

Carnesville to vote on liquor by drink

By Dawn Matthews and Steve Thomas

CARNESVILLE — Mayor Steve Little says the city has no plan to start a police department.

The question has been raised that with Carnesville's upcoming special election Tuesday in which residents will have the opportunity to vote for liquor by the drink, that there might be an increase in alcohol related crimes in the city creating the need for a city police force.

Little said that should not be a problem.

"The same problem was made when we voted to have and sell," Little said. "The sale of beer and wine has been a financial benefit for the city and the sheriff (Steve Thomas) said there was no increase in alcohol related crimes when we voted that in."

Little said that residents will have the opportunity to make their decision on the liquor by the drink issue during the special election Tuesday.

Voting will take place at the Carnesville Fire Department at 1011 Lewis Road in Carnesville.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. on election day.

Voters have one more day of advance voting.

Friday is the last day to cast their ballots early at the Franklin County Election at Registration office at 201 Adams St. in Carnesville.

The hours are 6 a.m. until 6:30 p.m.

"We are fine with the people vote," Little said. "If they vote it in, that is fine. If not, we are good with that, too."



Robert Mayfield — along with wife Sandra — shows off his new bicycle (left) and his new tools that were purchased with community donations.

Robert's got a brand new ride

By Dawn Matthews and Steve Thomas

LAVONIA — Even though Robert Mayfield is sporting a jagged scar across his shoulder, a brand smile lights his face as he talks about his new bike and the people who made it possible.

"I just want to tell everyone thank you," Mayfield said, adding a special shout out to EMT Scott O'Hara and Ricky Whitworth.

Still recuperating at his sister Sandra Mayfield's home, Robert is doing well now from injuries he received after being struck by a car in January.

A longtime fan of his in Lavonia, Robert was walking to the store on the evening of Jan. 20 when he was hit by a car.

Getting up from where he had fallen, Robert walked the short distance to his sister's home and told her he was hurt.

It was just minutes when EMTs from Lavonia were on the scene and transporting him to the Anderson hospital where it was found he had broken his shoulder in three places and had fractured both knees.

Robert was later transferred to Green/Ole where he underwent surgery to repair his shoulder and treat his leg injuries.

It was during his recovery that friends the Carnesville Fire made a donation to purchase a bike for him or walking to the local businesses showed their generosity and kindness to a friend in need.

Through the efforts of Ricky Whitworth, a local resident who set up at the Northern Georgia Hunt for donations to purchase Robert a new bike and some reflective walking gear to keep the people that ride in his daily walks or bike rides through town.

Last week, thanks to generous donations from a host of friends, Whitworth took Robert and his sister Sandra to Hubersham Bicycles and bought him a new Sun Cruiser bicycle, a bike helmet, tire pump and red and white LED safety lights.

(Whitworth has now donated the bike amount that was set up for Robert in January "Everyone was so generous and so good to Robert," Whitworth said. "He has everything he needs now.")

"I don't think I have ever seen Robert more excited," Whitworth said of their shopping trip. "He picked out the bike and helmet himself."

Whitworth added that the red bike Robert picked out is a really nice one, specifically designed for cruising around town.

After purchasing the bike, Whitworth took Robert and Sandra out to Walmart to purchase some clothes and other necessities — including a reflective vest to keep Robert not only warm on his bike through town, but also safe. It is one of items that he has received after his accident.

"The EMTs gave Robert a coat because they had to cut his off," Sandra said. "Also, Morgan Harbore gave him a really nice, warm, coat, too."

Though Robert is not quite well enough to begin his daily rides and around town, it won't be long before residents will once again see the Sun Cruiser cruising down the road, his smile as bright as the red paint on his new bike.

Sandra, who will celebrate a birthday on St. Patrick's Day says he won't be riding at night anymore, but he is so thankful to all those who have made it possible for him to enjoy his daily rides on his wonderful new bike.

"This is a birthday he will always remember."

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Recreation State Champions! Mite and Pee-Wee football all-stars take home titles - Page 6

The Blackshear Times
Liked by Many • Cussed by Some • Read by Them All

168th YEAR • ISSUE 51 • \$1 including tax BLACKSHEAR, GEORGIA 31514 • WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2015 30 PAGES, ONE SECTION

Home lost to Holly St. fire Sunday

A family of six was displaced Sunday as a fire consumed their Holly Street rental home, but no one was hurt thanks, in part, to a quick dispatching of firefighters.

Blackshear firefighters responded to a call around 2:40 p.m. at 807 Holly St. and stopped an escape for about two hours, according to Fire Chief Dudley Gable. The structure is a total loss, but no injuries were reported.

"It's still under investigation," Gable says. "A person there said it started in the kitchen."

The property was home for two weeks and four children, Tresson Melton, 10; Shavon, 8; and 9-year-old son, Alex, played here in getting his 7-year-old sister, Ariana, to safety after starting the fire in the den.

"The girl had just run out the door with her," Gable says of her son, a soccer player. "She's been through a lot and he was with a which is that situation."

(Continued on Page 10)

Times to close for Christmas

The Blackshear Times will be closed next Tuesday, Dec. 22 and Wednesday, Dec. 23 to allow staff and their families to celebrate Christmas.

Our Dec. 23 issue will be published and delivered a day earlier than in the holiday schedule. Deadlines for submissions for next week's issue will be the Thursday by 5 p.m., instead of the usual time Friday.

Next week's issue will also include our annual Christmas special section.

Graduation rate near state's best

Percentage of Pierce County high school students getting diploma within four years climbs to 91 percent

County	Graduation Rate
Coffee	70.5%
Bacon	85.9%
STATE AVERAGE	71.5%
Pierce	91%
ATKINSON	78.1%
WALKER	82.6%
BRANTLEY	68.3%
CLUNN	75.5%
CHARLTON	82.4%

By David Olson, Staff Writer

Slightly better than that of every 10 Pierce County High School students graduated on time in the Class of 2015 - a rate that puts the area among the top 10 best among Georgia's public school systems.

Pierce County's graduation rate was 91 percent this past school year, up almost six percentage points from the year before, according to a report released by the Georgia Department of Education last week. The system rate eclipsed the state average by about 30 percentage points.

The 91 percent - graduating 891 of 977 students - tied for fourth-highest rate in the state.

Pierce County's graduation rate led the neighboring Chatham County Regional Educational Service Agency (CRESA) area. Other nearby rates in the region are: Wilkes - 85.8 percent, Wayne - 85.8 percent, Charlton - 82.4 percent, Atkinson - 78.1 percent, Clinch - 75.5 percent, Coffee - 70.5 percent and Brantley - 68.3 percent.

Pierce County also graduated more of the economically disadvantaged students within four years, according to the GDOE report.

The state graduation rate is a reflection of all schools in Pierce County.

Report, in her second year as principal, made her for the first time in the state in the 11 years since she joined the high school administration when rates were in the 60-percent range, she said in a report released last month by the Georgia High School Report, in her second year.

(Continued on Page 10)

Collins will seek full term as district attorney

By David Olson, Staff Writer

David Collins, recently appointed Wayne Judicial Circuit District Attorney, is willing to take on a full term after a whirlwind of activity over the last few months -- and he plans to run for a term in his own right in next year's election.

Collins was appointed in July by Governor Nathan Deal to serve the two years remaining on the term of long-time Justice Dick Carr, who retired.

"It's exciting my job. It is a great privilege and honor to serve the people of the Wayne Judicial Circuit," Collins says. "I think the Justice always to record of your life and I am humbled and grateful for the opportunity to serve the people and the citizens of the Wayne Judicial Circuit."

In addition to handling the management and professional responsibilities of the position, the new district attorney has also been focused on working to address issues in the district. He has been working with law enforcement, court and local government officials and citizens.

"It is important to me that I be accessible and transparent. I want to listen to the needs of all six counties and strive to build relationships that not only benefit the Circuit but also each individual community," he says.

Collins says he knows he has a lot of work to do.

(Continued on Page 10)

Who's that helping on the fire truck?

Barter Clinic has been making the rounds with local firefighters lately, but he was part of the action Monday night when Blackshear firefighters received a call for a kitchen fire at a Blackshear home.

Barter, a volunteer, always sees invited to the store area and an area just, according to a report. Firefighter Mark Hays is shown helping him in a fire hose with Barter's help. Photo by Wayne Hardy.

County's agricultural products valued at \$66 million last year

By David Olson, Staff Writer

Though values have increased in recent years, Janice says the value of the total county agricultural products was \$66 million in 2013, making that highest of Georgia's 159 counties, according to a report released last Thursday by the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

The \$66,077,078 value is down only slightly from 2012 by about \$25,000.

"This shows the value of agriculture in the county," says Extension Agent Janice Janice. Both years are well ahead of record record Farm State Fair year 2010 - \$58 million, 2009 - \$45.4 million, 2008 - \$45.7 million, 2007 - \$45.7 million.

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(Continued on Page 10)

Happy Holidays

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The Blackshear Times

Wayne Hardy



Education Coverage

F

A community newspaper serving community needs.

Dawson Community News

Wednesday
September 11, 2013
dawsonnews.com | 31 cents



SPORTS
Tigers face Raiders, 1B

Drug sweep nets six arrests

Alleged meth trafficking network based in Dawson

By Michelle Hunter
mhunter@dawsonnews.com

Six people were arrested last week for their alleged involvement in what authorities described as a Dawson County-based methamphetamine trafficking operation.

Georgia Bureau of Investigation spokeswoman Sherry Long declined to discuss specifics, saying only that the group had been under investigation for about 12 months prior to the Sept. 4 arrests.

"We're not releasing the names of those involved at this time, because the investigation is ongoing," Long said. "There may be more arrests in the investigation continue."

The probe was initiated by the sheriff's office in Forsyth County, where Long said the Dawson-based operation has subsided.

"Over the 12 months the case has been worked we have gotten 200 pounds of meth," she said. The GBI, along with the sheriff's office in Dawson and Forsyth, executed seven search warrants, four of which were in Forsyth, on Sept. 4.

The district attorneys in both counties, as well as the Northern District of Georgia U.S. Attorney's office, were also involved in the effort, Long said.

LANIERTECH

Local campus sets record

Incoming class boosts enrollment at college

By Carly Shivers
CShivers@dawsonnews.com

Lanier Technical College graduated 1,212 students from its programs in 2012.

For this year, that number currently stands at 1,595.

"The large reason for that is that enrollment numbers dropped so much two years ago, we didn't have as many students in the pipeline to graduate," said President Ray Patten.

There had been a 19 percent decrease in enrollment between 2010 and 2011.

He pointed out that enrollment for the fall 2013 semester is up nearly 7 percent since 2012.

In early September, 5,140 students were enrolled at Lanier Tech. Around 300 of those are dual-enrollment students.

Around 1,500 are five-year students, making it the largest freshman group the college has had in years.

For Dawson County, the increase in students included an all-time record high of 223 students for the Dawson Campus, the largest enrollment for any given academic year in the history of the campus.

"We are excited to be serving over 200 students at the Dawson Campus of Lanier Technical College," said Troy Lindsay, Dean of the Dawson Campus. "The entire Lanier Tech Community has worked hard to reach this milestone. We look forward to continued growth as we serve our students and the community."

"We made great progress in getting things in place and making plans to improve our graduation rate," Patten said. "This year we're in the process of really implementing those plans."

One of those plans involves creating an individualized plan of study for all students when they enter as freshmen.

"We're also looking up our advancement program," he said. "We're using an application to assist those plans."

See CLASS | 4A



Subastian Taylor and Cassen Mangrove work in the automotive lab at the Dawson Lanier Tech campus. Left: Wendie Garrish gives a mannequin a perm during a cosmetology exam.

Photo by David Thomas
DThomas@dawsonnews.com

Board restores authority funding

Amended budget also includes ambulances

By Michelle Hunter
mhunter@dawsonnews.com

The Dawson County commission on Thursday voted to restore funding to the group responsible for monitoring industrial development.

In a 4-0 vote, the commissioners approved the county's \$21 million budget for 2014, which includes \$75,000 for the local development authority, funding that was cut two years earlier.

"The development authority is very happy and excited that the board of commissioners reinstated part of our funding," said Peter Hill, chairman.

"It shows support for the economic development for our community and sends an important message to developers and our residents that our board of commissioners supports economic development in our county."

Charlie Acersmann, the authority's executive director, said the partnership will play a role in the county's ability to encourage the recent recession and flourish in the coming months.

"By attracting new businesses to our community, by helping our existing businesses grow, we expand the tax base for the board of commissioners who in turn can fund the services that help make Dawson County a wonderful place to live, work and play," he said.

"You can see all across rural Georgia the effects of communities that ignore economic development, and the effects of those that partner together to create sustainable, diverse communities for their citizens. Those that ignore it are struggling."

In addition to replacing four aging sheriff's patrol cars and buying two new ambulances, the budget includes money for repairs to the county's swimming pool at Veterans Memorial Park and some new computers.

Commissioner Gary Fulmer had hoped the commission would approve buying additional patrol cars, but his motion to do so did not receive a second.

He was, however, able to contribute his colleagues to approve the \$250,000 purchase of a second ambulance that would replace one of two the county has been advised to retire. His motion was amended to draw the money from the county's solid waste funds rather than from reserves.

The overall budget calls for using about \$756,500 of the county's reserves to offset declines in property tax revenue, grading permits and business licenses, as well as electricity

High school debt paid off

System settles up two years early

By David Hunter
dhunter@dawsonnews.com

After 16 years, Dawson County High School is now the property of the Dawson County Board of Education.

An allowed in as item in the fiscal year 2014 budget, the remaining debt on the bond for the high school building has been paid off.

The bond was set to be paid in full in 2015, so this will mark a two-year early debt reduction for the board.

"We feel like we have a quality facility," said Dawson County School Superintendent Keith Patten. "We are glad the funds came in at a time that allowed us to pay the building off two years early."

See DEBT | 4A

3A Car chase ends in Foesyth.

Inside Dawson County Chamber Chronicle

Inside Dawson County Chamber Chronicle

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Times-Courier

Your Hometown Newspaper Devoted To The Progress Of Gilmer County

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County drone testing cancelled

By Ryan R. Pace

The experimental drone testing to be conducted by the Georgia Tech Research Institute at the Gilmer County Airport has been cancelled.

Board of Commissioners Chairman JC Sanford announced a letter from OTSI May, informing him that OTSI was expanding any efforts to fly the drone at the airport.

"Out of respect for the concerns expressed by the residents, OTSI has decided to suspend any plans to fly at the Gilmer County Airport at this time," the letter from Georgia Tech said.

"The drone program is still on hold," Sanford said during a special called meeting May 8.

Charlie Parks, one of the leading opponents of the drone testing said, "I'm very happy this is a dead issue. But I'm disappointed all the commissioners didn't stand this down from the start."

"This is the way government is supposed to work. The people speak — you stand up and vote based."

Commissioner Danny Hall expressed relief over the decision.

"Maybe my phone will quit ringing off the hook now," he said.

A life saving lesson



Clear Creek Middle School science teacher Jason Richards assists student Christopher Pruitt in learning how to prevent choking during an exercise at the school last week. Gilmer County Fire and Rescue personnel were on hand to teach seventh-graders CPR and anti-choking procedures for kids and adults. One student, Corinne Weaver, actually used what she learned in class to help her own mother during an emergency. Read more about her and the life-saving techniques being taught in classrooms in Gilmer Living section of this edition.

Gilmer scores mixed in school performance report

By Whitney Orsatt

The Georgia Department of Education released the first-year report on school and district scores for the Georgia College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRI) last Tuesday, and the Gilmer County School System received mixed scores.

This accountability system replaces the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), which is part of No Child Left Behind. Georgia received a waiver from the program in Feb. 2012 and developed CCRI as a new way of measuring school improvement.

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Local scores — the sum of many indicators

At the elementary level, Gilmer received an overall score of 77.5 as compared to the statewide score of 80.1. Individual schools received the following grades, Edgely Elementary School, 82.1; Mountain View Elementary School, 74.4; and Clear Creek Middle School, 81.2.

Gilmer's middle school score was 77 for Gilmer Middle School and 88 for Clear Creek Middle School.

At the high school level, Gilmer received a score of 78.5, while the state score is at 81.4. Individual school scores were 77 for Gilmer High School and 88 for Clear Creek High School.

BOC settles smelly hog issue

By Ryan R. Pace

The Board of Commissioners (BOC) has settled a long-standing issue regarding the hog issue in the Wadley's Mill area. The BOC has approved a plan to restrict the number of hogs that can be kept on the property.

The plan allows for a maximum of 10 hogs per acre, with a total of 20 hogs allowed on the property. This is a significant reduction from the previous allowance of 20 hogs per acre.

The BOC also approved a plan to restrict the number of hogs that can be kept on the property. The plan allows for a maximum of 10 hogs per acre, with a total of 20 hogs allowed on the property.

Neighbors riled by sex offender in area

By Mark Wilson

Neighbors live on a residential street in the area of the sex offender. The neighbors are concerned about the safety of their children and the impact of the offender on the community.

The sex offender has been living in the area for several years. The neighbors have expressed their concerns to the local law enforcement and the community.

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May is Home Garden Month

The Gilmer County Extension Office will feature healthy options and advice throughout the month.

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Coosawatee regional water authority in running for \$17M water plant funding

By Michael Andrews

The Coosawatee Regional Water and Sewer Authority (CERWA) is in the process of applying for a \$17 million grant from the Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT) to fund a new water treatment plant in the vicinity of Highway 282, Highway 208 and Carter's Lake.

The CERWA has submitted a letter to the DOT requesting the grant. The grant would be used to fund the construction of a new water treatment plant in the vicinity of Highway 282, Highway 208 and Carter's Lake.

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American Cancer Society Relay For Life
A Team Event to Fight Cancer

The Relay For Life of Gilmer County
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Education Coverage

E

2nd Place

The Eatonton Messenger

Lynn Hobbs

The Eatonton Messenger
 Official paper of Putnam County, City of Eatonton and State of Georgia
 All the news from the West Peach

Vol. 152, No. 28 Thursday, July 11, 2013 www.messenger.com Published continuously since 1881 75 cents

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SPORTS - 1B
Elks draw crowd for golf clinic

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14-year-old shines on national stage

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Arena only finalist for top job

Lynn Hobbs
 Acting Superintendent Eric Arnes is the only candidate for superintendent of Putnam County Charter Schools after a vote in a closed board of education meeting July 2.

Board Chairman and District 1 representative Steve Winger made the nomination, which was seconded by District 4 representative Tom Lawrence. The motion passed with four yes votes and one abstention, from District 2 representative Sonnie Jones.

"We have looked at over 30 applications, more than 30 systems and several from other states, and it's my conclusion that the best one happened to be here, doing the job," Winger said. "And obviously, the board (concurred) with me."

According to state law, the vote to approve the recommendation cannot take place for at least 14 days, the appointment is expected to be considered at the board's July 22 regular session.

"My intention is I'm not the superintendent until after that final vote," Arnes said Friday.

Board members began the search for a new superintendent in mid-April after the death of then-

ARENA
 Continued on Page 7A



One man dies in Sunday wreck

Marks Pretty Brock
 A one-car wreck in Putnam County claimed the life of a Baldwin County man early Sunday morning.

Baldwin County native Wesley Thompson, 27, died at the scene on Long Shoals Road.

Putnam County Chief Deputy Russell Blank said Monday morning not much was known about the accident. He said the driver was thought to be contributing factors in the wreck.

Calls concerning the wreck began coming in to Putnam County 911 emergency dispatchers at 6:51 p.m.

Witnesses said Thompson lost control of his 2008 Ford F-250 pickup, coming around a slight curve on Long Shoals, near its intersection with Cross Drive. He hit a ditch, rolled across a driveway, and landed down a mailbox, they said.

The top of the cab then hit a utility pole.

The scene of the impact marked portions of the road's curb nearly to the shoulder, witnesses said. Local residents also reported hearing the wreck.

FATALITY
 Continued on Page 12A

Grand jury indicts 23

Ron Bridgeman
 The Putnam County Grand Jury returned 23 indictments June 25, including 17 counts against Christopher Patrick Goff, mostly for burglary.

Goff was indicted for a series of burglaries in the southern part of Putnam County. The burglaries occurred between Nov. 23, 2012, and March 04, 2013. He faces 12 counts of first-degree burglary, the also faces two counts of criminal trespass, and one count each of carrying an automobile, second-degree criminal damage to property and possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony.

"These were not professional burglaries," Owen Boston, assistant district attorney, said. "They'll break in and steal whatever they find."

In one house, she said, all that was taken was \$600.

INDICTMENTS
 Continued on Page 12A



County talking to industry

The Putnam Development Authority agreed Monday to seek an option on 33 acres of property for a potential industry location.

The PDA was in closed session late Monday morning and agreed to seek the option.

PDA members have said the agency has been working with the potential industry for several months.

Lawrence Lindsey, chairman of the PDA, declined Monday afternoon to say where the property is.

The industry has not been identified.

LEASE
 Continued on Page 13A

BANG-UP HOLIDAY

The Fourth of July holiday was muted in Putnam County, partly because no public celebrations were planned, but mostly because the rain and wind kept many residents indoors. Some celebrations were held before and after July 4, like the July 2 celebration at Rock Eagle 6 in Center. See more photos on Page 2C.

EPAF gets contract for day care center

Ron Bridgeman
 The Eatonton-Putnam Area Foundation was unanimously approved July 2 in the approval of a community program in the former day care facility behind The Plaza Arts Center.

More than 40 people, nearly all of them supporters of the EPAF program, attended the council meeting, filling the limited space and spilling into the lobby of city hall.

A lease between the city and EPAF must be developed and approved before the agreement is final.

LEASE
 Continued on Page 13A

School scores show success

Arena: PC 'among the best in the state'

Lynn Hobbs and Karen Bridgeman
 Putnam County students met or exceeded the state average in 28 out of 39 tests — given to children in third through eighth grades in reading, English/language arts, math, science and social studies — and scored well when compared to their neighbors.

The 2012 CRCT results are just one more example, in a long list of examples, which reinforces the fact that the students in the Putnam County Charter School System are among the best in the state," Acting Superintendent Eric Arnes said.

HIGHER SCORES
 A closer look at the scores reveals PCCSS has even more to be proud of, system accountability reports speculate Beth Brown said.

SCORES
 Continued on Page 5A

PUTNAM PETE
 Quite a Fourth we had — first one I can remember where I had to check for mold between my feet. Between the rain and wind, Butchwerger wouldn't get from his bed under the table. Zane and George both napped around the house like their true love just dumped 'em — just kidding. They had planned a long day on the lake with a large cooler. Summer's half gone, but really, seems like kids will be back in school soon. Development folks must have their heads on wheels trying to keep up — potential industry here, trying to get local officials to see pricing need for utilities and, oh yeah, need a director. Folks might want to start paying attention — your taxes are about to go up — and go up a good amount. All local bodies talking about higher tax rates — won't be an high as they say, but it will bite you. Need the money, but nobody likes to admit it.

Shirley Pate

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Education Coverage

E

1st Place

The Cairo Messenger

Randolph Wind

"The man who wanders out of the way of adversity shall remain in the congregation of the dead."

The Cairo Messenger

CAIRO, GEORGIA VOL. CXL, NO. 29 WWW.CAIROMESSENGER.COM WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2013

SACS has eyes on Grady school board

Randolph B. Wind
Staff Writer

Members of the Grady County Board of Education are under additional scrutiny by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) for alleged mismanagement of two school board members.

Through an examination of public records under Georgia's Open Records Act and from interviews with parties involved, The Messenger has determined the situation of the board may have been accused of misman-

agement and "abuse of power" by Vice Chairman Scott Higginbotham and board member Jeff Worsham.

Scott Higginbotham and Worsham would be required to respond to requests for comments.

Higginbotham and Worsham have allegedly acted inappropriately in their pursuit of making changes to the school and board coaching staff at Grady High School.

The SACS National Review

See SACS, Page A1




“
If this continues it could JEOPARDIZE accreditation or possibly lead to the removal of BOARD MEMBERS or in some instances the whole board.”
”

Jay Windy
Associate Director, AdvanED Georgia

Sheriff terminates Gainous, Walton is new jail administrator

Mark C. Wind
Staff Writer

Grady County Sheriff Harry Young was reportedly dismissed last fall administrator Captain Tim Gainous Tuesday at 10 a.m.

"I had really said about it, but if you are accountable, you don't have anything too much has happened and you're not to get involved. You don't do it in Tim's back, but you fall in a trap sometimes. It's a trap, and we will move on," Sheriff Young said.

The sheriff has appointed Assistant Jail Administrator Lt. John (Shake) Walton as the new jail administrator.

"Shake has been filling in as interim administrator. He has leadership qualities and the people in the jail seem to love him. Shake also suggests me and, ultimately, the responsibility for the jail is on me," Sheriff Young said.

The sheriff said he had known Captain Gainous for over a decade and he said "mutual issues had plagued the jail administrator the entire time."

"This has had some bad things here with his wife. I hope he can find employment elsewhere because he still has a lot to offer. Maybe it will be good to get away from Cairo and

start a new life. Everyone here is upset because he was a vital part of this office and they will miss him," the sheriff said.

Gainous has been on leave without pay since June 28 as a result of two misdemeanor charges of criminal trespass. Sheriff Young said he is awaiting Gainous to be sentenced to a new job.

According to the sheriff, Gainous will not lose his certification as a law enforcement officer, but he will likely be on probation for a year.

"Tim has really helped this office and the county as a whole. He has a lot to offer, and I wish him well," the sheriff said.




JAIL ADMINISTRATOR
Captain Tim Gainous was relieved of his duties by Sheriff Harry Young on Tuesday.

LEUTENANT
Lt. John (Shake) Walton has been named the new jail administrator by Sheriff Harry Young.

Kines wins silver in national competition

Laura Mobley
Staff Writer

Local teen Shelby Kines is a national winner of a youth career leadership contest. Family and Community Center Leaders of America, commonly known as FCLLA, held its National Leadership Conference in Tennessee the week of July 1.

Kines, who graduated this year from Cairo High School, had been a gold medal winner at both region and state level competitions, which led to her choice to compete at the national level. She was one of around 300 overall competitors from Georgia, and took home a silver medal in her category, "Death and Ditch."

See KINES, Page A1

Plane forced to land on Hwy. 319 Friday

Mark C. Wind
Staff Writer

The pilot of a small airplane made an emergency landing on a Grady County highway Friday afternoon. The pilot had taken off from an airport in Tallahassee

when he noticed smoke near the prop on the front of the plane, according to Grady County Sheriff's officials.

Seeing the plane wouldn't make it safely on an airport, the pilot landed on Highway 319 just north of Parkway Junction convenience store.

"The plane came out on the road and tried to maneuver between them without heating anybody up. He said he thought it broke and set it down," explains investigative

Steve Clark with the Grady County Sheriff's Office.

Clark says the pilot reduced the taildragger aspect of his emergency, and since he landed and checked something burning he called 911. He was able to maneuver the plane off the road and into the median, out of the way of road traffic.

A mechanic familiar with the pilot drove from Tallahassee to the damaged plane and made a temporary repair to lower the engine that had been rubbing on the prop, Clark says.

The pilot then used the highway as a runway again and took off heading north, Clark says, with plans of turning and flying back to Tallahassee.

Clark says the Federal Aviation Administration is investigating the incident.



PILOTS ON HIGHWAY 319 in South Grady County were probably surprised to see this small airplane on the road on its landing strip Friday afternoon.

Plane forced to land on Hwy. 319 Friday

Pilot safely landed and later took off

LOOK WHAT'S INSIDE THIS WEEK'S PAPER



Problem WITH MOLD

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Renaud Is Top SWIMMER

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Member Newspaper





Smith, Miller eye city council

TURNING A NEW PAGE: The Professional Association of Douglas County (PAOC) has announced that Dr. Emily Fellers, assistant principal at Levey Middle School, is the first president of the 10,000-member professional organization, the largest such group in the area. She was named official PAOC representative to the board of directors for several years and has also served the organization, participating in activities at home and away, including becoming a member in 2010.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE: Douglasville Mayor Myra Mason is featured in the 100th issue of People magazine. She is one of the most powerful women in the world and has been named one of the 100 most influential people in the world. Mason is also a former Miss Georgia and a former Miss Universe.

LOCAL SENTENCED IN NEW ENGLAND: A 17-year-old male and several females who were arrested in a city park last year were sentenced to a total of about 12,000 hours of community service in the state of New Hampshire.

Delays push construction projects back

BY RON DANIEL
Construction delays are keeping the Steak 'n Shake, Academy Sports and Bright Star Community from being completed on schedule. Douglasville Development Services Director Jeff Nokes said he's hoping the Steak 'n Shake will be open by Thanksgiving. The burger joint is going to be on Popper's on Highway 5 where the West Georgia National Bank building currently sits. Construction equipment is on site now, and Nokes said demolition of the old bank building could begin as early as this week. Once demolition is complete, it should take about 90 days to build the restaurant. Meanwhile, construction for Douglasville's Academy Sports is still on hold. Nokes said the store, which was originally scheduled to be open by

BY ABIGAIL THOMAS
Two Douglasville city council members up for re-election this year will apparently have to fight to keep their seats after two challengers have declared their intentions to run. Former Douglasville Police

Yeager teacher spends memorable summer abroad



Yeager Middle School English teacher Carrie Kibben spent part of her summer vacation teaching in Africa as part of a Fulbright grant. She experienced the harsh conditions of its local schools, where as many as 250 students can be assigned to a single teacher.

Out of Africa

BY RON DANIEL
The pictures that Yeager Middle School English teacher Carrie Kibben brought back from Malawi, Africa tell a story of her trip there this summer. Among them, there are images of Kibben posing with a smiling 11th-grade girl named Mervy, a typical class with 250 first graders meeting outside under a shade tree, a baby in a sling on her back and a picture of her carrying food and water in a basket on her head. Kibben spent more than a month teaching, learning, meeting friends and experiencing life in a Third World country at a primary school, high school and different colleges. Her trip was entirely paid for with a Fulbright grant. "Primary school goes to eighth grade," Kibben recently told Yeager teachers and staff. "So our middle school kids would still be in primary school. They meet only three hours a day. They get there at 8 and leave at 11. That's on a good day. If it's a rainy season, most of the kids cannot go to school because they literally have to walk 10 to 20 miles a day to get to school." Kibben now has a counterpart in Malawi who teaches 11th-grade English. Kibben and her counterpart have been emailing back and forth. They've written lesson plans together and plan to have their students work together this year. "It was interesting to see that they're teaching exactly what we teach here, just with a lot more difficult situation," she said. She said Malawi recently went to a free education

held by Mayor Pro Tem Larry Boyer Miller, who is also a former Douglas County School Board member and state representative candidate. She'll DOE on Thursday for the Ward 2 (Post 1) seat currently held by Smith. She'll DOE on Aug. 5 for the Ward 1 seat currently

College student files for BOC post

Says tax hike inspired him to challenge Mulcare

BY RON DANIEL
Jon Goodfriend filed with the state to start raising money for his run against District 2 Commissioner Mike Mulcare on July 25. A day later, Goodfriend celebrated his 20th birthday.



Goodfriend, a 2011 College Hill High graduate, said he never saw a politician "missing for anything." But Mulcare's vote to increase property taxes on July 22 inspired his entry into the race. "I was disappointed when the vote came down that those Republicans, and I'm in the Republican Party, voted for a tax increase," said Goodfriend. "That goes against every principle in the party. That's real why I got a leg to run

Authorities seek owners of stolen items

FROM STAFF REPORTS
The Douglas County Sheriff's Office is asking for the public's help in identifying items that were stolen from vehicles between June 18 and July 25. The agency is looking for the owners of items that include cameras, cellphones, headphones, car chargers and wallets. Authorities also found a picture of a family on one of



The Douglas County Sheriff's Office is hoping to locate the owners of property stolen in a series of vehicle thefts between June 18 and July 25. If your vehicle was broken into, contact Investigator Dale Kelley at 478-500-4900 to claim your property.

3rd Place

Douglas County
Sentinel,
Douglasville
Ron Daniel

Education Coverage

D

2nd Place

Henry Daily Herald, McDonough

Johnny Jackson

HENRY DAILY HERALD

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 2013

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Officials shovel dirt on a 20-acre lot next to Henry County High School to officially break ground on Southern Crescent Technical College's McDonough campus. Photo by Johnny Jackson.

SOUTHERN CRESCENT TECH BREAKS GROUND IN McDONOUGH

By Johnny Jackson
jjackson@herald.com

McDONOUGH — Southern Crescent Technical College broke ground Thursday on the first building of a proposed eight-building campus in McDonough.

The 20-acre campus is adjacent to Henry County High School and just off Ga. 81 and Tomlinson Street. The campus, being called the Henry County Center, is scheduled to open in 2014.

The industrial college plans to contribute \$2.5 million to \$5 million in state funding to build the campus's first structure. The building is being designed by Lead, Arch & Design in Atlanta. Perkins Construction Group out of Perry is contracted to build the facility.

Initial plans include general purpose classrooms to house general core, pre-health program, business management and criminal justice classes. Officials said there will also be a center for networking lab, computer classrooms, life science labs and an MBCTC simulator.

Kelley Serrage of Hampton and Jessica Fossick of Louisa County are business management students at Southern Crescent Tech.

"It's good for future students," said Serrage, 26. "I like the idea of having a campus in Henry County."

Serrage and Fossick attend classes in the Academy for Advanced Studies wing of Henry County High School.

See D10C10 Page 12A

Jessica Fossick of Louisa County (left) and Kelley Serrage of Hampton attended the ground-breaking ceremony of the Southern Crescent Technical College McDonough campus.



Hampton man indicted in armed robbery, assault

Alleged accomplice died in Henry jail

By Kathy Jackson
kjackson@herald.com

McDONOUGH — A Hampton man whose co-defendant allegedly killed himself in jail has been indicted on armed robbery and assault charges.

Michael Bruce Washington, 21, of Carriage Court, was indicted on armed robbery, two counts of aggravated assault, burglary in the first degree and false imprisonment. His co-defendant, Andrew Richard Morris, 26, of Ivy Lane in Hampton, apparently killed himself in the Henry County Jail in November after being arrested here. The charges against Morris were unfiled.

Henry County police Detective Tom Lee said in

See D10P10 Page 12A

GBI says felon stole shipment of BMW tires

By Kathy Jackson
kjackson@herald.com

McDONOUGH — A convicted felon has been charged with stealing 200 BMW tires in an undercover Georgia Bureau of Investigation operation.

Mark Anthony Collins, 48, of Lakewood Drive in Lithonia, faces a single count of felony theft by taking in the Nov. 9 alleged incident. Anthony was in Henry County Magistrate Court Wednesday awaiting for a preliminary hearing but it was reset for Jan. 10 when the special agent-in-charge of the case for GBI didn't show, said Chief Magistrate Judge Robert Cochran.

GBI Special Agent Anita Ivy alleges that Collins took a load of BMW tires from Kauten and Hagan, a logistics business on Interstate Drive in McDonough.

Collins is also accused of taking a \$20,000 trailer.

A confidential informant brought the tires from Collins as GBI agents conducted surveillance, said Ivy. Police found the tires at Jet Performance in Lithonia.

Collins is out on \$20,000 bond.

Georgia Department of Corrections records show Collins served 18 months in prison from 1999 until 2001 for possession of cocaine and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon in a DeKalb County case. Most recently, Collins served from 2007 until 2009 for possession of methamphetamine and sale or distribution of cocaine in Morgan County.

In other court action:

A Suburban Alexander Clanton, 23, of Savannah, was arrested Tuesday night after police said he drove out a half pound of marijuana from his car while passing from officers.

A Henry County police officer was trying to initiate a traffic stop on Clanton after he clocked him doing 87 mph near exit 210 on southbound I-75 in Lacrosse Grove. The officer said Clanton topped speeds in

See D10E5 Page 12A

Smith: 'No quick fix' to county finances

By Jason A. Smith
jasmith@herald.com

McDONOUGH — Henry County earned the new year by seeing millions of dollars, the new commission chairman told a group of business and government leaders Wednesday.

"How many people do you know that own \$10 million and are still struggling?" Chairman Tommy Smith asked a group of 50 business and government leaders at a Henry County Quality Growth luncheon at

Engle's Landing Country Club in McDonough.

The county's financial obligations include the Atlanta South Regional Airport, Nash Farm Park in Hampton and the Cotton Fields Golf Course in McDonough. Smith said county employees were 34 with layoffs as recently as last month and have to "be quick fix" in Henry's economic woes. "This is not a new game for me," Smith said.

Steve Cobb, the county's executive director, said the organization plans to

work with Smith and other county leaders going forward in an effort to better the county's economic future.

"We can no longer look forward to outside from Washington or our state legislators," Cobb said. "They are no longer relevant to our immediate transportation needs to improve our quality of life of the citizens of Henry County."

Smith plans to focus much of his efforts attracting small businesses to



Photo by Jason A. Smith

Henry County Commission Chairman Tommy Smith spoke to the Henry Council for Quality Growth Wednesday. He addressed issues, including transportation and the county's economic future.

See D10F11 Page 12A

Inside

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Local news... 28
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Today's Web Poll

Do you believe the new Board of Commissioners will be effective?

Web Poll Results

Do you have an escape plan in case of a home fire?

Yes: 52%
No: 32%



Education Coverage

D

Education

The Walton Tribune

D

SUMMER
August 16, 2013



DONNA'S DAY
Donna Erickson

Bubbles add 'pop' to picnics

Blowing bubbles is high on my list of life's simple pleasures. It's relaxing fun

that warms any family get-together into a party. So why not take a big container of this homemade bubble brew to your Labor Day picnic for a bubble-blowing fest and entertain all ages with fun. Challenge kids to make the biggest, longest and loudest-lasting bubble.

Before you leave for the picnic, seat around the house to find unique bubble makers — from fly swatters and plastic six-pack rings to straws and straws. Gather them up and you'll soon be swimming in custom-made bubbles.

To make the solution you'll need:
1 large plastic bowl
2 cups warm water
1-cup dishwashing detergent
2 tablespoons glycerin (from the pharmacy)

Here's the fun: Pour water in the bowl. Measure out and add the liquid detergent. (Please make sure it's not detergent for dishwashers.) Stir. Add the glycerin and stir a little more.

Pull out your junk box, kitchen utensil drawer and cupboards, and say to your kids, "Everyone find a thing or two that isn't sharp, won't get soggy in water and that has lots of holes in it!"

For example, spatulas, biscuit cutters, plastic strawberry cartons and plastic eggs with small holes in space jars (you can clip it on a clothespin or chip clip for a wand handle).

You also may make your own bubbles by twisting thin wire into a shape, such as a square, heart or circle. Leave enough wire to twist together a handle.

Go outside, choose a bubble maker, dip it in the soapy liquid and gently blow through it, or gently wave it back and forth above your head while the bubbles fly!

Donna Erickson is a writer. "Donna's Day" and all other articles are available at www.thewaltontribune.com. In that our time and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.



Casey Paul writes a formula on the board during chemistry class. Paul is just one of many new teachers to come to Walton County, learning the ropes as she goes.

Ring in the new year with new teachers

Local schools bring in fresh instructors for classroom needs

By STEPHEN MILLIGAN

WALNUT GROVE — Zach Laughlin walked into Walnut Grove High School on Wednesday like it was the first day of school.

Of course, Wednesday actually was the first day of school for the entire district, but it was also Laughlin's first day in the classroom as a teacher.

"It was good," Laughlin said of his first day. "It's a great school and I can't say enough about the support here."

Teaching geometry to 11th graders and Math II to 12th graders, Laughlin has been dealing with a learning curve as he tries to figure out how best to set up his classroom and operate among two-dean townships.

"I tried my best to prepare over the summer," Laughlin said. "And I've received a lot of help from the other teachers on how to handle the class and the best way to handle certain things. It's been quite the learning curve."

Laughlin graduated from the University of Georgia with a degree in math education earlier this year and WGED is his first job in the field, both as a math teacher and as the school's new pitching coach for the baseball team.

"I really like it here," Laughlin said. "It's not the only new teacher for local schools. There are teachers who are fresh out of college as well as instructors coming to the local systems

"It's a great school and I can't say enough about the support here."

— Zach Laughlin, math teacher, Walnut Grove High School



Boys and Girls State



Walton County American Legions sent 22 students to Boys State and Girls State camps over the summer. Front row, from left are Roger Dierker, Tyler Ashe, Madeline Hewitt, Sidney Cook, Emily Houston, Sydney Carbell, Sommer Arjum, Savannah Cook, Casey Kimery, Daniel Kemp, James O'Neil and Kathy Brown. Back row, from left are Joseph Long, Nicholas Brewster, Wade Thompson, Jonathan Dingle, Jared Burnich, Blake Odgers, Kaylee Ewing, Andrew Deane, Bobby Mancini and Blake Thomason.

1st Place

The Walton Tribune, Monroe

Stephen Milligan



Education Coverage

C



12 for Life awarded \$3M grant



12 for Life student Trevor Person of Carroll High School packages Ansohr's writing Friday at the 12 for Life plant in Carrollton. The program has been selected to receive a grant from the Department of Education.

Money to be received over next four years

Carroll County Schools will receive a \$3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education for its 12 for Life program, hoping to evolve from a high-quality work-based learning experience to become the gold standard for full STEM immersion education. 12 for Life, the program developed as a partnership between the county system and Southwire Company targeting at-risk students in all of the county high schools, will receive the \$3 million over the next four years, as part of the DOE's Investing in Innovation (I3) competition grant. The Carroll County school system was one of the 25 highest-rated applications, which received a total of more than \$235 million to expand innovative practices designed to improve student achievement. More than 800 applicants attempted to receive funds from the I3 competition.

School system probes complaint

Parents accuse teacher of inappropriate language, behavior

BY HAISTEN WILLIS

The parents of a Villa Rica Elementary School student say their son's teacher used inappropriate language toward children.

Dear Robinson was surprised when his 9-year-old son said in September that something wasn't right at his new school.

He had gone to Villa Elementary on a waiver, but the waiver wasn't renewed and that's why he's at Villa Rica Elementary School now, said Robinson. "This particular day he said he didn't like the school and wanted to go back to Villa."

Robinson thought his son might just be having a hard time adjusting, but what he heard next disturbed him. "He said the teacher told his table that she wished she could make them go to jail and they could see how it is for one day so she can continue to teach the class," Robinson said. "I said 'what?' and he repeated it."

Accused carjacker indicted, arraigned

The woman who allegedly hijacked a pickup truck in Marietta before leading police on a pursuit that ended in Carroll County has been indicted by a grand jury. Nicole Tierra Evans, 27, of Roswell, appeared this week before Judge Emory Palmer for arraignment on formal indicted charges of aggravated assault on a police officer, driving from law enforcement and theft, pleading not guilty.



'Fill Me Up Again' video



Scott Sawyer, left, of Outback Studio in Atlanta films Carlin Jones on Friday at Old McDowell's Farm outside Carrollton for the music video being produced for Jones' song "Fill Me Up Again." Production for the video will be filmed around town today and Sunday, using talent from the area. The song is already on the airwaves. The video for Jones, a national recording gospel artist, is written and directed by Regina Wells of Carrollton.

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Times-Georgian,
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Haisten Willis

Education Coverage

C

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B SECTION
Neighbors

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THE UNION-RECORDER

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SPORTS

JM

JMA Senior Day soccer ends with win. **PAGE 8A**

NEWS

■ Crossing GAO 2013 from Queens. **PAGE 2A**

■ GE student research helps CDR. **PAGE 2A**

■ Blandy PTSD holds fundraiser. **PAGE 6A**

■ City Council approves. **PAGE 6A**

■ Marathon bombing suspect found in resident's boat. **PAGE 7A**

WEATHER
HIGH 70, LOW 42
Extended forecast, 2A



by **RELSEY BARNES**
Eagle Ridge Elementary

Cursive writing an essential skill

By **VISHALI PATEL**
vpatel@unionrecorder.com

An educator of 28 years and former Midway Elementary School principal, Carol Gage said the rigor in academic curriculum has increased since the new Common Core Georgia Performance Standards (CCGPS) was implemented last year and educators now spend less time teaching essential handwriting skills as the focus shifts more toward technology.

"It is important that students learn to write in cursive because they are expected to use primary sources to research projects. Many primary sources including historical documents, diaries and letters are written in cursive," said Gage, who now serves as the instructional specialist for Baldwin County Schools. "It also



Eagle Ridge Elementary School language arts teacher Janet Smith encourages her 5th-graders to get creative on paper in this February 18a photo.

See **CURSIVE**, page 6A

Honoring dedicated Rotarian

George Clark has served Rotary Clubs for 65 years

by **ANDY SPURD**

Rotarian, the president of the Milledgeville Rotary Club, was honored at the club's 65th anniversary celebration at the club's luncheon on Tuesday, April 16. Clark served Rotary Clubs in Eastman, Cochran and currently in Milledgeville. Rotary District Governor Bob Griggs (L) presented Clark with a special commemorative coin Thursday. Clark said the opportunity to serve and carry on fellowship keeps him coming back to Rotary. He turns 90 years old July 2.



See **MAYOR**, page 6A

Mayor presents at Eggs & Issues

From staff reports

Wednesday Mayor Richard Bentley will present "The State of the City" during the luncheon and challenges of city government.

The presentation is part of the Milledgeville Baldwin County Chamber of Commerce's Eggs & Issues Breakfast series where business leaders, community leaders and elected officials take the opportunity to have an open forum discussing issues relating to the community.

Bentley said the forum would update attendees on the city's yearly progress. The mayor said he-to-date discussion topics include:

"I don't you learn more when a question is asked and an answer is given," Bentley said. "A lot of times people will form their own opinions based on something they've heard or read and not re-evaluated. It's best to go directly to the source and get a more accurate answer."

Updates on Stonehouse projects, the

SADD students spread 'click-it' message

Wendell Patel/The Union-Recorder

Baldwin High School SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) members displayed signs and encouraged peers and parents to buckle up as they left after school Thursday as part of the annual Click-It-Or-Ticket event. SADD members also transformed into ghosts to raise awareness throughout the school about the 18 teenagers that die each day resulting from destructive decisions. Sessions use the consequences of poor decisions related to alcohol, drugs and texting through videos and performances just before prom Saturday.



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The Union-Recorder, Milledgeville

Vaishali Patel

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Statesboro Herald

Jeff Harrison

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Your guide to public records in Bulloch County
Births
Honors Rolls
Crazy Crime
Restaurant Inspections
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March 29, 2013
Statesboro Herald
www.statesboroherald.com

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7 family dogs attacked child in yard

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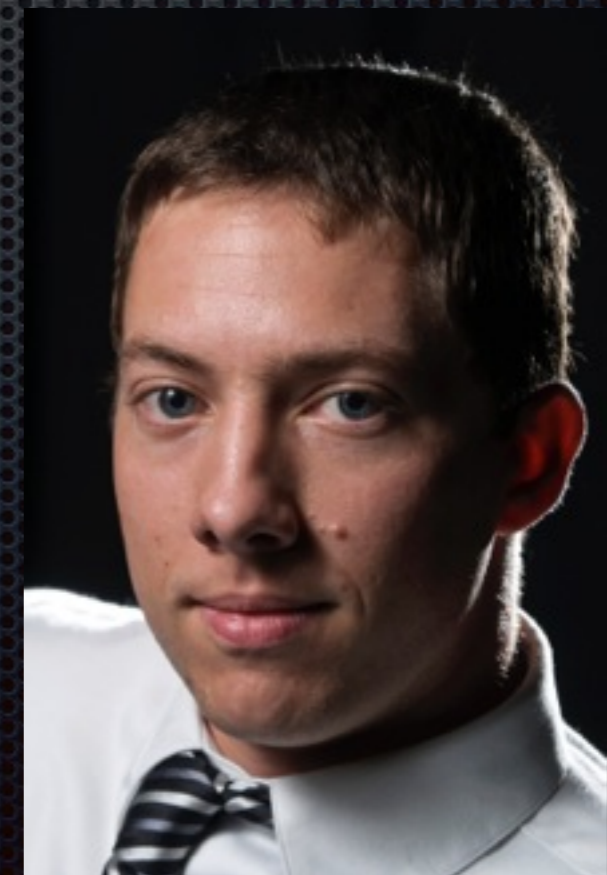
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Carolyn McDevitt
9th grade gifted and STEM
Northgate High School

"From the time I was 7 and played school in the basement, I knew it. I had the leadership needed to be a teacher."

By CELIA SHREVE
cshreve@times.com

Why did you become a teacher?
From the time I was 7 and played school in the basement, I knew it. I had the leadership needed to be a teacher. I was a volunteer in college and had an English major. I added education to it. I knew it was the right decision.

What is your favorite part about being a teacher?
Interacting with the kids. I like to make memories with people.

What is your favorite memory of teaching?
Two years ago, I had lesson plans for days made me cards and a poster. I was so overwhelmed for them to show me their love and appreciation.

How long have you been teaching?
Since 1993, but I took four years off to be home with my kids.

Do you have a family?
I have been married for 18 years, and I have two boys. One is a junior here, and the other is a seventh grader at Madras Middle School.

What do you do for fun?
I do things with my boys. I watch their baseball games. I read. I travel to the galaxy program. I also like decorating and interior design.

If there is one thing you would teach your students, what would it be?
Be yourself. That's great because you are. I tell my students that every day, and I teach them that through literature and personal stories.

Glanton students study history firsthand

By CELIA SHREVE
cshreve@times.com

Earlier this week, fourth-graders at Glanton Elementary School in Coconino County studied the lives of those who shared with them stories from their generation.

"It's a wonderful thing to chat with a child," said Glanton Elementary School Principal Katie Corbett. "When something like this happens, it's an opportunity for us to meet some really great people," she said to the students. "Take your time with these people."

Students spent the rest of the morning with one of the 20 adult participants. These adults represented key areas and eras in Coconino County — city government, Kiwanis, education, and community leaders. Each student listened and took notes while their adult partner shared a story from their life. Each story focused on an important or special event, place, memory, or decision from their early life.

"We had retired educators and members of the local Kiwanis chapter, and other community stakeholders come to give students a greater sense of purpose, tradition, and connection to the past," said fourth-grade teacher Ellen Thomas.

Thomas and Glanton Elementary School Media Specialist Lori Mann organized the event.

After their conversations, the students used his or her notes and what



With Boyd is interviewed by fourth-grader Taylor Parks. Boyd is active in community service in Coconino County.



ABOVE: Chair of Coconino's Recreation Commission Kelly Moore shares a story from her own life with Glanton fourth-grader Taylor Parks.



LEFT: Assistant Professor at Northern Arizona University and long-time educator, historian and Coconino resident Dr. Warren Boyd shared some stories from his life to a group of fourth-graders.



Letters from home honor veterans

In honor of Veterans Day on Nov. 11, Wildcat's computer lab classes at Wildcat Elementary School are honoring veterans.



32 Coconino students traveled to Auburn University to compete in the Auburn Mathematical Puzzle Challenge. The students were: Trent Lee, Andrew Garland (2013), K. Anthony (2013), Nicholas Harrington (2013), Chad Harris (2013), Tony Strickland (2013), Brian Davis (2013), Mike Hertz (2013), Logan Higgins (2013), Andrew Lee, Anthony Leake (2013), Vinay Narasimhan (2013), Samira Alexander (2013), Kimberly Harland (2013), Tracy Kuhn (2013), Emily Hertz (2013), Emma Oller (2013), Brian Grunberg (2013), Nate Patten (2013), J. Phyllis Daniels, Sydney Swanson (2013), Benjamin Sanders (2013), George Nigam (2013), Brad Lee, Justin Greig (2013), Anna Ryan (2013), Nate Barnett (2013), Matthew King (2013), Mike Thompson (2013), Jason Brown (2013), Justin Chubbey (2013), Luke Wagner (2013), Patrick Lunn (2013), Ross Barman (2013), and Peter Smith (2013).

Students compete in math challenge

Thirty-two Coconino County middle schoolers recently traveled to Auburn University to compete in the Auburn Mathematical Puzzle Challenge (AMPC).

Students from the Central Educational Center's 8th Grade Academy, East Coconino Middle and Northern Middle competed in a day full of challenges at the event and walked away with one first place win.

Students began the day by competing in a mathing challenge.

Students purchased puzzles to solve a problem that would lead them to their team list. Once inside, teams were given three puzzles to solve.

The Coconino teams solved all three puzzles and received bonus points as well.

Following challenges included three more puzzles and three team lessons. The students worked throughout the day to gain points to a final puzzle.

During the final challenge the team from CEC was first place and received the "Study Set Go" award. Each team received a plaque, a puzzle and T-shirts.

"The students represented the county with confidence and their teachers could not be more proud of their accomplishments," said East Coconino Academy teacher Wade Beck.

THINGS TO DO

11/20-12/12	8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Joe Bonanno Art/Arts Exhibition, Bisco Gallery	11/20	7:00 p.m.	UNG Theatre Dept. presents <i>Crucible</i> , Community Theatre, UCN
11/21	8:00 a.m.	Popular Lectures on 2013 Nobel Prize, UCN	11/20	8:15 p.m.	Chord Concert Kean Howard, UCN
11/24	7:00 p.m.	Football vs Delta State University Stadium	11/20-23	7:00 p.m.	UNG Theatre Dept. presents <i>Crucible</i> , UCN
11/25	8:00 p.m.	Volleyball vs Christian Brothers, UNG Ocala	11/21	8:15 p.m.	Class Ensemble Cello Solo, UCN
11/25	7:00 p.m.	Jazz Ensemble Social Event, UCN	11/21	2:00 p.m.	Women's Basketball vs Columbia State, UNG Ocala
11/26	2:00 p.m.	Volleyball vs Johns, UNG Ocala	11/21	2:30 p.m.	UNG Theatre Dept. presents <i>Crucible</i> , UCN
11/28	8:15 p.m.	Baseball vs Christian Brothers, UNG Ocala	11/21	4:00 p.m.	Men's Basketball vs Columbia State, UNG Ocala
11/28	8:00 p.m.	Book Talk: Lee Harvey Oswald, Ingram Library			
11/28	7:00 p.m.	Men's Basketball vs Park, UNG Ocala			

For a complete list of events and activities, visit ungpageone.com

DID YOU KNOW?

Both the president of UNG, Dr. Kyle Warren and his wife Dr. Jane Warren are accomplished opera singers.

Education Coverage

B

2nd Place

The Daily Citizen, Dalton

Christopher Smith

GOING BOWLING
UGA to face Nebraska
Tech up against Ole Miss
Page 1B



Indigestion for celebrity chefs Page 2A

THE DAILY CITIZEN

Monday, December 9, 2013 Dalton, Georgia Online at www.daltonnow.com Weather: Rain likely, 52°(F) (p-RA)

Fired bus driver tells her side of the story

‘You just don’t know what it can be like’

By Christopher Smith
@daltonnow

She says they made fun of her age.
She says they ridiculed her weight.
She says they pointed her out.

She says some even cursed her.

On a sunny day in November around 3 p.m., Rocky, their resident Cynthia Hall reached her breaking point. While driving students home from Dalton Middle School, the steady children became too much for Hall — a bus driver for First Student — to take.

So she pulled the bus over at the corner of Calhoun Street and South Greenwood Avenue and began berating the students about their personal reprehensible behavior. When her discourse fell on some deaf ears, she decided the local First Student dispatch center and eventually requested help from police.

Two officers from the Dalton Police Department responded to a bus camera video that gained national media attention after being posted on The Daily Citizen's website. The officers viewed several times at the station before leaving. The station contacted its maintainers after the officers took in Hall's opinion.

The officers — Steve Collins and later Curran — were suspended for two days without pay, required to complete all levels of training at local youth programs, furnished a written report in their personnel file and were ordered to undergo more verbal communication training, police officials said.

Hall didn't get off as easy. She was fired the next day, she said.

Hall said First Student — the transportation company used by Dalton Public Schools — had her for requesting help from the police to handle students who felt were "out of control."

In retrospect, Hall said Friday she "maybe could

have handled my grief" when telling students to "shut up" in the video, but she said the students "were being my guest or my I wasn't about to back down."

"I'm not perfect. I make mistakes," she said. "I lost a month that week's my nerves and I got in trouble for it. But, you know, you just don't know what it can be like. You'd have to be a bus driver."

John Brown, the local First Student location manager who was in charge of Hall, wouldn't discuss the situation with a reporter but would discuss questions to First Student's corporate office.

Executive Hollinger, spokeswoman for First Student, confirmed in an email that Hall was no longer employed by First Student. Asked if she had been fired, Hollinger wrote that company policy prohibits her from releasing personnel information.

Hall said she is ultimately less concerned with what Curran said and more concerned about what her firing says about the lack of support for bus drivers from First Student administrators.

She added she "didn't want her job back" and

leave their seats, unless being directed by officers, some stand up for a few seconds at a time or run around in their seats.

Hall said several of the students were "screaming and yelling," adding that she believes the camera's placement — on the floor of the bus opposite her voice in the video and doesn't give a full picture of how students reacted when they showed from the back of the bus.

Dalton Public Schools officials said they reviewed the video and didn't see any punishable behavior from students.

"Dalton Public Schools believes that students are given the privilege of riding the bus each day. It is not a right," Patti Hollinger, city schools spokeswoman, said.

"There's no way that [sexual assault]

Are you happy?
Experts urge feds to measure, pursue our happiness

By Steve Bonaventura
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON — Happy or not? Content or bored? And how many times did you smile yesterday? A panel of experts thinks Uncle Sam should be keen to track our feelings.

By gauging happiness, there'd be more to consider than could be said when deciding matters that affect daily lives, according to a report this week from the National Academy of Sciences, which advises the government.

The panel of economists, psychologists and other experts assembled by the academy recommended that federal agencies and courts, which already deal with income, spending, health and housing, include a few more questions on happiness.

"It was to know how people are doing," said panel chairman Arthur Altmann, a professor of psychology at New York's State University. "One of things you may want to do is ask them."

Asking how people feel can be as important as how much they are spending, Stone said.

— Please see HAPPY, 3A



Mary Wickham/The Daily Citizen

Cynthia Hall used to drive a school bus for First Student until she was fired recently after cutting police to help keep order on her bus carrying Dalton Middle School students.

Photo taken from videotape taken aboard a school bus whose driver Cynthia Hall asking students to calm down.

Kids being kids or crossing the line?
The Nov. 11 video shows some students reporting Hall and laughing at her. None of the students in the video

No hugs allowed? Madison targets pro cuddlers

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Wisconsin's ultra-liberal capital city is a place where just about anything goes, from street parties to naked bike rides. But city officials say a business is peddling even Madison's boundaries by offering, of all things, hugs.

For Bill, customers at the Snuggly House can spend as long hugging, red-dressing and opening with professional snugglers.

Snugglers cannot touching helps to save stress. But Madison officials argued the business is a front for prostitution and, if it's not, for snuggling could lead to sexual assault. Not having the coverage that the business is all women and there, police have talked openly about conducting a sting operation at the business, and city attorneys are drafting a new ordinance to regulate snugglers.

"There's no way that [sexual assault]

will not happen," assistant city attorney Jennifer Elzer said. "The officer is men, but I don't know any man who wants to just snuggle."

Snuggly House owner Matthew Hartzell hasn't responded to multiple requests for an interview. His attorney, Tim Cooper, said in an interview last

— Please see SNUGGLING, 3A



Education Coverage

B

MAZE SEASON
Looking for fun this fall? Head outdoors for a walk through the corn.

UGA SQUEAKS BY LSU 44-41, SPORTS, 1C

The Times SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 29, 2013

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'THE HARDEST THING'

N. Hall teen battling to lose weight, get healthy

Photos by **DEBBY WOODS**: The News

News North Hall High School freshman Emily Grogan plays a game Friday morning in the school gymnasium during physical education class. The youth center is in the process of changing for life and health by getting more fit. **News** Emily Grogan plays Friday outside of North Hall High School.

BY EMILY SHARCK
emilys@times.com

A year ago, Emily Grogan was standing in the middle of coach Jordan Viny's gym class as her peers engaged in basketball drills.

The eighth-grade student was generally unable to participate, a situation that served as the catalyst she needed to make a lifestyle change.

"I've worked very hard to lose weight," Emily said. "I don't care if I get big, I just want to be healthy."

Emily, who is a freshman at North Hall High School, is generally quiet and smiling when talking about her struggles to lose weight while fighting a battle against obesity.

Moving to North Hall Middle School and starting to play basketball and soccer, Emily started the school's health and fitness program.

"I'm not a fan of being called 'fat,'" Emily said. "I don't want to be called that. I want to be healthy and fit."

But in the middle of those basketball drills, all Emily could do was stand.

"I felt very upset because I wasn't able to play," she said.

Other class, she went up to the teacher for help. It was a moment that caught the teacher's attention.

■ **Photo on B4F7E, A4**

Coming together to share water

River basin group aims for unity in watershed talks

BY JEFF GILL
jgill@times.com

Two years ago, a group of people interested in the future of the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River basin began looking to accomplish something public officials couldn't do: the creation of "open" meetings — field-wide, face-to-face water talks.

And so it stood you, with agreement among all parties involved.

"This was absolutely necessary, because if we had gone another route of using regulatory rules, then people would not have shared with us," said Wilson Barks, a vice president with the Gainesville-based Lake Lanier Association and one of the ACF Stakeholders' Steering Committee.

The group not only being together but has raised \$1.4 million so far to pay for work related to a feasibility study and a set of water-sharing recommendations to be presented to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the State Water Control Director.

■ **Photo on B4F7E, 14**

Health assessment results: Hall can improve

BY CARLY SHARCK
carlysharck@times.com

Ball County students do better in cardiovascular health, but credit should go to progress to exercise strength and endurance.

"Just from our quick analysis, our students showed to be an area that is stronger," said David Trevis, wellness coordinator with the Ball County school system.

The data was collected via FitAge, the state's assessment program for students in physical education classes. It looks at health-related fitness in aerobic capacity, muscular strength and flexibility.

"The student's height and weight are also related to fitness level, so we're looking at that as well," Trevis said.

■ **Photo on B2B6/7E, A4**

Re-entry from prison posts challenges

New state agency created to ease convicts' transition into society

BY EMMA WITMAN
emmanaw@times.com

The thousands need to find a good job, but they often get lost in a tangle of red tape.

"There are a lot of obstacles in a person's path, so far as a successful job," said Trevis. "It's not just the job, it's the transition into society."

After serving a prison term, many people again, they need to be able to find a job, a place to live, and a way to get back into society.

"There's a lot of obstacles in a person's path, so far as a successful job," said Trevis. "It's not just the job, it's the transition into society."

■ **Photo on D9A9/9E, 14**

FALCONS GAMEDAY

Falcons try to get back on track against the undefeated Patriots.

SPRINT, 7E

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High: 76 Low: 57
Clear, 6-10 AM, 11-12 PM, 1-2 PM, 3-4 PM, 5-6 PM, 7-8 PM, 9-10 PM, 11-12 PM

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Alan Patterson, 71	Debra J. Howard, 70
Charles J. Smith, 69	David P. Smith, 36
Ray W. Mattern, 81	Erica Marie Zamora Spradick, 46
Thomas A. Mattern, 77	

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Education Coverage

A

3rd Place

Savannah Morning News

Jenel Few

AT LEAST 33 INJURED WHEN CAR FLIES INTO FENCE AT DAYTONA, 1B

BIG DAY IN PREP HOOPS 1B

BOYS	Score	BOYS	Score	GIRLS	Score
Savannah High	71	Johnson	70	Calvary Day	65
Dodge County	42	Carver-Columbus	65	Savannah Country Day	20
Washington County	45	Jenkins	64	Effingham County	44
Beach	43	Whitewater	56	McIntosh	40
Calvary Day	65	Effingham County	61		
Landmark Christian	58	Starr's Mill	39		

Find more scores, stories and photos on [Pages 4-5B](#)

Savannah Morning News: SUNDAY UP TO \$81 IN COUPONS!

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New name on horizon
Chatham leaders say they're ready to drop bridge's Talmadge label
BY SEAN HORGAN 912-432-0267 sean.horgan@savannahnow.com

The nearly 2-mile bridge that spans the Savannah River at a height of 180 feet seems destined for a new name almost exactly 22 years after it opened.

Members of the Chatham County delegation to the General Assembly this week expect to recommend a new name for the bridge, an act that will go a long way toward ending a debate that has raged since before the bridge was completed in 1991 at a cost of \$71 million.

"We met on (Feb. 20), and there seems to be pretty much a consensus to move the name to the Savannah Bridge or the Savannah River Bridge," said Rep. Ben Stephens, R-Savannah. "It just seems to make more sense to attach the name to a location or a destination and not a person."

SEE BRIDGE, PAGE 7A

Teen shot in Windsor Forest
Hit while sleeping, 13-year-old boy is expected to survive
BY COREY SHKSTEIN 912-432-0265 corey.shkstein@savannahnow.com

A 13-year-old was shot while he slept on the couch in his grandmother's Windsor Forest home early Saturday morning.

Just before 2:05 a.m., grenades were fired into the single-story house in the 12,400-block of Deerfield Road, just across Windsor Forest Elementary School.

Responding Savannah-Chatham police officers found the boy suffering from injuries to his chest and jaw, said Julian Miller, police spokesman. The teenager, who lives in Paris, was expected to survive.

Investigators, as well as patrol and forensic officers, spent much of the night gathering evidence at the crime scene, Miller said.

Saturday evening, detectives and crime scene officers in the area spoke with potential witnesses and continued searching for them.

However, no descriptions or information about possible suspects was available as of Saturday night.

The incident came almost exactly a month after another shooting was shot in the Windsor Forest neighborhood.

Windsor Forest High School student Evan Colquhoun, 17, died Jan. 23 after he was shot several times in front of a house in the 400 block of Stonecreek Road, less than half a mile from Saturday's shooting.

SEE SHOOTING, PAGE 5A

Playing the name game: Spans often get new monikers
BY SEAN HORGAN 912-432-0267 sean.horgan@savannahnow.com

The renaming of famous or iconic bridges isn't as rare as you might imagine.

It's happened in Paris, New York (at least twice), Boston and Montreal, as well as other cities throughout the world.

Here are some of the more prominent changes:

- Pittsburgh:** In 1936, city leaders voted to change the name of the venerable South Street Bridge, which spans the Allegheny River, to the Roberto Commission Bridge to honor the late Pittsburgh Pioneer Hall of Fame right fielder who died in a plane crash while leading a humanitarian mission to Strasbourg in 1972.
- Montreal:** Construction of the Montreal Jacques-Cartier Bridge, spanning the St. Lawrence River, began in 1967.

SEE NAME GAME, PAGE 7A

Savannah-Chatham schools reap benefits of reform
BY JENEL FEW 912-432-0233 jenel.few@savannahnow.com

The Savannah-Chatham Public Schools look different today than they did just seven years ago, and it's not just because of new facilities funded by an education sales tax.

The penny sales tax for school improvements, called EXPLORER, has changed the face of the public school system by funding computers in growth areas and upgrading decades-old school buildings across the county, but for the last seven years, officials also have been working to change the heart of local public education.

Thousand grants, \$4.6 million, specially programs, Twilight School and career pathways have transformed the way students learn, and reform has won over hundreds of skeptical families who were leery of private schools.

Although the years of reform haven't cured all of the public school system's academic ills, they have made noticeable change.

"They are returning some of the progress that teach students skills to make a living after high school,"

SEE SCHOOLS, PAGE 6A

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TODAY 1:22 | 52
Dry, but with an occasional shower.

CONTACT US
CORRECTIONS: If you spot an error of fact, call Susan Carney, executive editor, at 912-432-0267.

FOR DELIVERY OR BALANCE PROBLEMS: 912-432-0271

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Join Savannah Law School for its Early Spring Open House. The event will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 2, 2013 at the law school located at 1000 Skidaway Street, Savannah, GA 31404. For more information, please contact Matthew Adams, Director of Admissions at 912-432-0267 or visit our website at [www.savannahlawschool.org](#).



Education Coverage

A

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The Augusta Chronicle

Tracey

McManus



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www.augustachronicle.com THE SOUTH'S OLDEST NEWSPAPER — ESTABLISHED 1795 Sunday, May 26, 2013

On the right track

With the help of a federal program that poured millions into each school, Lacy C. Lane, T.W. Jony and Glenn Hills high schools have made improvements in attendance, discipline and other aspects of school culture in the past three years.

Federal money transforms schools

IMPROVEMENTS IN ABSENTEEISM, REFERRALS

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Lacy C. Lane High	26.6%	27%	24%	1,688	1,213	1,336
T.W. Jony High	16.4%	21.7%	2%	1,448	1,124	1,312
Glenn Hills High	16.2%	18.8%	10%	561	482	381

See other subjects the schools have improved on or still struggle with.

Three years ago, millions of dollars from the federal government poured into Lacy C. Lane, T.W. Jony and Glenn Hills high schools. The money was for a program called the Federal School Improvement Grants. The goal was to help schools that were in the bottom 5 percent of the nation's worst performing schools.

In the 2012-13 school year, the three schools had a 31 percent drop in absenteeism, a 27 percent drop in referrals and a 21 percent drop in suspensions. The schools also saw a 21 percent drop in suspensions and a 21 percent drop in suspensions.

Each had their own obstacles and challenges. But one thing Lacy C. Lane, T.W. Jony and Glenn Hills high schools had in common for 2013 was being in the bottom 5 percent of the nation's worst performing schools.

In 2012, each school received a \$1 million grant from the federal government. The money was used to improve teacher training, technology, and other school programs.

The program, part of the Obama administration's effort to reduce poverty by helping low-achieving schools, targeted 30 schools nationwide last year. Lacy C. Lane, T.W. Jony and Glenn Hills high schools were among the schools that received the grant.

Each school had its own challenges. Lacy C. Lane High School had a high percentage of students who were in the bottom 5 percent of the nation's worst performing schools. T.W. Jony High School had a high percentage of students who were in the bottom 5 percent of the nation's worst performing schools. Glenn Hills High School had a high percentage of students who were in the bottom 5 percent of the nation's worst performing schools.

Each school had its own challenges. Lacy C. Lane High School had a high percentage of students who were in the bottom 5 percent of the nation's worst performing schools. T.W. Jony High School had a high percentage of students who were in the bottom 5 percent of the nation's worst performing schools. Glenn Hills High School had a high percentage of students who were in the bottom 5 percent of the nation's worst performing schools.

Group says FDA checks go too far

Businesses face scrutiny after deaths

COMPOUNDING PHARMACIES

While some practitioners argue that packaging existing drugs into different doses or creating combinations of drugs for physicians who might not be able to find the exact drug they need is often a lifesaver, a group of 33,000 members of the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) took aim at the FDA's new regulations in a letter to Congress last week.

In the letter, NCPA's National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) argued that the FDA's new regulations are too burdensome and will hurt patients who need compounded drugs. The group also argued that the FDA's new regulations are too costly and will hurt patients who need compounded drugs.

The FDA's new regulations require compounded pharmacies to register with the FDA and to comply with the same standards as pharmaceutical manufacturers. The group argued that these regulations are too burdensome and will hurt patients who need compounded drugs.

The group also argued that the FDA's new regulations are too costly and will hurt patients who need compounded drugs. The group also argued that the FDA's new regulations are too costly and will hurt patients who need compounded drugs.

DEATHS

James O. Thomas
 Neil R. Thomas
 James H. Thomas
 Thomas L. Thomas
 Thomas M. Thomas
 Thomas N. Thomas
 Thomas O. Thomas
 Thomas P. Thomas
 Thomas Q. Thomas
 Thomas R. Thomas
 Thomas S. Thomas
 Thomas T. Thomas
 Thomas U. Thomas
 Thomas V. Thomas
 Thomas W. Thomas
 Thomas X. Thomas
 Thomas Y. Thomas
 Thomas Z. Thomas

WEATHER

Sunny
 High: 84
 Low: 64
 Wind: 10
 Humidity: 70

INSIDE TODAY

Residents hope for downtown retailers

Troop deployment puts strain on families left awaiting return

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Mark Rice

SUNDAY The Chattahoochee Valley's Largest News Team
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January 27, 2013 | Breaking news as it happens at ledger-enquirer.com | \$6.00

DEATH JACKSON SLAYING
PROSECUTORS: Strozier robbed several homes before killing
Capital case moves to pretrial hearings, trial date not set
by TIM COTYNE
The death penalty case against Steven Strozier came alive as a recent murder involving Columbus in the days leading up to the trial Sept. 1, 2010, showing of notes the policy (the kill) took. Includes: Prosecutors charge Strozier had intimate relationships before Jackson was killed and forcing him inside last? Gates Ave., where the working on a subpoena for the Christian station. The trial came before a second hearing the Thursday after Labor Day. Police say Strozier shot Jackson with a .30-caliber revolver stolen in an Aug. 11, 2010, burglary at 303 Avenue and Virginia Street, near Strozier's Lakeview Park's west side. Jackson's body was found inside out of the park. Finding changes of tracks, abandoned items, armed robbery, burglary and using a firearm in a crime, Strozier will be in Muscogee County Superior Court this week as Judge Gil McFadden through 100 minutes defense attorneys have filed in advance of the capital murder trial.

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NEWS ANALYSIS
Phasing out property tax freeze could lead to lower taxes
Mayor: City would lose revenue in first 3 years of transition to new tax system
by WENDY
Columbus' property tax assessment freeze means different things to different people. Those who have owned and lived in a home for long time, it's a huge tax break. To their new neighbors who might be paying hundreds of dollars in back taxes on property taxes for the same assessment, their assessment might include some other words. To newly arriving, many say it's a drag on Columbus' growth and a stimulus for adjacent counties. Dan Deaton, a founder of Colwell, Clark & Koenig, before and after the freeze went into effect, he thinks it's a drag on Columbus' growth and a stimulus for adjacent counties. Deaton, Deaton and Kay has been adding real estate in Columbus, Georgia, since 2006, so he knows the market before and after the freeze went into effect. He thinks it's a drag on Columbus' growth and a stimulus for adjacent counties. Mayor Thomas Thrall says the lack of growth over the last two decades and a stagnant property tax system are a problem, but the reason for these facts is hard to pin down. Columbus gave 50 percent in the 1990s lower property taxes," Thrall says. "How many would be hard to quantify, but it could easily be several hundred a year." Mayor Thomas Thrall says the lack of growth over the last two decades and a stagnant property tax system are a problem, but the reason for these facts is hard to pin down. Columbus gave 50 percent in the 1990s

SEARCH FOR A PERMANENT LEADER
Muscogee County School Board chairman Ron Varner says "much good work" has been done in the search for the next superintendent of schools. AA.
was in the R.U. said Cathy Williams, the Muscogee County School Board's largest representative. In fact, he wouldn't make time to talk still for an interview last week. In an email, he respectfully declined the Ledger-Enquirer's request. "It is not my intent to be in the media but only to best serve the interests of the Muscogee County School District and provide my leadership during this time of search." That would grow greater every day as the board's search for a full-time superintendent is in its 20th month. Some trustees announced in March they plan to retire. The last day on the job was June 30. On June 18, the board voted 7-2 to bring back Phillips as interim superintendent. Williams, then the chairwoman.

REVENUE GAINS AND LOSSES IF FREEZE ENDS
According to the reports conducted by Columbus mayor Thomas Thrall, over the first three years of the freeze, the city would lose a total of about \$254,000. The actual amount would rise about \$200,000 over those first three years. After that, property tax revenue would start to grow and three years would be necessary to bring a couple of years and by the end of 12 years, both would rise about \$100 million for the city and \$187 million for the counties over that period. adjacent counties. Dan Deaton, a founder of Colwell, Clark & Koenig, before and after the freeze went into effect, he thinks it's a drag on Columbus' growth and a stimulus for adjacent counties. Deaton, Deaton and Kay has been adding real estate in Columbus, Georgia, since 2006, so he knows the market before and after the freeze went into effect. He thinks it's a drag on Columbus' growth and a stimulus for adjacent counties. Mayor Thomas Thrall says the lack of growth over the last two decades and a stagnant property tax system are a problem, but the reason for these facts is hard to pin down. Columbus gave 50 percent in the 1990s

TODAY'S FORECAST: Partly sunny skies. High 53. Morning low: 41. WEATHER, A2

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Religion Coverage

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The Lanier County Advocate, Lakeland

Ashley George

BLACK CYAN MAGENTA

CITY OFFICIALS SWORN IN... PAGE 2 BULLDOG CAFFEES TOP CHARITON... PAGE 7

LANIER COUNTY ADVOCATE

VOLUME 3, EDITION 22 • © 2013 LANIER COUNTY ADVOCATE • WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2013 • LAKELAND, GEORGIA • 10 PAGES, ONE DOLLAR

See inside for Harveys SUPERSAVERS!!

NEWS BITS

Advocate holiday deadlines & hours

The Lanier County Advocate office will be closed on Wednesday, December 25 for Christmas. The office will resume Thursday, December 26. For the following week's edition (January 1st), our deadline (Friday at 5 p.m.) will be as usual.

Bennett/Fender Christmas lights

The Bennett/Fender Christmas lights will be on all night on Wednesday, December 25. Lights will be on from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Saturday. The address is 98 Bennett Road, Stockton.

Tax bills have been mailed for 2013

All Lanier County tax bills for 2013 were mailed October 23, 2013. If you have not received your bill, please contact the Lanier County Tax Commissioner's Office at 482-2785.

CPR lessons now being offered

Anyone interested in learning CPR please contact Angie at Lanier County Parks Services 229-492-1876. Classes start in December.

Gate Card renewal deadline Dec. 31

Any and all Drivers that need gate card renewal should call Angie at Parks Services at 229-492-1876. The deadline to renew gate cards is December 31.

Blood Drive set for December 30

The American Red Cross of Lanier County is holding a blood drive on Monday, December 30 at the Thurston Center. It will be from 9 p.m. to 7 p.m. and at least 30 donors are needed.

Lanier Schools request parent input

The Lanier County School System is asking for parent input. This is the first year that the Georgia Parent Survey has been administered throughout the state. The questions on the survey are similar to those already asked of students and school personnel. The data from these will be used to evaluate the School Climate Survey Rating, which is part of the College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRFPI), which is used to evaluate and rate school districts. Parents can complete the survey by visiting the district website and clicking on "Georgia Parent Survey" under the Quick Links section.

75¢ AT THE NEWSSTAND

Christmas in Downtown Lakeland

Above is Main Street in Downtown Lakeland at night dressed up in lights for Christmas - photo by JNC Photography.

City fined \$25K by EPD order

By Anne Stone
LAKELAND

The Lakeland City Council approved a consent agreement that includes the city paying a \$25,000 fine to the state. The consent agreement with the state Environmental Protection Division requires a completion of the city leaving demolition debris on private property instead of depositing it in a landfill during a demolition project.

According to the EPD's consent order, the city must pay a fine of \$25,000 to the state, must create and implement a policy for removal of buildings that do with state law, inspect each of the 20 sites and develop and implement a corrective plan for each site.

According to attorney Torrey Coleman, there were 20 total private property sites. Some of the sites could not be inspected because the owner could not be located.

(Continued on Page 2)

Fallen teen 'always put everyone ahead of her'

By Anne Stone
LAKELAND

Lakeland teen Shannon McCullough passed away just before completing requirements for her high school diploma. According to family, McCullough only had one more essay to turn in and then she was going to go to ABAC, the wanted to become a police officer. That was the topic of the essay. She passed away in a car accident on December 15.

"She had everything ready to go to ABAC," said Shelby Cooper, her sister. "They told her all they needed was her transcript."

Shannon's family describes her as "lovely," "spontaneous," and "always putting her family before herself."

"You never know what you were going to get," said Shelby. "She always had a smile and was happy even through the hard times."

"She always put everyone ahead of her," said Lane Stevens, her mother.

Her family members say she wanted to become a police officer because she wanted to help people.

"I cried and I said to that really what you want to do?" said Shelby. "I told her I would follow her dreams every step of the way. She wanted to show that not all police officers were bad. She wanted justice and wanted to help people."

Her family said she had a heart for more than just her family.

"She would see a homeless man on the street and go buy some McDonald's and give it to him," said Shelby. "We did that more than once."

She also had a heart for autistic children who she thought were "God's Little Angels."

Shelby tells the story of the time she was in labor with her six-month-old daughter Kaitlyn, who Shannon always called Kivi. She had already bought Kivi a Christmas present before her death.

"When I was in labor and couldn't get up, she stayed and watched Kaitlyn with me. She stayed with me for three nights," said Shelby.

Her family also tells a story of Shannon's spontaneity with the night she took her family on a spider hunt.

"She was so full of life and adventures," said Lane. "She took us on a spider hunt one night. We had no search for that night."

At the time of the crash, Shannon was living with her grandfather in Valdosta to help him out and to have an easier commute. She worked at Chedders.

Shannon was buried in a casket with Florida State logo and the words "Southern Girl" on the side.

"She was buried in a Florida State shirt, her favorite blue jeans and black Nike flip-flops," said Lane.

Shannon McCullough was 16.

and Lane. "She wasn't really funny."

Shannon is buried beside her grandmother in Marietta, Fla.

"From one mother to another mother, please please love your children like there is no tomorrow," said Lane.

Shannon McCullough was 16.

Unity Church brings Christmas to local family

By Anne Stone
LAKELAND

The members of Unity United Methodist Church have decided to give to a local family for Christmas and beyond.

Recently, members of the church delivered groceries, groceries and a Christmas meal to a local grandmother and her six grandchildren. They have also decided to continue helping this family for the next year.

"This is about a relationship," said pastor's wife, Maggie Atwood. "We want to see how we can help throughout the year."

The church has talked about renovations for the home of the grandmother.

Unity was introduced to this family around Thanksgiving. Lanier County Family Connection contacted them with a program that provided a Thanksgiving meal to local families. The church provided a lead for the family with some left over.

According to Pastor Atwood, they were able to also deliver the meal to the family.

"It was a huge blessing," said Lane. "We were able to give the meal but to meet the family," said Tin Atwood. (Continued on Page 2)

Unity United Methodist Church members with the gifts they plan to give for Christmas.

Conservative contacted them with a program that provided a Thanksgiving meal to local families. The church provided a lead for the family with some left over.

According to Pastor Atwood, they were able to also deliver the meal to the family.

"It was a huge blessing," said Lane. "We were able to give the meal but to meet the family," said Tin Atwood. (Continued on Page 2)

Religion Coverage

H

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Cherokee Ledger-News, Woodstock

Jill Richstone

CHEROKEE LIFE

JUN 24, 2013

THE CHEROKEE LEDGER NEWS 17

God's Garden

BY JILL RICHSTONE
jrich@ledgernews.com

What started out as a seedling of an idea by a man named Norman Burns has grown into a garden — God's Garden. The garden produces crops from asparagus to zucchini, and then some winter produce is donated to charities, ministries and individuals in need around Cherokee County.

Six years ago, Burns met with a couple of guys from his Sunday school class who had offered to help him out on the lawn of his 3-acre property. While tending to the lawn, these men noticed that Burns had fruit trees on his property that were not harvested. One of those men, Steve Thompson, now a liaison for God's Garden, said they called local food pantries to see if they had a need for the fruit. The food pantries said they did, but there was no plan in place to collect the fruit. An idea was planted to begin a ministry of sharing the crops that Burns' trees produced.

"I think one of the most precious things I could give was, 'I really would like for this to be given to people in need,'" Thompson said. "He knew what it was like

to be hungry and he said no one should ever have to be hungry."

The garden is now in its sixth year, and it produces several crops. Typical produce planted in God's Garden include potatoes, onions, beans, eggplant, squash, okra, cucumbers, tomatoes, peas and some winter plants. Organizers also still harvest apples, pears and grapes from Burns' fruit trees.

The garden has several retail partners including Morgan's Ace Hardware in Woodstock and Donnie Plants, who have donated out of date seeds and plants unsuitable for retail sale. The garden also receives individual plant and seedling donations and, occasionally, sells at the local farmers market who have left over items we'll donate to the garden.

"Everything here is donated, and everything is given away," Thompson said. "We don't take anything out of that garden for ourselves."

Over the past five years, the garden has produced between 5,000 and 6,000 pounds of donated crops per year, according to Thompson. He said a bulk of the produce is donated to MUST Ministries, but they've also given to a number of



Hannah Williams is pictured working in God's Garden where volunteers help grow crops to be distributed to local charities, ministries and individuals in need across the county.

other ministries, such as Feeder Fed, a mobile food ministry, and local individuals in need.

"God's Garden helps to feed the people in Cherokee," said Kaye Cagle, of MUST Ministries.

In the garden, behind the rows containing eggplant and cucumber is a cross that reads "1 CORINTHIANS 3:16." This Bible verse is

known to highlight the Christian belief that while people may plant and water seeds, God is the one who makes all things grow. This verse also is featured on the garden's Facebook page, which was created to share information and pictures of the garden.

Thompson said the garden is called God's Garden for a

reason, and he believes that God has helped them with the garden since the beginning. "At times, when we didn't have a way to get somebody there to water (the garden), it still grew," he said.

Thompson said God's Garden is something that he feels like he was led to do.

SEE GARDEN, PAGE 9

Local men place in Pan American competition

BY JESSICA WAGNER
jwagner@ledgernews.com

Jason Jones was right on target last month, earning a silver medal in the 2013 Pan American Shotgun Championship standard national division. Jones, an assistant solicitor general in Cherokee County, also fired well as a member of the American team, taking home a gold medal.

Joining Jones on the podium June 30 was Cherokee County Sheriff's Office Capt. Joe Satterfield, who earned a third-place medal in the standard national division and a gold medal as a member of the American team.

Satterfield took home those same honors during the 2010 championship match.

"I am really proud of the U.S. team this year. In the 2010 Pan American, I was the top U.S. shooter and Pan American Champion, and this year, I was third overall," he said, adding that the first- and second-place winners were teammates. "We covered the podium with American flags."

Hosted by the International Practical Shooting Confederation (IPSC), the championship is a Level 4 shooting event held once every three years in a Pan American country.

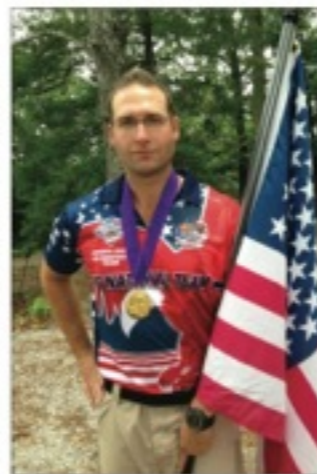
"The countries that are officially recognized for awards are from North and South America and Central America, but countries like Canada and some European countries compete for individual titles," Jones said.

Unlike contestants from Pan American countries, Jones said shooters from around the world are not eligible for prize money.

"They are shooting for pride, so to finish in the top three or to earn a medal in a team event is a really big deal for these countries," he said. "It is more national pride for who you are shooting for, and to get the chance to shoot for the United States is something I take a lot of pride in."

Satterfield said the team match has more meaning to him than individual matches.

"As long as team U.S.A. dominates the podium, the order of finish is really not that important," he said.



Jason Jones, who is an assistant solicitor general, recently earned a silver medal in the 2013 Pan American Shotgun Championship. Jones also is a member of the American team and together took home a gold medal, which he is pictured with.

To point a picture of their expertise in practical shooting, Jones explained that competing countries hand select their team shooters out of thousands.

SEE SPORTS, PAGE 20



On a recent day at Chukkar Farms, Jack Cashin greeted a new polo student, Leigh Strickles, of Marietta. Instructor Beth Milwood, of Alpharetta, also is pictured.

Where polo, charities and fun meet

BY CAROLYN MATHEWS
cmathews@ledgernews.com

Tucked into the wooded hills of eastern Cherokee in the heart and soul of horse country — Chukkar Farms Polo Club and Event Facility.

The 175-acre horse farm, owned by longtime Atlanta entrepreneur Jack Cashin, is a place where even kids standing on the sidelines are a part of the action, as those visiting immediately are caught up in the spirit of the motto of Cashin family — "Live life aggressively, as if you are on a cavalry charge."

Cashin's father served in the cavalry during World War I, and the motto is emblazoned in

Latin above the hitching posts at the fields.

"There's no reality except in action," Cashin explained. "One should dare to do mighty things."

In Cashin's family, tradition is that when one is married, they receive a cavalry sword as a gift.

The horseman, now 87, embodies the reality of the words his family lives by. A former military officer, magazine publisher, male model, actor, restaurateur, politician and businessman, Cashin still plays polo.

He currently is recovering from a back injury sustained by falling off a horse three months ago, but he plans to be back in the saddle soon.

SEE ARTS, PAGE 18



Religion Coverage

H

Estrada, film warn of internet predator danger

By Stormy Kage

news@rockdalenews.com
Erik Estrada, best known for his role as Officer Frank Ponchomello from the 1970s TV series "CHiPS," visited Victorious Life Church in Conyers to present his latest film, "Finding Faith," on Sept. 19 at 6:30 p.m.

The Christian based film told the based-on-true-life story of a 14-year-old girl named Faith who was kidnapped by an online predator. Estrada plays Sheriff Brown who was sent to help find and rescue the girl from being forced into human trafficking.

"I tell teenagers who think they may have run across an online predator to contact law enforcement right away because too many of them do not know the dangers," Estrada said.

Executive Producers Lawrence Morterff and Bedford County, Va. Sheriff Michael Brown work as advocates for increasing the awareness of online child predators. Brown, the founder of Safe Surfin, an organization that works with the U.S. Department of Justice, school systems, libraries and law enforcement agencies to educate individuals, has chosen Estrada to be its national spokesperson.

"I've seen every nasty thing done to a child from eight months to 14 years old. Once a child loses their innocence, they may never get it back," Estrada said.

"Finding Faith" features the Crimes Against Task Force Program which has trained over 31,000 law enforcement personnel and arrested more than 5,700 predators in 2011, according to their program summary. Church member Tracey Eldridge, who is the mother of two daughters, Alaysa, 9, and Ariya, 11, said she was clueless about how much time children and teens are spending on the internet.

"You can have all kinds of rules for your children, but it is impossible to watch them 24/7. This movie was a reality check," Eldridge said.

Sgt. Peggy Dunn of the Conyers Police attended the movie showing and said she highly recommends the film.

"For people who think nothing is going on, that is not the case. Kids are always on Facebook and Twitter and it is imperative that we do what we can to prevent sex offenders from harming children," Dunn said.

The stop at Victorious Life Church, where about 50 people attended the screening, is one of the many visits on the National Awareness Tour. Since January, Estrada and his crew have made appearances to 80 churches and have 40 more stops to make by the end of December.

"Education is the best prevention. That's why I'm traveling, to get in touch with our children. The bad guys are only one click away," Estrada said.



Stormy Kage / The News
Erik Estrada poses with attendee Brandon Johnson-Jewell, 10 (top).

Macedonia Fitness and Fellowship 5K, Sept. 28

By Staff Reports

news@rockdalenews.com
Macedonia Baptist Church will hold their inaugural Fitness and Fellowship 5K Run/Walk on Sept. 28, 8 a.m., at 1052 Barton Street, Conyers, GA 30012. Come for morning of fitness and fellowship with the Rockdale County community and beyond. T-shirts are included with

all paid registrations. Registration for ages 16 and up is \$25, ages 6 to 15 is \$20, ages 5 and under are free. For registration, go to <http://beta.active.com/conyers-ga/running/macedonia-baptist-church-5k-2013>. For more information, go to www.macedoniaivc.org or contact Anita Farmer, 770-922-2661, mbs5k@yahoo.com.

7th Day Adventist InStep for Life 5K, Sept. 29

By Staff Reports

news@rockdalenews.com
The Conyers Seventh-day Adventist Church Health and Temperance Department will host its first annual InStep for Life 5K Walk/Run Event Sunday, Sept. 29, at 8 a.m. This event is in concert with the nation's annual Let's Move Day, spearheaded by First Lady Michelle Obama, to raise public awareness about the issue of childhood obesity and the priority for raising healthy families. Proceeds will support the church's community health and wellness outreach activities.

The 5K course begins at 1095 Honey Creek Road SE and ends at the Conyers SDA Church (3001 Old Salem Road). Prizes will go to the top male and female winners in each age category. The entrance fee is \$12. Pre-registration is ongoing until Sept. 28. To register, go to conyerschurch.org. Checks should be written to "Conyers SDA Church." Deadline for mail-in registration is Sept. 22.

For more information, contact Erica Charles (eacharles@hotmail.com), Vivienne McCarty (vmccarty@hotmail.com), or 678-358-8832, 404-966-8039.

Grits & Guns
Saturday, October 19, 2013
8:00 AM Registration & Breakfast, 9:00 AM Shoot
Historic Burge Plantation, Newton County

Welcome to the first GRITS AND GUNS, a new spin on Cultural Clays. Breakfast will be devoured! Clays will be busted! The Silent Auction will be deafening! Winners will be honored!

AIM HIGH AND LET IT RIP!

Business Sponsor - \$750 (team of four)
4 Shooter Team - \$500
Novice Team - \$450 (team of three & assigned experienced shooter)
Lone wolf - \$150

Registration includes breakfast & tournament

Register by October 1st
online: www.mmc-arts.org
706-342-4743 877-233-0598 toll free
Proceeds support programming at the Cultural Center

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of GEORGIA'S FOURTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT HOSTS
SAVING THE DREAM
A FORECLOSURE PREVENTION EVENT
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SPRINGFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH
In conjunction with Rockdale Co., GA Dept. of Community Affairs and D&E, The Power Group

Helping homeowners avoid foreclosures - Apply for the Homesafe Georgia program and loan modifications

Saturday, September 28
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Springfield Baptist Church
Conyers, GA 30013

I-20 East to Salem Rd. exit; turn right - take the first right on Flat Shoals Rd., 1st right on Iris Dr., church is on left.
► Preregistration is encouraged - please sign up by calling Rep. Johnson's office at 770-987-2291
HANKJOHNSON.HOUSE.GOV - 770 987-2291

1st Place

Rockdale News, Conyers

Religion Coverage

G

3rd Place

Barrow Journal, Winder

Wednesday, November 27, 2013

BARROW JOURNAL

Barrow County's Legal Organ
Georgia's Best Weekly Paper, 2012-2013

Vol. 6 No. 6 28 PAGES 3 SECTIONS plus inserts A publication of Winder-based Newspapers, Inc. WINDER, BARROW COUNTY, GEORGIA 30090 No COPY



IN MEMORY
Local pastor, political activist and writer the Rev. Ray Newman passed away earlier this week.
Photo courtesy Newman family

**'A Christian gentleman' is gone...
Ray Newman remembered**
By Susan Norman
snorman@barrowjournal.com

One of Georgia's leading voices for ethics and religious liberty fell close this week. The Rev. Ray Newman Sr., 68, died early Monday, Nov. 25, at his Barrow County home, just weeks after being diagnosed with an aggressive form of brain cancer.

He served as a Baptist pastor in Georgia for 26 years, most recently at Macedonia Community Baptist Church in Bronox, and worked for more than a decade as a public policy advocate for the Georgia Baptist Convention.

As the organization's director, he helped write the 2004 Marriage Amendment offering that marriage in this state is between one man and one woman. He also edited and published an ethics social science book in 2006, "Theology, Sunday sales of alcohol, sex trafficking in Atlanta, and threats to religious freedom."

"Ray was a Christian gentleman, a man of strong convictions and principles," said Betty Howell, executive director of the Dutch-based GBC.

See Newman on Page 2A

Season of giving thanks....



COLORS OF THE SEASON
The fall colors, shown in these pictures taken by staff photographer Jessica Brown at Fort Young State Park, display scenes of fall. The staff of the Barrow Journal would like to extend their Thanksgiving wishes to your family and thank you for your ongoing support during the last five years.

See Staff Photos on Page 2B

To become a subscriber, call 770-867-6397 for rates. The Barrow Journal is delivered each Thursday by mail.

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Legal 5-10¢
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Pets of the Week 3C
Public Safety 6A
Sports 1B

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Fax: 678-425-1425
Mail: 77 E. May St., Winder, Ga 30090
Web: www.barrowjournal.com



Statham again spends more than it takes in

But city prep up General Fund by moving it money from water and waste accounts

For the fifth year in a row, Statham's general government spent more money in FY2013 than it generated in revenues.

But Statham technically avoided being in the red in its General Fund by moving \$200,000 from its water and sewer funds and SFLORT fund into the General Fund to cover the shortfall.

Last fall, Statham raised its property tax rate by 11 percent in a bid to stop the flow of red ink, but that move only brought in \$20,000 more in revenues to the town. From all revenues, Statham took in less money in FY2013 than it did the year before. The town's revenues were also significantly less than budgeted last year. The town had anticipated bringing in \$1.26 million in total General Fund income, but only took in \$1.07 million.

See Statham on Page 2B

No action taken on WPD after lengthy meeting

By Susan Norman
snorman@barrowjournal.com

Winder's mayor and city council met behind closed doors for more than four hours Monday night to discuss the findings of an investigation into allegations of sex cheating at the Winder Police Department.

City attorney David Archer submitted the report of his findings to city hall last Friday, and he was in the meeting for about three hours. He left the conference room on the second floor of City Hall at about 9 p.m., and the meeting continued for another hour or so.

A source said it wrapped up about 10:20 p.m. Afterward, the council took no public action, and Mayor David Moyard released no information.

City attorney John Hill said the mayor would notify the media when Archer's report becomes public.

City administrator Don Sims said under state law, it would be released after 10 days after Archer submitted it, or after the city council took action.

See Winder Police on Page 2B

Church to offer free Thanksgiving meal

By Susan Norman
snorman@barrowjournal.com

Hundreds of elderly, disabled or financially struggling local residents will enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving meal Thursday thanks to an outreach by the congregation of Bethlehem Free United Methodist Church.

The church partners each year with the Athens Community Connection Agency to provide a meal to elderly Barrow County citizens on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. But volunteers from the Bethlehem church on Thanksgiving Day will host not only 40 of the agency's clients and their families, but a total of 170 or more Barrow County residents in need of a holiday meal that will be delivered to their homes wrapped in love.

The huge outreach began a few years ago after local church members David and Kathy Brown of Winder, approached their pastor.

"We just decided we wanted to do it, so we started it," David Brown said Monday. "It gives the Lord love and it gives love to the people. We want to be the church people and others there to help. They did. They found the bill."

Last year, the congregation prepared enough food to feed 200 and invited the needy to come to the church at 300 Christmas Ave. in Bethlehem.

But only eight people came. So a little after noon, volunteers piled the food on paper plates and handed out the meals at local housing projects and trailer parks.

"A lot of people don't have transportation," Brown said. "They can't get there."

For this year's Thanksgiving, they outreach, the church worked through Barrow County schools to come up with a list of names that at the start of this week had grown to 775.

To feed that many, the folks of the church will prepare 67 pumpkin pies and 26, 17 meatloaves. The church will purchase at least 17 pre-cooked turkey breasts. The turkey will be delivered and given to those who will be cooked in the church's kitchen on Wednesday afternoon.

On Thanksgiving morning, 60 to 70 volunteers will fill each plate with turkey, dressing, green beans, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, a roll and a slice of pumpkin pie. They will bag up the plates and then deliver them along 12 routes throughout the county.

"We will have them delivered by 12 noon on Thanksgiving," Brown said.




RENOVATION
Construction on Winder's new court house is well under way on the 14-1/2 million renovation of three buildings in Barrow County's historic courthouse complex in downtown Winder. Project manager Robert Miller last week accompanied Barrow Journal photographer Jessica Brown and reporter Susan Norman on a tour of the courthouse building that will be built in 1995, six years after the county was created. The renovated building has new marble floors, period style lighting, an elevator installation, and a totally redesigned interior. Construction that will be the new meeting room of the Board of Commissioners. Work on city government offices will continue to be open in January.

Photo by Jessica Brown

Religion Coverage

G

2nd Place

The Commerce News

Mark Beardsley



Religion Coverage

G

1st Place

The Madison County Journal, Danielsville

DECEMBER 12, 2013

Madison County Journal

Merged with The Corner News and The Danielsville Monitor, 2006
MadisonJournal.com

30¢

By 28, 76, 47 Publications Co. (ISSN) • Danielsville, Madison County, Georgia 30633 • A Publication of Madison/Journal Inc. • 128 Pages • 1 Section (Plus Supplements)

Kids' Christmas section deadline extended

Get us your pics by Monday at 5 p.m.; see Page 5B



BOC close to finalizing budget

By Zach Micham
zmm@madisonjournal.com

Madison County commissioners are close to finalizing the county's 2014 budget. The group met for several hours on the budget Friday and will hold a public hearing Dec. 19 to get input from citizens on proposed revenues and expenses.

The proposed total budget is up slightly from the year, from \$12,996,791 to \$13,025,342 in total expenses, an increase of 2.4 percent. Meanwhile, expected revenues are up slightly from \$12,994,111 to \$13,065,800, an increase of less than one percent.

Commissioners kept this year's tax rates steady, but the county will bring in slightly more in property tax revenue from \$6,915,000 to \$6,944,150 due to a small increase in the county's digit, or overall property value.

—See "Budget" on 2A

MCHS grad rates up

By Wayne Richards
wrichards@madisonjournal.com

Graduation rates are up in Madison County. Assistant superintendent Bonnie Knight told board of education members Tuesday night that the county's 2013 five-year graduation rate was 78.1 percent, up from 74.39 percent in 2012. The state average is 71.5, meaning Madison County is 6.6 percentage points above the state average.

For Math students, the county's on-time graduation rate is 94.2, 30 percent higher than the state's average, which is 64.2 percent.

In other business, Corner and Elementary school were recognized as Top 100 schools for the second year in a row.

The board approved hiring an additional kindergarten teacher and professional at Colton Elementary to offset the class size, which are at or above the class size waiver of 17 students per class.

The board approved the construction plans of a new building at an estimated \$20,000 in cost.

Personal recommendations
The board approved the following personal recommendations:
Colton Elementary — The board approved additional duties for AEP workers Tracy Robinson, Abby Newland and Lorie Harrison.
Half-Track Elementary — The BOC approved the resignation of principal Cheryl Elrod and approved the transfer of principal Cynthia Harbo from the school to the county office.
The BOC hired Tracy Kiefer as a new principal and hired Megan Kiefer as a new teacher.

—See "Grad" on 2A

County to establish elections website

By Zach Micham
zmm@madisonjournal.com

Madison County will soon have a website dedicated to releasing voters about elections and the election process.

County commissioners board Friday gave board of elections member Tom South, who suggested that the county start such a site.

"Voters need to be able to find answers to their questions immediately," said South, "and you do this through a website."

The site would include an array of election information and allow citizens to see which districts they're registered in. The site could also be used by local candidates to request name filings.

—See "Elections" on 2A

The Reindeer Run



Races young and old lined up in Corner's Arnold Park Saturday morning for the 19th-annual Madison County Reindeer Run. See inside for more Reindeer Run coverage and photos from other Christmas activities this past week in Madison County. Zach Micham/JMJ

Colbert man charged in drug bust

A Colbert man was taken into custody last week following a search warrant on Long Branch Road.

According to a press release from chief deputy Sheriff Butts, Madison County Sheriff's Office members executed a search warrant at a residence located at 501 Long Branch Road on Wednesday, Dec. 4, when they found a large marijuana grow operation.

An arrest warrant was then issued for the property owner, Ted Wiggins, 47.

Officers has been in a...
—See "Drug" on 2A

Solicitation ordinance?

County may require advance to register before going door-to-door

By Zach Micham
zmm@madisonjournal.com

An ordinance may soon be passed requiring door-to-door solicitors to register with the county before visiting local homes.

Staff? Rep Thomas and county commissioners discussed the possibility Friday morning during a budget meeting. Thomas said that Madison County dispatchers sometimes get calls regarding people knocking on their doors. And the sheriff's department can't offer any information on whether the solicitors are legitimate.

A "solicitation ordinance" could give citizens an opportunity to determine who is knocking on their front porch.

"It is unfortunate customers gives us something...
—See "Solic" on 2A

'A place of refuge'

Camp Maranatha works year-round to bring fun, comfort to kids

By Zach Micham
zmm@madisonjournal.com

Every Lee Wiggins remembers going to Madison County's Camp Maranatha as a kid and enjoying the summer days of horse riding, swimming and games with other children.

The 200-acre camp on Floyd Road off Hwy. 16 has always had a special feel for the Madison County native.

"I think of camp as a refuge," said Wiggins, who now serves as the camp's executive director and whose mother, Linda, has long volunteered as a cook and head of the kitchen. "The one, it's always been a steady, stable place, a place that I can come back to."

That notion of "refuge" is central to the camp, which opened in 1964 with the aim of providing kids, particularly those in need, with a memory-making... and fun... week-long experience in...
—See "Camp" on 2A

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"Voters need to be able to find answers to their questions immediately," said South, "and you do this through a website."

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—See "Elections" on 2A

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Religion Coverage

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Martin Scarborough (at right) is one of several local citizens who led prayers for our country.

Praying for help

National Day of Prayer held on courthouse lawn

By Carol McLeod
Staff writer

People across the country gathered at noon Thursday, May 2, to pray. In Jefferson County, people came to the courthouse in Louisville and prayed for the lives for the country, elected officials and our children.

Judge Tatum welcomed everyone to the hour of prayer.

"We're so glad you're able to join us today to pray for our country," she said. "I know you love America as much as I do and I know you are aware that she needs our prayers."

Tatum said there were hundreds of thousands of people around the country observing this event.

"God is bringing around the world, and we are not exempt from the consequences of it," she said.

"I am here to tell you that we need to pray at noon before we start our day just pray about any more. It is time to come together and pray responsibly," Tatum said.

"God is calling His people to come together to pray. To set aside everything that would separate us and come together in unity," she said.

(See Day of Prayer on page 6A)



Shooting suspect arrested

Victim hit once, vehicle hit multiple times

By Carol McLeod
Staff writer

A man wanted by Jefferson County sheriff's deputies in connection with a shooting turned himself in to the sheriff's office, Sgt. Tim Moore said.

Moore is an investigator with the JCSD.

"Early Tuesday morning, May 7, I received a call from Sheriff's Office and had come to the emergency room with a gunshot wound," Moore said.

"Upon arrival at the ER and because of the nature of the incident, I contacted the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. Upon Special Agent Tony Wilkinson's arrival, the victim and witnesses were interviewed and evidence was collected. The victim and several witnesses were able to ID the shooter as Malcolm Antonio Lewis," he said.

A warrant was issued for Lewis, 25, of Hightstown.

"Sgt. Shannon Widdowson contacted me and was able to make contact and had Mr. Lewis here in court," Moore said. Widdowson is also an investigator with JCSD.

"There had been a fight in the club and part of that spilled outside. The incident inside the club is still under investigation," Moore said.

The incident occurred outside Ray's Club, which is in the Louisville area.

Mr. Charlie Gibbons and Officer Michael DeLoe, both with JCSD, work security at the club.

Gibbons said an argument started inside the club about 2:30 a.m. Sunday, adding he and DeLoe closed the club for the night after the shooting occurred.

"They have to close at 2 o'clock anyway," he said.

"My understanding is some rallying was going on inside, being done by the man suspected in the shooting," Gibbons said.

"We broke up the argument immediately and they walked away. I didn't see the actual shooting but we heard the shots. I ran that way, but they had already left, it happened rather quickly," the reporter said.

The victim was in a vehicle when he was struck by a bullet, Moore said.

"The vehicle was struck multiple times. The victim was shot in the chest. He was treated and released," Moore said.

Lewis has been charged with aggravated assault which is a felony.

City/County honor John Henson

Crow's nest and concession stand named for man who has served community

By Carol McLeod
Staff writer

Saturday, May 4, was John Henson Day.

"If you don't know John, you've probably seen him riding his bicycle around Louisville or perhaps you've seen him at the county's recreation department or one of the city's schools helping the kids and the coaches.

On Saturday, many of those coaches joined other school kids to help honor him and his contributions.

Louisville Mayor Larry Simpson read a proclamation, which he said he wrote from his heart.

"Early on in his life, he became a sports fan and did he," Simpson said.

"Not an average sports fan but an avid one. He was a water boy, a score keeper and whatever else you wanted him to do. But most of all, John was a guy who wanted to be around his kids.

"Just imagine how many young people and older ones, too, he has shared his life with, both faithfully and lovingly and always with a smile on his face. That's why I'm proud to designate this 4th day of May, 2013, as John Henson Day," Simpson said.

Jefferson County Commissioner Michael McGraw read a resolution naming the concession stand and crow's nest at the county recreation department the John Henson Building. The crow's nest is the part of the building where the score board is located.

McGraw said John has served as a volunteer with Louisville Academy and the county's recreation department for almost 30 years.

He has served in the basketball, softball and baseball programs along with many other programs sponsored by the county's recreation department. McGraw pointed out that John has worked tirelessly and without compensation. The chairman also said John has been the one person the staff



John Henson (front center) poses with Jefferson County Commissioners Wayne Davis, Michael McGraw and Terry New.

3rd Place

Jefferson Reporter/ News & Farmer, Louisville

Religion Coverage

F

AB THE OCONEE ENTERPRISE, MARCH 20, 2013

OBITUARIES

Editor's note: The Oconee Enterprise publishes obituaries each week. Free obituaries contain the following information: parents' names, spouse and immediate family members. Additional information will be published in a paid obituary. We reserve the right to edit for brevity. Photos are accepted. Deadline for publication is Tuesday.

Pete Crowe

Later March "Pete" Crowe, 81, of Monroe, died Sunday, March 17, 2013. A native of Oconee County, he was the son of the late Luther Coleman and Lillian Ruth Malone Crowe. Mr. Crowe was longtime owner of Pine Creek Construction. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran and member of Methodist Square Church. Survivors include his wife, Gene Crowe, children, Kenneth, Mason, Crowe (deceased), and Elizabeth, Crowe, later Crowe Ames (deceased), of Marietta; Ben Crowe (deceased), of Marietta; and Charles G. Crowe of Marietta. He is survived by grandchildren, George Crowe (deceased), Eric William Crowe (deceased), Megan Sarah Crowe, and George Hillman Sr. The Oconee Enterprise, March 20, 2013.

George Hillman Sr.

George Hillman Sr., 81, of Watkinsville, passed away Wednesday, March 15, 2013. George was an Oconee County native and had retired from Southern Piedmont. He also served in the Air Force. He was preceded in death by his father, John George Hillman Sr., and his mother, Anna-Mark Hillman. Survivors include his wife of 36 years, Eleanor Christine Hillman (deceased); George Anderson "Andy" Hillman, Jr. (deceased); Paula Eleanor Wood (deceased); and Charles Robert Hillman (deceased); grandchildren, Joseph, Ward, William, Jennifer, Matthew, Andrew, Ward, Nicholas, Robert, William, Ryan, Lynn, Hillman, and Julie Hillman. The Oconee Enterprise, March 20, 2013.

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QDMA opens registration

The Quality Deer Management Association, based in Bogart, is holding its national convention here this year. The 13th annual QDMA national convention is scheduled for 11-21 in Athens. The organization, now based in Watkinsville, will celebrate its 25th anniversary. Athletes tested the first two national conventions. A new Convention format will be implemented in 2013 designed to be more fun, exciting and engaging than ever before. Reimagining how athletic the convention experience is, the family-friendly format will include modified activities along with field trips and workshops for small groups focused on hunting tips and strategies. There are three ways to register for National Conventions. A new Convention format will be implemented in 2013 designed to be more fun, exciting and engaging than ever before. Reimagining how athletic the convention experience is, the family-friendly format will include modified activities along with field trips and workshops for small groups focused on hunting tips and strategies.

PETS OF THE WEEK

Adoptable at the Oconee County Animal Shelter



Looking for families to love them
 B. Betty is a female tabby cat, who is approximately 12 months old. She is a little shy at first but warms up well. Her favorite is Tuna and she has been in his mouth paper. His personality was laid. He is a great cat! Please come in and visit this sweet little boy. B. Tucker is a male, tabby who is 11 months old and a very sweet boy. He loves attention! Please come by and see him today. B. "Blond" is a male, Pit Bull / Mastiff mix who came to us on a ring. He is very sweet and handsome. He does love some attention and really gets going on a leash. We will have further in-depth conversations today on this very nice, so please stop by to see the options. If you are interested in adoption, please call the shelter at 706-769-2096. AAdria is a female, French Bulldog mix and was brought to the shelter as a stray. She has stayed through her ring time and is now available for adoption! She is around 1.5 years old, and has a very sweet and affectionate personality. She is not a young spunky breed such as the French, but rather a sweet and loving girl. She likes a lot of attention to make up to you, but... please also take the time to do for us right. She needs only a little hand holding, but is willing to learn and is very affectionate. Come see Adria today! Your best will work! Adria is a female, prairie dog, male, black Lab approximately 1.5 years old. He was found as a stray. He is friendly and calm. Come see him and take him for a walk. For more photos or to see him, please call us at the Back Back, District of Oconee County Animal Control/Rescue Coordinator, at 706-769-2096. The Oconee County Animal Shelter is at 2775 Branch Road, near Oconee Storage Park, or visit the Web site at www.oconeeanimalshelter.com.

Engineers takes skills to mission field

BY BLAKE GILES
 Civil engineer Jeff Carter recognizes the good life when he sees it, and he knows he has it good with his family and his business in Oconee County. But he also felt overworked that if he was to be a true believer of Jesus, he needed to get outside of the safe and secure life he had. "I felt I really needed to follow Jesus," he says, "and do the great commission," said Carter, president of Carter Engineering Consultants, located in Rockport Valley on Sawney Hill Road. "The great commission says go and 'spread My word.'" Carter continued, "I just felt I needed to get outside the bubble we live in, which meant not when it is convenient and just when I can."



Jeff Carter, middle, meets with two members of the team working in designing a new clinic in the Honduras. (Oconee County photo)

The Carter, his long-time mission partner, got his skills as a civil engineer to use on the mission field. He received training from his second mission trip with Engineering Ministries International, an organization that specializes in training up engineers and architects to assist missionaries around the world with various projects. Andy Hays, mission director at Pioneer Avenue Baptist Church, where Carter worships, helped get Carter a truck with GPS, a military grade GPS, and a camera. "They do not have enough capacity. Plus it is in a more populated area, and there is a lot of crime in the area. People need their medicines." The addresses for Clinica El Buen Pastor have positioned local teams of 14 volunteers. Working in Santa Maria del Real, Oconee, Honduras, they spent a week working on the design for a new medical clinic. Team leader Timothy Clark notes that they spent the week developing concepts for the clinic's new site, designing a long-range plan as well as the fire plan. "The clinic they have seen is real to me," said Carter. "They do not have enough capacity. Plus it is in a more populated area, and there is a lot of crime in the area. People need their medicines."

weather because we're in a more rural area of the state. The temperatures were in the 80s, and it was still in the city area."

Carter said that the experience was not unlike one in Guatemala in 2011. At the beginning of the trip, he questioned if he would ever do such a thing again. At the end of the trip, he was certain he would.

Like any engineering project, the work cannot be completed in a week. The various members of the team brought their work back to the states with them where they will continue to work on the design of the clinic, now with all of their high-tech resources available. They will continue to receive from the Internet, not unlike how they handle domestic jobs. Carter said that he expects that the team will be able to complete its design work within six months.

City of Bogart, Ga. Proposed Budget April 1, 2013 - March 31, 2014

REVENUE	
Taxes:	
Motor Vehicle Ad Valorem	\$8,200,000
Property	\$47,000,000
Insurance Premiums	\$4,000,000
Intergovernmental	\$1,000,000
Local Option Sales Tax	\$1,000,000
Property Tax	\$7,000,000
Other Fee	\$2,000,000
SPLOST	\$21,000,000
*Total	\$85,200,000
Fees:	
Business License	\$4,000,000
Permits	\$1,000,000
Other Fees	\$1,000,000
*Total	\$6,000,000
Capital Outlays:	
Community Center	\$4,000,000
Ag Building	\$2,000,000
*Total	\$6,000,000
Interest:	
MOE 117-5000	\$6,000,000
Other Interest	\$500,000
*Total	\$6,500,000
Residuals:	\$4,000,000
Grand Total Revenue:	\$92,700,000

EXPENDITURES

General Administration:	\$1,000,000
Advertising	\$12,000,000
Debt	\$1,000,000
Library - Oconee	\$2,000,000
Bogart	\$1,750,000
General Services	\$2,000,000
Legal/Accounting	\$1,000,000
Miscellaneous/Office Expense	\$2,000,000
Rebuild Projects	\$500,000
Reserve	\$1,000,000
City Events	\$1,500,000
Employee Retirement	\$2,750,000
Employee Tax	\$2,000,000
Employee Insurance	\$2,000,000
Telephone	\$1,000,000
Utilities	\$22,000,000
Post General	\$500,000
Postage	\$2,000,000
Special/Additional Classes	\$1,500,000
PLANNING/REGISTRATION	\$1,000,000
City Tax Collection Fee	\$1,000,000
Water Plant Projects	\$72,000,000
City Engineer	\$2,000,000
*Total:	\$82,250,000
Reserve:	
Water	\$1,000,000
General	\$1,000,000
City	\$2,000,000
Code-Enforcement	\$1,000,000
Per Tree	\$1,000,000
Printing/Representation	\$500,000
Community Center Interest	\$1,000,000
*Total:	\$9,000,000
Street's Department	\$12,000,000
North Oconee Fire Department	\$1,000,000
*Total:	\$13,000,000
*Total General Administration:	\$84,250,000
Maintenance Department:	
Salaries	\$60,000,000
Equipment Rental	\$1,000,000
Supplies or Property/Lease	\$1,000,000
Solid Waste	\$1,000,000
Fuel	\$1,000,000
Miscellaneous/Supplies	\$1,000,000
Miscellaneous/Maintenance	\$1,000,000
Utilities	\$750,000
Capital Outlay	\$12,000,000
*Total Maintenance:	\$80,750,000
*Grand Total Expenditures:	\$92,700,000

2nd Place

The Oconee Enterprise, Watkinsville

Blake Giles



Religion Coverage

F

1st Place

Dawson
Community News,
Dawsonville

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SPORTS

Chase Elliott climbs ranks in racing, IB

INSIDE

NEWCOMERS GUIDE 2013

KEY TO DAWSON

July 2013

Don't miss the Key to Dawson, an annual guide to the community for newcomers and longtime residents alike. Inside the section, readers will be reminded why Dawson County is such a great place to live, work and play.

Center dedicated to Weaver

Served seniors for nearly 30 years

By Michele Hunter
mhunter@dawsonnews.com

Last week would have been Margie Weaver's 20th anniversary as director of the local senior center. To mark the occasion, the center now shares her name.

On July 21, hundreds gathered for the opening of the Margie Weaver Senior Center to commemorate nearly three decades of compassion, loyalty and love for seniors in the community.

"The only thing that would have made a home is if she'd been there, if she got to retire and she got to see it. Just to have her, that her name will be on the building from now on, it's just amazing," said Sharon Higgins, Weaver's daughter.

Weaver died March 18 at the age of 74, five months shy of what would have been her 100th birthday on her mother's birthday. Today would have been her 75th birthday.

"It's just cool to see it was thinking over the weekend, you know in five years, or 10 years from now, somebody's going to go to the park and they're going to see, 'The Margie Weaver Senior Center' — I wonder who Margie Weaver was," Higgins said. "And I promise everybody's going to tell a story about something she did for somebody."

County Commissioner Chairman Mike Berg called the dedication ceremony a celebration.

"It's just wonderful how many people are here, how many from the church," he said. "Margie was such a dynamic figure. Everybody wanted to help her, help others in the county. This is a celebration, something to be proud of. This building will stand."

See **WEAVER** | 18

DOT proposes roundabout

Meeting planned to discuss intersection

By Michele Hunter
mhunter@dawsonnews.com

State transportation officials have announced a public meeting to discuss proposed improvements to the intersection of Hwy. 51 West and Elliott Family Parkway.

The Aug. 13 public information open house will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Dawson County Government Center, 25 Justice Way in Dawsonville.

At an estimated cost of \$2.7 million, the proposed improvements include the construction of a three-lane, one-lane roundabout, according to Georgia

Department of Transportation spokesman Mark McKinnon.

The project is slated to start in April or May 2014, though he cautioned that both the cost and start date are estimates.

"They could certainly change before the project begins," he said. "Also, the proposal is just that. It's not the final plan."

The public meeting is designed to gather input from the community on the proposal.

"That is the reason we have these public meetings," he said. "We want to hear what the public has to say and then possibly use those comments to alter the plan to better accommodate the needs of the community."

CAMPMEETING

Traditions alive, well

Among those taking part in the fun at Lumpkin Campground were, from left, Colby Denant, Trading Byrd, Debra Byrd Peffery, Britany Anderson and Anna Byrd, holding Aubrey Anderson, 3 months.

Photo by David Weaver
dweaver@dawsonnews.com

Week of worship and community still going strong

By David Weaver
dweaver@dawsonnews.com

For one week during the summer, families from Dawson and Lumpkin counties get together at a small campground off Lumpkin Campground Road.

Called Campmeeting, this week is set aside by family and friends to gather, eat, drink, converse and worship together in others they call love.

"I've been going to camp meeting along for 12 years and I'm positive for another 12."

See **WEEK** | 18

Schools ready for students

By David Weaver
dweaver@dawsonnews.com

March is the collective process of children across Dawson County, the local school system will open its doors and usher in students next week.

"I would like to welcome those who are new to Dawson County and/or the

Dawson County School System," said Keith Patten, Dawson County School superintendent.

"We anxiously await Aug. 8, the first day of school, and having the opportunity to see our new and returning students. Each new school year is filled with anticipation of the great things that our children will learn and

demonstrate throughout the year."

But before the big day, the Dawson County school system would like to service parents and students to attend their school's open house the weekend before.

On Aug. 5, Black's Mill, Kitzing, Riverview and

See **SCHOOLS** | 18

INSIDE

For everything you need to know about the upcoming school year, check out our Back to School section inside this issue.

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Classifieds 4C
Dear Abby 3C
Deaths 2A
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Opinions 5A
Sports 1B

3A Man charged with credit card scheme.

4A Cyclists participate in bike ride.

Volume 26 Number 11
© 2013 Dawson Community News
Dawsonville, Georgia

Religion Coverage

E

3rd Place

The Eatonton Messenger

The Eatonton Messenger
Thursday, July 19, 2013

The way we **Live**



STANDING FAST

Porters honored at Union Baptist Church

Lynn Hobbs
lhobbs@em.com

Steady attention's best didn't keep a crowd from gathering to honor Rev. Jesse Porter at Union Baptist Church on Martin Luther King Jr. Drive.

A ribbon-cutting for the fellowship building and the education wing marked the evening of the building for the recently retired Porter and his wife, Elizabeth, respectively.

After the Rev. Johnny Harris finished his remarks, he asked Porter if he'd like to say a few words.

The 87-year-old man said, drawing laughter from the crowd, "Yes, but I'll wait until we get inside."

During his 49 years as pastor — from 1963 until April of this year — he oversaw several construction and remodeling projects, all while guiding the church members through life's changes and spiritual growth.

"It's been good. He brought us to where we are now," said Robert Hargrove, a deacon at Union Baptist for more than 30 years.

"He was a servant of God. He was always there for me whenever I needed to talk to him. He always gave me good instruction." But Porter doesn't take the credit for his successful ministry.

"I preached less for 40 years, and for 49 years the Lord solved the problems," he said last week.

"I had good workers in his church, but I had some problems, too.

"Many nights I stayed awake praying to God, and he always brought the church together."

Porter had plenty of personal experience to draw on, from his childhood

knowledge of war, because problems are going to come. You've got to hold your peace and wait on God," he said.

The Pastor who looked at the crowd said, "Pastor, he still," we look to him today to raise the cross in us," he said with the fire of the preacher, even though it's been three months since he was at the pulpit.

Porter said he was a young man living on Jefferson Avenue when he was going to be a pastor.

His father told him, "You are just dreaming," but Porter disagreed, saying, "The Lord spoke to me."

The war interrupted his plans, he was sent to Germany and the Philippines. He talked of being on a ship that was under fire, on another that was hit by a "nuclear bomber that knocked a big hole in it," and of the time he had to guard a bridge by himself while "the battle was hot."

"I know it increased my faith," Porter said. "God brought us through. All the saints have problems, but nothing is too much for the Lord."

When he returned, Porter

PORTER
Continued on page 8C



At top, the Rev. Johnny Harris, left, leads the Union Baptist congregation from the church Sunday as it honored the Rev. Jesse Porter, right. Above, Harris speaks just before the plaque dedicating the church's fellowship hall to Porter is unveiled. Porter was minister at the church for 49 years. Right, a plaque honors Elizabeth Porter, Porter's wife, for her service. At right, below, a girl records the ceremony on her iPad. At left, below, Porter listens.

SIS. ELIZABETH PORTER EDUCATIONAL WING

DEDICATION FOR FAITHFUL SERVICE
JULY 21, 2013

"Having served heartless and cheating men all over Panama Canal," in the 27 months he spent in the Army aboard ships under fire during World War II. Most recently, he faced the diagnosis three years ago of his wife's dementia and the death of his daughter, Brenda, two years ago.

"It's rough sometimes, but I just stay on my knees. You can't live on a



You're an example of what it means to be a servant.
— Rev. Johnny Harris to Rev. Jesse Porter

Thank you, church. Thank you family. Thank you, pastor. Thank you, God.
— Rev. Jesse Porter at the dedication of the Union Baptist fellowship hall in his honor.

Religion Coverage

E

The influence of religion and faith

IN FAITH

B SECTION THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2013 THE MORGAN COUNTY CITIZEN



"The message here is it is time to move," said North layman speaker Minister Edward G. Dubson, president of the Georgia Sons Commission NAACP during the Black History Month Celebration at Springfield Baptist Church last Sunday.

Dubson's message, accompanied that day by the prayers of local pastors and the songs of the Calvary Baptist Church, Springfield, Ga., focus a welcome lesson at Springfield Baptist, where Commissioner Donald Harris led the congregation through the events of the day.

"We're here to celebrate," began Harris. "The Word can solve all problems. Can people look at you and see Christ in your life? If I was asked, could they see Christ?"

Pastor W.J. Reid continued Harris' message, "Some of us don't see the church, but don't think in the church. When we help God's people we're helping ourselves."

As part of the celebration of Black History Month, Hays Johnson and Glenn Johnson Jr., junior life member of the NAACP, read a list of African-American inventors and their inventions, illustrating the depth of African-American culture and innovation.

Minister Dubson's keynote speech began with a reading from Deuteronomy 1:1-4. The passage describes Moses relating his conversation with God on the banks of the Jordan, which concludes with God commanding the children of Israel to go forth and take possession of the promised land.

Dubson then related that the land was filled to with the promised land at that time because they lacked courage and faith in the Word of God.

"Your failure was defined by their lack of faith," Dubson said. "We have done a comparison between the land on the banks of Jordan and the current state of African-Americans in America today."

"In a time when all we need is faith, we must realize it's spiritual Dubson. "God is asking us to do this because [that] we simply need to move. You don't need to be the next President Obama, you just need to be the next after you are!"

Dubson exhorted African-American progress in America to having the faith to possess what God has promised.

"When they opened the door, we moved," said Dubson. "If God is giving it to you, you've got to move. There's a window here, but the window will not be open forever."

The words of past accomplishments, however, is not wrong enough on its own for the movement to be satisfactory, according to Dubson.

State NAACP president motivates local branch at Black History event



"Do King struggle for voting rights, but he can't get you going to work," admonished Dubson.

Additionally, Dubson commented on Black History Month, specifically that it is "packaged into the shortest month," and referred to Jan. 1 through Feb. 28 as "the season of victories."

Dubson descended of the audience, "Don't you know our history is too rich to be packaged into about 40 days?"

After Dubson's speech, audience members were given out to the top-fives of the 50 states at the event. Springfield Baptist Church had the most church members in attendance, but 300, 200 and more NAACP members in the congregation than any other represented church.

Freda, Laura Butler, president of the Morgan County Branch of the NAACP and Michael Noplin, Madison city councilman, made an appeal for NAACP membership.

Butler led the plea, saying that, "membership is the foundation for the NAACP."

Noplin continued Butler's message, "Members give you a voice."

April 20, the Morgan County branch of the NAACP will hold their Black History Parade on Mother's Jones Park. Participation will be free, and local churches that are interested in taking part in the event are encouraged to contact the local NAACP branch.



Clockwise from top left: Minister Edward G. Dubson, president of the statewide NAACP delivers his keynote speech; Pastor W.J. Reid motivates Dubson; Local NAACP President Laura Butler gives an audience member an appeal to join the NAACP; and Ph. 200 church members attend an event at the Calvary Baptist.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROFILE EUGENE SWAIN

By EUGENE SWAIN

Fred Fournier, president and co-founder of the Morgan County African American Museum, came to this newspaper with the idea of honoring four members of the community in its spotlight during Black History Month in February.

The new spotlight article Eugene Swain, a native of Morgan County, Swain is the son of Priscilla Swain and the late Charlie Swain.

The son of his wife, Gladis, has been married "forever," which is about 30 years, he said. Swain plays lead guitar at Pleasant Baptist Church.

When asked where he started with his artwork,

Swain said he was "very young" when he started. He mentioned having a cousin in his band and that it would have been earlier than age eight.

A 1986 graduate of Morgan County High School, Swain said he took art classes in high school and was accepted into the Art Institute of Atlanta but did not attend. He noted that he had a family then and could not do both at the same time.

He estimated that he has around "thousands" of pieces of art but said he has not large means. Old and expensive his media of choice.

"I got my first set and got better results with it than with water colors," he said.

He explained that with the

medium he can work with them. Acrylics dries quicker than oils so that he can do it and he will use acrylics.

For example, for an art show one week away, Swain will use acrylics. For an art show one month away, he may use oils. Thus again, he said, he may use mixed media.

It really depends on the amount of time he has.

A 14-by-17-inch or a 18-by-20-inch painting will take between 40 minutes and an hour for him to paint. Larger paintings, such as those 16-by-20-inch and larger, take three or four days to complete.

Swain said he tries to paint every other day so that he stays motivated.

"When you stop it's hard to get back into it," he said.

As to his favorite art subjects, Swain said he does a lot of rural scenes.

He noted that he has been all over the United States and part of England. He said that he works in a more rural and mountainous area and that he also participates in craft shows.

In Morgan County his work can be seen in Greater Black, the Madison-Morgan Cultural Center, and the African American Museum.

The art he is painting now is for a show at the museum, he said.

The museum coordinator to obtain art easily by word of mouth, though. Once he receives a commission he uses photographs - even he takes or sees that are sent to him - to help his work on.



Eugene Swain PHOTO BY EUGENE SWAIN

2nd Place

Morgan County Citizen, Madison

Religion Coverage

E

Living See more photos and order reprints online at photos.jcnews.com Thursday, April 18, 2013 The Jones County News

MISSION for CHRIST

Young men growing up in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have long been encouraged to devote two years to serve as missionaries - either here in the U.S. or abroad.

But it wasn't surprising when Ben LeFebvre decided last year to take a year off from his studies at Southern Wesleyan University to follow in the footsteps of an older brother and several other young men from the relatively young Gray branch of the church and go on his own mission.

He left this week for his month of training in Provo, Utah, then will go to Tijuana, Mexico, to begin his mission.

What may surprise some are the women in that young women are also now allowed to serve as missionaries, and two members from Gray have answered that call.

Any Floyd just returned from her 18-month mission in Germany, and Kaitlyn Kimes is now serving in France. Women are asked to serve only a year and a half rather than the full two years that men serve.

The age limit was to some recently changed from 21 to 25 and from 21 to 23 for women to 25.

It is a testament to the vibrancy of the growing Gray congregation that it has three young people serving in such a distant land, said Bishop Eric Reid, leader of the Gray branch and Any's father.

"It is the vision of the church to bring every man, woman and child to Christ. It is serving as a missionary in the first of all, answering the call of Christ's great commission. But we also see it as great training for the young men and women who serve. It is wonderful for their spiritual growth when they dedicate themselves completely for two years or 18 months to learning, living, sharing and teaching their faith to others."

"It is also great training for us," said Ben LeFebvre.

2009-17. A second phase of the building was dedicated in 2014, and just last year the third phase of the building, costing more than \$5 million, was completed.

In most denominations, local members own most of the money to pay for their buildings. But the worldwide church provides buildings on the most remote in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

"We've grown from about 80 members to 221 now," Reid said. "When we got to the point where we needed more space, we put together a proposal and presented it to the church, and after they reviewed it and approved it, we were able to build. As long as we have a certain percentage of our members paying their full tithes (10 percent of their income), then the church takes care of the bill."

The Floyd's two children both completed their missions before finishing school and getting down.

Any, the first female missionary from the Gray congregation, said that isn't what really influenced her to go herself.

It makes them better family people, better church members, better workers, better citizens.
—Benjamin Floyd

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANY FLOYD

1st Place

The Jones County News, Gray

Staff



UP: Missionaries in Any Floyd's district near the Provo (Utah) mission. ABOVE: Any Floyd (second from right) with some other sisters on a travel day. This is a day that comes every six weeks, when all the missionaries who are serving around the world either the missionaries come to the main train station in Provo, Utah, and watch their new ones.

Religion Coverage

D

NEW DETAILS EMERGE, 6A
Kidnapper Ariel Castro may not have committed suicide.

IN SPORTS
Gates, Pearson lead teams into key subregion contest. • Page 7A

Henry DAILY Herald
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2013

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City decries toll lanes on Interstate 75
By Rachel Smey
rsmey@henryherald.com

MCDONOUGH — City leaders expressed strong concerns about Interstate 75 toll lanes and the potential impact on McDonough's economy this week.

Once again, the I-75 express toll lanes proved to be an issue for McDonough as the tourism board presented the city council with ideas to promote the city.

McDonough Tourism board members showed the council its goals to attract more tourism in 2014, along with testing what they say has already been accomplished with tourism dollars.

Board member, Councilwoman Gail Notti and Sandra Vincent pointed out the interstate toll lanes might make it challenging to promote tourism because the lanes will make it possible for travelers to bypass all city of McDonough exits.

"With the building of the managed lanes, we see the city that is going to be

See TOLLS, Page 5A

Police: Woman impersonated city code officer
From Smey Revers

STOCKBRIDGE — A local businesswoman is free on bond after being arrested for impersonating a city code enforcement officer.

Subodhi Haldani was arrested for impersonating a public official and released on \$5,275 bond Oct. 2.

Henry County Police said the impersonation campaign began from a businesswoman advertising support for Stockbridge mayoral candidate Vanessa Hildley while posing as a code enforcement officer.

Depending on the district attorney's interpretation of the allegations, Haldani could face either a misdemeanor or a felony indictment following a grand jury's review of the case.

Police also said they did not find a connection between Haldani and any of Hildley's three rivals in the upcoming municipal election.

Henry continues Halloween events
By Rachel Smey
rsmey@henryherald.com

MCDONOUGH — From theater to haunted forests to a chili cook-off the next few weeks feature numerous fall events throughout Henry County.

Events beginning this weekend include:

Yappes: 9 Short Plays about Birth and Renewal

"Yappes" features an evening of short plays about rebirth and renewal Oct. 11 to 13 at 3 and 8 p.m. at the Stockbridge Community Arts Center. Plays include Wagonwheel, Playroom Play, Farm-Girl, Chasing Satan, JUNE BOWERS, Bulbally Dianna, Birds of a Feather, A Return to Silver Hill and based on the Day of Atonement. This show has some strong language, and tickets are \$10 online or \$15 at the door.

The Haunted 188 House of Horror

Henry's haunted 188 House of Horror continues Saturday and every weekend in October from 6:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. for a cost of \$20 per person. The "haunted" house is a PG-13 theatrical production with more than 40 actors and volunteers. There are 13 rooms and five halls, and it is said to be very scary at times. There will also be a Zombie Scholarship award of \$1,000 to benefit a Henry County graduate in 2014.

See HALLOWEEN, Page 5A

The Visit 2013: 'Wise-selfish, not foolish-selfish'
The Dalai Lama extols compassion

By Jim Zachary
jzachary@henryherald.com

DELLISTON — A diverse gathering at the Anna at Gateway Center heard a message of compassion, kindness and the importance of education from the spiritual leader of Tibet, the Dalai Lama, on Tuesday.

More Atlanta has an emerging Buddhist population with the Dalai Lama Buddhist Temple and the Chong-Cong-Cyun Chik-Sung Shave in Jonesboro, the Lantian Buddhist Community Temple in Roswell and the very visible 'Wa Lee' Buddhist practitioners in Conley just south of Henry and Clayton counties.

However, Christians, Jews, Muslims and individuals from various faiths and denominations came together for what was called "The Visit" from the Dalai Lama.

The Visit 2013 was hosted by Emory University as part of the Emory Tibet partnership that dates back to 1987.

Since that time, Emory University has seen hundreds of students and faculty to Tibet and hosted Tibetan students for a fusion of modern science and what the Dalai Lama has called "an ancient science of the mind."

After leaving the stage and going for an impromptu walk into the crowd to greet a man he described as his "best" friend of the non-violent ways he reached to being wounded and blinded in conflict in Northern India as a young man, the 14th Dalai Lama began his public address during

Henry continues Halloween events

The event hosted by Emory University began with traditional music and prayers. (Staff Photo: Jim Zachary)

The event featured a large and diverse crowd as on hand for The Visit 2013. (Staff Photo: Jim Zachary)

world violence.

He said in his lifetime he has seen WWII, the Korean War, Vietnam and "some violence even today like Syria."

Despite what he described as the destruction and violence of the 20th century, his message was one of hope for the 21st century.

He lamented, "The 20th century — a wonderful century with a lot of innovations finding many useful things — however it has also brought violence."

In contrast, he said, "There is a possibility to create a peaceful century. We must rationally face problems and potential conflict in order to create peace. We must develop skills, (and) solve problems by creating a century of dialogue and reduce extreme self-centered attitudes," he said.

The Nobel Peace Prize winner told the crowd that peace and non-violence come from a sense of compassion.

"We must make this century a century of compassion," he said.

Compassion, he suggested, must begin on a personal level. "Our happy life depends on a sense of compassion."

See VISIT, Page 5A

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Crossword 3B Editorial 6A Lottery 2A Sports 7A
Comics 3B Lifestyle 1B Nation 6A Television 4, 5B
Crossword 3B Local 5A Obituaries 5A World 6A

3rd Place

Henry Daily Herald,
McDonough
Jim Zachary



2nd Place

The Covington News

Danielle Everson

RELIGION



Danielle Everson/The Covington News

Front row, left to right: The Rev. Harlan Math, Emma Jones, Dorothy Mae Bailey, Charles Mae Frazier, Paula Horton, Pearl. Second row, right to left, The Rev. Thomas Stegall, Dennis Watson, Anna Mollings, Juliana Martin and Larnest Martin.

Historic church moves locations

DANIELLE EVERSON
danev@covingtonnews.com

The congregation of the historic Saint Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church in Covington is moving. And though the relocation is seen as a step forward for the congregation, some members are unhappy to leave the historic site behind.

Saint Paul AME, which has been at its Stone Mountain Street location for more than 132 years, will relocate to 11198 Browns Bridge Road on Dec. 1. The church has about 290 members.

Through the years, the church has had many reversals and halts. Some as parents have hosted a number of NAACP and civil rights meetings, has been used as a filming site for movies and TV shows such as "In the Heat of the Night," and "T.I. Fly Away," and has maintained its many, many families from the Newton County community and beyond.

Church administrators say the time has come for the church to move forward for the building of God's kingdom.

According to its historical records, Saint Paul AME organized in 1878 and had its first church structure built at great sacrifice in an era when wages and earning power were low for people of African descent.

According to the records a "Miss I. Brown" a successful blacksmith in the community, donated the land for the church.

Rev. Bellman, a founder, served as the pastor until 1902.

In 1908, the church burned, and many of the first records were lost. Church members rebuilt on the present site, this time also building a parsonage for the pastor. Two years later, the church burned again, and both the church and the parsonage were lost. However, members again built the church and a new parsonage in the same year.

As the church grew through the years, Sunday school rooms, offices, a kitchen, fellowship



Danielle Everson/The Covington News

Saint Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church has been at its Stone Mountain Street location for more than 132 years.

rooms and other rooms were added. In addition, other improvements were made to the building and the property.

The Rev. Thomas Stegall, currently serves as senior pastor and presides with his wife, Katherine Stegall. They have been serving at the ministry since 2006.

Stegall said the time has come for the congregation to move to progress for growth and continue its community outreach.

Four generations of families attend Saint Paul AME Church. Several elders were at the church's Stone Mountain Street location Wednesday afternoon. Some of those elders said they grew up in the church, live just minutes away, and have had generations of their family members attend.

While some were excited about the move, others said they are uncomfortable with the extra travel required to get to the new church. However, Stegall said some of those members have already made their way to the new building for several special services.

"The spirit of the church right now, it's not

completed. We used Saint Paul AME purchased the building and had a "test drive."

Stegall said services have already been held at the new facility, and attendance has been good.

"We had our church picnic, we had a lock-in, and we've had a homecoming, and there, so we've had a number of services. And the interesting thing is, when over the doors open, there's a lot of the local community that has already started to make their way over there," he said.

"It saddens me as the pastor and the pastor to see that there are some who aren't going to come, because of their love and their attachment to this building. But God has blessed us to grow, not only building-wise, but membership-wise. And we need to do what we need to do in the name of God."

"I do not want to see anybody walk away from something they love as much as they have expressed their love for this. But in the morning, when I have to give an account of my ministry, I have to be able to tell God, 'You said so.'"

Dennis Watson said there will be a week filled with special services before Saint Paul AME moves to its new location permanently.

Services include a Community Ethnic Night, Nov. 28, a Praise Night for members to take final photos of the old church, Nov. 19, an all-day prayer vigil and special launch for the community at the Browns Bridge location, Nov. 20, and a Fall Service Nov. 21 to reflect on the members who have passed away. Watson said Sunday, Nov. 24, will be Family Friends. They will have a worship service at 11 a.m. and the final worship service at the Stone Mountain Street church building at 7 p.m.

Rev. Stegall said a ministry that meets at a location on On Highway 78 will continue. Saint Paul AME's old church building

Don't fall for false teachings

Colossians 2:8 (Contemporary English Version) Don't let anyone fool you by using academic arguments. Their arguments may sound wise, but they are only human teachings.

Ever heard a smooth talker in action? Many times in my life, I have met very disingenuous people who tried to argue their own opinions as fact.

As we grew up and grew wise in life, we learn from experience those whom we can trust and those we can't.

In the church at Colosse, the Christians were being confused and misled by people who taught that Jesus was greater than regular humans, but was not really God.

There was no evidence for this theory, but centers and debates would try to convince people using very persuasive, often false arguments.

While Paul had never been to the church at Colosse, he had been nearby in Ephesus. So one of the church leaders, Epaphras, went to Paul to explain the problem, and Paul wrote this letter to the Colossians as a pastoral response to their problem.

False doctrine infiltrating the church was not just a first-century problem; they are still a problem today.

Many people believe many things about Jesus that he was a good man, a great teacher, a miracle worker, a special spiritual being who was not really human, and the list goes on and on.

Depending on the popular teaching of the day, people spread all kinds of stories about Jesus that are just not true.

But Jesus lived so long ago, how do we know which stories are true and which are not?

The main authoritative text that we use to gauge which stories about Jesus are true is the Bible. Written by many people over many thousands of years, inspired by the same Eternal God in the form of the Holy Spirit, the Bible is the best collection of authoritative writings about Jesus that we have.

It contains eyewitness accounts of those who walked with Jesus.



JAN MOODY
COLUMNIST

see his miracles, talked to the people he raised from the dead, and saw him in his own resurrected form.

The prophets continued in the old Hebrew scriptures point to a Messiah, one who would come to save the people and restore the world to the perfect condition that it was created to be—a world with no fighting or war, no famine or hunger, no destruction or suffering.

And while we Christians know that Jesus is that Messiah, we, along with our Jewish brothers and sisters, long for the day when the perfection of creation will be restored and we will live in peace for all eternity.

Jesus told his friends not to be persuaded by false teachers and false teachings.

We can avoid being taken in by false teachings if we know what the Bible says and measure all teachings by its standard.

We also have the traditions of the Church over thousands of years, as well as reason guided by the Spirit, and our own experience to help us determine what is right.

Using all four of these together, God can guide us if we trust in the Spirit's discernment so that we don't fall for false teachings.

You won't be taken in or tricked by false teachings if you know the Truth. Do your homework! Have you read your Bible today?

The Rev. Jan McCray is associate pastor of Covington First United Methodist Church in downtown Covington. She can be reached at jan.mccray@umc.net or at www.covingtonfirst.org.

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It contains eyewitness accounts of those who walked with Jesus.

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BAROLD WILSON, JR., PASTOR

Religion Coverage

D

1st Place

The Walton
Tribune, Monroe



Regular worship service at The Church of the Grove includes a praise band. | Contributed Photo

Raising His Name in Song, Praise

By Rachael Ward

The church is a place of worship, a community of believers that gather for the singular purpose of knowing God.

And in a county that continues to grow at a rapid pace, the church has to be innovative to keep its members sitting in the pews and focused.

In recent years, with the economic downfall and changing of the times, churches around Walton County have felt the pain from their congregation's pockets, hearts and minds — but that hasn't

stopped new churches from forming and churches dating back to the 1800s from keeping their members strong in faith.

Corinth Missionary Baptist Church has been in Social Circle serving its community for 124 years. The church formed on April 18, 1889 and has seen growth and challenges alike. Bishop William Davenport is at the helm of the church and even through the storm of the economy and the rise and fall of different churches, the church leader said Corinth has maintained its attendance.

Religion Coverage

C

MOULTRIE OBSERVER



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Middle school divers excel in Emory meet

SPORTS, 1B

The Moultrie Observer

Your Friend & Neighbor Since 1894

MOULTRIE, GA WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2013 90 CENTS

AREA DEATHS

One Whitaker Gulf 16
in County
Kinney "Kia" Beachley
62, of Moultrie
Rev. Roy Lee Hicks, 71,
of Moultrie

For complete obituaries,
see Page 1A.

Man, teen charged in fatal arson

WATKINS, Ga. (AP) — Police in south Georgia say they've made two arrests in an arson that killed a 16-year-old.

Police Chief Tony "Tanner" said Monday that 19-year-old Joseph Crawford and a 17-year-old boy from Moultrie were arrested on charges of murder and arson. The arrested "Tanner" said Crawford is charged with arson and the boy is charged with murder.

Investigators have said Crawford's Moultrie home was used to store a large amount of fireworks. The boy was a 16-year-old relative.

Authorities had announced a \$100,000 reward for information on the case and "Tanner" says investigators received information through an anonymous tipster to the state fire marshal's office.

"Tanner" says the two are being held in the Moultrie Jail. It's unclear if they have attorneys.

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CONTACT US

Thank you for reading The Moultrie Observer. We value your comments. You're welcome to call us at 229-345-4444.

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Debra White, ext. 0712
Or email comments to dwain.walden@moobserver.com



Budget heads for passage

WASHINGTON — Year-end legislation to ease Congress' chronic budget impasse and avert automatic spending cuts passed in the House of Representatives Tuesday.

The measure is expected to clear the Senate and go to President Barack Obama for signature on Wednesday, marking a major accomplishment at the end of a year punctuated by a partial government shutdown, a sequester and a record-high congressional gridlock on issues ranging from immigration to gun control.

"This legislation will take the first steps toward resolving our budget impasse," Rep. Peter DeFazio, Oregon Republican, said Tuesday. "It's a good sign that Congress is finally moving forward."

The measure is expected to clear the Senate and go to President Barack Obama for signature on Wednesday, marking a major accomplishment at the end of a year punctuated by a partial government shutdown, a sequester and a record-high congressional gridlock on issues ranging from immigration to gun control.

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HUMAN CHRISTMAS TREES



Three human Christmas trees were decorated at the Ebenezer Church of God's Christmas supper. From left are Marie Nevels, Lucille Carroll and Janice Suggs. Suggs has won the beauty pageant title.

The return of 'Return to Bethlehem'

By Kevin C. Hall

MOULTRIE — Christmas cards mailed to "Bethlehem" the week before the season. "How often do we see that name when Mary and Joseph travel to their son in the stable where little Jesus was born?"

But since Bethlehem is about 60 miles from here — and with little more than a sign to indicate its location — it's not surprising that many people in the area are confused by the name.

"Return to Bethlehem" is a name that has been used for many years in the area, but it's not clear where it came from. Some people say it was used by the early settlers, while others say it was used by the people who lived in the area before the Civil War.



William from First Baptist Church of Moultrie has taken on the role of Bethlehem messenger during a living nativity. Photo by Kevin C. Hall.

Christmas registration will be at Ebenezer Church. The church will provide a living nativity scene and a variety of other activities. The church is located at 1000 N. Main St. in Moultrie.

Flu season off to mild start, but kills 2 people in Georgia

By Alan Moultrie

MOULTRIE — While this year's flu season has been relatively mild so far, health experts warn that the season could be more severe than last year's. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says that the flu season is just getting started, and that it could be more severe than last year's.

While the number of cases in Moultrie is low, the CDC says that the flu season is just getting started, and that it could be more severe than last year's. The CDC says that the flu season is just getting started, and that it could be more severe than last year's.

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Dial-a-Carol a holiday tradition at U of Illinois

CHICAGO — The phone is ringing off the hook at Dial-a-Carol, a free service that provides carols to callers. The service is a tradition at the University of Illinois, and it's a popular holiday tradition in many other parts of the country.

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3rd Place

The Moultrie Observer

Kevin C. Hall

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Religion Coverage

C

religion rockdalecitizen.com newtoncitizen.com
PAGE 68 • FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2013

Jon LaGuardia

Churches give safety for homeless

The Bible tells us to "give thanks to the Lord, for God is good" (Ps. 107:1). As we come up to this special holiday set aside for giving thanks, what are you thankful for? ... I am thankful for the Body of Christ this season. I have always had a fondness for the collaborative spirit, and that spirit was especially present several weeks ago during a dinner and auction benefiting Family Promise of Newark.

The dinner was a time to celebrate two years of Family Promise, raise funds for its continued growth, and to fellowship with people who believe in the cause. So many of the churches and organizations that make up Family Promise were present, and my wife was a special part of the evening.

At one point in the dinner, Cheryl Hackaber, head of people from each participating church stand and was recognized. With each church represented — and even those absent — there were cheers and thanks given.

If there is anything in Rockdale County that brings people, civic organizations, nonprofits and churches together, it is definitely Family Promise of Newark. Here is an organization — a local affiliate of a larger, national body — that networks churches together to keep people out of homelessness.

The organization does not just aim to keep families off the streets, but seeks out sustainable housing and employment. No family ever advised simply "passed through." Each family (and children are always included) sets out weekly goals to save money, find employment (or keep the jobs they have), and receive services that help put a sustainable roof over their heads.

The average family stays in the program for about two months. Each week, the families stay overnight in a different church, which provides dinner and breakfast and transportation to the Family Promise day center.

The day center gives families a central hub to catch school buses, come together for support, tutoring, and services, and get work on their feet.

At the dinner and auction, one man who went through the program, Gloria, spoke about her experience. It was a heartfelt speech of gratitude after facing a situation of poverty and divorce, she and her four children now have a stable home and employment.

Trinity Baptist Church is one of 14 "host" congregations that house families. But since we are a small church, we require the help of "support" churches for much during the week and other jobs like driving the van to and from sites taken by European botanists.

See LANGRANIA, Page 78



St. Paul AME Church members, front row from left, Pearl Banks, Dorothy Mae Bailey, Emma Jones, Mary Baker, Everlene Bell, second row from left, the Rev. Marie Davis, Edie Ruth Nalley, Ella Ruth Jones, Phaulantia Reed, third row from left, Cynthia Bell, Dorcas Nealey and Carolyn Howard gather in the church's sanctuary. Congregants say they will miss worshiping at the location on Stone Mountain Street, where generations of church members have gathered for 136 years, but are looking forward to settling in at their new church home on Brown Bridge Road. (Staff Photo: Karen Nave)

A new chapter

Historic church leaving location in Covington

By Beth Sexton
beths@newtoncitizen.com

Sunday will be a "bittersweet" day for the congregation at the historic St. Paul AME Church in Covington, according to the Rev. Thomas R. Stagg, its pastor of eight years. Stagg and white church members are excited about moving to their new and larger location, it will be sad to leave a place they have called home since 1878.

This Sunday will be the last day the St. Paul AME congregation will worship at its longtime site on Stone Mountain Street in Covington. Next Sunday, the church will begin a new chapter in its history as it opens its doors in a new location at 1338 Brown Bridge Road.

"We're primarily moving because we are space challenged," Stagg said. "God has afforded us an opportunity to buy 21 acres and buildings on Brown Bridge Road at a price we could afford. After we bought the property and started using it for ministries and other activities, God blessed us with another congregation to buy our present location."

Sunday's special service begins at 11 a.m. Family and families gather at the old church on Stone Mountain Street. The congregation will hold its final worship service there at 3 p.m. The community is invited to attend and St. Paul AME invites pastors from churches throughout the region to join them for this special occasion.

Founded in 1878, the earliest members worked hard to build their first sanctuary. In 1901, the church burned and was destroyed. Church members again sacrificed and worked to raise funds to rebuild. However, two years later another fire claimed the house of worship. Undeterred, the congregation again rebuilt its sanctuary and that is the structure the congregation leaves as it moves to a new site.

"It will be bittersweet," Stagg said. "We thank God for the matrons and patriots to have what we've got. It hurts, but it's a good thing to leave the former generation a newer building."

St. Paul AME will move onto its new property where there is a building large enough to hold 600 to 700 people. The pastor said that will be where the congregation worships until the building becomes the church's family life center. He said plans are already in the works to build a new sanctuary.

"Within a year and a half, our plans are to break ground on a new building," Stagg said. "We've got to work and get our funds back up before we can build."

The church already has a full schedule of Christmas activities at its new home including church dinner, special concerts and a Christmas pageant.

As it leaves the old site, Stagg said the church is taking its historical data, the altar rail and the nameplates off the windows and pews as part of its history and remembrance of those who worked to provide for the congregation through the years.

Indeed, St. Paul AME Church has a long and interesting history as such an important part of the life of Covington and Newton County.

People around the world got to see St. Paul AME as the old church was a familiar setting in the hit TV shows "In the Heat of the Night" and "T.U. Fly Away." In the 1950s, the church won third place in a News & Record church improvement contest and one of its pews was featured in Ebony magazine.

The published church history is filled with the names of Christian pioneers and lay leaders who worked to share the gospel of Jesus Christ in the community, making sure the church was needed for and that St. Paul AME remained a place of worship and refuge on Stone Mountain Street.

With around 100 members in attendance on Sunday mornings, St. Paul AME has a full slate of activities and events for people of all ages. It has an active senior adult group and this year Wednesday had a dinner for the seniors.

The pastor said St. Paul AME's oldest member is 99 and its youngest is less than a year.

See CHURCH, Page 78

Consider the Lilies

by *Carol Morris*

In only a few decades, good prevailed in religious, economic and political affairs. That may have been told in numerous books leading the good times as well as the bad.

Several years ago, I had the privilege of speaking about wilderness that were present in the early colonies. Over 40 of these I have identified in my book have been identified from colonial records and from notes taken by European botanists.

They were specifically identified as native to America. Though there were many more present, these were noted because of their specific value as food or medicine.

The old records show that 20 were sought by the settlers by American Indians. The other one, generally regarded as a pest, is today's species.

HORSEWEED
Erigonum canadense
This wildflower is noted

in botanical records as an unexplained immigrant to Europe. It is likely that the seeds of the horseweed accidentally got on board merchant ships returning from the colonies.

Horseweed flowers from July to frost. It is green with small white rays that never open during blooming process. Note the drawing in the offset. It measures about 1/2 inch.

Clear seeds are common.

See MORRIS, Page 78

Horseweed traveled by ship from the colonies to Europe

The spirit of the Thanksgiving holiday seeks to create all year long. America's history with the American Indians is far from vibrant, though it began in mutuality. Citizens could not have survived without the native help.

In only a few decades, good prevailed in religious, economic and political affairs. That may have been told in numerous books leading the good times as well as the bad.

Several years ago, I had the privilege of speaking about wilderness that were present in the early colonies. Over 40 of these I have identified in my book have been identified from colonial records and from notes taken by European botanists.

See LANGRANIA, Page 78

2nd Place

Rockdale Citizen, Conyers

Beth Sexton

Religion Coverage

C

SPICE
They're ensuring that victims have a voice
Page B1

SPORTS
All hands on deck in Region 5-AA
Page A12



TIMES-GEORGIAN

SUNDAY, JULY 21, 2013 • 52 • CARROLL COUNTY'S TRUSTED INFORMATION LEADER SINCE 1871



Smith expects new fire chief by Oct. 1
Chairman: Some firefighters were underpaid

Five treated, released after tarp collapses at V-Plex

A Run for the Ages
Smith carrying the torch for Carrollton senior citizens

After the fire
Services will continue at Bethesda Baptist

Southwire Back to School Giveaway

Smith expects new fire chief by Oct. 1
Chairman: Some firefighters were underpaid

Five treated, released after tarp collapses at V-Plex

A Run for the Ages
Smith carrying the torch for Carrollton senior citizens

After the fire
Services will continue at Bethesda Baptist

Southwire Back to School Giveaway

86
70

10:00 AM
Dewy, Partly Cloudy

1st Place

Times-Georgian,
Carrollton

Winston Jones

Religion Coverage

B

COBB COUNTY WE'RE NO. 61

COBB&STATE COBB AMONG HEALTHIEST GA. COUNTIES PAGE 1B

SPORTS SWIM CAPPER Pope grad Gaid closes Georgia career with NCAA title 1C

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Marietta Daily Journal

MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2013 BREAKING NEWS 24/7 @ MDJONLINE.COM 75 CENTS

Easter Sunrise Service

Rain leads to smaller crowd at Kennesaw sermon

By Geoff Folsom | gfolsom@mdjonline.com

The ground was still damp when people arrived at the Kiwanis Club of Marietta's 16th annual Easter Sunrise Service at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park. But, by the end of the 45-minute event, the sun was trying to peek through the clouds.

The 500 to 600 people in attendance heard a 7 a.m. sermon about forgiveness from the Rev. Bill Ross, senior pastor at First Baptist Church of Marietta.

Ross discussed the biblical account of Simon Peter denying Jesus, only to affirm his love for Christ after he was resurrected.

"What we hear from the resurrection of Christ are these words, 'Do you love me?'" Ross said.

"Jesus forgives Simon Peter, and says, 'And you, Simon, I think, say to me as his resurrection, on this Easter morning...'"

With birds chirping around him, Ross transitioned into a story of when he was forgiven after breaking his father's favorite clock with an ornament that fell on his head. But he was afraid to go to his father, who was away in North Carolina.

Ross said he put the clock back together using Jesus's plan. And his father took advantage of the situation by making Ross do his chores for the next six weeks, under the threat of taking his father.

Finally, Ross bowed up and told his father about the broken clock.

"He said, 'Well, I know,'" Ross recalled.

"You don't give things together or too well," then he said something I'll never forget," he said. "I forgive you."

Bill and Jackie Gervis of Marietta had attended the service several times, along with their daughters, Abigail, 11, and Katherine, 9.

"I like being out here, I like that we can get in early and enjoy some time as a family," Bill Gervis said.

"And I appreciate the words that they share."

Kiwanis member the Rev. Phil Owens, whose chapel is at Walter Kennesaw Hospital, said the audience watching the sermon was about half what it was in 2012.

"He said some people might have seen Sunrise, Page 6A



Above: Dr. Bill Ross of First Baptist Church of Marietta gives the sermon for Sunday's Easter sunrise service. Top right: Alison Wiles of Emory and daughter, Morgan, 11, listen as Ross reads the morning's scriptures. Right: Constance Commandary-King, a Kiwanis member, participates in the closing prayer for Sunday's service.



Above: Dr. Bill Ross of First Baptist Church of Marietta gives the sermon for Sunday's Easter sunrise service. Top right: Alison Wiles of Emory and daughter, Morgan, 11, listen as Ross reads the morning's scriptures. Right: Constance Commandary-King, a Kiwanis member, participates in the closing prayer for Sunday's service.



3rd Place

Marietta Daily Journal

Staff

THE REV. JOHN WALSH

St. Joseph pastor named monsignor

By Geoff Folsom | gfolsom@mdjonline.com

The Rev. John Walsh said he didn't know who was going to win when he was called on a morning with Atlanta Archbishop William Gregory at 12:30 p.m. at his Kennesaw office.

"They said you haven't done anything wrong, but I was still a little bit nervous," said Walsh, who has been pastor at St. Joseph Catholic Church near Walter Kennesaw Hospital in Marietta.

See Walsh, Page 6A



Rubio: Reports of deal on immigration 'premature'

By Philip Elliott | pe Elliott@mdjonline.com

WASHINGTON — Even with one of the biggest battles in an immigration overhaul overcome, optimistic lawmakers Tuesday cautioned they had not finished work on a bill that would provide a path to citizenship for 11 million illegal immigrants.

The AFL-CIO and the pro-immigrant U.S. Chamber of Commerce reached a deal late Friday that would allow tens of thousands of low-skilled workers into the country to fill jobs in construction, restaurants and hotels.

Yet despite the unusual agreement between the two powerful lobbying groups, lawmakers from both parties conceded that the negotiations were not finished.

"It is an agreement between business and labor, every major policy issue has been resolved," said Sen. Chris Schumer, the New York Democrat who backed the labor-immigrant deal.

But it hasn't taken the form of a bill and the right



See Rubio, Page 3A

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Religion Coverage

B

4C LIFE
The Times
gainesville.com
Saturday, June 26, 2010

So long, Sunday school

Woman teaches for seven decades

By Savannah King
savannahking@times.com

Emily Blackock has spent most of her life teaching young children about the Bible.

The 83-year-old lifelong member of St. Paul United Methodist Church in Gainesville has taught kindergarten for almost 70 years. She retired in January after teaching for 13 years of Christian education.

"I realized I had done down and I wasn't getting any younger," Blackock said. "I thought some younger person might be able to connect with our emerging new class and because of my experience and an opportunity to have what I did."

The church honored Blackock's 70th anniversary of service with a surprise announcement during the weekly morning service earlier this month.

"They gave me this plaque which I was crying up and down," Blackock said. "They told me that I was the first to teach in the class and they just came from the fact that they were and were their own children. That's something to me."

Blackock was just 13 years old, a junior at Gainesville High School, when she was approached to teach the first grade Sunday school class.

"I remember I was a little apprehensive," Blackock said. "But I said 'I'll try.' I had a book, and other stuff, and I was really enjoying it. I was going with the children and everything and I was having a great time."

Blackock taught the first graders for several years and then was asked to take over the kindergarten class. She stayed with the younger class then moved to the first grade.

Only a few times since when she was not in-class teaching. When her husband was a worker, and when she took her own time to do things.

She said she couldn't have taught the class for so long without the help of her late husband Pierre Blackock, who watched

"I just can't ever remember not seeing her. She's just sort of a fixture there at church."

Jennifer Carlson
former student and member of St. Paul United Methodist Church

Blackock's role in helping children learn about the Bible was not just a job, she said. It was a way of life. She said she always loved to teach, and she always loved to see the children learn.

"They just accept it, what they learn in the classroom," Blackock said. "We try to teach their lives, too, with that. They're eager and they're always happy to learn. If they have older brothers or sisters, they've learned that. I love that."

Blackock said she had become a more active member of the church for her children through the years.

"I was lucky that I did it," Blackock said laughing. "I didn't get bored because I had a lot of problems with that, but I really didn't have any."

After working in the church for so long, Blackock has taught multiple generations. She knows of at least one Sunday school she taught for a grand-nephew. She mother said she did.

"I was trying to think when I was sitting in the congregation," Blackock said. "I used to look at her for a long time because she was so young and she was so old. I just can't ever remember not seeing her," Carlson said. "She's just one of those people who if they ever get out of the church, you just want to find out what's wrong. But you can't do that because she's at church."

Now the two women are teaching at the church. Blackock has been doing it for as long as she can remember, she said. She'll "stay busy with that."



4C LIFE The Times
Emily Blackock, an 83-year-old former teacher, sits on a bench outdoors. She is wearing a blue patterned jacket and dark pants. A small dog is sitting next to her.

4C LIFE The Times
Portrait of Emily Blackock, an 83-year-old former teacher, wearing a blue patterned jacket.

2nd Place

The Times, Gainesville

Savannah King



Religion Coverage

B

ARCHERY: WOODLAWN ELEMENTARY WINS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP - 1B

THE DAILY CITIZEN

Monday, July 1, 2013 Dalton, Georgia Online at www.daltonnow.com Western Chance of showers, 54/76° (p.7A)

George 'Pudgy' Albertson hugs Paul Kelley as Kelley and others who assisted in saving Pudgy's life were recognized during a special worship service at Liberty Baptist Church Sunday morning.

Modern miracle

Sermon eclipsed by 'resurrection'

By Mary Watson
maryw@daltonnow.com

When Brian Brown got up one Sunday morning, he had this year prepared to preach a sermon on why people should still expect miracles to happen, he had an idea to preach on the other side of the coin.

Pat Kelley was staying in the chair just like always. Michael Smith was seated on the other side of the congregation.

Brown said from the Bible — Matthew 11:3-5, when Jesus said word to John the Baptist about miracles being performed.

The church began to sing. George 'Pudgy' Albertson, who had just begun attending church again, rose to the altar to pray and minister to his life in God.

Cofin Albertson was glad

Matthew 11:3-5
"Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see, the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

to see his dad following his life to follow God. He and his wife Katie joined Pudgy's wife in prayer.

Then the minister of joy became emotional, choked and wept.

Pudgy leaned in head back to the pews and saw his left hand was completely swollen and yellow. He reached a paw to his chest, knowing some-

thing was wrong. He felt, hitting his head on the pew.

The crowd walked through Liberty Baptist Church that Sunday morning in March.

Cofin reached his dad first only to be pulled away by someone. He doesn't remember by whom.

"I was scared, Dad," he said. "I didn't know what to do."

Pat Kelley, an emergency room nurse at Henshaw Medical Center in Fort Oglethorpe, reached Pudgy's side and quickly realized he was in complete cardiac arrest — no breath, no heartbeat.

"It's not common for people to come back from full cardiac arrest," Kelly said. "I've seen a handful of doctors and technology patients every survive complete cardiac arrest, she said."

— **Photo by MIMBLE, DA**

Wet week may dampen Fourth of July events

By Wyn Chance
wchance@daltonnow.com

Heavy rain with possible thunderstorms through the week may dampen Fourth of July activities, according to weather services.

The National Weather Service on Sunday issued an alert calling for a prolonged period of strong thunderstorms and very heavy rainfall through Tuesday. This could allow holiday activities scheduled in Whitfield and Murray counties.

Fourth of July festivities are scheduled for Thursday in Whitfield County and Saturday in Murray County.

Rainfall could range from 2 to 4 inches with amounts in some areas around 7 inches possible, creating water flooding problems, according to the weather service based in Peachtree City.

Thursday, however, is not in the forecast.

"The good thing, in one sense, is that there is a severe weather situation," Mark Pageau, a meteorologist with AccuWeather based

Lane closures to be limited

Georgia transportation officials are restricting road construction during the Fourth of July holiday period to make travel easier.

The state Department of Transportation says the construction-related lane closures will be restricted to early morning hours through 5 a.m. July 4. Some crews may still be working near highways, meaning some long-term lane closures will need to remain in place for safety reasons.

ATF urges fireworks caution

The Atlanta office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives says people should carefully follow directions on the fireworks packaging. ATF says people also need to be aware of local laws regarding the use of fireworks.

Regal explained don't near the same safety and quality standards as consumer fireworks. Their manufacture and possession can result in charges.

— **Photo and report**

— **Photo by WEATHER, DA**

Lead still causing health problems in north Georgia

By Charles Olin
colin@daltonnow.com

Thousands of children across north Georgia have tested positive for low levels of lead in their blood over the past decade.

"As far as active-lead numbers, I've visited a couple of hundred homes at least over the past five years," said Bruce Chagelley, the regional lead coordinator for Georgia health division 1-1, 1-2 and 1-3, an area covering all of north Georgia.

"When we show that a child under 6 has at least 10 micrograms of lead per deciliter in his or her blood, Chagelley is brought in to try to decrease the source. He located the

Whitfield County Board of Health has warned its offices.

Although the United States has been making progress toward lead for almost 40 years, Chagelley said many older homes still have lead paint. He said that jewelry, especially antique jewelry or jewelry made in places such as China or Mexico, can contain lead. And children can get lead into their bodies by sucking on lead objects or putting them in their mouths. He said he recently tested one girl's lead exposure to a piece of antique jewelry she played with at her grandmother's house.

— **Photo by LEAD, DA**

Atlanta Falcons guard Justin Blalock waits to play the tuba during a rehearsal for a concert featuring youth musicians and members of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra as part of a four-day youth workshop at the Atlanta Symphony Hall in the Woodruff Arts Center. Blalock, who grew up playing the tuba and continues to play the drums and guitar, is a strong advocate for music education.

Falcons player advocates for music education

By Kate Burawick
kburawick@daltonnow.com

ATLANTA — NFL offensive lineman Justin Blalock speaks his name on the field protecting runs and passes. Off the field, he's a strong advocate for music education.

Blalock, the starting left guard for the Atlanta Falcons, grew up in Texas playing the tuba and continues to play the drums and guitar. Music helps young people develop confidence and experience a sense of accomplishment, skills that can help them succeed in school and in life, he said.

"I actually share a lot of passion for you and for football as well," he said, giving Blalock and teamwork as examples.

The 29-year-old, who's been with the Falcons for seven years, started playing the tuba in middle school and continued through high school.

"I remember our football team, actually, we were out very first game in middle school, and we didn't win, so when we got to high school," he said. "Our head coach was very mean about our accomplishments in

— **Photo by MIMBLE, DA**

1st Place

The Daily Citizen, Dalton

Misty Watson

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Egypt
Hundreds of thousands across the country demonstrate to force Islamist President Mohammed Morsi out.

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Community Calendar
Check out what's happening this holiday week and the next in the Greater Dalton area.

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Savannah Morning News

Jane Kahn

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SUNDAY AUGUST 26, 2012

ARTS & CULTURE

CONTACT US: Josh Hopkins, Metro Editor, 912-652-0434, jhopkins@savannahnow.com

WERE YOU SPOTTED? Go to reported.savannahnow.com to see pictures from the Color Run 5K.

A visit to Plains to see Mr. Jimmy

He had barely asked the question — "When do you think we should go to war?" — when someone in the front row of the Manhattan Synagogue Church in Plains, Ga., said, "Jimmy."

"That's what the Marines, who live nearby, call him," someone in the front row of the Manhattan Synagogue Church in Plains, Ga., said, "Jimmy."

That's what the Marines, who live nearby, call him. Jimmy was a group of people who had come to hear him teach Sunday school last week. His and others had been on the ground, he said. He didn't mention explosives. That was the job of the four Green Berets who were stationed in front of his tent, one-way, each with a name in Plains, a town where his family has lived since 1963, and on the edge of the church. One was around the one with a mugging. Two check papers and bags. One "wound" everyone who entered the church.

One of them — a couple of 1960s — he said he still wears — they all have guns, wear black expressions, people don't have and quiet early wire in their ears — around the sanctuary that the front where the former president quickly walked in without further and took a seat. He was wearing a halo, a blue shirt and a small hat.

"That's a picture," Carter said, and he was looking at the photo of the man in the white shirt and tie. The man was looking at the photo of the man in the white shirt and tie.

SEE FISHERMAN, PAGE 3E

UNROLLING THE HISTORY OF A SACRED TORAH

BY JANE KAHN • For Savannah Morning News

A story is unfolding in Savannah involving several centuries of history — long-term and short — uncovered by a dedicated researcher doing research at Savannah's Congregation Mikveh Israel.

The story they dig, the story they uncover. They're calling it the Holy-Torah story. The Torah.

The research committee of Congregation Mikveh Israel is working to determine its 200-year past. Co-chairs Phyllis Korman and Herbert Victor are spearheading the research and putting together much of the story information.

A Torah collected during the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia is now in permanent loan and is weekly use at the Savannah synagogue. The book of the Torah is identified with its provenance. "The Torah came from there and was written in 1940," it came to Savannah in 1946.

A lot has been about 40 years, but each researcher every time asked, and only could work attention. Historic, at each, Torah is all they know. Where is it?

For Steve Victor, Mikveh Israel's treasurer, it was a discovery. She believed via the internet that a B-27 bomber from the flight Air Force was shot down over the village of Hany, near Prague. Eight crewmen were killed. At the airport in Hany, a monument and a plaque dedicated to the memory of the crew of the B-27 was located shot down on 3 March 1945 — two months before the end of World War II. (The flight was activated Jan. 28, 1945, at Savannah Army Air Base-Hunter Field and generally ended with visiting World War II in Europe.)

Ramon Saracubias Jeffrey Young moved 20 years ago to the Czech Republic. He had never visited Hany 10-12 miles from his home in Prague, but became intrigued with the growing recognition of the crew and Hany (Young was confirmed at Mikveh Israel. His mother, Corby Young-Baron, is a member. His father is Jewish and his mother is Catholic. He and his wife and son were born in Savannah. Most of the photos of the monument, a section of the tail of the B-27 with its Mighty Eight markings, that had been at a museum in Hany, were taken by Mikveh Israel. He has been in contact with the museum's director, Dr. Václav Hájek, to research some of the photos of the monument. At the Mikveh Israel Library, they have a Mikveh Israel research volume. He has been in contact with the museum's director, Dr. Václav Hájek, to research some of the photos of the monument. At the Mikveh Israel Library, they have a Mikveh Israel research volume. He has been in contact with the museum's director, Dr. Václav Hájek, to research some of the photos of the monument. At the Mikveh Israel Library, they have a Mikveh Israel research volume.

SEE TORAH, PAGE 3E

SAVANNAH DINING: TORTUGA'S ISLAND GRILLE

Husband and wife team triumph with Tortuga's

BY KIM WADE
912-652-0360
kim.wade@savannahnow.com

Restaurant Tortuga Island Grille, Chatham County and Anne Hathaway, Savannah.

Craig and Anne Hathaway, owners and chefs of Tortuga's Island Grille in Thunderbolt, cook up Southern cuisine with a Caribbean flair.

TORTUGA'S ISLAND GRILLE
Address: 2815 First Drive, Thunderbolt
Phone: 912-261-3630
Website: Find Tortuga's on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TortugasGrille

Hours: Tuesday-Thursday: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday: 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Saturday: 9 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Breakfast served from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sunday Brunch: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday-closed. Happy hour: Tuesday-Friday 4 to 7 p.m.

with classic Southern favorites infused with sweet and spicy Caribbean flavors.

This family-run business often rotating daily specials, a popular Sunday brunch and a large wine and craft beer selection. They also offer a room guests can reserve for private parties which seats up to 40 guests.

Chadwick in 2009, the Hathaways sold their restaurant in Maryland and headed south to find more affordable living on the coast. With almost 20 years of restaurant experience, the couple admits they never went to a formal culinary school and learned most of what they know by experimenting in the kitchen. The duo who performed all the cooking at the restaurant by themselves and knew well they like to try out new recipes at home.

"Craig always says, 'Cooked and by 2 and if it doesn't taste good, then we can just throw it out and order pizza,'" Anne said.

Their first experimentation was paid off with customer feedback like their signature pork chicken macadamia and fresh seafood entrees. Anne makes all the dishes herself and her son-in-law bread pudding is a customer favorite.

"Our most popular items are our Maryland style crab cakes, the shrimp and grits and our Bob-Eden's Arris-sal," Anne said.

"Everything is made fresh to order and our fish comes right off the boat from Captain Drenn," Craig added.

Phyllis Korman, Craig's long-time friend, said, "I love the fact that when 15-20 degrees outside, Anne said.

CRAB SOUP
Serves 10. Prep time is 2 hours and 30 minutes.

Add 1 pound of crab meat to 1 gallon of soup.

4 gallons water

1 pound leaf basil

1 onion, small dice

2 10-ounce cans tomatoes, diced

1 10-ounce can tomatoes, puréed

10 potatoes, diced

2 eggs, well beat

3 bags mixed vegetables

10 each bay leaf

1 large cabbage, small dice

Soak onions and celery in olive oil and then sauté them. Add remaining vegetables and cook for another 10 minutes. Add remaining ingredients and simmer soup for 2 hours.

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The Augusta Chronicle

Lisa Kaylor



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Police Blotter

The following accounts were taken from Columbia County Sheriff's Office incident reports.



Special Photo

Man wanted in Goodwill scam

The Columbia County Sheriff's Office is searching for a man suspected of scamming Goodwill Industries' thrift store on Washington Road. The man attempted to pay for a pair of jeans costing \$4.32 with a \$100 bill on Friday shortly after 7 p.m. The suspect handed the cashier the bill plus 32 cents but took back the bill without the employee noticing. The employee gave the customer \$96 as change.

Police probing vandalism in Watervale area

Police received reports of damaged mailboxes and other vandalism in and around the Watervale neighborhood early Monday. Residents on Parliament Road and Watervale Road reported their mailboxes were removed from posts and tossed on the ground in the middle of the night. A deputy investigating the area found several street signs had been pulled out of the ground or otherwise tampered with. A newspaper carrier told police that she had seen a group of four teenage boys entering a nearby Circle K on Furrys Ferry Road about 3:30 a.m. She said the boys looked dirty, but didn't know if they were involved in the incidents.

Daughter-in-law charged in theft

A Martinez woman told deputies that her daughter-in-law took a GPS unit from her home and pawned it. The woman reported that she noticed the Garmin GPS was missing from her Shawnee Drive residence after her daughter-in-law, Rebecca Albee, 32, of Gibson, Ga., visited on July 25. The next day, Albee called to tell her she had the GPS, but needed a few days to return it.

She later admitted taking it to a pawn shop in Thomson, but offered to give her another GPS to replace it. A deputy spoke to Albee over the phone and she admitted taking the device. The GPS was recovered from Classic Pawn & Jewelry in

See BLOTTER on 5

THE COLUMBIA COUNTY News-Times

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Sunday, August 4, 2013 www.newstimesonline.com

Student 2 Student



Photos by Jim Blaylock

Greenbrier High junior Avery Williams leads a group of new students on a tour of the school during the Student-2-Student program, designed to acclimate the students to the school.

Greenbrier offers friendly welcome

By SCOTT ROUCH
STAFF WRITER
TWITTER @SCOTTROUCH

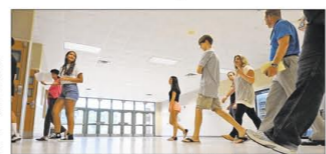
When Greenbrier High School's Student 2 Student (S2S) event began Wednesday afternoon, new students and their parents sat quietly by themselves in the school's media center.

By the end of the program, finished off with a tour of the high school, students had clustered together, forming new friendships, and parents were talking, getting to know one another.

Mission accomplished. "I think it went real well," said junior Madison Metcalf, one of the program's student leaders, along with junior Avery Williams. "I think the students are making new friends, and you see them grouping together, talking to people, which is good."

The program, which is presented through the Military Child Education Coalition, is in its second year at the school after a successful first run in 2012. More students were added to give tours, and small tweaks were applied.

"I feel like it was better this year



Greenbrier junior Madison Metcalf (left) leads a group of new students on a tour. The Student 2 Student program, which was introduced in 2012, has been expanded this year.

because we knew more about what we were doing," Williams said. "We didn't talk as much this year, we focused more on the tours."

Students from as far away as Germany and as close as Evans received a packet of information, heard from administrators as well as Metcalf and Williams and took a guided tour of the school.

There were close to 30 new students who came out for the program, including ninth-grader Michael Geyer, a transfer from Charlotte, N.C.

"It's very helpful to freshmen

Crime crusade will hit streets

By VALERIE ROWELL
STAFF WRITER
TWITTER @VALERIE-ROWELL

Grovetown Department of Public Safety officers are taking the city's National Night Out event to the streets.

On Tuesday, department personnel will canvass residential areas from 6 to 9 p.m., getting to know residents and spreading information about services and programs the department offers, Chief Gary Owens said.

"This year, I'm going to put the officers in the neighborhoods," Owens said. "We're going to try to strengthen our promise and our commitment between the public safety department (and residents) and that we are standing strong in the spirit of crime prevention."

The national event, sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch, is aimed at crime awareness and prevention through information, networking and promoting neighborhood spirit and community-police partnerships.

"On that night, we ask that (residents) turn their porch lights on," Owens said. "That shows the officers and the community that we're standing strong."

The department celebrated the event with a cookout at its headquarters for more than a decade. But, since it falls on the first day of school, Owens said he's bringing information to the residents.

Owens said officers will be talking to residents, not conducting seat belt checks, and passing out bags with goodies and information. Included in the packets will be information about the department's house watch program, concentrated patrols, project Safe House, neighborhood watch programs, golf cart registration and child identification kits.

Personnel will still be doing a small cookout at headquarters, where the fire trucks and other equipment are still available for children to see. But he thinks he can reach more residents by hitting the streets.

"We're going to target the entire city," Owens said. "We're going to connect with every resident."

Consignment store has targeted male shoppers

By VALERIE ROWELL
STAFF WRITER
TWITTER @VALERIE-ROWELL

A Harlem consignment store caters to men and their hobbies.

It's A Man's Place opened May 28 on E. Milledgeville Road in the former Bill's Dollar Store location, said co-owner Mark Whitaker.

Whitaker, who owns Mark Whitaker Electric, opened the store with Chris

Grille in Martinez.

"We took the ball and ran with it," Whitaker said. The store is popular, "more than we would have ever imagined."

Patrons can buy or consign new and gently used items including sporting goods, lawn and garden equipment, power and hand tools, fishing and hunting gear, video games and radio-controlled vehicles, and recreation vehicles such as boats, motorcycles and trail-

ers. Before the store, those kinds of items had to be sold at yard sales, on eBay, Craigslist or through other online outlets, or in classified ads, Whitaker said.

"On Craig's List, you can't see it," Whitaker said. "This way, you actually see what you're buying. We have it all in one place. Every aisle is something different. It changes every day. You never know what's going



Photo by Jim Blaylock
Mark Whitaker, a co-owner with Chris Grille of It's A Man's Place in Harlem, works at his men's consignment shop. The owners plan to include an indoor shooting range sometime in the fall.

See BLOTTER on 5

See PLACE on 5

3rd Place

Columbia County News-Times, Evans

Valerie Rowell



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Slaviah student and his father save family from Chicago fire

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District attorney says some audit findings show need for police investigation

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Behind three champs, host Grizzlies take second at 7th annual Creeview Invitational

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City: Outlets bringing in more sales tax

BY JILL RICHSTONE
jr@ledgernews.com

Woodstock residents can keep spending their money at The Outlet Shoppes at Atlanta with the assurance that tax dollars are benefiting the city.

Chief Financial Officer Robert Purche said the outlet mall is "doing what it was supposed to do, what it is intended to do."

He said the city is bringing in about \$60,000 more each month than it did last year. The Special Purpose Local-Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) check is about the same amount as previous months, however, the motor vehicle ad valorem, which previously had been included in the monthly



Purche

SPLOST check, now comes in a separate payment from the county. The additional monthly check is deposited into the city's general fund, allowing it to be used for more purposes than just capital projects.

Purche said the House Bill 886, which went into effect on March 1, did away with the "birthday tax." That tax used to be included in the city's monthly SPLOST check from the county.

"With the House Bill 886, that has been re-routed to the motor vehicle ad valorem tax," he said. "So basically, part of our SPLOST sales tax is now re-routed to our general fund."

The city has benefited from the change in legislation,

with an average of a \$60,000 boost in the general fund each month.

"Now on the SPLOST side, we lost that (motor vehicle tax) revenue but the outlet mall opening up replaced most of it, 95 percent of it," Purche said. "So the net is, if you look at both of those two line items together, we're \$60,000 a month higher on average."

He said the SPLOST check isn't broken down so he can't tell exactly how much of the money comes directly from the outlet mall, adding that the sales tax from the mall is shared countywide. "The entire county and its municipalities benefit from the outlet mall, from sales, based on their pro-rata population," Purche said.

SEE PAGE 11

County graduation rate exceeds state

BY MEGAN THORNTON
mthornton@ledgernews.com

Cherokee County School District's Class of 2013 saw an increased graduation rate over last year's class and once again exceeded the state's average.

For 2013, the school district saw a four-year graduation rate of 78 percent, a 5.4 percent increase over last year's rate of 73.6 percent. It also tied for the second-highest rate with Rockdale County among metro-Atlanta county school systems, with Fayette County leading the pack. Cherokee's 2013 four-year rate of 78 percent and 2012 five-year rate of 76.1 percent exceeded the state four-year rate of 73.5 percent and five-year rate of 71.6 percent.

SEE EDUCATION, PAGE 11

Residents get opportunity to voice opinions about Ga. 20 work

BY MEGAN THORNTON
mthornton@ledgernews.com



LEFT: The Georgia Department of Transportation held a public meeting Dec. 10 and welcomed residents to provide input on proposed improvements to Ga. 20 between Canton and Cumming. The meeting was held at Calvary Baptist Church in Ball Ground and is the second meeting that has been held to get information. GDOT Spokesperson Mohamed Arifa said his department is taking a "clean-slate approach" by going in with an open mind and allowing the public to have a say and provide ideas. Arifa said the planning process will likely run through 2014 and projected plans would be finalized in 2015. Construction would likely begin in 2012 and could take anywhere from two to two-and-a-half years, he said. Pictured, Sam Pugh with GDOT speaks with Lathemtown resident Debra Cannon about proposed routes for Ga. 20.

MEGAN THORNTON/LEDGER NEWS

Murder suspects make first appearances

BY JESSICA LINDSEY
jlindsey@ledgernews.com

The search for the alleged murder suspects wanted in connection to the shooting death of Christopher Piers, a 41-year-old Woodstock man, ended last week with all three taken into custody. Cherokee Sheriff Roger Garrison commended his personnel for making the arrests less than a week after the murder.

"I am proud of our investigative unit," he said. "This is just a classic case of fundamental work

— asking a lot of questions and knocking on a lot of doors — during that first 48 hours, which is so critical. I don't think anyone in that unit slept for two-and-a-half days.

"They were just committed to identifying and bringing these people into custody," he said.

When asked if investigators have nailed down a motive for the murder, Garrison said beyond the incident "being drug related," he did not know anything more at this point.

SEE SUSPECT, PAGE 12

LEFT: Murder suspect John Taylor, who was arrested after a SWAT standoff in Dawson County last week, is pictured at his first appearance hearing. Taylor, who is represented by attorneys Debra Burns, pictured right, and Philip Price (not pictured) will appear before Superior Court Jan. 17 for his arraignment hearing.

JESSICA LINDSEY/LEDGER NEWS

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Business Coverage

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CHEROKEE BUSINESS

MAY 5, 2013

THE CHEROKEE LEDGER NEWS 19

Sudden turnaround Cherokee County real estate market sees drastic upward trend

BY CAROLYN MATTHEWS
cmatt@ledgernews.com

The real estate industry in Cherokee County is like a bear waking up from a long winter — this spring it has emerged with a roar from complete hibernation and is awake and hungry.

"It is an absolutely crazy seller's market right now," said Associate Broker and Realtor Susan West of ERA Sunrise Realty, who is current president of the Cherokee Association of Realtors.

In Cherokee County, where the tax digest is dependent on residential growth because it greatly outweighs commercial growth, the real estate market reawakening is vital to the county's economy. Before the Great Recession, many in Cherokee were employed in some aspect of the real estate industry, from lumber supply to building and construction to legal services.

West said currently there is about 1.7 months of inventory in the First Multiple Listing Service (FMLS) listings for the area.

"We'd run out after that if no new homes were listed," she explained.

Average home values, she said, have risen in Cherokee over the past year, from April 2012 to April 2013, by 12 percent — the average home value has increased from \$198,000 to \$221,000, a \$23,000 change over the time period.

"Most contracts are for more than list price," West said, "especially distressed properties — 37 percent of multiple offers received are at or above list price."

West said the biggest problem current sales contracts run into is that the appraisals have not caught up with the price points where the offers are being received.

"Sellers are writing addendums in their contracts that if their homes don't appraise, the buyer has to pay the difference," she said, noting the stipulation is



CAROLYN MATTHEWS (LEDGER NEWS) Cherokee Association of Realtors President Susan West and Keller Williams Premier Realtor Kris McKeith tour an open house at a Woodstock property recently with a prospective buyer, Jason Scheidt, of Smyrna.

common with bank-owned properties.

Betty Hudson, owner of Hudson Realty in Canton, agreed.

"Inventory is quite low right now," she said. "If you look at FMLS right now, almost everything you find is under contract."

Hudson said things have picked up dramatically in the last month.

"I think we are getting down from a bad economy and going forward," she said. "Buyers are afraid they will miss

the current low interest rates and the lower prices."

She said she believes values will begin climbing, with home values increasing from 2 to 5 percent per year.

"Now is the time to buy; I would not wait," Hudson said.

She attributed the high interest in Cherokee to the school system. "People look where the schools are good," she said.

West said potential buyers are very aware that the Cherokee County School District had the best SAT scores in the state.

Ed Cordray, managing broker with Atlanta Commercial Real Estate, said he doesn't feel like property values are up to the level they were at before the recession, but they are rising sharply.

"Investors have been buying up rentals and foreclosures and driving up prices," he said. "Plus, there hasn't been any homebuilding in five years, and the inventory has been absorbed. People were saying it would be 2012 before it was absorbed, but here we are, and it's 2013."

West said in the past year or so, investors from other states, representing national and international investors, have shown up on the courthouse steps at foreclosure sales on the first Tuesday of each month in Cherokee County.

"They have stacks full of cashier's checks," West said. Hudson said these investors have "gone in and renovated, putting in hardwoods and updated countertops, and now they are going back on the market," she said.

"I'd love to have tons of listings," Cordray said. "It's hard to find a good house for buyers right now." He said anyone who has wanted to sell their home in the past couple of years might consider putting out their sign now. Many homeowners who have been underwater, the Realtors noted, may now no longer be in that situation, since their equity now may be more than their mortgage amount.

"Traditionally, we have a slowdown once school starts, but this year, I don't know," he said.

SEE MARKET PAGE 28

Local women turn passions into business, charitable group

BY JESSICA WAGNER
jwagner@ledgernews.com

With the hustle and bustle of daily life, it can be nearly impossible sometimes to put even a dent in a to-do list. That's why two local friends decided to put their talents to use through The Sunshine Project — a full service residential/commercial design and organization company.

Best compared to the cultural icons Rosie the Riveter and Suzie the Housewife, Matria Heller and Joan Weindorfer said they started The Sunshine Project after realizing that their busy friends needed a little help either around the house or completing projects.

"Everyone seemed so overworked and overwhelmed, so we started The Sunshine Project. We named it that because we thought that we could bring sunshine into people's lives," Heller said.

Weindorfer said after speaking with a life coach and columnist for "O, The Oprah Magazine," she learned that helping others was a passion she wanted to pursue — Weindorfer and Heller also have started a charity to help victims of domestic violence.

"I had the habit of talking to Matria first, and we were just talking about doing your life passion and what makes you happy," she said. "When I was talking to her, I asked her how you come up with that, and she said you take something that has been very difficult, put that in a pot and add in what you enjoy doing."

The mixture, Weindorfer said, is a person's passion.

"I knew Matria, as well as myself, had many friends call us and ask for help in organizing their pantry, basement or closet just as a favor," she said. "The more and more we started doing that, we thought it would be a great way to start our business. We saw a need from our friends who are so overwhelmed and overworked."

Holding a bachelor's degree in interior design from the University of Alabama, Heller brings 15 years of residential and commercial design experience to the table.

"I am also well versed in faux painting cabinets, and I have created a faux painting DVD," she said.

Weindorfer has a background in education, but has spent more than 20 years planning and organizing events.

Heller said because the business is very inclusive — offering services that range from full residential/commercial design to meal planning to running errands to wrapping holiday gifts — The Sunshine Project has "a hard time saying no to customers."

"We are both in our 40s, mothers and worked full-time jobs. We have been there through the craziness of feeling overwhelmed," Heller said. "Just because of our background and experience, we are able to do the Girl Fridays, designs and organization."

Girl Fridays is a term for a female who does a wide-range of work.



PICTA After realizing that their friends needed a little help organizing their lives or decorating their homes, Matria Heller, right, and Joan Weindorfer, embarked on a journey to help the busy mom and business professional. Through The Sunshine Project, the duo caters to their clients' needs, whatever those might be.

"It means that we manage someone's life. We can plan a barbecue, walk your dog or wrap your presents at Christmas. Basically, Girl Friday is managing the lives of someone who is extremely busy and overwhelmed," Heller said.

SEE BUSINESS PAGE 28

River alliance helps make Cherokee a desired location

BY JILL RICHSTONE
jrichstone@ledgernews.com

Prospective companies interested in moving to Cherokee county consider the environment of the area, which can be an asset or a detriment to the community.

Cherokee Office of Economic Development President Misti Martin said in addition to available buildings and sites, a talented workforce and a low cost of doing business, prospective companies also "desire a community that is rich in recreation, nature, arts, entertainment, etc."

"The attractiveness of our natural resources is a reflection of the pride we take in our community," she said.

The Upper Etowah River Alliance (UERA) has worked hard to improve the rivers and lakes in and around Cherokee County and, as a result, make the area more appealing to prospective businesses.

Recently, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recognized the UERA and its partners for their success.

In 2004, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPCD) placed a 20-mile segment of the Etowah River on its list of impaired waters.

SEE BUSINESS PAGE 28

1st Place

Cherokee Ledger-News, Woodstock

Carolyn

Matthews



Business Coverage

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3rd Place

The Clinch County News, Homerville

Len Robbins

SOFTBALL BACK IN ACTION FRIDAY... Page 5 HUNTER SAFETY COURSE OFFERED... Page 9

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The Clinch County News

We give the skinny so you can chew the fat

18th YEAR ISSUE 43 1,000 THE CLINCH COUNTY NEWS Wednesday, August 21, 2013 HOMERVILLE, GEORGIA 48 PAGES, TWO SECTIONS

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FutureNow program to be held Wednesday

The FutureNow community program will be held Wednesday, August 21 at 5 p.m. at the Clinch County High School gym. The event is open to all ages and free food will be provided. FutureNow will give away two sets of four library passes and a set of four Wild Adventure tickets. The program uses music, drama, video, and real life stories to bring a message of vision, purpose, and destiny.

First Baptist hosting 5th Quarter Friday

First Baptist Church has partnered with churches in the community to host the 5th Quarter in the FBC Youth Room immediately following home football games. The program will have youth lead praise and worship from local live youth bands, a 15-20 minute devotion, free food and drink. The youth can play pool, games, and listen to music. The 5th Quarter is for 5th-12th grade students. The 5th Quarter closes at midnight.

GOLD passes for seniors available

Clinch County High School is again offering GOLD passes to residents 65 and older. The GOLD pass allows free admission to any CCHS athletic event. If interested, come to the high school to receive a pass.

Sign-ups for youth football, cheerleading

Sign-ups for youth football and cheerleading have started. Sign-up forms are available at Clinch County Elementary School, Jubbbs, and Homerville City Hall. The forms may be turned in at any of these locations or the recreation complex. Cost is \$60 per child (\$25 for additional children), and a copy of the child's birth certificate is required. For more information, call Bus Director Allen Hendrix at 399-0140. Deadline to sign up is Friday, August 30.

Reserve seats for home football games

Anyone that would like to purchase or reserve reserved seats for the Clinch County High football season are asked to call Kevia Brown at 497-1000. Reserved seats are \$40 per seat for the season. Please pay for and pick up reserved seat tickets at the reserved seat pass gate located behind the gym.

Better Hometown to meet on Thursday

The Homerville Better Hometown Program-A Classic Main Street Community will meet Thursday, August 22 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Entry Queen Child and Girl for a regular meeting. The meal will be "Dutch Treat". All are invited to attend.

New Vision hosting Women's Conference

New Vision Church of God will host a Women's Conference Friday-Saturday, September 6-7. Guest speaker will be Dr. Yvonne Campbell. Registration begins Friday at 6 p.m. with coffee/tea starting at 6:30 p.m. Saturday morning breakfast will be held at 8:30 a.m. Registration is \$20 per person. Forms are available at New Vision. For information contact Sheri Walker or April Tebbins at 497-2213.

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Football kicks off Friday

SEE PANTHER PREVIEW INSIDE

- Panthers shine in preseason scrimmage -- See Page 5
- Preview of Friday's home Clinch/Brooks opener -- See Page 5

THE PANTHER PREVIEW

BACK ON TRACK

Preview of Friday's home Clinch/Brooks opener -- See Page 5

Qualifying for city elections starts next week

By Len Robbins
Staff-Writer

Qualifying for municipal elections in Clinch County will be held next week. For the City of Homerville, the positions of mayor, and two city council seats are up for election this year on November 5. Qualifying for the mayor's post currently held by Peg Blitch, the Post 1 council seat currently held by Tom Kennedy, and Post 2 council seat currently held by Jamyla Woodard starts on Monday, August 26 at 9 a.m., and will be ongoing during normal business hours at the Homerville Municipal Complex until Friday, August 30. Qualifying for the mayor is \$20, and qualifying for the council seats are \$20.

One must be a city resident to qualify for office, but doesn't have to live in the past city region.

Fargo will also have three positions on the ballot this year. Qualifying for the mayor's position currently held by Robin Lee, the District 1 seat on the city council currently held by Ray Abbott, and the District 3 seat currently held by Bill Thomas will be held from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Tuesday, August 27, and Thursday, August 29, and from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on Friday, August 30, at Fargo City Hall. Qualifying fees are \$25 for any of the Fargo offices. Qualifying candidates must have lived in their Fargo district for at least one year.

Quarrel erupts at city meeting - again

By Len Robbins
Staff-Writer

Another Homerville City Council meeting, another heated quarrel.

Last month, members flared an council members questioned council travel spending and expenditures. At Thursday's monthly meeting, Mayor Peg Blitch and council J.R. Witherspoon traded barbs about letters to the editor he wrote in The News monthly ago.

"If you have anything to say, say it to me," Blitch told Witherspoon about the letters, which focused on city issues.

"I'm saying it to you right now," Witherspoon replied. "When I wrote those letters to the editor, I was writing to the public. If you were offended by it, that's your problem."

"I wasn't offended," said Blitch. "I was amazed."

Blitch and Witherspoon also had tense exchanges later in the meeting.

The shouting was addressed by members of the audience.

"Sometimes you need to be reminded that you work for the people," Amanda Webb told council members. "They're not caught up with all the politeness and arguing and carrying on and take it personally. I think you can agree to disagree and move on. This was a reflection of our city."

City council member travel expenses were also brought up again Thursday, although consideration of creating a city council travel policy was tabled.

In other action from the meeting, held at the Homerville Municipal Complex, the council:

- Heard a report from Diane Adams of CEMA.
- Adams discussed the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) with council members.
- Approved moving city computer servers off site.
- Charles Dool told council members that taking the streets off-site would deter them from being affected by weather and lightning strikes.
- Tabled consideration of a contract with the Southern Georgia Regional Commission for opportunity zone services.
- Approved Alan Johnston to replace City Manager Debra Dean on the city tree board.

(Continued on Page 2)

Local Honey Trail hopes to lure agritourists

By Len Robbins
Staff-Writer

Clinch County's tourism team is hoping that a "Honey Trail" will entice the local economy.

The tourism team - a group of local officials, business people, and volunteers joining forces to promote tourism in Clinch County - has launched a "Honey Trail" to spotlight agriculture locations in the county.

"There were already existing locations selling local honey products," said Homerville Better Hometown Program Manager Jesse Robinson. "Developing marketing tools were all that was needed to create a local trail. The hope is that by developing a map and a Facebook page, the trail will also travelers down and

extend the amount of time and money they spend in our community."

According to the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service, Clinch County is the number one honey producer in Georgia, with more than 22,000 hives equalling a farm gate value of over \$2.9 million.

Currently, there are seven sites listed on the trail and they range from honey sheds to retail gift shops. The sites are spread out around the county and offer a variety of types of honey, including specialty items like whipped honey, honey candy, and honey comb.

The tourism team hopes that the trail will

(Continued on Page 2)

Jay Shaw is new DOT chairman

Former state legislator Jay Shaw of LaGrange has been elected the chairman of the state DOT board. Don Gresham of Augusta was elected Vice Chair, and Emily Dunn of Blue Ridge was elected to the newly formed position of Secretary.

The State Transportation Board - the policy-making and governing authority of the Georgia Department of Transportation - is comprised of 14 members each representing one of Georgia's Congressional Districts. All were elected unanimously by their colleagues in state-party terms.

Shaw, who served 18 years in the Georgia House and 10 years prior to that in LaGrange's mayor, is serving his first four-year term on the Board, as are Gresham and Dunn. Shaw represented Clinch County during his time in the state House of

(Continued on Page 2)

Lee Container receives quality award for fifth year in a row

By Len Robbins
Staff-Writer

There is a reason for the crowd of officials and employees.

"It takes a team to make a company," Kurnick said in a story on the event from the Daily Journal newspaper of Nongshuchuan.

A spokesman for Nongshuchuan, John Sherratt, praised Lee Container for its tradition of quality.

"Having this award five years in a row is rare for us," Sherratt said in the story, written by John Cleveland. "Lee Container put out 21 million bottles this past year, with only five minor issues

over being addressed. That's a 99 percent quality rating."

Lee Container is headquartered in Homerville, with two other manufacturing plants - in Nongshuchuan and

Contarville, Iowa.

Nongshuchuan is headquartered in Shoufeng and employs 20,000 worldwide in 30 countries. Its U.S. headquarters is located in Greensboro, North Carolina.

By Shaw

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Business Coverage

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New Marion Co. business outlines BIG plans

SETSA plans to turn old school into sports training mecca

By RICHARD HARRIS

When Keith Wright was a teenager he talked his mom into letting him play baseball. He could get out of doing so many chores at home. It didn't lead to him becoming a star athlete, but that choice to study years ago may now pay off big time for Wright and the Marion County community.

Wright is one of the partners and the director of the new Southwestern State Sports Academy (SETSA) that recently opened at the former campus of Tri-County/Marion County High School in the Decaturville Community. He recently hosted the Marion County Chapter of Coaches and gave an update on the academy and its plans to become a mecca for high school sports teams across the state (and country) that want to take their training to a higher level.

"I was really not a great athlete, but what I learned was that being part of a team really means something for me," said Wright. "I made lifelong friends and got some guidance and instruction from adults outside the house."

That's one reason SETSA is focusing on the "team" concept



Keith Wright, SETSA Director, outlines a grand plan that may even eventually include having recreational football.

"The guys in this community are one of the reasons I feel so good about being here. ... You've welcomed us with open arms and it's going to work. I can look you in the eye and tell you that we're in this for the long haul."

Keith Wright, SETSA Director

likely have a grand plan that may even eventually include having recreational football

"...this," when top universities send scouts to check out

See MCTNA, Page 1A

Marion Tax Sale set to recoup \$22,499 in back taxes

Property owners in Marion County with a collective total of \$22,499 in delinquent taxes are in danger of losing their property in an upcoming Tax Sale.

Marion County Tax Commissioner Phyllis Gibson has scheduled the sale for Tuesday, June 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Wednesday, June 5 (if needed).

Details of the sale and of the 15 pieces of property, including many mobile homes, may be found in the Legal Notice section of this week's newspaper on Pages 5B and 6B.

Marion 'Relay for Life' is this Friday

Everyone is invited to the 2013 Marion County Relay for Life this Friday, May 10, 6 p.m. at the Marion County Middle-High School.

More than a dozen teams and every individual are expected to turn out for this annual event that raises money for the American Cancer Society. There will be various events, like a time to remember loved ones lost to cancer, as well as celebratory moments, like recognizing for those who have beaten the disease, and a whole lot of fun, too.

Opening Ceremony, 6 p.m. The Opening Ceremony brings everyone together for a high-energy event kicked off with the lives of those who have battled cancer, to inspire hope by sharing recent success stories and programs, and to reward everyone that while we are winning this battle, fighting cancer is a year-round priority.

Survivor Lap, 6:15 p.m. The Survivors Lap, a special music plays as all cancer survivors at the event take the first lap around the track cheered on by the other participants who take the track, celebrating their recovery over cancer.

Luminaria Ceremony, 7 p.m.

See RELAY, Page 3A

Ellaville woman's book has been turned into a movie

Filming of *A Cry for Justice* has wrapped; showing TBA

Ellaville resident Jackie Carpenter never dreamed she would be an author, let alone have a movie made about anything in her life. She had always thought of herself as a typical wife, mother and housewife with a fairly typical life.

The all changed in 2008 during one of those dreaded "out-of-the-night" phone calls that come from her daughter-in-law. Jackie had no way of knowing how that phone call would plunge her into the hellish journey ahead and a battle to bring her family through every parent's worst nightmare.

A Cry for Justice (Triple Screen Studios) is the award-winning movie, based on Jackie's true story, that tells the true story of what her family endured after her son was arrested for murder. While distribution of the movie is still being negotiated and there is no exact timetable for a hitting theater screens, it has already created some buzz. Carpenter was recently nominated for the "People to Watch 2013



Jackie Carpenter is pictured above at the Georgia Entertainment Code, where she won a nomination in the "People to Watch" category.

Stewart Co. to develop month long festival

From Stewart Co. Development Authority

The Stewart Co. Development Authority held its second official meeting on May 2 in the conference room at the Stewart Co. Sheriff's Office. John Palmer, who was instrumental in establishing the authority, called for the development of a county-wide series of events as a necessary step toward success for the group.

The authority is responsible for economic development in Stewart Co. and was formed by the county commission in 2011. Over time and significant analysis for economic opportunity in the county. The new committee will be dedicated to coordinating the efforts of all the members in the county and working with an already established network of volunteers.

Florence Wallace State Park, Providence Canyon State Outdoor Recreation Area, Weaville Living History Museum, and Redfield has all had events during the fall. Longkin's Fall on the Square and Richland's Pig Day also occur during October and November.

The committee has been charged with coordinating events that have been held independently in the past

Off-Road Odyssey 5K/10K raises \$3,000 for 'No Tears'

Organizers plan to make race a regular event in Buena Vista

By RICHARD HARRIS

Rain, mud, and occasionally wet temperatures didn't get a dampen on the first Buena Vista Off-Road Odyssey 5K/10K. Run held on the Weather Downs forested last Sunday, as almost 30 runners braved the elements to be a part of the first official race on the challenging course.

They were not disappointed.

"The course was absolutely phenomenal," said Rob Kautler of Columbus. "We ran in and out of beautiful wooded areas, jumped over creeks, and ran through interesting trails. It was simply like no other race I have ever run."

Rob Kautler

"The course was absolutely phenomenal. ... It was simply like no other race I have ever run."

Rob Kautler

Steven Morris, winner of the 10K, makes great time along one of the wooded paths.

low another race.

"Plans are already being made for the next race and we plan on doing some sort of event each quarter," said Bob Brown, who noted that in addition to the "regular" 5K and 10K races, they are open to offering events that include obstacle, mud races, or whatever the runners would prefer. He plans to lean heavily on the continued support and advice of fellow volunteers and avid runner Jeff Conley.

The event last Sunday will have a lasting effect on the community, and not just because it

See RACE, Page 8A



Steven Morris, winner of the 10K, makes great time along one of the wooded paths.

The committee has been charged with coordinating with a parade on Saturday. The fireworks display is a month-long celebration beginning in early October and lasting until Thanksgiving week.

It this year the parade will be held independently in the past. The fireworks display is a month-long celebration beginning in early October and lasting until Thanksgiving week.

The parade will be held on Saturday night, and the fireworks will be held on Sunday night. The parade will be held on Saturday night, and the fireworks will be held on Sunday night.

See FESTIVAL, Page 7A

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1st Place

The Champion, Decatur

Kathy Mitchell

The Champion, Thursday, February 28 - March 6, 2013

Business

Page 14A



Joe Parks says he likes the fact that his restaurant from the outside looks a bit like a private home. He even has placed family pictures on the walls. Parks said the barbecued chicken is his favorite. Photos by Kathy Mitchell

Family flavors served at south DeKalb barbecue eatery

by Kathy Mitchell
kathy@dekalbchamp.com

Many of the businesses on the stretch of Candler Road just south of the Decatur city limits still look a good deal like the private residences they once were. Joe Parks, owner of Papa Joe's BBQ Pit, said he likes it that way.

"I kept it looking like a home as much as possible," Parks said of the business he opened in October 2012. "I want people to feel at home when they come here." The barbecue restaurant even has family photos on the wall, and, Parks said, that's as it should be since the business grew out of a family tradition. "My father taught me to cook barbecue and his father taught him."

Parks said he recalls as a child helping to dig the pit for family barbecues in Greensboro, Ga. "Two or three times a year, we would go to my grandparents' home in Greensboro when my dad got off from work on Friday," recalled Parks, who said his immediate family lived in Decatur's East Lake area. "They would slaughter hogs, build the pit and slow cook the meat all night. Everybody in the family helped. I've been involved in cooking barbecue since I was 8."

Even though in this part

of the country barbecue restaurants are as ubiquitous as magnolia trees, Parks feels he has something special to offer. When his son was in youth sports, Parks would sell barbecue at booster club fundraisers. The food was so popular that many who tasted it approached him with catering offers.

At the time, Parks was in the trucking business and helped a friend build his trucking company from a small upstart enterprise to a highly successful business. Faced with some health issues a few years ago, Parks was forced to slow down for a while. "It gave me some time to think about what I really wanted to do with my life. My fiancée said, 'You helped someone else build a successful business; there's no reason you couldn't start your own business and make it succeed,'" Parks recalled.

"I started to ask myself what I really love, what I want to do. The answer took me back to my roots and the summers I used to spend in Greensboro. The answer was barbecue," he said. Parks opened a small stand on Memorial Drive, and, he said, "People loved the food."

What he calls "a shot in the arm" came in 2012 when he entered the competition

at the Atlanta BBQ Festival. His barbecue took second place in the People's Choice category. He also competed at the Stone Mountain BBQ Festival and again won a second place award. Both events are sanctioned by the Memphis BBQ Society.

Although the ribs and pulled pork are favorites with customers, Parks said he really likes the chicken. "I like to try different seasonings; you can do a lot with chicken." He added that his turkey wings are popular with some customers and there's a group that comes from Fayetteville just for the turkey wings. "I guess there's just something with me and a bird," he said.

Parks said that after a leasing agreement on

Memorial Drive didn't work out, he started to look around the area for a new spot. When the Candler Road location became available, he "stepped out on faith," giving up his other work to be a fulltime restaurateur.

He said he got off to a slow start at the new location, but added that encouragement came from many unexpected sources. "A customer came in who said that he normally had lunch at [a fast food restaurant in the area.] He said something just told him that day to come to my place instead. He loved the food and the classic jazz and gospel music we play for customers. He said, 'Hang in there. God is going to bless you.'"

Parks said the blessings started to come almost immediately. A customer came in with an order for 18 dinners. A crew working on a street project nearby made it a favorite place to come for lunch. "The man reminded me to thank God, and I do," Parks said.

Now, four months after opening, Papa Joe's BBQ Pit, is attracting many customers who remember it from the Memorial Drive location as well as those who hear about it and decide to give it a try. "In addition to the people who come from Fayetteville, I have a lady who comes from Marietta and a family that comes from Monroe," he said.

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Business Coverage

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3rd Place

Dawson
Community News,
Dawsonville

Michelle Hester
& David Renner



Business Coverage

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inside this week's edition

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- Malvin Farmer wins seat on Whens city council... see page 3A
- Rev. Bertram C. Smith appointed pastor of the Lofton Circuit... see page 1B

\$1 Thursday, June 28, 2013

The News and Farmer

AND WADLEY HERALD

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Gator removed from sewage system

Unlucky reptile got wedged in pipe leading from ponds into city system

By Parish Howard
Editor/Publisher

We've all heard tales of killer alligators in big city sewers, but last week it was a killer sewer for a Louisville reptile.

Utilities Superintendent James Jones was working thousands of the city's sewerage collection ponds around 11 a.m. Thursday when he noticed something floating

in the contact chamber of the city's water treatment system.

The contact chamber, which is a part of what looks like a concrete basin, collects water that has come through the city's three oxidation ponds for final disinfection before release.

"I saw what I thought was a piece of driftwood in the contact chamber. I stopped and looked closer and realized that it's not driftwood," Jones said.

The alligator was in 18 to 22 feet of water and had his head wedged against one of the pipes.

"I don't know how he got over it there, but he was in the middle chamber where the water drops in down the pond before it flows into the other chambers," Jones said. "He was making an effort to get out."

Jones said that the recent rains have caused the nearby Oblique River to back up into some swampy areas near the city's ponds.

"We don't really have any idea, but we guess he swam up and 'Uh, oh, there's a hole here' and our workers," said City Administrator Ricky Steggs.

The city contacted the Department of Natural Resources who sent out their nuisance alligator specialist, John Collins.

Knowing that the big reptile would get farther back in the facility and doubting that anyone would want to get down in the water with the nearby cranes, city workers used a fire engine's pump to lower the sewer levels in the chamber.

(See Alligator on page 2A)



This 7-foot-3-inch alligator found its way into the contact chamber of the city's waste water treatment system last week.

One killed in drive-by at club

Second victim treated and released

By Carol McLeod
Staff Writer

Law enforcement officers from three agencies are looking for a suspect in shooting that left one man dead and another injured.

Officers and EMS responded to a 911 call shortly after midnight Sunday, June 16, regarding a shooting near Club Apollo, which is located at the corner of East 5th and Yates streets in Louisville.

Kenneth Quarman Jr., 21, of Agoutis was found on the sidewalk suffering from at least one gunshot wound to his head.

He was taken to Jefferson Hospital where he was pronounced dead at 12:01 a.m. His body has been taken to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation Crime Lab in Augusta for an autopsy.

"He died of a single gunshot wound to the head," McLeod said.

A second victim, identified as 17-year-old Charles Lewis Brown II of Whens was taken by a nearby ambulance to Jefferson Hospital.

(See Suspect on page 2A)



Deshae Thomas stands in front of his E. Fifth Street house holding a picture of the home that should replace it in the next few months.

House to home

Current housing projects renovating and reconstructing homes for area residents

By Parish Howard
Editor/Publisher

Deshae Thomas has lived his whole life in the same house on East Fifth Street in Louisville.

He raised nine children there and when they came along, he added rooms with his own hands.

When they all grew up and moved away, he saw some of those rooms off.

A hand sawing man, he has always taken care of things himself.

For years he has lived who needed fixing with whatever materials were at hand, tin, shingles, pass board.

He is 60 and until recently, according to his youngest daughter Hattie Kiffin, he was still working with the roof to patch holes and mending under the house to work on rotten pipes. Time and moisture take their toll on wood and over just like they do on strong backs and healthy joints.

In the next few weeks the only home he has ever known is being torn down and replaced.

"He keeps saying, 'They ain't got' none, but I tell him they are,'" Kiffin said.

Thomas recently invited contractors into his house, guided them through the outgrown rooms he has piled together into his kitchen where he sits in a straight-back chair. In the light from a single, uncovered bulb, he looked at a picture of the home they are going to build for him.

He was the last person in the program to decide to let them do it, only

after Louisville City Administrator Ricky Steggs talked him into it.

"The man was keeping him up all night," Kiffin said. "There's no money like he was having to see his house on all night long."

It was partially the lack of sleep, Kiffin said, that convinced her father to let the city build him a new house.

"Eventually a roof is going to leak," explained Linda DeJules, the grant writer and administrator responsible for housing projects currently going on across Jefferson County. "Gutted-out pipes are going to rot and corrode in the ground where water just can't get through. Generally, by the time I get ahead of a home, it's in bad shape."

(See Housing on page 2A)

Hospital cuts 15 positions

Pioneer Health Services submits plan that proposes to take hospital from losing \$200,000 a month to profitability in two years

By Parish Howard
Editor/Publisher

Fifteen 13 positions were cut from the staff of Pioneer Health Services' plan to save Jefferson Hospital.

Thursday evening, the hospital's authority signed a five-year management contract with Pioneer, who for the past several months, has been reviewing hospital operations in all departments and developing a plan to turn the financial losses that drove the authority to seek outside help.

Ray Davis, the authority's chairman, said last week that the hospital has been "bleeding" between \$200,000 and \$300,000 a month for some time now.

"We looked at what we could do to turn this hospital around," said James C. Hines, Pioneer's CEO. "We've had a team here for two months. More than a dozen people from Pioneer have flown in and examined and analyzed and made recommendations to many areas. The higher paying opportunities have been looked at."

And after receiving the authority's approval, they began implementing that plan. Last Monday, Hines said CEO Ralph Randall was put on administrative leave and Friday the other cuts began.

Hines characterized it as a reduction in force. Hines called it restructuring.

"There are a few more opportunities but we tried to do it all at once when it's over and we can give the remaining staff some reassurance," Hines said. "I think the rest of them know the areas, the people things left that we possibly could do. There are some areas where the staff was so efficient that with our resources it wouldn't cost us any money to make the change."

Hines said that Pioneer's proposal was based on positions that could be reduced to improve the hospital's financial efficiency.

"It was not laid out according to personnel, but by the hospital positions," Davis said. "The driving force behind that is that Pioneer has resources in Mississippi that can handle responsibilities like billing and accounting and we won't have full independent accounting function here. It's that kind of thing."

Pioneer's suggested cuts were also largely based on a model developed in their 10 other regional hospitals, using how many employees are needed to serve an average number of patients, Hines explained.

The reductions were across multiple departments, Hines said and there were very few clinical people in the restructuring, but a lot of clerical and administrative positions.

(See Hospital on page 2A)

2nd Place

Jefferson Reporter/ News & Farmer, Louisville Parish Howard



Business Coverage

F

1st Place

The Blackshear Times

Wayne Hardy

FEED YOUR FOOTBALL CRAVING
Ready for Friday night football in Bearville? Look inside to get your full preview of your 2013 Pierce County Bears. The special section highlights players, coaches, cheerleaders and the band, as well as features plenty of Bear spirit from supporters. Check it out now and get ready for Friday's season-opening games against Bacon County.



The Blackshear Times

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18th YEAR • ISSUE 31 • \$2 including tax • BLACKSHEAR, GEORGIA 30306 • WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2013 • 66 PAGES, TWO SECTIONS

Another voting site to relocate

The Blackshear/Creek voting precinct will be moving to the Pierce County Civic Center at the NRC complex on College Avenue.

The Pierce County Board of Elections and Registration signed off on the move during a public meeting Monday morning.

BEES supervisor Beulah Boatright recommended the move. She said moving the polling place for Blackshear/Creek precinct to a combination of off-site and on-site year to combine polling places and not vote. Presently, residents there vote either at the building on Randy St., across from Carter Avenue.

"We stress that only the polling places are moving," she said. "The precinct and election district remain intact and will still have the same boundaries."

Boatright said voters will be notified of the change to polling place by mail.

In April, the BEES voted to combine five of the county's eight polling places.

The Blackshear/Creek polling place will join the Blackshear St. John and Atlanta precincts at the NRC complex on College Avenue. The Patterson and Otter Creek precincts have been combined and moved into Patterson's High Station.

Previously, the Blackshear precinct had been at Blackshear City Hall, and the St. John polling place had been at the Board of Education maintenance building on East Main Street. The Atlanta precinct had been at the former County Board school facility. Patterson precinct has previously voted ballots at City Hall and previously the Otter Creek Community Center has been the precinct for that district.

The recent precinct at Beulah Baptist Church and the Blackshear precinct at Methodist Baptist Church are to remain the same.

Boatright said combining the precinct will allow the BEES to reduce staff costs by less than 50 percent for each polling station. One assistant manager and poll manager would be required in the precinct.

Times to close Labor Day

Next week's edition of The Blackshear Times will be published a day later than usual, on Thursday.

The Times will be closed Monday, Sept. 2 for Labor Day observance. Readers for subscriptions will receive the same. News items and advertising for next week's issue should be turned in by Friday, Aug. 30 by 5 p.m. and cover when possible.

Subscriptions should be sent to circulation@blacksheartimes.com or delivered to our office at 121 5th Street, S.W. in downtown Blackshear.

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Building hope for the housing market

Outlook optimistic for real estate as demand for new homes rises here

By Wayne Hardy
Managing Editor

What does economic recovery mean for you? It means you can buy a new house.

It means you can buy a new house. It means you can buy a new house. It means you can buy a new house.

It means you can buy a new house. It means you can buy a new house. It means you can buy a new house.

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County to study making old church new agriculture hub

By Jason Sims
Staff Writer

Will the old Methodist church in Blackshear become the new Pierce County's hub for agriculture?

The county's new agriculture hub will be located in Blackshear. The county's new agriculture hub will be located in Blackshear.

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IN LOVING MEMORY



LaVerne Boatright

Boatright was 'rock' for family and Times

Long-time newspaper staffer remembered for her talent and dedication

LaVerne Boatright, long-time graphic designer for The Blackshear Times, is remembered for her talent and dedication to her family, friends and profession.

Boatright, 65, died suddenly of a massive heart attack Friday night at the Pierce County Hospital in New...

"LaVerne was more than an employee," said Robert Williams, Jr., owner and publisher of The Times. "She was a trusted friend, confident and a rock for all of us over the years. Her loss is irreplaceable."

Boatright was the senior manager of the staff for many years.

She was always said that no matter what, if LaVerne is here to help me, we'll get the paper out.

Robert Williams, Jr.
Owner/Publisher

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Business Coverage

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THE EATONTON
October 24, 2013

Winner of 38 Georgia Press Association awards, including General Excellence 2013

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Official organ of Putnam County and City of Eatonton | All the news from the Briar Patch | Find us on Facebook

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War Eagle tax in first round of playoffs.
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471 students learn 'good science.'
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Harvey and Amelia Wilson receive Golden Eagle Award from Big Screen.
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The city holds its 'groundbreaking' for the new parking lot near university.
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SALES TAX MONEY
City, county: LOST for two days
See Briggman
For a brief time Oct. 16, Putnam County and Eatonton appeared to be close to being about \$2.1 million in annual sales tax. Local government representatives seemed to be in agreement that the state would have deposited the money in Washington. But by the end of the day Oct. 17, the two local governments had received no money. The reason: The state's Department of Revenue had approved a separate agreement to "integrate" that agreement after July 1, 2013. Probably, both sides viewed the "integration" agreement from different points. Discrepancies include how the agreement would be implemented. For the time being, 2013 funds are expected to be collected and deposited as agreed in February 2013. That decision provides 50 percent of the LOST to the county and 47 percent to the city. The tax was covered by a state Supreme Court ruling that 7 that the state law providing for "non-fault-style arbitration" on LOST negotiations is unconstitutional. Putnam County and Eatonton were in the midst of that process when a judge picks one side over the other. **SEE 1B&F - 1A8**

STATE PRISON
City now owns property
May look to hire contractor to operate facility
See Briggman
City voters in a referendum paid a 4-hour battle on the matter of the public library's right to pay for the former state prison in town. Council members voted to hire a contractor to operate the facility. The city's attorney and city administrator were in a back-and-forth. That \$10 million for the deed to the former prison, which was state property. The prison property, which lies along South Lane in the western part of town, is about 13 acres. City officials have been talking about obtaining the property for several months. Mayor John Bond said he first mentioned the idea to state Rep. Mackey Chanceff and they held nearly a year ago. He said the deal was in the project started in about January. An inquiry from a state government official about the city's interest led to additional conversations, visits to the property and a board of commissioners to discuss the idea. The consensus of commissioners is to hire a private contractor to operate the facility. **SEE PRISON - 12A**

Gardening work day
More than 30 people attended the work day at the community garden at Aluminum Hill Saturday. A group of workers had off-rubber wood during the cleanup. Workers spent much of the day Saturday clearing, cutting brush and stacking it up. See story Page 1C.

PROMOTING COUNTY
EPTAH hopes for Civil War tourist impact
Lynn Hobbs
Although he studied Civil War history, including the Battle of Shiloh and the Battle of Stones River, EPTAH hopes for Civil War tourist impact. The study for the Civil War Tour by the Shiloh Battlefield Foundation and the Western Business Tourism Study. These numbers are expected to increase in Georgia in the next few years, including in Putnam County. **SEE CIVIL WAR - 12A**

SCHOOLS
Options developing for College and Career Academy
Lynn Hobbs
The school system is in the process of developing options for the College and Career Academy. The school system is in the process of developing options for the College and Career Academy. **SEE ACADEMY - 8A**

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3rd Place

The Eatonton
Messenger

Lynn Hobbs



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WHITE COUNTY NEWS

VOL. 40 NO. 34 • CLEVELAND, GA • 7941 Thursday, Jan. 10, 2013 WHITECOUNTYNEWS.NET

Demand for gun permits skyrockets

County issues more concealed-carry licenses after Connecticut school shooting

by Debra Gilbert
White County News

In mid-December, White County Probate Court was suddenly inundated with requests to apply for concealed-weapon permits. This did not come as a surprise. On Dec. 14, a gunman killed 26 children and six adults at an elementary school in Newtown, Conn. Because most of the victims were first-graders, the massacre left many Americans reeling with grief and shock.

Almost immediately, some politicians began calling for tighter gun-control laws, which made gun owners worry that their rights might be infringed upon.

White County Probate Judge Gertrude Baker said these concerns led more people to ask for a "concealed carry" license.

"I would say demand has at least quadrupled since the Newtown shooting," he said.

"There are two situations where we see a spike in applications: when there's talk of legislation that may put limits on gun ownership, and when there's a terrible tragedy that makes people feel unsafe. With Newtown, you had both of those factors."

Baker said his office has been issuing eight to 10 permits per day since the Connecticut shooting, and 14 permits were given out on Dec. 11.

"We normally average about 400 permits a year, but because of the spike in December, we finished 2012 with 472 permits issued," he said. "If this rate continues, I could see the total doubling by the end of 2013."

After previous mass shootings, See GUN PERMITS Page A4

BlackStock vineyards, winery closes

by Linda Erbele
White County News

BlackStock Vineyards and Winery, located on Town Creek Road in White County, is closing its doors.

"In the end, we have suffered from unexpected crop losses due to the exceptionally warm winters and the early bud-break dates," David Harris said in a e-mail sent to customers last week. "This has resulted in normal bud dates having a devastating effect on our crop. We have also felt the sting from selling fruit in a soft economy and the importation of grapes and wine into Georgia wineries, eroding our market when the crop was plentiful."

Harris, who selected the vineyard site on Town Creek Road in western White County and then supervised the planting of the first vines in 1997, wrote: "I had a wonderful dream and lived it for 17 years... I am just sorry we couldn't make it sustainable."

"In many ways, our fate was sealed on April 12, (2012)," he wrote. That was the day of the heavy frost that wiped out a substantial amount of his fall harvest.

From the beginning, the vineyards and winery at BlackStock have been managed by a partnership, which now hopes to sell the property.

"The partners have voted to dissolve the partnership," Tom Harris-Forsell, a partner in

David Harris at his winery with vineyard in the distance, in an earlier time. (Photo/Billy Chian)

See BLACKSTOCK VINEYARDS Page A4

Regional bridal event returns this Saturday

2013 Northeast Georgia Bridal magazine debuts

The premier Northeast Georgia bridal show, *Weddings Unveiled*, offers a unique chance to view what's available to anyone planning a wedding in 2013.

The interactive bridal event will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12, at The Community Center in Connelly.

"This year's event is shaping up to be even better than last year," said Alan Nyheim, Northeast Georgia regional publisher of

See BRIDAL Page A4

Helen's new mayor ready to work

by Linda Erbele
White County News

The Helen City Commission elected Lynn Whitener as mayor and Jeff Ash mayor pro tem at its first meeting of the year Jan. 2.

Helen's new mayor is extremely proud of the city, yet he is committed to learning what works in other local towns to help improve Helen.

"We are a world-class city," said Whitener. "The area itself is beautiful — the river, the recreation and the state parks. We have it all."

However, Whitener said many other towns have turned to tourism as an industry.

"As competition increases, we have to become better," he said. "We can capitalize on the services that Helen has to offer, its resorts, its dining places, but we still need to accommodate our tourists by giving them places to walk, relax and stroll."

He is pleased with the upcoming remodeling of the residences on River Street, and believes that other buildings will need a facelift. Coming to an agreement with business and building owners as to the responsibility for those changes is a challenge, he said he believes needs to be met.

"It's a two-way street," Whitener said. "We all have to do our jobs, including the city."

Wahkihi, Hawaii, is one of Whitener's favorite places to visit.

Lynn Whitener smiles after the city commission elected him mayor of Helen. Former mayor Helen Wilkins, left, offers congratulations. (Photo/Linda Erbele)

See LNNY WHITENER Page A4

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2nd Place

White County News, Cleveland

Business Coverage

E

THE JACKSON HERALD Wednesday, October 30, 2013
 VOL. 139 NO. 21 44 PAGES 3 SECTIONS PLUS INSERTS A PUBLICATION OF The Jackson Herald Company, Inc. JEFFERSON, JACKSON COUNTY GEORGIA 30549 75¢ COPY

Early voting ends Friday for town elections
 EARLY voting is under way for town elections, including the mayor's race in Jefferson and school votes in Nicholson and Pendragon.

Early voting is being held at the Jackson County Administration Building in Jefferson from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Friday.

Now voters will speak
City elections slated for the final act next Tuesday

AFTER weeks of candidates campaigning and talking, now it's the voters' turn to speak out. Early voting in local city elections will end Friday and voters who didn't vote early will go to the polls next Tuesday for the final act.

Highlighting local elections is the board contest for Mayor of Jefferson between Danon Glenn and Roy Platt to replace retiring mayor Jim Aiken. The race has featured some high-profile people, including sitting city council members and the mayor, taking sides in the race. And the contest has been among the most controversial in the town's history. Much of the controversy has centered on what happened in 2008 when Jefferson leader Danon Glenn as the city police chief, a move that was followed by a two-year state investigation into Glenn.

In the end, Glenn was exonerated, but these events will loom over the contest election after an anonymous letter circulated that accused Glenn of being tied to conspiracy from these old accusations. The letter cast an ugly tone on the race and seemed to polarize both camps.

Despite that, Glenn said this week he's enjoyed the election experience this fall.

"This journey has been a wonderful and rewarding experience for my family and me," he said. "We will cherish these memories for a lifetime."

Glenn also said he was glad city voters have a choice in this election.

"I would also like to thank my opponent. It is a great thing to live in a country where people are given a choice, and the opportunity to have a say in their government."

Platt said he believes voters want to continue with the same direction the city has been going.

Platt Glenn

continued on page 3A

Jackson Co. IDA approves \$81 million in bonds
 BY BAHN BEARDSLEY
 THE JACKSON County Industrial development Authority approved \$81 million in bonds in a called meeting last Friday for the Carter's project. The action also provided a property tax exemption that allows out over five years.

Friday's action created two bond transactions, one for \$11 million to cover the real estate, which is owned by Duke Realty, and the other for \$70 million to cover Carter's costs for equipment at its new Braselton distribution center.

The tax abatement schedule is similar to those offered other industries, although attorney David Hargrett reported having a "hefty" opinion concerning "with Carter's officials during which they absolutely concluded we were not going to change our mind" on an entire year of abatement single by the company.

According to Jack Potts, the president, CEO and economic development director for the Jackson County Area Chamber of Commerce, Carter's employment for the 500 level of duty center and should be completed by the end of the year.

"They're picking up steam," he said. "It's like there's a little time to get where they want to be, but it's still going jump business out there."

Carter's manufacturing plant doesn't include.

This was the only business conducted at the meeting, but Hargrett also reported that the Atlanta-based Fulton project is "still proceeding," although progress has been delayed as the company continues to file the application.

"We're talking into next year before we will do anything," Hargrett predicted.

The company plans to purchase the former Louisiana Pacific facility in Carter at which it will make wood pellets destined for shipment to Europe for fuel used in generating electricity.

Meanwhile, said economic development activity has picked up following the end of the partial government shutdown.

"We've been very busy with over 30 active projects," he said, adding that during the shutdown many of the projects were stalled over the uncertainty.

Potts also indicated that there could be a project announcement in the near future by voting to expand the IGA to meet a called meeting, which is scheduled for Friday, Nov. 15.

MAINTS AND SAINTS CEMETERY TOUR
 The 27th annual Maits and Saints Cemetery Tour was held Friday and Saturday in Jefferson with more than 200 visitors attending. See more photos on page 13A.
 Photo by Westlight Sagon

Local frozen food business to be sold for \$38 million
 BY KATE COFER
 A PEKIN, Ill.-based business is poised to close on a deal to purchase a Jefferson-based frozen food processing plant for \$38 million by the first week in November, according to Matthew Jackson with Lanham, Edwards & Associates, a spokesperson with Fresh Foods Inc.

If the deal goes through, the products are packaged in bulk in Jefferson, where around 100 full-time employees work, which includes drivers, said Griffin. The business was set up in 2008 and supplies frozen fruits and vegetables. The business was started in Jefferson in 1977 by Billy F. Griffin Jr. and currently ships more than 50 varieties of frozen vegetables and fruits to retail outlets throughout the Southeastern United States and the Caribbean Islands. In most recent annual reported revenues are more than \$60 million.

Fresh Foods' processing facility is located in Thomaston, Ga., where it employs about 25 full-time workers, according to car seat owner Bill Griffin, son of company founder Billy F. Griffin Sr.

The products are packaged in bulk in Jefferson, where around 100 full-time employees work, which includes drivers, said Griffin. The business was set up in 2008 and supplies frozen fruits and vegetables. The business was started in Jefferson in 1977 by Billy F. Griffin Jr. and currently ships more than 50 varieties of frozen vegetables and fruits to retail outlets throughout the Southeastern United States and the Caribbean Islands. In most recent annual reported revenues are more than \$60 million.

POTENTIAL \$38 MILLION SALE
 Founded in 1975 by Billy F. Griffin Sr., Fresh Foods Foods, headquartered in Jefferson, will be sold for \$38 million to Arkansas-based Inverness Foods Inc. (NASDAQ: INFA), according to a Sept. 24 letter of intent signed by both companies. The deal is set to take place the first week of November.

Photo by Katie Cofer

There are no "ethnic staffing charges" planned at the time for the other facility," provided the acquisition is finalized as intended, he went.

Tom McDowell, President and CEO of Inverness Foods, Inc., told a Jackson Herald reporter in an email that

processors and ships these products out of its Jefferson plant.

Tom McDowell, President and CEO of Inverness Foods, Inc., told a Jackson Herald reporter in an email that

continued on page 3A

Gambling machines seized from Hoschton gas station, warrants issued for operator
 BY KATE COFER
 A SEARCH warrant at a Hoschton gas station last week led to the seizure of several illegal gambling machines and warrants issued for the arrest of the man who operates the store.

Criminal arrest warrants have been obtained for Mark Bahram of Lawrenceville. Bahram will face charges of commercial gambling, keeping a gambling device and possession of gambling device or equipment. Bahram was not at the store at the time of the search. Mangum said Bahram's attorney said he is supposed to "take himself" in sometime this week.

TASTE OF JACKSON
 The annual Taste of Jackson was held Thursday in Commerce with area restaurants and businesses being showcased.
 Photo by Angie Gray

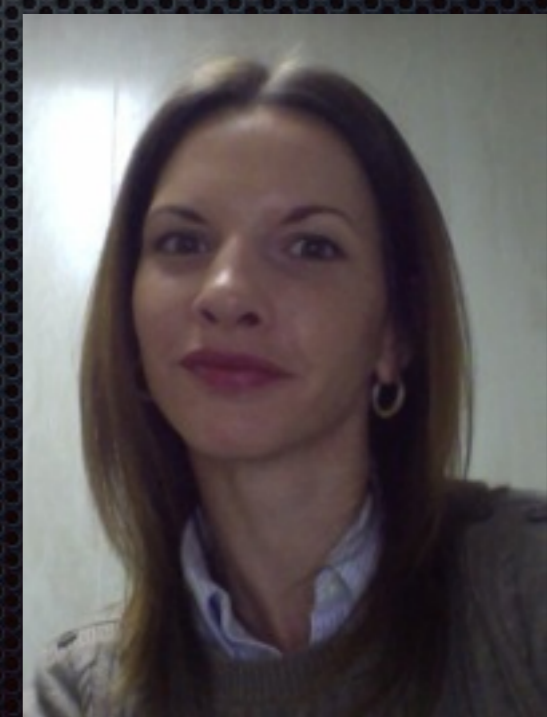
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1st Place

The Jackson Herald, Jefferson

Katie Cofer



Business Coverage

D



Stockbridge resident Nick Hicks performs an incline bench press during his workout at Workout Anytime Fitness Friday. Hicks was one of the first people to join the gym, which has gained 800 members in its first two months of operation.

New 24-hour gym working out for southside

By CURT YEOMANS
cyeomans@news-daily.com

STOCKBRIDGE — Nekisha Dickerson gave her personal trainer, Don Wisby, an exasperated look Friday when he jokingly asked her to do another set of leg raises at the end of their first training session at Workout Anytime Fitness.

He'd already had the Stockbridge resident doing several exercises, including standing cable wood chops and cable pulls before the leg raises. When she gave him the look, he let out a laugh.

"She's handled it — she wanted to give up but she pushed through," said Wisby later.

"He's a good trainer," Dickerson explained.

The Stockbridge location is the first Workout Anytime Fitness franchise to open on the southside of metro Atlanta although there were previously non-franchise licenses in McDonough and Fairburn who have since moved away or closed. It is on the Clayton County side of the Clayton-Henry County line, at 3659 Ga. 138. There are 14 franchise locations on the northside of the Atlanta area.

Zelly Wesson, the gym's operations director, said staff have already registered 800 members. He added that is more than he had anticipated in just two months, but not a complete surprise because he



Stockbridge resident Nekisha Dickerson does a standing cable wood chop under the guidance of her personal trainer, Don Wisby, at Workout Anytime Fitness Friday.



Workout Anytime Fitness membership director Neesh Wesson (right) gives Clayton County Chamber of Commerce board members Dorothy Herzberg (left) and Karen Sullivan a tour of the new gym on the Clayton County-Henry County line Friday.

knew there would be a market for the gym. He said he chose to open the open the southside's first Workout Anytime franchise on Ga. 138 because it was in a highly-visible spot right off I-75.

"We chose this location basically because it was an untapped market," Wesson said. "We knew the model would work here and we knew there was a market for something like this in this

area."

Wisby said the gym's business model of being available for members to use 24 hours a day works for people whose schedules don't allow them to come by during what might be considered normal business hours.

If someone wants to work out at the gym when staff are not present, they will need a membership card to get into the building. There are also security cameras throughout

the gym.

"The convenience of a 24-hour gym is a lot of people work odd shifts," said Wisby, who added trainers make themselves available when it's convenient for members. "Regardless of your schedule, you still have the ability to get a good workout."

Stockbridge resident Nick Hicks said that has worked out for him because it has allowed him to fit in his workouts whenever his work schedule shifts. Hicks has been a member for two

months. He said he works out at the gym before and after work.

"I get off work and come right here," said Hicks. "I come in at 2 or in the morning and I work out before I go to work."

The Clayton County Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony Friday for the gym, which has been open for two months. The ribbon-cutting was the beginning of a two-day grand opening celebration for the gym, where memberships cost as little as

\$15.

"It's very beneficial for us to have a workout facility that's open 24 hours and is affordable and is right off the expressway," said Jessica Kinard, the chamber's manager of events and programs. "We're excited about their chamber membership."

The grand opening festivities will continue Saturday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. with a live remote broadcast by Power 96.1 FM radio and raffle prize giveaways for free memberships and personal training sessions.

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Curt Yeomans



Business Coverage

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THE COVINGTON NEWS



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Friday, April 12, 2013 The story of your life Vol. 145, No. 44 The

education NCSS releases superintendent survey results

DANIELLE EVERSON
danev@covingtonnews.com

As part of the ongoing superintendent search process, the Newton County Board of Education asked members of the public to weigh in via an online survey on what qualifications and characteristics the next superintendent should have.

The results were tabulated and now will provide the school board invaluable assistance as they choose the next person to lead Newton County Schools.

Nearly 1,000 NCSB parents and employees, as well as many Newton County residents, took time to respond to the survey, which provided feedback to the Newton County Board of Education on what the public wants to see in their next superintendent.

When asked how important it is that the next superintendent have a minimum degree such as Ph.D. or M.Ed., more than 47 percent said it should be mandatory with another 47 percent feeling that it is important but should not be mandatory. Twelve percent said it was not very important.

Respondents were also asked how important it is that the next superintendent have previous experience as a superintendent. Roughly 30 percent said it should be mandatory; however, the majority — approximately 49 percent, determined it to be important but not mandatory.

Those taking the survey did, however, by a large majority, think that the next superintendent should most definitely have experience as a principal. Seventy-six percent said it should be mandatory with another 21 percent saying it is important but should not be mandatory.

Respondents overwhelmingly expressed their opinion that the next superintendent should have experience as a classroom teacher. Eighty-four percent said it should be mandatory and 14 percent said it's important but should not be mandatory.

When asked if it was important that the next superintendent have previous experience in private business, 7 percent said it should be mandatory, 49 percent said it's important but not mandatory, and approximately 44 percent did not consider it very important.

Survey participants were also asked to pick, from a list of choices, the top three most important areas the new superintendent should have a documented history of leadership in.

Approximately 74 percent of the respondents chose "community organizations and other community of faith." An additional 50 percent selected professional organizations, 41 percent said that public speaking and other oral communications was important, and 23 percent said publications and other written communications were important.

In addition, survey participants were also asked to rate areas they felt the new superintendent should have special expertise and these were the overwhelming choices — administration, curriculum and budgets, with each receiving more than 50 percent of the votes. Also, regional high was garnered with 53 percent and school law with 50 percent. Technology and facilities received 30 percent and 20 percent respectively.

A breakdown of survey participants revealed that 38 percent were parents or guardians of NCSB students, 11 percent were non-parent members of the community, and 11 percent were employees of the NCSB.

"We appreciate everyone taking the time to provide feedback," said Angela Capps, DOE chair. "The information from the public will be invaluable as we lead the next selection of the next leader of Newton County Schools."

Company to build huge film studio in county

GABRIEL KHOULI
gkhouli@covingtonnews.com

Covington's been a filming mecca for years, but plans to build a huge studio complex could have the area leading Hollywood studios a year from now.

Local company Triple Horse will build five new filming stages in Newton County, a \$38 million expansion the company hopes will solidify it and the Newton County market as one of the top film production sites in Georgia.

The five stages will be the first part of an all-together \$100 million expansion. The well-rounded facility will include more post-production offices, editing equipment and other resources, as Triple Horse hopes to rival the production studios in Los Angeles, which is home to many film jobs.

Triple Horse, located off Technology Drive near City Field Road, has been in Covington for more than a decade producing retail films, commercials and promotional videos for large and small companies. The company already had a medium-size studio and post-production offices, but the addition of five large stages should allow them to regularly compete for some of the biggest productions in the country.

Covington made an aggressive film



Triple Horse Chief Operating Officer Dale Walker and CEO Matt Morrison stand in an editing bay, where Matt's film "Marty" is being worked on.

incentive program to try to lure the state into a major production player and has great success in recent TV shows and movies headquartered their filming in Georgia, which has a wide range of climates and terrain. The state had \$1.1 billion worth of filming projects last year.

The five stages are expected to be located on a 100-acre tract owned by the Newton County Industrial Development Authority off Old Highway 142 across from the Orchard Park



Smith to run for re-election

STAFF REPORTS
smith@covingtonnews.com

Covington Councilman Chris Smith announced Wednesday he will seek re-election to the City Council.

Smith, who was first elected in 2008, is one of three council members who represent the eastern half of Covington.

Local elections for all city council in Newton County will be held in

November.

Smith, 46, is the son-in-law of Newton Electric Supply and ran originally as a platform of fiscal responsibility, an attitude he continues to emphasize.

He was supported in 2008, when he replaced incumbent Councilman John Howard.

"I ran for the City Council to be a friend to the taxpayers and to give back to my community.

"We are living in tough economic times where budgets are tight in cities, towns, counties, states and in the business of Covington. I believe that government is responsible with the taxpayer's dollars and spend them wisely; that's what I have fought for over the past four years," he said. "If re-elected, I will continue to work hard to ensure that Covington remains a great place to live, to work, to raise a family and operate a business."

In a press release,

Smith said he has "been a friend to the taxpayers of Covington by working to maintain reduced rates on water runoff fees on Covington's businesses and homeowners and has diligently fought for an tax increase while increasing the city's reserves."

He also said he is a strong advocate for public safety and will be worked to secure funding to place AED's in all of the city's police cars and in the

2nd Place

The Covington News

Gabriel Khouli



Business Coverage

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Business

The Walton Tribune
C
 WEDNESDAY
 October 2, 2013



DOLLARS AND SENSE

Scam alert trifecta on display

"Mystery shopper opportunities" are making a resurgence in email boxes. Yes, there are legitimate companies. If you've been working for one for a long time and are happy with them, feel free to continue. But if you want to get started now, don't. Wading through the myriad offers and trying to decide which are on the level is asking for trouble.

When you sign up, you're likely to be asked for your name, address, email address and bank-account information for "verification." Receiving that, chances are that the only "shopping" you'll be asked to do will involve receiving checks in the mail with instructions to take out your fee and send them the balance of the money by MoneyOrder. The check will end up being no good, and you'll be out the money you wired to them.

If someone offers to pay a ridiculous amount of money to a stranger for a minimal amount of work, think twice.

One invasive scam offers to pay people money to put advertising signs on their car and drive around. Amounts offered are up to \$1,000 in advance and then \$500 per week to drive around with a vinyl sign stuck to your car. You don't have to answer any questions, such as about the number of miles you drive, or where you drive. A legitimate advertiser would want to know where his ads will be seen. Your payment will be in the form of a check, which you are instructed to cash, take out your fee and send the balance by Western Union back to the company.

Do you see a pattern here?

Another scam can reach us right where we live: our homes. Security systems for the home are designed to make us feel safer. The Federal Trade Commission has investigated numerous complaints involving high-pressure sales tactics, shoddy merchandise and more. The warning signs: Someone (likely part of a roving team) comes to your door in a cold call, impersonating a representative of the monitoring company you already use. You've told your old system is defective in some way, and that the new equipment is well in line if you'll sign a contract.

Check the FTC site at ftc.gov for more details on how to protect yourself.

—King Features Syndicate Inc.



Photo by STEPHEN MILLIGAN

Charles Sanders is calling it quits after working at Sanders Furniture for the past several decades.

Downtown furniture tycoon closes up shop

Store leaving after decades in Monroe

By STEPHEN MILLIGAN
 stephen.milligan@waltontribune.com

MONROE — Charles Sanders remembers when his father first moved the family business to its current location in downtown Monroe.

"He's a kid, at 9 years-old, I pressed out some to customers at the grand opening," Sanders said. "We've been here in this location for more than 50 years."

But now, at 71, Sanders is saying goodbye to the family legacy as he prepares to close the doors of Sanders Furniture for the last time.

"It's a bittersweet decision," Sanders said. "My heart's been heavy."

Sanders has operated the furniture store in downtown Monroe for his entire adult life, since taking over for his father. But now he's decided

it's time to call it a day. "I want to retire while I still have my health," Sanders said.

So, when Sanders' daughter, Tina Sanders Lucas, decided she was looking for a change from running the business with her father, he decided it was time to close the store for good.

"It's not about business," Sanders said. "No, the company has been tough, but business has picked up. The last six months have been really good. It's just time."

Lucas said she felt it was time to get out of the furniture business to spend more time with her children and find a new direction.

"I'm looking for a new chapter in life," Lucas said. "I want to regroup and check my options. Besides, it just wouldn't be the same without Dad here."

Sanders agreed that his daughter's departure would change the tenor of the store.

"We've worked together here for 33 years," Sanders said. "We started working here at the same age I started working with my father. It's been fun."

Sanders Furniture opened in 1980, selling mostly rugs and small furniture. Beginning in a house along Broad Street, eventually the business moved downtown where the Fletcher Block restaurant now stands. In 1991, the business moved again to its current location downtown, next to Amstat.

"The furniture business has changed a lot in that time," Sanders said. "It's been a hard decision, but we decided to close the store."

Sanders said the business will remain open through the end of the year as they wind down shop and they hope to see a final surge of business this month with a retirement sale of 20 to 40 percent off on all stock, with October the last month they'll accept custom orders.

But Sanders said he's most concerned about what might come to after his doors close.

"We'd love to see someone lease or buy the building and keep a furniture store here," Sanders said. "It's a great opportunity."

No matter what comes in, Sanders said he plans to continue his role with the Downtown Development Authority.

"I want downtown Monroe to continue to do well," Sanders said. "I dearly want the area to thrive."

The other Sanders Furniture stores in Winder, Commerce and Elberton — all run by creative — will continue to operate as usual. Sanders said he already misses the customers who have made his business a success for so many years.

"We've sold furniture to three or four generations," Sanders said. "I just have to say thank you to all our loyal customers."

Mama mia



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Walton County Chamber of Commerce recently had a ribbon cutting for Johnny's Pizzeria, located at 4132 Highway 78, Suite 201, Loganville.

Keeping in shape



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Walton County Chamber of Commerce recently had a ribbon cutting for CrossFit Loganville, located at 2867 Highway 78, Loganville.

Physical therapy saves Loganville man

Local business makes difference in lives

Mike Thomas knew he faced a long recovery.

In 2011, he was riding his motorcycle when an approaching car made a quick left turn — not noticing him traveling 40 mph in the oncoming lane. The head-on collision sent him flying 300 feet through the air and, combined with the impact, broke nearly every bone on the left side of his body.

Some say he is lucky. Four surgeries and a series of metal rods and plates rebuilt his left side and completely restructured his shoulder. He spent the following three months in a hospital bed, and a month in a wheel chair before finally being able to walk on crutches.

And although he had begun walking again, Thomas still faced a number of complications. He couldn't touch his left foot to the ground or use his left arm. His muscles were jelly. His joints were swollen and immobile. The ongoing pain and lack of mobility were

See THERAPY, Page C2

1st Place

The Walton
 Tribune, Monroe
 Stephen Milligan



Business Coverage

C

3rd Place

The Daily Tribune News, Cartersville

Jason Lowrey

AroundTown IC
The Daily Tribune News Sunday, December 1, 2013

Budweiser
King of Beers

CHEERS
Anheuser-Busch marks 20 years in Bartow

By Jason Lowrey
jason.lowrey@dailytribunenews.com

When Anheuser-Busch first announced it was considering building a brewery in Bartow County, it was no sure thing. In fact, then Vice President and Group Executive Deputy H. Boudle got the chairman of Anheuser-Busch to personally build the brewery at 80 to 85 percent. It all depended on sales, he told The Daily Tribune News in December 1993.

Since the initial investment 20 years ago, the Anheuser-Busch brewery has expanded twice. Its employe base has risen from 40 to approximately 450. Now it's not only the newest brewery in the United States, but one of the best in the Anheuser-Busch brewery company.

"But the most thing about Cartersville is, because it is our newest brewery, there's been a lot of benchmarking. We have 100 breweries across the world and we have a lot of benchmarking activities, and people come here to learn about some of the best practices we've developed here. It's something we're proud of," said Plant Manager Rob Hoss.

Hoss has managed the Cartersville brewery for three years. However, he also was involved in some of the first engineering when the plant was built.

"I graduated with an engineering degree and I wanted to work for a company that was going to grow globally, a place I could put my talents to use. I grew up in the Midwest, worked with Anheuser-Busch, now down here for a while, loved it," Hoss said about his career. "I moved all over the world. I worked in China with the company. I've worked in London, England. I've been in four different breweries now, so 20 years later, this is a fit."

"The most thing about it, I think, is that you're always trying to improve a process, and I like process improvement and I like working with people. So, if you take the two together, you get to work on improving processes with a great group of people. I think every evening I get out of bed I'm happy to come to work, after 20 years what

brewers are the rock stars with developed palates. Since Anheuser-Busch has been working for Anheuser-Busch for 27 years, even with the technical knowledge he has about the process of making beer, and the satisfaction involved, he said he continues to learn something new every day, so brewing never gets old.

"Frankly, people enjoy learning about our process. We make a very unique product. Making beer is still very cool, and I still enjoy making beer. I'm not getting sick of it. It just gets stronger of the taste, and I think we're doing that with a lot of our people," he said.

The basic ingredients of beer are water, malted barley, hops and yeast. Without all these ingredients, at the very least, Kabe said you don't have beer.

Hops, Kabe explained, are what give beer its distinctive flavor and scent. Some are better for flavor and some are better for the aroma, and both types are added at different points in the brewing process. In order to get a consistent flavor from batch to batch, hops are loaded up into bins a floor above the brew tanks. As the tank of water and malted barley is heated, the hops open and the legs slide down the above hop walls. The process is automated so give brewers as much control as possible in the brewing process and create a form of consistency.

The malted malted barley is one of the biggest changes in the last 20 years, and brewer Rick Gross, the brew house with Anheuser-Busch since the brewery opened.

"A lot of automation, more automation. Of course, when we started up, this was the most automated brewery in the world at the time it started up. It's gone up from then, got more automated, and the brewers are a lot more in touch with the complete process, not just here and there ... I started out down in brewing ... we use all in-house, so there's another group that starts off in the brewhouse and now we're all pretty much consumed in different areas. So we've learned a lot along the way about the whole process," he said.

When the malted barley, water and hops mix together, Kabe said, a process starts where the brewers have only one touch point.

"So good as we are — and this is not simply mixing ingredients and mixing up with the final product — what we are in the kitchen is a biological process. There's a complex thing to do along the way about the whole process," he said.

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Business TUESDAY

15
Tuesday, October 13, 2015

You can now sample Eagle Creek's finest

It has been really interesting to watch the growth of the craft beer industry here in Statesboro. As in Savannah, Athens, and Atlanta, the interest has been immediate, and the industry well-received by locals.

Just last week, Eagle Creek Brewery opened its facility for tours and tastings, presented on a very strict schedule by state law. Hereafter, the brewery will be open from 3:30-7:30 p.m. on Thursdays and

Fridays, and from 2-4 p.m. on Saturdays. The facility can only be open to the public for two hours.

"Those who want to come tour and taste can buy a glass for \$10, and receive up to 4-8 ounce pours," said co-owner Franklin Dismuke. "In other words, they will receive six tickets which they can use to get the 8-ounce samples of our beer."

Dismuke said in addition to the samples, educational tours of the brewery will be given.

"We will take folks on a tour showing them how the beer is made, and answer any questions that they may have," he said. "Also, on Saturdays, we will have a football game on television



Inside
BUDGET
Business
Joe
Murray

if people are interested, or they can just hang out, and enjoy one of the board games if they would like."

Dismuke said at least two flavors of Eagle Creek's beer — and maybe three — will be offered for sampling. Berry Dismuke, co-owner of neighboring Sugar Magnolia Bakery, is excited about this new development for Eagle Creek.

"It has already increased foot traffic in our area, and we are very pleased about that," he said. "It is great



that the adjacent building is now occupied, and we are very happy to see just how much it is beginning to help the neighborhood and our section of downtown."

In this same vein, Southern Growlers recently opened its doors at 214 S. Main St. It has 20 rotating taps offering an extensive selection of regional craft beers, ciders and sodas. As with Eagle Creek, it has also been very well-received.

The public seems ready to embrace the craft beer movement, and without a doubt, it has come to Statesboro.

In, until next Tuesday, I bid you adieu.

L&D expands to 80 East

Gerralds say fresh produce, dedication key success

By AL HADGE
alhadge@statesboroherald.com

"We like to say that it's love and devotion, but it really is 'Lena and David,'" says Lena Gerrald.

To people who have shopped at L&D Produce at 231 S. Main St. for years and know the owners, Lena and husband David, it's pretty obvious what L&D stands for. So the explanation is mainly for new customers. Many are now discovering L&D's second location, on U.S. Highway 80 East across from Lena's.

"You really have to love this business and be devoted to it to be successful," David Gerrald said, "and that's why it's not hard at times because you're looking for high quality produce for your customers. The hours can start at 1 and 2 o'clock in the morning and can go as late as 10 and 11 o'clock at night, depending on when we're



Lena and David Gerrald add some fresh produce to the display at L&D Produce's original market on East Main Street.

Dean Ford
of
Business
People
Ken
Keller

Actions
your
business
should
consider

Does someone at your company know what it takes to get a pay increase? I am not saying give anyone a raise, but it would be helpful if your employees know what they need to earn one.

Do your managers and supervisors know how to manage people?

No one likes to be told they don't know how to manage others or that they are not doing a very good job. Managing I know there are plenty of individuals who know the title, the pay and the rules that go with being seen as a leader, but let's be honest: some people in management are simply not good at it.

How good of a job do you do as the leader of explaining your decisions to the organization?

Along the way, Zim-

Workshop to focus on workers with disabilities

Employers invited to learn about their rights, responsibilities at Oct. 22 event

Special to the Herald

A workshop designed to inform employers on their rights and responsibilities regarding hiring people with disabilities will be held Tuesday, Oct. 20, in Statesboro.

The event, sponsored by the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Division of Developmental Disabilities, is scheduled for 9:30-4:30 p.m. at the Henry

Stevens Building, 1 Main Lockwood Drive. The workshop will feature subject matter experts on supported employment who will present the best practices nationally as well as new state initiatives. It will include a community dialogue concerning advocating for services for people with disabilities in the area.

Attendees will be able to network with other advocates in the community



who care about the future of adult services of people with developmental disabilities. And participants can learn about how to connect to statewide advocacy efforts.

The event is even more important because the U.S. Department of Labor

recently announced two final rules designed to improve the hiring of veterans through the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Act of 1974 and people with disabilities through Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

The new Section 503

rule will now include a hiring goal for federal contractors and subcontractors that 7 percent of each job group in their workforce be qualified individuals with disabilities. The rule also details specific actions contractors must take in the areas of recruitment, training, record keeping and policy discrimination.

More information on the new rules is available at <http://www.dol.gov/vet/>

media@pressrelease@DCHD20151019.htm.

The Statesboro workshop is one of five being held around the state. Sessions already were held in Gainesville and Okefenokee, and two more are scheduled Oct. 29 in Valdosta and Nov. 7 in Augusta.

For more information, call Regina Griffin at 800-899-2903 or visit the Ad About Developmental Disabilities website at www.aad.org.

2nd Place

Statesboro Herald

Al Hackle

Business Coverage

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1st Place

The Moultrie Observer

Alan Mauldin

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MOULTRIE, GA WEDNESDAY • 2013 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2013 50 CENTS

AREA DEATHS

John Lee Linton, 71, of ...
Robert Daniel ...
Norman ... of ...
Rev. Eugene Davis ...
"Gene" Sheffield, 75, of ...

For complete obituaries, see Page 28.

Genealogy basics at library workshop

Staff Report

MOULTRIE — Those interested in genealogy can learn the basics of how to use the Moultrie County Library's genealogy resources and materials available at the library's Genealogy Library.

The workshop will focus on the basics of genealogy, including how to use the library's Genealogy Library to find records and materials.

The afternoon session will feature a presentation by local genealogist ...

Pre-registration is required, and there is a \$10 registration fee for the workshop.

The library is located at 200 P.O. Bldg. S.E. For additional information, call 229-836-4444 or visit www.moultriega.org.

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CONTACT US

Thank you for reading The Moultrie Observer. We value your comments. You're welcome to call us at 229-836-4444.



Farm bill expires

By Alan Mauldin

MOULTRIE — As Congress wrapped up its session, it's time to start a budget and reauthorize the farm bill. The farm bill is a critical piece of legislation that provides funding for farm programs and food assistance. The current farm bill expires on September 30, 2013. If Congress does not pass a new bill by then, the current law will expire, and the government will have to operate on a temporary basis. This could lead to a government shutdown, which would have a significant impact on the farm sector.



Bob and Phyllis Co. workers load a trailer Wednesday at the plant on Highway 100 South near Ocala.

"We're going to be able to see government action on this," said ...

Hurricane season is a bust so far

Despite record storm activity, no major hurricanes have formed.

The Atlantic hurricane season has proved to be much quieter than the "above average" year that many government and private forecasters predicted last spring. All the activity seen by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which monitors and predicts weather activity, peaked in late August.

A steady supply of warm water in the tropical Atlantic off the coast of Africa, a steady jet stream over the Gulf of Mexico, and a lack of wind shear over the ocean were all factors that helped to produce the record number of storms. However, the lack of major hurricanes was a surprise. "There really is a combination of factors that are keeping us quiet," said ...

Deal: Ga. should be OK during shutdown

By Alan Mauldin

ATLANTA (AP) — Georgia officials are working to make arrangements to ensure state employees whose salaries and benefits are paid with federal funds don't lose access to health insurance during the shutdown of the federal government.

"We're going to be able to see government action on this," said ...

REELIN' IN THE PRIZES

Feed England State Park will host a bass fishing tournament.

Feed England State Park will host a bass fishing tournament as part of the state-wide Reelin' in the Prizes contest. The event will begin when the gate opens at 7 a.m. and fish will be measured at noon. The top three anglers will take a chance to enter the draw for a grand prize. There will also be a Children's Fishing Contest from 10 a.m. to 12 noon for children under 12 with prizes for the three biggest fish caught. For more information, contact the park at 229-836-2264, or visit www.gaparc.org/reelininthepizes.

Church to host Blessing of Animals

Staff Report

MOULTRIE — If you own a pet, you know how much your pet means to you. The Blessing of Animals is a special service offered by the Moultrie County Church and the Moultrie County Society of Friends of Animals. The service is held on the second Sunday of the month. It is a time to bring your pet to church and have it blessed. The service is free and open to all. For more information, contact the church at 229-836-4444.

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Business Coverage

B



THE DAILY CITIZEN

Thursday, December 5, 2013 Dalton, Georgia Online at www.dailycitizen.com Weather: Showers, 32°/60° (p.10A)

Mohawk to add 420 jobs in Dalton

By CHARLES OLIVER
charleso@dailycitizen.com

Mohawk Industries announced Wednesday an \$45 million expansion of plants in Dalton and Rome that will add 420 jobs over the next two years in Dalton and create 150 jobs in Rome.

This marks the latest in a string of multi-million dollar capital investments by the manufacturing industry in Northwest Georgia and Whitfield County in particular.

"As the U.S. economic recovery gains traction, Mohawk is increasing manufacturing capacity to meet rising demand for the company's premium soft carpets," said Joe Verburgh, Mohawk's senior vice

president of advanced manufacturing in a press release. "These major investments in Dalton and Rome — in addition to the company's previously announced investment in Rome — will create or retain more than 1,300 excellent jobs across the region. We anticipate that these expansions will begin operations in 2014."

Mohawk will convert two manufacturing plants to full continuous flow (36/7) weaving and have existing plants, including both facilities to keep up with growing demand.

Greater Dalton Chamber of Commerce President Brian Anderson said the Dalton plant is at 1100 S. Hamilton St.

GOVERNOR TO VISIT

Gov. Nathan Deal is scheduled to meet with officials in Dalton Friday to discuss economic development. Details of his visit were not known as of Wednesday.



"This is an extremely positive development. As the economy has improved, especially the housing

market, we are seeing increasing strength in the manufacturing industry," Anderson said. "They are not only increasing volume. They are introducing the latest technology and equipment."

The Commerce Department reported Wednesday that sales of new homes rose 25.4 percent in the month of October, the latest month for which data are available.

Mohawk is the latest manufacturing expansion in Whitfield County in the past seven months.

Engineered Floors announced plans in May to invest \$670 million in Northwest Georgia over the next five years, including a plant now under construction in Whitfield

County, creating more 2,000 jobs. Deal is expected to visit Dalton in September. State Industries announced a \$100 million investment in Whitfield County, including expanding an existing plant in Dalton and building 555,000 square feet of new warehouse space just south of the city, that will add 175 jobs.

Dalton Mayor David Perregrino, who is meeting for governor, said these announcements illustrate the strength of Dalton's industrial base.

"The state has lost 40 percent of its manufacturing jobs over the last

► Please see MOHAWK, 5A

Dalton man killed in wreck

The Daily Tribune News, CARTERSVILLE

The Georgia State Patrol's Specialized Collision Reconstruction Team is helping in solving the puzzle of a fatal crash involving a Dalton man Tuesday morning on Interstate 75 near Pleasant Valley Road in Bartow County.

A press release from the state patrol said investigators are asking for anyone with information on a narrow or single-lane intersection with a head-on crash involving a Dalton man Tuesday morning on Interstate 75 near Pleasant Valley Road in Bartow County.

A press release from the state patrol said investigators are asking for anyone with information on a narrow or single-lane intersection with a head-on crash involving a Dalton man Tuesday morning on Interstate 75 near Pleasant Valley Road in Bartow County.

Murray parade dons Hollywood theme

By MARY WATSON
maryw@dailytribunenews.com

CHATSORTHVILLE — Where can you see "Honey, We Shrunk Ourselves," "Backstage," "The Polar Express" and "It's a Wonderful Life?"

They're not just on television this year. They're also front in this year's Christmas parade in Chatsworth.

"This year's theme for the 26th Annual North Georgia Mountain Christmas Parade is 'Christmas on the Silver Screen.' The parade will roll through downtown on Saturday at 8 p.m.

"I think we'll see a wonderful, magical parade because of the theme," said Diane Arnold, office manager of the Chatsworth-History County Chamber of Commerce, which hosts the parade. "A lot of people are very excited about that. We have had a lot of positive feedback."



John Elliott plays his trumpet which is wrapped up as a Christmas gift, as he marches in the parade with the North Murray High School band in last year's Christmas Parade in Chatsworth. This year's parade is scheduled for Saturday at 8 p.m.

Rain may postpone Dalton parade

SUBMITTED BY EVENT ORGANIZERS

The Dalton Christmas Parade, "Drewns of Christmas," is today at 8 p.m., causing some road closures in the downtown area.

Because of rain forecasts, organizers say they will make any decision to postpone the

parade by 2 p.m. today. They suggest going to dalton.com for information on local radio stations for such an announcement. In the event of inclement weather, the parade will be Thursday, Dec. 12.

In addition to the street closures, no cars may be parked on the east side of Hamilton Street

from Wagh Street to Martin Street during the parade. Beginning at 4 p.m., cars will be placed in parking spaces on the east side of Hamilton Street and cars parked in those spaces will be ticketed to move.

For questions, contact the Downtown Dalton Development Authority at (706) 278-3332.

'Polar Express' to pull into Chatsworth

By MARY WATSON
maryw@dailytribunenews.com

"The Polar Express" has become a modern classic every year for children at Christmas. Several cities last Polar Express-themed events to celebrate the holiday season, and Chatsworth is no exception.

The Chatsworth Train Depot, on Pine Avenue, will be open from noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday with model trains and Christmas items on display. Admission is \$2. Proceeds benefit the depot, a property of the Whitfield-History Historical Society. The event is co-sponsored by the historical society and the

Chatsworth-History County Library.

A reading of the book "The Polar Express," about a boy who rides the Polar Express to the North Pole when he's given the first gift of the year by Santa, will be at 5 p.m. by educator Tilly Westoverland.

Refreshments will be served and children will receive a gift and a book.

The event is given to the Christmas parade in Chatsworth, which begins at 8 p.m. on Third Avenue.

"We hope everyone comes out and the (parade) doesn't get rained out," said Diane Davis, an organizer.

at "We'll be there regardless. ... We have all kinds of little things going on. We wanted to have something before the parade for kids to do."

Model trains will be displayed by enthusiast Ted Verburgh, and the depot will be decorated with several different types of trees, including an old-fashioned with a white wheel, Davis said.

Last year, the model train was set up at the library, but organizers expanded the event and hope to have more in attendance.

► Please see DEPOT, 5A

Thieves steal 100 calendars in heist

By CHARLES OLIVER
charleso@dailycitizen.com

SOMEONE made off with \$2,000 worth of merchandise for 2014 in an unusual heist at the Mall of Georgia.

Some of the 100 calendars in the mall took part-time men and women assembly clerks, such as the Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders, WSB Radio reported.

They were replaced by signs directing to how women were part of the calendar, such as one that proclaimed "Please see people out the door." Another stated "Should we give you the puppy?"

The theft happened Saturday at the mall southeast of Atlanta, one of the

► Please see THEFT, 5A

First Bank of Dalton

Full Service
Saturday Hours Available
at our downtown office
8:00-12:00

Eastlake Office
3075 E. Walnut Avenue
706-278-4186

Account opening	\$5
Overdraft	\$35
Wire transfer	\$25
Direct deposit	\$10
Checkbook	\$5
Notary	\$25
Letter	\$25
Notary	\$25
Notary	\$25

Schlottzsky's

For a limited time, these hearty sandwiches for the fall are hotly available. But hurry, they won't be around for long. Only at Schlottzsky's.

1235 W. Walnut Ave., Dalton • 706-277-2867

Winter-rific

75¢ OFF any small sandwich
\$1 OFF any medium sandwich

3rd Place

The Daily Citizen, Dalton

Charles Oliver



Business Coverage


B

2nd Place

The Times,
Gainesville

Staff

CMIK



TIGERS TOP UGA **TECH SLAYS ELON**
COMPLETE COLLEGE FOOTBALL COVERAGE, SPORTS, 1C

LUCKY 13
Woman beats breast cancer after numerous treatments on 5th year of survival. **LIFE, 1E**

The Times

SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 1, 2010

Your news. Your Times. gainesvilletimes.com \$1.00
GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA

Fla. seeks legal cure for bay crisis

Official worries water war lawsuit might outlive seafood industry

BY JOY OLL
ollj@gainesvilletimes.com

Sealed is more than a seal on Florida County. It's a way of life, done by having an actual seal, where waters are abundant. It's a way of life that's been threatened by the industry's...


Hall's cost per student 2nd lowest for its size

Multiple factors affect system's expenditures

BY CARLY SHARRIC
sharric@gainesvilletimes.com

Compared to Georgia districts with a similar number of students, Hall County is doing better than most in terms of cost per student, but school leaders say multiple factors affect their cost to educate.

Lake Lanier is full — but empty



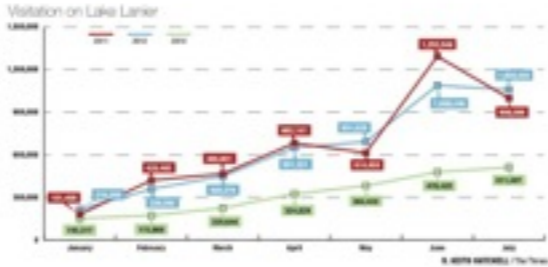
Boats are docked and wait on the south end of Lake Lanier. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers numbers show that visitors to the lake is down by about half from last year, likely due to abnormally heavy and persistent rainfall this summer.

Summer a 'no-go' for lake recreation as rains keep visitors away

BY ERIN BETHUNE
bethune@gainesvilletimes.com

Do you want to see what Lake Lanier is full and beautiful this year, but the rain that has kept it so much less than last year's visitation numbers to the lake is a big disappointment, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, going on the Lake Lanier website.

Visitation on Lake Lanier



Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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WEATHER 2A

High 87
Low 71
Lake Lanier Water 5,975.68 feet

DEATHS 2D

William Lewis Baker, 78
Deborah Ann Buttersworth, 79
James Lewis, 87

Phyllis Lankford, 87
Emerson Harold Phipps, 79
Judy Ann Simmons, 82

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Business Coverage

B

Basketball previews continue
Sports/1b

The Courier Herald

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It's Small Business Saturday!
Support our small businesses
Page 5a

Tell It! of the Day:
To the lady at the store last night who stole the toys out of my buggy. God was watching you. You were greedy and thoughtless. I will pray for you. I hope your children know what kind of mother you are.
Page 5a

Entertainment:
Theatre Dublin prepares for a Christmas with the King
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85 Years Ago:
Chamber of Commerce to elect officers
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Hometown:
SWLE students participate in Red Ribbon Week
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Abby:
Four-hour commute is 8th investment in relationship
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Open Sesame
Laurens County's first sesame harvest

By DANIEL ALLEN

Three thousand years ago, Sesame is India's first crop. The hundred years ago, Thomas Jefferson saw potential in growing sesame in the southeastern United States. Now, Laurens County farmers are harvesting their first commercial sesame crop.

"We're learning a lot on how to produce it," said Jimmy Brewer of Brewer Seed Company. He said the other growers are encouraged by what they have learned thus far.

Sesame grows in dry weather, requires a low upward investment, helps control nematodes that attack other crops — cotton, peanuts and soybeans — holds the soil, does not attract wild dogs and deer and is not genetically modified.

"It's the most drought-tolerant crop that can be grown commercially in Georgia because of its tremendous root system," Brewer said. "When a sesame plant is a foot tall, the root is two feet deep."

A sesame plant, which resembles rice, will grow to a height of about six feet, he said. The Sesame, appearing before the seed pod and similar in appearance to a lily, is a particular favorite of black locust bees. "You've never seen so many bees," Brewer said.

The high-protein seeds are popular as a healthful snack food, and the oil is in demand particularly for Asian cuisines. Historically, Texas, Oklahoma and Missouri have produced most of the sesame grown in the United States; however, in a single year, the total number of acres in the Southeast jumped from 3,000 to 16,000, according to an article appearing in June in Growing Georgia.

The article went on to say that farmers are protected because buyers contract with farmers by the acre rather than by the pound as with peanuts and other crops.

Laurens County farmers planted 700 acres of sesame this year. By comparison, they planted 800 acres of peanuts (down from 3,200 acres of peanuts planted in 2012), said Raymond Jones, Laurens County extension agent.

"May would be the earliest you could plant sesame, and the mid-off date is July 30," Brewer said. The current's heavy rain interfered with planting. Brewer planted 100 of his 700 acres in Fann. All of the sesame crops should be harvested by late October.

See DANIEL page 3a



(Above, below) Brewer holds fresh sesame seeds. (Bottom) A field of sesame.

Caught in a speed (limit) trap
Some county signs in conflict with actual speed limits

By ANNEK TIDWELL

Local drivers may have noticed a change in some of the speed limit signs here either less changed or no longer there on certain roads in Laurens County.

The change is being made due to a conflict with actual speed limits on the actual road and the ability for the Laurens County Sheriff Department to enforce those speed limits.

She was informed by the Georgia Department of Transportation about the posted speed limits posted on certain roads were not accurate and until it was changed, the Laurens County Sheriff Department would not be able to not make to check for speeding vehicles in those areas and not give out speeding tickets," Laurens County Administrator Bryan Rogers said at the last Laurens County Commissioners meeting the first week in November.

The speed limit in the affected areas is either 40 or 50 MPH despite the lower speed limit signs that are posted.

The Commissioners approved the sign changes and impact the following areas:

Chappell MS Rd
— 2 Miles North of 2023 at 3075 advisory signs on both ends of sharp curve.
— West of Hart Green Road on SR 246, 45 MPH advisory sign.
— East of Hart Green Road on WE side, 45 MPH advisory sign.
— West of Green Loop Circle on SE side, 45 MPH advisory sign.
— East of Green Loop Circle WE side, 45 MPH advisory sign.
— Between Old Mann Road and Old Olive Road 45 MPH advisory signs on both ends of 500 curve.

See DANIEL page 3a



This sign in rural Laurens County is one of several that incorrectly lists the speed limit, which should be 50 mph.

GDOT crews working in Laurens, Dodge and Treutlen counties

By MATTHEW DOWNS III

The Georgia Department of Transportation will be working on roads this week in Laurens, Dodge, Wilkes and Treutlen counties.

According to a GDOT press release, crews will be in Laurens and Treutlen counties on 1-16 working from mile marker 40 to 42 east and west for restorative single lane closures, Wednesday through Sunday, Dec. 4, weather permitting.

They will also be restorative single lane closures for concrete slab replacement project in Laurens County and Treutlen County on 1-08 east from mile marker 27 to 41 from Tuesday to Friday, weather permitting.

The following work is scheduled from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday:

In Laurens County, GDOT crews will be doing restorative shoulder maintenance to reduce the right of way on State Route 18 from mile

See GDOT page 3a

1st Place

The Courier Herald, Dublin

Dahlia Allen

Business Coverage

A

EXCHANGE Savannah's daily business news

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2013 6A

CONTACT US: **Celia Balshine**, Managing Editor, Business Editor, 912-652-0300, celia.balshine@savannahnow.com

ON WALL STREET

DOW Closing: 15,494.78 Change: +18.72

S&P 500 Closing: 1,687.60 Change: +9.61

NYSE Closing: 1,704.48 Change: +9.40

NASDAQ Closing: 3,713.85 Change: -4.33

VICE PRESIDENT VISITS LOCAL PORT

'Come hell or high water'



By Steve Brown/Savannah Morning News

Vice President Joe Biden, left, speaks on the importance of infrastructure investment on Monday afternoon to a crowd gathered at the docks of the Garden City Terminal of the Georgia Ports Authority. Sharing the stage behind him are Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx, left, and Georgia Sens. Sen. Kelly Chambliss, center, and Johnny Isakson, right.

Biden vows to get Savannah Harbor deepening done

BY MARY CARR MAYLE
912-652-0324
mary.mayle@savannahnow.com

Vice President Joe Biden stood center stage on Container Berth 6 at the Georgia Ports Authority Terminal Monday and told an appreciative crowd of nearly 500 that deepening the Savannah harbor is not a partisan issue.

"In the next 15 years, the volume of trade is expected to double," Biden said, glancing at the big ship-to-shore crane working the massive container ship behind him.

"Some 25 percent of the world's container comes and goes in the harbor of these big ships, and these ships will continue to come in increasing numbers.

"So, folks, this is not a partisan issue. This is an economic issue."

Floored by U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx, U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson and Sen. Kelly Chambliss and Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed, Biden called for expediting port infrastructure projects all along the East Coast but noted Savannah's importance to the president's export initiative.

"As Savannah is the East Coast's busiest port for containerized exports, it is critical to meeting the goals of the National Export Initiative. Exports make up 40 percent of Savannah's total economic output."

"What don't we understand?" Biden asked. "What more do we need to know?"

"We're going to get this done, come hell or high water."

That pronouncement was music to port director Curtis Foley's ears.

"Certainly to me there was no confusion in what he was saying," Foley said.

"I think it's safe to say we've got the full backing of the president."

SEE PORT, PAGE 8A

Best of Savannah party set for Thursday

Savannah magazine's Best of Savannah party will be held from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday at the Charles H. Martin Center, 10 E. Broad St., with more than 900 guests expected.

The event will honor winners of the annual readers' poll in the categories of dining, nightlife, community, shopping services and people. The event also will celebrate the top selections from the Best of Homes and the Best of Doctors surveys.

Tickets are available for \$27 at bestofsavannah.com or \$20 at the door. Part of the proceeds will benefit the Humane Society for Greater Savannah.

Olive Garden opens in Pooler

Olive Garden's newest local location opened Monday at 280 Phoenix Parkway. The restaurant measures 1,640 square feet and has the seating capacity for 240 diners.

The Pooler Olive Garden created 193 new jobs and is managed by Larry Kilian, a 10-year veteran of the company who worked as a server, bartender and line cook earlier in his career.

The Pooler restaurant is Olive Garden's second Chatham County location. The other restaurant is located on Abercorn Street on Savannah's southside.

Westin gets environmental recognition

TriphAdvisor has accepted the Westin Savannah Harbor as a platinum level GreenLeader, a program that helps travelers identify environmentally friendly accommodations across the U.S.

The more green practices a hotel has in place, the higher its GreenLeader level, which is shown on the property's listing on the TriphAdvisor site.

The Westin Savannah Harbor was also awarded TriphAdvisor's Certificate of Excellence Award in April.

JetBlue's arrival is good news for us

According to data released by the U.S. Department of Transportation for the 100 largest airports, Savannah's Hilton Head International had the 6th highest share in the nation in the first quarter of 2013.

Savannah's average itinerary fare of \$420 was well above the national average of \$375.

It is certainly good news that JetBlue Airways will begin doing business at Savannah's Hilton Head International Airport.

JetBlue's two flights per day to New York City, scheduled to begin in February, will offer lower prices and more flexibility for some travelers.

Viewed in isolation, the limited service might only reduce the average price of flights out of Savannah by a few percentage points, but there could be broader impacts.

Passengers will obviously have options to connect to other cities that JetBlue serves. These flights could be cheaper and more convenient than some of the current options.

Perhaps JetBlue's presence will draw carriers to reduce rates not only for New York flights but also to and from other destinations that JetBlue serves.

Perhaps another dominant carrier will consider reaching into the Savannah market to stem JetBlue's growing reach.

Increased passenger counts at the airport could create momentum that eventually leads to more passenger, more flights and lower costs.

Don't expect any of this to happen overnight.

In 2013, the total number of passengers either enplaning or deplaning in Savannah was about 1.6 million. That was similar to the three previous years.

By back in 2009, the total passenger count at Savannah's Hilton Head International was more than 2 million. In 2008, the number topped 3.1 million.

The relatively sharp decline was obviously related to the deep 2007-2009 recession and the sluggish recovery since then.

The large drop in business was not really irreversible, but it will take time that new jobs, investments and packing facilities were added in 2009.

These flights could be just a few months before the recession hit.

We saw the same pattern just a few months before the recession hit.

SEE BAWIERS, PAGE 8A

'GTA' creator thrives by breaking the law

BY LOU KESTEN
The Associated Press

Rockstar Games doesn't play by the rules.

Not that anyone would expect the creators of the massively successful "Grand Theft Auto" franchise to operate like other game designers. And while that's caused an undeniable spotlight around this week's release of "Grand Theft Auto V," it's also raised some questions.

Q: Why were?

Some say Microsoft are about two months away from unleashing powerful new game consoles. And yet, the biggest release of the holiday season has been designed for their aging workhorses, the PlayStation 3 and the Xbox 360.

Rockstar Vice President — and "GTA V" writer — Dan Houser says the old consoles are perfectly capable of delivering his team's vision. "The fact that hardware's so mature right now is exactly why we're able to go on to the next level," he told Japan's Famitsu magazine last year.

Besides, he added, "3D is the best game for a console come out at the end of the life cycle, right?" And in a year that's favored creators like "BioShock Infinite," "The Last of Us" and "Frostbite," he has a point.

The other advantage for Rockstar is the huge installed user base of the PS3 and Xbox 360, which translates into much bigger sales than "GTA V" would rack up among the new consoles.

SEE GAME, PAGE 8A

Gas prices drop in metro Savannah

Average retail gasoline prices in Savannah have fallen 8.7 cents a gallon in the past week to \$3.37 a gallon on Sunday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 262 gas stations in Savannah.

The national average has fallen 4.5 cents a gallon in the last week to \$3.34, according to gas price website GasBuddy.com.

Prices Sunday were 34.6 cents a gallon lower than the same day one year ago and are 5.6 cents a gallon lower than a month ago. The national average has decreased 2.7 cents a gallon during the last month and stands 31.6 cents lower than a year ago.

"By Halloween, my expectation is the national average will stand 7 to 7.5 cents per gallon lower than where it is today," said GasBuddy.com Senior Petroleum Analyst Patrick DeFron.

3rd Place

Savannah Morning News

Business Coverage

A

2nd Place

The Augusta Chronicle

Jenna Martin

METRO

TUESDAY
March 26, 2013
The Augusta Chronicle



BILL KURY
Columnist

Want my advice? Invest in allergies

I used to wake up at 6 a.m. and start sneezing, sometimes for the hours I read in bed and what sort of allergy I had but finally came to the conclusion that it must be an allergy to something.

—John Thayer

Thayer's advice is simple. That's what I always tell people when they seek my investing advice, which is to buy what you know and know what you buy.

But all they ask, and all I answer with, what makes sense?

"We are 'I' in my weekly college professor work, 'a generation of well-served citizens' and we don't like to be manipulated."

That explains why the arrival of spring and pollen, and the sneezing and coughing that come with it, has not stopped my writing lately. I have I don't have to tell you.

TV commercials leading anti-allergy campaigns are common sight now that pollen is in the air. And we're buying the stuff, too.

On Friday, for example, I had to make a trip to Columbia to talk about joint action between the college students, I had a headache, skipped a day and more. I wasn't too far on the way home when I got off at an exit, found a store and bought about \$50 of cough drops, allergy medication and more.

The hardest part was no medicine, but you know what? The hardest part worked, so I know that I need to get medicine or the doctor. I'll be spending my money wisely again.

There's more to be made in the thousands of dollars.

MY PHOTOS People always ask to see what my photos look like and I always tell them that I never asked anyone to take a photo when the photo is taken. There are 20 good reasons why I do it.

1. It doesn't take \$5 million to get a dog ready to go outside in the winter.

2. Dogs love to play.

3. You don't need an extra dollar for the dog.

4. Dogs don't pester you about getting a job.

5. Dogs don't care if the price has been raised for the needed proteins.

6. Average cost of raising a dog to adulthood is \$10,000.

7. Dogs are beautiful.

8. They're the best mother if you stop in public.

9. If your dog barks too loud, your guests cannot be blamed.



Ray Reynolds, the manager of United Loan and Finance, says Comcast's decision to remove weapons ads is "not end-of-consumerism... That's them pushing their political agenda."

Comcast cuts gun ads

Businesses are told firearms can't be shown

By Anna Martin
Staff Writer

Ray Reynolds is up in arms after Comcast removed guns from its network of pay-per-view channels. Reynolds, who manages the Broad Street store, was notified Thursday that he would be required to remove any and all images of firearms from his network in order to comply with Comcast's new policy, which was put in place after the company purchased NBCUniversal. The policy adheres to NBC standards.

"What really got me was when they said that we had enough gun images to be removed as a condition of Comcast's new policy," Reynolds said. "They were going to remove our images as a condition of Comcast's new policy."

The incident is not unique. Reynolds said he has received similar notices from other Comcast customers. "The federal government is looking at a firearm and says it's OK for us to sell guns," Reynolds said. "That's not end-of-consumerism. That's them pushing their political agenda."

Reynolds was told by his Comcast representative that the removal of guns from his network was made after the December shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School, where 20 children and six adults were killed. Chris Egan, the senior vice president of Comcast, said the company's organization of content is not a political statement.

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School funds to stay frozen

Aiken man still under securities investigations

By Steve Crawford
Staff Writer

A South Carolina judge granted an order to the state to keep school funds frozen until the state can determine if the state is in compliance with the state constitution.

This is the second order of the state to keep school funds frozen since the state constitution was amended in 2000. The order comes from the state's highest court, the South Carolina Supreme Court.

The order will remain in place until the state can determine if the state is in compliance with the state constitution. The state has been ordered to keep school funds frozen since the state constitution was amended in 2000.

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AUGUSTA REGIONAL AIRPORT

Masters Week bookings fill up

By Greg Winkler
Staff Writer

Masters Week bookings for private aircraft flying into Augusta Regional Airport have been reaching record levels for the past several years.

Augusta's main airport has filled its general aviation reservations beginning April 10 through Masters Week, April 14, said Kim Hinkel, the deputy director of airport services for Augusta Regional.

For the first time, Augusta Regional, Tower Field, Thomaston-Duffie Regional and Vidalia Municipal airports require reservations to reserve parking spots. The plan is to reserve parking spots at Augusta Regional.

"Our parking spots would become full and some aircraft were being diverted to other airports," Hinkel said.

That's what the Federal Aviation Administration is trying to avoid. Administrators at Tower Field, Thomaston-Duffie Regional and Vidalia Municipal airports are working to ensure that the airports can handle the influx of aircraft.

Augusta Regional accepted reservations beginning Feb. 1

with bookings and planning. The airport has 60 parking spots for private aircraft. The airport has 60 parking spots for private aircraft.

The airport has 60 parking spots for private aircraft. The airport has 60 parking spots for private aircraft.

ACROSS THE AREA

Boy gets minor burn as fire gets Aumond Road here

An Augusta man and his grandson escaped a fire Monday that gutted a home in west Augusta.

Firefighters were called to the home of Robert Morgan at 400 Aumond Road just before 7 p.m. Morgan and his son apparently started a fire in a bed room and escaped quickly, but he did not leave the room.

Morgan said he was making popcorn in another room when he was warned of the blaze by his 7-year-old grandson.

"The room was full of smoke, but I got out of there, let's get out, we've got out," Morgan said. "I came up next door."

Morgan escaped unscathed, but firefighters saw his grandson in the room when he was warned of the blaze by his 7-year-old grandson.

Morgan said the interior appeared to be completely safe. "The house had 10 rooms," he said. "The only thing is the fire."



Business Coverage

A

1st Place

The Telegraph, Macon

Linda Morris

The Telegraph
BUSINESS
INSIDE IN PERSPECTIVE, 40
HEALTH CARE LAW
will be a boon to small businesses
and their employees
Sunday, June 25, 2012

THE COLOR OF MONEY
Michelle Singletary
Weddings shouldn't be invitations to debt

Every year about this time I get questions from people wondering about the high cost of weddings. Here are some that come up during a recent online discussion.

QUESTION: Can you explain why people plan on spending the equivalent of a down payment on a house or the cost of new car on a single big party when they will have thousands more, and then want to go buy a house? I find such thinking insane. If you took the word "wedding" out of the equation you would get, "I want to invite 300-plus people for a big party at a rock house, and (usually) I want my parents to pay for it."

SINGLETARY: I get it. Parents, or people have been waiting for the big day when they are the center of attention, etc. I wouldn't spend on a lavish wedding if I had debt, but I understand how it happens. For my part, I try to try my best to talk good financial sense into people.

QUESTION: My fiancé and I are 25 and we are not in the financial position to pay for a wedding. Our families do not support us getting married for a myriad of reasons, one being we're 25 and "haven't lived life." What would you suggest that we do?

SINGLETARY: Describe the objectives to their getting married, the reader also implied that there was pressure to "live into debt for a wedding to satisfy the desires of our family/friends."

If you have done all the right things to make sure you are ready for marriage, then have the wedding you can afford. People will want you to do a lot of things — but they aren't going to help you pay for it — out of tradition or their desire to be sure relatives or friends aren't left out of the celebration.

You can get married without the big bill. The bottom line, don't go into debt to satisfy anyone.

QUESTION: I am getting MARRIED! I'm so excited and we are thrilled to be able to spend our lives together. We both don't make those a lot of money and we are working hard to pay things off and get our financial house in order before we wed.

Recently, my father spent away and left a "few dollars" for me and my sister. Well, I'd like to have my wedding in a place that may be a bit costly and I'd like to tap into a bit of what was left for me to do it. I think if my dad were here he'd move heaven and earth to make this happen for me but after going through Prosperity Partners, I just know there are better ways to spend money than on one day of a wedding celebration.

I am getting a mortgage and have student loans, and my fiance has plenty of debt. So, what say you?

SINGLETARY: Prosperity Partners is the financial ministry I direct at my church.

912 326796, 60

Richard and Ethel Potts walk along a trail at Lufwater at Stone community Wednesday in north Bibb County.

Apartment market strong
Occupancy rates in Bibb County and Warner Robins remain high

By LINDA S. MORRIS
lsmorris@macon.com

While the economic recession was the single-family home market's worst enemy — and it still struggles to right itself in most areas of the country — apartments provided a bright spot in the real estate world.

"The apartment market is strong," said Bob Lewis, owner of Bob Lewis & Associates Inc., a commercial real estate sales and management company in Macon. "It was probably one of the most stable sectors through the recession. . . . Occupancy here and in Warner Robins is very strong."

While Lewis oversees apartment developments, his primary business for many years has been working as a broker helping investors buy or sell apartment communities.

One reason for the apartment market's strength is that occupancy rates in Bibb County and Warner Robins remain high.

The Potts, who sold their Ohio home years ago, stand in front of their apartment Wednesday in the Lufwater at Stone development.

912 326796, 60

Teens face hard job hunt this summer
By KRISTA R. TORRELL
Dallas Morning News

Teens in search of summer employment are struggling to land a job.

For the fifth consecutive year, the national unemployment rate for teenagers is above 20 percent, according to data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The good news is there are more jobs available this year in retail, a popular industry for teens. The bad news is teens are facing competition from older age groups.

The national unemployment rate among teens was 24.3 percent in May. The U.S. unemployment rate for all age groups was 7.6 percent in May, the bureau reported. Employers across the country added 25,000 jobs.

Semantha Hubson, 18, has been applying for jobs since she graduated from high school two years ago. Now a student at Richland College in Dallas, Hubson said she's heard the same thing from nearly every employer: she doesn't have enough experience.

"I can't get experience if no one hires me," she said.

James Burdette, an economist with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, said older workers may be taking jobs that teens have typically held, especially in the retail industry.

912 326796, 60

Search for 1st Web page takes detour
By JERRY COLE
Associated Press

For the European physicist who coined the term World Wide Web, presenting its history is an exercise in unhooking the origins of the online began.

The scientists at the European Organization for Nuclear Research, known by its French acronym CERN, are searching for the first Web page. It was at CERN that Tim Berners-Lee invented the Web in 1990 as an experimental project, using a NEXT computer that Apple co-founder Steve Jobs designed in the late '70s during his 12-year exile from the company.

Don Noyes oversees CERN's website and has taken on the project to uncover the world's first Web page. He says that no matter how much data they went through, researchers may never make a clear-cut discovery of the original Web page because of the nature of how data is shared.

"The concept of the online Web page is kind of strange," Noyes said. "It's not like a book. A book exists through time. Data gets overwritten and looped."

912 326796, 60

Sports Column

G

3rd Place

Barrow Journal, Winder

Chris Bridges

Recognized for award-winning sports coverage by Georgia Press Association and Georgia Sports Writers Association

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SPORTS

July 31, 2013
SECTION:
B

Opinion

Football a part of life, not life itself

For many of us, football is a big part of our lives. From coaches to players to even those who cheer football for a living, what happens on the gridiron often consumes us. It's the same way for those who are die-hard fans of a certain high school, college or professional team. Often we get so wrapped up in the outcome of some games, we tend to lose sight of the bigger picture. It's human nature.

A tragic incident involving a rising senior at Apalachee High School last week was a painful reminder of this.

Winder coach Steve Davis called me Monday and relayed the news concerning Jordan Bruckner-Hewley. The young man died in his sleep Sunday night from what proved to be an undetected brain tumor.

Bruckner-Hewley was not a star player in the AHS program. I've not seen his name ever appear in the newspaper until last week. However, Davis was quick to point out just what the young man meant to the team and the entire AHS family.

"It wasn't going to be a starter for us this season, but you couldn't find anyone who worked harder," the coach said. "He knew his role and enjoyed doing whatever he could to help the team. He excelled in a different way. The team was more important to him."

High school coaches get into coaching for a variety of reasons. Obviously, they enjoy the sport they coach. They also want to help young athletes achieve goals, not just in a particular sport, but help them prepare for life after athletics.

Bruckner-Hewley was a second student and appeared on track for a successful future once his playing days were over. From all reports, he enjoyed being part of the team, however, and it was when his parents were to take him up for a morning practice session that they discovered he had passed away. I cannot begin to imagine what that was like.

As times like this, coaches are looked upon for more than developing up athletes and being able to have better X's and O's than the next opponent. In reality, coaches are mentors and in some like them, the remainder of the team will look to their coach for guidance in trying to make sense of such a terrible event.

Davis, along with his coaching staff, have been working hard in these times as usual days. Knowing each one the way I do, they are handling the situation as well as possible. Nothing will take the heat away, especially from Bruckner-Hewley's family, but perhaps they can take a small amount of comfort in knowing he was such an important part of the program.

"If you are looking for an amazing hero, he was the definition of it," Davis said. "Wherever he was for the team was what he was willing to do. You want all of your players to be like that. That response to the size of the team, but everyone has an important part to play."

Bruckner-Hewley led by example and will be missed and also long remembered. He inspired others by his steadfast faith.

Chris Bridges is sports editor of the Barrow Journal. Send comments about this column to him at cb4@barrowjournal.com.

A New Season Now In View for Bulldogs...

GRUBBON SAYS
The Winder Barrow High School football team, shown during a practice session last week, continues to work for the upcoming 2013 season. The Bulldogs, led by fourth-year head coach David Whopner, will host South Forsyth for a preseason scrimmage Aug. 16 before opening the official season Aug. 20 against Jackson County. WBHS will play six home games during the 2013 regular season. The Bulldogs will compete in Region 8-AAAAA, which includes defending state champion Gainesville. (Photos by Jessica Brown)

High School Baseball

Knights begin work for post state championship season

By Chris Bridges
cb4@barrowjournal.com

Colby May knows the bar has been set very high for the Bethelton Christian Academy baseball program.

The new Knights coach also makes the upcoming 2014 season could be a rebuilding one, at least initially.

"With so many players from the 2013 championship team lost to graduation, BCA is pretty much starting from scratch and May knows it will take plenty of hard work to return to a high level. In the early stages of that process, at least, things are going according to schedule based on what he takes place this summer.

"Our summer went well," May told the Barrow Journal Friday. "I'm glad I got a chance to work with the players. We did well in summer ball. Many of our players also played on various travel teams, so that will help them in terms of experience."

BCA has not lost a region game in the last two seasons and will certainly be one of the favorites to claim a postseason spot next spring. Whether or not the team can make a three seasons in a row without a region loss remains to be seen.

"This summer helped us get a jump for our preseason work in the summer," May said. "We imposed a great deal with each practice session. I have been impressed with the baseball knowledge of the players. We will have some things to learn. However, each player really put in a great deal of work with each practice and weight lifting session."

See BCA on Page 25

High School Basketball

Excitement surrounds WBHS hoops

By Chris Bridges
cb4@barrowjournal.com

While Ben Grooms may have gotten somewhat of a late start this summer, the new Winder-Barrow High School boys basketball coach is doing his best to make up for lost time.

Grooms, who returns for a second stint as WBHS coach, held a parents meeting last week along with an "open gym" session for players who will be on the 2013-2014 team. The players returned to the gym Tuesday of this week.

"Everyone seems to be excited," Grooms said Friday. "We are just playing a little catch-up right now, but the players have already shown they are willing to work hard to be successful. Having a good attitude will take you a long way in any sport."

Grooms last worked at the Bulldogs coach during the 1984-1995 season before moving to Jackson County Comprehensive High School. He said he is excited to have a second chance with the WBHS program, something he has long wanted. Principal Al Charly is a former player and assistant coach for Grooms and worked hard to make the return of the most successful coach in Bulldogs history possible.

See Hoops on Page 25

Cross Country

WBHS teams seek to continue winning ways

By Chris Bridges
cb4@barrowjournal.com

While some of the key names will have to be replaced, the Winder-Barrow High School cross country teams are expected once again to be factors in Region 8-AAAAA.

Coach Michael Lofton said official preseason practice begins Thursday, although the team has been working throughout the summer. Team members, depending on variety experience level, have logged hundreds of miles on the track at Fort Yargo State Park.

"We have been running at Fort Yargo four days a week," Lofton said Sunday. "We are working in building our mileage up. We want our variety runners to have between 600 and 750 miles before our first meet. We want our junior varsity runners to have 500 miles and our new recruits to have from 300-400 miles."

In addition, 20 WBHS runners went to camp in Tennessee this summer.

The opening meet for WBHS will be at the Northeast Georgia competition at Adams Christian School Saturday, Aug. 24.

See Run on Page 25



Sports Column

G

2nd Place

The Madison County Journal,
Danielsville

Dallas Bordon

The Madison County Journal
SPORTS
INSIDE
Check out the latest stats for a former Redder now playing softball for Georgia PAGE 2B
1B
May 9, 2013

Westbrook: from MC Little Leaguer to 100-game winner

Remember in the yard of Cades Cove and West, Westbrook, you might be able to find some sort of diamond. Not the kind that you see in a jewelry store and not even one of value — except for the Westbrook family.

On this Tennessee diamond some 28 years ago, a young Mike by the name of "Mike" was being taught diamond pitches as well as the fundamentals of the great American game of baseball. Whatever working with the club, Westbrook used to be in the room.

BY DALLAS BORDON

Mike Westbrook, now a Major League player, reached his 100th career major league win after 239 starts, 1,084 2/3 innings pitched, Westbrook reached the mark he has always wanted to reach.

Four years later with the Cleveland Indians, Westbrook turned the win and posted a 14-9 record with a 3.30 earned run average, earning him a spot on the American League all-star team.

Perhaps his most memorable moment came in 2011 as a member of the St. Louis Cardinals when he won the winning pitcher of game six in what is now one of the best World Series games ever.

Westbrook's time in the majors hasn't been without rough times. Injured with the 24th pick in the first round of the 1996 amateur draft by the Colorado Rockies organization, Westbrook made his Major League debut with a short stint for the Rockies in 2000.

—See "Westbrook" on 2B

Mike Westbrook is pictured with his young son following a team practice.

Red and Grey game set for May 17

The annual Madison County spring softball "Red and Grey" game will be held at 7:30 p.m., Friday, May 17, at Red Raider Stadium.

CLASS AAAA STATE TENNIS FINALS
Madison County vs. Columbus, Saturday, Time 100

The Madison County boys' tennis team is headed to the state title match. The Red Raiders defeated 3-AAAA South Effingham by a 2-0 margin on Tuesday in front of a large student body crowd. Photo by Dallas Bordon

"We've had good teams in the past, but this team's drive and motivation have gotten stronger as we've progressed through the tournament." —MCCS tennis coach Keith Strickland

Title time?

Madison Co. boys to face Columbus for Class AAAA tennis title

By Dallas Bordon
dallas@mcjournal.com

On more than one occasion, the Madison County boys' tennis team has been crowned state champions.

The Red Raiders defeated past South Effingham 3-0 Tuesday before a large home crowd to advance to the state title match Saturday versus Columbus at the Olympic International Tennis Center in Jacksonville. It's the program's first ever berth in the state title final. The team must repeat at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, but the match time will be determined by how quickly earlier matches in the day are completed.

Madison County also led in its two other matches, which were suspended after the Red Raiders attacked the win. Tyler Tamm led the opponent. And Adam Tamm and Jack Pringle were also leading when their match was halted.

While the Red Raiders won their semifinal match in one-on-one fashion, the quarterfinal showdown with Columbus last week on the road was a tougher challenge.

"I can't say enough about the determination of the boys during the tournament," said Strickland. "They continue to arrive on with their focus and drive as we head into each round. We've had great teams in the past, but this team's drive and motivation have gotten stronger as we've progressed through the tournament. We look forward to the opportunity ahead in the final."

"I would like to thank all of the high school students, teachers, faculty, athletic coaches, players, and parents/friends for coming out to support us as we played," said Strickland. "It was the biggest crowd that I've seen at an MCHS tennis match in my 24 years of coaching."

Strickland said the kids' love is to be about South Effingham before Tuesday's match.

"We didn't really know that match about South Effingham, except that we knew they had to be the pretty good to be in the state semifinals," said Strickland. "We did realize that our singles could compete with them and pull us through — but wanted the doubles to make it up a notch and play the way we know they can. Before the match, I reminded the boys to take charge when they stepped on the court and put the pressure on

No. 1 doubles player Adam Tamm plays a shot close to the net during "Madness Monday" state semifinals match against South Effingham. Photo by Dallas Bordon

IN JUNGLE FOR IT ALL

Madison County is headed to the Class AAAA state final, 8-AAAA South Effingham 3-0 Tuesday. They won at the number one singles, with 6-6, 6-6 and Ben Strickland won 6-6, 6-6. Head coach Keith Strickland said the team's "Madness Monday" match against South Effingham, 3-0, 7-6, 7-6, 7-6.

Strickland said the team started out on a positive note, winning the first set in all three singles matches convincingly. Both doubles teams played well, but faced somewhat mixed results at both positions.

the other team."

The three singles players and two doubles teams all won their first set Tuesday, with Tyler Tamm (2-0), the number one singles player, and Ben Strickland, the number two singles player, continuing their way through the state tournament without dropping a set.

"We advanced their opponents coming off the court giving us a 2-0 lead," said Strickland. "Ben Strickland and Adam Tamm won 6-6, 7-6 to give the team its lead and deciding win. "Ben played aggressively at the net and served big to pull out our biggest win of the season," said Strickland.

Madison County also led in its two other matches, which were suspended after the Red Raiders attacked the win. Tyler Tamm led the opponent. And Adam Tamm and Jack Pringle were also leading when their match was halted.

While the Red Raiders won their semifinal match in one-on-one fashion, the quarterfinal showdown with Columbus last week on the road was a tougher challenge.

The Red Raiders returned to Columbus and knocked off a night's match against 3-1 to open a spot in the state semifinals.

After that match, Strickland again expressed his pride in his team's performance.

"I can't say enough how proud I am of all that the boys have accomplished so far this season," said Strickland. "They have really come together in the past season as a team and go on the court every match with the attitude that they can win."

—See "Westbrook" on 2B



Sports Column

G

1st Place

The Madison County Journal, Danielsville

Zach Mitcham

FRONT PAGE THE MADISON COUNTY JOURNAL, THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2013

Opinions

Frankly Speaking



By Frank Gillipie

I am addicted to books

Most of us are addicted to something. Some of us are addicted to chocolate, whether tobacco, alcohol, drugs or even coffee. Others of us are being up on money, or power, or fame. I have not even been addicted to religion, either for or against. And occasionally someone will admit to being addicted to sex.

I see an addict I am addicted to books. I have books I read and books with pages and covers. The kind you hold in your hands sitting under a reading lamp with your reading glasses pushed on your nose and text actual pages on you read.

I have a private library of several thousand volumes. They are in bookcases lining the walls of my living room. When in my bedroom and hall, I even had a special room in my garage to house some of them.

My book collection is highly eclectic. I have a large collection of Bible-related books, books on science, early American history and plenty of fiction. Some of them are hardcover quality with leather covers and gold leaf lettering. Others are old, damaged volumes that I rescued from the trash dumps or bought for a few cents at garage sales. I have the complete Left Behind series along with all the Harry Potter books. I even have a Shakespearean book!

I have been collecting books all my life. I still have many of the teenage detective books like Nancy Drew and other similar titles. I have Shakespeare's plays all in one large volume. There are two bookcases full of Reader Digest Condensed books. And, yes, I have read most of them.

I have several books on the War Between the States battle of the Crater. I am particularly interested in that story because one of my ancestors was killed when the massive Union mine exploded under the Confederate trenches.

Among my favorites for reading are biographies. The best way to understand our country is to learn about those who founded it or directly affected our history. I have recently finished reading a massive three-volume biography of Sir Winston Churchill by William Manchester. I have on my table to be read a large biography of George Washington that features his religious beliefs.

There is something very satisfying about holding a real book in your hands, feeling the raised lettering on the cover, turning the pages as you read and playing a book mark between the pages marking your place and you can come back to it. Nothing gives me a greater sense of accomplishment than finishing a book, closing its covers and putting it back in its space in the bookcase.

I am very much addicted to my books. They occupy a considerable amount of my time. And as I age, they become even more important to me. It is my hope that I will spend my last day on this earth reading a good book.

So, when you see me out and about with a book tucked under my arm, don't be surprised. I am, after all, addicted.

Frank Gillipie is founder of The Madison County Journal. His e-mail address is frank@journalopinion.com. His website can be accessed at http://www.journalopinion.com/gillipieopinions.

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Referees deserve baseline respect

In the Moment



By Zach Mitcham

The hotel bar in California may have topped the list of haunts and favorite spots for me, but another favorite is those dining rooms. And it was the late yet another round of philosophizing on the state of our culture.

A 17-year-old waiter grins in that because engaged over a call in a restaurant game and professional. Ricardo Phillips, who incidentally complimented of someone after he had finished his meal and started reading the menu. When your waiter arrives, they found Phillips on the ground in the final position. The public who this was great. Phillips told me that he was a waiter for his first job and that he was nervous. At the hospital he found out a nurse due to be something. He did not work.

Now, a 17-year-old boy who still he was wrongly accused by Phillips for putting an opening forward being to come. I was wondering for some, unless they are getting a bad call on a waiter field. He took a father from his daughter. He took a man's life and even his own young life spending in the wrong direction over a heated act in a sporting match.

Obviously, this is a rare and serious situation. It's not uncommon because the target of actual violence that he or she of a referee being targeted but it's only thinking, not considering the fact that it's against someone who is not even over again. And upon hearing of this story, I thought of the possibility of a new, ugly 21st century trend. We've seen other violent trends emerge in recent years, haven't we?

For sure, a referee is a unique character on sports events and fields. He or she oversees the action of game-time action. Meanwhile, fans and players generally aren't so concerned with justice as with winning. A bad call for your team is good for my team, right? Because only give one way in the eyes of each man.

That said, a referee's behavior, in our eyes, is beyond of personal justice. This is not for the referee's sake. It's about the referee as a discipline to not a person to be, but the maintenance of the confidence of the world. A person is not called upon to not pay his bills, and now this of a calling to be seen and to enjoy the game. He can't win at his loss, but he can win at you, not.

Consider that when we watch sports, we can accept certain behaviors. A referee who stops a game-winning touchdown may face harassment from the crowd, but the crowd usually doesn't think his taking in a form of sabotage. We see the best touchdowns and call it "blocking." That referee was not trying to help the other team. He is as heartless as anyone. And it usually does. Fans can be ruthless about such things, but they don't generally bring conspiracy into the equation.

However, when a referee blows a call, he or she has another form of power. We generally believe that he has it in for our team, that he has abandoned objectivity and is willfully aiding the other team. We usually believe a conspiracy is at work.

As an involved Georgia football fan, I've pondered such possibilities. Remember "Super Bowl" games in 1999? Remember J.J. Orosco's bogus "excessive celebration" call a decade later? I have no idea what the officials were thinking on those days. And you can't be an unforgivingly accused fan of any team without such moments.

Perhaps there are no real officials who let their emotions swing their judgment. They're people. It rarely happens. But I believe those who get into officiating generally want to be objective and want to do well. I think those who tend to be officials often do so for the greater love of the game. I also believe that it's for better to make my judgment at a game than that people win. Put a whistle and a signal stick on any job in the crowd and he'll soon find himself the object of hatred. Remember that a referee goes unnoticed when he does his job well, but he becomes the focal point of the game when he fails.

So when I get angry and about a bad sports call, there's another voice that mentally ticks in. It's the voice that I know is right, even though I want to ignore it as I would. It's usually this: "Well, your team got out there. Your team lost. But does that give you the right to be a jerk of a person, to degrade others in public?" He started up with me. But who are you and how are you going to get ahead?"

This voice is necessary, because think about it: When we are unfairly physically attacked, nobody makes us act in any particular way. No, we choose how we act in every situation. This is the essence of personal responsibility.

So if we choose to act in a nasty, belittling fashion to those on a field, we make that choice ourselves. They didn't make us do it. The game will then be over. The rest will be who we are.

In our fairly competitive sports culture, referees shouldn't expect us to be objective. They expect us to be who we are. It's up to us to do it. It's up to us to win.

But they deserve our baseline respect — and more, over a lifetime.

Zach Mitcham is editor of The Madison County Journal.

Subtle forces guide thoughts, actions

Guest Column



By Mark Boardley

"We originate of 'social interaction' groups that influence politicians and duty of self-interest, but every human is susceptible to outside influence and perception that color how we view our world. And often as not, we're not aware of these things that shape our outlook.

In "Think, Fast, Talk, Fast: And Other Unconquered Forces that Shape How We Think, Feel, and Behave," Adam Alter presents a series of experiments that demonstrate how susceptible we are to being influenced by the known and unknown ways, to signals we're not aware are being sent or received, to cues that on the surface seem almost irrelevant.

The title of the book comes from a famous experiment in which Naval officials passed their drink tank pink in the expectation that it might make them more likely to drink. It did. Color matters. Our environment shapes our thoughts, feelings and perceptions without our detecting the influence.

The example: People exposed to signs of money are more self-sufficient, less helpful to others and less sensitive to pain.

"People exposed subliminally to the Apple-Crop logo appeared to drink more consistently than people exposed for the same time (27% of a second) to the IBM logo. Presumably the Apple logo has come to represent a higher level of consistency.

"People whose names started with the letter K were susceptible for 20 percent of donations to the American Red Cross in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina — as opposed to four percent of other donors.

"In one study, the image of a lit light bulb was proven to prime people to have greater thought and consistency.

"An experiment conducted during the mid-2000s demonstrated that Americans who watched a lot of TV news (the war in Iraq and Afghanistan were in full swing) showed more aggressive tendencies when exposed to the image of the American flag than similar people exposed to a neutral image — because of its association with the war.

"Additional on lines and design when they compete in the presence of others, weaker when they wear pink, but high school students perform better on the SAT when they're surrounded by flowers and trees.

"In the presence of attractive females, men are much more likely to take risks and show more aggression.

"Blue lights in prominent locations in Glasgow, Scotland, caused a significant reduction in the crime rate — because of their connection to the blue lights stop police vehicles.

The human brain is a complicated device, storing, accumulating and using data in ways still not understood.

We're all prejudiced by our environment and our culture. It's part of being human.

Mark Boardley is editor of The Commerce News, a sister paper of The Madison County Journal.

Georgia's leaders fix a past mistake

The Capital Report



By Tom Crawford

It's no secret that politicians often make mistakes — a lot of them.

We are all human and we all make mistakes, so politicians are not unique. I have often observed, however, that elected officials can be extremely reluctant to admit they have made a mistake and then do something about it.

That's why it was so heartening to see the governor and the General Assembly recognize a serious error they made two years ago and attempt to fix that error in this year's session.

The misadventure involves HEPF Grants. Established last year, the program was intended to be provided through Georgia Lottery revenues to students who take job training courses at the state's network of technical colleges.

In 2011, when Deal and Lightbourne were developing a bill to establish the formerly-misnamed HEPF program, one of the changes they made was to raise the grade point average required for a HEPF Grant from the 2.0 level to the 3.0 level.

The change worked, in terms of reducing the demand for HEPF Grants, but it worked too well. Student enrollment in the technical college system dropped by about 20,000 students the year after the GPA requirement was raised and continued to drop in the following year. An estimated 10,000 students lost the HEPF Grants because they could not maintain a 3.0 average.

In technical colleges, as opposed to public universities, a high GPA is not the primary goal for a student. What is more important is that the student learn the job skills being taught by the technical college so that the state has another well-trained worker.

"Technical colleges are different, the academic, academic writing is different," said Rep. Barry Town (D-DeKalb). "The standard did that goes to those students should recognize those differences."

Even, who was able to attend college himself because of a HEPF scholarship, proposed a bill during this past session to change the GPA requirement for

HEPF Grants back to the 2.0 level so that more students would be able to afford job training courses.

Deal recognized the need for the legislature and instructed his three floor leaders, along with Town as one of the sponsors, to introduce a HEPF Grant bill (SB 172) that reinstated the former 2.0 GPA requirement.

"In recent years, Georgia has seen a large drop in technical college enrollment — much larger than in our University System," Deal said. "For some students enrolled in a technical school, the loss of scholarship money put higher education out of reach."

The passage of the HEPF Grant bill provided a good example of bipartisan cooperation in this year's legislative session. Republicans and Democrats teamed up to pass the bill by overwhelming margins in both chambers.

"This is a good step in the right direction and will make some of the damage that was done during this past session to change the GPA requirement for

— Tom Crawford on his



Sports Column

E

3rd Place

Sylvania Telephone

Enoch Autry

Page 4 • Sylvania Telephone • Thursday, November 21, 2013

Letters to the editor

Tour a great tribute to Sylvania

I would be remiss in not expressing my thanks and appreciation to Rick Boykin, executive director of the Downtown Development Authority, and all the people in supporting roles who had a part in the great success of the historic production, "Four Friends on the Banks of Time" Cemetery Tour last Thursday. I have had nothing but compliments! What a great tribute to Sylvania, to be able to have a production of this magnitude in a City our size! It was done with taste and professionalism and was a well-entertaining and enjoyable experience especially for the first endeavor! I appreciated the authenticity of the stories told by the actors and actresses, which were not only true, but also very entertaining. I literally felt as if I left the grounds, I had actually seen and heard from some of our important leaders from our past. I even learned things I did not know about some being people.

All of the local actors and actresses did an awesome job and all were dressed in the costume of their day! There were also many important support people who helped make the tour a total success! Special thanks to Alex Lee who was very instrumental in gathering the historic information for the stories that were told and he also attended all the rehearsals. Richard Boykin also worked many hours on many important details he personally handled: Freddie Overstreet and Troy Ward, as well as some others in Frederick's crew, went the extra mile to run electric lines for the lighting. They even went to dress rehearsal on Tuesday evening to place the lines so there would be no doubt about the exact location of the lighting and they even stayed afterwards in order to move the lines since they could not remain unattended until Thursday Night!

In a production this size and of such great importance, it takes many people and a lot of commitment. I personally thank all those who committed themselves individually, who had a part in making this such a significant event in Sylvania! I also thank the 200 people who attended!

I am already looking forward to next year's production! May God continue to bless us!

Margaret D. Evans
Mayor
City of Sylvania

Thank you veterans

Last Monday, Nov. 11, was designated as Veterans Day in our Country. The staff of Thompson-Brockland-Waters Funeral Home built a "Veterans Appreciation Day" program on Tuesday in our chapel to recognize and honor those men and women who have served our country in the armed forces. There are the people who have put their lives on the line to keep our United States of America free.

After all, an American Veteran is "someone who at sometime in their life gave a blood oath to the United States of America, payable on demand, for any amount necessary, up to and including their own life."

No appreciate the folks who come out to our event to help us honor our veterans, including Sylvania Mayor Margaret Evans and Rick Elder of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars post. We also want to thank the Sylvania coordinators who furnished their guests and to the Sylvania Telephone for your coverage of the program.

My God continue to bless our country and the veterans who give of themselves for it.

The Staff of Thompson-Brockland-Waters Funeral Home, Sylvania

Angel Tree with DFACS needing donations

Once again, DFACS will be operating the Angel Tree project which concerns that the elderly and disabled persons who are under the Adult Protective Services will have something to open on Christmas Day. These people are often neglected and without your support, they will not experience the joy unlike others on this most blessed day.

If you are interested in supporting the Angel Tree, please contact Brenda Boyd at 613-564-0000 almost hour or come by the Sylvania County DFACS office at 139 Douglas Ave. The office is open to the public on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. You will be providing Christmas gifts for an elderly or disabled person that the Adult Protective Services program is currently working with. The goal is to ensure that they have something to open on Christmas day. These people are often neglected and without your support, they will not experience the joy unlike others on this most blessed day.

■ Gifts cannot be accepted if it is recommended that you purchase the items and wrap them if possible. I will provide you with a list about from the individual but I will not be able to disclose their identity due to confidentiality. You will have your own first name and no age along with any restrictions.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Brenda Boyd
Division of Aging Services
Adult Protective Services
Protect and Placement Specialist

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Enoch Autry
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Live by coach creed: 'Make a play'

By now you have heard or witnessed the play. Behind 26-27 Auburn led a fourth-and-19 on their own 17 with 30 seconds to play Saturday, the Tigers quarterback Nick Marshall checked a pass to the center of the field.

On the other end, Georgia Bulldogs' defense Josh Harvey-Clemens and Trey Matthews lunged into the air, collide with each other, and the over-the-hill ball drops off their hands and into the hands of the Bulldogs' receiver Ricardo Lewis, who had never stopped running and created the pick and finished off what would be the event's game-winning 73-yard touchdown completion with 15 seconds left in the Southeastern Conference contest between two top 25 teams.

Nary UGA fan to make you believe that I am not going to believe the point that the Oregon should have reached four minutes, not just three. Or the addition should have just knocked the ball down or simply let it fall to earth since Lewis was initially 15 yards away from their play on the ball.

Next, it is easy to see in a Thursday evening quarterback. A crowd of thousands of fans and eight defenders were in possession to keep the Tigers from getting a first down. The selection went up for the ball in the heat of the play.

Instead I am going to point out something completely different.

As I am assured you did not notice. Additionally I will explain why this is important to you.

In my career, I have photographed players at the levels of recreation ball, middle school, high school, college, semi-professional and professional. In 1 get all the shots I want! Absolutely not. Sometimes I capture only a few percentage of the shots I want. We all have days that are better than others. I live by the creed - Shoot into the frame.

To get a nice photo, I attempt to position myself in a spot that provides the best of possible angles. It is a whom do I believe the action will be a few seconds to minutes later. It is a crystal ball kind of thought process.

All this brings me back to the earlier episode of the UGA-Auburn game. I was not at the game at Jordan-Hare Stadium. I like most of you, witnessed the outcome of the game from the serenity of my own home.

As the video was shown - and replayed - I began to take notice of the reactions of people along the sidelines and behind the back of the end zone. That is where the game photographers congregated. As a general rule, the photographers with the longer zoom lenses are the more professional group but that is not always the case.

So when the ball came into the air and eventually dropped into the receiver's left hand to be secured it into both hands, that is when photographers should be snapping pictures at the pace of our fastest competitive and professional rivals!

Maybe we need to do some monitoring of our own. Does anyone in the State Department, for instance, have the best clue about Vladimir Putin's world-view and moral values? One need only witness the carnage in Syria to get a glimpse of Putin's aims, it is with his acquiescence and support his global reach, that the murderous Assad regime has been allowed to wage conventional and chemical war on his own people three past few bloody years.

These people in the State Department are frighteningly naive.

It's also likely the monitoring stations agreement would be wholly unilateral - knowing American negotiators, the stations would be equipped with an antenna of our own on Russian soil. But even if it were, the deal would still be a monumental fail.

Just as alarming as the thought of officially sanctioned Russian monitoring stations on U.S. soil is the fact that there are officials in the State Department who think this is even remotely a good idea.

We need monitoring stations around the U.S., all right. To watch our government like a hawk.

Enoch Autry is the publisher-editor of the Sylvania Telephone.

Commentary

By Enoch Autry
Publisher

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Other Viewpoints

Dumb, naïve and dangerous

State Department sees no threat in Russian monitoring stations here

It may be the dumbest thing this country has ever contemplated. Even so, it's hard to believe it's true.

But not so hard, it's true. The U.S. State Department actually wants to allow Russia to establish six of its own satellite monitoring stations on U.S. soil.

"You read right, Russia. Not only Moscow, Russia, but also St. Petersburg. It seems the Russians have given us a list of American destinations in satellite and GPS capabilities, and the U.S. State Department wants to help prop up our commercial competitors and chief political antagonists.

"Why? Because Russia they want the Russians to like us.

"For the State Department," writes the New York Times, "permitting Russia to build the stations would help mend the Obama administration's relationship with the government of President Vladimir V. Putin, now at a nadir because of Moscow's growing acrimony to Edward Snowden and its backing of President Barack Obama's policies."

The Russians don't want to be silent on the American system and believe that their systems, like GPS, will appear either in the U.S. or in the hands of a former senior official in the State Department's Office of Space and Advanced Technology was quoted by the Times. "They led us through the door into a technological edge to be in an important market."

Look at everything GPS has done on things like your phone and the movement of planes and ships.

There's so much wrong with this satellite picture it's hard to know where to begin.

How about with the plainly obvious security outcome?

"That's probably what came to your mind first, as it did ours, and you'll be glad to know these concerns are at least shared by the federal intelligence and military agencies, and the U.S. State Department's satellite-aided weaponry - which, by the way, U.S. forces or allies could monitor too.

The stations could also give Russia a former household with which to spy on America and Americans. Our own government has allowed that power. What makes anyone think the Russians wouldn't?

But just for argument's sake, let's assume the most innocuous use of the stations. Even if the Russians only used the U.S. monitoring stations for purely commercial purposes - to better compete with our GPS technology - why on Earth would the United States want to undermine American technological superiority like that? Why undermine American industry that way? Why go out of our way to give a hand up to one of our fiercest competitors and geopolitical rivals?

Maybe we need to do some monitoring of our own. Does anyone in the State Department, for instance, have the best clue about Vladimir Putin's world-view and moral values? One need only witness the carnage in Syria to get a glimpse of Putin's aims, it is with his acquiescence and support his global reach, that the murderous Assad regime has been allowed to wage conventional and chemical war on his own people three past few bloody years.

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Sports Column

E

2nd Place

Sylvania Telephone

Burton Kemp Jr.



Sports

Page B1 Thursday, May 21, 2013
Plenty of summer activities available for children - Page B2

Defense outlasts the SCHS 'O' in spring football scrimmage

By Burton Kemp Jr.
Contributing writer

Not unexpectedly, the SCHS Gamecock defense outlasted the SCHS Gamecock offense 40-28 in a well attended May 17 spring football scrimmage at Kelly Memorial Stadium.

The Red and White will meet in its action Aug. 22 when the Jenkins County Eagles come to town for the "old" scrimmage before the Gamecocks are home for the season kickoff Aug. 26.

The scrimmage, which is a modified scoring system, saw the defense gain two points for a turnover, while the offense got a point for each first down and six points for a score, was the first chance for most fans to see the new game spread offense of the Gamecocks.

Not until five early Demond White pulled down an interception on the field



Photo by Enoch Autry

Demond White pulls down an interception on the field during the scrimmage.

play was the outcome decided. On the offensive side of the ball, rising junior quarterback Jacob Smith hurled more than 30 passes, completing nearly 50 percent of them. His two favorite

targets were rising junior Devita Wilburn and rising senior Keshawn Hughes. Wilburn scored a 51-yard scoring strike. In the one-back set, usually the pistol formation which finds that lone back

lined up behind the QB who is in a four-yard deep shotgun, veteran Josh Kerwin (rising senior) and junior Robinson (sophomore) displayed some really strong

See Football, Page B2

Gridiron offensive life as we have known it is gone

The word-out of local football coach Ron Duncan's office recently has been that local fans should forget everything they ever learned about offensive football.

On that side of the ball, at Screven County High School at least, life as it has forever been known is no more.

I don't know how antiquated it was, maybe more so than used to be a spring scrimmage, but the most two weeks of spring football finished its brief existence last Friday evening at Kelly Memorial Stadium before a larger than normal crowd.

There were regular season games two years ago that may not have been as well attended. Many of those fans, especially those without offspring playing, came to begin their learning curve in the new offense.

Gamecock Sports



By Burton Kemp Jr. Contributing writer

Just like my granddaddy, I'm a defensive engineer. I've been long by Randy Hawkey, Luther Woods, and

Mark Daniel, the Wing-T and other variants of the "old school" backfield employed by those same coaches have departed from the ways of the Gamecock. Even a two-back offense has apparently passed into history.

Change came, especially offenses, and out of necessity defenses have to change with them or they get routed. Today the spread offense is the offense of choice. Not as long ago as you may think it was a novelty. It was 1987 and we were getting ready to play Camden County and you believe that we were the same size? For the Region 3AA championship.

Then Camden coach Bill "I never met an offense I didn't like" Thomas ran the spread.

As I look back, Camden fits the evolution of the offense prior to the championship (I thought that all of the throwing and mauling and just plain running all over the place looked almost normal. After having faced Jeff Drene and their loaded backfield (no one was split) and unbalanced line of their

Right now (I'm not sure) Coach Tom Hyatt in the region certainly it looked even stranger. No one in 3AA North ran anything like that. For Sylvania even threw the ball. You certainly could not run the West-5 against this spread. The Wildcats won 22-6. At that point, the spread was an anomaly in a sea of safety.

Fast forward to the second decade of the 21st century and the spread is most certainly not an anomaly. Though Camden County is doing quite well with their version of the Wing-T, today the spread offense is the successful offense. Even the five-man defensive fronts.

But Gamecock fans have grown weary of seeing opponents line up in the spread and have receivers wide open on every play and backs run to the team against what made up being a three-man defensive front. There we were allowed

down Jefferson County at Lenoir on most nights? Maybe we need to run this stuff and have all these wide open receivers and wide open holes for the running backs.

It is 2013. We have a high quality coach who subscribes to one of many things that I think great coaches have - adapt your team to your players and give them the greatest chance to be successful. It is not a case of forcing your players to adapt to your system, even though they are not trained, just because it was successful in the past.

Without our 250-plus-pound fullback, the system employed a year ago definitely would not have been nearly as successful. There is no fullback here anymore and the 2013 offensive system was not going to work in 2013. Ron Duncan is not expanding the school. He is recognizing the what-ifs what will hopefully be a new and improved school that might not feature in the playoffs than the old one.

See Kemp, Page B2



3AA names players to All Region baseball

By Burton Kemp Jr.
Contributing writer

At a meeting of Region 3AA baseball coaches last week, the 2013 All-Region baseball team was selected.

The team included a pair of first teamers and a trio of second teamers from the lineup of the Screven County Gamecocks.

This is a great honor for these players and Screven County as they are voted on by all of the coaches from the region, said out-going head coach Billy Pollock. Congratulations to these players.

Named to the highest honor of First Team were senior catcher Keshawn Bargarren and junior shortstop Bailey Pollock.

Bargarren finished the season with the team's third highest average among regulars at .254, tying for the team lead in hits with 28 while finishing second in total bases with 30. He also was named on the team with 15 RBIs.

Pollock was fourth on the team in hitting with a .228 average and led the team with 11 sacrifice hits and 12 total runs. His 11 stolen bases also led team.

Stewart now a Lady Bobcat with her East Georgia signing

By Enoch Autry
Staff Writer

Friday night at Kelly Memorial Stadium Dawn Stewart and her 112 Screven County High School senior classmates will receive their diplomas as graduates.

However, Stewart took a big step toward her after-graduation plans. With plenty of family and friends in attendance, Stewart signed a letter of intent to pitch on the softball diamond at the collegiate level with East Georgia College.

She continues a healthy string of Lady Gamecocks who have moved on to play college softball during SCHS head coach Billy Pollock's tenure.

"She is No. 10 to sign with a college," said Pollock after Stewart signed with East Georgia. "Dawn is very deserving of this. She has

See Stewart, Page B2

NASCAR Excitement season rockets around the track

Racing Rules
1. Pick the driver, the car number, and the average speed of the winning car.
2. Pick the average speed of the winning car.
3. The points will be awarded for a correct pick. The driver who is correct selected and the points for a correct pick. The points awarded will be three times as much as the points awarded for a correct pick. The points awarded will be three times as much as the points awarded for a correct pick.

GRAND PRIZE is a recliner from Farmer's home Furniture

1st — Matt Kenneth #20 Average Speed 141.383 mph
2nd — Denny Hamlin #11
3rd — Jeff Gordon #24

Last week's NASCAR Excitement winner was Johnny Wilson, who picked #20 to take the checkered flag, 11 second, and 24 third. Wilson had an average speed of 138.000.

OFFICIAL ENTRY BLANK

Next Race: Coca-Cola 600
Charlotte Motor Speedway
Sunday, May 26, 2013

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
PHONE _____
1st _____ 2nd _____ 3rd _____
Avg. speed of winning car: _____

Johnny Bonner	54	Jessica Coughlin	18	Marcus Coughlin	5
Rusty Pollock	31	G.W. Johnson	36	Bob Evans	5
Lonnie Robinson	48	Rusty Robinson	15	Sherry Robinson	5
Johnny Wilson	46	Elaine Bonner	15	Latina Johnson	5
Chad Hilde	42	Tom Brock	13	Rikie Robinson	5
Eric Howard	40	Dustin Brown	13	Kennedy Smith	5
Jeremy Rouse	40	J.W. Coughlin	13	Carlynn Foster	5
James H. Meadows	31	Donald Lee	11	Austin Taylor	5
Angie Lee	26	Paul Davis	10	Jessica Brown	5
Deanna Clayton	22	Sherry Coughlin	10	Randi Coughlin	5
Ryan Johnson	21	Marlyn Coughlin	10	Randy Dickey Jr.	5
Dale Lowery	21	Ally Dickey	10	John H. Mills	5
Carlton Robinson	21	Jonathan Lee	10	Jeremy Palmer	5
Budde Coughlin	21	Bob Adams	5	Dennis Robinson	5
Parvula Lowery	20				



Sports Column

E

1st Place

The Oconee Enterprise, Watkinsville

Ryne Dennis



OCHS baseball wins opener

NOHS girls soccer blanks Cedar Shoals

The Oconee Enterprise

Sports

THURSDAY • 21 FEBRUARY 2013

Ryne Dennis
From the Press Box

State wrestling the best event of season

It's not going to be, well, those years ago my knowledge of wrestling was limited to guys with head tape wearing spandex and jumping off the top rope of a ring.

Not that I ever watched that, either, but it seems that I did have a Mack Hagans action figure when I was a child.

But high school wrestling, yeah, right.

I know so much about that sport as I know about building muscles.

But after attending numerous meets and getting a quick walk-through from my buddy Jay, it's a 2017 state meet-up to the 120 weight class at Lakeview from Ophirville, it began to open my eyes a little bit to the sport.

After this past weekend I think I finally had a realization that, not only is it a great sport, but it was championship to be here there to high school sports.

The excitement is just something that is matched by no other sport.

Have the state football championship to go, but to be honest, being held in the Georgia Dome, the crowd noise gets lost in the noise.

Most of the games aren't all that great and so you get nearly three hours of people sitting on their hands.

Not at the state wrestling tournament.

There are six mats with every class/weight wrestling at the same time.

So while the Class AA mat has a pin, the Class AAA mat has a two-second submission that turns the match from a 1-point loss for one wrestler to a 1-point victory. It's a constant wave of excitement that will give you goose bumps.

Another thing that is unlike any other sport is the joy you experience at the winner's feast after choosing a meal that they have worked four years to accomplish.

Take two wrestlers out of Oconee County in OCHS Jake Hodges and North Oconee's Dakota Greene.

Both have been dominant over the past four seasons, but Greene had been runner-up twice in the state while Hodges was runner-up a season ago.

After choosing the meal this Saturday, both had long conversations with family and coaches just seconds after the clock went off.

An "A" grade of sports used to say, the "B" of "easy" and the "C" of "defeat."

One reason Saturday I don't think I'll ever forget.

It had nothing to do with Oconee County, but what he did, I want to be, brought a little more to my eye.

Keith Williams of McNear High School in Atlanta placed his opponent in the third round of the 120-pound class.

The announcer came over the loud speaker to say that it was the first state championship in the school's history.

Williams jumped off the mat and into his coach's arms with tears streaming down his face.

He simply didn't know how to react because nobody before him at his school had done it.

He went back to the center of the mat, but his arms stayed in the winner and presenter's hands. He had just won a trophy, but he was never so happy that was all crying with joy.

That's what makes this sport's feast the best.

Ryne Dennis is a sports writer at The Oconee Enterprise. Opinions expressed are those of the writer.

Lady Titans roll in first round

By Ryne Dennis

The North Oconee Lady Titans wanted to make sure from the opening of Tuesday night that everyone knew they were the No. 1 seed in the state basketball tournament, as they took command early and never looked back, dominating Lakeland Ophirville 39-28.

Led by Glory Channell and Brooke Williams, the two combined to score the Lady Titans first 10 points as NOHS opened on a 10-0 lead just six minutes into the contest.

"We talked a lot about having rhythm as offense and getting the shots we wanted to take and we were getting the shots we wanted to take," NOHS coach Donnie Byrnes said. "We had that rhythm and we were hitting shots early."

The Lady Titans finished the first quarter with a 17-1 lead and went into halftime with a 26-8 lead as Channell scored a triple-double at the buzzer.

Channell and Channell had big first halves for the Lady Titans as they each scored 12 points.

Williams began the second half much like the first as she got the scoring going with another 12 points to give the Lady Titans a 37-8 lead.

Williams would finish the game with 18 points and Channell would add 12, but left the game early with a re-injury. Byrnes has no doubt she'll be back for the second round game Friday night against Evans County with the state yet to be determined.

Channell Williams also added eight points.

The win gave the Lady Titans their 17th straight and moved their record to 27-2 on the season.

Though playing a lesser opponent, it was also a little bit of relief to play so well.

"We just want to get ahead in that game, you're the one seed, you're supposed to beat the first," Byrnes said. "We beat them tonight, but the big game will be Friday when we'll see either competition in Oconee County."

North Oconee senior Brooke Williams drives to the rim in Tuesday's first round victory over Lakeland-Ophirville. (Photo by Ryne Dennis)

Hodges, Greene win state titles for OCHS and NOHS

By Ryne Dennis

MACON — They had both been waiting a long time, but two county wrestlers brought home state titles from the Mason Championship Saturday.

After two runner-ups and a third place finish at the state tournament, North Oconee's Dakota Greene looked up the 105 weight class title Saturday with an 11-0 decision in the final over Forrest Springs of Morgan County.

"I've been in the final, this is my third time, I didn't want to lose it again, so it felt good to finally get it," Greene said.

Lakeland, Oconee County High School's Jake Hodges continued his dominance over the sport, finishing the season with a perfect 16-0 record and dominating his opponent, Rockmart's Dustin Watts, by a major decision of 17-0 in the final.

"It was awesome, I've been waiting so long for this, I can't express it," Hodges said.

After placing his opponent in the first round of the 138 weight class, Hodges then dominated the second round as well, picking up a 16-4 major decision against a quality opponent.

"There was a lot that people said could possibly beat Jake but the real deal nothing," Oconee County head coach Al Trank said. "The kid on the mat just trying not to get pinned."

Greene was nearly perfect this season as well, finishing with a 21-0 record.

But his semifinal's match came down to a 6-2 overtime decision to take down Matt Dittick of Rock County.

"I think that's something cool, he's the first 5-A state champ for North Oconee," Trank said. "I think it's a big thing for him personally and it's just so happy for him."

Aside from Hodges state title, the Wrestling Warriors had an impressive season as a whole, finishing second in the state at Woodward Academy.

The Warriors placed three other wrestlers in the state final as Marshall Burns, Clay Collins and Billy Stewart each placed second in the state.

James Miller and Chris Allen each finished fourth for the Warriors.

"It was a great tournament," Trank said. "It was the biggest tournament in school history and the state finals, the most kids we've ever had in the final and the first state champion in about 10 years."

Hodges now prepares for Northern Iowa where he will get an education and wrestle for the Panthers.

Trank has no doubt he'll be successful, as he was one of Georgia's best wrestlers this season.

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Darlene was also proud of the way Greene led his youthful team this season.

"She's just showing kids and a good example of a winner," Darlene said. "Most of our kids are brand new and he's showing them both that they can be successful at North Oconee and it's a good example to follow."

A win win situation

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Channell helps lead NOHS Lady Titans to first region crown

By Ryne Dennis

North Oconee's Glory Channell got it.

Only a junior, the Lady Titans' do-it-all forward/guard/center has everything about her game that the coach Donnie Byrnes can't explain.

"The offense has always been there and she has that something something," Byrnes said. "I don't know if you want to call it magic, but she can score points and we change that out everybody sees. She's a bit player on the offensive end of the floor."

Channell was once again named to the All-Region squad, her second in a row, and is a good candidate to be named All-State for the second season in a row.

She has averaged nearly 15.3 points per game this season and was a huge part of the Lady Titans winning the region championship on Saturday.

Channell posted a double-double of 17 points and 11 rebounds in the semifinals against Hart County and then followed that up with 28 points

The Ellis Pain Center/Oconee Enterprise Athlete of the Week

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State wrestling the best event of season

It's not going to be, well, those years ago my knowledge of wrestling was limited to guys with head tape wearing spandex and jumping off the top rope of a ring.

Not that I ever watched that, either, but it seems that I did have a Mack Hagans action figure when I was a child.

But high school wrestling, yeah, right.

I know so much about that sport as I know about building muscles.

But after attending numerous meets and getting a quick walk-through from my buddy Jay, it's a 2017 state meet-up to the 120 weight class at Lakeview from Ophirville, it began to open my eyes a little bit to the sport.

After this past weekend I think I finally had a realization that, not only is it a great sport, but it was championship to be here there to high school sports.

The excitement is just something that is matched by no other sport.

Have the state football championship to go, but to be honest, being held in the Georgia Dome, the crowd noise gets lost in the noise.

Most of the games aren't all that great and so you get nearly three hours of people sitting on their hands.

Not at the state wrestling tournament.

There are six mats with every class/weight wrestling at the same time.

So while the Class AA mat has a pin, the Class AAA mat has a two-second submission that turns the match from a 1-point loss for one wrestler to a 1-point victory. It's a constant wave of excitement that will give you goose bumps.

Another thing that is unlike any other sport is the joy you experience at the winner's feast after choosing a meal that they have worked four years to accomplish.

Take two wrestlers out of Oconee County in OCHS Jake Hodges and North Oconee's Dakota Greene.

Both have been dominant over the past four seasons, but Greene had been runner-up twice in the state while Hodges was runner-up a season ago.

After choosing the meal this Saturday, both had long conversations with family and coaches just seconds after the clock went off.

An "A" grade of sports used to say, the "B" of "easy" and the "C" of "defeat."

One reason Saturday I don't think I'll ever forget.

It had nothing to do with Oconee County, but what he did, I want to be, brought a little more to my eye.

Keith Williams of McNear High School in Atlanta placed his opponent in the third round of the 120-pound class.

The announcer came over the loud speaker to say that it was the first state championship in the school's history.

Williams jumped off the mat and into his coach's arms with tears streaming down his face.

He simply didn't know how to react because nobody before him at his school had done it.

He went back to the center of the mat, but his arms stayed in the winner and presenter's hands. He had just won a trophy, but he was never so happy that was all crying with joy.

That's what makes this sport's feast the best.

Ryne Dennis is a sports writer at The Oconee Enterprise. Opinions expressed are those of the writer.

North Oconee junior Glory Channell had 18 points and also rebounded in Saturday's Region 9 AAA Championship. (Photo by Ryne Dennis)

Sports Column

D

3rd Place

The Walton
Tribune, Monroe

David Johnson

Sports

The Walton Tribune

B

WEDNESDAY
November 27, 2013



DAVID JOHNSON
Columnist

It means something to be Monroe

For a half Friday night, you actually believed it could happen here. Yes, here, in little old Monroe, a state football championship.

Leading mighty Carnation 14-7 at intermission, you wondered if this was the night the Purple Hurricane finally cracked the perfect game. That the offense would be its usual unstoppable self and the defense would find a way to shut down the second most prolific offense in Class AAAA. That the special teams would live up to their name.

It had all come together over the first 24 minutes. Senior quarterback Shantez Thomas led a pair of touchdowns, drove to open and close the first half. The defense allowed the Dragons a touchdown on their first possession and then completely shut them down. And in what might have been the biggest play of all, a fullback kicked his first varsity punt 66 yards out of the back of the end zone to flip the field and avoid giving Carnation an easy shot at a go-ahead score just before the break.

Just 26 more minutes of the game and we'd have a clear shot at the Georgia Dome. Nobody else in our state was more highly ranked except No. 1 Sandy Creek, who was pummeled on the other side of the bracket.

But then Carnation returned for the third quarter and proved why it's one of the premier programs in Georgia. The Trojans scored on their opening drive and then again the next four times they touched the ball. Monroe Area, which hadn't played from behind all year, led but couldn't keep pace.

Disappointing, sure. But wondering how far this program has come over the past four years — from 0-20 to four straight playoff berths — the 22 seniors who played their last game at the Purple Pit have to mean to hang their heads.

Head coach Matt Flagg summed up perfectly the accomplishments of this amazing group of young men with a single sentence.

Speaking one last time to his heartbroken team gathered at midfield as, almost on cue, a gloomy fog began to roll in and rain started falling. Flagg said, "The guys made it mean something to be Monroe."

Actually, they made it mean something else. For years, it meant an easy win for opposing teams. It meant heading into a game hoping not to lose again. It meant hearing the taunts of classmates after yet another last Friday night.

No more. The Hurricanes.

See MEANS, Page 04
David Johnson is a sports writer and columnist for The Walton Tribune. Contact him at davidjohnson@waltontribune.com.



Social Circle's Jeremy Tyson (on top) is back to defend his state Class AA title. P.12

Redskin wrestlers on a mission

Social Circle program returns every starter from last season

By DAVID JOHNSON
Columnist

With the entire lineup returning from last year's squad, which placed fourth in both the team and traditional state wrestling tournaments, and a host of promising underclassmen coming up, Social Circle may have its strongest team ever.

How loaded are the 2013-14 Redskins? So loaded that head coach Randy Prater has started scheduling two varsity events on many weekends to ensure all of his wrestlers have a chance to compete.

So loaded that weekly events—head-to-head confrontations between team members—have started resembling WWE-style matches.

So loaded that even returning state champions aren't afraid of holding on to their weight class.

"We'd love to be Dragon slayers. We're on a mission to win a state championship."

—SCRS wrestling coach Randy Prater on potentially defending Jefferson

Whether it'll be enough to overcome perennial state powerhouse Jefferson remains to be seen. The Redskins will get their first crack at the defending Class AA champs at the Panther Invitational at Jackson County High School on Dec. 6-7.

The Dragons, who have won 13 consecutive state championships, will be moving to Class AAA next year, which is just fine with Prater. But for at least one more season, they are likely the biggest obstacle between the Redskins and a title.

"We'd love to be Dragon slayers," Prater said. "We're on a mission to win a state championship."

To do so, they'll need last year's six state champions to lead the way.

Back to defend his traditional state crown is junior Jeremy Tyson, who went 30-2 at 160 pounds. He'll bump up to 170 this winter.

Other returnees include Ryan Davis, who'll move up from 120 to 132, sophomore Reid Harris, who'll drop from 135 to 126, junior Aaron Foreman, who'll stay at 132, and junior Jimmy Haynes and senior Eric Wilson, who'll remain at 195 and 261, respectively.

With up to 30 wrestlers in the program, injuries should not be an issue. Finding enough matches for everyone is the bigger concern.

"It's a great problem to have," Prater said.

Warrior boys scalp Jackson 78-45

Adrian Price erupts for career-high 33 points

By STAFF REPORTER
Columnist

Adrian Price tallied a career-high 33 points Friday to help lead Walnut Grove to a 78-45 win over Jackson High School in boys basketball action.

Price also had one of his better defensive games, taking three charges. The senior has taken 11 charges in four games for the Warriors.

Three different players, including AJ Jones, Deondre Durham and David Power, each finished with nine points. Power added 11 rebounds.

Walnut Grove improved to 3-0 with the triumph and began this week with the annual Walton Grove tournament. Look for results in a later issue.

Catch Bob Donaldson's team got off to a fast start, taking an 18-10 lead after the first quarter and never looked back.

"I was proud of the Warrior mentality tonight," Donaldson said. "We didn't allow the game to get away from us. Tonight our boys fought and learned a lesson. Now we need to continue to learn and grow together as one single unit."

In earlier season action for Walnut Grove, the Warriors



AJ Jones (2) tallied nine points for Walnut Grove. Photo by MELINDA PEARCE

Devils take double bite out of Bulldogs

Logansville gets off to fast start in region

By NICK ACHERMAN
Columnist

LOGANSVILLE — Both varsity basketball teams for Logansville High School improved to 3-0 overall with wins over Windsor-Barrow Friday in Windsor's season opener.

The Lady Devils got off to a solid start defensively, holding Windsor to three points in the first quarter and allowing 13 points in the first half.

Shelbourn's Kemp scored eight points and added six rebounds and four steals. Freshman Keyona Gerald scored seven points and pulled down nine rebounds while Dejah Cousins led the team in scoring with nine points, dished out four assists and grabbed three steals.

"I knew it was going to be tough with it being a region game," Lady Devils coach John Zorn said. "It was their first game of the year and I knew they would come out fighting, but we hung on and played tough."

The Logansville boys had a tougher match-up after holding Windsor-Barrow to five points in the first quarter and scoring 16 of their

own, the Bulldogs came back and won the second quarter, cutting the deficit to five.

However, the push was not enough as the Devils outscored them by two points in the third quarter and held on for the win.

Senior Steven Graves led Logansville with 14 points and six rebounds. Jerry Thomas added 13 points and seven rebounds for the Devils.

"I thought we played great in the first quarter," Red Devils head coach Josh Grayson said. "We played great defense and got after it. Plus we got up and down the court and hit some shots. I thought the second quarter

was weak and not good at all. Despite the sloppy play, I thought our effort was fantastic."

Grayson said he was impressed with the play of point guard Antwan Jackson, who added 10 points, five rebounds and three steals, as well as two lay-ups late down the stretch.

"Antwan played great tonight," the coach said. "He was all over the floor. He just had a great all-around game."

The next home game for the Logansville basketball program will be Dec. 3, when both teams host Babers High School in Region 8-AAAAA action. The doubleheader will mark the second league contest of the young season.

Sports Column

D

2nd Place

Clayton News Daily, Jonesboro

Gabe Stovall

SOUTHERN CRESCENT
Sports
 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2013 • PAGE 6A

Check us out on Facebook at Clayton Sports.



When sports is bigger than sports

Gabriel Stovall
 COLUMNIST

I said I didn't want to see Kevia Ware's injury listed here but to see it. Every time someone on ESPN or some other sports network, begins to talk about it, I immediately pick up my remote and skip the channel just in case they decided to replay it. Since I don't actually watch the game, I did decide to take to the internet and find an article on how that could all be about the injury without me having to watch it.

On every article I checked, I took a quick, scolding perusal of it to make sure some unethical reporter of the injury wasn't automatically using playing against my will.

I was with Ware's parents, who usually scolding through my Facebook updates, one of my friends named me up. Under his written post asking for people to pray for a successful recovery for Ware, I saw the Louisville Cardinal, and former Kentucky County student's leg dangling with a piece of his bone sticking out.

The funny thing about it was now that I had the

See JONESBORO, Page 1A

Jonesboro's Arnold looking for redemption

By Gabe Stovall
 gstovall@news-daily.com

JONESBORO — For Katy Arnold, being on the track and field team first started out as just something to do.

Something to keep her busy throughout seasons was that I was just looking for something to do to keep from being bored," said Arnold, who has been a team manager for the Jonesboro boys' track and field team.

Throughout her entire time at the school, Now, that extra thing on the agenda has turned into something more. Being Arnold, a self-starter and always someone, has performed a once-in-a-lifetime feat that she will never forget as the most loyal.

The senior will attend Georgia Southern on a track scholarship this fall — a testament to how far she has come from her first time out on the field.

"I remember that first year," coach

Tim Floyd said. "It was very clear that she had a lot of talent. She just had to pick up the technique that she needed to be able to compete with the top athletes in the state."

And now? Mission accomplished says Floyd. He said that he would really place Arnold in the top echelon of athletes in Class AAAA. And her recent accomplishments seem to be backing up his claim.

Arnold followed up first place performance at the state meet.

See JONESBORO, Page 1A

Local players named to all-state team

By Dennis's Malone
 dmalone@news-daily.com

Engle's Landing dominated the competition in Class AAAA this past season in retaining the program's first boys' basketball state championship. In fact, four of the team starters were named to the Georgia Sportsman Association All-State team, which was released on Tuesday morning. Golden Eagle coach Clay Crump was named the Class AAAA Coach of the Year.

In all, 14 players from the Southern Crescent area were named to the all-state first team. Engle's Landing guard Eric Wortham and Isaiah Thomas were named to the all-state first team. Wortham, who has signed with Middle Tennessee State, averaged 11 points, seven rebounds and six assists. He was named the engine player of the year for the second straight season.

See ALL-STATE, Page 1A

Lovejoy, Mt. Zion should decide county championship

By Dennis's Malone
 dmalone@news-daily.com

JONESBORO — There are nine high schools in Clayton County, but the county track and field championship will likely be a two-team race.

From all indications, Lovejoy and Mount Zion should emerge as the top contenders for the boys' championship, which begins today at Tara Stadium.

"Unless something happens to either of our teams on the way over, we should be the top teams," Mount Zion coach Steve Steffen said Monday afternoon at Twelve Oaks Stadium.

"I think everyone pretty much realizes that we will be battling for the top spots," Lovejoy coach Dwight Callaway agreed.

"Mount Zion has been looking good," Callaway said. "Monty's ML has shown that they have a lot of

Clayton County Track and Field Championships

When: Wednesday at Tara Stadium, Thursday at Southern Crescent Stadium
Time: 5 p.m. both days
Where: Twelve Oaks Stadium, Mount Zion, Jonesboro, Mount Zion, Lovejoy, Murphy's Mill and Twelve Oaks

Lovejoy will be going for its third straight title, while Callaway will be going for his fifth straight. He coached Stoneville to two titles prior to becoming the head coach at Lovejoy.

Not only do the Williams have a large contingent of track and field participants, but they also have some quality within the group. As a favor-up for the county championships, many teams participated in last Saturday's Cary Tournament, which was held at Southern Crescent Stadium. Lovejoy placed first in the boys' championship with 74 points while Mount Zion

was second with 71 points. Steffen pointed out that he was missing a couple of participants, including jumper J.R. Jordan, a former standout on the basketball team.

"We had track come because we were so big for the county meet," Steffen said.

"We just have to stay focused," Mount Zion junior sprinter Morgan Simmons said. "We know Lovejoy is going to be strong."

Callaway placed his 400-meter relay team for its second place finish at the Cary Tournament last year.

See COUNTY, Page 1A



Lovejoy coach Dwight Callaway will be going for his fifth straight Clayton County Track and Field Championship title when the meet starts today at Tara Stadium.

Photo by Dennis Malone



Sports Column

D

1st Place

Clayton News Daily, Jonesboro

Derrick Mahone

sports news-daily.com
SECTION 8 • WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2013

Area ADs push for Class AAAAA realignment

By Gianni Brown
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MADISONVILLE — Each year the NCAA seems to get closer and closer to creating a world where superconferences — conferences with as many as 16 schools — rule the college sports landscape. Don't expect that trend to trickle down to the Georgia high school level any time soon. Or if it does, it won't be popular.

The Georgia High School Association's reclassification committee announcement Monday morning that it would alter its meeting schedule, postponing Thursday's scheduled committee meeting until Dec. 17, is seen "for the sole purpose of reviewing the region alignments in Class AAAAA," according to the GHSA's website.

What may be at the heart of that meeting's agenda could be the way Region 6-AAAAA is proposed to look for the 2014-15 school year. With 17 teams, it is, by far, the largest region in Georgia, regardless of classification. The next biggest region is Class AAAAA in Region 4 which is tentatively slated to carry 12 teams.

The proposed Region 6-AAAAA will have teams from Clayton, Henry and DeKalb counties, including football and basketball power Miller Grove and Inglewood. Schools projected in the region from the Southeast Council will include Drew, Forest Park, Dunwoody, Luthin, Marietta, Mundy's Mill, Ochs, Stockbridge, Stone Mountain and Woodland. The DeKalb County schools would include Clarkston, Dunwoody, Dunwoody Hills, M.L. King, Miller Grove, Southwest DeKalb, and Stone Mountain.

On athletic director Curt Miller said he, Henry County Schools athletic director Vicky Davis, Clayton County athletic director Kevin May and DeKalb County athletic director Blonnie Dossom were among those leading the charge for the GHSA to, at least, consider reworking the arrangements.

"It's not a situation of being mad about it, or making a big fuss about it," Miller said.

See CLASS, Page 2B



On high athletic director Curt Miller is going forward with other athletic personnel to push a change in making Region 6-AAAAA a 17-team region for the 2014-15 school year. (File photo)

HUGHES RETIRING FROM LOVEJOY

Al Hughes more than just a coach

HAMPTON — For a man that has meant so much for a team and community, this wasn't the way Al Hughes was supposed to go out.

He earned the right to leave solely on his own terms.

"This is not the end of my coaching career," Hughes said Monday afternoon. "I still have coaching in my blood."

Hughes spent the last 13 years raising the bar at Lovejoy, especially the last four seasons where the program has risen to elite status. This past season with two young quarterbacks, and a rebuilt defense with a new coordinator, Lovejoy rose to No. 2 in the state's 1A highest classification.

The season ended against powerhouse Lawrence at Twelve Oaks Stadium. There was nothing that Hughes, his staff, players or the Lovejoy community should be ashamed of.

Hughes would often take to social media spreading the good fortunes of the "Wildcats" football program. He would remind his players to do it the "Wildcat way."

But some feel a need for change. They are defying the logic of the old adage: "If it's not broken, don't fix it."

The Lovejoy Wildcats football program isn't broken.

It might need some fine tuning, but the 2014 season looked as if it could be another big year.

The young quarterbacks are more seasoned. Williams has emerged as a true star, national elite player — named by some as the top player in the class of 2015. And the defense was going to get better.

But they will have to do it all without the iconic Clayton County sports figure that was Al Hughes.

He was the man that greeted you warmly anytime you attended a practice. From a media standpoint, you couldn't ask for a better coach to work with.

He was accessible by returning your phone calls, emails or text messages. He made his players available for interviews and photo requests.

Hughes worked tirelessly to get his players the recognition they deserved with the scouting services, college



Al Hughes spent the last 13 years building the Lovejoy football program among the state's elite with consecutive trips to the state finals. (Staff Photo: Derrick Mahone)

See MAHONE, Page 2B

END OF AN ERA

Al Hughes is out as Lovejoy's football coach

By Derrick Mahone
dmahone@news-daily.com

HAMPTON — After 13 years and seven region-championships, Al Hughes is out as the Lovejoy football coach.

A Clayton County sports figure, Hughes transitioned the Lovejoy program into one of the state's elite during the last four years.

Reached Monday afternoon, Hughes said he would retire from his coaching position and spend time over the upcoming holidays to plot out his next move as a coach.

"It is not the end of my coaching career," Hughes said. "I still have coaching in my blood. My dad has been sick, so I'm going to spend some time with him and my mom to help them out. I'm not through coaching. I'm going to weigh my options."

This past season, Hughes led the Wildcats to their fourth straight region title and a trip to the second round of the Class AAAAA playoffs. Lovejoy finished with a 10-2 record before losing to Lawrence at Twelve Oaks Stadium in the postseason.

See HUGHES, Page 2B



Al Hughes was 14 games and seven region championships during his 13-year tenure as the Lovejoy football coach. (Staff Photo: Derrick Mahone)

AL HUGHES COACHING LEDGER

- Years at Lovejoy: 13
- Region titles: 7
- Record at Lovejoy: 124-42

See MAHONE, Page 2B

Forest Park takes county duals title

By Derrick Mahone
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FOREST PARK — After three years in the building process, Dan Williams said his Forest Park wrestling team is turning the corner toward where he wants them to be.

It was never more evident than last week and when the Panthers won the Clayton County Wrestling Duals Championship held at Mundy's Mill High.

This was the second year that the county has held a duals team championship. The traditional county championship will take place next month at Forest Park.

"It was a great way to show how our hard work and dedication has paid off," Forest Park senior Anthony Yora said. "We put in a lot of work at practice to get to this point. I'm proud of our team."

After leaving Lovejoy three years ago, Williams moved over to Forest Park. He said it usually takes three to five years to build a championship caliber program.

"I knew we were headed in the right direction," Williams said. "I've had a good group of wrestlers to work with, and they are trying to win what we want. Many of them have gone through some private training to get ready for the season. These kids have sold out on what is taken to win."

Forest Park defeated Morrow 45-33 in the finals to take the championship. The Panthers outlasted through their first



Forest Park wrestlers celebrate their win at the Clayton County Duals Wrestling tournament over the weekend. (Special Photo)

See WRESTLE, Page 2B



Sports Column


B

3rd Place

Columbia County News-Times, Evans

Scott Rouch

THE COLUMBIA COUNTY News-Times Sports
Page 9 Sunday, August 23, 2013



Reid's leaving will be loss for Bulldogs

When I first saw Reggie Reid before the start of the 2012-13 basketball season last year, I considered what all the fuss was about. I didn't see him play his freshman year, in which he averaged 19 points and five rebounds per game for the Harlem Bulldogs. He is shorter than me, standing at just 5 feet, but as I watched him in a lay-up drill, I was amazed. When he went to the hoop, it was like he was on an escalator the way he elevated effortlessly above the rim.

That was the first time I saw what had captivated others much earlier — just raw, natural athletic ability. And while others had come calling, Reid hadly trained at ELVB Sports Institute in Deltona Beach, Fla.

Tuesday, he walked into the Bulldogs' head coach Kim Chambers' office at Harlem and said he was on his way to Florida to be a part of their program.

It might not be a surprising move for the Bulldogs, but it will take some time to recover from the loss. Reid took his game to another level as a sophomore, averaging 27 points, 7.1 rebounds, 5.7 assists and 2.7 steals per game while leading the Bulldogs to the state playoffs.

Chambers was excited about the upcoming season with the loss of just one player and the improvement of the players who would play alongside Reid, but that doesn't mean he has time to replace his game player with the one already in place, but it will be hard to replace a talent like Reid's.

I guess I was naive, thinking that it was just college that motivated athletes, but the word in schools here has been the Rawlinson transfer since his freshman year.

So what is it about ELVB's that is so appealing?

The institute runs its basketball program executive director Grant Baker as a recreational trainer who has worked with the likes of LeBron James, Chris Paul and Kevin Durant, among others.

For a young basketball player wanting to achieve the highest amount of success, these coaches just lay out the steps.

You can't blame Reid for wanting to get that competitive advantage, especially if college and professional basketball are in his sights.

The institute also highlights their academic program and getting in shape — not only, but ready for life. Make no mistake, however, it is an athletic facility, training basketball, baseball and lacrosse players.

Once again from their website, ELVB Sports Institute Inc. ("ELVB") is a multi-sport training and instructional business. The core product of ELVB is a player development system that results in every age and skill level.

Their sample daily schedule lists five hours of sport-related activity and four hours devoted to coursework. What high school student wouldn't want to do that?

That's almost better than college schedules. Subsidizing the sport won't come cheap, however. The application fee is \$100 and most accepted, a \$5,000 deposit is due. Non-binding students pay \$15,500 and boarding students are tagged for \$20,000.

I guess there really is no price, though, when it comes to making it big.

Lakeside dominates Grovetown, Harlem


It was surprising to hear Lakeside High School volleyball players Kelly Brown and Breanna Dixon answer questions at the same time or finishing each other's sentences.

On the court, she also has been turning up to match success in the 2013 season's early going. Tuesday night was no exception as the Lady Panthers improved to 3-1 with wins over Grovetown and Harlem.

With head coach Marcyann Midonick using Christy Hill as the setter in the team's first game against Harlem, the sophomore setter Dixon and junior libero Sweating combined for 11 kills in three games. Overall, Sweating finished with 19 kills while Dixon had 12 assists.

"I know where she is," said Sweating, "and I know what she wants." Ranked Dixon.

See VOLLEYBALL on 10



Wolfpack's wet start ends in loss to Morgan Co.

After scoring six games watched out by weather, Cherokee High School softball head coach Glenn Black was determined to play the game against Morgan County Wednesday night.

It was a battle just to get the game going. They overcame a 101-minute lightning delay and used 30 bags of infield drying agent, spread across the field by the field crew, coaches and parents, to render the field playable.

Once the Lady Wolfpack took the field, they found themselves in a battle with the Lady Bulldogs. The momentum swung both ways throughout the contest, but in the end the Region 3-AAA Lady Bulldogs prevailed, 11-6.

"They have a good team and we wanted to play. It also we've only played one game so far this year," said Black on the impact of getting the game in.

The Lady Bulldogs (2-1) came out pounding the ball with three first-inning doubles, taking a quick 2-0 lead, but pitcher Julie Underwood (21-1) minimized the damage recording the final two outs with the bases loaded.

The Lady Wolfpack (1-1) got some clutch hitting in the bottom of the first to regain the lead. With one out, Maddie Hearn, Taylor Deegan and Kaitlyn Thomas singled to lead the bases. One out later, Breanna Mischelberg whiffed the first pitch due to the base of the wall in left field for a home-clearing double. Two wild pitches later the Lady Wolfpack's lead was 4-2.

Also an uneventful second inning, Underwood didn't make a out of the third as the Lady Bulldogs begged her for four more runs, taking a 6-4 advantage.

Kaitlyn Thomas recorded the final two outs of the third inning and won the race of the way, allowing five runs (two earned) on five hits with seven strikeouts.

The team had to sit through another 31-minute lightning delay at the end of the third inning, but the Lady Bulldogs scored four quick runs to stretch their lead to 10-4.

After scoring single runs in the fourth and fifth innings, the Lady Wolfpack plated two runs in the bottom of the sixth. They missed an opportunity to apply pressure as they had runners on second and third with just one out and couldn't bring them home.


While scoring eight runs, the Lady Wolfpack also committed four errors and wasn't as crisp as they were in the season opener, making Black displeased.

"It was more our body language, just our approach," Black said. "Just the little things I wasn't very happy with. Morgan County has a good team, they swing the bats well and they beat us. I know it's a game but we've got a long way to go."

Photos by Scott Rouch

Cherokee High School softball head coach Glenn Black looks out a puddle between second and third base before Wednesday night's game against Morgan County.

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 6TH
GATES OPEN AT 4P • AUGUSTA COMMON • AUGUSTA GA
TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT CIRCLE K, COMMUNICATIONS & HOTSPOTS
TICKETS - \$10 ADULTS • \$5 CHILDREN 12 & UNDER FREE • VIP TICKETS AVAILABLE



Sports Column

B

2nd Place

Rome News-Tribune

Jim Alred

Sports SECTION B
Rome News-Tribune SUNDAY, November 24, 2013

MLB Chicago Bulls superstar Derrick Rose is not indefinitely because of knee surgery in his right knee — story at 88-T.com.

YOUTH FOOTBALL

Rome Middle sixth-grade team brings home state championship

From Staff Reports

Rome Middle School's sixth-grade team captured the 2013 state championship on Saturday afternoon at Archbishop John Jay High School in Cambridge, N.J. The seventh-grade team brought home the title in 2012.

The sixth-grade team got an offensive boost from Nicolas Berger. Berger broke a long run in the second quarter for the game and scored the winning touchdown in the fourth quarter. The team won 28-14.

The seventh-grade team also won the state championship. They were 10-0 in regular season and 11-0 overall. They were 10-0 in regular season and 11-0 overall.

MLB
AP source: McCann, Yankees near 5-year, \$85 million deal

By Ben Wobser
Associated Press Baseball Writer

NEW YORK — Free agent catcher Brian McCann and the New York Yankees are close to completing a five-year, \$85 million deal, according to an AP source. The agreement was announced on Saturday night.

The deal is expected to be announced in the next few days. McCann is expected to be the Yankees' starting catcher for the next five years.

VICTORY BOWL

Cougars romp, 67-0

Azusa Pacific holds Div. III No. 2 rushing offense to only 82 yards

By Jim Alred
Sports Editor
alred@trib.com

It took a week of rain to get the game, but the Azusa Pacific Cougars romped to a 67-0 victory over the Azusa Pacific Bears in the 2013 NCA Victory Bowl on Saturday afternoon. The Cougars' offense was dominant, scoring 67 points and running for 672 yards. The Bears' offense was held to only 82 yards on the ground.

The Cougars' offense was led by quarterback Matt Smith, who threw for 275 yards and three touchdowns. Running back Matt Smith also ran for 100 yards and a touchdown. The Cougars' defense was led by defensive end Matt Smith, who had a sack and a forced fumble.

The game was played at the Azusa Pacific Stadium in Azusa, Calif. The Cougars' victory marks their 11th consecutive state championship.

USA FOOTBALL

Murray hurts knee, Georgia knocks off Kentucky 59-17

Charles Olson
Rome News-Tribune Sports Writer

MEMPHIS — Aaron Murray hurt his knee during the second half of the Georgia vs. Kentucky game on Saturday night. Murray was injured while running the ball. The game ended with a Georgia victory, 59-17.

Murray's injury is expected to keep him out of the game. The Georgia team is expected to be without Murray for the remainder of the season.

GRIDIRON CENTRAL 2013 WEEKLY SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY
THE GRIDIRON CENTRAL PREVIEW SHOW

SATURDAY
THE GRIDIRON CENTRAL SCOREBOARD SHOW

GEORGIA NORTHWESTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Sports Column

B

1st Place

Statesboro Herald

Matt Yogus

Sports

Thursday, March 26, 2010

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On the Web

Go to www.statesboroherald.com

Inside this issue

• Prep Sports — Sunday Spotlight Page 10

• Area Sports Schedule Page 10

Georgia Southern Athletics

Eagles make their move

By Matt Yogus, Sports Editor

It was a bad day in Statesboro for a small but vocal group of advanced Georgia Southern fans who think that the Eagles just threw away something that was good about the football program.

And at the risk of sounding like a broken record (I know, too bad, I just don't get it).

Georgia Southern is joining the Sun Belt Conference and playing football at the highest level possible in the NCAA. Sometimes, for some, that's a bad thing.

I've heard the arguments, and I get it, OK?

No more day trips to every game in Charleston, Greenville and Savannah. No more football Championship television playoffs. No more being the bigger, baddest kid on the block.

Those are all good things, I admit it.

But there are also some questions that really, really deserve some thought.

In playing football during the regular season, isn't it better than playing



Georgia Southern University president Brooks Kent, III, mascot Gus, and cheerleaders are at a press conference to announce a move to the Sun Belt Conference.

South National? Is driving an extra hour to play "big time" really worse than playing "Charterhouse"?

Isn't GSU's biggest, most heated rivalry (App State) coming along for the ride?

Are away games at private schools in those of 4,000 fans really better than, well, anything the Sun Belt has to offer?

Are nonconference games against Tennessee, Wake Forest, Jacksonville and Howard really better than potential games against the likes of Duke, Wake Forest, Southern

Miss. Central Florida, Middle Tennessee, Sam Houston, Auburn? Don't throwing out some regional possibilities?

And what is an "Elite 8" New matchups can even make a season without a postseason appearance fun, right? After all, I don't

hear GSU fans share plenty of fond memories from national-championship-less seasons. And let's face it, 7-9 (or much, much worse) seasons are a distinct possibility all of a sudden. Competitors' tough out there. There

See FBG, Page 10

Atlanta Braves

Braves have high hopes

By PAUL WHEBERRY
Staff Writer

ATLANTA—That familiar face over at third base is gone.

Time for the Atlanta Braves to go through another changing of the guard.

Carroll, Chipper Jones, Jody Reyes, Fred McGriff and the Southern League.

The Braves head into a new era with the same high expectations — make the playoffs, contend for a championship — even though Jones may be holding down a spot in the middle of the lineup for the first time in nearly two decades.

When you don't have probably the best third baseman ever, there is a big hole to fill, said pitcher Tim Lincecum, who's got the start on opening day. But there is

a lot of young talent on this team. We'll be good again this year and should be good for a lot more years."

Indeed, Atlanta has been through this before.

Many times, in fact, since engaging in one of baseball's top franchises in 1911.

There were plenty of fans who wondered how the Braves would ever replace Greg Maddux and Tom Glavine and John Smoltz. Not to mention Fred McGriff and Andres Galarraga and Andrew Jones. Come to think of it, many predicted a drop-off when John Schubeck (the longtime general manager) and Bobby Cox (the erstwhile manager) gave up their jobs.

Through all the changes, the Braves have demonstrated a remarkable ability to keep interesting themselves,

which is why they've made the playoffs 16 times and captured eight postseason wins in a 22-year span, but because another milestone has called it a career, they are no longer to expect anything less.

"Without Chipper, new leadership has to emerge in the clubhouse and it will," said general manager Frank White, heading into his sixth season as Atlanta's manager. "It's not unusual about that."

A franchise long known for playing in overcast, humid conditions in Atlanta is set to play a split season of 16 games in 11-12 cities over the Braves.

"I guess as soon as Tim goes to 36 at bats, he's made," Johnson joked.

Zimmerman wasn't the only one to go deep for the Nationals, who get a pair of home runs from catcher

See BRVES, Page 10

Red-hot Eagles head to UNC Greensboro

Southern Conference Baseball Standings

Team	W-L	GF	RA	Streak	OB
Georgia Southern	2-1	13-10	11	1	—
UNC Greensboro	2-1	18-10	11	2	3
Sam Houston	2-1	18-10	11	2	3
Western Carolina	2-1	13-10	11	2	3
Appalachian State	2-1	12-8	11	3	3
Charlotte	2-1	13-11	11	3	3
North Carolina	2-1	13-11	11	3	3
Wake Forest	2-1	11-13	10	2	3
Durham	2-1	11-13	10	2	3
UNC Greensboro	0-2	11-12	10	1	2

Georgia Southern

After winning its seventh straight game with an 11-4 mid-week victory over Jacksonville on Tuesday, No. 20 Georgia Southern (11-2, 8-1 SoCon) heads to UNC Greensboro for a three-game Southern-Conference series.

Because of the Easter holidays on Sunday, the series at UNC Greensboro will begin today at 6 p.m. and will be followed by a 4 p.m. game on Friday and a 2 p.m. contest on Saturday.

All three games can be heard on the Georgia Southern

GSU Baseball

Baseball with a 9-3 victory on Friday night and a 5-0 win on Sunday.

The Eagles now sit at 10 games above 200 and have only taken below 200 twice this season. The Eagles have won 13 of their last 17 games since an 11-4 loss to Wake on March 1.

The Eagles are 15-9 in the month of March and hold a .284 batting average and a 4.16 ERA in 16 games this month.

The Eagles held four of the SoCon's nine wins against ranked opponents. Georgia Southern currently ranks first in RPI and a 9-4 against top-50 RPI teams this season.

See MADNESS, Page 10

March Madness

Sweet 16 Schedule

Tonight

West Region
7:47 p.m.
No. 8 Arizona vs. No. 2 Ohio St.

10:47 p.m.
No. 7 La Salle vs. No. 9 Wichita St.

East Region
7:15 p.m.
No. 2 Marquette vs. No. 10 Wake Forest

9:45 p.m.
No. 4 Syracuse vs. No. 1 Indiana

No. 6 Arizona vs. No. 2 Ohio St.

LOS ANGELES — Ever since Super Mario and Donkey Kong shared a toy office at Atari, Ohio nearly two decades ago, the rivalry between the Wildcats and the Hoosiers has survived job changes, practical jokes and a few heated battles in regional football fields.

"They've worked together and recruited against each other. They've shared scoring tips and single city advice. They even kindly lend each other the same real with their entire families."

"I wouldn't be here today without him," Miller said. "He's been a big part of my life. I've learned a lot from him, and I've learned a lot about life when we worked together. And we remain very good friends."

They remained close after their years apart at a memorable Ohio State victory over Texas in the NCAA tournament six years ago, and they're still close leading into their next meeting Thursday at the Sprint Center, where the undefeated Wildcats (25-7) will take on the Hoosiers (27-2) in the West Region semifinals.

"I don't like the fact that we're playing, but I've never seen so many fans," Miller said.

The winner gets much more than bragging rights between the two Big Ten schools in what would be the first game of the first round of the Big Ten tournament.

The winner of this meeting between the two schools will be a strong favorite to make the Final Four with matchups to Duke and Wake Forest entering the late game. Ohio State and Arizona are the only teams in the tournament left in other lanes like the four attractive regional.

Nats crush Braves

Atlanta Braves
Washington Nationals 7
After 2 innings — 2:04, 3:18

Nats crush Braves

WASHINGTON — Ryan Zimmerman has already told Nationals manager Davey Johnson that he wants to lead the team in spring training to be ready for the regular season.

Washington's third baseman, who had 48 at bats coming into Wednesday's game against Atlanta, homered three times to lead a split squad of Nationals to an 11-2 win over the Braves.

"I guess as soon as Tim goes to 36 at bats, he's made," Johnson joked.

Zimmerman wasn't the only one to go deep for the Nationals, who get a pair of home runs from catcher

See NATS, Page 10

March Madness

No. 13 La Salle vs. No. 9 Wichita St.

LOS ANGELES — Wichita State and La Salle entered the Sweet 16 with their first wins in the Big Ten tournament. Now they're in the Final Four and playing a showdown from Independence, Kan. It's not their first meeting in the tournament, but you might see some play of the rivalry in the first round.

These guys know they've got a lot of credibility, even if they're not the favorite. They've got a lot of fans and a lot of love. They've got a lot of love. They've got a lot of love.

The beautiful thing about the NCAA tournament is that you can see great teams that you don't see every night and in one of these games. And you might see some play of the rivalry in the first round.

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Sports Column

A

3rd Place

The Telegraph,
Macon

Seth Emerson

B The Telegraph
SPORTS
 Tuesday, January 25, 2011 Sports Editor David Bailey | dbailey@telegraph.com | (478) 784-8227



Bobby Pope
Committee should look at Murphy
More baseball head coaches like Ernie Ligon for a home run by landing former Atlanta Braves star Dan Murphy for the Baseball Hall of Fame's 50th annual First Pitch Classic that will be held Feb. 27 at Hawkins Arena on the Braves campus.
 Murphy joins former Atlanta Braves manager Tommie Agee and current Atlanta Braves outfielder Chipper Jones as keynote speakers for the event during the previous last year. Ligon was Murphy coming up in the Braves organization. He was a first-round pick in 1974 and started his career as a catcher but had a hard time throwing the ball back to the pitcher. He switched to first base, where he played two seasons, before the Atlanta Braves moved him to the outfield, where he excelled.
 Murphy was the face of the Braves for more than a decade, playing parts of 17 seasons before being traded away to Philadelphia at the end of the 1990 campaign, where he played three years before ending his career with the Colorado Rockies in 1995.
 He was a bright spot for the start of his career on Atlanta teams that were not very good. In fact, during his 17 seasons in Atlanta, he played on teams that had a L100-L32 record for a .461 winning percentage. Only three times was he a member of an Atlanta team that had a winning record: in 1995 when the Braves won 90-62, in 1992 when they finished 89-73, and in 1993 when they won 89-76.
 In 1992 and 1993, Murphy was the NL MVP, which gave him an elite company. Only three other players have won the MVP: Hank Aaron, Pete Rose, Stan Musial (twice), Ray Campanella (twice), Johnny Bench (twice) and Ernie Banks (twice) have more or as many Legendary Braves star Hank Aaron won his only MVP once in 1957, and Jones captured his lone one in 1999.
 During the eight-year period between 1992 and 1993, Murphy was one of baseball's best. He experienced, Murphy has claimed two MVP awards, two home run titles, two RBI crowns, seven All-Star Game appearances, two Gold Gloves and four Silver Slugger awards. He won a 30 home run, 30 stolen base season. Murphy finished his career with 289 home runs, 1,269 RBIs, 1,277 runs scored and a .269 career batting average.
 He chose to make Murphy worthy of selection to the Baseball Hall of Fame? The Baseball Writers Association of America didn't think so in this.



San Francisco quarterback Colin Kaepernick became the 49ers' starter in November when Alex Smith was injured, and he led his team to the Super Bowl.

Some new faces

Flacco, Kaepernick aren't from the same mold of quarterbacks who have played in recent Super Bowls

By MARK HUBER
 AP Pro Football Writer

NEW ORLEANS — No Tom Brady. No Aaron Rodgers. No Ben Roethlisberger. Not a Manning in sight.

Super Bowl has a goal of reaching the Super Bowl, but the quarterbacks who have played in recent Super Bowls aren't from the same mold of quarterbacks who never have gotten this far before.

"No the start of the season, I was just hoping to get on the field some way, whatever," said Kaepernick, who was drafted in the seventh round, but he will be playing in his first Super Bowl.

Colin Kaepernick and Alex Flacco, the two newcomers, exactly where they want to be.



Gore kept hope through a lot of adversity

By PAUL WHELAN
 AP Football Writer

NEW ORLEANS — Frank Gore says he's not giving up.

Not through all the injuries, all the long early in his career.

The perseverance finally paid off for the veteran for the San Francisco running back.

The 29-year-old Gore helped the 49ers reach the Super Bowl for the first time since 1954, a triumph that is especially sweet given all he's been through. He tore up both knees in college. He underwent major surgery on both shoulders after he got to the pros. He lost part of another season to a hip injury.

Not to mention, Gore didn't experience winning in the NFL until his seventh year.

"It was tough, real tough," he said Monday. "It was tough coming to work, especially for me coming from a winning program [Clemson] in college. I was never used to losing. I used to take a hard."

One of his teammates, fellow 49er...

Win fuels Tech

By STEPHEN
 www.thetelegraph.com

ATLANTA — All season, Georgia Tech basketball head coach Brian Oliver has been praised for the way he has led his team to a 7-0 record in the Southeastern Conference (SEC) during the season. Now the Jackets will see if their consistent excellence when they travel to Clemson for Thursday night's game.



Seth Emerson
 www.thetelegraph.com

Football is at a watershed moment

ATLANTA — This much is clear: Football will never be the same. As a spectator sport, it is the top choice on television and in person. It is as popular as ever, and it is the sport needs to watch and adapt.

MACON COVENS ONLINE
 www.maconcovens.com/

Sports Column

A

2nd Place

Savannah Morning News

Donald Heath

Savannah Morning News | savannahnow.com/sports
MONDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2013

SPORTS

COMING TUESDAY A follow-up on the Super Bowl between the Baltimore Ravens and the San Francisco 49ers.

BEST BET: BASKETBALL What team's college basketball coach will make the Super Bowl? Watch the 7:30 p.m., today ESPN

Winging it According to the National Chicken Council, Americans will eat 1.23 billion wings on Super Bowl Sunday. "That is astonishing," wrote the Miami Herald's Greg Cole. "I don't know what number it means that there is a National Chicken Council." — *The Seattle Times*

SOFTBALL Pirates claim two victories
COLUMBUS — The No. 20-ranked Armstrong Atlantic State University softball squad crushed the PBC-SSC Challenge with a 4-0 mark with a pair of wins on Sunday. The Pirates blanked Lyons 2-0 and Saint Leo 2-0, finishing as the only unbeaten team in the Challenge on opening weekend.

The Pirates 24-02 got a two-run home run from freshman Hannah Reppert and a solo home run by senior Shelby Duff to knock off the Knights in the first game of the day. Pirates Duff 0-02 and senior Cole Stone combined on a one-hitter.

In the second game, the Pirates used a two-run home run from sophomore Alexis Mancini in the third inning to claim the 2-0 win over Saint Leo. Senior Megan Summitt 0-01 reached her first shutout of the season, spinning a three-hitter for the victory.

Freshman Kacie Patterson went 3 for 2 with a run scored to lead the Pirates in the second game.

TENNIS Querrey lifts US to win
JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Sam Querrey beat Thom Alvo 4-6, 6-5, 6-4, 7-6 (3) on Sunday to give the United States a dramatic 7-2 victory over Brazil and a spot in the Davis Cup quarterfinals. The U.S. will host Serbia in the next round in Bala, Md., from April 7-9.

Querrey stepped up after teammate John Isner lost 2-6, 6-4, 6-7 (7), 6-5 to Thomas Bellucci earlier Sunday, forcing a deciding fifth match. It was the first time since 2000 that a U.S. team needed to win the fifth match to advance.

The 27-year-old Querrey started fast, breaking Alvo in the second game of the match. But Alvo, ranked No. 140, responded with breaks of his own in the third and sixth games to take the opening set.

Querrey responded with a consistent array of cross-court winners to control play the rest of the way.

"I was very happy with the way I battled through the match," he said. "I fought through the tough points and got breaks in the second, third and sixth sets. I was just happy to get through it."

Querrey's serve was especially effective. He finished with 26 aces, compared to one by Alvo, often chipping 100 mph or faster. When Alvo was able to return a serve, it often was with little pace, enabling Querrey to eventually hit winners.

CONTACT US ▼

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BALTIMORE RAVENS 34 **SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS 31**

XLVII



Baltimore Ravens quarterback Joe Flacco (12) celebrates with teammates after defeating the San Francisco 49ers 34-31 on Sunday in New Orleans.

HOLDING ON

Ravens get key goal-line stand to defeat 49ers 34-31 in the Super Bowl

BY BABY WILSON • The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — From forward-to-backward to forward, Joe Flacco and the Baltimore Ravens had just enough to survive one of the most electric Super Bowls ever.

The on-air flipped a switch for the San Francisco 49ers, but the Ravens used a last-gasp defensive stand to hold on Sunday night, 34-31.

American biggest sporting event came to a half-hour standstill in the third quarter when most of the fanfare lights and the electronically scored clock. By then, the Ravens had a 12-point lead.

Everything changed after that, though, and the stars staged a sensational rally led by Ray Lewis and Co. that it down, but there were plenty of white-knuckle moments and the Ravens 34-31 had to make four steps inside the 10 at the end.

For a Super Bowl with so many variables, it almost had to end this way.

Flacco's arrival as a championship quarterback coincides with Lewis' retirement — with a second Super Bowl ring so less. The win capped a sensational month since the star linebacker announced he was leaving the game after 11 Hall of Fame-caliber years.

SEE RAVENS, PAGE 4B



The Ravens' Joe Flacco (12) is lifted into the air by teammates after the Super Bowl on Sunday. Flacco was named MVP.

Ray Lewis ends brilliant career with championship

BY DAVID COUGHRAN • The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Ray Lewis will ride into retirement as a champion.

Baltimore's rambunctious middle linebacker began his final night on the football field with a motivational speech to his teammates. He ended it looking upward into a shower of silver streamers and purple confetti after the Ravens beat the San Francisco 49ers 34-31 Sunday night to win the Super Bowl.

"It's simple. When God is for you, who can be against you?" Lewis said, clutching the Lombardi Trophy. "It's no greater wish, as a champion, to go out on your last ride with the team that I went out with, with my teammates. And you looked around this stadium, and — Baltimore! Baltimore! We coming home, baby! We did it!"

Rounding off in the middle of a defense that survived a frenzied comeback by Colin Kaepernick and the 49ers, Lewis put a lovely bow on his 11th NFL season by earning his second Super Bowl ring — 12 years after the first.

When Lewis first led Baltimore to Super Bowl glory, he was a 30-year-old at the height of his game. A reserve in the middle of the best defense in the league, Lewis was voted MVP after the Ravens beat the New York Giants 34-7 to earn their first championship.

On Sunday night, Lewis said he had a goal. "I want to win this thing," he said. "I want to win this thing."

SEE LEWIS, PAGE 4B

The top 10 ways to spot a cheat

Another day, another tale trying to cheat the system. What's the saying, if you're not cheating, you're not trying?

The latest sports scandal involves the use of deer antler spray. South American, where you're an NFL player. Or a deer.

Apparently, this stuff has become a leading guess, although its origin would make you think otherwise.

According to website LiveScience.com, the spray is made from the velvet-like tissue that surrounds a male deer's antlers.

The substance is then crushed into a powder and added as a pill or turned into a spray and taken under the tongue.

When do I sign up? Lemmy, it's had a pro! Assuming that's kept one out of job-up baseball for a few weeks.

Others have a little more at stake.

A Sports Illustrated article alleges Baltimore Ravens linebacker Ray Lewis used the spray to help his return to professional football 21 weeks after suffering a torn ligament in his knee during the 2010 season — an injury that normally keeps a player out at least a year and sometimes ends careers.

Less than a year later, Peyton Manning led the Broncos to a Super Bowl victory after suffering a torn ligament in his knee during the 2010 season — an injury that normally keeps a player out at least a year and sometimes ends careers.

Less than a year later, Peyton Manning led the Broncos to a Super Bowl victory after suffering a torn ligament in his knee during the 2010 season — an injury that normally keeps a player out at least a year and sometimes ends careers.

SEE HEATH, PAGE 3B



DONALD HEATH



Sports Column

A

1st Place

The Augusta Chronicle

Scott Michaux

SPORTS

MONDAY
June 17, 2013
The Augusta Chronicle

111TH U.S. OPEN

Player	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Total
Justin Rose	67	69	71	69	276
Adam Scott	68	68	70	70	276
Lee Westwood	69	69	70	69	277
Tommy Fleetwood	70	69	70	69	278
Paul Casey	70	70	69	69	278
Henrik Stenson	70	70	70	68	278
Matt Kuchar	71	68	70	69	278
Brandt Snedeker	71	69	70	68	278
Jason Day	71	70	69	68	278
Phil Mickelthwait	71	69	70	68	278
Other	71	70	70	70	281



No rose without a thorn



SCOTT MICHAUX
Sports Columnist

Lefty suffers yet another 'heartbreak'

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Phil Mickelthwait had a heartbreak to win the U.S. Open on Monday.

It's never mind. You have been it now.

Perhaps it was Mickelthwait's age when a growing-up injury slowed his path Friday, because he was playing for some 13 years after the last time he had a heartbreak. He had a heartbreak when he was 13 years old and was out of the game for a while. He had a heartbreak when he was 13 years old and was out of the game for a while. He had a heartbreak when he was 13 years old and was out of the game for a while.



Englishman has his first major crown

By Doug Ferguson
Staff Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. — A clearly hard game Justin Rose the 111th U.S. Open trophy, a wild ride game Phil Mickelthwait and another major win.

Rose captured his first major championship with remarkable calm and steady pace shots on the putting green.

... (text continues) ...

MORE ON U.S. OPEN
• Tiger will struggle in major
• Rose's win is historic
• Mickelthwait's loss is heartbreaking

ALL-AREA BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF YEAR

Zaremba on track to break records

By Mike Smith
Staff Writer



Like a true forward, Dustin Zaremba keeps the ball at his feet, and he shines when it's there.

The South Area soccer player scored 21 goals this season and 20 assists. The 16-year-old forward has a knack for finding the net, going all the way to the club level.

Zaremba was instrumental in his team's success, which includes a state championship. He is currently leading the state in goals scored.

Spurs handle Heat, inch closer to title

SAN ANTONIO 114, MIAMI 104

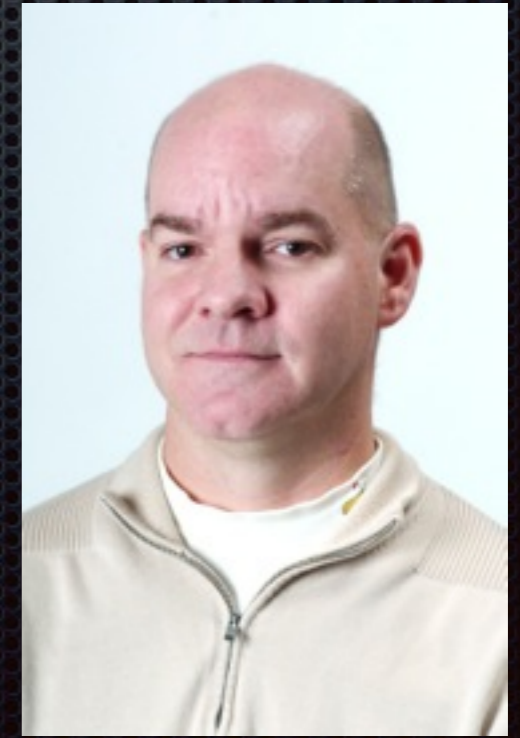
By Jon Kramarz
Staff Writer



SAN ANTONIO — Tony Parker had 20 points and 10 assists in a decisive win to spark the San Antonio Spurs to a 1-0 victory over the Miami Heat in Game 1 of the NBA Finals on Monday night, putting the Spurs one victory away from their 15th championship.

Parker scored 20 points and had 10 assists. The Spurs won the game 114-104.

SPORTS COLUMN



Humorous Column

H

2nd Place

Rockdale News, Conyers

David McCoy



David McCoy, a notorious storyteller and proud Yellow Jacket, lives in Covington. He can be reached at desmccoy@bellsouth.net.

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RockdaleNews.com/opinion

PAGE 5

OPINION

the NEWS

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Our thoughts

Race to the top

Even a community like Conyers-Rockdale, which still embodies the spirit of family and community pride, has its warts. We are fortunate that most of our citizens recognize that we are not perfect and are willing to work on removing the warts.

There is one institution that has risen above that status and remains a strengthening focal point of our community — that is our education system.

Our schools are constantly in the top tier of state testing; our schools are pioneering the latest technology, paid with grant funding, the penny sales tax and taxes provided by our local citizens.

Rockdale Career Academy is a state-of-the-art school that is used as an example for the rest of the state to emulate. Occasionally, the government offers major grants to help implement programs designed to assist schools in reaching set standards. The Race to the Top program, a series of competitive grants to states and districts, is stringent and often costs money from the already tight local school budget.

But it has already allowed developments like STEM academy at Memorial Middle School.

Last year, the local school system was in hot pursuit of another round of RTTT grants that would go directly to districts. Rockdale County Public Schools fell short by only seven points.

This year, they are after the second round of RTTT direct grants called Choices for Personalized Learning. And they are asking for the community's help in winning the \$25 million grant.

One way to help and show your community pride is to compose a letter showing your faith in our school system and your willingness to put in time, effort or resources to see that our school children receive the best education possible.

For more details, contact the school's community relations director, Cindy Hall, at chall@rockdalek12.ga.us. We have a great opportunity to prove that we in the Conyers-Rockdale community feel that education is truly the guiding light of our future and our children's future.

Politicians are losing power

Official Washington is always a decade or two behind the American people. That was true in 1963 when Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. shared his dream for a better America. It's also true today.

The 1963 March on Washington came 16 years after

Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in Major League Baseball. Robinson did more than make news; he won the Rookie of the Year award in 1947, the MVP award two years later and entered the Hall of Fame in 1962. By then, black ballplayers were part of every major league team.

Another big moment took place in 1955 when Rosa Parks courageously refused to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Ala. Many other events, big and small, changed the nation's attitudes on racial issues in the decades leading up to King's most famous



Scott Rasmussen
Columnist

speech. But they had little impact on official Washington until the march forced the politicians to pay attention.

The march was a wake-up call that forced politicians to belatedly recognize that America had changed.

Today, the politicians are again far behind. The new reality is captured in Nicco Mele's book, "The End of Big."

"The devices and connectivity so essential to modern life put unprecedented power in the hands of every individual — a radical redistribution of power that our traditional institutions don't and perhaps can't understand," he writes.

In America, power is decentralizing and individuals are being empowered. While the trend has been building for decades, the politicians are just starting to recognize it.

One big reality check came earlier this year over a very modest trimming of the budget, known as the sequester. In D.C., many expected the American people would rise up in revolt when the so-called "cuts" took effect. Instead, no one noticed. Outside of those who work for the government, there was hardly any impact.

For those in power, that was a terrible glimpse into the reality of how irrelevant much of what they do has become.

For most Americans, it was a baby step in the right direction. That growing political irrelevance was highlighted in a recent Atlantic magazine article by Ron Fournier.

As a man immersed in the political class culture, he was concerned with what he saw in a study of the Millennial Generation:

Young people today are eager to serve their country, but they don't think politics and government is the way to do that.

"They are more likely to be social entrepreneurs, working outside government to create innovative and measurably successful solutions to the nation's problems," the article said.

The notion that problems can be solved outside of Washington is the last thing politicians want to hear. But it's the path our nation is following.

To find out more about Scott Rasmussen, and read features by other Creators writers and cartoonists, visit creators.com.

PECAN PIE FOR THE MIND

Love and horsepower

Back in the mid-'70s, my Uncle Jack took me "window shopping" at a huge car auction out in the Georgia countryside.

Jack had plenty of connections in the used-car business, and the two of us ended into the auction as emissaries on a mission. We arrived early in the morning while the dew was on the ground, and the sunlight was warming the windshields of the day's inventory. Jack explained that smaller dealers came to the auction to stock up on used cars, but all I knew was that there were cars for sale — everywhere — and I was approaching driving age.

Jack explained the big traffic light used to show the auction condition. "If the car is perfect, the light will be green. If the light is yellow, it means there's something specific wrong with the car. A red light means, 'sold as is.' It's that simple."

We watched car after car come up. Many of the cars came up on a green light. We saw the standard autos of the day: Chevys, AMCs, Dodges, VWs. Every now and then, we'd see a yellow-light car.

Sometimes, we'd see a red-light special, and we'd watch for the telltale blue smoke from the tailpipe. As each car came up for auction, I had one thought: "I don't need them all. I just need one."

Then I saw a Jaguar XKE pull up to center stage. I don't recall if the condition light was green or yellow or red. I was too blinded to care.

The Jag was a beauty, with a hood as long as a diving board. I talked the car up. I probably drooled. I probably stammered that the Jag was a "great investment."

But could my uncle put his nephew behind that much raw British high-maintenance horsepower? No.

He was a smart man who always knew the right thing to do. He never bid on the Jag. Hours passed, and we left the auction a lot sadder, but without a car. When time finally came for me to drive, I was given the family Ford Pinto — 4 cylinders of raw American boredom, and a far cry from an XKE.

At least I was right about the Jag being a great investment. A Jaguar XKE is now a fabulously collectible car, and I could have had one, if my uncle hadn't loved me as much as he did.

David McCoy, a notorious storyteller and proud Yellow Jacket, lives in Covington. He can be reached at desmccoy@bellsouth.net.



David McCoy
Columnist

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Water infrastructure

Dear Editor: See if I got this correct on our Rockdale Water Resources recent press release. (RWR Director) Mr (Dwight) Wicks states that for the first time in twelve years his department is finally free at last from the Federal and Georgia consent orders that cost "Rockdale County" taxpayers - not City of Conyers - \$500,000. Congratulations go to Mr. Wicks and members of the Water Authority but please explain the following question.

With all these many years trudging along with the feds and state dogs at our heels because we have infrastructure issues why does mayor Randy Mills (up for reelection) and his "build at any cost" triad go and approve the massive 4A project with 308 acres of new apartments in the highest density possible in the city?

Combine 4A's already 200 acres rezoned to that high concentration of apartments and that is 508 acres ready to bulldoze today! Remember we already have a ten year building supply of home lots now. But the 4A folks still have more land to ask for later and the city did not have to agree to this high

density but could have helped this community by allowing a change from a mall to less dense residential zoning. In the city the ratio of homeowners to renters is already a whopping 67 percent. By any community standards we lose our local unique cultural heritage when more renters who just rent a bed here outnumber homeowners by that percentage.

The Atlanta Regional staff even stated this was a project of Regional Impact. Does that sound like it was a good idea for a community with 100 year old water pipes leaking like a sieve. No it will forever be remembered with weak officials wringing their hands saying "I just had to do it."

Add in the rezoning of adult community in Milledale from residential single family to Mixed use development. These developers raced to Conyers before the big bait and now they have talked the locals into a far worse deal by allowing these high density developments in the name of progress. They profit on our losses.

Now you see why Rockdale will continue to have to play the game "There goes another industry" to neighboring counties due to our infrastructure problems.

On top of the mounting heap of

Don Meyer
Rockdale County

Humorous Column

H

1st Place

The Lanier County Advocate, Lakeland

Ashley George

Page 4 • LANIER COUNTY ADVOCATE • Lakeland, March 27, 2013

Send Letters to the Editor to: editor@laniercountyadvocate.com, or mail to Editor, Lanier County Advocate, P.O. Box 476, Lakeland, GA 31701

OPINION

LANIER COUNTY ADVOCATE
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Adopting the eerie smile of optimism

I'm pretty much what you would call a pessimist. The glass is always half empty, unless it's full of something I dislike. The edge of the cliff is always coming with a valley filled with demons and pitfalls. And that random person over there is suspicious... VERY suspicious.

I can't remember when I actually started desiring everything was going to turn out just because of god, but it's been this way pretty much my whole life. Case in point, some one says:

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Me: "Oh...right...of course they did."

And I sit back at my desk and wonder what they REALLY thought.

Because of this, I've always viewed naturally optimistic people with a confused and bewildered sort of fascination.

So, I decided to give optimism a try. I wanted to try being optimistic because I'm pessimistic and I'm mediocre in the whole faith thing. kinda super hearing.

WRITE US A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sent to:
Lanier County Advocate, P.O. Box 476, Lakeland, GA 31701, or e-mail to editor@laniercountyadvocate.com.

Remember the reason for high school sports

I have been really enjoying my high school basketball season. One year, GO DOGS! We are right in the middle of the season and we are trying to be something we call our games. The Coach is focused on the big picture and we each play the role in it, but when the struggle begins to happen, we make the adjustment. This started me thinking about what high school sports are all about and how it fits into a life's journey. To that end, I will share a few thoughts with you.

Sports are a lot more than a mere game. It's a small window of time. Trying out and wanting to see the field of competition and struggle to be that team that comes out on top. This process we call a game or maybe a season allows these young people to experience mental, emotional, and physical stresses that serve much the same purpose as a sharpening stone does with a good blade.

Applied at the correct angle, pressure, and with consistency you slowly work toward that razor sharp paper thin edge. However, if you apply too much pressure you get a sharp pressure metal and change the epistemological nature of the blade. Applied too lightly and the blade just never gets sharp. Use too slight an angle and you don't really change the cutting-edge at all. But if you use too great or hard an angle you are dulling the very edge you want to sharpen. So you see, the fine line of pressure has to be

applied just right in order to have the young athletes into a sharp young edition and know which way they have done winning or losing after this whole "sharpening" process! Well, to a great degree, that depends on the coach and the fans.

First though, I would ask you if you feel that there are more moments to celebrate in life or more moments to struggle. Maybe I'm doing something wrong, but I seem to fall slightly more into the struggle side of the fence. So, that being said, what will I learn more about life doing...winning or losing?

There are, no doubt, various schools of thought here, but I can promise you that Russell has learned the more through failure than through victory. My victories have largely been moments to celebrate and be thankful. My experiences with defeat, however, have guided me toward a living philosophy that I find shared with a young pastor Iifer and below, supporter to Governor North Carolina a few years back. That philosophy goes something like this...you can let the defeat and struggle of this life serve as baggage and grime as you drag it along, or you can let them wash it off and your life into a future of new challenges and victories.

It seems that our culture has placed a stigma on defeat that even in the arena of high school sports begins to retard our growth and cause us to try and cover up our weaknesses or avoid them altogether by simply quitting. In doing so, we lose out on the chance to learn to overcome and how we are connected to the rest of the world. I have experienced the heartbreak and pain of defeat in my life more times than I can recall. But these painful points in my life have added fuel and experience to my arsenal.

And having been sharpened in a paper thin razor sharp edge by these moments through encouragement and support, I am well prepared for these experiences that lay ahead. Sounds kind of like one of my favorite Bible verses, "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens the back of another" Proverbs 10:13.

Let me leave you with one last thought: I mentioned earlier that it was a sharpening process. There is great significance in my choosing the word sharpen. I did so because the "sharpening" of a young man's character involves numerous and various inputs, emotions, and reactions. Notice I used the word numerous and not the word various and not the

word diverse. That's because various and diverse mean if you have the process right, for example here that are felt, washed, cleaned, and they lay upon... In the same way, Coach, Parents, Mentors aren't fussed with getting wise, but getting the process right. Young athletes who are properly mentored will yield a degree of victory back on and off the field. It's all about the process (or journey), not the product (or destination). You see too much stress on wins and losses is really what is responsible for Barry Bonds' and Lance Armstrong's of the world. It's much pressure and desire to get to the product without getting the process right means many competitors to take dangerous shortcuts.

The real purpose of having water in so that players and coaches alike have an opportunity to gather information and feedback so that they can go back and refine the process. These moments, the whole process will yield the intelligent, strong, compassionate young man and woman of character that we so desperately need to inherit our country and our Nation. We enjoy the journey and help these young men and women enjoy it as well. Cheer them on into battle and reassure them that they are equal to the task at hand. And at the end, never moments to learn and grow with their beliefs they are launched into this tumultuous world.

OPINION

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My toes are aching for night vision

Lee Roberts
Author

No one knows how good I am at night vision, I am so certain. My next night scientific experiment during my schooling was getting a "C" on my sixth-grade science project. "Why are Darwin's feet of God?"

And while I don't understand anything scientific, I do understand that I have words, and sometimes, science says there - like when science says that science has completely ignored - night vision.

Lately, I have found a new tool that science has completely ignored - night vision.

I'm sure we're all experienced the feeling of standing in the dark, making our toes, looking for an almost light which illuminates us in the darkness. Or driven miles in the evening without any headlights on the road up in the middle of the night to go to the bathroom, not



For God so loved the world...

John 3:16

Remember the reason for high school sports

Russell Zink
Coach

I have been really enjoying my high school basketball season. One year, GO DOGS! We are right in the middle of the season and we are trying to be something we call our games. The Coach is focused on the big picture and we each play the role in it, but when the struggle begins to happen, we make the adjustment. This started me thinking about what high school sports are all about and how it fits into a life's journey. To that end, I will share a few thoughts with you.

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Humorous Column

G

3rd Place

The Clinch County News, Homerville

Len Robbins



Opinion

A community forum for viewpoints from around the world to your backyard

The Clinch County News

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Send Die

Write a letter to the editor

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Recalling Easter egg touring season

Len Robbins
EDITOR & PUBLISHER



The year 2012 marked the first time in, oh, 14 years, where my daughter, a child, or children, participating in a slew of Easter egg hunts.

I didn't miss it. Our youngest, now nine years old, decided he was better suited to help egg-hunt to find them.

This tradition continued on in 2004 - when our Easter campaign was a little more hectic.

That year's Easter Egg Hunt Tour began nearly two weeks before the rise of the Easter egg.

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The year 2012 marked the first time in, oh, 14 years, where my daughter, a child, or children, participating in a slew of Easter egg hunts.

I didn't miss it. Our youngest, now nine years old, decided he was better suited to help egg-hunt to find them.

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Local funding, Invest Georgia pass on final day

Tim Golden
SENATOR



On March 28, the final day of the 2013 session of the Georgia General Assembly, the Senate and House of Representatives passed a \$1.8 billion state budget for fiscal year 2014, which begins July 1.

The final version of the budget provides funding for several items that will benefit Senate District 11 and all of South Georgia, including \$1.8 million in bond funding toward equipment for the new Health Science Institute at Vidalia State University. \$2.5 million for the renovation of Martin Hall at Vidalia State University. \$824,791 for the South Georgia Medical Consortium, which will provide training sites for medical students at five area hospitals including South Georgia Medical Center and Archbold Hospital, and \$1.8 million for security grants to rural school districts.

An amendment of the Community Health Appropriations Committee, I worked to restore a funding shortfall in the Medical program including restoring the 74 percent cut to health care providers, nursing homes and others, thanks largely to the General Assembly's removal of the Hospital Provider Fee and an increase in tobacco settlement funds.

Other highlights of the budget include continued growth increases of \$146.6 million for K-12 schools and \$72 million for the state's public college and universities. A \$1.8 million cut to school nutrition programs was fully restored, along with \$2.25 million for Nutrition Assistance Grants and \$6.5 million in grants for medical college grants for nurses, teachers, and health care students.

Lawmakers also agreed to appropriate \$5 million in emergency bond proceeds to fund road work for troubled youth. It exceeds development \$3.5 million now appropriated for Regional Economic Development (RED) and new funds for the OneGeorgia HOPE Grant Authority.

Authority totaled \$20 million. The FY 14 Budget includes \$440 million in bonds to help with construction projects around the state.

"Sweet Georgia": Legislation I introduced that would create the Sweet Georgia Fund (SB 244) to provide seed capital money for start-up businesses in our state was approved as an amendment to SB 158. This action, which also includes the continuation of "tax credits for 'lease and purchase' inventors," will put in place the structure for the program, which is aimed at boosting the technology and bioeconomy industries. Georgia's economy will further benefit from the jobs created by new businesses staying here.

Income Tax: The last day of the session also saw the Senate and House agree on two sales bills. HB 142 would institute a 5% surtax on gifts, as well as including provisions to not subject limited liability trusts to the 5% surtax. A lobbyist in defiance of the bill as someone who is compensated \$200 a year or more to lobby the General Assembly. This deflection doesn't prevent the rights of citizens to share their opinions with their legislators. HB 140 deals with nonprofit disclosure reports, requiring legislators to disclose campaign donations made between Jan. 1 and the first day of the legislative session by Jan. 31. The bill also requires all local and county candidates to disclose expenditures with the municipal clerk or county election superintendent instead of the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission. Local candidates who raise \$2,500 or less will not be required to report their donations. HOPE Grant Authority: HB 427, which would extend to one year the use of ignition locks after a second DUI conviction. HB 447, which would transfer regulatory control over video gaming machines in Georgia from the Department of Revenue to the Georgia Lottery Corp. and authorize lottery tickets to be awarded as prize winnings, with a percentage of revenues going to fund the DECTE Scholarship program. HB 4, which offers to drop the boundary dispute between Georgia and Tennessee in exchange for Georgia being granted water rights access to the Tennessee River. SB 181, which would reform business and professional fees and requirements to prove their U.S. citizenship every year to renew their state licenses after they have done so one time. SB 286, which would require insurance companies to disclose to healthcare policy holders any rate increase that is attributed to the federal Affordable Care Act. However, a proposal to expand the rights of persons with tattoos to carry guns in public places (SB 301) failed to receive a final vote when House and Senate members were unable to resolve differences prior to the midnight deadline on the 40th legislative day. The Board of Regents strongly opposed a provision added by the House to allow weapons to be carried on college campuses. Thank you for the privilege of representing you in the State Senate. If you would like to receive regular updates by email, please send a request to tim.golden@senate.ga.gov. As always, please feel free to contact me with your views on the issues or whatever I can be of service.

another family Easter egg tour - this one actually on Sunday. For the last leg, my wife brought out the new Easter outfit - matching, non-transparent and orange/black/red/green that's what "Easter-y" meant.

Crapsy-matched, the kids looked innocuous for about 10 seconds. At that point, our son decided to tell his mother he was sure it was just in time for the 5th, and that, egg hunt of the year.

And little competition, Miss Outfit and Mr. Backup Outfit seemed quite a crap that Easter afternoon. In addition to a plethora of children's prizes, they also managed to locate almost every one of the "Easter-y" eggs in the hunt - with a little help from the media.

The media, mind you, was setting up for future Easter outfits, and the 2004 Easter Egg Hunt Tour, which we had since then, NCN's home.

And now we're down to zero. Maybe I do miss it - just a little.

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Humorous Column

G

2nd Place

The Dawson News

T. Gamble III

THE DAWSON NEWS, APRIL 6, 2013, PAGE 8

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About Fish Oil

Millions of Americans, for years, have been including Omega-3 fish oil pills in their diet—believing they were a proven health asset, one benefit being lessening the chances of heart attacks.

When, last year, the Food and Drug Administration released results of a study it had made including Omega-3 intake, there was no recommendation from the FDA to take or continue taking Omega-3 pills.

That surprising view has been sharply criticized by others in the health pill business and an article in the April issue of *Life*

April, 2013

April is a historic month for Americans. The Civil War began in April, 1861. We declared war on Germany April 6, 1917. On April 9, General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Gen. U.S. Grant, later a two-term president, ending the Civil War. Grant was born in Point Pleasant, Ohio on the 27th in 1822.

One of the Americans considered among the top-ranked founders of the nation, was born on the 13th in Shadwell, Virginia—Thomas Jefferson. Another Virginia president, the 5th, James Monroe, was born in Westmoreland County on the 28th in 1758.

On the 24th in 1854, British troops burned Washington, the only time an enemy ever occupied the U.S. capital. The 25th is the birthday anniversary of the nation's fifteenth president, James Buchanan, born at Mercersburg, Pennsylvania, in 1791.

Confederate Memorial Day, now almost forgotten, was originated on April 26th in Vicksburg, Mississippi—by a descendant of John Adams! Finally, April 15th is happy federal income tax day.

April, Okinawa

The most costly battle in the Pacific in World War II began in April when U.S. Army and Marine divisions invaded Okinawa, a large island south of Japan.

This battle also cost the U.S. Navy several ships, which were attacked by the war's first suicide bombers—Japanese pilots crashing intentionally into the U.S. ships.

The end of battle in June, 1945, was the final step in the approach to Japan itself. The first U.S. nuclear weapons were dropped on two Japanese cities two months later. That produced surrender. Had these (the world's first) bombs been available a few months earlier, fifty thousand Americans wouldn't have been killed or wounded—in Spring, 1945.



Looking Back

5 YEARS AGO
Attending the US Georgia Returns to Service ceremony at the Naval Station Kings Bay were Mr. and Mrs. David Boyd, Mackenzie Boyd, Michael Boyd and Mrs. Evelyn Boyd.

Mrs. Barbara Beugh, Mrs. Barbara Locke and Mrs. Kay Strickland Heath, four authors, participated in an author's discussion held at the Main Street Theatre in Dawson.

10 YEARS AGO
Ernest Johnson, Sr. was named as the Meritorious of the Year by the Fourth District Georgia General Service Postmen Association.

The Dawson Lions Club observed White Cane Day and the local civic organization also conducted its annual White Cane Roadblock.

15 YEARS AGO
Fifty 4-H'ers from Savannah County participated in "Going the Distance" at South Georgia Chevrolet Dealers' Program Achievement at Dougherty High School in Albany.

T. Gamble, III
Contributing Columnist

I am by all accounts an avid dog lover. I've written about dogs, slept with dogs, confessed my soul to dogs, and even allegiance to my dog. I've read heartwarming stories about faithful dogs rescuing their masters. I've nodded in hearty agreement when someone says if only people could be like dogs, you know, loyal no matter what, understanding, faithful through thick and thin. Why, oh why, can't people be trained like the faithful dog?

Why can a person love you one day, swear to love with you the next and then months later take your car, your house, and yes, your dog, all the while professing deep mutual hatred from later to eternity? Every once in a while you would have to ask a thing.

Well, without sounding like a trainer to my most trusted friend, I think I know why a dog remains forever loyal while poor old humans betray much other on a daily basis. First of all, a dog gets every damn thing in the world he wants from his trained companion every single day. A dog never experiences "I have a headache" days. Let's take food for instance. A dog is fed every day by his master. Master prepares it, serves it and then gives him some of his own food.

Imagine if I were raised this way by my human companion. I never a restaurant to see my friends. John and Betty eating a fine meal. "Hey John, how are you?" I say. "Fine T, how are you?" replies John. "John," whines my lady, "give T a slice of your file and let him have a sip of your wine too. Ah, but he can't, give him a couple of your ribs too." "Now T come on over to 'ole fat, fat, as I can wash your belly. That's a

not to talk to my dog. My wife has done much the same for the dog.

If I wake my wife up at 3 a.m. the house lights come on and she says, "I don't know if she would let me out of the house at 3 a.m. but I can state from experience she will not let me in the house at 3 a.m."

Now back to the belly rub. I can confidently credit me my fingers the number of people willing to give me a belly rub, none. I could go to every night club in Georgia and beg every girl damn dirty dirty of Texas and not a one would agree to give me a belly rub. But my best friend, oh my, his master rubs his belly, his master's mate rubs his belly, waiting friends rub his belly, the UPS guy rubs his belly, the crying cat licks his belly, and strangers rub his belly.

So, you want 100% loyalty, rub my belly. I know you did it's worth it but not.

Send your email comments to T3@dawsonnews.com

Alex McRae

Dietary Destiny

This explains a lot. Unless it doesn't.

Spokesman's moody prince Hamlet looked fat. "Thinking makes me fat," Macbeth that was over a few centuries ago, but today we believe "You are what you eat."

Don't take my word for it. Ask a so-called professional. Recently, nutritionist Nanci Pace told the Boston media that carbohydrates can make you as cranky as a politician forced to beg his own liquor.

Pace said carbs are the crack of the food world, giving the eater a doorman's face of energy that quickly wears off and leaves them feeling druggy and unable to deal with this wacky world.

"They don't give your body what you need to cope with day-to-day stresses," Pace said. She added that deficiencies in certain nutrients, minerals and vitamins could give someone "a short fuse."

In other words, pasta and grains can make you go postal.

Pace went on to say that beans, fruits and greens, leafy vegetables have all the nutrients we need to keep calm between antismugger treatments.

As five I thought this was just more propaganda by the nutritionists. Then I remembered a food disaster from my youth.

I was barely school age when mother came home with a jar of powdered milk. The digestive consequences were not to this day. And since then, I've had a tendency to be cranky. Maybe if mother had fed me oatmeal I would be Mr. Happy.

Or maybe not. And foods don't have to be eaten to cause bad behavior. I once read about a guy who was convicted of attempted murder after feeding his bride with a bag of instant pasta beans.

Ironically, prison is one place where "nutritious" foods can reduce aggressive behavior. The study was done by scientists from England's Oxford University. They fed vitamins supplements to prison inmates in order to boost their nutritional deficiencies. Then they sat back and watched to see if the once-outraged inmates, gentler behavior. Researchers said it worked.

Dr. Drew Ramsey said, "I think it does demonstrate there is something to nutrient deficiencies giving people a propensity toward violence."

Nutritionist Pace agreed that changing diets made you mellow, and was quoted as saying that with a healthy diet "You'll see that you have the ability to cope, producing less aggression in stressful situations."

I've found that in the short term, carrots or radishes can reduce aggression, too. But I digress.

Missing food led to bad behavior is nothing new. In 1778, after rounding the Tuscarora people down George Washington and the very MIA, One White employed the now famous "I will take Delaware." His attorney said a steady diet of junk food had diminished White's capacity for



Humorous Column

G

1st Place

Banks County News, Homer

Angela Gary



PAGE 4A THE BANKS COUNTY NEWS WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2013

Editor: Angela Gary
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Opinion

*"There the press is free and every man able to read all it says."
— Thomas Jefferson*

What not to do when a grasshopper is in your pants

My sister recently asked why such crazy things always seem to happen to me. I was puzzled at first and then I remembered the huge grasshopper in my pants and the morning the cutting was caught on fire and burned off my bangs. Then, there was the much older (but three decades or so) man who tried to pick me up while I was working on the morning.

Oh, I guess I do have some crazy things happen to me. While some of these things, including the two incidents mentioned above, are a little frightening and messy at the time, they do give me something to laugh about later. They also make for some great stories.

Just a few of the lessons I've learned from these crazy things include the following:

- **Lesson one:** When a grasshopper is in your pants, it's probably best not to take your pants off in the yard of your sister's house, in a subdivision in Columbus, and wear the pants to the air conditioning line off the road in a wooded area, so the woods will be a problem at my house. However, if a subdivision, don't take your pants off in the yard and screen in my driveway, it was a big grasshopper and wasn't even what I was and I got my pants off (I got some something else was coming up my leg).
- **Lesson two:** When you avoid hair burning and see small pieces of your hair falling into the sink, make the cutting iron out of your hair (I held on and kept pulling. Not a good idea. Just covered me to see a bit more of my bangs).
- **Lesson three:** When a strange old (really old) man tries to pick you up at gas station, don't let him take your name and where you work. George drove over while I was pumping gas and asked, "Do 'know you'?" In my many years of work with the newspaper, I've met thousands of people. I could have written a story about him once I wasn't sure, so I simply said, "No, not sure. This night and I work at the Jackson Road office. I realized I didn't know him when he first asked, 'Do you married?' and 'Are you going with anyone?'"
- **Lesson four:** Always make sure you turn over your cell before going into a restaurant to eat. You would think that is something you automatically do without thinking about it, but apparently not, recently our friends in Atlanta for a birthday party. When I returned to my car over one hour later, the key was still in the ignition and the car was still running. Apparently, I just stepped out and was in the restaurant without turning it off. Now, that was a really odd feeling. I was puzzled at first and then I realized what I had done.
- **Lesson five:** When you're on the beach and you see a black cloud above your head and hear thunder, listen. Right away. Don't hesitate. Get up and run to your car. If not, it is a few moments, a tornado may hit and you may find yourself trying to run to your car as huge amounts of rain hit you in the face, blinding you as you slip and slide through the parking lot.
- **Just give to prove that you can always learn something — even in ridiculous situations.**

Angela Gary is an editor with *Blacksburg Newspapers Inc.*. She can be reached at angel@bcn.com.

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From Hillary to Honey Boo Boo, what Georgians are thinking

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There were the usual political trends that were tracked for the poll. Among Republicans, U.S. Rep. Phil Gingrey and Paul Brown had moved to the front in the GOP primary battle for Senate Candidate Senate seat. Gingrey was the poll favorite of 23 percent of the voters and Brown followed at 19 percent, while Rep. Jack Kingston and former secretary of state Karen Handel had slipped back a few points.

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PPP usually relies to a few questions about cultural issues in its survey, probably to provide more relief from the political horse race, and they did the same in their Georgia poll.

"They asked, 'Would you support or oppose requiring background checks for all gun sales, including gun shows and the Internet?' The poll showed that 73 percent supported background checks while 26 percent opposed them, with majority support among both Republicans and Democrats.

Another question: Do you think employers should be allowed to discriminate against employees based on sexual orientation? Only 37 percent said employees should be allowed to discriminate against gay employees, while 62 percent said they should not. A majority of both Democrats and Republicans opposed this form of discrimination.

On the issue of same-sex marriage, however, Georgians are still strongly opposed to the idea. Only 19 percent said these marriages should be allowed, while 80 percent said they should not. Even among Democrats, support for gay marriage was only supported by a 41 percent margin (Republicans opposed it by 59 percent).

Georgians were asked if they believe more in creationism or in evolution. The response was that 32 percent believe more in creationism, 26 percent believe more in evolution, and 42 percent were not sure.

Republicans believed more strongly in creationism — by a 39 percent margin — but more among Democrats, the vote was split.

Tom Crawford is editor of *The Georgia Report*, an internet news service at georgiareport.com that reports on government and politics in Georgia. He can be reached at tomc@georgiareport.com.

Human nature is on newspaper's side

Every thing happened the other day to our local newspaper as the way to obviously — my teenage daughter asked for a printed copy.

While the world's media might be quick to get a link to the printed version and deliver their story, there just might be something lurking out there we can't fully appreciate.

Recently, my daughter went to a small concert in our community. Knowing our newspaper wouldn't be writing the piece suggested she might see about getting an and a coffee for us to publish. Armed with two friends and a cell phone, she left for the show.

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But then something odd happened.

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"To be honest, I was dumbfounded. There was a child of the digital generation seeking a physical copy of a newspaper to submit something she requested. Suddenly, the digital version was obsolete when it came down to something lurking out there we can't fully appreciate.

Although, I admit, this is an anecdotal piece of data, I do believe it helps to reinforce how we as humans instinctively prefer the need to touch the important things in our lives. While society needs to embrace a digital world of communication, there is still something irreplaceable inside of us driving us to value something with the feel of our fingers. Much like our eyes to reach out and touch someone we care in pain or high-five a stranger sitting next to us at a high school football game, the sense of touch is an instinctive and deeply personal emotional impulse embedded in our human nature.

I believe each of us is made in the image of

the digital revolution — a world where information can be published (or erased) with the click of a few keystrokes. Everything is instantaneous, yet somewhat impersonal. And our screens, much like our attention spans, refresh and change within minutes.

And then there is the printed newspaper, permanent in its final form and stubbornly making time and the world around it the moment. And believe it or not, this means something to our individual people.

So when in today's world, our printed newspaper carries a "secret secret" embedded like no other medium — an emotional connection driven by human nature. And this instinct, perhaps, is not generational exclusive as I recently discovered.

And for me, a member of the printed world of business for decades, I was able to return this known through the eyes of a member of the digital generation.

Leonard Winbury is the publisher of *Banks County News*, *Banks County News*, Douglasville.

No common sense applied

Longtime editorials show that Paul Brown was probably one of the hardest critics of the public school system in our county.

Brown, who probably was using some of his rhetoric to shock as well as help drive home his point, would often say each year parents turn their children over to the government schools which really equated child abuse.

Now retired, Brown no doubt still has little use for the public school setup in our county and one could only imagine what he would have to say about the following incidents.

- In one public school system (not in Georgia), the local high school football coach was told not to use the term "Play" when talking with reporters about his team's offensive scheme.
- For those who are not football fans, the "Play" formation is a somewhat non-offensive scheme which has been very successful in college and even in the NFL to some degree. Naturally, it has started trickling down to the high school level.
- However, it seems more saying the word "play" was a violation of the anti-hate laws for gangs within the school. There was no report of the coach actually wearing a jacket around during practice and certainly he never fired off a few words to get his players' attention.
- However, when you have a zero tolerance for anything, often you abuse anti-hate laws. This has to rank among the most absurd things I've heard recently and that's saying something.

As about as the incident in South Carolina really describe how stupid school officials in this case are, it reminds me of an episode years ago involving Ted Turner of all people. Turner once upon a time did not get word of his intention to use the term "nigger" in a play, the word "intentional" was to be used.

Since Turner owned a professional wrestling company, the infamous "nigger-squint" used by wrestlers had to be changed to an "intentional squint" by the announcer.

- Another incident in a public school system (also not in Georgia) involved an elementary school student who wanted to allow fellow classmates to share in a lunch table.
- The child's mother brought cupcakes to school to share with the class. With the student's father writing otherwise in the hallway, the cupcakes included small red ribbons placed on the top. Well, you can imagine that didn't go over as the cupcakes violated the anti-hate laws for weapons as well. The birthday treats were thrown in the trash and the party cancelled.

Can you see a big topic of conversation and a big debate from this? Many people are finally waking up to the fact that the government doesn't like citizens to be armed. It's a Biden/Democratic, which begins in the public school system which, under the false guise of security, has a zero tolerance weapons policy for items which aren't weapons.

Chris Bridges is editor of the *Banks County News*, the can reach him at cb@banksnews.com.



Chris Bridges



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Humorous Column

F

3rd Place

Franklin County Citizen Leader, Lavonia

Denise Matthews

Franklin County Citizen Leader

Page 10A
February 14, 2013

Franklin Forum

Our View

Be kind, offer hope after tragedies

It's been a tough few weeks for the Franklin County community. There have been headlines about a mother accused of killing her baby and the search for another man that ended with the grisly discovery of her body in a well and the arrest of her boyfriend.

These recent stories came on the heels of several other tragedies within the past year or so in our community. We want to join other members of the community to offer our prayers and sympathy to the families involved in these horrible tragedies. There are no words that can

adequately explain why these things happen or soothe the pain they cause. But as a community, there are more things we can do. Let's reach out to those in our community who may need help dealing with life's losses - stricken mothers or battered women, for example - and find them the help they need.

When we see activities that could lead to a tragic circumstance, let's let authorities know before it gets out of hand. Don't turn up the TV if your neighbor's car is a ghost in a fight; text drive; call the police.

Finally, let's always remember to be kind and let people know we care. Sometimes, all people need are a friendly face, a kind word and the assurance that someone cares for them.

Such work will make this great community even better. -Shane Scoggins

Franklin County Citizen Leader

Morehead the right choice to lead UGA

Decisions are the toughest. Choose - you didn't stand the best of times. We want to look back after 20 years and say, "We did the right thing for look that and now."

I am confident Governor Whitbeck look back and say, "Jim Morehead was the right choice to become president of the state's flagship of higher education on July 1, 2011."

The University of Georgia has been stuck like a mule to my mind since the 1980s. I'm sitting in the back seat of my dad's Buick.

Before my freshman year was over, Big Dick was dead. If I was being anything, "You're just another thing but the woman's give that," he said. "Do you have time to study?"

I got more than a college who carries. I came away with scores of 100s and 200s and a wife. Our three children met their spouses through UGA.

So when our family gathers for a meal, there are 16 feet under the table that have stepped forward to receive a total of 12 degrees. All 12 of us, including seven graduates, six lifetime members of the UGA Alumni Association. Who leads our state under is important to us and 10 million other Georgians.

That's why, as an alumnus and chairman of the University System of Georgia's Board of Regents, I had one goal in the selection of Dr. Michael Adams' successor: Be right the best.

Like most change agents leaders, President Adams isn't always taken the same route. But he got across the experience way to experience and national prominence. The old motto: "It's Make the Best Choice." Come July, that'll be Jim Morehead's challenge.

I thought you might be interested in the process that chose him to be the 22nd president of the nation's oldest national public university.

When Mike Adams announced his retirement, the board engaged a nationally recognized search firm. Some legends, along with faculty alumni and the president of the student government association, formed the 10-member committee. Dozens of candidates are listed. Academic rock stars studied the list.

The committee, led by Regent Larry Walker, did its homework. The name was narrowed to 10. One two-day, so-called deeper to compare the life was provided and the reference feedback with the people sitting before us. We analyzed their leadership styles.

One thing was certain: UGA. President Jim Morehead was a rock star. He came, along with those of presidents of two major universities, was advanced to the 10-member Board of Regents. When decisions lay before us, Jim emerged as the sole leader.

I like what this says about The University of Georgia. After a search to meet needs, the best candidate, an alumnus, was right here in our state.

Jim Morehead's integrity, loyalty, passion for teaching, institutional knowledge and his vision of his work was. Those who know him are not surprised. He is among UGA's most respected faculty members.

Jim reminds me of UGA legend, the late Dr. J.W. Fleming, who was a world class teacher. Dr. Fleming worked together with people through faith, collaboration, leadership and his own gifts. Jim Adams will appreciate that he's vice-chancellor of the athletic board.

Another huge plus is that he knows Georgia's government and its 100 counties, tribes and cities.

Jim's connections - and respect - among legislators and his former business students are endless. Our own example is Rep. Dr. M. Robert, Georgia's speaker of the House. The two were partners on UGA's law school next door team.

Just like the archbishop wrote on South Langhite Street that bears J.W. Fleming's name, the Morehead decision will stand the test of time.

Let's hope that Georgia will see how much more than we say. "Jim Morehead was the right choice for The University of Georgia."

Denise Matthews is president of Community Newspapers Inc., the parent company of the Franklin County Citizen Leader. She can be reached at dmatthews@communitynews.com.

Franklin County Citizen Leader

Help, I've fallen and ... wait ... what was that?!

I was a dark and chilly night about 11 p.m. on Saturday when I went out to walk the dog. With my husband in his usual spot prone on the couch and my youngest in the bathroom, I decided that I would take a spin myself to walk our pups and get them down for the night.

We usually do this in pairs as we have two dogs who come in and go out and there is just no way to walk Penny and Spike at the same time.

The last time I tried that, I ended up stuffing a howling Penny in my pocket while I ran around after a peppy Spike trying to get him to "go" so all of us could get in-out of the state.

So, instead of walking the dog, I grabbed my flashlight and Spike and we headed down the back steps and, after first checking my light around to make sure there were no black and white visitors such as our house duck, Spike,

around, we made our way into the great dark outdoors. Really, my outside dog and every present question, wretched and barked across agreement while Spike attended to business.

In just a few minutes I had Spike back inside and in his coat with his head and wags. I grabbed Penny, hoping for a stellar result.

Unintentionally, that was not to be. Penny had streaked down the back steps and I was trying to jump back for Spike and the flashlight.

When I stepped on my shadow and despite a major effort and a dance that could have given Georgia State a run for its money, I, of course, fell down the steps.

In the midst of several period exclamation words, a few loud curses and a brief scream, I thought I'd hit across the ground with my face in a wet ditch. All I managed to have Penny's head in my grasp.

Unlike Lewis, who would have, I am sure, come to my aid, Penny, the dog, tried to make a run for the neighbor's cat food.

I decided my best course of action would be to lie there for a while to make sure I was all

Denise Matthews

Just to ease my family might be concerned about my whereabouts, I offered up a few phone calls for help. Of course, no one came. Realizing I was on my own, with nothing but a three-pound head to rest on my neck, I began the slow, arduous task of getting upright.

That was when Spike, who was in his house, began to growl low and then to bark menacingly at something beyond the limits of my fallen flashlight.

As the hairs on the back of my neck stood up, so did I. I came off the ground faster than the best church band.

There is something about the possible ease to some confrontation with a skunk/creaky opossum or whatever was lurking in the dark, to get me upright and on a dead run back into the house.

I have learned that fact since the past attack. I don't know what it was, but I see whatever was in the dark a mile off. Besides, without that shot of adrenaline, I might still be lying in the backyard, pushing up daisies.

Denise Matthews is now editor of the Franklin County Citizen Leader. She relays up posts regularly.

Franklin County Citizen Leader

Consolidation of The Centerville Citizen, Merged in 2011 with The News Leader, which was founded in 1971 as the Franklin County Citizen.

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Dirk McSmith, Chairman; Tom Wood, CM Director; Robert Elder, Lake Hartwood Regional Publisher.

Humorous Column

F

Dawson
Community
News | **Style**

Page 3B
Wednesday
September 25, 2013

A well-behaved child in a Honey Boo Boo world

After working in retail for a number of years, I mean, if I ever had a child he would not behave the way a majority of children do when they enter a store.

OK, come, when you aren't a parent, you also know everything there is to parenting and you normally pretend the antics the parents are making. But I don't think you need to be Dr. Spock to know dragging a hungry child out in a store two hours after their second nap time is not wise. Not in a store to think because you are moving work because the child is home sick it's a good excuse to get a makeover with the child in tow.

No, I mean, if and when I had a child, they would not act like that. And if they did, they would get their own room.

With the exception of maybe two occasions, Cole has been well-behaved when we have gone shopping. Even when we go to Walmart, which seems to bring out the worst in children for some odd reason. Maria means they give in some kind of sentimental message to make the children go wild in there. Maybe they do. I have seen children do a little dance in front of the girls' store. A 2-year-old Cole stopped in the buggy with everything in the basket could reach. He had his first warning. He seemed to be saying, "You do it again and I will take you home to your father and come back by myself. Do you understand?"

He walked, but saw the buggy loaded down with laundry detergent, fabric softener and other much needed things and thought I was kidding. The basket near our register. I reached my leg up to my shoulder and grabbed him in the armpit. "Calm handling" position and used to take him out of the store. "But that's good! I'm good! He's good!"

More than anything, that child was not going to stay home with his father when Maria was out in some store buying what she knew what - there may be discounts or deals involved.

So we stayed. And he was good, sitting me throughout the remainder of the trip. "I'm good!" I would give him a stern look before offering to see his father.

The other offense that came to mind was when he almost didn't get Pappin'.

He had been dragged out of the grocery store, barely looking and screaming by his father over the playground. I told the cashier what generally needed to learn how to control their children better but at least that man had the common sense to drag the child out of the store. Of course, when I heard why he was being let in, we had to get the pig. I can understand it if you're a pig.

Now that I am a parent I have a little more wisdom and don't get quite as annoyed over a child fit in a store. They do shock Cole though.

"Mama, did you see that?" he asked as he watched a child have a meltdown fit over a pig. It was

SUDIE CROUCH
Columnist

"You have no idea how many children we have come to have that grab the pig and hold it if they are told no," the young man explained. "He don't get a lot of love like him to have. I guess they think they need to see like they are on reality TV or something."

The cashier walked. "He was a pig. So thank you. And you must have been raised right yourself, so thank your mama too." So our Honey Boo Boo would, a well-behaved child is truly a rarity these days.



VETERANS GROUP SERVES BREAKFAST
Barbara Fulmer passes a plateful of pancakes to Jan Pithon on Saturday morning during the Veterans Affairs of Dawson County's pancake breakfast. Proceeds from the event benefit the group's annual Veterans Day celebration in downtown Dawsonville. This year's service will be held Nov. 11 at Dawson County Middle School.

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2nd Place

Dawson Community News, Dawsonville

Sudie Crouch



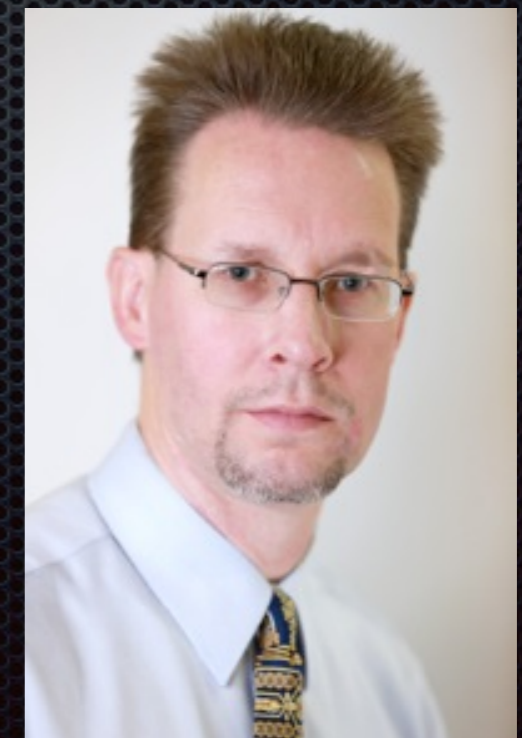
Humorous Column

F

1st Place

Sylvania Telephone

Enoch Autry



Letters to the editor

Tour a great tribute to Sylvania

I would be remiss in not expressing my thanks and appreciation to Wally Boykin, executive director of the Downtown Development Authority, and all the people in supporting roles who had a part in the great success of the historic production, "Fast Fives on the Banks of Time" Cemetery Tour last Thursday. I have had nothing but compliments. What a great tribute to Sylvania, to be able to have a production of this magnitude in a City our size! It was done with taste and professionalism and was a well-entertaining especially for the first endeavor! I appreciated the authenticity of the stories told by the actors and actresses, which were not only true, but also very entertaining. I literally felt as if I had been there. I had actually seen and heard from some of our important leaders from our past. I even learned things I did not know about our being here.

All of the local actors and actresses did an awesome job and all were dressed in the costume of their day. There were also many important support people who helped make the tour a total success! Special thanks to Alex Lee who was very instru-

mental in gathering the historic information for the stories that were told and he also attended all the rehearsals. Richard Boykin also worked many hours on many important details he personally handled! Freddie Christensen and Tracy Ward, as well as some others in Freddie's crew, went the extra mile to run electric lines for the lighting. They even went to drive rehearsal on Tuesday evening, to place the lines so there would be no doubt about the exact location of the lighting and they even stayed afterwards in order to move the lines since they could not remain unattended until Thursday Night!

In a production this size and of such great importance, it takes many people and a lot of commitment! I personally thank all those, but especially to mention individuals who had a part in making this such a significant event in Sylvania! I also thank the 200 people who attended!

I am always looking forward to next year's production! May God continue to bless us!

Margaret B. Evans
Mayor
City of Sylvania

Thank you veterans

Last Monday, Nov. 11, was designated as Veterans Day in our Country. The staff of Thompson-Hickland Waters Funeral Home held a "Veterans Appreciation Day" program on Tuesday in our chapel to recognize and honor those men and women who have served our country in the armed forces. There are the people who have put their lives on the line to keep our United States of America free.

After all, an American Veteran is "someone, who at sometime in their life, gave a blood check to the United States of America, payable on demand, for any amount necessary, up to and including

their own life." We appreciate the folks who came out to our event to help us honor our veterans, including Sylvia White, Margaret Evans and Rick Hiler of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars post. We also want to thank the Sylvania merchants who donated the prizes and to the Sylvania Telephone for your coverage of the program. My God continue to bless our country and the veterans who give of themselves for it.

The Staff of
Thompson-Hickland Waters
Funeral Home, Sylvania

Angel Tree with DFACS needing donations

Once again, DFACS will be sponsoring the Angel Tree project which ensures that the elderly and disabled persons who are under the Adult Protective Services will have something to open on Christmas day. These people are often neglected and without your support, they will not experience the joy unlike others on this most blessed day.

If you are interested in supporting the Angel Tree, please call this year's phone call. Brenda Boyd at 913-964-5068 (toll-free) or come by the Monroe County DFACS office at 119 Singleton Ave. The office is open to the public on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

You will be providing Christmas gifts for an elderly or disabled person that the Adult Protective Services program is currently working with. The goal

is to ensure that they have something to open on Christmas day. These people are often neglected and without your support, they will not experience the joy unlike others on this most blessed day.

It is recommended that you purchase the items and wrap them if possible. I will provide you with a list about from the individual but I will not be able to discuss their identity due to confidentiality. You will have one hour to help wrap up our Angel Tree with any restrictions.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Brenda Boyd
Director of Aging Services
Adult Protective Services
Prevent and Placement Specialist

SYLVANIA TELEPHONE

On the Web at www.sylvaniatelephone.com

Enoch Autry
Publisher-Editor

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Live by coach creed: 'Make a play'

By now you have heard or witnessed the play - Behind 38-37 Auburn had a fourth and 28 on their own 27 with 36 seconds to play Saturday, the Tigers' quarterback, Nick Marshall, checked a play called pass down the center of the field.

On the other end, Georgia Bulldogs' captain Josh Harvey-Cline and Trey Matthews leap into the air, collide with each other, and the over-the-air ball drops off their hands and pats. As the UGA sideline fell to the ground, the ball bounces to Auburn receiver Ricardo Lewis, who had never stopped running and catches the signal and he takes off what would be the eventual game-winning 23 yard touchdown reception with 25 seconds left in the fourth quarter Conference contest between two top 25 teams.

That I am assured you did not witness. Additionally, I will explain why this is important to you. In my career, I have photographed players at the levels of recreation ball, middle school, high school, college, semi-professional and professional. In I get all the shots I want! Absolutely not. Sometimes I capture only a few percentages of the shots I wanted. We all have days that are better than others. I live by the creed - Shoot lots of frames.

To get a nice photo, I attempt to position myself in a spot that provides the best of possible angles. It is a when do I believe the action will be a few seconds to minutes later. It is a crystal ball kind of thought process.

All this brings me back to the waiting seconds of the UGA-Auburn game. I was not at the game at Jordan-Hare Stadium. I, like most of you, witnessed the outcome of the game from the serenity of my own home. As the video was shown - and explained - I begin to take notice of the reactions of people along the sideline and behind the back of the end zone. That is where the game photographers congregate. As a general rule, the photographers with the largest lenses are the more professional group, but that is not always the case.

As the ball crossed into the air and eventually dropped into the receiver's left hand so he secured it into both hands, that is when photographers should be occupying positions at the pass of

Enoch Autry is the publisher-editor of the Sylvania Telephone.



Enoch Autry
Publisher-Editor

Other Viewpoints

Dumb, naïve and dangerous

State Department sees no threat in Russian monitoring stations here

It may be the dumbest thing this country has ever contemplated. Ever the naive that it's hard to believe it's true. But not assured, it's true. The U.S. State Department actually wants to allow Russia to establish six of its own satellite monitoring stations in U.S. and "its most right Russian, but while, Monitoring Stations, Haas.

How about with the plainly obvious security concerns? That's probably what came to your mind first, and it did, and you'll be glad to know these concerns are at least shared by the federal intelligence and military communities. As the U.S. State Dept. want to help prop up our commercial competitors and chief political antagonists.

What? Simple. Because they want the Russians to like us. "For the State Department," writes the New York Times, "persuading Russia to build the stations would help mend the Obama administration's relationship with the government of President Vladimir V. Putin, now at a nadir because of Moscow's grating asylum to Edward Snowden and its backing of President Bashar al-Assad of Syria."

The Russians "don't want to be reliant on the American system, like GPS, will appear other in satellites and GPS capabilities, and the U.S. State Dept. want to help prop up our commercial competitors and chief political antagonists.

But just for argument's sake, let's assume the most innocuous use of the stations. Even if the Russians only used the U.S. monitoring stations for purely commercial purposes - to better compete with our GPS technology - why on Earth would the United States want to undermine American technological superiority like that? Why would American industry that way? Why go out of our way to give a hand up to one

of our fiercest competitors and geopolitical rivals? Maybe we need to do some monitoring of our own. Does anyone in the State Department, for instance, have the faintest idea of Vladimir Putin's world views and moral values? One need only witness the coverage in Syria to get a glimpse of Putin's aims, it is with no hesitations, and toward his global ends, that the murderous Assad regime has been allowed to wage conventional and chemical war on its own people three past few bloody years.

These people in the State Department are frighteningly naive. It's also likely the monitoring stations agreement would be wholly unilateral - knowing American negotiators, the stations wouldn't be reciprocal, with an stations of our own on Russian soil. But even if it were, the deal would still be a monumental fail.

Just as alarming as the thought of officially sanctioned Russian monitoring stations in U.S. soil is the fact that there are officials in the State Department who think this is even remotely a good idea.

We need monitoring stations across the U.S., all right. To watch our government like a hawk.

Regina Chronicle
Editorial Staff

Humorous Column

E

3rd Place

The Elberton Star

Mark Berryman

Page 8A
September 4, 2013

★ Viewpoints

Quote: "My light bill is higher than my mortgage. I could have paid off my house by now with the money I've given the (City of Elberton)." - Loretta Brown

Nothing says 'I love you' like entire year's supply of toilet paper

While attending a Marriage Week event, Walter and his wife, Ann, listened to the pastor's sermon. "It is essential that husbands and wives know the things that are important to each other."

He asked the man: "Can you name one thing that is important to your wife?"

Walter looked over, looked Ann's way, gently and whispered, "God bless, all I want, is you."

Ann began, Walter's life of celibacy. My wife's birthday is coming up in September and that story reminds me of my very first birthday present to my wife.

It was a Deer pajamas. Have you ever been hit in the chest by one of those, the kind that goes on the end of a Deer pajama?

Let me tell you. They hurt. My mother would have loved such a gift from my father. Or a coffee maker. Or a new chair. Or a vacuum cleaner. Or a set of dishes. But not my wife. She doesn't want a gift that she needs. She wants a gift that she wants. Of the gifts I cannot, the only one she might want is a set of dishes, but only the Lord knows why. I have more dishes than Lenten.

So what has happened to the practicality of gifts? Mr. To, our opponent in practical presents. Keep that in mind at Christmas. I have one more of the things that I would love to receive: A Deer pajamas. I have a cabinet for the bedroom. Like most men, I keep my underwear until there's nothing left but a waist band and two leg holes. Sometimes, though, a fellow needs to get his hands with a practical gift. But how does he find those good things? Well, a Deer pajamas would do the trick. You do your own durable underwear items in one drawer, marked C, and the sturdy ones in another drawer. The other two drawers are for socks, arranged by color (white in front, and white, I have so many T-shirts on my wife's shelves).

A gift certificate from one of those TV lawyers. One of them says, "If you've been hurt by a big truck, call me." That's the best practical gift ever. Never mind if you've been hurt by a small truck. More than likely, the driver doesn't have much money so why not?

A year's supply of toilet paper. Don't ask me how much that is, because I don't know. It depends on the kind of year you had. But it's a lot of toilet paper.

A small bottle of Windex. I have a half-gallon of that's been in the garage since I bought it in a white, but a guy never knows when he might suffer a severe cold. And he needs to keep his gloves clean and ready just in case. Ann has been decided to become a glaciologist.

There are just a few of the practical gifts I want. Now, because Sept. 10 is just around the corner, I think I'll go to the hardware store and find a gift for my wife.

Phil Hedges is the former senior editor of *Community Newspaper Inc.* He is a frequent contributor to the editorial pages of *The Elberton Star*.

The Elberton Star welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must be signed and include the city or community where the writer lives and a telephone number. This phone number will not be published, unless requested, and will only be used for verification purposes. Letters may be no longer than 300 words and the letter writer may have more than one letter per month published. The editorial staff of the newspaper reserves the right to edit any letter for length, clarity or grammatical correctness. The staff also reserves the right not to publish any letter deemed libelous, and to cut off any series of letters on one subject. Publication priority will be given to letters concerning local issues or subjects.

Counting Cows with Friends can be very discombobulating

If you have a smartphone, then you are probably aware of at least one of the several "With Friends" games which can be obtained free (with ads), or for a small fee, on any will appear.

The ads are strategically placed in the game in a place which would have the highest awareness factor.

Just think of the ads trying to sell a question about bathroom paper towel choices with your team on the two yard line, down by six yards and time running out in the Super Bowl.

If you are already, think of your husband asking about the paper towel choices in the same situation.

In the end, you have no choice but to avoid that per the \$1.99 asking price.

Of those who give the popular Zynga titles, Words With Friends is probably the one most people have either heard of or played.

Think back to your iPhone.

While Words With Friends was not the first game in the series, it is by far the most popular. In fact, I have been playing the game in public and when these notorious words ring out, a total stranger would walk by and simply say "Words With Friends."

Chess With Friends was first, but it soon became "Chess With Friends" because the one player to play it with.

I know.

After the success of Words With Friends, Zynga then had out Standing With Friends (Frank Hargrave), Scrabble With Friends (Frank Hargrave) and original With Friends game (Michael Zynga). Games With Friends and everything called Standing With Friends, which makes based on various sources running the streets of Zephyria while being chased by angry cartoonish birds.

I really admit to liking Words With Friends and even playing With Friends. I have yet to try any of the others, but in time I am sure I will find give Standing With Friends a test run.

Who would I use running around in cartoonish avatars while being chased by angry cartoonish birds?

All of these "With Friends" games get me to thinking. Zynga is recruiting lots of players by not expecting more. Further I am sure they have good intentions, but maybe they need inspiration.

This is where I come in. I have developed a lot of "With Friends" games I think would be more fun money making winners for the company and thought I'd share them with you.

Who knows, maybe one day I'll have my own "With Friends" line and then actually be able to claim I have friends.

Let's take a look at a few of my ideas. Backfire With Friends - This is played just like ordinary, only your "friend" stands one year ahead and points out all the possible moves you can make.

Hot Potato With Friends A little different because your "friend" needs to actually be there with you. It's played like the old "Hot Potato" game only you can only place one player to play while a timer ticks off the seconds rather than the playing card.

Unlike the original, the loser of this game is decided by who the iPhone belonged to after it has been dropped a few times.

Forward With Friends I really have no idea how this game is played or if it would even make a good "With Friends" game. I just couldn't refuse using the word Forward.

It's funny all by itself.

Counting Cows With Friends This is like the "car game" when you count cows on a long road trip to see who can find the most. The difference here would be you would be in separate vehicles in totally different locations.

The winner would be the one who did not get pulled over by the highway patrol while wearing on the roadshow while trying to count cows and operate a cell phone at the same time.

I think you get the idea.

Besides, I have to go. I need to play another word.

Now, if I just had enough letters to spell "discombobulating."

Mark Berryman is the managing editor of *The Elberton Star*.

We welcome letters to the editor

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Humorous Column

E

2nd Place

Monroe County Reporter, Forsyth

Will Davis

PAGE 4A
Reporter
May 29, 2012

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2011 Monroe County Reporter Excellence

Opinion

Declare among the nations, and publish, and set up a standard, public, and general, and forever yours. —Jehovah 30:2

On the Porch

Coming soon: 'Terror on the Tobesofkee'

BY WILL DAVIS

My friend that I met when we were in college at the University of Georgia... he was a reporter for the Monroe County Reporter... he was a reporter for the Monroe County Reporter...

Monday and headed to the Tobesofkee Creek bridge... I parked on the shoulder and walked for an entrance into the woods... I was on a mission to relax, and to photograph for posterity...

OUR VIEW

Challenges strengthen

Monroe County has graduated from... when Pecos, Roosevelt or an area... which this week, our hearts had within...

Carolyn's Corner

It beats the blahs every time

BY CAROLYN MARTEL

Have you ever had one of those days, pretty deep? I mean, when you're all in, right? If I'm having a blah hating day, there are several things I can do to turn my blah into a beautiful day...

WWW.MYMCR.NET POLL

What are your plans for this summer?

Headed to the beach. 23 percent

Headed to the mountains. 8 percent

Lots of fishing. 15 percent

Summer? What's summer? 54 percent

Work, work, work for me.

Civil War in Monroe County - 150 Years

County's desperate plans for invaders

BY RALPH BASS JR.

On Monday and May 25, 1862, Monroe County met at the courthouse to give plans for "the defense of our state from invasion."

Reporter

Monroe County Reporter

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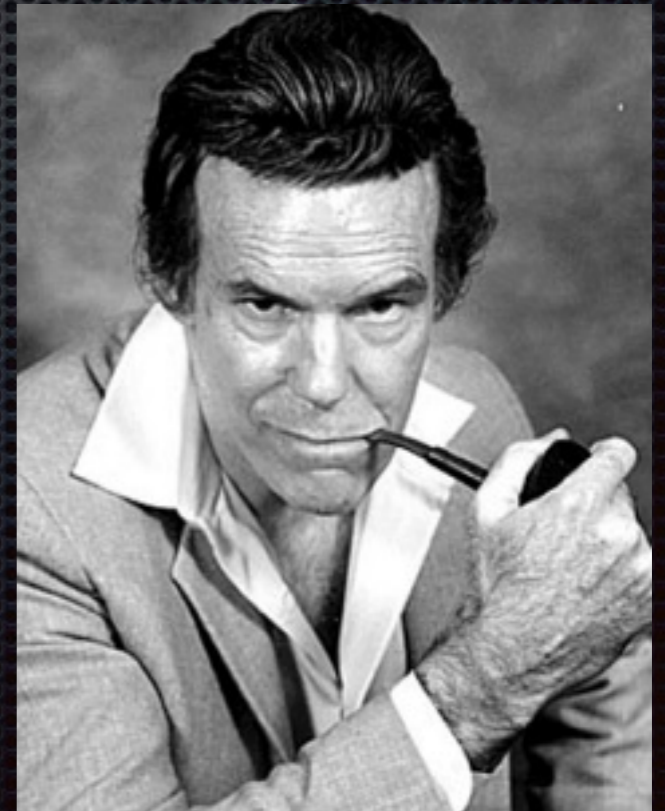
Humorous Column

E

1st Place

Pickens County Progress, Jasper

Alan Gibson



Pickens County Editorial

Opinions • Community Views • Good 'Ol Common Sense

Quote of the Week—Learning is not compulsory... neither is survival
— Henry Ward Beecher

Page 2

Safe Exterminating Company, Inc.

August 8, 2013

Has happiness left the South?

Recent study of perceived current post-9/11 mood is true, the Dark Dynasty goes from A&E's reality television show may be among the few who are happy in their state of Louisiana.

Despite the Dark Dynasty post-9/11 mood, joyful mood "Happy, Happy, Happy, Louisiana, along with other deep-Southern states like Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi, are generally seen as the happiest people in the nation.

Geographically speaking the happiest folks live in Hawaii, Alaska or one of the states of either or many California or Colorado, according to a study by researchers at the University of Vermont.

To find this out, researchers surveyed more than 70,000 words on a positive-negative scale and measured their frequency in millions of tweets across the country. What emerged showed significant regional variations in happiness.

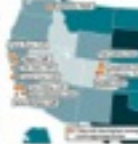
The most unhappy places, the ones we hear about all too often, include states that have high levels of poverty and the lowest life expectancies. That we are uneducated, but if we asked what makes us happy, likely responses would range from a new car, low body fat, a higher paying job or winning the lottery.

These things, however, are being shown to have less impact on our happiness than we may think. Researchers are now finding that our happiness depends less on external circumstances — like materialistic things — and more on our perceptions and experiences.

Now we need enough money to pay our bills and have a little left for extras, but we adjust our needs to match our life's circumstances. So a person who makes \$30,000 a year may be happier than someone who earns just \$10,000, but Americans who earn \$1 million per year are not much happier than those who earn \$100,000 per year.

To those of us in the smaller income brackets that may wonder as to whether our money grows on trees, but the people who study this sort of thing say it's true across the board.

That's that, researchers.



Parenting expert offers advice
Good old days of parent/child relations really were better

High self-esteem used to be called being too big for your britches

Who did their own homework? And we did much better in school. Our parents were not as strict as our parents are today. They held us accountable. It's a very simple equation, really. The more responsible we are, the better we do.

"As a member of the last generation of American children to grow up in homes where the relationship between our parents was a lot stronger than either of our relationships with us," I've concluded that our parents are not as strict as our parents are today. They are mother and father, two people devoted to them. You see how hard and with it makes a huge difference.

"As a member of the last generation of American children whose parents, especially mothers, did not worry about us at all, I've concluded that our parents are not as strict as our parents are today. They are mother and father, two people devoted to them. You see how hard and with it makes a huge difference.

"As a member of the last generation of American children who were not allowed to have high self-esteem," I've concluded that our parents are not as strict as our parents are today. They are mother and father, two people devoted to them. You see how hard and with it makes a huge difference.

The Essential Bad Attitude By Alan Gibson

Irritating American expressions and how to defuse them

Start with the realization that it comes out of us. It's not the way we are, it's the way we are. It's not the way we are, it's the way we are. It's not the way we are, it's the way we are.

If you're a Pennsylvania, keep it real that Pennsylvania is the best of the best. It's not the way we are, it's the way we are. It's not the way we are, it's the way we are.

And if you express indifference by saying I could care less, when you mean I couldn't care less.

There are examples, and subjective ones at that. You're the kingpin of the nation, although if you do the things you do, you, they're not there will be there.

A few more questions left.

Pickens County Progress

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Weather by Week	July 30 - Aug 5	Aug 6 - Aug 12	Aug 13 - Aug 19
Tuesday	84	88	80
Wednesday	85	89	81
Thursday	86	90	82
Friday	87	91	83
Saturday	88	92	84
Sunday	89	93	85
Monday	90	94	86

Humorous Column

D

3rd Place

The Northeast Georgian,
Cornelia

Christina Santee

Viewpoints The Northeast Georgian Wednesday, May 23, 2012 4A

Boating safety sees new emphasis

Those heading out to the lake this week and to kick off the summer season should take note of new drinking and boating law changes.

The accidental death of two young boys last summer — Jake Prince, 9, and his brother, Griffin Prince, 13 — provided the push for strengthening the law.

The boys were killed on Lake Lanier June 26, 2011, when a 20-foot fishing boat rammed the person boat carrying the Prince family and friends. The driver of the fishing boat, Paul Bennett, 46, of Cumming, faces several charges, including Boating Under the Influence (BUI) and homicide by vessel.

Under the new Georgia law, which went into effect May 18, anyone driving a boat with a blood alcohol level of 0.08 percent will be charged with BUI.

This is a lowering of the previous limit from 0.10 percent blood alcohol content. This brings BUI laws into sync with DUI laws with a 0.08 percent limit.

Personalized with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources are already spreading the word through media outlets and one-on-one reminders as rangers make the rounds of boat ramps and other waterfront gathering spots.

According to the Handbook of Georgia Boating Laws and Responsibilities, the new BUI law applies to anyone operating a boat, sailboat, personal watercraft (PWC), water skis, outboard or similar device.

Penalties include loss of privilege to operate a boat or PWC until the offender's successful completion of an approved DUI Alcohol or Drug Use Risk Reduction Program. Violators also will be charged with a misdemeanor punishable by fines of up to \$1,000 and/or prison time for up to one year.

Additionally, a person found operating a boat or PWC under the influence while a child under the age of 16 is on board is charged with endangering a child. By operating a boat or PWC on Georgia water, the operator consents to be tested for alcohol or drugs if requested by a law enforcement officer.

As you take to the water this season, remember: Have fun but be safe and smart.

Our opinion

Spankin's do the soul good

I grew up in a house where spanking was a common discipline. I don't know if it's still a thing, but I can't help but wonder if it's still a thing. I don't know if it's still a thing, but I can't help but wonder if it's still a thing. I don't know if it's still a thing, but I can't help but wonder if it's still a thing.

Privet least favorite plant

It's hard to say what my least favorite plant is. I don't know if it's still a thing, but I can't help but wonder if it's still a thing. I don't know if it's still a thing, but I can't help but wonder if it's still a thing.

What's your view?

We'd like to know

The Northeast Georgian welcomes all letters to the editor from its readers. All writers are expected to follow our letters policy:

- Letters should be exclusive to The Northeast Georgian.
- Letters must include the writer's full name, street address and a daytime telephone number for verification. Writer's name and city of residence will be published — names cannot be withheld.
- Each letter submitted must be an original — no photocopies.
- Letters should be 300 words or less.
- Letters submitted in all capital letters may be rejected.
- Only one letter per writer allowed in any 30-day period.
- We do not publish poems, excerpts from other publications or lengthy submissions of history.
- All letters are subject to editing for grammar, clarity and appropriate content. Publication of any letter is the sole discretion of The Northeast Georgian.
- Letters that are unsigned, contain more than 300 words, contain disputes between the writer and another person, group, church, educational institution or business or personal attacks, endorse or attack a business will not be published.

The Northeast Georgian

Our Mission

The Northeast Georgian is published with pride for the people of Habersham and adjoining counties by Community Newspapers Inc., Adena.

We believe the strong newspaper build strong communities — "Newspaper get things done!"

Our primary goal is to publish distinguished and profitable community-oriented newspapers.

This mission will be accomplished through the teamwork of professionals dedicated to truth, integrity, loyalty, quality and best work.

Tom Wood, Chairman
Don Roberts, President

Road Kill Cafe has new entrée: arracido

To the editor:

I am writing to let your readers know the new entrée, arracido, has officially arrived in our area.

The other day I was driving south on Hwy 101 West when I came upon a road construction site. I was very familiar with this sight. When I had my eyes closed, I saw an arracido. The road was so narrow, I was very familiar with this sight. When I had my eyes closed, I saw an arracido. The road was so narrow, I was very familiar with this sight.

Letters to the Editor

They Sell
Charmelle

See Letters, Page 5A



Humorous Column

D

1st Place

The Coastal Courier, Hinesville

Hollie Moore Barnidge

EDITORIAL PAGE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2013 WWW.COASTALCOURIER.COM PAGE 4B

THUMBS UP/THUMBS DOWN

Here's what we thought worked recently and what did not:

- Thumbs up: New vet clinic's services affordable**
Head up! The Coastal Community Veterinary Clinic, a new, low-cost veterinary clinic on Briarwood Circle, offer low-cost spay and neuter services and routine veterinary care at a discount. That's a relief for families who love their pets but have a hard time paying for care.
- Thumbs down: Local man charged in break-in**
Thumbs down! Last week, Hinesville police arrested a 37-year-old Hinesville man who they say is responsible for at least eight vehicle break-ins. It's common knowledge that crime increases around the holidays, but it's still sad to see it happen in Liberty County and surrounding communities.
- Thumbs up: Boys for tots puts children first**
Thumbs up! Boys for Tots volunteers distributed 6,800 toys to local families in need last week in Hinesville. United Way Liberty County office Director Jennifer Doney, who coordinates the area's TFI campaign, said the community spent \$36,000 to help the 1,700 children on the distribution list. One hundred and forty-seven volunteers participated.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

What does the future hold at local and national levels?

Editor,

I have always planned on returning to my hometown of Hinesville after graduating from college. However, what I hope for is not my return, but, in particular, our military has caused me to reconsider the future viability and growth of the Hinesville area and, more importantly, the future of our nation.

Now, we have all heard that Iraq, Afghanistan and the War in Syria are too costly to the defense of our country to be closed down, but honestly, the world's future is a political pin strike away from continued decline.

In fact, during the past couple years, the community went from planning for an additional brigade to actually leaving a brigade from the 3rd Infantry Division. Instead of making decisions to cut funds, waste and push forward projects, our decision makers in Washington, D.C., are cutting critically important budget items like our military, which is irresponsible at a time when the world is far from stable.

It is vital to support our military to ensure the current strength and stability of America during times when others in the world want to cause us harm. Financially responsible support of our armed forces allows small military-dependent towns, such as Hinesville, to remain stable while helping with our national decline.

In order for many military-dependent communities to remain vibrant and grow, state and federal representatives need to be attached constantly of the importance of our military. You are encouraged to contact them directly or through organizations, such as Southeast Georgia Friends of Fort Stewart and Hinesville, to let them know that the current path of wasteful spending — while cutting our national defense needs — is leading us down a path to nowhere. If action is not taken by the populace to encourage change and improve support for the military, then the future of Fort Stewart, Hinesville and our nation are in peril.

I am a proud Liberty County native in my third year of college at Mercer University, and I have to begin planning for my future after graduation. I intend to return to Hinesville because that is home to me. But, as local and national levels, I must ask the question, "What is our future?"

— Brandon Starnard
Arlington

LETTERS POLICY

The Coastal Courier welcomes letters to the editor of up to 350 words. Letters must be signed and must be verified prior to publication. Please include names, phone numbers and address with each submission.

The editor reserves the right to reject letters or edit them for clarity, brevity, accuracy, length, good tone and to avoid libel, although most changes will be grammatical in nature.

We do not accept letters that attack private individuals and businesses or that contain accusations of alleged criminal behavior.

Send letters to:
The Coastal Courier
P.O. Box 498
Hinesville, GA 31118
Letters may be sent by fax to 912-348-4329.
Letters may be sent by email to editor@coastalcourier.com.

DIXIE DYKA

Cold and rainy journey to grave was worth it

Editor's note: This is the first installment of a three-part series on Charlie Tinker, Ronald Reagin's husband's great-grandfather.



It was during mid-flight, perhaps somewhere over Virginia, that I thought I'd see and I suddenly turned in excitement toward my husband, Tim.

"That's your Charlie Tinker's grave while we are in New York," I exclaimed.

The action took into his brain and washed down his face. He didn't, he smiled in agreement.

For all of the hundreds of volumes I have written, nothing has struck the fancy of readers as much as the three-part series I wrote from the diaries of my husband's great-grandfather, Charlie Tinker, who worked closely with Abraham Lincoln in the White House. I was surprised — even stunned — by the reaction of readers who wanted to know more about this man who had touched the black cloth of history and had been diligent enough to record what he saw and heard.

As one of four telegram dispatchers in the war department, Charlie had a front row seat to a war that devastated our nation and a decision to double friendship with the president. In our self-defense, we are two hundred years from Lincoln to Charlie, preserving the essence of their friendship.

So it was that on a cold, rainy winter's day, we took a cab from Manhattan to the historic cemetery where Charlie is buried. The cab driver dropped us at the grand stone entrance, a place that looks like it would sit most comfortably among England's ancient buildings. As the cab drove out of sight and the rain poured intensely, the guard searched the directory of Green-Wood Cemetery, a place where famous men like Benjamin Franklin (obviously, the ancestor of the telegraph that gave Charlie a place in history) are buried.

"Follow this road," the guard began, giving us the names of streets we were to follow. "It's a 45-minute walk."



Do you have an opinion? Tell us about it at www.coastalcourier.com.

WELCOME TO MOTHERHOOD

Little ears do hear everything

My house just became a much more positive place. My husband and I usually do watch what we say when our daughter is around, but now I have iron-clad proof that she is always listening, watching and, more importantly, reacting. Now that we know this, explaining, "Oh, honey, that's about the only thing that is still possible in our family."

Last week, my husband and I were having a "debate" about something. Honestly, I don't even remember what we were disputing — probably something about the loss of those toys it was to create the dishwasher, take out the trash or handle the laundry. My husband thought he was right. I, of course, knew I was right.

Because our daughter, Renee, was present, we decided to put the "debate" on hold until after she went to sleep. I picked up Renee and headed toward the bathroom to give her a bath. As I did, she pointed back over my shoulder at my husband and said, "Yes, daddy."

I may have stumbled under my breath, "Yeah, daddy, yes." Oh, I probably did.

"Daddy, yes?" Renee asked. Uh oh. That was a bad idea. I didn't even think before I said it. I looked back, hoping my husband hadn't heard. No such luck.

"Yes — not now?" he said. I received a stern mini-lecture about name-calling in those of the little one. Admittedly, my husband was right. I shouldn't have done that, and I immediately felt bad for a variety of reasons, mostly because I don't want my daughter to think her dad is actually a jerk. Also, well, prefer it if Renee didn't



Do you have an opinion? Tell us about it at www.coastalcourier.com.



Humorous Column

B

3rd Place

Marietta Daily Journal

Lauretta Hannon

Dear Abby, 20
Movies, 20

EMPATHY — WITH AN EDGE
Not your granny's advice column

Elder abuse and funny haircuts

Q: Why are young people so disrespectful to the elderly? They no longer hold doors open or stand for older people and don't even bother to help someone who is obviously disabled. I have actually admonished those who yell at them because they take longer to check out. I have heard them shouting their own words of "hurry up," "get out of the way" and "die" — this was at my local Wal-Mart.

A: Why does this happen? Hold on, because I'm about to give you the unvarnished and politically incorrect answer. It happens because older people are just trash. This condition results when they grow up without any sense of decency, right and wrong, and the Golden Rule. So when they reject these values in favor of greed and self-interest.

Continue to do battle with them when you witness such atrocious behavior. And be very patient: one day they will be the ones wanting to reach the doctor's office from their elderly neighbors.

Q: I really like my boss, and it's almost paid for. There's the dilemma: I have found another house that I love absolutely. I love to live with. Healthy and I am in our life. Should we really consider buying?

A: Of course you should. Live where you'll be happy.

Q: What's up with all the babies who keep getting their lower limbs torn? Have the trucks got up real high, and then it starts down to the front with just some string around inside their chests? I have one friend who was not who-thinks-that looks good. We call it the Chicken Butt Release and laugh like each every time we see it. Would you please let them know that it's highly unethical?

A: Dear Mr. Author of Books, you have an abundance of nerve but a complete absence of knowledge regarding the sensitive condition. I agree that there have been many reputable lawsuits throughout history. But here's the better option: please, and we won't say one more thing about your mail.

LAURETTA HANNON

Perhaps the final word should come from Maria, the wife that regardless of the behavior of anything else, "beauty is just a light switch away."

Q: How do you deal with a friend who likes to pick fights on Facebook? This is something I know a lot of people have trouble dealing with. Do you "unfriend" or do you just leave you not communicating with her with their posts? Do you try to deal with it in person or over the phone? Do you make the friend make leave Facebook? Thanks!

A: Your response should depend on how much you value the friendship and how benign or aggressive the fights are. I would "unfriend" if I decided the person is someone I don't want in my real life. I definitely wouldn't tell them I was deleting them, unless I'd consider it good relations. Unfortunately, some just are not that best on Facebook, just an event happens on specific occasions or your goals. I'd like their posts if I thought they were adding up a constant positive note of negativity building up and making someone, pity parties and misery factor than Facebook. I believe, it's a better vehicle for humor, love and good ideas than a war.

But let's keep all this in perspective: Consider friends matter more than anything happening on Facebook. I couldn't imagine deleting Facebook to the point of actually "hating" with issues that arise there. Keep it in its place. Spend maximum energy on your real world "friends," and you might regret your particular behavior.

Trust me, on your deadline you won't be thinking of Facebook.

Send your questions to editor@newsandjournal.com

Lauretta Hannon, a resident of Powder Springs, is the founding editor of the "Dear Abby" column at the Marietta Daily Journal and a former author. Readers looking for more fun "The Answer Man" on Google+ are here at thejournal.com.

Lifestyle

MARKETTA DAILY JOURNAL THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2010



The cast of 'Hairspray' from Palmetto High School performed at the Shuler Hensley Awards in April 2010. The year's awards show is Thursday with a red carpet event at 8 p.m. and curtain opening at 7:30 p.m. at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre.

High school performers get chance to ... SHINE
Georgia High School Musical Theater Awards set for Thursday at Cobb Energy

It's that time of year again to honor Cobb's best high school actors and performers. The 58th Annual Georgia High School Musical Theater Awards, also called the Shuler Hensley Awards, will take place Thursday with a red carpet event at 8 p.m. and curtain at 7:30 p.m. at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre.

Change and offstage high school musical theater performers from throughout Georgia will be recognized. The award-winning leading actor and actress will be eligible to compete this summer in the National High School Musical Theater Awards on Broadway in New York City.

The Georgia High School Musical Theater Awards will air on HD-TV, with TV 3 digital channel and can be viewed on Channel 249 on Comcast or Channel 127 on Charter. The United Nations Foundation, representing the schools participating in this year's competition, performs the opening and finale production numbers.

Berkley Russell, public relations coordinator at Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre, said 47 schools in Georgia have been nominated in 15 categories, and a total of 75 students are participating.

"We have over 40 judges that adjudicate the shows," Russell said. "All of them have backgrounds in some form of performing arts."

Each school performance is judged by five adjudicators who submit scores and written evaluations for each award category, Russell said. After the last school production has been scored, the judges meet and review the final numbers. School production videos are viewed to help determine the award recipient. Nominations were announced March 28.

The program is an initiative of the Atlanta-based education program of the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre Foundation. They award winning actor Shuler Hensley, whose first award is named after, will perform onstage with the student emcees. The Marietta actor, who has been honored on Broadway and featured on the big screen, has the awards.

LIFESTYLE EDITOR
Kathy Goldberry
kgoldberry@mdjonline.com

THE NOMINEES

Cobb schools received nominations in the following categories:

- COSTUME DESIGN:** Michelle Baumann of Walton High in "Anne Get Your Gun"
- LIGHTING DESIGN:** Janyshelle Green of Walton High in "Anne Get Your Gun"
- THEATRICAL EXECUTION:** Janyshelle Green of Walton High in "Anne Get Your Gun"
- LEADING ACTOR:** Ryan Daly of North Cobb Christian High in "Road to the Holy World" as Holy World's Cain
- CHOREOGRAPHY:** Cindy Marie Reaser and Ellen Edwards of Palmetto High in "Crazy for You" as Ryan Griffin, Audrey Lombardi and Brenna Koshman of Walton High in "Anne Get Your Gun"
- MUSIC DIRECTION:** Susan Griffith of Walton High in "Anne Get Your Gun"

Cobb schools received honorable mentions in the following categories:

- FEATURED PERFORMER:** Shannon Duffy, Pope High School, as Max Peterson in "Eye for Eye"
- COSTUME DESIGN:** Ann Fitzpatrick, Megan Morgan, Kathryn Gregory, Ade Hines, Caroline Whittaker of Mount Paran Christian School in "Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"; Emily Adams of Palmetto High in "Crazy for You"; Autumn and Melissa Whittaker of Pope High in "The Boy Who Swam with Piranhas"
- SCENE DESIGN:** Daniel Parker of Palmetto High in "Crazy for You"; Janyshelle Green, Hannah Davidson and Joel Somers of Walton High in "Anne Get Your Gun"
- SOUND DESIGN:** Eric Smith and Jared Schuman of Mount Paran Christian High in "Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"
- SUPPORTING ACTOR:** Eric Wood of North Cobb Christian in "Road to the Holy World" as Cain
- LEADING ACTRESS:** Amanda Buck of Pope High in "Eye for Eye" as Rosie; Kati Hales of the High in "Anne Get Your Gun" as Anne Doolittle
- ORCHESTRA:** Todd Motter of The Palmetto School in "Little Women"
- CHOREOGRAPHY:** Jany Fitzpatrick, Megan Morgan and Lyne Braxton of North Cobb Christian in "Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"

NEWSWORTHY

EDWARD JONES PLANS COFFEE CLUB MEETING ON THURSDAY
Local staff reports

Edward Jones invites the public to its next coffee club meeting on Thursday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in Acworth.

Current events, the economy and investing will be discussed in a relaxed, informal setting. Coffee and light breakfast will be served. The event will be hosted by Jim Hance and Shannon Hance with Edward Jones.

The meeting is at Edward Jones' office at 4358 S. Southside Drive in Acworth. RSVP to (770) 528-9028.

Humorous Column

B



2nd Place

Rome News-Tribune

Ray Atkins

Humorous Column

B

1st Place

Athens Banner-Herald

Eddie DePeterse

opinions A4
Athens Banner-Herald
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2011

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

In militia country, they're ready for the zombies

By Eddie DePeterse

"In that last?" I asked Jan as we approached the trailer. "You know it. 'New Job' before."

I recognized her name from the video she had posted on YouTube: "Becky Ray: The Zombie Apocalypse in North Georgia." In it, Becky Ray walked toward a porch with a shotgun under her arm. She gave it both barrels, and then grinned at the camera, a cigarette dangling from her mouth.

Once we got inside Becky Ray's place, I wanted to ask her a few questions about the video. Except for when some camera work the camera changed the channel and the doors of us got to watch life-sized guys wait for daylight to show up.

"How big was that shotgun?" I asked Becky Ray, who was busy with her son. I was getting a little high from the fumes of the porch heater.

At least I think it was those fumes making me giddy. The hottest officers had given the "old-time" words after Uncle Willie had blown up the kitchen and himself using a hatch in the kitchen.

"What do you think?" I asked. "A 12-gauge, of course. Anything smaller would have only made a zombie wobble."

"Was that a peace pipe you mentioned in the video?" I asked.

"Yes, it was from Uncle Willie's memorial service. That dummy Willie didn't know any more about chemistry than a gnat has. I told him he was asking for trouble. Told him he was an ignorant as his brother-in-law Billy, who died last year. Anyone planning to go into the orange business should have read up on electricity first. That was probably his last thought before he was electrocuted. They still don't have air conditioning at the school."

"I thought the cigarette was a nice touch," I offered.

"Well, I wanted to look not only prepared but, you know, hot," she said, giving me a wink.

"But why did you cover your tattoos with nicotine patches?" I asked.

"Well, there's hot and then there's too hot. I didn't want to attract stalkers," she answered.

On the screen, two guys were putting duct tape around the jaws of an alligator.

"You think one of those 30-shot assault rifles would take down a zombie?" I asked, getting a little confused as Becky Ray worked on her last one.

"Depends on where you aim. And if you really aim through the whole clip," she replied, not looking up.

"You know, I just don't see why anyone outside of the military needs that much firepower," I said.

Every head in the living room turned toward me. Jan gave me that look she gives me when I mispronounce "Bacon."

"One of the larger rooms took a sip from his beer and asked me, 'Don't you know anything about our form of government? Have you even read the Constitution?'"

"Sure, I've read it. Let I know that you have to be 35 to run for president. And have I already said that?"

I looked around, smiling at my own joke. Everyone was nodding except Jan, who gave me that look like I mispronounced "Bacon."

"Then you know it says in the Bill of Rights the people have the right to keep and bear arms," was the response.

"But we're not for the militia!" I asked, looking around the room again.

On the TV screen, two guys were in the kitchen looking at a shape walking in the shadows.

"Exactly. And that's what we'll have when we need to secure our freedom, me and my son."

Jan gave me a look like when she wants to go.

I held my follow-up questions about freedom and original intent. And why national magazines make so many people fear the words "Guns up!" and go ahead to live at small armories.

At the door, Becky Ray shook my hand and said, "It's like John Lennon said."

Outside in the cool night air of north Georgia, my head began to spin. I tried to imagine the lyrics in her mind: "Give peace a chance." "It is over if you want it." But she was already walking back inside and Jan was dragging me toward the gate.

Behind us, though, I could hear singing: "Happiness is a warm gun."

Eddie DePeterse is an English teacher living in Dacula, Ga.

Mentor's courage remains inspiring

By Eddie DePeterse

Years ago, a reporter was preparing Henry Ford with questions. Respectfully, the automotive pioneer replied, "I don't know." Frustrated, the journalist asked, "How can you be so successful and know so little about your operation?"

With a smile, Ford said, "See the fuel tank? All I have to do is push it. I can get any answer I want."

One of the smartest things you can learn is to realize when you don't know. There's no shame in that. And I am reminded of that fact — often. Unlike Henry Ford, I don't have a magic button to push. But luckily, I know Google-like people who are willing to help.

As I was preparing to pick up the chairman's guest of the University System of Georgia's Board of Regents, I took a trip to see my friend who held the good old-fashioned century sign.

So much has changed since the 1960s, but what hasn't changed is the basic challenge of making hard choices. Today, when being technology can give data mountain-high in front of decision-makers. However, it cannot spit out vision or guide to do the right thing.

Vision and guts were the virtues of my mentor friends that with my friend, H.G., a former chairman of the regents. As a visionary leader, he has the guts to walk on the white hot side of risk — again and again.

Architect John Portman became a global icon, building signature high-rises stretching from Atlanta to Shanghai. His friend and Georgia Tech classmate, H.G., developed a signature stretching beyond concrete and steel. Even though he's constructed more than 100 million square feet of industrial warehouse space, he's spent a majority of his life years building communities, jobs and leaders.

Leadership Georgia — the nation's premier program of its kind — was his idea. In 1982, that organization to know I met H.G. And that's why I was sitting in his kitchen table, listening to his voice as he spoke, not his words, but his wisdom.

His voice is soft, and I know he is sincere, not his words, but what I want to hear is him talking about his accomplishments or philosophy. That's not H.G.'s style. Instead, he advised, "Know when to say 'no.' You'll be asked to be somewhere every day. It's a big name, and it's important to say no — every time."

"Tell me about your most memorable decision as a regent," I said. He chuckled and closed his eyes, as if to shut up 1960. In those days, the regents voted on every faculty hire," he said.

"The University of Georgia law school wanted to hire former Secretary of State Dean Rusk."

H.G. got a call from the Code Ethics Gov. Lester Maddox asked, "Do you object being on the Board of Regents?"

"Yes sir, I do," H.G. said.

"Well," said Maddox, "tell me what you think about Dean Rusk. How would you vote?"

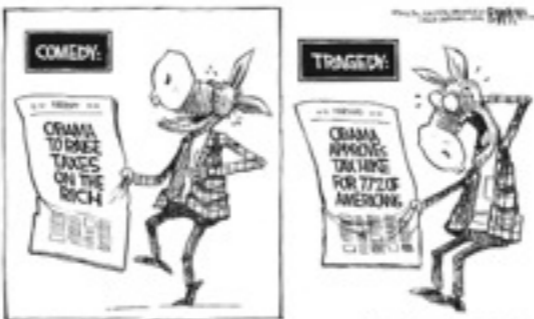
"Governor," said H.G., "I believe the Secretary Rusk would bring good distinction to UGA."

"That's enough, the vote knotted in a tie. H.G. walked on the white-hot coals, voting to do the right thing. Maddox respected Rusk's being and structured by not supporting H.G."

I can't imagine the University of Georgia's legacy without the contributions of Dean Rusk. And I can't imagine our nation's legacy without the greatest leadership of Georgians: the H.G. (Yes of the three great chairmen of the Board of Regents, including the former chair and vice-chair, are all now presidents of his institution — Leadership Georgia.)

There's no mark that I don't know. But I know that I am pleased to have my mentor, H.G. "Dr." Parillo inspires me to have the vision and guts to do the right thing.

Eddie DePeterse is president of Community Newspapers Inc. and chairman of its advisory board of Georgia Board of Regents. Email: eddie@communitynews.com.



Gun control is affront to basic rights

Males to mistake — liberal politicians are coming for our guns. This is not unexpected. The Newtown, Conn., elementary school shooting in the image of the deaths at the school are beyond tragic, because of the deaths of innocent children and an innocent woman. But the deaths are beyond tragic, because of the deaths of innocent children and an innocent woman. But the deaths are beyond tragic, because of the deaths of innocent children and an innocent woman.

So it is with the political rhetoric we now hear from the liberal politicians and special-interest groups. But small weapons and there will be no more mass killings. They say. But high-capacity magazines and there will be no more mass killings. Register every gun owned by every law-abiding gun owner in the land and there will be no more mass killings.

The antigun lobby division is on and, not having any understanding that evil will always exist in our land and evil people will find ways to commit senseless murders.

The antigun proponents that all said that there are evil people who will continue to find ways to commit senseless murders, even with guns that are illegal.

The larger school shooting occurred while the last gun-control legislation was in effect, when two evil managers shot 14 people before finally shooting themselves.

From all that we now know, the young man who committed the last senseless murder in Newtown was mentally disturbed. Yet the masses, according to those who do not believe in the Second Amendment rights, is to disarm law-abiding citizens.

In fact, these people have made themselves the authors of which this arms and accessories are acceptable to own. This is the height of arrogance, as they presume to decide how the people are ultimately to protect our God-given, unalienable rights to life, liberty and property.

Seven million have supported on the number of laws broken by the Newtown killer. Laws do not stop people from committing evil acts, regardless of their mental stability.

If there are mental health issues to be addressed in connection with the commission of violent acts, then public policy should be directed toward doing as much as can practically be done in that area. Whittling away the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens is not the answer.

tragically, many of those who are outraged over the murders in Newtown, will see nothing the way for oppressive gun-control laws. And we learn over the approximately 3,500 deaths in America that occurred by shooting that same day.

Could it be that the moral fabric of our nation is being torn asunder because we have failed to see into the sanctity of all life?

• Jerry Hays, a long-time NRA member, is retired in Dacula, Ga. Email: jerryhays@comcast.net.



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Want to make your opinion heard by the readers of the Athens Banner-Herald? Write for the editor. The editor's name is Eddie DePeterse. He is located at: 1000 Peachtree St. N.W., Atlanta, GA 30309. Phone: (770) 330-1240. E-mail: eddie@athensbanner.com.



OnlineAthens

Humorous Column

A

3rd Place

Savannah Morning News

Tom Barton

Savannah Morning News | savannahnow.com

OPINION

COMING MONDAY
Columnist Leonard Pitts wonders: How black is black enough?

SAVANNAH-CHATHAM SCHOOLS

Haves and have-nots

WHICH 21 areas to student enrollment at individual schools, the story of Savannah-Chatham County school system is one of the haves and the have-nots.

Some popular schools, like Godley Station K-8 and Mudd-point Elementary, are hovering at the seams with capacities of well over 120 percent.

Others, however, resemble who-darters. Savannah High School, one of the system's newer buildings with room for 1,800 students, is barely half full with 710 students enrolled.

Across town in Garden City, Cross High School has more empty desks than filled ones. This year Chatham school is capable of serving 1,072 students. But today, only 790 students go to classes there. That's a 94 percent occupancy.

Many factors determine why some schools attract students and others don't — population shifts, quality of instruction, concerns about safety, leadership, degree of parental involvement and school reputation.

Some variables, like stagnant population growth inside the city and rapid growth elsewhere, are out of the school board's hands. However, that must not prevent officials from making better use of existing space.

School Board member Ade Wade announced up the issue early at last Wednesday's school board meeting. "We clearly have some schools that are over capacity and we need to do something about that," she said.

Superintendent Thomas Lockamy Jr. and his staff have created new programs to attract students to Savannah High.

located on Pennsylvania Avenue on the outside. But the school's 81 percent occupancy rate speaks for itself.

Just last Monday, school board members Eugene Hawkins and Corine Hall held a community meeting to create a grassroots buzz and school pride in this neighborhood and the public schools that serve it — an effort that merits the public's support.

Still, that's no guarantee more students will come. At the same time, the taxpayers are paying roughly \$6 million annually to heat, cool and provide water and sewer services to all schools — crowded or half-empty.

School President Joe Black and the rest of the board should be thinking outside of the school box when it comes to facilities and long-range planning. That includes whether it's better to pour dollars into new schools or to merge smaller schools. It includes whether to enlarge or close schools or change structures across once again.

Such decisions can be politically treacherous. Ms. Wade said part of the problem stems from having too many high schools and not enough space at elementary schools that were converted to K-8 schools.

Creating this imbalance will create a stir. That's why enlisting the public's help is a must. Parents want quality education for their children. They also care about their pocketbooks.

Putting big money into bricks is easier but always the wrong way. It may be smarter to make better use of the existing buildings — and spend the savings on actual instruction.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Metts probably didn't know about wrongdoing

For many days now, I have thought about writing this letter, and I know I must speak out in support of former Chatham County Counsel Dr. Jimmy Metts.

We have known and worked with him for over 40 years, both professionally and personally. This man has given more of his time, money and dedication to the field of medicine and to Savannah.

He worked tirelessly in the late '80s and early '90s to get the K-12 and the stroke units merged. He went many times to Washington to fight for funds for the stroke program, using his own money and on his own time.

I watched him, fearlessly and with determination, plead before the committee for the research program here in Savannah, and he was successful.

This is a man who has cared nothing about money or positions. We know there must be evidence of wrongdoing, but we will never believe Dr. Metts knew anything about it.

No matter the outcome, we must give him the honor and respect for what he has done for his fellow man and this city.

POLLY STEWART
President
Warren A. Candler School of Nursing, Kennesaw
Savannah

Lack of school prayer contributed to massacre

Prayer in schools should be reinstated. The recent shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School can be directly attributed to the removal of school prayer from American schools.

Under the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment of the Constitution, it is the duty of the government to protect the free exercise of individual religious freedom.

The courts have consistently stated that students' writing letters of religious views through prayer cannot be forbidden unless such activity can be shown to cause disruption in the school, yet remain beyond the scope of the state to require such practice.

Thus, anyone is allowed to pray in schools in the United States, as long as it is not officially sponsored by the school and it does not disrupt others from doing their work.

Savannah Superintendent of Schools Thomas B. Lockamy, Jr. S.E.D. has failed to answer reasonable requests by phone and letters to discuss this policy with

Disabled vet: How much more should I sacrifice?

After reading the letter to the editor, "Southern politicians are excellent son artists," by Bernie Brown (Jan. 1), I would like to respond.

I call myself a conservative. I was a Democrat for 40 years, until 2012, when the Democrats took God out of their platform. I am a retired soldier with another disability working a job for less than \$10 an hour.

My wife and I are both over 60 years old on Social Security. The State of Georgia now gives us a big enough exemption when we pay no-state income tax, however we do pay city, county, state, sales and property taxes and more on our vehicle.

I use the Bible as my guide. I also pay tithes to the church.

FRANK CHOWNTZ
Pulaski

CONTACT US

Letters to the editor must include the writer's name (no initials), a mailing address and daytime telephone number for verification purposes. We ask that letters be no longer than 200 words. All submissions are subject to editing.

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Nicknames need work

One thing is painfully obvious after reading this week's newspaper article about the 10 knockheads indicated here on drug charges — they don't make nicknames like they used to.

Take Grilly Holloway Jr., 34. He was one of the early top-down profheads charged with conspiracy to distribute large amounts of marijuana, cocaine and such cocaine to Savannah, Atlanta and elsewhere.

Authorities said Holloway's street name is "Grill Cheese."

That's right. A sandwich.

It makes you wonder what the dude's nickname might be called. Puffy Muff? Pinocchio? Peanut Butter?

A nickname like "Grill Cheese" is an embarrassment. It doesn't write her into legends in the "hood." It doesn't raise street cred. It brings her belly laughs.

The same goes for many of the other street names of the other 21 defendants, who were arrested after a two-year investigation by the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force, a joint federal and state operation.

Names like "Pineapple" and "Coke" (They don't do "cigars," "cigs," "swags" and "traps.")

Are these guys involved in an illegal religious enterprise? Or are they part of the Beards?

One of those who was indicted was called "Prophet." That sounds like a nickname for one of those prophets on "Jeep Shows," set a trap on local streets.

Another was known as "Rico Mendy." That's no 1000-lb. right out of "Miami Vice."

Then there's "Hindenburg." Where did that come from? Or around tonight, I don't want to know.

Another indicator was called "Chesse" as well, but without the grill. That suggests a massive shortage of creative brain power (no pun intended) within the street enterprise drug crew.

Willie Jones, however, deserves some credit. While Jones, 30, lacked a quality A/K/A on his rap sheet, he made up for it in quantity. He had five street names including "Oleander," "Norell King," "Bill," "Oleander King" (he doesn't sound like someone who might fish weed or crack. It sounds like the name of an NBA point guard. Can't he beat out "Jody" by himself?)

Last year, the Associated Press showed an article about notable nicknames associated with mobsters and arrested bad guys. They included names such as "Moose," "Harry "The Shredder" Kinoshine of Philadelphia, a 6-foot-11 mauler who died in prison.

• Anthony "Tony Shaker" Corallo of New York City, who earned that name because of his ability to duck subpoenas and convictions.

• Francis "Caddis Prank" Selenese of Boston, who owned a bunch of auto body garages, became a gangster whom and is now believed to be in the witness protection program.

It's unclear whether any of the article that U.S. Attorney Ed Tamm's office will be prosecuting here will be offered new lines and identities in return for their cooperation. But if they don't, I hope they wise up and get new nicknames — or, in the case of Billy Bernice Riley Jr., an outside name source.

Naturally, Riley was known on the streets as "Kokki." (That's with a capital K.)

Who lives ya, baby?

Apparently not Riley's parents.

Tom Barton is the editorial page editor of the Savannah Morning News. tom.barton@savannahnow.com



Humorous Column

A

2nd Place

The Augusta Chronicle

Glynn Moore

METRO
MONDAY B
July 1, 2013
The Augusta Chronicle

Certified officers needed
Drug recognition training better equips deputies

Decorate, but don't expect me to notice

NO VACATION AT BLOOD CENTER

Soldiers honored at picnic
Celebration gives support to military

Need for donations increases in summer

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ACROSS THE AREA
Man shoots woman, commits suicide

Humorous Column

A

1st Place

Columbus Ledger-Enquirer

Tim Chitwood

LOCAL & REGION

Sexting strangers? Attach the warning label

By TIM CHITWOOD



Tim Chitwood

Parental discretion advised, or as they say on TV news, "some viewers may find these images disturbing."

Here's a case the Georgia Superior Court's in your honor.

"A man who sent an unsolicited picture of his penis to a woman is opposing a Cherokee County court's refusal to throw out the criminal charge against him. He argues that the Georgia statute mandating the distribution of nude photos does not apply to electronic images in a cell phone."

The accused is Charles Jay Warren III, who reportedly has this same on that body part "STROKED and I MANIPULATED it a WHOLE LOT."

Not everyone has space to spell out all the words. Warren is charged with sending "Obscene or Sexual Conduct" by transmitting a "digital image of a person's genitalia, without the notice of consent as required by Official Code — 16-12-11."

The law requires this notice in at least "single-pointed bulletins type," "No-40" — "The material intended herein depicts nudity or sexual conduct. If the viewing of such material could be offensive to the addressee, this content should not be opened or returned to the sender."

Fit that on your package, the problem's not the Warrens are carrying every with a photo of his uncensored penis. It's that he didn't put a warning label on it. Or that the one he put is too, at least, or he paraphrased it poorly. An attorney might argue this did his best with the message he had. (SFP)

In their behalf, Warren's attorneys push this point. The law is "unconscionable," so the state must prove a compelling interest in enforcing this

AGAINST ALL ODDS: WE WILL SUCCEED!

Columbus native sees impact of educational expectations

By TIM CHITWOOD

Columbus native Karla D. Brown, 36, was a fourth grader at Double Creek Elementary when he realized that the expectations of some children, especially blacks, weren't the same as other students in the classroom.

"You don't see a smart and capable very early in school, that's going to impact you for the rest of your life," Brown told a crowd of about 40 parents and children at the National L. Terry Pugh Library on Saturday. "One of the things I always knew and thought about was, 'would someone else see that other kids, that other black kids, that I was just given an opportunity that they weren't given. If we all had been given the same expectations, then we all could have succeeded to a similar level."

Brown, 42, grew up on the way to a public housing complex, and graduated from Spawton High School. He earned a bachelor's degree from Morehouse College in Atlanta, received a master's degree from the University of Georgia and

Project Linus: Fabric mavens craft blankets for sick and traumatized children

Crafters gathered at Edgewood Presbyterian Church in Columbus Saturday morning to make fleece blankets for Project Linus, which provides blankets to sick and traumatized children. After each blanket is finished, a Project Linus label is added.

Go to www.ledger-enquirer.com to see video from the event and learn more about the program from Carrie Stant, the Columbus Project Linus chairwoman.



Photos by MIKE HASKEY mhaskey@ledger-enquirer.com

In brief

Teen charged after gunshot near school

A boy, 16, was charged with carrying a weapon with a school near this city after he shot himself in the right hip behind Key 62 elementary, Columbus police said.

The case also was linked to the 2012 shooting on West Street at Justice Avenue. The teen was taken to Columbus Children's Medical Center (formerly The Medical Center) where he was injured seriously. Police found the injured teen curled in a fetal position. A 30-caliber revolver was found in the room.

The teen lost his right hand, but was shot by another person, police said.

Rue reports robbery of \$1,200 at Burger King

A 47-year-old man was robbed of more than \$1,200 Friday in the parking of Burger King, Columbus police said.

The robbery was not seriously injured in the robbery that occurred sometime between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. at 3755 Veterans Drive.

The man told police he was robbed of \$1,200 in the parking lot after he had

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Serious Column

H

3rd Place

Smoke Signals, Big Canoe

Melissa Lowrie

148 SMOKE SIGNALS JANUARY 2013

BY MELISSA LOWRIE | **Canoe Kids**

Time to 'cowboy up' for a museum visit

Time to saddle up for some culture, cowboys. No mooring and granting allowed. Why? As no one wants to hear it and if you will enjoy this.

The South Western Art Museum in Cartersville is not only a stunning museum filled with fabulous art, but a chance to educate yourself and your family about history... and it's not all



Melissa Lowrie

cowboys and Indians. Located in Cartersville, the museum opened in 2003 and is the second largest art museum in the state of Georgia. From more impressive: Booth was named an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution in 2006.

You'll enter on the main level and if you've had a drive with rowdy kids you'll want to head directly downstairs to the Sagebrush Ranch Gallery. Intended for children 7-12, this is a hands-on, interactive space where kids can literally saddle up and make some noise. My 5th grader would beg to differ on the age range of the section, however.

The day we visited, the Sagebrush was empty, but this is bound to be a popular spot where the "don't touch" museum warning does not apply.

Back on the main level, the largest gallery on the floor houses the American West with more than 100 paintings and sculpture. The children in my party were in awe of the art collection and took more photos than I did.

The upper level boasts a gallery that will test your knowledge of the American Presidents. Just before entering there is an incredible mural depicting the 18 presidents that served in the 20th century. It took the artist four years to paint.

Inside the Carolyn & James Miller Presidential Gallery there are original signed letters as well as photos of each president along with interesting facts about each.

Adjacent to the Presidential Gallery is the Cowboy Gallery featuring art depicting...you guessed it...cowboys. All

Continued on next page




A Native American headdress is on display with more than 200 other artifacts.

Modern western art abounds in the Sculpture Court. PHOTOS BY MELISSA LOWRIE



This massive bronze is one of many in the South Western Museum.

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Serious Column

H

FEBRUARY 2012 SMOKE SIGNALS 7A

BY GEORGE FOX | Big Canoe Law School

The Hokey Pokey and your financial power of attorney

Did you hear what happened when the composer of the Hokey Pokey died? They had a terrible time getting his body into the casket. Supposedly they put his right leg in and . . .

But we digress from a more serious topic: what the Hokey Pokey has to do with the document used when someone's disabled.

You see, the dance worked best when people followed its directions. You did what it told you to do, which was simple. Nobody barged into anybody else and the dance worked.

Where this is going, no review lists of Financial Powers of Attorney each year. We find that so many of them are missing a simple but required part. Not having this part in the document means the FPOA may be worthless — an impressive-looking document that is only good to ignite kindling.

Unfortunately, most people don't find out there's a problem with their FPOA until the signer is incommunicado, and the named agent is trying to use the FPOA. It's like finding out that the fire extinguisher, which looked okay, is really empty. Who would know?

Here's the way it happens. Your FPOA agent goes to your bank to set up access to your accounts. You give the FPOA to the nice person at the customer service desk. But then customer service person says "Sorry, we can't let you access that account. This Power of Attorney doesn't comply with the law."

The common response: "Well, it's what my lawyer gave me to sign." Or "I thought it was okay because I downloaded it." Or the simple "Huh?"

The problem — which we see for too often (and maybe you should check your own FPOA) — is that something in the Georgia statute is not being complied with.

Basically, the statute-based FPOA contains a long list of powers for your agent, so he or she can act for your financial benefit if you're out of it. It authorizes your agent to sign checks for you, pay bills, deal with investments, and more.

This makes the document incredibly potent: you're giving someone the right to use powers in the list to take care of your finances and assets until you either recover . . . or die.

Georgia law says this is so powerful that you have to do something specific so it's absolutely clear exactly which powers you're giving to your agent. When you have to do that at the end of each paragraph which states a power. (Examples of the paragraphs: the right to manage your assets, the right to file lawsuits on your behalf, the right to sign stock certificates, the right to see your real estate.)

What if you don't initial a power, or haven't? Says the Georgia Code:

The powers described in any paragraph not initialed or which has been struck through will not be conveyed to the Agent.

So if you want to insure that the Financial Power of Attorney will work, every power should have a line at the end of it, where you initial.

In other words, if you're examining a FPOA and no powers have been initialed, you have a problem. Or you will have a problem if you become disabled. What's going to have the power to pay your bills, manage your assets, all that? The only other thing they can do is go into court for an order granting powers. And that's expensive.

Another part of the Code says that the FPOA form in the Georgia statute "is not the exclusive method for creating such an agency." So you can argue that the law allows FPOAs to look different.

But do you really want your agent to have that argument with that nice customer service person, the insurance adjuster, the closing attorney, etc.? Who should your agent have to waste time trying to convince someone that you signed this other FPOA form, and you didn't initial anything, because the one in the Georgia Code is not the "exclusive" form. Good luck.

We suggest, do things straight and narrow. If the law is so explicit that it wants you to initial each "power paragraph," then just do it. You want to make things as easy as possible for the agent named in your FPOA, not more difficult.

One last thing, you may need powers added to the ones in the FPOA form in the Georgia Code. But that's story for another day.

And that's what it's all about.

Two practices in Sandy Springs and Big Canoe, and is also Adjunct Professor in Emory Law School's Center for Transnational Law. Questions are welcome: reach him at Fox@Galax.com or on Facebook. He also cautions that what's above is not legal advice, and you should seek professional advice before doing or not doing something based on this article.



"Not having this part in the document means the FPOA may be worthless — an impressive-looking document that is only good to ignite kindling."



George Fox, attorney

2nd Place

Smoke Signals, Big Canoe

George Fox



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Serious Column

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1st Place

Columbia County News-Times, Evans

Steve Crawford

Page 4 News-Times Sunday, August 18, 2013

Steve Crawford
Publisher's Notes

Handel's email is at best a half-truth

I don't think a good lie. They get delivered to my inbox everyday. Usually, they come in the form of an email forwarded from a friend or relative and almost always the content makes claims that contradict the things we think we already know or thought were true.

I've seen photos of President George W. Bush in an elementary school reading from a book held upside down and one with President Obama saying the Pledge of Allegiance with his left hand over his heart. Both are bogus, as is about 90 percent of the other stuff that gets passed around the internet.

Whenever I get this stuff, I feel obligated to reply to the sender and explain that what they just sent was a bunch of bunk, and ask them nicely to refrain from sending any more.

Which brings me to Karen Handel. Although she declines to release her e-mail, U.S. Senator Leahy's e-mail to her in more than a year ago, the race has already served us.

Handel, the former Georgia Secretary of State, is among a flock of eager Republicans hoping to take his place in Washington.

Handel is already lobbying heavily at the field of opponents hoping to clear a path to victory. The latest landed this week in my e-mail, decrying Congress' alleged "ObamaCare exemption."

Here's a snippet: "Only in Washington could Congress seek and secure a special exemption to prevent their health care costs from rising while programs for thousands of Congress' constituents will go up by as much as 100% next year. This is just another example of the hypocrisy in Washington."

It sure sounds like something we would expect from Congress. The problem is that it's just not true.

Handel's motivation seems to be to stir fear in Republican opponents who have yet to be members of Congress. U.S. Rep. Jack Kingston, Paul House and Phil Gingens, by implying that they are pulling a fast one.

The problem with her claim is that Congress is anything but exempt. In fact, they are among a small group of federal employees that will be affected more than others.

You see, back when the massive and bewilderingly complex "Affordable Healthcare Act" was being introduced at the capitol factory in Washington, D.C., last-minute amendments and political maneuvering abandoned.

One such amendment came from Iowa Sen. Charles Grassley, who proposed that Congress, and it will be required to take part in the same health-exchange plans that will be made available for those who don't have health insurance through their employers, essentially kicking them out of the Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan that all federal workers take part in.

Some say that Grassley's amendment was an attempt to undermine the Democrats and he didn't expect it to pass.

The Democrats, however, embraced the idea and it became part of the new law.

This created a special situation for a large number of federal employees.

It also left a lot of questions about who exactly was affected - lots of people work for Congress, but some don't work directly for Senators and representatives, and what would happen to the money paid by the federal government to subsidize their insurance premiums.

These subsidies amount to about \$5,000 per year for single employees and about twice that much for family coverage. That might not seem like much to those in Congress, but it certainly matters to low-level clerks working for congressional committees or someone who works in the Senate library.

Grassley later proposed another amendment, which would allow those affected to continue getting their federal subsidy, but it did not pass.

That's brings us to the current year, when all these things left undecided in 2009 had to be tested out.

It appears that what got decided was very similar to Grassley's amendment. Congress will have to participate in the insurance exchanges, and members and others affected by the law will continue to get their federal subsidies.

So, Handel's email "lie" is at best a half-truth, meant to be misunderstood by those who don't have the time or inclination to do the research. The intent is not to enlighten or inform, but to influence and muddy the political water.

Sure, it's just politics and everybody does it. We are sure to see more in the coming year.

But wouldn't it be refreshing if Handel and other candidates focused on the things that are truly wrong with ObamaCare and how we might fix our healthcare system? The politics of making your opponent look bad is what got us to where we are now - a government that can't seem to get anything done.

There are plenty of actual problems that need our attention. We don't need to invent more.

Lucy Adams
Memories of school echo

The days of sending a kid to school with a couple of pencils, a pair of scissors, a bottle of glue and a spiral-bound notebook bearing, Sharon Cassidy on the cover are the stuff of nostalgia. In the digital age, school-supply lists are lengthy and detailed. The shelves of each rack from the college land-shop-things-things in my car.

My daughter needs 10 folders with pockets and prongs just for science, and she says her teacher wants them NOW, TODAY. (In the math, if the teacher has five classes of 25 students who all bring in 10 folders with pockets and prongs TODAY, she will collect 1,250 folders. The desire for more prompts my sympathy and suspicion.

Handel in the same aisle lead with piles of notebooks, folders and loose-leaf paper. I think of the Trapper Keeper I always always carried around. Trapper Keeper was a system of notes with cool kid-in-school. My daughter's practical multi-colored or annotated all my plans for a Trapper Keeper. "Your teacher didn't have that on the supply list," she strategized to preemptively counter her sister's demands, leaving the groundwork for discipline even before the first day.

Oh, heartbreak, to be relegated to the side of the classroom with kids who carried plain grey spiral-bound notebooks in their satchels.

The horror of sitting next to the boy who would turn his eyelids inside out and stare green. All O through his nose still lingers on the rough edges of the post.

My college-aged, single-subject notebook-bearing Lori Corbett and the Bronx, New York could I care me.

"Can I have this folder, Maria? Please!" requests one of my sons, breaking my son's Pamela Anderson in her red hair. It's a habit that never from the shelf. I did it because Pamela Anderson was still in. But, I guess for a middle school boy any pretty woman is a hot thing to be in.

My mind needs to an innocent time when I found to sit those glorious shelves lined with protractors and pencil boxes watching all these other kids' mothers and Trapper Keepers in their sleeping coats. I look at my son, desperation in his eyes, and say, "No. Your teacher didn't put Pamela Anderson on your supply list."

I trust the practical wisdom of my mother. I am who I am today because I never owned a Trapper Keeper. My New Jersey brother claims, "Your younger siblings did not have Trapper Keepers. It was a mark that we were more forward," he says. "She's still, "Oh that Trapper Keeper had gone out of style and become the cheap alternative, because I seem to remember seeing green Jell-O."

Ah, yes. I firmly believe that the application of deprecation, whether from Trapper Keepers, Pamela Anderson or common sense, powerfully impacts the destinies of children. The conflict my brother felt over not knowing exactly where he fit in, with the Trapper Keeper kids or next to the student with inside-out eyelids, makes him exactly who he is today.

This self-examination outside the school supplies reflects me toward my daughter's teacher.

The woman must have carried pocket folders with prongs in a student bag I owned for Trapper Keepers.

A notebook of respect for her ingenuity in filing the void makes the long-draw-draw of folders tucked from my pants.

By golly, she's the teacher and she can handle pocket folders with prongs on the supply list and collect 1,250 of them.

The flow in her plan is that she will be to sit next to the kid with green Jell-O running down his upper lip.

Wouldn't it be nice to have a Trapper Keeper? Would you?

Lucy Adams is the author of *Just Beer Stars in Your Face* and *Run, She Runs in Threes*. E-mail her at lucyadams@jtd.com and visit her Web site, lucyadams.com.

Readers Views

Marshall family thanks community for love and support

To the editor:

The family of Debbie Marshall wishes to extend a heartfelt "thank you" to the entire community for their expressions of love and support shown to them (and Debbie) over the last 17 months during her battle with brain cancer and with her recent funeral celebration of Life service.

Words alone will never express our sincere appreciation for the amazing community support we were shown during this time - from the large fund-raiser last year to the many meals, cards, flowers and hugs, to the outstanding service we received from D.T. Brown Funeral Home, Solid Rock Baptist Church, First Mount Carmel Baptist Church, and especially the Columbia County Sheriff's Office.

As we all know, the loss of a loved one is never easy, but going through this experience with all of you, this wonderful community that Debbie loved so much, has been a blessing.

God Bless,
Les Marshall
Mikaela Marshall
Tiffany Marshall
Domena Marshall

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Serious Column

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The Champion, Thursday, Aug. 29 - Sept. 4, 2013

OPINION

Page 2A

'MIRACLE ON SECOND AVENUE.' —BRIAN BOLDEN

Antoinette Tuff: A true DeKalb champion



Andrew Cauthen

Andrew@champion.com

Editor

Aug. 20 was a bad day for the DeKalb County School District and in particular, the students, families and staff at McNair Discovery Learning Academy. It was a bad day that could have been immeasurably worse.

That was the day that 20-year-old Michael Brandon Hill allegedly decided to dress in black clothes, arm himself with an AK-47 and 500 rounds of ammunition and go to McNair school. According to reports, Hill slipped into the locked

school behind someone who was authorized to be there. While in the building, Hill briefly held some employees hostage, fired shots into the floor of the school office and exchanged gunfire with DeKalb County Police officers when they arrived on the scene, according to police reports. Nobody was hurt during the ordeal.

The shooting caused memories of the Sandy Hook, Conn., school shooting to resurface in the minds of many. In that shooting, a 20-year-old man killed 20 first-graders and six educators at Sandy Hook Elementary School last December before killing himself.

In the DeKalb shooting, the quick and professional actions of first responders and school personnel is worthy of classroom study.

As Congressman John Lewis said in a statement, "The law enforcement officers of DeKalb County, McNair Academy school personnel, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Georgia state troopers and all officials involved deserve our thanks and highest praise for securing a very dangerous situation so that no child or adult was physically injured. Their primary concern was for the safety of the children, and they successfully protected them from greater harm."

But the biggest hero is school bookkeeper Antoinette Tuff, who said she was one of Hill's hostages. She put her life on the line as she calmly talked with the suspect during the ordeal.

DeKalb County Police Chief Cedric Alexander called Tuff "a real

hero in all of this."

"She was in there, she was able to talk him down and put that weapon down," Alexander said. "If that had not been the case this could have turned very ugly very quickly. She is a real hero in all of this. She just did a stellar job. She was cool, she was calm, very collected in all of this."

"She put herself in front of him to separate him from those children and the rest of the faculty," Alexander said.

Many children and faculty members owe Tuff their lives because of her unselfish heroics and I am sure DeKalb County will officially honor Tuff soon because she is truly a community champion.

The Newslady

Bad man armed with a gun meets good woman armed with God



Steen Miles

Columnist

Antoinette Tuff is tough enough. She shot holes in the gun lobby's slogan that bad guys with a gun can only be stopped by good guys with a gun. Antoinette Tuff is a SHERO. By all accounts she saved dozens of lives by literally and figuratively disarming Michael Brandon Hill, the alleged gunman who somehow got past the security system at McNair Academy.

Hill was armed with an AK-47 style assault rifle and had almost 500 rounds of ammunition, according to police. By his own statements to police, he was off his meds. Here was another mentally ill, angry man aiming to commit mass murder at an elementary school.

Antoinette Tuff was armed only with her unflinching faith in God. She put her faith in action and life on the line, successfully convincing Hill to lay down his weapon and surrender to police. Tuff had the 911 operator on the line the whole time as she calmly shared with Hill her stories of disappointments, setbacks and personal tragedy. She let him know that we all have them, but that we can all work through them.

Tuff single-handedly defused a highly volatile situation and kept a seriously deranged individual from

spilling the blood of innocents. Instead she pleaded the blood of her Lord Jesus in the situation allowed the Holy Spirit to take full rein. The pundits should not miss the time-honored message in all this. Love does indeed conquer all. The outcomes at McNair could have been vastly and tragically different. But, God's love was at work through Antoinette Tuff.

Through the pain of her previous experiences, she was able to do what no law enforcement negotiator, no psychiatrist, and no one else at that moment and time could do. She shared her heart and averted tragedy. While Michael Brandon Hill's heart is obviously fractured and in pain, Antoinette provided a temporary balm.

The pictures on television were so starkly different than the images we typically see of school invasions. This was a school filled with African-American children. I received a text from a nephew wondering what was going on in the town I live in. He said he thought crazed young White men only attacked schools with White children. He dared to openly opine what many others were thinking. I reminded my nephew that gun violence and crime do not discriminate. Evil knows no race, color, gender or creed.

During my days in the news media when some horrific crime occurred, people were often heard to say that they didn't think the particular type of crime could occur in their "good" neighborhood—meaning their upper income, well

maintained environment was somehow immune to crime. Crime and violence was something it was felt were relegated to the poor ghettos.

Thankfully the good news is that the power of love does not discriminate either. God can use all of us however and whenever he sees fit to do his will if we are willing. A bookkeeper named Antoinette Tuff packed some divine power at McNair Academy to save the lives of all his children, including the gunman, Michael Brandon Hill is sick. Antoinette Tuff happened to have had just the right medicine, love.

The gun lobby's prescription of "only good guys with guns can stop bad guys with guns" didn't work. Violence was no match for love.

Steen Miles, The Newslady, is a retired journalist and former Georgia state senator. Contact Steen Miles at Steen@dekalbchampion.com.



3rd Place

The Champion, Decatur

Andrew Cauthen



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The Clinch County News News, Homerville

Len Robbins



Opinion

A community forum for viewpoints from around the world to your backyard.

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Reader asks for 'full investigation in relation to city council report

Editor, The News

I was reading the paper, which was very disturbing to me. It seems some officials are being pushed under the bus while others sit on top. It's amazing how this can happen. To get to the bottom of this, a full investigation needs to be done. You would be surprised what has been pushed under the rug.

This is election year for some council members and watching votes is some out. There are some things I know which I can't say or how I know, but there are no clean hands. No one can throw stones or point a finger.

When elected to an office, city, county, state, or federal, there is an oath that says, "for the people to the best of my ability." If this is the best, I have to think what the worst is.

For those of you that don't know, politics can be dirty and you can't always believe what you hear or read. Get information by yourself. Go to meetings to find out what is going on in your community.

I understand that background checks are only done for the police department and not on other city employees. **Georgia Johnson**
Homerville

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Not my usual attempt at humor

I was 10. My sister was probably 7. We were hungry for "Burger Chef" which was a popular fast-food restaurant near our home back in the day.

The second our father walked in from work, he was still in the doorway, we started shouting "Burger Chef! Burger Chef! Burger Chef!"

We were shocked. We had never seen our father angry. He had never yelled like that at us. He had quaked as when we were bad, disapproving and disappointed, but never angry.

We quickly huddled to assess the situation. "I don't think that was him. That was someone else that looks like him," my sister said.

"Yeah, I saw that in a movie once. It's probably an alien that took our father's skin to pretend he was a human," I added.

We waited about 10 minutes to see what this foreign creature would do next. We heard nothing. He was heavily sweating and looked around the corner into his room. He

was taking off his work clothes and putting on some leisure shoes when he noticed us.

"Cross here, kiddies," he said with that familiar, gentle voice. "I'm sorry. I've had a bad day."

We came in and hugged him. "So, let's go to Burger Chef!" he said to smiling him.

Our faces weren't as smiling just Sunday when we burned our father. He was 45.

I bring up the "Burger Chef" anecdote because, for some reason, I think it encompasses, in some degree, what kind of man he was. I saw him get mad maybe three times. I got mad at my kids those times a day. He seemed to be able to control all of our worst human qualities — envy, jealousy, vindictiveness, anger, greed, pettiness.

I considered not writing this, considered replacing it with my usual attempt

at humor. It hits a little too close to home, the readers still see. I can't do the subject matter justice. That's never stopped me before.

When I was a kid, he was a banker, then an insurance agent. In his mid-30s, he gave that up to come back to his hometown to teach English at his alma mater, Clinch County High, and coach. As a basketball coach for the varsity Panthers, his teams won eight region titles, and two state championships, in 12 years.

He wasn't the high-achieving, achievement-mad coach you see sometimes on the basketball sidelines. He avoided calling timeouts.

"If you call a timeout, you have to talk to your players," he said, jokingly.

That wasn't his way. He wasn't a lecturer. He didn't like bringing attention to himself. He taught quietly, with a gentle smile, dry wit, and intelligence.

Nine years ago, he had a stroke, which limited the use of his right arm and leg. He went through months of therapy, learning to write with his left hand, and walk with a cane. While I'm sure he found it frustrating, I never saw it. I never saw "wee in me." All I saw was a determination to make the best of the situation in front of him. He became more active, more involved in the community, after the stroke.

The day I left for college at the age of 18, I thought the parenting lessons I would receive from my father were over. They weren't. The last nine years of his life may have been the best parenting he ever did — by his example.

He died July 26, after complications from back surgery. July 24 in the same date his father, my grandfather, died 48 years earlier. What does that mean? I don't know, except that I'll be hiding in a bunker, wrapped in a protective bubble, on July 24 from here on out.

I'll miss my Dad. I'll miss the best friend he became. But we can't see. Not was it him.

© Len Robbins 2013

I think I am losing my mind. I was shopping the back-to-school tax holiday sale, and I saw Christmas displays!



Check one off the bucket list

I came back with mismatched lips and a pooling nose, but when I saw look my teeth away? Who would have thought that on a cool day at Yellowstone, rolling down the Snake River, I would get a sunburn? Well, of course, I would. The sun was shining brightly in a clear blue sky, but watching the lakes surrounded by their halos, the leafy eagles, and even a beaver make its way to a tangle of branches seems, almost surreal to forget such things.

From grade school, while showing pictures to geography lessons, I have dreamed of going to Yellowstone! I've imagined seeing Old Faithful, herds of bison, and observing sets of road-building in the ground. I discovered that every picture is accurate. You, mud cone bubble and all, and Old Faithful regularly blows its top.

This past July, my three daughters, granddaughter, and my oldest-in-law joined me for our Yellowstone adventure. Any wonder my kids asked me to explore Yellowstone via National Geographic television; being part of a 10-hour team was not listed on his own personal bucket list. But for us ladies, many scenarios were made. I will share just a few.

When we returned from the main road to make our way to view Old Faithful,

were in his territory, not the novice, and animals were shown a humble respect by park visitors. I cannot imagine that years ago, Bison were killed by the thousands and left to decay. We were told that these we saw in the park began with a manager herd of 40 bison that were rescued in the late 1900's. We also observed elk with huge antlers, and I wondered how they could keep their bodies balanced wearing such immense hats as their heads.

I have never seen enough water falls, have you? The beauty and serenity of these once-grown old Yellowstone Lake, the largest high-altitude lake in North America, was magnificent, as were the falls. We spent 2 nights in an establishment that offered a warm spring pool. I am surprised it kept all things pristine.

Incidentally, we saw unexpected a curious site in which over knew that she was before making this trip. I am living proof that it is affordable!

I will never forget the beauty and splendor of a wilderness. I will always recall the love and fellowship shared between the 6 of us, as we worked at being members of a park, rather than lone travelers. I remain thankful!

©Gwenie Jaki "I had God me all that he had created, and it was very good."

I couldn't believe my eyes. There it was right in front of us, blowing out water and steam, as if it had plucked a magnificent dragon for our own personal enjoyment. We hung around another hour or so to watch the spectacle again, and perhaps I could have been content to stay right there all day long.

That first appearance of Old Faithful is forever etched in my eye's mind. Our accommodations were not state of the art, there was no air conditioning in spite of warm days. We landed to go to sleep warm, and then some time during the night, we got up, grab a blanket, and as our teeth chattered, wonder what had happened. There were 2 nights when all of our blankets, and as our teeth chattered, wonder what had happened. There were 2 nights when all of our blankets, and as our teeth chattered, wonder what had happened. There were 2 nights when all of our blankets, and as our teeth chattered, wonder what had happened.

Every so often, a huge beam walked down the well-traveled road, and all visitors around that area to a crowd, we allowed the massive heat to take its time. We realized that we

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Serious Column

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Kimberly Boim

'Those girls are a first-class act'

It isn't often that a guy walks right up to me and whispers into my ear the perfect headline.

But, there it is.

At Saturday's Class AAA State Championship game in Macon, I was kneeling on the floor behind the Lady Tigers bench snapping pictures just as the final buzzer sounded. Anyone who was there couldn't help but have a heavy heart looking at the score board, but that didn't matter to the gray-haired man dressed in a dark blue Centreplex security uniform.

"I've been working here a long time," he said slowly, methodically. "And, I'm gonna tell you somethin'. The way those girls supported each other, and cared about each other, you can tell there's somethin' special going on over there.

"Look at 'em now," he said pointing to center court.

At that moment, the Lady Tigers were standing on the stage balancing their 2013

State Championship Runner Up trophy on top of Hannah Porter's head. And, they were all just beaming for the cameras. No tears. No regrets — just that amazing Dawson County Tiger pride that bubbled up from deep within each player and hung in the coliseum like a warm blanket.

Then, they did something the man in blue didn't expect. As the opposing team took the stage to receive their trophy, the Tigers stood beside the stage and applauded them.

"You see that?" he said. "That's what I'm talking about. You know where that comes from?" I already knew, but I shrugged my shoulders and acted as if I didn't.

"It comes from over there and up there," he said first pointing to

the thousands of Tiger fans in the stands, and then toward the heavens.

"It's their parents, and the way they were raised, and the community they were raised in."

Most outsiders wouldn't have understood that. They wouldn't have understood why a little more than 24 hours earlier the first stop for the Lady Tigers' chartered bus wasn't the Centreplex in Macon, it was the local schools.

At Dawson County Middle, hundreds lined the curb clutching hand-drawn signs that shouted, "Go Tigers! We Love you!" As a Dawson County Sheriff's deputy escorted the bus into the parking lot you could hear the cheering for blocks.

With a cool breeze blowing, and the sunshine illuminating their grins, the girls slapped high-fives, signed autographs, gave out dozens of warm hugs, and re-boarded their bus.

Their next stop, Macon? Nope. It was

Kilough Elementary where a swarming pool of maroon and gold waited impatiently. This time some of kids didn't know exactly what to do, so they just bounced up-and-down with their signs and hugged the girls' legs.

Now, that was something special.

Next week, those children won't remember the score, but they will remember how that Friday felt.

And, so will the Lady Tigers.

"Those girls are a first-class act," said the man in blue.

"What's your name?" I asked.

"My name doesn't matter. Those girls are what matters."

He really said that — a perfect stranger said all that to me in under two minutes. Then, I left him standing there alone as I hustled off to snap a few more pictures. And, I felt so proud.

Winning or losing are but fleeting moment in life. It's what stays in the heart that matters most.



by
Kimberly
Boim

1st Place

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3rd Place

The Oconee Enterprise, Watkinsville Blake Giles

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Financial Focus

What 15,000 Dow means to investors

This month, the Dow Jones Industrial Average hit a milestone, which, for the first time, it closed above 15,000. Of course, 15,000 is a nice, round number, and it sounds pretty big — but what does it mean to you, as an individual investor? Is it a cause for celebration — or is it more of a “nothing” flag?

There’s no one simple answer to these questions. Since March 2009 — the low point of the market following the 2008 financial crisis — the “Dow” has risen about 120 percent. And while the Dow is just one index, it’s considered an important measure of the market’s performance — which means that you were likely glad to see the 15,000 mark achieved and you’d be happy if the numbers just kept going, downward, as you’d be deathly afraid, the market does not seem to just rise and fall. Typically, declines of 10% or more — or “corrections” — occur about once a year. Unfortunately, they’re not predictable. Sooner or later, the markets will indeed change course, at least for the short term. What this means, don’t panic — corrections are a normal part of the market cycle. Still, you might feel like you should do something to cope with the downturn. But what? Here are a few suggestions.

Keep investing. — The main people who tend with a market dip, decide to “cut their losses” and take a “time out” from investing. But this can be a costly mistake — but those investors held on to their investments in 2009, and only recently returned, they would have missed a substantial part of the 120 percent recovery in the Dow. And when you return to a down market, your dollars may actually go further if the market rebounds, because you would have bought more shares at the lower prices.

Review your portfolio. — It’s usually a good idea to review your portfolio at least once a year, and a key to be especially important during these times when the market changes direction. One time, a portfolio can become unbalanced — for example, following a long period of rising prices, some of your growth-oriented investments may have gained so much value that they now take up a larger percentage of your holdings than you had intended, possibly subjecting you to a greater level of risk than you desire. If this happens, you may want to scale back on these investments and reallocate the money elsewhere.

Diversify. — Always look for ways to spread your dollars among a range of vehicles — stocks, bonds, government securities, certificates of deposit (CDs) and other investments. Even within these classes, look for ways to diversify further, such as owning different types of stocks, bonds of varying maturities, and so on. Diversification can’t guarantee a profit or protect against a loss, but it can help reduce the impact of volatility that can occur in a downturn. The Dow is 10,000 in 2013, but it may not stay there for the next 12 months. And when it does, you may not be able to get in at the same price as you did last year.

Stay on top. — Stay on top of the market news, but don’t let it overwhelm you. The market can be a roller coaster, but it’s important to stay focused on your long-term goals. Stay on top of the market news, but don’t let it overwhelm you. The market can be a roller coaster, but it’s important to stay focused on your long-term goals.

Wesley Scott is a Financial Advisor with Edward Jones in Watkinsville.

BRACE YOURSELF



David Harter was the signmaster at the open house last week of Blake Giles Orthodontist’s new facility in downtown Watkinsville, which features advanced engineering and design. (Photo by Blake Giles)

Orthodontist seeks wow factor at office

BY BLAKE GILES

The new home of Classic City Orthodontics is not precisely a coffee bar, but already a patient has sought refuge in the new building. It is not meant to be a fancy theater office, but don’t be surprised if patients start dropping off their children on hot summer afternoons. David Harter and staff opened his new office at 1020 Jannetown Boulevard last week. When that being an expansion, the new office is an engineering feat designed to be efficient and lasting.

“I could have purchased the other place for another 20 years,” said Harter of his office on Park Drive in Watkinsville. That instead, he wanted to build an office that would last the test of his patients. The main treatment level of the new office is 5,500 square feet, more than double the space of the previous location. There is also a second level for storage and waiting rooms.

The reception area now has waiting room, and a lot of what they want, as the firm level. Harter has been practicing orthodontics in Athens since 1999 when he joined the practice of James Harter. He bought the practice shortly thereafter. They expanded into Oconee County in 2002. Harter said that he needed opening an office in Oconee County at this.

“I wanted the waters when I came to Watkinsville,” he said. “I missed the way that they were just in here for a cup of coffee and a

break.” He said, “We built this place for them.”

The engineering goes beyond just aesthetics in the reception area, however. Harter employed Michael Van Every Design, an architectural design firm that has some 200,000 clients. He also had Mark Lytle with Oxford Design to “design a building that reflects the land it sits on, that is not trendy, but has a low carbon footprint and that would be a landmark that was comfortable and lasting.”

Bill Knack of ETL Construction was the contractor who brought it all together. The building is oriented on a north-south axis. Combined with eight-foot overhanging eaves, the atrium provides direct sunlight from even during the winter months, despite the presence of abundant glass.

“I used this as a guide to design,” he said. “This was not the way we wanted to treat our patients, but some of those were completed.”

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Cost of cemetery plots going up in Blackshear

BY YVONNE WILLIAMS

Blackshear is raising cemetery prices by 50 percent. The Blackshear Times of Jones County says that lots for new will cost \$1,200. Also up are charges for burial plots and marking for headstones in related markets.

Worcester County has launched a new industry. The Worcester Clipper says that James Collier’s Manufacturing has a staff of 40 people, but then the area locally will reach full employment of 90 to 100 jobs.

Lincoln County has suffered six 1000 outages during the past three weeks. The Lincoln Journal says the outages were caused by lightning and were caused by “a sudden dip in a tank.”

Long Leaf Corp’s Flat site has been found in Wilkes County. The News Reporter says it was the site of a new victory by period while more in 1776. An archeology team dug up wooden balls, wooden pins, and fragments of brass and iron items from the 18th century.

The state of Georgia will no longer tax its state parks. The Wilkes County News says Florida-based Crest Hospitality will include United State Park, Ardenville Park, and five others, several of which have lodging and golf courses. The change goes into effect July 1.

McDuffie County has broken ground for a new hospital. The McDuffie Progress says the 270 million University Hospital McDuffie will be completed in 2014, a replacement for the old hospital that has served people since 1952.

The Jackson County school system is adding into a list of 100 jobs. The Jackson Herald says that it is about 30 million to 57 million total cost to build the school. The school will include the collapse of the local bus system, the system has used up most of its reserves.

Flora Wilkins is the owner and publisher of The Oconee Enterprise. Opinions expressed are those of the writer.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Walton EMC linemen do well in state rodeo

Walton EMC apprentice line technician Jonathan Brooks took second place in the annual apprentice division at the Georgia Lineman’s Rodeo in Albany.

Brooks also placed second in the EMC apprentice division, amateur change event and took first in the event and third in the wireline test event.

Apprentice Line Technician Adam Simmons came in third in the annual apprentice division. He also placed first in the EMC apprentice division and first in the wireline test event and within test event.

In the journeyman division, the team of Bradley McCollum, Preston Roberts and Ryan West placed third overall and in the EMC division. The journeyman team of Josh Pugh, Tamey Ledford and Wesley Payne also represented Walton EMC at the rodeo.

The second rodeo was for linemen’s knowledge and skill in including and maintaining electrical distribution systems. Practicing the event includes line work, climbing and other work habits that are vital to the safety and health of linemen.

Brooks, Simmons, McCollum, Roberts and West will represent Walton EMC at the International Lineman’s Rodeo this October in Kansas City, Mo.

SBDC plans workshops

The University of Georgia Small Business Development Center is presenting “Alternative Financing Today’s Marketplace” on June 12, 11 a.m.-noon at the UGA SBDC.

The class will be held at 1000 E. Broad St., Athens. This is a free program.

The SBDC is presenting “Public Relations 101” on June 19 at the UGA SBDC.

Tanya Schaefer of TR PE will address the difference between advertising, public relations and marketing.

The class is part of the 2013 Success Launch & Launch Series and will be held 11 a.m.-1 p.m. The cost is \$20 which includes a canned lunch.

Register online at www.albionchamber.com or call (706) 342-7436.

Registration ends at midnight Friday for the 2013 Small Business Success, designed to help businesses grow to the next level.

Kelley’s boys remember golden days

On the lush green fields of the Athens YMCA, men and women gathered last week to travel back in time.

They were not so much to watch the formation of youth as for a sign of the times of his as served up had a century ago and more by Kelley.



Blake Giles
Business Side

He visited many a young lad on the “Red Boston Club” for their youthful mischief. He was who did not experience life with Kelley simply because before it was possible. It was more than that, it was beautiful.

Those who gathered at the Y Friday came from far and wide to remember a young man and his friends who were young men and boys who were with us. All was right with the world.

He died 47 years ago, but as Mike Carraway and Priddy, maybe not. As long as Kelley’s boys live, we will be.

Blake Giles is editor of The Oconee Enterprise. He researched and edited the book “Kelley’s Boys,” written by David Harter. The opinions expressed are those of the writer.

Serious Column

F

2nd Place

Franklin County Citizen Leader, Lavonia

Denise Matthews

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Franklin County Citizen Leader

Franklin Forum

Our View ▶ Votes needed on personnel changes

The Georgia Open Meetings Act allows the Franklin County Board of Commissioners and other local government boards to hold private meetings for only a few reasons. One reason is to discuss specific employees or positions in one of those meetings.

Boards are not allowed to vote in closed session on such matters. All votes must be in the open in front of the public.

In their last two meetings — one Monday and one Sept. 23 — commissioners have spent nearly three hours each behind closed doors discussing personnel issues.

No public votes have been taken.

Not in that time, the following personnel changes have been made:

- One county manager's resignation has been accepted.
- An interim county manager has been appointed.
- The ERG/EMA Director has been fired.
- An interim ERG/EMA Director has been named.
- The fired ERG Director has been rehired.

County Commission Chairman Thomas Bridges Jackson said no votes have been taken behind closed doors on these issues. That's either voters or commissioners should have sought out the public, heard and taken input from the public on the issue before any action was taken.

Flouting the firing on former County Manager Billy Morse doesn't hold water either if commissioners can't stop a lame duck manager from firing a valued employee before the fact, then they need to do a better job.

So while technically commissioners can skirt the issue of closed sessions on these issues, they cannot on the appointment of John Phillips as interim county manager.

Phillips is well qualified to be interim county manager and possibly permanent county manager — but he is hired by commissioners exclusively. His appointment as interim manager should have required a vote and that vote should have been made in public.

Commissioners need to be very careful about following the law to the letter — and to the spirit — on these issues. Secrecy breeds distrust from the public.

In short, commissioners should take the advice given by County Attorney Dale "Hubbs" Swartz in a presentation about the new Open Meetings Law.

"The Open Meetings Act (as well as the Open Meetings Act) is always interpreted in favor of openness," Swartz wrote in his presentation. "When in doubt the law requires openness. Exceptions are always narrowly construed."

—Shane Scoggins

Life, family, friends are precious gifts

Life lately has been sad and has made me realize even more that you should be grateful for every day you are granted and every loved one you have.

In the past two months, I have lost a good friend, his mother, the mother of another close friend and some folks I have written about that I had come to think of very fondly. Truly to be sad, I have been wary of answering my phone of late in fear of news bad news. So it was with great trepidation that I answered a call from the husband of my dear friend who has been very ill for a while.

"Is Vicky OK?" I asked her husband John before he could get a word out, "Is she worse?"

Let me explain that I have known Vicky Wilson (Hershey) since we were in sixth grade. She was one of the first friends I made when we moved to Nashville. A Nashville native, she is always proud to say she attended a day and, earned little girl her friendship and I have been her best friend since.

Brown eyes and red headed, Vicky has always been like the sun, a source of energy and bright light.

When she walked into a room, the air fairly crackled with the energy she emitted and it was inevitable that you would be laughing in just minutes of her coming.

Generous, kind and caring are also words that I have long used to describe the friend that my children call aunt. Though no blood link flows between us.

Yes, she captured the hearts of my entire family upon that meeting. My husband and her when we were dating, I think, if she had not been around already he might have taken her over me. Through the years she visited often and I saw her through her divorce, the death of her sister, her father and then her meeting and marrying her new husband, John.

I claim the honor of being her wedding photographer.

As my children and her daughter came along, we traded troubles, parenting stories and presents at Christmas. She was my outside in shop-



Denise Matthews

ing, vacations and parent helpings. And every two or three days, you would find us at 2 a.m. on the phone, talking.

"What do you talk about with Vicky all these hours," my husband would ask, shaking his head at our marathon conversations. "I would think your tongues would go numb after a while."

Neither our conversations nor our friendship has ever diminished. Vicky has miraculously been there whenever I have needed her.

She was at the hospital for my husband's first non-major surgery (though I was hysterical) and she was at my mom's bedside before she left us.

In recent years, though, Vicky and I have not shared in each other's lives as much as we would have liked.

Work, distance, time and family were factors, but it has been illness that kept us apart the most. First my husband's, then mine and most recently, hers. A few years ago Vicky underwent a liver disease that almost claimed her and it has developed into liver cancer. She has been undergoing treatment and is hoping to be put on the organ-transplant list.

When I saw that afternoon that the cancer was gone, I did not know if it would be good news or bad.

Turned out, it was a little of both. Vicky was in the hospital, getting a shot to help her a major surgery she will be having next week.

"It will go well," John said. "They said they will put her on the transplant list."

With all of the wishes of John, I am praying that all will go well with Vicky that her life will get better in the months to come and that we will again enjoy good times together.

Denise (Digi) I have realized of late, every day is truly a gift, every family member and friend a blessing and your life is never as bad as you might think.

Denise Matthews is news editor for the Franklin County Citizen Leader. Her column appears regularly.



"What if we just shut down Congress and the White House and re-opened the rest of the government?"

Your View ▶ Seeking information on ancestors

I want to locate descendants of John Adams and Agnes Miller who were in Greene County about 1760 and John died there about November 1785. I have no info on Agnes. Where was their property and where are they buried? John had a brother Francis Miller who served in the Revolutionary War in North Carolina, as did John. John may have been born in Philadelphia 1618. Their father was Lemuel and it is believed they came from Ireland about 1750. To contact information, email Nancy J. Miller at nancy2013@gmail.com or call 204-462-0427. Nancy J. Miller



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Serious Column

E

3rd Place

The Elberton Star

Gary Jones



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 ★
 December 18, 2013

Viewpoints

Quote: "I made it very clear that nothing orange was to be left for me on Christmas morning."
 - Allen Childs

"My dad says you're just another part of the entitlement system."

Unimaginable: I made a mistake about our hearts

Fifty-six years. That's how long I thought my heart had changed along. I was wrong. Imagine that. Back in the warm weather months I had a pre-condition that made me believe I was having a heart attack. Think problems it was not a heart attack. But in the process of doctors to find out I didn't have a heart attack, a very nice lady called me to a place at the hospital where they can look at your heart working its life-giving miracle. I looked. It is incredibly humbling to see your own heart pumping even, taking in blood and expelling the blood with oxygen and returning it back out to all the parts of your body. Later in the day after watching my heart do its thing, I told Anna that my old ticker has been pumping away without her for 56 years. What a dumb thing for me to say. Imagine that. Saturday Dec. 7, while I was in a different section of the same hospital, they rolled another one of those machines into the room and I got to watch the same miracle... a tiny little heart machine, looking in and pushing out a minuscule amount of blood to all parts of my grandson's tiny little 1-year-old, 7-year-old. He was born Sunday, Dec. 8, three months prior to when we expected to see him. I'm quite sure that if he had been a fish my Uncle Jimmy would have recommended throwing him back. He's Brian Jackson Macklin they'll call him Jackson after a grandfather on the Macklin side. When you read this, hopefully, everything will have returned for 56 days. We still have a long, long way to go. We've had massive amounts of prayer on his behalf, praying for his return home, return fingers, return language, return knowledge and return dirty diapers-poo-pee and poop, babytalk. One thing that's happened to me in this... it has allowed me to learn, to really understand what is important. I've worked so much after worrying about the Christmas things, Schackles and Amelion and stockings and the minnow carriage and garage of day to day life. I've reminded family, often, and I guess just as often, people who tell me not to worry about things that should be left to the much greater power, a power I'll never comprehend. Focus on what really matters, I'm told. If you're I never get. Imagine that. Oh yeah, we were talking about the heart. Miracle machines, so dumb. I can't even begin to understand how it operates. I can't tell you much about the mechanics of the human heart. Think, the most I've known about the heart is where to place your hand to feel that steady beat, and I do that as often as those springtime and summer-time trips to Turner Field to watch the Braves. Well, I couldn't have told Anna my heart had been ticking steadily since March 15, 1957. My machine was cranked up well before that, months before. And a perfect illustration of that being proven came into being on Saturday, Dec. 7, when I looked, in amazement, at that micro heart hanging over the top billions of heartbeats on the planet every single second of every single day. Sunday Dec. 8, at a little after 1 p.m., Anna came through the door and proudly told everyone that he was going to be able to escort - me at a time - the grandparents back to the RV so that we could get our first look at Jackson Macklin. I whispered to daddy's ear that I was going to open all the other grandparents and go back with him to K.I. before everybody else. Daddy said "Okay." We walked back (to the RV) and we came to a plastic looking box that was covered in very light oil. First they gave me a plastic measuring tape that they used to measure his height - 20 inches. Then they lifted the cover and exposed my grandson. It took my breath away. We saw miracles every single day and we train ourselves not to appreciate them. Sunday, Dec. 8, starting down into that life-giving container that was keeping my grandson alive, every thing I thought I thought was important disappeared from my mind and I found my eyes on 1 year old and 7 minutes of the most beautiful sight my eyes will ever behold. And that was my little heart - through that micro-tick new-born, alive - I could see it was beating! Imagine that.

Gary Jones is the publisher of The Elberton Star.

A rare glimpse at St. Nick visiting the office of *The Elberton Star*

An Elberton Star visit from St. Nick. With apologies to Charles Murray.

Three days before Christmas and all through the day, everyone was working but not getting too far. The distractions were stacked on the counter with care. Hugging and minute observations were made in there.

Not was disappointing of being in bed. While visitors of who knows what showed in for how long and I'll never's say. How wonderful how Carl could disappear in a snap.

When out on the square there were such a detail. I sprang from my desk to see what was the matter.

Down to the window I charged my right knee, Fall on my face crushing the Charlie Brown one.

The seat on the station in the town square below. Made me wonder if Elberton would ever get more.

When, what should appear beside my Ford truck. For a hip of red sled, and right to point back.

With a little old driver, so trim and slick, I knew it a moment it must be a trick. As quick as a flash, those white-trick they mean. And he whizzed, and steered, and pulled back to start!

"How Duh-duh-duh, what's new, Jethro and Larry? Oh, Charles Oh, Billy, on the road Jethro! To the top of The Star! to the top of the wall! Now get up there! get up there! get up there!"

As dry leaves that before a wild whizzed down again. Mount to the air and fall gently again. He is the knowledge-how tracks they dot in. With the slight fall of staff, and some fat gas.

And then, in a jiffy, I heard on the roof. The scraping and clanging of each whitened leaf. As I got to my feet, and turned round, "Thank the back door to come without making a sound. He was dressed all in his furs, his hat to his head. And his clothes were all covered in Georgia clay red. A basket of gifts he had hung on his back. And he looked like a burlap, about to attack.

His eyes they were bright! His dimples were glowing! His cheeks were all flushed and his complexion was glowing! His round little mouth was cracking a smile. His white beard and his hair hadn't been trimmed in a while.

A redish slip he had hung from his lip. And the smile it stretched his head like a stretch. He had a plump face and a big of round cheeks. From all those cookies and caramel cakes that are famous!

He was chubby and plump, how many ways can you see fat. And I laughed out loud about it when I thought about that!

A wink of his eye and a chuckle or two, Let me know he thought I was overweight, too.

He said not a word, but as if sitting on coals, He pulled-out some gifts, one for each of the crew. And opening around he grinned up that old neck. Run out the back door without a glower back!

He sprang to his sled, to those back gone a while. And even then took off like a hot air balloon. As he drove out of sight, Santa said with a wink. "Merry Christmas to all, now I'm off to see Dink!"

Mark Berryman is the managing editor of The Elberton Star.

My view

Mark Berryman

The Elberton Star welcomes letters to the editor

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Serious Column

E

All about Forsythia
Everything you need to know about this week's Forsythia Festival
32-page tabloid inside

2 DAYS UNTIL THE FORSYTHIA FESTIVAL

Serving the Public Safety Capital of Georgia
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Reporter

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Inside

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Harold G. Clarke
Jeffrey Brammen Croft Jr.
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WELCOME to the Family!
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Kath Dancer
Ann Hink
See your name in this list by submitting your 10 names per bill to: Monroe County, 10000 Highway 100, Forsyth, GA 30208

Reporter
Wal-Mart, Order General

'We've lost our Solomon'
Former chief justice Harold G. Clarke 1927-2013
BY WILL DAVIS
Harold Clarke, who ascended to the highest perch of judicial power in Georgia but kept his home and heart in his beloved Forsyth, died on Tuesday at age 85.
"John Howard (Clarke's neighbor growing up) said it best," said Charlie Haggard, a long-time law partner of Clarke's, "the Solomon of Monroe County has died."
Clarke is best known around the state for having served as a Georgia Supreme Court Justice from 1979-1994, including most of those last four years as chief justice. But around Forsyth he was known as a gentlemanly southern lawyer, a top scout leader and the radio voice of Mary Persons football for almost 30 years.
Haggard said he first met Clarke when he joined the top scouts and Clarke was a scout leader. "I got to know him then," said Haggard.
"Clarke was a shining Forsyth."
CLARKE
page 1A

Forsyth officer gets reprimand for choking a suspect
BY RICHARD DUMAS
A part-time Forsyth police officer has been reprimanded for violating department policy when he allegedly used an unauthorized neck restraint technique against a Forsyth man during a Jan. 12 arrest.
An internal investigation by the Forsyth Police Department determined that patrol officer Tim Melton, who also works as a defensive tactics instructor at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center, used a lateral restraint neck restraint, a tactic not allowed under department policy, when he arrested Jamichael Owens, 35, on Jan. 12.
Forsyth police chief Keith Corley said all personnel.
POLICE page 1A

The end of the road
Mary Persons senior basketball star Aleah Holden walks off the court in tears at the end of MP's 48-20 state semifinal loss to Sandy Creek in Fort Valley on Saturday. It was the final game in an MP uniform for Holden and fellow senior starter Kandria Buckner. For a full recap of the game, see Page 1B. (Photo/Kim Holderfield)

Bank of America to close Forsyth branch, 100s more
BY WILL DAVIS
Bank of America announced last week that it is closing its Forsyth branch effective June 1.
The bank mailed letters to its customers in the area on Feb. 28, pointing customers to Bank of America's Jackson and Macon branches or on-line.
The Forsyth branch of Bank of America has five employees, who will reportedly be offered jobs at other branches. One local bank says it has already hired one of Bank of America's workers.
Bank of America spokesman Matthew Dally said the bank was closed due to a decline in transactions as more customers use on-line and mobile banking. Published reports have quoted Bank of America executives as saying branches they plan to cut about 10 percent of the bank's 6,100 branches nationwide, though some reports said the bank would close up to 100 branches total. In 2012, BAC closed 206 branches, according to its own, as more Americans depend on on-line banking.
Dally said the bank will be marketing its Lee Street facility, which was built to be the First Citizens Bank by the Budka family of Forsyth.
According to the FDIC, Bank of America has the second largest deposits among Forsyth's five banks as of June 30, 2012. Monroe County Bank led with \$612 million in deposits. Farmers Bank was a close second with about \$29.5 million. BWAY was third with \$19 million, Bank of America was fourth with \$15 million and Woodforest at Walmart had about \$10.5 million, according to the FDIC. The FDIC does not track the deposits of credit unions or Retail Federal (not included).

Mother, son dance a big hit at Hubbard
More than 200 moms and sons turned out for Hubbard Elementary PTO's first ever Mother-Son Dance on Saturday night. Above, mother Latasha Jones gets a dance request and a kiss on the cheek from sons Maury Lowe and Malik Davis. See more photos at www.monroecounty.net. (Photo/Kim Holderfield)

Forsythia Fest
WED Mar 6th 52° LOW 31°
THU Mar 7th 61° LOW 32°
FRI Mar 8th 65° LOW 36°
SAT Mar 9th 67° LOW 42°
SUN Mar 10th 69° LOW 46°

2nd Place

Monroe County Reporter, Forsyth

Carolyn Martel



Serious Column

E

1st Place

The Eatonton Messenger

Ron Bridgeman



Page 4A The Eatonton Messenger Thursday, May 2, 2013

Opinions

Summer's on the way; visitors follow

Late spring and a business' thoughts turn to increased traffic, more spending and a boost to the local economy with the coming of summer. Granted, it's just the first of May but already we are seeing more folks than usual on part-time lake vacations begin the annual migration.

If the county could increase its part-time residents and tourist traffic by a modest amount — say, 17 percent — it would mean a boost to an already significant portion of our economy.

We just finished that number from the six. Certainly, the potential is there for dramatically increasing our tourism business.

Consider some of what is going on around us. The Uncle Remus Museum just celebrated its 50th anniversary. The museum attracted about 7,000 visitors for the 2012, we were told. It's easy to see how that number could double.

In a couple of weeks, a group of travel writers from around the state and country will be in the area, sampling our food and our attractions. Publicity from that visit will spread the word.

We are beginning to hear — just a little — about people looking to buy homes at the lake and some conversations about potential developments. As many as 70 homes are being built around the lake. One subdivision with more than 40 lots will be ready for sales within weeks.

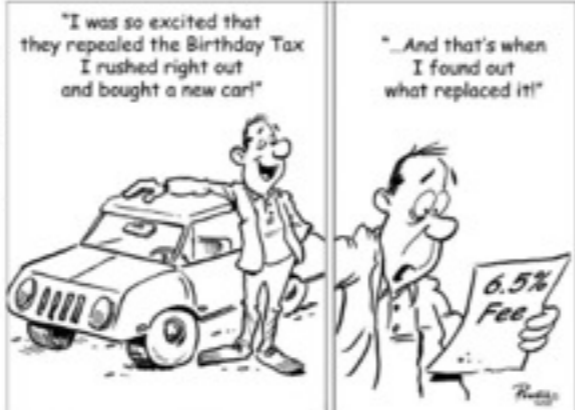
The Plaza Arts Center has just attracted hundreds of people for "Dance" and a photo show. Music shows this weekend and at the end of the month promise to bring more of us, and our neighbors, to the scene.

The Rock Park Talk cruises, started to cruise thanks for the Historic Piedmont Square Brewery, are fast becoming popular attractions. The May 10 event are sold out.

At the end of the month, Memorial Day will bring lots of folks out to enjoy the amenities. The Dixie Festival and Tartan Trail road race will draw a few thousand people here too.

Talks about new signs to provide more and better images for our attractions are encouraging and seem to have found broad support.

Long term, Putnam County has a bright future in attracting people and dollars. It doesn't hurt us to remember that, short-term, we also can raise the pockets of visitors while promoting our heritage, our lakes, our attractions.



The Eatonton Messenger



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sapa **snpa**

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Bill Mangum Ward 1 100-100-1000	James Gerkey Ward 2 100-100-1000	Alma Stokes Ward 3 100-100-1000	Teresa Decker Ward 4 100-100-1000	The Eatonton City Council meets on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 201 N. Jefferson Ave.
Julia Reid Ward 5 100-100-1000	Chip Walker Ward 6 100-100-1000	Charles Haley Ward 7 100-100-1000	Alvin Duffin Ward 8 100-100-1000	

Putnam County Commissioners

Stephen Hervey Commissioner 100-100-1000	Fred Ward Commissioner 100-100-1000	Jessie E. Reid Commissioner 100-100-1000	Alan Tucker Commissioner 100-100-1000	Billy Winkler Commissioner 100-100-1000
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The Putnam County Board of Commissioners holds regular meetings each month on the 1st Friday at 8 a.m. and the 1st Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. Public hearings, when meetings and/or work sessions are held as needed. Public hearings at public hearings are conducted each month on the 1st Friday at 8 a.m. and the 1st Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. All regular meetings are held in Room 201 of the County Administration Building, 201 Putnam Drive, Eatonton.

Putnam County Board of Education Members

Debi Clemons Member 100-100-1000	Sharon Jones Member 100-100-1000	Steve Wilson Member 100-100-1000	Tom Lawrence Member 100-100-1000	Michael LeFevre Member 100-100-1000
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The Putnam County Board of Education meets for a work session on the second Monday of each month at 8 p.m. and in regular session on the 1st Monday of each month at 8 p.m. Meetings are held at the BOC Building, 100 Old Decatur Springs Rd., Eatonton.

Georgia Legislators

Sen. Bart Jones (D) 100-100-1000	Rep. Rindy Kahl (R) 100-100-1000	Rep. Mickey Chance (D) 100-100-1000
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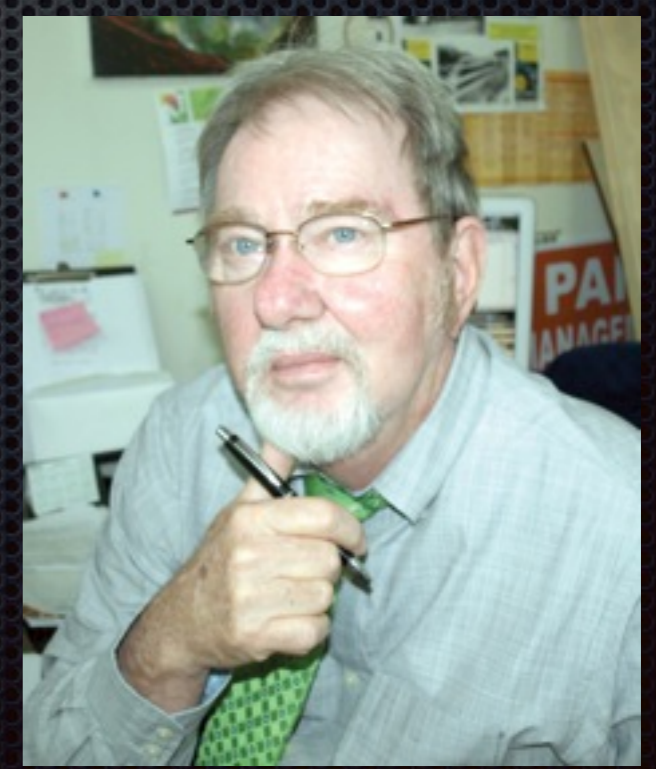
Serious Column

D

3rd Place

The Press-Sentinel, Jesup

Derby Waters



OPINION

Three

My mother had a way to quickly and loud behavior on the parts of my two brothers and me. She would count from one to three, and if by the number three we had not altered our behavior, it became too late and we were in for corrective action.

So early on, I learned there was great power in the number three.

With considerations as disparate as a marriage a tree in the Holy Trinity, the number three imbues our language with a mystic sense of balance and completion.

In fact, the use of the concept of three is pervasive in our language, our math, and our thinking from politics to sports.

RAYONIER

Continued from page 1A

berland values, and last year Superior Court Judge Stephen Kelley granted the company's motion for summary judgment, ruling that the resolution was invalid. Citing the county assessors' "uncontested noncompliance with Georgia law and the regulations promulgated thereunder," Kelley ordered the reassessment.

On this part of his order, Kelley did not explicitly follow the rule of "equal similarity situated," and in his letter, Roberts refers only to "large acreage parcels." In his comments Thursday, Roberts said that "many owners of property over 10 acres have been treated unfairly." At one point in his order, though, Kelley notes that "Rayonier argues that neither size adjustment factors nor acreage factors for parcels over 100 acres were used in determining the rezonification notice values."

Kelley denied Rayonier's request for attorney fees, and the company appealed this part of the ruling, prompting the assessors to appeal the other part.

He said, he said in his letter, Roberts asserted that Rayonier is actually due all of the timberland taxes—\$2.692 million—it has paid in the past five years. Rayonier paid 10 percent of the taxes due in 2008; the county substantially reduced the assessments in 2009, apparently taking into account some of Rayonier's allegations, but Rayonier contended that the values were still too high.

My Opinion



DEPUTY EDITOR Waters

How wrong does it sound to say that we will be friends today and tomorrow? That is for less enduring than "today, tomorrow and forever." You will be "my friend, my buddy, my pal—first, last and always."

DERBY WATERS

Continued from page 1A

the taxes actually collected—and the taxes that would have been collected [under the 2007 rezonification] in order to ease the financial strain on the County.

According to Carter, though, Rayonier had asked Kelley to consider setting the taxes owed at the 2007 levels, and Kelley had ordered a reassessment instead.

"With regard to the letter, when Rayonier is asking the county to do has already been required by the Superior Court and the Court of Appeals," Carter said.

He added, "Every time Rayonier has something happen that's adverse to their position, they sue the county." Carter contended that the letter has been released "to drum up public support for their position."

moderation?" Somehow that just doesn't have the same ring as the three-word slogan.

Pythagoras taught that the number 3, which he referred to as the "triad," is the "holiest" number of all digits, being the only number to equal the sum of all numbers below it and as the first odd prime number and the only even number to be a square.

Our introduction to the use of three begins early. Most of us give our children three names, and so from birth, through life, until death, the number three is a continuous thread that exists as right out of the womb and stays with us through the years and until we are "six (1) but (2) under (2)." Even after birth we are buffed by the three little pigs or Goldilocks and the three bears, who had three levels

which were too old, too hot and just right. We still find humor in the elegance of the Three Musketeers.

Morning, noon and night we continue our dances with three. We write and talk and sing with three, second- and third-person points of view (I, you and her/his/it). Comparative adjectives and adverbs are used to describe almost all that we do, so to, "We are good, better or best."

If you listen to songs (some with three-part harmony), most times you will find they are written with three parts of the story (overlaid) interrupted by the repeated chorus. There would have been almost no early country, blues or rock songs were for those written with the use of three chords—C, F and G. If you have read me through the years, you know I am still buffed by the three points on a pizza.

DENY

Continued from page 1A

mineral rights of their properties have not been denied the water in the waiting room and hotel security guards.

Each well requires several accounts of women claiming to have been assaulted by strangers in the lead times.

She also reports that because the local McDonald's can't find enough workers, it is of being \$13-an-hour wages and a signing bonus of \$300. Best, which traditionally ran about \$200 for a two-bedroom apartment.

Regarding the agenda request, County Administrator Jason Tashley

superintendent. They'll be tally out of our control. ... We're just going to wait and see."

"I receive with the superintendent's report of Education Chair Fervell Cooksey said, "We're looking at a wait-and-see situation there."

And in regard to the school apportion, School Superintendent Cheryl Fennell said, "It's totally out of our control. ... We're just going to wait and see."

Each well requires several accounts of women claiming to have been assaulted by strangers in the lead times.

HOMEland

HomeLand Real Estate advertisement for Wayne County, featuring contact information for various offices and a list of services.

Serious Column

D

2nd Place

Henry Daily Herald,
McDonough

Kelsey Cochran

Opinion

4A Fri., March 22, 2013 www.henryherald.com

Our Point

Hampton should be ashamed

The vast majority of Hampton residents should be ashamed of themselves.

Never mind to municipal elections is typically low, but a mere 6.2 percent of those who chose to vote in the city to elect its mayor and set the tone for the future of their community is disgraceful and an embarrassment.

The mere 6.2 percent of the residents of Hampton that really care about the city's future, if they did, they would have put their vote where their mouth is.

Fewer than 12 percent of those who have bothered to register to vote bothered to go to the polls.

While we in no way question the outcome of the election and wish the new mayor nothing but good fortune and a successful administration, all the citizens of Hampton had an opportunity to help shape the city's future.

Even though the mayor elected in the special election this week will face another election if he chooses to run in the November regular election, as incumbent generally

has an easier path to elected office. The Hampton City Council could be facing sweeping changes in November.

On the other hand, if sitting Council members choose to wait to elect, it is time for a shake-up at city hall, the citizens in the hands of voters, elect only a few voters.

When less than 12 percent of registered voters and only about 6.2 percent of citizens care enough to cast a vote, you have to wonder just how much the average citizen cares about the community in any way whatsoever.

It is so very discouraging that such a small minority of the total citizenry has a voice in the future of their local government.

For whatever reason, the majority of registered voters simply do not vote to lead

elections when there are not national, state, or countywide elections on the ballot.

The irony is this: It is at the local level that government impacts our lives the most.

It is also at the local level where one vote — or a handful of votes — can have the most impact in the outcome of an election.

When citizens choose not to vote, they greatly diminish their credibility and standing to protest or complain when things don't go their way.

People love to talk about what government does or does not do, and give elected officials a piece of their credit, but the ultimate piece of credit should happen at the polls — where it matters.

We encourage the citizens of Hampton to exercise the right and job duty of the vote by participating in the city's election process this November and to determine their own future.

— Editor Jim Zachary

Another Point

'A reporter walks into a jailhouse ...'

There is perhaps no worse feeling for a reporter than knowing we've done the right thing when it seems like nobody is on our side.

When I wrote a series of stories for a newspaper in Tennessee about the deplorable conditions at the local county jail — and the dozens of inmates who filed lawsuits against the people in charge — I knew I would face at least some backlash.

The biggest complaints were all centered on inmate treatment: overcrowded, no exercise, no medical treatment that was usually left unanswered and lived in a strip-search facility that had become a breeding ground for violence and theft.

As it does when any important story is shared to publicize, my research showed when I imagined inmate reactions when they read the next day's paper, but I and the rest of the news staff agreed it was the right way to talk about the issue.

So I held my head high and went on with my day. Then the phone calls and e-mails began rolling in.

"This ain't the Holiday Inn," one caller told me.

"They gave up their rights to a clean shower when they committed a crime," said another.

I listened with an open mind to each concern about the story I knew would never

really go away.

The number of lawsuits filed each week kept rising, so did the number of letters from the three people who had been incarcerated in the jail.

And so many messages of support for the inmates came my way — and the daily e-mails from my editor — and my personal e-mails.

By the time I left Tennessee for my new job a few months later, at least 48 inmates had filed individual lawsuits against the sheriff and other jail staffers.

We had gained a commitment with our coverage, and the jail began making small changes to improve the jail, sleeping just about as well as they had over their years in prison. The changes were small, but carried considerable significance.

The first steps included increasing the number of cameras per cell to 200, replacing 500 rickety mattresses and installing a pest-control plan.

But the wheels of justice were slowly and working in the defendants' favor was a very powerful county leadership, very little faith in the credibility of the inmates and, at least in that place, a strongly open-door jail operation model.

I felt myself in the witness, and I made it my duty. When I called the advice on how to write this column, my new editor called it great (joke).

I wanted to visit Louisiana to Georgia and work a year of the Henry County Jail that I

sure have taxpayer dollars can be responsibly used to house inmates. There were no release or conviction, and to the end of their sentence or transfer to a state prison.

The jail is not a Holiday Inn, but a corrections facility and the inmates who live there are not inmates, but human beings.

Only some of the inmates incarcerated there have actually been convicted of a crime. They have basic rights that include proper nutrition and medical attention that they might not receive at other facilities, and to deny them those basic human rights would not only be unconstitutional, but wrong.

But a reporter's belief in what's right and wrong is only as good as the opinion of the reader.

Somebody would wonder: How can you do this, you believe in yourself?

If, on the other hand, your actions are at odds with your own values, you will lose faith in yourself at the first sign of rejection.

Maybe it took writing the materials the jail in Tennessee could have, either, should have been held to in order for me to understand that my faith in my work was merited.

I have enough faith in the readers of this newspaper that our future actions in following Henry County about important issues that affect its citizens depends on these citizens, and on me, too.

Kelsey Cochran is the crime reporter for the Henry Daily Herald. She can be reached by email at kcochran@henryherald.com or on Twitter @KelseyCochran2013.

HENRY DAILY HERALD

www.henryherald.com

Volume 42, Number 36

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Serious Column

D

1st Place

Douglas County Sentinel, Douglasville

Mitch Sneed

WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 11, 2013

B **COMMUNITY**

Bowden made us all proud

US. Army Staff Sgt. Joshua J. Bowden did something earlier this week that few have done before.

Bowden is a fallen hero, killed Aug. 20, in Ghazni, Afghanistan, when his unit was killed by small arms fire while on dismounted patrol. On Sunday and Monday, he was welcomed home by the community he will leave behind.

Over two days, the former all-county soccer star and Junior Olympic karate champion who once wrecked his mother's car while chasing a dream past Douglas County in the spotlight. That spotlight showed the county at its best — one people rallied to support a hero.

Overhead men wearing battered hats stood next to attorneys in wing tips and county commissioners.

Children too young to know what war is were nestled in the arms of grandfathers who had been there and seen it firsthand.

Bowden's tribute created a moment in time in our county where race, political beliefs, rising taxes and the economy didn't matter. The only thing that mattered was honoring Bowden — a hero who was taken away suddenly for the freedoms that we practiced in this life.

"It's a sad occasion, but it's great to see Douglasville, all of the county and this whole region were out in such large numbers to give this young man a proper welcome home," said State Sen. Mike Egan Monday as he stood at the hot sun at outside to pay his respects.

There were no empty touching scenes. There were headbashed tributes, gestures, specially printed T-shirts and tearful moments with their hands over their hearts. There were veterans proudly wearing hats commemorating their service, saluting as Bowden passed, some wiping away tears.

But for me, there were two images I will always carry with me from the events to honor Bowden.

First is the image of Bowden's family at Fulton County Airport/Charlie Brown Field after his remains had been carried by color guard into the awaiting hearse. I found myself checking my sight in the camera's viewfinder as I saw Josh's young son Kaden, dressed in a sweater vest and clinging to his mother's hand as they walked in a large group to cars for the procession. Three days later, I still get misty as I add the picture.

It will also be hard to forget the face of Whitney Whitfield. The young mother who graduated with Bowden from Alexander in 2003 stood along Clark's Street with friends and other classmates as well as their young children clanking signs and waving their sticks in their friend.

When the motorcycles appeared down the hill, so did the tears on her young face. By the time the hearse arrived, she was sobbing and wiping the tears away. It gives us some one doing the law for our friends and is, especially when one has died to keep us free.

While we can hold these processions, vigils and talk about warriors who died to win, one person who should be holding a flag on the roadside on this dreary September day said he shouldn't wait.

"I was in Vietnam," said Robert Baker. "When we came home, we didn't get this. We were spit on and treated like lepers. That's why I'm here. I wanted to make sure that I was here to honor him and say thank you. Now we just need to make sure that we don't have to do this again. Too many young men are coming home like this from wars that we shouldn't be involved in. It's time to end these wars and this unnecessary death."

Baker is right.

Douglas Josh Bowden is somewhere smiling that smile that people say he always had on his face, knowing what he had done. He was a hero. He was a life and he is in death.

I just wish that I had seen him play soccer or hold his little boy. They say no matter what he did, he always worked with all his heart to be the best that he could be. It didn't matter if it was on a soccer field, before or as a soldier — he lived life to its fullest. Sounds like a guy we would have all wanted to know.

I wish I could have told him thank you for to have. I can't, but we shouldn't let an opportunity pass. So the next time you see a serviceman in the airport, waiting to catch a flight home, stop and thank them. Don't wait for them to be coming home covered in a flag to say what's in your heart.

Josh Bowden made us all proud and our area did it in a way that will be talked about for a long, long time. The challenge now will be to make the work that Bowden did last and keep our community whole. And perhaps this can also send a message to our nation's leaders that it is time to end all this.

Mitch Sneed is the editor of the Douglas County Sentinel.

IN HONOR OF SGT. JOSH BOWDEN



The family of Douglas County's Staff Sgt. Joshua Bowden, including his son Kaden, center, walk toward cars for the procession Sunday after the fallen hero's remains were flown into Fulton County Airport/Charlie Brown Field.



The solemn sight of the hearse carrying Staff Sgt. Joshua Bowden has drawn along the route Sunday, Sept. 8, as thousands of people lined the route Sunday and Monday to pay their respects to Bowden and his family.



Three-year-old Madison Robinson holds her flag as she stands along Barkwood Highway on Sunday as the procession bringing Staff Sgt. Joshua Bowden home passed by. Thousands lined the route Sunday and Monday to pay their respects to Bowden and his family.



An impressive showing of law enforcement from several jurisdictions, as many as 200 motorcycle-riding members of the Patriot Guard Riders escorted Staff Sgt. Josh Bowden along Highway 5 in Douglasville toward Central Baptist Church on Monday for his local funeral. He will have a full military burial at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.



Serious Column

B

3rd Place

Athens Banner-Herald

Myra Blackmon

opinions B2
Athens Banner-Herald
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2012

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Accountability needed on school tax credit

It's time to wake up and smell the coffee. We are being mightily ripped off under the guise of helping kids get a better education. We should be outraged.

Since 2008, we have paid \$176 million in tax credits to send students to private schools. If you haven't caught up with this news, it's time to take a closer look. It is a truly disgusting scam, in the form of a law passed in 2008.

This law allows dollar-for-dollar tax credits to Georgians who contribute to Student Scholarship Organizations (SSOs). The promise is that these contributions would go to private schools, and that the state would save money by getting these kids out of the public school system. The SSO is supposed to then use that money to grant scholarships to needy students who want to transfer out of public schools.

Most are a back-door way to give a scholarship to a particular child by designating that particular child as recipient. Then you give your contribution to the organization that will send the child to an individual school — or it would be, if we had any idea what the schools use that money for. But it's against the law for them to tell us!

For example, the website of Christian Christian Schools says, "Scholarships are available for each eligible child in your household. For example, if your income level and family size qualifies you for a 50% GOALS scholarship, then each of your eligible children would qualify for a maximum of 50% towards their individual tuition costs."

When this follows an explanation of the tax credits available, it's hard not to think the organizations and the schools are in cahoots.

Other schools, including at least one three mentioned by a videotape, held workshops and explain to parents how to get contributions donated to their own children. Some have even suggested enrolling children in public school, but never attending, so contributions at the private schools will show up on the records, the only way to be eligible for a tax credit scholarship.

However, since the schools have no accountability for how they use the money, and it is against the law for the SSOs or the schools to release any information about how the "scholarship" money is used, it's impossible to find out.

That's right. Your tax money is providing scholarships to kids in unaccountable private and religious schools. They are allowed to do whatever they want, are exempt from state education standards and any standardized testing. Teachers in these schools are exempt from state certification and educational requirements. And we cannot see how one penny of the money is spent.

The SSOs offer an amazing array of blatantly unethical conduct, practices that would preclude them from being funded by any United Way or major foundation, practices that none of us would support in other nonprofits.

For example, GOALS, one of the largest SSOs, was founded by the husband of its president. The president received \$1.6 million from GOALS, and an additional \$75,000 from the Georgia Community Foundation. Her brother serves on both boards. The two organizations' boards are made up of the same people.

The Athens SSO shares an address with — and paid \$107,000 in 2010 to independent contractor fees to — a CPA firm whose head is a trustee of the SSO.

Rep. Earl Eclert, R-Powder Springs, serves as the unpaid CEO of Faith First Georgia, another SSO. An attorney actually runs the organization. Most SSOs have grown rapidly over the first years of their existence. In 2010, with revenues of \$52,388, Faith First spent 10 percent of its income in legal fees. Most organizations spend only 1 or 2 percent on legal fees. Legal fees over three years total \$170,000. Eclert and the attorney are the only listed trustees.

Among the tax returns I have examined, almost all but some people as employees and donors, their websites tout the tax credit scholarship, with little or no mention of helping needy kids. One even points out that with the tax credit and a federal deduction for a charitable contribution, one can make money on a contribution.

The fact that we cannot get any information about how these millions are distributed or used is unconscionable. The idea that we tax dollars are subsidizing such unethical practices, all acting under the guise of charity, makes me fighting mad.

If a volunteer goes so well, make your next best. Write, call and visit your elected representatives to demand the most accountability required of our public schools. We simply cannot allow this to continue.

• Myra Blackmon, a four-time third columnist, works as a freelance writer and speaker.

Government itself is source of tension

Many conservatives quickly pointed to recent suggestions coming out of Washington that the Obama administration would require certain executive orders to undergo Congressional review such as gun control and the debt ceiling. They maintain such actions would undermine whatever faith the public may place in the legislative process. While such criticism is justified, perhaps my fellow citizens should consider what a surprising closer to home.

Consider the most difficult that was laid out in the Transportation-Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax. The Georgia General Assembly, amended by GOP lawmakers, attempted a complicated plan whereby it sought to define responsibility for financing a statewide sales tax for transportation projects. It did so by turning out optional transportation sales tax referenda in a series of "special districts." While I found this highly questionable, at least the strategy was deliberate on its face.

Unfortunately, though, the T-SPLORST legislation includes such issues including aspects of a special district referendum, it would be passed, not through a withholding of a percentage of the funds normally supplied by the Georgia Department of Transportation. If a special district held the referendum, but deflected it at the polls, that district would neither be penalized. In other words, the General Assembly told the state's voters other referenda to raise their own taxes or fast-track projects. Just think of this as the Don Corleone approach to transportation policy-making.

Senate Bill 75, introduced just this past week, seeks to change T-SPLORST's restrictive provisions.

Next, consider the pending revision of the Medicaid "access law," known by the derogatory moniker "bed tax." Without delving into the details of Senate Bill 24, the Revised Medicaid Financing Program Act, suffice it to say that it proposes to extend until 2013 the 1.43 percent fee charged to hospitals on their net patient revenue, with the objective of closing up the state's Medicaid program and lowering related matching funds. The law, introduced in 2010 by the legislature as a temporary measure to fund a shortfall in the state's Medicaid program resulting from the recession, is set to expire later this year.

To my mind the bill suffers from two major flaws. On one hand, it delegates the actual levying of the fee to the Georgia Department of Community Health. Importantly, though, the General Assembly would receive more control over DCH's decisions. On the other hand, the bill has been pushed through the legislative process, thereby denying any required effort to inform it.

In fact, the bill moved through the Republican-dominated General Assembly with amazing rapidity. From placement in the Senate Appropriations Committee, passage by the full Senate took all of four days. Similarly, passage by the full House took all of five days. Even so, the measure may well face legal challenges, as all revenue bills must originate in the House.

That observation brings me to my next point. The measure is sponsored by some of the senators, but the bill is an amendment" as opposed to a "bill" and that the bill merely authorizing one, unlike an act passed by the House. In other words, the kind of smoke-and-mirrors practice they have in mind.

As I've written any number of times on the newspaper's editorial comment board, the battle in which citizens feel themselves outvoted is not the simple partisan one of Democrat versus Republican, or even the more philosophical one of liberal versus conservative. Rather, I find that the battle increasingly is the one of government versus the people. In reality, both T-SPLORST and the "bed tax" are examples of attempts at taxation by proxy.

• James Garland, a longtime resident of the Athens area, blogs at <http://www.thefirstword.com>.

Good things get their start with friends

I got so small the other day that started out simply enough. "Friends." It was from a creative mom who was looking for people to help support a project for the homeless.

The project, she explained, is an extension of an already successful mission called Souper Suppers. These meals are available during the winter months to anyone in need, and they are purchased, prepared and served by volunteers. Families often sign up in groups to sponsor an evening, where anywhere from 60 to 80 people show up for a warm meal in the following day.

My family started participating in Souper Suppers several years ago when a friend invited us to join her family's sponsorship of a meal. I asked what they planned to serve, and our friend said his favorite barbecue restaurant in town. He said he would bring the pulled pork, squash casserole and stew.

When I asked what we could bring, he said, "How about the white bread?" The dinner, the drinks — everything else had been spoken for. All right, the white bread.

I can remember the first time I took my bags to the grocery store and said, "Okay, 11 loaves of Wonder!" I think they were 4 and 7 at the time. They piled up loaves and loaded the cart, unloading and toting several times. They helped carry the bags to the car and walked them to the church.

Later, as they took plans from the serving area to guests (with a little help, of course), they asked me if the bread they were serving was the same bread we had brought earlier in the day. I told them it was.

I had originally thought maybe white bread wasn't enough to be a worthwhile contribution to the meal. But it turned out it was.

Which brings me back to the expanded Souper Supper program and the meal I attended.

It seems a couple of supportive moms have added a shopping element to our church's Souper Supper program. In addition to the evening meal sponsored by a group or family, Mary and Kate have started giving each person who stops by a ticket to "purchase" one item from a marketplace. These items include everything from toothbrushes and toothpaste to body wash and bathlights. Like Souper Suppers, it's all voluntary.

Three weeks ago, approximately 70 people showed up. Two weeks ago, it was closer to 80. Our family was one of eight who, along with one of our church's Sunday school classes, had been regularly donating supplies.

When I asked what the idea for the event started last year when she saw people handing out "birthday bags" at a Souper Supper. The bags were filled with a few basic necessities and a \$1 gift card to a local restaurant. Nearly everyone in line said they were attending a birthday that month.

What truly caught Mary's attention, however, was a little girl who pleaded with volunteers to give her a birthday bag for her mother. Mary and Kate started brainstorming about ways to help 80 teens each. They hosted the first Souper Supper event in January. I decided I had to see it for myself.

This past week, I stood behind long tables filled with various personal and household items. We put out everything from donated sweaters and gloves, to underwear, deodorant and baby wipes.

People walked up tentatively. They seemed to be things they needed with an air of uncertainty. But we happily handed out approximately 200 items to the 120 people who stopped by. While each adult got two items, the youngest children got three.

One of us would walk every child to the back line and tell them to take whatever they needed.

"I don't want one," a little boy said to me.

I looked for a book that would be appropriate for his age. "Take this if you don't take anything else." And I put it in his bag.

Later, a little girl reached out and grabbed a book from my hand. "I want this book called 'Happy Day Party!'"

"I want that," she said, pulling it close.

Sweaters, socks and flowers. I would want it, too. I grinned as she walked away.

By the end of the evening, the store had been depleted to near bones. Mary and Kate started taking inventory.

"We'll send out another email this week," they said.

It all has to start somewhere, I thought. Maybe it starts with friends.

• Peter: There is a write being in Athens with the history and the art.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Please write your opinion/letter to the readers of the Banner-Herald editorial page? For letters to the editor may be mailed to Athens Banner-Herald, P.O. Box 912, Athens, GA 30602; fax to (706) 208-0246; or e-mailed to news@banneronline.com.

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Serious Column

B



2nd Place

Rome News-Tribune

Lee Walburn

Serious Column

B

1st Place

Statesboro Herald

Holli Deal Bragg

6A
Sunday, June 23, 2013

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statesboroherald.com

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Viewpoints

Letters to the editor

Dealing with our deficit

Editor:
We have an executive branch that is, from all outward appearance, unable to address the deficit in any productive way which is cause for grave concern. While macroeconomics is much different in many ways than microeconomics, the same values are very straightforward: the country must take in more at the minimum — the same amount as it spends. Yes, there are, in certain cases, "extraordinary circumstances" that require a deficit for a SHORT period of time. Continuing to dig the hole deeper only compounds the long term effect. U.S. Debt in 2008 = \$11.8 trillion. Debt in 2012 = \$16.1 trillion.
What "the People" MUST do is begin to hold our elected officials 100 percent accountable. We do this by voting ALL of the current members of both the House and Senate as well as demanding those who run for the chief executive post have the capability to run the largest "business" in the country — and the world. At the post of chief executive, there needs to be someone who can lead and is willing to delegate top business and finance people to the various posts in the cabinet. Two other important tasks that the president must deal with fearfully and with conviction are our borrowing habits and the ease with which those who are not "natives" are able to live without government handouts that often go back generations in families.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tom Grossman
Statesboro

Dutton family says 'thank you'

Editor:
The family of William "Frank" Dutton would like to express our sincere appreciation for all the help we had in searching for him last week when he went missing. The crew (our employees), the Bulloch County Sheriff's Department, Ellis Wood and

plut Brian Kent, our neighbor in the area, volunteers who showed up and the media.
Without the outstanding effort of all those who helped, I know we would not have had the wonderful ending we had. Thanks again,
Sylvia Dutton and family

Boy Scout decision a bad one

Editor:
So many in 1986, homosexuality was regarded as a mental disorder by the American Psychiatric Association. Practicing homosexuality is a mental disorder that had negative societal consequences for homosexuals in the past. Now it's all in the name of "love" according to the propaganda of the LGBT (Love Gone Bad) lobby. But with all the drug games... and the number of gay pride parades (and annual pride parades) that are held in San Francisco, it is easy to see that homosexuality is their message, not love.
Our children are being indoctrinated by the LGBT acts of the LGBT in the public schools to be familiar with and accepting of homosexuality and those that choose to practice it — including in some schools a cross-dressing day, Harvey Milk Gay Day and other athletic teams with names that appear to be those that support "gender identity" with the appropriate. This is the gate of lighting intolerance and discrimination, but also population growth, while

legislation is proposed to outlaw professional therapy and counseling aimed at helping teens overcome unwanted same-sex attraction.
It is no wonder the Boy Scouts want to accept homosexuality boys into their otherwise honorable organization. The BSA (and their sponsors) better be ready for some lawsuits, however, if the homophobic U.S. military men-in-uniform and men-in-uniform and sexual assault suits carry through to their camp-outs, especially when adult homosexuals are admitted as leaders.
I think everyone should have an embossed "Love Gone Bad" sticker on their chest, where homosexuality should be. God has mercy on us if the U.S. Supreme Court gives them the green light to legalize same-sex marriage.
Sincerely,
Michael W. Jarvis
Salt Lake City, Utah

PS I have returned my Eagle Scout badge to the Boy Scouts of America.

Prayer of the Day

"O God Almighty, help and eternal Father, who dwell in the high and holy place, we come before thee, beseeching thee to decrease us by the grace of thy Holy Spirit that we may give praise to thee, now and forever. In thy blessed Name we pray. AMEN."
— The Rev. Dr. Charles E. Croney, retired. Please submit your Prayer of the Day to Ann at ann@brw.com.

Where there's smoke ...

The black smoke rises about the tall Georgia pine trees, other mixing with rain clouds threatening to douse the flames or disappearing into the blue sky. Country folk know what this means, but many people not raised on the farm or in rural areas panic, thinking someone's house is on fire or a wildfire is raging, threatening lives and homes.
They panic and call 911 to report the huge billowing smoke clouds. Officers call local news reporters, asking "What is burning or (insert road name here)?"
Don't worry, y'all. This time of year, you're going to see many huge black smoke clouds on a daily basis. Some farmers, especially in get a new crop in the ground, having just harvested his wheat, is burning his fields.
While it may appear ominous, the scene in "Come With The Wind" where Atlanta is on fire, it's not that serious. In most cases, the responsible farmer has already obtained a burn permit, notified Bulloch County Public Safety about his plans, and has plenty of help to make sure the flames don't jump fire breaks placed around the fields.
When a farmer hasn't done his homework and notified authorities of his plans to burn off the wheat stubble, and people call to report the smoke clouds, Bulloch County firefighters end up rushing to the scene. Better safe than sorry, but this is a waste of taxpayer's money, the firefighters' time and could mean they are tied up on a huge call when another emergency occurs.
Bulloch County Public Safety

The AMA, the FBI and Men's Warehouse

HOLLYWOOD — God bless America, and her's everybody! Oakland CA owners demanded league permission to move the team to San Jose after Sunday's pre-game stadium average spill. Both teams had to use the NFL Raiders locker room. An offer as the Raiders got locked for drugs, you know that the Raiders had just fine.
The American Medical Association classified obesity a disease Tuesday. The country is forty pounds overweight per person. Some people were turned out to leave him at the Brandenburg Gate. They're very mad at us. It turns out we never could them medicine for using East Germany's spy program.
Martin Shien urged the president to get rid of the U.S. nuclear arsenal Tuesday. Last year he led a protest parade in Hollywood with tape over his mouth. He wanted to show the world at least one member of the Shien family can still speak in a normal voice. He was called all tracking, he took Las Vegas hotels with union loans to mobsters and he infiltrated Democrats by backing Richard Nixon who pardoned him. The point is, everyone killed him.
Iran president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad will step down for Iran's just-elected President Robert. Iran's president was an

assassin whose motto was Death to America but the new guy is a moderate. His followers carry posters calling for inevitable Jewish genocide for America.
Men's Warehouse stock fell Tuesday after the board fired founder and TV spokesman George Zimmerman. It's obvious why Men's Warehouse fired George Zimmerman because they found an identical brandname headed gay for half the price of the retail headed gay.
The IRS proposed a public safety Tuesday by announcing plans to give out seventy million dollars in performance bonuses this week to IRS agents, IRS supervisors and IRS employees. It's not much at all. You wouldn't do that job for just a dollar a conservative.
President Obama gave a speech in Northern Ireland Tuesday where he said Catholic schools and Protestant schools promote divisionism. He's living great. Barack Obama attended a private religious school, and today half the country wears Obama to always be president and the other half want to ask Queen Elizabeth to forgive us and take us back.

Argus Hamilton is the host comedian at The Comedy Hour on Hollywood and credit to groups and organizations around the country. E-mail him at Argus@ArgusHamilton.com.



Serious Column

A

3rd Place

The Telegraph, Macon

Charles Richardson

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2010 THE TELEGRAPH

Opinion
The Telegraph

Contact editorial page editor Charles E. Richardson at 769-4342 or e-mail him at crichard@macon.com

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Unaffordable and careless

During the 2012 presidential campaign, President Barack Obama proudly described his signature legislation, the Affordable Care Act of 2010, as "ObamaCare." So, as he put it, "It's de care." At least in comparison with Mitt Romney's partisan attitudes, the public gave more credence to Obama as caring about average people.

But there's a big difference between "caring" in glibly political prose versus implementing a massive, grinding, omnipresent governmental system trying to force uninsured citizens, employers and states, to endure the medical establishment as we know it.

ObamaCare's basic design is either to coerce or cajole individuals and employers to purchase medical insurance that they now choose not to buy, while leaving the hapless remainder to submit to the deeply problematic, legally ineffectual and practically dangerous system of Medicaid.

States that are already providing many of Medicaid's care are being pressed to expand it. Meanwhile, ObamaCare also threatens existing arrangements for people who have already found a niche in the medical system.

There are plenty of reasons for the administration to be concerned about implementing ObamaCare as it, quite apart from the fact that plenty of Republicans are warning up their vocal opposition if I sold you on it. The administration knows that too, and is fanatically trying to make the roll-out work.

But you just can't cover up ObamaCare's most conceptual problems with all campaign rhetoric with milligrams, hard-wired messaging to pressure people to spend money on medical insurance that they don't want now and can buy later anyway should something catastrophic or even merely well-earned come along.

On the affordability factor, the act appears likely to cost the federal government more than originally anticipated. In 2010, Obama estimated the act would be revenue neutral, with total costs of \$900 billion. Now the Congressional Budget Office says insurance industries alone will cost over \$1 trillion, with total costs about twice the original estimate.

Affordability is also a concern for many uninsured people who'll either pay a monthly "tax" or purchase insurance designed to help start to subsidize risks to healthy people. Uninsured Americans required by ObamaCare to buy insurance can't be thrilled about the financial implications to them of buying an untested insurance product. Many of them, typically parents, business and under-employed, are concerned that side and/or other risks are already getting health care effectively subsidized by the young. Why should the young further subsidize older and sicker groups who have pumped up the national debt already while sucking the life pipeline dry?

Affordability is also a concern for many states that appear reasonably skeptical about expanding Medicaid for the poor and lower middle class, even if the immediate surface expenses will largely be shouldered by federal taxpayers. These states suspect that expanding a system of total dependence on government to bigger swaths of their citizenry will have long-run implications that may forever leave their citizenry divided, with a credible number of permanent wards of government.

The ObamaCare roll-out, with its emphasis on websites and advertising, hawking money to insurance companies while simultaneously trying to manage insurance companies, proliferating and omniscient oversight of personal details by the widely despised Internal Revenue Service, all add up to trouble on a governmental scale.

It's ironic that President Obama has endorsed a system that has many of the problems that lost Romney the 2012 election. It's a system that's just too costly, too big, too insurance companies and the medical establishment. It's surprisingly insensitive to uninsured people. It also ignores many key concerns of average Americans who are already playing by the rules and getting their own weight.

Obama magnified the RomneyCare template, and though Romney was otherwise committed to 2012 as an ObamaCare critic, it seems quite possible that the design of ObamaCare is a historically colossal mistake. Obama might have been wise to stick with a modest, basic uninsured care program with no bells and whistles. That would have been less grand and extravagant, but it would also have truly been caring and affordable. This generosity is neither.

David O'Neil served as counsel to the state of Georgia and 27 other states in their constitutional challenge to the Affordable Care Act.

WR water park: All problems are not equal

There are some problems that are not really problems and are good problems to have. Some businesses are up to the neck in customers and they have to hire more employees to handle the flow.

Warner Bros. has a problem. They could call it an overabundance of riches. The city has two developers who see a future in a water park facility in their town.

Water parks have been a hot item. Wild Adventures opened new facilities in 2006 with a combination of animal attractions, daredevil rides and a water park. Who knew? Other companies have been trying to make their gold too. Columbia just opened a water-themed attraction using the natural resources of the Chattahoochee, River City Beach. It continues several whitewater facilities ignoring all of its out, but what a problem to have.

Some communities that have followed the stream of money have instead watched as the tide flowed out never to return. Success is not guaranteed. That's why it's important for city leaders in Warner Bros. to be cautious. Each developer should approach the city with their plans and may the best plan win.

There can only be one and obviously, the local developer has a leg up on the Atlanta developer. He already owns the land and other infrastructure in the area.

That said, the city should not be in the business of picking winners and losers. And it should conduct its business openly in public. This case presents serious are hard to keep.

It could be a headache figuring all of it out, but what a problem to have.

Am I micro-managing?

Last week, the president of a very successful Atlanta company asked me this question: "Should I micro-manage this executive, or should I let him make this decision that I know from my past experience could fail and cost us millions of dollars?"

If he had asked you that question, what would you have said? I think this is the most difficult part of leadership. It doesn't matter if you're trying to manage your teenage son or a seasoned executive, or the former can public. Where do you let them go? If it's their responsibility, how are they ever going to learn if you make all the big decisions for them?

On the other hand, if they make a huge mistake, can you live with it? Complicating this issue is the fact that some people want to be micro-managed. Really. Not just in business, but in life. Think of the millions of Americans who want to be micro-managed by our government.

Out of the 100 million who are enrolled in at least one welfare program, how many really need the food stamps and the other safety nets, and how many millions who don't just because it's easier than working? We've gone from 17 million on food stamps 10 years ago to 44.4 million today. Sure, most of them deserve it, but what if only 1 million do?

My Irish ancestors used to talk about "looking to America." It was the "Land of Opportunity." They didn't want handouts, handouts are nothing but micro-management and they had plenty of that from their English lords in Ireland. They wanted the chance to work, to make their own decisions, to determine their own future. Whatever happened to that America?

Maybe my Atlanta president finds himself in this "micro-management dilemma" because his executive is waiting impatiently for him to step in and make this big decision. If he fails, it will be the president's fault. Is this what's happening to America? "Let the government decide our health-care plan, and it'll be done," we can say "told you so." It's not our fault. That way, we don't have to budget our own money to handle our own health-care needs."

Dr. Bill Cummings is the CEO of Counseling Consultants Corporation and Counseling Management Consultants. He website is counseling.com.

'Stunning?'

Last weekend I received a call on my voice mail from my friend Dick. We've never met, but he leaves me early morning voice mails from time to time.

One of the things that sets Dick apart is that he doesn't leave anonymous pigeon droppings. He says who he is, although I recognize his voice by now.

It's not as if he's a little secret; many of the calls leaving anonymous droppings, I never hear. I recognize these voices, too. One push of the delete button and whatever he had to say goes into a digital file 15. From what I can tell, Richard is a thoughtful and smart guy. He doesn't rant and rave like many others who call. We do, respectfully, disagree on any number of issues.

You might remember a column I wrote before the 2012 presidential election, Dick and I had a bet. We wagered a dinner on the outcome of the election. Dick guaranteed a Mitt Romney victory. He lost and sent a \$10 check that still sits somewhere on my desk. I don't want the money; I was looking forward to having a meal with him and giving him just a bit.

So Dick leaves a voice mail congratulating President Obama's comments on the George Zimmerman, Trayvon Martin situation. Richard said he was "stunned" that the president of the United States, the president of black, white, green, purple and yellow, would come out and make statements like he did. I expect statements like that from civil rights leaders, but I really did not expect the president of the United States to make a statement like he was making.

Dick then compared Obama's statements to Robert Kennedy's speech after the assassination of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., and that Kennedy pronounced a "really different thought on everything that goes on in this country." He went on to say repeatedly that Obama's statements were a "stunning thing."

I won't dwell on the vast differences in situations between an assassination and the Zimmerman trial, but Dick continued to say that the president "didn't do the country a good service."

So what did the president say that was so "stunning" in his 18-minute address? (read the entire address at www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/07/29/statement-president-07-29-zimmerman.)

The president first spoke of the "incredible grace and dignity" of the family of Trayvon Martin displayed. Anything "stunning" about that?

He then said "The judge conducted the trial in a professional manner. The prosecution and the defense made their arguments. The jury was properly instructed that in a case such as this reasonable doubt was relevant, and they rendered a verdict. And once the jury has spoken, that's how our system works." Hmmm, "stunning?"

The president went on to say, "You know, when Trayvon Martin was first shot I said that this could have been my son. Another way of saying that is Trayvon Martin could have been me 10 years ago."

Then Obama went into his professorial mode in an attempt to explain to people like Dick a little history "And when you think about why, in the African-American community at least, there's a lot of pain around what happened here, I think it's important to recognize that the African-American community is looking at this issue through a set of experiences and a history that doesn't go away."

There are very few African-American men in this country who haven't had the experience of being followed when they were shopping in a department store. That includes me."

These comments and others in the speech may have been "stunning" to those who have not experienced the circumstances the president described, but it is a fact of everyday life for most black men in America.

It would be "stunning" to me if some who-didn't President Obama would find any value in his words about race or any other subject.

The black community would do well to read his entire speech, too. It wasn't just about Trayvon.

With all that said, Dick, I will want that conversation. You can be reached at 878/44-4342 or via email at crichard@macon.com. Please crichard@macon.com.

WR water park: All problems are not equal

Am I micro-managing?

'Stunning?'

David O'Neil

Charles E. Richardson

Leonard Pitts Jr.

Serious Column

A

2nd Place

The Augusta Chronicle

Joe Hotchkiss

OPINION SUNDAY **G**
February 24, 2013
The Augusta Chronicle

WHAT THE COURTS SEE

Superior Court Judge J. David Popper listens to proceedings during a bench trial in Augusta earlier this month.

Law professionals have front-row seats to society's slow breakdown

If you want to know how widespread the fix is in your community, ask your doctors and nurses. They're on the front lines.

Likewise, if we want to gauge how sick society may be from a behavioral and moral standpoint, maybe we should ask the people on the front lines those practicing in the criminal justice system.

The Augusta Chronicle editorial staff did just that recently, interviewing two Augusta judges and our district attorney to find out what they see on a daily basis, and what it might say about our society.

We were struck immediately by two things: How deep they are the problems in our society getting, and how close to the surface it is when you ask them.

They weren't just ready to talk about it. They were talking to us.

"We see it every day," District Attorney Anthony Wright says of the dysfunction creating the courts.

"It's very disturbing," adds Superior Court Judge David Popper.

By The Augusta Chronicle Editorial Staff

Popper: "I feel like the country's lost its moral compass. (The compass is spinning - it's not just pointing in the wrong direction, it's pointing in 12-different directions."

Superior Court Judge Danny Craig offers an even more serious viewpoint: that intact, highly functional, law-abiding, god-fearing kids-to-school and soccer-practice families are on a melting glacier and what they see on a daily basis, and what it might say about our society.

"These people do not have any idea about the fact that their little glacier is melting," Craig says. "I don't know when they're going to realize that their little glacier is melting, but we're headed toward something cataclysmic."

What these professionals in the trenches see is an unsettling parade of increasingly illiterate, immature, antagonistic and amoral folks who often not only can't get along but consciously decide not to. In evidentiary proceedings, Wright notes, "We hear some talking about their girlfriends in language that I wouldn't see to describe a dog. And I'm not just talking about calling somebody a b---, but the pathology behind them only seems to be getting worse."

Craig, who's been in the criminal justice system since 1976, including as Wright's predecessor as chief prosecutor, says, "It's very different. It's extraordinarily different than it was in 1976. It is a society that has lost its way. There is a rapidly growing segment of our society that has no moral compass - coupled with extraordinarily inferior education that causes them to be unproductive and desperate."

What these professionals in the trenches see is an unsettling parade of increasingly illiterate, immature, antagonistic and amoral folks who often not only can't get along but consciously decide not to. In evidentiary proceedings, Wright notes, "We hear some talking about their girlfriends in language that I wouldn't see to describe a dog. And I'm not just talking about calling somebody a b---, but the pathology behind them only seems to be getting worse."

By HOTCHKISS on PAGE 16

In the depths of disgust, it's hard to get lower than child abuse

A woman who tells me in the quietest business and is supposed to get along for a living, I had three weeks of a bad temper.

But doesn't one have that same habit to get blood pressure on a quick hot?

Child abuse.

It's not talking about the golden plates of garbage - making our planet and using up our perfectly good water - who would dare physically or emotionally damage a child.

It's not talking about parental discipline. It's talking about what a father or mother parents the concept of discipline to an entire generation where a parent remains human only in the genetic sense. Psychologists who that parent becomes a monster.

I'd that had before last week - that, when I read about an alcohol-punk executive who was sent on a Delta flight Feb. 8, it went to a woman who, her husband

son. When there was a change in public opinion, the little boy cried because he was hurt. It happens often with kids in planes.

What came and doesn't happen often. Authorities say the 60-year-old woman looked at the man and told her husband that "it's not his fault."

That's what she said, he says, he says the little boy.

The mother showed a great deal more emotion than I would have if I witnessed a stranger striking one of my children. That she would "have" that that same mother to her own parent.

The man, Joe Shirley Hottchkiss, has been charged with child abuse after he was charged with child abuse against his own child.

And now it's over, he says he is a monster.

Genius Hottchkiss, of Perkins, Ohio, was charged last week with child abuse against his own child.

Joe HOTCHKISS
District Attorney
Popper Editor

in hell and would make him up every 10 minutes through the night to his park up.

He what's called all this "love"?

Authorities say the boy told a school at school that he was in the University of Oklahoma law.

And the boy's father - an ex-cop, lawyer "Shirley" says the man, he said.

Let that sink in, if your heart and stomach can take it. A father is being charged with abusing his son because he was needed for another football team the last season's.

One William is executive director of Child Abuse Center and Child Abuse Center and Child Abuse Center.

More than 100,000 children are reported for protecting children from abusive situations, I haven't met them.

Child has about the number

one and asked, with his years of experience, what he thought of it.

"I have not seen a case like that in my career," he said.

The abuse in the Shirley case, William said, "is extreme. Use the name The Great Society. You may be too young to have seen it, but the Boston is similar and has been mentioned by subsequent parents who claim to be making their child tough or a winner, or good enough to get a college scholarship - in the very extreme."

The physical abuse cases William said his son wouldn't get out the extreme, but he has published - and often there is a severe impact until the child is taken to an emergency room.

It is a warning.

William said the worst case of physical abuse he has profiled actually been involved in the Shirley case. He said he would like to see that I did I have to. That

By HOTCHKISS on PAGE 16

The Augusta Chronicle
The South's Oldest Newspaper - Est. 1786

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The case of discipline, never does it judge all you to send the other way - **Sept 18**

Center at your side, the, don't do this, I have not gotten in since from the beginning, from the time that it was, there are if and now the Lord God, and he heard, and he was - **Sept 18**

Letters policy: We welcome signed letters on topics of public interest that do not exceed 300 words. Letters must include the author's full name, address and daytime phone for verification, though only the name and city will be published. Please limit submissions to one every 30 days. Types letters, poetry and gene names are not accepted. All letters will be edited.



Serious Column

A

Savannah Morning News | savannah.com | 912.236.9310 | COMMENTARY | Light of the Coastal Empire | Savana, June 28, 2012 | 13A

Paula Deen: A modern-day lynching

Georgian history books report that 400 people were lynched in this state between 1841 and 1894, second only to Mississippi. Most of the victims — but not all — were black.



TOM BARTON

That Justin Wright should be discussed in court, not at the end of a rope.

Or by money-grubbing lawyers.

I forgot everything we've heard or read about Paula Deen the past two weeks. I ignore her awful apologies for saying the N-word 30 years ago. I ignore those who believe she's worthy of forgiveness, like former President Jimmy Carter and the Rev. Jesse Jackson. I forget all the good she has done in feeding the hungry and helping the poor, and the jobs and paychecks her businesses have provided. None of that matters now. The deed has been done.

Savannah celebrity chef has been lynched — figuratively and publicly in the heart of public opinion, and without a full and fair accounting of the facts. Why? Mostly because this 60-year-old woman who teaches by both ear and mouth isn't white — or at the equivalent of a slaveholder.

When Deen refused to pay \$1.8 million to settle a lawsuit last year by a former employee of her brother's restaurant — a white woman who claimed, among other things, that Deen's brother was guilty of racial discrimination — the feud each began fanning.

"Expression of the racist and toxic culture of Jim Crow society and personal life is going to permanently, and irrevocably, damage the value of the brand," Savannah attorney S. Wesley Wood's e-mailed to a Jan. 21, 2011, demand letter to Deen's lawyer. He stated that "if we are unable to settle, the Court will not be quietly filed. I am making arrangements for a press conference on the day of the filing. I have identified the several prize-winning New York Times who cover civil rights matters and the will be provided a press filing outline. A nationwide press release will be issued to the major networks, newspapers, newsmagazines and news websites across the country."

And finally, the almost "I hope that open full and deliberate consideration of this offer, your editorial will come to understand that the small price that my client quietly accepts will allow Paula Deen a chance to salvage a brand that can continue to have value."

Wood's was a long man of his word. Except for one thing: The Times didn't break the June 16 story about Deen using the N-word. The National Enquirer did. Still, the (Boston) of the First Lady of Southern Cooking was not a controversial figure spread their guts on a hot griddle.

Today, the celebrity chef that Forbes said earned \$18 million in 2012 is being hung out to dry financially. To add insult to injury, the woman behind the lawsuit, Lisa T. Jackson, admitted that the former boss Deen made a racist remark, OK, de applying discriminatory.

But when you're threatened to suffer "permanent" harm on someone, facts don't matter. It's about whipping a nail into a fence.

It's a lynching for our times. Yes, that word shouldn't be lily wash. But given the injection, it fits. None of this absence Deen from using a racist slur. It doesn't excuse her brother, Ed W. "Bubba" Hays, who's accused of sexual harassment. But there is such a thing as justice — not being the crime. This doesn't come close.

And what about that lawsuit — the one that opened the rope used to strangle Paula? It's pending in federal court here before U.S. District Judge William T. Moore Jr. Moore has not decided that outrage this case is a lynching. It's no wonder. White people can do bad things. But what is white-white discrimination? An open house being forced to listen to country music?

The plaintiff and her lawyer, which includes Atlanta attorney dog Matthew Philips, shouldn't be hoping for a big score. They find their own better. It made a huge noise and caused tremendous harm. But they get stink. It makes you wonder if they studied law by watching "Night Court" reruns.

Here's what Moore said Aug. 24, 2011, about the plaintiff's legal strategy — "It's a naked and brazen attempt to bully."

So does what happened to Paula Deen. These people have been embarrassed. They could sting for a long time.

Tom Barton is the editorial page editor of the Savannah Morning News. You can reach him at barton@savannah.com.

Let's stick a fork in racism

So here's what I learned this week.

I learned that there are people known as "niggers" in the South to exist. I learned that every southern white woman has never let O'Hara be a white woman. I learned that most people don't know the difference between a racist and a bigot. I learned that all Black people call each other the N-word.

I learned that many people believe the message do indeed make a light. I learned that there are people who, after getting to know people of a different race, changed their views from negative to positive.

But most of all, I learned that as a country, we have a serious problem because we've created a recipe for division.

I do want to address the outrage over the "lynching" (your choice of words) from author Jane Fonda of Paula Deen. Since Ms. Deen's appearance on the "Today" show, a few more companies have dropped her. It could be because she's a racist without being a bigot.

And yes, there are some Black people who use the N-word. Many are young people who are, quite frankly, ignorant of their history. However, there are many, many, many Black people who not only never use that word, but who also don't allow it in their homes.

Saying that using the N-word is "taking away" the power as that it can be a "term of endearment" is pathetic. I have many Jewish friends. I have never heard any of them refer to each other as a "Kike" "Yid" "Smokey" (I'm kidding). They understand their history, and they understand that words like these could never be earned as a term of endearment.

So those saying Blacks use the word, so why not others, are saying that two wrongs make it right. Oh, so that's that doesn't make it right, but it doesn't.

It's really an immature argument. "Well, they do it, so why don't I?" What are you, 12 years old?

We must do better. In the middle of all the confusion, I received comments from people who told me they used to hold certain views about people of a different race until they actually got to know them. These days, they realized they were more alike than they ever imagined.

As we celebrate the Fourth of July this week, how about we take a little time to become independent thinkers?

If we truly believe all men are created equal, then, in working terms, why not begin our Fourth of July by using equal amounts of honesty, self-reflection and understanding, and mix that with open-mindedness, forgiveness and love. Maybe then we'll have a recipe for unity and we can stick a fork in racism.

George Belmont lives and writes in Atlanta. Contact her at georgib@att.net.

1st Place

Savannah Morning News

Tom Barton



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Feature Writing

H

SPORTS: A look at soccer season, PAGE 12 **OPINION:** Letter to the Editor on moral courage, PAGE 5

February 16 - 22, 2013
Volume 4, Issue 46
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Here be chickens

Feathered friends at Barksdale, Page 9

Hollywood of the East?

New film studio to open in Rockdale, Page 7

General Mills winners, Page 6



GOOD MORNING!
to subscribe

Marjorie Bittinger



'Show your greatness' Local Olympian recalls historic moments

By Kathy Hooks
khooks@rockdalenews.com

"Always do your best and don't settle for less. Show your greatness."

Those are words of wisdom Olympic gold medalist Barbara Jones-Slater has lived by and the message she diligently instilled in her children.

Barbara, mother of Conyers resident Leslie Slater, was only 15 in 1952 when she became the youngest woman to ever win a gold medal for Track and Field, a record she still holds today. But it was at home that the Olympian made the biggest impression on her daughter by passing on a champion's attitude taught to by her own parents during her time of triumph.

"In not where you live, it is how you feel about yourself that makes you feel rich or poor," Barbara, now 75, said from her Rockdale home this week. "I have tried to instill that in my children to always strive for the best. My father always kept me close to the ground and my mother taught me kindness. My father would say to me 'If you are still doing the same thing this month that you were doing last month, you are not growing'. So I decided nobody is going to tell me I'm not good when I am."

Growing up in the projects in Chicago, Barbara was discovered by track and field gold medalist Jessie Owens, who saw potential in the competitive teenager. Owens helped Barbara pave her way to the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki, Finland, where she broke the world record as part of the USA 4x300 relay team that captured the gold medal. She would go on to collect gold medals in the 1955 and 1959 Pan American Games and

the 1960 Olympics in Rome.

One of her favorite memories is from the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki, where the 15-year-old athlete awoke to broad daylight at 2 a.m. She remembers getting dressed and walking down the street to a carnival where she rode the Ferris wheel for hours before fellow teammate May Faggus and Olympic Boxer Floyd Patterson found her and marched her directly back to the Olympic Village. It would be the same day she broke the relay world record, a feat which is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records.

There is another momentous occasion that Barbara does not remember, which was her record-breaking 100-meter sprint during the

See OLYMPIAN Page 10

More calls for resignations at Rockdale elections board

By Michelle Kim
mkim@rockdalenews.com

There were more calls for the resignation of Republican-appointed Board of Elections member Jonny Brown at Thursday's meeting, but this time the calls came from local Republicans.

Last month, a member of local residents, self-proclaimed Democrats and Independents, spoke during public comments to denounce the guest editorial "Little White Plane," written by Jonny Brown on a local website, edwardctracy.org. (How can you read the text of it at rockdalenews.com/section/1/article/14057.)

Diane Davis, who volunteered extensively for the Rockdale GOP during election season, said, "I am distressed with my local Republican party. One of the reasons is a line in the editorial this past weekend in The Rockdale News: 'What troubles us most has been the public non-action by many community leaders and the leadership of the Rockdale GOP which appointed

Mr. Brown to his public position."

"I am ashamed of myself for not speaking out," said Davis. She said there had not been an opportunity to speak out during local Rockdale GOP meetings because public comment times have not been held.

"There's been nothing but dead silence from the leadership in my party. They have not spoken to the content of Mr. Brown's story. Denouncing the content is what I believe we need to do... What was done with that story may have been legal, but whether or not it was right is what I question."

Jan Caraway, who also submitted a Letter to the Editor, spoke as a private citizen. "The only official Republican response was a flippant statement denying the obvious: this story is racist." He said goodwill had been generated by Republican candidate campaigns that reached out to a broad range of neighborhoods and communities.

See Elections 14

Crime rate drops

City, county see less burglary, theft, robbery

By Michelle Kim
mkim@rockdalenews.com

The rates of reported crimes are significantly down in the city and the county, especially for robberies, burglaries and thefts, backing early trends seen nationally for 2011 to 2012.

The City of Conyers Police Department reported a 13.6 percent drop in the overall crime rate from 2011 to 2012 for "Part I" crimes as reported on Uniform Crime Report, which includes murder, rape,

See Crime Page 15

3rd Place

Rockdale News, Conyers

Kathy Hooks



Feature Writing

H

2nd Place

Smoke Signals, Big Canoe

Anita Rosen

Smoke Signals
Living
RESIDENTIAL NEWS • EVENTS • VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES • JANUARY 2013

Making a difference

By Anita Rosen, arosen@bigcanoe.com

In 1973, French doctors and journalists created an organization to provide medical assistance to some of society's most vulnerable members. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), known in the U.S. as Doctors Without Borders, is an international humanitarian organization delivering assistance to populations who are experiencing "violence, neglect, or catastrophe, primarily due to armed conflict, epidemics, malnutrition, exclusion from health care, or natural disasters." (msf.org)

MSF's American branch opened in 1990; by 2000, it was sending aid workers to more than 40 overseas projects. When Hurricane Sandy hit the northeast in late October 2012, MSF opened a clinic in The Rockaways, N.Y., to assist storm victims lacking access to medical care. This was the first time MSF operated a clinic in the U.S.

Exploration teams assess a population's medical needs and work to satisfy gaps, but do not duplicate existing programs. Upon determining a need, a "Memorandum of Understanding" outlining the specifics of the mission is signed by MSF and the recipient country's governing health body. When the mission is completed, the project is handed over to the recipient nation.

Finding a way to help

Enter Laura Shepers, whose mother Vivian lives in Big Canoe. Having earned a bachelor's degree in 1996 from the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, Shepers continued her studies at the New School for Social Research in Manhattan.

During this time, she worked at Family Care International (FCI), an international non-governmental organization (INGO) dedicated to making "pregnancy and childbirth safer around the world" and which administered the international "Safe Motherhood Initiative." (familycareintl.org)



Laura Shepers holds a baby recently delivered by C-section in Juba, Nigeria. PHOTO PROVIDED BY LAURA SHEPERS

Shepers reached a turning point. At an FCI conference in Tunisia in November 2006, she met midwives from around the world who were working to improve maternal health outcomes. Shepers was inspired to continue her international health work by becoming a midwife.

Shepers began her studies at the State University of New York, Downstate Medical College and School of Health Related Professions, graduating with a master's degree in midwifery in 2005. She worked for a busy not-for-profit hospital in the South Bronx. After more than five years there, she was ready to follow her passion - international midwifery.

Shepers called MSF and found they were desperate for midwives. Her education, work experience and French language skills made her a prime candidate for employment. She fit one profile for MSF: staffers are young, unimpaired professionals with a language skill and a desire to use her education to help vulnerable populations. MSF also draws from retired and established professionals taking a break from their careers. But for all, the salary is small and the lifestyle nomadic.

"The people you work with are generally pleasant and usually have an interesting life story. Living and working together, we share our successes and frustrations, learn an instant family and manage to have some fun in the process," said Shepers.

"Laura worked at Family Care International (FCI), an international non-governmental organization (INGO) dedicated to making 'pregnancy and childbirth safer around the world' and which administered the international 'Safe Motherhood Initiative.'"

■ SEE MAKING A DIFFERENCE, PAGE 2



Feature Writing

H

1st Place

Columbia County News-Times, Evans

Valerie Rowell

IN IT to WIN IT
Early College League focuses on the fundamentals

County could bill Berrington residents
Page 1

THE COLUMBIA COUNTY News-Times
75 cents per copy
Sunday, October 13, 2013 www.newstimesonline.com

Falconer trying to earn his wings
By Valerie Rowell
Evans
Evans (j@evans.com)

Some men spend their free time playing tennis, collecting stamps or flying remote-control helicopters and planes.

Karl Messner's bird needs no remote control; she flies on instinct.

The Greenville man trapped a 7-month-old Red-tailed hawk he named Candace that he plans to train and hunt with as part of his two-year apprentice falconer's license.

"I trained with guys for a long time," Messner said. "Now I have to do it on my own. It's a challenge being out there in the woods and stuff like that. As a boy, I've gotten those into pine-sap and urban agriculture, I wanted to get back to some of the basics. They are essential to a falconer's life."

"I spend a lot of time with birds because of different stuff we do, it just made sense."

Falconry, one of the world's oldest hunting sports, is heavily regulated in Georgia. There was nearly an explosion in the sport of trapping wild birds and keeping them as pets after the white owl became well known in the popular library *Falconer's* books and movies.

Messner, who is a member of the Georgia Falconry Association, was required to get a sponsor, pass an in-depth test and have his hawk endorses, called a sponsor, inspected by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources before he could get his apprentice falconer's license through U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department.

He passed the test in late July after giving a strong response from Greenville officials in April to allow the hawk to be flown in Messner's back yard on a long-term.

By trapping the hawk

Messner said the hawk's desire for food is the key element in its training. When the bird comes to Messner's gloved hand, it is always fed.

and caring for it during his two-year apprenticeship. Messner said he's actually enjoying her lifespan.

"Falconers - strict regulations to one of the biggest killers of them," Messner said. "They have a 20-year lifespan, but most hawk's never make it to the point."

Messner will be able to keep the hawk a few years. She gets regular veterinary care, and is fed and kept safe from Messner's hawk will be ready to be released.

"One of the ones that would have died along the way would be going back to the hawk," Messner said.

Messner trapped the hawk using a Red-Chain

See 11/03, on 2

Driver charged in death
By Valerie Rowell
Evans
Evans (j@evans.com)

Columbia County sheriff's investigation suspect the driver who killed a 19-year-old Evans boy Thursday, was distracted by his cell phone when he crossed the Highway 160/161 interchange and plowed into the boy on a highway.

Tyler J. Smith, 18, was pronounced dead at 12:16 p.m. at Georgia Regents Medical Center, where he had been airlifted after the crash, according to Columbia County Sheriff Vincent Collins.

"He's just a real good kid," said Pat Brown, who has owned the Highway 160/161 interchange for about a year. "It's a sad situation. It's something that did not need to happen."

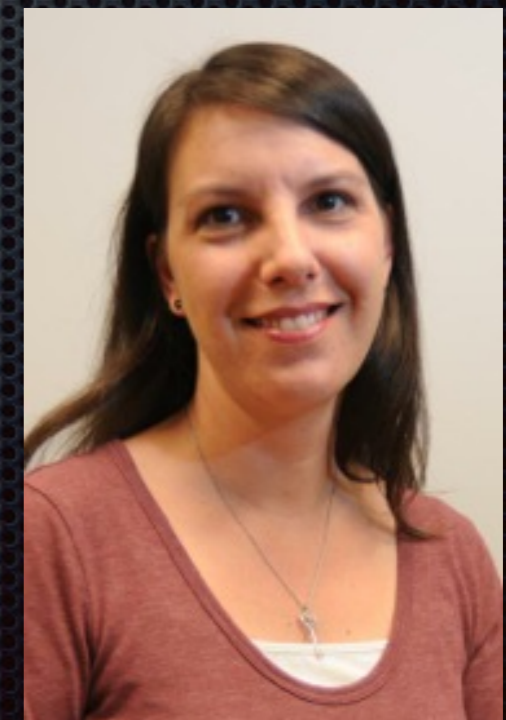
Kenneth Earl Gill, 36, of North Augusta, was charged with first degree vehicular homicide, reckless driving, failure to maintain lane and driver to obstruct the case, proper use of radio and mobile telephone. He was booked and released from the Columbia County

See 11/03, on 3

Woman reports home break-in
A woman told police Thursday that someone broke into her home while she was in the shower.

See 11/03, on 3

Evans Towne Farmers Market
This Thursday
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LOCAL FARMERS • LOCAL ARTS/SALES • HANDCRAFT GOODS
www.evans-towne-farmers-market.com



Feature Writing

G

3rd Place

The Champion, Decatur

Daniel Beauregard

INSIDE:

Save time and oven space by grilling your turkey ...page 7B



LIFEStyle

SECTION: B

Thursday, December 5 - 11, 2013

East Atlanta's

Village Garage keeps it classic

by Daniel Beauregard
daniel@dekalbchamp.com

On the corner of Glenwood and Brownwood avenues in East Atlanta Village sits an auto body shop built in 1948. It's one of the oldest buildings still standing in the village. Back in 1948, the garage was a Sinclair Gas Station.

Now, the old gas station houses Village Garage and judging by an old black-and-white picture, it hasn't changed much. Owner Travis Owen and partner Mike Bland said it was taken in 1958.

Owen, who has been at the garage for six years, grew up on a tobacco farm in Virginia and said both his father and brother used to drag race cars.

"There was always stuff to mess with, stuff to tear up," Owen said.

The garage performs a range of services, Owen said, but it specializes in repairing and restoring classic and vintage cars. Usually, the newer models Owen and his crew work on are pretty quick and easy—the older ones are the ones that hang out in the shop for a while.

Owen said the garage is at an advantage because most of the newer garages won't work on cars that were built before 1996. However, Village Garage does both old and new and Owen said there's not much competition with newer places.

"Usually they'll send them to us and we're at the advantage too where a lot of the garages don't mind so much because we're not really taking business from them," Owen said.

In 1995, Owen moved to Atlanta. He said he had visited the city while playing in bands and he likes it because it isn't too hot or too cold.

"I had been through here a couple of times visiting and it just seemed the only logical choice really," Owen said.



See Garage on page 6B

Photos by Trash Magazine



Feature Writing

G

2nd Place

The Champion, Decatur

Kathy Mitchell



by Kathy Mitchell
kathy@dekalbchamp.com

Typically, college students concern themselves with slavery only as part of a history or sociology class. Tirzah Brown, a junior at Oglethorpe University in Brookhaven, has a more personal interest. As a member of Fair Trade Atlanta she is working to eliminate slavery, economic injustice and poverty worldwide.

"I became interested in fair trade because of my desire to end slavery," Brown explained. "I wanted the way I live my life to correspond with my values. Therefore, I started using only fair trade coffee and chocolate so I would know that these luxuries were not touched by slavery. This evolved into a larger interest in the fair trade movement."

Fair Trade Atlanta is a student- and business-led initiative founded in January of this year with a mission to end the use of slave-made goods in Atlanta. "We hope to end slavery in this generation. Our desire for this is rooted in the belief that God has a heart for justice," states a Fair Trade Atlanta news release.

A statement from Fair Trade Atlanta committee members says, "The fair trade artisan's creativity, dignity, and strength is something we desire for all people. That is why Atlanta needs to become a fair trade town." Fair trade towns are designated by the nonprofit Fair Trade Towns USA.

"In doing this, we hope to bring widespread awareness about fair trade and the issues it helps alleviate such as poverty and slavery to our city. Additionally, we want to increase the availability and visibility of fair trade goods in Atlanta," Brown said. She noted that some of the workers she's concerned about are actual slaves—people who under the threat of violence work only for

the economic benefit of others. "Some work voluntarily and receive a wage, but it's not a fair wage. They have to accept it because they have no alternatives."

Brown said that fair trade goods cost only a little more—sometimes no more—than other commercial goods. "This bag," she said, indicating a handbag made by women who had been abused in India, "cost about what you would pay for a similar one in a department store. The cost is kept down with the use of recycled materials. That's another thing about fair trade goods—they often are also produced in environmentally sustainable conditions."

Some items such as chocolate, she said, might be priced at the level of similar premium items. "I understand that Hershey's is planning to be 100 percent fair trade by 2020, and I doubt that its prices will go up because of it."

Brown said her mother first made her aware of modern-day slavery. "That issue was really driven home for me when I went to Romania as a child and met girls my age who were forced into prostitution," she recalled. "God really moved my heart for these girls, and for all people who have their dignity stolen through slavery. Fair trade was brought to my attention by the Free the Slaves International website as one of the many things that can help end slavery."

The fair price of goods used for Fair Trade International (FLO) practices "is determined by people much more intelligent than I am and I do not know all of the criteria used," Brown said. "However, what I do know is that FLO organizations consider the cost of sustainable production and living while setting the minimum price—and it is just a minimum. Fair trade producers are always paid that as a baseline, and then can be paid more as markets fluctuate."

"There are various groups, such as Interna-

tional Justice Mission and Free the Slaves International that identify and seek to help individuals being forced to work without any pay. As far as people being paid very little for voluntary work, I do not know how they are identified and assisted by larger international organizations," she continued. "However, as demand increases for fair trade products, more fair trade producers will likely be needed, so these families will have that as a mere viable option."

Brown said that her involvement with Fair Trade Atlanta has taught her more than she is likely to learn in a classroom. "I think the main thing I have learned is how globalized and interconnected our economy really is. Our collective purchasing decisions here are almost immediately affecting people both locally and half way around the globe," she said. "Recent years are the first time in history that economic patterns have had such a widespread effect, which can be good or bad, depending on the choices being made."

She urges all who are concerned about economic justice to educate themselves. "I think it is really important to not just dive into action, but to consider ramifications to make sure you are using time and resources effectively. After that, I would say to buy fair trade and volunteer with organizations that are helping with social justice causes you care about."

Brown said there are further opportunities to learn about the fair trade movement at events such as the lunch and learn Saturday, April 27, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in Oglethorpe's Lipton Auditorium, where Courtney Lang, coordinator of Fair Trade Towns USA, will speak on the momentum of fair trade in the United States and Atlanta's role. The other featured presenter will be basket weaver Gloria Chonzy of Mayan Hands, a fair trade artisan from Guatemala, who will talk about the impact fair trade has had on her life.



Feature Writing

G

1st Place

The Madison County Journal, Danielsville

Margie Richards

The Madison County Journal
FEATURES
IB
June 20, 2013

Starting a new life

Burmese refugees living at Comer's Jubilee Partners

By Margie Richards
mrichards@madisonjournal.com

Ella Doh, 42, can't help but smile at the thought of starting a whole new life at 16, though that is just what he's in the process of doing.

A native of Myanmar, Doh and his family have spent the last 17 years in refugee camps in Thailand. Like thousands of others, they were forced to flee their village due to the Burmese military, who have long targeted various ethnic groups, such as their wife, known as "Karen."

Near Doh's family, along with two other refugee families, are 10 refugees resident at Jubilee Partners in Comer.

"I feel like a small fish that has flown from the nest," Doh said in halting English. "I will only look to the future and I will not look back."

For Doh and his family, the future means a new way of life in America, and eventually, "They will be American citizens in five years, after going through the naturalization process," said Jennifer Drago, a counselor who lives and works at Jubilee.

And Doh's aspirations for his children are not so different from any father's. He hopes to be able to help guide them in this new world, and he hopes that each will find productive work.

"That's what I want for them," he said.

That wish will likely consist of factory work, such as at a chicken processing plant or as a checkcasher for the hospital industry.

"These [refugees] are all decent workers, which makes them attractive for their employers here," Drago said. Each refugee family spends an average of two months at Jubilee, where Drago says the most important thing they provide is hospitality.

And those lucky few who find themselves back after their flight into Atlanta from Myanmar or Thailand, where they may have been in refugee camps or forests, are welcomed, housed and supported by the members of their families.

Here is the quiet, rolling Madison County countryside, they get their first taste of life in America, where a woman's voice and the sound of the buses going through Comer are about all the noise they hear while they're here, unless it is the laughter of their children on the camp's play ground.

"It's a chance for them to do what they want," Drago said. "Many of them have come from tough, life-threatening situations. Here they can meet Americans, visit with them in their homes and see the things about each other."

Drago said in many cases the refugees are victims of ethnic persecution. Some have had their homes, villages, churches and schools burned to the ground. Their animals, and their livelihood all taken from them. In desperation, many of them fled across the borders from Thailand and Myanmar, where they were housed in refugee camps. Sometimes the camp were hijacked by the Burmese army and turned into slave labor or "jetties" to carry military equipment.

"Their experiences may be different, but they all came here as the result of the harsh military regimes now in Burma," Drago said.

At Jubilee, they are housed in comfortable cabins, receive care, legal assistance and resources for their children while they attend 13 hours of classes in English, math, history and other basic skills they'll need, such as the ability to purchase tickets and travel on MARTA, once they move to their next location with refugee services in DeKalb County. All of this and more is provided to them through donations to Jubilee, a non-profit Christian outreach organization.

LIFE IN THE REFUGEE CAMP

Though Doh wishes to be well as a "simple teacher," who taught math and the Burmese language in the refugee camp where they spent the last 16 years, Drago said they've heard he was a leader in the camp of 10,000 to 12,000, where he sometimes served as the education coordinator.

Doh's daughter, Hlee Hlee, then attended school in the camp, where she learned some rudimentary English. School began every day at 8:15 a.m., then she left home for the bus every early each day at 8:30 a.m., walking the two miles back when the school day ended at 3:30 p.m.

When Hlee was out in school, she often wore a headscarf, head to head, but her family and friends, as well as the money, which she had to use to purchase extra food.

Regular monthly returns to the camp, according to Doh, included 10 kg (about 22 pounds) of rice, oil, fish, pork, beans and salt. "Every year, they also received cases of fish. The fish generally was enough to feed the family of five for a day, and it was later reduced to 12 kg (about 26 pounds). To supplement their income, the family raised ducks and chickens to eat and to sell, and they also picked bamboo from the forest.

The camp was set up by the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees, with support provided by the Thailand Burma Border Cooperation (TBBC), another nonprofit organization that works under the IJRCB.

Drago said that, given the close quarters, "The TBBC is a great organization that helps working in the camp 24 years ago, when just a few hundred arrived as refugees and were housed in tents scattered to provide safety for them for a few weeks — some thinking it would be 20 years," she said.

ABOUT JUBILEE

Jubilee Partners is an international Christian outreach refugee organization that has housed more than 2,000 refugees from 71 countries since the first refugees from Cuba came in 1980.

"They've housed refugees from Burma since 2007. Last year, they housed 800 Burmese refugees, which is about average," Doh said.

"I believe that about 3,000 a year," she said. "We are looking for up to five families here at a time for the two-month period."

Drago said the U.S. government has agreed to take about 100,000 refugees from Burma over the next five or six years, and though the number that comes will need to be small, Jubilee is glad to be a part.



Jubilee Partners counselor Jennifer Drago holds a Burmese infant who is dependent on Jubilee Partners while her parents attend classes in English, learning and other skills they will need for their new life in America.



Young Hlee is shown playing ping pong with Hlee's father during a break in classes at Jubilee Partners.



Burmese refugee Ella Doh shows off a sewing kit his daughter Hlee (the Thai name) brought for him during their stay in a refugee camp in Thailand. Doh says she has to carry his sewing materials at Jubilee Partners. Photo by Margie Richards.



WELCOMING REFUGEES SINCE 1980

Cuba	Haiti	Congo	Iraq
Vietnam	Armenian	Togo	Burundi
Laos	Bosnian	Sudan	Chad
Cameroon	Liberia	Ethiopia	Burma
Honduras	Kosovo	Ethiopia	
Guatemala	Syria	Mexico	
	Syria	Yemen	



The Athens Regional Medical Center (ARMC) Prince Avenue Parking Garage will be closed from June 18th until August 4th for repairs. During this period, valet service will be provided for ED and OB/GYN emergencies. The valet service will be located in front of the Emergency Department entrance off Prince Avenue.

All other visitors and non-emergent patients are asked to park in the Talnadge Parking Garage located off Talnadge Drive.

We thank you in advance for your understanding and patience.

Athens Regional Medical Center



Feature Writing

F

3rd Place

The Blackshear Times

Wayne Hardy



Feature Writing

F

2nd Place

Franklin County
Citizen Leader,
Lavonia

Denise Matthews

Women's Club to raffle art, 5A Congressman opens offices, 4A

Franklin County Citizen Leader

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VOLUME 3, NUMBER 3 THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2013 WWW.FRANKLINCOUNTYCITIZEN.COM 75¢

Betty Vandiver puts her dog Buddy while reflecting on her family's return to Lavonia 50 years ago after serving in the Governor's Mansion for four years.

Death ruled homicide

Investigation ongoing into shooting of businessman

By KAREL S. EBERHART
Staff Writer

CARNEVILLE — The death of Keith Radloff, whose body was discovered on Hayes Road near Carneville, has been ruled a homicide.

According to a press release by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI), authorities are making progress in the search for the responsible party in Radloff's murder.

However, specific information concerning facts identified through an intensive investigation are being closely safeguarded because they have been deemed critical to the investigation.

The release states that Radloff was not found and the cause of death, as determined by an autopsy at the GBI Medical Examiner's Office, was a gunshot wound to the head that was not self-inflicted.

Although weapons were located at the crime scene, none of them have been linked directly to Radloff's murder.

Radloff was living at his place of business, FPS Industries on Hayes Road near Carneville, at the time of his death.

The body was discovered Jan. 3 in an office by friends who then notified the Franklin County Sheriff's Department of the discovery.

After deputies responded to the scene and secured the location, Franklin County Sheriff Steve Thomas contacted the GBI for assistance in the investigation.

Radloff was co-owner of FPS Industries and co-owner of FPS/Indust, which are both Evansville related businesses.

FPS Industries is geared towards the development and production of Evansville and related items while FPS/Indust is an internet video production appearing on YouTube.

The case is being investigated jointly by the Franklin County Sheriff's Department, the Franklin County Coroner, the Piedmont-Northern Office of the District Attorney and the GBI. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) are also participating in the investigation and providing resources.

Anyone with information concerning the Radloff case is asked to contact the Franklin County Sheriff's Department at 706-884-2222 or the GBI Tip Line at 800-847-8477.

Coming home ... 50 years later

By Denise Matthews
Staff Writer

LAVONIA — Former First Lady of Georgia Betty Vandiver ducked neatly as she sat on the sofa in her comfortable, yet elegant, living room.

"That picture brought back a lot of memories," she said, talking of the old photo that appeared in the Franklin County Citizen Leader Jan. 10.

The photo, one of her and late husband, Gov. Ernest Vandiver with children Chip, Beth and Jane, was taken Jan. 10, 1963, when the family returned home after Ernest's four-year term as

Betty and Gov. Ernest Vandiver were photographed in their Lavonia home in 1963 shortly after returning home from serving the state.

See BETTY, Page 2A.

Hospital CEO Seagraves resigns

By David Seagraves
President

LAVONIA — The chief executive officer of the new Ty Cobb Regional Medical Center has resigned.

David Seagraves submitted his resignation to the Ty Cobb Regional Medical Center Board Jan. 8, a press release from the hospital said.

Seagraves had served as regional CEO and as the Ty Cobb Healthcare System Executive Vice President of Acute Care Services for the past three years.

"Mr. Seagraves was instrumental in conducting Cobb Memorial and Hart County Hospitals into Ty Cobb Regional Medical Center," the press release said.

Seagraves' resignation was the latest in a series of changes in the leadership of Ty Cobb Healthcare System, which runs Ty Cobb Regional Medical Center.

Former Ty Cobb Healthcare CEO Chuck Adams resigned in September, but a few months after the new Ty Cobb Regional Medical Center opened.

Greg Thayer was named the new CEO for the healthcare system in November.

"The press release said that the boards of the hospital and healthcare system are working to streamline the administrative structure of both the system and the hospital."

"The restructuring is from executive level down and away from administrative level," the press release said. "Under the revised administrative personnel structure, Ty Cobb Healthcare System CEO Greg Thayer will also serve as the CEO of Ty Cobb Regional Medical Center."

Hospital Board Chair Dale Tracy expressed appreciation for the professional manner in which Seagraves served the hospital, the press release said.

The further managed assistance is the ability of the hospital to move forward under the new structure, the release said.

David Seagraves (left) leads former Gov. Sonny Perdue on a tour of the new Ty Cobb Regional Medical Center on its opening day.

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2013 Relay kicks off

By Denise Matthews
Staff Writer

LAVONIA — The Ty Cobb Regional Medical Center opening room was full in bursting as folks gathered for the 2013 Relay for Life Kickoff Tuesday evening.

There was 46. Kenneth Bell, 65, and a five-year-old little Megan Bell, 5, was introduced as this year's Franklin County Chairperson.

Hagen, a fourth grader at Central Franklin Elementary School, was diagnosed with A.L.S. Leukemia is the first grade, and after years of battling the disease, told the assembly that she is now one year cancer free.

The theme for the 2013 Relay for Life is "Celebrating the Gift of Life."

The Relay for Life of Franklin County is scheduled for May 30 beginning at 4 p.m. at Franklin County Middle School.

New-year-old Megan Bell is Franklin County's Relay for Life chairperson for 2013.

Feature Writing

F

1st Place

The Baldwin Bulletin, Milledgeville

Candace Morrow

The Baldwin Bulletin
Volume 14, Issue 50 December 26, 2013 8 pages, 1 section

Councilman Joiner arrested, charged DUI

*By Judy Bailey & Candace Morrow
The Baldwin Bulletin*

Milledgeville City Councilman Phillip Joiner missed his final city council meeting Monday after he was arrested for his second DUI during his four-year term in office.

A Georgia State Patrol officer took Joiner into custody shortly before the 3:30 p.m. meeting, charging him with driving under the influence, driving with an expired tag, driving with an open container and failing to maintain his lane.

Less than an hour later, Joiner's council replacement, Walter Reynolds, took his oath of office.

Officers locked Joiner into Baldwin County jail Monday afternoon. He was released about 9 p.m. Monday on a \$2,500 bond.

Witnesses earlier in the day said Joiner appeared intoxicated.

Joiner's speech was slurred during a 1:30 p.m. live broadcast on 207 as he interviewed Austin Brown of Home Free, the current winner of the talent competition

show, "The Sing-Off" on NBC. His eyes were blood shot and his speech slurred, and he appeared "not to be with-it" as he left the radio station about 2:30 p.m., a witness said.

Joiner's single term as Milledgeville District 4 councilman has been open to controversy.

Joiner was arrested for DUI five months after he took his oath of his term began Jan. 1, 2010.

Joiner violated his DUI probation 11 months into office by failing an alcohol screening ordered by his probation officer.

Joiner turned himself in Jan. 3, 2011, on the probation violation and entered a 20-day inpatient alcohol treatment program.

Joiner returned his city-issued credit card during 2012 to pay his personal cell bill and make other personal purchases.

The City Ethics Committee found Joiner violated city ethics codes earlier this year after downtown business owner Denise Fields filed a complaint about Joiner's misuse of city funds.

State Court Solicitor Maize Backoff discusses a plea agreement with Phillip Joiner and his attorney during his January 2011 court appearance on probation violation for his May 2010 DUI.

Self-taught musician makes music the old-fashioned way

*By Candace Morrow
The Baldwin Bulletin*

John Milk uses wooden clothes pins to hold together the body of a guitar he's building from scratch.

It starts as a plain piece of wood. John Milk then carves it, shapes it and refines it until he nails down the design. "I always loved to use my hands to make things," said Milk, 57. "It just comes naturally to me."

Milk thinks and works in three-dimensional space, creating hand-made guitars, violins and ukuleles. "I sand and refine the wood before joining the neck to the body," he said. "Then comes the bridge and strings."

His creations involve precise calculation and dedicated time to produce the unique instruments.

"It takes two months to complete a violin, a month to finish a guitar and a week

Chief Justice of Georgia Supreme Court swears in mayor, council

Candace Morrow/The Baldwin Bulletin

Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson of the Supreme Court of Georgia swears in Milledgeville City Council members Dr. Gilbert A. Lee, District 1; Jessica H. Waller, District 2; Denise H. Worrisette, District 3; Walter Reynolds, District 4; Richard Hudson Jr., District 5; and Stephen Chambers, District 6. The judge also swears in Mayor Richard Berke.

Harley raffle benefits Boys & Girls Club

Candace Morrow/The Baldwin Bulletin

Boys & Girls director Paul Bernard draws the winning raffle ticket with help from donor David DeLeon.

Candace Morrow
The Baldwin Bulletin

And the winner is... ticket No. 0511. The Boys & Girls Club of Baldwin and

to make a ukulele," Milk said. "I'm also a self taught musician. It helps that I have a master's in special education with a concentration in mathematics too. Music is all about math — from the scales to the proportions."

Milk fixes the instruments and tries them out before they leave his shop.

Milk grew up in a family of craftsmen. His grandparents and dad both worked as printers.

The Cleveland, Ohio, native also worked in the family business, helping design signs, business cards and posters.

"My dad is also a national champion in building model aircraft," Milk said. "As a boy, we also made boats and cars, which I passed on to my kids."

James Cranston pulled an electric blue, Harley Davidson motorcycle and announced its winning ticket during the weekend.

"We raffled the

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Feature Writing

E

INSIDE: Braselton Gallery features three artists June 8 — page 5C

June 5, 2013

The Jackson Herald

Friends

SECTION C

The mark of a folk artist

Corner artist's work reflects life of sharecroppers, memories of grandparents in Northeast Georgia

BY KATIE COFER

The artist may be obscure, but his work is not. Considered self-taught and an outsider artist, Richard Roebuck's work has collected a small fan base long before the man was discovered last year, lying nearly lifeless in a "ghost pasture" and that he didn't exist, to wit: His brightly colored paintings reflect a bygone era few remember — the life of sharecroppers and their families — vivid scenes reminiscent of a South Texas novel and memories of the nation's Northeast Georgia's grandparents. They possess a rustic, rugged quality, often simply ink painted on a slab of wood.

"I paint the things that Black folks want to hang," said Roebuck, who is inspired by his own memories. "My parents used to tell me about my grandparents. This is just my way of recording it. I want to leave it out there so that after I'm dead and gone, at least people have some idea what things were really like."

Cutting wood, drawing water out of the well, feeding chickens, feeding hogs. All before you get to school in the morning. These are the "hardships" of daily life that Roebuck reflects in his work.

"These new generations really don't know what hardship is. They think they do, but they don't," Roebuck, 51, says, recalling more growing up when the 10-minute walk to school, there would be kids inside his house.

For additional inspiration, Roebuck reads fiction and poems through history books, admiring other artists whose work is similar to his own.

The son of the late folk-artist fatherly (passed two ways) Pearl Roebuck, Roebuck remembers watching his mother create art in their Blue County home. She would sell her artwork once a month to pay for school clothes for Roebuck and his three siblings. She drew, painted and worked with ink. Roebuck emulated his mother, drawing both, mainly pigs. By the time he started grade school, it was clear he would be an artist.

THE SEARCH FOR RICHARD ROEBUCK

Having seen his work, but not knowing whether the artist truly existed, folk art dealer Steve Clark started searching for Richard about two years ago.

"I had seen a painting on two out and about and just loved his work, so I started searching for him and asking questions and no one could tell me where he lived anything about him — at all — and honestly, there were a few of us who really thought he was a myth. In other words, we thought that someone else was doing the paintings and just signing 'Richard Roebuck' — kind of like a ghost writer, you know."

For over a year, Clark went out knocking on doors looking for Roebuck, but to no avail.

"I had heard he may live in the Herald, Ga area, so we called a friend of mine who went out and started knocking on doors. And we didn't get any help whatsoever. It was either we got slammed the door in our face or 'we don't know anything, or they wouldn't even come to the door. And that was just from two white guys out in a Black neighborhood, you know knocking on doors. It just didn't work."

All the while, Clark was still using one of two of Roebuck's paintings pop up in auctions or in a gallery somewhere. "I just loved his work," said Clark. "I'm going to paint and create and do his thing whether he gets a nickel out of it or not. He said, 'I was not able to do my art, I would just absolutely go insane. And that's the mark of a true-outside artist — the one who's going to do it regardless.'"

Another mark of a folk artist is being unnamed.

"Some people think to be a folk artist, it has to be kind of be handed down and you have to be appreciated from someone. And if that's the case, he falls under that criteria from his mother."

In addition to painting, Roebuck has written and illustrated children's books and is seeking a publisher. His stories include "The Bubble Bunnies," which seek to teach morals and values to school-aged children and "The Coconut Box," a Polynesian legend, says Roebuck.

Clark is developing a website for Roebuck (www.rickroebuck.com), which he said will be unveiled within the upcoming months.

Several of Roebuck's pieces are available for purchase at the Tom Antiques in Commerce, 3071 S. Elm St.

Roebuck's work will be featured at Folk Fest 2013 in Atlanta August 16-18.

Photo by Katie Cofer



ARTIST WITH WORK
Folk artist Richard Roebuck is shown with two of his pieces, which reflect the lifestyle of North Georgia sharecroppers. A self-taught artist, Roebuck's work will be featured at Art at Folk Fest 2013 in Atlanta August 16-18.

3rd Place

The Jackson Herald, Jefferson

Katie Cofer



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Feature Writing

E

2nd Place

Times-Courier, Elijay

Whitney Crouch

Around Town D

Your Official Source For Hometown and Area Happenings

March for Babies kickoff spotlights one family's story

By Whitney Crouch
wrc@times-courier.com

Aracelis Lawrence was shocked when she hit her unborn child kick for the first time at 20 weeks, only to be overwhelmed with worry when he was born the following week. "We did everything right, so we were completely shocked when he came early," she stated, explaining how she and her husband Tom had taken precautionary measures to help increase their chances of having a healthy pregnancy.

They are Thomas, however, had other plans and came into the world four months early on May 28, 2007. Having been in utero only 24 weeks and 9 days, he weighed one pound, seven ounces and was 12.25 inches long.

"His walking ring fit all the way up his arm," Lawrence recalled, adding that his eyes were still sealed shut and his head would not rotate properly. "His lungs were the size of a lima bean and his heart was the size of a pea... they had to do his skin with gases (while he's in) as it wouldn't tear."

The doctor predicted Thomas had a 50 percent chance of surviving his first night, and while he managed to beat the odds, things were still tough and he got quite sick.

As Lawrence, who lives in Elizabethton, remembered, "We had our first night there when we thought, 'This is it. We're going to lose him.'"

All in all, Thomas spent 128 days in intensive care.

The next day required a tracheostomy and a large part of why he did was because of the March of Dimes," Lawrence emphasized as she shared her family's story at the North Georgia area and other medical procedures he was allowed to go home for the first time.

See March page 30



Aracelis and Tom Lawrence spend a quiet moment with their sons Elian, 18, and Thomas, 10, following a March for Babies kickoff luncheon in Elizabethton on Friday, Jan. 26. Thomas, age 5, was born four months early and his story of survival was featured during the meeting.

More than 2,300 diapers donated by First Baptist ministries



Director Rhonda South of Safe Choice Pregnancy Center, left, and Patricia Kay of Elizabethton First Baptist Church pose with a portion of more than 2,300 diapers donated after "friendly competition" by two ministries in the church. Pastor David Drake said he'd like to see other churches help diaper drives or other efforts to help the service. South said Safe Choice is also in need of baby clothes (preferably by size 6), baby wipes, paper towels and toilet paper, newspapers, ink cartridges and new diaper bags. They also accept car seats, but they cannot be used. "We come from a 'help but be cautious' where churches, Sunday school classes or other groups can fill up the bottom with items for donations, South said while in the center were from 114 efforts in 2011 to 383 efforts last year. "Of the 383, there were 372 efforts who came for parenting classes, or 72 percent," she said. Safe Choice, at 120 Babers Drive, can be reached at (708) 275-1940.

Vintage 'Texan' plane at airport has plenty of flight left in it

By Michael Anderson
mca@times-courier.com

A 65-year-old vintage fighter plane awaiting repairs at Elizabethton Municipal Airport still has plenty of flight left in it.

Though the 1949 P-40 Texan is past its prime as both a fighter and a training craft, Elizabethton Municipal president Chad Mauer said the old "Texan" is still capable of taking to the skies and providing a thrilling ride for a minimum of ten years.

While in care of the small aircraft repair company based in a hangar at the Elizabethton County Airport since July 2011, the single-engine plane, christened "The Other Woman," will receive an extensive upgrade from Elizabethton-based undertaker. It's one of three P-40s owned by Mauer and his wife and son and son-in-law and son-in-law, Bobbie Ann, and Mauer.

"I've been doing work on this plane for about three years now — avionics inside, LED light installs, etc.," he continued. "We're putting a dip-

lode display in it now — kind of like a GPS that goes in your car."

As Mauer explained, the P-40s were first built in the pre-WWII era. After the war ended, they were used by the U.S. Marines and other military branches as light and light trainer planes.

"They used these in World War II and right before WWII started. They used them before the Spitfires and Mustangs," said Mauer of the P-40s, including other WWII-era fighter planes.

More modern planes like the P-51 Mustang were used as training crafts by the U.S. Marines.

"They used these in



At left, a 1949 P-40 Texan aircraft awaits repairs at the municipal hangar inside the Elizabethton County Airport. Above, Municipal president Chad Mauer with the plane, which was used as a training craft by the U.S. Marines.

Old TV finds a better home

Somehow the best half of me and can still always work on the way we thought they would. Last week, I planned to take my old 19" TV and give it to someone at the Elizabethton area.



Whitney Crouch

However, last Thursday I came up with a better idea while driving to Indiana for a wedding engagement.

Our trip weather took a violent turn last Wednesday after meeting to visit on the way before Virginia which then drove through Giles County, but getting there was expected to be an issue in our way in Asheville and California.

An IT specialist moved through the area leaving a path of destruction and abandoned items behind. Amazingly only one death in the area was attributed to the storm.

With images from TV still flashing through my mind as I drove, I decided that maybe someone in the area would see that old TV.

I called a former co-worker in Asheville to have him check on donation places for me.

I called the Salvation Army early Friday morning and they said they'd be glad to take the TV and anything else we might have that would be useful.

While in Asheville, we stopped by the Goodwill store before I spoke to her store. She said she had been performing some of her "old" items to give to a charity and I called about it as if I could have some of her items and stuff. Chad had a big smile when we arrived.

Our daughter Amy also was driving me to the store and had a bag full of clothing she was going to donate when we arrived.

I looked up the TV and some other items in our basement and looked out.

I found the Salvation Army location and an employee named Amy. I asked several other people (TVs already were in the store) about the Asheville location. The night took several years and that was how the world would be helped. On the Unit of the TV will accept money donations.

I didn't know about the volunteer shortage effort but this morning or I would have used to go back. As it turned out, I wouldn't have been able to go anyway.

While working in my office, I said Marilyn to look outside. From my upstairs window I saw the new store overlooking down to Elizabethton and beyond. More than an inch gathered in an hour. I was expecting light rain later in the day.

We did make a run to the grocery store later when it seemed the new had stopped. However, looking out the window of Daphne, I could see it was raining down again as hard as ever.

When we safely arrived home, we had more than four inches soaking everything. The TV was quickly reeling after a heavy Monday morning.

In, what was, more than a week, we haven't had a longer day to deal with. Sorry about that, David, but I think someone in the Asheville area will appreciate the TV a lot more.



Feature Writing

E

1st Place

Morgan County
Citizen, Madison

Staff

SECTION D Chalkboard

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Seventh grade ESL students and teacher Ashley Foster are helping students learn through the online Morgan County English Language Learner program.



A group of teachers at MCMS have taken it upon themselves to give non-English speaking parents some

Words to Live By

By Katie Walker | Photos by Jesse Walker

Oh, mama, ah, Maria Victoria whispers the numbers in English. Eight, nine, ten. She stares intently at the small notebook in front of her. She has come a long way to this small work table in the Morgan County Middle School library on a rainy Sunday. Maria, and nearly 20 other adult English language learners, are wearing headphones and whispering softly in accented English as they sit outside.

"I lived in America for 10 years, no English, my American friend, she say, 'Thank, Maria, you say you can't English' well say, 'I please I learning'."

Maria came to America after her first marriage fell apart. She married a man in Mexico and she was alone with her two children. They were young and she had no money, and they separated, leaving her to raise her children alone. "I worked, I in the morning, in 12 working, two weeks, two jobs. My first job, two, for second, jewelry, fabrics. In Mexico, there is no money. I usually she was able to come here to California, where she met her second husband, Miguel."

Several years ago, she moved with Miguel and their children to Morgan County when Miguel was laid off from his job. Maria found out that Miguel had a job in the U.S. and she decided to help.

"I would go to the store and work with him, even the 10 or 15 hours of month," she said. Miguel studied algebra, and with MCCL's help, he moved to U.S. citizenship.

Throughout the year, McCullough and other MCMS teachers Katherine Edwards, Linda Green, Ashley Foster and Heather Johnson, have met several families like the Victorias, struggling to coordinate life in America, despite an English language barrier. Many of the children from these families are qualified for the English Language Learner (ELL) program. According to the U.S. Department of Education, the Morgan County School System, there are 14 ELL students in the system this year. In 2012, there were 10 students. Most of the ELL students are native Spanish speakers, though there are a few that speak other languages.

"I believe it's had some of the same ELL students. We know that their parents don't speak English very well, most of them, and we would have parent conferences and I believe would have to come and translate. And we thought, the parents might be even uncomfortable if they knew a little bit more English," said McCullough. After several years of working on the committee to help these families, the school came up with an ELL standards training session.

The teachers approved that MCMS principal Cathy Workley explained if they could offer English classes for the parents of ELL students. Nothing suggested that apply for a school charter school in Morgan County.

"We had 20 hours, maybe, to write the grant. We had a meeting in the fall, then the school board in March and we had a meeting with the board," McCullough said. The board

Know English? No Problem.

How would you fare in these common situations that English Language Learner parents encounter? See how it goes with this flow chart.



Feature Writing

D

3rd Place

Tribune & Georgian,
St. Marys

Jocelyn
Brumbaugh

C M Y K

SERVING CAMDEN COUNTY, GEORGIA SINCE 1894

Tribune & Georgian

Press, July 10, 2013

78 CENTS

INSIDE

Meth bust
The sheriff's office helps Charita clean up a meth house.
see 2A

Online option
Starting this year, local students will be able to take virtual courses.
see 5A

TODAY'S POLL
Do you think local governments should fund The Camden Partnership?
see online at tribune-georgian.com


LAST WEEK
Do you think the CCISO should open its firing range to the public?
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Rock on, pizza guy

Timothy Harmon (above) beats a drum along Georgia Highway 40 in front of the Camden Woods shopping center. He plays in a touring band for Little Caesar's. Harmon has earned him local recognition from drivers.



SkillsUSA welders show at nationals
Emily England
enl1@tribune.com

Showing smarts and being smart earned four St. Marys students a bronze medal on the national stage. Camden County High School instructor Dale Cooper and his four-partners welding education team traveled to Kansas City, Mo., in June to compete in nationwide after placing first in state SkillsUSA competition. They returned thinking they had simply made the top 95, but a phone call a few days ago from a man SkillsUSA official contacted the team reported third place among dozens of teams nationwide.
see 10B, page 10

Court sees bump in citations
Jocelyn Brumbaugh
brumj@tribune.com

Asking to traffic court cases — since the month of the sheriff's office using a general car-mounted license plate reader — brought more than 100 ticket responses to probate court this week. Probate Judge Russ Barrett will be presiding over 80-100 cases on Wednesday, July 10, which he described as "not average." Most of the cases dealt with expired registration, no insurance or suspended license. He said he believed the increase in these types of tickets correlated to the new scanner. The device is mounted on a patrol car and automatically reads license plates from all 50 states within a quarter of a mile, works in stationary and moving positions. The device scans the license and checks databases quickly and determines valid registration, insurance, driver license and area violations.
see 10B, page 10

'Guitarist' makes drivers smile
Jocelyn Brumbaugh
brumj@tribune.com

job at Little Caesar's in Kingwood on Christmas Eve. He had been looking for a job, any job, when his dad spoke to a store manager and set it up. He started working in the back of the shop, cleaning out fresh dough all day to make hundreds of pizzas. Then one day, he was sent outside to the front of the shopping center to promote all things pizza and bring in more customers. In fact, he said, he was shy, but he got over his shyness quickly. "The money just came to my mind as I do it," he said. "My dad said I was giving glory to God, so I don't care." His headstrong peer music from bands like Beckwith, Owl City and Hawk Nelson, among others, during his weekend shifts, which usually run during peak lunch and dinner hours. Four other store workers also take the weekend shifts, but those paying by the hour on a regular basis consider Harmon the most recognizable, mostly because of his unique and active dance routine. "That's just what he's got," Harmon said, when asked if he was the best of the store's other dancers. Harmon said his friends think his job is "pretty cool" and that those driving by encourage him to dance.
see 10B, page 10

Williams will advise hospital authority in suit
Jocelyn Brumbaugh
brumj@tribune.com

Following a 10-minute executive session for a legal matter, the St. Marys Hospital Authority voted to continue employing Brunswick attorney Amanda E. Williams to work on its ongoing lawsuit. Williams, who filed her notice of appearance June 17 with Camden County Superior Court, agreed for 12 years as a Brunswick Judicial Circuit judge and made national news in 2011 when the Georgia Judicial Qualifications Commission initiated formal proceedings against Williams on 14 counts of misconduct, including making false statements during the course of the investigation. Williams retired from the bench in January 2012 and agreed that she would not hold a judicial office in the future, which resolved the misconduct case. The hospital authority filed suit May 21 against the City of St. Marys asking that a 2007 contract under its authority specify its money to benefit seniors. The order came about after the authority will a commission order in 2008 and drafted that the proceeds must be used "exclusively" to provide medical care for indigent residents in accordance with state law, according to the order. The authority could not comply with the order because it said a nursing home, not a hospital as specified in the law, according to the suit. During public comments, St. Marys resident Bob Nease asked why the authority belongs to the Camden County Chamber of Commerce. Its membership costs about \$100 annually. The authority could not comply with the order because it said a nursing home, not a hospital as specified in the law, according to the suit.
see 10B, page 10

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Feature Writing

D

2nd Place

Henry Daily Herald, McDonough

Kelsey Cochran

HENRY DAILY HERALD

Friday, April 19, 2013

HENRY COUNTY'S NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1874 • VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.HENRYDAILYHERALD.COM

County deregulates home-based businesses

By KACEL SMITH
ksmith@herald.com

McDONOUGH — Stockbridge resident Jennifer Hill found her own way to work nearly 50 of her employees dressed after the Henry County Board of Commissioners unanimously passed a measure Tuesday that will make it easier to operate a home business. The Board approved an amendment to the language of the Unified Land Development Code that limited home-based businesses. Hill, who teaches swimming lessons in her back yard pool, requested the zoning advisory board allow her to use her 1.8-acre land for swimming lessons after she discovered the county did not have a provision for her type of business. The current language allowed two employees and Hill would only be able to teach private lessons instead of group classes. However, the board determined it didn't have the authority to grant her request. The executive summary states that the board cannot act on the amending the home-based business requirements to allow additional students and employees as an outright use for home-based businesses in all residential zoning districts was not the direction they believed best served the county as a whole. The board instead directed county staff to consider

See COUNTY Page 5A

Ex-employee accused of hacking company's servers

By KELSEY COCHRAN
kcoc@herald.com

McDONOUGH — A Fayetteville man would be indicted for allegedly trying to sabotage his former employer's computer database in Henry County jail. David Shawn Collier, 30, is out on bond on charges of computer tampering. Henry County police Sgt. Ray Smith declined to release the name of the company, but said Collier accessed its computer system from another location. His attempts to damage the computer system were traced back to him. The company, which Smith described as a "quick service restaurant management consulting company" in Stockbridge, did not lose any records, and no personal information was lost, according to reports.



Collier

BARBIE GIRL



Barbie has taken on countless occupations and gone on thousands of adventures over the years. Many of her endearments can be seen in Margaret McAfee's collection, which will be for sale May 9.

Local collector's legacy up for sale

By KELSEY COCHRAN
kcoc@herald.com

STOCKBRIDGE — Hundreds of actresses, models, career professionals, politicians and Native American princesses sit frozen in time in Margaret McAfee's basement. It's a sight that would make any collector salivate, but McAfee did not collect Barbie dolls with the goal of getting rich. In fact, her son, Terry McAfee, said while sitting at his mother's kitchen table last week, she gave away as many as the collector. "When I tell people Mother collected Barbie dolls, they automatically think of, say, a talking doll of them," Terry said. "They have no idea." It's overwhelming to walk into any room and see hundreds of pink plastic dolls posing into space, but that's exactly the scene in the basement of McAfee's Stockbridge home. Half of her collection, which Terry McAfee estimated numbers more than 1,000, is displayed on shelves that line all four walls of a room in the basement. The remaining dolls are still in their original packages, and are being organized and appear to be sold at the animal living facility in Stockbridge where McAfee lived out her last



Delicia McAfee shows off her similar reproductions of the original Barbie doll first introduced in 1959, part of her mother-in-law, Margaret McAfee's, vast collection of Barbie dolls from the last few decades.

See BARBIE Page 5A

Henry lends helping hand for community service

Princess, pirates, dogs and art — all this weekend

McDONOUGH — Henry County gives back to its community Saturday with its 17th annual Hands on Henry day of service. Projects range from planting flowers, cleaning and sprucing up facilities and grounds and lawn maintenance at places such as home profiles, schools, churches and cemeteries. "It creates the opportunity to accomplish some projects and make the single volunteer not get done," said Diane Lee. "The home profiles, schools and cemetery clean-up

and school groups," she said. Leadership Henry is described as a program of the Henry County Chamber of Commerce that builds leadership qualities, provides education and insights while forming a network of team spirit and cooperation in accomplishing common goals. It culminates each annual class with a "Hands on Henry" day of hands-on community service. "It is fun," she said. "It's camaraderie."

Taste of Henry — Friday

Taste of Henry showcases more than 20 local restaurants with dishes that are sure to

satisfy every palate at the James T. Hester Event Center at Heritage Park Friday from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. The menu-size portions let guests sample a variety of delicious foods and cuisines. Organizers said, "Some delicious main courses to appreciate and savor — if it's your kind, you are sure to find it at Taste of Henry." General admission is \$20, and tickets for children under 12 are \$5. Adults receive an entree, vegetable and children receive two Kid's Zone Tubs. Additional Kid's Zone tubs may be purchased on-site at \$1 each, provided they have an event wristband.

See EVENTS Page 5A

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Columns	1	Local News	1	Business	1

Today's Web Poll

Do you feel safe attending public events?	Yes	82.2%
	No	17.8%

Web Poll Results

Do you feel safe attending public events?	Yes	82.2%
	No	17.8%



Feature Writing

D

1st Place

Tribune & Georgian,
St. Marys

Johna Strickland
Rush

C
M
Y
K

Tribune & Georgian
Thursday, December 12, 2013
SPOTLIGHT
C Section

Meet PEDRO

Kings Bay's smallest warrior

Johna Strickland Rush
jstrick@comcast.net

When MAJ Charles Chapman and Pedro show up to work, some people don't take them seriously. A guy doubled over laughing once. Others ask to pet the pint-sized Pedro or want to know if he's a puppy.

"No, he's full grown," Master-at-Arms 1st Class Chapman answers.

Pedro is a 4-year-old Jagdterrier — pronounced JAHG-terrier — from Germany trained to sniff out contraband at Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base for the last two years. He weighs about 20 pounds and fits into spaces where traditional military working dogs can't go — into car trunks, ventilation shafts, the steel spaces on submersibles and ships, under vehicles, in search rooms.

"I get a lot of flak for him being small ... but he's no joke."

MAJ Charles Chapman

"I get a lot of flak for him being small ... but he's no joke," Chapman said. "His specialty is small spaces, places you wouldn't sniff a 70-pound German shepherd."

He is one of three small military working dogs in the U.S. Navy, and serves dog handler and Master-at-Arms 1st Class Brent Thomas who also works at the Kings Bay base. The other two are stationed at bases in Groton, Conn., and San Diego, Calif., and all

Pedro, a 4-year-old Jagdterrier, is one of three pint-sized military working dogs in the U.S. Navy. Pedro is stationed at Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base with his handler, Master-at-Arms 1st Class Charles Chapman. Pedro uses his nose to search vehicles, submersibles, buildings and other spaces for contraband — especially spaces larger dogs can't access.

Photo by Johna Strickland Rush



He's SERIOUS about work, yet GOOFY.



In a training exercise Pedro searches the trunk of a car at Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base and sniffs some chess toys with his handler when he finds the contraband. Pedro (left photo) refused to let Chapman even pet him when they first met. After months of working and playing together, he has come to trust him.

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BEFORE & AFTER



Feature Writing

C

3rd Place

The Union-Recorder, Milledgeville

Vaishali Patel

GMC PREP SOFTBALL
earns No. 1 ranking, Page 3A

OPINIONS
Page 3A

INSIDE
Stocks, Page 3A

Georgia's Oldest Continuously Published Newspaper

THE UNION-RECORDER

www.unionrecorder.com WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2013 Milledgeville, Ga.

SPORTS

For the latest news and updates, follow us on Facebook and Twitter!

2

Trains challenge Caucasians Friday night in Macon

NEWS

Lion's Club welcomes district president

Downfall looms for Georgia's economy

Indian Miss America announces as symbol of change

Police: Girl, 14, abducted during St. James procession

WEATHER

HIGH 83, LOW 62

Extended forecast, 3A

OPINION POLL

This week's question: Do you think a regional (11) system would be effective?

CONTACT US

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CORRECTIONS

If you spot an error of fact, our Managing News Editor, Natalie Davis, 478-653-2400. Corrections appear on PAGE 3A.

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Sports 3A

Writers' 101, Number 10

The Union-Recorder

Worst county dirt roads prioritized for repair

By KYLE COLLINS
kcollins@unionrecorder.com

The Baldwin County Board of Education Board and Transportation Committee are struggling with road conditions on numerous Baldwin County dirt roads.

During Tuesday's regular Baldwin County Board meeting, Commissioners reviewing the board authorized the long-time problem roads for improvement as funds become available.

Commissioners reviewed county dirt road statistics on the 30 worst roads.

The spreadsheet featured the number of holes, work orders filed in the last five years and the length of each.

Lumpkin Road region supervisor with 30 holes and 100 work orders requested for a 1.8-mile stretch.

Starting with Lumpkin at the top, the board then selected Blaine, Morris Springs, Avery Stone and Badin Road in that order.

"We aren't prioritizing these roads are going to be fixed. It's just when we are going to start as the money is available," Commissioner James Ruff, District 3, said.

County Manager Ralph McMiller said the county is soliciting seal bids due Oct. 16 to make the roads "all-weather."

"We'd like to get one or two of these roads done this year," McMiller said. "It's all based on money, but we do need to try and get the major ones."

Commissioners will decide when to start on the worst dirt roads at the next October meeting after prices come back.

According to County Engineer Brian Wood, the solution includes having an asphalt contractor come in and resurface the roads, placing a gravel base and gravel down. The dirt road's crown requires a base.

A contractor told Wood in August the COUNTY, page 4A

ROOMS OF HOPE

While Baldwin High School sophomore Josh Thompson waits to fight his battle with cancer, the 15-year-old and his mother, Leigh, never imagined creating hope from his third surgery to their home completely transformed.

Rooms of Hope (ROH), located at Josh's fight with Stage 4 testicular cancer and selected him as the deserving recipient of the nonprofit's third room makeover.

"The biggest thing I can say is thank you. There's still enough times I can say thank you," Josh said after seeing how their surgery in Indianapolis earlier this month. "I know (Rooms of Hope) was doing something, and I had a pretty good idea of their original plan, but that ended up changing. I couldn't believe the boxes were online, everything had changed. I was very surprised. I was definitely not disappointed with it."

"I was just speechless when we walked through the door. I thought it was absolutely beautiful. I knew they were doing things upstairs, but I had no idea they would put their hands on everything in every room. It was not only me, but the rest of the family that was touched. It touched places in my soul that I didn't even know existed."

ROH is dedicated to providing uplifting, enjoyable and comfortable rooms for all children between the ages of 4 and 18 in Baldwin, Jones and Putnam counties. The organization exists to alleviate the financial burden of the necessity to help donate materials, funds and time.

"It is a gift to us personally to be able to share talents and efforts with families in need."

ROH, page 1A

Rooms of Hope offers a new haven for local teen

By VAISHALI PATEL
vpatel@unionrecorder.com



Fifteen-year-old Josh Thompson was surprised to have his bedroom space made over with a new theme by Rooms of Hope while he endured another surgery on his road to recovery from cancer.

ROH is dedicated to providing uplifting, enjoyable and comfortable rooms for all children between the ages of 4 and 18 in Baldwin, Jones and Putnam counties. The organization exists to alleviate the financial burden of the necessity to help donate materials, funds and time.

"It is a gift to us personally to be able to share talents and efforts with families in need."

ROH, page 1A

GC HOLDS PUBLIC FORUMS

The community is invited to participate in public forums held by the Diversity Action Planning Committee at Georgia College.

Started at 3 p.m. today on the second floor of the Georgia College library, the first event will look off an effort to have community partners collaborate in ways designed to create ideas for developing opportunities for students in Milledgeville, Baldwin County and Georgia College as they are better prepared for the 21st century.

"We want people to engage in dialogue about the best approaches to getting the best and brightest students from the area to come to Milledgeville community and surrounding area to come to us."

DRIVERS, page 1A

GC holds public forums to discuss diversity

By VAISHALI PATEL
vpatel@unionrecorder.com



Georgia College, and really diversifying our campus to attract inclusive students, which is one of the important goals of the American Association of Colleges and Universities," said Veronica Wisnack, director of Institute of Diversity and Equity at Georgia College, and chair of the Diversity Action Planning Committee.

"We want to make sure input from the campus community and larger community is part of the conversation of how we achieve student success and success, high quality education."

DRIVERS, page 1A

LISTING OF THE WEEK

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Feature Writing

C

2nd Place

The Cherokee Tribune, Canton

Michelle Babcock



HAPPY HALLOWEEN
Be safe and watch out for trick-or-treaters

Cherokee Tribune

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2013 BREAKING NEWS 24/7 @ CHEROKEETRIBUNE.COM 50 CENTS

Rep. Calvin Hill dies at age 66

By Rebecca Johnson
rejohn@cherokeetribune.com

CANTON — Rep. Calvin Hill (R-Canton) died Wednesday at the age of 66 after a brief battle with cancer. He represented District 22 in the state Legislature, where he served for more than 10 years.

Hill, who was diagnosed with leukemia this summer, was elected to the state House of Representatives in 2002, and before that had served two terms as mayor of Canton.

Rep. Michael Ballinger (R-Canton) said he will be deeply missed by his fellow Cherokee County lawmakers.

"He was our leader, our teacher, our friend, our husband. He was not afraid to stand on the front lines to stand with the local government, the state government, the national government," Ballinger said. "He always led by example. I am very sad to



Calvin and Cheryl Hill.



Local dignitaries from Cherokee County celebrated the grand opening of the newly constructed Northside Cherokee Boulevard on Wednesday morning. From left, Blakeslee Mayor Dana Jones, Karen Beach of Northside Hospital, Commissioner Chair Buz Adams, Canton Mayor Gene Holquist, County Commissioner Harry Johnson, Cherokee Chamber of Commerce Chairman Randy Grimes, County Manager Jerry Cooper, state Sen. Brandon Beach (R-Applington) and Billy Hagan, CEO of Northside Hospital-Cherokee, cut the ribbon to the new road.

Highway 20, 140 connector open

By Joshua Sharpe
jsharpe@cherokeetribune.com

CANTON — A crowd of about 75 people including elected officials, business leaders and residents gathered on the middle of the new connector route between Highway 20 and 140 on Wednesday evening to witness the road's official opening.

Speakers during the ribbon-cutting ceremony praised many for what they said was a very collaborative effort to build Northside Cherokee Boulevard in just over a year and a half, and said the new road has been a tremendous benefit to the area.



State Sen. Brandon Beach (R-Applington), a former member of the Georgia Department of Transportation's State Transportation Board, spoke about the cooperation between city, county and state officials and representatives from Northside Hospital-Cherokee to build the road.

Lee Muller is an eight-year cancer survivor and the wife of Canton First United Methodist Church Pastor Jim Muller. People put 100 papers with their stories and photos in their churches, and you know they're humans, they are doing what they know, she said. "Some times they're doing their best job, sometimes they aren't. They're humans, too. You have to stand up for yourself."



Breast cancer survivor puts faith in 'God's food'

By Michelle Babcock
mbabcock@cherokeetribune.com

For breast cancer survivor Lee Muller, a diagnosis that gave her only six months to live was a call to action.

"When she got the diagnosis eight years ago, Muller, a preacher's wife, stood up for her own health and put her faith in 'God's food.'"

"When I was 36, I found a small lump in my breast and I went to the doctor," Muller said. "The word 'lump' didn't worry me, but when they found it, go home, you

Survivor's message to others with cancer: 'Don't give up, don't think it's the end'

By Michelle Babcock
mbabcock@cherokeetribune.com

Kathy Fowler has been fighting against cancer for six years and is in remission now, and as a survivor she says she is in God's hands.

"I was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2007 and then lung cancer in 2009. Fowler had a recurrence of breast cancer again in 2010.



Kathy Fowler is in remission, but has been battling cancer since she was first diagnosed in 2007. She said her husband, David Fowler, has stood by her side throughout the difficult journey, and she said she couldn't have survived without her family.

Feature Writing

C

1st Place

The Union-Recorder, Milledgeville

Kyle Collins

UNION-RECORDER NEIGHBORS

B

WEEKEND

AUGUST 17-19, 2013



Hugh P. Thompson

GEORGIA'S 30TH CHIEF JUSTICE

STORY AND PHOTO BY KYLE COLLINS

The most powerful and respected man in the Supreme Court of Georgia calls Milledgeville and Baldwin County home.

Hugh P. Thompson was sworn in as the state's 30th chief justice of the Supreme Court inside the State Chambers of the state capital building Thursday.

With a heavy Baldwin County following in attendance, Thompson's remarks showed pride for the community.

"I want to thank the good people of Baldwin County and Milledgeville, the place I will ever consider home. I've always been proud of my heritage in Middle Georgia in the Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit. My rural roots run deep."

Thompson said Thursday.

U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson and first assistant attorney David Hudson introduced Chief Justice Thompson. Isakson, a fellow Murren state and federal judge, said the new chief justice and fellow justices represent all that is right.

"The public continues to have great faith and trust in the American legal system and especially in its judges and justices," Hudson said. "Judge Hugh Thompson and his colleagues on the Supreme Court are the reason our citizens can trust to have faith in this system and why we are honored throughout the civilized world."

Isakson said Thompson's experience, temperament, wisdom and ability to make the tough decisions make the justice "a shining star during difficult times."

Judge Thompson is a distinguished Georgian, a distinguished member of the bench and someone whose knowledge, ethics and character," the U.S. Senator said. "It is Hugh Thompson and my faith and desire anytime he wants to Justice Thompson will always do what is right."

Gov. Nathan Deal, all six sitting former chief justices of the state Supreme Court, former Gov. Roy Barnes, Chancellor Chuck Haskins of the University System of Georgia, and a host of other dignitaries, including leaders of the Georgia Legislature, federal and Georgia judges, constitutional officers, state and local

officials, and presidents and deans of law schools and universities filled the House Chamber Thursday. Perhaps the most influential person was former Gov. Zell Miller, who appointed Thompson to the Supreme Court in 2004 and celebrated the oath of office during Thursday's ceremony.

"Gov. Miller appointed me to this court. He has been the most important person in my career," Thompson said. "I have many people to thank for this day. Many of the people who encouraged, influenced and shaped me are the good friends I've known for years. They saw things in me I didn't see in myself, and I thank them for that."

Prior to becoming a Supreme Court justice, Thompson served as a superior court judge in the eight-county Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit, having been appointed to that position in 1979 by Gov. George Busby. He served in the capacity of Chief Judge of the Ocmulgee Circuit from 1982 to 1984.

Before his appointment as a superior court judge, Justice Thompson served from 1971 to 1975 as both judge of the Milledgeville City Court and state court judge in Baldwin County.

Hudson described more accolades from the Milledgeville native's 42 years in law. Nearly 34,000 cases traversed the Supreme Court since 1984.

Thompson has written more than 1,000 opinions.

"It's hard to come to grips with the magnitude of the judicial business that Justice Thompson has handled in his career," his longtime friend Hudson said. "Justice Thompson never flinches. He puts duty first, taking great pride in making sure the work of the courts is accomplished efficiently."

Georgia's chief justice is a devoted husband, father and grandfather.

Born to be with of 68 years, Jane, and sons William and Edward continue a life of court service.

"Jane has been a part of everything since we married 48 years ago this coming Monday," Thompson said. "To all of my family, you are my life and I would not be here without your love, love and support."

Thompson never lost his father, who lost his life Dec. 18, 1964 during World War II flying a B-24 Bomber. The Battle of the Bulge took a brave man and shaped a son. While only 18 months old at the time, Thompson said his dad has been a lifelong hero.

"Hugh's father gave his life flying a mission over occupied Europe. He made the ultimate sacrifice for his country and for his newborn son. Hugh has lived his life in such a way that would never tarnish the memory of his father," Hudson said in opening remarks.

Chief Justice Thompson thanked the six other justices for unanimous election. His predecessor, Justice Carol W. Brantley, made the courts equal and accessible to everyone, according to Thompson.

The chief justice is the main spokesperson for the court, as well as for the entire judiciary. He presides over oral arguments and runs the meetings in which the court makes its decisions, although he has only one vote, as does each of the justices. The chief justice, who serves one four-year term, also chairs the Georgia Judicial Council, which governs all levels of the state's courts.

The local judicial bench's Supreme Court picking is close.

"I'm confident we will continue to reach high standards in the future as we serve the citizens of this state to the best of our ability. I will continue to work hard to maintain fair and impartial courts," the chief justice said. "All of us know our duty is to the law. I pledge to all of you that as Chief Justice of the State of Georgia I will not waiver in my commitment to lead the judicial branch with fairness and integrity."

"I've always been proud of my heritage in Middle Georgia in the Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit. My rural roots run deep."


Feature Writing

B

3rd Place

The Daily Citizen,
Dalton

Misty Watson



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THE SUNDAY CITIZEN

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‘A perfect pick’

Student with cerebral palsy named prom queen at Coahulla Creek High

By MISTY WATSON
mwatson@daltoncitizen.com

In many ways, Deneay Carroll is a typical high school teenager. She goes to school, hangs out with her friends, goes to the movies and so on.

The 19-year-old Coahulla Creek High School student is surrounded with a family and friends who love and support her, so much so they congratulated her for the student body to elect her prom queen a few weeks ago.

Everyone thought Carroll seemed like she would win. But after a lifetime of being picked as the homecoming queen, she knew she could be the same as those around her.

“At my old school, I got picked for it,” she said. “I didn’t want to go to school. It was really hard. At one point I quit school, but I came back.”

Carroll has cerebral palsy, a disorder that affects muscle tone, movement and posture. People with cerebral palsy can have exaggerated movements, rigidity of the limbs, involuntary movements, incontinence while walking or any combination of these symptoms.

She struggles with her speech — though after a few minutes with her, she becomes easier to understand — and movements on the right side of her body.

So going from the person being picked on to the person being picked on to the point of getting elected as prom queen is a little bit ironic, with such an implication of popularity seemed like a stretch for her.

REPUBLICANS VS. CITIES
Republicans use power to control local affairs

By BILL BISHOP
Abundant Press


ATLANTA — Even with Republicans holding unprecedented political power across the South, Democrats remain more likely to charge of urban centers in otherwise conservative areas. For increasingly that control is threatened, not at the ballot box, but by Republican-led legislatures reaching into local governing decisions, often over objections.

In Georgia and North Carolina, GOP efforts range from gutting the Charlotte airport, the Atlanta water treatment system and the Atlanta water system to redrawing district lines for local offices to benefit Republican candidates.

Republicans never there’s no power play at work as they do battle with Democrats such as Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx, who is now President Barack Obama’s assistant to the U.S. transportation secretary, and the head of transportation in Georgia’s most populous county, which includes most of Atlanta. Georgia state Rep. Edward Lindsey, a key GOP floor leader and a candidate for Congress, said the ideas are intended to make government more responsive and efficient.

Some Republicans also note that a few periods — like a North Carolina bill that would let local governments from issuing environmental regulations more stringent than the state’s — apply regardless of who runs a county or municipality.

But many Democrats say Republicans’ opposition is showing increased power to provide the last lingering Democratic foothold. And some Democrats already mark Republicans for abandoning the conservative principle —



Deneay Carroll, a senior at Coahulla Creek High School who has cerebral palsy, stands in front of the school. Carroll recently was crowned prom queen by her peers.

When her name was called on as prom night announcing she had been named prom queen, Carroll was nervous and genuinely shocked. “I didn’t believe it,” she said.

“I really like it best. They don’t look at the like I have cerebral palsy.”

Carroll’s friends and her teachers said they believe it is a great testimony to the student.

Misty Watson/The Daily Citizen

Misty Watson/The Daily Citizen

“I really like it best. They don’t look at the like I have cerebral palsy.”

Carroll’s friends and her teachers said they believe it is a great testimony to the student.

Misty Watson/The Daily Citizen

Dalton gathers to honor Bowen on his 100th birthday

By CHARLES QUINN
cqinn@daltoncitizen.com

Dalton’s career industry began to rise in the 1930s, and Charles Bowen Jr. says some of the construction work he did led to him to leave Dalton High School, where he was principal, and join them.

“He had a vision to make a lot of money, and I don’t know what that was,” Bowen said. “I don’t know what that was, but I don’t know what that was.”

On Saturday, hundreds of those young people, many of them now parents and grandsons, gathered to honor Bowen at the First Baptist Church of Dalton.

Bowen reflects on his 100th birthday. “I don’t remember ever having my picture taken at any time,” he joked just before the crowd sang “Happy Birthday.”

Misty Watson/The Daily Citizen

Dalton gathers to honor Bowen on his 100th birthday

By CHARLES QUINN
cqinn@daltoncitizen.com

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UGA ATHLETIC SPENDING

The University of Georgia spends big on athletics, but not as much as some other SEC schools. Here are some UGA numbers for the year 2011 from a database released last week by the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics.

Spending per athletic: \$143,232
Per football player: \$189,626
Academic spending per full-time equivalent student: \$12,382
Total coaching salaries: \$14.0 million
Total athletic debt: \$120.8 million
Annual debt service: \$5.5 million

Athletics rout academics in spending

By Lisa Shuman
lisashuman@athens.com

Colleges' spending on athletics continues to grow much faster than spending on the academic side, according to a new database released by the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics.

The database details spending growth from 2007 to 2011 in both areas for hundreds of schools, including the University of Georgia and other top-tier football schools.

Nationally, athletic spending per athletic grew by 38 percent between 2007 and 2011, spending per football player grew by 68 percent during the same period, while ac-

ademic spending per (non-athletic) student grew by just 24 percent, according to the commission's figures.

Among the commission's other findings:

- A lot of the increase is attributable to coaches' pay. Median coaching salaries grew by 48 percent at the 98 universities in the so-called Football Bowl Series, the top-tier athletic program.
- The Southeastern Conference spent more per athletic (\$176,426) and per football player (\$189,626) in 2011 than any other league.

athletic conference, by a wide margin.

- Median SEC spending per athletic grew by 60 percent in the six-year period, while spending per football player increased 90 percent. Academic spending rose by 24 percent. (Median figures do not include numbers for the University of Missouri and Texas A&M, which joined the conference last year.)
- Almost all of the increased expenditures in the SEC and other top football schools were paid for with money from outside sources such as TV contracts, only 4 percent came from institutional sources.

However, at smaller schools, where ath-

See ATHLETICS on B2

For best veggies, learn to chill out

By Merritt Wolcott
merrittw@athens.com

A recent University of Georgia study of American grocers showed that fresh more are always the best choice, at least not in terms of delivering the vitamins and minerals that families expect from their veggies.

Ronald Pegg, associate professor of food science and technology at UGA, led the study. His team looked at the selected vitamin and mineral content of eight fruits and vegetables — blueberries, asparagus, broccoli, green beans, corn, spinach, cauliflower and green peas.

They analyzed the nutrient values of the product on the day they were purchased and after the produce had been stored in a household refrigerator for five days. They also analyzed the nutritional content of the same set of fruits and vegetables that had been packaged after freezing.

"The vitamins and minerals degrade over time, and we found that frozen fruits and vegetables may offer more nutrition than fresh when storage is taken into account," Pegg said.

See FROZEN on A3

INSIDE FORECAST

44°
40°

FULL DETAILS, PAGE A2

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Education	G3-4
Environment	G2
Health	G1
TV Listings	G2

Photo by Richard Hume for the Athens Banner-Herald

Pocket full of fashion

Brothers use drawings from children to create wearable art

By Nick Coltrain
nickcoltrain@athens.com

The Terry brothers looked at the model with a critical focus, measuring its millimeter adjustments to make sure the pocket T-shirt is as perfect as they can make it.

It was already decidedly odd, the kind of crowd that can descend upon them that the three-for-\$17 men at his store.

But the eyes for details matter more than making sure the clothes are sold, it's making sure an impressionable child can have the without supplies he or she needs to succeed.

The brothers don't even call their products T-shirts; they sell packets adorned with drawings from children. "We're not here to give handouts," Alan Terry said. "We're here to help kids help themselves to succeed."

They started the business in 2011 as a "passion project" that merged philanthropy and fashion. It started out as a side project they worked on a few evenings a week. Then every evening and all day on the weekends. Then planning to call in sick to their day jobs to spend more time on the project.

It works like this: They visit a school in need and drop off backpacks filled with school supplies. In return, they gather thousand-dollar checks from the children. The sketches, with rough lines and distortions that would baffle Picasso, add a splash of color and composition to their clothing line. The brothers regard it as the defining aspect of their look.

"The one rule we have is to protect the integrity of the drawing," Alan Terry said, laughing and a collection of sketches of lions and giraffes.

They don't fix, add or remove anything.

"These imperfections are what we love," he said. "They give it with each child's name."

The brothers' unusual education, having been raised by educator parents. A sign hanging in their space in the Four Athens office reads: "An educated population is a country's greatest wealth." It is one of many hanging around the store.

And their goal bleeds into their vocabulary. Just like them selling packets instead of shirts, they don't move units of goods. They give away backpacks.

They aim to give away 30,000 backpacks in the next year, up from 2,800 the year before.

"We have a really lofty goal, and for Jonathan and I, the way we measure our performance and everything it really comes down to the number of backpacks," Alan Terry said.

The elevated target isn't

Photo by Richard Hume for the Athens Banner-Herald

Tub springs a leak, Empty Stocking Fund helps with a plug

Staff Reports
staffreports@athens.com

A bathtub in an Athens family's home sprung a leak.

Because it was the only tub in the house, they were forced to leave using it until a plumber could fix the mess.

The leak caused a spike in the water bill and the family worried the line would be disconnected.

A local ministry contacted the Empty Stocking Fund for help and the \$175 water bill was paid.

The Empty Stocking Fund was the

Empty Stocking fundraising campaign is held during the holidays, but the money collected isn't used for toys or gifts. It's only to help needy families with rent, power bills, heating costs, medical needs and other necessary expenses.

The purpose of the fund is to assist local people who can't be helped by other charities or need more and than those charities can provide.

Since checks are only written to vendors, not individuals, all recipients have been referred to the fund by area agencies.

Donors last year gave more than \$30,000 to the Athens Banner-Herald Empty Stocking Fund.

A list of this year's contributors will appear in the Athens Banner-Herald each Sunday.

To donate, make checks payable to the Athens Banner-Herald Empty Stocking Fund and mail to Athens Banner-Herald, P.O. Box 922, Athens, GA 30602.

Credit card donations can be made by calling (706) 536-1142.

Referrals must be submitted by an area agency at emptystocking@athensbannerherald.com. Gifts to contribute \$300 toward the purchase of both.

Empty Stocking Fund

Feature Writing

B

1st Place

Athens Banner-Herald

André Gallant

CASHWORD: NO WINNER THIS WEEK • JACKPOT INCREASES TO \$750, PAGE C5

A SPECIAL SECTION PAGES B5-B8
THE CLASSIC CENTER EXPANSION

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\$50 for an Initial Acupuncture Treatment & Herbal Consultation from 5 Points Acupuncture! A \$105 value!

ATHENS BANNER-HERALD

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2013

New England buried

Raging blizzard leaves region covered by up to 3 feet of snow

By Dan Linnay
Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — New Englanders began the back-breaking job of digging out from as much as 3 feet of snow Saturday and emergency crews used snowblowers to reach shivering motorists stranded overnight on New York's Long Island after a howling storm swept through the Northeast.

About 600,000 homes and businesses were left without electricity, and some could be cold and dark for days. Roads across the New York-to-Boston corridor of roughly 25 million people were impassable. Cars were immobilized by drifts. Some people found the wet, heavy snow packed so high they were unable to get out.

See NEW ENGLAND on B2

A parking meter pines out of a snow bank Saturday in Portland, Maine, after a monster storm. • Robert F. Beddy/AP

FAMILY ALONE AFTER A PARENT IS DEPORTED UNDER PROGRAM THAT EXPANDS IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

CAUGHT IN THE NET

By André Gallant
andreport@athens.com

Jose Arceola drove a blue Oldsmobile Cutlass through Walton County on a dreary April day in 2011. Sandra James, the mother of his four children, rode shotgun. They were headed to a job interview for her.

Just after noon, they passed a Walton County sheriff's deputy who saw Arceola's license plate.

Turned out a Clarke County sheriff had earlier reported the stolen vehicle. Arceola hadn't noticed the plates himself, but a dealer's license plate those are common for undocumented immigrants living under the government's radar. His license were bigger than state plates. He would never see his children again except through visitation plans.

Some years earlier, Arceola left his wife Sandra, crossed the border illegally and took off east for Georgia. There he would meet Sandra, who came to the U.S. in the early 1990s from Durango. They married and a teacher in a nearby Athens middle school park. They started a family, four children who are all U.S. citizens.

Arceola found four charges two counts of theft by taking for purchasing the license plates found in his car, and two more for driving without insurance and a driver's license.

He'd get probation. And deportation.

Arceola's removal left Sandra James to parent four young children — now aged 14, 12, 11 and 10 — alone.

James met Arceola when they both worked at an Athens chicken plant. They jumped freely between employers for about a decade. But in recent years, federal and state governments cracked down on businesses that employed undocumented immigrants, and jobs became scarce for James.

Sandra James cleans houses, babysits and sells drinks for James in order to pay rent and feed her kids. Most days, she sits and watches TV, doing laundry, cooking dinner for her kids when they get home from school. Her cellphone sits charging on a side table. The laptop is a ring with some work.

See IMMIGR on B2

SEE THIS STORY IN A SLIDESHOW AT ONLINEATHENS.COM

IMMIGRATION
This is the second in a series of reports examining how a national debate will impact Georgia.

BY THE NUMBERS
400,000 Number of deportations nationwide last year (2012)
1 million Number of U.S. citizens who are deported each year
25 percent Estimate of deportees who have returned U.S. citizens
25 percent One in four deportees in 2012

Tailgating and traffic, but in April

By Leo Shaver
leoshaver@athens.com

April 13 will feel a lot like a Georgia home football game in Athens — complete with tailgating and traffic congestion as tens of thousands of people leave Sanford Stadium at more or less the same time.

Tailgating before big country concerts is an increasingly popular pastime, according to the American Tailgating Association, but local public safety officials aren't quite sure how that will play out for the home

Country singer Jason Aldean will headline an April 13 concert at Sanford Stadium. • Spencer

Close to 10,000 people fans are expected for the 6:30 p.m. concert, but quite as many as the 15,000 who fill Sanford Stadium for Bulldog football games. The amount is already listed as sold out, though a few more tickets may become available as concert planners finalize the stage layout and know for sure where people will be able to sit without an obstructed view.

University of Georgia Police Chief Jimmy Williamson doesn't expect many problems from the crowd, although there are always a few people who drink too much or get angry and fight. And some won't be familiar with the rules and roads in Athens and the UGA campus, he said.

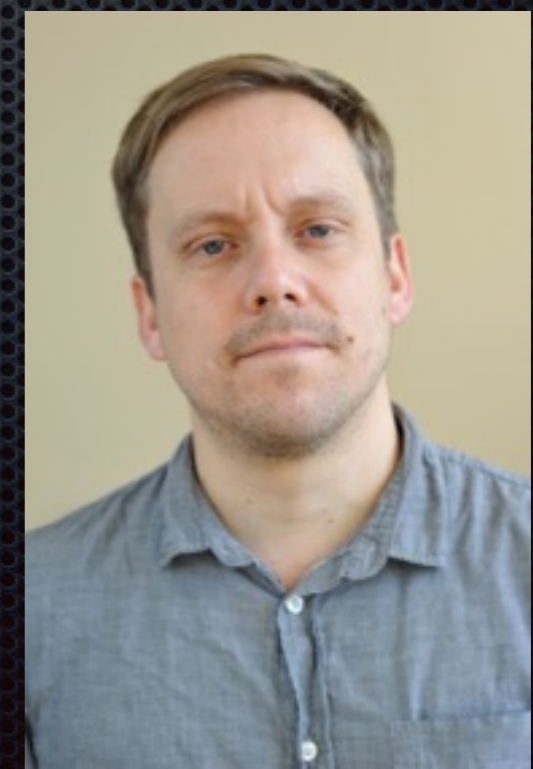
Adding to the crowds that day will be a photography convention that will bring hundreds of people to downtown Athens Classic Center and a truck meet scheduled for the UGA campus.

See CONCERT on B2

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FORECAST
63° 53°
WED, APRIL 10, 2013

Recycling BH



Feature Writing

A

3rd Place

Gwinnett Daily
Post,
Lawrenceville
Camie Young

Gwinnett Daily Post
THURSDAY April 25, 2013
www.gwinnettdailypost.com 75 cents ©2013 SCNI Vol. 43, No. 127

SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS
Leaders vow to find out if Boston bombers had help. Nation, 5A

walking, talking
MIRACLE

Micro-preemie now toddler to walk in March of Dimes
By Camie Young
Gwinnett Daily Post

Film studio in the works for OFS site
By Camie Young
Gwinnett Daily Post

Hero firefighter's girlfriend says 'yes'
By Tracy Kimer
Gwinnett Daily Post

Celebrities spotted filming in Norcross
By Meghan Karpowski
Gwinnett Daily Post

Actor Joel Schulte and actress Lauren Graham are seen on the movie set while filming 'A Pigeon Christmas Miracle' at the Norcross Station Cafe on Wednesday.

INSIDE
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Comics... 4B
Connect... 4B
Local... 2A
Opinion... 4A
Sports... 4B
Weather... 4A

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Feature Writing

A

2nd Place

The Telegraph, Macon

Joe Kovac

\$85 in coupons and special offers inside today

Mercer men beat USC Upstate, 10

SUNDAY January 20, 2013
MIDDLE GEORGIA'S NEWSPAPER
The Telegraph
macon.com



EVERY GIVEN SUNDAY

The man who lives and lives and lives for the Atlanta Falcons



Kroger killing puts Taser use in spotlight

By MPT LOUI MORAN
morack@macon.com

In the weeks since a Macon police officer fatally shot a man at a local grocery store, there has been a lot of talk about what nonlethal options the officer might have had.

Some City Council members have suggested that Taser Darts II might still be alive if officer Clayton Starn had been carrying a Taser on his duty belt Dec. 21 along with a gun.

The Macon police DEPT has used Tasers for about five years and the department has wanted to buy more, said Chief Mike Burris. Police are expecting the delivery of about 60 Tasers in the next month or so, he said.

Other area law enforcement agencies...

SEE PAGE 1A

Falcons superfan Joe Curtis, 84, of Macon, will be at Sunday's game against San Francisco. Since Atlanta first fielded a team in 1966, the Falcons have played 738 games. Curtis has attended 153 of them — all 367 home games in the team's history, and 182 on the road. (That's not counting preseason home games. He's been to every last one of them, too, including one in Japan.)

By DE KIM IK
jovack@macon.com

NFC CHAMPIONSHIP COVERAGE

Falcons fight for recovery, odds look for return to greatness, 90

Home field will make a difference, 92

Analysis of Sunday's key matchups, 99

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Key players, 112

SEE PAGE 4A

Joe Curtis is the nearest thing the long-trampled franchise has to spectating royalty.

Wives stop by his seat on Aisle 136 and plant smooches on his cheek.

On Sundays, he shakes more hands than a Baptist preacher.

Fans buy him beers, but these days he is more likely to sip a vanilla iced tea.

WASHINGTON — As President Barack Obama prepares to begin his second term, he will govern a nation where people feel insecure about their economic future, worried about their personal safety and concerned that international affairs are spiraling out of the United States' control.

They're also angry at and disappointed with their government, viewing Washington as impeding rather than promoting progress in ending the loss of citizens to violence.

While Obama wins a second term, his popularity will likely decline.

SEE PAGE 4A

U.S. mood tentative leading up to inauguration

Economy, safety top nation's worries into Obama's second term

By DAVID LITVIN
McClintock News Service

Help to add restaurants' health-inspection grades to reviews

Reviews site 'help' to adding restaurants' health-inspection grades to its site, giving users yet another filter through which they can decide where to eat.

Help, Inc. said Thursday that city-provided health-score information will be available in San Francisco first. Restaurant grades in New York City will be added in the coming weeks.

San Francisco-based Help says its engineers have been working with the city in designing technology that will incorporate public-inspection information on its website.

For San Francisco businesses, the new program displays restaurant health scores — for example, 92 out of 100. Clicking on the number takes users to a page with more detailed information about the restaurant's recent inspections. In New York, restaurants are given letter grades of A, B or C by health inspectors.

— Associated Press

Correction

The name of the deceased was incorrect in a headline and photo caption on Page 1B Saturday. The funeral procession pictured was for retired Macon-Bibb County Fire Department Capt. Calvin Eric McDaniel. The Telegraph regrets the error.

THE RAIL

YOUR NEWS EXPRESS

'Made in the USA' latest in luxury clothing

SEE PAGE 1B

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66/38
Sunny and clear

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Feature Writing

A

1st Place

Gwinnett Daily Post,
Lawrenceville

Tyler Estep

Gwinnett Daily Post
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SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS

Leaders vow to find out if Boston bombers had help, Nation, 5A

walking, talking MIRACLE

Micro-preemie Gerson Xavier Vasquez, shown here with sisters, Alyssa, left, and Ella, was born nearly 16 weeks early, weighing 1 pound, 8.7 ounces.

Film studio in the works for OFS site

By Corey Young
Gwinnett Daily Post Staff

Hero firefighter's girlfriend says 'yes'

By Tracy Estep
Gwinnett Daily Post Staff

Celebrities spotted filming in Norcross

By Melissa Kozowski
Gwinnett Daily Post Staff

Home	4A	Nation	5A	Television	6A
Classified	1B	Horror	3A	Obituaries	6A
Comics	4A	Local	2A	Special	6A
Special	1A	Library	6A	Special	6A



Saturday, Dec. 7, 2013
RockdaleNews.com/sports
PAGE 20

SPORTS

Willette Mentee by chance, friends by choice

places fourth

By Matt Smith
msmith@rockdalenews.com

Rockdale County freshman Dax Willette carried his impressive first-year cross-country campaign across state lines last weekend.

Willette placed fourth at the Footlocker South Region Meet at McAlpine Greenway Park in Charlotte, N.C., finishing the freshman class race in a time of 16:14.

The time was a personal best for Willette, who finished among the top 5 with three other Georgia cross-country standouts.

The race featured competitors from multiple states in the South and Southeast regions.

Rockdale County's Salaimane Bangura also competed at the event, finishing 52nd overall with a personal best time of 17:34.

Willette helped the Bulldogs to a first-place team finish at the 2013 Region 2-AAAAAA championships, while capturing the individual title at the same event.

Swimmer heads to Atlanta

By Matt Smith
msmith@rockdalenews.com

The Rockdale Riptides' Delaney Willette will represent the team this weekend at the 2013 Georgia Senior Short Course Championships in Atlanta.

The 17-year-old qualified for the event in the 100-meter backstroke, 200-meter backstroke and 200-meter individual medley.

The event, which typically features swimmers ages 15 and up, will be held at the Georgia Tech Aquatic Center.

"Delaney has worked very hard to get to this point," Riptides coach Sean Willette said.

Willette began swimming at the age of 4 and trains six days a week since committing to the sport at 8 years old.



Matt Smith/The News

After over a decade apart, former Big East basketball player and current Rockdale County Sheriff's Deputy, Oliver Taylor reunited with his mentor, David Gurwitz. The two have lived vastly different lives since Gurwitz first met Taylor in the late 1980s.

By Matt Smith
msmith@rockdalenews.com

In an empty gym at Memorial Middle School Thursday morning, a familiar face was shooting baskets as students hurried to lunch.

In front of a few cameras and onlookers, Rockdale County Sheriff's Deputy Oliver Taylor sank free throw after free throw, with an old friend by his side.

The unlikely pair formed a friendship over 20 years ago in New York City, but Thursday, Taylor and renowned pianist and composer David Gurwitz reunited after a decade apart.

"Look at him; he's packing heat and he's shooting," Gurwitz joked. "Do the Hawks have anyone who can shoot as well as him?"

As Taylor squared up for his next shot, his 11th make in a row, he joked back with Gurwitz. "The last thing you lose is shooting," Taylor said. "I never had it," Gurwitz quipped.

Friendship begins

Taylor's basketball career with humble beginnings; he grew up in Queens, New York, with a dream just like thousands of others. But Taylor soon realized that he had a special skill on the court, and in high school, it made his name known throughout the country.

"I was just an inner-city kid from Far Rockaway, New York," Taylor said. "I was a kid with a dream. I took a chance on something I loved. People felt that I was pretty good and I played in



Photo courtesy of Seton Hall Athletics

As a member of the Seton Hall basketball team, Taylor helped lead the Pirates to the 1991 Big East Conference Championship. Taylor was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player after hitting two game-winning shots.

high school and became a "high-school star."

Taylor did star at the high school level, averaging 38 points a game his senior year at Far Rockaway High School. He wanted to continue his career at the collegiate level, but there was a roadblock.

Taylor didn't do well on the SAT, the college entrance exam that most colleges and universities use to determine a student's

readiness for college work.

But a stroke of luck, and timing, changed Taylor's life forever.

In another part of New York City, Gurwitz was celebrating the birth of his son, one of four, when he saw a *New York Times* article about a top area basketball player who was struggling to progress in his career.

Never one to turn down an op-

See Mentor Page 21

Lady Seminoles continue winning

By Matt Smith
msmith@rockdalenews.com

The Salem girls varsity basketball team kept its season rolling on the road Tuesday night, defeating region opponent Loganville 57-31.

The win pushed the Lady Seminoles record to 4-2 overall with a 2-0 mark in region play.

Ayanna Mitchell led Salem in scoring with 17 points, while Taylor King added 14 points on an efficient 4-of-11 shooting from the floor.

Jennifer Tindl, Rosie Kyles and Mitchell also finished with 10 rebounds apiece for the Lady Seminoles, while guard Shay Tarver dished out six assists in the win. The win leaves the Lady Sem-

inoles atop Region 2-AAAAA along with Clarke Central, which is also 2-0 in region action.

Seminoles fall

The Salem boys varsity basketball team dropped its second game of the season Tuesday night on the road, falling 51-44 to Loganville in region play.

The Seminoles have dropped both road contests this season, while the Red Devils moved their record to 4-0 at home.

Janett Cook and Quintavious Byrd led the Seminoles in scoring with seven points apiece.

Salem coach Nosh Harrell said defensively, his team played up to his standard, but that the Seminoles have yet to turn the corner on of-

fense.

"We pretty much did what we wanted to do defensively, but offensively, we struggled," Harrell said. "We missed a lot of easy opportunities, and I felt like we gave the game away."

Harrell said that the Seminoles found the right spots on the floor, but didn't execute when they had a chance.

"We got the ball into good positions; we just didn't finish," he said. "We didn't finish and we have to do a better job of that."

Despite not executing against the Red Devils, Harrell said that the Seminoles' issues are things that they can fix.

"You never want to lose, but our problems are something we can

work on," Harrell said. "Knowing our personnel who struggled against Loganville, I believe that they can correct it. Again, defensively, we played fine and held them to 51 points; I'm just ready for our offense to turn the corner."

Harrell said that as the team prepares to host Cedar Shoals this Friday, he believes his players will not take their offensive output for granted again.

"I hope they don't take for granted getting the ball around the basket," he said. "It's so hard to work the ball inside and get good shots that we have to finish opportunities. Cedar Shoals is always a tough game, so I hope we bounce back

See Basketball Page 21

3rd Place

Rockdale News, Conyers

Matt Smith

Sports Writing

H



2nd Place

Smoke Signals, Big Canoe

John Mansfield



Sports Writing

H

1st Place


Cherokee Ledger-News, Woodstock

Brandon Michea

SPORTS

NOV 3, 2012 SPORTS EDITOR BRANDON MICHEA | 770-828-0700 | 4222 PALE WINDY ROAD, WOODSTOCK, GA 30188

PROFESSIONAL SOCCER



MICHIEA/NEWS | 2012/11/03

Woodstock natives Lavery, Mizell catch on with Atlanta Silverbacks

BY BRANDON MICHEA
brm@ledgernews.com

Mark Lavery and Cody Mizell were at a bit of a crossroad. Searching for opportunities to keep their professional soccer dreams alive, the Woodstock natives needed a "right place at the right time" kind of break. Fortunately for the pair, the Atlanta Silverbacks provided just that, signing both county standouts to contracts in May.

"The funny thing is, I felt like I went all over the world trying to find a team to sign meant I ended up playing where I'm from," said the former Etowah High star, Lavery, who started his college career at the University of Kentucky in 2008 before finishing an NCAA Division III First Team All-American at Atlanta's Oglethorpe University in 2011. "Last summer, I played with the Georgia Revolution, an Atlanta-based amateur team, but I didn't have anywhere to play in the fall. In the spring, I went to Ireland and trained with a couple of teams. They had interest but could not sign me because of financial reasons, so I ended up just coming home. Then, just one day before they started their season, Atlanta signed me."

While it took nearly a year and a half to come wide open, the door to Atlanta for Lavery actually began to open just after college, when he attended the In-fo Sports Combine in Florida. "We had a pretty successful season our year at Oglethorpe, going 17-4 and making it to the NCAA tournament for the first time, and I was told that I was going to be invited to the Major League Soccer Combine," Lavery recalled. "That had led through because MLS didn't end up looking any Division III guys."

"I was kind of left wondering what to do, so I went to the In-fo Sports Combine. I wasn't a big fan of it because it was kind of crazy there. They had around 100 players. It went pretty well for me and I played in the all-star game at the end of the week, but nothing came out of it."

Or so he thought.

Among the talent evaluators at the combine was Brian Hayes, a former player Trinidad and Tobago's national team, who spent five seasons playing MLS. Several months after the combine, Hayes took over as

YOUTH TRACK & FIELD

County athletes shine at state meet

BY BRANDON MICHEA
brm@ledgernews.com

Seeking berths into the region meet, 30 county individuals and one relay squad combined to earn 78 regional-qualifying, top-eight finishes at the USA Track & Field Georgia Association Junior Olympic Outdoor Track & Field State Championships June 10-14 in Beaufort.


Among those advancing to the regional, five county standouts qualified in three or more events, led by Suwannee Youth Track's Camille Leske, who won the 20-under girls' high jump (5'06.13), 50-meter and triathlon (1,804 points), placed fourth in the long jump (12'03.20) and 600M in the 300 meter (34.58 seconds).

In topping the 10-kil triathlon field, Leske won the high jump (5'06.13), was third in the shot put (28'06.30) and took fourth in the 200 meter (21.54).

Like Leske, Creekview Youth boys' 11U standout Chase Barr was a pair of events on his way to advancing in three.

Barr, who came into the meet with the lowest seed time in the 100 meter, took second in the preliminary, before winning the finals with a time of 11.76. He went on to eclipse 4-01.76 to win the high jump and placed sixth in the 100 meter (26.73).

BY STELLA WEE



PHOTOGRAPH BY STELLA WEE

Running a time of 28.91 seconds, Kell Terza, of the Etowah Youth Track Club, captured the 200 meter title in the girls' 10U division at the USA Track & Field Georgia Association Junior Olympic Outdoor Track & Field Championships last month. In all, Cherokee County athletes combined to capture 75 titles at the meet.

Homecoming



Sports Writing

G

3rd Place

The Madison
County Journal,
Danielsville

Zach Mitcham

APRIL 25, 2013

Madison County Journal

Merged with The Corner News and The Danielsville Monitor, 2006 MadisonJournal.com

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SOCCER FIELD KICKOFF



Yates Angel (in blue) kicks a goal in the first day of action Saturday at the new Madison County Soccer Complex. Zach Mitcham/Journal

Brush Creek holds annual 'Farm Day'



— Page 14A

Raiders capture region titles



— Page 1B

Numbers breakdown

Commissioners start offering views on SPLOST allocation

By Zach Mitcham
zmitcham@madisonjournal.com

Madison County commissioners got down to the nitty-gritty details of the one-cent sales tax referendum Monday — what organizations will get funding and how much will they get.

Of course, no decisions were made. And with commission chairman Anthony Stone and two district commissioners, John Pickett and Joe Stone, offering any number.

But Monday marked the first time during weeks of special purpose local option sales tax (SPLOST) discussions that anyone at the BOC gave any indication of how they plan to allocate sales tax funds if voters agree the tax in November.

Three wanted the department, being the he and James Steven Kirby Clark received current SPLOST revenues and

Approved for a rate proposal for the 2013-14 year, one with an \$11.5 million.

The BOC received 30.5 million in SPLOST revenues from the industrial authority, cities, fire departments and various county departments.

In the 2008 SPLOST, the BOC allocated just \$1.5 million for county roads. And commissioners have repeatedly said that the road funding was woefully short in that SPLOST. However, if they accepted all SPLOST requests for 2013, then they would have roughly the same amount — \$1.5 million — available for roads over the next six years.

Road members have said that they'd like to see a road funding that would get sufficient funding in coming years.

Stone said there are 400 miles of roads in Madison

—The "SPLOST" on 2A

N.F.L. Dreams

Former MCHS, Ga. Southern star ready for this week's draft

By Zach Mitcham
zmitcham@madisonjournal.com

Reed Russell said his name will probably end a draft for this weekend at the pro level in Green Bay, Wis. The family will gather around the TV.

It's a tough, hard-sold player who's earned Georgia Southern's reputation as the toughest guy on the field every Saturday.

— Georgia Southern defensive line coach Victor Cabral on Reed Russell

Relay set for this weekend

The Madison County Relay For Life will be held Friday at the Madison County Recreation Park.

Opening ceremonies begin at 7 p.m.

"We've been able to get this early for the best seats and the best food," organizers said. "There is wonderful food being prepared to sell by so many of our teams, as well as all kinds of fun activities, raffles for some great prizes, children's games, bounce houses, water table for kids, and so much more." The entertainment lineup includes Madison County Band starting this year, as well as the Gibson Family, the Early McCann Band and many other local groups.

—The "Relay" on 2B

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BOC names new senior center director

Madison County commissioners named Kelley Taylor as the new Madison County Senior Center Director.

— Page 3A

Man, woman arrested after altercation

A man and woman on Pleasant Creek Drive were arrested last week for leaving a dispute that turned into a physical altercation.

— Page 2A



Sports Writing

G

2nd Place

Barrow Journal, Winder

Chris Bridges

Recognized for award-winning sports coverage by Georgia Press Association and Georgia Sports Writers Association

SPORTS

July 24, 2013 SECTION: **B**

www.BarrowJournal.com

Opinion

Exciting times ahead for WBHS hoops

If education counts for anything in high school athletics, then good times are ahead for the Winder-Barrow High School boys basketball program.

With the re-hiring of Ron Garren last week as the new coach, Bulldog hoops fans are going to be in for an exciting season and seasons to come.

Garren has not been the coach at WBHS since the 1994-1995 season. As a former sports writer, Chris Bridges chronicles in a column written for The Winder Tribune, a now under still communication.

Chris Bridges
Tribune & Times

High School Basketball

Back where it all started

Garren eager for second stint with Bulldogg basketball program

By Chris Bridges
cbbridges@barrowjournal.com

Winder-Barrow High School is looking to its basketball past in hopes of bringing a successful future.

Ron Garren, the program's most successful coach, was brought back last week and will begin his second stint with the Bulldogs during the upcoming 2013-2014 campaign.


The veteran coach is eager about his new job.

"I am excited about this opportunity for several reasons," Garren told the Barrow Journal Thursday as he settled into his new office. "First, I taught coach for more than 30 years and now I will be able to just coach. That will be a different experience for me. We will also have a coaching staff which includes several former players. My boss (WBHS principal Al Duffin) is a former player and assistant coach for me. I am looking forward to this opportunity. I see this as the last step of my coaching career and it will be where I started."

Garren initially coached WBHS from the 1982-83 season until 1994-1995. He then moved to Jackson County High School for the next six years as head coach.

See Garren on Page 10

Countdown to Kickoff Continues...



NEW SEASON APPROACHES

The Apalachee High School Football Team, shown during a summer workout session Friday, is looking closer to the 2013 season. The Bulldogs, led by veteran head coach Shane Davis, will meet Elbert County in a pre-season scrimmage Aug. 16 before opening the regular season Aug. 30 against Lanier High School.

AHS will compete in Region 5-AAAAA this fall. See more coverage of the Bulldogs on page 10 in today's edition.

Photo by Jessica Brown

See Bowser on Page 10

High School Soccer

Local players earn honors for 2013 season

By Chris Bridges
cbbridges@barrowjournal.com

Apalachee High School's Kate Zuber and Winder-Barrow High School's Ashley Phin were both named to the All-Northeast Georgia girls soccer team for the 2013 season.

Zuber, a senior this past season, led the Lady Bulldogs with a school-record 26 goals and had four assists. AHS finished 2013 with a 10-7 overall record.

Phin, also a senior, was a team captain for the Lady Bulldogs and scored 17 goals and had eight assists this past spring. For her career, Phin scored 80 goals with 27 assists. Phin was named team MVP for 2012 and 2013.

Winder-Barrow's Clara Tappin and Jovyn McWhorter were named second-team All-Northeast Georgia.

Tappin, a senior, had 10 assists and one goal and was one of the team's top defensive players in 2013. Tappin was named team All-Region.

McWhorter, a senior midfielder/defender, was a team captain and finished with eight goals and 10 assists. She was also named team All-Region.

Apalachee's Kate Wingemore was named second team All-Northeast Georgia for her efforts during her sophomore season. Wingemore scored 15 goals and registered 11 assists.

In addition, Apalachee's Kayla Hill, Alyssa Kaufman and Ariel Warren were named honorable mention All-Northeast Georgia along with Winder-Barrow's Ashley Hightower and Justine Berry.

Apalachee High School's Logan Pender and Winder-Barrow's Marnel Justice were both named to the All-Northeast Georgia boys soccer team.

High School Basketball

Lady Knights get jump start on season

By Chris Bridges
cbbridges@barrowjournal.com

The Bulldogs' Christian Academy girls basketball program is looking to take positive steps during the upcoming 2013-2014 season.

Courtney Mize Elmendorf is entering her second year with the Lady Knights and said the program will benefit from the summer activities the team recently completed.

A big part of BCA's summer was a trip to Presbyterian College. During the camp, the Lady Knights battled North Cobb Christian, a GISA program, in a two-game contest.

"The performance helped skyrocket the players' confidence, their coach said.

"That was encouraging to see," Elmendorf said. "Our numbers are also way up. We have been working with 11 players and that helps in so many ways."

Some of the top returning players this upcoming season will include Kayla Harrison, Sarah Beth Adams and Ariel Jackson.

Photo by Jessica Brown

See BSA on Page 10

WORKING FOR NEW SEASON

Bethlehem Christian Academy's Kayla Harrison (21) and Sarah Beth Adams (12) will be two of the key returning players for the Lady Knights for the 2013-2014 season.

Photo by Jessica Brown



Sports Writing

G

Walker County Messenger

Wednesday, September 4, 2013

Page B1

Sports

For the latest on local stories, visit catwalkchatt.com



By Scott Herpst
is this the year for a first-time Super Bowl winner?

I had second thoughts about ever writing this column.

Let's face it. When it comes to sports, you can't predict the future, especially in a league like the NFL, where injuries can change the landscape of a team and the entire league on a week-to-week basis. So why even try?

Then again, you get better every year in a while. After 11 Super Bowl rings over the years, I finally picked both of last year's Super Bowl teams correctly when I picked the Ravens and the 49ers to win for the title.

Part of the reason I did it down and out on a high note, but what the hell is that?

No, with your pessimistic, I after my take on the 2013 NFL season while taking another stab at making Super Bowl like a genius.

I don't want to pick New England to win the AFC East, but what choice do I have? The bills of the Patriots of some from last year in new A.J. in Detroit, B.J. in Cleveland, and Cam in New England.

But they still have Tom Brady, and I just don't know if Brady is ready to overcome the New York Jets and the New York Giants as a disruption for the Bills to be likely going to start a guy named Jeff Tuel in the season opener. The Bills win this division by default.

The AFC North is a toss-up between the Bengals, Ravens and Steelers. The Bengals have an above-average offense and perhaps the best defense in the AFC.

Cleveland could contend for a wild-card spot, but Pittsburgh is on the decline. Give me the Steelers to win the division with Pittsburgh in a wild-card slot.

Last year was supposed to be Houston's year. Now it seems the window is already closing on the Texans. Will the AFC South see the strongest of divisions, although it is getting less competitive played up over the South last year and I just don't think they can live up to these standards again.

Divisional wild cards: I'm picking the Cardinals, the Packers, and the Seahawks to be the best of the rest, but they can't match the Steelers in Cleveland. There's a lot of prediction for you. There's plenty of room for a good season or quarterback for Cleveland. Not good enough to get them to the playoffs, but good enough to keep the Browns in the division basement.

The NFL is a guessing game, but you can

Gordon Lee grinds up LFO

The offensive line was a concern for Gordon Lee heading into the 2013 season as he leads the Trojans to their second straight state championship. Lee and his staff had to do some major overhauls.

One game into the new season and it appears the Trojans have hit on the right combination.

A revamped line proved the key for 28 points on the ground and Gordon Lee scored his career-high 30 points in a 35-7 victory of LFO Friday night in Fort Lauderdale.

Senior Zach Cobb headed the line from the play of the year in the Trojans, running 28 times for 238 yards and two touchdowns, while junior Matt Fryers added 11 yards on 15 carries.

"The offensive line did great," Wagner beamed after the game. "Cobb and the rest of the guys made a big play. They just ran the ball. Lee was getting after people. They wanted to just get whoever on the game went on. And Lee you look for some 200 yards with a 200 yard rushing yards in a 35-7 victory."



Gordon Lee's Zach Cobb (24) runs LFO defenders in the game as he grinds toward the end zone. Cobb had 214 of the Trojans' 288 rushing yards in a 35-7 victory. (Photo by Colinspictures.com)

Gordon Lee, who failed to score in last year's state title loss to the Class AAA West team, drove Lee based on Cobb's 130-yard run game. Lee added the PAT to tie the game at 7-7.

But just over four minutes later, the Trojans regained the lead through the air as

Senior Carter hooked up with senior QB Jordan Rogers for a 30-yard pass with 1:44 left in the game. Rogers threw the ball down from 10 yards out with 30 seconds left to play. The entire point was taken. page 86

Mustangs corral school's first victory

By Scott Herpst
LAFAYETTE — This past Tuesday morning, the doors of Middle Ridge Middle School opened to students for the first time.

When they opened, they greeted last season's undefeated — a Mustang victory.

The Mustangs made their first victory a successful one last Tuesday, defeating Andrews Middle School of Gordon County to just 18 total yards in a 15-0 non-league game played at Lafayette High School.

"This kids game," said head coach Travis Roberts. "These kids have worked hard since June 11, and they came out and showed last week, which is a credit to them. We only have two kids that have ever played a middle school football game before today, so it's very proud of them."

The Middle Ridge defense set the tone early as Josh Green recorded a sack, stripped the ball, and recovered the fumble to give the ball to the offense of the Mustangs' second line.

The play later, Josh Deagan made his way through the Andrews defense for the first touchdown in the program's history. Deagan also added the conversion run.

The Mustangs defense kept the pressure up into the second half as Deagan blocked a punt, which was recovered by Clay Baker and Green picked off an Andrews pass on the opening play of the second half to set the table for the offense near halftime.

A powerful 22-yard run by Deagan was followed by a 21-yard signal play manager by Green down the Warriors' Warriors, page 88

Calhoun blanks Ridgeland in battle of state finalists

By Scott Herpst
MONTICELLO — Going into the 2013 season, much of the talk was revolving back Calhoun and Ridgeland combined to who they had more than who was returning from their respective state runner-up teams.

For the Jackets, they would have to replace two-time All-state quarterback Tyler Leck, while the Panthers were being to fill the void of offensive coordinator and state runner-up quarterback Tyler Leck.

The Jackets, who returned just five starters on their side of the ball, looked like a knockout in mid-season form, but riding Ridgeland to just 40 total yards and only two first downs.

The Panthers' total first downs didn't even reach



Calhoun's Will Corley (18) and Seth Moss (2) tackle Ridgeland running back George Johnson. The Jackets gave up just 63 yards and two first downs in a shutout win over the Panthers. (Messenger photo/Matt Ledger)

Swarmed under

Calhoun blanks Ridgeland in battle of state finalists

Calhoun's offense didn't do much as they were swarmed under by the Panthers' defense. The Panthers' defense set the tone early as Josh Green recorded a sack, stripped the ball, and recovered the fumble to give the ball to the Mustangs' second line.

The Mustangs made their first victory a successful one last Tuesday, defeating Andrews Middle School of Gordon County to just 18 total yards in a 15-0 non-league game played at Lafayette High School.

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A powerful 22-yard run by Deagan was followed by a 21-yard signal play manager by Green down the Warriors' Warriors, page 88

1st Place

Walker County Messenger, Lafayette

Scott Herpst



Sports Writing

E

3rd Place

The Jones County News, Gray

Chuck Thompson

B SPORTS Thursday, June 20, 2013
The Jones County News

LOCAL ATHLETE
Gore recovering from collision as he begins second half of season
▶ Former Greyhound plays for Lexington in Class A league

CHUCK THOMPSON
chuck@jcnnews.com

Former Greyhound pitcher Tom Gore is expected to start his second half of the season with the Lexington team in the South Atlantic League on Friday.

In his final season in the minor leagues for the Boston Red Sox, Gore is playing for Lexington in the Class A league.

He is having 200 with two doubles, one triple, 20 walks, 10 strikeouts, 10 RBIs and 10 runs scored in 40 games.

But the all-star bench war at the perfect time for Gore, who had to be the wall recently.

Generally, Gore was left out of the lineup trying to chase down a long fly ball during a game in Asheville, N.C., last Thursday, and he was held out of Lexington's final three games before he took to the mound.

"They've got a big staff with these guys, and I was kind of nervous to go back to the mound," he said. "It didn't look too bad, but I wasn't sure where I was for a few weeks, I hit without a shoulder, arm, ribs, head and chin."

Behind him of his days as a starting pitcher with the Greyhounds?

"That, it was a hard job. I woke up the next morning and my ribs were sore and I didn't know why. They're recovering from the injury," he said. "But the OK was, I was kind of leashed up and was for a day next to a full speed."

LOCAL ATHLETE
Tom Gore hits off bat after hitting the ball in a Lexington game earlier this year.

SUMMER BASEBALL
Hounds fare well in JC Summer Shootout
▶ Varsity team and both junior varsity squads have winning records in tournament

CHUCK THOMPSON
chuck@jcnnews.com

It was baseball season in Jones County last week, with the Greyhounds hosting their annual youth baseball camp and the Jones County Summer Baseball Tournament for high school age players.

Kids ages 12-18 took part in the camp, held at the high school baseball field complex, and the Central Association Complex off the 1000s from 7 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. each day.

Coaches from the high school and nearby schools, along with current and former players, served as the instructors. Photos from the camp are on page 10.

And from 8 a.m. until nearly 10 p.m. at night, several junior varsity and varsity baseball games were played at the high school field.

The annual tournament, organized by Jones County coach Steve Vail, is a way for coaches to work with players preparing for next season and get a look at the younger players coming into the high school program.

In addition to the games played at JCHS, more games were also played at Northside High in Warner Robins and Perry High. Other schools participating included Perry, Northside, Wilkes, Wilkes County, Stewart, Bradford, Dublin, Upper Lee and Jones County.

The varsity Greyhounds won four games and tied one in the Shootout. Jones County fielded two junior varsity teams, which together won eight games and tied two - including a coaching battle between the two teams.

"I thought it was a great week," Vail said Monday. "I thought our pitchers really stepped up with the varsity and with the junior varsity games. It was a great chance for us to see the rising sixth graders and other young guys we haven't seen a lot."

Vail also said he was pleased with the way the returning varsity players went about their business.

"I thought the varsity guys played with a lot more confidence and confidence. The guys all seem to be working hard and to be a good fit together, and that's what we want."

Both the varsity and junior varsity teams will continue playing some summer games through the end of June.

The varsity JV team hosts Wilkes on a double-header at 6 p.m. Friday, and the girls JV team plays at Wilkes on a 6 p.m. double-header on Saturday. They head to Perry on June 27 with a double-header at home against each other at 5 p.m.

The varsity team's play at Forest Grove at 6 p.m. on Monday, then host Wilkes at 6 p.m. on June 28. The rest of season tournament will be held June 29-30 at a site to be determined.

"The summer is a good time for us to see in less pressure situations what the guys are doing, both on the field and in the classroom, and who is ready to step up from being a backup player to be a starter, that kind of thing," Vail said.

CHUCK THOMPSON
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Submit sports results and photos to chuck@jcnnews.com or call 984-3929 / See more photos and order reprints at photos.jcnnews.com

Sports Writing

E

2nd Place

The Clayton Tribune

Trevor Metcalfe

Give us your letters to Santa!
We Will Send to North Pole.

Deadline Friday
for The Tribune's
Letters to Santa
section, Dec. 19

See more info below

The Clayton Tribune

THURSDAY, December 12, 2013 theclaytontribune.com Vol. 116, No. 50 • 75 CENTS

Hospital aims for turnaround

By Matt Payne
Staff Writer

In an attempt to speed up its slow move toward financial sustainability and increase community support, Mountain Lakes Medical Center is turning control of the hospital over to Joseph Fornese, of Liberty University, in January.

"My goal for the end of the year is to get the hospital's financial picture to be in the black," said Yoko Lawrence, president of the board of directors and chief executive officer. "That's what we're aiming for."

Fornese is currently a security member at Liberty University in Marietta and has been a factor in the school's increase in enrollment and its growing focus on technology.

"At first, I was brought in as an instructor, and as the need arose I became more involved in the school's operations," Fornese said. "I'm a hard worker and I would be the first to navigate how to make their vision a reality."

Fornese said since he began working for Liberty University, enrollment had more than doubled, growing from about 400 students to more than 1,000.

"I was just a piece of the machinery in just turning it around, getting the community involved with the school — getting back the good things we lost," Fornese said. "It was just a massive turnaround."

According to Lawrence, Fornese's primary duty will be to oversee the day-to-day operations of the hospital and interact with the community on a regular basis.

With less than a month before he becomes CEO, Fornese will be already beginning the process of learning from community members what the hospital could do to improve its image.

"I don't think this job is just about going to people, and obviously they don't know who I am and what I was doing," Fornese said. "It's about the community and what's going on."

Common misconceptions Fornese said were about staffing and the hospital being near closing due to poor finances.

Fornese said though Mountain Lakes is not at risk of closing, improvements needed to be made.

Fornese on CEO, A12

Hospital woes undercut need for care

By Trevor Metcalfe
Staff Writer

Though the process of maintaining a hospital presence in Rabun County has been frustrated by late fee payments, lawsuits and layoffs in both private and public settings, many Rabun County residents and officials said they still see a need for health care services in the county.

"I think it would be a great loss for the county not to have some emergency care," said Debbie Jacobs, county clerk and chief financial officer.

Jacobs helped manage the sale of Rabun County Hospital to the county in August 2010. Until then the hospital was owned by the county, whose taxpayers were contributing \$1 million a year in operation costs. Medical services slowly shrank from nearly 100 beds to only a few doctors and nurses near the end.

"The board decided that we simply could not fund the hospital at that level," said Elaine Melton, who served as Rabun County administrator chairman when the sale was consummated.

Melton said hospital services were under pressure on CDE, A12

Wreck sends driver to hospital

A one-car wreck on Dec. 5 sent the driver to Greene Medical Center in Seneca, S.C. A Chevrolet Cruze that was traveling east on Highway 76 near the South Carolina border left the road and travelled about 75 yards through the wet grass before the front-right side of the car struck a tree. The driver was ejected and landed about 20 feet away at the bottom of an embankment, Rabun County EMS, the Rabun County Sheriff's Office, the Georgia Department of Transportation and Checkers Fire Department were at the scene. No passengers were in the vehicle.

Photo by The Clayton Tribune

Still time for Letters to Santa & Christmas Greetings

One final wish has been granted by the Clayton Tribune, as the deadline for children to submit letters to Santa has been extended until 5 p.m. Friday.

The newspaper will publish the wish lists in a special edition next Thursday, Dec. 19. The holiday wishes to their parents in the special Letters to Santa & Christmas Greetings section. The deadline for submissions to receive all space in this bi-weekly edition is also 5 p.m. Friday.

Letters can be submitted at The Tribune's offices at 128 N. Main St., Clayton, or online at www.theclaytontribune.com. Please use SANTA LETTERS on the subject line.

Advertisers please call 706-782-0122 or use your representative to be included.

For more information, call 706-782-0122.

Fornese on CEO, A12

Wildcats football, Georgia laws move to prevent head injuries

By Trevor Metcalfe
Staff Writer

High school football is over, the college game has entered bowl season and the National Football League schedule is winding down, but concern over head injuries for players remains a current issue.

"NFL, universities and even injury prevention have brought the issue into national headlines this year. The Rabun County Wildcats, along with the Georgia legislature, have recognized the concerns and ramped up efforts to ensure the safety of young athletes on and off the field.

"It's a constant progression every year," said Wildcat head coach Lee Shaw. "The well-being of athletes has never been more important."

Changes to high school athletic rules in 2012, and the Return to Play Act passed by the state legislature this year, place more responsibility on coaches and parents in identifying head injury symptoms and keeping players off the field until they are deemed fit to return.

The act, signed into law in April, holds coaches strictly responsible for keeping players and parents aware of the dangers and symptoms of concussions, and any player with symptoms must be removed from play and evaluated by a doctor.

With the legislation, Georgia joined 13 other states with similar laws.

Rabun County High School athletic trainer Tom Taylor said the state was vital to catching up on head injury prevention.

"Georgia is close to getting everything to place, I believe," Taylor said. "We're doing a lot of things the right way here. We're getting the parents involved. The coaches all have to wear some coursework."

The Wildcats have implemented a concussion management plan, which is a way to inform school staff, parents, coaches and parents about the dangers and symptoms of head injuries along with a plan to treat them.

During the season, four out of 27 Wildcat players were treated for head injuries.

Rabun County Wildcats football players work on their form during a practice this past season. The state of Georgia and the football team took steps this season to prevent both short- and long-term head injuries.

Photo by FOOTBALL, A12

Jailer charged for sex with inmate

By Mike Spawny
Staff Writer

A jailer at the Rabun County Detention Center faces a charge of sexual assault against a person in custody for having sexual relations with an inmate.

Benjamin Fred Daley, 31, of Clayton, was arrested Dec. 9 on the felony charge.

The state has been charged with another felony, violating his oath of office.

Daley, who no longer works for the Rabun County Sheriff's Office, appeared Dec. 11 in Rabun County Magistrate Court for his first appearance. He was released later than that on \$40,000 bond.

According to the arrest warrant, Daley allegedly had sexual contact with inmate inmate in December 2012. Sheriff's Lt. Jack Tackler signed an investigation form 20 days after Daley had sexual contact with an inmate, according to sheriff's reports. A state-

Photo by JAILER, B11

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Sports Writing

E

1st Place

Monroe County Reporter, Forsyth

Richard Dumas



Sports Writing

D

3rd Place

The Walton Tribune, Monroe

David Johnson

Sports The Walton Tribune
B
WEDNESDAY
April 10, 2013



DAVID JOHNSON
Columnist
Changes coming for LCA, GWA

Big news this week for Walton County's smallest schools. Loganville Christian Academy's path to a potential state football championship became much less treacherous while George Walton Academy may be awarded with some old rivals.

Both in the wake of recent major defections from the Georgia Independent School Association and a potential change of heart by the Georgia High School Association. Taken together, could there be a first-ever gridiron showdown on the horizon between our two pre-eminent private schools?

As of now, there are just a dozen football-playing schools in Georgia Independent School Association's top school division, Class AAA. They'll be 13 when LCA joins this fall. But three of the private-school league's traditional powerhouses announced recently they'll be moving to the Georgia High School Association in 2014. They'll join GWA and First Presbyterian, which moved to the GISA in 2009 and had won five GISA football titles between them. Unless the GISA engages in some major realignment, LCA won't have enough schools in its own size to fill out a regular-season schedule. But that issue could be resolved if the GISA ends the long-standing restriction against allowing its members to play GISA schools in any sport. That very topic will be discussed at the GISA's executive committee meeting next week.

Such a change would be beneficial to school's of both associations by making it easier for teams to schedule nonregion opponents closer to home. Travel, its cost as well as lost class time, was the major factor in GWA leaving the GISA. Had the Bulldogs been allowed to cross-schedule GISA schools years ago, they might still be members of the private school league.

LCA will see its sports travel costs explode next season. The Lions' closest Class AAA opponent in football will be a two-hour drive to Newton. But if the GISA loosens its restrictions and allows teams from the two associations to compete during the regular season, LCA would be able to fill out its schedule with any of a number of teams in close proximity in Loganville. Its shortest trip would be just 10 miles east to Monroe.

David Johnson is a sports writer and columnist for The Walton Tribune. Contact him at djohnson@waltontribune.com.



Walton Grove's Ryan Garner charges toward the plate during Monday's game at Monroe Area.

Warriors gain split with Hurricanes

Each team finds way to win on opponent's home field

By DANNY DANIELS
daniel@waltontribune.com

Walton Grove and Monroe Area split a Region 8-AAAA high school baseball home-and-home series in recent action. The Purple Hurricanes got a solid pitching performance from Austin Thomas and Austin Komer Friday and handed Walton Grove a 3-1 loss in nine innings despite an equally impressive performance by Drew Merrill. But the Warriors came back Monday to win a 9-1 battle at Monroe Area.

Thomas started Friday's game and went six innings before giving way to Komer in the seventh. The hard-throwing right-hander earned the victory.

Walton Grove drove in the winning run for the 'Canes in the top of the sixth. Wainwright then scored an insurance run on a fielder's choice.

Wainwright and Bailey Fisher were the hitting stars for coach Charles

Wainwright's squad with three hits each. Josh Hawbaker added two hits for Monroe Area.

Ryan Garner, Jake Frazer, Ben Harris, Gage Helms and Dakota Owens each had one hit for the Warriors.

On Monday, the rematch turned out to be far less entertaining for Hurricane fans. Walton Grove plated six runs in the first three innings to put the game away early.

The Warriors took an early lead

See GAMES, Page B3

Mayo has been clutch performer for LHS

Slagger thrives on coming up with big hit

By DAVID JOHNSON
djohnson@waltontribune.com

David Mayo had failed his teammates.

In the opening game of last year's Class AAAA best-of-three championship series between Greenbrier and Loganville at Red Devil Field, the game was tied 1-1, and runs were as precious as gold.

So when Mayo overrode his catcher in a rundown and allowed the go-ahead run to score, the Red Devils were on the verge of dropping the all-important first game.

But instead of hanging his head, he refused and hit the game-winning three-run homer an inning later.

"I really felt like I let the team down," Mayo said. "It felt great to come back and get that hit."

The homer was one of just many dramatic plays he's made since transferring to Loganville from Albany after his sophomore year.

Though overshadowed by all-star catcher Wainwright, including top-ranked prospect Clint Frazer, the 5-foot-10-inch, 170-pound senior slugger has become the last person opponents want to see at the plate when the game's on the line.

In the third and decisive game against Greenbrier, he hit another three-run homer in the second inning that broke open a tight game and led to a 14-4 win.

But his most impressive showing came a month earlier in Game 2 of the semifinal series against Adair Creek. The Red Devils had dropped the opener and the second game was tied 1-1 in the eighth. Adair Creek had runners on first and second with no outs.

The Gladiators laid down a bunt, the pitcher fielded and, in an attempt to get the lead runner, made a wide throw toward third that appeared to be headed to the outfield. But Mayo, who'd retained from shortstop, went vertical to catch the ball and get the ground out.

"If he doesn't make that play, our season's probably over," Sugars said.

The Red Devils emerged victorious and, in the 10th, Mayo hit a sacrifice fly to put his team ahead. Then, in the bottom of the inning, he completed three innings of relief by entering the side in order to secure the victory.

"He's clutch, he's a gamer," Sugars said. "The bigger the situation, the better he is. He's just got that 'it' factor."

Whether it's with his glove, bat or arm, Mayo finds a way to contribute.

"I like to be put in situations where I can help the team," Mayo said. "I want to be in that spot. It's just a big adrenaline boost."

Down the home stretch of the regular season, with the playoffs looming, Mayo figures to have many more opportunities to add to his ever-growing highlight reel. Heading into this week's action, he'd done most of his

See MAYO, Page B3

Paschals receive grant from Athletic Recruiting

Social Circle brothers attract national acclaim

From STAFF REPORTS
report@waltontribune.com

They and Cameron Paschal from Social Circle High School have won a National Athletic Leadership Grant sponsored by NCAA Athletic Recruiting and the NFLPA.


Receiving this prestigious award is an honor, one that is only given to a select number of student athletes throughout the country in all sports from football to track. The Athletic Leadership Grant is awarded to student athletes who qualify based on leadership in their community, academic achievement, athletic skill and a required essay written by the student athletes.

"We are very pleased to be involved with NCAA in assisting in the recognition and the selection of qualified student athletes to receive scholarship.

See SCHS, Page B3



Cameron Paschal is among elite number of students.



They Paschal was honored for his leadership abilities.



Sports Writing

D

2nd Place

The Covington News

Matt Smith

The Covington News Sports Page 18 Sunday, Dec. 8, 2013

SPORTS

Lady Rams add another win; Newton pulls ahead

JASON DICKINSON
jdickinson@covingtonnews.com

The Lady Rams were able to add another win to their record Saturday afternoon, as they came out in dominating fashion and blew past non-region opponent Cedar Shoals 51-27 at home.

Newton outplayed Cedar Shoals from start to finish, leading Tiffani Johnson said. "They did a better job during the half and starting a second."

The Lady Rams "Big 3" played a huge role in the dominating win. Senior Bernia Frazier had 20 points, Cheyenne Reed picked up with 11 points, and Precious Price added 13 points to the win.

"The Lady Rams started the game on an 8-0 run, and finished the first quarter limiting Cedar Shoals to only five points in the period."

Newton's offense caught fire in the second quarter, as it scored 14 points and limited Cedar Shoals to only two points in the first quarter.

The Lady Rams finally woke up in the third quarter. Cedar Shoals was able to score nine points in the quarter, but the Lady Rams offense didn't let up.

Newton recorded its highest scoring quarter, with 19 points, including a 17-0 run.

"Every day in practice we are supposed to get better," Johnson said. "I think we did some things better today and we will have some things we got to work on."

Newton returns to the court next week against Eastside.

Flame down Jags

There was an intense feel to the game on Saturday evening at Newton High School as the Newton Rams took on Cedar Shoals in a non-region battle.

Newton pulled out the lead in the first quarter, 11-0, and finished the quarter with 19 points, including a 17-0 run.

"Every day in practice we are supposed to get better," Johnson said. "I think we did some things better today and we will have some things we got to work on."

— **Don Newton, 20**



Mentee by chance, friends by choice

■ Former Big East basketball standout reunites with childhood mentor after over a decade apart

MATT SMITH
msmith@covingtonnews.com

In an empty gym at his rural Middle School Thursday morning, a former Big East basketball star and current Rockdale County Sheriff's Deputy David Taylor reunited with his mentor, David Curcio. The two have had vastly different lives since Curcio first met Taylor in the late 1980s.

Friendship begins

Taylor's basketball career had humble beginnings, he grew up in Queens, New York, with a dream just like thousands of others. But Taylor was realized that he had a special skill on the court, and in high school, it made his name known throughout the country.

"The last thing you find in shooting," Taylor said. "I never had it," Curcio quipped.

"I was just an inner-city kid from Far Rockaway, New York," Taylor said. "I was a kid with a dream. I had a dream on something I could. People tell that I was pretty good and I played in high school and became a 'high school star'."

Taylor did not at the high school level, averaging 28 points a game his senior year at Far Rockaway High School. He wanted to continue his career at the collegiate level, but there was a road block.

Taylor didn't do well on the SAT, the college entrance examination, but several colleges and universities were to determine a student's readiness for college work.

On a stroke of luck, and timing, changed Taylor's life forever.

In another part of New York City, Curcio was celebrating the birth of his son, one of four when he was a New York State child abuse investigator.

— **Don Mentzer, 48**



Lady Eagles outlast Alcovy

MATT SMITH
msmith@covingtonnews.com

The Eastside girls' varsity basketball team picked up its 10th win of the season Saturday afternoon, outlasting rival Alcovy 33-26 on the road.

The Lady Eagles needed only a 12-0 lead in the first quarter, but had to hold off an Alcovy attack that saw the Lady Tigers take the lead late in the fourth quarter.

Down 43-44 with just over two minutes to go in the game, Eastside went on a 7-1 run to close out the contest, holding the Lady Tigers scoreless from the field while forcing a pair of Alcovy turnovers.

"It looks really good getting a win over our rivals, especially when one of our best players was down," Eastside coach Marlene Pinner said. "We didn't bring our heads when we got down, and we hung in there and fought."

"We had the lead the most of the game, but we weren't able to put them away," he said. "They had hard foul and gave us a good win. They scrapped and played on sight. It was a good rivalry game."

Leading 47-43 heading into the fourth quarter, Eastside fell behind for the first time in the contest with 4:50 to go in the game.

Alcovy's Westford gave the Lady Tigers their first lead on a jumper in the last, putting Alcovy ahead 39-47.

Alcovy kept the pressure on Eastside, pushing its lead to 43-42 after Westford hit a pair of free throws, but Alcovy scored the game-winning shot.

— **Don Eastside, 48**



MAKING OUR COMMUNITY STRONGER 770-787-3908



Sports Writing

D

1st Place

Henry Daily Herald, McDonough

Gabriel Stovall

sports henryherald.com
PAGE 7A • SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2013

Coaching high school more than wins and losses

MCDONOUGH — Call it the Southern Crescent's Black Monday.

It was the day earlier this week when I walked into the office to discover, with a noticeable pang, that at least two of the area high school football coaches had been removed of their duties.

One was Clark's John Kovach. The other, Lenoxy's A.J. Hughes. Okay. Not the first time in my 2 1/2 years of covering sports in the area, but I've been around to witness the firing of a coach.

But what came after it was a first for me.

Speculation. Rumors. by

Gabriel Stovall

...and speculation. But others, as I would soon discover, were true. Mount Zion football coach Ernie Stull was out. In what seems to have become an annual coaching search for Forest Park football, Panthers' coach John Dahl was ousted.

Then on Friday, Woodland High principal Ben Cook confirmed that Woodpack athletic director and boys basketball coach David Blue was relieved of his duties, but would remain on as basketball coach. And Scott Schmitt, the only head football coach Woodland has ever known, would no longer wear that title for the Stockbridge school.

When I asked these coaches for comment, most of them predictably — and understandably — said, "Thanks, but no thanks."

Most of the coaches that were let go had worked, at best, a few months. And some may think I'm trying to be a pessimist when I say that.

The Lenoxy coaching change was particularly troublesome and inexplicable to me. There aren't

... See STOVALL, Page 8A



Former Oia coach John Kovach was just the second head football coach in the school's history. Oia athletic director Curt Miller said he hoped to have the position filled by mid-January. (Staff Photo: Gabriel Stovall)

S. Crescent represented in all-area

By Denise Manning
dmanning@henryherald.com

MCDONOUGH — Luella's football season in 2013 won't just be measured by its first postseason appearance since 2008 — just the second in school history.

A lock down the roster of the All-Region 2 AAAAAA team also gives a good indication as to the progress of Lions football.

Luella had a total of 11 players named to the all-region team with two named to the first team defense, Linebacker Steve Ouedra and defensive lineman A.J. Roemer were named to the first team from Luella. Luella finished 3-4 for the season, losing to North Cobb in the first round of the state playoffs.

Roemer registered 103 tackles, including 21.5 for loss, and 23 solo stops with six sacks. Ouedra, meanwhile, totaled 88 tackles with 62 solo hits. He recorded 13 tackles for loss and had 5.5 sacks.

Elsewhere at the Southern Crescent, while the debate continues on whether Preston Williams is the top junior recruiting prospect in the country, Region 2 AAAAAA coaches think he is the best in their league.

The Lenoxy High junior wide receiver was named the Region 2 AAAAAA Offensive Player of the Year by the region's coaches. This past season, Williams led the second-ranked Wildcats offense with 1,682 receiving yards and 14 touchdowns.

Lenoxy won its fourth straight region title and reached the second round of the Class AAAAAA playoffs, where it lost to Lawrence at Twelve Oaks Stadium.

... See ALL-AREA, Page 8A



Luella's starter David Moore is among the most highly recruited high school basketball players in the nation as a junior. (Staff Photo: Gabriel Stovall)

TALL ORDER

With confidence, Luella's Moore tough to handle

By Gabriel Stovall
gstovall@henryherald.com

LOCKST GROVE — Before David Moore was a big basket ball recruiting target, he was just a kid.

When the now 7-footer first stepped onto the court to play basketball for the Luella Lions as a freshman, he was 6-foot-9 inches tall, and a shadow of the player that is now making his name and offers from the biggest, biggest most storied men's basketball programs in the nation.

Indiana, Ohio, North Carolina, Georgetown, UConn, Louisville, Maryland.

Yeah, these guys.

However, Moore himself will tell you that early in his high school career, his physical status severely dented his team confidence. That all began to change as he developed with Luella coach Leonard Sims, his

... See MOORE, Page 8A



Luella's freshman Steve Ouedra was one of the leaders for Luella's defense, and is one of 11 Luella players to make the All-Region 2 AAAAAA team. (Staff Photo: Gabriel Stovall)

Region's oldest wrestling tournament has tough challenge

By Gabriel Stovall
gstovall@henryherald.com

MCDONOUGH — Since 1968, the South Metro Wrestling Tournament has been a staple of the sport in high school in the South.

In fact, not only is it the oldest wrestling tournament in the Southeast, it may also be the most difficult.

"It's a tough tournament," said Forest Park coach Don Williams, who has coached in it every year since 1989.

"I've won three state championships as a coach. I've only won one of those tournaments during that time. And in all these state title seasons, I've never won the South Metro."

Oia coach Joey Dineen is also the tournament's director. Dineen said that this year's tournament featured 28 teams, including Lakeland College — last year's tournament champion — and several other Southern Crescent squads. In times past, the tournament has carried as many as 32 teams.

Oia is competing without three of its top wrestlers in 2012 Class AAAAAA runner-up South Cobb (126 pounds), and follow 2012 state qualifier Ian Wilson (138 pounds) and Jordan Gutierrez (142 pounds). Despite this, Dineen said several of his other athletes are performing well in their

... See WRESTLING, Page 8A



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• College Football, 3B

Sports

SPORTS EDITOR
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SECTION
B

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CHEROKEE TRIBUNE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2013

SEQUOYAH 36, NORTH SPRINGS 27

Chiefs prevail despite 'cluster'

Spartans put brief scare into Sequoyah during fourth quarter

By Martin Kester
Tribune Sports Correspondent

SANDY SPRINGS — Sequoyah took advantage of two first-quarter fumbles and beat North Springs 36-27 for its first Region 7AAAAA (A) win.

The Chiefs (4-2, 1-1) prevailed despite allowing the Spartans (1-5, 0-2) to recover two onside kicks in the fourth quarter.

"It was a 'cluster-mess,'" Sequoyah coach James Teter said, "but we'll take a win any way we can get it, ugly or not."

Behind a dominating performance by senior quarterback Lex Lauletta, the Chiefs built a 36-14 lead going into the fourth quarter, but they couldn't put the game away.

North Springs completed an 11-play drive to start the final frame with a 27-yard run by quarterback Tyler Reid. The Spartans were also assisted by a penalty that confounded Teter.

"I don't know where the pass interference came from," he said, "but we overcame it."

Reid finished the night 14-for-31 for 181 yards, a touchdown and an interception.

North Springs continued to overcome its deficit, recovering its first onside kick after it banged off a Sequoyah player. The Spartans soon scored on a 20-yard pass from Reid to Darrian Lamar.

Lamar was the down man for North Springs' attempt at a 2-point conversion, and he got up with the snap, but the Chiefs were ready and intercepted the pass.

See Chiefs, Page 3B



Staff / Samantha M. Shal
Sequoyah quarterback Lex Lauletta turned to his feet in Friday's game at North Springs, running the ball for 137 yards and leading the Chiefs to a subregion victory.

CREEKVIEW 35, NORTHVIEW 28



Staff / Katherine Frye

Above: Creekview running back Isaiah Rodgers tries to sidestep the oncoming Northview defense Friday. Rodgers ran for a team-best 127 yards, but the Grizzlies were boosted by a big defensive effort to win the subregion game. Below: Connor Dulmage had some of those defensive contributions, returning an interception for a touchdown — one of three in all the two-way player had.

NOTHING 'DUL'

Two-way player Dulmage plays key role in giving Grizzlies hard-fought subregion victory

By Emily Horos
ehoros@cherokeetribune.com

CANTON — The Creekview offense wasn't clicking on all cylinders Friday night, but fortunately for the Grizzlies, their defense came up big on several occasions in a 35-28 win over Northview in Region 7AAAAA (A).

Dawson Ewers and Connor Dulmage each intercepted a pass by Northview quarterback D.J. Pearson, and both returned their picks for touchdowns on plays that made the difference in the game.

With less than a minute remaining in the game, Northview (2-3, 1-1) trailed by seven and was driving. But Creekview's Logan Ridings drove Pearson back for a 20-yard loss on third down.

On fourth down, and the Titans' final chance to tie the game, the Grizzlies (4-2, 2-0) allowed just a 5-yard gain before taking over on downs.

Creekview ended the game in victory formation, sealing the win that seemingly put it into the drivers' seat of Region 7AAAAA's northern half. The Grizzlies have three subregion games left, against teams that have a combined four wins.

Dulmage scored three touchdowns on the night, with two coming in the



fourth quarter. Still, he said the biggest play of the game was holding Northview in the waning seconds. "For the whole team, that was a big step for our defense," Dulmage said. "That was the best play of the game." Then, 3 minutes later, Dulmage intercepted what

appeared to be a promising drive by the Titans. The linebacker intercepted Pearson's pass on the 46-yard line and cut through the middle of the field. He looked as if he would be tackled near the 10-yard line, but he wasn't.

See Victory, Page 3B



CHEROKEE COUNTY PREP FOOTBALL SCOREBOARD

CREEKVIEW 35 NORTHVIEW 28

SEQUOYAH 36 NORTH SPRINGS 27

Standouts aplenty in county meet

Etowah favored in team races, but individual titles seem wide-open

By Emily Horos
ehoros@cherokeetribune.com

The Cherokee County cross country championships will be held today at Canton's Boling Park, offering a preview of the state championships to come.

On the girls side, Etowah is the favorite for the county title. The Lady Eagles are currently ranked fourth in the state across all classifications, according to gamilesplit.com.

Four years removed from its last county title, Etowah has a balanced team led by Kingsley Green and Kyla Resnick, but there isn't much

separation between those two in the rest of the team. Each of the Lady Eagles' five vanity runners have posted times good enough to land them in the top 10 this season.

Challenging Etowah will be Creekview and Woodstock.

The Lady Grizzlies are coming off their best weekend of the season, running a team average of just over 20 minutes at the Westover Invitational, which was good enough to place the team second in the field of 26.

Over the course of the season, Creekview has finished in the top two in four of its six races, and the

team boasts four of the top 20 times in Class AAAAA.

Today's race might be a bit of a challenge, however, as Creekview will compete without Rachel Boulinau and Lauren Johnson, who suffered injuries during the week.

Creekview coach Michael Sinco said he is hopeful of having Boulinau and Johnson back in time for the Region 7AAAAA meet Nov. 2, back at Boling Park.

"We are hopeful they will be back this season, as both (are) critical to the team's success," Sinco said.

See Meet, Page 3B



Staff / Todd Hall

When the county cross country meet takes place today at Boling Park, there will be no lack of candidates to win from Cherokee County's six schools.

Sports Writing

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LEISURE
Josh Sewell reveals his picks for 2012's top movies
Thursday

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Walker set for future All-Americans Bowl
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TIMES-GEORGIAN

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New venues boost downtown Carrollton

BY WINSTON JONES
Downtown Carrollton has reemerged as a tourist and entertainment destination, while bolstering its existing retail district.

City leaders led the opening of three downtown venues — The Amp, the city's downtown neighborhood, the renovated Carroll Main Street Depot, and the Southeastern Quilt and Textile Museum — will keep the city alive and thriving during 2013.

These attractions add to a district that includes the Carroll Cultural Arts Center, restaurants, retail shops and the Carroll County Judicial Center.

"The possibilities are endless for these new facilities, and we expect the demand to keep growing through the year," said Carroll Main Street Director Jessica Reynolds. "We already have at least a dozen weddings booked for the train depot, starting in January."

Reynolds said the depot's attractiveness as a wedding site will be further boosted on Jan. 27 when it hosts the Times-Georgian's annual Bridal Expo. The event gives the public a chance to view exhibits by numerous local bridal merchants.

The Expo will also be the first major, free event to bring the general public to the depot. A limited audience, fundraising wine tasting party was held Nov. 9 at the depot, as building workers were being put on the building.

"The Expo will be the biggest event held in the depot so far," said City Manager Casey Coleman. "The city plans to use it as an open house, bringing more people in to see the facility. We're seeing quite a bit of interest in the depot."

Carrollton Mayor Wayne Carner said last fall that the total renovation of the 9,000-square-foot depot would cost around \$1.5 million or less. That is far below the original estimate of \$4 to \$5 million. Carner said the savings were due to using inmate labor.

11 VENUES PAGE A3

‘Mutt loaf’ for dinner
Pet cookbook raises funds for needy animal owners

BY WINSTON JONES
Community cookbooks, with recipes collected from local residents, have long been popular fundraisers for churches and civic groups.

But the Carroll County Humane Society has come up with a unique twist to this popular fall — a pet food cookbook with meals and treats for dogs and cats.

The idea for "Slappy Pet Cookbook" came from Humane Society board member Susan Holland.

"When she came to me with her idea, I knew it was a winning idea," said local Humane Society president Terresa Leslie. "We started soliciting recipes from our members through the newsletter and our Facebook page, and got a great response."

Leslie said the recipes include a variety of meals and treats, along with food to stuff into treat toys. They include delicacies such as "Main Land," made with a variety of vegetables and bean lent, and "Carrot Cake," by Maggie Hadden, daughter of local veterinarian Dr. Jason Hadden.

111 COOKBOOK PAGE A8



Granny, Get Your Gun
Age hasn't slowed Roopville grandmother's love for the big hunt

BY COREY CUSICK
Tucked away in a quiet, corner living room sits inside her rural Roopville residence, Emma Christine keeps her hands busy, busily working on her latest quilting endeavor.

She occasionally pauses, the multi-colored fabric draped over her lap, to take a gander out the nearby window that looks toward the southeast corner of her modest, out-of-the-way home, where a well-kept garden sits in front of the dirt driveway.

111 GRANNY PAGE A5

Event to create a 'month' of poverty
Simulation open to all educators

BY COLTON CAMPBELL
Approximately 48.2 million Americans struggle to pay for every day, and teachers will be given a small taste of what that's like later this month.

A five-hour program around town offers a grim outlook on the issue — "Can you survive?" it reads.

An event that will simulate poverty, open to all teachers and to be hosted in Carrollton by West Georgia HESA, is scheduled for Jan. 23 from 12:30-3 p.m.

The poverty simulation will place up to 70 participants into "families" and challenge them to survive for one month. The month is broken down into four 15-minute "weeks."

"The families must keep a roof over their heads and food on the table, utilize on-line pay periods, keep children in school, and so on," said Cassie Hill, the instructor of the program.

Hill said the simulation is used to "sensitize people and encourage them to obstruct low-income families from trying to survive."

111 POVERTY PAGE A3

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'This is simply just too great an opportunity to pass up.'

GSU President Brooks Keel

GSU joins Sun Belt

By MATT YOGUS
yogus@statesboroherald.com

It's official—Georgia Southern will make the move to the Football Bowl Subdivision.

Beginning on July 1, 2014, GSU will be a member of the Sun Belt Conference, along with current Southern Conference rival Appalachian State.

Georgia Southern was more national in title than any other program in the Football Championship Subdivision (formerly I-AA) from 1984 until 2012. Appalachian State has won them.

Keel made the decision it was time for a new challenge.

"This is simply just too great an opportunity to pass up," GSU President Brooks Keel said at a news conference Wednesday morning, announcing the move was made official.

Keel was joined by Sun Belt Commissioner Karl Swanson, GSU Ad interim Vice President Tom Klumstein and GSU student government president Dominique Duvall at the event.

According to Klumstein, the biggest change will be GSU's perception.

"From this day forward, we are an FBS program," he said. "No more questions about, 'Do you plan Division I sports?' We do."

Postseason eligibility

Football will be the only GSU sport that will lose postseason eligibility during the transition.

The program will not be eligible to win the Southern Conference title in 2013. It also will not be eligible for the FCS playoffs.

Head coach Jeff Brohm told the team about the upcoming season's ineligibility on Monday.

"There's an initial shock at what this means, we don't get to play for anything," he said. "It's the same reaction I had when I found out."

News media from around the region gather to cover Wednesday's press conference as Georgia Southern announces a move to the Sun Belt Conference to compete in football at the Football Bowl Subdivision level.

See SUN BELT, Page 3

Planned business park is one step closer

City and county move forward on industrial area

By JEFF HARRISON
harrison@statesboroherald.com

One of the final hurdles to an industrial development project at the U.S. Highway 80 South and Interstate 16 interchange is closed.

City of Statesboro and Wilkes County officials signed off this month on an intergovernmental agreement that sets guidelines regarding utilities at the site.

The contract will allow the City of Statesboro's Water/Wastewater Department to begin laying groundwork for what officials hope will become an industrial park similar to the Gateway Center.

See PARK, Page 4

Ga. General Assembly

Likely last day topics: Ethics, guns and money

By RAY HENRY
henry@statesboroherald.com

ATLANTA — Georgia lawmakers have just one day to make major decisions on whether to limit tobacco spending, lower gas taxes and pass the state budget.

The General Assembly meets only 40 days annually, meaning its session Thursday will be the last for the year. State lawmakers start voting early in the morning and keep going chaotically until the clock strikes midnight. Key bills that do not pass the House and Senate by then automatically fail for the year.

The biggest question is whether Georgia lawmakers

Atlanta have made it legal for gay and lesbian to marry. Some say unions also were legal in California for nearly two months in 2008 before the Proposition 8 ban.

Justice Anthony Kennedy, when the decision was in close cases, joined

See LAW, Page 4

Boost for gay marriage: Justices question US law

By MARK USHERMAN
usherman@statesboroherald.com

WASHINGTON — Concluding two days of intense debate, the Supreme Court signaled Wednesday it could give a boost to same-sex marriage by striking down the federal law that denies legally married gay spouses

The Defense of Marriage Act

► The law enacted in 1996 defines marriage as the union of a man and a woman for purposes of federal law.

► It affects more than 1,100 statutes in which marital status is relevant, dealing with tax benefits for married couples, Social Security survivor benefits and, for federal employees, health insurance and leave for spouses.

► A wide range of benefits offered to other couples, for the court scrapped

Justices indicated they will invalidate part of the bill and Defense of Marriage Act — if they can get past procedural problems earlier to those that opposed to mark Tuesday's case over California's ban on same-sex marriage.

Since the Defense of Marriage Act was enacted in 1996, nine states and the District of

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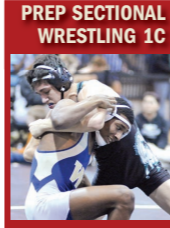
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MDJ ONLINE Sunday

FEBRUARY 10, 2013

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\$1

Tumlin only mayor sold on IMAGE

Kennesaw, Acworth against program to verify illegal immigrant work status

By Jon Gillooly ggillooly@mdjonline.com

MARIETTA

STEVE TUMLIN: YES
"I think we have a duty to make sure the subcontractors are in compliance also. They vicariously represent us whether they're on the list or not."

POWDER SPRINGS

PAT VAUGHN: MAYBE
"We need to know the ins and the outs."

ACWORTH

TOMMY ALLEGOOD: NO
"We do not have any plans at this point to implement IMAGE certification to our employees or our contractors."

KENNESAW

M. MATHEWS: NOT NOW
"There's not been a big push for us to do anything at this point from anywhere."

SMYRNA

MAX BACON: MAYBE
"It doesn't cost any money. I don't have a problem with us doing it."

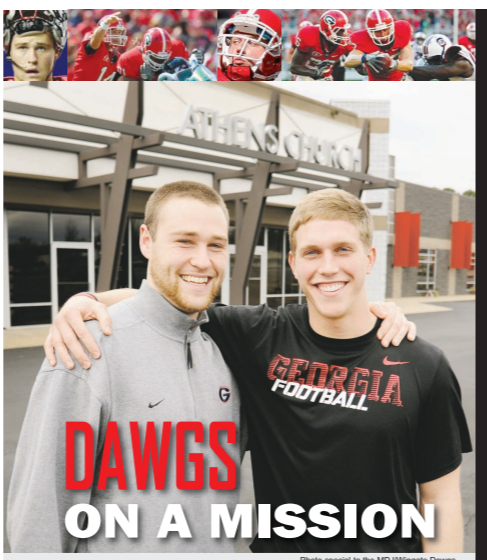
AUSTIN

JOE JEWINS: MAYBE
"If we need to do it, we'll do something. I'm not sure what."

MAYOR VS. ACTIVIST

MAX BACON
"D.A. King needs to get a life. I'm going to send him back to the country he was born in, which was the country of euthanasia and see if we can't get him back there as soon as possible."

D.A. KING
"I will pass his un-medicated insults on to the members of the Dustin Inman Society board of advisors. Anytime Mayor Bacon wants to confront me face to face — and I do mean anytime, I can meet him."



Georgia quarterback Hutson Mason, left, and wide receiver Michael Bennett will be spending their spring break on a mission trip to the Dominican Republic.

QB Mason, WR Bennett will help people in poverty stricken area of Dominican Republic

By John Bednarowski | sportseditor@mdjonline.com

Hutson Mason is the backup quarterback at the University of Georgia. He also holds the Georgia High School Association single-season passing records of 4,560 yards and 54 touchdowns.

But Mason is more than just a quarterback, and he's more than just a college student. The Lanier High School graduate believes in helping those who are in need, and he's not the least timid about sharing his faith. Next month, Mason, along with Georgia receiver Michael Bennett and 25 friends, will travel to an area 200 miles outside of San Juan de la Maguana in the Dominican Republic on a mission trip to try and bring aid and comfort to people who live in poverty.

"One of the most appealing things is it humbles you," said the 21-year-old Mason, who went on numerous mission trips, both in the United States and abroad, while growing up attending the First Baptist Church in Woodstock.

He will be returning to the Dominican Republic for a second time after serving there when he was a sophomore at Lanier.

"You see the poorest of the people," Mason added. "It makes you realize that you have to count your blessings, and it's important to serve people."

For Bennett, all he has had to this point is the opportunity to learn about what is to come, and

See Mission, Page 6A

New DA Reynolds says he will focus on white-collar crime, helping elderly

By Jon Gillooly ggillooly@mdjonline.com

MARIETTA — District Attorney Vic Reynolds plans to turn up the heat on crooks and scam artists who may not carry guns or look particularly scary, but they prey on the elderly and are often experts in financial fraud.

Another focus of the new D.A. will be on mental health and making sure non-violent offenders get help, without taking up space in the Cobb County Jail.

Reynolds' challenge in making these changes will be to "do more with less," as he likely won't be able to add to his team of prosecutors. Prior to his taking office, there was not a unit dedicated to handling

elder abuse crime. Reynolds changed that by assigning the cases to the Crimes against Women and Children Unit. That department is reviewing every crime in the county in which the victim is 65 or older, whether the crime is physical or financial. The crimes are assigned to

that unit because cases against women and children are prosecuted in a similar manner as elder abuse, he said.

Another activity Reynolds is targeting is white-collar crime.

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3rd Place

Marietta Daily Journal

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Sports Writing

B

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Adams' athletic legacy

Michael Adams leaves presidency with big imprint on UGA sports

By Marc Weiszer | www.athensbannerherald.com

In his 16 years as president of the University of Georgia, Michael Adams' influence on athletics at the school has been felt, as he put it, by keeping "a hand on the rubber."

That has made for some smooth sailing as well as some choppy times during his tenure. Georgia's athletic revenue has grown from \$25.7 million in 1997 when Adams became president to a projected \$72.1 million for fiscal year 2013, and the Bulldogs have won 19 national titles in six sports during that time.

He had a messy parting of ways with athletic director Vince Dooley that changed much of the Bulldog Nation and played a large role in the hiring of head coach Mark Stoops. Adams said during an interview in his fourth campus office in his final weeks as president before his retirement on June 30. "You want to know what my biggest regret is? Not getting the final five yards against Alabama. To have gone out in the national championship game, and I felt that regret that was the national championship game and I think the following years proved me right. I'm not sure I'm over that one yet."

Adams was a regular presence in Georgia football locker rooms and he often spoke to the team before he and the team gave to him during his final season as president after victories against Nebraska in the Capital One Bowl and versus Georgia Tech, a 42-10 thrashing.

See ADAMS on 10



Top: The Athens Banner-Herald's Marc Weiszer speaks during a debate for the re-election of Mike Adams (left) on Feb. 14, 2011, in Athens. Adams, who was re-elected president of the university in 1997, announced a vote on his retention in votes at the end of next month. Adams speaks in favoring the 19th and former NCAA president Mike Brand during the NCAA national convention on Jan. 14, 2010, in Atlanta.

Noteable moments in athletics during Adams' tenure

 <p>Relationship with Vince Dooley</p> <p>Adams pushed Vince Dooley, the beloved former football coach and athletic director, into retirement in 2005. The strained relationship between the two men was public, and neither will talk much about the Dooley era with Adams. Adams' last words about Dooley were, "I'm not sure I'm over that one yet."</p>	 <p>Facility expansion, renovation</p> <p>The Georgia athletic association's budget has nearly quadrupled since Adams became university president in 1997. In that time, Sanford Stadium has received twice the amount of money as the 1997-98 season. The facility's last major renovation was the 1997-98 season, when the stadium's seating bowl was completely replaced. The stadium and other major renovations were completed in the 2007-08 season.</p>	 <p>Hiring of Greg McGarity</p> <p>After the death of Glenn "Glenn" Smith, who was hired to replace Vince Dooley in 2005, Adams hired McGarity to lead the athletic department. McGarity, an alum of the university, brought with him 18 years of experience gained working in the athletic association.</p>
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UGA GOLF COURSE



Sports Writing

B

1st Place

Athens Banner-Herald

Rachel G. Bowers

sports MORE COVERAGE INSIDE
The Bulldogs' Josh Harvey-Clemens hauls in clutch fourth-quarter interception as depleted secondary battles through tough day.
USA FOOTBALL NOTEBOOK, 11
ATHENS BANNER-HERALD
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2012

GEORGIA 41 | GEORGIA TECH 34

DOGS DODGE A STINGER

GEORGIA RALLIES IN SECOND HALF, GURLEY SCORES TWICE IN OT FOR VICTORY

Bulldogs come from behind to top in-state rival
By Matt Weaver
ATHENS — In a regular season filled with down-to-the-wire games and drama on top of drama, it made all the sense in the world that Georgia needed to go to double overtime with in-state rival Georgia Tech on Saturday to end a season with a 41-34 win. "When you're in a game like this, you know it's going to be a more dramatic finish," said Georgia quarterback Robert Mason. "I don't think you can, it's just how it goes."

Mason was forgotten about that game of a loss at Auburn two weeks earlier since he never left the sideline, but the biggest comeback win — in coach Mark Richt's 15 seasons and third season in program history — was his. This was Mason's debut as the Bulldogs' starting quarterback in a regular-season game, and he had to rally Georgia from a 28-0 and 21-17 deficit, but didn't need to throw a pass after regulation.

Linebacker Todd Gurley was the difference maker, scoring on touchdowns late of 4 and 21 yards in overtime. He took an inside handoff, cut back and rumbled to the end zone for his fourth touchdown of the game for the winning point.

That left Georgia Tech, which scored on a 3-yard touchdown run by quarterback Tyrod Taylor in the first overtime period, leading to another Georgia interception. Linebacker Lawrence Floyd snuffed out a third-down pitch to Robert Goddard for a three-yard loss.

On fourth-and-1 at the 6, Gurley ran to the end zone to score. He was deflected by linebacker Ramon Wilson and cornerback Chase Brumley and fell incomplete.

"I just waited," Richt said. "I just waited until he hit the ground. When the officials give the signal to complete, that's when I could breathe a sigh of relief."

The Bulldogs saw Auburn win on a fourth-and-18, deflected 73-yard touchdown after Georgia came back from down 20 in that game, too.

Not this time. "Just glad that the ball fell down," Wilson said. "Another fourth down

Mason's debut a memorable one
By Rachel G. Bowers
ATHENS — Robert Mason shook hands with Georgia Tech's players at midfield and then dashed to the far corner of Bobby Dodd Stadium in front of the Georgia section, throwing his hands above his head in celebration.

The junior quarterback high-fived a few fans when he couldn't find his family and then ascended the stadium's ladder in front of the Georgia section, throwing his hands above his head in celebration.

The Marietta native surprised a 40,000-fan overtime battle against his team's in-state rival, all in his first start and win.

"That's how you know you've got it," Mason said. "It's the greatest feeling in the world."

Mason had waited behind Auburn Murray for four years, battling with the idea of transferring and learning to practice punters when it wasn't the first thing he wanted to do.

"He stuck around, and so we know that moment tonight, his first start, a comeback victory, as well as a future in college," said assistant coach Chris Conley, who caught seven of Mason's passes for 129 yards. "He's a real winner."

Mason was wacked five times in the game and didn't seem to get comfortable until he led the Bulldogs down the field for an 80-yard touchdown drive in a minute and 17 seconds to close out the first half.

Mason has been running that one-minute drill with the first team offense every Thursday practice this season. Those runs come in handy a few times against Georgia Tech.

"(Coaches) let him run to get experience because Auburn had had so many reps, so he's been doing it in practice all year on Thursday and he's done a nice job so I knew he'd feel comfortable with the offensive coordinator," Richt said.

Georgia coach Mark Richt said Mason will like to watch film of the game throughout the upcoming week and "shake his head," especially after watching his first-quarter interception.

"I think the guys, I think they trust him, I think they believe in him. They've seen him practice for three or four years," Richt said. "This is going to help him settle down."



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Sports Writing

A

3rd Place

The Augusta Chronicle

Chris Gay

SPORTS

SUNDAY
 October 27, 2013
The Augusta Chronicle

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Doby's return closes chapter

By Chris Gay

Harold Doby III reached the end of his career, signing the first day of basketball practice Oct. 25 at a mandatory practice. It was a bittersweet day for him, but he was not alone. He had a lot of friends and family members at the practice, but he was not alone. He had a lot of friends and family members at the practice, but he was not alone.

The Georgia Institute of Technology basketball team was looking for a new leader in the backcourt. Doby, who played for the team for four years, was expected to be a key player. However, he was not alone. He had a lot of friends and family members at the practice, but he was not alone.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Gamecocks storm back, upset Tigers

By John Kenning

South Carolina's Gamecocks showed a lot of promise in their season opener against Clemson. The Gamecocks were looking for a new leader in the backcourt. Doby, who played for the team for four years, was expected to be a key player. However, he was not alone. He had a lot of friends and family members at the practice, but he was not alone.

WORLD SERIES

Ruling ignites Cards

By Robert Ross

St. Louis Cardinals manager Bruce Bochy was looking for a new leader in the backcourt. Doby, who played for the team for four years, was expected to be a key player. However, he was not alone. He had a lot of friends and family members at the practice, but he was not alone.

SCORES

Gamecocks 17, Tigers 12
 Cards 4, Yankees 3
 ...

TONIGHT'S GAME 4

7:05 PM (ET/PT) - Cardinals vs. Yankees
 ...

WORLD SERIES

Lady Cavaliers fall short in title match

By Scott Rosen

The Augusta Prep volleyball team was looking for a new leader in the backcourt. Doby, who played for the team for four years, was expected to be a key player. However, he was not alone. He had a lot of friends and family members at the practice, but he was not alone.

WORLD SERIES

Cardinals win Series

By Robert Ross

St. Louis Cardinals manager Bruce Bochy was looking for a new leader in the backcourt. Doby, who played for the team for four years, was expected to be a key player. However, he was not alone. He had a lot of friends and family members at the practice, but he was not alone.



Sports Writing

A

2nd Place

The Telegraph, Macon

Seth Emerson

The Telegraph
SPORTS
Acquisition of Jackson allows
Futures to diversify their offerings.

Wednesday, July 31, 2013
Sports Editor David Shirley: dshirley@telegraph.com | (478) 744-6222

Mercer picked 11th in Pioneer League

Telegraph Staff

Mercer and Boston are new to college football and the Pioneer Football League, and, not surprisingly, they were picked to finish at the bottom of the PFL in their debut season.

PFL coaches voted Mercer 10th and Boston 11th in the poll released Thursday.

The two returned programs allowed Valparaiso to not be picked last. The Crusaders have finished in the bottom nine spots in the standings for six of the past seven seasons and haven't finished at .500 or better overall or in league play since going 8-3 and 7-1 in 2001.

San Diego, Butler and Duke shared the trophy last season, with each going 7-1 in PFL play.

The Broncos earned a share of their fifth title, while Butler improved by four games. Jacksonville's three conference losses all came in the tri-champs.

Mercer expects to camp Wednesday and has its first practice Thursday.

The Braves open the season Aug. 8 against Birmingham and make their PFL debut Sept. 28 at home against Duke.

Mercer's first-rounder Jacksonville on Sept. 14 in the first PFL game of the season.

Place	Team	Points	2012
1.	San Diego (6)	311	8-3
2.	Butler (4)	210	8-3
3.	Jacksonville (2)	99	7-4
10th	Mercer (1)	90	6-6
5.	Darton	86	6-6
6.	Marist	67	4-7
7.	International State	65	4-7
8.	Compton	49	5-10
9.	Duquesne	42	3-9
10.	Valparaiso	32	5-10
11.	Boston	26	—
12.	Stevenson	13	—

First-place votes in parentheses. Mercer and Boston did not finish teams last year.

Braves should go for one more deal

Bill Shanks

Braves should go for one more deal.

Braves should go for one more deal.

Seven stories, one team

Former UGA players take different paths to where they are today, teammates again in the NFL.

By Seth Emerson
semerson@telegraph.com

ONLINE
Go to macon.com/story/2013/07/31/braves-7-stories-one-team/ for more on this story.

ONLINE
Go to macon.com/story/2013/07/31/braves-7-stories-one-team/ for more on this story.

Long ball gives Braves big win

By David Kirby
dkirby@telegraph.com

ONLINE
Go to macon.com/story/2013/07/31/braves-big-win/ for more on this story.

Jackets heading back to campus

By Seth Emerson
semerson@telegraph.com

ONLINE
Go to macon.com/story/2013/07/31/jackets-heading-back-to-campus/ for more on this story.



Tackle Dennis Roland, left, and guard Clint Babbitt hang out in the locker room at the Cincinnati Bengals' facility in downtown Cincinnati.



Practice will begin Thursday for head coach Paul Johnson and the Georgia Tech football team.

Sports Writing

A

1st Place

The Augusta Chronicle
Wayne Staats



Hard News Writing

H

3rd Place

The Paper,
Hoschton

Katie Justice

Thursday, February 14, 2013 Get updates during the week at [ClickThePaper.com](#) | 30¢

The Paper

of Braselton, Chateau Élan and Hoschton



Pitching purple for Relay For Life. 3B

Balancing students between east, west

Parents concerned as Jackson County School System seeks ways to shift student population

BY KATE JUSTICE
kjjustice@thepaper.com

The recent challenge to discuss proposals for the Jackson County School System Board of Schools about the meeting area is due to the use of the province of the system.

"I assume you go into administrative roles and have a plan. If you're trying to get your plan all done before you convene it, you're not doing it right," said Superintendent Dr. John Green. "If you're trying to get your plan all done before you convene it, you're not doing it right."

The Jackson County Board of Education held its 4th public meeting at Kings Bridge Middle School on Feb. 7 and followed it with a 5th public meeting on Feb. 13. The meeting was held at the school's cafeteria, with East Jackson High School on Feb. 13 followed by a community meeting.

The meeting provided an opportunity for the county to seek public input on plans for the upcoming school year. The meeting was held at the school's cafeteria, with East Jackson High School on Feb. 13 followed by a community meeting.

At the Feb. 7 meeting, Green led a series of discussions for community members to discuss the school system's current status and future plans. Green said the school system's current status is to be discussed at the Feb. 13 meeting.

At the Feb. 13 meeting, Green led a series of discussions for community members to discuss the school system's current status and future plans. Green said the school system's current status is to be discussed at the Feb. 13 meeting.

Braselton gets sewer easement for hospital

The Braselton Town Council Monday evening accepted a donation of real property from the Braselton Hospital Foundation for the use of the hospital, the first new hospital in the area. The donation is for the use of the hospital, the first new hospital in the area.

The town provides an easement for sewer line for campus of Northeast Georgia Medical Center - Braselton. The donation is for the use of the hospital, the first new hospital in the area.

In other business of the Braselton meeting, the council unanimously approved an intergovernmental agreement which will provide for municipal electric to be conducted by the Jackson County Board of Schools.

Braselton joins other cities in Jackson County in providing a water utility. A duplication of service identified in the Braselton Strategic Plan for the year 2012-2013 will be provided for the town.

Pounding the pavement



More than 200 participants lined up their running shoes for the West Jackson Intermediate School's 7th/22nd Shadow Shuffle Crosscountry Day 5K earlier this month. Joe Papes of Hoschton was the overall race winner, with WJ22 teacher and Jackson County Comprehensive High School track coach, Carly Ledbetter, as the first female finisher. See more on the fundraiser race on Page 3A.



Closure of Cork & Keg is civil matter

Cork & Keg is a business located at the intersection of US Highway 92, near the Braselton Shopping Center. The business has been closed since the late 1990s, and the property is currently being used for other purposes.

The closure of Cork & Keg is a civil matter, according to Braselton Police Chief Steve Davis. The business has been closed since the late 1990s, and the property is currently being used for other purposes.

WEST JACKSON Property secured for second fire station

The West Jackson Fire Department is moving toward the future, and the purchase of a property on Edenville Road. The \$2.2 million purchase of the property will be used for the second fire station in West Jackson.

The purchase of the property will be used for the second fire station in West Jackson. The purchase of the property will be used for the second fire station in West Jackson.

INSIDE Volume 7, Number 11

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Hard News Writing

H

2nd Place

Columbia County
News-Times,
Evans
Valerie Rowell

THE COLUMBIA COUNTY News-Times
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75 cents per copy Legal Organ of Columbia County, Harlem and Georgetown
Sunday, February 17, 2013 www.newsonline.com

Unsolved murders

Investigator Jimmy Edmunds is in charge of Columbia County's three unsolved murders. The case relates among investigators to the hopes that fresh eyes will find something new.

By Valerie Rowell
Times Staff Writer
Times 3/17/2013

Race will benefit Afghan children

During his deployment to Afghanistan, David Gilbert's duty was to train the Afghan army. Yet as he worked, he saw many children who had severe medical needs.

By Barbara Carter
Columbia County
Times 3/17/2013

County's 3 cold cases get new look

Three unsolved murders in as many decades in such a large and fast-growing area as Columbia County is a good statistic.

By Valerie Rowell
Times Staff Writer
Times 3/17/2013

Wanda Darlene Huggins

The last for Wanda Huggins' killer is difficult because she had no reason to be in Columbia County on Dec. 31, 1987, when her body was found on the side of State's Ferry Road in Appleton.

By Valerie Rowell
Times Staff Writer
Times 3/17/2013

Confusion over tax could fray nerves of tag buyers

County officials have one long line and tried to keep this year at the tag office because of a change in state law.

By Steve J. Powers
Times Staff Writer
Times 3/17/2013

Tailgate stolen

A Martinez man told deputies Tuesday that someone stole the tailgate off his truck.

By Valerie Rowell
Times Staff Writer
Times 3/17/2013

Ex-boyfriend title-pawned woman's car

A Evans woman called authorities Monday after discovering her car had been pawned.

By Valerie Rowell
Times Staff Writer
Times 3/17/2013

Shoplifter escapes, leaves ID behind

Columbia County authorities are looking for a South Carolina man they say may be a shoplifter from the Evans Walmart, but ended up leaving behind his identification.

By Valerie Rowell
Times Staff Writer
Times 3/17/2013

Inside Today

Lakeland's Sarah Bernier signs to run for Georgia Tech Ph.D.

Going Wednesday

Madison County High School's SNAAP students.

Police Blotter

The following accounts were taken from reports from the Columbia County Sheriff's Office.



Hard News Writing

H

1st Place

The Lanier County Advocate, Lakeland

Ashley George

BLACK OWN MAGENTS

BULLDOG GOLFERS WIN AREA TITLE... PAGE 7 **SHERIFF Q&A: PRESCRIPTION DRUGS... PAGE 8**

LANIER COUNTY ADVOCATE

VOLUME 3, EDITION 29 • © 2013 LANIER COUNTY ADVOCATE • WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2013 • LAKELAND, GEORGIA • 14 PAGES, ONE SECTION

NEWS BITS

Athletics physicals will be April 23, 25

Students in grades 6-12 who plan on playing Lanier School System activities in the coming year can get their free physicals (which are mandatory) this week. Girls can get their physicals on Tuesday, April 23, after school in the high school gymnasium. Boys physicals will be held Thursday, April 25, after school in the gym. The physicals are free of charge.

Moody Motorcycle ride set for April 27

The City of Lakeland and the Lakeland/Lanier Chamber of Commerce are hosting the Moody Motorcycle Ride for Special Annual Awareness on Saturday, April 27th, which will start and end at Squawnee Park. This event is sponsored by the Ramco and the Moody Air Force Base Special Annual Awareness and Prevention Program. Please support this event by riding and call (202) 207-7373 for more information.

Athletic booster club to meet April 29

The Lanier County Athletic Booster Club will meet Monday, April 29, at 6 p.m. at the high school cafeteria. All interested building fans and parents are invited to attend.

Holocaust Survivor to speak April 30

Historic events and Education Director of the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust, Dr. Eugene Schenckel, will speak at Lanier County High School on Tuesday, April 30, at 7 p.m. in the High School Auditorium. He will share stories of his experiences as a prisoner of Auschwitz, Warsaw, Dachau and Buchenwald Concentration Camps during World War II. Dr. Schenckel is the author of the book *My Reconstruction Life*. All are invited to attend.

Stroke prevention workshop May 6th

Stroke Prevention, Signs and Treatment workshop will be held on Monday, May 6th at Lanier South Memorial Hospital Family Connection's Central Literacy Community Program. This program has partnered with the hospital, Community Education and Southeast Health District to bring this event to Lakeland. Please email or call 302-2028 if you would like to attend. Lunch will be provided as space is limited.

4-H Shotgun team fundraiser Saturday

The Lanier County 4-H Shotgun Team will be holding a chicken plate sale on Saturday, April 27 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and the Lanier County Courthouse. Plates are \$6.

Echols Carrot Festival set for May 11

The Echols Carrot Festival will be held from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, May 11, at the recreation park in Ramothville. The festival will feature live entertainment, kids area, arts and crafts, food, raffle, rock-off, live music, a parade, "Daddy's Daughters" Bake-off and more. For information visit www.echolsfestival.com or call 228-003-6538.

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75¢ AT THE NEWSSTAND

Local child attacked by dog

By Brent Green
LAKELAND

Seven-year-old James Quinton Gray was attacked by a pit bull Saturday, April 20, on a location on Howell Drive, according to Lakeland Police reports.

James was dragged across the yard by the dog and received multiple bite marks on his left forearm, lower back, right forearm and right leg, and sustained multiple lacerations, according to the report.

The boy's father, Debraun Gray, Sr., stated he was at Perry Thomas' house looking for a dryer part. He stated he and Perry went to the back of the residence to look in a back for a dryer part when he heard one of his daughters screaming and went back to the front of the yard to find the boy being dragged by the dog.

"It all happened in about 10 seconds," said Gray.

According to the report, the boy was playing in front of the house when a neighbor came over the yard that has a pit bull across the street that he began playing with. After that, the neighbor dog ran up to him and began dragging him out of Thomas' yard.

(Continued on Page 8)

Walking the Walk

Local men support cause by donning heels for awareness

By Brent Green
LAKELAND

Throughout the past month for domestic violence awareness an event was held at the Lanier County High School track during the "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" event.

The men donned heels and walked the track to support the cause. The event was held at the Lanier County High School track. The event raised \$1,000 for the cause and had items sold at the event. There was also a 1000-mile race given to the runner and donated the \$1000 back to the event.

Men who participated in the event included Dr. Eric Carter, Brian Hunt, Pastor John Brubaker, County Commissioner Harold...

(Continued on Page 8)

Mills takes Miss Relay for Life title

By Brent Green
LAKELAND

Katherine Mills took the Miss Relay for Life title at the annual Relay for Life pageant held at the Lanier County High School auditorium Saturday. She also took the Grand Supreme crown for most photogenic, most photogenic in the show division and most photogenic in the show division.

In the Miss Division, Chelsea Jones took 1st runner up and prettiest dress and Charmaine Schaefer was 2nd runner up and Best from the Past, an optional division where models clothing new ways.

In the Teen Miss Division, James Quinton took the queen title, the Best from the Past title, prettiest smile and prettiest smile and Miss Hospitality. Shante Taylor was second runner up and one with Goddess for most photogenic, Brittany Dent took second runner up.

In the Petite Miss Division, Karlye Pousada was prettiest smile, prettiest dress, most photogenic and the Best from the Past title. She also was Grand Supreme in the 10-11 age group.

(Continued on Page 8)

Terrell receives House of Representatives resolution

By Brent Green
LAKELAND

Representative Jason Shaw recently presented Title One Parent Involvement Coordinator Yara Terrell with House Resolution 888 on Thursday, April 11.

The resolution recognizes Terrell for her accomplishments as Parent Involvement Coordinator. It was read and adopted on March 7, 2013 by the Georgia House of Representatives.

The resolution specifically mentions Terrell recently opening the Parent Resource Center with games, books and other resources parents can check out and the multiple workshops Terrell has created to engage parents and students.

The resolution mentions the "Book and Paper" workshop that has had over 120 parents and students attend, which promoted reading and literacy opportunities. It also mentions the homework aid workshop, "Homework 101" that Terrell also presented at Moody Air Force Base.

The resolution also mentions Terrell being recognized by the Georgia Department of Education with a Parent Involvement Coordinator spotlight in February.

"Yara Terrell is a shining example of Lanier County School System's dedication to the education of children in the community and it is a privilege to honor and support that she be recognized," Representative Jason Shaw stated in the resolution.

Lanier County Schools Superintendent Keith Humphrey also expressed his appreciation.

(Continued on Page 8)



From left, David Abbott, Franklin Patten, Scott Green, Brian Simons and Patsy Phillips walk the high school track in high heels - SEE MORE PICS ON PAGE 8



Katherine Mills won the Miss Relay for Life title Saturday.



Representative Jason Shaw presents Resolution 888 to Yara Terrell.



Hard News Writing

G

3rd Place

The Catoosa County News, Ringgold

EMAIL: catoosacountynews@catoosacountynews.com WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2013 WEBSITE: www.catoosacountynews.com 75 cents

The Catoosa County News

Phone: 935-2621 Ringgold, Ga. Fort Oglethorpe Press Vol. 61, No. 47 Four sections, 34 pages

Teen shooting sets off debate

Last week 69-year-old Fred Youngblood of Ringgold shot and killed 17-year-old Dalton McCaskey of Fort Oglethorpe. Youngblood told police McCaskey and another teen were breaking into his house on Post Oak Road. The incident has set off an intense debate in the social media. Was deadly force necessary? Does Georgia's "stand your ground" law need changing?

By Adam Cook
www.catoosacountynews.com

It's been a little more than a week since 17-year-old Dalton McCaskey of Fort Oglethorpe was shot to death by a Ringgold resident who claims he was standing his ground during a burglary. And it has set off an intense debate in the social media. Was deadly force necessary? Does Georgia's "stand your ground" law need changing?

The shooting occurred around 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 11, when 69-year-old Fred Youngblood, who lives on Post Oak Road, woke up to the noise of McCaskey and his 16-year-old brother Craig Wilson breaking their way into his house. McCaskey's father, Andy Chasalager, was waiting in the get-away truck.

Youngblood grabbed his pistol and contacted the cops.

As the cops took off running, Youngblood fired, striking McCaskey in the neck, reports state.

McCaskey collapsed into the bed of the truck as Chasalager drove away, but was stopped by Catoosa County sheriff's deputies moments later on Boynton Drive.

At this time, no charges have been filed against Youngblood, who told police he felt threatened when the teen came at him, which prompted him to fire at him.

"Self-defense," "justified," "innocent," and "OK, and neither of these

young men were armed. Shmoo... doesn't sound like they were out to rob or hurt anyone."

A lot of people who side with Youngblood have said in a reply, "OK, and neither of these

Questions lingering

By Adam Cook
www.catoosacountynews.com

Questions continue to surround the death of a Catoosa County teenager who was shot and killed last week when he attempted to burglarize a Ringgold residence.

Authorities say 17-year-old Dalton McCaskey was fatally wounded in the neck when he and another teen tried to burglarize the Post Oak Road residence at 8 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 11.

According to a police report, Youngblood couldn't remember how many shots he fired from his pistol, but that he fired at McCaskey in the neck. He died later at a hospital.

At the time of the burglary McCaskey was with a 16-year-old friend, identified as Craig Wilson, and 16-year-old Austin Christogel, who was waiting in the get-away truck.

According to news reports, Wilson family members say Youngblood fired several shots, the boys were running toward Youngblood to escape, not to attack him, when he fired at them.

Catoosa County sheriff Gary Robb said the case is still under investigation.

Youngblood has not been charged in the incident. Robb, the day after the shooting, said the cops were looking for some leads when they located Youngblood.

"I believe they knocked on a front door and a side door, and he (Youngblood) saw them go around to the back of the residence," Robb said.

He said the boys then went into Youngblood's basement, at which time Youngblood grabbed his pistol and contacted them.

As the cops took off running, Youngblood fired once and struck McCaskey in the neck, reports state. McCaskey collapsed into the bed of the truck as Chasalager drove away. The trio was contacted by sheriff's deputies shortly thereafter on Boynton Drive.

Robb said Youngblood was shaken up after hearing of the teen's death.

"He was definitely physically upset when we told him that that's what happened," Robb said.

It has yet to be determined whether Youngblood

Debate, page A3

Shooting, page A3

Hutcheson continues negotiations for lease partner

By Natasha Colbaugh
natasha@catonews.com

Hutcheson Medical Center officials and behind closed doors Monday, Nov. 11, to discuss a possible lease partner.

The BMC board of directors and the Hutchesons Authority board of directors met to consider responses to requests for proposals (RFP) for a lease partner and options available to the Fort Oglethorpe hospital.

After almost two hours of discussion Nov. 11 in a closed session, board members had little to say about proposals.

BMC board chairman Coby Jewell, in a short public announcement, said there is still an "exploratory agreement" about a lease partner.

The RFP review committee, led by board members and officials with Walker, Todd and Catoosa counties, will continue the process of discussion with the leading lease proposal.

"Believing the hospital's needs with those of the counties we serve and a potential health-care business partner requires immediate consideration, and is a task the boards of directors take very seriously," Jewell said. "We are working with the leading respondent and the counties to identify a solution."

RFPs were sent out Sept. 11 and due back Oct. 24. A variety of options were outlined in the RFPs, including an option of buying the hospital building.

Hutcheson's board of directors has been in communication with leaders in Walker, Catoosa and Etowah counties about supporting the hospital with funds to consolidate the hospital's high interest debts. Leaving the hospital to an outside agency would cover the lease payments while maintaining a community-based hospital for the three

Debate, page A3

Shooting, page A3



Inside the board room at Hutcheson Medical Center, a two-hour-long closed-door discussion on a possible lease partner ended Monday with a five-minute announcement by chairman Coby Jewell (second from right). "We do not have enough information to make a definitive agreement," Jewell said.



Rock City's Enchanted Garden of Lights opens Nov. 22. See story on page A2.

Hard News Writing

G

2nd Place

The Wilkinson County Post,
Irwinton

Judy Bailey

Black Friday shoppers line up for biggest bargains, Page 4
Christmas parades in Gordon, Irwinton, Page 3
75 cents

The Wilkinson County Post

Volume 13, Issue 47
December 5, 2013
8 pages, 1 section

State investigates reported voter fraud in Gordon

By Candace Morrow
The Wilkinson County Post

The Secretary of State's Office has launched an inquiry into possible voter fraud during the Nov. 5 Gordon municipal election.

"We're investigating unqualified voters getting illegal assistance at the polls," said Cate Haggard, deputy press secretary of the Secretary of State's Office in Atlanta. "We've received multiple complaints about the allegations."

Gordon Mayor Tracy Brown complained to Wilkinson County Election Superintendent Tracy Strang during the Nov. 5 election that caregivers brought in handicapped and elderly people to vote.

"Bringing in elderly people to vote is one thing," Brown said. "But bringing in elderly people who appeared to be mentally incompetent to vote is completely outrageous."

Strang said she could not deny anyone from voting.

"We can't prohibit any registered voter from casting their ballot," Strang said. "Before we can deny a citizen's right to vote, that person has to be judicially declared incompetent."

Strang recommended Brown file a complaint with the Secretary of State's Office that

Stop Voter Fraud

The State Post is helping citizens identify and report illegal activities.

Citizens are encouraged to report illegal activities to the Secretary of State's Office at (404) 455-3000.

tion and to ensure that all voters have an equal vote in any given election.

The types of voter fraud include but are not limited to:

- Electioneering at polling places, including distribution of literature or the threat of violence, attacks on polling places, legal threats and economic threats;
- Vote buying;
- Misinformation;
- Misleading or confusing ballot papers;
- Ballot stuffing;
- Misconducting of voters;
- Misuse of proxy votes;
- Destruction or invalidation of ballots; and
- Tampering with electronic voting machines.

Voters with disabilities can receive assistance to complete the voter registration application. The person providing assistance must sign the oath contained on the voter registration application next to the signature of the applicant.

A voter who is unable to sign his or her name, unable to see or mark the ballot, operate the voting equipment, or enter the voting booth without assistance, can receive assistance

See FRAUD, Page 5

Tip leads to Thanksgiving drug bust

By Candace Morrow
The Wilkinson County Post

An anonymous phone call tipped police that a large amount of drugs were in a Gordon apartment.

The tip was a good one. Officers searched the residence and their guests at 3 a.m. Thanksgiving.

"When we got into the apartment, we found the resident and four others using drugs," said Kelvin Hollingsworth with the Cherokee Drug Task Force. "We found everything from snuff and marijuana to money and guns."

The two later arrested we include new facing 20 charges.

■ Timothy Baxell Jr., 30, charged with possession of

Law enforcement seized drugs, guns and money during a search of a Gordon apartment. Contributed photo

marijuana with intent to distribute; possession of meth with intent to distribute; possession of use

of drug related objects; maintaining a disorderly house. He also had an outstanding felony warrant

■ James Baxell, 30, charged with charged with possession of marijuana

one of Whitfield County Sheriff's Office for probation violation.

■ Justin Baxell, 30,

See DRUG BUST, Page 5

Christmas décor Honey Boo Boo style

By Candace Morrow
The Wilkinson County Post

Christmas lights, no camera and whole lot of family action went down this Thanksgiving in the "Here Comes Honey Boo Boo" clan held their fourth annual Toy and Food Christmas Drive.

From Thanksgiving through Christmas Eve the TLC-famous family welcomes community members to their McIntosh home to donate nonperishable goods and toys, which will go to local charity, Wilco Love Kids.

"It's a little crazy," said Jamaica Tyson of Irwinton. "I wanted to come by because I'm a huge fan of the show, and they don't hide their personality. The drive shows they care about people too."

The show's star, Alana Thompson dressed as an elf which her father, "Sugar Bear" Thompson, played Santa and took photos with community members.

The family also said "Here Comes Honey Boo Boo" does much as shorts, books and presents at their home light display to go toward the charity.

Davis' cousin, Lamont Tyson, traveled from Irwinton to visit family and meet the TV personalities.

"I heard about the show and really wanted to see them for

Photos by Candace Morrow/The Dalton Bulletin

Honey Boo Boo's father, "Sugar Bear" Thompson poses for photos with Santa with visitors to the family light display in McIntosh, Ga. Honey Boo Boo and Alana June pose with Lamont Tyson and Jamaica Tyson.

myself," said Tyson. "This holiday display is awesome and a great segue into Nashville's Christmas light celebrations. It also takes me back to my childhood."

Taking a photo with Sugar Bear as Santa became a low-time experience for Tyson's wife, Taberky Tyson.

"It's the first picture I've ever had with Santa Claus," said Taberky Tyson, originally from

See MONEY, Page 4

Milledgeville man arrested in abuse case at Gordon activity center

By Judy Bailey
The Wilkinson County Post

A Milledgeville resident is the fifth caregiver arrested and charged in connection with an abuse case in a Gordon adult activity center.

Dwain Pearson, 26, of Milledgeville, arrested Tuesday from Wilkinson County Sheriff's Office on Sunday.

He is charged with battery battery in the Nov. 7 hearing of a man with developmental disabilities entrusted into his care at Total Care Activity Center in Gordon.

Pearson remained jail at press time. His bond had been set.

Pearson poses four other activity center caregivers charged in the Nov. 7 hearing:

- Shelia Alicia Smith, 20, faces battery charges aggravated assault and battery. She turned herself into Wilkinson County Sheriff's Office Nov. 18. She spent three days in the county jail before obtaining a \$10,000 bond on each charge.
- Amber Lachelle Cameron, 18, also faces battery charges of aggravated assault and battery. She was arrested Nov. 18 and bonded out of jail Nov. 21 after posting \$10,000 bonds on each charge.
- Sherrina Nixon, 26, faces a misdemeanor charge of failing to report abuse. She was jailed and released Nov. 19 on a \$2,500 bond.
- Rudolphia Lovett Moore, 24, is charged with battery battery and misdemeanor failure to report abuse. He was arrested Nov. 15 and spent three days in jail before his release on \$10,000 bond for the battery charge and \$2,500 for the misdemeanor.

Georgia Bureau of Investigation agents create cost warrants against the five caregivers after watching a surveillance video of the Nov. 7 hearing.

"This case remains an active, ongoing case," said GBI Special Agent in Charge J.T. Ricketson. "The agent assigned to the investigation is spending the last share of her time looking into these cases. This is a very serious case with serious allegations. It

See ARRESTS, Page 7

Hard News Writing

G

1st Place

The Champion, Decatur

Andrew Cauthen



From left, Alvin Turner and Baxter Leach, former Memphis, Tenn., sanitation workers who received support from Martin Luther King Jr., joined scores of DeKalb County sanitation workers during a Jan. 21 march in Atlanta. The DeKalb workers are urging county officials to recognize the Teamsters union. Photos by Andrew Cauthen

Sanitation workers march to unionize

by Andrew Cauthen
andrew@dekalbchamp.com

"It's time for a change," said Emanuel Kilpatrick, a senior refuse collector for the DeKalb County sanitation department. "We want respect. We want dignity. We want our voices to be heard."

Kilpatrick, who has worked for the county for three years, joined scores of DeKalb County sanitation workers who participated in a Martin Luther King Jr. Day march to the state Capitol.

DeKalb County sanitation workers say they want to be represented by Teamsters union Local 728, which has 7,500 members and represents UPS workers; Georgia State, Kennesaw State and Emory University bus drivers; and O'Reilly Auto Parts and Lithonia Lighting truck drivers. The union also represents Republic Services, a private waste management company.

DeKalb sanitation workers, who have asked the county's Board of Commissioners to recognize the Teamsters, said their move to unionize is driven by their need for pay raises.

"Since I've been there, the only raise I've gotten—

I wouldn't really call it a raise—is a promotion," Kilpatrick said. "The guys have been telling me they haven't had a raise in seven years."

"They have to feed their families," Kilpatrick said. "When they look at their checks, it's gone as soon as they pay their bills and they don't have anything left over."

Kilpatrick and other sanitation workers said they don't even know how much they earn per hour because that information is not on their paystubs.

"It just has the monthly pay," said Kilpatrick, who earns "about \$2,100" each month.

"We don't know what we make," said Jerry Fallin, of Forest Park, a DeKalb sanitation worker for 5.5 years. "If you ask anybody else around here they'll tell you they don't know what they make."

"We don't know. I'm being honest," Fallin said. "We don't know. All we know is that we get a monthly print-out that [says] I make \$2,000 and some change."

For the past three years, Fallin has been a front-end loader operator. "We scoop the garbage, put it in the tractor trailer and send it to the

landfill," he said. Fallin said it's hard to get ahead in the sanitation department.

"They don't give you raises," he said, "and if they don't like you they have a tendency to blackball to you so you can't move up."

Fallin's message to the county: "Be fair."

The DeKalb sanitation workers were joined by Baxter Leach and Alvin Turner, two of the Memphis, Tenn., sanitation workers who received support from Martin Luther King Jr. during a strike in 1968.

"This hurts me," Turner said. "It really hurts my feelings to know that the things we fought for in 1968, we've got to fight for the same things today."

Chuck Stiles, assistant director of the Teamsters solid waste division, said DeKalb sanitation employees are working for "poverty wages."

"Though it's years later—45 years since the assassination of Dr. King and the industry he was fighting for was on strike—things have gone full circle," Stiles said. "What was once a good, middle-income job has now deteriorated."



Hard News Writing

F

inside this week's edition

- Two charged with breaking into business and vehicles in Louisville.....see page 2A
- Melvin Farmer wins seat on Whers city council.....see page 3A
- Rev. Barthram C. Smith appointed pastor of the Lofton Circuit.....see page 1B

\$1 Thursday, June 28, 2013

The News and Farmer

AND WADLEY HERALD

The Jefferson Reporter

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Gator removed from sewage system

Unlucky reptile got wedged in pipe leading from ponds into city system

By Patrick Howard
Editor/Publisher
We've all heard tales of killer alligators in big city sewers, but just what it was a killer sewer for a Louisville reptile.

Utility Superintendent Ronnie Jones was testing chemicals at the city's sewage-treatment ponds around 11 a.m. Thursday when he noticed something floating in the contact chamber of the city's water treatment system.

The contact chamber, which is a part of what looks like a concrete room, collects water that has come through the city's three oxidation ponds for final disinfection before release.

"I saw what I thought was a piece of driftwood in the contact chamber of the city's water treatment system. The contact chamber, which is a part of what looks like a concrete room, collects water that has come through the city's three oxidation ponds for final disinfection before release.

"I don't know how he got over it there, but he was in the middle chamber when the water dumps in from the pond before it dumps into the other chamber," Jones said. "He was making an effort to get out."

Jones said that the recent rains have caused the nearby Obispo River to back up into some nearby areas near the city's ponds.



This 7-foot-3-inch alligator found its way into the contact chamber of the city's waste water treatment system last week.

One killed in drive-by at club

Second victim treated and released

By Carol McLeod
Staff writer
Law enforcement officers from three agencies are looking for a suspect in shooting that left one man dead and another injured.

Officers and EMTs responded to a 911 call shortly after midnight Sunday, June 16, regarding a shooting near Club Apollo, which is located at the corner of East 26th and Veterans in Louisville.

Kenneth Quarstein, 23, of Augusta was found on the sidewalk suffering from at least one gunshot wound to his head.

He was taken to Jefferson Hospital where he was later taken by air to Georgia Regents University, formerly the Medical College of Georgia, in Augusta.

Jefferson County Deputy Coroner Fay McCabrey said Monday Quarstein was pronounced dead at GRU. His body has been taken to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation Crime Lab in Augusta for an autopsy.

Head of a single gunshot wound to the head," McCabrey said.

A second victim, identified as 25-year-old Charles Lewis Brown II of Whers was taken by a family member to Eastern Hospital.



Debbie Thomas stands in front of his E. Fifth Street house holding a picture of the home that should replace it in the next few months.

House to home

Current housing projects renovating and reconstructing homes for area residents

By Patrick Howard
Editor/Publisher
Debbie Thomas has lived his whole life in the same house on East Fifth Street in Louisville.

He raised nine children there and when they came along, he added rooms with his own hands. When they all grew up and moved away, he tore some of those rooms off.

A hard working man, he has always taken care of things himself.

For years he has had what needed fixing with whatever systems were at hand, like, string, pipe and so on.

He is 88 and well retired, according to his youngest daughter Hattie Kitten, he was still something onto the roof to patch holes and mending under the house to work

on heated pipes. Time and money later they had to word and over just like they do on strong backs and healthy joints.

In the next few weeks the only issue he has ever known to bring him down and explain.

"He keeps saying, 'They ain't got' come, but I tell him they are,' Kitten said.

Thomas recently invited contractors into his house, guided them through the unlighted rooms he has planned to put in a kitchen where he sits in a straight-back chair. In the light from a single, uncurved bulb, he looked at a picture of the house they are going to build for him.

He was the last person in the program to decide to let them do it, only

Hospital cuts 15 positions

Pioneer Health Services submits plan that proposes to take hospital from losing \$200,000 a month to profitability in two years

By Patrick Howard
Editor/Publisher
Friday 15 positions were cut as the first phase of Pioneer Health Services' plan to save Jefferson Hospital.

Thursday evening, the hospital's leadership signed a five-year management contract with Pioneer, who for the past several months, has been reviewing hospital operations in all departments and developing a plan to stem the financial losses that drove the authority to seek outside help.

Ron Bantz, the authority's chairman, said last week that the hospital has been "bleeding between \$200,000 and \$300,000 a month" for some time now.

"We looked at what we could do to save the hospital around," said Justice CEO Steve Wilmore. "We've had a team here for two months. More than a dozen people from Pioneer have flown in and examined and analyzed and made recommendations in many areas. The higher paying opportunities have been looked at."

And after meeting the authority's approval, they began implementing that plan. Last Monday, Board CEO Ralph Randall was put on administrative leave and Friday the other cuts began.

Bantz characterized it as a reduction in force. Wilmore called it restructuring.

"There are a few more

3rd Place

Jefferson Reporter/News & Farmer, Louisville Parish Howard



(See Suspect on page 2A)

(See Housing on page 3A)

(See Hospital on page 3A)

Hard News Writing

F

2nd Place

The Blackshear Times

Jason Deal

CYAN MAGENTA YELLOW BLACK

Investor group buys The Patterson Bank

Longtime financial institution to soon be known as 'First Southern'

By Jason Deal, Staff Writer

One of Southwest Georgia's oldest banks is under new control and has plans to expand its services to area residents.

The Patterson Bank, established in 1887, will also soon have a new name after a group of 11 area business leaders have launched more than \$14 million in new capital and increased

ownership of nearly 50 percent of the bank's stock. Effective May 3, the bank will be known as First Southern Bank. The bank has offices in Panama, Waynes and Franklin counties and their desire is to maintain the presence here of a truly local, community bank.

A new board of directors has been elected, "specifically representing each

of the counties," said Douglas, Patterson Bank's president and chief executive officer. Douglas, 58, has served on the bank's board for decades and will remain a member. He will be joined by Thomas Smith and Raymond Smith, Jr., Joe Drenth, Robert D. (Bobby) Smith, a James attorney, in the new chairman-of-the-board. Also serving from Wayne County will be Joseph

W. (Bobby) Clayton, Douglas, and Wayne resident Jim Hall will be Wayne County representative on the new board. Bill Ingram, manager of the American Egg Production plant in Blackshear, another Wayne businessman David J. Lee will round out the board's membership.

The Patterson Bank is one of a very small group of community banks.

(Continued on Page 4)

The Blackshear Times

Liked by Many • Cussed by Some • Read by Them All

18th YEAR • ISSUE 18 • BLACKSHEAR, GEORGIA 3056 • WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2013 • 10 PAGES, TWO SECTIONS \$1.00 including tax

Mattox named Citizen of Year

Knowltons, Strickland, Thomas, Ingram, Cunningham among honorees at Chamber banquet

Radio station owner and former county chairman Tony Mattox was recognized as Citizen of the Year during the Panama County Chamber of Commerce annual banquet last Thursday night.

A majority vote of about 100 filled Eagle Station in Panama for the event. Nominations for the award were sent to Mattox and former Panama County Chamber of Commerce president John Strickland III of Blackshear, Donald Thomas, owner of Thomas' Transport, a trucking company, was named business leader of the year. James Ingram, a retail worker with Panama County Schools, received the Distinguished Citizen award for his contributions to business and education. Panama Elementary teacher Ray Cunningham received the Most Distinguished award for his contributions to education. Former legislative chamber administrator Deborah Lee received a special award in recognition of her service to the chamber. Lee recently left the chamber after more than 14 years to accept a new job.

Dr. Don Waters presented Mattox with the chamber's highest award, the Citizen of the Year award. Waters said Mattox was selected for the honor in recognition of his long involvement in all aspects of Panama County including his work, civic activities, church activities and government service.

"Tony has made many contributions of time, time skills, financial gifts and help during these hard times. He is a true leader and role model for us all," said Cunningham.

(Continued on Page 4)

What is our library worth?



Don't let your library go. It's worth more than you think.

Don't let your library go. It's worth more than you think. It's a place where you can find books, movies, and more. It's a place where you can learn and grow. It's a place where you can find a quiet place to read and study. It's a place where you can find a place to belong.

Don't let your library go. It's worth more than you think. It's a place where you can find books, movies, and more. It's a place where you can learn and grow. It's a place where you can find a quiet place to read and study. It's a place where you can find a place to belong.

Voters may cast ballots at new sites in November

Election Board approves consolidation of Blackshear, St. Johns, Alabaha precincts, as well as Perdon, Otter Creek

By Jason Deal, Staff Writer

Nearly three of four Panama County registered voters could have a new polling place next election time in November.

Five of the county's eight precincts would be consolidated to two new locations under a proposal approved by the Panama County Board of Elections and Registration last Wednesday. Plans call for the Blackshear, St. Johns and Alabaha precincts to be consolidated and moved into the high schools on College Avenue. Perdon and Otter Creek precincts would continue into Panama's Eagle Station.

Blackshear, St. Johns, Alabaha, Perdon, Otter Creek, explained the consolidation change would not affect voting districts and the exact election reporting times.

The move would impact about 1,000 of the county's approximately 24,000 registered voters. The consolidation of precincts would be implemented in November 2014, however, temporary staff would be needed as election maps are redistricted.

Blackshear and Otter Creek precincts have

(Continued on Page 10)

Pierce near bottom in area for library funding

County's government year-to-date up \$20,000

By Jason Deal, Staff Writer

In Panama County, the library is not just a place to borrow books. It's a place where you can find a quiet place to read and study. It's a place where you can find a place to belong.

The library is not just a place to borrow books. It's a place where you can find a quiet place to read and study. It's a place where you can find a place to belong.

The library is not just a place to borrow books. It's a place where you can find a quiet place to read and study. It's a place where you can find a place to belong.

Pair of assistant principals hired for high school

Both Kirkland and Wynn were on the list of candidates for the positions at Panama County High School.

Kirkland and Wynn were hired by the Panama County Board of Education during a public hearing Tuesday evening.

The hiring decisions come after a 45-minute closed session to discuss personnel and a student matter. No action was taken on the student matter.

Kirkland, Wynn and new FCIS principal Steve Bennett were all invited to meet with the board during the closed session.

Kirkland will handle mathematics, science and computer. Wynn will be in charge of English, social studies and history. Both will be on 12 month contracts with salaries \$32,000 respectively as administrators.

(Continued on Page 11)

Blackshear city administrator taking new job

By Jason Deal, Staff Writer

The Blackshear City Council must decide how daily operations will proceed with the resignation last week of City Administrator Scott May.

May submitted a letter dated April 16 to the city announcing his last day will be next Friday, May 3. May is taking a job as a deputy chief administrator with the Mayo Clinic South System in Waynes.

The council hired May in April, 2009, two months after former City Clerk Wayne Baldwin resigned. The city had advanced a new city administrator position, though May was the only applicant.

May said he has been part of a team to help the Mayor and Blackshear City Council improve city government in the City, and he desires to see many more over the years to come.

May said he has been part of a team to help the Mayor and Blackshear City Council improve city government in the City, and he desires to see many more over the years to come.

16 DAYS until 'Summer in the City'

Page 3

What does county have at stake in nursing home deal?

Page 3

PCHS boys, girls golf double-up region titles

Page 6

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Hard News Writing

F

1st Place

The Blackshear Times

Wayne Hardy



CIVIL WAR
ECONOMY
BLACK

The Blackshear Times

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1440 YEAR • ISSUE 5 • BLACKSHEAR, GEORGIA 30508 • WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2012 • 32 PAGES, ONE SECTION

Economic recovery: 'Are we there yet?'

Bank, credit union executives analyze latest turns in financial crisis and offer road map of what to look for next

By Wayne Hardy
*Managing Editor

A little more than five years ago the nation's economy foundered and the financial system collapsed. The economy is still in the throes of recovery, but the road to recovery is still a long one, say bank and credit union executives. The economic recovery is still in its infancy, they say, and the road to recovery is still a long one, say bank and credit union executives.

Tourism officials assess Civil War camp attraction

By James Brice
*Staff Writer

Blackshear's Civil War Park in Conley is one of the best developed Civil War sites in the state and offers plenty of potential to draw visitors and revenue to Peach County.

ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING

Blackshear police and Peach County sheriff's office are practicing for a mass gunman. Sheriff's Deputy Wayne Hardy (left) and Sgt. John Breaux (right) as they train on Peach County High School hallway. Training for a mass gunman. Sheriff's Deputy Wayne Hardy (left) and Sgt. John Breaux (right) as they train on Peach County High School hallway.

WORST CASE

Lawmen practice take downs of rampaging gunmen

By Wayne Hardy • *Massimo Bortone

A decrease in Blackshear police officers and Peach County sheriff's office lawmen practice take downs of rampaging gunmen. Lawmen practice take downs of rampaging gunmen.

New tax rate coming for private auto sales

It's going to cost more to register cars purchased from dealerships, Florida, or from the classified ads starting March 1.

Thursday is the last chance to vote for your favorites!

The Blackshear Times is pleased to play a role in the success of the Peach County government. Thursday is the last chance to vote for your favorites.

Hard News Writing

E

3rd Place

The Jones County News,
Gray

Josh Lurie

Hounds eliminated
Jones County knocked out of state tourney in first round. | SPORTS, B1

Dixie Divas' Ronda Rich comes to News office
Commissioner will greet fans and sign books March 6. | A7

The Jones County News
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75¢

SUPERIOR COURT
No. 3 defendant in meth ring granted bond
DERRI LURIE SMITH
The No. 3 defendant in a methamphetamine ring was granted bond last week.

► RICO case led to the arrest of 14 last February
The indictment was returned in August 2012 on RICO charges and was considered the supply source for the methamphetamine distribution ring that spanned Middle Georgia.

CITY OF GRAY
Excessive rain causes sewer spill
► City made preparations for more rain this week
CHUCK THOMPSON

MURDER CASE
Trial gets closer for two murder suspects
► State seeks death penalty for men charged with killing Kitchens, Griffis
DERRI LURIE SMITH

CITY OF GRAY
Former county senior center to house adult education
► Commissioners looking to clear sites at industrial park
DERRI LURIE SMITH

obituaries
Charles Adams
Conita Moore
Mae Green
Helen B. King
Jennie Morgan Turk

Hard News Writing

E

2nd Place

The Cairo Messenger

"The man who wanders out of the way of advertising shall remain in the congregation of the dead."

The Cairo Messenger

CAIRO, GEORGIA VOL. CXL, NO. 25 WWW.CAIROMESSENGER.COM WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2013

County awards bid for Tired Creek Lake dam

► Construction likely to begin by August 1

Randolph H. Wind
Staff Writer

After decades of hoping, dreaming and praying, Crady County commissioners will finally have ground on the Tired Creek Lake dam sometime between now and August 1.

On Friday bids for the dam project were opened and on Tuesday during a closed meeting the board of commissioners unanimously approved the low bid of \$10,500,49 from Brad Cole Construction of Columbus, GA.

Seven bids were received for the job ranging up to a high bid of \$14,521,200 from [unclear].

On Wednesday, Brad Cole Construction, Inc. of Marietta, GA, offered \$10,500,49. Other bidders and their bids were: A&D Dam & Water Resource Construction, of Pueblo, Wash., CO - \$11,391,200; Crowder Construction Company of Charlotte, NC - \$11,508,000; Morgan Corp., of Spartanburg, SC - \$16,000,000; Phillips and Jordan, Inc. of Greenville, SC - \$16,000,000; and North Georgia Concrete, Inc. of Sparsville, GA - \$9,200,000.

Then engineers Chuck Wilson and Bradley Boyer of Schmidt Engineering went back Friday to review the bids and took the weekend to verify the low bid of Brad Cole Construction.

On Tuesday, Wilson and Boyer recommended to the board to accept the low bid and issue the notice of award.

Commissioner Charles Noyes made the motion to accept the low bid and his motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Ed Smith. The Schmidt engineers will transmit the contract documents for Brad Cole officials to execute and then they will be returned to the county for the signature of Chairman Billy Holman.

According to an engineer [unclear],

► See 1A48, Page A1



DAM ENGINEERS Bradley Boyer, left, and Chuck Wilson of Schmidt Engineering present the seven bids received for the construction of the Tired Creek Lake dam on Friday to County Clerk Corrie Kline, right.



THE CAIRO CITY COUNCIL has voted to make South Avenue N.W. one-way from the intersection of First Street N.W. down to South Street N.W. during school hours only.

Council addresses traffic issues at Northside School

Randolph H. Wind
Staff Writer

When school begins on Friday, Aug. 9 there will be a one-way street in Cairo during school hours.

The Cairo City Council voted 4-0, with Commissioner Kenneth Gilliland abstaining, to grant the request of the Crady County Board of Education and designate South Avenue N.W. from South Street N.W. to First Street N.W. as one-way during school hours only.

Superintendent Lee M. Bailey requested the change on behalf of the school board. The idea is to create a safer environment for Northside Elementary School children crossing South Avenue N.W.

Similar restrictions are in place on Third Street S.E. in front of Northside Elementary School and on Fourth Avenue S.W. at Washington Middle School.

"The real problem is up at 3:30. We only get traffic up to 84 that's the problem," Councilman James [unclear] said.

► See 09B-WK, Page A1



City making sure water is **SAFE TO DRINK** FOR YEARS TO COME

With elevated levels of naturally occurring arsenic being found in both public and private water wells throughout a swath of Georgia, including Crady County, which is a known geological formation known as the Gulf Trough, the Cairo City Council is taking a proactive approach to treat the city's drinking water to remove the arsenic for years to come.

City councilmen met Thursday with the city's consulting engineer Terry Watkins, as well as David Black of Sewer Treat Services and Chris Koenig of The Industrial Company, to discuss a pilot program that was conducted at the city's new well installed at the Cairo Municipal Airport during March and April, and to consider treatment options for the future.

According to Watkins, higher levels of arsenic have been found in water from the airport well than from the city's current three water wells at the Municipal Office water treatment plant.

"In 2008, the maximum concentration level for arsenic in public water systems was lowered from 50 parts per billion to 10 parts per billion. The first place to begin testing for arsenic were in Arizona, southern California and New Mexico.

"We do not have a major public health hazard here. The arsenic has been here and people have been drinking water containing arsenic for years. The technology has developed so that we are able to test water down to parts per billion," Watkins said.

The city's consulting engineer predicts the drop in the region's water table over the last 30 years has contributed to the higher levels of arsenic detected in the new water supply.

According to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources, arsenic is an element that occurs naturally

► See 10A16, Page A1

There's no doubt the ARSENIC is here, and it's NOT going to disappear"

Commissioner James H. (Gus) Douglas

BY RANDOLPH H. WIND

LOOK WHAT'S INSIDE THIS WEEK'S PAPER



Robinson DOCUMENTARY

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Wilcox INKS DEAL

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Member Newspaper

This issue was mailed on June 26, 2013. If it arrives late please call your Post Office. To subscribe please call (706) 477-8000 or visit www.cairomessenger.com

Hard News Writing

E

1st Place

The Hartwell Sun

Lauren Peeples

Lake Levels

- Full 060
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The Hartwell Sun
1876

Thursday, June 6, 2013 Hartwell, Hart County, Georgia 30643 Vol. 138 No. 52 75¢ Per Copy

Break-in suspects sought

Area businesses targeted by thieves
By Lauren Peeples
Staff writer

Hartwell store owners are taking extra precautions to secure businesses while law enforcement continues to search for suspects responsible for two break-ins this week.

Quality Foods and Duggie D's of Hartwell were broken into at approximately 2 a.m. on Monday, according to Hartwell Police Chief Cecil Bess.

At Quality Foods, located on Benson Street, suspected reportedly stole \$1,000 in cigarettes. Bess said entry was made through the front door.

"The suspects were in and out in less than two minutes. Officer Charles Wright was on scene within one minute of the alarm activation," said Bess.

At Duggie D's, located on South Carolina Street, suspected entered through the back door.

"They kicked in the back door

See suspects, page 3A



Rucker conviction upheld

By Lauren Peeples
Staff writer

In a unanimous decision, the Georgia Supreme Court has upheld a murder conviction and life imprisonment for a Hart County man.

In February, attorneys for Stephen Laiberville Rucker, 31, of Canton, filed an appeal on his sentence.

In 2006, Rucker was indicted by a Hart County jury on charges of malice murder, felony murder and two counts of aggravated assault after he allegedly attacked and stabbed James Edward Kidd, 58, and Rucker's sister, Tiffany Ya Rucker, 36. Kidd later died of his injuries.

In 2008, Rucker was found guilty of felony murder and aggravated assault. He was sentenced to 2000 and denied a request for new trial.

The incident occurred at 108 Jones Circle in Royston at approximately 10 p.m. on May 30, 2006.

See Rucker, page 3A

Going to school

Officers respond to a mock hostage situation with an active shooter inside school during a recent training class at South-Hart Elementary. The class was facilitated by the Georgia State Patrol to adequately prepare if such an event occurred in Hart County. Officers from the Hart County Sheriff's Office and Hartwell Police Department participated in the five-hour training May 30. Pictured: (front) Hart County Sheriff's Investigator Marshall Norton, (left) deputy BJ White, (right) deputy Lamar Speers and (back) Hartwell Police Investigator Anthony Davis. For story, see page 5A.

(Photo by Lauren Peeples)



Murder on the Lake

Audiences will have the opportunity to use their detective skills to solve a murder mystery at The Savannah River Production-dinner theatre "Murder on the Lake" scheduled for 8 p.m., June 13 and 22 at the Savannah River Playhouse. The production is written by Sherry Wooten and directed by Kathy Dikofel. Dinner will be catered by Bob's Small Town Grille and will include salad, choice of maple Dijon pork or Bob's Cheesy Chicken, garlic mashed potatoes, squash casserole, dessert and tea. Tickets are \$40 or \$55 for groups of eight or more. Reservations are required at least one week in advance. To purchase tickets, call 706-376-7387 or visit www.savannahriverproductions.org. The Playhouse is located at 86 South Forest Avenue. Pictured: Cast members (l-r) Bill Griggs, Pat Rutherford, Kathy Dikofel, Steven Chapman and Liz Williams.

(Photo by Bill Griggs)

City approves shelter zoning

By Lauren Peeples
Staff writer

Re-zoning of property for Animal Shelter, Inc. of Hart County to establish a designated facility was approved by the Hartwell City Council on Monday.

The recommendation was presented to the council by the Hartwell Planning and Zoning Commission after a public hearing in May. The one-acre property is located at 280 Ulysses Street, near the intersection of Old Highway 29 and Ulysses Street.

The property is being donated by Hart County resident Andy Adams, who was present at the council meeting, for the purpose of the shelter.

The proposed animal shelter would be for all of Hart County and would not be funded by local government. The shelter would have three sections. The main building would be 1,008 square feet with vinyl siding. Approximately 20 dog runs would be off the left and right sides and made with chain link fence.

According to Animal Shelter, Inc. representative Gail Cobb, the next steps will be to obtain appropriate permits to begin construction, as well as a sewer for the property, which she said the organization would either pay for if it was not available, or look for other alternatives.

"The money is there to begin construction. We have received a lot in donations, as well as materials and labor," said Cobb, in April.

"Hartwell mayor Jennifer Scott volunteered herself for random drug testing. All city employees are subject to random drug screening. Hartwell city manager David Aldrich mentioned he had already included his name as a candidate for testing.

"We shouldn't ask the people who work for us to do something that we wouldn't do," said Scott.

On Tuesday, Scott provided The Hartwell Sun with a copy of a memo that she issued to council members following the meeting. It stated:

"I sincerely hope each of you will consider inclusion in the random drug screening process. As mentioned during the meeting last evening, even though voluntary for elected officials, I believe it sends a message to city employees that we would not ask them to do something we are not willing to do ourselves," wrote Scott. No comments were made by council members at the meeting.

"The council elected to deny any request for use of the park-

See City, page 3A

BOE working on shortfall

By Lake Morris
Staff writer

The Hart County Board of Education met last Thursday for a called meeting to discuss the 2013-2014 fiscal year budget, and to work on closing a projected million-dollar shortfall.

The original projected shortfall of \$1.3 million has dropped since a May 13 meeting. At that meeting, the board voted 4-0, with District 2 representative Paul Abernathy absent, to eliminate the school since status of Hart Academy, effectively cutting \$300,000.

At the May 30 meeting, Hart County superintendent Jimmy Bell said he had gone through and gotten the shortfall down to the current \$275,000 projection, and the

See BOE, page 2A

Area graduates and dean's list honors

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Obituaries

- Thomas Morris
- David Allen
- Regina Welbers
- Savetha Gilmore
- Jamie Nye
- Margarita Beals
- Hubert Elliott
- Nilly H. Ray

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Hard News Writing

D

3rd Place

The Northeast Georgian, Cornelia

Christina Santee

The Northeast Georgian
75 cents JANUARY 23, 2013 Midweek

Shooting victim dies; brother charged with murder

Cornelia crime marks first homicide of 2013, takes pending murder case count up to 10 in Mountain Judicial Circuit

By CHRISTINA SANTEE

The victim in a Friday afternoon shooting has died and the older brother has been charged with his murder.

Christopher Corbett, 28, allegedly shot Michael Corbett, 22, with a .380-caliber pistol at their Cornelia residence at approximately 1:00 p.m. on Jan. 18.

"They believe he shot Michael," Corbett was about twice in the lead," said Suburban County Sheriff Michael Corbett, 32. "As we speak we're still in the lead."

There is no information about a possible motive.

"They're not talking," Corbett said of suspect Christopher Corbett, who is currently incarcerated at the Suburban County Detention Center in Clarkston Ga.

Corbett said investigators contacted Corbett for Christopher Corbett, but said the suspect was arrested in 2003 and based on charges of illegal possession of a controlled substance and disorderly conduct.

The victim, Michael Corbett, was 22 years old at the time of the shooting.

See Murder Page 2A

Henderson elected commission chair

James serving as vice chair for 2013

By DONALD FRASER

Getting down to official business, the commission quickly elected Chad Henderson to chairman for the year and Steve Jones as vice chairman. There were no other nominations for the two positions.

The newly elected Henderson and Jones were sworn in by the clerk of the commission, Steve Jones, who was elected to the position in November 2012 and started his second term in the month.

See Commission, Page 3A

Peace Walk marches in memory of MLK Jr.

By DONALD FRASER

Suburban County's Main Street came alive on Sunday afternoon as more than 100 people walked in peace during the 20th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Peace Walk.

Organized by the youth of Holy Trinity Church, the walk was held from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 20, at the intersection of Main Street and Highway 158 in Cornelia.

The walk to Martin Luther King Jr. Drive and Study Center began at 10 a.m. and ended at 12 p.m. at the intersection of Main Street and Highway 158.

See Peace Walk, Page 2A

Parental accountability court launches

By J. TODD THOMAS

Suburban County's new Parental Accountability Court program is set to launch on Friday, Jan. 25, at the Suburban County Courthouse in Cornelia.

The court addresses parents who do not pay child support.

Suburban County Judge Chuck Casper said the program is a better alternative to paying parents in jail for failing to meet their child support payments.

The state has already begun the process of putting in place the parental accountability courts in other counties.

See Court, Page 2A

Wall has 50 years of perfect Sunday school attendance

By KIMBERLY BROWN

"Perfect" and "50-year perfect" are words used to describe Louise Wall by her family and others. And those are good words, considering Wall has perfect Sunday school attendance for 50 years at Providence Baptist Church in Cornelia.

Wall, who is 83 years old, was born in Cornelia, Ga. and has lived in Cornelia for 50 years.

Wall was born on Jan. 23, 1933, and has lived in Cornelia for 50 years.

See Wall, Page 2A

DEATHS, 8A

Michael Corbett, 22, shot and killed by Christopher Corbett, 28, on Jan. 18, 2013.

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Henry Daily Herald,
McDonough

Kelsey Cochran

RELIGIOUS DEBATE, 6A
Supreme Court to hear case on contraception.

MIGHTY MUSTANG
Dix's Savannah McHelen named County Player of the Year.
Sports, 1B

Henry Weekly Herald
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2013
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Homeless remember one of their own

By KAREN COCHRAN
kcochr@henryherald.com

STOCKBRIDGE — A group of people gathered over dinner Monday to remember a friend who had recently died. The meal was held at the home of the deceased's mother, and instead of jackets and ties they wore head-down coats and stocking caps. Newly donated socks could be seen peeking out of their pockets — maybe their only pair, other than the socks on their feet.

These are just a few of the homeless men and women of Stockbridge. Volunteers meet them around the same time each night, always at the same place, in a fast-food restaurant's parking lot near the entrance ramps for I-875 on Ga. Highway 138. Some of them walk to the place, a few lucky enough to still have cars, will drive their home-on-wheels to get dinner, then drive back to whatever parking lot they sleep in.

One volunteer drove his minivan around Stockbridge, picking up two or three people at a time and transporting them to that parking lot to get dinner. These were men, maybe three of these minivan trips.

"She was always really quiet, kept to herself, but she was shy for a long time," said one man, who goes by the name Thompson, about Robin Lynn Hubbard. "It's gonna miss her a lot. It's going to take a lot to get past it."

The 55-year-old woman was found dead under her

See HOMELESS, Page 8A

Discipline tactics are questioned

By JENNIFER JACKSON
jjackson@henryherald.com

McDONOUGH — There have been increased complaints about the student disciplinary practices of Henry County schools — the story for Sen. Sen. Emanuel Jones, D-Ducatur.

Jones, whose office has fielded many of the complaints, said the district and its leadership have too often brought punishments against students that are too severe and damaging to their futures.

"The severity of the discipline has increased significantly," said Jones, adding the district has failed out long-term suspensions and expulsions for what he considered minor infractions.

These acts, he said, include school yard fights and possessing unauthorized medications or instruments that could be considered weapons on school property.

Jones authored a provision in state law regarding weapons in school safety zones, at school functions and on school property. The Senate Bill 299 passed last year, which passed overwhelmingly in both the state House and Senate.

These laws have some interesting provisions, including that any student who should be expelled and who continues a "designated felony act."

"The General Assembly has acted," said Jones. "We acted. I led the charge. But I am amazed to see four years later that the school systems are ignoring the changes we made four years ago."

"It was my hope that the school system would get the message and stop punishing these kids for offenses that are now considered minor in the legal system," he added. "These kids aren't going on that pipeline to prison any more."

School spokesman J.D. Harlin defended the district's response to code violations.

"Our handbook clearly states the various types of offenses (Section 1-4) and the specific offenses that warrant the least being brought before a hearing with a disciplinary hearing officer," said Harlin. "This case person, regardless of how heavy the information presented by both parties in the case and then makes a ruling."

Harlin said the officer's ruling could mean a dismissing the charges or issuing punishment based on what is allowable according to the offense.

"After that is when a potential appeal process begins," he said. "The first opportunity to appeal is before the local Board of Education. The next step after that is the State Board of Education. After that, the final step would be Superior Court."

Next month, attorneys will defend their clients' student records in Henry County Superior Court.

Shelby Amond is an attorney with Georgia Legal Services Program. She states that minority students are nearly three times as likely to undergo a student disciplinary hearing as their white counterparts in Henry County.

She represents two of those students, Clarence Park-Ratny and Jonathan Carter.

Park-Ratny, 20, requested an expunction for bad one day last March as a

See DISCIPLINE, Page 8A

BRING IT ON
Game an annual tradition for family

By TRACY CORWELL
tcowell@henryherald.com

McDONOUGH — At the Beaumont home there is one eagerly anticipated Thanksgiving tradition that brings together extended family and friends.

All the pumpkins that survived Halloween are gathered at the top of the driveway. Looking into the backyard there is a steep slope from the driveway down to the far part of the yard and continuing out to the lake.

That slope and yard are considered the "field of play." Multiple goals are set up as goals for the pumpkin rolling to aim for each with different point values assigned. One at a time every person picks a pumpkin and rolls it down the hill onto the "field of play."

The rules to the game are the goals that were hit and then they are written on the game score board. Pumpkins are rolled by every person one by one until each pumpkin is gone. At the end of the game the winner is the person with the greatest number of points.

Usually, there is the trophy ceremony. The previous year's winner hands the trophy off to the current winner. The current winner has the privilege of displaying the trophy in their home for the year as well as having their name and winning year engraved on the side.

Recent history of winners is as follows:

- 2012 Duane Beaumont
- 2011 Robert Corwell
- 2010 Tracy Corwell
- 2009 Manuel Beaumont

The family started engraving the trophy in 2009. No one remembers who was before Manuel.

Tracy Corwell hands off the pumpkin rolling trophy to her husband Robert Corwell (Special Photo)

talk on Facebook starts early. Usually at least a month in advance.

Prizes are rolled based on

See DRIVE, Page 3A

Student leads stuffed animal drive for police

By KAREN COCHRAN
kcochr@henryherald.com

McDONOUGH — Mackenzie Cochran, 12, has spent more of her life learning to her dad will work about working the streets of night-boring Clayton County as a patrol officer.

Now a detective, Aida Cochran has followed the experiences he shared with his young daughter. And around

"When he was an officer on the road, he used to carry stuffed animals in his car if he came into contact with children," she said. "But it got too expensive because he was doing it on his own."

Clayton County police Deputy Chief Chris Butler agreed that it was not unusual for patrol officers to carry the toys to soothe frightened children but there wasn't a

From left, Clayton County police Deputy Chief Chris Butler, Detective Cochran, Mackenzie Cochran, Aida Cochran and Lt. Ken Richards with the newly 500 stuffed animals collected at Community Christian Church in Henry County (Staff Photo: Kelsey Cochran)

See DRIVE, Page 3A

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Hard News Writing

D

1st Place

The Walton Tribune, Monroe

Robbie Schwartz

Loganville, Monroe Area baseball teams pick up wins. In SPORTS, B1

MCKAYLA FUTRAL
16-year-old not letting lupus hold her back. In LIFESTYLES, C1

INFLUENCED BY HITCHCOCK
Research paper yields unlikely sources for LCA student. In EDUCATION, D1

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FALLEN ANGEL

The Collapse of the Wingo Empire



By **ROBBIE SCHWARTZ**
Managing Editor
rschwartz@waltontribune.com

In the wake of guilty pleas from Angel Food Ministries founders to money laundering, embezzling a state and wife fraud, feelings of disappointment and sadness abound.

"It is tragic, it really is, in so many ways to see greed and self-indulgence bring down a ministry that was helping to some estimate 300,000 families across country," said Steven Whitnall, an employee of the now defunct Monroe-based nonprofit from 2008 on. "It's tragic because this was a ministry that was desperately needed, it had a place and could have thrived if the people in charge could have kept their eyes on the mission. But what you have got now is literally hundreds of thousands of families who benefitted from this, hundreds of best ones who invested their time, money and trust in not just the Wingo but the ministry as well, and hundreds of former workers who have simply just been betrayed."

But what began as a helping hand to those in need turned into a means for promoting and transferring money and assets for private gain.

See AFM, Page A1

Boy's fight for hearing surgery goes national

Insurance company's denial means \$250,000 bill for family

By **RACHAEL WIND**
Staff Writer
rwind@waltontribune.com

MONROE — More than 100,000 people from all over the U.S. have signed a petition asking County Health Care Georgia to allow the gift of hearing to be received by 8-year-old Carson Rubin.

Carson's mother, Tracy Rubin, and her husband, Brian, faced a difficult road ahead when they were first informed their son had auditory neuropathy, a disease that causes the child to hear deafening heavy static that increases with noise levels around him.

"That long road became a mountain to climb when their insurance company hit the Rubins with a bombshell.

The Rubins were left with the daunting reality of having to pay \$250,000 if they wanted to provide their son Carson a surgery known as cochlear implants.

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, cochlear implants are now recognized as the standard treatment for severe to profound nerve deafness. But the Rubins' attempt to get the surgery for Carson were denied by County.

See CARSON, Page A3



The plight of the Rubin family and their attempts to get a hearing surgery for their son, Carson, has garnered support nationwide with a petition on Change.org.

Effort to name road for fallen soldier under way

Stretch of Highway 20 will bear name of Gray

By **ROBBIE SCHWARTZ**
Managing Editor
rschwartz@waltontribune.com

State Rep. Tom Kirby, R-Logansville, announced last week he has sponsored a resolution that will dedicate a portion of Highway 20 as a memorial to Maj. David Gray, a member of the U.S. Air Force from Loganville who was killed last year while serving in Afghanistan.

The portion that will be dedicated will be from the intersection with Highway 74 to the Rockdale/Walton county line. The resolution says the dedication is "in honor of his achievements, accomplishments and contributions to Walton and Rockdale counties and to the state of Georgia."

For Robbie Gray, the effort to name a stretch of road near where they grew up on Miller Bottoms Road for his brother is fitting.

See GRAY, Page A3

State passes insurance cost increase to school systems

Walton BOE scrambling to offset \$230,000 expense

By **STEPHEN MULLIGAN**
Staff Writer
smulligan@waltontribune.com

Rising insurance costs have school officials at odds with state lawmakers as the school system will absorb new expense midway through the budget year.

A \$15 increase in employer contributions for health insurance, from \$913.36 to \$928.36, will add \$230,000 in expenses for Walton County Public Schools and has school officials scrambling to find funds to offset the sudden expense.

"This news from the state is very disappointing and it came unannounced, at mid-year, when we had been told that there would be no increase in health care costs in the school systems without advance notice," said Gary Halbis, superintendent.

See BOE, Page A3

COMING WEDNESDAY

The big guns of local law enforcement agencies to with their community response teams. Does training overcome being outgunned?

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WEEKEND WEATHER

SAT SUN
HIGH 48 50
LOW 30 29

30 percent chance of rain Saturday afternoon.

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Hard News Writing

C

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Cherokee Tribune

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2013 BREAKING NEWS 24/7 @ CHEROKEETRIEBUNE.COM 80 CENTS

School district cleared by AdvancED

By Michelle Babcock
The Cherokee County School District learned Wednesday afternoon it was cleared by AdvancED, an accreditation agency of all allegations brought against the local school system, to have by School Board member Kelly Marlow.

School Superintendent Dr. Frank Petrulic received a letter from AdvancED about 12 p.m. Wednesday that said the agency had determined the district was not in viola-

tion of accreditation standards or policies. In Marlow's letter, AdvancED said the District 1 member accused the school board of violating AdvancED accreditation policy in the area of governance and leadership and claimed there was a possible misapprehension personal relationship between a school system staff member and a

number of the board. Dr. Mark Elgart, president and CEO of Southern Association of Colleges and Schools of AdvancED Accreditation, wrote the letter to the superintendent, dated Aug. 19, stating that "no further action is needed" in response to Marlow's complaint.

"After a thorough review and analysis of the response and its accompanying documentation, AdvancED finds the Cherokee County School District is not in violation of AdvancED Accreditation standards and policies," Elgart wrote in the letter, obtained by the Tribune through an open records request.

In the letter, Elgart stated the agency will "continue to monitor the situation and will advise any new information, if relevant and appropriate."

Petrulic said a memo to school board members after receiving the notification, saying "We have concluded that the allegations made by Mr. Marlow were very serious and without merit."

"Clearly, this returns the district's good accreditation status that we can rest our outstanding School District," Petrulic wrote in the memo. "And eliminates the distraction that these allegations have caused for our community and staff, who are now returning to putting all their energy and focus on school improvement and our primary mission of teaching and learning."

After receiving the notification, School Board Chair Jason Bond said he was happy to hear from AdvancED.

"I was confident that [Marlow's] allegations were without merit, but it was nice to have that confirmed by AdvancED," Bond said. "My hope is now that we can put these forward and get back to teaching and learning."

Marlow could not be reached for comment before deadline.

See Cleared, Page 12A

Board approves sale of Jones Building to developer for \$1.8M

By Michelle Babcock
CANTON — The Cherokee County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the sale of the Jones Building in downtown Canton to an Atlanta-based developer for \$1.8 million at its meeting Tuesday.

The deal also includes renovation to Cherokee County for the removal of the building's facade, which will cost an additional \$200,000 to the purchasers.

County Manager Jerry Cooper said the site clearing will occur within 45 days after the purchase, Wednesday, Petrulic, executive director of the Georgia Historic Preservation Office in rebuilding the property under the National Historic Landmarks Program.

The board also voted unanimously to award a construction contract to Hensley Construction to remove the metal and granite veneer from the building to reveal brick and wood-framed windows beneath.

Hensley Construction was awarded a contract of \$175,000 to remove the exterior of the Jones



Left: Todd Krieger Grigg, 31, of Woodstock, was arrested Wednesday after being found armed with several weapons outside the Cherokee Charter Academy in Canton. He was taken into custody and later charged with six counts, including five weapons charges. **Above:** When Grigg was arrested Wednesday, police say he had three knives, a set of leather gloves and a BB gun resembling a semi-automatic handgun on him.

Building. Additional costs include a construction contingency of \$21,000 and interior alterations of \$23,000, which brought the total approved by the county to \$224,000.

"We believe we're doing some of these things to do education about the history of the building, and possibly other environmental issues that we may have to address," Cooper said.

Mayor Gene Holgado said Wednesday the development of the former general store, which last owned the property, will be completed by the county's administrative offices, right just give downtown Canton the best it needs, he said. "It's going to be a gift to downtown."

The historic building was purchased by the county from the Jones family in the mid-1980s, and was most recently used as a county administrative building until the county moved to its new location on South Parkway in 2008.

See Jones, Page 12A

Armed man arrested at Canton school

By Joshua Sharpe
One day after a gunman opened fire at a DeKalb County school, cops of school violence hit Cherokee County when an armed man was found Wednesday morning outside the Cherokee Charter Academy.

Todd Krieger Grigg, 31, of Woodstock, was arrested and charged with six counts after Cherokee Sheriff's deputies noticed him acting suspiciously at the school in Canton and found that he was carrying several weapons, said

Lt. Jay Baker, spokesman for the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office.

The detention was at the Charter Academy on State Road working morning traffic and apprehended Grigg, who has an extensive criminal history, after he ran away when they tried to question him, authorities said.

"When arrested, Grigg had a BB gun resembling a semi-automatic handgun, three knives and a set of leather gloves," Baker said.

The man was taken to the questioning and told investigators he was at the charter academy, where several of his relatives go to school, including a 4-year-old, Baker said.

"We further advised investigators that he ran from the deputies because he knew he was in a school zone and was armed," Baker said.

Lt. Col. Ron Horton, chief operations commander for the Sheriff's Office, said Wednesday afternoon the investigation into Grigg and his statements explaining who he was at the school is ongoing.

"I think it's pretty obvious, No. 1, that's a

Former Atlanta Brave Nixon indicted on cocaine possession

By Joshua Sharpe
CANTON — A former Atlanta Braves player has been indicted by a Cherokee County grand jury on possession of cocaine.

On Nixon, 34, the former Braves center fielder leaves for his quick last and strong

glove, was indicted Aug. 12 on a felony count of cocaine possession and a misdemeanor charge of possession of a drug-related object from an arrest in May when a Cherokee County deputy found a pipe and several nodes of the drug on Nixon during a traffic stop.

Nixon, a resident of Range, was arrested in the early morning hours of May 4 when Cherokee County 911 received a call reporting that his Dodge Ram was wearing on Interstate 277 near Ball Ground.

The Cherokee deputy responded and pulled Nixon over near Airport Road, giving him a field sobriety test.

"Nixon passed the test, but police said they had already found a bag of crack cocaine and a pipe in his pocket. More crack and another pipe was also found in the backseat of his truck, according to the police report."

The Cherokee deputy wrote in the report that Nixon claimed the crack and pipes were his but belonged to his son.

"Nixon told the 911 dispatcher he had crack and pipes left the truck," the officer wrote. "Nixon said he was always finding drugs and drug objects left in his car."

Nixon went on to tell the deputy that he planned to get rid of the pipe found in his pocket, the report says.

Police said they later found more crack near the former Braves star in the backseat of the pickup.

"Nixon was on the roster for the Braves from 1991 to 1993 and again in 1995. He failed a drug test in 1991 and was suspended by White League Baseball for 90 days."

Nixon was released May 7 from the Cherokee County Adult Detention Center on \$1,000 bond, said Lt. Jay Baker, spokesman for the Sheriff's Office.

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Hard News Writing

C

GMC PREP TRACK
wins pair of titles in Jefferson, Page 5A
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f **t**

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SPORTS

GC baseball team starts Sportsmanship Award
PAGE 5A

NEWS

Spaying 150 for frogs
PAGE 2A

Georgia College holds 2013 commencement on front campus
PAGE 3A

Singers Guild to present great evening of music
PAGE 5A

Debate set to let voters see where our choices
PAGE 7A

WEATHER
HIGH 73, LOW 52
Extended forecast, 5A

By ERICA INGRAM
Eight High Elementary

OPINION POLL

This week's question:
Do you think the city should have a water-leaving party?
No
Yes
Unsure

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Comment on this report, email
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CORRECTIONS

• If you spot an error of fact, call Managing News Editor Tina DAVIS, 478-452-1462. Corrections appear on PAGE 5A.

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Volume 160, Number 100
One section, 10 pages
\$1.00 per copy



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Ethics complaint filed against Joiner

By KYLE COLLINS
collins@unionrecorder.com

Last month, the City of Milledgeville officially adopted an ethics policy and created a three-member ethics board to address complaints against city officials.

The board has its first case.

Local resident and downtown business owner Danielle Fields filed an ethics complaint against District 4 City Councilman Phillip Joiner.

Joiner has served as the District 4 City Councilman since 2010 and has consistently been in the spotlight.

Fields stated the complaint isn't a personal attack, but part of holding local leadership accountable from a purely ethical standpoint.

"Councilman Phillip Joiner has served as the District 4 City Councilman since 2010 and has consistently been in the spotlight," Fields stated.

Fields stated she is concerned about his personal financial interests as a citizen of the city of Milledgeville to point out his financial disregard and disrespect of his position, his constituents and his peers within the Council," Fields stated.

Fields cited three instances of alleged unethical behavior in her opinion.

An inappropriate grade rental to a member of the council, as well as other incidents of harassment that have been filed against Joiner.

Fields stated she is looking for the public's help in looking for a 15-year-old Milledgeville resident, David Curtis.

Curtis was last seen May 7 walking from her residence located on Stone Mountain approximately 8 p.m., according to police.

Curtis is approximately 5'6" tall and has been speaking with a male subject, who identified himself as Jeff. The male subject reportedly picked Curtis up as she walked away from her residence, according to police.

Investigation continued from District 4 and Fields has provided the investigation toward the Atlanta area.

"We have learned during the course of this investigation that Curtis has been possibly planning to run away for some time now," Sgt. Raymond Hill of MPD said. "We think that Curtis may possibly be in the Atlanta area, but certainly can still be in Milledgeville."

Det. Anthony Henderson of MPD has been working the case since last week (Thursday night but still hasn't located Curtis.

The family has received two phone calls from Curtis since the search.

See **ETHICS**, page 2A

Heavy weekend rain elevates lake levels



The spillway gates of Sinclair Dam open when Lake Sinclair's water levels begin rising close to the elevation of 243.0. Pictured is an aerial view of the Sinclair Dam taken Sunday.

By VISHALI PATEL
patel@unionrecorder.com

Lake Sinclair's spillway gates had to be opened due to the lake's rising elevation from the weekend rains.

Several parts of northwestern Georgia remain under a flood watch and other areas were under weekend flood warnings as rivers and creeks began spilling over their banks.

See **SINCLAIR**, page 4B

MPD looking for missing teen

David Curtis

See **MISSING**, page 2A

First Friday celebrates local talent

Local residents enjoyed some of the area's music and arts talents this week during the 10th anniversary of First Friday. Friday evening featured lots of live entertainment including The Fall Line Band, Craig Henderson and free Lance Harkin, Beckie and Handmade performed at the Fall Line Farmer Market in honor of First Friday.

Church as a complimentary part of First Friday. Complimentary Crafts sold lyrical paintings and window paintings in front of the Public Library, and the Mary Brown Memorial Library hosted a used book sale at Digital Drive.

The Greene Regional Medical Center Kids' Corner featured a Mother's Day craft session. Also, Shonda Johnson showed off her talent as a Hula Hooper at 7:30 p.m. There was a drawing for the State's Bulletin Diamond Raffle. The winner got to choose between two diamonds -- a 1 karat round diamond or a princess cut diamond. An \$20 per ticket, i.e. Green Co. sold 600 tickets with all proceeds going to the Civic Florida Foundation. Baby Jesus pulled the winning ticket Friday evening for the diamond valued at \$7,000.



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The Moultrie Observer

Alan Mauldin

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Hendry leads rifle team to pair of victories
SPORTS, 1B

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Hail of gunfire on 2nd Street



More than 30 shots: 1 person dead, 3 hurt

AREA DEATHS
Mike Ray Jameson, 41, of Moultrie
Dorothy T. Harris, 66, of Moultrie
Dorothy Parker Moore, 61, of Moultrie
See complete obituaries on Page 1B

South Ga. officials expecting sinkholes

ALWAYS ON TOP—Employees and public works officials in north Georgia say more sinkholes could lead to sinkholes in the area.

Adams Public Works Board Superintendent Alan Davidson (second from left) and five council members (clockwise from right) are expected to meet Tuesday to discuss the possibility of their future after a vote to merge with the City of Dalton.

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2013 905-4500
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ABOVE: This part of 2nd Street in Moultrie was the scene of a fatal shooting Sunday night in which three other people were injured by gunfire. The people pictured nearby were standing around the fatal scene — at bottom left in the photo —

TOP: This hole in a brick block wall is one of several that punctured the house next door to the area targeted by more than 30 shots during the Sunday shooting.

MENTAL HEALTH: — There are 44 million people in the U.S. who are living with a mental health condition, according to the National Institute of Mental Health.

ADAMS PUBLIC WORKS BOARD: — Adams Public Works Board Superintendent Alan Davidson (second from left) and five council members (clockwise from right) are expected to meet Tuesday to discuss the possibility of their future after a vote to merge with the City of Dalton.

Park chief wins state award

Staff Report
AUGUSTA — Superior Park District Chief David Walker has been named the 2012 National Park District Chief of the Year by the National Association of Park Districts.

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Hard News Writing

B

3rd Place

The Times,
Gainesville

Emma Witman

RIDING FOR A CAUSE
Two area men cycle 3,000 miles indoors to raise awareness of organ, kidney donation. **LIFE, 1E**

OUR REGION, 1B: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints puts on nativity display.

SPORTS, 1C: Auburn Tigers clinch 2013 SEC Championship title.

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WATER WARS
Will water sharing plan be shared?
ACF Stakeholders fear states could use data from river study in lawsuits

BY JEFF GILL
jgill@gainesvilletimes.com

A private interstate water group has reached several states to build a water-sharing website in the southeastern United States. The plan is to create a website that includes Lake Lanier, something that has eluded Georgia, Alabama and Florida for decades.

But it appears the ACF water leaders has reached a watershed moment of its own, one that could have implications in future water negotiations of the basin.

The group's governing board, meeting Wednesday over breakfast at Lake Lanier, is set to decide whether a baseline study should be done and what would work on the critical decision to build.

Complicating matters for the group is the state's legal status on the water wars — Florida and Georgia are the U.S. Supreme Court's ongoing case. Increased water consumption during times of drought elsewhere.

"We're trying to be as open as we can, but obviously, there's the concern that information might be taken from that document," said Governor Scott Brummett. "I think it's important to have that information available to the public, but we don't want to give away information in a way that's not in our best interest."

Timothy J. Chubb, executive director of the Southeastern Water Resources Institute, said the website would be a good idea, but he's not sure if it's worth the cost of building it.

"It's a good idea, but it's not clear if it's worth the cost of building it," he said. "It's a good idea, but it's not clear if it's worth the cost of building it."

■ **Photo by BRUCE, 1B**

US students lag behind in worldwide test scores
International assessment ranks Americans below par in key subject areas

BY EMILY SHANK
eshank@gainesvilletimes.com

Life in America is a lot different than in other countries, and that's not always a bad thing. But when it comes to test scores, Americans are lagging behind in key subject areas.

The Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a worldwide test that measures students' reading, mathematics and science skills. The U.S. performed in the top 30 in each category.

Math Reading Science
 ● China ● China ● China
 ● England ● England ● England
 ● Korea ● Korea ● Korea
 ● Luxembourg ● Poland ● Latvia

"This year's results of PISA show the best, so many of the countries are doing the results, with Shanghai performing best."

For more International Student Assessment results, go online to www.gainesvilletimes.com.

Heroin's comeback
Officials see increased use of hard narcotic

BY EMMA WITMAN
ewitman@gainesvilletimes.com

Over the past few years, there has been a resurgence in the use of heroin in the Gainesville area. Officials from the Multi-Agency Narcotics Squad see an increase in the use of the drug.

Collette was at first a reluctant participant in the alternative sentencing program, but she changed her mind after her husband's death.

"I had a real rough time for the first six months. I kept having positive drug screens — I basically couldn't stop."

Joe Galindo, recovering heroin addict and Hall County Drug Court graduate

Top performers
The Program for International Student Assessment is given to countries around the world. The following are the countries that performed in the top 30 in each category.

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COBB AND STATE
page 1B

On the field:
Ga. Tech beats Duke 38-14 on road

Alabama defeats Texas A&M in average match 49-42
Cobb Football Friday weekend wrapup



MDJ Sunday

SEPTEMBER 15, 2013

COBB'S LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1866

Pocket knife in car leads to teen's arrest

By Leo Holmann
holmann@mdjonline.com

ACWORTH — Andrew Williams never thought when he pulled into the student parking lot at Atlanta's High School last Thursday in his 1981 Lotus Elise that he would leave school later that day as an accused felon.

The 15-year-old senior with a step of dreadlocks is described by his dad as a "very laid back kid," who typically avoids his own house. He has a girlfriend, works a part-time job at a local restaurant and plans to attend college next year, possibly at nearby Kennesaw State University.

"None of those pieces could get involved. His interpersonal skills with the law began when a fellow student at Atlanta's campus police officer says, 'I walk an enforcement tip. The student reported seeing smoke coming from Williams' car in the student parking lot and said it started the carparking lot. The officer informed Assistant Principal Tom Siskind of the situation. What happened from there is laid out in an arrest warrant on file with the Cobb Magistrate Court."

That's the part when, you know, you find out what you did wrong? It would be one thing if he had the knife on him inside the school or if he pulled it out and threatened someone. He's never threatened anyone in his life.

— Andy Williams, father of teen accused of having knife in school car

See Kids, Page 15A



Andy Williams, left, will learn the fate of his son Andrew's future at Atlanta's High School on Monday when school administrators decide whether to expel Andrew from school for having a pocket knife in the trunk of his car on school grounds.



Charlotte Leter, 8, left, and her twin sister, Gairs, make a mad dash through cold sprinkler water after school Thursday on a 90-plus degree day in Marietta. The Cobb water department is facing an \$800,000 shortfall in revenues, plus the transfer of \$17.2 million to the general fund.

Navigating the water

Transfer of money to general fund linked to rising water rates
Rainy season, plus county's move, could leave water dept. high and dry

By Nikki Wiley
wiley@mdjonline.com

MARIETTA — A favorite maneuver by Cobb County is to raise revenues paid by water customers and shift them to the general fund, a tactic that critics say will eventually leave the water department high and dry with no choice but to raise rates.

Cobb water rates wouldn't need to rise for the next five years if the county stopped using water revenues to pad its budget, according to the water department director. But that's not the only issue juggling spread pressure on water rates.

With record rainfall in Cobb County this year, water customers have been using the low water to irrigate their lawns, shrubs, flowers and vegetable gardens. That has created an \$800,000 shortfall in revenues through July of this year. On top of that, the county will transfer \$17.2 million from its water department to its general fund, which pays for most county services, under a \$317 million budget adopted Tuesday that takes effect Oct. 1.

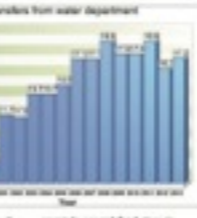
The transfer is about \$47,000 more than last year and the amount has trended upward since the budgeting practice began in 1998 as an effort to keep property taxes low and avoid cutting services.

jump because the utility is left trying to make up for the losses. And water rates would go up in Marietta, and Stone Mountain, the county's water department director, but that would have to be approved by the Board of Commissioners.

MacAllen says the commission will have to decide whether it's going to be on a yearly basis, and he creates an alternate rate schedule to accommodate it. That's the decision of county commissioners, not the water department.

"If they discontinued the transfer completely we could go at least five years with the current rates, assuming we have the same level of service," MacAllen said. Since the commissioners adopted a new water revenue in 1998, residents have seen their rates increase by 50 percent or \$23 per month.

About \$225 million has been moved from the water utility to the county's general fund since 1998.



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About \$225 million has been moved from the water utility to the county's general fund since 1998.

After 50 years, Ala. church bombing still most heinous of racist crimes

Sunday, Sept. 15, 1958, was a busy day in Birmingham, Ala. It was a great day for going to church. A little more than five weeks had passed since the March on Washington organized the long summer of demonstrations led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., ending segregation in Birmingham, an effort often punctuated by violence. There were so many beatings of black people's homes in one section that it was known as



Don Walker is the Birmingham News building with one of the AP's best photographers, Bill Hudson. We had talked before about the fact in the north area the latest bombing of a civil rights attorney's home after

a few black people registered at white schools. Alabama's most prominent segregationist at the time, Gov. George Wallace, had come to Birmingham and talked about continuing to fight but unopposed against violence — then congressional Police Commissioner Bull Connor "let the fight be his own."

Connor had turned police dogs and fire hoses on black teenagers trying to march downtown from the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, headquarters



Investigators work outside the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., following an explosion that killed four young girls on Sept. 15, 1958.

2nd Place

Marietta Daily Journal

Nikki Wiley

Hard News Writing

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Athens Banner-Herald

Joe Johnson

CASHWORD NO WINNER THIS WEEK • JACKPOT INCREASES TO \$1,050, PAGE C7

A SURGE C1


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Photos by John Roseberry

Iraq war vets credit comrades

By Wayne Ford
wayne.ford@athensnews.com

Chris Carter and Jason Tall were among an early group of Georgia-based soldiers to serve in Iraq in the second Gulf War.

Carter, who was a captain with the U.S. Army in 2003 when the second Iraq war started, is now Lt. Col. Carter, a professor of military sciences and Senior Officer for the ROTC program at the University of Alabama-Birmingham.

Tall, who was deployed with a Georgia National Guard unit in 2003 to Iraq, is now a major in the 27th Infantry Police Co. out of Fort Gordon, Augusta, and a joint request with the Athens-Clarke police.


As both men continue to serve their country through their respective military branches, both veterans cite their time in Iraq as one of service to their country.

During the short war and the years of occupation afterward, nearly 4,500 soldiers were killed, according to the Department of Defense.

As both men recently reflected on the importance of their service in the war, they said a week remained from the 10th anniversary of the Iraq invasion by U.S. troops, one common denominator stood out. They remember the men and women they fought alongside them.

"The biggest thing is the effectiveness."

See WAQ on A3



Chris Carter is in Iraq, fighting against an intense firefight on the outskirts of Baghdad in April 2003.

Behind closed doors, an epidemic rages in Georgia, where hundreds of women are killed each year from domestic abuse

A view of VIOLENCE

But the survivors show there is a way out of an abusive relationship

By Joe Johnson
jojohnson@athensnews.com

Dawn's boyfriend beat her so badly one night she was carried in a backhoe.

Four days after that, Jason raped the 22-year-old Atlanta woman, who later gave birth to a daughter for whom she felt no maternal instincts.

"I didn't love her because of the way I had been," Dawn said.

Now 27 and two years removed from a violent relationship, Dawn is working hard to be a loving, responsible mother and provide a nurturing home for her child.

"It was an awful experience, and it's been over for two years now, but I'm still writing into being normal today," she said.

Dawn, who asked to be identified by her middle name, is just one of an untold number of women who suffer domestic abuse every day across the country, in Georgia and here in Athens.

She is one who survived to tell her story.

TRAPPED

Even before Dawn met Jason, she was so estranged to domestic violence.

"I was just brought up around it as a kid, so people hitting and pulling a lot was normal to me," she said.

Sherry Gentry, who was battered for years by her husband, also was a young victim. She said her mother endured years of emotional abuse and her stepfather sometimes beat her on a daily basis.

"My grandfather set me up for what came later," she said. "It's really bad when you're bleeding from within, beat to red. He died when I was 15, and that was actually a substitution on my part. That's pretty sad, but that's the way I felt. It was relief."

Dawn and Gentry's stories are typical, said Rita Smith,

MORE INSIDE

Domestic violence is so prevalent court officers say it should get as much attention as drinking and driving. **A4**

Project Safe provides a refuge and place of healing for those who have been abused. **A4**

ONLINE

How two survivors turned to music to heal their wounds.

Among violent crimes, assaults — including domestic violence — far outweigh others

Year	Domestic Violence	Assault	Sexual Assault	Stalking
2010	1,200	1,500	800	300
2011	1,300	1,600	850	350
2012	1,400	1,700	900	400

See BURNHAM on A2

Aviation on display at Ben Epps event

By Mike Jackson
mike.jackson@athensnews.com

Athens Ben Epps Airport opened its doors Saturday to offer a glimpse into the world of aviation with self-guided tours, a story time by the Epps family, a presentation by Airport Manager Tim Beggery and many other family-friendly activities.

The event was held in the lobby of the airport and came just one day after the Federal Aviation Administration's announcement that the airport tower is staying 100 "seasonal" open, operated by private firms under federal contracts that will be shut down after re-authorization.

Currently, the tower operates from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Outside of those hours, pilots use a set of well-defined communication and operational protocols to ensure safety.

When the tower closes, those protocols will govern operations at the airport 24 hours a day. The topic was brought up by Beggery during his presentation.

"We got the official word yesterday from the FAA that the tower will be closing," Beggery said. "We hope that we would like to keep our tower open, but

there are some other options that are available — but at this point we are making plans to become a non-towered airport effective April 7. There are pre-conditions required for becoming a non-towered airport, so the airport will be safe, but the operations here — it does take away an added layer of safety."

Beggery said although the tower is closing, the hours at the airport will stay the same and that closing the tower will save the airport about \$225,000 annually, not including maintenance costs.

See AVIATION on A3

There are some other options that are available — but at this point we are making plans to become a non-towered airport effective April 7. There are pre-conditions required for becoming a non-towered airport, so the airport will be safe, but the operations here — it does take away an added layer of safety."

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See AVIATION on A3

Forecast

Day	High	Low
Today	53	36
Monday	55	38
Tuesday	58	40
Wednesday	60	42
Thursday	62	44
Friday	65	46
Saturday	68	48
Sunday	70	50

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53° 36°

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Savannah Morning News

Jan Skutch

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Missing man's body parts found at standoff scene

Wife, brother-in-law of suspected captor killed Friday charged with concealing body

BY DEAN EDWARDS

Friday's hostage-taking in Wilkes County, Georgia, where investigators discovered some body parts of a missing Chatham County man hidden inside the home of Chad Monte, 34, of Wilkes County, was also the death Friday by the Savannah-Chatham SWAT team.

The partial remains are believed to be that of Charles Ray, 36, of Wilkes County, who had been missing since New Year's Eve.

In another bizarre twist to the case, other partial remains of Ray were found in a storage unit in Jasper County, S.C.

The Effingham County Sheriff's Office will likely keep this home at 201 Whitehall Ave. as a crime scene until Monday. Investigators found partial remains of a Chatham County man in the home Friday after an almost five-hour hostage standoff. The suspected hostage-taker, Chad Monte of Wilkes, was shot and killed by a SWAT team member. He is the main suspect in the homicide, and his wife and brother-in-law have been charged with concealing the body.

Investigators with Effingham County and the Savannah-Chatham police spoke with Monte off and on during the standoff as an attempt to get him to surrender.

At about 7 p.m. Friday, Chad Monte came out of the home brandishing a semi-automatic rifle.

SEE BODY, PAGE 3







ON THE WEB

Check for updates on this story and watch video of Effingham County Sheriff's Office spokesman David Eisenbarth talking about the situation at savannahnow.com.

Homeless in Savannah

Residents seek identity; agencies seek solutions

BY JAN SKUTCH

Bradford is a tall, fairly well-spoken man. On this chilled December day, he is huddled down in his home under a local viaduct, where sleeping bags and wool blankets provide protection against the elements.

"If I don't tell people I am homeless, they don't know," the 39-year-old North Carolina native said. "If I tell them I'm homeless, they don't believe me."

Bradford lost his job with TIC on Hutchinson Island in 2008 and, despite his address, says he dresses presentably and "I talk sensibly and smell good."

He is one of the 4,303 homeless people counted by the Chatham Savannah Authority for the Homeless last year.

"They know how to survive"

While many may be looking for services to help them cope with their homelessness, others like Bradford choose to avoid the rules and order of a shelter and find for themselves in camps.

Advocates estimate a large number may be dealing with mental illness, substance abuse or both.

SEE HOMELESS, PAGE 4

COMING MONDAY

The numbers on exactly how many people are homeless are somewhat static and depend on the provider involved. Read more about the problem in Monday's Savannah Morning News.



Anthony "Gus" Terry makes money as a city-licensed paleo-crafter. He can sell his creations on public rights of way for donations only, but is excluded from permits.

INSIDE

Find maps and statistics on local homeless on [Pages 4 and 5](#).

ON THE WEB

Read Savannah-Chatham police Capt. Mike Wilkins' Aug. 17 email to downtown businesses and residential groups on dealing with the homeless in Savannah. You can also see the Union Mission services census at savannahnow.com.

Also online, look for several videos featuring city leaders discussing homeless issues: savannahnow.com/videos.

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TODAY

80 L 60

Has fun in the wintertime. 1

Drawing by Steve DeRenne, 1

Headline by Steve DeRenne

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In Local & Region
CONCRETE POLES REPLACE OAKS ON TOOMER'S CORNER

In Life & Leisure
Does Pinterest reflect reality?

In Sports
NINE-GAME SCHEDULE MAY BE INEVITABLE FOR SEC

Due to money and the launch of the SEC Network, only five of the current eight games against will eventually be left behind.

The Chattahoochee Valley's Largest News Team

Ledger-Enquirer

Breaking Google and Alabama news about

Friday, May 21, 2011 | Breaking news as it happens at ledger-enquirer.com | 75 cents

Edgewood hosts closing ceremony

Edgewood Elementary School invites the public, especially its former students and staff, to attend the school's closing ceremony today at 3:30 p.m.

The Columbus County School District including Edgewood and Marshall Middle School because of state budget cuts.

Laverne Hinton, the former principal at Edgewood, said in a news release that the ceremony is expected to last no longer than 45 minutes and will include remarks from principal Melissa Caswell, lowering of the flag, a balloon lift-off and possibly a group photograph.

Marshall principal Michael Perre said the closing ceremony is planned at his school.

—Mark Day

CUT BAIT RAPID CLOSED

Outfitter looks into safety issues after signature rapid topped 10 rafts on Sunday; rapid will be closed until operators can 'run it safely'

A Whitewater Express trip shows local of owner's father rapid on the Georgia side of the Chattahoochee River on Thursday afternoon. In the background is Cut Bait rapid.

By CHUCK WILLIAMS
chuckwilliams@ledger-enquirer.com

For the signature rapid on the Chattahoochee River, whitewater course capped 10 of 17 rafts on high flow Tuesday evening, the outfitter and owners appear to be addressing potential safety issues.

Whitewater Express, which is operating low-flow and high-flow trips on the newly-reopened whitewater course, has now had four boats through the high-flow Cut Bait rapid since Sunday night's event that had rafts colliding and rafters flipping into the Chattahoochee. All four of those boats were through Thursday and Wednesday, reported.

The rapid was closed Thursday to commercial rafting and Whitewater Express owner Don Gilbert said he would not send boats through Cut Bait until he was comfortable potential safety issues had been addressed. Upstream Columbus Inc. President Richard

Before another guide went Cut Bait rapid Thursday afternoon. The rafting guide from Whitewater Express brought the rafters over to this blast after they ran Plover's Gate rapid.

and Bishop said the rapid would be closed "until we can run it again and run it safely."

"We want a higher percentage of boats to get through the rapid safely," Bishop said.

Upstream Inc., in an agreement with the city of Columbus, manages the whitewater course.

The Sunday event proved successful by attracting 40 rafts, provided by Whitewater and has received nearly 40,000

worldwide views, Gilbert and Bishop are pleased with the lower Sunday night after the rafting of the water and before the video was posted.

Gilbert said he watched the boats going on the Alabama side, but down Cut Bait Bishop was also at the rapid, but he said he watched it from the bank in Florida jurisdiction on the Georgia side. No injuries were reported on about 70 rafts and guides were changed into the river.

"We had no major witnesses," Gilbert said.

The decision to start running Cut Bait as a regular route will be made jointly by Gilbert and Bishop.

1022 DIME A5

News Elsewhere

What's happening outside the Chattahoochee Valley

World

SYRIA'S President Bashar Assad said in an interview broadcast Thursday that he is "committed to victory" in his country's civil war, and he warned that Damascus would retaliate in kind to any future Israeli strikes on his territory. **Page A3.**

Nation

RECIPE A letter sent to the White House was critical to police-led mission to New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and to his gun-control group in Washington that contained details about shooting people in the face, officials said Thursday. **Page A5.**

Fort Benning

Five women to graduate into Army combat roles

Will be able to serve with armor units

The 43 new graduates will be held at Benning Army Center, where the 18-week course is taught at the U.S. Army School of Infantry. Working on the 50-ton Bradley Fighting Vehicle would put the women on soldiers in a combat support role, one of 27,000 military positions opened to women by former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta.

Soldiers who graduate from the course are able to diagnose and troubleshoot any malfunctions on the Bradley. They also

1022 DIME A4

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Hard News Writing

A

1st Place

The Augusta Chronicle

Susan McCord



The Augusta Chronicle

www.augustachronicle.com THE SOUTH'S OLDEST NEWSPAPER — ESTABLISHED 1785 Saturday, March 2, 2013

FIRST FRIDAY Bigfoot lurks among us

Artists make, hide cutouts downtown



A wooden Bigfoot painted by Lynn Whitwell takes to the field and is part of the First Free Art Friday in Augusta.



Artist Jay Jacobs takes a scale lighter for the first Free Art Friday in Augusta. Right pieces were placed in public places for First Friday events to hold. Free Art Friday took place in a downtown area of downtown Augusta.



Local artists from downtown Augusta, including Lynn Whitwell, Jay Jacobs and Jay Jacobs, are part of the first Free Art Friday in Augusta.

Official's firm did more jobs

List shows additional city work

By Susan McCord



Mayor Dan Claitor said the city's public contractor did more work than expected.

ADD ABOUT \$200,000 to the amount that Augusta's public contractor did more work than expected, according to a list of additional city projects that the city's public contractor did more work than expected. The list, which was compiled by the city's public contractor, shows that the contractor did more work than expected. The list includes projects such as the city's public contractor did more work than expected.

Tag changes shock some

By Susan McCord

Local-Carter was a big hit, and they, about \$200,000. The list includes projects such as the city's public contractor did more work than expected. The list includes projects such as the city's public contractor did more work than expected.



Augusta Martin-John stands in line to receive her daughter's tag at the south Augusta tag office.

FEDERAL BUDGET CUTS Immigrant releases dwarfed talk

By Susan McCord

WASHINGTON — The Homeland Security Department released more than 1,000 illegal immigrants facing deportation in recent months because of budget cuts and a decision to release 1,000 more during March, the Associated Press has learned. The figures show that the number of immigrants released is significantly higher than the "one hundred" illegal immigrants the Obama administration acknowledged the week had been released under the existing program. The decision shows immigration and Customs Enforcement released nearly 1,000 illegal immigrants from just around the U.S. each week since at least Feb. 25. That's a far cry from the earlier months when the Obama administration released only a few hundred illegal immigrants each week. The decision was made by current ICE chief, N. Philip Ryan. At that time, the agency held an average daily population of 38,700.

ONLINE WEATHER DEATHS INDEX INSIDE TODAY

4000 THOMAS DR. AUGUSTA, GA 30906

WEATHER: Partly cloudy, High 62, Low 38, Wind: SE

DEATHS: John A. Martin, 87, Augusta; Thomas E. Martin, 87, Augusta; John A. Martin, 87, Augusta; Thomas E. Martin, 87, Augusta.

INDEX: Claitor, 1; Claitor, 1; Claitor, 1; Claitor, 1.

INSIDE TODAY: Sinkhole swallows man



Investigative Reporting

G

3rd Place

The Clinch County News, Homerville

Len Robbins

BLACK CYPRESS MAGAZINE

HUMIC HOSTING LECTURE SERIES... Page 7 CCES & CCMS SCHOOL SUPPLY LISTS... Page 10

The Clinch County News
We give the skinny so you can chew the fat

19TH YEAR, ISSUE 40 © 2013 THE CLINCH COUNTY NEWS Wednesday, July 31, 2013 HOMERVILLE, GEORGIA 10 PAGES, ONE SECTION

COMMUNITY CALENDAR
What's going on in your community

Pre-K orientation set for August 2nd
Clinch County Public will be conducting a parent orientation meeting Friday, August 2, at 6 p.m. in the cafeteria at Clinch County Elementary/Middle School. The meeting is for all parents of children entering Pre-K in August.

New Vision hosting Kidz Crusade Aug. 8-10
New Vision Church of God is hosting Kidz Crusade Thursday-Saturday, August 8-10 for children 4-11 years, with games, door prizes, puppets and more. Thursday-Friday from 1:30-4 p.m. with supper at 5:30 p.m. Saturday from noon-4 p.m. will be a Block Party with bounce houses and water slides. Ages 0-5 must be accompanied by someone older.

DQ to hold fundraiser for CMN on Saturday
A one week and bake sale will be held Saturday, August 3, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Homerville Dairy Queen. All proceeds will go to the Clinch County News. For more information contact Len Robbins at 912-487-5337.

Wville Free Will Baptist starting new ministry
Wville Free Will Baptist Church is starting a new children's ministry, OLOW! God Lighting Our Way on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. All community children - preschool through grade 5 - are invited to attend. OLOW! and registration will be Wednesday, August 14, at 6:30 p.m.

Annual Back-to-School Jam is August 2-3
Gospel Tabernacle Church of God in Christ will hold their annual Back to School Jam Friday-Saturday, August 2-3. A church service will be held Friday at 7 p.m. Saturday a Youth Banquet will be held from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Family Life Center. The Jam in the Park and Church Page will be held from 2-5 p.m. at Paradise Park. For information call 912-475-6422 or 912-580-8102.

Clinch tourism team to meet on August 5th
The Clinch Tourism Team meeting will be held Monday, August 5, at 8 p.m. at the Eye-Lodge in Fargo. Everyone is invited to attend and bring ideas and suggestions. For more information contact Jerry Robbins at 912-487-5337.

Deadline for booster football program ads
The Clinch County Middle School Club is taking ad orders for the football program at The Clinch County News Office. Deadline to order an ad is Friday, August 2, at 5 p.m. The News will be taking pictures of the varsity football team, cheerleaders, marching band, and softball team. For information, call Len or Bonnie at 487-5337. Panther Preview ads are also due Friday, August 2.

Back-to-School Praise planned for Saturday
Greater Shering Star Baptist Church Youth Department will host a Back to School Praise at 6 p.m. Saturday, August 3. All youth are invited to do a praise dance, sing, read, or other in the name of the Lord. For more information contact Debra Johnson at 228-946-1818.

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BLACK CYPRESS MAGAZINE

MILES APART
City records show wide disparity between mileage claims for trips

By Len Robbins
Editor/Reporter

There is a wide disparity between what Homerville City Council members are charging taxpayers for their travel expenses. After questions were brought forth about city council member travel expenses at the council's July 18 meeting, The News filed an open records request for the city council travel expense documentation since January of 2010. What the records show is a pattern of higher mileage reimbursement requests from City Council member Jennifer Manshead, and a few sporadic ones from Mayor Paul Blitch. For instance, in January of 2010, Blitch and Manshead submitted the Mayor's Day conference in Atlanta. They both turned in mileage of 496 miles. Two months later, they both turned in mileage reimbursement for 280 miles to an event in Tallon. According to the Road-Mileage calculator, round trip from Homerville to Tallon is 124 miles. Earlier that year, Blitch had turned in mileage reimbursement for a trip to Atlanta of 493 miles. Blitch said she didn't know why her and Manshead's mileage reimbursement claims for these two trips were identical. "I wonder how the mileage just like I always do," Blitch said when contacted. "I didn't check with Jennifer for her mileage. I don't know how that happened." Manshead said her husband became sick that day, so she traveled to Tallon and back, then to Tallon again, which would account for the mileage, but not for the identical mileage figures. Manshead's mileage reimbursement requests were also higher than other council members on other trips. For a trip to St. Simons in March of 2010, she turned in 289 miles. City Councilman Tom Kennedy turned in mileage reimbursement for 127 miles for the same trip, according to documentation provided by the city. Manshead turned in mileage reimbursement requests for 493 miles to Atlanta in January of 2012, 573 miles to Savannah in June of 2012, 450 miles to Atlanta in December of 2012, and 494 miles to Savannah in June of 2013. Savannah is 310 miles from Homerville round-trip, according to the mileage calculator. On the January 2012 and 2013 trips to Atlanta, Manshead said she went to see a Clinch County group participate in the Special Olympics, which added to her mileage figures. For the June 2012 trip to Savannah, Manshead said she stayed a few days and had to drive to work, which prompted more mileage. Blitch had just two other instances where mileage claims were much higher than reported - 423 miles to Atlanta in December of 2010, and 432 miles to Savannah in June of 2011. She said the December 2010 trip was to (Continued on Page 2)

Same cities, different mileages
Below are miles claimed by Homerville City Council members for reimbursement since January of 2010. To obtain our complete records, please contact reporter Len Robbins at 912-487-5337. These figures are representative of the disparity of different mileage claims in the same cities, and aren't all mileage reimbursement requests. The city website is 43 cents a mile.

Council Member	ATLANTA	SAVANNAH
Mayor Paul Blitch	341 miles (Jan. 2010)	432 miles (June 2011)
Mayor Pro Tem Willie Rayles	NA	270 miles (June 2010)
Council member Jennifer Manshead	496 miles (Jan. 2010)	496 miles (Jan. 2012)
Council member Tom Kennedy	541 miles (Jan. 2012)	NA
Council member E. Wilbergen	346 miles (Jan. 2012)	248 miles (June 2012)

Clinch woman tests positive for EEE
By Len Robbins
Editor/Reporter

A 70-year-old Clinch County woman has tested positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). It is the first reported case in Georgia this year, and only the third reported in the United States in 2013, according to Georgia Department of Public Health and CDC reports. According to the Southeast Health District, the unidentified woman was hospitalized in late June and is now at home recuperating. Approximately five to 10 human cases of EEE are reported each year in the U.S. EEE is a rare disease that is caused by a virus spread by infected mosquitoes. People get EEE when they are bitten by a mosquito that is carrying the virus. The virus is not transmitted from human to human. There is no vaccine for humans. Since this is a virus, there is no specific treatment once the person develops symptoms. Most individuals infected experience no symptoms. Those that do may develop high fever (102°F to 104°F), stiff neck, headache, vomiting and lack of energy. The illness may progress into delirium, seizures and coma. Symptoms generally develop four to 10 days after infection. "EEE can be deadly," said Roger Stuckey, director of public relations for the Southeast Health District. "Because it is an infection that affects the brain or spinal cord, there can be lasting effects that are serious. However, in this case, she is recuperating. The mosquitoes that carry this virus are out there and biting. People should take necessary precautions." Public health officials encourage residents to limit mosquito breeding with protective measures now, including the "3 D's": • Drain: Mosquitoes usually bite at dusk and dawn. Limit outdoor activity during those hours. (Continued on Page 2)

Championship coach passes away at 69

The coach who led Clinch County Panther football to its only state championship died Wednesday.

Allen "Bitter" Robbins, Jr., died from complications after heart surgery. He was 69.

Robbins coached the varsity Panther football team for 32 seasons (1974-2006), winning eight region titles and two state championships (1987 and 1989). His teams had an overall record of 200-84-736 winning percentage. Prior to his retirement, Robbins served the Clinch County School System for 29 years as an English teacher at Clinch County High, an assistant principal at Clinch County Elementary/Middle School, the high school athletic director, and also coached varsity tennis and was a football assistant coach.

Prior to moving back to his hometown, he worked in banking and insurance in the Atlanta area. He died on the same date, July 24 -- as his father, Dr. A.J. Robbins, Sr., who passed away in 1965.

Funeral services were held Sunday at Homerville United Methodist Church, where he was a member.

• See obituary on Page 2

Signing held for Bennett's history book

Author Kenneth Bennett of Homerville signs his second book, "A Pictorial Review of Clinch County, Georgia" for Lisa Nelson, librarian of the Clinch County Public Library. Copies of the book, which replicates Clinch County's history, can be bought by calling Bennett at 487-5627.

Panthers start preseason football drills

By Len Robbins
Editor/Reporter

The Clinch County Panthers have started preparations for the 2013 football season.

CCES head football coach Jim Debussem said around 30 players showed up for the first official drills Monday. The team will be practicing throughout the week, with two practices a day starting on Thursday.

"I'm sure student grades 9-12 is interested in playing. It's not too late," said Debussem. "We encourage anyone who is interested, or placed in the spring, to come out immediately."

The Panthers are coming off an unsuccessful losing season, with a record of 4-8 in 2012. It was their first losing season since 1991.

"I'm excited about this team, and especially our young players. They're why some of these younger kids who have been playing, but didn't show up Monday, need to come out," said Debussem. "We need as many kids out there as we can."

The Panthers start the regular season at home on Friday, August 23, beating Burke County.



Investigative Reporting

G

2nd Place

Barrow Journal, Winder

Susan Norman

Wednesday, July 3, 2013

BARROW JOURNAL

Barrow County's Legal Organ Georgia's Best Weekly Paper, 2012-2013

Vol. 8 No. 27 24 PAGES 2 SECTIONS plus more A publication of Barrow Newspapers, Inc. WINDER, BARROW COUNTY, GEORGIA 30093 No GIFT

Animal Control seeks volunteers

Barrow County Animal Control announces a new volunteer program for people who wish to assist with the animals at the animal shelter. The first orientation will be Friday, July 5, at 2 p.m., at the shelter, 610 Barrow Park Drive. Future orientations will be held.

According to program coordinator Lisa Byrd, the group has three main goals: help improve the lives of animals at the shelter, reduce as many pets as possible, and support the Barrow County Animal Control staff.

Volunteers will walk dogs, socialize cats, play with the animals and provide shelter appropriate toys. Help is also needed with photographing adoptable animals, posting them online and transporting animals for rescue and to foster homes.

Funding will be necessary. Assisting the animal control staff with tasks like spay/neuter, helping with laundry, washing dishes and keeping water bowls filled are also needed tasks. Volunteers can participate in any or all of these activities.

Also, one of the current volunteers has started a training program to teach dog basic skills that make them more adoptable. The Special Obedience and Rehabilitation program (S.O.A.R.) will be expanded as volunteers are needed.

For more information or a volunteer application, call or email program coordinator Lisa Byrd at 770-373-7746, lbyrd@barrowjournal.com.

Vendors sought for Sunflower event

The 2013 Sunflower Festival will be held Sept. 21.

Vendor applications are now available at City Hall or online at www.cityofbarrow.com. All vendor space is on a first come-first served basis, requests said. Contact Betty Lutz for more information at 770-373-5123.

WELCOME to the beautiful New Colonist

Peggy Stephens
Kenneth Brown
Russell Renaud
Joyce Spiller

Get your name on this list by submitting today. 22 names just \$10.00 in Barrow County. Call 770-867-4387 or go to www.barrowjournal.com

BARROW JOURNAL

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Winder, Ga. 30093
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Auburn Festivities



Celebrating July 4: Walley: 'I fought for freedom...'

By Susan Norman
susan@barrowjournal.com

While most Americans will celebrate the Fourth of July by getting out and watching fireworks, Winder's hometown hero — wounded war vet Samuel Walley — will be creating the true cost of freedom.

The 23-year-old graduate of Winder Barrow High School received a hero's welcome May 30 when he returned home a year after serving on a battle-ravaged explosion device. He stayed in his newly renovated apartment for three weeks and soon has returned his second year of rehabilitation in Berkeley.

Walley lost in the blast of the battle both his limbs — his right leg and left arm — and for much of the past year there has been a question about whether he would be able to keep his other body injured leg. But he said that left leg is healing.

On Monday, he was to receive two new prosthetic devices for his injured lower right leg.

See Walley on Page 2A

JROTC leadership under fire at WBHS

By Susan Norman
susan@barrowjournal.com

The command staff for the popular JROTC program at Winder Barrow High School is undergoing changes.

1st Sgt. Franklin Brown resigned and accepted a position in another county. And another, says that Barrow County school superintendent Wade Cook wants Major Thomas Evans out.

Brown and Evans were recruited in 2009 from Cedar Shoals High School in Athens to start the WBHS JROTC program. This year, it was named an "Honor Unit with Distinction," which means it is in the top 10 percent of all JROTC units. During the school year that just ended, Evans also served as the head boys track coach.

In response to the newspaper's inquiry Monday, Cook confirmed Brown's resignation, and also did not deny that there is a personnel issue regarding Evans.

"I can confirm that Sergeant Brown has indicated his resignation in order to seek another job opportunity," she wrote. "The School District and JROTC program appreciate all of his service to the program at WBHS and wish him the very best in his future professional endeavors."

See JROTC on Page 3A

Inside: Winder city clerk Gloria Andrews resigns her post.

— Page 3A

ROAD WORK AHEAD

Plenty of sidewalk construction Monday morning in downtown Winder. Photo by Jessica Brown.

AMERICAN LEGION CLOSES WINDER POST 509

By Susan Norman
susan@barrowjournal.com

Winder's American Legion Post 509 has been shut down by the American Legion Department of Georgia.

The executive committee took the action June 21, according to a spokesman for District 10, which covers 21 posts in northern Georgia. Senior vice commander Tommy Blanton of Loganville said he recommended the executive based on continuing law enforcement problems on Post 509's property that is east of downtown Winder.

"The Winder post has had a lot of problems with the police department there," he said Monday.

Two years ago, as the commander of District 10, Blanton recommended the suspension of the post's charter.

"My responsibility to the department is to keep my eyes on the post in the district," he said. "Had Winder had numerous arrests, numerous complaints, conduct not becoming legionsaries."

Post 509's members failed to take corrective actions required in the wake of the suspension, he said.

"They didn't comply. So when we started getting police reports again with them breaking the law, parked, then believe somebody was up getting killed or hurt and had over there my recommendation was to pull their charter."

The suspension means that the organization must cease operating as an American Legion post, close its meeting facility, and turn over to the state organization its records and assets. A year from now it also could be forced to turn over to the state organization the funds in its properties.

See Legion on Page 3A

PATRIOTIC FUN

(TOP) One-year-old Emma Lusk enjoys making bubbles during Auburn's annual Fourth of July celebration Saturday. (LEFT) Edgard A. Diaz, a chainsaw woodcarver, was one of the many vendors at the event. In addition to Diaz's woodcarving booth, the Auburn July 4 celebration featured zip lines, inflatable, pony rides and other events for kids and adults. Live music was also featured along with karate demonstrations. See more pictures on page 16A.

Photos by Jessica Brown

Investigative Reporting

G

1st Place

The Journal,
Buena Vista

Richard Harris

Marion & Schley schools get the new year started. Page 2

Are you ready for some... running/walking? Page 3

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The Journal 50¢

Formerly The Tri-County Journal & Chattahoochee Chronicle

Wednesday, August 7, 2013 14 Pages • Volume 18, Number 21

Marion Co. suspends Chief Tax Appraiser

At county's request, Dept. of Revenue conducts 'Informal Review'

By Richard Harris

The Marion County Board of Assessors suspended Chief Tax Appraiser Tom Lorenz at a special called meeting Monday evening after discussing a recent "informal review" conducted by the Georgia Department of Revenue.

"There was a lot of discussion about a list of issues and the end result was that we voted to suspend the chief appraiser until further notice," said Randy Phares, chairman of the Board of Assessors.

Lorenz said that one member of the board was ill and unable to attend the meeting.

As they plan to meet again this Thursday, August 8 at 3 p.m. to hopefully get input from the full board.

Earlier this year the Board of Assessors sent a letter of reprimand to Lorenz in which they alleged a number of unconstitutional provisions, including changing the values of his personal property without advising the board, giving unconstitutional answers to taxpayers when they asked questions, not always working a full day, missing deadlines, and not reviewing, measuring and photographing manufactured housing.

In 2012 after purchasing several and untagged tracts of land, Lorenz changed the "assessability" and "marketability" codes on two of the parcels, but no other property owner as the same general area received similar changes in the codes for their properties. He also combined the tracts into a single parcel without notifying the board.

In addition to reprimanding Lorenz, the board asked the Department of Revenue to send representatives to Buena Vista to see if the other was functioning properly. This resulted in an "Informal Review" conducted by seven members of the Department of Revenue Local Government Services Division.

The Journal filed a Freedom of Information Request and obtained a copy of the 16-page review. The report does not recommend the firing or suspension of Lorenz, but it does give a long list of needed improvements.

The necessary includes: "Overall, the Board of Assessors (BOA) and appraiser staff needs to better comply with state laws and regulations in several areas with regards to procedures and valuations. ... In addition, updated models need to be developed by the appraiser staff rather than adjusting individual values on a case by case basis. Unnecessary changes to individual properties that deviate from the models employed will destroy uniformity among taxpayers of similar properties."

While it found a number of needed improvements, the review report also praised the Board of Assessors for its voluntary request for the review and for its desire to make improvements.

"Each individual welcomed our presence and openness," the report concluded. "There are things you can do to the best of these persons as well as their willingness to move forward to create an effective tax administration and revenue process."

The report is long and detailed with various complicated issues, but summarizes a few of the findings and recommendations as listed below.

* Non-qualifying property

See 8/7/13, Page 13

Schley BOE to keep tax rate steady in spite of challenges

'Skyrocketing' health insurance is just one issue officials must offset to avoid raising taxes

By Richard Harris

The Schley County Board of Education has announced that it intends to keep property taxes at the same rate this year, just as it has for the last five years in a row.

Officials have prepared a budget for 2013 and 2014, which is the same rate as 2008 and subsequent years. They will officially vote on it on August 22.

The rate is expected to generate approximately \$1,008,252 in property taxes, which is virtually unchanged from last year (\$99.29%).

Superintendent Larry Smith said it has been a challenge to work with the same tax rate due to a number of factors.

"The most recent challenge is the 'skyrocketing' price of health insurance," Smith said. "Our cost for insurance has gone up by about a quarter million dollars over the last three years and we anticipate that will grow to five-quarters of a million dollars or more before it is all said and done," said Superintendent Smith.

A few years ago the school system paid \$362.70 per month toward the health insurance premiums of each non-certified full-time employee. This year they will pay \$596.20 per month. Next year the cost is expected to be around \$748.

The income tax has been a headache for certified employees.

Smith said that one member of the board was ill and unable to attend the meeting.

As they plan to meet again this Thursday, August 8 at 3 p.m. to hopefully get input from the full board.

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* Non-qualifying property

See 8/7/13, Page 13

Grassroots effort is underway to keep Westville from leaving Stewart County

From 'Keep Westville in Lumpkin'

By Richard Harris

We are a little surprised that there have been so few responses to the question, "What can we say to the Westville board to help the town stay in Columbus?"

We provided an "example answer," which is, "Columbus does not support its current economic. Why would it support another one?"

Here's another example answer: "The survivability of Westville has very little to do with the number of visitors. The board has allowed themselves to get lured off-track by the use of Columbus State as an argument."

The real question has always been and continues to be, "Can Westville generate more net income in Columbus than in Stewart County?"

If the Westville board understands the question, they will find that moving Westville at a cost of \$7 million, or \$12 million, or whatever the number is, makes absolutely no sense. It would take the Westville Board thirty years to break even on a move, even with state tax incentives. They cannot possibly succeed while spending that much money.

We are not asking for your opinion of the staff of the board's impression about local history. We've established that those things aren't going to change the board's mind. Rather, we're getting together a set of letters to go to each board member. These letters will not force, lobby for, or all of the reasons the Westville board has used to justify the move.

Please put your thinking cap on to help us avoid another this one question. Your answers may be posted at www.facebook.com/KeepWestvilleinColumbus.

Is there an authentic site in Columbus for the Westville culture?

"What can we say to the Westville board to help the town stay in Columbus?"

Letters to the editor are always welcome about discussions critical to our local communities. Letters may be edited for publication. The letter writer must include his/her name, address, and phone number with the letter. The address and phone number will not be published.

City of Buena Vista hosts Back to School Bash

The City of Buena Vista hosted its Annual Back to School Bash for local students last Saturday evening. The Court House lawn was packed with youngsters eager to get together for one last big pre-summer evening of fun. The city also had some gift bags that included a few school supplies, as did one of the organizations (Shirley & Lark) that pitched in. (Picture from left to right: Shirley & Lark. A few girls got caught up on what's been happening this summer. Chairman Donald Murray makes an announcement. Kids line up for their shoes before entering the "Shoe House" being operated by Grand Fusion. Students and parents line up to sign-in and get a free treat. Photos by Gene Bertrange)

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Investigative Reporting

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2nd Place

The Eatonton Messenger

Karen Bridgeman

The Eatonton Messenger
 Vol. 112, No. 29 Thursday, July 18, 2013 www.mgr.com Published continuously since 1861 75 cents

China Garden receives second failing mark
Inspectors issue U rating again
 Karen Bridgeman
 www.mgr.com

Whether the "U" stands for unsatisfactory or unacceptable — or worse — finding it posted as a final restaurant can make a customer groan.

A score of 47 out of 100 warranted that designation for Eatonton's China Garden July 10 — its second failing score this year, including a 42 scored May 20.

In January — on May 20, following a re-inspection after the May 20 failure — the restaurant at 104 N. Jefferson Ave. pulled itself up to a 76, the lowest score possible to earn a "C" rating and remain open.

And, as of Monday afternoon, the restaurant was still posting the 66 earned in January, rather than its most recent score of 76.

FOOD
 Continued on Page 2A

Gun theft ring
 Seven arrested for taking guns here, selling to ATF in Atlanta

Jeff Stanton
 www.mgr.com

Putnam County Sheriff's investigators and officials from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Tobacco and Firearms have taken down an illegal firearms ring that originated in Putnam County.

Putnam Sheriff Howard Silts announced the arrests of seven people, including a 34-year-old boy. Police say the men are responsible for the theft of at least 27 firearms of various types around the county, between approximately June 24 and July 8, when the majority of arrests were made in Atlanta.

Silts said the case broke wide open when several of the guns turned up in the hands of ATF agents, giving

an agent, they got there from a man who was released from prison March 29 after spending 10 years behind bars for a carjacking in Clayton County.

"Dawson (Trentell) absolutely worked on this case and he did a good job on it," Silts said of his lead investigator.

Shawville, along with Lt. Harry Lake, Detective Dave Henry, and Sgt. Scott Proulx, traveled to Atlanta July 8 and assisted the ATF in securing the case their role in responsibility for the theft and sale of

GUNS
 Continued on Page 13A

School budget includes tax hike

Lynn Hobbs
 www.mgr.com

After months of searching for ways to make up the loss of revenue, Putnam County Board of Education members have a budget they say they can live with.

Putting Chief Operating Officer Keith Oberling, Chief Financial Officer Corina Harris and Acting Superintendent Eric Ams presented the tentative 2014 budget to board members at their meeting Monday night, looking off the near line to have the budget approved and the roll-out to the Putnam County Board of Commissioners by Aug. 20.

"I like this latest version of the budget because it adds with \$2.5 million in bond revenue and it takes care of our local problems," District 4 Representative Tom Lawrence said. "It looks like a real good budget to me, even though it means a reduced tax increase."

Ams said school officials "pushed over" the FY2013 revenue numbers because they don't believe the dip yet," but, he pointed out, the revenue numbers could change. A potential tax increase of approximately 7 mills was figured into the budget, which is intended to generate \$1.9 million. Ams said the exact tax increase amount will not be known until the budget is set.

Board Chairman and District 3 Representative Steve Wiest said the budget also includes three

SCHOOLS
 Continued on Page 12A

More school stories on Pages 2A and 6A

PAVING — WITH GOOD INTENTIONS

Resurfacing of roads in Putnam County has been under way for more than a week. The work, which will cost about \$3.5 million, is expected to require about six months. A crew was working on Old Prospero Road, grinding up the pavement and leveling it with new surface. Another crew was working in the southern part of the county — in the Sun Bridges Road and Dennis Dalton Road areas. Part of the project also will be striping the roads, providing more visibility at night.

BOC awards bids in midst of verbal jousts

Ron Bridgeman
 www.mgr.com

Putnam County's Board of Commissioners agreed to award a contract for public defender services, award a contract for billing and collection services for the ambulance service, and hire

new \$2.5 million base BOC-T for its road paving project during Tuesday night's meeting.

Three contracts were approved despite loud and angry exchanges between commissioners James Reid, who supports District 2, and Alan Foster, District 3.

in the wake of Reid's complaints that "we don't ever do anything loud."

The base agreement went to BOC-T over two locally owned bidders — The Peoples Bank and Farmers & Merchants Bank.

The contract for billing and collections services was awarded to a Commerce, Ga., company, an agency billing over a LaGrange firm, providing the frequent — and loud — "Shrimp Representatives of Emergency Billing, which

COMMISSION
 Continued on Page 12A

Council 'interested' in food program efforts

Ron Bridgeman
 www.mgr.com

Putnam County Council agreed Monday to "express its interest" in taking over the senior citizens food program from Putnam County — with a goal of bringing the program back to a central location.

City Administrator Dan Elmore will write the letter to the county.

County Manager Paul

Don't know which between Budweiser more — more from the continuous rain showers or the lightning that wakes the headline geese out of town. Lots of eating and staring at the weather around our place these days. Sure we'll get to those blazing days when we only want some cool air. We're getting lots of walking done. Good news that the city seems likely to get the new parking lot — and some extras — done. Got to have business downtown. Hoping the new walking and biking path is an attraction — though we aren't much for walking in circles. Understand it might include some exercise stations — maybe green at the thought, might never be met with a cold beverage. See the stumpy folks had a straw-poor master? Working to talk about leasing old annex and get to potential maximum. Will be going to work that out.

COUNCIL
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The Eatonton Messenger

Karen Bridgeman

Thursday, December 5, 2013 *The Eatonton Messenger* Page 13

CRIME WATCH / FOLLOW UP

Guilty plea, sentence draw angry reactions

Sheriff: Reese gets 'just 7 years,' faults DA

Karen Bridgeman
karen@msg.com

When Youself the Sheriff pleaded guilty last month to 18 counts of aggravated assault — for repeatedly beating into cars on U.S. Highway 41 north of Eatonton in August 2012 and forcing a head-on collision — he left a trail of unprovoked and angry people in his wake.

Though he received up to 10 years and 300 days in prison for the 18 counts, based on various plea agreements.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions (Patman County Sheriff) Howard Mills, who says it is a "just seven years" added into a plea agreement Reese is already serving for other crimes — crimes for which he has been out of prison on probation when he turned his back into a charging car.

Reese's negotiated plea also included his return from Patman and Morgan counties, where his victims took place, and Judge Michael G. Gentry expanded that to include the eight-count Oconee Judicial District after Mills advised the court.

But Mills is still unhappy.

"Personally, I thought that the plea and sentence were totally inadequate," he said the night the sentence was pronounced — and by the next morning, he was talking about "justice" by the district attorney.

Noting Reese's long criminal history, Mills cited a Georgia law that "proves that the punishment is not sufficient to protect the public and the state's interest in the law." He said the plea and sentence were "totally inadequate."

Reese, 54, of 108 Grove St., Eatonton, returned his vehicle to the county after a 10-year-old Morgan County man, traveling from Marietta with his wife and two children, was driving the 10-year-old Dodge Ram for a weekend visit, the other to his wife in a black Jeep Cherokee that also carried the driver's two children, heading to Lake Lanier State University County.

He returned the Morgan County Sheriff's car from back to the highway for at least 10 miles, colliding with the vehicle repeatedly.

He finally turned the car into a ditch and left it there for the night. They hit a Ford Expedition, nearly head-on, and the driver and his wife were heading home after an evening for the girl's birthday.

Reese didn't stop after the accident — though it was reported to police —

and, apparently missing a guilty plea, so he headed into Eatonton.

Aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer is a hearing in March. Reese's blood alcohol content at the time was .08.

Eatonton Police Officer Keith Reese said Reese had "a black look, staring straight ahead... He didn't know what was going on, didn't have a clue," according to a report from the hearing.

This report includes information from The Eatonton Messenger's archives. Read more of the original reports at the online posting of this story at www.msg.com.

The Plea Agreement

Reese pleaded guilty to 18 counts of aggravated assault, resulting in a 30-year sentence, with the sentence being suspended on the condition that he remain on probation for a term of 30 years.

Reese's plea is a result of 18 counts of aggravated assault, resulting in a 30-year sentence to be suspended on the condition that he remain on probation for a term of 30 years.

The negotiated plea also included his return from Patman and Morgan counties, where his victims took place, and Judge Michael G. Gentry expanded that to include the eight-count Oconee Judicial District after Mills advised the court.

Reese 'didn't have a clue'

Karen Bridgeman
karen@msg.com

Though the Sheriff used his white Ford Expedition on a charging run on U.S. Highway 41, toward Eatonton in the early morning hours of Aug. 6, 2012.

Reese, 54, of 108 Grove St., Eatonton, returned his vehicle to the county after a 10-year-old Morgan County man, traveling from Marietta with his wife and two children, was driving the 10-year-old Dodge Ram for a weekend visit, the other to his wife in a black Jeep Cherokee that also carried the driver's two children, heading to Lake Lanier State University County.

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Nuts may be purchased in Eatonton during the Christmas in the Briar Patch Bazaar, by contacting a church member, or by calling (706) 484-0679 and leaving a message.

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Investigative Reporting

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3rd Place

The Covington News

Gabriel Khouli

THE COVINGTON NEWS

Sunday, July 14, 2013 Vol. 145, No. 24 73¢

Records show councilman has no business license

GABRIEL KHOULI
gkhouli@covnews.com

Covington Councilman Keith Dalton has apparently been operating his janitorial company without a valid business license for years, according to a variety of publicly available records.

Dalton's business, Covington Window Cleaners, has no valid business license on file with Covington, Newton County, Social Circle, City of Rockdale County, according to officials from each government, and it's unclear if the business has ever had a valid license, based on records.

Covington Window Cleaners has been registered with the Georgia Secretary of State's Office



Dalton

since June 1998 and lists a Covington P.O. Box and Dalton's Flat Rock Trail as his address. No commercial licenses in Dalton's name are listed with the state or on his website. The phone book lists the Flat Rock Trail as the location of the business.

However, Dalton does not have a license application on file with Covington, nor does he have a standard business license — known formally as an occupational tax permit. Records of the planning department's database do not show any license from previous years.

When Dalton was asked, Dalton told The News before the July 1 council meeting, and has also told other officials, that he has a business license issued with the city of Social Circle. However, there is no such license on record with Social Circle.

According to Social Circle City Clerk Janet Brown, Dalton applied for a business license June 26, after receiving a voice mail message from The News asking whether he had a license.

Social Circle records show Dalton attempted to apply for a business li-



APR photo/The Covington News

Covington Window Cleaners employees park their cars at City Councilman Keith Dalton's Flat Rock Trail home and attempt to get into neighbors' yards about the above issue are what led to The News' investigation in the first place.

Ken, Social Circle denied the application, sending a letter to Dalton that reads, "As we discussed, your business does not qualify for a business license. Social Circle based on the information provided."

— Dan Dalton, SA



Debbie Everson/The Covington News

The Jenkins tent has been a family gathering site at Salem Camp Meeting for generations.

Salem's 'tents' are steeped in history, tradition

DANIELLE EVERSON
deve@covnews.com

As families arrived at Salem Camp Ground Friday, setting up and cleaning their tents for the year's annual meeting, they knew that they were following, quite literally, in the footsteps of previous generations.

Ann Miller, 89, and her husband, Ken Miller, 76, have been coming to the Salem Camp Meeting for



Debbie Everson/The Covington News

An Miller in her grandparents' rocking chair with her granddaughters (from left) on the left and daughter-in-law Trina Miller on the right.

Activity ramps up before county tax rate vote

GABRIEL KHOULI
gkhouli@covnews.com

Rallies and calls are back in Newton County, precursors to the potentially contentious county budget vote looming Tuesday.

The Newton County Board of Commissioners is set to vote on the 2013-2014 budget and millage rate Tuesday night, and with a majority of commissioners previously reaching an informal consensus to raise the millage rate, tax hike protesters are making a last push to make their voices heard.

The county is holding a public hearing on a proposed \$45.95 million budget — which would require the millage rate to be upped from 10.91 to 11.59 — at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Historic Courthouse. Chairman Keith Ellis said he will set the time limit for speakers during the public hearing based on how many people express an interest in speaking.

There also will be a public comment portion at several during the regularly scheduled board meeting, which begins at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

Although citizens are normally given 3 minutes to speak, Ellis will again have speakers' time limits on the number of people who want to speak. Because the meeting portion of the meeting hour start at 6:30

— Dan Dalton, SA

Carter announces candidacy for city council

DANIELLE EVERSON
deve@covnews.com

Mayor Carter has announced that he will seek election to the Flat Rock Post 1 City Council seat, receiving approval from Covington Councilman Chris Smith, who is seeking re-election.

Carter announced his candidacy for Covington

City Council Thursday in a news release that stated that he would qualify on Aug. 26 to run.

He said he has criticized his Flat Rock representative lately for a lack of vision and thoughtful leadership, but has now decided to seek election.

"As a citizen, I have the right to speak out when records are not meeting expectations. But, I also have an obligation to accept the responsibility of accountability myself," he said in the release. "That's why I am accepting the challenge to run."

Carter, 33, has worked as a business and information technology consultant in the banking and consulting fields for 11 years. For the last 17 years, he

has been employed with IBM.

The DeKalb County native graduated from Peachtree High School in 1977 and received a bachelor's degree in journalism from Georgia State University in 1981.

Carter, whose wife, Kim, previously served as Covington's mayor from 2009-2011, said he is an active volunteer in Newton County.

He currently serves as the Newton Trails board and previously served as the Newton's Chairman. He also serves as a board member for Stuart Growth Newton County and the Newton Committee of the Covington-Newton



Carter

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Investigative Reporting

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2nd Place

Henry Daily Herald,
McDonough

Kelsey Cochran

HENRY DAILY HERALD

FRIDAY, JULY 19, 2013

HENRY COUNTY'S NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1874 VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.HENRYDAILYHERALD.COM

Mayor: Stockbridge officers on streets by summer 2014

County leaders have final say on timeline

By KELSEY COCHRAN
kcochrane@henryherald.com

STOCKBRIDGE — The city of Stockbridge is in the early stages of developing a plan for its own police department, which officials say will help decrease crime by installing a more concentrated police presence.

A few months after Stockbridge Mayor Mark Alston and Henry County Board of Commissioners Chairman Tommy Smith took their seats, Alston said Thursday. The concept for the department involves around two-week law enforcement officers — crime displacement and some integrity.

The goal, Alston said, is to provide Stockbridge with a concentrated police presence to ease the workload of the undersized Henry County Police Department while providing officers that are assigned to specific areas within the city.

GOLF TOURNEY

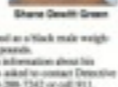


Henry Stone deliberates which club to use as his team prepares to tee off at the Golf Pro Growth tournament. See L18 for full story.

Police: Search for missing man 'critical'

Last seen Monday in Stockbridge

STOCKBRIDGE — The search continues for a man who police say could be a danger to himself.



Shane Dewitt Green

ABC to hold casting call in McDonough

MCDONOUGH — A casting call will be held Friday from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. in the following hall of McDonough First Baptist Church for all area residents who would like to try out to be on-air.

County holds marathon meeting

Executive session longest this year

By KELSEY COCHRAN
kcochrane@henryherald.com

MCDONOUGH — Tuesday's Henry County Board of Commissioners meeting was long enough to justify a movie until the following evening, when the meeting continued well into the afternoon.

The board met in executive session from 8:00 a.m. Wednesday to 10:23 a.m., the longest executive session documented since the beginning of the year.

Stevens, David Hudson, an attorney who called an expert on the Open Meetings Act, has repeatedly said that any public agency "is not required to meet in a closed session."

<p>Inside</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Auto thefts... 28 Stockbridge... 28 County... 28 McDonough... 28 Local News... 28 Sports... 28 Weather... 28 	<p>Today's Web Poll</p> <p>Would you like to see the Fair Tax in Georgia?</p> <p>Yes: 67%</p> <p>No: 33%</p>	<p>Web Poll Results</p> <p>Do you agree with the outcome of the George Zimmerman trial?</p> <p>Yes: 67%</p> <p>No: 33%</p>
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Investigative Reporting

D

1st Place

Douglas County Sentinel, Douglasville

Ron Daniel

COMMUNITY, B1 Rotary Club has a very busy week.

douglas county Sentinel

FRIDAY August 23, 2013 Local News. First. \$1

INSIDE 'The Playbook' — your complete local football guide.

Jury convicts Hines in bank theft case

Justice served: Bank manager now faces Aug. 27 sentencing

BY MICHAEL DREED

A Douglas County jury took a little more than three hours to find a former bank manager guilty of five counts relating the theft of money from an elderly customer at the bank where she once took \$3,500 from an elderly customer where she was a manager.

Thanked by her attorney Mia Pilgrim with family and friends who had been there with her throughout the trial, Sherri Whitlock Hines, 48, stood stunned as the jury returned guilty verdicts on charges of identity theft, two counts of theft by taking and two counts of larceny in the first degree.

County's take-home cars rack up miles, fuel cost

BY RON DANIEL

The citizens of Douglas County will soon be suffering the financial pain of a 23.75 percent increase in county property taxes approved by the Board of Commissioners last month.

The BOC approved the hike despite pleas from 27 residents at nearly 200 attendees at three public hearings, many of whom begged the commissioners to find ways to cut the budget.

But while those pleas will largely go unheeded, the board has learned through an Open Records request that over 250 county vehicles are not counting law enforcement personnel's take-home vehicles.

Ernestine Eric Linton in Finance and Recreation Director Gary Decker have their own vehicles.

And Linton, Decker and many of the county's top government officials don't even live in Douglas County, meaning local citizens are picking up the tab for their commutes.

"It's just the industry standard for other and for certain key departments leads to have vehicles, and that's just the model we've followed," Linton said.

Douglas County Director of Purchasing and Asset Control Bill French said the county buys four to five cars a month, a 12-month period from July 2012 to July 2013. This week said the average gallon of gas cost the county \$3.02.

Changes coming to way state parks are policed

BY RON DANIEL

The controversy started after the DNR's governing board decided to take away the policing power of about 10 park rangers.

Jude Kennedy, a volunteer with Friends of Sweetwater Creek State Park, was upset by the changes and filed an appeal on her own.

A change in the way the Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) will handle law enforcement in the future has water warred state parks like Sweetwater Creek State Park in eastern Douglas County will be less well under the new system.

Local businesses 'get on the bus' with local schools

FROM STAFF REPORTS

A record crowd of close to 200 people attended the Douglas County School System's Partners in Education (PIE) breakfast Thursday morning at Graystone Park.

The message this year is "Get on the bus" and "Every morning" and local businesses wanted ready to get on board an event signed up to be a valuable part of the lives of local students.

The school system now has more than 300 partners.

Rotary Club has a very busy week.

Rotary Club members met at the club house for a meeting. The club is active in many community projects.

Good local job news.

Douglas County saw an increase in job openings in July compared to the same month last year. The county saw 1,100 openings in July, up from 900 in July 2012. The county saw 1,100 openings in July, up from 900 in July 2012.

NATIONAL DOG DAY.

Aug. 23-31 is National Dog Day. It's a time to celebrate the dogs in our lives. Many people adopt dogs from shelters.

CHRISTMAS FOR TROOPS.

The Douglas County Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a Christmas for Troops event. The event will be held at the Douglas County Courthouse.

WELCOME DOCTOR.

Dr. Steven Anderson, MD, is moving to Douglas County. He will be practicing at the Douglas County Medical Center.

Investigative Reporting

B

2nd Place

The Valdosta Daily Times



Money saved at river's expense

EPD investigates cause of sewage release as waters recede



A 2009 photograph (top) shows the construction of a berm near the 10th station (the right building) at the waste water treatment facility. The bottom photo, taken Thursday, shows a significant portion of the berm no longer visible, allowing floodwaters to reach the 10th station.

By JOHN SANCHEZ
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — As the Southeast floods, the City of Valdosta (2013) Department met with the regional directors of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to discuss the city's plans to address the problem of sewage release from the 10th station.

When the flooding returned in April 2013, the City made extraordinary efforts to back up the flooding, trying to fill and lower the water table around the 10th station pump station and other treatment equipment, which caused the floods. The efforts were successful. The treatment plant remained on during the duration of the flood, and Valdosta's new sewage treatment plant was not damaged by the flood. The city also had a good record of maintaining its sewer system, according to a report by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

The city used for a different approach — not electricity to the water pump station. The city was not subject to the flooding and the city was not damaged.

The city was "very close" to getting further damage to equipment and essential equipment and essential equipment," according to a statement issued by the Department of the City Manager.

The City stated that as a result of the flooding, "improved sewage will be discharged directly into the river" as a result of the heavy flow and the 10th station's capacity of new sewage per day.

In addition, the flooding was not allowed into the plant and around the treatment plant. Only half of the treatment plant was damaged during the flooding. Only half of the treatment plant was damaged during the flooding.

The floodwaters rose to and around the half-berm this week, rendering it useless to block the water, and the City made no efforts to rebuild the missing half.



In this 2009 photo, city workers and volunteers set up a portable water pump on top of the 10th station of the wastewater treatment facility. The pump was used to pump water out of the 10th station and into the river. The pump was used to pump water out of the 10th station and into the river.

Happy birthday, Dr. Seuss

Library helps Valdostans honor children's author

VALDOSTA — The first books were required by more than 50 publishers before being accepted, but now, covering up to a century later, the South Georgia Regional Library has "reprinted" Seuss' books in the library system of "old" Seuss' books and the South Georgia Regional Library stated that "the library is pleased to offer to the Valdosta community the first edition of the library on Seuss' birthday."



An older father programs to bring and they program for an outdoor session with their grandparents, Amy and John and the South Georgia Regional Library are offering children's books to the South Georgia Regional Library on Seuss' birthday.

Partly sunny, cool High 54 | Low 29

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B

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Nick Coltrain

CASHWORD: THE WINNER THIS WEEK • JACKPOT INCREASES TO \$850, PAGE C7

WILSON'S STYLE 88

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ATHENS BANNER-HERALD

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Series of DUI wrecks a worry

By Dan Johnson

A teen passed his car through a yellow light on South Avenue and crashed it into the side of another car that was turning, according to a report from several witnesses.

Less than 72 hours later, a pickup truck, stopped at a red light on Old Street, and when the driver tried to move it back onto the road, the pickup struck and critically injured a pedestrian.

Both crashes occurred during the first two weeks of this month, and were due to alcohol, according to Athens-Clerk police, who are hoping they don't portend a bad year for DUI-related deaths and injuries.

Last year, there were nearly seven times as many deaths from traffic accidents, both those that involved alcohol and didn't. There also were more injuries from crashes in that time in 2012.

The only categories that saw increases were in the number of DUI arrests made by local police, up 17 percent, from 1,081 in 2011 to 1,255 in 2012, and hit-and-run accidents, up 1 percent, from 807 in 2011 to 827 in 2012.

The downward trend can change at any moment.

"There's no pattern," said Lt. Don Eckart, who commands the Athens-Clerk police Traffic Unit. "The numbers go down and then they can pop right back up."

But two months into 2013, there have been 10 DUI arrests in an equivalent time of which were non-fatalities. Police hope that January and February have not set the tone for the rest of the year.

"It seems like we're on a terrible run lately with repeated arrests," said Sgt. Tom Anderson, a Traffic Unit supervisor.

Anderson made the comment last week, while investigating a hit-and-run accident that nearly killed a pedestrian and placed her in a coma.

"I'm concerned we're seeing an increase, especially with what happened

See NEWSLETTER on A3

ABH INVESTIGATES

He was a successful Athens businessman, scoutmaster and community leader.

By many accounts, he also was a child sex predator.

'Boland's Boys'

Ernest P. Boland thrived in a culture and system that enabled him to prey on

Editor's note: In October 2012, after a lengthy court battle to keep them private, the Oregon Supreme Court ordered the Boy Scouts of America to release files naming nearly 1,200 volunteers accused of child molestation.

Among those listed is Ernest P. Boland, a prominent businessman active in the Athens community for decades. He recently passed away at age 80.

In the following four-month investigation by reporter Nick Coltrain, some of the abuse is reported publicly for the first time about the culture of a culture and system that protected a predator and others like him.

The story also examines the changing culture of sexual abuse and what safeguards are in place to protect the innocence of children.

By Nick Coltrain

Forty years ago, Ernest P. Boland, a successful businessman, entrepreneur and Boy Scout troop leader, and central pillar of the community, led a group around called Boland's Boys.

They were heavily recruited and a shared interest in motorcycles brought them to his white-pillared home, and some of those who belonged to the group, had a son there Boland allegedly raped at least two of them.

But these accusations, as documented in a police report filed Christmas Eve and in interviews with victims and family of victims, would have likely gone no further in the legal process, even if the accused was still alive and even in these alleged victims and others come forward to tell their stories of heinous victimization.

See ABUSE on A6

See BOLAND on A6

A story of abuse

By Nick Coltrain

of America are arrested.

But then, in the early 1970s, he rose through the ranks of dozens of boys in the troop to become the troop leader. The parent's picked Boland's troop because of his great reputation. It was led by a successful businessman and scout leader. At one point, a troop of his was profiled in the local magazine and he received dozens of awards for his leadership.

"He was a big man, not fat, just a big man, and he was leading all the boys," Alan remembers.

No one there seemed to know that Boland had left the scouts before under the suspicion of child molestation and allegedly having another son. Alan just remembers being 12 years old and uncomfortable around the big man who seemed open being called by his first name.

"I need to speak the truth," Alan said. "I need to tell my power back."

Sunday, Alan talks about how much he later cringed, something for which the Boy Scouts

See ABUSE on A6

See BOLAND on A6

ONLINEATHENS.COM EXTRA:

Read the 'Perversion files'

Ernest P. Boland was listed among about 1,200 alleged child molesters identified, yet kept confidential, by the Boy Scouts of America. The files were released last year as part of a court order.

Find police reports

Read a narrative given to police that alleges years of abuse by Boland.

See NEWSLETTER on A3

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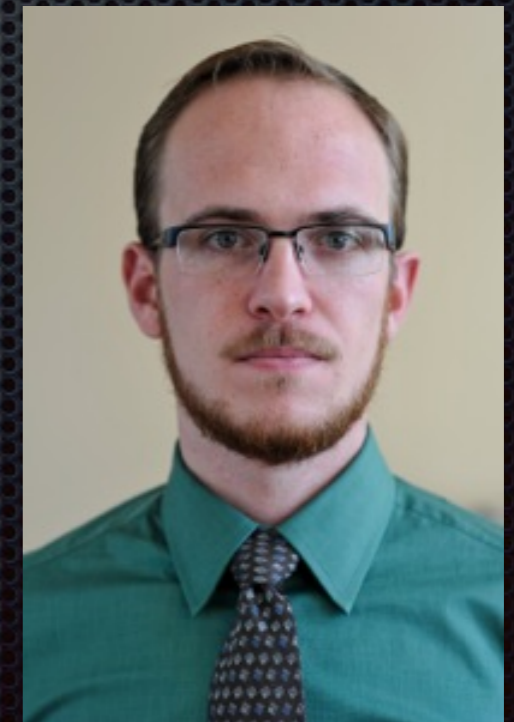
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Analysis shows southside leads in reports

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South	112	26
Central	21	4
East	15	4
Washington Road	116	15
TOTAL	591	80

DEATHS

NAME	AGE	CAUSE
Walter E. Brown	78	Heart
Robert E. Galt	78	Heart
Raymond L. Galt	78	Heart
John G. Galt	78	Heart
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City struggles to keep minor league sports

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A PROMISE - AT WHAT PRICE?

Bibb schools bet big on Promise Neighborhood

— with little oversight



Bibb school system's lease payment for a portion of the Macon Promise Center in the old Ballard-Hudson Middle School is scheduled to start July 1, 2013, regardless of whether there's a Macon Promise Neighborhood implementation grant to launch the center or not. In all, the lease obligates the school system — and its taxpayers — for \$5.75 million in rent on a building that the system sold as surplus about four years ago for just \$270,000.

Workers haul old roofing materials from atop the old Ballard-Hudson Middle School building on Anthony Road that is now being converted to house the Macon Promise Center — the epicenter of the Macon Promise Neighborhood that is planned to house a wide range of services intended to help students in the area become healthier, better and higher achieving students.

A June 27 agreement said no documents could bind the school board beyond its \$1 million maximum annual commitment. Less than a month later, however, Superintendent Romain Dufrenoy signed off on an over \$19 million commitment for the Bibb County school district.

By MIKE STUCKA and ANDREA CASTILLO
The Telegraph staff

In 2008, the Bibb County school system and a middle school building off the Stone Avenue for \$200,000 because it had no use for the school any more.

Now, four years later, the school system and Bibb County taxpayers — are on the hook for millions of dollars as part of a plan to refurbish that same building and lease it from the new center in hopes of launching an ambitious neighborhood improvement program, records show.

But that's not all of the costs the school system has incurred — or obligated taxpayers for — in a bid to help Bibb County with a federal Promise Neighborhood grant. Much of the commitment — both financially and for in-kind services — was made by school Superintendent Romain Dufrenoy and former school board President Timmy Barnes

without the prior review of the Bibb County school board.

After an initial commitment from the school system of up to \$1 million annually for the project for 10 years, Dufrenoy signed off on a much higher obligation a month later, committing \$17 million in cash and in-kind services from the system, records show.

Those commitments are also at the heart of a lawsuit filed against the school system by Ben Collins, the system's former chief financial officer, who was removed from the post last month.

In 2010, the federal government awarded Macon Promise Neighborhood a \$100,000 planning grant to fund the group's effort to help revive the University and Franklin High schools of Macon, LaGrange, representatives of dozens of Macon nonprofit agencies worked together to apply for what's known as an "implementation

SEE P.10E, 6A

THE RAIL
YOUR NEWS EXPRESSES

A profile of Macon chamber of commerce leader Mike Dyer

Ancient eye treatment recovered from shipwreck

Medieval tablets recovered from a 2000-year-old shipwreck suggest that classical Mediterranean civilizations had sophisticated drugs.

Around 120 B.C., a merchant ship was just off the coast of Italy's Sicily region. The wreck was spotted in 1974.

Artifacts presumably contained in a wooden chest that had rotted away were found. Among them was a small tin cylinder known at the time as a "tablet," that contained five tablets that were about 4 centimeters in diameter and had been preserved from the elements by a fireproofing lot.

The tablets were originally thought to be almanac pills for sailors. But the researchers have concluded that "the tablets were directly applied on the top of the eyes," says Erik Riechers, a chemist and a co-author of the report.

— SARA HANCOCK

Warner Robins man at forefront of veterans issues

Delaney is 'trying to stop the erosion of our benefits'

By MIKE STUCKA
warnerhaw@macon.com

WARNER ROBINS — A Warner Robins man is at the forefront of fighting to preserve benefits of military members.

Rick Delaney was elected national president of the National Veterans Association in September, which has almost 40,000 members. The group also goes by The Excluded Association, because it is no longer just for

veterans. Active duty, Guard and Reserve forces with at least seven years of service are also eligible, as well as all honorably discharged veterans.

"We are trying to stop the erosion of our benefits," said Delaney, a Vietnam veteran who served 24 years in the Air Force. "We know we are not going to get back what has been taken, but we want to do as much as we can to stop the erosion of what we worked for, what we earned."

One of those, he said, is medical benefits. He currently has to pay part of his health

SEE P.10E, 6A

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SAVANNAH CRUISE SHIP PORT: Easy money or easy mark?

Cruise industry's promises don't always come true

BY LESLEY EDNN
912-432-0156
lesley.ednn@savannahnow.com

Long before John Dolan Hollinger became president of the Inland Empire in Key West, Fla., he lived and worked in Kalamazoo, Ind., a midwestern town sustained by auto and car-radio manufacturing.

Kalamazoo officials, he is sure, would be delighted — but not too late — at the money cruise passengers bring to Key West each year.

"If I told them they could have thousands of people come pay \$120 a day to be there and they'd spend \$100 a day on average and they'd be gone by the end of the day, I think in Kalamazoo, they would say, 'Get-outta-here,' but that's basically what cruise tourism is," Dolan Hollinger said.

"It's pretty easy business, actually."

Dolan Hollinger was the upside, and he points to Key West's 2012 addition of \$1.4 million in fees and income from cruise tourists and the \$60 million businesses it provide around from tourism spending, more than \$100 million from cruise tourists who visited last year.

City of Savannah officials, lured by the possibility of the same kind of easy money, have been exploring whether to partner with a cruise line since 2008.

In September, City Council authorized a two-phase study and by the end of March should have

THREE SITES UNDER REVIEW FOR CRUISE TERMINAL

SITE A Site A site

SITE B Underused lot once owned by Power & Duffryn (Site of 1985 plant explosion)

SITE C Savannah Downtown Landing site

Host cities pay a price

Environment, health and cultural concerns all part of equation

BY MARY LANDERS
912-432-0157
mary.land@savannahnow.com

Looking every bit the Southern gentleman in a white jacket and red bow tie, Dr. GJ Beldrich shows off his well-kept lawn just yards from the Charleston, S.C., waterfront.

A wrought-iron gate guards his scenic side porch, which is usually a source of pride and pleasure.

But not this day.

With the 1,875-passenger Carnival Fantasy in port, Beldrich thought less of his pride or pleasure, but of pollution.

SEE PRICE, PAGE 5A

Read the economic and financial analyses of Savannah's cruise potential, hear from a man who began studying the cruise industry after being a cruise tourist himself, and see what some Charleston residents think about cruise ships in their community.

ON PAGES 4, 5 AND 6

- The money cruise ships bring in can sometimes be regarded if cities don't do their homework first.
- Aspects of BEA's feasibility study are being questioned by local environmentalists and historians.

"Think what this city could do if it invested that money in job training."

Tom Miller, co-founder of the Smart Savannah

"Where are these ships going to come from and on what basis is this projection even remotely realistic? ... The projections look great, but I don't think they have any grounding in reality."

Ben Klein, a sociologist at Memorial University, Newfoundland

Taking 'a bite out of diabetes'

ADA launches 2013 fundraising campaign with spooky-themed flash mob

BY CORY BIKSTEN
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cory.biksten@savannahnow.com

Zombies, vampires and a giant pig invaded River Street's Renaissance Plaza on Saturday afternoon, flanking along to Michael Jackson's spooky classic "Thriller."

Dancing flags, ropes and tattered clothes, members of the local chapter of the American Diabetes Association took part in the annual Kite-a-Pig fundraising campaign, "Diabetes: Don't Risk Your Teeth to a Clown," with a spooky-themed flash mob.

"The theme this year is reception and welcome because diabetes is a scary thing," said Dr. Brent Cohen, of the Cohen Dental Center and this year's treatment Georgia ADA campaign chair.

SEE DIABETES, PAGE 7A

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CORRECTIONS:
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Weekly

The Covington News

Gabriel Khouli



Friday, June 28, 2013 The story of your life Vol. 140, No. 77 736



DILAPIDATED DILEMMA

Will city force man out of his condemned home?

GABRIEL KHOULI
gabriel.khouli@covnews.com

"What do you do with the man in the house?"

It's a question Covington judge and council member Robert McHenry's been asking recently as the city deals with the unfortunate prospect of potentially losing a landmark of its past.

In a house that once was a landmark and a reminder of the city's history, the city is now faced with a dilemma: to tear it down or to save it. City officials say he's responsible and has already refused to move, even as the state of funds and funds are being held.

What do you do with the man in the house? The house is located on the east side of the city, and it's a landmark of the city's history. It's a house that once was a landmark and a reminder of the city's history. It's a house that once was a landmark and a reminder of the city's history.

When does he go? Who will care for his needs? Because he will not go to a nursing home, what's to be done with him? Is he going to be put in a nursing home? Is he going to be put in a nursing home? Is he going to be put in a nursing home?

► See **Dilemma**, 4A

education



City, chamber consider hiring retail recruiter

GABRIEL KHOULI
gabriel.khouli@covnews.com

Discussion about population, projects, income and traffic patterns in Newton County, Georgia, and retail stores, as the Chamber of Commerce, hopes to attract as much of that business as possible to the county, which would be a Newton County's market.

The plan is an effort of the discussion about starting the State Street Covington program — which has the discussion, marketing, event planning and business maintenance and operations — from under the city of Covington to the chamber.

Covington Mayor Bruce Johnson originally got both the idea of a retail business and retail centers. He will personally be the city's primary contact with the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, a group that provides varied services to other retail stores.

The city has been exploring alternative options for the stores, Johnson said.

But not conducting an in-depth retail study and having a retail center used to be considered as having the State Street program under the chamber, as the chamber could give new businesses the best chance to succeed through specific data.

The chamber would work for the whole county, but

► See **Chamber**, 4A

NCSS moves Lockhart, Buff to district roles

Fuhrey wants to fill NHS vacancies quickly

DANIEL EMMON
daniel.emmon@covnews.com

Two top administrative positions at Newton High School are vacant after the Newton County Board of Education unanimously approved NHS Principal Craig Lockhart as deputy superintendent of schools, and Assistant Principal Matthew Buff as the director of secondary.

Buff is the director of secondary, instruction and professional development for the Newton County School System.

In his Tuesday board meeting, the BDE approved the personnel recommendations after an executive session, leaving two administrative positions open at the high school.

NHS is in the process of relocating to its new building before the start of the new school year in August.

Lockhart, who had been principal at Newton High since 2010, said he is honored to have the opportunity to work as deputy superintendent of schools, but that it is a significant and joyful to leave the high school.

"In leaving Newton High, I'm like a child to see," he said Tuesday after the meeting. "Newton High is a wonderful place, it's a special place. I will always be a part of it, and I will always be right there to help support the efforts at the school."

In a letter provided to NHS teachers, administrators and staff.

► See **Vacancies**, 4A

Take 5
What to do locally this weekend

- **Food 2013**
Monday, June 24th 7pm - 10pm
- **Wings & Things**
Friday, June 28th 7pm - 10pm
- **Wings & Things**
Friday, June 28th 7pm - 10pm
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Photo Essay

H

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Columbia County News-Times, Evans Jim Blaylock

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Police Blotter

Man hit by car, seriously injured

A Texas man was seriously injured when he was hit by a car while helping someone back up a tractor trailer late Tuesday.

Timothy Scott Thompson, 46, of San Antonio, was in serious condition Wednesday, according to a Georgia Regents Medical Center spokeswoman. He was wearing dark clothes in the rain about 10:15 p.m. while helping an American Red Ball Transit driver back a tractor trailer from a private drive onto Park West Drive just off Interstate 20, according to a Columbia County Sheriff's Office accident report.

Larhonda Natoria Jackson, of Harlem, was driving her Chevrolet Impala west and swerved to avoid hitting the back of the tractor trailer, which was partially in the roadway, Jackson said she didn't see Thompson in the road and hit him.

Thompson was vaulted into the air and landed on the edge of the road. He was found at fault in the incident because he was wearing dark clothes in the rain preventing him from being seen, according to the report. Jackson and the truck driver were not injured.

The following account was taken from Columbia County Sheriff's office incident reports:

Stranger shoots at Martinez woman

A Martinez woman called deputies Monday after she said a man shot at her.

The 31-year-old woman said she was sitting on her front porch on Highview Way about 7 p.m. when she heard a popping sound and heard something fly by her head. The woman said a man was standing near her back fence with what she said was a gray pistol in his hand. He walked away.

The woman said someone has previously shot at her dog in the back yard.

Deputies searched the area and determined the weapon was possibly a pellet gun.

Woman faints after shoplifting

A woman fainted Monday after she was caught shoplifting from an Evans store.

The woman is wanted for shoplifting from the Walmart on Washington Road.

A loss prevention employee at the store called authorities about

See BLOTTER on 5



Raising the barre



Anny'n O'Neal (left) and Caroline Rodwell attend the Columbia County Ballet camp.

Small dancers have been active in recent weeks at the Columbia County Ballet camp on Furys Ferry Road. The ballet will host both a "Cinderella" and a "Sophia the 1st" camp for three more weeks. Space is available in the remaining week-long camps for children ages 3-7. Ron Jones, of the ballet, said many of the camp children decide to enroll in regular classes. One of the members of their performing company began dancing with them at age 4. Their performing company is rehearsing for a performance of *Cinderella* at Augusta's Imperial Theatre to help raise money for renovations at the historic theater.

—Jim Blaylock, photographer



Hannah Liebel (left) and Abigail Bean participated in a ballet camp for 3 and 4 year olds at Columbia County Ballet.



Olivia Ehntholt tries to keep her crown in place during while dancing camp.

SEE MORE PHOTOS
www.newstimesonline.com

County's library is now hub of system

By VALERIE ROWELL
 STAFF WRITER
 TWITTER @VALERIEROWELL

Patrons didn't notice the major change at the Columbia County Library last week.

The library became the hub of a new library region — the Greater Clarks Hill Regional Library System — on Monday.

"Everything should remain the same (for patrons)," Columbia County Libraries Manager Mary Lin Maner said. "So far, it's going pretty good."

Columbia County libraries were formerly served through the East Central Georgia Regional Library, which operates out of Augusta's main library downtown. That region also served Richmond, Burke, Lincoln and Warren counties.

Libraries in Columbia, Lincoln and Warren counties joined to form the new region.

"There's been a lot of work that has gone into this," Columbia County Community and Leisure Services Director Barry Smith said. "A solid year of work that we have been preparing for this July 1 start date."

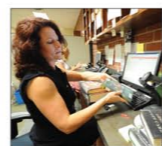
The decision to form the new region came down to economics, Smith said.

"It runs like a business," Smith said. "We were putting out more than we were receiving in services."

In years past, Columbia County paid \$130,000 into the state library system, but used very few of the services provided by the system.

"We were not getting any money for books or any true benefit from the membership fee we were paying,

See LIBRARY on 5



Kris LaFontaine scans a book in the Columbia County Library, which has separated from the East Central Georgia Regional Library System to form a new system with libraries in Lincoln and Warren counties.

Crawford named publisher of 'News-Times'

Steve Crawford, an award-winning investigative reporter and former city editor of *The Augusta Chronicle*, has been named the publisher of *The Columbia County News-Times*.

He replaces Barry Paschal, who left *The News-Times* last month to take an executive role at Goodwill Industries.

Chronicle Media President Dana Atkins made the announcement, calling Crawford "a seasoned professional, whose reporting represents our company's commitment to public service and informing the community."

"As we considered the publisher

of the *News-Times*, Steve Crawford was a natural choice from all of our candidates," Atkins said. "Steve has been recognized multiple times for journalism excellence, to include a recent first-place award for investigative reporting from the Georgia Press Association."

"Steve has done tremendous work since returning to our newsroom, leading some of our best efforts in the past two years," said John Gogick, the executive editor of *The Chronicle*. "It will be hard

to replace his talent, but the people of Columbia County are lucky to have Steve's attention focused on their issues."

Crawford, 50, has held several reporting and editing jobs at *The Chronicle* over the past two decades, including several years in its Columbia County Bureau. He also worked as a senior communications specialist for University Healthcare System.

"We look forward to Steve's contributions to *The Columbia County News-Times*, and under his leadership, continuing its legacy of award-winning journalism in this great community," said Derek May, the executive vice president of Morris Publishing Group, the parent

company of *The Columbia County News-Times*.

Crawford is a north Georgia native and served in the Army as a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division, earning the rank of sergeant. He attended the University of Georgia before graduating with a bachelor's degree in English from Augusta State University. He and his wife, Lorin, have three sons and a daughter and are active members of St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church in Grovetown.

"Steve's journalism excellence, coupled with his award-winning investigative reporting, will contribute immeasurably to the content development of *The Columbia County News Times*," Atkins said.

The smoke has cleared from the fireworks, the bar-b-que has been devoured and friends and family have all gone home. Let's find that new house to call HOME! Interest rates are still low and houses are moving fast! If you've been thinking of buying and/or selling, call us now and let the Hills help you with your next American Dream!

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Photo Essay

H

2nd Place

Smoke Signals, Big Canoe

Paul Powers

"The average groundhog can excavate over 700 pounds of dirt digging just one den, and a single groundhog may have four to five dens scattered across its territory. Their burrows may be as deep as six feet and can meander underground for 20 feet or more ..."



Groundhogs are solitary creatures, and usually find mates only for the purpose of reproduction.

Groundhogs are famous around the world

Photo and article by Paul Powers

Editor's note: Paul Powers is a wildlife photographer and resident of Big Canoe. From time to time he will be submitting photographs and educational information on the birds and animals that live among us.

Prescottary Phil, Dinkirk Dave, Shubencalle Sam, Watson Wilko, General Beauregard Leo, Peewee the Woodchuck and States Island Chuck to name a few!!! Here are the countdown facts about our famous friends:

10. The White Pig
Groundhogs are a member of the family Sciuridae, belonging to the group of large ground squirrels known as marmots. Groundhogs have a number



Among the few animals that are true hibernators.

of names: Wood Chuck, Whistle Pig and Land Beaver.

9. Musky Odor
One of the groundhogs defense mechanisms is the spraying of a musky odor from its anal glands.

8. As Easy as Black and White
Groundhogs have been found with all black or all white fur in the wild. Black furred animals are called melanistic and white furred animals albino.

7. Alarming Whistle
Groundhogs communicate with one another by using a variety of sounds, including a shrill alarm whistle (once the member whistle pig) to warn one another of approaching predators.

6. A New Fur Coat Every Year

Groundhogs have one annual moult where they shed their fur for a new coat during the summer months.

5. Pink Babies
Groundhogs mate once per year in March and April. The gestational period last 30 days. Groundhogs give birth to up to seven babies at one time. Groundhog babies are born pink, hairless, blind and helpless.

4. All thumbs
Groundhogs have the ability to manipulate objects with their paws because they have a fifth finger sometimes referred to as a thumb stump.

3. Can Excavates Over 700 pounds of Dirt

The average groundhog can excavate over 700 pounds of dirt digging just one den, and a single groundhog may have four to five dens scattered across its territory. Their burrows may be as deep as six feet and can meander underground for 20 feet or more, usually with two entrances but in some cases with nearly a dozen. Burrows provide groundhogs with their chief means of evading enemies, because the round little guys (and before hibernation, a hefty groundhog may tip the scales at 14 pounds) are too slow to escape most predators in a dead heat; the groundhogs has a top speed of 8 mph, while a hungry fox may hit 25 mph.

2. Bedicious Appetite
During warm seasons, a groundhog may pack in more than a pound of vegetation at one sitting, which is like a 150 pound man scarfing down a 25 pound steak. To accommodate its bedicious appetite, groundhogs grow upper and lower incisors that can withstand wear and tear because they grow about a sixteenth of an inch each week. If properly aligned, groundhogs upper and lower incisors grind away at each other with every bite, keeping suitably short.

1. A True Hibernator
Groundhogs are among the few animals that are true hibernators, fastening up in the warm seasons and snoozing for most of three months during



Make loud whistling sounds.



Member of the sciuridae family.

the chilly times. While hibernating, groundhog's body temperature can drop from 99 degrees to 57 degrees (humans go into mild hypothermia when their body temperature drops a mere 3 degrees, lose consciousness at 82-degree and face death below 70 degrees.) A groundhog's heart rate also slows from 15 breaths per minute to as few as two. Its heart rate slows from about 80 beats per minute to five. Finally during hibernation - 120-days without eating - a groundhog will lose no more than a fourth of its body weight thanks to all the energy saved by the lower metabolism.

Sources: Big.NW.org (National Wildlife Federation) and Outwintertires.com.



Photo Essay

H

Volunteers at Marvin United Methodist Church made 2,988 sandwiches Saturday morning, breaking the Guinness World Record for most sandwiches made in one hour. Efforts elsewhere in Georgia might have topped that local record and are still being verified. The sandwiches were donated to Action Ministries' Smart Lunch Smart Kid program.

Photos by Jim Blaylock



FORT GORDON DINNER THEATRE PRESENTS
SOCIAL SECURITY
by Andrew Bergman
July 19, 20, 26, 27 • August 1, 2, 3
Dinner 7:00 p.m. | Show 8:00 p.m.
Two married art dealers struggle with a visit from the wife's goody-goody sister, her uptight CPA husband, and eccentric local-spitting mother who can't leave her college-student daughter from running wild.
The play is a hoot, and better yet a sophisticated, even civilized hoot. This show is full of laughs and good humor!
—The New York Post
For reservations, call 706-793-8552
Not recommended for children. Some adult humor.

United HOSPICE
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• Lifetime FREE Service
• 18 Months Interest Free Financing Available
3839 WASHINGTON RD • 706-860-9800
GLENN MORRIS Monday - Friday 10:00am - 6:00pm • Saturday 10:00am - 1:00pm

1st Place

Columbia County News-Times, Evans

Jim Blaylock



Photo Essay

G

3rd Place

The Clinch County News,
Homerville

Len Robbins



Photo Essay

G

2nd Place

The Commerce News

Mark Beardsley



Photo Essay

G

1st Place

The Champion, Decatur

Andrew Cauthen



Photo Essay

F



3rd Place

Donalsonville
News

Staff

Photo Essay

F

2nd Place

Donalsonville News

Staff

www.donalsonville.com Donalsonville News Thursday, November 28, 2014 Page 17A

Up in smoke!

Donalsonville turns up the heat in the elimination of community's eyesores

Fire Department burns blighted property as a training exercise

The leaders of the City of Donalsonville are committed to the campaign of eliminating the community's blighted properties. Selected properties placed on the city's action list are being demolished on a case-by-case basis, offering the property owner the option to repair or remove blighted structures. If the property owner chooses to take no action, the city is moving forward to eliminate the problem.

Some owners have chosen to ask the city to help them remove the structures as a training exercise for the fire department. That was the case last Monday morning, November 25.

The Donalsonville Fire Department conducted a structural fire control training exercise using the abandoned blighted building located at 911 Marietta Highway at the south end of Wiley Avenue. Abandoned and in deteriorating condition for nearly three decades, this structure was one of the city's most highly visible eyesores and its removal was long overdue.

The building was donated for burning and removed by John Barber Johnson.

Firefighters from the Calhoun, Miller Counties, Lee City, Wadley, Grady Counties, Calhoun and Johnson Counties fire departments joined the Donalsonville Fire Department in the training exercise. The Spring Creek and Lake Lanier Fire Departments provided water supply and Lenoir County EMS provided the same medical coverage. In all there were over thirty firefighters participating.

The exercise provided excellent hands-on training for the area's first responders and gave them real-life situation opportunities to practice their life-saving skills. These men and women are committed to being the best they can be in their daily duties to serve and protect the communities they serve, and their efforts are applauded and appreciated.



Photo Essay

F



1st Place

Donalsonville
News

Staff

Photo Essay

E



2nd Place

White County News, Cleveland

Linda Erbele



Photo Essay

E

1st Place

Morgan County Citizen, Madison

Greg Strelecki

Local Color

SECTION: SEPTEMBER 13, 2013 INDEX >>> Calendar C2 • Obituaries C4 & C7 • Community Columns C8 & C9



WHAT'S GOING ON WITH ALL OF THESE COSTUMES?
Art Shows Open at The Heart
A Staffer Thomas Hill...
Tickets are \$35...
For more information, visit www.morgancountyga.com

Dress for success



Let's call it a display for charity.
The Stefan Thomas Museum of Art (STMA) is...
"The folks at STMA think they're going to be the best and most entertaining fundraiser we've ever had!"
STMA will hold a "green-up only" event - "Older Showers Center as You Are!" - on Oct. 26 from 7-10 p.m. at the museum...
The folks at STMA think they're going to be the best and most entertaining fundraiser we've ever had!"
STMA will hold a "green-up only" event - "Older Showers Center as You Are!" - on Oct. 26 from 7-10 p.m. at the museum...
The folks at STMA think they're going to be the best and most entertaining fundraiser we've ever had!"



What you'll learn from Local Color this week



Madison youth is...
Madison youth is...
Madison youth is...

The Morgan County...
The Morgan County...
The Morgan County...



Madison's Church of...
Madison's Church of...
Madison's Church of...

The PMA will have...
The PMA will have...
The PMA will have...



The Friends of...
The Friends of...
The Friends of...

Four local...
Four local...
Four local...

CHILI COOK-OFF Come Out And Strut Your CHILI Staff!
Deadline To Enter A Chili Team is Friday, Sept. 20
Madison, TN
Follow us online for photo galleries and more: www.morgancountyga.com

Photo Essay

D

3rd Place

Henry Daily
Herald,
McDonough

Gabe Stovall



Photo Essay

D

2nd Place

Clayton News Daily, Jonesboro

Curt Yeomans

26 • FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2013 news-daily.com



Wanda Worthington, center, and her daughter, Kaylin Worthington, listen as speakers talk about Army Pfc. Robert Adrian Worthington at a Gold Star Mothers ceremony Sept. 26. Robert Adrian Worthington, who died in combat in May 2007, was Wanda Worthington's son and Kaylin Worthington's brother. (Staff Photos: Curt Yeomans)

Remembering the fallen




Forest Park High School JROTC Cadet Maj. Cesar Garcia and Cadet 1st Lt. Adriana Smith unveil an American flag for inspection during a Gold Star Mothers ceremony at the Carl R. Woodruff Recreation Center in Rex on Sept. 26. After it was inspected and refolded, the flag was given to Kaylin Worthington, whose brother, Army Pfc. Robert Adrian Worthington, died in combat in 2007.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5080 Commander John Bogartus explains the organization's history during a birthday celebration held Sept. 26 in Lake City. The post retired old American flags as part of the celebration.





Boy Scouts of America Troop 818 member Derek Garcia, left, works with Assistant Scoutmaster George Kampson to fold a flag for a retirement ceremony at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5080 in Lake City on Sept. 26.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5080 Commander John Bogartus and Ladies Auxiliary President Cindy Arnold use a ceremonial sword to cut a birthday cake commemorating the 175th anniversary of the VFW's founding Sept. 26.

Clayton County Commissioner Sonna Singleton greets Army Pfc. Robert Adrian Worthington during a Gold Star Mothers ceremony Sept. 26 at the Carl R. Woodruff Recreation Center in Rex. Worthington was killed in combat in May 2007 and a memorial was built in his honor at the center.




Old flags are stacked up to be retired at a ceremony commemorating the 175th birthday of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5080 in Lake City, after they were folded. The flags were inspected by the commander of VFW Post 5080 and most flags found to still be in good condition were separated from the stacks as they could be used.

Boy Scouts of America Troop 818 member Taylor Spence means to to greet an American flag in a fire pit during a flag retirement ceremony held Sept. 26 at Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5080 in Lake City.



Photo Essay

D

1st Place

Clayton News
Daily, Jonesboro

Heather Middleton



Photo Essay

B



3rd Place

The Brunswick
News

Bobby Haven

Photo Essay

B

2nd Place

The Times,
Gainesville

Scott Rogers



Photo Essay

B

1st Place

The Newnan Times-Herald

Jeffrey Leo

The Newnan Times-Herald
Sports
 sports@newnan.com

COMING WEDNESDAY
 The Times-Herald announces its boys and girls GHSAA All-County teams based on selections by county coaches at last month's Newnan and Northgate.

GA — Sunday, May 19, 2013

2013 GHSA CLASS AAAAA STATE GIRLS SOCCER CHAMPIONS — NORTHGATE LADY VIKINGS

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED NORTHGATE 4 WHITewater 1

Photos by Jeffrey Leo

Senior Hannah Murray and Miyaela Crowshaw celebrate Northgate's Class AAAAA state soccer title in the program's history.

Revenge well worth the wait for Lady Viking seniors
 BY DOUG GORMAN
 dgorman@newnan.com

CABRILLOTION—Four years ago, the Whitewater Lady Vikings scored backbreaker the hearts of the Northgate Lady Vikings with a 1-1 victory in the Final Four.

Whitewater has been the Lady Vikings' No. 1 opponent every year, beating them every year in regular-season games.

Both Miyaela Crowshaw and Hannah Murray were on the field for their first playoff game four years ago and in every contest with Whitewater since, only to leave with a sour taste in their mouths.

Now, things have come full circle for Crowshaw and Murray. Playing in a muddy stadium at University Stadium on the campus of West Georgia University, the Lady Vikings' dynamic duo have delivered a checking-out victory against the top-ranked Lady Vikings.

Northgate's Miyaela Crowshaw scored twice for Northgate, including one on the left-foot, all route to the 4-1 victory over Whitewater.

Class AAAAA title.

Three seniors were determined to go out on top: their last regular-season game against the Lady Vikings.

Crowshaw scored two goals and Murray set an assist in scoring a new chapter of Northgate soccer history.

"This is just awesome," said Crowshaw said. "We have been trying to beat them for so many years and to do it in this game is special."

Murray said the team was determined to erase its past history against the Lady Vikings from the time the team finished the last Saturday morning for the first time in Cabrillotion.

"This is just such a great feeling because for us," Murray said. "The crowd was great, and we were just so motivated today. We felt great like we were going to lose."

Northgate head coach Bryan Hicks said Crowshaw and Murray are responsible for making the last for the Lady Vikings season.

"We saw the ones taking the Cup today," Hicks said. "That's the difference. We have been beaten. They and beat them in the final, it doesn't get any bigger than this and I can't be happier for our seniors."

Hicks has witnessed Crowshaw and Murray's multi-time success and it came out today, especially early in the second half after Whitewater had scored the first goal in the game.

Crowshaw and Murray didn't let their team stop fighting.

Everything just went really well for us today. We talk all the time about how to you were going to end," Hicks said. "They finished their book in a very special way."

In addition to Crowshaw and Murray, Amanda Lee also finished her high school soccer career at Northgate, scoring on the field in an early roll in the 2013 season.

Crowshaw set the tone for the Lady Vikings with the only goal before halftime or either team nearly 15 minutes into the contest.

Her first-half goal came on one of the team's first shots on goal after the Lady Vikings had extended the offense through the early part of the match before the Lady Vikings were able to get on track.

See SENIORS, page 1A

Photos by Jeffrey Leo

Northgate Lady Vikings celebrate their 4-1 victory over Whitewater to win the Class AAAAA girls soccer championship game at West Georgia's University Stadium.

See CHAMPS, page 1A



Photo Essay

A

3rd Place

The Telegraph,
Macon

Grant Blankenship
& Woody Marshall



Photo Essay

A

2nd Place

The Telegraph,
Macon

Beau Cabell



Photo Essay

A

1st Place

The Augusta Chronicle

Jon-Michael Sullivan

The image shows the front page of the Augusta Chronicle newspaper. At the top, there are several small advertisements and news snippets, including 'Streak ends for Braves' and 'Furyk in lead'. The main headline is '70 YEARS STRONG' featuring a photograph of a muscular man, Tom Bryant, performing a pull-up. A quote from him reads: 'I've never felt like I aged since I started bodybuilding at 44.' - Tom Bryant, 70-year-old, Inglewood resident. To the right of the photo is an article titled 'Georgia starts to monitor pain pills' with the sub-headline 'Pharmacists, doctors sign on to fight abuse'. Below the main headline is another article titled 'Age doesn't define bodybuilder' by Tracy McRae. The page also includes sections for 'INSIDE TODAY', 'SPOTTED', 'Local car dealers see rise in sales', 'WEATHER', and 'DEATHS'. At the bottom, there is a large advertisement for a 'NEW CHEVY CRUZE LS' with a price of '\$14,500' and '42 MPG'.



Feature Photograph

H



3rd Place

Columbia County
News-Times,
Evans

Jim Blaylock



Feature Photograph

H



2nd Place

Smoke Signals,
Big Canoe

Paul Powers



Feature Photograph

H

1st Place

Columbia County
News-Times,
Evans

Jim Blaylock



Feature Photograph

G



3rd Place

The Madison
County Journal,
Danielsville

Zach Mitcham



Feature Photograph

G



2nd Place

Barrow Journal,
Winder

Jessica Brown



Feature Photograph

G



1st Place

The Johnson
Journal,
Wrightsville

Deidre Ledford



Feature Photograph

F



3rd Place

Dawson
Community News,
Dawsonville

Michele Hester



Feature Photograph

F



2nd Place

The Blackshear
Times

Wayne Hardy



Feature Photograph

F



1st Place

Sylvania
Telephone

Enoch Autry



Feature Photograph

E



3rd Place

The Jackson
Herald, Jefferson

Wesleigh Sagon



Feature Photograph

E



2nd Place

The Elberton Star

Cary Best



Feature Photograph

E



1st Place

The Jackson
Herald, Jefferson

Wesleigh Sagon



Feature Photograph

D



3rd Place

Henry Daily
Herald,
McDonough

Heather Middleton



Feature Photograph

D



2nd Place

The Walton
Tribune, Monroe

Daphne Hamm

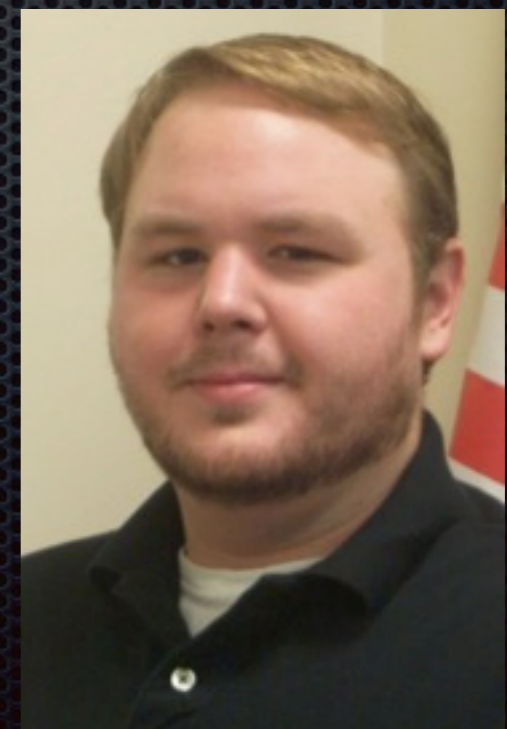
Feature Photograph

D

1st Place

The Thomaston
Times

James Morton



Feature Photograph

C



3rd Place

The Cherokee
Tribune, Canton

Todd Hull

Feature Photograph

C

2nd Place

The Cherokee
Tribune, Canton

Kelly J. Huff



Feature Photograph

C



1st Place

Statesboro Herald

Scott Bryant



Feature Photograph

B



3rd Place

The Times,
Gainesville

Nat Gurley



Feature Photograph

B



2nd Place

Marietta Daily
Journal

Kelly J. Huff

Feature Photograph

B



1st Place

The Brunswick
News

Bobby Haven

Feature Photograph

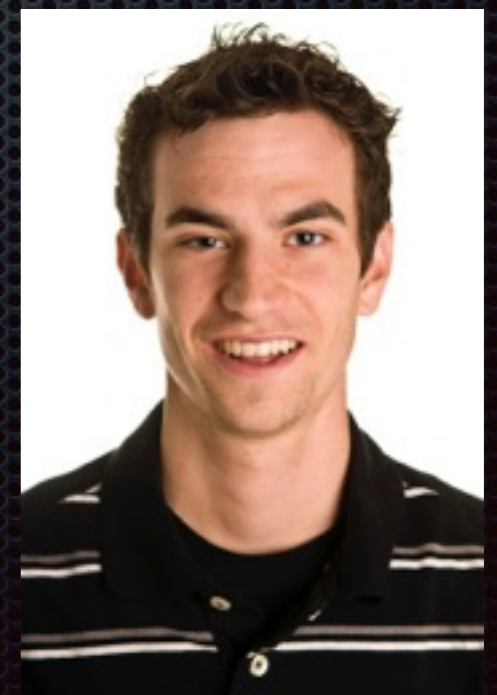
A



3rd Place

Gwinnett Daily Post,
Lawrenceville

Brendan
Sullivan



Feature Photograph

A

2nd Place

The Telegraph,
Macon

Grant
Blankenship



Feature Photograph

A

1st Place

The Augusta
Chronicle

Sara Caldwell



Sports Feature Photograph

G



3rd Place

Barrow Journal,
Winder

Jessica Brown



Sports Feature Photograph

G



2nd Place

Walker County
Messenger,
Lafayette

Scott Herpst



Sports Feature Photograph

G



1st Place

Banks County
News, Homer

Randy Crump



Sports Feature Photograph

E



3rd Place

The Eatonton
Messenger

Jeff Stanton



Sports Feature Photograph

E



2nd Place

Morgan County
Citizen, Madison

Josiah Connelly

Sports Feature Photograph

E



1st Place

The Eatonton
Messenger

Jeff Stanton



Sports Feature Photograph

D

3rd Place

Barrow County
News, Winder

Rob
Nowakowski



Sports Feature Photograph

D

2nd Place

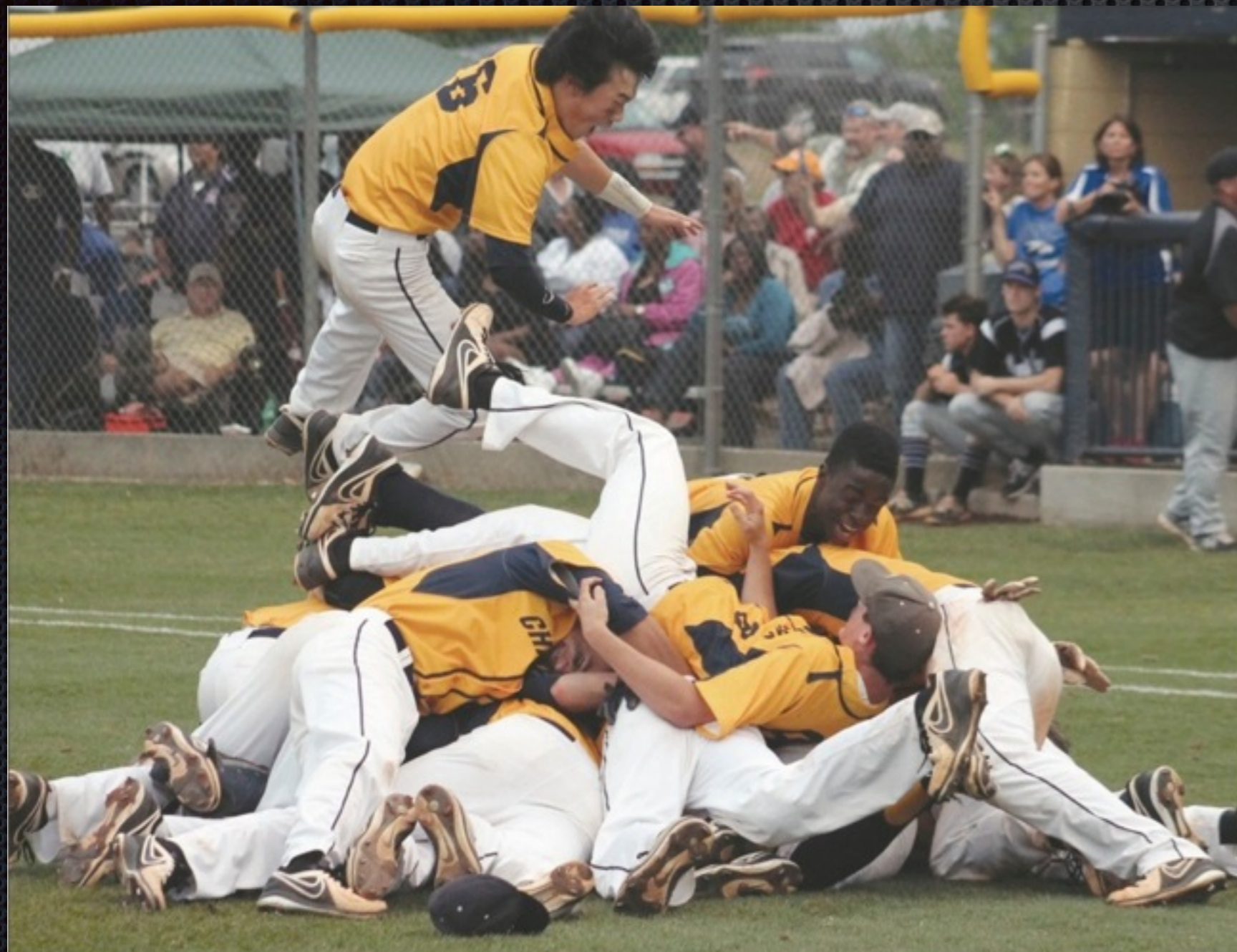
Douglas County
Sentinel, Douglasville

Rick Winters



Sports Feature Photograph

D



1st Place

Henry Daily Herald
McDonough

Brain Paglia

Sports Feature Photograph

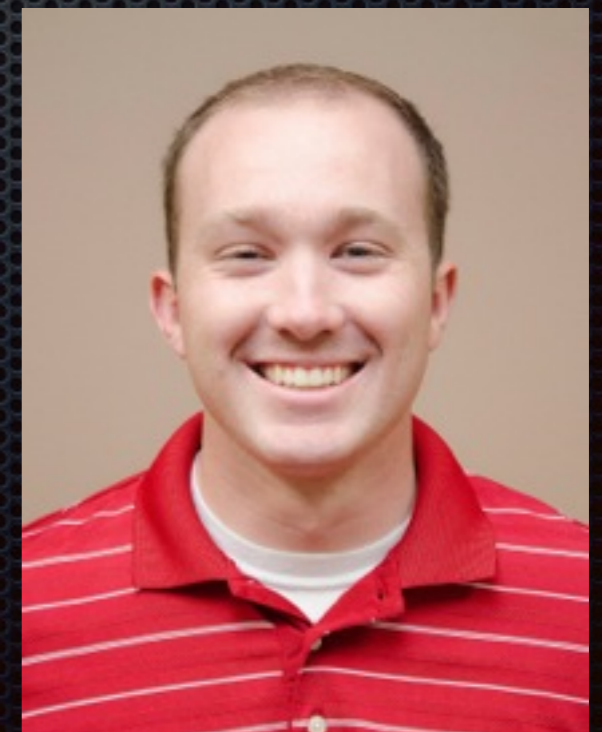
B



3rd Place

The Valdosta Daily
Times

Ed Hooper



Sports Feature Photograph

B



2nd Place

Marietta Daily
Journal

Kelly J. Huff

Sports Feature Photograph

B



1st Place

The Brunswick
News

Bobby Haven

Sports Feature Photograph

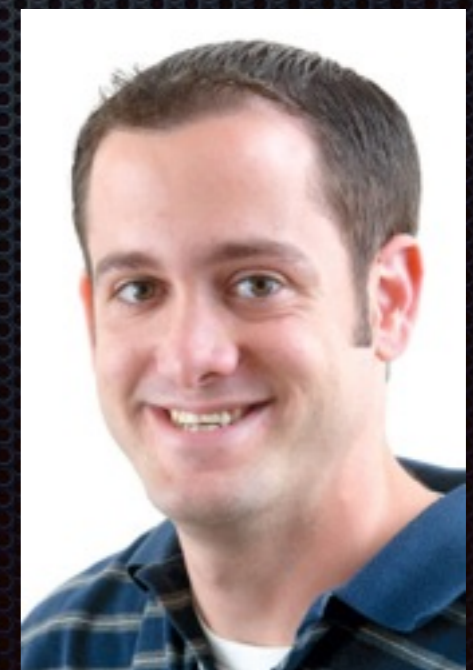
A



3rd Place

Gwinnett Daily
Post,
Lawrenceville

Jason
Braverman



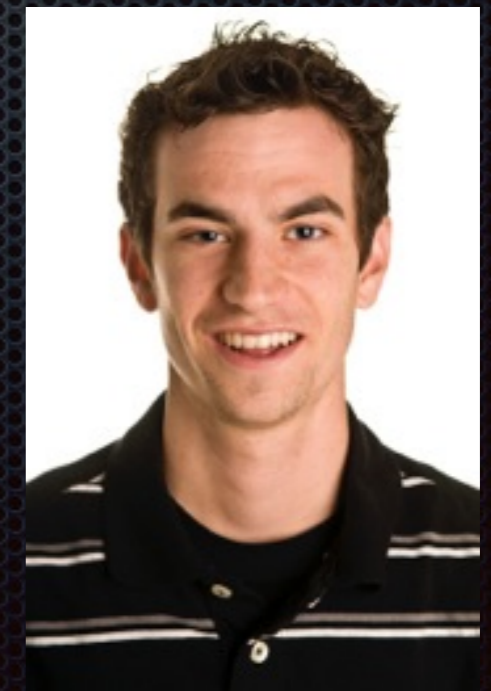
Sports Feature Photograph

A

2nd Place

Gwinnett Daily Post
Lawrenceville

Brendan
Sullivan



Sports Feature Photograph

A



1st Place

The Augusta
Chronicle

Jon-Michael
Sullivan



Sports Photograph

H



3rd Place

Rockdale News,
Conyers

Darrell Everidge`



Sports Photograph

H



JOHN W. PEELER

2nd Place

Bayonet and
Saber, Fort
Benning

John W. Peeler



Sports Photograph

H



1st Place

The Paper,
Hoschton

Doug Chellew



Sports Photograph

G



3rd Place

Barrow Journal,
Winder

Jessica Brown



Sports Photograph

G



2nd Place

The Johnson
Journal,
Wrightsville

Deidre Ledford



Sports Photograph

G



1st Place

Banks County
News, Homer

Randy Crump



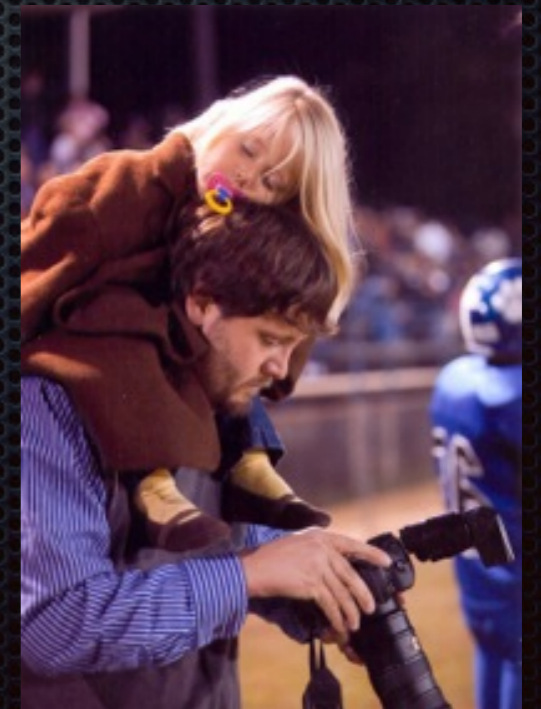
Sports Photograph

F

3rd Place

Jefferson
Reporter/ News &
Farmer, Louisville

Parish Howard



Sports Photograph

F



2nd Place

Sylvania
Telephone

Enoch Autry



Sports Photograph

F



1st Place

The Blackshear
Times

Wayne Hardy



Sports Photograph

E



3rd Place

The Eatonton
Messenger

Jeff Stanton



Sports Photograph

E



2nd Place

The Dahlonega
Nugget

John Bynum



Sports Photograph

E



1st Place

The Toccoa
Record

Duane Winn



Sports Photograph

D

3rd Place

The Press-Sentinel, Jesup

Missi Fountain



Sports Photograph

D



2nd Place

Douglas County
Sentinel,
Douglasville

Rick Winters



Sports Photograph

D



1st Place

Douglas County
Sentinel,
Douglasville

Rick Winters



Sports Photograph

C



3rd Place

The Union-Recorder,
Milledgeville

Kyle Collins

Sports Photograph

C



2nd Place

Statesboro Herald

Scott Bryant



Sports Photograph

C



1st Place

Statesboro Herald

Scott Bryant



Sports Photograph

B



3rd Place

The Times,
Gainesville

Nat Gurley



Sports Photograph

B



2nd Place

The Times,
Gainesville

Jared Putnam



Sports Photograph

B



1st Place

Marietta Daily
Journal

Kelly J. Huff

Sports Photograph

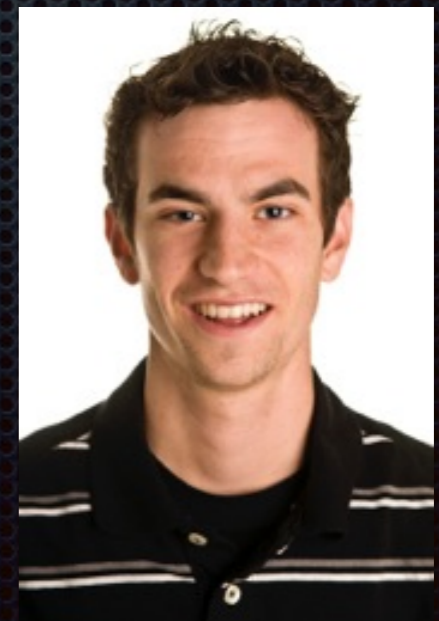
A



3rd Place

Gwinnett Daily
Post,
Lawrenceville

Brendan
Sullivan



Sports Photograph

A



2nd Place

The Telegraph,
Macon

Woody Marshall

Sports Photograph

A



1st Place

The Augusta
Chronicle

Todd Bennett



Spot News Photo

G



3rd Place

The Champion,
Decatur

Travis Hudgons



Spot News Photo

G



2nd Place

Barrow Journal,
Winder

Jessica Brown



Spot News Photo

G

1st Place

Walker County
Messenger,
Lafayette

Matt Ledger



Spot News Photo

E



3rd Place

Pickens County
Progress, Jasper

Dan Pool



Spot News Photo

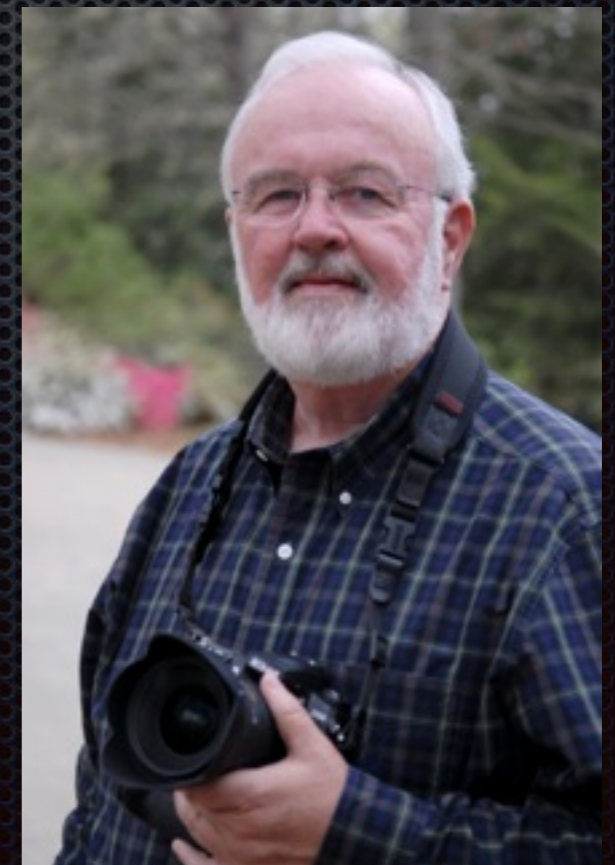
E



2nd Place

The Hartwell Sun

Bill Powell



Spot News Photo

E



1st Place

The Herald-Gazette,
Barnesville

Walter Geiger

Spot News Photo

D



3rd Place

Douglas County
Sentinel,
Douglasville

Ron Daniel

Spot News Photo

D



2nd Place

The Northeast
Georgian, Cornelia

Christina Santee



Spot News Photo

D



1st Place

The Post-
Searchlight,
Bainbridge

Ashley Johnson



Spot News Photo

C

3rd Place

The Daily Tribune
News, Cartersville

Skip Butler



Spot News Photo

C

2nd Place

The Cherokee
Tribune, Canton

Michelle
Babcock



Spot News Photo

C



1st Place

The Moultrie
Observer

Alan Mauldin

Spot News Photo

B



3rd Place

Marietta Daily
Journal

Kelly J. Huff

Spot News Photo

B



2nd Place

Marietta Daily
Journal

Kelly J. Huff

Spot News Photo

B

1st Place

The Times,
Gainesville

Nat Gurley



Spot News Photo

A



3rd Place

The Augusta
Chronicle

Sara Caldwell



Spot News Photo

A



2nd Place

Savannah
Morning News

Deann
Komanecky



Spot News Photo

A

1st Place

The Telegraph,
Macon

Woody Marshall



News Photograph

H



3rd Place

Rockdale News,
Conyers

Darrell Everidge



News Photograph

H



2nd Place

Columbia County
News-Times,
Evans

Jim Blaylock



News Photograph

H



1st Place

Cherokee Ledger-
News, Woodstock

Erika Neldner



News Photograph

G



3rd Place

Barrow Journal,
Winder

Jessica Brown



News Photograph

G

2nd Place

The Champion,
Decatur

Andrew Cauthen



News Photograph

G



1st Place

Barrow Journal,
Winder

Jessica Brown



News Photograph

F



3rd Place

The Oconee
Enterprise,
Watkinsville

Blake Giles



News Photograph

F



2nd Place

Sylvania
Telephone

Enoch Autry



News Photograph

F



1st Place

The Blackshear
Times

Wayne Hardy



News Photograph

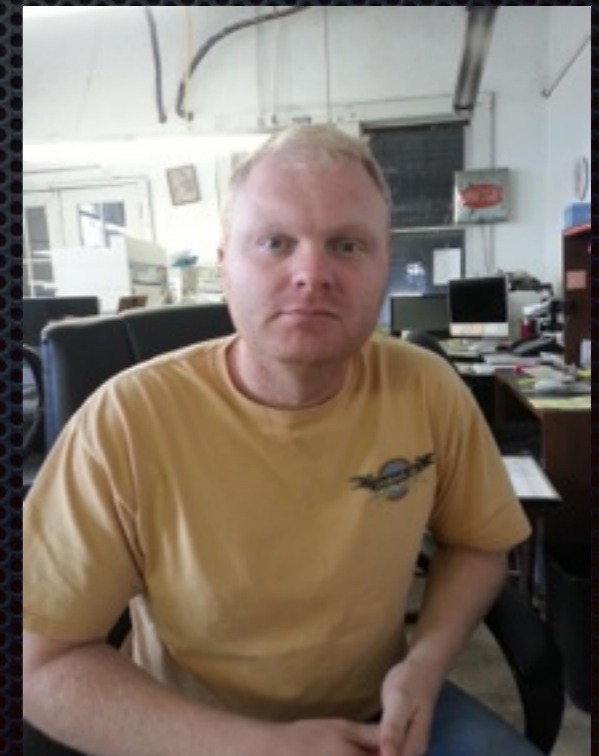
E



3rd Place

Pickens County
Progress, Jasper

Damon Howell



Spot News Photo

E



2nd Place

Pickens County
Progress, Jasper

Laiken Owens



News Photograph

E

A Senior Day Surprise

1st Place

Monroe County
Reporter, Forsyth

Richard Dumas



Mary Persons softball player Darrell Brady embraces her brother, Sgt. Justen Shaw, after he surprised her by returning from deployment in Afghanistan unannounced, showing up at her Senior Night last Thursday. Her teammates and their families tearfully look on. The Lady Dogs celebrated by pounding Northside in their final regular season home game. See full story on page 1B. (Photo/Richard Dumas)



News Photograph

D

3rd Place

The McDuffie
Progress,
Thomson

Wayne Parham



The McDuffie Progress/Wayne Parham
Jayla Lenard, Jalisa Hatcher, and Dee Washington comfort each other as they grieve for the loss of their friend.

News Photograph

D



2nd Place

Douglas County
Sentinel,
Douglasville

Mitch Sneed



News Photograph

D



1st Place

Douglas County
Sentinel,
Douglasville

Mitch Sneed



News Photograph

C



3rd Place

Statesboro Herald

Scott Bryant



News Photograph

C



2nd Place

The Cherokee
Tribune, Canton

Kelly J. Huff

News Photograph

C



1st Place

The Cherokee
Tribune, Canton

Kelly J. Huff

News Photograph

B

3rd Place

The Brunswick
News

Bobby Haven



News Photograph

B



2nd Place

Marietta Daily
Journal

Kelly J. Huff

News Photograph

B



1st Place

Marietta Daily
Journal

Kelly J. Huff

News Photograph

A



3rd Place

Savannah
Morning News

Richard Burkhart



News Photograph

A



2nd Place

The Augusta
Chronicle

Michael Holahan



News Photograph

A

1st Place

The Augusta Chronicle

Michael Holahan

Art institute celebrates its 75th year
Louisville pulls upset of Florida
DAILY DEAL Today's Deal: \$73 for a 30-Day Wellness Package @ Georgia Chiropractic and Wellness Center!

The Augusta Chronicle

www.augustachronicle.com THE SOUTH'S OLDEST NEWSPAPER — ESTABLISHED 1786 Thursday, January 3, 2013



Big fiscal decisions lie ahead

By Andrew Taylor
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The world has a lot of choices, including several of them, potentially. The New Year's Eve fiscal cliff, the "fiscal cliff" that has been the subject of news coverage for weeks, is set to take effect in the next few weeks.

The alternative proposed by the House and Senate is to raise the debt ceiling and to raise the top marginal tax rate to 39.6 percent for those with income over \$450,000 a year. The House also passed a bill to raise the top marginal tax rate to 39.6 percent for those with income over \$450,000 a year.

Obama signs defense bill

HONOLULU — President Obama has signed a bill to raise the defense budget for next year. The bill, which raises the defense budget by \$10 billion, is the largest increase in the defense budget since 2009.

Stocks open year on high note

New York leads

Standard & Poor's 500

Market composite

287 soldiers leave post

By Steve Tomlinson
Staff Writer

Fort Gordon, Va. — Families and friends said goodbye to 287 soldiers as they departed from Fort Gordon on Wednesday. The soldiers, who were deployed to Iraq, were leaving for their final deployment. The soldiers were leaving for their final deployment on Wednesday.



Impact on Georgia slight, officials say

By Walter C. Jones
Staff Writer

ATLANTA — The impact on Georgia from the fiscal cliff is expected to be slight, according to state officials. The impact on Georgia is expected to be slight, according to state officials.

Johnson to serve as mayor pro tem

By Steve Holman
Staff Writer

The Georgia Commission on Intergovernmental Relations has announced that Governor Nathan Deal will serve as mayor pro tem of the state. The commission has announced that Governor Nathan Deal will serve as mayor pro tem of the state.

Retreat today

The major and minor sessions of the Georgia Commission on Intergovernmental Relations will conclude today. The major and minor sessions of the Georgia Commission on Intergovernmental Relations will conclude today.

Watch news from the commission

Watch news from the commission at www.goir.com.

Weather

Deaths

Augusta Commission

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Photo of the Year



The Augusta
Chronicle

Sara Caldwell



Community Service

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Smoke Signals

News and views from Big Canoe and around North Georgia

June 2013 • Vol XXV No 6



Don't feed the bears of Big Canoe

Bird feeders need to be put away until next winter as they attract unwelcome bears that can do thousands of dollars of destruction to homes, cars and turn them into dangerous nuisance bears. The POA is passing out brochures to visitors at the gates asking them to not feed our wildlife - that goes for property owners too. PHOTO BY NANCY CORWAT

Dawson County considers polling location upgrade

By Lynda Zibewski, lzibewski@bigcanoenews.com

An opportunity to improve accessibility for western precinct voters at no cost to the county has prompted the Dawson County Board of Elections and Registration (BERE) to investigate the possibility of pursuing a state grant.

An ADA grant in the amount of up to \$50,000 is available from the state for use in creating ADA accessible parking and upgrades. The building used as a voting site for Dawson County Big Canoe residents at Station #6 located on Hubbard Road is owned by the Big Canoe POA, not the county, and likely not eligible to be upgraded with this grant.

An alternate location, Station #4 at the intersection of Irene Terrace and Highway 16 is owned by the county and has been identified as potentially suitable for upgrade and use as a polling location in place of Station #6.

According to BERE Chairperson Grenda Ferguson, the board's discussions are strictly preliminary and no decisions are imminent.

The BERE decided at its May 20 meeting to delay any further discussion on the issue until the full board is in place. Board member Alan Ferguson resigned in April and his replacement has not yet been sworn in. Further discussion on the matter will be held once the new board member is sworn in.

"Station #6 located on Hubbard Road is owned by the Big Canoe POA, not the county, and likely not eligible to be upgraded with this grant."

With a six-month quarantine Bug given a chance to live

By Lorena Link, link@bigcanoenews.com

Dogs love their friends and like their owners, quite unlike people, who are incapable of pure love and always have to rely love and hate. — **Sigmund Freud**

Networking and the social media apparently have made Bug - the mastiff, which bit a crowd raccoon in the abdomen May 9 while trying to protect his owner on a Big Canoe trail - a celebrity of sorts.

Karen, his owner, made the decision to let Bug live and hope he did not contract rabies from the encounter.

"I am not putting Bug down," she announced Wednesday afternoon May 21. Previously after meeting with the Pickens County rabies officer, Jay Stephens, and listening to her experience of 26 years dealing with rabid animal exposure Karen decided to put Bug down. However, after talking to her husband and a kennel owner,

See CHANCE TO LIVE, Page 4



Bug has to be quarantined for six months. Shown here with his owner he tried to save from a rabid raccoon. PHOTO BY ROBERT SMITH

Dig-It Farm rebuilds after disaster

Foster family moves into new home

By Wayne Tibbet, wtibbet@bigcanoenews.com

"Things happen and you just have to get over it and move on," Michelle Foster said of her family's bad luck over the past few years. She and husband Kip should know. Their house had been damaged by a tornado, struck by lightning and finally destroyed in a line fire last July 9.

They are now moved into their new home off Grandview Road in Pickens County. And they want to thank people in the community who helped them recover from the fire disaster that left them only with the poisons they wore as they escaped their burning home.

The Fosters began rebuilding their home in October using as their own contractor. Kip is a master carpenter and owner of Mountain View Siding Company.

The Fosters have become very involved in the community. They have gotten to know a lot of people through the sale of their quality Dig-It Farm produce at their stand on Grandview Road as well as their appearances at the Jasper Farmers' Market and the Festival at Big Canoe. When disaster struck the Fosters, the community response was enormous and generous. Just a few days after the fire disaster, the "Waldenrich

Farm feast for the Fosters" fundraising event was held near-overflow crowd. "It was overwhelming," Michelle recalled. "It felt like a dream. They handed out 500 name tags and ran out."

There was music and donated food galore for those who turned out to support the Fosters with cash, clothes and personal items. Other fundraising events followed.

"They care," Michelle said of the community. "It really restores your faith in people - not that I had a negative view. People are so wonderful."

In building their new home the Fosters utilized some of the stone and wood found on their property and have incorporated an energy saving wood burning stove and windmill generated electricity into their home plans.

A family business

The family continued to work their farm while rebuilding. They stayed at a nearby home and used a small cabin remaining on the 22 acre property on Moore Haven Road just off Grandview.

It is indeed a family farm with young sons Dakota and Nolan very much involved in the growing and selling of produce that includes lettuce, beans, squash, zucchini, potatoes, onions, garlic, carrots,

tomatoes, kale and more. They also have pigs, goats and various animals. Their dogs Sugar, Silvery, Cody and Dale (who recently passed) are friendly companions who

See DIG-IT FARM, Page 2



Mom Michelle with older son Dakota holding Sugar, Nolan holding Cody, and Silvery. PHOTO BY WAYNE TIBBET

3rd Place

Smoke Signals,
Big Canoe

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THE NEWS OBSERVER

Blue Ridge, Georgia Wednesday, May 29, 2013 24 Pages • 3 Sections • 75 Cents

Utility rates reduced

Water, sewer charges fall in McCaysville

By Brian K. Finnegan

Water and sewer rates for customers of the McCaysville water system have been reduced. At a public meeting Wednesday, May 22, members of the McCaysville City Council voted unanimously to scrap the rate structure that had recently been imposed and enact new rates.

Under the new rates, customers will see a reduction from their last bill.

The rates that were scrapped had been the subject of a great deal of disapproval from customers of the McCaysville system, with some reporting bills that had doubled, tripled or more.

Councilman Richard Wagner, the city's water commissioner, said when it was realized that the city's water system was going to be sold, that he had contacted the Georgia Municipal Association for assistance, and the GMA had referred him to the Georgia Rural Water Association, which devised a rate structure that the council then enacted, effective April 1.

The rate structure devised by Georgia Rural Water was complex, and included base charges based on "equivalent residential units," debt service charges, and administrative fees, as well as escalating rates for water, so that as customers' water consumption went up, the charge for that water got progressively higher.

City Clerk Nancy Gooding said equivalent residential units, or ERUs, were based on estimates of water consumption by square footage, with one ERU for every 1,000 sq ft.

See RATES, page A3B

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

196 Fannin High School seniors receive diplomas



News Observer photo/Julie Jester

Fannin County High School 2013 graduate Brittany Collins shows off her diploma following the 37th annual commencement ceremony Friday, May 24. She was among 196 graduates who received diplomas.

See 3,000 attend 37th annual commencement, page A3B

Boy dies from injuries

10-year-old was struck on SR 60 in McCaysville

By Brian K. Finnegan

The young boy struck by a vehicle while trying to cross the road last week in McCaysville has died.

Jacob Stubbins, 10, of Ellaville, Ga., near Americus, succumbed to his injuries at Erlanger Medical Center in Chattanooga early Wednesday morning.

May 22, two days after the accident occurred.

According to a report filed by Trooper First Class Cody White of the Georgia State Patrol, the accident occurred Monday, May 20, at about 5 p.m. when Stubbins ran up a set of steps on the Toccoa River side of Hwy. 60 near the Rolling Thunder River Co. and dived out into the path of an oncoming pickup truck driven by Gregory A. Stone, 35, of McCaysville, who was driving east on McCaysville toward Mound Bluff on Hwy. 60.

White said Stubbins ran up the steps and into the road without slowing down, and that the speed of Stone's truck was not an issue. "It's just an unfortunate situation," he said.

White said his charges are being filed, and the Troop "was just in the wrong place at the wrong time."

"It was just a tragic accident," White said. "It could have happened to anybody."

3,000 attend 37th annual commencement

By Don Jones

One hundred ninety-six Fannin County High School seniors received their high school diplomas Friday, May 24, during the 37th annual commencement, as a crowd of more than 3,000 family and friends watched in the football stadium.

Among the graduates were 20 honor graduates, including valedictorian William-Alex Patterson and salutatorian Heather Nicole Johnson.

In his speech, Patterson encouraged his fellow classmates to "never forget where you came from, because this class has accomplished things we never thought possible."

He said, "Have the time of your life as you leave here because tonight we start out on a new life."

Johnson told her classmates to "find a love, whatever it is ahead," and thanked her dad.

See FCBS, page A3B

Officials agree safety improvements needed on SR 60

By Glenn Harrison

Government and law enforcement officials agree that safety needs to be improved along a stretch of state highway where a 10-year-old boy was killed last week.

Jacob Stubbins of Ellaville, Ga., passed away Wednesday, May 22, after being struck by a pickup truck two days earlier on SR 60 just north of River Road in McCaysville.

The accident has been called unpreventable by the Georgia State Patrol, but officials said the area could still be much safer.

A wholesale roofing company backs one side of the narrow, two-lane road and a river tubing company the other, near the site where Stubbins was hit. During the summer months, both attract large numbers of visitors.

Last Wednesday after learning of the boy's death, McCaysville Mayor Tom Seabolt and members of the city council agreed to request the city's police officers to increase their patrols in the area.

Police Chief W.L. Pastor said that drivers exceeding the speed limit are not a big problem there. He said police presence would make drivers be more careful.

However, Pastor said lowering the speed limit to 30 mph through the area would improve safety. Currently, the limit climbs from 30 to 35, and then to 45, as drivers leave McCaysville along SR 60.

Fannin County Commission Chairman Bill Sizemore said he had contacted the Georgia

Government and law enforcement officials, including, from left, Fannin County Commission Chairman Bill Sizemore, McCaysville Police Chief W.L. Pastor, Georgia State Patrol Trooper First Class Jason Bradburn, and Fannin County Post 2 Commissioner Larry Joe Goodbee, are shown near the site of where 10-year-old Jacob Stubbins was struck. He later died from his injuries. Area leaders have pledged to work to improve safety on the congested stretch of SR 60 near McCaysville.

News Observer photo/Don Harrison

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2nd Place

The News Observer, Blue Ridge

Community Service

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Book signing for local author, Saturday in Colquitt
Details on Page 21A

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Donalsonville News

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Volume 30, Number 39 Donalsonville, Georgia 39803 www.donalsonvillenews.com Thursday, October 16, 2015

City of Donalsonville Municipal Election Tuesday, November 3

Decision Time!

Mayor



Don S. Pender Jr.

Council



Stephanie G. Reynolds
Lindsay C. Rogers Sr.
Mike Sproun

Three days remain to cast your vote

VOTE

Thursday, October 31
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Donalsonville Courthouse

Friday, November 1
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Donalsonville Courthouse

Tuesday, November 3
7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
All Voting Precincts

1849 - 177 = 1672

Registered voters in the 2015 Donalsonville Municipal Election.

of 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, October 30, 177 voters had done that. 161 votes have been cast to persons and 16 of 152 absentee ballots have been returned. 1672 registered voters remain with the opportunity to cast a ballot in the Municipal Election.

In the last municipal election of November 2008, less than 30% of 1492 registered voters bothered to cast a ballot. Advance voting at the Donalsonville County Courthouse continues through 3 p.m. Friday, November 2. The final opportunity to vote will be on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at all city polling precincts.

It's time to fall back Sunday

Daylight Saving Time in the United States and Canada ends on Sunday, November 1, at 2 a.m., so when you go to bed Saturday night or Sunday, you can set your clock back and look forward to getting an extra hour of sleep. While some people try to remember the "fall back" and "spring forward" trick to remember whether to set the clock forward or back when Daylight Saving Time ends, an alternative way to remember to set your clock back is to remember that winter time means more sleep.

Senator and future Five Commissioner Tugge Hudgens is urging Georgians to change the batteries in their smoke alarms at the same time they set their clocks back.

Region Champs!



Donalsonville Community and the Theater, Jessica Helms and Charles Rogers, received Region 10A Best Actress and Actor honors.

One Act players on the Yellow Brick Road to State! Donalsonville County High School's One Act Play performance of "The Wizard of Oz" stole the show in the Region 1A competition Wednesday October 22 at the Kiser Center in Suwanee. The 13-member cast and crew brought home the Region 1A Championship Trophy. Jessica Helms, playing the part of Dorothy, was named the region's Best Actress and Charles Rogers, playing the part of the Wizard, was named the region's Best Actor. Wendy Burrell was named an "All-Star" cast member. The group will travel to Warner Robins, November 26 for an 11:00 a.m. State Competition performance at Warner Robins High School. A local performance of the production is scheduled for 8:00 p.m. Thursday, November 7 at the Olive Theater. Tickets will be \$6 in the door, and \$8 for children five and under. All funds raised will help pay for the trip to Warner Robins.

CHIP to offer Housing Repairs for City's Low Income Homeowners

The City of Donalsonville announces the sign up period for Community HOME Downside Program (CHIP). The CHIP through the State of Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) provides funds to local governments to subsidize housing for low income homeowners.

The CHIP funds are available exclusively for housing activities and the sole purpose of the program is to expand the supply of decent, safe housing.

For CHIP on Page 15A

Trick or Treat Downtown

The Donalsonville Downtown Development Authority invites everyone to trick or treat with participating downtown merchants today, October 29 from 4 - 8 p.m. Fall your treat bags with lots of goodies, then join the fun at 8 p.m. in front of the Olive Theater for a Costume Contest! All children, age four to 12 years old are welcome! There's fun, safe and happy Halloween.

Veterans Day parade set for November 11

The first annual Donalsonville County Veterans Day Parade is set for 9:30 a.m. Monday, November 11th, in downtown Donalsonville. The parade, established to increase appreciation of the 50th anniversary of the end of the Korean War, will start down Second Street beginning at Second Avenue and ending at Court Street and ending at the Courthouse. All veterans, retired military personnel and family members of veterans and women currently deployed, are encouraged to participate. It is the hope of parade organizers to have Second Street, from Second Avenue to Second Street, shut down to traffic to provide an opportunity to address local veterans by participating in the parade.

Participants are requested to meet at 9 a.m. at the Donalsonville Courthouse and of Second Street.

Participants are requested to meet at 9 a.m. at the Donalsonville Courthouse and of Second Street.

Participants are requested to meet at 9 a.m. at the Donalsonville Courthouse and of Second Street.

We Salute Our VETERANS!



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This issue was mailed on October 16, 2015. If it arrives late, call your local Post Office. Subscribe and view online at donalsonvillenews.com or call 229-624-2342.

1st Place

Donalsonville News

3rd Place

The Covington News

THE COVINGTON NEWS

Sunday, Jan. 27, 2013

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Vol. 146, No. 12 75¢

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Are our buses safe?

Looking at why buses are designed the way they are, and following up with more details from Tuesday's crash

AMNON PERMAN
aperman@covnews.com

The bus accident Tuesday that sent dozens of students to hospital is still being investigated. But concerns for the safety of students riding school buses are still fresh in the minds of many parents, as is what exactly happened to cause the accident.

Although the buses themselves look healthy, the injuries sustained were severe. Concerns regarding the brakes and general mechanical condition of the buses were reinforced after the accident, the Georgia State Board of Education said in a report which was released in investigating the accident — and the Wake County Georgia

Department of Public Safety reported the crash.

Questions have been raised by parents on The Covington News Facebook page about why there are not more bells on school buses, and some also questioned why the driver, 35-year-old Clara Moore, was found at fault.

How safe are the buses?

"When it comes to the safety of a school bus, there is no other way to transport a child than on a school bus," said Steve Moore, Public Transportation Coordinator with the Georgia Department of Education.

"American students are eight times safer in a school

bus than their own parent's car according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration."

Moore said at school buses in the state are manufactured to meet both national and state school bus certification, along with applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards.

As to the lack of seat belts on school buses, Moore said buses are built to be safe and provide "passive protection to passengers through compartmentalization, like an egg in a carton. Today's buses have high seat backs, high energy absorbing padded seats, closely spaced seating rows and overhead storage with no protruding objects. Other safety features include a high floor for which con-



Above is the Newton County school bus that crashed into another school bus Tuesday. Despite the damage, all the students on board only suffered minor injuries.

in most vehicles in a crash to impact beneath the bus. And buses are built like a tank to withstand impact and for the roof to withstand a rollover," he said.

"The Newton accident exemplifies how passengers were protected through

the safety features and the safety design of a school bus. Georgia's school buses carry more than one million students each morning and spend each afternoon on their way to the expiration of their duty. To put that in perspective,

the Georgia school bus industry carries more than 6.5 billion passengers each school day in 24th states."

Moore said that there has been only one fatal crash

COVINGTON CITY MANAGER SEARCH

Still divided council could vote Tuesday

GABRIEL KHOUJI
gkhouji@covnews.com

The Covington City Council is meeting a vote on to select a city manager, which could happen as soon as Tuesday after the council's executive session meeting scheduled for 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Though speculation abounds about which of these finalists — Covington Finance Director Leigh Anne Knight, Leigh Anne Knight, Covington Police Capt. Craig Treadwell or former Florida city

manager Oel Wingo — will get the nod, the council appears far from any consensus.

Councilwoman Clea Franklin, Janet Goodson and Howard Williams requested a six-hour meeting last Wednesday with Mayor Ronnie Johnson and former city manager Steve Skorton. The meeting was not open to the public because, according to the city's charter, there must be at least five members, including the mayor or mayor pro-tem, to constitute a

quorum and, therefore, an official meeting.

Only Goodson could be reached for comment Friday, and though she declined to discuss the specifics of the meeting, she said it was held because the councilwoman was "uncomfortable" with the way the search process has been handled to date.

"I'm just still uncomfortable, and I don't want to throw away any of the qualifications we specified. If we didn't have the qualifications, I guess we would

have had 300 applicants, or some of those things I think would be quite necessary," Goodson said Friday.

"What is important is to make sure you've done everything you possibly can to get the best candidate, and I'm just not comfortable with the circumstances as they are. Because you want to be unbiased and be a body of one when it comes to the city and big decisions and I'm just not real comfortable right now...I will

Read much more online

Go to CovNews.com to see more discussion about each of the three finalists for Covington's city manager position.

Resumes

Go to CovNews.com and click on each finalist's individual story to find a PDF of his or her resume.

In-depth reports from consulting firm

The Mercer Group interviewed each candidate, spoke to their references and did a background check. Click on each candidate's individual story to find a PDF of this report.

Meet the finalists

Leigh Knight

GABRIEL KHOUJI
gkhouji@covnews.com

By all accounts, Covington Finance Director Leigh Anne Knight has helped put Covington's financial house back in better order than her predecessor, but the question before the Covington City Council is whether she's ready to take on the much bigger challenge of city manager.

Background

Knight, 44, is a lifelong resident of Covington and has worked in a variety of financial positions since graduating with a bachelor's degree in business administration from North Georgia College which she recently became The University of North Georgia.



She was hired in 2002 as a financial analyst at Bell Tower, where she earned promotions for sales members as well as the number of times that would be returned to help protect the company's

► See Knight, 6A

Craig Treadwell

GABRIEL KHOUJI
gkhouji@covnews.com

Covington Police Capt. Craig Treadwell believes his 30 years with the city's police force have given him the leadership and management skills to lead Covington forward as the new city manager despite lacking previous experience outside of public safety.

Treadwell, 41, is one of three finalists in the open Covington city manager job and the council members who supported his position as a leader could be had an exclusive interview and is capable of taking on and leading the city's complex operations. However, other council members aren't convinced he has the experience neces-



sary to become city manager or that he can be the face for the whole city.

Background

Treadwell, who is a native and lifelong resident of Covington, joined the Newton County Sheriff's Office as a deputy in 1981 after graduating from high school. He then became a patrol officer for the Covington Police Department

► See Treadwell, 6A

Oel Wingo

DWELL EYENSON
deyenson@covnews.com

Oel Wingo is the only city manager finalist with city manager experience, having worked as city manager or assistant city manager for four cities in Florida, but she also comes with some concerns, including the fact she got caught up in a judicial case in the city.

Wingo could not be reached Friday or Saturday to participate in a one-on-one interview, but The News obtained a copy of her resume as well as report developed by The Mercer Group, the consulting firm that handled the city manager search. The report contains notes from interviews with Wingo and her references, as well as background check information.



Background

The Savannah native said Georgia is her second home and that she is the best fit for serving as the new city manager of Covington.

Wingo's career in local government began in 1985 when she was hired to serve as the assistant city manager for the city of Ocala, Fla. She served in

► See Wingo, 6A

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Community Service

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Open government — It's the law

By **Jim Zachary**
jzachary@henryherald.com

"Government belongs to the governed, not the governing."
McDONOUGH — These words resonate in our townships as we work each day to provide local news, business and commentary. It is our commitment to these principles that guides us as we serve the citizens of Henry County.

This special edition of the Henry Daily Herald is designed to empower citizens and inform elected officials for the purpose of refining and improving our community.

The Henry Daily Herald believes that open government is good government.

In this edition, reporters Katelyn Cochran, Rachel Shroy, Heather Middleton, Johnny Jackson, Katty Jelencak and Curt Yonemas take a look at government transparency, the Freedom of Information Act, the practices of local officials and the laws of the state of Georgia.

You will find articles dealing with your access to public documents, your rights to request records and your reasonable expectation of knowing what elected officials are doing with taxpayer dollars.

We have provided explanations for how to make an open records request and instructions for how to proceed if a request is denied.

We have cleared up common misconceptions about executive sessions held by local governmental bodies and explained exactly what the Georgia Open Meetings Act says about the public's access to the public's business.

Public notice requirements, that must be met by local government, are fully explained as well.

"The Henry Daily Herald believes that open government is good government."

— Editor Jim Zachary

See LAW, Page 1A



The Stockbridge City Council meets over city business in this Aug. 9 file photo. The Henry Daily Herald found itself in a battle with Stockbridge officials over public access to police chief applications and resumes. (Staff Photo: Jim Zachary)

'Nothing to hide' Transparency battles put citizens first

By **Curt Yonemas**
cyonemas@henryherald.com

There are times when getting a government agency to allow access to public documents can be compared to pulling teeth from a shark's mouth.

But there are other times when it can be as easy as pie.

A recent records request by the Henry Daily Herald from the city of Stockbridge — over applications for police chief positions — falls more in the "hard" category.

Reporter Katelyn Cochran said the creation of a city police department went up red flags almost immediately.

"First, the mayor and council approved the department with little public discussion and zero public hearings," said Cochran. "This was such a serious issue that affected all of the citizens on such a personal level, yet they had no say in the matter. We thought that was wrong."

After the mayor pulled the appointment from a meeting agenda, I figured the process was already more than fair enough along for us to find out who was being considered for the job," she said. "I wanted to find the truth in the rumors, and hoped to be able to debunk them."

The city, however, refused to release the documents on the grounds that the listing process wasn't for enough along for the documents to be made public. However, Cochran said that through her investigation she was able to verify that the city may not have been as transparent in the process as the mayor had claimed.

Although she was able to track down some of the information she was seeking through other sources, Cochran still needed those documents to support her research. When the city wouldn't comply, she turned to attorney and open records expert David

Wadson for advice.

Eventually, however, she had to take the extraordinary step of going to Senior Assistant Attorney General Stefan Ritter when other efforts to resolve the dispute failed.

"It's a word, it was de-escalating," said Cochran. "The AG's mediation program is obviously there for a reason, but taking such formal measures and asking for assistance from state-level officials is always a last resort. This entire issue could have easily been avoided."

"I always want to be able to, in good faith, believe my open records requests can be answered after a phone call or an informal email," she added. "Government organizations with nothing to hide would never have reacted to this simple request the way Stockbridge did."

In light of the newspaper's dug-in — and public — information war with governments to make sure citizens are getting what they ask for," said Lauren Kane, communications director for the A-

ACCESS, Page 1A

PUBLIC RECORDS Citizens have recourse if denied access

By **Moamex Mosler**
moslerm@henryherald.com

All Henry County citizens have a right to know what their government is doing.

Each citizen has the right to access public records.

The Georgia Sunshine Laws are in place to ensure a citizen can request and receive documents pertaining to their government.

To get documents, citizens can make an Open Records request. The more specific the request, the better.

For the sunshine laws, governments have three business days to honor a request or explain why the documents are unavailable.

If citizens feel they should have access to a denied request there are steps they can take as a remedy.

First step, citizens can make a second more formal request for documents.

Jim Zachary, editor of the Clayton News Daily and Herald Daily Herald said it is generally wise to make an informal request first. "There is no need to be heavy-handed," Zachary said. "Most people who work in local government offices want to do the right thing and will have no problem providing requested documents, but sometimes, honey almost always works better than vinegar."

However, he said citizens need to understand that on those occasions when government officials deny a request, they should be persistent because, requesting public records should never be viewed as something controversial or out of the ordinary.

"They're asking for something that belongs to them," Zachary said. "They should feel like they can just go into a place like city hall and ask."

If an initial request is denied, citizens can use a more formal route by submitting an Open Records Request either using a form provided by the government agency or writing a letter.

When a local government denies a request they are required — by law — to not only give the reason for the denial but to specifically state the code sections in state law they are using as the basis for denial.

If the second request is denied and a citizen feels the laws are being violated, they can contact the Georgia Attorney General's office to see what the next step is to obtaining the documents.

The Attorney General's office has an Open Government Mediation Program in place to help citizens.

"We work with governments to make sure citizens are getting what they ask for," said Lauren Kane, communications director for the A-

ACCESS, Page 1A

2nd Place
Henry Daily Herald,
McDonough

Community Service

D



Alexander takes lead on tax bill

BY DON GANDEL
STAFF WRITER

District 66 Rep. Kimberly Alexander has been at the state Capitol here by a month, but she's taking on a big issue with her first piece of legislation — taxes.

Alexander (D-Douglasville) introduced House Bill 118, the Tax Accountability Act of 2013, in the Ways and Means Committee last week. The bill is aimed at different forms of tax exemptions that are rolled through the Legislature and signed into law before the consequences to the state and local governments are fully known.

Alexander's bill would require any tax breaks or incentives passed by the Legislature be examined by an independent entity, the state auditor's office, in the first year the Legislature meets after an election year. The auditor's office would have a little less than four months to report its findings and the bill would be voted on in the second year of the legislative term.

SEE ALEXANDER PAGE A5

City Council to consider key property issues

BY ANJUNIA THOMAS
STAFF WRITER

Members of the Douglasville City Council will consider a revised final plan for property where developers plan to build an Academy Sports + Outdoors sporting goods store.

The city's Planning and Development Committee approved a development plan for the store on Nov. 23. The plan, dated Oct. 26, is for the property located at the intersection of Highway 1 and the Bright Star Connector.

The land is owned by Alex Conroy with the group Douglas Place. When complete, the store will face the Bright Star Connector and a new road will be built off of Concourse Parkway that will tie back into the connector.

SEE COUNCIL PAGE A6

Remembering Bobby

Trial's over, now friends, family turn focus to Bobby Tillman's life

BY MITCH SWED
STAFF WRITER

THE TRIAL'S NOTE: This report is a year-long combined effort between the Sentinel and the Douglas County District Attorney's Office to keep the focus on the victims of violent crime. It hopes to put a face on the issues that face our community.

The fact that they will all spend life in prison has been the subject of headlines so loud that talk by the family was needed to quiet them. We will never know why they decided to engage in an unprecedented attack on a 128-pound teen — because there is no good answer.

Douglas County District Attorney David McDade said enough time has been spent talking of "how things that lead him to death." Now, according to McDade, it's time to think about Bobby.



The images of Bobby Tillman from the pages of the family album show the young man who "could just walk into any room and your whole mood would change."

SEE BOBBY PAGE A10



Country legends to hold Douglasville concert March 16

BY MITCH SWED
STAFF WRITER

Nashville is coming to Douglasville in a big way.

Ronnie McDowell and T. Graham Brown will be on stage and in concert at the new Douglasville Convention Center March 16, filling a promise that McDowell made when he was in town recently, shooting a video for his latest hit, "A Single Woman."

"There are some of the greatest country music fans in the world right here," McDowell said while shooting the video in Douglasville. "So coming back to do a concert for them is something that I really look forward to."

After shooting was complete, he toured the new convention center with longtime friend Rodney Elrod of Super Quick Towing and Recovery, and they fell in love with the venue and set the wheels in motion.

For today's music fans who have just turned into the arena, they may not know much about McDowell. He made it big after the death of Elvis Presley in 1977. His first hit was his tribute song "The King Is Gone," a song that has sold five million copies.

Other hits include "I Love You, I Love You, I Love You," "Older Woman," "You're Gonna Be My Best Friend," "Wanted: Girls Go By," "Forever," "You Made A Fool of Me," "All That I'd" and "In A New York Minute."

Elrod said if you have never seen McDowell live, then who come to the Douglasville show are in for a treat.

SEE CONCERT PAGE A6

1st Place

Douglas County Sentinel, Douglasville

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MIXED PICTURE
Jobless claims down, but
so is manufacturing
Nation, 9A

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CANCER CHRONICLES



Stormwater utility gets BOCC nod Fees to be added in April

By CARLTON FLETCHER
carlton.fletcher@albanyherald.com

ALBANY □ Long-discussed plans to develop a federally mandated stormwater utility and stormwater enterprise fund for the city of Albany became reality Tuesday night at the Albany City Commission's business meeting, as the commission voted 6-0 to approve an ordinance that would create the special utility.

City Public Works Director Phil Roberson said the next phase of the stormwater plan is education.

□ We'd planned to start collecting user fees in January, but we've pushed that up to April, □ Roberson said. □ We'll hold meetings with some of our biggest users and try to reach as many citizens as possible in the next four months. □

The commission also voted to give blanket alcohol license renewals to es-

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Marietta Daily Journal

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HOME OF THE BRAVES

From left: Chairman of the Cobb Board of Commissioners Tim Lee, Commissioner Bob Ott, who represents the area, and Tad Leithard, chairman of the Cumberland Community Improvement District, stand on the undeveloped land that Braves officials said Monday will become the site for the new Atlanta Braves Stadium.

Team president '100% certain' move to Cobb will take place; new stadium to be built near Cumberland Mall; batter up in 2017

By Jon Gillooly
jgill@dailyjournal.com

CUMBERLAND — If County Chairman Tim Lee and Atlanta Braves President John Schuerholz get their way, Cobb will be the home of the Braves by 2017.

That was the headlined news item out of Cobb that rocked the metro-Atlanta area Monday morning.

But how the plan most pass muster with the Cobb Board of Commissioners, which will have final say on the contract and is expected to take the matter up for a vote at its Nov. 26 meeting.

Schuerholz announced Monday that his organization had selected Cobb as the site to build a proposed \$673 million, 42,000-seat Major League Baseball stadium. He estimated later in the day, saying he is "100 percent certain" the move will take place.

The Braves franchise, he said, will not extend its lease at Turner Field when it expires at the end of 2016.

"The new stadium, we believe, will be one of the most magnificent ever built," Schuerholz told reporters on Monday.

The open-air stadium is projected to cost between \$1,000 to \$2,000, compared to Turner Field, which cost over \$4.786.


The franchise is trying a 60-acre wooded parcel near the Cumberland Mall. The new stadium would sit on 15 of those 60 acres.

The Braves have an option to buy the site from Bethesda, Md.-based B.F. Goodrich Co.

Cinder 75 Parkway and Windy Ridge Parkway are the two roads that help form the perimeter of the property.

The stadium would be owned by the Cobb-Marietta Coliseum and Exhibit Hall Authority, which also owns the Cobb Exhibition Center and Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre.

See Move, 3A



"The new stadium, we believe, will be one of the most magnificent ever built."
John Schuerholz, Braves president

'Let's do lunch'

'Matchmaker' Rep. Ehrhart got Braves' exec, Cobb chairman together, pitched idea of move

By Jon Gillooly
jgill@dailyjournal.com


CUMBERLAND — Call him the matchmaker.

Cobb Board of Commissioners Chairman Tim Lee said it was state Rep. Earl Ehrhart (R-Powder Springs) who put him in touch with Atlanta Braves executive vice president of business operations, at the Marietta Country Club in July.

"He set me up for about three hours and I've and his team put together an executive deal, I think," Ehrhart said.

During a press conference in Atlanta on Monday, Lee said following that lunch, "The quickly — as Cobb County conducts its business — get the Chamber's economic development."

See Lunch, 3A



Cobb Chairman Tim Lee said state Rep. Earl Ehrhart (R-Powder Springs), above, set the plan in motion on the Braves move.

Community Service

B

1st Place

The Valdosta Daily Times



Ga. braces for federal cuts, but effect unknown

BY BILL BISHOP
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA (AP) — Gov. Nathan Deal's new budget plan could mean Friday, Georgia political and business leaders say they're bracing for federal cuts that could mean a \$85 billion reduction for the rest of the budget year.

Deal's budget plan says he would apply the mandatory \$85 billion reduction for the rest of the budget year.

Deal's budget plan says he would apply the mandatory \$85 billion reduction for the rest of the budget year.

Deal's budget plan says he would apply the mandatory \$85 billion reduction for the rest of the budget year.



From left, Justices John Roberts, Stephen Breyer, Anthony Kennedy, and Clarence Thomas.

Justices voice skepticism of voting rights law

BY BILL BISHOP
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court's conservative justices said they might strike down a portion of a landmark civil rights law that has helped millions of African Americans exercise their right to vote.

The justices were more supportive of the law's portions that require states to get approval from the federal government before changing their voting laws.



A sign on Highway 84 at the Withlacoochee River warns of a sewage spill due to flooding.

Withlacoochee flooding causes major treatment plant spill

Safety hazards expected to continue until waters recede

BY JASON BRANTLEY
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — The eight to 10 inches of rain coupled with rising water levels in the Withlacoochee River caused a major sewage spill at the Withlacoochee Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The spill caused a major sewage spill at the Withlacoochee Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The spill caused a major sewage spill at the Withlacoochee Wastewater Treatment Plant.



A section of the discharge pipe at the plant is currently underwater.

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The Augusta Chronicle

www.augustachronicle.com THE SOUTH'S OLDEST NEWSPAPER — ESTABLISHED 1793 Sunday, June 23, 2013



Stephanie Collette received a speeding ticket for driving 62 mph on River Watch Parkway last month. She thought the speed limit was 55 mph — and it should have been. However, a contractor put up a 45 mph sign.

Speed limit mixed up

Police stand by tickets despite sign mistake

By Steve Dowford

Stephanie Collette was surprised last month when she received a summons on River Watch Parkway and saw sheriff's deputy writing a ticket on at her velocity.



A black flag covers a 45 mph speed limit sign on River Watch Parkway.

Collette said she was between a 55 mph and an 80 mph zone and, as I thought for some time regarding the speed limit, she was surprised when she was pulled over.

Collette said she was between a 55 mph and an 80 mph zone and, as I thought for some time regarding the speed limit, she was surprised when she was pulled over.

Race on as change closes in

By Tom Corwin

As of today, a large slice of health care reform is in limbo.

There were many who were surprised when the Affordable Care Act was passed in 2010. Some were surprised when the Affordable Care Act was passed in 2010. Some were surprised when the Affordable Care Act was passed in 2010.

Doctor shortage could get worse

By Tom Corwin

There is a shortage of primary care physicians in some parts of the country. There is a shortage of primary care physicians in some parts of the country.

WEATHER
Chance of rain: High 87, Low 67

DEATHS
Ray G. Saperstein, 78

INDEX
Advice: 38

INSIDE TODAY
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Savannah Morning News

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in NCAA championship, 1B

Savannah Morning News
SUNDAY

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Promises & perceptions

Officials say they did their best after ESPLOST I funding fell short, but some parents still want more

BY JENEL FEW • 912-432-0323 • jfe@sa.com

When Charlton County voters agreed to impose a one-cent education sales tax in 2006, they expected by now to have all of the shiny new schools, campus improvements and modern academic technology on which officials promised to spend their pennies.

"I was hoping ESPLOST would provide all the things the schools were lacking," said Oglethorpe Charter parent Tomp Walker. "It was like a cash-for-cash situation for the kids."

ESPLOST I: \$319.8 MILLION IN REVENUE

Energy savings	\$3.43 million	Academic technology	\$14.50 million
Balance as of July 1	\$1 million	Additions, modifications, renovations	\$19.71 million
Program manager	\$1.91 million	Bond debt	\$47.27 million
Site upgrades	\$3.56 million	New and replacement textbooks	\$180.88 million

INSIDE: A breakdown of how some schools spent the money, 4-5A.

The initial forecast for the new "education special local option sales tax" — known as ESPLOST — was that it would generate \$300 million over its lifetime.

But that didn't happen. The money went into an economic downturn in 2008, and that made it all but impossible to make good on a list of six-year-old promises.

So instead of following the original plan for ESPLOST projects and expenditures to the letter, public school officials resolved to use whatever the sales tax generated to support a new master plan for reorganizing the public schools.

Between the time education sales tax collection began in 2007 and the end of the first period of school year in 2012, ESPLOST generated \$205.5 million. The original list of \$300 million in school improvement projects had been completely reworked, reauthorized and scaled back by a total of \$80.3 million.

"We haven't gotten what we expected," said Joel Verford, an Ellis Elementary parent.

Funding for improvements at Ellis, including the overhaul of a dusty lot used as a playground,

The new A.E. Beach High School was completed at its location in front of the old Beach High building.

Richard Burkhardt/Charleston Morning News

"We haven't gotten what we expected. Ellis got a playground, but it is still in desperate need of paint and other amenities," said Verford, Ellis school parent.

"ESPLOST I opened the door to the numerous options and opportunities for all families throughout the district. In addition, our students are now in comfortable learning environments with much technology and strong community support."

Savannah-Charlton public schools Superintendent Thomas Leathers

Hot dog eaters chow down

Winners head to Coney Island on July 4 for Nathan's Famous contest

BY BASH COLEMAN • 912-432-0323

Richard Burkhardt/Charleston Morning News

With the clock stopped and the hot dogs allowed, the 10 contestants raved generally — if not equally — on stage in Bonaventure Plaza, remnants of hot dogs on the table below.

The crowd packed around the stage cheered as the

Richard Burkhardt/Charleston Morning News

Hot dog "Pretty Boy" Zaveloff ate 25 hot dogs to win Saturday's contest.

Richard Burkhardt/Charleston Morning News

Hot dog "TJ Gal" Martin parked away 8.3 hot dogs to lead the women.

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INDEX: A-E 1-10, F-H 11-20, I-L 21-30, M-O 31-40, P-R 41-50, S-T 51-60, U-Z 61-70

TODAY: 11:22:55, 4 more and counting Sunday, 2A

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The Telegraph MIDDLE GEORGIA'S NEWSPAPER **macon.com**

SUNDAY September 9, 2012

Bulldogs make SEC statement, 1C

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WORDS: Watch videos of people in the stories on macon.com

OPINION: Members of the Telegraph's Editorial Board and Citizen-Advisory Board share their reflections on Macon in Macon, 21D

Take a walk down Pio Nono with us and find out what people you share a city with think about their lives and futures

By DENISE H. Telegraph staff writer

There they sat outside Brown 34, two men and a woman in plastic patio chairs next to a dragging air conditioner at the poor living War II-era motor lodge where they live. Charles, Rick and Linda. Signs of life. What I was looking for. Some gave a full name, but they were glad to talk about their scene: a fading, scorch-hot, sun-baked street hardly seen by anyone whose paying the \$20 a week it costs to stay there. The Magnolia Court Motel in all its unimproved splendor is a welcome mat at a city's front door. Or is it a blizzard at that city's back door, its long-crumbling bottom edge?

That, in part, was what I'd set out to learn one morning last spring. Not just there at The Stone Avenue's deteriorating southern entrance, at a motel that gave front a door was in a pebble garden for all along its 5.5-mile corridor. The idea, more or less, was to go up to hills and ask, "Who are you and what's life like around here?"

"You want the God's honest truth?" Rick replied.

He stared past one of the motel's scotch-sprinkled magnolias, toward an intersection that breeds ill lanes of traffic.

"The best here this year, and the worst thing I've seen about Macon since I got here is the south entrance on the way into our fair city." Rick, 55, a retired plumber, said so. "You're kind of numb to what it looks like. But think about a visitor coming in."

"It's ironic," Charles, another motel resident, said. "Those cars slipping by don't see the fifth. ... Out of sight, out of mind."

"You're kind of numb to what it looks like," Rick went on. "We don't have a sidewalk be-

ANGEL PAGES, RIGHT, SITS AT THE L&R SPORTS BAR, WHERE POOL IS THE GAME.

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK. Send letters to MaconInTheMirror@gmail.com or comment on Facebook at facebook.com/telegraphGA and Twitter @middlegeorgia. Use #MIM.

PARTICIPATE: It's not too late to participate in the "Macon in the Mirror" project. Find our survey at www.macon.com/mirror. Survey results will be used in future news coverage.

SEE WORDS, 24

THE RAIL
YOUR NEWS EXPRESS

Georgians treasure hunt at storage unit auctions

Crafting community growing in midstate

Mark your calendar: Will mayoral race video chat

The Telegraph will host a video chat with Warner Robins mayoral candidates at noon Thursday on macon.com. All six candidates — Max Brantley, Chuck Clark, Eva Folan, James Lee, Joe Moschetti and Randy Yarns — have been asked to participate. This week, candidates will introduce themselves to potential voters. In a future chat, they'll take questions from the audience. Join the conversation on Twitter and Facebook using #BillBrantley. You can also text us directly @middlegeorgia.

91/70 Weekly survey

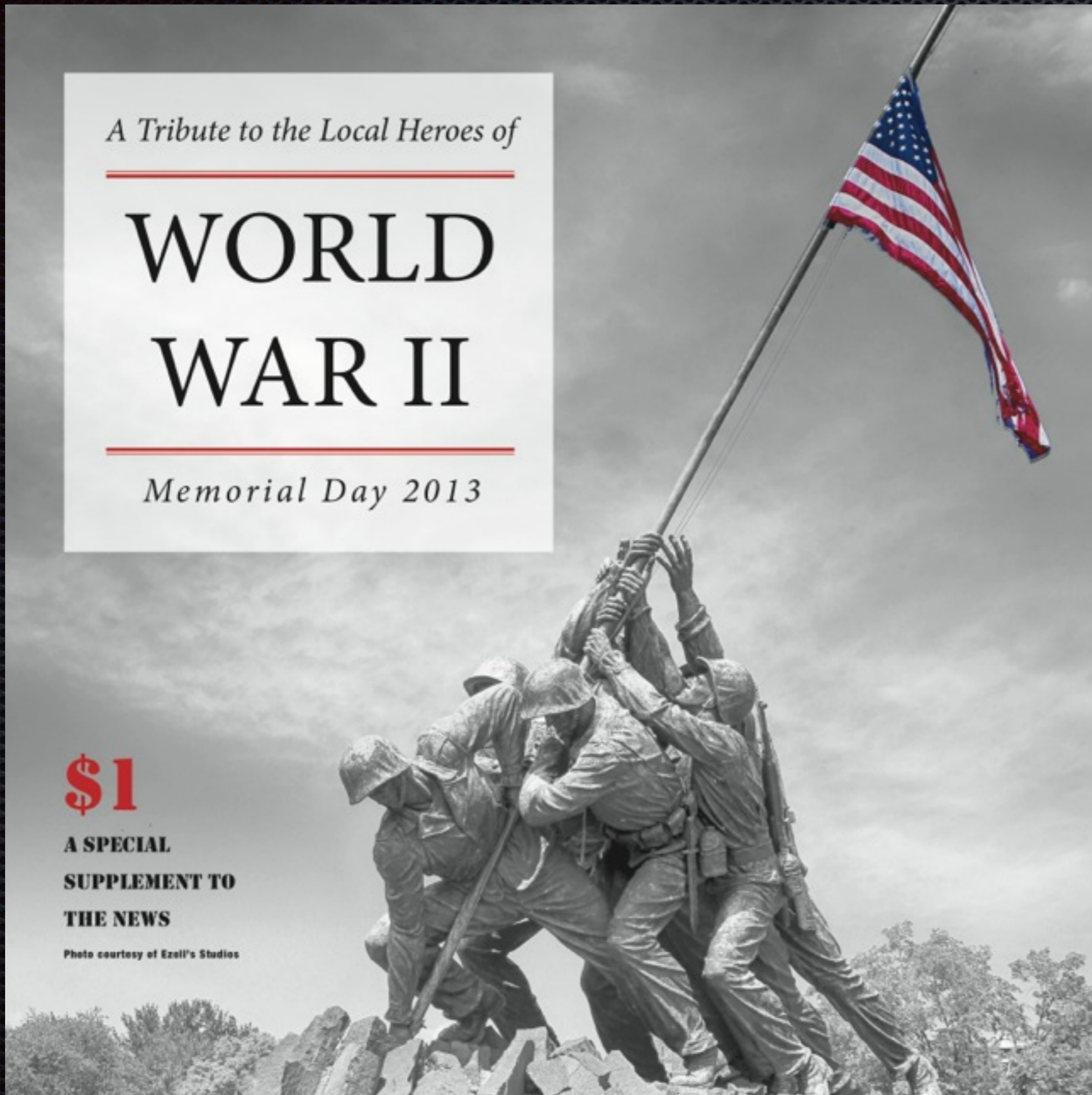
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The Telegraph,
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Special Issues

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Rockdale News,
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Backside of a Rough Ride, watercolor by William C. Morris, © 2013. PHOTO COURTESY OF BOOTH WESTERN ART MUSEUM

CARTERSVILLE Booth Artists' Guild exhibition now showing

Booth Western Art Museum is pleased to announce the opening of the annual Booth Artists' Guild Exhibition in Bowdler's Gallery. On view through Sept. 1, this joint exhibition features 45 works of art by 54 artists who are members of the Booth Artists' Guild (BAG), a group that meets monthly for educational artistic programs. Booth Museum Volunteer Coordinator and Group Scheduling, BAG Liaison and BAG member Marcia Dillard explains the importance of this exhibit: "Cartersville and Bartow County are home to many artists with varying levels of experience using different mediums. The Booth Museum has opened the door of opportunity for many of them, providing a world class space for their work to be viewed. For professional artists, being able to have exhibited work at the Booth Museum on their resumes is quite an accomplishment. For beginning artists, who may not yet have a resume, it's a wonderful confidence builder. Therefore, this exhibit is tremendous for artists of all levels, those who have been practicing for years and those who are in the beginning stages of their craft." The Booth Artists' Guild strives to serve as a springboard for creative talents by offering programs, workshops and demonstrations on a wide range of mediums, genres, marketing techniques and more. Dillard explains, "BAG membership is open to all Booth Museum members; therefore, our Guild members live all over the United States, with about 40 percent of them living right here in our own community."

For more information, visit boothwesternart.org or call 770-367-1300. See Page 18 for another work from the Booth Artists' Guild Exhibition.

— Submitted by Tom Shinnell, director of marketing, Booth Western Art Museum

Atlanta Lyric Theatre shows move to Cobb Civic Center



Irving Berlin's *White Christmas* is a perennial Lyric Theatre favorite and the company's most successful show. A search is on to find a venue for the 2013 production. PHOTO COURTESY OF ATLANTA LYRIC THEATRE

By Christopher Rucker

More Atlanta's only local, professional musical theater company will raise the curtain on its 34th season in August at a new venue that in many ways surpasses its former stage. When negotiations to extend its contract with Marietta's Historic Strand Theatre were unsuccessful, Atlanta Lyric Theatre found a new home in Cobb County Civic Center's Anderson Theatre. The move brings new opportunities, said Brenda Blocker, Lyric artistic director and general manager. Anderson Theatre seats 600-800 more than the Strand — and has twice the stage space, a large orchestra pit, professional fly rails and rigging, a state-of-the-art sound system and exceptional acoustics, said Blocker.

"I'm thrilled to have larger stage space," he said. "It's an excellent venue for producing Broadway musicals, and it's only a mile and half from the Marietta trolley to transport patrons back and forth. We remain committed to the retailers and restaurants on the Square and look forward to partnering with them on our new and exciting season."

The Lyric will continue to have a "live pit" with union musicians accompanying almost every show and will still hire mostly local performers, including Actors Equity members.

The company closes its five-year run at the Strand on the Marietta Square, June 7-25 with *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

The first full-length musical written by Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice incorporates music and dancing from 1950s rock to calypso and country western as it tells the biblical story of Joseph. Songs include "Any Dream Will Do," "Benjamin Calypso," "Jacob and Sons Joseph's Coat," "Song of the King (Seven Fat Cows)" and "Go, Go, Go Joseph."

Noted for its exploration of universal themes, family-friendly storyline and memorable music, *Joseph* is on stage 8 p.m. June 7-8, 10-11 and 20-22, as well as 2 p.m. Sunday matinees, June 9, 16 and 23. Dustin Lewis is director and



Atlanta Lyric Theatre staged *Beetlejuice* and five other shows in the current season.

See LYRIC THEATRE, Page 2

2nd Place

Smoke Signals, Big Canoe

Arts & Entertainment

Special Issues

H



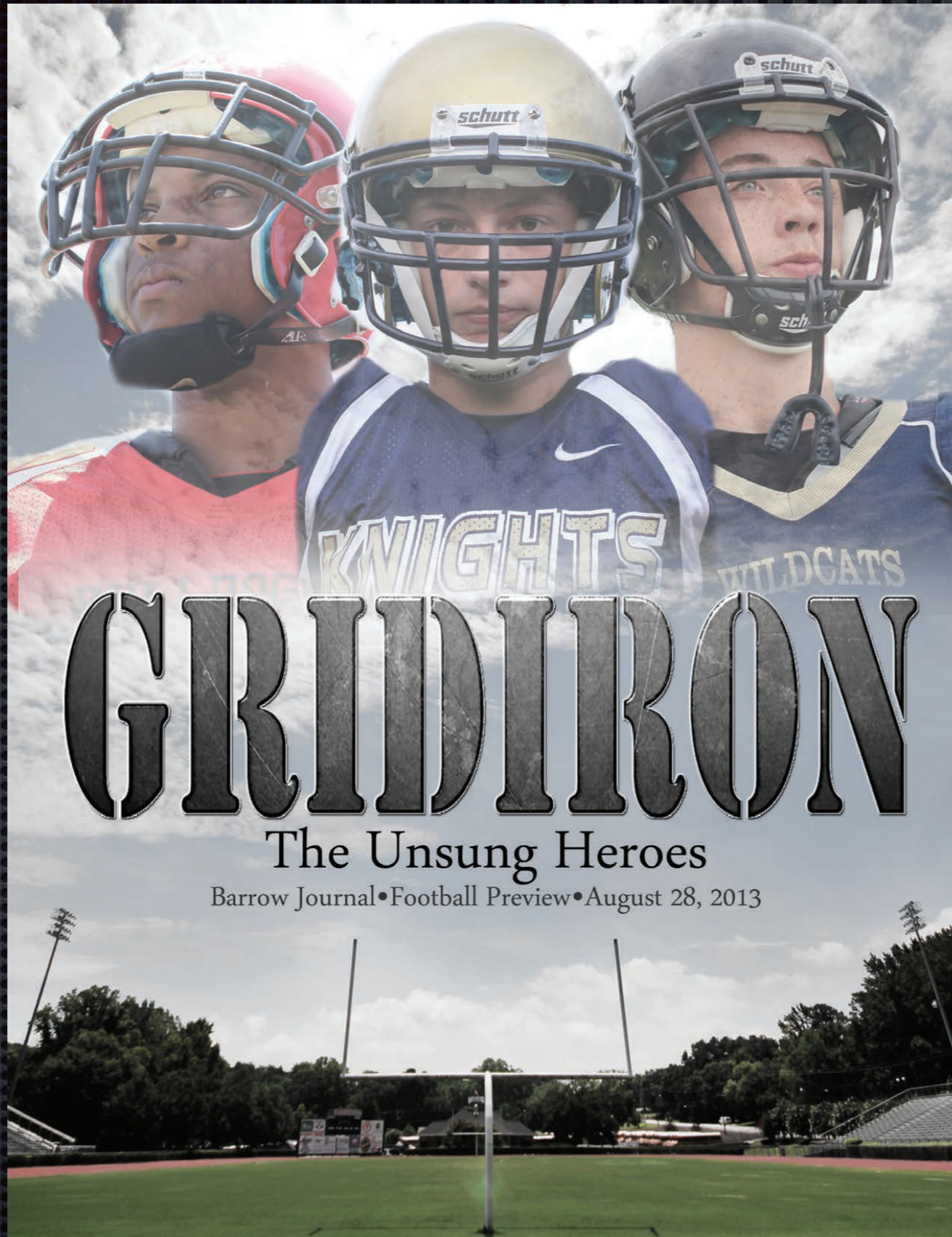
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Townie

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G



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Barrow Journal,
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Gridiron

Special Issues

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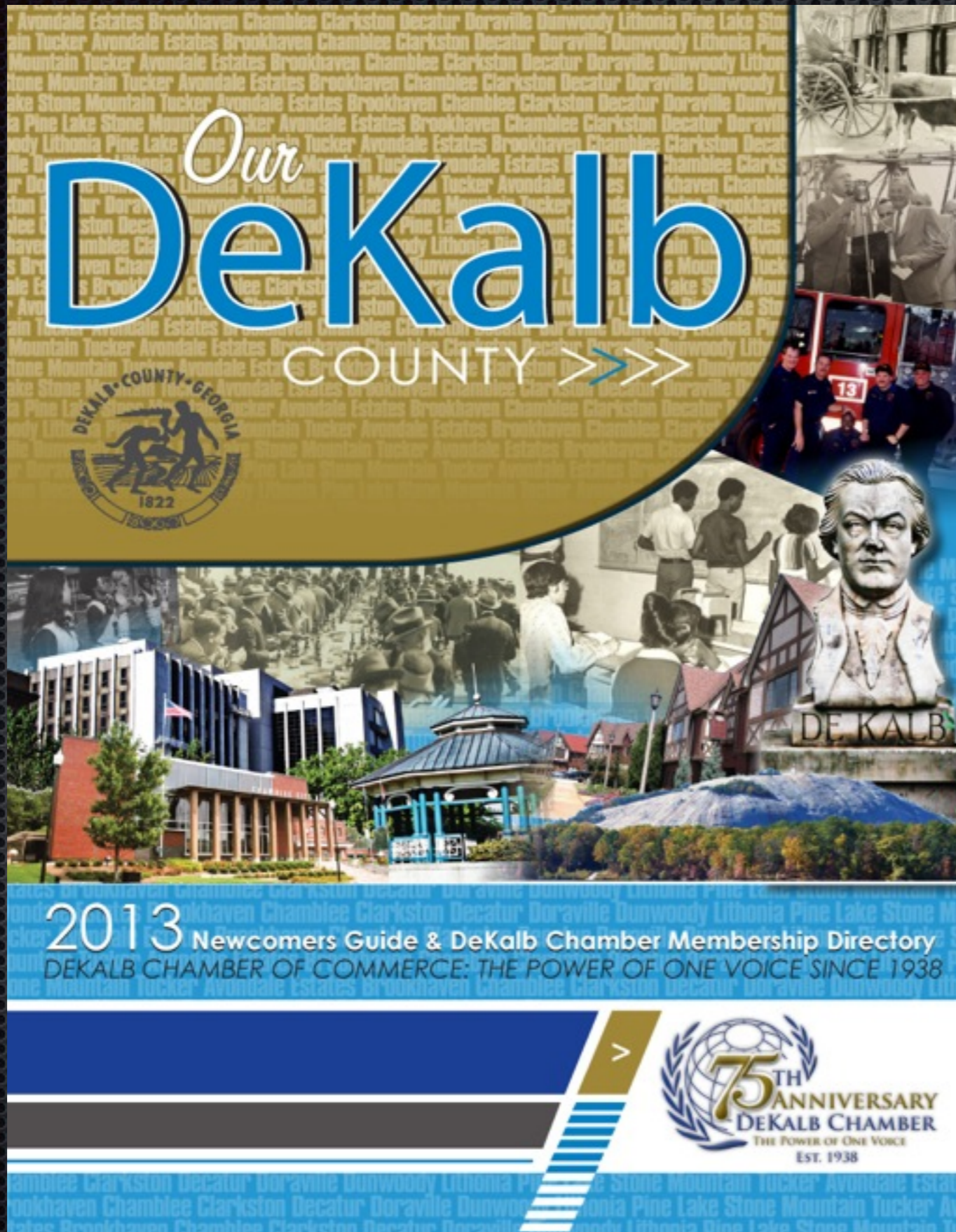
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Walker County Messenger
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Decatur

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News

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A supplement to

Dawson Community News



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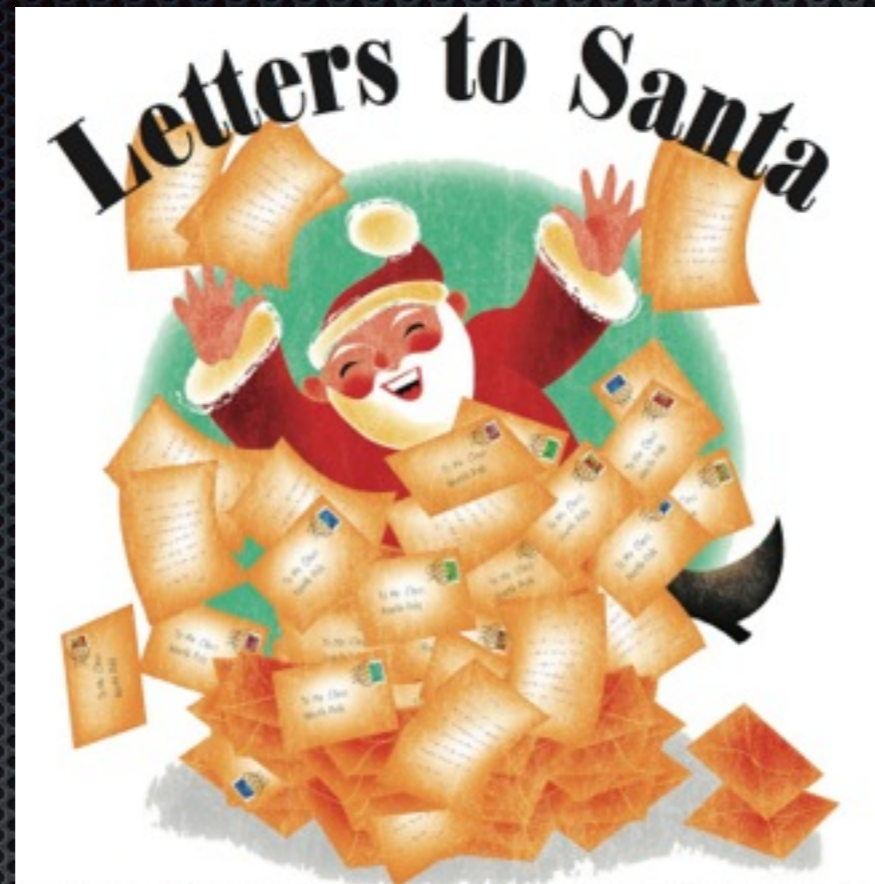
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Donalsonville
News

Christmas

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Letters to Santa written by second graders at Elbert County Elementary School

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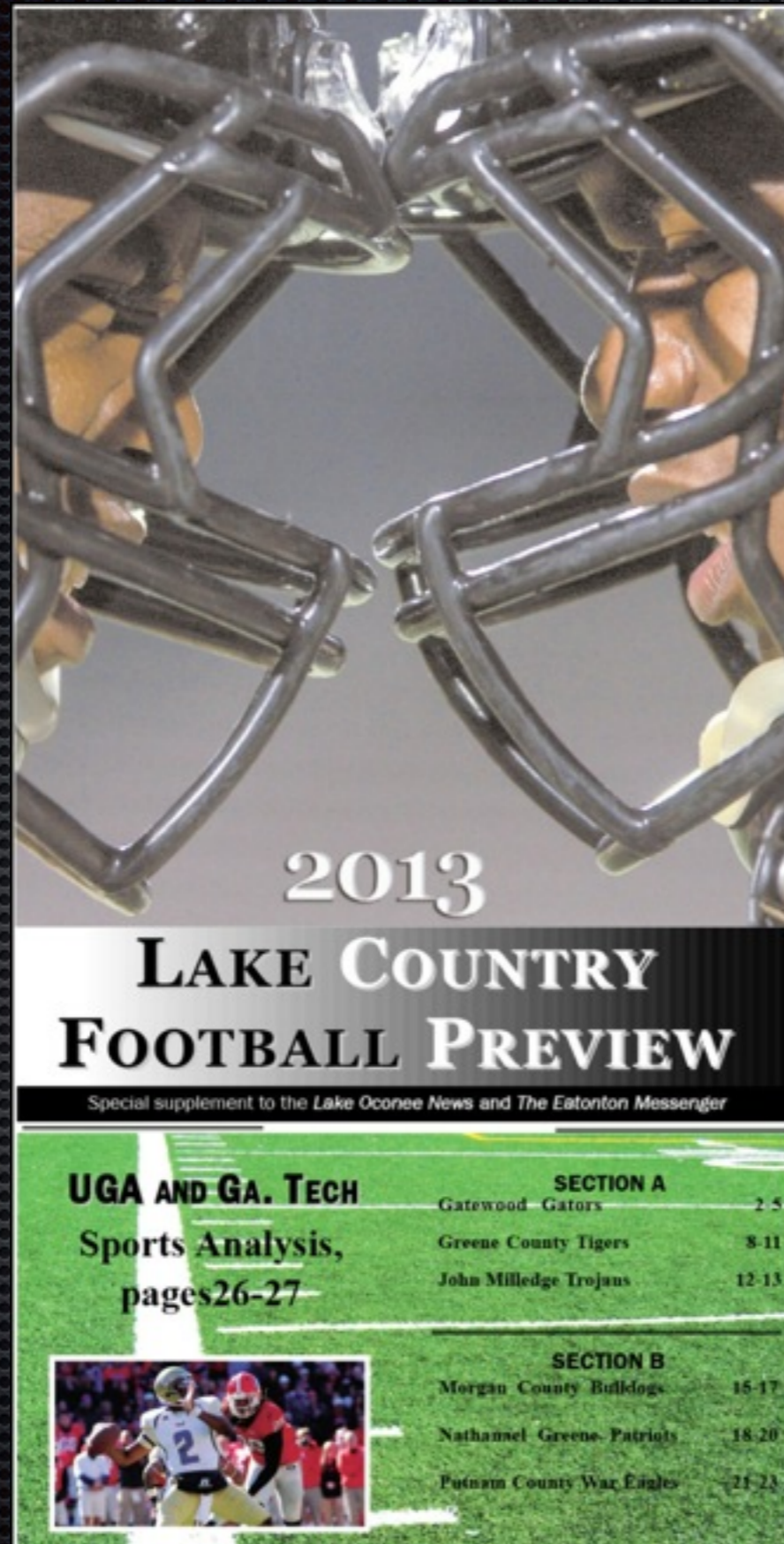
The Elberton Star

Letters to Santa



Special Issues

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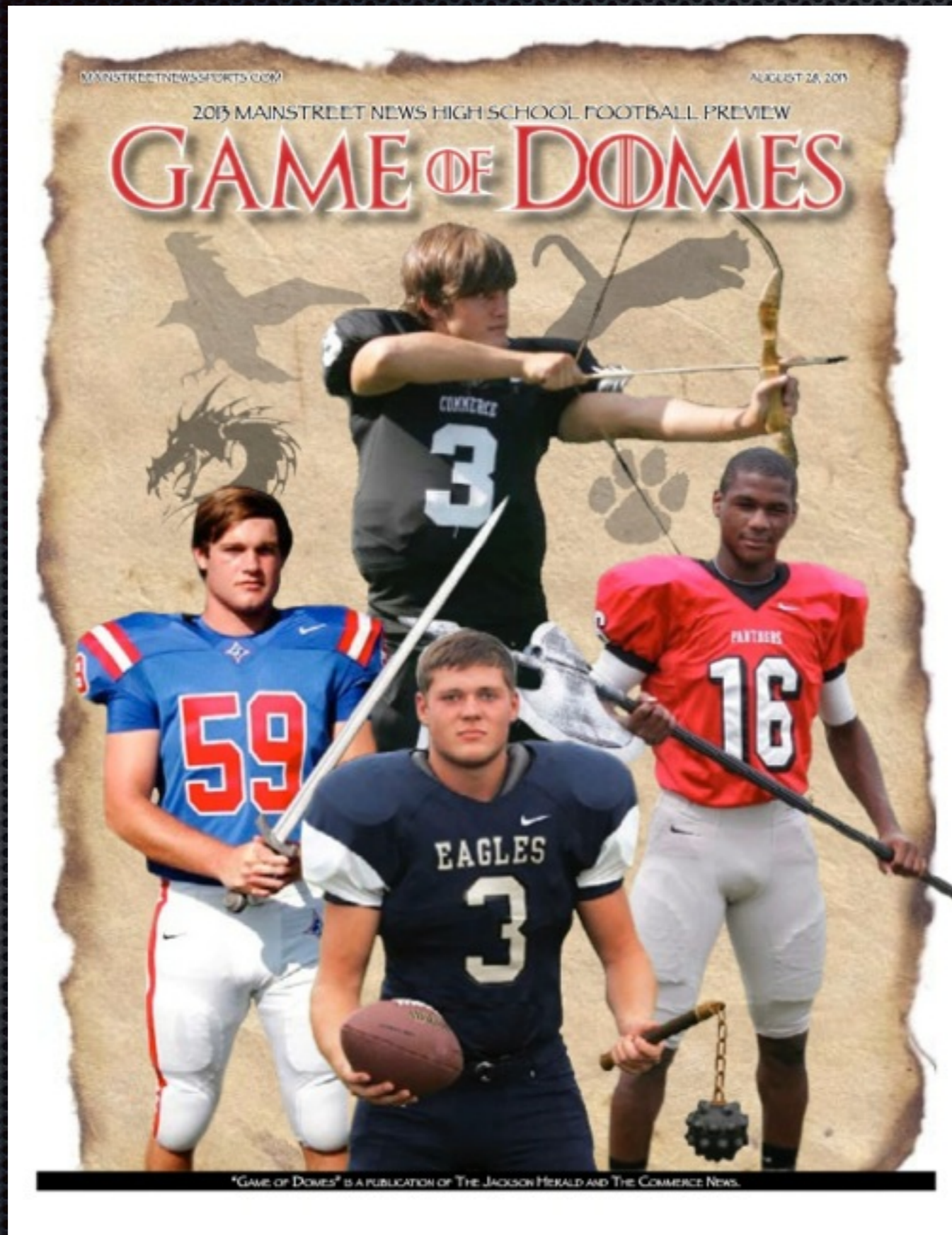
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Messenger

Football Preview

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E



1st Place

The Jackson Herald, Jefferson

Games of Domes

Special Issues

D

2013 PREP FOOTBALL PREVIEW

Clayton News Daily • Henry Daily Herald



THE HANDS TEAM

Throw it their way, and a big play is sure to happen. Every team wants that big-play wide receiver, and some teams in the Southern Crescent are fortunate to have at least one. This year's football preview takes a look at some of the best receivers in the area. See page 7 for the complete story.

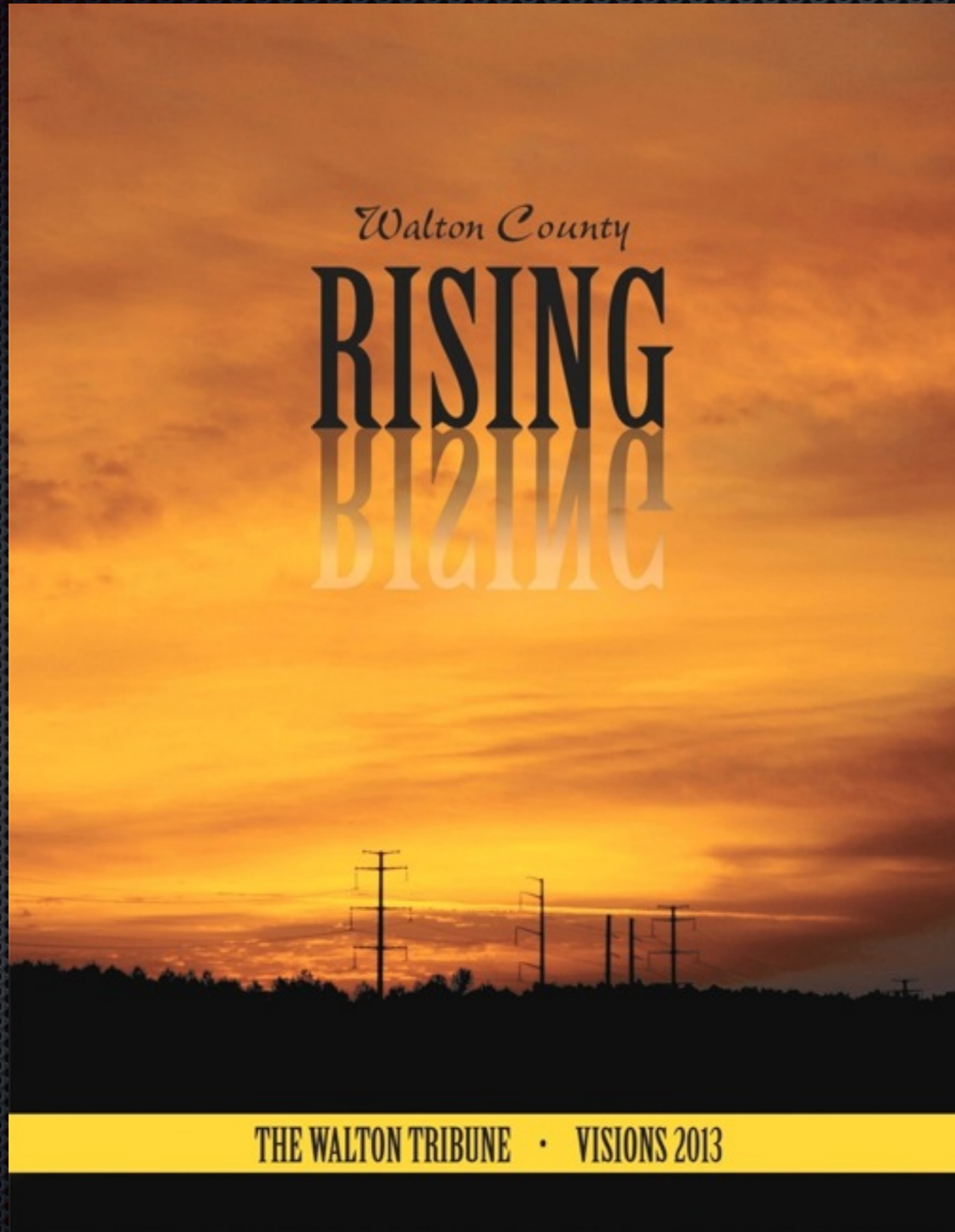
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Prep Football
Preview

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The Walton
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Rising Visions
2013

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Neighbors & Newcomers

Get moving
Recreation leagues offer fun for all ages

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Arts, theater, musical groups offer creative outlets

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The Coastal Courier, Hinesville

Neighbors and Newcomers

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Marietta Daily Journal

Factbook

Special Issues

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A publication of *The Times*
2013 HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PREVIEW

Northeast Georgia's gridiron heroes are poised for greatness

SUPER SEASON

Inside this section
Full previews for 20 Northeast Georgia teams
The Elite 11:
Our preseason team of extraordinary athletes
8.25.13

KICK OFF THE SEASON WITH PEACH STATE BANK & TRUST

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The Times,
Gainesville

High School
Football Preview

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KICKOFF 2013



YEAR OF THE CHEROKEE QB

A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT OF THE CHEROKEE TRIBUNE ■ SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 2013

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Tribune, Canton

Football

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A

3rd Place

The Telegraph, Macon

Numbers Game

The Telegraph

SPORTS

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS BLOG
Jonathan Weaver writes about our local prep teams at macon.com/creating. You can also follow him at twitter.com/jweaver_sports.

Sunday July 25, 2010 Sports Editor David Clarke | dclarke@macon.com | (478) 764-6337

NUMBERS This week: **The 50s** **NAME THE PLAYER:** This No. 55 was an established star when he joined the Hawks. He made four all-star teams in four and a half seasons with the team. He was named the NBA Defensive Player of the Year in 1996-97, 1997-98 and 2000-01. Find our picks for jersey numbers 50-59, Pages 4-5C.

Medlen needs to stay in rotation

It was almost a year ago that Kris Medlen, winner of the Atlanta Braves' rotation, he had pitched out of the bullpen as he fully recovered from his elbow injury, and then an opportunity opened the door for Medlen to once again be a starting pitcher. Medlen was successful in 12 starts. He was 9-0 with an ERA of 0.57. He was selected to pitch in the one game, an 8-0 victory over the St. Louis Cardinals. Medlen was so good there were comparisons to Greg Maddux, another smaller pitcher who became the Braves' ace with pinpoint accuracy to dominate opposing hitters with low-velocity pitches. That trended from last year, Medlen also created unrealistic expectations for this season. There was still one way Medlen was going to repeat the run he had last season. At some point, Medlen was going to lose a game and the Braves were going to lose a game to start.

The team was 20-12 in the first seven games. Medlen pitched in the sixth game and he had a 2.00 ERA in the early 1990s. This year, Medlen has been very good. He has pitched in 12 games and he has a 0.57 ERA in the past few starts. There have been rumors the Braves are considering moving Medlen back to the bullpen and putting left hander Alex Wood in the rotation. It's unusual, particularly considering that Steve Diaz, who is perhaps the most reliable starter away from also being ready to rotate the rotation, has Wood was sent down to Triple-A, so he stretched out to be a starting pitcher, and the talk is he could take Medlen's place. It's ironic considering that what the Braves did with Medlen last June, remember when Mike Minor and Randall Delgado were struggling in the rotation, and the Braves reached for Medlen with three starts in Cleveland? Minor and Delgado actually got on track, and a look another six weeks before Medlen got his rotation spot back.

George quarterback Aaron Murray took part in SEC media days Thursday as he prepares for his senior season.

Balancing act

Murray juggles nice guy persona with being all business on field

Henley learning from British debut

White Sox batter Maholm, Braves

White Sox 10, Braves 6

Special Issues

A



2nd Place

Savannah
Morning News

Our Savannah

Special Issues

A



1st Place

The Augusta
Chronicle

Masters Preview

Headline Writing

H

3rd Place

The Lanier County Advocate, Lakeland

BLACK CYAN MAGENTA

BULLDOG COLLEERS WIN AREA TITLE, PAGE 7 **SHERIFF Q&A: PRESCRIPTION DRUGS, PAGE 8**

LANIER COUNTY ADVOCATE

VOLUME 2, EDITION 29 • © 2012 LANIER COUNTY ADVOCATE • WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2013 • LAKELAND, GEORGIA • 14 PAGES, ONE SECTION

NEWS BITS

Athletics physicals will be April 23,25
Students in grades 6-12 who plan on playing Lanier School System activities in the coming year can get their free physicals (which are mandatory) this week. Girls can get their physicals on Tuesday, April 23, after school in the high school gymnasium. Boys' physicals will be held Thursday, April 25, after school in the gym. The physicals are free of charge.

Moody Motorcycle ride set for April 27
The City of Lakeland and the Lakeland/Lanier Chamber of Commerce are hosting the Moody Motorcycle Ride for Annual Annual Awareness on Saturday, April 27th, which will start and end at Reppert's Park. This event is sponsored by The Nurses and the Moody Air Force Base Annual Awareness and Prevention Program. Please support this event by riding and call (336) 307-7973 for more information.

Athletic booster club to meet April 29
The Lanier County Athletic Booster Club will meet Monday, April 29, at 6 p.m. at the high school cafeteria. All interested building fans and parents are invited to attend.

Holocaust Survivor to speak April 30
Holocaust survivor and Education Director of the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust, Dr. Eugene Schoenfeld, will speak at Lanier County High School on Tuesday, April 30, at 7 p.m. in the High School Auditorium. He will share stories of his experiences as a prisoner of Auschwitz, Warsaw, Dachau and Buchenwald Concentration Camps during World War II. Dr. Schoenfeld is the author of the book *My Bones Struck Lull*. All are invited to attend.

Stroke prevention workshop May 6th
Stroke Prevention, Symptoms and Treatment workshop will be held on Monday, May 6th at Lanier South Memorial Hospital. Family Connection's Certified Lifetime Community Program has partnered with the hospital, Cooperative Extension and Southeast Health District to bring this event to Lakeland. Please email or call 303-3800 if you would like to attend. Lunch will be provided as space is limited.

4-H Shotgun team fundraiser Saturday
The Lanier County 4-H Shotgun Team will be holding a chicken game sale on Saturday, April 27 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and the Lanier County Courthouse. Please see 98.

Echols Carrot Festival set for May 11
The Echols Carrot Festival will be held from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, May 11, at the recreation park in Stoneville. The festival will feature live entertainment, kids zone, arts and crafts, food, contest cook-off, live concerts, parade, Shoney's Catering, Barbecue and more. For information visit www.eccholsfestival.com or call 336-389-8838.



Local child attacked by dog

By Nancy Hines
LITTON

Seven-year-old James Quintan Gray was attacked by a pit bull Saturday, April 23, on a location on Howell Drive, according to Lakeland Police reports.

James was dragged across the yard by the dog and received multiple lacerations on his left forearm, lower back, right shoulder and right leg, and sustained multiple lacerations, according to the report.

The boy's father, Dennis Gray, Sr., stated he was at Perry Theater last week looking for a dryer part. He stated he and Perry went to the back of the residence to look in a back for a dryer part when he heard one of his daughters screaming and came back to the front of the yard to find the boy being dragged by the dog.

"It all happened in about 15 seconds," said Gray.

According to the report, the boy was playing in front of the business when a puppy came into the yard from a residence across the street that he began playing with. After that, the larger dog ran up, bit him and began dragging him out of Thomas' yard.

(Continued on Page 2)

Walking the Walk

Local men support cause by donning heels for awareness
By Nancy Hines
LITTON

Throughout the past month for domestic violence awareness as people got money in various ways to see them walk one mile around the Lanier County High School track. The event raised \$1,000 with the june and food items sold at the event. There was also a 1000 raffle. Scott Green was the raffa and donated the \$110 back to the event.

Men who participated in the event included: Dr. Eric Carter, Brian Hunt, Pastor John Bracken, County Commissioner Harold

(Continued on Page 2)

Mills takes Miss Relay for Life title

By Nancy Hines
LITTON

Katherine Mills took the Miss Relay for Life title at the annual Relay for Life support held at the Lanier County High School cafeteria Saturday. She also took the Grand Supreme crown for most photogenic, most photogenic, most photogenic in the main division and prettiest smile.

In the Miss Division, Chelton Jones took 1st runner up and prettiest smile and Chantel Schriber won 2nd runner up and Blaine from the Park, an optional division where denouche clothing was worn.

In the Teen Miss Division, Janna Gaskins took the queen title, the Blain from the Park title, prettiest smile and prettiest dress and Miss Hospitality, Shante Ziegler was second runner up and ran with Gaskins for most photogenic, Estelita Dent took second runner up.

In the Petite Miss Division, Kaylin Proulx won prettiest smile, prettiest dress, most photogenic and the Blain from the park title. She also won Grand Supreme in the 10-15 age group.

(Continued on Page 2)



(Continued on Page 2)

Terrell receives House of Representatives resolution

Nancy Hines
LITTON

Representative Jason Shaw recently presented Title One Parent Involvement Coordinator Tara Terrell with House Resolution 699 on Thursday, April 17.

The resolution recognizes Terrell for her accomplishments as Parent Involvement Coordinator. It was read and adopted on March 7, 2013 by the Georgia House of Representatives.

The resolution specifically mentions Terrell recently opening the Parent Resource Center with games, books and other resources parents can check out and the multiple workshops Terrell has created to engage parents and students.

The resolution recognizes the "Books and Pajamas" workshop that has had over 100 parents

(Continued on Page 2)

75¢ AT THE NEWSTAND

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BLACK CYAN MAGENTA

Headline Writing

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Banks County News
www.BanksNewsTODAY.com
Banks County's Legal Organ
Wednesday, December 11, 2013
\$04 • Homer, Banks County, GA 30547 • A Publication of Merrimack Newspapers, Inc. • 24 Pages, 2 Sections Plus Supplements • Vol. 45, No. 41

School NCTC helps put up Christmas 7A
Community Rotary Club news 10A
Sports Wrestling team highlights 1B

Christmas in the Park Saturday in Homer

Christmas in the Park in Deweytown Homer will be held on Saturday, December 14, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Donations of new unwrapped gifts for the foster kids of Banks County will be taken during the event.

The event may be cancelled if it rains. For updates, check the Facebook page for the Homer Deweytown Development Authority and/or Homer Christmas Parade.

Activities include a Live Nativity with Jesus, Mary, Joseph, the Angels, Wise Men from the East, Shepherds from the fields, Donkey, sheep and goats. Some will also arrive to talk to the boys and girls. Toys are available for those who cannot find their own.

Homer's fire truck driven by Fire Chief Cliff Hill will be on tour for boys and girls. Firemen will be making hot dogs and marshmallows and Sheriff Carlton Howell and his deputies will be serving hot chocolate, hot apple cider and warm meals provided by Betty Taylor.

Other plans include face painting by Nancy Phelan-Kloster, Sabersville Junior School Musicians with puppets and activities for the children. Dr. Stephen Lippewitz providing Christmas music, Waverly by Timmy Rainey and Chris Choo Train by Mike and Capta Crouch. The historic courthouse will be open for tours by Mark and Tracey McCoy.

"The event is free of charge but we ask all who come to give back to your community by bringing an unwrapped Christmas gift for the foster children of Banks County," McCoy said. "We can place the gift in Santa's red truck. New toys and clothes will be much appreciated."

Food donations will have Santa pictures of city hall for free to pick up or you can get them within minutes for a cost of \$5.

The parade line up will be at Banks County Elementary School on Hwy 56 South at 2 p.m. The entry fee is one penny for kids. Contact Tracey King 706-627-2001 or Sandra Carless 706-627-3225.

Hot dogs to eat will be provided by Country Commerce Club, as well as a plate of turkey and dressing dinner to go to eat in the park.

Toilet seat case remains open

Woman home after incident at local store

A woman is at home after being treated for injuries she sustained after being glued to a toilet seat at a Banks County business, Maconville. The investigation into the incident remains open.

"Banks County investigators are presently working more information regarding the case," deputy Carole McFadden, spokeswoman for the Banks County Sheriff's Office stated. "This incident is still being treated as an open investigation. Other individuals are being scheduled to be interviewed regarding the situation."

Banks County deputies were called to The Home Depot, located at 238 Jones B. Yager Boulevard on Nov. 27 to assist medical personnel. When deputies arrived, they found a woman had been injured by being glued to a toilet seat in the ladies restroom inside the store. The woman was taken to Northridge Medical Center.

Deputies were told that the manager found a broken paper bag in the restroom that contained the OOO glue.

Since the incident occurred, the store has been featured in news reports across the state. A video reportedly released by the victim is on an Atlanta television station's website.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas



SANTA ARRIVES IN LULA
The man of the hour for most of the children, Santa Claus, made the trip down from the North Pole to visit Lula for the Christmas parade. See more photos from the parade on page 2A.
Photo by Heidi Grupp

CARRYING THE CROSS
Ray Mauldin carries the cross in the Christmas parade held in Bethel.

Holiday performance of 'Love of a Manger' presented at BCHS

The story that's changed the course of history "The Love of a Manger," will be presented by the Banks County High School Performing Arts students at 6 p.m. on Friday, December 13, at the high school auditorium. Admission will be free.

Property taxes due Dec. 20

The Banks County property tax due date is December 20. Payments can be made in the office weekdays - Fridays between the hours of 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. and also online at bankscountyga.gov/taxes. A convenience fee of three percent will apply when paying with a credit card.

For more information, call office at 706-627-6254 or visit by the office located at 220 Hudson Ridge Suite 7 in Homer.

DFCS building proposed for business park

BY SHARON HOGAN
The location of a new building to house the Banks County Departmental Family and Children Services is proposed to be located in the Hudson River Business Park, located off of Woodhill Farm Road and across from the Georgia Department of Transportation building.

At the meeting on Dec. 3, Banks County economic development vice president Brad Day reported to the Banks County Development Authority a meeting was held in which engineering firm turned in statements of qualifications for the building.

The building will be owned by the Banks County Development Authority and leased by the State of Georgia to house the Banks County DFCS.

Development Authority chairman Scott Loftland discussed different building options whose space could be utilized most efficiently.

OTHER BUSINESS
In other business at the meeting.

continued on page 2A

Entry fee for annual Homer Christmas Party for kids this year

Contact Tracey King 706-627-2001 or Sandra Carless 706-627-3225 to participate in the parade.

Spectators are also encouraged to bring a new unwrapped toy. These toys will be taken up during the parade.

These toys will be distributed by the American Legion Veterans Post 202 at a Christmas Party for kids this year.

Inside
• With new tablets, Lula City Council enters digital age of public meetings — page 3A
Op/Ed
• Is Gov. Deal looking scared lately? — page 4A
Other news
• Social — 10A
• Church — 11A
• Churches — 11A
• Public Safety — 4A
• Legal — 6B-9B
• Sports — 1B-5B
• School — 7A-8A
• Classified — 6B-7B



3rd Place

Banks County News, Homer

Headline Writing

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2nd Place

The Clinch County News, Homerville

BLACK CYRIL MAGAZINE

HUMC HOSTING LECTURE SERIES... Page 7 CCES & CCMS SCHOOL SUPPLY LISTS... Page 10

The Clinch County News
We give the skinny so you can chew the fat

Wednesday, July 31, 2013 HOMERVILLE, GEORGIA 10 PAGES, ONE SECTION

COMMUNITY CALENDAR
What's going on in your community?

Pre-K orientation set for August 2nd
Clinch County Pre-K will be conducting a parent orientation meeting Friday, August 2 at 8 p.m. in the cafeteria at Clinch County Elementary/Middle School. The meeting is for all parents of children entering Pre-K in August.

New Vision hosting Kids Crusade Aug. 8-10
New Vision Church of God is hosting Kids Crusade Thursday-Saturday, August 8-10 for children 4-11 years, with games, four prizes, popcorn and music. Thursday-Friday from 5:30-6 p.m., with supper at 5:30 p.m. Saturday from 10am-12 p.m. will be a Back Party with heavy lunches and water slides. Ages 4-6 must be accompanied by someone older.

DQ to hold fundraiser for CMN on Saturday
DQ will be holding a fundraiser for the Clinch County News on Saturday, August 3, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Homerville Dairy Queen. All proceeds will go to the Clinch County News. For more information, contact DQ at 912-487-1000.

N'ville Free Will Baptist starting new ministry
Homerville Free Will Baptist Church is starting a new children's ministry, GLOW (God Lighting Our Way) on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. All ages are welcome. Refreshments and a special treat - are served in school. Kick-off and registration will be Wednesday, August 14, at 6:30 p.m.

Annual Back-to-School Jam is August 2-3
Covenant Presbyterian Church of God in Clinch will hold their annual Back to School Jam Friday-Saturday, August 2-3. A church service will be held Friday at 7 p.m. Saturday a Youth Banquet will be held from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Family Life Center. The Jam in the Park and Church Supper will be held from 3-5 p.m. at Mountain Park. For information call 912-470-8472 or 912-586-8025.

Clinch tourism team to meet on August 5th
The Clinch Tourism Team meeting will be held Monday, August 5, at 8 p.m. at the Sun Lodge in Fargo. Everyone is invited to attend and bring ideas and suggestions. For more information contact Arney Robison at 912-487-0990.

Deadline for Booster football program ads
The Clinch County Athletic Boost Club is taking ad orders for the football program at The Clinch County Sports Office. Deadline to order an ad is Friday, August 2, at 5 p.m. The office will be taking orders of the county football team, cheerleaders, marching band, and softball team. For information, call Len or Denise at 487-6202. Football Program ads are also due Friday, August 2.

Back-to-School Praise planned for Saturday
Greater Missionary Baptist Church Youth Department will host a Back to School Praise at 8 p.m. Saturday, August 3. All youth are invited to do a praise dance, sing, read, or share in the home of the Lord. For more information contact Dorcas Johnson at 228-548-2020.

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Subscribe to our website: www.clinchnews.com or by calling 912-487-5337

MILES APART
City records show wide disparity between mileage claims for trips

By Len Robison
Staff Writer

There is a wide disparity between what Homerville City Council members are charging taxpayers for their travel expenses.

After questions were brought forth about city council member travel expenses at the council's July 19 meeting, The News filed an open records request for city council travel expense documentation since January of 2010.

What the records show is a pattern of higher mileage reimbursement requests from City Council member Janeyla Morehead, and a few questionable ones from Mayor Pkg Birch.

For instance, in January of 2010, Birch and Morehead attended the Mayor's Day conference in Atlanta. They both turned in mileage of 408 miles. Two months later, they both turned in mileage reimbursement for 393 miles to an event in Tifton. According to the Rural McNally mileage calculator, round-trip from Homerville to Tifton is 124 miles. Earlier that year, Birch had turned in mileage reimbursement for a trip to Atlanta of 493 miles.

Birch said she didn't know why her and Morehead's mileage reimbursement claims for those two trips were identical.

"I wrote down the mileage just like I always do," Birch said when contacted. "I didn't check with Janeyla for her mileage. I don't know how that happened."

For the June 2012 trip to Savannah, Morehead said her husband became sick that day, so she traveled to Tifton and back, then to Tifton again, which would account for the mileage, but not for the identical mileage figure.

Morehead's mileage reimbursement requests were also higher than other council members on other trips. For a trip to St. Simons in March of 2010, she turned in 399 miles. City Councilman Tom Kennedy turned in mileage reimbursement for 187 miles for the same trip, according to documentation provided by the city.

Morehead turned in mileage reimbursement requests for 493 miles to Atlanta in January of 2012, 515 miles to Savannah in June of 2012, 454 miles to Atlanta in January of 2013, 484 miles to Savannah in June of 2013, Savannah in 309 miles from Homerville round-trip, according to the mileage calculator.

On the January 2012 and 2013 trips to Atlanta, Morehead said she went to see a Clinch County group participate in the Special Olympics, which added to her mileage figures.

For the June 2012 trip to Savannah, Morehead said she missed a train bus and had to drive to catch it, which prompted more mileage.

Birch had just two other instances where mileage claims were much higher than expected - 483 miles to Atlanta in December of 2010, and 432 miles to Savannah in June of 2011. She said the December 2010 trip was to

(Continued on Page 2)

Same cities, different mileages
Mileage reimbursement requests for 493 miles to Atlanta in January of 2012, 515 miles to Savannah in June of 2012, 454 miles to Atlanta in January of 2013, 484 miles to Savannah in June of 2013, Savannah in 309 miles from Homerville round-trip, according to the mileage calculator.

Council Member	To	From	Mileage	Date
Mayor Pkg Birch	Atlanta	Savannah	417 miles	June 2011
Mayor Pkg Birch	NA	309 miles	June 2013	
Council member Jennifer	426 miles	484 miles	June 2012	
Council member Janeyla Morehead	408 miles	575 miles	June 2012	
Council member Tom Kennedy	324 miles	NA	June 2012	
Council member J.L. Wilbergen	508 miles	302 1/2 miles	June 2012	

Clinch woman tests positive for EEE
A 70-year-old Clinch County woman has tested positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE).

It is the first reported case in Georgia this year, and only the third reported in the United States in 2013, according to Georgia Department of Public Health and CDC reports.

According to the Southeast Health District, the unidentified woman was hospitalized in late June and is now at home recuperating.

Approximately 10 to 15 human cases of EEE are reported each year in the U.S. EEE is a rare disease that is caused by a virus spread by infected mosquitoes. People get EEE when they are bitten by a mosquito that is carrying the virus. The virus is not transmitted from human-to-human. There is no vaccine for humans. Since this is a virus, there is no specific treatment other than the person develops symptoms.

Most individuals infected experience no symptoms. Those that do may develop high fever (102°F to 104°F), stiff neck, headache, vomiting and lack of energy. The illness may progress into disorientation, seizures and coma. Symptoms generally develop four to 10 days after infection.

"EEE can be deadly," said Roger Naylor, director of public relations for the Southeast Health District. "Because it is an infection that affects the brain or spinal cord, there can be lasting effects that are severe. However, in this case, after investigating the mosquitoes that carry this virus are out there and biting. People should take necessary precautions."

Public health officials encourage residents to familiarize themselves with protective measures now, including the "5 D's":

- **D**on't sleep: Mosquitoes usually bite at dusk and dawn. Limit outdoor activity during these hours.

(Continued on Page 2)

Championship coach passes away at 69

The coach who led Clinch County Panther basketball to the only state championship that Wednesday.

Allen Robison, Jr., died from complications after back surgery. He was 69.

Robison coached the variety Panther basketball team for 32 seasons (1980-2012), winning eight region titles and two state championships (1987 and 1989). His teams had an overall record of 220-94-1,730 winning percentage. Prior to his retirement, Robison served the Clinch County School System for 29 years as an English teacher at Clinch County High, an assistant principal at Clinch County Elementary/Middle School, the high school athletic director, and also coached variety tennis and was a football assistant coach.

Prior to moving back to his hometown, he worked in banking and insurance in the Atlanta area. He died on the same date - July 29 - as his father, Dr. S.I. Robison, Sr., who passed away in 2005.

Funeral services were held Thursday at Homerville United Methodist Church, where he was a member.

(Continued on Page 2)

Signing held for Bennett's history book

Author Bennett Bennett of Homerville signs his newest book, "A Pictorial Review of Clinch County, Georgia" for Jean Nelson Saturday at the Clinch County Public Library. Copies of the book, which updates Clinch County's history, can be bought by calling Bennett at 487-5817.

Panthers start preseason football drills

The Clinch County Panthers have started preparations for the 2013 football season.

CCS head football coach Jim Dickerson said around 50 players showed up for the first official drills Monday. The team will be practicing throughout the week, with two practices a day starting on Thursday.

"If any student grades 9-12 is interested in playing, it's not too late," said Dickerson. "We encourage anyone who is interested, or played in the spring, to come out immediately."

The Panthers are coming off an uncommon losing season, with a record of 4-4 in 2012. It was their first losing season since 1981.

"I'm excited about this team, and especially our young players. That's why some of these younger kids who have been playing, but didn't show up Monday, need to come out," said Dickerson. "We need as many kids out there as we can."

The Panthers start the regular season at home on Friday, August 30, hosting Brooks County.

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Allen Robison, Jr., died from complications after back surgery. He was 69.

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(Continued on Page 2)

Headline Writing

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THE CHAMPION, THURSDAY, DEC. 26, 2013 - JAN. 1, 2014

BUSINESS

PAGE 17A

Healthful water brings income stream

by Kathy Mitchell
kathy@dekalbcham.com

Dawn Robertson said her venture into the world of business started with a decision to improve her own health habits.

"My wake-up call came when I was diagnosed with diabetes, even though I thought I was relatively healthy and I had just lost 40 pounds. When I was diagnosed, I was a normal weight. I learned that you can't always make diabetes go away by losing weight, and I also learned that I needed to be proactive in my health management, and not just go with the flow, eating anything I want, thinking I could 'work it off' next week," she said.

Robertson decided to become formally trained in nutrition by enrolling in a nutrition specialist program. She now operates a website promoting healthful eating and has a Lithonia-based business selling specially treated water.

A friend who knew of her interest in nutrition suggested she try filtered alkaline water. "My husband and I looked into it, and liked what we learned about the product. We began drinking it, and after a couple of years, decided to make it available to others," Robertson said.

"Our product is Living Water pH9™," she said, explaining that her company uses "a state-of-the-art water ionizer to produce ultra-filtered ionized alkaline water."

"Alkaline water has many benefits," according to Robertson. "It supports our body's blood alkaline target of 7.365. If consumers were to test the pH level of some popular bottled water, they may be surprised to find that they are acidic." She described the alkaline level in her product as "higher than the body's target pH level to help neutralize excess acidic waste in our body."

She said the concept is based on the work of Dr. **Otto Warburg**, the 1931 Nobel Prize winner in medicine, whom she said demonstrated that cancer is accompanied by acidosis (excess acid) and a

lack of oxygen in cells. "So, I encourage my customers to consume lots of alkaline foods (generally produce) and ionized, alkaline water, to decrease their risk of developing cancer, or even other diseases," she said.

Another benefit of drinking alkaline water, Robertson asserted, "is that you'll likely maintain a healthy weight, or even lose weight. ...Drinking alkaline water can help reduce excess acid, which decreases the body's need to retain or create fat."

Robertson said in addition to being ionized, the water is oxygenated through electrolysis, "making it more similar to water found in rapidly flowing springs and streams. Oxygenated water promotes increased energy, memory enhancement and better workout recovery."

"We did product development in 2012, whereby we developed our branding, packaging and product line for alkaline Living Water pH9. Then this year, we launched it on our information website and accompanying online store," she said.

"For a new product introduction, it's been selling as well as we expected, with good growth each month," Robertson said. "The single serve bottle is being carried at the three stores that we pitched it at, and we look forward to having more stores pick up our water in upcoming months. So we're pleased, and look forward to continued growth next year."

Robertson recently hosted a tasting event at Vitamin Unlimited in Lithonia, noting that such demonstrations are one way she acquaints potential customers with her product. She said she also promotes the product, which is available in some health food stores and can be ordered directly from Robertson, at community health and wellness events.

"My primary goal is to promote the health and wellness of the people that we serve. I'm passionate about helping people stay healthy or become healthier," she said. "As my business grows, I look forward to expanding and hiring people to continue meeting demand."



Dawn Robertson participates in a local health fair.



At a recent tasting event at Vitamin Unlimited in Lithonia, Robertson explains benefits of her water. Photos provided.

1st Place

The Champion, Decatur



The Voice of Business in DeKalb County
DeKalb Chamber of Commerce

Two Decatur Town Centers, 125 Stoneham Ave., Suite 235, Decatur, GA 30030
404.378.8000 www.DeKalbChamber.org

Headline Writing

F

3rd Place

Sylvania Telephone



Our singing in the rain is mostly 'blues'

By Derek May
Staff Writer

Rainfall dumped onto the county and surrounding areas has put roads, crops and wild animals in danger.

Every dirt road in the county has been affected by the rain, 30 percent to 40 percent of the county's crops have been damaged and downed animals have been out more than usual.

Road Superintendent Travis Fendland said repair work to the county's 200 miles worth of damaged roads cannot be completed until the rain stops and the area's standing water dissipates.

"Every dirt road we've got has got wash outs in it," Fendland said. "We're making the roads passable, but we can't fix them right now because of all the water."

Several roads have had pipe blowouts

that were not expected, Fendland said. Airport Road between Huckleberry Road and White Hill Road is closed after water got underneath the 20-something-year-old drainage pipe and washed it out. Goshorn Road and Stearns Road have been re-opened, but there are still many more roads currently closed — about five miles total of road closures in the county.

"It's showed us where gaps we need to replace," Fendland said. "That's what's caused a bunch of blowouts. That'll affect a lot of my pipe budget."

The county's road employees are working almost around the clock bringing in dirt and attempting to fix roads.

"We're working on it as hard as we can," Fendland said.

"The roads are blown out and it had shags," County Commissioner Gary Crews indicated. Fellow commissioners



Photos by Derek May

Wild swine look to hog the headlines in Rocky Ford

By Derek May
Staff Writer

Rocky Ford resident Patricia Collins has 20 to 30 wild hogs tearing up her yard on the outskirts of city limits.

Collins asked the Rocky Ford

Town Council to do something about the invading hogs.

"We're not the first to see something," Councilman Ken Mook said. "Wild game has been coming into town with the rising rivers."

Rocky Ford's council has put pressure on wild game, like hogs, that live near rivers. Mook said the swine have come up to within 100

yards of city limits looking for a new place to live. Some hog activity near Rocky Ford's ballpark has also been reported, which means the wild animals could come near children, Mook said.

"The hogs can destroy an entire yard in one night," he said.

There are ordinances that allow residents to shoot nuisance

animals, Police Chief Pat Kilo said. If anyone in the town feels threatened or their personal property is being destroyed by a resident can shoot the animal.

"Please be careful, don't go shooting up the neighborhood over a hog," Kilo said.

Welcoming tourists to our county and state

See Hogg, Page 6

Perdue to be United Way kickoff speaker



Perdue

Staff reports

Former Georgia governor Benji Perdue has been confirmed as the keynote speaker for the Aug. 20 campaign kickoff luncheon for the United Way of Sylvania County.

Perdue, who served two terms in the state's top position, also has other ties to Sylvania County as

his agriculture company AgriWest recently acquired the David W. Reed Company in Sylvania.

With the Sylvania site, AgriWest has some facilities in Georgia and has been in the grain business for 27 years.

"We are extremely privileged to have Governor Perdue come to address and uplift our Patriots, business leaders and

community activists," said South Ashby, the Sylvania Telephone publisher and this year's president of the local United Way.

The kickoff is scheduled for noon at the Sylvania County Extension Service Office on the third Tuesday in August.

"The ultimate of Sylvania County are first and foremost to our local United Way," Ashby said. "The event

is aimed to support the upcoming steps in Sylvania County.

"When you donate to United Way, you are helping your fellow neighbors," Ashby said.

The United Way of Sylvania County board of directors and community supporters currently are in the middle of development to support the upcoming steps in Sylvania County.

County appoints new board members

By Emrah Aubry
Staff Writer

The Sylvania County commissioners made a number of decisions Tuesday morning on who they deem appropriate to be on 13 boards.

The commissioners' appointments came at their monthly meeting in the county courthouse in the board room that was also

being used by the chief magistrate as a courtroom extension at the facility.

County manager Rick Jordan said the air conditioning and heating work at the courthouse is ahead of schedule and the project — without any unforeseen setbacks — may be completed by October.

Commissioner J.C. Warren was appointed to represent



Photos by Emrah Aubry

School board thinks 'Thinkgate' will open gate to instructional solutions

By Emrah Aubry
Staff Writer

The Sylvania County Board of Education has agreed to become another school system to seek technological advancements from

a company that specializes in linking and reporting data into a more efficient, timely and comprehensive view for administrators and educators.

The BOE approved spending \$25,600 to join Thinkgate. The cost of the program will be divided between the district's three schools.

According to its website, Thinkgate "integrates different management solutions to give teachers and administrators better information when and where they need it most. This web-based solution also makes assessing that information quick and easy through an 'app like' interface, or dashboard,

without needing training or implementation hurdles."

Local officials say, among the many positives, is the program's platform is built to the needs of the schools and teachers.

The program allows educators to

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Headline Writing

F

Inside this week's edition • Workers clean up after a fire in Jefferson Hospital's kitchen last week.....see page 2A • JCHS Warriors finish as runners up in passing league tournament.....see page 9A • OUR FAITH: A Directory of Jefferson and Glascock county churches.....see Section C

\$1 Thursday, June 9, 2010

The News and Farmer

AND WADLEY HERALD

The Jefferson Reporter

Volume 109 No. 17 Serving as Local Organ for Jefferson & Glascock counties USPS 100-268 www.thenewsandfarmer.com

Vote next week for Wrens council

Three candidates vie for seat to expire in Dec.

By Carol McLeod
Staff writer
 Citizens will cast the second line 15 to cast their ballots for one office next week for a position on the Wrens City Council.

James Brown, David Stange and Marvin L. Brown all qualified to appear on the ballot next week when Wrens voters cast their ballots.

The special election Tuesday will fill the remainder of Wright's term, which expires Dec. 31.

The race will go to the candidates with the highest number of votes.

"Whoever wins on Tuesday will have responsibility if they want to run in the November general election," Brown says. "The city's systems are in a state of disrepair. Next week's election is a special election to fill an open seat."

Another vote will be on Tuesday's ballot.

Budge said that three council seats will appear on the November ballot.

Candidates will have to be older than 18, be a resident of Wrens for at least one year and pay the \$75 qualifying fee.

The Wrens council meets on the first Tuesday of every month with growth sessions of the previous Tuesday.



Congressman visits Veterans Park mural

Congressman Paul Brown stopped in Wrens last week to meet with the McGee family, Jefferson County natives and international artists, who have been commissioned to paint a mural on the wall of the post office in the city's Veterans Memorial Park. Brown met with city officials, residents and veterans who were present. For more on the mural project, see future editions of this newspaper.



Wrens asks county for \$100,000 a year more for fire dept.

Discussion has centered around increased fire-related services at the new county industrial park

By Carol McLeod
Staff writer
 The City of Wrens has asked Jefferson County to provide an additional \$100,000 a year to help fund the city's fire department following County Administrator Adam Moore's visit to the commission during a work session earlier this month.

Moore said Wrens Mayor Lester Hinkle and Wrens City Administrator Amy Thrift approached him and Jefferson County Commissioner Chairman Mitchell McGee about the issue during a meeting.

He said the discussion concerned the city's need for an increase in a subsidy for providing more fire-related services at the industrial park. Moore said Thrift and McGee also discussed other intergovernmental issues of the county the city services area. Pyndak has begun work for a place in the park.

"They have done a lot with pre-planning and fire-related services," Moore said. "They will be looking to create their own system. It costs three money, and, the industrial park is in the county."

Moore said Wrens is involved in part of the pre-planning for the park.

"It's the hybrid we're looking for," he said. "They want the water pumps, they don't want the hydrants. Anything they buy on their own, we want to not promote and fire to ensure the levels meet requirements. The fire hydrants are in the park. They are owned in some kind of partnership."

The county administrator said it is possible the request could be accomplished.

"It's up to the commission," he said, adding the County has also contacted the commission office to request more funding.

"This is the time of year that we review the county's budget," he said. "It is the time of year that's most appropriate for all entities who receive any type of subsidy from the county to discuss upcoming appropriations. The City of Wrens has asked for an increase of approximately \$100,000 in the county to help supplement their operations for fire service, specifically for the intergovernmental area that they serve."

Thrift confirmed the city had made the request for the additional funding from the county and said he had no other comment at the time.

Wadley citizen asks, would you drink it?

Russell Pate installed his own filters in the line, city says it's his problem

By Carol McLeod
Staff writer
 Russell Pate, a Wadley citizen, said last week he is having serious problems with the water at his home.

He said that over the years he has installed water filter systems in his home, which is on city water, and he has been having serious problems lately.

One filter he had with him was that with something. Water draining from

water filter system for only nine days, he said.

"My water problems really started when they tested that water main on Bath Street on MLK. They were replacing some service lines from that day to day, the water hasn't been right," Pate said.

"When we moved into the house in '91, the not outdoor made orange and red, I said, 'Oh, oh,'" he said, adding he got a filter in for his water that took care of it and the ice water.

He said there have been a couple of times when his laundry came out of the washing machine with a sort of rusty look to the clothes.

"But you could think it at work I quit and it'd be OK," he said. Pate said he put his whole house on a water filter system in 1999 or 2000.

"I usually change filters in April and October," he said. "I have been whole house system now and one for the cold water and the hot water."

The filter in his house was in the fourth one since this past April, Pate said. "This one is the third one and it's nine days old," he said.

Staff in Adams, Wadley's city clerk, said Tuesday city workers had been to Pate's residence to check on his complaint.



Russell Pate holds a rusty filter he said had been in the system for only nine days.

2nd Place

Jefferson Reporter/ News & Farmer, Louisville

Headline Writing

F

1st Place

The Blackshear Times

Will your favorite business, service or merchant be a winner this year?

The vote is being cast by the local business community. Cast your ballot now for your favorite business, service or merchant. The Blackshear Times' annual award winners will be announced in the January issue. This is a great opportunity to recognize the businesses and people around our area who are driving for \$50 per job by sharing your opinion! If your favorite place or person isn't on the list, you can add it to the list. This is a great opportunity to recognize the businesses and people around our area who are driving for \$50 per job by sharing your opinion!



The Blackshear Times

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Lawmakers talk ethics, budget and gun rules

The budget ... as it has been for the last several years ... will be the major issue of the year's Georgia General Assembly. The proposed a general rate of 5.8 percent and annual growth was 3.7 percent" says State Representative Chad Messer (R-Blackshear). While the issue has grown to the right direction, but filling the position leaves a hole in the budget.

Better Hometown asking businesses to steer its future

The City of Blackshear will hold a main asking community and business leaders to direct the future of the Better Hometown program. A (Newtown) Weekend Day is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 30 starting at noon in City Hall. The event will highlight events planned for this year while seeking input on how the city can improve.

Petition stirs emotions, not action

County leaders stay firm against push to reinstate former EMS director Ken Justice. The petitioners of a petition seeking former EMS Director Ken Justice's reinstatement to his old job resulted in mixed reaction, but not action. The petitioners, led by the Blackshear Times' Deputy Editor, made a case for Justice's reinstatement. The petition was signed by 100 people and presented to the Board of Commissioners. The Board of Commissioners rejected the petition.



Rec basketball returns to Blackshear

After a long hiatus, youth basketball is back in Blackshear. The program is being run by the Blackshear Recreation Department. The program is open to all children in the area.

Showtime for Civil War site?

State advisors to visit former prison camp, discuss development as tourist attraction. The State Department of Economic Development is planning a visit to the former prison camp site near Blackshear. The site is a potential tourist attraction.

The Blackshear Board of Commissioners will meet on Monday, January 28, 2013 at 7:00 PM in the Board Room. The agenda includes the presentation of the petition for Ken Justice's reinstatement.

Dr. King's legacy to be celebrated at banquet and parade

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will be the guest of honor at the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Banquet. The celebration will take place on Saturday, January 26, 2013. The event will include a parade through the town of Blackshear.

The Blackshear Board of Commissioners will meet on Monday, January 28, 2013 at 7:00 PM in the Board Room. The agenda includes the presentation of the petition for Ken Justice's reinstatement.

Headline Writing

E

New sheriff expected outgoing sheriff to assist in inventory, Page 2A

Buzzer beater sinks Devils against Morgan County, Page 1B

WEDNESDAY January 9, 2013

The Elberton Star

Volume 126, Number 2 Serving the Granite Capital of the World since 1887 75 Cents

Deadly dispute

Man shoots daughter, granddaughter, another woman - then himself



Donnie Williams, still alive after shooting himself in front of law enforcement officers in a remote wooded area off Croser Road Thursday afternoon, is loaded onto a medevac helicopter at the county's helipad on Mahoney Drive. (Photo by Best)

Sheriff said a property dispute led to shooting

By Gary Jones

A man spent over a property dispute over his daughter, his daughter's friend and his granddaughter Thursday a little after noon, then later shot himself in front of law enforcement officers who were chasing him on his way to the woods just off Croser Road.

David King, who was a witness to the shooting of the three women at a Middleton Church Road residence, and who was also shot at twice himself, gave law enforcement authorities information that led Elbert County Sheriff Melvin Andrews to the home of Don Williams, 60, at 2044 Colburn Road.

From there, Andrews and investigators received information that Williams had driven his truck to a remote location on a dirt road near his Colburn Road residence and had gone into the woods.

Andrews said Williams called his brother in West Virginia and informed him that he had shot three people and was running off to hide in the woods.

Williams' brother called the West Virginia State Police, who in turn contacted the Elbert County Sheriff's Department to relay the information to the sheriff's office.

That information led law enforcement to search for Williams' vehicle, which was quickly found on Croser Road. Andrews estimated that Williams' truck was parked approximately 1.5 miles from his Colburn Road residence.

As Andrews was requesting assistance in the form of tracking dogs and a helicopter from state officials, Williams showed himself to his pursuers before turning a gun on himself and firing.

Williams was immediately transported to the same Elbert County helipad where earlier in the day two of his shooting victims were transferred to a helicopter in attempts to get them medical attention. Williams, too, was loaded onto a medevac helicopter and taken to an Anderson, S.C. hospital, where he died in the early morning hours of Friday.

Elbert County Emergency Services Director and Governor Chuck McCreary said Williams' body has been sent to the Georgia State Crime Lab for an autopsy.

Elbert County authorities await investigators at 1838 Middleton Church Road, where on Thursday Donnie Williams shot his daughter, his granddaughter and a friend of his daughter in a dispute over property. (Photo by Best)

because of the circumstances of the law enforcement pursuit of Williams after the triple shooting.

According to Andrews, just minutes after noon Williams shot a 2007 Honda at 1838 Middleton Church Road.

SEE SHOOTING on 2A

EMH Foundation's Jack Frost Jump Saturday at Russell Park

The Elbert Memorial Hospital Foundation will hold its (seventh) Annual Jack Frost Jump on Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at the beach area of Richard B. Russell State Park.

The park entrance fee is \$6 per car.

Each participant is asked to raise a minimum of \$50.

Businesses and high school organizations are encouraged to sponsor a team.

Sign-in and late registration begins at 9:30 a.m.

A costume contest begins at 11 a.m.

The plunge begins promptly at 11:30 a.m.

"We are very excited about our Jack Frost Jump," said event coordinator Donna Seymour. "Interest is growing daily and we are anticipating over 200 plungers for this year's event. We have eight teams already signed up. We are also excited to have Andrew, Delta, Internet and Roy Clubs from the high school joining us this year. Thank you in advance for your participation and support. We look forward to jumping in with you on Saturday!"

Visit www.emhfoundation.org to register an individual or team.

For more information, call Donna Seymour at 706-696-2660.

All donations are tax-deductible and greatly appreciated. Locations may be accepted online, or call the EMHF Foundation at 706-696-2660.

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Local news daily via fax or e-mail **frostFAX**

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3rd Place

The Elberton Star

Headline Writing

E

2nd Place

The Jackson Herald, Jefferson

Issue: Jackson County's 10th Habitat for Humanity home dedicated — page 12C

The Jackson Herald

Friends

June 19, 2013

Photo Editor: 706.367.4760
kate@jacksonherald.com

SECTION C

For the sheer joy of it

Area homestead produces natural yarn for knitting, crocheting

BY KATE COOPER

ALLOT goes into the natural yarn produced three miles north of Braselton off Pickett Road in Jackson County — at a family's homestead that sits on 20 acres of land. Jim and Karen Beckstine have been raising Suri alpacas and Angora goats at Mockingbird Hilltop Farm since the mid-2000s, which they shear, wash, pick, card, dye and spin into yarn.

It isn't an easy job, but spinning reaps its rewards. A recent article in her spare time, Beckstine knits the yarn into finished garments — from scarves to socks to hats.

Raising goats up about 100 miles apart on separate dairy farms, the Beckstines met through a 4-H trip and married. After raising a family and experiencing life away from farming, the couple always knew they wanted to return to their upbringing.

"When you're raised on a farm, there's a real dependence on nature," said Karen. "There's a love for the soil. There's a significance in just getting your hands dirty... it's just part of your whole being I think."

The parents of four children and nine grandchildren, the Beckstines built the farm in 1997 beginning with two cowboys. Then, they took a trip down to the North Carolina mountains in 2002, and acquired six Suri alpacas. By 2007, the Beckstines expanded the types of fiber they could produce by purchasing Angora goats in 2006. Now, they have 20 alpacas and about 12 Angora goats.

Alpacas have to be shorn once a year and the Angora goats must be shorn twice a year. The Beckstines shear their own animals and also travel to offer the service around the area. After processing the fiber, they send it to mills in the southeast to be spun into yarn and sold.

"The hardest thing about selling the fiber is that people compare it to what they can buy in a yarn shop," said Karen. "People haven't realized yet the difference in what an organic yarn and what a natural yarn is from an animal."

Beckstine often knitting clothes through the Braselton Heritage Arts Festival. If interested in being part of an upcoming class, contact Karen Beckstine at 706.656.5284. To purchase the Beckstines' yarn, call 706.656.5284 or visit <http://mockingbirdhilltopfarm.com>. The natural yarn and some of Karen's original knitted pieces are also for sale at The Braselton Gallery, 16 Princes St., Braselton. The phone number is 678.960.4977.

GOATS, ALPACAS PRODUCE NATURAL YARN
ABOVE: One of the Angora goats at Mockingbird Hilltop Farm shares out from the pen it shares with other goats on the Beckstines' homestead. RIGHT: A couple of the Beckstines' Suri alpacas are shown. There are currently 20 alpacas at Mockingbird Hilltop Farm. TOP PHOTO: A basket of colorful yarn is available for sale. Units of yarn made from the alpacas and Angora goats raised at Mockingbird Hilltop Farm can be purchased at The Braselton Gallery in downtown Braselton or through the Beckstines' website. Photos by Kate Cooper

TEXTILE PRODUCTS
Karen Beckstine displays some textile products she is working on at her home. LEFT: A unit of extra soft second-grade alpaca yarn can be used to knit rugs on a loom. ABOVE: Dyed mohair is used to knit a colorful scarf. Mohair is a yarn spun from the hair of Angora goats.

EACH UNIT IS UNIQUE
Each unit of alpaca yarn made at Mockingbird Hilltop Farm comes with a picture of the animal that provided the fiber.

HAPPY HOMESTEADERS
Jim and Karen Beckstine and one of their Pyrenean mountain dogs stand on their 20-acre farm in Braselton. Photos by Kate Cooper

The Athens Regional Medical Center (ARMC) Prince Avenue Parking Garage will be closed from June 10th until August 4th for repairs. During this period, valet service will be provided for ED and Obstetric emergencies. The valet service will be located in front of the Emergency Department entrance off Prince Avenue.

All other visitors and non-emergent patients are asked to park in the Talmadge Parking Garage located off Talmadge Drive.

We thank you in advance for your understanding and patience.

Athens Regional
MEDICAL CENTER

Headline Writing

E

1st Place

The Cairo Messenger

"The man who wanders out of the way of advertising shall result in the cognation of the dead."

The Cairo Messenger

CAIRO, GEORGIA VOL. CIX, NO. 43 WWW.CAIROMESSENGER.COM WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2013

County leaders seek answers to Bearden's month long "sickness"

Randolph K. Wood
Staff Writer

Grady County commissioners received their frustration Tuesday night concerning the month long absence of Chief Magistrate Larry Bearden. Bearden has been out of work six weeks since Thursday, Oct. 17, but some county officials are questioning if he is actually sick or not.

On Tuesday night, County Commissioner Charles Newton asked County Attorney Kevin S. Casey if he could give the board an update on the alleged sick leave.

"You probably know more than I do," Casey replied.

"I saw him at the Veterans Day ceremony and he is not sick. I have a problem paying someone if they are not doing the job."

County Chairman T.D. David asked if it would be out of line to invite the magistrate to appear before the board to discuss the situation.

"We need answers to this thing. People are asking me and I can't tell them anything because I don't know anything. I've got a big problem paying someone if they are not sick and just sitting around the house. Let's find out what is going on rather than making a paycheck every two weeks," Newton said.

He added, "If the district attorney is involved, let's ask him. We need something so we can let the people know."

Grady County Clerk Carole Kline said commissioners that "hopefully" the county would know a resolution to the matter soon.

See B20K, Page A7

GRADY COUNTY'S Top 25 Taxpayers

TAXPAYER NAME	APPRAISED VALUE	ASSESSED VALUE	TAXES DUE
1. (2) Koon Bearings USA, LLC	\$17,968,891.00	\$11,907,371.00	\$21,020.47
2. (1) Grady EMC	\$13,343,239.00	\$8,136,076.00	\$234,705.04
3. (2) Ira Higdon Grocery Co.	\$13,243,026.00	\$1,296,999.00	\$103,784.94
4. (2) Windstream Georgia, Inc.	\$7,732,577.00	\$1,899,031.00	\$95,237.48
5. (2) Walmart Store #656	\$1,026,967.00	\$1,094,707.00	\$75,989.97
6. (2) Aaron Rentz, Inc.	\$1,449,233.00	\$1,770,907.00	\$1,610.13
7. (2) Walmart	\$1,948,280.00	\$1,607,323.00	\$19,823.14
8. (2) CIX Transportation Inc.	\$4,238,270.00	\$1,605,333.00	\$45,993.37
9. (2) Munnola	\$1,448,666.00	\$1,770,475.00	\$95,110.46
10. (1) Performance Food Group	\$7,507,516.00	\$2,806,071.00	\$46,640.30
11. (1) Cairo Sun Properties	\$2,791,000.00	\$1,713,503.00	\$29,907.48
12. (1) The Olin Company	\$1,403,613.00	\$2,276,303.00	\$169,014.44
13. (2) Munnola	\$1,478,903.00	\$6,351,303.00	\$26,437.78
14. (2) GreenSouth High, Inc.	\$1,425,990.00	\$968,032.00	\$14,712.98
15. (1) Kimmery LLC	\$7,263,413.00	\$1,027,048.00	\$14,464.41
16. (1) Georgia Transmission	\$2,813,710.00	\$1,171,388.00	\$22,388.42
17. (1) United National Bank	\$2,236,199.00	\$902,138.00	\$12,831.01
18. (2) Woodspire Industries	\$1,171,230.00	\$4,709,883.00	\$11,913.31
19. (2) Madiba Properties LLC	\$1,304,726.00	\$97,499.00	\$11,404.33
20. (2) Kivy Creek Agri.	\$1,079,417.00	\$97,348.00	\$28,904.00
21. (2) Bright Homes	\$1,702,894.00	\$171,138.00	\$21,771.04
22. (2) Greco Fertilizer Co.	\$1,332,313.00	\$1,472,894.00	\$21,401.07
23. (2) NAC Capital City Bank	\$1,464,821.00	\$665,329.00	\$23,910.32
24. (2) NAC Farmers Peanut Co.	\$2,434,876.00	\$1,853,949.00	\$23,126.23
25. (1) Springwood Plantation	1,393,263.00	\$1,026,199.00	\$22,869.78
TOTALS	\$145,721,262.00	\$64,298,342.00	\$1,495,412.91

Editor's Note: The numbers are of a preliminary nature for the ranking in 2013. A duplicate of '04' means the taxpayer was not on the Top 25 taxpayer list last year. Source: Grady County Tax Collector Public Offices.

May be new cooks at the jailhouse soon

Randolph K. Wood
Staff Writer

Grady County commissioners are considering contracting with a third service company to provide meals for inmates in the county's detention centers.

Officials with Valley Services, Inc., based in Jackson, MS, met with county leaders Tuesday night to discuss the company's proposal to provide inmate meals.

Charlie Hartsfield and Matt Esposito of Valley Services met with county commissioners this week.

Under Valley's proposal the county would pay a set price per meal based on the number of inmates in the jail each day. The cost ranges from 50 to 64 inmates at \$2.20 per meal to \$2.40 per meal for between 65 and 104 inmates.

The higher the number of inmates the lower the per meal cost.

"We will put one of our people in the jail to cook the food and serve it. We offer a turn key operation, the order the food, pay for the food, cook the food and serve it. Starting

See B20K, Page A7

Taxes trickle in as due date looms

Randolph K. Wood
Staff Writer

With only a month until the Dec. 20 deadline to pay all delinquent taxes without penalties or interest, Grady County Tax Commissioner Myla Gatson reports only 13 percent of the county's tax digest has been collected.

A total of \$13,142,818.46 has been billed to local taxpayers and through Tuesday \$1,736,676.46 has been paid.

"We expect the mortgage company payments to start coming in soon. They usually start around the first of December and come in right up to the due date," Mrs. Gatson said Tuesday.

Of the \$1,736,676.46 collected to date, the biggest chunk, \$803,821.86, has been delivered to the Grady County School System, \$760,286.79 to the Grady County Commission, \$148,488.86 to the city of Cairo, \$1,302.32 to the city of Whitfield and \$1,688.82 to the state of Georgia.

This is the third year the county tax commissioner has collected municipal and school taxes for the city of Cairo and the second year for the city of Whitfield.

"People seem to like arriving just one day late and it is working well," Mrs. Gatson said.

The tax commissioner's office mailed out 14,593 tax notices this year and, to date, 2,233 of those bills have been paid.

The county's top 25 taxpayers are paying more than in 2012 than they did in 2011, according to Mrs. Gatson's records.

In 2012, the county's top 25 taxpayers collectively paid \$1,423,942.23 in delinquent taxes, but in 2013 that total has climbed to \$1,495,412.91.

The total appraised value of the top 25 taxpayers last year was \$145,721,262.00 and this year it is up to \$145,721,262.00. The assessed value collectively is also up from \$64,274,134.00 in 2012 to \$64,298,342.00 in 2013.

Taxpayers who need to pay bills should contact the tax commissioner's office at 1-800-368-3688.

See B20K, Page A7

Foul mouthed parents charged in Shiver incident

Wanda C. Wood
Staff Writer

Two days after Superintendent Lee M. Bailey told the Grady County Board of Education about his plans to protect school personnel from verbally abusive parents or guardians, a local couple was taken into custody for using offensive language at a county school.

Immediately after the meeting the couple was allegedly being verbally abusive to Shiver School personnel. Shiver Principal Perry Clark and other school administrators were in a meeting at the time. The couple was taken into custody for allegedly being verbally abusive to Shiver School personnel.

There were four employees at Shiver School when the couple was taken into custody. The couple was taken into custody with the Grady County Sheriff's office regarding the incident, which involved a 40-year-old Caucasian man and a 34-year-old

at the same address on Pleasant Green Road.

On Nov. 15, they were called to the school to get the woman's child, but witnesses said they were angry and interrupted school operations. In statements to the deputy on Nov. 14, the couple admitted to yelling and cursing at the school staff in the front office.

Each was then arrested.

See B20K, Page A7

LOOK WHAT'S INSIDE THIS WEEK'S PAPER



Operation SHOE BOX

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Season Comes to AN END

PAGE B1

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This issue was mailed on November 26, 2013. If it arrives late please call your Post Office. To subscribe please call 1-877-883-1141 or visit www.cairomessenger.com

Headline Writing

D

3rd Place

The Post-Searchlight, Bainbridge

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County into 'dirt'y business?

BY JEFF FINOLEY
Publisher

A road construction company used excess dirt from the Deatur County landfill during the Highway 27 South bypass project.

Discontentment to any of the county commissioners, county administrator Gary Broadfines and former county landfill manager John Simons agreed to an arrangement with Oxford Construction to purchase dirt from the landfill at one dollar per cubic yard.

Generally, a typical dump truck would hold 12 to 15 cubic yards of material.

According to emails from Broadfines, Simons, and the county administrator, the arrangement was to cover a month-long period. Oxford staff would come to the landfill with Oxford-owned equipment and take the dirt from an excess pile. The dirt pile was referred to as "M.C." on the emails, referencing Carl Maxwell, former finance director for the county.

In total, Oxford took 5,000 cubic yards of dirt totaling 25 truckloads to use on the bypass project. The charge to Oxford from Deatur County is \$5,000. It is unknown if that has been paid.

Included in one of the emails obtained by The Post-Searchlight.

SEE DIRT, PAGE 1A

Employment up

State Labor Department officials say Deatur County jobs are on the rise, less taking out applications

BY ADLEY JOHNSON
Managing editor

Employment numbers are slightly down in Deatur County according to the most recent monthly statistics released by the Georgia Department of Labor, which shows the unemployment rate in the southwest region of the state down to 8.8 in August from 9.5 percent in July.

Deatur County specifically saw a decrease from 11.2 percent in July to 10.2 percent in August, a drop less than one full point.

The rate dropped because there was a significant reduction in layoffs. There were 1,445 new layoffs, represented by initial claims for unemployment insurance, which are 88, or 6 percent, lower than the 1,599 in July. Much of the decline came in manufacturing, with additional reductions in construction.

SEE STORY, PAGE 1A

Get a blessing for Fido

BY CAROLYN LAMON
News Writer

Everyone is invited to bring his or her pet, companion animal or service animal for a Blessing when St. John's Episcopal Church again offers their annual Blessing of the Animals service on Saturday, Oct. 5, at 10 a.m., with the Rev. Maria Miller officiating.

The event will take place on the lawn located at the rear of the church and in front of the fellowship hall at 526 E. Straighten St.

This custom has been observed in early October for years by many Catholic and Anglican churches in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures.

SEE BLESSING, PAGE 1A

A Blessing for a Pet

Photo by Peter Brown
A BLESSING FOR A PET: Rev. June Johnson blesses "Coco" the dog as owner Judy Harrington watches. Each pet is called by name and brought to the front for Johnson to bless.

SEE BLESSING, PAGE 1A

Cobb joins Post-Searchlight newsroom coverage team

FROM STAFF REPORTS
The Post-Searchlight

Brendi Cobb has been named a reporter for The Post-Searchlight, Bainbridge Landing magazine, 80th and 81st magazines and the publication's associated websites. She began work on Tuesday.

Cobb returns to the Bainbridge Media LLC from Millersville where she attended school at Georgia College and State University. She said she is looking forward to coming to the community and working at print publication out of school.

"The Post-Searchlight has such a great, energetic staff who are excited about delivering a quality newspaper to the community," said Cobb. "The looking forward to being on the team and learning from all of them. For me, it will be a very fun and rewarding experience."

Cobb, 31, graduated from Georgia College and State University in May 2012 with a bachelor's degree in Mass Communications. While there, she worked as sports editor for GC's newspaper, The Colonials, and assisted the paper to win numerous awards from the Georgia College Press Association.

This summer, Cobb worked as an intern for Bainbridge Youth Magazine, traveling the west coast to promote the magazine and its sponsors, as well as cover stories for the publication.

"Working for Bainbridge Youth on top of my experience as a sports editor really made me a better reporter," Cobb said. "I can't wait to bring everything I've learned to the table and help put out the best newspaper possible for all of its readers."

Managing editor Adley Johnson said Cobb will not only be a great addition to The Post-Searchlight editorial team, but he will also help expand the mission of the newspaper.

SEE COBB, PAGE 1A

OBITUARIES

Full obituaries can be found inside the edition on page 9B.

- Public Readings
- On-Plan Burial
- Home Funerals Only
- Direct Burial Services

YOUR NEIGHBOR

Good Planning to **JANNE ALDAY** passes from a former and works a Parkview Florist in Bainbridge. She enjoys shopping in her spare time.

INSIDE
League leaders at Longan Gray Bowling Center on Monday night.

SEE PAGE 1B

WEEK AHEAD

Full schedule can be found in the edition on page 1A.

Thursday
• Chamber of Commerce Breakfast, 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

Friday
• Necessary United Methodist Church will hold its annual 50th year sale from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, Saturday, Oct. 5 from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Saturday
• Bowling league tournament will be held at 50 Reynolds Tennis Facility.

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Headline Writing

D

2nd Place

The Northeast Georgian, Cornelia

The Northeast Georgian

75 cents FEBRUARY 15, 2013 Weekend

Radio conversion causing static
Public safety employees confused about proper operation; glitches being addressed

By DONALD FRISER

Change is not always easy. For public safety employees in Habersham County currently in the throes of emergency dispatch radio system conversion, the process has been anything but smooth.

The Federal Communications Commission ordered the conversion of all public emergency radio systems to narrow-band Very High Frequency, with compliance required by Dec. 5.

Habersham County government's Emergency Management System and E-911 radio dispatch service, along with the county's sheriff's department, emergency medical service and fire departments have all participated in the conversion, which included having a digital radio system. Local municipalities, which are also displaced through the county's E-911 system, have converted their radio systems.

Although the hardware conversion is complete, only about 500 radio units are "live," with five and 2500 units not yet fully converted.

"Due to the expense for radio equipment is prohibitive," said Lynn Smith, Habersham County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Center director in January of that time, Habersham County Schools had donated several surplus radio systems to the county for the radio requirements, saving the county hundreds of thousands of dollars of added cost.

"A large portion of equipment funding was granted to us," said Chad Henderson, Habersham County Communications Director. Funding has covered the county's portion.

See Radio, Page 2A

'Active Shooter Training' unifies law enforcement

By CHRISTINA SAVITZ

Habersham County law enforcement was put to the test last week. Monday, Feb. 11, 14 representatives from 11 of Habersham's law enforcement agencies underwent Active Shooter Training, gathering at North Georgia Technical College's Conference Center to test their skills should they encounter an active shooter while on the job. Additionally, officers from the Habersham County Sheriff's Office, City of Cornelia Police Department and the Mountain Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office, took part in the training.

Of the daily participants, groups of four rotated through the training, which included live-fire drills, active shooter drills, and live-fire drills. The training was held at the county's new building on the east side of the city, a modern, multi-level structure with a "modern feel," according to the training.

According to Lt. Mark McDonough with the

See Sheriff, Page 2A

VALENTINE'S DAY WEDDING VOWS END 14-YEAR ENGAGEMENT

Ulna Davis, 44 and Don Nicholson, 63, both of Clarksville, marry on Valentine's Day at the Habersham County Courthouse after being together 14 years. Davis said they had been dating only six weeks when he gave her the ring, but they had each been married before, so they just wanted a "general commitment." "Now is the right time to make the official commitment," Davis said. "I love her," was Nicholson's answer. The couple shared "a fairly sense of humor," as well as a love of history and re-creating their Southern genealogy. "We're a lot alike," Nicholson said. "She's a business lady and I'm a consultant." The couple married wearing the Nicholson family tartan. Probate Judge Pamela Woodley performed the wedding ceremony.

LBT wins Grammy

By KIMBERLY BISHAN

The number seven has come true for country duo Little Big Town, who in November brought home their Best Country Award on Sunday, Feb. 10. The group includes Kimberly Bryant, Karen Fairchild, Jim Westbrook and Phillip Sweet. The group won Best Country Duo/Group Performance for their hit "Pontoon," which also won Single of the Year at the recent Country Music Association Awards.

The duo's success, being named Best Country Duo/Group Performance for their hit "Pontoon," which also won Single of the Year at the recent Country Music Association Awards.

See LBT, Page 3A

Nemec joins CNI and The Northeast Georgian

Margaret Nemec has joined Cornelia City Newspapers Inc. and The Northeast Georgian as a regional digital marketing consultant.

Nemec has 17 years of digital marketing experience and has a degree in marketing from the University of Georgia. She has worked with local businesses to help them reach their target audience online.

"This is great news for our local businesses," said Alan Nemec, publisher of The Northeast Georgian. "They now have a local, go-to person to call with questions about how to promote their businesses online. With Margaret's expertise, we now have the capability to help our local businesses market themselves competitively and professionally in print and online."

Nemec will be in the Habersham market next week, February 15-16. The Northeast Georgian's new online marketing opportunities include

See Nemec, Page 2A

DEATHS, 8A

• News for Feb. 12

• On for Feb. 12

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Contact us: 706-778-6222

Two sections, 20 pages

Headline Writing

D

SHOOTING AT LA AIRPORT
TSA agent dead after gunman goes on spree. 4A

SEE DETAILS INSIDE

Count the Turkeys to WIN!

Henry WEEKLY Herald
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2013

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Stockbridge may exceed record voting

By Rachel Sneyer
rsneyer@henryherald.com

McDONOUGH — Election officials are now saying Stockbridge could exceed record voting this year.

Election and Registration Director Janet Shelton said Stockbridge's highest voter turnout was four years ago with 1,279 voters.

"I think they will pass that this time," she said because she expects an average of 200 or more will turn out on election day. Though numbers were low for the first week of early voting, as of Friday morning, the city of Stockbridge had 895 people vote for the mayor and two city council positions, but Shelton expects that number to rise on election day.

Similarly, 812 people have voted in McDonough, 326 people have voted in Hampton and 219 people have voted in Lovett Grove.

"I really figured Lovett Grove will be our lowest because they don't have a mayor on the ballot, only city council, but Hampton and Lovett Grove are good about coming out on election day," Shelton said.

However, she said the real surprise has been the county turnout for the SPLIST TV referendum, which is still less than 15 percent of all registered voters.

"County SPLIST wise, we are just crossing 4,000," Shelton said. "County wide, that's not good because if you have 120,000 voters, 4,000 out of 120,000 voters isn't going to be a high enough percentage, but we've got election day to go and I think it will move up some to where 10 to 15,000 vote on election day, hopefully."

Shelton said they generally receive higher numbers at the polls on election day because certain groups don't believe in early voting and others procrastinate.

She said she encourages all registered voters to take the time out to vote on election day saying there is no excuse not to vote on issues that affect citizens everyday — such as road construction and lights.



Rebecca Stanton Folken stands with her Herbal Bee Co. soaps at the Courthouse Square Market in McDonough. (Staff Photo: Heather Middleton)

From scents to cents McDonough woman creates one-of-a-kind soaps

By Heather Middleton
hmiddleton@henryherald.com

McDONOUGH — When lotion and soap did nothing to alleviate Rebecca Stanton Folken's young family of their dry skin and itches, she knew she had to do something.

After trying products after products, Folken, a nurse, went searching for an answer in books and online. With her own need and nursing knowledge she knew she could do better.

This was born The Herbal Bee Co. More than 20 years ago Fol-

ken began making basic soaps for her husband and children — and it worked. Their rashes, dry skin and itches started going away.

Now, Folken hand makes her soaps for everyone.

"I've always been interested in the chemistry and science part of it," Folken said.

What makes The Herbal Bee Co. soap different from commercial soap, Folken explained, is the lack of preservatives, detergent and fragrance chemicals.

"These are what really



Rebecca Stanton Folken also handmakes Bee Butter, it's made of whipped coconut oil and scented with lemongrass. (Staff Photo: Heather Middleton)

AMS' Scott loses battle with cancer

From Staff Reports

HAMPSHIRE — Atlanta Motor Speedway Promotions and Marketing Director, Mary Scott, died Friday after a long battle with breast cancer.

Scott was diagnosed in June 2008. She underwent chemotherapy and had a double mastectomy in November of that year.

Scott detected the disease on her own with monthly self-breast exams.

In an interview with the Clayton News Daily, Scott talked about the difficulty of the disease.

"It's been really tough," she said. "My parents were looking forward to being grandpa-

nts. Now, I'll never have kids. There's a lot of heartbreak."

Ed Clark, AMS president, announced Scott's passing via email referring to her as a dear friend and colleague.

"We will all miss her charisma, her penchant for detail and her way of making any task fun and enjoyable," Clark said. "She was a great friend and consummate professional."

Clark asked for the community to keep Scott's family, Clark, Chadler and Stewart, in their prayers.



Mary Scott



Mary Scott, Atlanta Motor Speedway Promotions and Marketing Director, lost her four-year battle with breast cancer Friday. (Special Photos)



The seventh installment of the "Fast & Furious" movie franchise will film in Stockbridge on Monday. (Special photos)

'Furious 7' filming in Stockbridge

By Rachel Sneyer
rsneyer@henryherald.com

STOCKBRIDGE — Henry County continues to be the movie filming go-to south of Atlanta.

FP7 Productions LLC, a subsidiary of Universal Studios, will be filming a scene for the feature movie "Fast & Furious 7" Nov. 5-9 in Stockbridge, according to city officials.

The city has issued film permits to close Reeves Parkway and Ram Creek Parkway from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. off Rock Quarry Road.

Traffic will be held intermittently for short times — while the cameras are rolling — and off-duty Henry County police officers will be on hand for traffic control.

The popular action series stars Vin Diesel as Dominic Toretto, Paul Walker, Michelle Rodriguez, Dwayne Johnson, Jordana Brewster, Jason Statham, Lucas Black and Kurt Russell.

"Fast & Furious 7" is an action film written by Chris Morgan and directed by James Wan. The movie is scheduled to appear in theaters July 11, 2014.

DST ends Sunday; set clocks back

By Rachel Sneyer
rsneyer@henryherald.com

McDONOUGH — Don't forget to fall back Sunday or you might be a little early to work Monday.

Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday at 2 a.m., and people can look forward to an extra hour as clocks fall back to 1 a.m. This change puts the country back on Standard Time.

The main purpose of Daylight Saving Time is to make better use of daylight by changing clocks during the summer months to save an hour of daylight from the morning to the evening.

Most of the United States began Daylight Saving Time at 2 a.m. on the second Sunday in March and reverts to standard time on the first Sunday in November.

1st Place

Henry Daily Herald, McDonough

Headline Writing

B

3rd Place

Athens Banner-Herald

CASHWORD NO WINNER THIS WEEK • JACKPOT INCREASES TO \$400, PAGE C3

SEE THE DAILY DEAL AT ONLINEATHENS.COM
\$35 for Carpet, Flooring and Upholstery Cleaning for 2 Rooms from ServiceMaster! (\$150 Value)

ServiceMaster Clean

GIFT GUIDE LOOKING FOR THAT SPECIAL-SOMEONE? HERE'S SOME IDEAS PAGES A8-9

ATHENS BANNER-HERALD

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2013

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Software company leads kids to science

Office closer to students it helps

By Lee Steiner
lsteiner@bannerherald.com

A company started by University of Georgia faculty members recently moved off the UGA campus into a space at the Clarke County School District's Athens Community Center Academy.

The company, D3D, develops interactive educational software aimed at teaching core scientific ideas to high school students.

Under the arrangement with the school district, the company gets 2,500 square feet of office and computer space while the school district will get to use the company's growing base of software.

But the big advantage for the company will be the ability to work with the students and teachers the software is designed to help, said D3D CEO Tom Robertson, who is also a UGA professor of physiology and pharmacology at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

"Our main objective is to be embedded within our target market, and helping students and the school district achieve their goals," he said.

For the past three years, D3D has occupied space in UGA's Robinson Center off Southland Road, where many companies can rent space as they try to get established.

D3D employees have worked with Clarke teachers and students for years, but now will have a closer connection, Robertson said.

The company's products include three-dimensional animations, games and eBooks.

But the company's main product so far is the interactive

See D3D on B2

Ice time had by all

Classic Center's festival puts holiday activities in one place

By April Borkert
aborkert@bannerherald.com

Christmas music and children's laughter filled The Classic Center's Grand Hall Saturday, as people of all ages stopped through the holiday market and participated in various activities at the first "Christmas on The Classic Center" festival.

A Classic Center created event, "Christmas at the Classic Center" is open to the public from now through Dec. 21. It features a winter wonderland atmosphere complete with Santa's workshop, local bakeries and numerous professional-grade food stations, events and contests and opportunities for children to help spread a holiday treat and ride through the Grand Hall.

Performances by local choirs and groups are also featured throughout the festival.

At Santa's Workshop, Britt Avery finished building tool boxes with her children Zephaniah, 5, and Alex, 2, before moving to other activities and waiting Santa.

"My favorite thing was riding the train," Zephaniah said. "I shot the balls (in the honey house) and I built this tool box and got stickers on it, but I still need stickers for the side," she said, running her hand along the back of the toolbox. "I'm excited to see Santa."

In the past, Avery ran from place to place to do all the activities offered at the festival and was happy Athens offered one place where families and others could celebrate the holidays.

"This is really fun and every thing we're able to do (at the festival) makes this more really affordable and fun for the families," Avery said.

Following Santa, the festival's star is The Classic Center's new 8,000 square foot indoor ice rink.

"This is the first time we'll have ice skating in downtown Athens and we've been so

See SKATING on A10



Photo by Richard Hansen/Out

Above: Natalie Friday helps her son, Joshua Friday, learn how to skate on the newly-built ice rink during Christmas at The Classic Center Saturday afternoon in Athens. Top: Teresa Rogers (from left), Adrienne Rogers, Andy Shubin and Aly Rogers make wooden toolboxes in Santa's Workshop.

Housing costs paid as woman looks for job

Staff Report
www.athensnews.com

Heart problems and pneumonia kept a woman, described as a "wonderful worker" by former colleagues, from securing stable employment.

Lack of insurance and out-of-pocket prescription costs dipped into her savings accounts and forced her to choose between medicine and rent.

The Empty Stocking Fund helped the woman pay \$200 toward her housing costs while she searched for a job.

The Empty Stocking fundraising campaign is held during the holidays, but the money collected isn't used for toys or gifts. It's only to help needy families with rent, power bills, heating costs, medical needs and other necessary expenses.

The purpose of the fund is to assist local people who can't be helped by other char-

ties or need more aid than those charities can provide. Some checks are only written to vendors, not individuals, all recipients have been referred to the fund by area agencies.

Donors last year gave more than \$10,000 to the Athens Banner-Herald Empty Stocking Fund. A lot of this year's contributions will appear in the Banner-Herald each Sunday.

To donate, make checks payable to the Athens Banner-Herald Empty Stocking Fund and mail to Athens Banner-Herald, P.O. Box 912, Athens, GA 30603. Credit card donations can be made by calling (706) 259-7142. Refunds must be submitted by an area agency at emptystocking@athensnews.com.

Nothing to sneeze at

Flu season hits as Georgia deaths already reported

By Andy Miller
andy.miller@athensnews.com

Flu cases are ticking up in Georgia. Public health officials recently announced the first influenza-related deaths in Georgia this flu season — two adults in metro Atlanta. Officials did not immediately provide further details about the two who died.

The Department of Public Health says that while the flu level is still considered minimal in Georgia, it is reporting increases in the activity statewide, including hospitalizations.

"The single most effective way to prevent the flu is the flu vaccine," said Dr. Patrick

See FLU on A7

INSIDE FORECAST

51°
29°
FULL DETAILS, PAGE A2

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Local State	B1
Lotteries	C2
Outdoors	B2
Opinion	B7
Sports	C1
TV Listings	D2

Book Signing
By Coach Vince Dooley

191 Alps Rd.
Athens, GA 30606
Friday, December 20, 2013
4pm-6pm

Headline Writing

B

2nd Place

The Brunswick News

THURSDAY

The Isles will be talking a lot about 'Our Town'

Sinking a free throw starts with 'getting set'

THE BRUNSWICK NEWS

Volume 111, Number 234

DAYBREAK

Hot and sunny with a few clouds

High 88, Low 68

Heat will climb on breezy day

Today and tonight will be mostly sunny with a few clouds. High 88, low 68. Breezy with a few clouds. Heat will climb on breezy day.

DOG OWNERS MAY FACE SHORTER LEASH

City Council is considering a change to the city ordinance that limits the length of a dog's leash to 6 feet. The change would allow a dog to be on a leash that is up to 8 feet long.

ISLES NEEDS SKILLED JOBS

College economist says diversification vital for growth

Joe Matthews, College of Coastal Georgia economics professor

The College Isles economy is looking at a bright future, but it needs to diversify beyond its traditional sectors of tourism and retail. Joe Matthews, an economics professor at the College of Coastal Georgia, says the islands need to attract more skilled jobs to ensure long-term growth.

City ponders stricter pet rules

City Council is considering a change to the city ordinance that limits the length of a dog's leash to 6 feet. The change would allow a dog to be on a leash that is up to 8 feet long.

WHAT'S POSSIBLE

It's not just a matter of time, it's a matter of possibility. The city is considering a change to the city ordinance that limits the length of a dog's leash to 6 feet. The change would allow a dog to be on a leash that is up to 8 feet long.

Charity campaign hits goal

United Way drive ends at \$1.2 million

The United Way campaign has reached its goal of \$1.2 million. The drive was a success for the community.

Charity campaign hits goal

United Way drive ends at \$1.2 million

The United Way campaign has reached its goal of \$1.2 million. The drive was a success for the community.

Agging school buses need to be retired

Some vehicles are 15 to 20 years old

The school district is considering retiring some of its oldest school buses. The buses are 15 to 20 years old and need to be replaced.

Headline Writing

B

1st Place

Marietta Daily Journal

OPINION 'YES' VOTE ON SPLOST IS BEST OPTION FOR FUNDING OUR SCHOOLS

COBB'S LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1866

Marietta Daily Journal

FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2013

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75 CENTS

Charges dropped in Glock fraud case

Investigators had been accused of bilking millions from gun company

By Leo Holzman
holzman@mdjonline.com

MARIETTA — Three private investigators who were hired to look into competitors of Glock Inc. and later found themselves the target of criminal indictments can breathe easier after Cobb's district attorney dismissed all charges against them Thursday.

D.A. Vic Reynolds dismissed the three-year-old indictments against James



James Harper

Harper is a former assistant U.S. attorney hired by Glock to investigate alleged criminal activity inside the company, including the 1999 assassination attempt of President Clinton.

Harper is an Atlanta attorney, and Chapman has been a resident of Marietta, though it is not known if he still resides in the city.

See Dropped, Page 3A



Jerry Chapman

Chapman is an Atlanta attorney, and Chapman has been a resident of Marietta, though it is not known if he still resides in the city.

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See Dropped, Page 3A



Stephen King

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See Dropped, Page 3A



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See Dropped, Page 3A

'GIANT VOICE' ALERT SYSTEM AT DOBBINS

Alert system will play recorded versions of 'Kavellie' at 4 a.m. and the national anthem at 6 a.m.



The Giant Voice alert system will play recorded versions of 'Kavellie' at 4 a.m. and the national anthem at 6 a.m. for the daily 'wakeup'.

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See Reveille, Page 4A

Split-penny tax bill fails in Ga. House

Rep. Carson says legislation couldn't overcome pressure from municipal lobby groups

By Jon Gilfoyle
gilfoyle@mdjonline.com

ATLANTA — A piece of legislation the Cobb Board of Commissioners and Cobb Chapter of Commissioners voted the General Assembly to pass — allowing local governments to levy a sales tax of less than 1 percent — will not be approved this year.

Current law requires all SPLOSTs to be 1 percent, or 1 cent on the dollar, but state Rep. John Carson's bill would allow for a fraction of that amount to be collected.

The tax would be set to reach denominations as a fourth of a penny, half penny or three-fourths, with collectors receiving up to 10 percent.

Carson, a Republican who lives in northeast Cobb, said the pressure against his bill came from groups like the Georgia Municipal Association.

"They believe that if we split the penny, then your hard right conservative groups are going to pack these small counties that are supposed to begin with. They think these hard right conservative groups are going to win. You, you don't need a full penny. You need a half a penny," Carson said.

But Carson said if a county's voters want to raise to 1.5 percent sales tax, they can do so.

"That's how the process will be," Carson said. "They don't want that option to exist because they don't want the political pressure that it might create upon them."

Opposing the bill because they're intimidated by political pressure is a weak excuse, Carson said.

"My constituents in Cobb County spend probably \$30 million to \$40 million more per year on a SPLOST than we need to, and just because a fractional penny causes political pressure for elected leaders,

See Bill, Page 4A

Worked up

Cobb Commissioner mean Goreham and arrival D.A. King, president of the Cobb County Society, debate their differences on illegal immigrants in the town hall

By Jon Gilfoyle
gilfoyle@mdjonline.com

ACWORTH — Commissioner Helen Goreham and immigration activist D.A. King of the Cobb County Society debated during a town hall meeting Thursday evening over the topic of how to deal with illegal immigrants.

During the question-and-answer portion of the event hosted by the commissioner, King seized on a comment made by Goreham about the importance of being inclusive when hiring project managers and construction workers.

King said Goreham had voted against a program that would have allowed federal agents to invade the living records of county contractors to ensure employees are legally able to work in the U.S.

The program is called the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Mutual Agreement between Government and Employers, or DMACE.

Goreham said she would not debate King on the DMACE subject. The program was turned down by the county commission last month.

One reason it was killed, Goreham said, was because it was terrible legislation that forced any company doing business with the county government to verify for DMACE certification.

King said at least Goreham was now admitting the truth of how the program worked, given that at a previous town hall meeting and in form letters to constituents, she mischaracterized the proposal by claiming it would apply to all businesses in Cobb, which was inaccurate.

"So, I slipped up a couple of times, and I do not get the kind of treatment you get in our local newspapers, so therefore I don't even get credit for appropriate comments, so therefore I will not even debate this issue," Goreham said.

Goreham said King had his chance to speak before the Board of Commissioners.

"You have used your tongue to describe me all over based on allegations, and now you ask for proof for your allegations that you share with the commission? It's over. It is done," she said.

"Oh, it's not over," King said.

See Worked, Page 4A

Smyrnans rise, whine to reveille

National Anthem has them covering ears, not hearts

By Geoff Folsom
folsom@mdjonline.com

Smyrna City Councilwoman Tammy Anderson said she's heard from about a dozen people since Dobbin's Air Reserve Base started playing twice-daily "bugle calls" on its "Giant Voice" alert system Feb. 1.

"Reveille rang from 4 a.m. to 6 a.m.," she said. "The national anthem rang from 6 a.m. to 7 a.m.," she said. "It's not exactly what I want to hear."

The Giant Voice system actually plays recorded versions of "Kavellie" at 4 a.m. and the national anthem at 6 a.m. for the daily "wakeup."

Dobbin's spokesman Capt. Patrick Simmons said the system was put in place to alert staff at Dobbin's and across the base at the Clay National Guard Center to potential emergencies.

The daily calls allow staff to be alerted and to a way to observe military traditions.

Through it is "somewhat independent," Simmons said the Clay system plays the same calls seven days a week, compared to just Monday through Friday at Dobbin's. But in response to the concerns being expressed, he said Clay is cutting back to five days a week, while calls have been made to residents to come in and lower the volume slightly.

Simmons said there have been some complaints on the Clay side, around the southern end of the base, because it is in a more residential area.

"It takes a little bit of time to make adjustments," Simmons said.

At the same time, Simmons said the Giant Voice will need to remain loud enough to be heard around the base.

The system uses \$250,000 in funding as part of a U.S. Department of Defense mandate that military bases comply with its digital notification system. Simmons said it replaces an antiquated 20-year-old analog alarm system.

"Some of the residents did not work," he said. "It did not provide for the emergency notification we require."

See Reveille, Page 4A

Teen accused of posting nude photos of juveniles

Harrison High student faces 8 felony charges; warrant says images put on porn website

By Lindsey Field
field@mdjonline.com

ACWORTH — A 17-year-old student was arrested Wednesday afternoon at Harrison High School in Acworth for reportedly posting nude photos of juveniles online.

Michael Wilkes Cook of Acworth was charged with seven counts of first-degree cruelty to children and one count of distribution of child pornography, all of which are felony charges.

The warrant also says Cook did upload images of a child which were sent to nature and posed nude images on a pornography website, the warrant states.

The warrant did not say whether the items were also made at Harrison High School. Cook is accused of uploading the images through "Facebook messages" between Nov. 1, 2012,

as being on UA, and uploading them to the Internet.

"Cook did upload images of a child which were sent to nature and posed nude images on a pornography website," the warrant states.

The warrant did not say whether the items were also made at Harrison High School. Cook is accused of uploading the images through "Facebook messages" between Nov. 1, 2012,

and Jan. 1 of this year. Doug Goodwin with the Cobb County Sheriff's Office said the district would not comment on the case, which has been handed over to the Cobb County Police Crime Against Children Unit.

Sgt. Dana Pierce with the Cobb County Police Department said his department is not releasing any information on the case at this time.

See Bill, Page 4A

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Headline Writing

A

1st Place

The Telegraph, Macon

MERCER FOOTBALL RETURNS

Mercer University wide receiver Thomas Dunbar, center, and quarterback Josh James sign posters Friday night for fans during the street party held in Mercer Village. The entire team was on hand for autographs during the special event to promote Saturday's game.

Countdown to kickoff

Mercer University's football program is back as the team takes on Richmond University at the campus stadium Saturday night.

INSIDE TODAY

New beginnings

Mercer football special section

BEAR DOWN

A cheer card to show your support

IN SPORTS

- Both teams in Saturday's game are facing the unknown, SC
- A 90-year-old former Mercer player will be a part of the festivities, 3B

COMING SUNDAY

The Telegraph and macon.com will have complete coverage of the game and the tailgating party.

Kerry lays out case for US to act in Syria

By **LESLIE CLARK, ANITA RUMBA and HANNA KILIAN**
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The aging stand against the "unintentional, unacceptable" human toll of chemical weapons, Secretary of State John Kerry on Friday laid out the Obama administration's case for a military intervention in Syria based on intelligence that says the Syrian regime gassed children multiple times in defiance of international norms.

Kerry's remarks, along with statements from President Barack Obama later in the day, left little doubt that a U.S. missile strike against Syrian President Bashar Assad's regime was imminent, even without American popular support, backup from closely allied Britain or the approval of the United Nations. The administration's decision to act reflects the legacy of leadership intelligence in the run-up to the Iraq war, National Security Council spokesman Robert Woodberry said.

Secretary of Defense

'CASH MOB' HELPS H&H RESTAURANT, 1B

Execution, not emotion, key for Bulldogs

COLLEGE KICKOFF, 3C

Saturday, August 31, 2012
MIDDLE GEORGIA'S NEWSPAPER

The Telegraph
macon.com

Poring over rain

Volunteers keep track of this year's record rainfall

Burry Nobles logs into the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network website Wednesday at her home in Dunwoody.

Burry Nobles faithfully checks her rain gauge every morning about 7.

"I've always been obsessed with it, thanks to my mother," she said Wednesday while installing a new gauge in her Twigg, Ga., backyard. "Growing up, it was my mother that was so obsessed with the rain."

Eighteen years ago, when Nobles moved to her husband's family's farm on Ga. 298, her mother-in-law in Macon bought her a rain gauge.

"So I would tell her how much rain I get," she said.

When the Nobles were growing corn, cotton and peanuts before the turn of this century, the information was crucial.

The drought put them out of the farming business, but five years ago Nobles was one of the first Georgians to sign up for the Community

Record amounts continue to fall

By **LESLIE CLARK**
Macon Bureau

If Macon doesn't see another drop of rain this year, 2012 will still be the eighth wettest year in its recorded history.

Bill Murphy, Georgia's climatologist, does not see any reason to think the water spout in the sky will abruptly turn off.

If the current trend holds, 2012 could break a record for rainfall, he said.

Adding the average amount of rainfall for September through December would give Macon about 73.30 inches. The current record amount of rainfall was 67.86 inches.

Source: The National Weather Service, and Bill Murphy, Georgia climatologist.

THE RAIL
YOUR NEWS EXPRESS

Daughter gets surprise

By **HEIDI PARSONS**
Macon Bureau

WAINNER ROBINS — Blood splattered the light green walls of a large room that served as the kitchen, dining and living room area of the three-story house in the West Quail Street neighborhood.

Robins planned an adjoining wall. Blood soaked a cushion of the living room couch. The odor of bleach permeated the air.

That's what the man who came into the Houston County Sheriff's Office at about 7

Authorities: Double homicide was planned, drug related

By **HEIDI PARSONS**
Macon Bureau

MACON, Aug. 29 (AP) — Authorities said what happened to a man and a woman who were shot and killed in Macon Friday was a planned "execution-style slaying" and not a drug-related killing, a sheriff's spokesman said.

Authorities have declined to name the man, who came into the home that morning, saw the white signs of a killing and drove to the sheriff's office in Wainner Robins.

Friday, authorities called the killing a planned "execution-style slaying" and not a drug-related killing, a sheriff's spokesman said.

TO CONTACT CUSTOMER SERVICE, CALL 800-679-6397 or 478-744-4288

90/72
Chance of afternoon thunderstorms

Editorial Writing

G

2nd Place

The Commerce News

Mark Beardsley

PAGE 8A - THE COMMERCE NEWS, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2013

Opinion

Editorial Views

Call the meeting Commissioner Crow

Jackson County Board of Commissioners chairman Tom Crow and Commissioner Dean Smith have used newspaper advertising to make allegations that someone is "hiding" the amount of money being spent on the West Jackson EMS station. Last week Commissioner Chris Harby called for a public meeting on the topic to clear the air. That meeting should be held as soon as possible.

Just the same, since Crow and Smith have these allegations, one wonders why they've not used their positions as commissioners to reveal to the public the standards they expect to have uncovered. And why they've heretofore done nothing to stop the alleged actions. As Harby pointed out Jan. 21, the list of suspects for such schemes is very short -- the county manager, the finance director and the commissioners.

Crow is behind the lawsuit filed by four citizens challenging the way SPLOST money is being spent. In a sense, he's supporting a lawsuit against himself for failing to make sure that SPLOST money was governed as required by law. It would have been simpler, and saved taxpayers' money had Crow at some time during the previous four years been served on the board, made a motion to correct the alleged shortcoming, he now chooses to highlight with legal action. If he felt the government was acting improperly, why did Crow not speak up at the time and get the remedy instituted? That's what we expect elected officials to do.

But that didn't happen in the past, and it does not appear that Crow or Smith intend to handle matters that way in the future. Instead of confronting a problem as county commissioners who can actually do something about it, they throw out accusations in newspaper ads where there is no discussion, no rebuttal, no explanations.

The allegations published by Crow and Smith should be of interest to taxpayers, but of greater interest should be the method by which they chose to make the allegations. Commissioners unwilling to voice their concerns, fears or objections at the forum to which they are elected are not fulfilling the obligations of the office. Let them make those allegations in a public meeting where they can submit the evidence they claim to have where the people they accuse can have a rebuttal and citizens can weigh the evidence and let the chips fall wherever they will.

Call the meeting, commissioner Crow. It's time to stand up and face the problem head-on -- for a change.

Editorial, unless otherwise noted, are written by Mark Beardsley. He can be reached at mbe@commercenews.com.

LETTERS POLICY

The Commerce News reserves space on its opinion page for readers to express their views on current issues. The News welcomes comments in response to events in the news and to editorials or columns expressing opinions.

Send letters to: Letters to the Editor, The Commerce News, P.O. Box 908 Jefferson, GA 30549 or email them at commerce-newsletters@commercenews.com. Letters must be signed and have a phone number for verification. They should be of general interest to the public.

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Just because it's against the law to smoke in the courthouse doesn't mean commissioners can't blow smoke.



It's Gospel According To Mark

'Chambertude' and the new Energizer bunny

In just two meetings, I'm getting a clear idea why Mark Valentine is general manager of the biggest retail development in the area -- the Tanger Outlet.

Valentine is the new chairman of the Jackson County Area Chamber of Commerce. That puts him in a position to be a prime force in supporting local businesses and attracting new businesses. It also makes him the unofficial head cheerleader for Jackson County. It's a perfect fit.

My window into Valentine's nature is rather small -- strictly business, most of it via the chamber -- but he's definitely the caliber type you can imagine leading a cheer for Tanger or the county. Mark Valentine is always fired up like a toddler after a 3-hour Energy drink, seemingly ready to handle any obstacle that might be in the way and confident that today is going to be a good day.

Don't seek Valentine if you want to discuss gloomy news. He's a sunny-side-up kind of guy with an infectious optimism about -- everything. If you're selling something, from space at an outlet center to Jackson County tourism, this is the guy to have out front.

I got winded just listening to him, so my question is whether the rest of the chamber board has the stamina to keep up with him. He made it clear in his first chamber directors' meeting Jan. 30 that he has high expectations -- for himself, for the chamber and for the directors. When he challenged each director to ask two new board members to join the chamber, that meant he expects each director to do just that. Problem identifying membership? acknowledged, solution identified, follow-through expected.

The chamber board of directors is like most other groups, with members of differing levels of motivation. Some of the directors never attend a board meeting at any other chamber event. Citizens are there for every meeting, luncheon, business after hours, ribbon cutting or special event. Here's a new fiasko: if you're on the chamber board in 2013, Valentine will expect your full commitment, because he knows no other way.

He will also make changes. It's not just a matter of doing things differently because of lack of success or inefficiency. Valentine will also look at every successful aspect of chamber operations to see what could make it even better, even better, even better, even more profitable. Reach 117 percent of goal? He's coming up with a way to hit 125. He appears to be a relentless process manager, always looking for a way to do something better.

He's earned a phrase for the chamber's can-do attitude he wants for 2013: "Chambertude." I don't get the impression it's optional.

The chamber's direction better hit the caffeine and lace up their running shoes. Their new chairman is the reincarnation of the Energizer Bunny, and keeping up with Mark Valentine may be the board's greatest challenge of 2013.

Mark Beardsley is editor of The Commerce News. He can be reached at mbe@commercenews.com.

Time to have a party!

Every now and then, an inner alarm goes off, sort of like the one that says it's time to pay the car insurance bill. But this one says it's time to have a party.

And I call it an alarm because the prospect, although delicious, has an alarming side to it, too. What kind of party? And whom should I invite? --and how far in advance? Will they come? What should I serve? And so on (and so on and so on).

My house is often described as one, which is code for tiny. There's a definite limit to how many people will fit at one time, which means that I really need to have several parties, although that prospect is too daunting to look at head-on. I did have about 35 people in for supper once, but we were all cousins, and it was summertime, so we sat, not only on my couch and chairs, but all over the porch and on the front and back steps, the garden wall, and the fenders of cars. You can't very well do that in January, especially with non-relatives. Still, it does demonstrate a certain truth about parties, which is that people are not coming to see your house, try your cooking, or find out who the you hang out with. They're coming to get together and have fun; all they need is a place.

I tend to forget that, though, in spite of the fact that when I was a young lady with my husband and I cleaned our little rented house from top to bottom, navy-style, spent the day of the party waxing the hardwood floors, and ended up with an atmosphere about as welcoming as an opening room. There's no risk of that now, though. One reason my party alarm goes off is that I really only clean the house when company's coming. The rest of the time I simply tidy up. So there's no chance of achieving a sterile environment.



By Susan Harper

...just a place the Health Department might perhaps approve for small gatherings.

And no matter how carefully I plan or prepare, the actual event is always a cliff-hanger. (Well I still be in the shower when the guests start arriving? Will the pizza guy be able to find the house? Will there be enough cookies even though I baked half of them? This time, the day of the party begins with freezing rain and the threat of an ice storm. I was cooking a vat of vegetable chili, stringing lights outside so people could see where to park, and wondering whether anyone would even come. And in the end, everyone came -- well, almost everyone -- and I was fully dressed below the doorbell rang, but I forgot to serve the chili. I don't think anyone noticed, though.

Now we're fixin' to have a party at the library this weekend, to celebrate the completion of the renovation and expansion. Just like my little parties, the re-opening was a bit of a cliff-hanger -- it was delayed several days -- but it was worth the wait. The Grand Opening party this Saturday will begin at 10:30 a.m., and will include everything from the Commerce High School Band, to a string of happy speeches, to an awarding of door prizes at 12:15 p.m. and a magic show at 12:30 featuring magician and ventriloquist Keith Kattick.

The other show featured will be the sight of what two gifted architects, a cutting edge interior designer, and a determined community have achieved a light, bright, lovely library for us to treasure and enjoy for many years. Y'all come!

Susan Harper is retired, lives in Commerce and volunteers with the Commerce Public Library and the Jackson County Library Program.

We're the entertainment

If you remember reading The Divine Comedy you surely remember how exciting the inferno was and how dearth the Paradise. Dante, like the rest of us, had no trouble in imagining interesting tormentors for the damned, but couldn't come up with many satisfying entertainments for the blessed.

We think of Hell as a busy place: devils scurrying around chasing lost souls, jolting them in delicate places with their pitchforks and dangling them over pots of boiling oil and whatnot. But what do people do in Heaven? I mean, think about it: there are probably no hostesses in Heaven, and probably no bars. They probably don't allow firearms, and the entire place may be a no-smoking zone.



By Willie Cook

I doubt that they allow dog racing. I suspect that many churchgoers have not considered the possibility that there is no beer in Heaven. They have to have some kind of entertainment. Perhaps they have museums and motivational seminars. But frankly, I would hate to contemplate the possibility of more than a week of improving lectures.

Here's my theory: we here on earth are the entertainment. Heavenly residents can't get drunk and make fools of themselves, but they can watch us do it. Last week, I had the opportunity to replace the kitchen faucet. Here's how it went.



Editorial Writing

G

Saturday, Feb. 2, 2013
RockdaleNews.com/opinion
PAGE 5

OPINION

The NEWS

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Our thoughts...

Step Down

Two weeks ago it came to light that Jenny Brown, a member of the Rockdale County Board of Elections, wrote an insensitive and racially charged column that was posted on a local web site.

Two weeks ago, we ran an editorial that asked Mr. Brown to step down from this position.

We have heard and read that Mr. Brown, under his first amendment rights, has a right to his opinions and the right to make them public if he chooses.

We agree, and we support that right even if it means the words said or written are hurtful and divisive.

If Mr. Brown had made these comments as a private citizen, we doubt that it would have ruffled as many feathers. But he is not a private citizen as he, by his own choice, has become a public official and as such represents the citizens of Rockdale County in the public arena.

If Mr. Brown feels in his heart that Rockdale County because of an election is doomed, that's too bad for him. And for those that might defend such public statements and sentiments as Mr. Brown's and who have said that they are exiting to greener pastures, at least in their point of view, don't let the proverbial door hit you as you exit.

We have a progressive community and we see no reason why that it is not going to continue to grow and prosper.

Mr. Brown should have the courage to recognize that his kind of rationale is no longer acceptable or appreciated and he would serve our county best if he would step down from his visible post.

Fortunate

As we have stated many times in this space, we are fortunate to have the Rockdale Medical Center in our community.

There is no telling how many lives have been saved over the years because of its presence.

Over the recent years since LifePoint has owned the facility, there have been many improvements, not only in state-of-the-art equipment but also in service.

This past week, staff of the hospital and community leaders gathered in a celebration of life.

The dedication of the expansion of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and renovation of the Birth Place was a positive step in the hospital's push to provide excellent quality care and quality facilities within easy driving distance.

The folks at Rockdale Medical Center are a positive force in our community.

We congratulate them on having the vision to provide the Rockdale community with this expanded facility.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sheriff supports second amendment

Dear Editor: Gun control has been a hot news topic in the wake of recent tragedies across the country. As the duly elected Sheriff of Rockdale County, I want to let the residents of Rockdale County know where I stand on this issue.

When I was sworn in as your sheriff on December 30, 2012, I took an oath to support the Constitution of the United States, which includes standing by the 2nd Amendment. I join other sheriffs across Georgia when I say that I will oppose any federal or state legislation that infringes upon the rights of law abiding citizens to keep and bear arms. Furthermore, I will support any legislation that penalizes non-law abiding citizens who use firearms during the commission of crimes.

As an elected constitutional officer, I answer to the residents of Rockdale

County. While my office does enforce Georgia laws, I have no duty to enforce any federal law or mandate. That said, I will continue to protect and defend the Constitutional rights of Rockdale County residents by supporting the 2nd Amendment rights of law abiding citizens and by being tough on criminals.

A great way that I can help support the 2nd Amendment rights of Rockdale County residents is by offering ways to be responsible with guns. I plan to offer some upcoming gun safety classes that will cover basic gun safety, Georgia laws regarding guns, and even allow participants the opportunity to use their guns at our gun range under the supervision of firearms instructors. More information about these classes will be available in the near future.

I hope that I have been able to clear up my stance on gun control and strongly encourage anyone with further questions or concerns to contact me at anytime.



Eric Levett
Sheriff of Rockdale County

Sheriff Eric Levett
Rockdale County Sheriff's Office

Second Amendment a linchpin of freedom

Dear Editor: The column "Why the Second Amendment" in The News on January 19, 2013, by guest columnist Walter Williams was sensational. It was a straightforward, honest and truthful assessment of the sordid state of our government. From personal experience at Concord Bridge the Founders recognized the Second Amendment as the linchpin of freedom. That is the reason for the wording "shall not be infringed." In simple terms, it is not to be touched without consent of the people as specified in Article V.

What is being proposed by the president and some members of Congress is without question a violation of our Constitution, both Article V, and the Second Amendment. All gun owners should pause and give thought to the

question, why, then, are they proposing such deceptive underhanded measures after taking an oath to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic? Where is their conscience?

Such behavior on the part of elected government officials comports to the definition of traitor, defined as "one who violates a confidence or trust; one who acts perfidiously or treacherously; spec; one who violates his allegiance and betrays his country; one guilty of treason." This appears to be a clear case of misconduct by public officers and should justify the introduction of articles of impeachment.

Grady Mullins
Rockdale County

Questions remain following MLK celebration

Dear Editor: The annual celebration of MLK Day in Rockdale County was another success. The joint effort, sponsored by the NAACP Rockdale Branch and supported by the Conyers Long Horn Steak House is applauded.

The occasion was uniquely presented and speakers dramatically introduced the NAACP as newly appointed religious pastors of black churches in and around Rockdale County. Remaining are questions of relevance and community impact.

Do the introductions represent self-appointed community negotiators or advocates in pursuing equity in laws

introduced by elected officials? Will emphases be limited to "saving souls" as in the past? Is this a subtle declaration to reinforce a concept that confirms that the vote of the independent mind trumps the "no vote," a vote predicated upon what was heard, and/or a signal to wait for the "bye and bye"? Is having the picture, name and vote of an elected official and/or organization sufficient to confirm the source of trust in advocacy?

Lewis Belcher
Rockdale County

In defense of recent water study

Dear Editor: In regards to the editorial published on Jan. 19, Rockdale Water Resources and Rockdale County Water & Sewerage Authority take great pride in their financial performance over the past four years. Because RWR is a part of county government, its budget is published annually along with the county's General Fund. As you likely know, this is required for all public agencies. A copy of the 2011 Annual Report is enclosed for your review.

In anticipation of funding various projects developed in the 2020-2030 Water/Sewer Master Plan, a detailed financial plan is needed to address regulatory requirements for replacing old sewer plants and adequately maintaining the system to insure future water supply is available. Underground infrastructure, even if invisible, must be replaced when it wears out or breaks down.

Specifically, in regard to the estimated total to complete the Rate Study, \$132,000 was requested to fully fund the study. This included contractual services Rafeelis Consultants provided over a two-year period. This figure was comparable with the last Rate Study that Rafeelis Consultants performed for Rockdale County about 15 years ago at a cost of \$144,000.

It appears The News lacked the information or was misinformed about all of this based on what was written in the recent opinion column. It is for this very reason that RWR and the RCWSA are conducting a series of public seminars to educate the public regarding the genuine need for additional capital (more revenue) to sustain not only the present level of service but also to sustain these services into the future. For instance, we already have begun to speak at home owner and civic organizations.

One of the first general public information sessions will be at 6 p.m. Feb. 21 at J.P. Carr. We welcome the public's attendance and would be happy to speak to any home or civic organization within the next three months that invites us.

Elaine Nash
Chairperson of the RCWSA



Elaine Nash
Chairman of the Water and Sewerage Authority



1st Place

Rockdale News, Conyers

Editorial Writing

F

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February 14, 2013

Franklin Forum

Franklin County Citizen Leader

Our View

Be kind, offer hope after tragedies

It's been a tough few weeks for the Franklin County community.

There have been headlines about a mother accused of killing her baby and the search for another more that ended with the grisly discovery of her body in a well and the arrest of her boyfriend.

These recent stories occur on the heels of several other murders within the past year or so in our community. We want to join other members of the community to offer our prayers and sympathy to the families involved in these horrific tragedies. There are no words that can

adequately explain why these things happen or soothe the pain they cause.

But as a community, there are more things we can do. Let's reach out to those in our community who may need help dealing with life's losses - stressed mothers or battered women, for example.

- and find them the help they need.

When we see activities that could lead to a tragic outcome, let's let authorities know before it gets out of hand. Don't turn up the TV if your neighbors are in a physical fight next door, call the police.

Finally let's always remember to be kind and let people know we care. Sometimes, all people need are a friendly face, a kind word and the assurance that someone cares for them.

Such work will make this great community even better.

-Shane Scoggins

Morehead the right choice to lead UGA

Decisions are like archery shots. Choose - especially the critical ones - should stand the test of time. You want to look back after 20 years and say, "We did the right thing for both then and now."

One choice Georgia will look back on was the election of Jim Morehead as the 18th president of the state's flagship of higher education on July 1, 2011.

The University of Georgia has been much like Velcro to my soul since the 1966 ride to Athens in the backseat of my dad's Buick.

Before my freshman year was over, BigDink worked if I was learning anything. "You've missed everything but the soccer's give stick," he said. "Do you have time to study?"

Just more than a college education. I came away with a sense of things to study and a wish. Our three children met their spouses through UGA.

So when our family gathered for a meal, there are 10 feet under the table that have stepped forward to receive a total of 10 degrees. All 10 of us, including seven grandsons, are lifetime members of the UGA Alumni Association. Who leads our alma mater is important to us and to million other Georgians.

That's why as an alumnus and chairman of the University System of Georgia's Board of Regents, I had one goal in the selection of Dr. Michael Adams' successor: RECRUIT the best.

Like most change-agent leaders, President Adams isn't always where the action is. But he got us on the expressway to excellence and national prominence. The old motto prevailed: "To Make the Best Better." Come July, that'll be Jim Morehead's challenge.

If thought you might be interested in the process that chose him to be the 21st president of the nation's oldest chartered public university.

The occasion, led by Regent Larry Walker, did no honors. The center was narrowed to six, and they were on the floor. As later. Over two days, we delved deeper to compare the information provided and the reference feedback with the people sitting before us. We weighed their leadership styles.

One thing was certain: UGA. Present Jim Morehead was a rock star. He came, along with three of presidents of two major systems, was elected to the 18-member Board of Regents. When decision day was over, Jim emerged as the sole finalist.

I like what this says about The University of Georgia. After a year-long search, the best available, in all senses, was right here in our state.

Jim Morehead's leadership, loyalty, passion for teaching, institutional knowledge and his vision moved him to the top. Those who know him are not surprised. He is among UGA's most-esteemed faculty members.

Jim reminds me of UGA legend, the late Dr. L.W. Fountain, who was a world class leader. Dr. Fountain worked non-stop pulling people together through quiet, collaborative leadership. Jim has those gifts, too. And he'll do a great job of leading the state's flagship.

Another huge plus is that he knows Georgia's government and its intricacies, inside and out.

Jim's connections - and respect - among legislators and his former former students are endless. Just one example is Rep. David Raboin, Georgia's Speaker of the House. The two were partners on UGA's law school next coast tour.

Just like the archivist that he is, Jim's leadership will be a gift to Georgia for years to come. I predict that Georgians will say now and 20 years from now, "Jim Morehead was the right choice for The University of Georgia."

Jim McNeill is president of Community Newspapers Inc., the parent company of the Franklin County Citizen Leader. He can be reached at jim@jimmcneill.com.



Help, I've fallen and ... wait ... what was that?!

It was a dark and chilly night about 11 p.m. on Saturday when I went out to walk the dogs.

With my husband in his usual spot prone on the couch and my youngest in the bedroom I decided that I would take it upon myself to walk our pups and get things done for the night.

We usually do this in pairs as we have two dogs who come in and go out and there is just no way to walk Penny and Tyler at the same time.

The last time I tried that, I ended up stuffing a hoodie Penny in my pocket while I ran around after a pesty Tyler trying to get him to "go" so all of us could get in out of the rain.

So, instead of walking the two of them at the same time Saturday night, I worked it out where I could do one at a time, a feat at best.

Well, I walked Tyler with no problem. I grabbed his leash, light and Tyler and we headed down the back steps and, after first shining my light around to make sure there were no black and white visitors with us, we headed down the back steps and there I was all

around, we made our way into the great dark nothing. Suddenly, my outside dog and ever present guardian, wretched and barked encouragement while Tyler attended to business.

In just a few minutes I had Tyler back to me and in his crate with his food and water. I grabbed Penny, trying for a similar result.

Unfortunately, no, that was not to be. Penny had streaked down the back steps and I was trying to jump both her back and the flashlight.

When I stepped on my shadow and despite a magnificent effort and a dance that could have given Celine Dion a run for its money, I fell down the steps.

In the midst of several special occasion words, a low level moan and a brief scream, I, though lying across the ground with my face in a wet puddle, still managed to have Penny's back in my grasp.

Little Lavinia, who would have, I am sure, come to my aid, Penny, the pup, tried to make a run for the neighbor's out front.

I decided my best course of action would be to lie there for a while to make sure I was all

right.

Just in case my family might be concerned about my whereabouts, I offered up a few phrases for help. Of course, no one came.

Realizing I was on my own, with nothing but a three-panel board to lean on for support, I began the slow, arduous task of getting upright.

That was when Tyler, who was in his house, began to growl low and then to bark menacingly at something beyond the beam of my flicker flashlight.

As the beam on the back of my neck stood up, so did I. I came off the ground faster than the hot date's breath.

There is something about the possible now to have conversation with a stick/rope/possum or whatever was lurking in the dark, to get me upright and on a dead rat back into the house.

I haven't seemed that fast since the great attack. I don't know what it was, but I saw whatever was in the dark a dime of thanks.

Without that shot of adrenaline, I might still be lying in the backyard, pushing up daisies.

Denise Matthews is news editor of the Franklin County Citizen Leader. Her e-mail is denise@newsjournal.com.



Jim Morehead



Denise Matthews

Franklin County Citizen Leader

Consolidation of The **Carrollville Herald**, **The Lenoir Times** and **The Rayburn Record** in 1971 as the **Franklin County Citizen Leader**, which was established in 1978.

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The Franklin County Citizen Leader is published with pride for the people of Franklin and adjoining counties by Community Newspapers Inc., of Athens. We believe that strong newspapers build strong communities. Newspapers get things done.

Our primary goal is to publish distinguished and profitable community-oriented newspapers. The result will be accomplished through the teamwork of professionals dedicated to truth, integrity, loyalty, quality and hard work. Dick McNeill, Chairman; Sam Wood, CM Chairman; Robert Rider, Lake Lanford Regional Publisher.

2nd Place

Franklin County Citizen Leader, Lavonia

Shane Scoggins

Editorial Writing

E

3rd Place

The Eatonton Messenger

Opinions

Public deserves chance to be heard

A group of about 20 people attended the Putnam County Board of Education meeting Monday night, filling the room. The reason for a group of people was that folks would attend to complain about what they viewed as extraordinary and unjustified increases at the high school.

No one spoke about that issue at any other time — not after the vote at public meetings.

An public hearing on the school board has among the more restrictive and bureaucratic procedures for expressing themselves. These requirements might be another topic for another day.

It is possible that some of those attending were there because of the potential budget problems the schools may face with the new budget.

The board knew it might have a group of folks who wanted to complain about the operation of Putnam County High School and who stated these conditions as Principal Barry Lellis.

The issue has bubbled up from time to time nearly since Lellis was hired.

Complaints about him, an acronym, if also mostly specific and anonymous.

We should add that we find Lellis, by and large, straightforward and dedicated to his job. We believe he was hired specifically to make dramatic changes at a school where almost half the students didn't graduate. We believe he is expected to change that — and if he can't, we hope it is if that was the basis for his hiring and the expectations the board set there. The board should be willing to defend the decision.

The board also should listen to the complaints coming from the other side.

Sometimes, those who have been complaining either have to find a way to express their views or get the message from somebody else's mouth.

It would be better for the school system, the public and the board if we could hear personal problems. Board members are quick to say they don't talk about personnel and there is reason for that.

However, if their concerns want to continue about several hundred, that is a valid topic for the board to hear.

When in doubt, public bodies should talk publicly. Members of the public also must be willing to participate in public discussions. We have far too little of that in our county.



My View

Critics must be willing to speak out

The news staff has been adding for a couple of weeks about the school system — and specifically, Putnam County High School and staffing there.

The number of teachers who have left the school to offer a major concern on my big deal, depending on who wants to talk to us — anonymously — this week.

Over a two-year period, close to 20 staff members have left the school — most on their own.

We have made a number of efforts to talk to about half of those teachers.

There was to be explicit about any problems that contributed to their leaving the school.

Anonymously, of course, those who want to talk, come crawling out of the woodwork.

That complaint led close to their feelings about Principal Barry Lellis, who, in my view, is a jerk, having neglected over the teachers, playing favorites, making arbitrary changes that drove teachers to be unable to function professionally.

Now, please, that we are willing to say anything that what is written above — except anonymously.

I have little sympathy for such whining, primarily because I have had friends about whom I did not say much the same way as the anonymous complainants.

I also have been the boss about whom such complaints were made.

That is the way of the world, especially when a new supervisor is hired and expected to make changes.

The Messenger addressed the issue in a story last month, and some supporters of Lellis were willing to publicly talk about his accomplishments at the school.

Comments were not so willing.

The belief that complaints must be anonymous because people are criticizing their boss is unfounded.

When I have been in that situation, I, too, have left jobs — sometimes quickly, sometimes not.

I also have kept my mouth shut — waiting for a better opportunity.

Lellis needs critics that

Lellis is a lightning rod, the one strong detractor and strong supporter.

One former teacher who left said this about the complainants:

"They need to be large and move on the bus, moving plans and implements, then the best way to leave him."

"I feel as if he is what PCS needs to increase student achievement."

I won't identify the person because we haven't asked permission. The former teacher is one of those with whom we have sought to talk about the school.

A number of years ago, the school board dealt with a series of management issues — financial, personnel and more — that were way out of the ordinary.

Since, the board has faced a high school that was graduating about half its students.

Some of the results of these problems have been a declining number of school system, 73 being Maurice Chatham as superintendent.



RON BRODEMAN Editor

The Eatonton Messenger

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Ron Brodeman Editor

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Eatonton City Council Members

Bill Mangum Ward 1 March 18, 2013	James Darby Ward 2 March 18, 2013	Alma Thomas Ward 3 March 18, 2013	Thomas Doolittle Ward 4 March 18, 2013
John Reid Ward 5 March 18, 2013	Chip Walker Ward 6 March 18, 2013	Charles Wiley Ward 7 March 18, 2013	Andy Burth Ward 8 March 18, 2013

Putnam County Commissioners

Stephen Henry Ward 1 March 18, 2013	Fred Ward Ward 2 March 18, 2013	Jerrie B. Reid Ward 3 March 18, 2013	Mike Foster Ward 4 March 18, 2013	Billy Webster Ward 5 March 18, 2013
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The Putnam County Board of Commissioners holds regular meetings each month on the 15th day of each month and the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Public hearings and public input are held on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. and the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, 200 N. Jefferson Ave.

Putnam County Board of Education Members

Boyle Clements Ward 1 March 18, 2013	Simone Jones Ward 2 March 18, 2013	Steve Weiner Ward 3 March 18, 2013	Tom Lawrence Ward 4 March 18, 2013	Michael Luffelick Ward 5 March 18, 2013
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The Putnam County Board of Education meets for a public session on the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. and in regular sessions on the 1st Monday of each month at 7 p.m. Meetings are held at the 1001 Building, 1001 Old Stone Springs Dr., Eatonton, GA.

Georgia Legislators

Sen. Mark Jones (D) 1001 Building, 1001 Old Stone Springs Dr., Eatonton, GA 31029 706-485-2001	Rep. Rusty Kuntz (R) 1001 Building, 1001 Old Stone Springs Dr., Eatonton, GA 31029 706-485-2001	Rep. Mickey Chambliss (R) 1001 Building, 1001 Old Stone Springs Dr., Eatonton, GA 31029 706-485-2001
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2nd Place

The Toccoa Record

Tom Law

OPINION

A10 THE TOCCOA RECORD THURSDAY, JULY 26, 2012

OUR VIEW

A sensible list

Local governments find that their wish lists and county commissioners approved a resolution calling for an election to approve a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax in Stephens County.

If voters approve the proposed tax, it would take effect July 1, 2013 and would raise \$10 million over the next six years.

The approved list of improvements funded by the county commissioners, City of Toccoa commissioners and county members from Madison and Hartsville is solid, down to earth and will benefit the infrastructure of Stephens County and its residents.

More than half of the tax proceeds, \$5.5 million, will be spent on roads, bridges and culverts, an expenditure that is badly needed on the county's road system in keeping with state and federal law from a maintenance plan that is more than five years behind schedule.

Also available in the county's portion of the sales tax is a \$5 million grant on public safety - \$2,000,000 for volunteer departments and \$3 million for the sheriff's office, primarily to replace an aging fleet of vehicles.

The City of Toccoa's top priority is water and sewer



"Oh, look. It's the Senate race!"

YOUR VIEW

Are you the chaser or chased?

Now that it is officially acceptable in our society to demand citizens to clean an unexcused crime through a neighborhood and legal system, it is time to be chased because that citizen had the ability to take care of being wanted for a crime he did not know and who had no authority or business chasing him in the first place, are we all really safe?

Belief gives life purpose

Over the last few years I have read with interest many articles by people on ethics and "The Thinker" in The Toccoa Record. I only upon learning and hearing what they have to say challenge me to think through how they came to their belief. I know if I take the time to think through and understand where they are coming from it will help me to understand people better.

Come see happy animals at shelter

I have operated the Stephens County Humane Society for the last 18 years. I have become years old and can no longer continue in my physical condition.

All financial assets have been donated to the new The Stephens County Humane Society, over \$100,000. I also volunteer at this new shelter Tuesday through Saturday, from 11 am, until 8 pm, at the new office.

YOUR VIEW



Everybody loses- when they have to play in the MLBROS STINK!

ON YOUR PAYROLL

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U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson 128 Russell Senate Building Washington, D.C. 20510 202-224-3443 District Office - 770-441-6999	State Representative Dan Gossett 412 Coverdell Legislative Building Atlanta, Ga. 30304 404-434-8326 Dan.Gossett@house.ga.gov P.O. Box 700 Haines, Ga. 30847

The Toccoa Record

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Advertising Representative Sue Finkler and Melissa Chapman

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Circulation Advertising Bob Murphy

Circulation Jessica Carlson and Kathy Crawford

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Editorial Writing

E

1st Place

The Summerville News

Jimmy Espy



Editorial Writing

D

3rd Place

Tribune & Georgian, St. Marys

Tribune & Georgian OPINION

Wednesday, July 3, 2013

Mayor should advocate for taxpayers

An organization's attitude is usually reflective of that of its top leaders. Strong leadership moves from the top-down, as does weak leadership.

In Kingland, the reluctance of mayor Kenneth Smith to answer questions about the city's operations sets the tone for the rest of the municipality.

When former city manager Gwen Mangin abruptly resigned in early June, the Tribune & Georgian asked Smith about a reason for her departure. Smith said Mangin did not give a reason and declined to provide further information.

The fact that Mangin's resignation was directly related to a document that could potentially obligate Kingland taxpayers to more than \$60,000 in legal fees is a detail that Smith never should have omitted.

Even after council members confirmed that Mangin resigned after the discovery of the document, Smith still refused to answer questions surrounding the situation.

He also tried to convince a Tribune & Georgian reporter that reporting this situation would cast Kingland in a negative light, implying that it could potentially impact future development or funding. However, the Tribune & Georgian also regularly reports on city accolades and other positive information related to the government.

Attempting to strangle communication is apparently Smith's operational philosophy. He used the same tactic last year when the Tribune & Georgian's editor wrote a column on the lack of information coming from the Kingland Police Department.

Smith seems to forget that he is an elected official who is accountable first to the people, not to his employees or friends. An elected leader who is truly working for the public should want to elaborate on both the downfalls and the triumphs of his or her organization.

When situations like this happen, we don't have to wonder why people don't trust their government.



"That's the red, white and blue in black and white!"

Looking again at 'Woman's World'

At least once a year I look into one or more of my wife's women's magazines. They are a guilty joy. They provide health, nutrition, the end of misery and the desire of immortality.



Fred Hill

Opinion

The July 1, 2013, issue of Woman's World pulls me in with morning, shiny headlines across the red, white, yellow and blue cover. It grips the eyes with those and with an almost beautiful brevity, saving a small fraction of the magazine.

"America's hottest — and hottest — diet" will make us a size slimmer by July 4! That's just four days from the celebration date of the last issue.

The Fast Diet is the "hottest" is word often used by food writers in the letter-tempted diet featured in the July 1 issue. The Fast Diet allows you to eat normally (if you eat five days a week. Then for the other two days you go on "a modified fast, allowing yourself 100 calories per day" (This sounds like two apples, 12 Brussels

newspapers together. Publisher Nan Lipson and I used to work 10- and 11-hour nights without setting anything while finishing The Southern Georgian in the 1980s. But going without food that long left me and my driving wobbly. The police were apt to pull me over at about 1:30 a.m. as I drove home and check me for drunk driving.

Another intriguing article in the July 1 Woman's World is called "Kiss anxiety goodbye!" (Know the prevalence of ulceration points in most of these titles.) First tip: Drink your tea. Tea has "a brain-soothing amino acid built in." I drink one cup of English breakfast tea each morning. Maybe I'd better try two.

A punching bag over each desk might help reduce anxiety. Woman's World says, "Shen's bones of exercise trigger the release of mood-elevating hormones that help your mind stay clearer during high-stress times."

Under the cozy title, "Tuna tastes delicious," we find that "eating 18 oz. of any type of fish weekly slashes the risk of heart disease. It also helps you stay calm even in super-stressful situations, cutting anxiety as much as 10 percent."

Well, I eat about 18 ounces of fish every day and sometimes more. I am a fish fanatic. I eat salmon, trout, halibut or shellfish, just not the fillets at Long's or Lucky Dingo (now reopened thankfully). The trouble is that I get anxious about when I'll be able to get back to my favorite restaurant and get another life-giving job of advice, gossip, snip-pee or dining or mailing.

Despite the tea, the fish and the punching bag, anxiety still rides my veins and clamors through my brain and heart.

In fact, I will feel all these years after the film was made that I should have had a central role in the 1941 Broderick movie "High Anxiety."

Fred Hill is a regular columnist in the Tribune & Georgian.

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The Habitat for Humanity ReStore is a unique program that allows you to purchase quality new and used items at excellent prices and help Habitat for Humanity in its mission of eradicating our substandard housing.

Our hundred percent of the profits from ReStore are put back into Habitat for Humanity of Camden County. With this money, help is provided to build more safe, decent and affordable homes for struggling families in the community.

Habitat for Humanity of Camden County accepts new and slightly used tax-deductible donations Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Habitat accepts household items such as books, toys, kitchenware and home decorating items. Also accepted are furniture, building materials, appliances, tools, lawn equipment and many more items.

Items may be dropped off at the north end of the building, located at 102 S. Lee St. in Kingland during business hours, or call (912) 729-1611 and Habitat will pick up items at no charge.



The Habitat for Humanity ReStore sells a variety of goods including household items, paint, building materials, furniture, tools, lawn equipment and more.

Editorial Writing

D

2nd Place

The Press-Sentinel, Jesup

4A Wednesday, January 9, 2013 The Press-Sentinel

OPINION

WORD FOR THE WEEK

SELF-CONFIDENCE
Positive attitude about and trust in one's self; sense of security and self-assurance.
(The Press-Sentinel defines the "Word for the Week" in conjunction with the Wayne County School System's character education program.)

The Press-Sentinel

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THE P-S OPINION

County's show of good faith lauded

The Wayne County Board of Commissioners should be commended for re-entering negotiations on the Tourism Board with the Jesup City Council—through their respective administrators—with no stated preconditions.

This apparent act of good faith was certainly a step in the right direction.

Of course, it should be noted that, as was the case with Congress and the fiscal cliff, the underlying problem was of the county government's own making. When you dissolve an effectively functioning board without consulting other affected boards or even explaining your actions to the public, you can expect the kind of controversy that erupted several weeks ago.

That's why Commissioner John Shaver's attempt to blame the press for the county's communication problems was disingenuous. When someone hatches plans secretly (as Shaver and Commissioner Tim Corkfield did, meeting with their choice for executive director of the Tourism Board and telling him not to report the discussions in the county authority for which he already works), and when someone approves a major change at a public meeting without even offering a word of explanation to the voters, the problem is not with the press—which was forced to scramble in order to find someone to even make a comment.

The county commissioners are absolutely correct that the Tourism Board should be accountable. All public boards should be accountable—including the County Board of Commissioners itself.

It became apparent last year, though, that our county commissioners did not want to be held over by public concerns and did not believe that public input was necessary. Not that we expect the commissioners to vote according to who happens to be in the room at the time. True leadership, however, means not only doing what you think is right but also listening to other points of view and—if you disagree—explaining why you think you should take other action. If you can't explain why you shouldn't be doing it in the first place.

Last week, despite the expected far-swinging gestures, the county commissioners appeared to be backing away from an arrogant disregard of both the public and other elected officials. And they deserve to be recognized for that.

Of course, only time will tell whether this show of humility will translate into better relations with other boards and more effective governing overall.

In the meantime, while the commissioners continue to pursue the Tourism Board's financial records, they should remember—as Commissioner Franklin Smith did last week—to commend the members of the previous Tourism Board for their successful work.

And as Jesup City Commissioner Bobby Townsend suggested, everyone involved in the negotiations on both sides needs to focus now not on the past mistakes that led to this situation but on what can be done for the good of the community going forward.



"We may not have gone over the fiscal cliff, but somehow I still wound up in a hole."

One vote opens UGA's door for Dean Rusk

Years ago, a reporter was preparing Henry Ford with questions. Repeatedly, the automotive pioneer replied, "I don't know." Frustrated, the journalist asked, "How can you be so successful and know so little about your own town?"

With a smile, Ford said, "The only business I'm in is to make it so I can get my answer I want."

One of the smartest things you can learn is to realize what you don't know. There's no shame in my lack of knowledge. And I am reminded of that fact—often. Unlike Henry Ford, I don't have a magic button to push. But luckily, I know Georgia like people who are willing to help.

As I was preparing to pick up the chairman's guest of the University System of Georgia's Board of Regents, I made a trip to see my friend who held the general all-meat a half-century ago.

So much has changed since the 1960s, but what hasn't changed is the basic challenge of making hard choices. Today, with being technology can give data more-to-high before decision makers. However, it cannot give us vision or goals to do the right thing.

Vision and goals were the topics of my recent keynote that with my friend, H.G., a former chairman of the Regents. As a visionary leader, he has the guts to walk on the white hot roads of risk—again and again.

Architect John Portman became a global icon, building signature high-rise stretching from 30-

My Opinion



DON NADERSTEIN
Chairman

to 100 million square feet of industrial warehouses open, he's spent a majority of his 40 years building communities, jobs and leaders.

Leadership Georgia—the nation's premier program of its kind—was his idea. In 1988, that organization is how I met H.G. And that's why I was sitting in his lakeside cabin, listening to the fireworks and his wisdom.

His voice is soft, so I knew to lean forward, not to miss a word, but what I won't hear when talking about his accomplishments or philosophy. That's not H.G.'s style. Instead, he advised, "Focus when it says so. You'll be asked to be somewhere every day. It's a big state, and it's impossible to say you—every time."

"But one about your most memorable decision as a Regent?" I said. He chuckled and closed his eyes, as if he'd died in 1968. "In those days, the Regents voted on every faculty hire," he said. "The University of Georgia law school wanted to hire former Secretary of State Dean Rusk."

H.G. got a call from the Gold Dome. Gen. Lester Maddox asked, "Do you enjoy being on the Board of Regents?"

"No, sir, I do," H.G. said.

"Well," said Maddox, "tell me what you think about Dean Rusk. How would you vote?"

"Oppose," said H.G., "the chairman only votes to break a tie."

Maddox persisted, "Well, how would you vote then?"

"Oppose," said H.G., "I believe Secretary Rusk would bring great destruction to UGA."

Sure enough, the votes landed in a tie. H.G. walked on the white-hot walk, voting to do the right thing. Maddox opposed Rusk's hiring and resented by not supporting H.G.

I can't imagine The University of Georgia's legacy without the commission of Dean Rusk. And I can't imagine our state's legacy without the servant leadership of Georgians like H.G. (Two of the three past chairmen of the Board of Regents, including the current chair and vice-chairs, are all past presidents of his leadership—Leadership Georgia.)

There's so much that I don't know. But I know this: I am blessed to have my mentor, H.G. "The" Faculty invites me to have the vision and guts to do the right thing.

donn@theuniversityofgeorgia.com

PRESS POLL

Question

"The Georgia state legislature will go into session this month. If the state had to tackle only one issue, what should it be, and why?"



"The biggest issue they need to solve is the unemployment issue."
—Robert DeArce



"We need to work on unemployment."
—Tina Whitley



"They need to focus on school funding."
—Richard Gidford



"As a high school senior, I believe the state legislature should make college tuition more affordable and continue to support inflation."
—Fido Mowley

Editorial Writing

D

1st Place

Douglas County Sentinel, Douglasville

Mitch Sneed

A4 DOUGLAS COUNTY SENTINEL, Wednesday, July 24, 2013

OPINION

OUR VIEW
Property tax hike: Commissioners took the easy way

A 23.74 percent property tax increase will be coming to residents in the county portion of tax bills after a Tuesday vote by the Douglas County Board of Commissioners to increase the millage rate from 9.9 mills to 12.25 mills.

It will mean about \$117.30 more a year to the average homeowner in Douglas County.

Despite the objections of residents, voters in look for rate by commissioners, and all sorts of political posturing and speeches while the local access television cameras ran, the deal is done.

The Douglas County Board of Commissioners said they didn't have a choice. They approved a budget, by a 3-2 vote last December that increased spending by about \$9 million. Now they had to find a way to fund that budget. The easiest way was to ask taxpayers for more. They did so Tuesday, by a 3-2 vote, with Commissioners Kirby Robinson and Henry Mitchell, both Democrats, voting in opposition.

The board had a choice in December to keep spending flat or cut spending, for that matter. The Douglas County Board of Commissioners opted not to do that.

The plight is understandable — you have to pay the bills. We know that, but the reason for so many residents being upset is that commissioners took the easy way instead of making tough cuts. In the lives of most people, when being a situation in which the bills and the income don't match at home or in our own businesses, we have to cut back. Tighten the belt, as it were.

Despite talk from our elected leadership of searching for cuts in the days after the public demanded them, Tuesday those never came into play.

Instead, commissioners tried to blame a lot of others factors for the increase, and to their defense some of their points are valid.

Property values have declined and continue to do so. That means less revenue. The recent U.S.C.T. regulations mean that the county's share of sales tax collections is smaller than in the past. While cities will get a bit more, the county will lose some. That hurts the bottom line.

While those factors have made the task faced by commissioners tough, they are the ones that passed a budget that increased spending when they all knew that revenue was on the decline.

It didn't stop them from trying to divert attention to all sorts of things and point the finger at the people who trusted them to do the job right. They pointed to lack of public outcry when the budget was being discussed. Others blamed a growing vote on Sunday school rules for taking the public's attention off the budget.

It is sad to even attempt to blame the public for this increase. Commissioners approved the budget and approved the tax hike.

What if the public had been outraged and came out when the budget was being discussed? Would it have stopped commissioners from passing a budget with increased spending when they knew they couldn't cover it with the existing millage rate?

If these hearings on the tax increase are any indication, probably not.

A total of 37 people spoke out in public hearings. That doesn't include the countless phone calls and other who attended town hall meetings. All were opposed to the increase and asked for spending to be cut.

But the Board of Commissioners increased taxes Tuesday over those objections, and when asked by one resident about what they were cutting, no commissioner offered a single thing. After the meeting, we did learn that they did adjust the amount that would go into reserves and allowed for some minor savings on utility costs for the new jail.

The residents deserved better.

Winston resident Ray Sparks may have left the commissioners with the reminder that all residents should write down and consult when election time comes around.

"You have the power of the vote today," Sparks said, "but keep in mind, the power of the vote is going to be back in our hands in the future."

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Legal Organ of Douglas County

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The Douglas County Sentinel is published with pride for the people of Douglas County. It is our goal to bring to the citizens of Douglas County news which directly affects and impacts their lives. We believe that strong newspapers help build strong communities, and we strive to be a productive part of the communities we serve.

Hi-tech hounds

I was reading the other day that recent scientific research on dogs shows that they are not color blind, as once believed, and they have memory of past events and don't live entirely in the present. Well, we dog owners could have saved them the research because we've known both those facts a long time.

I used to believe that dogs were color blind, also because that was what I'd always been told. However, I recently discovered that my dog, Jay, likes blue toys. I discovered it one day after somebody brought a blue ball to the dog park. Jay, who usually chases all toys, took up with that ball and wouldn't let the other dogs have it.

Since then, Jay will play with anything blue, but ignores toys of other colors. I don't know why she has that preference but I've observed it, over and over.

As far as memory, I think my dog's better in that category than I do. Both my dogs, Jay and Kai, have built up a memory of words and their meanings. They quickly recognize the words "walk," "sit" and "walk." They have also learned to associate certain actions with things I do.

For example, when I get a certain pair of shoes they know they're dog park shoes and they begin to get agitated and ready to go. They also know when I'm going somewhere that they will get to go and when I'm going somewhere without them.

When they see me getting ready to leave, they start sitting around, ready to go. However, if I add things, "I'm going to work," they know what that means. They turn around and go to sleep.

Another thing that proves they have memory is how they learn people and other dogs. My dogs have gotten to know the people and dogs who usually come to the dog park. When they see dogs they know, they acknowledge them with a tail wag. When a strange dog appears, one they haven't seen before, they start barking.

When I say the word "walk," they go running in the direction where we last saw a rabbit. Last week, they got to add another word to their vocabulary, "armadillo." We came upon a live armadillo one morning, the first I've ever seen. All other armadillos I've seen were dead along the side of the road. This one was alive and running. The dogs had a running fix because of the chance to chase a new creature.

Now, when we go to the park, I see, "Go look for the armadillo," and they immediately head to the place where it disappeared into the woods.

Since I've had around my dogs for the past few years, I've come to respect their intelligence. Their smelling abilities are thousands of times better than humans. In fact, someone has never come up with any kind of technology as good as a dog's nose. That's why dogs are always the first to find the missing laptop, find lost people and detect bombs. It's even believed that dogs may be better than any type of electronic was at finding cancer and other diseases.

I've noticed that the longer you live with a dog, the more you seem to develop wonderful communications. I can just glance at one of my dogs and she knows what I mean. I've also learned to read their successful cues. I think dog owners and their pets develop a kind of extraordinary perception.

As dogs, we'll wish this, my dogs are watching me, knowing that I'm writing about them. Long before there were cell phones, blue tooth and wireless communications, dogs and humans were communicating. That's the highest technology.

Profiles in courage: General Robert E. Lee

One of the greatest Americans to ever live was Civil War General Robert Edward Lee (January 19, 1807 – October 12, 1870). His name will forever be remembered as the honorable military commander of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia.

But how did this son of a Revolutionary War officer and top graduate of the United States Military Academy find himself leading Confederate forces against United States forces commanded by so many of his fellow graduates and friends during the American Civil War?

The year of 1861 in America was unlike any other we have ever seen. Southern states were seceding from the United States in a rapid manner. When Virginia declared its secession from the United States in April 1861, Lee chose to follow his home state.

Lee did this despite his personal desire for the country to remain intact, his opposition to slavery, and the fact that President Abraham Lincoln had offered Lee command of the Union Army.

His decision rested solely on the imminent threat of invasion forces into his homeland of Virginia.

During the Civil War, Lee soon emerged as a shrewd tactician and battlefield commander, winning numerous battles against superior Union armies. His abilities as a tactician have been praised by many military historians throughout the years.

Despite Lee's battlefield abilities, the South suffered heavy losses as the war progressed. The turning point came in the summer of 1862 when Lee invaded the North, marching through western Maryland and into south central Pennsylvania. He encountered Union forces under George S. Meade at the three-day Battle of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania in July. My great great grandfather, Nathan Fowler, was under Lee's command at the time.

Fowler and thousands of other soldiers would become the assault force known as Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg. It would prove to be a tactical and strategic mistake for the general. The assault forces were repulsed and resulted in heavy Confederate losses (I am grateful that Nathan Fowler survived).

After Pickett's Charge, the general refused to meet his overruling army and proclaimed, "All this has been my fault." Lee was compelled to retreat. Despite

The Changing of the Guard

WUGGLE

WINKLE

Great at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865. At the surrender ceremony, he was saluted by soldiers on both sides.

About the War, Robert E. Lee would move on into civilian life in the battered country. His last notable service was teaching what is known today as Washington & Lee University as its president.

Benjamin Harvey Hill summed up the character of General Lee in an address before the Southern Historical Society in Atlanta, Georgia in 1874. Hill described Lee as:

... a lion without hate; a lion without swiftness; a soldier without cruelty; a victor without oppression, and a victor without murmuring. He was a public officer without vice; a private citizen without wrong; a neighbor without reproach; a Christian without hypocrisy; and a man without guile. He was a Caesar, without his ambition; Frederick, without his tyranny; Napoleon, without his willfulness; and Washington, without his reward.

I cannot think of a better way to describe this great American.

Jason Sneed is a local attorney at law.

WUGGLE HELP



Editorial Writing

B

3rd Place

The Albany Herald

Editorial Board

Saturday, February 9, 2013

The Albany
HERALD

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Page 6A

OUR VIEW

Attacks against newspaper editor can't be tolerated

The attacks on the Albany Herald's editor, John Decker, are a disgrace. Decker has been a pillar of the community for decades. He has been a leader in the newspaper industry and a mentor to many young journalists. His attacks are a disgrace to the profession and to the community.

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GOP aims to ease bloodshed in debates

While we were debating how to defend each other in the 2012 election, the GOP was busy planning to ease the bloodshed in the 2013 election. The GOP is planning to ease the bloodshed in the 2013 election by reducing the number of debates and by reducing the length of the debates.

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IN MY VIEW

Immigration not nation's top issue

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Doomesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



"If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you."
— Matthew 5:41-42

2nd Place

The Daily Citizen, Dalton

VIEWPOINTS

4A Wednesday, March 6, 2013

The Daily Citizen

THE DAILY CITIZEN

Serving Northwest Georgia since 1937

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Victor Miller
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Janice Jones
Co-City Editor

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Editor Emeritus

Opinion columns represent the views of The Daily Citizen writers. The newspaper's editorial board is William Branson, Victor Miller, Janice Jones, Mark Pace and Charles Oliver. Guest columns and letters to the editor are the opinions of the authors.

Our View

In the dark

During the feverish local election season, candidates often talk about having clear and open lines of conversation with the community. Some candidates are sincere. Others aren't. We fear Whitfield County Board of Education members' silence surrounding Superintendent Danny Hayes' retirement and the search for a new school system leader will leave residents — who are also taxpayers — in the dark. When "The Daily Citizen" learned late Friday afternoon that Hayes' contract might not be renewed at the upcoming board meeting, we began calling school board members and Hayes himself. Hayes never called us back.

The school board members we reached declined to discuss on the record the superintendent situation. A school board member being up on our reports. So much for open lines of conversation. At their Monday night work session, board members met in executive session to discuss the superintendent. These secret sessions can be legally closed to the public and media for certain reasons, such as to discuss personnel. Board members emerged from the closed session and reconvened for their regular meeting. That's when it was revealed Hayes would retire later this month. We are concerned that the meeting's agenda included no mention of Hayes' retirement plans. State law requires agencies to "post and make available upon request an agenda of all matters expected to come before the agency at such meeting." For someone on the outside, it could appear the board attempted to mislead the public about the superintendent's fate.

After the meeting, these board members — elected by you, the taxpayers of Whitfield County — informed questions about Hayes to Chairman Louis Fordham. He didn't have much to say, referring to discuss personnel. The county schools superintendent oversees some 13,000 students and a \$93.7 million budget. During the past three years, taxpayers have invested more than \$400,000 in salary and about another \$200,000 in a vehicle assigned for the superintendent. With all of that money on the line, the public should be a part of the superintendent search.

School board members aren't required by law to speak to the media. Nor are they legally bound to talk to taxpayers. But as elected representatives, they should be willing to discuss most matters pertaining to the school system, whether the situation is pleasant or not. After all, they were elected by the people to serve in the voice of the people.

If school board members defer to the chairman to comment on the superintendent situation, that is certainly their prerogative. But when they are up for re-election, they shouldn't be surprised if their silence leads voters to defer to other candidates.

An overreaction to Pop-Tart 'art'

Officials at Whitfield's Park Elementary School complained that Walsh, 1, for being his Pop-Tart into the shape of a gun. Well, they say it was a gun. Jack insists he was trying to make it look like a mountain. In any event, according to a letter they sent home to parents, he "used food to make an inappropriate gesture." That letter also informed parents that communication was available to any students troubled by the event.



It Couldn't Happen Here?
Charles Oliver

In Ashbridge, Pa., a representative of a local dentist's office called Travis Clemons to remind him of an appointment. She got his consent, which seemed to say something about shooting at a school, or the school police. In fact, they called the local schools and had them all locked down. Police finally found Clemons, at school, locked his car at a gas pump and watched his father. They didn't find any weapons, but they did discover that his phone's voicemail message had the same ring from the TV show "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" which contains the line "shooting scene had inside of the school."

Four years ago, the Oregon Legislature created a database to track drugs filled by pharmacies in that state. The database was supposed to help doctors and pharmacists spot signs of drug abuse and help prevent overdoses, but lawmakers realized that law enforce-

ment could not access the database without a warrant. But the federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) believes that law does not apply to it. It has repeatedly filed administrative subpoenas, which do not require a judge to find probable cause, to access the database. The state law now takes the DEA to court to require it to obtain warrants if it wants to access the database.

Parents of some children at Colorado's Monroe Vista Elementary School were outraged to receive a letter from Principal André Pearson telling them that children would not be allowed to use a new after-school tutoring program. When local media asked about the program, Pearson refused to talk. But a district spokesman said the principal had made a mistake and the program would be open to all students.

New Athens, Ill., police chief Dallas Hill has been charged with two counts of official misconduct and one count of

derelict. An iPad and an iPod, taken as part of a lengthy investigation, disappeared from the department's evidence room last year. The devices were later returned to the evidence room, and authorities say a forensic analysis revealed Hill had been using them.

Law Minister has worked for American Airlines for 13 years as a gate agent, but one day his supervisor called him in, told him the federal government had placed him on a "no-fly" list and sent him home. For three months, he tried to get the government to explain why he'd been placed on the list and asked to have his name removed. He didn't have any luck until a Florida TV station started asking questions. Just a few days after a reporter contacted federal officials, the Department of Homeland Security sent Minister a letter saying he was no longer on the list. But the letter did not explain why he'd been on there or why he'd been taken off.

The actor, producer and director of a Greek production of the play "Orestes" (The Daily Citizen) has been charged with blasphemy. A Greek judge complained that the play, which depicts Jesus and his apostles as gods, was blasphemous. If convicted, the defendant faces several months in prison.

Charles Oliver is a staff writer for The Daily Citizen.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Need revenue help

I was so glibly over Obama's policies that I did not think I would be back in November 2012 that I decided to reward myself by going on a shopping spree. Unfortunately, I went overboard and quickly racked up two credit cards. So I mailed home and gathered up a handful of other ones that had been in my desk.

Then it was back to the mall. T-shirts, Christmas, books, etc. I didn't care. There was nothing I didn't want. Now, within a couple of weeks, I had swung up a credit card bill of \$1,000.00. Guess, maybe I have some what of a spending problem.

As you can see, I don't have that kind of money. I don't make any payments. After a couple of months, the credit card company got all sorts of letters and notices and piled on another penalty fee. The last thing I knew I was in back for \$1,000.00. Guess what? I thought the Daily Fresh online provision had had my back. Guess not.

Honestly, I had been following the national news and was aware that many politicians don't believe there is any such thing as a

spending problem. There is only a revenue problem.

So I rang up Nancy Pelosi, the current speaker of the House. She said when I called her to read me a personal check for \$100,000 she got all huffy and told me to come very respectfully language what I could do to help.

I called Barry Reid. He was quite calm and told me to call Barack Obama, which I did. The White House operator said Barack was unavailable so he was going to his locker that day. She said he would get back to me. Well waiting.

Alan, I was getting nowhere with the liberal heavyweights. So then I had a brainstorm. Surely my local fellow citizens would help me out.

So I am asking everyone out there to send me a check, \$10,000.00. I'm serious, of course, that local conservatives won't help me. They'll just say something vague like "help spending money you don't have, you idiot." That's to be expected of them. After all, conservatives are just a bunch of uncaring, uneducated, wealthy upstarts.

So it's going to be up to my liberal friends. People

who care about people in need. And if you folks don't mind, please plan to send me money every month. There are so many things I want to buy.

Also, please get your children and grandchildren involved. Just have them open an account in my name. I'll send their help when you run out of money.

David Wetherley
Rocky Hill

Reflectors along the trails of life

As a Tropic 88 in Toccoa, I still always go hiking on the George Henry memorial road after Donald Sunday.

One of our new scouts went with us recently. We always push to be prepared. I told my scout that I had reached this trail with reflectors on the trees I liked at night. I could see my way.

One of our new scouts liked the trail so well that he would serve as his reflection.

Send your letter to the editor to victormiller@daltoncitizen.com

Words of Wisdom

Bible verse: "They will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you and will rescue you." Jeremiah 1:19

Thought for Today: "Learn by others' mistakes because you do not live long enough to make them all yourself." Author unknown

TODAY'S FORUM

Phone: (706) 273-7746
Email: editor@daltoncitizen.com
Online: www.daltoncitizen.com/comments

"Congratulations, Coach Chad Brewer! Murray County High girls not only a quality coach, but a good person to teach and mentor all students for the future. Well done!"
"I just want to say congratulations to Coach Brewer for being named head coach for the Murray County football team. They are getting a wonderful coach who cares about the kids and the program. He was one of the best coaches at Southeast and both of my sons respected him greatly as

his coach/mentor and teacher."
"The Chinese aren't leaving us money because they have faith in the American people. They're doing it because they want to own us."
"When do you get a copy of rules and regulations if you have sexual property?"
"For the person giving about so many family members in a doctor's office, did they ever think that with gas prices so high that a lot of people couldn't? And it's too cold to sit in the car. There is always something to grip about."
"I'm one of the people that called in about the problem. I did not see the newspaper. I'm sorry. They did do the problem on Times Bridge Road, but there's a whole lot more work that needs to be done."
"We call it America the beautiful, but try to take my gas and it's going to get up."
"This is the Old Man. No, I'm not dead. I'm back with a position. The new president of the United States will be Michelle Obama. Remember that in case I die."
"I'm 71 years old and healthy morning I want to live things with Mark Hamill. The lines I use, and my show children, who are all grown up now. What a wonderful trip down memory lane. I could follow his footsteps riding every mountain. I could even have my children, the little ones, begging, 'One even time, mamma!' Thank you, Mark Hamill, for a

Smiley without having my children."
"Does anyone know a good, reasonable cabinet maker?"
"I have a question for those people who are constantly complaining about people driving slow in the left lane. Why do we have a speed limit? If you can just drive however fast you want to?"
"Two-year offices for a term the size of Dalton. Are you kidding me? No, just don't get the attention we deserve in this town from politicians for some reason."
"I think the school superintendent should be voted on by the people of Whitfield County."
"Does anyone remember in the late 1940s and early 1950s when the lawless was just west of New Hill Cemetery?"
"Have my last post about speakers on 'Tramadol.' Since I had the misfortune of witnessing the appearance of a small neighborhood dog, obviously the owner of the small patch didn't care though about it to keep it out of the street, and should be fined for their carelessness, but had the drive of the late model, when, Chairman took me home spending down the street hearing the 25 mph sign, as well as a division at that sign, they might have had time to see the dog. It was thoughtful of them to indicate for a split second, then speed off without bothering to check on the animal they had just thrown down. The dog screamed in the street, then dragged itself by its front legs into the grass and lay there. I pointed this picture as vivid as possible to urge those who speed this road to please slow down and obey the speed limit. Next time it may be a person I see slowed down. Please slow down on 'Tramadol Street.'"
"I'd like to comment about the speed limit on Abbeville Road. It is 35 mph. However I do 47 and 50 and everybody is passing me like it's the Indianapolis 500. I just wonder when our police officers are when they can't catch some of these people who are driving like maniacs. Come on people, slow down. Do the speed limit."

Editorial Writing

B

1st Place

Marietta Daily Journal

Joe Kirby

WEDNESDAY
December 18, 2013

Opinion

OPINION • COMMENTARY • ANALYSIS • DEBATE

MARIETTA DAILY JOURNAL
METRO ATLANTA'S ONLY COMMUNITARIAN PAPER

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Jay Whelan, Associate Publisher
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Joe Kirby, Editorial Page Editor
Mark Kettler, VP, Operations

EDITORIAL

Lee, commission should postpone 'song-and-dance' ...

SALARY STUDY

STRIKE UP THE BAY! The Cobb Board of Commissioners is about to start a "salary study" song-and-dance routine designed to provide some sort of cost-benefit analysis to voters on the county's employees' salaries.

And guess who's paying the bill? You — you, the taxpayers.

The Board voted unanimously last Tuesday (and quietly, via the "consensus" approach it favors) to issue the public's money to hire consultants to conduct a salary study for the county at a cost likely well over six figures.

The study would compare employee compensation here with what various other counties pay their employees.

Cobb would then adjust its salary schedule to reflect the differences.

The adjustments would only be in one direction: upward.

"We've never heard of a government doing such a study and then announcing it had been overpaying its workers, and then adjusting back relative and benefits accordingly. It won't happen this time either. Mark our word."

COBB COMMISSION Chairman Tim Lee signed the county law that authorized such a study since 2006. And the county must keep its salary structure competitive with its neighbors in order to be successful at attracting and retaining the best personnel, he says.

But the economic landscape has changed tremendously since 2006. The results of that study and its resulting higher salaries were hardly as plain before Cobb and the rest of the country were swept by the deepest recession since the Great Depression of the 1930s. The Cobb government had to meet steep cuts in services and in 2011 raised property taxes by 15.7 percent in order to make ends meet.

The economy is finally out of the recession, but it doesn't track back like it. The private sector is cautiously starting to wake up, but it has learned an important lesson, even if the public sector hasn't: the economy can move in both directions.

Better economic times are not guaranteed, despite the rhetoric out of Washington. So most business leaders in the private sector that are taking a



COMMENTARY

There is much to believe in at ...

CHRISTMAS TIME

This column first ran in 2010. The status of Christmas in Marietta has been up and down, but the message remains the same: I believe in Christmas.

I believe as a Christian that Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus, the Son of God. The Messiah.

I believe you have the right to disagree with me, but I know what I believe in my heart.

I believe on Christmas is official and someone sings "O Holy Night" on Christmas Eve. I will accept the Hallmark Christmas card's "Merry Christmas" as a worthy alternative, particularly if I get to sing along.

I believe there is nothing so special as hearing the sounds of little children on Christmas morning when they dash to see what Santa Claus dropped off under the tree while they were sleeping.

I believe Christmas is the best time to be in the world. The best: I'm sure people in Hawaii and South Florida would disagree with me but I like it cold at Christmas. Makes the hot chocolate taste better.

I believe Christmas shopping seems to take a deep breath and relax. Christmas shopping seems to bring out the best in us. We get into and out of our cars, drive three lanes and enjoy the experience. It's about Christmas. It's about love. Don't be such a Scrooge.

I believe we don't give enough credit to those who work hard to make the holidays shine. The best: I'm sure people in Hawaii and South Florida would disagree with me but I like it cold at Christmas. Makes the hot chocolate taste better.

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EDITORIAL

Lee, commission should postpone 'song-and-dance' ...

SALARY STUDY

STRIKE UP THE BAY! The Cobb Board of Commissioners is about to start a "salary study" song-and-dance routine designed to provide some sort of cost-benefit analysis to voters on the county's employees' salaries.

And guess who's paying the bill? You — you, the taxpayers.

The Board voted unanimously last Tuesday (and quietly, via the "consensus" approach it favors) to issue the public's money to hire consultants to conduct a salary study for the county at a cost likely well over six figures.

The study would compare employee compensation here with what various other counties pay their employees.

Cobb would then adjust its salary schedule to reflect the differences.

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Give low-income earners an exit from Social Security

A new study just published by the National Institute on Retirement Security — "Wage and Retirement Inequality in the United States" — presents a dismal picture of the way retirement savings of minority American families.

It reports that 76.2 percent of blacks work for employers that offer retirement plans compared to 62.2 percent of whites. And 43.9 percent of blacks participate in these plans compared to 55.9 percent of whites.

Among Latinos, 37.8 percent work for employers with retirement plans and just 28.7 percent participate.

Only 37.9 percent of non-white Americans have assets in a retirement account compared to 63.4 percent of whites.

And the mean amount of retirement savings held by black households is \$19,132, by Latino households is \$17,400, compared to \$111,749 held by white households.

Many, usually those on the left who claim to represent the interests of low income Americans, say the answer to retirement security for minorities is Social Security.

But Social Security, as demonstrated last time it began with, is broke. Log on to www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator. This is the Social Security Administration's calculator where you can estimate your retirement benefits.

The site warns that the benefits estimate it reports for you may be different from what you actually get for various reasons, including: "By 2033 the payroll-taxes collected will be enough to pay only about 75 cents for each dollar of scheduled benefits."

In other words, the Social Security Administration has announced to all Americans now in their 4th and younger, who will be retiring in 20 years or more, to expect only a little more than 75 percent of their promised benefits.

Year after year our brave politicians in Washington, who will claim they are looking out for us, legislate from this huge problem offering almost every working American.

They talk because it is hard if payroll taxes, as the Social Security Administration indicates, are about 25 percent short to pay required benefits, then some need to be raised by almost 23 percent to make up the difference.

What politician is going to propose that? Other options are to cut benefits paid or to raise the age at which they can be collected.

Another possible outcome, as typical of what we can expect from Washington, is to "means test." That is, have everyone paying more, but reduce benefits for those above a cut-off income level.

This would essentially turn Social Security into a welfare program.

The bottom line is that minority Americans, who on average contribute our lowest income earnings Americans, get the worst deal of all. They don't have extra resources to put in a wealth building retirement account. And the resources they do have are taxed into a Social Security system that pays out a poor benefit which is about 20 years worth's worth entirely for them.

End the system. At least give low income Americans the option to get out of the Social Security system.

Allow them a choice to take their payroll tax and invest those funds to build their own retirement account now.

Constitutionally protected funds over a 45-year working life can produce savings that will pay retirement income several times

Editorial Writing

A

3rd Place

The Augusta Chronicle

Michael Ryan



Editorial Writing

A

2nd Place

Savannah Morning News

Tom Barton

SA | Sunday, September 3, 2012 | Signs of the General Election Savannah Morning News | savannahnow.com | 912.236.1100

Savannah Morning News | savannahnow.com

OPINION

COMING MONDAY
Columnist Leonard Pitts writes about his impressions of last week's 50th anniversary of the March in Washington.

Michael C. Traynor
Pastor

Thomas S. Barton
Editorial Page Editor

Susan M. Catron
Executive Editor

Gale Baldwin
Managing Editor

CHEAPENING OF LIFE

Shoot 'em and weep

I don't know anyone more sad than a sleeping baby.
— Oglethorpe District Attorney Justin Johnson

IT'S SAID that society is judged by how it treats its most vulnerable members. How true.

And, in the case of 13-month-old Antonio Santiago of Brunswick, how awful.

Last Friday, a jury in Marietta found 19-year-old DeMarquis Elkins guilty of shooting and killing this small child, who was murdered while asleep in his stroller on March 21.

Prosecutors said the young man was angry because the baby's mother, Sherry White, wouldn't give up her purse, which the gunman demanded during a robbery in a Brunswick neighborhood. So the enraged robber fired away.

And little Antonio is dead. A family weeps.

Elkins faces life in prison. Since he was 17 at the time of the murder, that's the stiffest punishment he can receive. Had he been a year older, he'd likely be facing the death penalty.

This trial was moved to the Atlanta area because of extensive publicity in coastal Georgia. The evidence, testimony and some of the reactions of those in the Cobb County courtroom were revealing — mostly in a revealing way.

It confirms what many people already know: Our culture is fractured and hurting. The evaluation of human life continues.

And not just in Georgia. Shortly before this case went to trial, three teenagers in Oklahoma were arrested in connection with the murder of 22-year-old Christopher Lucas. He was an Australian baseball player and was attending college in this country on a sports scholarship.

He had everything to live for. Yet police said the three teens — their ages are 15, 16 and 17 — randomly chose the young athlete as a target. "The boy who has talked to us said, 'He was loved and didn't have anything to do, so we decided to kill somebody.'" If that account is true, how does someone get to be 15, 16 and 17 and believe that the cure for boredom is to take someone's life?

Why does someone in that same age range think it's OK to shoot a baby between the eyes? The mind reels. Psychologists, social workers and other experts probably have explanations for this absence of morals, including a lack of self-esteem, love, discipline and direction.

And what about family life? Dad Elkins — or the teens in Oklahoma — have a strong, traditional family? Or was that part of the problem?

If so, it makes it society's problem as well. That means it's time to re-evaluate government policies that enable poverty and poor life choices.

In the case of Elkins, his mother, Kenneth Elkins, was tried with her son. She was convicted of evidence tampering for tossing the murder weapon into a pond. She told police she was with her son during the morning of the murder to give him an alibi. Turn-out, she was in jail at the time for shoplifting.

So much for family values.

Silly, it takes a lot these days to shock Americans. It's as if the nation has become calloused to violence and cynical toward its causes. So things only get worse.

The murder of 13-month-old baby Antonio's country. Let's hope it stunned people enough to prompt a national conversation that examines these questions: Where do teens who see human life as cheap come from? What must be done to fix it?

Until society comes up with answers and does something, everyone is vulnerable.

Man vs. car battery

BY CLYDE MOORE

Every day we see a few more electric cars on the road. Personally, I don't want any more batteries in a car than they already have.

If it's not negative, it's because back in my day, recovering from a night of bending over the engine in my wife's car, trying to jump-start it, and, after all she had, knowing the battery and taking it to the auto parts store.

The jump-started car battery, as I figured, died all her car needed when she called me at work and said, "My car won't do anything."

I sorry kiddo. Unfortunately, I had left my other tools at home. The car sat dead at looking up the cables. Connect the positive terminal on my car's battery to the positive terminal on her. Clamp the other cable to my negative terminal and to her metal in her engine compartment.

It took awhile for her battery to build up enough juice to start her engine, but after that happened, I disconnected everything. Mission accomplished.

Until I put her car into gear and the engine died. I went through the whole routine again before thinking to check the wires in her battery. It was low, so I added an entire bottle of drinking water to it. No luck.

I tried jump-starting the car several more times with similar results. I didn't want to remove her battery because it was back toward the firewall and heavy and — did I mention? — I had no tools.

At last, I discovered a pair of pliers in the trunk and managed to get the retaining clamp on the cables off her battery. A quick pop of my spine and I had the battery out. We drove it to the auto parts store, where the man behind the counter said, "This battery is good," he said. "Don't buy a battery."

Wow.

I took my battery back to the car. Then I tightened the connections as well as I could. We removed the cables and twisted the ignition key. The engine turned over the first time. My wife and I looked at each other.

"I guess you don't need a battery," I said. "You just need a husband who takes better care of the battery you have."

She still hasn't gotten back to me on that.

The word battery comes from "batter," meaning to beat or pound. After dealing with the electrical cell in my wife's car, I felt very beaten down.

Clyde Moore writes for the Augusta Chronicle.

Don't scrimp on our urban forest

BY RAGEN JENKINS

As we reflect on last week's Chatham County jury decision to award a \$12 million settlement to the Greene family who was injured by a falling tree limb on the Road in 2008, the Savannah Tree Foundation expresses our deepest sympathy to Ms. Greene and her family. No monetary value can offset the damage done to her or the costs she will experience for the rest of her life.

To maintain Savannah's urban tree canopy, the City of Savannah and its Park and Tree Department need an appropriate financial commitment from the city along with community support. Savannah is fortunate that residents have made the urban forest a priority since the formation of the city's Park and Tree Commission in 1991. Savannah's Park and Tree Department is now managed by a well trained and nationally recognized staff. Due to their dedication and the value our community places on our natural resources, Savannah is widely one of the most beautiful urban forests in the world.

Considering the value of trees economically and environmentally, it is imperative that the city allocate the funds to make trees a priority and enable the Park and Tree Department to create tree maintenance and reforestation programs in line with the highest industry standards. It is the city's responsibility to adequately maintain the tree canopy and protect residents to the extent possible from hazards.

The current conversation provides the city with the opportunity to ensure that going forward Savannah is a leader in best management practices for our urban forest.

It is essential that Park and Tree have the resources to be able to properly advise the city of required funding for satisfactory levels of care. Every tree should be in a database that allows Park and Tree to track each tree's health and maintenance. This database has to be updated and managed so that basic tree care can be performed based on reporting from ongoing observations.

Tree care cannot be performed only in response to citizen 311 calls. As with all infrastructure, it is both costly and dangerous to address major problems only after our natural resources, Savannah's best practices to protect our trees and our citizens. Perhaps attorney Howard Spivak offer to re-employ another urbanist within the Park and Tree Department could be extended to cover the costs of updating the city's tree inventory database and the resources necessary to keep the database maintained thereafter.

In 2008, researchers with the U.S. Forest Service Southern Research Station in Atlanta calculated that Savannah's 85,000 plus street trees were a \$180 million asset, providing nearly \$42 million in annual benefits — and returning \$1.02 in benefits for every dollar invested in them. Calculated benefits include energy saved, storm water intercepted, and property values increased.

Street trees represent fewer than half of Savannah's 85,000 public trees, so the annual public benefits for all of the trees total much more than that, especially when you consider the economic impact the trees have on Savannah's thriving tourism industry. No one wants to imagine what Savannah might look like without its 85,000 public trees.

The Savannah Tree Foundation applauds the work of the city and recognizes the difficult balance of creating and maintaining one of the most beautiful urban forests in the world, while protecting citizens. Savannah Tree Foundation encourages the other eight governments within Chatham County to consider this challenge as well.

Ragen Jenkins is the executive director of the Savannah Tree Foundation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Paula Deen and tale of a feather pillow

"The Paula Deen I have known for more than eight years is a woman of competence and kindness, and will never tolerate discrimination or racism of any kind toward anyone."

This is from the statement of the plaintiff's lawyer brought the non-disclosed lawsuit.

If this is a recanting of broken promises, it is late in coming.

Whipped up by the media's hat for sensationalism, Ms. Deen's good character has suddenly been the target of baseless attacks for months.

Through it all, those of us who have been personally familiar with Paula over the years have known that she is no more a racist than a person who had some drinks 30 years ago is a drunkard.

In a classic Christie tale, a man who, having repeatedly chided his child, ultimately asked what he could do to atone for that behavior. The child responded by directing him to take a pillow outside, cut it open, wait a few minutes and then bring back all the feathers. Confused but willing to do anything for forgiveness, the man ripped open the pillow, whereupon the feathers flew away for good with.

Protesting, the man complained that it would be impossible for him to retrieve every single feather. The child smiled, explaining that a person can no more make amends for spreading derogatory statements throughout the community than he could now take back all the feathers.

JULIAN FRIEDMAN
Shelton, S.C.

Let America's enemies obliterate themselves

It is really strange that America's strongest allies don't want to help the president in his endeavor to assist people who later will want to cut our heads off if we decide we don't want to participate in their theocratic religion?

This is a golden opportunity to let the aforementioned people to obliterate themselves.

After what England went through with the Madeline killing of an English sailor, and America's experience with 9/11 and the Boston Marathon, why should Western nations try to stop future jihadists from killing each other?

What is our president's motive to get involved in this mess? Could it be one of the following: Make himself look good? Make himself look tough? Gain sympathy for the Islamists?

You can bet yourself it's politically motivated in some way for this man. Please don't give the any racist battery. I wanted Condoleezza Rice to be nominated, to run and win the 2008 presidential election.

At least with her we would not have had a president who would put America and the constitution ahead of the United Nations organization and other foreign nations, which it was not the man.

RAG SHAYTO
Savannah

CONTACT US

Letters to the editor must include the writer's name (no initials), a mailing address and daytime telephone number for verification purposes. We ask that letters be no longer than 200 words. All submissions are subject to editing.

• Email: letters@savannahnow.com
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Editorial Writing

A

1st Place

Columbus Ledger-Enquirer

Ledger-Enquirer
THE CENTER OF CIVIC CONVERSATION SINCE 1839

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OPINION

Late laughs
YOU KNOW what happened this week in New Zealand? They legal-ized gay marriage. It was a honor-able week for gay folks. This means Billie can finally marry Gracie!
—Craig Ferguson

Quotable
"The most powerful weapon on earth is the human word on fire."
—Ferdinand Foch, French military leader (1851-1929)



CONGRESSIONAL BACK-BE-NEE CHECKS



Editorial

What are stolen years, smeared reputation worth?

ROUGHLY half the states in the U.S. have some official formula for compensating people wrongly convicted and imprisoned. Georgia is among the states that do not.

The case of Lathan Wood is still fresh in the minds of many folks in this area. Wood, of course, is the man exonerated of a Columbus armed robbery charge after almost 12 years behind bars.

Last month the Georgia General Assembly, after considerable debate (some lawmakers thought Wood shouldn't get any compensation at all, agreed to pay him \$400,000. That amount was calculated from what Wood could have earned as a Marine if he had entered the service, as he was planning to do before he was charged.

Lost income is a good starting point, but it's not enough. Used the state funds the God-like power to give Lathan Wood back 12 years and nine months of his life — or Clarence Harrison 17 years of his, or Robert Clark 29 years of his — official compensation of somebody imprisoned for a crime he or she did not commit should be about more than just a calculation of earnings.

Except for wrongful execution, there is probably no worse offense a constitutional government can commit against one of its citizens than wrongful imprisonment. The former steals a life; the latter steals "only" part of one.

If legislators decide to act on this, here are some things they need to take into account when figuring what Georgia owes those whose liberty it hijacks when justice miscarries so badly.

They need to think about what value they'd put on those lost years if they themselves — or their spouses, or children, or siblings, or friends — were the ones languishing in prison.

They need to think about the irreversibility of the wrong, of stolen time that can't be tacked back onto their lives after the fact.

They need to ask themselves if years spent in prison for no reason are measurable in income, would I take five years' pay to spend five years in the slammer?

Didn't think so.

And they need to take a long, unflinching look at the flaws in the trial process and the justice system that make stories like Lathan Wood's so mind-bogglingly familiar.

Not that any more trials needed to be heaped on the glaring one of wrongful imprisonment, but just for the record ...

The state's claims attorney board initially denied Wood's request for compensation on the grounds that he failed to provide adequate documentation. This from a state whose "documentation" of his guilt cost him a dozen years.

When Wood was finally exonerated and freed, the crime was officially expunged from his state record ... after he paid \$50 in fees.

His compensation will haven't made it into the state budget.

We want to hear from you!
Sections Editor/Columnist in the Editor, Columbus Ledger-Enquirer, P.O. Box 762, Columbus, GA 31904-0762
Fax: 706-526-6206, E-mail: letters@ledger-enquirer.com
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Looking back | 50th year anniversary April 24, 1963

Business Walking Down Dry Bones
Charlotte-based Volvo farmers and cottoners are struggling through dry, dusty fields, anticipating the inevitable. Harvests of their crops were being harvested if cotton was still being raised.

The Hurricane Weather Bureau reports a deluge of 2.3 inches of rain.

Business
The Electronic Corporation of America Inc., a Columbus organization, will begin manufacturing a portable public address system and a special marine light within the next month at a plant in the former Road in Lakeland Park.

Doonesbury Gerry Trudeau



Late week was one that many will want to forget, but few will. It began Monday with a terrorist attack on the Israeli Embassy. As this column was being written Friday morning, it was ending with a police officer on I-75 and our suspect dead and a Boston suburb that does a searching for a suspect that remained at large.

In between, a fire at a Berlin-er plant became an explosion that destroyed much of the town of Houston, Texas. It was an extraordinarily reminder that when there is trouble, our responders run toward the trouble, not away from it.

The result is that many firefighters are among the missing and the dead.

Wednesday provided a VTR-like video to Boston's Marathon bombing, with letters containing clues discovered on Capitol Hill and in the White House and more. It appeared to have an appointment to the Russell Senate Office Building at the time the blast Senate Office building had been evacuated, and the Russell building was being checked for signs of the plot.

It was a bit surreal leaving Chase Station and walking toward the connection near the Capitol. The fact that I have to continue despite the stress and expense here. The next evening says that the world has changed a lot since September 2001. The atmosphere has somewhat become surreal. Emergency and alert happen, but more confusion.

Inside the building as I set up on my appointment, I listened to the staffers answering the phones in the main office of a newspaper. Wednesday with all of the chaos news going on was also the day that the Senate was to vote on amendments to the president's tax overhaul package. The cell phone was much higher than usual, and these answering the phones remained on task.

"It's nothing on, no/ten. No one amendment as well ..." It was

BUT THOSE ON THE PHONES do represent the front line of our representative form of government, and are the only face of a senator or representative that many will ever encounter. As such, those who are readily "fed up" enough over an issue and decide to call their elected officials often unleash their anger on those staffers, who work in very small, shared-office spaces. They are generally paid little, especially relative to the high and rising cost of living in D.C.

almost as if they were reading a script as an ex-convict, but professional and courteous to each other.

The fact that their answers all seemed to be in the same order to the same questions indicate that the staffers were likely not the only ones who may have been provided a script. Such is the nature of civi-ty government, and the government response.

But those on the phones do represent the front line of our representative form of government, and are the only face of a senator or representative that many will ever encounter. As such, those who are readily "fed up" enough over an issue and decide to call their elected officials often unleash their anger on those staffers, who work in very small, shared office spaces. They are generally paid little, especially relative to the high and rising cost of living in D.C. And who-or-what day were working the phones in a public and shared office space despite the fact that many were actively searching to discover if their workplace was being poisoned by an unknown person.

It's often that I was struck by

the images I was seeing on Twitter and Facebook of panic and chaos on Capitol Hill, yet sitting inside an office, watching and listening to professionals who come to work as the face of representative government every day, often under unusual and trying circumstances. It was obviously just so many of the staffers who were going on around these staffers, but they weren't their concern, and the staffers neither offered excuses nor left their posts.

There were other things I saw to confirm faith in humanity. The Boston Marathon runners who were directly from the race to finish/finish to make donations show that many will respond when called upon. Acts of heroism in the face of extreme tragedy such as this are easy to spot and should be properly lauded.

But that there are those who serve us in so many capacities, every day, who just do their jobs in even that are becoming more and more dangerous, to serve a public that is becoming more and more hostile, with threats low and far between.

Senators and congressmen can be after knowing they will often report a large number of the people they serve. It's part of the job, and they expect and understand much of the reaction. Those who work for them don't get most of the negative or positive, but do get the lion's share of public contact — and the brunt of the ire.

The next time you call your elected official, please make your mind as you may be. But please also remember that those who are talking to you are also just trying to do a job — and may likely also be trying to figure out if they need to pressure their office while they're answering your concerns. That's one small part of this job we would all do well not to forget.

Doonesbury, author and editor of the Peach-Puckle blog, writes on Georgia politics and government. www.pjcspeaks.com

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Doonesbury Gerry Trudeau



Editorial Page

H

3rd Place

Cherokee Ledger-News, Woodstock

OPINION

THE CHEROKEE LEDGER-NEWS

MANAGING EDITOR: ERICA NEIDACK

MARCH 13, 2013

CHEROKEE VOICE

A healthier mind, body and spirit

ISSUE: March 17 is St. Patrick's Day, known as a day to celebrate the "luck of the Irish."
QUESTION: What has happened to you lately that was lucky?



"I found a dollar on the floor at the store the other day."

Julian Baldwin
Acworth



"I saw someone drop a \$20 bill at the mall, and I gave it back to them; they gave me \$5."

Adrian Cohen
Woodstock



"We won six trophies at Explorer Winterfest in Gathings."

Dalton Herby
Canton



"I'm going to the Bahamas."

Colton James Gray
Woodstock

In the grand scheme of life, it's important that we take care of ourselves, but finding the will-power and the motivation to keep going is difficult. When you start a healthy eating regimen (or diet), there will be days you just have to have that cookie or scoop of ice cream. And when your muscles start aching as you in the first few days of starting a new exercise plan, it's easier just to say "I can't do it," and give up.

Eating right hasn't been a problem, especially since my son was diagnosed with food allergies. Most of the common fatty foods have been eliminated from our meal plans, although my husband and I occasionally indulge in a N.Y.-style pizza every now and again.

Exercising is a completely different story. I'd rather eat less than run two miles on a treadmill. And, I've been known to repeatedly throw in the towel when it comes to exercise because it hurts. There always are excuses, but those excuses have never led to anything good.

Not too long ago, I introduced myself to an ancient practice common in today's society and I can't believe I waited this long to try it. Yoga.

I picked up a beginner's video at a local store, along with a yoga mat, and started practicing the ancient discipline in the comforts of my own home. It's not about

lifting the biggest weights or running the quickest mile — not that there's anything wrong with that. It's about finding your center, relaxing, building muscle tone and increasing flexibility.

What an amazing experience it has been!

In just a couple of weeks, I've lost inches and pounds, gained more energy and better quality sleep, and reduced tension and stress that had been causing headaches that lasted for days.

For those who think yoga is "just stretching," think again.

There are different types of yoga: some are more relaxing and others are invigorating. I've been practicing Hatha and Flow. Hatha is relaxing and stress-reducing. I can do it before bed and go right to sleep — no tossing and turning.

Flow is a different animal. It's relaxing but very invigorating. It works muscles you hardly ever use and gets blood flowing. You feel energized and relaxed after

completing a 30-minute session. It challenges your fast and slow-twitch muscles and your balance. The first time I tried the session, I fell over in some of the poses, unable to maintain my balance that once had been so great.

Like other exercises, I still felt "the burn" the next day but it was nothing that put me out of commission.

And, in sticking with it, I've found that daily practice has improved my balance, and what I couldn't do yesterday, I now can do today.

I know it gets much more difficult, and I'm only in the beginning stages, and I hope to continue to advance as I master crescent, downward dog, chair and more.

I've heard over the years that yoga is an amazing practice that helps in many facets of life. I continued to ignore the recommendations and wished that I took heed before.

With daily practice, I've improved more than just physicality — it seems I'm less irritable, harbor less anxiety and overall feel so much better.

If exercising seems daunting, and you can't stand the next day achy muscles, give yoga a try. You can do it in your home or at many of the places that offer group classes across the county. It's easy to dedicate yourself to, and it'll be worth the 30 minutes you put in every day.



Erica Neidack
Woodstock

LETTERS

Debate is too late

Dear Editor,

You know, I hate to point out what should be obvious, but the debate on gun control is really pointless now. We are shooting that horn door a little too late. The guns are already on the street and locked tightly to gun sales all over the country.

Have you been to a gun store or even Walmart to buy a gun? Check out the waiting list for any gun threatened by a ban. Even

handguns are hard to find. It's kind of hard to see how a gun ban will fix anything for anyone now. You can't even find ammo for guns. So I would say the horses is out of the barn already so maybe we should look a little harder for laws that might do something.

I don't agree with gun bans, but it's not like we haven't had one before. It didn't do any good when President Bill Clinton did it, and let's be honest, all it would do now is make the banned guns

more sought-after and worth more money. So why not stick with beefing up gun show laws, focusing on helping those with mental illness and pushing for gun safety classes?

If we all just stopped screaming for unrealistic overnight legislation the ways of keeping our kids, our streets and ourselves safe without punishing law-abiding citizens.

Erica Covington
Ball Ground



"We're going to the beach."

Faith and Hope Sandell
Canton



"I got to go to the restaurants and stay with my grandparents."

Joseph Tlisa
Woodstock

THE CHEROKEE LEDGER-NEWS

Publisher
MIKE CASHMAN

Managing Editor
ERICA NEIDACK

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CHEROKEEANS by Mario Luque 3/13/13



2nd Place

Cherokee Ledger-News, Woodstock

OPINION

6 THE CHEROKEE LEDGER NEWS

MANAGING EDITOR: ERICA WELLS

NOVEMBER 8, 2013

CHEROKEE VOICE

ISSUE: Veterans Day is Nov. 11.
QUESTION: Who do you remember on Veterans Day?



"My dad."

Sean Fabory
Woodstock



"My grandfather, who is still alive today."

Josh Engly
Canton



"My grandfather. He was in World War II."

Chris Gallagher
Woodstock



"My husband's grandfather."

Madisa Terry
Canton



"I remember all of the veterans and all of the men I served alongside."

Charles Williams
Retired Navy helicopter pilot



"All of the men and women that have served."

Kimberly Hudges
Canton

All veterans deserve thanks

Thank you very much," I said, as I wandered around the Kroger grocery aisles. A young lady - I think in her late 20s - greeted me with that familiar refrain of late: "Sit, thank you for your service." She will never know the depth of my appreciation for those words. The fact is, she has probably forgotten the little she learned in school about the Vietnam War, or more importantly, likely never learned how a nation was divided in one of its darkest hours. It was the first and only war where those in uniform were blamed for everything the protesters were protesting about, or so it seemed. They actually blamed those of us who were there either because we wanted to do our duty (volunteer), or the drafters who had nothing to say about it.

Ernesto Villar was a flight instructor and sergeant and sergeant major. I don't like being shot at anymore or having my feet cut off. I quit. "If anything in this article sounds unpatriotic, it is not intentional. I am patriotic to a fault. I'm proud of my service, and I have ribbons and medals to show that I was in harm's way in Vietnam for two tours (1966-1967).

But, it means the most to me when someone my age (or more) says, "Thank you for your service." Those are the ones who did or did not agree with our involvement in Vietnam. But at least I know that they know the recognition and the "welcome home" have been a long time coming.

Young folks could not possibly "feel" the tension of a very unpopular war with an average of 110 "boys/men" killed in action every week. But perhaps those who missed out on that terrible time in our country can appreciate what I, and millions of my comrades in arms, went through. Maybe you'll say "thanks" to one of our outstanding men or women who are just home from Afghanistan or who may be on the way there.

I was 17 when I got my first assignment. My father personally signed the paperwork to authorize his son - not quite 18 yet - to sign up as a Navy Reservist. Dad was a World War II Navy vet and proud of it. An extremely conservative and mild-mannered man, his red-ribbed torso of a Navy ship on one arm, and on the other arm, a big ship's anchor, were incongruous

with his more introverted nature.

At Hartsfield high school, I was off to boot camp and ready to see the world like dear old Dad. I was active duty with navy a clear as to whether I would be scrubbing decks or keeping the ships' engines running. "Think again, Seaman Recruit Strub." Apparently my initial diagnosis at the Great Lakes Boot Camp indicated a few potential deficiencies and skills I certainly had no idea I had. I was shipped off to "code-school."

Mom and Dad wrote me and told me my former teachers, the local pharmacist, neighbors and classmates were getting visits from the FBI, asking questions about me. I, and my 17 classmates, were kept in the dark until the Top Secret Cryptographic



DAVE STRUB

Dave Strub

clearances were issued.

Fast forward to 1996, all graduated and pulled up like the Pillsbury Doughboy; our orders came in. First, some of us (unknowing as to why) were sent to SERE training (Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape).

Not everyone had to undergo this course, but those who did pretty much knew we were headed for the war theater. From super secret secure bases hidden in the Philippines or Japan, heavily guarded by Marines, we were sent to Vietnam cover and cover for two years. Something on the order of "three months, a couple of weeks out."

This constant movement was a routine I would later regret, because I wasn't with a "Platoon," "Company" or any particular unit long enough to bring back memories of close relationships - something many of my veteran buddies treasure today and something I envy. We kept to ourselves once we got home. There was no huge "welcome home party," only protests and name-calling.

These days, I'm seeing more Vietnam veteran T-shirts, hats and jackets on the streets, decals

on cars, and I even have a Vietnam veteran flag on the front of my house. We feel like we belong again and don't need to hide.

As we see others proudly wearing their T's or caps, we always greet each other with that, "Welcome home, brother. Thanks for your service." "Same to you," is the answer back. Suddenly I suppose we are all nodding in on the newfound patriotism, and seeking in all of the "thank you's" we can get. And somehow mysteriously, we actually begin to talk about where we were in Vietnam, and what we did after being sworn on the subject for four decades - even to one another.

Thanks to the Iraq and Afghanistan wars and the patriotism shown by America, I think we have quite simply found the pride we lost, and we're trying to forget the way we felt back then.

The last reminder is that all veterans deserve that "Thank you for your service." I did not get mine. Neither did any other of the 1.5-million Nam vets.

It's sometimes uncomfortable to approach any military person and say, "Thank you." But know that when you do, you will have made it a better day for him or her. I wear my Vietnam veteran hat, jacket or mini-ribbons (for medals and citations) everywhere. And I bask in the glory of someone at Kroger looking at me and saying, "Thanks for your service." Others still look away as if they don't know whether - or how - to acknowledge me or not. Please do. If you see a man or woman in uniform, give them a "thank you," or a thumbs up. Anything! Let them know you appreciate their service.

I had found a much-too-high level of respect toward America for these long years since my discharge in 1966. I had my service nearby always. These deep-seated memories of the surreal post-war days, finally, have been assigned in the oblivion they so richly deserve. I'm finally back home, and to that generation who were divided, and blamed the returning heroes who fought to protect their right to protest, I believe that I have earned the right to say "America, I Pledge Your"

Dave Strub is a retired broadcast journalist, Vietnam veteran and a resident of Cherokee County.

CHEROKEEANS by Mario Luque 11/6/13



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Change might break what was fixed

One surefire way for a politician to avoid criticism is to go with the flow, to protect the status quo, to keep the boat from rocking.

But as another cliché points out, you can't make an omelet without breaking a few eggs.

Yet what if no one wants the omelet?

That's the question that arises, perhaps, from state Rep. Barry Fleming's proposal to reorganize the Columbia County Board of Elections.

Among other things, he wants to enable the legislative delegation, the county commission and the two cities to make appoint-

ments to the board for a total of five members.

Currently, the three-member board is made up of one each appointed by the Republican and Democratic parties, with the third chosen by the first two.

That setup has been in place since 1993, when lawmakers devised it in an effort to insulate the board from political influence.

We can't remember any complaints along the way — and certainly, the board has done an outstanding job of running a tight ship. Much of that Fleming attributes to now-retired Deborah Marshall, who was promoted to executive director in 2000.

For those with longer memories, there were plenty of times in the not-too-distant past when the operations of Columbia County's elections were subject to political manipulation — but there's little question that one came to an end with the 1993 law.

Why the change now, 20 years later? Fleming says it's to give the board's funding sources — the commission and the legislature — more of a say in the board's operations. But perhaps it's necessary to point out that the purpose of the current setup was to limit such influence. Is it really a good idea to let it be more of it?

Do we really want to break these eggs? And if they aren't broken, do we need to fix them?

First, the district's boundaries are much different. In 2008, before redistricting, the 13th leaned Democratic. Len Anderson drew the seat to give himself an edge, so now it tilts Republican.

Anderson lost to Barrow, but Mitt Romney took the district with 57 percent.

Second, Stone says, he's gathering a campaign team of people who have already done what he wants to do here: Beat an incumbent Democrat in a GOP-leaning congressional district.

He'll have challenges, of course, not the least of which is the fact that Barrow has managed thus far to defeat every Republican who's been thrown against him, and has survived repeated Republican efforts to ouster him out of the district.

Barrow's success has been working so long in Washington, he'll also need to succeed with his vote.

"I still have my home 'chairs' in Forest Hills," Stone says. "I was born and raised there. I went to



Barry L. Paschal

Stone returns for a rematch

While it might be nice to pretend we don't have to even think about elections until next year, the reality of the situation is that we don't have that luxury.

John Stone says doesn't, starting this summer, he'll have a full-time job running for Congress.

You might remember Stone. If you're an older voter, you'll recall his voice from radio news in Augusta. Most recently, he might be familiar from the 2008 congressional race that he lost to Democrat John Barrow.

In between, he was the right-hand man for Charlie Norwood, who served the 10th Congressional District as an congressman until he died in 2009.

Stone told me last week he's preparing to run against Barrow. He'll have a couple of advantages he didn't have last time.

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"I still have my home 'chairs' in Forest Hills," Stone says. "I was born and raised there. I went to

Hickman Park kindergarten, Richmond Academy, Langford Junior High and Augusta State, all in Waton Way. My family has been there since the Revolution.

"I've been up here," he adds, "but I came up here to serve the district."

Once the race starts, he knows he'll have a fight on his hands — one that won't get any easier if Barrow wins the reelection vote again.

In last year's election, he pointed out, "you had a bunch of Republicans who voted for Barrow. You pull that lever one time, it gets easier to pull it the next time. We can beat him substantially this time. If we don't, we'll be stuck with him."

We'll also be stuck with a re-usable district.

"By G-d, we've got to have somebody campaigning our area. And we don't," Stone says.

That's especially important in Fort Gordon, where protection during the previous Steve Clouse and Reclamation Commission process was a credit to Norwood's hard work.

"We've got to have a member out there working like hell to get minutes moved from elsewhere to Fort Gordon as part of the next BRAC," Stone says.

"Or else we're going to see minutes moved from Fort Gordon to somewhere else. We've got to have somebody who can make that fight," he said. "Barrow ain't it."

Stone plans to visit Evans on Sunday, March 23, for the Republican Party's monthly breakfast at 816 E. Calhoun and welcome him home before the non-stop campaigning starts.

Barrow's success has been working so long in Washington, he'll also need to succeed with his vote.

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Readers Views

Street lights are 'an investment' in county's growth, prosperity

Editor: Recently, there was a headline on the front page of *The Augusta Chronicle* asking "Is the 'green-growth' in Columbia County. My answer is a resounding yes except for one thing: the lack of street lighting on major arterial roads in Columbia County.

I grew up on the 800, now Summerville, and moved away for about 30 years. When I returned home, I thought Columbia County because it was forward-looking and progressive.

Many opinions of Columbia County want to continue to grow and be viewed as progressive. It needs to act that way and one some of its tax dollars for street lights.

The recently improved intersection of Furry Ford Road and Hardy McManus has one street light that barely does the job.

I could cite many other similar intersections. Some intersections have two, three or four traffic cameras, but only one street light. My recommendation is that the

county begin with the major arteries. They know where they are not traffic courts.

I also suggest that commissioners drive down Alexander Drive, which was recently widened between Riverwatch and Washington Roads, and see how a street can look with attractive street lighting.

I believe street lights would be an investment in the continued growth and prosperity of our county. **R.D. Nichols Evans**



Barbara Seaborn

A Christian's guide to preparations for Easter

"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross... and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." —Hebrews 12:2

Sometimes we who sit our opinions in public, via newspapers, columns or letters to the editor, do so because we feel some urgency to "fix" the world. If something or someone doesn't change, terrible consequences will occur — or something like that. But in those pre-Easter days, I'm wondering why we — I, especially — don't follow the advice of the author of the book of Hebrews and "fix our eyes on Jesus," instead.

For Christians, Easter is the most important day in the church year, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the event that sets our faith apart from all other religions. As revealed in other details may

be to those who worship them, so one else in all of history has ever returned to life on his own power.

Easter represents victory not only over the evil in the world and in our own lives, but over the ultimate evil, death itself — not only for Jesus, but for all who call Him "Lord."

"Because I live," Jesus said, "you will live, also." (John 14:19)

So why do most of us who call ourselves Christians live in an "ain't it awful" world? Why do we act as though there were no death-defeating God in control, and that the world and all its problems are on our shoulders alone?

Let Whiten was an author, pastor and the most important source of my young life. While he lived before I knew him, his gentle manner was visible wrapped in a cloak of management, guidance without a trace of "show shun" or "don't do it," and love that didn't seem to notice the failures of his congregants or friends.

Typical of his response to one of my personal bouts of pessimism was this: "Barbara, you are not living in the realm of the resurrection." Often, especially in those warring and governmentally gridlock days, I think of Lee's words and ponder the "realm" to which he referred.

The original, first-century post-resurrection days must have resembled Colonial America following the Revolution, V-E and V-J Day

at the end of World War II, and moral confusion at the Olympic Games all rolled into one.

For those who grieved their Lord's death, seeing Him alive again had to be an ecstatic experience. For those who questioned that this victory was not over more evils or the enemies who had killed Him, but over forces no human had ever conquered before, the realm of the resurrection meant that everything about their world, imperfect though it remained, was alive again and full of hope.

Though governments continued to oppress and impoverish the masses, and justice was administered less by law than by Rickie, human rights, the original disciples spread Christianity across the known world, even though, for some, martyrdom was their earthly reward. They could restore any pain, any discouragement and any death, because their belief was synchronous with their faith.

For me, those nearly 2,000 years

after the first Easter, thinking about that realm is both a comfort and a reality check. The current, post-resurrection world is imperfect, too, and some things really are getting worse instead of better.

But the resurrection story reminds me that we can live above our nagging fears, our temporary setbacks and anything else in the physical realm because the final victory has already been won.

I doubt I'll ever completely grasp such total optimism — my "ain't it awful" syndrome is a hard set to kill — but I'm going to try.

The Easter, how about joining me in leaving the burden of fixing the world to God, and fixing my eyes — and the way we live in our corner of the world — on Jesus instead.

(Barbara Seaborn is a local freelance writer and author of *Do You Do the Heavy Run: Highlights of Columbia County's Past*. Email comments to seaborn2@aol.com.)

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1st Place

Columbia County News-Times, Evans

Page 4, The Journal, Buena Vista, Ga., Wednesday, July 2, 2003

OPINION



A Perfectly Natural July 4th

Will you be celebrating Nat'l Law this July 4th? You should be. Your Founding Fathers did. In declaring their independence and asserting their God-given rights, the Founding Fathers - particularly the signers of the Declaration of Independence - acknowledged the "Laws of Nature and Nature's God." These laws are not man-made. Instead, they are the laws of God that govern the universe. (These were days when an earthquake meant something rather than just a natural phenomenon.)

The Founders were not only declaring their independence from the British Crown (that's a huge deal), they were asserting their natural rights and claiming certain inalienable rights that were theirs not only as Americans but as humans.

So, what is this Natural Law? "What did and does it mean?" And why does it still matter?

"There can be no doubt that these delegates in Philadelphia who adopted the Declaration believed in, and based the natural independence on, the 'Laws of Nature and Nature's God,'" states Richard Hodder, professor emeritus of law at Regenera University. Further defines Natural Law as: "God, in creating the universe, implanted in the nature of man a faculty of law to which all human beings are entitled, which is superior to man-made law, and which is inalienable by human nature."

Starting Missions in the Philippines

Someone translated one of Charles W. Swindell's early devotional pages to me. I had supposed reading the Bible daily but I began to read his Bible and verses as they came in. Most of his ideas on the Bible are simple and easy to understand. The effect of his devotionals leads me to recall a story.

We have heard tales about "Ugly Americans" in foreign lands but the majority of us overseas did not act that way. Then and today most service personnel and families relate to the natives of host countries with respect and good will. In the 1950s a few servicemen and women were challenged by a young Filipino man at a general meeting in a friend's home on Clark Air Base on Luzon to discuss the Bible in Filipino. I had developed a sort of weekly Christian outlook and decided, having grasped principles Christians should follow. The challenge by this Filipino man was a life saving ray toward a religious approach to life.

Some Christians and one chaplain on base thought we were not prepared to carry the Gospel to the Filipinos. After much discussion and prayer a few of us decided to go and teach from the Bible what we clearly understood. The central message was salvation through Jesus, which we understood. People were not told they believed the Gospel and were saved, believing the amazing death on the cross had saved all sin. We could



Dr. Paul Kenger, Columnist

To illustrate the point, God's word, the Bible of Jesus, says, "I had to choose between your law and God's law," she told the king, "and no matter how much power you have to enforce your law, it is unenforceable next to God's. His laws are eternal, not merely for the moment. No matter how great you may make the laws of God."

An Aristotle par it, the Natural Law is a universal law that transcends earthly regimes and stands constant to all human beings, "even when there is no consensus to bind them to one another."

Covers our Natural Law as the law. His words: "The law is right reason in agreement with nature, it is of universal application, unchanging and everlasting. It is not man's law, but the law of God, and it is impossible to abolish it entirely. The added that "whenever it is broken" is

the Natural Law "is being from himself and deriving its laws from himself." The Natural Law is profound and profoundly true. Truly, it has been profoundly spread and accepted by nations throughout the world as a whole. We could cite off a litany of examples, but a major one concerning rights now is the issue of "same sex marriage." The idea of a man and a woman or a woman and a woman marrying one another is an unenforceable violation of the Natural Law. It is an unenforceable, purely contrary to human nature. On humanity, today's liberalizing provisions could care less, they are too busy happily embracing any and all variations of Natural Law in pursuit of their own self-interest. It's part of that glorious "fundamental transformation" of America.

Beyond liberalizing provisions, there are countless millions of ordinary Americans who like what could care less. They like the flag, the stars and stripes. Not the flag, but, and fireworks. Not the flag, but, and fireworks. Not the flag, but, and fireworks.

"Well, it isn't. Few things are actually in collaboration, splitting, splitting. Think about it: the Creator implanted in you that is, in your very nature - a body of truth and law to which you and all human beings are subject. It is superior to man-made law, and it is unenforceable and knowable by human nature. So, what is something worth knowing?"

Car Care for your summer trips

and from high school in Capon, which we were there, went on to higher education and military and then became a minister. In time he became president of a group of Baptist churches that spread up in Tulsa Province. He exchanged preaching programs with the Southern Baptist churches in America but came by our small church in Halesbarren County, Ga. and preached to us.

Successful missions were started because initially four or five individuals in a home Bible study were inspired by the new arrival of a man to home weekly Bible studies in four or five cities and towns. Students, participants of some education and instruction in communication or speaking-to-one-another. One of the high school graduates from Tulsa ended up in missionary work in America. Many Filipinos live there and so he became a missionary in America on the numerous islands of Hawaii. Other high school graduates devoted to our Bible societies became ministers in Tulsa province and went through the Baptist home study in Halesbarren.

Looking back that period became a blessing to us and shaped much of the rest of our lives as we traveled from place to place in the service, serving as fellow citizens and ministers. We were not sent; other others. Each day in those working times I work the most peace Swindell writes about. Jesus promised to give us the same peace if we have faith and receive His blessing.

Letters to the Editor

You never forget your first boss

A tribute to the late Bobby L. Lowe

Dear Editor, My first boss, Bobby L. Lowe, passed away last week. Bobby was the Executive Director of the Middle Flair Area Planning and Development Commission in Ellerbe and American for many years until his retirement in 2001.

Middle Flair APDC began in the late 1980's and was located in what is now the Chattanooga or First BSA Building in Ellerbe. In fact, Joseph Lamm, past chairman of the Ellerbe/Sehley Co. Chamber of Commerce, wanted to get Middle Flair APDC located in the corner of the eight county region, which was Ellerbe Area Center was one of the first members of the board of directors.

Through Bobby Lowe's leadership, the eight county Middle Flair APDC region, including Sevier County, received millions of dollars in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), transportation improvement grants, economic development grants, water and sewer line grants, historic preservation grants, industrial development grants, housing grants, and to expand a water system throughout Sevier County. In addition, the subsequent funds were obtained to provide expansion for King's Center Building, Southeastern Presbyterian, T & E Center Building, and 301 Law enforcement and fire protection grants were obtained to provide equipment and vehicles for the

Thoughts on speaking in tongues

Dear Editor, I was sitting in a revival meeting some years ago, and a young lady came and sat next to me. I did not know who she was, but she spoke in tongues. She was the sister of the service, while the minister was preaching, the young lady began to say some words that I did not understand.

At first I thought that perhaps she was speaking a foreign language. I heard her do this several times during the course of the service. I later learned that she was not speaking a foreign language but rather, what some say is an "unknown tongue." And that it is a sign that you have the Holy Spirit. Some say that it is a requirement for anyone who will be serving as a minister. As always, I looked to see what the Bible had to say about it.

In Acts 2:1, 3 and 4 the Bible says that "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And there appeared unto

them tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them: and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

On the day of Pentecost, the disciples did speak with "other tongues" but they did not speak in "unknown tongues." In fact in the same chapter in verses 7 and 8 the Bible lets us know that the tongues they were speaking in were simply the "native" languages of the people who had come from all over the world to Jerusalem for that occasion.

Furthermore, Paul in 1 Cor. 14:20 says that "I speak as unto children in Christ Jesus." In fact in the same chapter in verses 7 and 8 the Bible lets us know that the tongues they were speaking in were simply the "native" languages of the people who had come from all over the world to Jerusalem for that occasion.

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3rd Place

The Journal, Buena Vista



Opinions

Frankly Speaking

By Frank Gilligan

Let's build a fence along the beltway

I had never given the subject of reincorporation much thought until a few years ago. It was then that I first realized that it could explain a major problem that has developed in this country.

There are several theories of reincorporation. The one that most closely describes our problem says that we all start life as a tabula. After a few million years as a molecule we finally become developed enough to live as a tiny town, such as a flea. Over a few million other years we gradually move up the chain of life to become a mammal, perhaps a mouse. Then maybe a rabbit, a dog, a monkey and finally we are ready to take on the responsibility of being human.

But over the past century or so, the world's population has gotten out of proportion. The human population has exploded while the number of lower forms of life are declining. The result is that there are not enough lower forms of life around to be liked with the lower world, while a vast number of human bodies are being born without enough human souls to fill them. As a consequence, we have a large number of human bodies being occupied by lower animal souls. In other words, we have a horde of jockeys parading around in human form.

Now I want you to think about this for a minute. Just look around at the people you encounter as you go about your business. Watch the way they act, the kind of language they use, the intelligence they display. Then note the kinds of people who tend to pushing their commercial aims on the innocent. Look carefully at all these and I bet you will recognize quite a few of them.

Jockeys are only comfortable when among their own kind. That is why they gather in herds. There are many small herds around America and a number of larger herds. The larger herd of jockeys is located on the northern bank of the Potomac River, where they rush from one side of their pasture to the other, screeching, bawling and stirring up clouds of dust.

Some members of these jockey herds pretend to be shepherds, but the odds are like jockeys. Others watch a set of horns on their heads and pretend to be goats. These herds on either side of the pasture and charge each other having heads but only.

It is impossible to tell exactly what they are doing because all the morning around, swinging the ground and blowing hot air around a vast flat earth. There is so much dust and noise that none of them can hear or see what the others are doing, and we surely have no chance of figuring them out.

But I have an idea. That big pasture they play in is surrounded by a big circle of concrete called a Beltway. Since we are becoming so diluted at building fences along the Mexican border, perhaps we should build a fence along this beltway. Then we can let the jockeys run and stamp and tramp in each other to their heart's content. And as long as they leave the rest of us alone.

We will obviously never be rid of these human jockeys, but wouldn't it be nice if we could at least ignore them?

Frank Gilligan is founder of The Madison County Journal. His e-mail address is frank@frankgilligan.com. His website can be accessed at <http://www.frankgilligan.com/gop/gopindex.html>.

The Madison County Journal

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has spent thousands of dollars over the past several years to help fund the Journal's operations. He is a member of the Journal's Board of Directors and is a frequent contributor to the Journal's editorial page.

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New car tax will hurt the rural poor

In the Mountains

By Zach Micham

has kids in. There's bound to be some sticker shock in the days ahead. And the poor employees at the tax commissioner's office are going to be charged with explaining why the new purchase tax is such a big tax shock.

The new state car tax system incorporates this logic. The state has long taxed new cars for their value. Now, the state government wants all that tax money up front on cars purchased after Friday, March 1. Anything purchased prior to that can remain on the old, annual payment system.

All those states you've heard about the state revenue problems over the past few years, well, this is one fix, one way to crank up state revenues. The car tax change is part of last year's HB 886, a major state revenue overhaul, which passed 14-0 in the state Senate and 155-0 in the House. All three Madison County legislators — Sen. Frank Clay, Rep. Alan Powell and Rep. Tom McCall — voted in favor of the comprehensive tax reform.

Members have yet to feel the effects of that legislation, but that changes Friday when the car tax takes in. There's bound to be some sticker shock in the days ahead. And the poor employees at the tax commissioner's office are going to be charged with explaining why the new purchase tax is such a big tax shock.

The long run payment certainly strengthens the state's revenue position. And state leaders have actually publicized this as a type of favor to the public. The elimination of the "locking tax" does, in fact, wipe out your yearly tax. But that's because you no longer pay your tax in installments. You're hit up front. Likewise, you will still have to pay an annual \$20 registration fee at the tax commissioner's office.

The "thing in a fever" seems a bit disingenuous because it gives a choice, many of us would gladly stay with the old system and keep more of our money in our pockets whenever we buy our new car. But we're not given such a choice.

Perhaps this won't seem like the big of a deal to most folks, especially if you buy a new car. You can basically expect a seven percent tax on the value of your new vehicle. And a new car carries at least some expectation of durability. You know that you can drive it for several years and not pay much on it after that one time shock.

But consider the people who really struggle to get by, those who have a hard time maintaining vehicle transportation. If you live in a rural county like Madison County, and you make decent money, then you likely work for school system, the county government or some of the great businesses in this county. But there will aren't enough jobs locally to support the roughly 20,000 residents I have to do that immediately because I have to go to my job. Any person with any job in that same line, but if you're getting by paycheck-to-paycheck, then the additional tax burden adds a great deal to an already strapping situation.

Meanwhile, a poor person in an urban area can often find some means of transportation that doesn't involve high gas costs and vehicle purchases and maintenance. For instance, they may find a city bus to work. But a poor person in a rural area, such as Madison County, is totally reliant on their vehicle.

There's a lot made about poor folks getting government benefits. The discussion of "entitlement" carries a lot of emotion. But there's generally not much attention paid when government takes action that adds burden to the working poor, particularly in rural areas.

The state altered the car tax to purchase and use vehicles. Unfortunately, it has simultaneously weakened the prospects of those struggling to get by.

Zach Micham is editor of The Madison County Journal.

BSA is caught between two rocks

From the publisher's desk

By Mike Huffington

in the past been considered a private organization and as such, has the legal authority to set its own membership rules. Among its rules has been to exclude female members and openly atheist or gay members and leaders. (Female leaders are now allowed.) But there isn't a BSA law test on whether or not someone is gay or an atheist.

But those who have not followed this line, have the state of the controversy. BSA is a national organization and in part of the larger world-wide Scouting movement. Each nation sets its own rules for its organization and membership. In this country, BSA is organized through some 200 councils.

With its membership, BSA has in the past been considered a private organization and as such, has the legal authority to set its own membership rules. Among its rules has been to exclude female members and openly atheist or gay members and leaders. (Female leaders are now allowed.) But there isn't a BSA law test on whether or not someone is gay or an atheist.

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Who will challenge Deal in 2014?

The Capital Report

By Tom Crawford

meeting months. The State Republican Commission that Deal chairs used to have a \$1.5 million one-party bill at a Danielsville industrial center is a person.

More recently Deal was involved in the economy over creating a new job with a \$20,000 salary for the Senate majority leader. That generally caused widespread criticism and resulted in criticism to stop giving money to Georgia Public Broadcasting.

Deal will move likely campaign with the state but he'll be in economic development and "invested jobs," but a small opponent could argue that Deal actually caused great harm to the state's economy through his actions as governor.

For one thing, Deal spent \$10 million, a lot that was needed to pay unaccounted transportation for the state.

By refusing to expand Medicaid coverage, Georgia will deny health insurance coverage to an estimated 100,000 to 150,000 uninsured residents. The state will lose out on \$1 billion to \$4 billion a year in federal funding. A recent study by Georgia State University and the Brookings Institution would create up to 10,000 jobs over the next decade.

Events with these weak points, Deal will face the same in 2014. The political heavyweights will either run for the House or Senate and/or for one of the congressional seats that becomes open because of the Senate race.

But if an additional Republican like Secretary of State Tom Kemp or Attorney General Sam Olney wants to make an early run at the governor's office, they have some strong issues they can use against Deal.

If an additional Democrat like state Sen. Jason Carter or state Rep. Scott Hubbard wants to run in the general election, they likewise have plenty of material they can use against the incumbent governor.

Deal is vulnerable in some ways. Is anyone willing to step up and run against these vulnerabilities?

Tom Crawford is editor of The Georgia Report, an independent news outlet at www.georgiareport.com that reports on government and politics in Georgia. He can be reached at tomc@georgiareport.com.

2nd Place

The Madison County Journal, Danielsville

PAGE 4A • THE COMMERCIE (GA) NEWS, WILMINGTON, JULY 24, 2013

Opinion

Editorial Views

Railway apparently totally unconcerned

Commerce officials may want to re-think their "City on the right track" motto, given Norfolk Southern's front-loading response to public safety and other issues on the spur line that comes through town.

Granted, the rail line that in the 1970s was considered for closure continues to provide economic benefit to the area, servicing three feed mills, an automobile distribution center, two pulpwood yards, and an industry or two, but Norfolk Southern is hardly the model these days for a good corporate citizen. The company has long turned a deaf ear to community concerns related to the safety of its rail line in downtown Commerce and to the appearance of its right-of-way. Based on its practices, Commerce residents and others who drive alongside the rail line as they pass through town probably think that the transportation giant doesn't give a rip about this community.

The most critical issue is the collapsing retaining wall along a section of North Broad Street. Railroad ties supporting the earth that in turn supports the tracks are rotten and on the verge of falling into the street. No one can say for sure what will happen when the "wall" finally falls completely, but the possibilities range from causing a motor vehicle accident in the road to derauling a train, which could have disastrous consequences.

City management past and present has brought the issue to the attention of Norfolk Southern, so far to no avail. The railroad is either totally unconcerned about what might happen along one of its minor spurs or is preoccupied with issues on its busier — and more profitable — lines. But as far as Commerce residents are concerned, the only Norfolk Southern line of importance is the neglected line running through the center of town.

The railway has also left construction materials on its right-of-way at the south end of town, some of it for years. To be sure, there are other property owners who can be faulted for unsightly practices, but a corporate entity the size of the railroad company ought to be a more responsible corporate citizen and ought to be concerned enough about the public's perception to remove excess materials. In Commerce, however, Norfolk Southern remains totally unconcerned about public opinion.

Norfolk Southern needs an attitude adjustment. It'ds say or may not think Commerce is on the "right track," but they're spurning out that the railroad tracks through town are owned by the wrong company.

Editorials, unless otherwise noted, are written by Mark Beardley. He can be reached at markbeardley@comnews.com.

LETTERS POLICY

The Commerce News reserves space on its opinion page for readers to express their views on current issues. The News welcomes comments in response to events in the news and to editorials or columns expressing opinions.

Send letters to: Letters to the Editor, The Commerce News, P.O. Box 908 Jefferson, GA 30549 or email them at commercenews@mainstreetnews.com. Letters must be signed and have a phone number for verification. They should be of general interest to the public.

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Who's in the boat?

Netlix now includes, among its offerings, a series created by Lewis & Clark called "House of Cards," about what goes on in Washington, D.C. I'm told it's so cynical and depressing that I may not want to see it. I reply that it sounds much like my own current view of things.

But how did this happen? I can't figure it out. Sure, things have been as bad as they are now, or worse, at previous times in my life. I was a college student, young and optimistic, when President Kennedy was assassinated. The country was so full of conspiracy theories that a special commission was appointed to get to the bottom of things, but nobody put much faith in the commission's findings. Meanwhile, Kennedy's brother Robert was assassinated five years after JFK, and Martin Luther King. It was announced that same year, "Talk about terrible times! And I haven't even mentioned the war in Vietnam yet."

But somehow Lyndon Johnson managed to survive, and although he could not end the war, he worked to build the agenda of his predecessor, conducted a "war on poverty," and poured money into a South that had been neglected by the U.S. for a hundred years. And the world went on turning. My history-buff friends tell me that it helps to take the long view of history — and lately they're selling me that a lot.

What's keeping me up nights is the fact that one-fifth of all Americans do not know where their next meal is coming from, let alone is supposedly the wealthiest nation on earth. How can this be? I am so proud of our community and its churches for keeping the local food bank open and operating. They clearly know that there is hunger here. We all probably need to be bringing donations — those of us who can afford to.

Hangar, though, is not our only challenge. Health care is an equally pressing concern, for those who don't have it and also for those who do. Obamacare is an effort at addressing the problem, but it is compromised at its core because it still includes that expensive "middle man," commercial insurance. Still, in the states that have the online insurance exchanges (New York, for instance), people are seeing their health insurance premiums cut in half. It's not the whole solution, but it's progress. What we really need is Medicare for everyone — and I hope someday we'll have it. It will be an uphill battle, though.

Then there's infrastructure. Twenty-five percent of our bridges are in need of repair or replacement. They're unsafe, in other words. We lag behind most of the industrialized world when it comes to rail transportation, and if you want to see a local example of that, look at the stretch of rail line that our city manager is concerned about. Our previous city manager was concerned about it too. It runs right down the middle of our highly trafficked main street, at a place where the line is elevated above the road, and the railroad itself is unstable. You'd think the railroad company would be eager to fix this catastrophe to the making, especially after what just happened in Canada, but it seems we have to explore and negotiate.

The railroad lobby, the insurance lobby — we hear about their power. But what ever happened to the power of the people? It's important to remember that we are all in the same boat. "Pull up the ladder, Jack — I'm aboard!" is not a policy. It's a joke about bad policy. When widespread poverty and great wealth exist side-by-side, the boat is in danger of sinking.

Susan Harper is retired, lives in Commerce and volunteers with the Commerce Public Library and the Jackson County Literacy Program.

The future of gaming

Following the announcements of the next generation gaming consoles at E3 (Electronic Entertainment Exposition).

Expected in June, Sony emerged as the clear winner in a public relations battle with Microsoft.

Both companies employed completely different strategies to launch their new gaming consoles: Microsoft's Xbox One, and Sony's PlayStation 4, but it was Sony who ultimately shined at the annual conference, while Microsoft left millions of fans shaking their heads.

Microsoft actually unveiled the Xbox One online about a week before the conference. The unveiling showcased the new console and its many features, but refrained from showing any game play footage, which would later be seen at E3.

While the Xbox One demonstrated a plethora of interesting features, a couple of technicalities jumped out at gamers right away.

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By Mark Beardley

No fear here of government eavesdropping

To General Keith Alexander, director, National Security Agency:

It has come to my attention that your organization is collecting data on my e-mails, phone calls and social media use, and that some extensions are spied. Let me assure you, I am not among them.

I want to go on record as authorizing you to read, listen in or in any further way explore my communications. You can even read my column — anything to defeat the terrorists.

Some explanations for my file will help your analysis. Call phone usage: you'll notice that most of my calls go to the same number, the one with the 863 area code. In case their short duration triggers an alarm, let me tell you now that the number is to my company's technical support. I call it three or four times a week, and usually the response is, "Have you tried re-booting?" (You may want to try that when the NSA computers give you problems.) You do monitor Facebook calls, surely.

Home phone usage: Those short incoming calls are not a signal or code. It's me hanging up on automated callers, most of whom are warning me that it's my "final chance to reduce the interest on my credit card. FYI: we've never paid any interest on our credit cards.

E-mail: A head-up here, most of my e-mail goes through Mainstreet News. If NSA is interested in keeping up on activity in the Commerce area, this is a good source. I can even copy you on all the notices of agendas for upcoming city council and water and sewerage authority meetings, and you can augment your database of shady characters by tapping into Commerce Police Department weekly arrest reports. My personal Gmail account comprises monthly notifications of special deals from Amazon.com and offerings from Canadian pharmaceutical firms for cheap Viagra. Can you do something about that for me?

Facebook: Sorry, this won't help much, since I seldom post anything. Out of the 1.6 billion people who use Facebook accounts, my account is probably among the 30 most boring, but if it helps kill terrorists, it's all yours, but why don't you just Internet me?

Computers: Edward Snowden hasn't (yet) mentioned it, but surely you're hacking into my computers. That would account for why the cursor spontaneously dances around. My office computer, which contains my e-mails and columns, may prove helpful as you craft policy. If you hack into my home computer on Wednesday evenings, you can listen in as I chat with my sister. Is NSA interested in gardening, bookkeeping and the weather? Feel free to join the conversation while you're there.

Anyway, whatever I've got, you're welcome to see, read or hear. Knock yourself out.

Mark Beardley is editor of The Commerce News. He can be reached at markbeardley@comnews.com.

1st Place

The Commerce News

Editorial Page

F

3rd Place
The Oconee
Enterprise,
Watkinsville

A4 THE OCOONEE ENTERPRISE, OCTOBER 26, 2012

The Oconee Enterprise Forum

ON THE STREET

Has Obamacare had an impact yet?

Question: Has the Affordable Care Act had an effect on you yet?



■ **Ann Carter, Watkinsville:** "Not so far. I am not worried about it. I think I am going to have affordable health care."

Carter



■ **Kara Frevlove, Athens:** "None whatsoever. I have no idea if it will."

Frevlove



■ **Austin Peelle, Watkinsville:** "I might be able to get my own health insurance for the first time, but with a lot of the problems they have been having lately, I have not gotten online."

Peelle



■ **Ray Masoli, Athens:** "Personally, no, not yet. But I am concerned that quality of health care will go down, and the costs will go up."

Masoli



■ **John Quackernack, Bishop:** "We received a letter from Blue Cross/Blue Shield, yes, we could keep our policy, raising it \$250 a month, but after June that plan may not be available. We are still totally uninsured."

Quackernack



■ **Scott Randolph, Eatonton:** "No. Of course, I am concerned. It is supposed to affect everybody."

Randolph



I'm your worst nightmare.

ONLINE POLL RESULTS

Following are the results of last week's online poll at www.oconeeenterprise.com for the period of Tuesday, October 22 through Tuesday, October 23.

Question: Where will we go for trash or trash?

64% Good location, but for someone like me

36% Need the nighters back, and to stay



The description, "No profits, no dividend" received no votes.

To express your opinion on this week's poll topic, go to www.oconeeenterprise.com and scroll down to the bottom left of the homepage to select your answer.

Question: Did you watch the World Series?

Possible answers:

- Drove past.
- Only if nothing else was on.
- Not a single pitch.

The answers will be published next news week.

OUR OPINION

Farmland preservationist fights for TDR

Maybe working with both and even for a long time on the issue, but as far as we know, this may be the first time that...

Conservation easements are a lot of things, but they are not the same as TDR. The farmland preservationist Page has argued that TDR is a concept whose time has come for Georgia.

Page is not exactly a lone voice in the wilderness. There are others who presumably feel as he does, that a TDR program will benefit the state for decades to come.

Back in 2008 Page was one of 14 on an all-Georgia committee that had voted unanimously after six months of research that the country passed with a study.

The what happened next: 34-person committee was recommended?

For one, a state assembly, the Georgia General Assembly, has not yet passed the bill. The whole thing is a complex issue, the evidence that is at play is well. In Georgia, transferable development rights are rare.

There has always been such an abundance of land that there was never really a need for such a program.

But that is not the case any longer. The loss of farmland is a serious problem in the state. The farmland preservationist Page has argued that TDR is a concept whose time has come for Georgia.

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Oconee's own soldiers at war

Following is a list of soldiers who are either from Oconee County or have its address. Some have been deployed to the Middle East while others are serving in other areas. If you know someone who has been called up, send The Oconee Enterprise at 108 S.W. 1st St., P.O. Box 108, Watkinsville, GA 30677. Please include a phone number.

- Brad James
- Kevin James
- Tom James
- Mike James
- Jeff James
- Matt James
- Chris James
- Ryan James
- David James
- Michael James
- James James
- John James
- William James
- Robert James
- Charles James
- Thomas James
- Jonathan James
- Benjamin James
- Matthew James
- Daniel James
- Andrew James
- Christopher James
- Timothy James
- Jeffrey James
- Eric James
- Steven James
- Alexander James
- Jacob James
- Noah James
- Luke James
- Zachary James
- William James
- James James
- Joseph James
- Daniel James
- Andrew James
- Christopher James
- Timothy James
- Jeffrey James
- Eric James
- Steven James
- Alexander James
- Jacob James
- Noah James
- Luke James
- Zachary James
- William James
- James James
- Joseph James
- Daniel James
- Andrew James
- Christopher James
- Timothy James
- Jeffrey James
- Eric James
- Steven James
- Alexander James
- Jacob James
- Noah James
- Luke James
- Zachary James
- William James
- James James
- Joseph James
- Daniel James
- Andrew James
- Christopher James
- Timothy James
- Jeffrey James
- Eric James
- Steven James
- Alexander James
- Jacob James
- Noah James
- Luke James
- Zachary James
- William James

If applicants are clean, teach them the rest

After 12 years of employing a work force for The Oconee Enterprise, I think I can say with some confidence that I know all the "soft skills" that are needed for a job.

Also I remember the job seekers, mostly young, that didn't have a clear idea of the world of work. In fact, they didn't.

In the early days especially, they applied without the right resume. I often, with a heavy heart, and without success, Many interviewed you with questions about hours, vacations, and salaries. One girl said, "Oh, I need double that."

Soft skills are not just getting to work on time, knowing how to dress and act responsibly, that con-

cerns with company and understanding, and some skills, especially about the business, are to improve.

As the economy has become a hard one to find a job in, it is a good idea to set in on job seekers. Current sense approach. Don't let forward become the rule.

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YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1898

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Editorial Page

F

2nd Place

Jefferson Reporter/ News & Farmer, Louisville

Thursday, October 21, 2010 THE NEWS AND FARMER THE JEFFERSON REPORTER

VOICES/OPINIONS

EDITORIAL

Obamacare reaches turning point for politicians

By Walter C. Jones
Harris News Service

The response some Georgia Democrats and Republicans offer on the Obamacare law is changing its most basic, and revered by different sections about the most for working federal law in half a century.

From the time it was first proposed, through its final passage by Congress until the month's beginning of its central application, Democrats have zealously defended it, and Republicans have tried to stop it all together. Suddenly, each is enjoying something new.

Now, some Republicans are reconciled to the fact that they have lost any chance of using their influence to halt its implementation, especially after their public-relations disaster in the government shut down.

"Whether you like it or dislike it, it's the law, and I think way too many folks are still panicking and whining instead of dealing with the reality," said Georgia Attorney General Sam Olens, who had gone so far as to argue against the law in the U.S. Supreme Court. That he said he isn't looking to repeat that tactic.

"I don't sit in my office every day figuring out what's my next lawsuit against the Affordable Care Act. I give it the best shot I had," he said.

Olens contacted the 500 members of the Cobb County Chamber of Commerce attacking an all-day seminar on the law last week to accept it and begin to look for ways to revise it.

Sitting beside him at the seminar was Rep. Tom Price, the Rouseff, physician who has been among the loudest in Congress fighting the Obamacare concept from the beginning, his cabinet for patients. The law will arrive on its own merit, he said.

Olens had a hand in the approving Price provision. The attorney general persuaded the nation's top court that the expansion of Medicaid should be in the opinion of individual states.

That left a gap in coverage in states like Georgia that didn't choose expansion leaving 400,000 people here and millions across the country who will not qualify for the taxpayer subsidy designed to make premiums affordable. It will be politically difficult to reform the mandate to buy insurance against people who can't afford it.

Another case waiting to be decided by the Supreme Court would serve as a test of the law. Oklahoma argues the wording of the law only allows those subsidies for people living where their states have chosen to operate the exchanges individuals and small businesses buy their coverage through. Those living in states like Georgia that left operation of the exchanges to the federal government wouldn't qualify, Oklahoma argues.

It is the operation of those federal exchanges that has led some detractors like Rep. John Berman of Virginia and Sen. Tom Coburn of Oklahoma to call for a delay in enforcing the coverage mandate. Problems with the vehicle have been well documented, and that doesn't include other challenges like the down or so "navigator" expected to assist more than 1 million Georgians who aren't computer savvy.

Democrats and Republicans in business good. "But we need to fix what's wrong with the law," she said.

Politically, her stance opened up the first daylight between her and Pres. Barack Obama on any policy and may serve her well in a state where polls show a majority oppose the law. It also opened her to charges of opportunism from opponents.

(See Jones on page 1A)



LETTERS

Foster families needed

Dear Editor:

Currently, there are approximately 1,200 abused and neglected children in the foster care system of Georgia. These children need dedicated foster families to provide safe homes for them.

Georgia DHS, Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) is looking for strong, stable and positive role models for children in foster care. DFCS is the state administrative foster care and adoption agency that provides recruitment, training, certification and retention services to care providers.

Foster families provide temporary care for children, between the ages of 0 and 18 who have been removed from their families due to physical, sexual, emotional abuse, neglect or in cases where the parent is otherwise unavailable. Foster parents offer day-to-day care and guidance until

the child can be reunited with his or her birth family, move to a kinship family or be placed in a permanent adoptive home. Many foster parents have the opportunity to adopt. Approximately 80 percent of foster parents end up adopting children who have been placed in their home. DFCS has county offices around the state including one each in Jefferson and Glascock to answer questions and serve the needs of foster families in Jefferson and Glascock counties. Families interested in adopting or fostering a child in their community can call 1-877-230-5437 to get additional information or talk about fostering opportunities in their area.

Leslie D. Stewart
Region V/RED Team
Multi-County DFCS

Hathaway recalls 1993 airplane crash

Dear Editor:

Nov. 1, 1993
It was a cold, clear night and a small plane took off from Augusta. There were five souls on board and the pilot had asked me for morning before I'd might want to go with him to fill the north seat, as it would be a beautiful sight to see North Georgia Mountains with the leaves changing colors. I declined because I had a plane and another friend to go with him that day.

They had not been in the air long and had a major problem. The plane was going down. Augusta diverted the pilot to try to make it to the nearest airport - Wayne, his claim the passengers knew their fate but proved as the pilot did his best to guide them toward that airport. Minutes later it crashed. The pilot had somehow survived and through the fire made his way to the right side of the plane towards the door that held four lives inside. As he held his arm up to shield his face burst pieces of his clothing wrapped on the floor. Despite his heroic effort he was forced to give up and walked out to a clear opening outside the woods from where he stood.

That was how it began. Taken to the burn center in Augusta the pilot was rendered unconscious to shield him from the pain of burns over his body. His odds of surviving were slim but those of us who loved him had hope.

As Wayne was being cared for by the people who work in the burn center, friends and family began to arrive and gather for the

writing room. By the next night on Tuesday we all were trying to understand what happened. As bad as it was, we still had to know. A few responses, Alvin Pines, arrived and clearly and carefully explained about the soil and what happened at the site as he had known. And then through the night and following days we would get out those of us from 200 miles away and with no support system because loved and loved for by the people of Wayne and Jefferson County. For two months there were people who brought food and encouragement to us through. David and Lucy Martin, Wayne and Valerie Yon, Lee and Charles Kain, Alvin and Lili Pines, Herbert and Melinda Anderson and so many more that I must apologize for not recalling the names of everyone for the true expression of God's love that they showed to us. Wayne died on Jan. 2, 1994.

It has been 20 years now and although we don't get back to Wayne often enough there is still contact with some of the friends that we made and love dearly. I hope this letter can do some way say what the staff family and Council family and others on the plane would have you to know. Not a day goes by that we don't remember the kindness and love that you showed to all of us at that tragic time. I think I speak for all of us when I say that we are truly thankful to you in this world and the next.

Jim Hathaway

(See additional opinions on page 5A.)

Send us your letters

The News and Farmer/The Jefferson Reporter welcomes letters from readers expressing concerns, giving praise and arguing for or against local topics. If you want to share ideas, express an opinion, or discuss an issue, consider writing a letter for this section of our paper. When submitting letters, please remember to include a contact phone number and city or community of residence. Letters may be mailed to P.O. Box 487, Louisville, Ga. 30434 or emailed to editor@thenewsandfarmer.com

FEATURED COLUMN

Everybody has a bad day

Do you ever think about the unknowns of life? I mean, really, life is tough sometimes. We each have struggles and difficulties - things we're supposed to overcome, things that make us stronger.

Think. I don't always want to be strong. Let someone else do that. My family of 11 would I was a prisoner. I'd never had the why was it a 14 13 and 12? It's probably, when it's a 13 or 12, I want to believe anyway.

OK, so, sometimes my family disagreed. It was a 13 or 12, I was a prisoner, after all. We don't want to lose people with numbers on their foreheads. It's not a bad day, it's a bad day.

What Would Mama say? *By Gene McLeod, Publisher*



OH, so, sometimes my family disagreed. It was a 13 or 12, I was a prisoner, after all. We don't want to lose people with numbers on their foreheads. It's not a bad day, it's a bad day.

OK, so, sometimes my family disagreed. It was a 13 or 12, I was a prisoner, after all. We don't want to lose people with numbers on their foreheads. It's not a bad day, it's a bad day.

I was disappointed for a time. Then I had my own daughter and understood. From now, when I look at my daughter, she's the brightest star in my universe. Every parent should feel that way.

Maybe not 100 percent of the time, but when we do, we shouldn't our kids. They deserve to know.

If we don't say it, how can they know? How can they be sure?

It's a long time before we understand the gestures and stage parents do that mean they love us.

I remember mine, when I was a teenager, my oldest sister, Malindy, had come home for a visit and was on her way back to college several hours away.

Daddy and I were sitting on the porch. As she was starting her truck, Daddy said, "Malindy, did you check your tires?"

"Yes, Daddy."

"How come this 'Malindy, don't forget to stop for gas.'"

"Yes, Daddy."

"Malindy, make sure you check the oil."

"Yes, Daddy."

"Malindy, do you need any money?"

And that was when I understood what Daddy was really saying - "Malindy, I love you. Take care."

It's not always easy to let people know you care about them; but, take the time and let them know.

It doesn't have to be in words, either. Although, I think that's best. You're making sure they understand.

Everybody has a bad day. *Gene McLeod on page 1A*

Editorial Page

F

Page 10A
November 7, 2013

Franklin Forum

Franklin County Citizen Leader

Our View

In hiring, the process is important

No one can argue that John Phillips is not an excellent choice to be Franklin County's next county manager.

Phillips was hired as permanent county manager Monday pending a contract negotiation with the board of commissioners.

Phillips has a long history working for the county as an

engineer and has done well as interim manager. Plus, he's a Franklin County native and a great person with the demeanor for the job.

While commissioners may have gotten the right man, the way they got him was all wrong.

In government — even county government — process mat-

ters. Commissioners originally planned to advertise for the post of county manager, gather resumes, interview candidates and come to a decision.

That should have been the hiring procedure.

As Commissioner Chris Harper said Monday night, the board should have done its due

diligence. Going through the process would have allowed commissioners to see all of the options out there for such an important position and interviewing people with various backgrounds and from other places may generate great ideas for our community no matter who is hired.

Plus, the board could have measured itself and the citizens that Phillips was the right man for the job all along. That kind of openness would generate confidence in Phillips from the board and the voters.

Given the commissioners' history, each candidate would be a great asset.

—Shane Scoggins

It's been 15 years, but some memories still hound me to this day

It's been 15 years, but it seems like yesterday that the Northwest Georgia Animal Shelter opened its doors.

I remember it well. Considering I only actually barely remember what happened 15 minutes ago, folks who know me well are probably wondering how I can remember the opening of the animal shelter.

Well, to start, it is because of a weird event that could not have happened to anyone but me or possibly a member of my family.

As it was a big community event, I was on the scene at the animal shelter to take photos and heard the opening in the newspaper.

I arrived at the shelter in the morning and was snapping photos of everything in sight. I was very pleased for the photo opportunity when a shelter official told me they already had a dog in mind to be the new mascot in the back.

"The mayor of Corvallis brought this dog in just a day or so ago," they told me. "He is a really pretty dog."

Being in a state of question of the picture and the thought it was a dog out of my neighborhood, I followed the young lady giving me the tour to the back where the kennels are located.

I stopped short, however, when I saw the red and white color and spotted markings of an enthusiastic dog from the breed dog.

"I think that is my dog," I screamed in disbelief. "He looks like Spencer that it can't be him."

Now you have to understand, I attended Spencer from someone who was giving him over.

"He is a wonderful dog," they told me. "We just can't keep him anymore."

I am a sucker for dogs, and I had always had outdoor sports. They are such sweet dogs and so pretty. I figured he would be great with my three children.

Of course, I should have

known that being me, there would be a problem with the dog.

Such as the fact that he could scale a fence taller than Spenser after the Sunbeam.

He had not been with us long before he began escaping from our fenced-in back yard.

He would get out before we could get to the door.

After discovering his prowess for climbing, we found we had to put him on a line to keep him at home.

Well, he was kind of old, and really stinky. A couple of times

when we were feeding him, he looked close to death.

"We should take him off the line," I told my husband. "He looks so pitiful."

Yes, did that two times. The first time he left and we returned him to a work before he found us at the post office.

He had rolled in something dead and I had to take him home in my new van.

The second time, after two weeks of searching, we concluded he had gone off to die alone.

We cried, talked about what a good dog he had been and hoped he had gone peacefully.

So, imagine my surprise when I found the first dog to be associated at the new shelter was mine!

"I think that is my dog," I told the volunteer in charge of the kennel.

I know it for sure when I saw his red collar attached to the dog.

Yes, I paid the adoption fee and took Spencer home once more. My husband was just as happy to see him as the children were. We lived on several more years before passing on peacefully at home. We made sure.

Even though I love to walk, the next time I went to the shelter, just to see the kennels, just to see.

Denise Matthews is a contributor to the Franklin County Citizen Leader. Her columns appear regularly.



Transparency, national security and integrity

The people we trust to enforce the laws of our nation... if you know what your dad's doing, you know he's doing it right.

It's not to be said more often, especially in how they've applied to American citizens.

It used to be that we drafted laws based on their necessity. Now, we have to draft laws in a way that factors in the political implications of those we're supposed to trust to enforce them.

In the last few months alone, President Obama's Administration has failed to provide reasonable explanations about

where they've spent our tax dollars.

The issue of the law is important, but these who carry out the law matter. That's what makes the building of trust about the actions of the National Security Agency (NSA) — and President Obama's role in them — a real issue for Congressional concern.

Finding the balance between security and civil liberties and vigilance in national security is one of the great challenges of our modern times.

Congress tried to act in good faith over the last decade to strike that balance, but it's

evident that the intent of these laws has to be made more clear.

It seems to me it's not just about the law, but about the people who enforce it.

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Consolidation of the *Corvallis County Citizen*, Merged in 2011 with *The News Leader*, which was established in 1975.

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1st Place

Franklin County Citizen Leader, Lavonia

Editorial Page

E

SECTION A4 Editorial

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Must be 200 words or less. Include your name, complete address and phone number.

CORRECTION

In the article titled "Keep dogs separate" published on the cover, "Knox" was misspelled as "Knox" on July 18, 2013. The misspelling was corrected July 18 and 2013, not in June.

NUBSENSE



(Brick) House, M.D.

Some women do... The doctor says, "The doctor is a doctor..."

The previous week... The doctor is a doctor..."

As an attempt to explain... The doctor is a doctor..."

Not sure that looking... The doctor is a doctor..."

Laud or cloud? Let us know what's... The doctor is a doctor..."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Writer believes columnist betrays political values with Trayvon Martin commentary

To the Editor: A historian is a person who expresses freedom... Trayvon Martin's death..."

principles of his so-called libertarian values... Trayvon Martin's death..."

Family of artist Jackson Bailey cites inaccuracies in June 27 Rutledge column, "Jackson Bailey: Simple man with a big vision"

To the Editor: The family of Jackson Bailey... "Jackson Bailey: Simple man with a big vision"...

Jackson Bailey Art Center is not a painting center... "Jackson Bailey: Simple man with a big vision"...

Columnist: "Think different, think free"

It is a peculiar characteristic of U.S. and... "Think different, think free"...

then you are a monopolist... "Think different, think free"...

"In other words, for competition to be... "Think different, think free"...

attempt to prevent anything... "Think different, think free"...

The government has spent millions of dollars... "Think different, think free"...

Greg Martin is executive vice president... "Think different, think free"...

Greg Martin is executive vice president... "Think different, think free"...

Greg Martin is executive vice president... "Think different, think free"...



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3rd Place

Morgan County Citizen, Madison

Editorial Page

E

2nd Place

The News Observer, Blue Ridge

OPINION

A4 - Wednesday, November 6, 2013

The News Observer

OUR OPINIONS

EDITORIAL

Battle for freedom must be remembered

Throughout this week, veterans are being honored in local schools and communities. Schools are again taking the lead with special assemblies and speakers. On Saturday, the annual Veterans Day observance will be held in Blue Ridge. This includes the traditional breakfast, parade and ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park near Faison Middle School. The sacrifices of all veterans deserve to be remembered. In fact, they must be remembered because they chart the course for the future. Every single freedom

enjoyed by United States citizens can be traced to the battles fought and won by veterans. Bloodshed brought Americans the rights to vote, speak freely, bear arms, worship and countless others. Yet, almost daily, they are overlooked or taken for granted. Every American owes it to the country's veterans to cherish every right and every privilege. Every citizen must also remember history's lesson that freedom is not free. It is paid for with a price. This week, and every week, veterans deserve thanks for paying that price.



COMMENTARY

'Someday' sticks in memory

The poster has been lying flat on a bookshelf in my office for a little over a year. It had been propped up on top of the bookcase, but had started to bend out of shape. The poster will always represent a memory. Now, it is also a painful reminder to never put off until tomorrow what you want to do today. Barely bigger than a sheet of notebook paper, the faded poster says simply, "We Elect Walter A. Porter, Sheriff, Faison County Run-off Election, Nov. 27, 1984. Expressions."



GLENN HARRISON
•
Publisher

The sheriff was in the hospital the last time I saw him, but he was ready and more than willing to go home. No matter those circumstances, like always, we shared stories of the past. He loved to remember the "good old days." Walt was sheriff of Faison County from 1976 to 1982. I first met him when he was working as a McCaysville police officer before his election. I started getting to know him when I went to work for the Blue Ridge Summit-Post in 1976. It did not take long for us to realize we agreed on almost everything. That relationship slowly blossomed enough to meet Siko, considering I was fresh out of college and in desperate need of a house, while the sheriff was the picture of Southern law enforcement. Walt could read people, and he also had a sixth sense for understanding events. Several years ago, I wrote

how Walt had wanted of had things Highway 515 would bring. The warning came some 36 years ago. Last year, we remembered the day to spike those words and how they ring true now. For the better part of Walt's 36 years in office, I was there to report on countless arrests, take pictures of stolen items that had been recovered, watch marijuana being pulled from the ground and burned, and see criminals taken to jail. I watched the sheriff and his men work night and day. The stories could fill a book, and should have. Now, they just would not be the same without Walt's words to shape them. Walt Porter gave a huge part of his life to serving the people of Faison County. He sacrificed more than most ever knew, and more than he would probably want told. He was tough but fair. He would simply want to be remembered as a good sheriff. I'll remember him as a great one. More than that, I'll remember him as my friend. And, I'll always remember "someday." Glenn Harrison is publisher of The News Observer. He can be reached at 706-432-2519 or by e-mail at glenn@thenewsobserver.com.

VETERANS GROUPS SEEK MEMBERS

Area veterans organizations are constantly recruiting new members. The organizations work to serve the community, their members and all area veterans. There is plenty to do for any veteran who wants to join one or more of the organizations. Also, veterans who cannot attend regularly or take part are also encouraged to join. Membership alone is important. Here are the contact numbers to learn more about area veterans activities.

- American Legion, J.C. Wood, commander, 706-432-2787.
- Disabled American Veterans, Paul Hunter, commander, 706-432-2536.
- HonorVets, John Grizzle, commander, 706-432-3484.
- Veterans of Foreign Wars, Richard Parris, commander, 706-432-1211.
- American Legion, Post 96, Wayne Jones, commander, 423-496-3641.
- VA Claims Assistance, call Merry Loomis, 706-432-3544.

Those interested in any of the organizations can also call George Fletcher at 706-432-9002.

YOUR QUICK POLL OPINION

New Question	LAST WEEK'S RESULT
Quick Poll Has Congress weakened America's Armed Forces? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Quick Poll Do you regularly change/check your smoke detector batteries? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes 55 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No 98

Responses to this week's Quick Poll, questions by voting online at news.observator.com, or via The News Observer, P.O. Box 988, Blue Ridge, Ga., 30013, or in-person at 5748 Amnicrest Forest. The results of the previous week's poll, along with a topic question appear every week.

*Not a scientific poll

THE NEWS OBSERVER

Glenn Harrison - Publisher
Brian K. Finnicum - Editor

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Some days worth supporting

This past Friday was the observance of a day I can really support. Now in its second year, the first Friday in November is Fountain Pen Day. The purpose of Fountain Pen Day, which is a worldwide observance, is "taking a day to celebrate, promote and show fountain pens and the hand-written art" according to the Fountain Pen Day website. In case you've never noticed when you see one writing around town, I use fountain pens almost exclusively. I like the way they write. I fell in love with fountain pens while still in elementary school, and I now collect them. I'm not sure of the exact number I have, but it's something over 30. Now, to be sure, my use of fountain pens does little to promote "the handwritten art," as my penmanship is far from polished Spencerian, or even Palmer, script. Even though you can't tell it by my penmanship though, I still like the way fountain pens write. And there is an air of deliberateness that goes along with using a fountain pen. For example, one thing a fountain pen user must consider is that not all paper works well with fountain pens. One also needs to know that not all inks are safe for fountain pens. But, that deliberateness goes beyond limitations and opens



BRIAN K. FINNICUM
•
Editor

new horizons. While ballpoint pens are typically limited to just three colors - black, blue and red - there are literally hundreds of colors from which to choose when using a fountain pen. Although most now fill with cartridges, I prefer to use converters and still fill mine using bottled ink. While a ballpoint gives just one kind of line, writing styles can be varied with different nibs when using a fountain pen. Fountain pens come in a vast array of shapes, sizes, materials, colors, designs and price points. In gazing around, I found fountain pens available ranging from the Japanese-made Pilot Varsity, a purified, dependable model selling for about \$1.69, to the Aurora Diamante, a made-in-Italy sparkler crafted in solid platinum encrusted with 36 carats of DeLivers diamonds. It sells for \$1,479.000. In my collection are a few of the Pilot Varsitys, but I do not own an Aurora Diamante. The origin of the modern fountain pen dates back to Nov. 4, 1884, when a printer for the capillary had that is still used

was issued to Lewis Edson Waterman. The year before, Waterman, an insurance salesman who was trying to close a valuable sales contract, had the fountain pen he was using leak ink all over the document. He rushed back to his office for another copy, but in the meanwhile, a competing broker closed the deal. Necessity is the mother of invention, and Waterman went to work in his brother's workshop to improve the pen's design. By the early 1890s, the company he founded was selling 350,000 pens a year. A solid gold Waterman pen was used to sign the Treaty of Versailles in 1919, when the end of World War I didn't leak. In my own collection, it is a Waterman that is my favorite. Known as the Opus, it was Waterman's flagship pen in the early 1990s. It is a large, heavy pen well suited to the size of my hand. I fell in love with the Opus's design while they were still in production, but could not afford one at the time. A couple of years ago, though, I came across one in an eBay with a button beside the picture that said, "Buy it now!" I said OK, in my mind I clicked the button. I've never regretted it. I love the way it writes. Brian K. Finnicum is editor of The News Observer. He can be reached at 706-432-2619, or by e-mail at brian@thenewsobserver.com.

1st Place

White County News, Cleveland

Opinions

Our view A must-see event for anybody from White County

What happens when two creative, talented people get together on a project about something they love?

Well, see the results for yourself by attending the premiere showing of *Down the Chism Trail: The Story of the Newcocker Valley Indian Mound*.

David Greear and Emory Jones, both White County residents who already are known for creative ventures, have outdone themselves with this project that has been two years in the making.

Now, you can be among the first to see this 63-minute DVD documentary. It will be shown Tuesday, Oct. 8, at the Swanson Center for the Performing Arts, located at 365 College Drive on the Piedmont College campus in Dawson.

The event begins at 6 p.m. in the lobby of the beautiful Swanson Center, with the showing to begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. in the Swanson Center's Clutter Mainstage Theater.

The event is free and open to the public. Just be there at 5 p.m. ready to be entertained and enlightened. And you'll get the opportunity to talk with the creative team of Greear and Jones.

Our only request is to silence your cellphones and don't text for 60 minutes once you're in the theater. We promise that you will be captivated by this documentary about the land we call home.

This documentary has heart. The voices of people living in Northeast Georgia — many of whom you know — will be narrating this combination of video and still images.

These voices help bring the history of White County alive.

As Mark Johnson, president of the White County Historical Society said, "The art, stories and history preserved here make this documentary timeless."

We couldn't have said it any better. The 350-seat theater is the perfect place for such a premiere. We hope to see you there next Tuesday night, Oct. 8. It truly is a must-see event. —B.C.

This is the view of the editorial staff of the White County News.

WHITE COUNTY NEWS Cleveland, Ga.

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White County News is published with pride for the people of White and adjoining counties by Community Newspapers Inc., Athens. We believe strong newspapers build strong communities. Newspapers get things done. Our primary goal is to publish distinguished and profitable community-oriented newspapers. This mission will be accomplished through the teamwork of professionals dedicated to truth, integrity, loyalty, quality and hard work.

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"I'm sorry, Honey...the government can't afford us anymore."

Down the Chism trail Center Baptist: 100 years together and still relevant

What makes a church relevant in today's world? I'm sure there are all kinds of theological answers to that question.

I have my own simple thoughts on the subject. These thoughts were reinforced last Sunday during the centennial service at Center Baptist Church, located in the center of Suburbia, the little community just north of Dallas.

Yes, this was a special occasion — with a special program, special recognitions, special singing, a special sermon and lots of home-cooked food passed out to the fellowship hall after the service.

All of this had been planned for months, and everything went off without a hitch. But there was something else that hit me. Something obvious.

It was the coming together of people in the community, not only to worship God together, but to fellowship with one another for the purpose of building each other up. And in so doing, each of them is able to serve those in his or her own family, to the community and beyond.

"You know, the unique thing about this, we're still focused on what they were focused on 100 years ago," Mark Turner, chairman of the board of trustees, told me after the morning service.

That focus is "about reaching people in the community and really all over the world," he said.

The Rev. Michael Wilkes, pastor of Center Baptist for almost 10 years, talked about "God and his people."

"What is the church?" he asked, in his brief sermon. "It's all those who believe in the gospel for our salvation. God knew and believed in the local body of believers. There was a great need to come together."

And it remains true today. The members of Center Baptist gathered last Sunday because they wanted to be there to worship.

Following, to serve others. A little pamphlet had been prepared for the occasion and given to each member with "Blessings and memories of Center Baptist Church."

There were a number of questions and answers in the pamphlet, including "What do you like most about Center Baptist?" "The love that the Center Baptist folks show," said Terney Hollibaugh.

"The first day we walked into the church, I felt an overwhelming love and peace."

Opel Burke noted: "The love of the people. They let you know you have come home to the place God has planned for you."

Lin Thompkins spoke of "the friendliness of the members — their sweetness and genuine" nature. And from Opel Bennett: "I like most the loving spirit of the people, and their willingness to serve our Lord in so many ways, both locally and internationally."

After watching a video presentation of church members doing or much during the year to build each other up and to serve others, whether in White County or on an Alaskan mission trip, it became obvious to me that churches and their members are perhaps needed more today than ever.

Every Sunday, many people in White County gather in the church of their choice in much the same way as they do at Center Baptist. This gathering — this coming together — is important.

When people come together in love and forgiveness, miracles can happen. There's hope for the poor in spirit... the down-and-out and those who are in need of love. And that's probably most of us. All of us need love.

Yes, coming together is more relevant than ever.

Billy Chism is editor and publisher of the White County News.

Notes from Pinetree Cottage My little obsession

A little obsession is a dangerous thing. It can grow. So my friends who might be here expanding a kitchen or a room, or a risk, I have become addicted to circle gardens. And I should begin this true story with apologies to all of the wonderful land ethicists who have had elevated garden news for years.

They have filled many days with the beauty of their farms and large estates with flowers that responded to the kind of environment. But it is the circle garden that has me captive.

In case you missed my arguments for it, circle gardens can forever rid us of getting permission to burn all that small debris that runs down on us in and after storms, and the falling leaves of autumn. They decay in the circle garden.

They are easily weeded, and weeds immediately dropped or lightly covered over and around the remaining plants to get into the cycle. Like music, the garden go round and round. No stopping to plant new to harvest. No necessary dedication to a single product. Plant potatoes with peonies and with marigolds, and with early peas a row or two. These things just love each other!

Now, let's get back to lunch. If you have not cleaned your plate in a hurry, it will be watched just as you might have reached for a last bit. Marigolds scattered, I cannot let you leave something on your plate that garden seed for the next year.

I am only halfway to lunch-top. I have wonderful soil and slugs at the bottom, and after that, layers of leaves and scraps of any food that might go into those horrible black plastic bags which someone gets paid for

At Betty's Country Store recently, I encountered a couple from Columbia, Miss., practically home! Right off they started telling stories of Hattiesburg, Columbia (its swamps are often confused with Columbia and so far removed from each other as east from west on a straight meridian, and also the name of a prominent town.)

Sometimes it confuses me to be from "OK," as Emory Jones says of all not seeing Youth first thing and out from here.

What this lady from Mississippi serves is cotton socks, like mud and four and beans and others that dried products can be packed in. I have saved such socks. Mine came from Ellis Savelle's Rice Company in Gaydon, La.

And finally, I talked on the telephone to a remarkable person about 30 years ago, and referred myself as a "manager" to him when thinking him for his time. And he said, "But how can we be strangers when we have already talked to each other?"

Let's save soil and let's save food, but do let's keep talking about shared concerns.

Mildred Greear, 87, lives in Hobe and is a columnist for the White County News.

Phil Hudgins Best celebrities are ones who don't act like celebrities

Celebrities have never impressed me just because they're celebrities. I've met and interviewed a bunch. Some I liked, some I didn't. But I didn't ask for any autographs. Unless it's on a check, what does an autograph get you anyway? You can't read most of them.

I'll have to confess, though, that I did ask for a couple of autographs: one from the late Mary Marion, the great shortstop for the St. Louis Cardinals. I called information in St. Louis, got him on the phone, interviewed him and asked him to send an autograph for my brother. I felt guilty because I had kept my brother's Mary Marion baseball glove for about 40 years. Mary's autograph has come on a fact card and mailed it to me.

The other autograph I requested was from a female singer, I think, someone one of my daughters liked. Sorry, I can't remember her name.

The trouble with too many celebrities is they act like celebrities. Some of them are too good to grant autographs, even if I wanted them, which I don't.

I really don't understand the obsession over celebrities. That's why I don't watch *Entertainment Tonight* or *Late* or any of those related entertainment TV shows. I am not interested in seeing Milly Cyrus dance her rear end — or anything else — in front of an audience, and I don't need to know the Lindsay Lohan has hit her head again, falling off the wagon.

If my wife and I are watching national news on TV, we prefer CBS *This Morning* because it has Charlie Rose, the most knowledgeable newscaster on the air. Charlie is not full of himself. When he lands a great interview — say, with Syria's Bashar Assad — he closes away from guests for such a coup. He asks tough questions and just does his job.

We don't watch NBC's morning news show because we don't care what Matt Lauer and his colleagues did last night. Or the night before. NBC has more fluff than real news.

CBS *This Morning* occasionally features a celebrity, but it's usually someone who has something to say or someone who's funny, like Robin Williams.

I like Page Francis because he seems to be more interested in connecting with ordinary people than in getting his ring kissed. And he's not too good to wash the dirt off the pool.

I am not impressed when a celebrity subverts just before an election to urge me to vote for his candidate. If George Clooney will call me personally, I might stay on the line. But I don't listen to a recorded message, unless it's from my pharmacist.

The U.S. Postal Service likes to play the celebrity game, pulling photos of famous people on its stamps, apparently making them more valuable, because the price keeps going up. But I like the later shows. It's singer Ray Charles. I interviewed Ray about 30 years ago, and I really liked the man. But I didn't get his autograph.

Phil Hudgins is senior editor of Community Newspapers Inc., which publishes the White County News.

Words to Ponder We find delight in the beauty and happiness of children that makes the heart too big for the body.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

"A sweet child is the sweetest thing in nature."

—Charles Lamb

Jane Allen Lenzen of Hobe collects quotes, which appear here weekly.

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3rd Place

The Post-Searchlight, Bainbridge

A community newspaper serving community needs.

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SPORTS
 Tigers face Raiders, 1B



Drug sweep nets six arrests
 Alleged meth trafficking network based in Dawson

LANIERTECH
 Local campus sets record
 Incoming class boosts enrollment at college



Board restores authority funding
 Amended budget also includes ambulances

High school debt paid off
 System settles up two years early

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3A Car chase ends in Fcoesyth

Inside
 Dawson County Chamber Chronicle

OPINION

OUR VIEW

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Douglas County Sentinel questioned the local legislative delegation, considered their local focus, voting record, understanding of the job, accessibility and effectiveness and rated each elected official. The grades are the opinion of the editorial board of this newspaper, based on the above criteria for the recently completed session.

District 20

Sen. Mike Dugan
(R-Carrollton)



Grade: B-

Comments: Dugan moved to get acquainted to the system under the Dome, was named to committees that were important to him and showed that he was not afraid to ignore the party line and vote his heart and conscience.

District 21

Sen. Dorella James
(D-Atlanta)



Grade: B

Comments: James is a veteran in Atlanta and she knows how to play the game. She is accessible and attentive, but showed that partisan politics are still more important than issues.

District 04

Rep. Kimberly Alexander
(D-Douglasville)



Grade: C

Comments: Despite some good ideas, Alexander took a partisan stance on the hotel/motel tax which was flip-flopping her comments and pushed an election based message. That along with her lack of accessibility were disappointing.

District 01

Rep. Roger Brown
(D-Atlanta)



Grade: B

Comments: Brown is a veteran lawmaker and pushed through a bill that would protect the use of citizens' magazines for commercial use. His focus was often on broad issues that he felt were important to all those he represents.

District 07

Rep. Micah Crowley
(R-Douglasville)



Grade: B

Comments: Crowley being new, Crowley worked his tail off to be accessible and carried the torch on several key local issues. He also championed new gun legislation and a medical identity fraud bill.

District 08

Rep. Darcy Hightower
(R-Carrollton)



Grade: B

Comments: Hightower represents a rural portion of Douglas County and therefore his focus was often not on local issues. He is well thought of under the Dome, but response and accessibility have been lacking at times.

District 02

Rep. Lefawn Jones
(D-Atlanta)



Grade: B

Comments: While new to her post, she worked to learn the system and understand the process. She is responsive and her work on clearing up the language on the Opportunity Zone issue should not be overlooked.

District 03

Rep. Sharon Beasley-Teague
(D-Red Bank)



Grade: C

Comments: Beasley-Teague represents the lowest number of Douglas County voters and while she was active in the session, she was not accessible at times and voted along party lines.



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The Douglas County Sentinel is published with pride for the people of Douglas County. It is our goal to bring to the citizens of Douglas County news which directly affects and impacts their lives. We believe that strong newspapers help build strong communities, and we strive to be a positive part of the communities we serve.



Douglas County Animal Shelter: The numerical and visual truth

To say that I am animal lover would be an understatement. I live with a dog, a cat, 30 fish and will have more if we had room, the money and the money to take them on. If I had my way and I won the lottery, I would start an animal rescue at once and across of land where I would work to make more sense of God's creation would have to do. In my professional life, people have even used animal analogies to describe me. I recently had the subject of an investigative piece I was working on called me a "bitch with a cow-track mind." A boss I had once called me a "mule." I asked what he meant and he said that I "will work all day and you are just as stubborn."

I guess both were compliments. I see all of the above as a disclaimer to what is to come. In recent months, the Douglas County Animal Shelter has become the target of a group of animal activists aiming to spread the word about what they say is mistreatment and the unnecessary euthanasia of animals that have found their way there. The main focus of the more than 1,000 results, letters, calls, signs and calls have been aimed at one donor, Rick Smith.

If there is a wrong that can be fixed, no one has ever accused me of being afraid to dig into it. I mean, I will turn over rocks until they are smooth as a confederate if I think there is anything wrong going on. I will start by saying that I don't know Rick Smith personally. Until Thursday, I had only read about him in our papers and the words of animal activists who couldn't find anything good to say. But over the last two months, I have become a regular visitor to the shelter without anyone knowing who I was. I picked a dog to play with and love on, just so that the animal would know someone cared.

At the same time, I began digging into documents and studies that were available about national trends, but more importantly, numbers that would help paint a picture of what is happening at the Douglas County Animal Shelter. I wanted to see if all that had been said and written was true. I discovered a study of animal shelters across Georgia by the Georgia State for Animal Welfare. The independent group studied state-run shelters in Georgia, including Douglas County that was launched in May 2008. What they found was that at the time the study was published, 60 percent of animals that came into the shelter were euthanized. Yes, 60 percent.

Now, 60 percent sounds like a huge number and the thought of even one animal being put down makes me sick. But when you look at statewide averages for that period and national averages — 60 percent is below those averages. The state average is that study was 62 percent. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty in Animals reports that at that same time, 65.4 percent of animals entering shelters nationwide were euthanized.

So far forward until 2012 and 2013. Last year the euthanasia rate in Douglas County was 12.6 percent, according to records obtained by the Sentinel. Those animals that were put down were at the shelter an average of 28.07 days, the records show.

New Rick Smith was only at the shelter for the last two months of the year — beginning in November 2012. So he doesn't deserve all the credit or blame for those numbers. But it should be said that the months of November and December 2012 produced the lowest numbers of animals being put down that the shelter had seen all year. Let's look at this year. While protesters are carrying signs talking about all the animals that are being put down at the shelter, the number shows that the euthanasia rate at the Douglas County Animal Shelter this year is down to 12.6 percent. One of particular interest is that at a time when letters writers and activists are saying that reduced hours is meaning dogs and cats are being put down faster, the numbers show that animals being euthanized have been at the shelter an average of 27.75 days.

Before you start saying those numbers are inflated, inflated or wrong, this is not a case of low numbers being cooked up to soothe over a naive reporter. There was no advance warning for the report and I verified them all by looking back at logs. These are the actual numbers.

Searching for paradise an elusive journey

In sitting on a slightly padded bar stool in a rundown wooden shack that was serving cold beer and freshysters laid out of the water only hours before. A man with a roughly cut white beard sits down two seats away. My new friend, someone I met in the past 15 minutes, turns and welcomes him.

"Hey Tom," he says, "great to see you again."

Tom, as my new friend tells me, is giving him advice on how to vote.

Looking over at his ruffled beard shirt and a mop of white hair beneath a straw hat, I wonder where my friend is going with this.

Turning back, my friend tells me he's been an elementary school principal, a marine merchant and a truck driver. He's looking to retire permanently after years of working different jobs.

"Teaching school was good, but the superintendent was just too much to deal with," he said, leaving my imagination to fill in the blanks.

Tom leans forward and catches my eye and introduces himself.

"Yes, it's all about leaving your seat behind and finding ways to keep from spending money," he says.

Pulling out a small knife and reaching for a nearby palm leaf, he proceeds to explain his secret.

"Take this," he says, holding up both the knife and palm leaf. "With these two things I can generally find a way to trade a few of these hand-made roses to the owner for my drink."

Before his sentence is done I realize there will be no advice on how to best position a 401K for long-term growth.

Placing the blade in the center of the green leaf, he pulls the leaf away from the blade so he can hold the rest.

"There," he says, "and I'm on my way for a free drink."

The question comes up about how long he's been here — that is, along the Florida coast.

"Oh, about 20 years or so, I'd say."

"It must be nice living here — being in paradise," someone else says.

"Yeah, it goes so," he says as he holds two of the newly cut strips of green into a curiously contorted shape.

"But to tell you the truth, after a while the magic fades. Today, for example, is just Thursday to me."

A large tray of oysters lands in front of me and I think back to how my wife always says she'd love to live along the coast.

"Did you know," she says, "I'd hate for all of this to fade into the background and it lose this special feeling."

I look back down the wooden bench to the man threading strips of green into an increasingly convoluted shape. I smile thinking maybe, if his plan plays out, in a few minutes he'll trade them for a free beer or two.

His words — not the ones about his retirement plan — continue to hang in my mind. How does a day to paradise become just another Thursday?

Paradise is a tricky proposition. Is it the allure of being somewhere different from where our duties are currently placed, or is it a destination we will all one day hope to reach? In the end, is paradise a physical place or a state of mental being?

Undoubtedly a dream lives on the cat leaves on the table. His creation is truly beautiful.

Looking down the wooden table I realize the search for paradise is not for one to answer. Each of us will need to find our own calling, our own destination, on our own terms. The answer, however, lies between our ears and our heart.

Woolsey is publisher of the Douglas County Sentinel.

LETTERS POLICY

The Douglas County Sentinel welcomes letters to the editor. Address them to: Editor, Douglas County Sentinel, P.O. Box 1386, Douglasville, Ga. 30134-1386, or by email to: leonard@douglascountysentinel.com. All letters must be signed and include a day-time phone number for verification purposes. Phone numbers will not be printed. Editors reserve the right to edit letters or to reject any letter for publication. We do not print letters from or about local candidates.

Opinion

The Walton Tribune
Proudly Serving Walton County Since 1909
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Our View: Voters, taxpayers have right to know

The new year got off to an inauspicious start with the announcement by Richard Jenkins he was resigning his post as governor of Walton County.

The decision has left more questions than answers after Jenkins held the post less than three days.

Any cause for the decision is speculation, and we do hope that everything is OK in the life of Jenkins. But the manner in which he left office is not the right way to handle a situation like this after voters not only came out once but twice to support his candidacy. Donors contributed thousands of dollars to the campaign only to have the candidate resign?

Something is not right with this situation, and Jenkins needs to answer questions. While his reasons may be personal, once he ran for office and became elected, he became a public figure. The people who supported him as well as the taxpayers of Walton County, who paid for both elections, deserve to know why he left office in haste before even assuming any responsibility.

Walton County taxpayers will have to be on the hook with a special election needing to be called to fill the post of governor. After a good campaign, for such an upcoming candidate to leave office so abruptly leads to rumors when answers are what is needed most.

The views expressed in the editorial above are those of the Walton Tribune. Editorialists are writers for The Tribune news staff.

Voice Your Opinion

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Please include an e-mail address if it is needed to be a letter to the editor.

Future full of red ink, more doom and gloom

As Sen. Joe Manchin III, D-W. Va., put it shortly before the new year: "Something has gone terribly wrong when the biggest threat to our American economy is the American Congress."

Is it no wonder the average American citizen can no longer understand what is happening on the Hill? Our congressional representatives are at such great odds with each other that about the only thing they are capable of doing well is to try to keep our economy from growing.

By the end of February, our congressmen will have to deal with a triple threat of a debt ceiling, postponed automatic spending cuts and expiration of the law that keeps the government funded. Congress has made the debt tax cuts permanent for about 99 percent of taxpayers, thus keeping the middle class from coughing up more money for the Treasury and at the same time kept the



Hard to regain youthful enthusiasm

I was starting to get out of the habit of making a New Year's resolution.

Oh, sure, I had a few put answers ready if anyone asked. Lose weight. Eat right. Strive for world peace. The usual suspects of resolutions.

And I have my old standby, my annual promise to finally focus on one of my myriad attempts to write the Great American Novel and achieve international stardom among the literati.

But it was all fairly boilerplate, each year much like the last. I was speaking with the students at George Walton Academy on Thursday, however, asking them for their resolutions for 2013, and it made me want to try a little harder.

You can read their responses over in our Education section, and much of it can be expected from kids eager to impress other-looking adults (the fact that now includes me is still vaguely terrifying). Better grades, athletic accomplishments, good behavior and the works were all on hand.

But these kids, fresh-faced and ready to make their mark on the world, had one thing many of us forget in our habitual rush to make promises to the new year: enthusi-



STEPHEN MILLIGAN
Staff Writer

asm. These kids meant what they were saying and they were willing to share it with the funny stranger with a camera who came by to ask what they wanted in 2013. I certainly had to admire their dedication to the higher things. When I was 13, I'm pretty sure my top resolution was to finish the latest "Legend of Zelda" game, which took me nearly a year to complete in my neophyte stage with the franchise.

Younger than that, I supposed it mostly involved reading more books, which was essentially cheating, as I would have done that without wanting a promise from myself on Jan. 1.

But it's hard to regain that enthusiasm of youth at times. We look at the world — an economy that crawls along looking for jumpystart, a Congress that can barely work together long enough to avert financial apocalypse, a country divided

and seemingly unable to seek common ground — and wonder why we should be optimistic for another year sure to be like the last.

I'm not willing to take that stance anymore. I'm pretty sure that's the sort of thinking that does lead to another year like the previous, and I want better for that. Both for me and those kids who just want to do better on their homework.

So I'm going to look hard for a resolution worth the effort, something that can truly change, if not the world, at least my little corner of it.

Sure, I'm still going to take all the old standbys into account. I could stand to lose some weight and I really do plan to get back to work on my great masterpiece of literature any day now.

But I want to find something into which I can truly sink my teeth and proudly declare as my New Year's resolution, something I could put my picture with alongside half a dozen or more schoolchildren eager to raise into the future.

Here's to that future, to a promising 2013. Happy New Year.

Stephen Milligan is a staff writer at The Walton Tribune. Contact him at 770-887-7343 or stephen.milligan@waltontribune.com.



NICHOLAS HARRISON
Columnist

potholes look open for a few more billion to flip out. Just how long "permanent" is remains to be seen — probably till the end of February.

I've read through several opinions from my conservative colleagues and listened to the radio broadcast by Clark Howard last Wednesday, not to mention what Forbes printed, to try to make some sort of sense of what's to be expected. Howard's special broadcast was primarily concentrated on what is looming over the horizon that would make falling off the coming cliff in Febru-

ary look like a walk in the park. His concern was that Medicare will be unsustainable before 2030 because of the boomers coming into the Social Security system. So here is yet another potential crisis with far more reaching effects of bombing the proverbial brick wall that Congress will eventually hit.

I took a look at the Congressional Budget Office's latest forecast for 2013, which is given in two scenarios depending on what would happen on Jan. 1. If the fiscal cliff was removed and even if all of the fiscal tightening was eliminated, the scenario would remain below its potential and the unemployment rate would remain higher than usual for some time. Moreover, if policies currently in effect were kept in place indefinitely, a continued surge in federal debt during the next of this decade and beyond would raise the risk of a fiscal crisis

and would eventually reduce the nation's output and income below what would occur if the fiscal tightening was allowed to take place as currently set by law. The second scenario describes allowing the law to occur, while harsh for the first six months would allow for deficit reductions which in turn would raise the Gross Domestic Product by 2.5 percent by 2014 and unemployment down to 5.5 percent by 2018.

Weather it will cause another or small recession is uncertain. But to quote Abraham Lincoln, "I am a firm believer in the people. If given the truth, they can be depended upon to meet any national crisis. The great point is to bring them the real facts." It's too bad Congress doesn't feel the same way.

Nicholas Harrison is a Walton County resident and is covered by The Walton Tribune. He can be reached at nicholas.harrison@waltontribune.com.

The Walton Tribune
A4
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January 6, 2013



ROBBIE SCHWARTZ
Managing Editor
Just keep kicking that can

Well, Congress finally managed to unite the country as most agree that the American Taxpayer Relief Act does nothing but "kick the can down the curb."

Unfortunately, that is what we have come to expect as the mantra of this nation's elected leaders in Washington, D.C. I guess we all had a little too much "holiday spirit" if we really thought these elected in Congress were going to lead.

What the agreement did to avert this country falling off the "financial cliff" is fail to lead this country in the right direction. The fact is that rate need to be made, loopholes need to be closed and Congress needs to quit passing "temporary" tax breaks because it seems as they fight for the elected future they are unable to let them lapse.

Many on both sides of the aisle see the measure as doing nothing but setting up another battle two months down the road when the automatic spending cuts will again have to be addressed. Another showdown is set up because Congress and President Barack Obama left unfinished business on the table, which will be compounded by the fact the debt ceiling will factor into any future discussions.

The game of politics is going to ruin this country if both parties do not give, only wanting to take. And while most of those elected in Congress can afford to play politics with money sitting in their bank accounts, most Americans cannot. The financial decline of this country in recent years has taught many tough economics and how to live more within their means. It is long past time Congress come to the same realization.

Congress could do nothing in 2012 to better the finances of this country, and 2012 was a wash as it was an election year, meaning we could expect next to nothing from this group of elected leaders. A new year brought new hope something substantial was going to come out of Washington, D.C. Alas, this recent bill showed that most hopes will most likely be dashed in 2013. Our "leaders" at the federal level have perfected the art of not just kicking the can down the road but turning it into a saw-tooth game.

What neither party seems to realize is that if they concede ground, in the eyes of the public they will be the heroes if the other side does not. We know who wants what and that it will take a little bit of what both sides are offering to set this country on the right road to recovery. And it is not a deal like the one passed last week.

Robbie Schwartz is managing editor of The Walton Tribune. Contact him at 770-887-7343 or robby@waltontribune.com.

1st Place

The Walton Tribune, Monroe

6A OPINION

Kath Albanese
Managing Editor
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The First Amendment
Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

The Times
gainesville.com
Saturday, August 24, 2013

YOUR VIEWS New Holland needs Hall's help with stormwater

The New Holland Community (Milliken Mill Village) is the home of many water utilities and facilities with young children who use their open, sunny commons. The village is over 30 years old, and many people in that I've lived here since and still live here in the mill and village.

Stormwater runoff from recent heavy rain has exacerbated a problem that has been gradually worsening over the last several decades and has now reached a dangerous, unhealthy and eventually illegal condition.

The site was originally conceived by a series of earth, water, underground piping and contained surface runoff areas. Every component of that system is now falling in severe disrepair because it has been virtually unmaintained since it was turned over to the county decades ago. The worst of them, by far, is the old storm water underground piping which has formed holes and cracks upon, and to, larger water tables.

Underground stormwater to create underground paths outside the piping and, as a result to say the least, is creating an environmental and property threat. There are at least 10 major underground paths for miles of the underground piping. One thing has already been revealed and residents are worried the next major effort will be for a clean or water cleanup, or one of the former existing into the storm.

Stockpiles have caused the stormwater to run on the surface, destroying lawns, breaking down trees and other plants, and creating a serious health and safety risk. A storm water can create a fast moving river of water which is a real danger with unpredictable potential for destruction.

Village residents have pleaded to the county to fix the problem, but it has been ineffective. The mill is in a major legal issue. Back around the 1980s, the county accepted responsibility for maintenance of the storm, water, culverts and about 1 foot of the 14-foot pipe extending through the roadway measured from the culverts. Public Works Director Ken Boudreau says there is no record of the county formally accepting the underground pipes beyond the easement, though the pipes have always been expected to be culverts.

The county's estimated pipe maintenance budget was lower by 100 times. The county's work without the other 13 miles of pipes for the underground stormwater runoff except through the pipes. It is beyond-control-areas to think the underground piping was not explicitly accepted by the county, along with parts of the system that fill them with water. "Where did they think the water was going to go?" This whole effort could begin to sound like the start of a TV sitcom script if the implications weren't so serious.

Subcommittee Chairman Steve and County Engineer Michael have been helpful in trying to explain the situation to the Village and present it to commissioners and other county personnel. They have not been successful in getting any action with the problem getting worse and more expensive every day. What can the government do that to help? It is not the county's fault that they would legal arguments. It is time to act. Please fix the problem.

Geoffrey Ambrose
Gainesville

Senseless slaying should lead public figures to speak out

Spann recently heard about the tragic story of the young man from Australia who was murdered. He was a baseball player from that country. He was killed by a woman from that country. "When I heard this story, I was shocked. The impact from the three weeks when they were asked why they did what they did was that they were being."

I have two questions: What were they thinking? And where is the nation from the time, from 2008, to 2012 and the other more headlines on the particular incident?

What does it say about our society and the role of the media in covering where our youth did not participate in murdering a fellow human being?

What would the great Frederick Douglass say about the case of this American today? And because we have a black president does not make a whit's difference.

So we go back and we cry out and we go back to the basics, get back to God — what did we do right and what did we do wrong?

Paul David Jenkins
Gainesville

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School spat at the highest level

If public education in Georgia doesn't have enough problems, there is now a high profile spat between Gov. Nathan Deal and State School Superintendent John Barge. It has grown so heated that there is talk that the school superintendent may challenge Deal in the August 2013 gubernatorial primary and spring.

The breakdown came to a head when Barge's response to the state's school condition, which was passed last month by the legislature, was heavily criticized by Deal. The governor's office said the superintendent's response was "a slap in the face" and "a direct challenge to the authority of the state's elected school superintendent."

I caught up with Barge by telephone in Cordeiro last week while he was on his way to the state capitol and asked him if he is serious about taking on a well-funded incumbent. He said he would let me — and you — know "within the next few weeks." But he certainly sounds like a guy who is serious.

"Public school education, you need to manage public education when he is through," Barge said. He expects that when the governor is passing by, he is much like what has happened in Wyoming. That state's governor, Matt Mead, has removed most of the authority from the elected school superintendent and placed it in his office. Barge has experience with an elected superintendent, transportation superintendent and a lot of other things.

"I am not advertising myself as a candidate for the job of the state school superintendent," Barge said. "I am not advertising myself as a candidate for the job of the state school superintendent."

Deal's office said that Barge's response was "a slap in the face" and "a direct challenge to the authority of the state's elected school superintendent."

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It's not just a law, it's important.

Immigrants can fill the fertility gap

MONTECARLO, Italy — It was a lovely surprise. I was in Italy for a few days and I was in the middle of a beautiful vacation. I was in the middle of a beautiful vacation. I was in the middle of a beautiful vacation.

The impact of the decline in fertility rates is significant. It is a significant issue for the world. It is a significant issue for the world. It is a significant issue for the world.

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Author Steve Korbels and TV commentator Kath Albanese with the United Media Network.

3rd Place

The Times, Gainesville

Newspaper page content including 'DailyViews' section header, 'OUR VIEW' sub-section, 'Traveling season may be robust' article by Michael Stuckert, 'It's a long journey up from rock bottom' article by Carlton Fletcher, 'IN MY VIEW' column by Jake R. Coston, 'Just eat around the spur marks' article by Jake R. Coston, 'Help name the column' section, 'MISSION STATEMENT', and 'Doonesbury' comic strip.

1st Place

Marietta Daily Journal

8B

SUNDAY, Nov. 24, 2013

Opinion

EDITORIAL PAGE EDITOR
Joe Kirby
770-423-9171 ext. 223

OPINION • COMMENTARY • ANALYSIS • DEBATE

MARIETTA DAILY JOURNAL

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ENDORSEMENT

Braves deal a good one and ...

DESERVES SUPPORT

Here's the deal: a nationally known business wants to relocate to Cobb, bringing with it thousands of jobs, regular television coverage in the national media and generating millions of dollars in new tax revenue for Cobb's schools (and generated in large part by non-Cobb residents). The cost to Cobb residents of the deal is a home valued at \$200,000, a would-be increase of about 150 percent, the rough equivalent of a year's "tax" that the owner has already been paying for years, not an additional "tax" he has to pay or pay for.

The "business" in question is, of course, the Atlanta Braves. The Cobb Board of Commissioners is poised to approve on Tuesday a Memorandum of Understanding that would pave the way for construction of a \$675 million stadium just off I-75 at I-285. The move would mean thousands of new jobs and also has the clear potential to generate several million dollars in additional sales tax revenue for Cobb's schools each year from the mixed-use development to be built around it. It's a project that would pump \$1 billion into the Cobb economy over the next three years, of which Cobb would be on the hook for roughly \$300 million. The stadium and its plans have the potential to grow the county but have to meet more than 14,000 rules every quarter, with one school among the biggest beneficiaries.

The vast majority of Cobb's population lives in the 30-year-old homes built by the Cobb Schools. Cobbman and Exhale Health Authority for the project would be generated by a 30-year county-wide curatorial fee, an additional \$1 per room hotel-night tax in the Cumberland area and a new 1-cent tax on commercial property owners and apartment owners in the Cumberland Community Improvement District — which has already been agreed to by the CSD board here. The hotel and car rental taxes would be paid primarily by non-Cobb residents, including the influx of Braves fans from around Georgia and the Southeast coming to Cobb for the games.

The real of Cobb's contribution toward paying for the project would involve the relocation of \$6.7 million in existing property taxes. These were primarily set generated by their general

obligation parks bonds approved by voters and due to expire in 2017 and 2018. If the commissioners approve the MOU on Tuesday, then \$4.7 million in property taxes (11 million more used for debt service on the parks bonds would be earmarked to help pay off the stadium bonds for the next 10 years. There would be no, repeat no, increase in the millage rate, and your tax bill would not go up as a result. There is a high percentage of those paying the additional taxes in and around the new stadium would be non-Cobb residents. Moreover, 30 percent of the revenue for these bonds is other states — but plenty of them would be coming and spending here for these 10 home games a year in Cobb.

Cobb's completion the stadium would add to local traffic issues. But they're ignoring the fact even prior to the private-public partnership already approved and funded for the site for the next five years. In addition, the Braves envision fans "coming early and staying late" at the shops and services in the surrounding developments. In other words, they want to be coming and going at the same time, unlike at Turner Field and at the Georgia Dome. These stadium-stay fans mean to dozens of "right" Cobb's shops and surroundings will have the opposite effect, and traffic will benefit as a result.

Unfortunately, the Braves move has not been meeting criticism in Cobb. These opponents have blinded themselves to the likelihood that the private-public partnership arrangement (in which the Braves pay 75 percent of the stadium cost) will be a generator of economic growth in Cobb equal or superior to opening of what is now the Lakeland Plant in World War II, the creation of what's now Kennesaw State University in the early 1960s, the laying of a new track line through rural Cobb in the late 1960s and the construction of I-75 through Cobb in the mid-1970s.

The public is having its say about it at the town hall meetings held by the district commissions on Thursday and this coming Monday, and will be heard again on the night of the vote.

The pending deal is a good one for the Braves, but an even better one for Cobb County. It deserves the votes of the Cobb Constitution, and deserves the public's enthusiastic support as well.

The Marietta Daily Journal encourages letters to the editor on topics of general interest, but reserves the right to edit them for content and length. Letters should be no longer than about 200 words and must include the writer's name, address and daytime telephone number for verification purposes.



COMMENTARY

Parents, pundits and preachers: Reasons for ...

BEING THANKFUL

If we think about it, all of our national holidays were meant to promote reflection. To name only a few, July 4 (Independence Day) asks us to reflect on freedom, while Memorial Day is a time to think about those who died for freedom. Christmas invites reflection on the birth of Christ and its effect on the entire world, in spite of the fact that school continues indefinitely and profanely even as a celebration of the winter solstice, or something or another. "Water for the People" (I believe they call it "What a Day") asks us to reflect on what we all know is really is.



Roger Stone

For me, the most reflective and meaningful holiday is Thanksgiving. This holiday reminds me of people who have helped me along the journey of life and to whom I owe gratitude. All of us are shaped and influenced by others. Doubtless, our first shapers and influencers, for good or ill, are our parents. Regarding the ill, it is appalling that so many parents ignore the responsibility of guiding their children from outside influences. In the recent past, negative influences on children and teens were all outside the home. Today, negative influences are made the home, inside the home, on both sides of the door, in the palm of children's hands. I refer of course to television, computers and phones.

I'm thankful that even before negative influences came smack into the home, my parents showed concern and restraint. I can't recall when we went, with whom we went, and what (and) movies we attended. My parents were never overbearing, but they certainly viewed it as their responsibility and joy to

shape and influence their children and their children's values as they saw fit. I'm thankful for them. Surprisingly enough, I'm thankful for opposing pundits. Pundits, of course, are the social / political / cultural critics — such as columnists — who offer their unadorned observations to the public, normally through newspapers, magazines or television commentaries. The word "pundit" has become a pejorative term for opposing critics. The idea behind this pejorative expression is that pundits are to be contrasted to practitioners. Practitioners are those, pundits are mere critics of what the doers do. On television they are called "talking heads." Whatever we call them, these well-appeared critics have always helped me to understand the issues of the day and to improve current events, adding items to my historical perspective.

Pundits are so critical that the rest of us, though possibly more interested in culture trends and the like, had already grown a healthy skepticism. As a result I was ultimately fascinated by columnist William F. Buckley, who I read faithfully. A conservative before conservatism was used for opposition, Buckley challenged every idea of FDR's New Deal, JFK's New Frontier and LBJ's War on Poverty.

Borned not at all by the witty complexities of his former Yale classmates, the spirit of Democracy, or the final reservations of fellow Republicans, Buckley professed liberalism's consequences that are now apparent: a huge federal government, unbridled medicine and diminished individual liberty. A liberal Catholic, Buckley would

be increased by the current Pope's return from the island visit. He is only one example of several pundits, left and right, who are responsible for the intellectual and political awakening of youths from the '60s, '70s and '80s.

Pundits, even when they make me mad, make me think. I do place them on my Thanksgiving list.

I'm also thankful for preachers. Talk about a group that gets a bad rap. Count the number of false promises the media have paraded before us and stand the number beside the number of faithful men. Which is the far higher number?

I'm thankful for preachers because they have so often set my path aright. Good preachers understand and preach against it. They comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.

Of the 10 preachers I mention in my list, three have been in Cobb County: the Rev. Nelson Price, formerly of Kennesaw Baptist Church; the Rev. Mike Shepley of Stone Mountain Baptist and the Rev. Terry Hordley of Kennesaw Baptist. I'm thankful for these gifted men not only because of their eloquence as leadership abilities, but because week after week, year after year, they minister.

Each year all of us take preachers, however famous or not, as a result as witness. This summer, my wife and I visited one in Louisiana. He had been too great a blessing for me not to say so many times and thank him. He was my wife's father when he told her she had to be my daughter. He was generous and humble. When he set down to play and sing, my heart was flooded with thanksgiving for him and for every other gifted and influential of my life.

Happy Thanksgiving!
Roger Stone is a retired top officer teacher.

Clearing the confusion of The First Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is the only one of our national holidays. Yes, it is modern day Americans who are causing confusion regarding the meaning of the first such celebration. Some students today are even teaching children the first Thanksgiving was an occasion when the Pilgrims invited the Native Americans to come over so they could express thanks to the native Wampanoags for helping them get settled. An elemental understanding of who the Pilgrims were and their spiritual orientation helps interpret the reasons for that gathering. The Pilgrims were a spiritual body joined in their devotion to God. Consider how the Wampanoags then, like most Native Americans, had a duty. Giving thanks for the Creator's gifts had always been a part of

Wampanoag life. Commonly they had celebrations to express their thanks for such things as a bountiful crop or a good harvest. They did not know the god worshiped by the Pilgrims, but the custom of giving thanks was not alien to them. Pilgrims were Puritans. In England under the rule of Catholic Mary Tudor, better known as "Bloody Mary," many Protestants were executed. Others fled to other parts of Europe to escape her wrath. When Mary died in 1558 and her Protestant sister Elizabeth replaced her, the European exiles returned home. Principally, under John F. Lee, a vision emerged of what England could be if little persecutions were employed. They wanted to purify England and become known as Puritans who were coming to



Nelson Price

America were called Pilgrims. The title "Pilgrim" was first used as a term of devotion. Pilgrims were pious people who had a religious mission. They were giving thanks even amid adversity. Therefore, a common mission of thanksgiving was not unfamiliar to either group. Both Native American and Pilgrims had a heritage of giving thanks. After years of adversity, the Pilgrims were blessed with a good harvest in 1621. This, coupled with two sicknesses and fewer deaths, heightened their gratitude and desire to formally express it. Spanish explorers and English settlers had engaged in special occasions of thanks on this England and became known as Pilgrims who were coming to

were not associated with the first Thanksgiving, but provided it. Native Americans and Christians had different religions, but with similar practices. Both believed in propitiation, which is the act of doing something to accomplish conciliation or appease their god. A Native American example of this was their rain dance. It was intended to please and satisfy their god Panotchoo, and Pilgrims had a heritage of giving thanks. The Christian concept of propitiation is described in 1 John 4: 10, "Here is to love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." The concept of a ritual of thanks by the Pilgrims was

appealing to the Native Americans because of their native religious propitiation of giving thanks to their god. A letter from the period by Edward Winslow written as a thanksgiving to England is an explanation of the original intent of the gathering. In a Winslow stated, "And God be praised, we had a good harvest." Giving thanks on a day called Thanksgiving is commendable. Doing so daily is appropriate and admirable. This statement by George Washington makes it explicit: "I sincerely do hope that teaching, according to any other foundation than religion for the nation, that God has been better pleased to vouch for."

The Rev. Dr. Nelson Price is past minister of Stone Mountain Baptist Church in Marietta.

Editorial Page

A

Unaffordable and careless

During the 2002 presidential campaign, President Barack Obama privately described his signature legislation, the Affordable Care Act of 2010, as "ObamaCare" because, as he put it, "I do care." At least in comparison with Mitt Romney's particular aloofness, the public gave more credence to Obama as caring about average people.

But there's a big difference between "caring" in glib political prose versus implementing a massive, grinding, omnipresent governmental system trying to force uninsured citizens, employers and states, to enhance the medical establishment as we know it.

ObamaCare's basic design is either to coerce or cajole individuals and employers to purchase medical insurance that they now choose not to buy, while forcing the medical community to adhere to the deeply problematic, largely ineffectual and peculiarly disingenuous system of Medicaid.

ObamaCare is to quite apart from the fact that plenty of Republicans are warning up their cynical versions of I-told-you-so. The administration knows that too, and is basically trying to make the roll-out work. But you just can't cover up ObamaCare's basic conceptual problems with ad campaign slogans with millimeter, hard-to-see messages to pressure people to spend money on medical insurance that they don't want now and can buy later any way should something catastrophic or even merely serious come along.

On the affordability factor, the act appears likely to cost the federal government more than originally anticipated. In 2003, Obama insisted the act would be revenue neutral, with total costs of \$900 billion. Now the Congressional Budget Office says insurance subsidies alone will cost over \$1 trillion, with total costs about twice the original estimate.

Affordability is also a concern for many uninsured people who'll either pay a penalty "tax" or purchase insurance designed in large part to subsidize older, less healthy people. Uninsured Americans registered by ObamaCare to buy insurance can't be thrilled about the financial implications to them of buying an unwanted insurance product.

Many of them, typically young, healthy and under-employed, are concerned that today and/or richer folks are already getting health care effectively subsidized by the young. Why should the young further subsidize older and richer groups who have prospered up the national debt ladder while working the jobs pipeline dry?

Affordability is also a concern for many states that appear reasonably skeptical about expanding Medicaid for the poor and lower middle class, even if the federal cost-share expenses will largely be shouldered by federal taxpayers. These states suspect that expanding a system of total dependence on government to larger swaths of their citizenry will have long-run implications that may forever leave their citizenry divided, with a crashing number of permanent wards of government.

The ObamaCare roll-out, with its emphasis on subsidies and advertising, focusing the key to insurance companies while simultaneously trying to manage insurance-company profitability, and omniscient oversight of personal details by the widely despised Internal Revenue Service, is adding up to trouble on a gargantuan scale.



WR water park: All problems are not equal

There are some problems that are not really problems and are good problems to have. Some businesses are up to their necks in customers and they have to hire more employees to handle the flow.

Warner Brothers has a problem. They could call it an embarrassment of riches. The city is a water park facility in their town.

Water parks have been a fad of late. Wild Adventures opened near Valdosta in 1996 with a combination of animal attractions, daredevil rides and a water park. Who knew? Other communities have been trying to strike liquid gold, too. Columbia just opened a water-themed attraction using the natural resource of the Chattahoochee. "Water City Beach" is combining several water-based disciplines accommodating rafters to floaters. They treat it as

'Stunning?'

Last weekend I received a call on my voice mail from my friend Dick. We've never met, but he leaves me early morning voice mails from time to time.

One of the things that sets Dick apart is that he doesn't leave anonymous pigpen droppings. He says who he is, although I recognize his voice by now.

It's not you in a little secret; many of the calls leaving anonymous droppings, I never hear. I recognize those voices, too. One push of the delete button and whatever they had to say goes into a digital file 15 bytes from I can tell. Richard is a thoughtful and smart guy. He doesn't rant and rave the many others who call. We do, respectfully, disagree on any number of issues.



You might remember a column I wrote before the 2002 presidential election. Dick and I had a bet. We wagered a dinner on the outcome of the election. Dick guaranteed a Mitt Romney victory. He lost and sent a \$50 check that will sit somewhere on my desk. I don't want the money I was looking forward to having a meal with him and losing just a bit.

So Dick leaves a voice mail concerning President Obama's comments on the George Zimmerman/Troyon Martin situation. Richard said he was "stunned" that the president of the United States, the president of black, white, green, purple and yellow, would come out and make statements like he did. I expect statements like that from civil rights leaders, but I really did not expect the president of the United States to make a statement like he was making.

Dick then compared Obama's statements to Robert Kennedy's speech after the assassination of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., and that Kennedy possessed a "totally different thought on everything that goes on in this country." He went on to say repeatedly that Obama's statements were a "stunning thing."

I won't dwell on the vast differences in situations between an assassination and the Zimmerman trial, but Dick continued to say that the president "didn't do the country a good service."

What did the president say that was so "stunning" in his 18-minute address? (Send the entire address at www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/07/19/statement-president-071912.)

The president first spoke of the "second-life grace and dignity the family of Troyon Martin displayed. Anything 'stunning' about that?

He then said "The judge conducted the trial in a professional manner. The prosecution and the defense made their arguments. The jury were properly instructed that in a case such as this reasonable doubt was relevant, and they rendered a verdict. And now the jury has spoken, that's how our system works." Humm, "stunning?"

The president went on to say, "You know, when Trayvon Martin was first shot I said that this could have been my son. Another way of saying that is Trayvon Martin could have been me 19 years ago."

Then Obama went into his professional mode in an attempt to explain to people like Dick a little history. "And when you think about why, in the African-American community at least, there's a lot of pain around what happened here, I think it's important to recognize that the African-American community is looking at this issue through a set of experiences and a history that doesn't go away."

"There are very few African-American men in this country who haven't had the experience of being followed when they were shopping in a department store. That includes me."

Three comments and others in the speech may have been "stunning" to those who have not experienced the circumstances the president described, but it is a fact of everyday life for most black men in America.

It would be "stunning" to me if some who dub the President Obama would find any value to his words about race or any other subject.

The black community would do well to read his entire speech, too. It wasn't just about Trayvon.

With all that said, Dick, I will want that conversation. You can bring me the minutes if you like. As usual, I will want you to say I can handle it "with one hand tied behind my back."

Charles E. Richardson is The Telegraph's editorial page editor. He can be reached at 764/434-4342 or via email at crichard@macon.com. Tweet @crichard2009.

Am I micro-managing?

Last week, the president of a very successful Atlanta company asked me this question, "Should I micro-manage this executive, or should I let him make this decision that I know from my past experience could fail and cost us millions of dollars?"

If he had asked you that question, what would you have said? I think this is the most difficult part of leadership. It doesn't matter if you're trying to manage your teenage son or a seasoned executive, or the American public. When do you let them go? It's their responsibility; how are they ever going to learn if you

make all the big decisions for them? On the other hand, if they make a huge mistake, can you live with it? Complicating this issue is the fact that some people want to be micro-managed. Really? Not just in business, but in life. Think of the millions of Americans who want to be micro-managed by our government.

Out of the 100 million who are enrolled in at least one welfare program, how many really need the food stamps and the other safety nets, and how many millions take them just because it's easier than working? We've gone from 17 million on food stamps 20 years ago to 46.4 million today. Sure, most of them deserve it, but what if only 1 million do?

My Irish ancestors used to talk about "coming to America." It was the "Land of Opportunity." They didn't want handouts, handouts are nothing but micro-management and they had plenty of that from their English landlords in Ireland. They wanted the chance to work, to make their own decisions, to determine their own future. Whatever happened to that American?

Maybe my Atlanta president feels himself in this "micro-management dilemma" because his executive is waiting breathlessly for him to step in and make this big decision. If it is this what's happening to America? Let the government decide our health-care plan, and if it doesn't work, we can say "told you so." It's not our fault. That way we don't have to budget our own money to handle our own health-care needs.

On the other hand, maybe my Atlanta president is a careful thinker and he is the only one who started this company and he is the only one who guided it through the recession. Maybe he should make all the big decisions himself. Is this what our government thinks? "Americans aren't too good at managing themselves, we better do it for them."

Here is my advice to business presidents, government officials and parents — all of whom are entrusted with the power to lead. When you're faced with the decision "To Delegate or Not To Delegate," answer these four questions:

• In this person will succeed? Teenagers need to be trained over and over again; most executives get it right away; Americans have enjoyed freedom for 198 years. How about this person?

• Does this person want the responsibility? Entrepreneurs usually want to grab more responsibility than they can ever possibly handle; attorneys and other executives usually have few they take it. Does this person really want to step up?

• Am I a control freak? Remember, power corrupts. It corrupts our mind's line thinking that we are the only capable people around. Is this person capable?

• Can I trust this person? Ah, this is the big question. If I know I am not a control freak, and I know this person has had all the training he needs, and he seems to want to accept the responsibility — but if I can't trust him, the game is over.

When my Atlanta president asked me his micro-management question last week, I asked him this "Did you, as this executive performed well in the past? Has he ever lied to you about his work? In other words, do you really trust him?" There was a long pause. Finally, the president said "You know, he's a great guy and I like him, but I really can't trust him." "Then," I said, "You really don't need him." Game over.

Dr. Bill Cummings is the CEO of Cummings Consolidated Corporation and Cummings Management Consultants. His website is billcummings.com.

David Gedel served as counsel to the state of Georgia and 27 other states in their constitutional challenges to the Affordable Care Act.

Editorial Page

A

2nd Place

The Augusta Chronicle

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2003

OPINION

Late laughs
 YOU KNOW what happened this week in New Zealand? They legitimized gay marriage. It was a shame it took so long to do. This means Bill can finally marry Carol.
 —Craig Ferguson

Quotable
 "The most powerful weapon on earth is the human word on fire."
 —Paul Bonaventura
 French military leader (1870-1929)




Commentary: Charlie Harper

A week we'd like to forget

I am sure you are that many will never forget, but how well? It began Monday with a terrorist attack on the Boston Marathon. As this column was being written Friday morning, it was ending with a podium at MIT and one corpse dead and a Boston suburb that does not search for a suspect that remained at large.

In between, a fire at a hotel in Phoenix became an explosion that destroyed much of the town of West, Texas. It was an uncomfortable reminder that when there is trouble, our reporters run to meet the trouble, not a way from it.

The result is that many firefighters are among the missing and the dead.

Wednesday provided a 50th anniversary to Boston's Marathon bombing, with letters containing this: "I am sure you are that many will never forget, but how well? It began Monday with a terrorist attack on the Boston Marathon. As this column was being written Friday morning, it was ending with a podium at MIT and one corpse dead and a Boston suburb that does not search for a suspect that remained at large."

It was a bit surreal having John Warner and talking to the congressman near the Capitol. The fact that I chose to continue despite the stress and upcoming May 1st election was that the world has changed since September 11th. The abstract has somewhat become real. Emergencies and alerts happen, but more common.

Inside the building as I sat waiting on my appointment, I listened to the staffers answering the phones in the outer office of a senator. Wednesday with all of the chaos was going on, was also the day that the Senate was to vote on amendments to the president's gas control package. The salaries were much higher than usual, and those answering the phones remained on task.

"It's wrong on, on, on. Now, by amendment as well..." It was

BUT THOSE ON THE PHONES do represent the front line of our representative form of government, and are the only face of a senator or representative that many will ever encounter. As such, those who are finally "fed up" enough over an issue and decide to call their elected officials often unleash their anger on these staffers, who work in very small, shared-office space. They are generally paid little, especially relative to the high and rising cost of living in D.C.

at least as if they were reading a script as an endless loop, for professional and courteous to each caller.

The fact that their answers all seemed to be in the same order to the same question indicates that the staffers were likely not the only ones who may have been provided a script. Such is the modern activity of civil service, and the government response.

But those on the phones do represent the front line of our representative form of government, and are the only face of a senator or representative that many will ever encounter. As such, those who are finally "fed up" enough over an issue and decide to call their elected officials often unleash their anger on these staffers, who work in very small, shared-office space. They are generally paid little, especially relative to the high and rising cost of living in D.C. And, who or what they were working the phones in a polite and courteous manner despite the fact that others were actively working to determine if their workplace was being poisoned by an unknown person.

It's clear that I was struck by

the images I was seeing on Twitter and Facebook of people and chaos on Capitol Hill, yet sitting inside an office, watching and listening to professionals who come to work as if the face of representative government every day, others under unusual and trying circumstances. It was obviously not so many of the callers who was going on around these staffers, but their search their concerns, and the staffers rather offered excuses for their posts.

There were other strong images to reflect both in horror. The Boston Marathon runners who went directly from the race to blood banks to make donations show that many will respond when called upon. Acts of heroism in the face of extreme tragedy such as this are easy to spot and should be properly lauded.

But then there are those who serve in so many capacities, every day, who just do their jobs in times that are becoming more and more dangerous, to serve a public that is becoming more and more hostile, with threats low and far between.

Senators and congressmen can be often knowing they will often spend a large number of the people they serve. It's part of the job, and their impact and understanding much of the reaction. Those who work for them don't get most of the inquiries or praise, but do get the brunt of the blame.

The next time you call your elected official, please state your mind as you see it. But please also remember that those who are talking to you are also just trying to do a job — and may likely also be trying to figure out if they need to evacuate their office while they're answering your concerns. That's one small part of this past week we would all do well not to forget.

Submitting articles and letters to the Peach-Penalty blog, writes on Georgia politics and government: www.peachpenalty.com

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Editorial

What are stolen years, smeared reputation worth?

Roughly half the states in the U.S. have some official formula for compensating people wrongly convicted and imprisoned. Georgia is among the states that do not.

The case of Lathan Wood is still fresh in the minds of many folks in this area. Wood, of course, is the man exonerated of a Columbus armed robbery charge after almost 12 years behind bars.

Last month the Georgia General Assembly, after considerable debate (some lawmakers thought Wood shouldn't get any compensation at all, agreed to pay him \$400,000. The amount was calculated from what Wood could have earned as a Marine if he had entered the service, as he was planning to do before he was charged.

Low income is a good starting point, but it's not enough. Until the state finds the God-like power to give Lathan Wood back 12 years and nine months of his life — or Clarence Harrison 17 years of his, or Robert Clark 23 years of his — official compensation of somebody imprisoned for a crime he or she did not commit should be about more than just a calculation of earnings.

Except for wrongful execution, there is probably no worse offense a constitutional government can commit against one of its citizens than wrongful imprisonment. The former steals a life; the latter steals "body" part of one.

If legislators decide to act on this, here are some things they need to take into account when figuring what Georgia owes those whose liberty it hijacks when justice miscarries so badly.

They need to think about what value they'd put on those lost years if they themselves — or their spouses, or children, or siblings, or friends — were the ones languishing in prison.

They need to think about the irreversibility of the wrong, of stolen time that can't be tacked back onto their lives after the fact.

They need to ask themselves if years spent in prison for no reason are measurable in income. Would I take five years' pay to spend five years in the slammer? (Didn't think so.)

And they need to take a long, unflinching look at the flaws in the trial process and the justice system that make stories like Lathan Wood's so mind-bogglingly familiar.

Not that any more funds needed to be kept on the glaring one of wrongful imprisonment, but just for the record...

The state's claims advisory board initially denied Wood's request for compensation on the grounds that he failed to provide adequate documentation. This from a state whose "documentation" of his guilt cost him a dozen years.

When Wood was finally exonerated and freed, the crime was officially expunged from his state record... after he paid \$50 in fees.

His compensation will haven't made it into the state budget.

We need to hear from you!
 Submit your letters to the Editor, *Augusta Chronicle-Enquirer*, P.O. Box 24, Columbus, GA 31902-0024. Fax: 706-576-6206. E-mail: letters@ledger-enquirer.com. Letters mailed in more than 300 words, include your name, address, and daytime telephone number for verification. All letters are subject to editing. We reserve the right to omit public opinion. All submissions, including letters to the editor, comments, and online e-mail submissions are subject to review by the *Ledger-Enquirer* and its affiliates, as may be the laws, and are the property of the *Ledger-Enquirer* and its affiliates.

Looking back | Fifty years ago today
 April 24, 1953

Business Walking
 Thomas Drey Brown

Chattahoochee Valley farmers and craftsmen are making through dry dusty patch awaiting the expected period of their crops, weather being hopeful. If tomorrow will be beneficial.

The Muscogee Weather Bureau reports a forecast of 23 inches of rainfall.

Doonesbury Garry Trudeau

Editorial Page

A

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OPINION

MICHAEL C. TRAYNOR
THOMAS S. BARTON
SUSAN M. CATRON
GALE BALDWIN

COMING MONDAY
Columnist Leonard Pitts joins the competition and the dust.

WINNING FORMULA 'Yes' to SPLOST

IN NINE days, Chatham County voters will decide whether they want to keep the existing Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax for six more years or kick it to the curb after 28 years.

It's a big decision. It's also not an automatic one, based on recent political circumstances.

But given the obvious advantages of this 1 percent sales tax over other ways of generating revenue for needed capital projects, along with the desire to see this community become more prosperous and vibrant, SPLOST is a winning formula. We recommend a "yes" vote on Nov. 5.

Taxes by their very nature are unpopular. That's a healthy thing. Otherwise, many governments would happily pick the working class clean. Businesses and communities would wither up and die.

But most citizens understand that taxes are a necessary evil and part of the price of living in a civilized society. There are such things as "free" roads and bridges. Or libraries. Or drainage systems. Or fire houses. Or parks, squares, aquatic centers, tennis complexes, parking garages and soccer fields. Or jails. Or recreation centers.

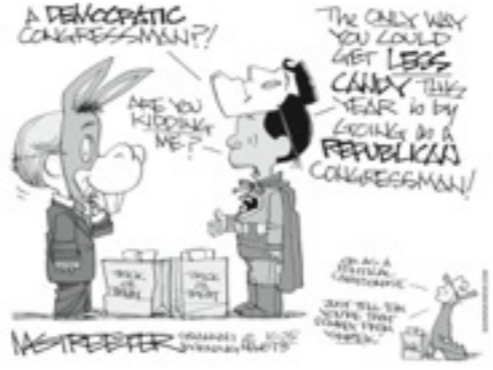
If they want the things that make a community vibrant and able to compete economically, someone has to pay for them. At the end of the day, that someone is the taxpayer.

In Chatham County and elsewhere in Georgia, governments have historically used property taxes to help pay for capital projects. But there was a built-in ceiling on this system. That's because a limited number of homeowners (Chatham's homeownership rate is 58.7 percent, according to the U.S. Census) and other landowners shouldered this tax burden here — for everyone.

That's the beauty of SPLOST, along with other sales-tax-based revenue options. They're tremendous levies. They spread the cost of community improvements around to the greatest number of people, including those who don't live here or who may be only passing through. That's not a bad thing. In a county with a huge tourism industry, it's almost like picking money off the sidewalk.

Here are four big reasons a "yes" vote is in order:

- SPLOST has helped keep property taxes down, while being amazingly successful at revenue-generation — a whopping \$2.4 billion and counting since it was enacted by referendum in 1985.
- That's nearly \$50 million every year for the past 28 years.
- Had property owners been forced to cough up this money, the millage rate would have to jump by about 4-6 mills (one mill of taxes in Chatham County is roughly equivalent to \$11 million in property tax revenue). That's a big number. If you owned a \$100,000 house, your property tax bill would have to jump \$221 annually to cover this increase. The owner of a \$200,000 residence would see a \$237 jump. For a \$300,000 home, the extra bite would be \$208.
- Citizens are right to question their elected officials over spending decisions. But there's no question that using sales tax dollars for capital projects gives every property owner a break.
- An estimated 26 percent of that \$1.4 billion in SPLOST revenue — that's \$370 million — didn't come from locals. It came from visitors. That means commuters from bedroom areas outside Chatham, business travelers, conventioners and tourists helped all the tax payers. That substantial revenue stream would continue if voters say "yes."
- Revenue from SPLOST has helped make the community in many positive and substantial ways. That trend would continue if voters say "yes," as this tax is projected to generate another \$270 million for capital projects in the coming years.
- Among the many forward-looking items on the next SPLOST list are major road improvements in fast-growing areas in West Chatham and along heavily traveled corridors like DeFonce Avenue and President Street Extension; an important and badly needed purchase of land to help attract new employers with good-paying jobs; beach revitalization at Tybee, which is nearly everyone's summer playground, engaging drainage improvements to further eliminate the threat of flooding; and a new arena.
- This is a pay-as-you-go tax. Local governments aren't using their credit cards or going into debt.
- Thus SPLOST means governments don't pay interest. How much has that saved Chatham County taxpayers through the years? About \$183.6 million, according to Armstrong Atlantic State University economist Michael Toma. He based that estimate on a hypothetical, 20-year debt that otherwise might have been issued to finance projects completed with SPLOST funds. Each fiscal responsibility worth a "yes."
- Voting "yes" won't increase local sales taxes. This isn't a new tax. It simply keeps the 1 percent tax on the books.
- While that's not a big selling point — any tax must be justified — it separates SPLOST from past efforts to add a new tax, like the T-SPLOST that voters rejected last year.
- Perhaps the biggest advantage to keep SPLOST is a lack of trust in some — but hardly all — elected officials. The level of skepticism is up locally, as well as nationally. But there's a proper fix for that — elect new people to public office. Then hold them accountable.
- Politics and its cast of characters change. Savannah has had the different mayors since the first SPLOST was approved. Chatham County has had five different county commission chairmen. You need a successful to keep up with all the ailments and commissioners who have served over the past 28 years. And that's not counting all the previous mayors and council members who have served in the smaller municipalities.
- Bottom line: It's not smart to kill a golden goose for community improvement because of momentary political spite.
- Instead, keep SPLOST alive for six more years. Vote "yes" Nov. 5.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Obama botched website design from the start

It has been nearly one month since the website headquarters has been "operational" and less than 1 percent of the country has managed to successfully sign up for the website that is ObamaCare.

The website, which cost American taxpayers almost \$200 million, is almost non-functional.

President Obama assured the American people that obtaining health care on this site would be easier than "buying a plane ticket on Expedia." Turns out that you may be able to buy a plane before you can even access this knowledge of a website.

Let's look at how we arrived at this point. The Obama regime hired a Canadian firm, CGI, to build this site. This same group was fired by the Canadian government after it failed to create a workable site to register gun owners in Canada. That effort was so badly done that the Canadian government refused to pay the firm for the shabby work.

But that did not stop this regime from giving CGI a no-hill contract to build the ObamaCare website. Three years and nearly \$100 million later, we have a site that crashed repeatedly both in testing and after it went live. It contains placeholder codes that nearly all programmers have said are only used during the creation and testing of the website.

Experts have said that nearly 5 million lines of code would have to be replaced for this website to have any semblance of functionality. Obama said that the best people in the country are working to get the site working properly. Why was that not done in the first place?

With all of the incredible companies here in the United States, why did this administration hand a bid contract to a foreign firm with a record of failure? It makes you wonder about what quality of organizations will be present in the distribution of policies and treatment. If this regime can't get the website done right, how will they handle your health care?

MARK WELKS
Savannah

Country broke promise on courthouse renovations

The reason that I am not voting for SPLOST this time around is that there are no controls over how the collected money will be spent. There are only promises.

The money goes into a general fund and is spent depending on how those in control at the time it's available want to spend it.

The best example of this is the

Chatham County Courthouse. There was never a plan in front of our courthouse announcing to the community that renovations would be completed by 2008. The money had been raised by a SPLOST vote that had promised courthouse renovations.

Architects drew plans for a new courthouse that could serve our growing community. A few years ago, the plan was revised. That renovation plan was awarded. The money was gone.

The millions of dollars originally allotted to the courthouse had been spent on a new county administrative building that houses several hundred county employees, rather than the courthouse that serves thousands of citizens on a weekly basis. This has left Chatham County with the most dilapidated courthouse in the region.

GENE BROOKS
Savannah

End public funding for Planned Parenthood

The liberal left-wing ministers of public enlightenment and propaganda should be well pleased with Fred Nadelman's recent letter in regard to Planned Parenthood.

He has been Guttmachered.

To reference anything from the Guttmacher Institute is using fruit from the poisoned tree. Quoting or referencing the Guttmacher Institute would be akin to directing people curious about the National Socialist German Workers' Party to the Guttmacher Institute.

The party line from Guttmacher is that they were "divorced" from Planned Parenthood in 1997. But in 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008 and 2009, they received \$2,421,076 from their taskmasters. How can any person not conclude with desperation the findings of Guttmacher?

Planned Parenthood is the nation's largest for-profit abortion provider. And yet they continue to receive hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars every year. They continue to fund the campaigns of politicians that have passed their "pro-choice" license test.

Abortion is a key revenue stream for Planned Parenthood. They rely on the destruction of babies of future sons and daughters to keep their well-oiled machine running.

JAY PANKAJUKAS
Savannah

It's not Obama's fault that nation is divided

Just Kennedy's letter to the editor that blamed President Obama for our country's divided, hateful

politics is one of the most ludicrous things I've ever read.

It speaks of an economic world as if Obama had been president for decades. Need I remind Mr. Kennedy of the crippled deficits he inherited from the Bush/Cheney regime? Considering that the Republicans have sat on their hands and done absolutely nothing to help, our slow recovery has been amazing.

As to the national debt and the rising of the debt limit, this economy started under President Reagan, a man obsessed with reducing taxes.

Divided is a hateful way? You betcha. And it comes from political campaigns that denigrate the other side with harsh, poisonous lies. Obama considered our country imperfect enough to get around with terrorists.

Not to mention those who campaigned against the rights of gay people and our terms like "millions of jobs," "socialists," "Marxism" and "Telly killers."

As to "what's different this time," there's a handful, third-ed demand to destroying the presidency: The Tea Party. Respectfully, perhaps Mr. Kennedy should take a good look at not just the "other" side, but in the mirror, too.

HERNIE EVANS
Black Creek

Former B.C. 'professor' recovering from stroke

It seems like only yesterday that John Manna Owens, who recently retired from Beneficial Military School as its "voluntary professor" was recruited from a lawmaking experience in the Grand Canyon, which took the life of his two companions, Ft. Engineer Garigan and Walter Wilburn.

It was 1919. Owens was then a B.C. junior and the three of them went to look for a silver mine the padre had known of in his youth. Mine already Owens survived.

Beneficial's Owens attended The Citadel and became an Army officer. Upon retirement, he spent the next 17 years as the military professor at Beneficial. Retired with a retirement annuity this past June that was around by hundreds, Lt. Col. Owens retired.

A week ago last Friday, while in Tampa, he suffered a stroke, which seriously affected his speech. But he is steady on the mend. The outpouring of support for his recovery has been overwhelming for this wonderful man.

JOHN OSTERWELL
B.C. Class of 1919
Tampa

1st Place

Savannah Morning News

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Sports Section or Pages

H

3rd Place

Smoke Signals, Big Canoe

NOVEMBER 2013 SMOKE SIGNALS 211

Outdoors

SPORTS • GARDENING • RECREATION • ANIMAL FRIENDS • NOVEMBER 2013

Denali, also known as Mount McKinley, stands tall above six million acres of protected land in Denali National Park and Preserve.



Denali: a mountain's majesty

The Great One sits on top of the world

By Melissa Harvey, mharvey2@bigcanoe.com

She towers above all other landscapes in North America. So grand in scale, she generates her own weather. She is Denali.

Known to folks in the lower 48 as Mount McKinley, this mountain and the six million acres surrounding her make up Alaska's Denali National Park and Preserve. While she has been in the same place for millennia, the park was not established until 1978.

It started with sheep. Dull sheep, to be exact. Named for William Denley Dull, an American scientist and naturalist who led surveys into Alaskan territory in the late 1800s, they are the only wild, white sheep in the world. These hardy animals are attributed with being the species for which the park originally was created. The idea to protect the land and the wildlife on it came from another American conservationist, Charles Sheldon.

In 1906, Sheldon made his first visit to Alaska. In 1907, on what is now Denali land, he returned and spent more than a year observing the wildlife, including bears, moose, caribou, wolves and, especially, Dull sheep. Before the United States government established the land as a preserve, hunters frequently encroached it, harvesting game or mauling to find hungry gold miners and railroad workers. Though a hunter himself, Sheldon found he wielded his field glasses more often than his rifle.

After his trip, Sheldon returned east and began promoting the site to Congress for establishment as a national preserve. His ultimate goal was not to create a park because of a beautiful mountain and breathtaking surroundings but to establish a refuge to protect the land's indigenous species. In 1917, Sheldon's dream was realized, as the 64th United States Congress established two million acres in Alaska as Mount McKinley National Park, despite the boundaries not containing entirely the namesake mountain.

The naming of the mountain has created controversy since the 1978 bill was passed.

Koyukon Athabascans, native people of the land, and other Alaskan residents know the mountain as Denali, an Athabaskan word meaning "the great one" or "the high one." The mountain was named Mount McKinley, unofficially, in the 1890s by William Dickey, a gold prospector, after his favored, then presidential candidate from Ohio, William McKinley. Sheldon favored Denali as the name for the park. Unfortunately, Alaska is a long way from Washington, D.C., and Congress instead elected to use the name Mount McKinley, ignoring the fact the former president had no connection to the land or even to Alaska. So, Alaskans call the mountain Uluksu and most everyone else, Mount McKinley.

The land was redesignated Denali National Park and Preserve in 1980. As one of the last acts of his presidency, Jimmy Carter signed into law the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, which, among other things, renamed the park and expanded its boundaries by four million acres. It is important to note the mountain remains, officially, Mount McKinley. Continued efforts by Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska are underway to pass legislation making Denali the official name of the mountain. In June 2012, she led a Senate subcommittee, "Making Denali — the name that Alaskans use anyway — the official name of America's tallest peak means something to Alaskans." For the most part, there has been little pushback, except by members of the Ohio congressional delegation, who (unsurprisingly) like the current name of the mountain. As of now, it is Mount McKinley. Regardless, Alaskans will continue to call her Denali.

In more recent news, an article on time.com reports the mountain has "shrunk" by approximately 83 feet. According to new geological surveys, her previous height of 20,320 feet above sea level was deemed incorrect. Denali now mounts a still impressive 20,237 feet above sea level and maintains her position as the highest peak in North America by a comfortable 100-foot margin.

Response to this news has been largely indifferent, especially among those who have scaled the mountain. Stan Justice, a climber from Fairbanks, told a local news outlet, "All we have to do is learn a new number. It's hard to climb, and the air is just as thin." Another climber, Nick Parker, commented, "As long as it's higher than Texas, I don't care."

At Polychrome Flats, visitors witness the full impact of the park's beauty, from colorful grasses and shrubs to distant, snow-capped mountains, across its massive expanse.



Response to this news has been largely indifferent, especially among those who have scaled the mountain. Stan Justice, a climber from Fairbanks, told a local news outlet, "All we have to do is learn a new number. It's hard to climb, and the air is just as thin." Another climber, Nick Parker, commented, "As long as it's higher than Texas, I don't care."

■ Continued on page 27



A gray wolf hunts near the Teklonika River inside Denali National Park.



Dull sheep dot the landscape throughout Denali National Park.



The bull moose is the largest member of the deer family and is one of Alaska's iconic animals.



A male caribou grazes near the Tokke River Basin in Denali National Park.

Sports Section or Pages

H

2nd Place

Columbia County News-Times, Evans

THE COLUMBIA COUNTY News-Times Sports

Page 11 Wednesday, October 23, 2013



Hammond's T.J. Brady is brought down by Augusta Christian's Tucker Willis. Brady rushed 14 times for 145 yards and three touchdowns in the first half.

Battered Lions can still earn spot in the playoffs

By Scott Brown
Scott Brown
Times Herald-Record

After winning the South Carolina Independent School Association Class AAAA championship in 2012, the Augusta Christian Lions find themselves in waters they haven't had to tread for a few years.

Following their 48-26 loss to the Hammond Skyhawks Friday night, the Lions (2-6, 2-5) find themselves in a battle for a playoff spot with two games left in the regular season, but they can clinch a spot with a win at Hartswood Hall on Friday.

In a rematch of last year's championship game, which Augusta Christian won 23-14, Hammond jumped all over the Lions early and never looked back.

The Skyhawks rushed for 304 yards and five touchdowns, mostly in the first half, as they built a 42-0 advantage. T.J. Brady did the majority of the damage as he rushed 14 times for 145 yards and three touchdowns in the half.

The Skyhawks also picked off Matthews Parker twice in the first quarter and such led to scores, includ-



Augusta Christian quarterback Hunter Rosenbender looks for an open man as Blake Moh defends against Hammond.

ing a leading, one-handed grab by Josh Fisher who returned it 39 yards for a touchdown.

"Next week is huge," Lions head coach Keith Walker said. The Lions have been fighting the injury bug all season. "It's unfortunate for them because they had so many injuries and that's a little different than when we've been in the past."

Senior running back Thomas Banks was hauled up early, but started con-

ing on midway through the second quarter, finishing the game with 19 yards for 113 yards and two touchdowns. He also caught a six-yard pass from Parker for the Lions' first score. While they scored three second-half touchdowns, Banks knows the Lions have to do better than that.

"We have to come out going hard throughout the whole game, and when we're down and trying to fight back," said Banks, who

INSIDE

A preview of Friday's football games Page 14

mixed games earlier in the year with hamstring injuries. "It's good to have that fight-back spirit, but you have to have it coming out too, because we have so much potential."

County Roundup
In the biggest game of the night, the Augusta Prep Cavaliers (7-1, 4-0) clinched first place in the Liberty League Class C Division with a 35-21 win over the previously unbeaten Anderson Cavaliers (7-1, 6-1) on the road.

"It is really happy for our season. They deserved the win with all the hard work they've put in," said Augusta Prep head coach Harry MacArthur. "Nate (Pittman) was key first downs and Ken (Shannon) got a key first down late to seal it."

Augusta Prep finishes its season on the road at the Augusta Eagles on Friday then heads right into the CFC playoffs the following week.

The Augusta Eagles (1-6, 1-6) will have to look for

End of season will be tough for Bulldogs

Last Week: 4-1
Season Total: 27-10
(76.7 percent)

Evans, Hartsville, Lakeland and Augusta Prep all posted victories over the weekend.

For Hartsville it was win number six. The Bulldogs will have their hands full in their final two regular season games, but they have a chance at a title more

history, in what has already been an exciting season. Hartsville has not had seven or more wins in a season since 1981. I am rooting for them to change this season.

Lakeland showed off its incredible team speed in a blowout win over Greenwood.

And, with Houston County knocking off Warner Robins, the Panthers control their own destiny to finish No. 2 in the Region and host a playoff game. They have tough games left with Jones County, Evans, and Warner Robins, but if they play well, they could win all three.

Augusta Prep continued to show out the rushing yards. Out rushing Anderson 429 yards to 45, in a 35-21 win, the victory locked up the Eastern League title for the Cavaliers.

Evans (8-3, 2-2) vs. Houston County (1-8, 2-6)

Last Week: Evans beat Greenwood 37-27; Houston County topped Warner Robins 27-25

Last Meeting: Houston County won 45-14 last year

The Knights are much improved from a year ago, but Houston is even more improved. It will take a superior effort and monster-line football if Evans plans to get the win. The Knights are fighting for their playoff lives, so they should come ready to play, and perhaps Houston County will have a bit down after an emotional win over Warner Robins. I will have to look with



Ashley Brown
Columbus

Houston County
Houston County 24
Evans 22

Greenwood (9-7, 8-4) vs. No. 1 Northside Warner Robins (7-6, 4-6)

Last Week: Greenwood lost to Lakeland 56-7; NS Warner Robins beat Jones County 48-21

Last Meeting: NS Warner Robins won last year 35-0

Greenwood's long season continues this week as they host the No. 1 Rankin team in Class AAAA. Northside beat Lakeland by 29 points and Lakeland just showed Greenwood by 36 points. You get the picture. This will likely be all Northside.

NS Warner Robins 16
Greenwood 7

Greenwood (1-6, 8-4) at Warner Robins (8-1, 3-4)

Last Week: Greenwood lost to Evans 37-17; Warner Robins lost to Houston County 27-25

Last Meeting: Warner Robins won 37-14 last year

Greenwood dropped their fifth straight game over the weekend. This week, their tough schedule continues, as they face Warner Robins coming off a loss. Greenwood is extremely young. Hopefully, these kids will get a bit out of the early playing time and experience they are getting.

Warner Robins 18
Greenwood 14

Hartsville (8-2, 2-2) vs. Dalton (8-2, 2-6)

Last Week: Hartsville got past Jones 7-6; Dalton was idle

Last Meeting: Dalton won 26-14 last season

The Bulldogs are

See 10/23/13 on 12

Augusta Prep keeps on the winning path

By Scott Brown
Scott Brown
Times Herald-Record

The Georgia Independent School Association Augustan 4-AAA cross country meet is starting to get a lot of attention.

For the 11th consecutive year, the Augusta Prep Lady Cavaliers were the region title while the boys brought home their second consecutive championship Saturday morning at Augusta Prep.

Both Augusta Prep teams topped Westminster, the boys winning by a 22-36 margin while the girls race was tight, with the Lady Cavaliers holding off the Lady Vikings, 31-29.

The wins finished off an outstanding fall season in

the region for Augusta Prep, which won its region in volleyball and clinched first place in its division in football the night before.

Placing five runners in the top 10, the Lady Cavaliers were paced by the Holodak sisters, eighth-grader Jamie Holodak taking first place in 21:06 while senior Julie Holodak (27:29) was third.

Jamie Holodak led virtually from start to finish, but didn't let up at the end.

"I didn't really have that much energy left, but this girl I was behind me, so I just had to go, she was gaining on me," said Jamie Holodak, who added she would have expected to win the region when the year began.

Julie Holodak was running from an injury that sub-

stituted her in previous weeks and was happy with the way it all turned out.

"It means a lot to win your senior year and hopefully we'll do well at state and go out with a bang," she said.

Head cross country coach Tom Holodak knew Westminster was going to be tough. He stressed that while it's good to have two top runners in the race, when you win with your third through fifth place runners.

"Especially with the girls, we knew it was going to come back down to this," he said. Westminster kept it close, taking fourth through sixth place, but Lady Cavaliers' Sydney Jones (22:59), Malli Gibbs (27:02) and Gabrielle Turner (27:19) finished 8-10 to cement the win.

Individually, she says content looked much the same as Westminster's Evan Derosa (17:29) and Augusta Prep's Julia Edwards (17:33) finished first and second, respectively, for the second consecutive year.

Edwards was happy with the team's success, but wishes she had done better individually.

"I didn't do very well today, it happens," said Edwards. "He (Derosa) kept up and I did not."

For the Cavaliers, Mack Tabor (18:47) was third, Henry Burns (18:58) was fourth, Hamp (Hammond) (19:01) came in sixth and Connor Turner (19:01) took seventh.

See 10/23/13 on 12



Augusta Prep's Jamie Holodak won the Georgia Independent School Association Augustan 4-AAA girls cross country meet.

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Sports Section or Pages

H

1st Place

Cherokee Ledger-News, Woodstock

SPORTS

APRIL 18, 2013 SPORTS EDITOR: BRANDON MICHA | 770-528-0266-4239 FAX: 770-528-3752 THE CHEROKEE LEDGER-NEWS 13

PREP LACROSSE

Eagles rally, hold off Walton, 9-8

BY BRANDON MICHA
sm@ledgernews.com

Nearly letting a solid first-half performance get away, the No. 7 state-ranked Etowah Eagles netted four-straight goals in the fourth quarter and held on all the way down the final horn to defeat 12th-ranked Walton, 9-8, April 5, in Woodstock.

"This was huge," Eagles Head Coach Michael Tuley said of the win, which kept his team on course to earn a third-straight state playoff berth. "Walton was coming off a big win over (No. 2) Lassiter, so we knew they were going to be playing with a lot of confidence. We just had to play our game."

And that's just what Etowah (9-3, 4-2 Area 2AAAAA) did early, responding to a pair of Raider scores in the opening minutes to record five of the next six goals — including two each goals by Connor Smith and Jay Cook — to lead 5-3 midway through the second quarter.

From there, the Eagles fell into an offensive drought, going scoreless over the next 17 play minutes of play to trail 5-8 at the end of the third.

But responding to their coach's rallying cry between quarters, Etowah quickly seized the momentum in the fourth.

Capitalizing on a Raiders' turnover, Cook fired home his third goal of the night just 1:13 into the frame — the start of a 4-4 Eagles' run over a 4-11 span that had Etowah back on top, 9-7.

"We just reminded the guys that we had been down before and that 12 minutes was a long time to play," Tuley said of his team's between-quarters talk. "And our guys stepped up to the occasion. They got their minds right and went back out there ready to play."

Walton finally broke the Eagles' run with 4:34 remaining, but saw limited opportunities in the closing minutes and had its final game-tying attempt come up inches short, as Etowah keeper Matt McCarthy knocked down the shot and crashed down on top of the loose ball before it could break the plane for his eighth save of the night.

BY KYLE HILL 14



The Etowah Eagles kept their state playoff hopes in their own hands with a 9-8 victory over visiting Walton on April 5.

PREP SOCCER



Woodstock's Thomas Weiner (5) attempts to split through Etowah defenders Edwin Alfaro (21) and Victor Castillo (6) on an attack during their Towne Lake rivalry on April 6, at Etowah. Despite the efforts of Weiner, the Wolverines were not able to upend the Eagles, as Etowah battled its way to a 1-0 victory to maintain an outside shot at reaching the Class AAAAAA state tournament.

BY BRANDON MICHA
LEDGER-NEWS

Backyard brawls

Eagles claim Towne Lake battles

BY BRANDON MICHA
sm@ledgernews.com

By the slimmest of margins, the Etowah Eagles came away with a sweep, as both the girls and boys squads posted 1-0 victories over visiting cross-town rival Woodstock on April 4.

"I'm super excited about it," said Lady Eagles' Head Coach John Morrison, whose squad is a Region 5AAAAA win away from clinching a state tournament berth. "It's a rivalry game, so we knew it was going to be a tough one and that the records didn't matter. The biggest thing for us was playing the game we're capable of playing, and we did that."

With the Woodstock defense locked in on Lady Eagles' star striker Kelly Anthony and Caroline Waters, Etowah had to find a different route to the net, and Claire Groce provided it.

Taking a feed from Waters, Groce fired home a shot past a diving Abbey Booz at the 29:51 mark for the lone goal of the night.

"Caroline set it up nicely and Claire put the ball away with a technical finish," Morrison said. "It was great."

With the win, Etowah (11-0) remains in fourth place in Region 5AAAAA at 3-0, needing only a victory over Whoozie on April 23 to secure the region's No. 4 state seed.

The Eagle boys, meanwhile, kept their outside postseason hopes alive when Alex Garcia converted a pass from Noah Weber into a score just 51 seconds into the second half.

"I felt like the whole first half, we didn't play the ball to the feet. We were playing the big ball over the top and not playing our style of play," Etowah Head Coach Chris Stalder said. "I honestly felt like Woodstock outplayed us in the first half. They wanted it more than we did."

BY GARY HILL 14

PREP TENNIS



Freshman Ben Van Hout and the River Ridge Knights knocked off county rival Creekview, 5-0, on April 2 to record their seventh win in their last eight matches.

BY BRANDON MICHA
sm@ledgernews.com

Knights continue to surge

With the Region 5AAAAA tournament on deck just after spring break, the River Ridge Knights continued their recent run of dominance, claiming their seventh win in their last eight matches with a 5-0 defeat of county rival Creekview on April 2, in Woodstock.

Turning in a dominant performance, No. 2 singles' Jake Hicks and the No. 2 doubles' team of Gabe Mims and Clay McIntyre each cruised to 6-1, 6-0 victories, while Ben Van Hout posted a 6-2, 6-1 win at Line 2 singles.

Building out the Knights' victory, Jeremy Mims outbattled the Grizzlies' Tommy Allen 6-1, 6-4 at No. 1 singles, and Kamren Bernhardt and Alex Polley topped Daniel Dupree and Josh Turndus 6-4, 6-3 at 1 Doubles.

It was the second win of the week for River Ridge, which wrapped up its Region 5AAAAA state with a 5-0 defeat of Pickens on April 2.

The Knights (9-1, 4-0 sub-region) won all but four games in the region race, including 6-3, 6-0 victories for Jeremy Mims, Hicks and McIntyre/Gabe Mims.

Meanwhile, Van Hout added a 6-4, 6-1 win, and Bernhardt and Polley eased their way to a 6-3, 6-0 decision.

After a 2-4 start, which included a pair of losses to rival Etowah, a 3-2 loss to Class AAAAAA state tournament-bound Lassiter and a 3-2 defeat against AAAAAA power Union Grove (14-2) in the opening round of the Marietta Spring Classic, the Knights have been nothing short of dominant.

Following the loss to Union Grove, River Ridge rallied back to take second in the Marietta tournament, then returned to region play, where the Knights won 6-0 shutouts of sub-region A rivals Cass, Calhoun and Pickens and defeated 7AAAAA, R No. 1 Dalton, 3-0 — forfeiting the No. 2 singles match — before handing Creekview in their final match before spring break.

In preparation for the region tournament, April 17-18, River Ridge will close out its regular season with a trip to Class AAAAAA exhibition North Cobb (13-0) on April 15.

Grizzlies pull off Hickory Flat sweep

BY BRANDON MICHA
sm@ledgernews.com

Make it two in a row.

Rallying from a two-goal halftime deficit, the Creekview Grizzlies netted three goals over a 6-minute span just past the midway point of the second half to knock off home-sitting rival Sequoyah, 3-2, on April 2, in Hickory Flat.

"The comeback behind victory by the Grizzly boys came on the heels of the Lady Grizzlies' 1-0 win to start the night, giving Creekview a sweep of the Battle of Hickory Flat for the second-straight season.

"I'm proud of the boys," Creekview Head Coach Shawn McClellan said. "We haven't had a whole lot go our way this year, but they've continued to work hard."

"We knew this would be a difficult match, but the boys never quit."

After the Chiefs jumped out on top 2-0 with goals in the ninth and 21st minutes, McClellan regrouped his boys at the break.

"We were doing a lot of things right in the first half, so there wasn't much I could fuss at them about," he explained. "We had a couple of situations where we broke down defensively in the first half and that cost us. So, we talked about when the break-downs were occurring on defense, and, offensively, we didn't change much because we were having some success — we just weren't getting shots to go in the net. The second half, those shots went in."

BY GARY HILL 14



Creekview's Natalie Reese (19) and Sequoyah's Thomas Lopez (24) race to the ball during their Region 7AAAAA bout on April 2, at Sequoyah.

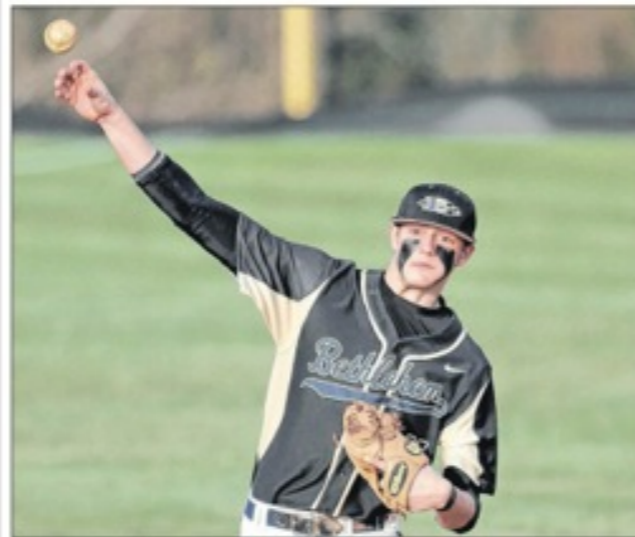
Putting the Grizzlies on the board, David Alvarez found the back of the net with 18:00 remaining in the match to cut the deficit in half.

Less than five minutes later, Creekview was at it again, this time with Tony Alvarez attacking from the left and finding the back-side upper 90 to draw the Grizzlies even at 2-2.

Sports Section or Pages

G

GISA Class A Baseball Finals: BCA hosts David Emanuel



BRINGING THE HEAT

Bethlehem Christian Academy senior Niko Mattheus will be one of the pitchers Knights coach Nick Poo can call upon during the state championship series this week against David Emanuel's BCA, which is undefeated in three playoff series, in looking to win a state title in only its second full season of varsity play. Photo by Jessica Brown

Knights too strong to be denied

The Bethlehem Christian Academy baseball team is not going to overlook David Emanuel.

Knights coach Nick Poo will not allow that to happen.

However, after the season BCA has put together in this point one thing has become very clear: the Knights are going to win the GISA Class A state baseball championship later this week. That prediction, it should be noted, is not coming from Poo or BCA coaches or players. It's entirely my statement and at this point I'm willing to say I will not say it if it doesn't happen.

Predictions of this nature aren't always wise. Upsets happen all the time in athletics, regardless of the level. The U.S. hockey team defeated the Russians in 1980, the New York Giants defeated the New England Patriots in the Super Bowl following the 2007 season, the New York Jets defeated the Baltimore Colts in a Super Bowl before even I was born and, well, you get the picture. Upsets can happen.

However, it's not going to happen this week. BCA, in all likelihood, will crown David Emanuel and earn a state championship trophy. That accomplishment will be like few others in high school athletics for the Knights have only been playing varsity baseball for two full seasons. The program has been around a little longer than that, but these past two seasons have been the ones when BCA jumped head first into the baseball pool.

What Poo has done with this program has been nothing short of remarkable. A former assistant at Winder-Barrow High School, Poo brings an impressive knowledge of baseball to the table. He has his players competing at a high level and even when faced with a daunting non-region schedule this spring, the BCA players have met challenge after challenge and thrived.

The first sign of things to come this season came in the very first game. The Knights tied defending state champion Tammil Square in the season opener. In reality, BCA very easily should have won the contest.

Later in the season, the two teams met again in Macon with the host Trojans earning a 4-2 win. Still, for an upstart Class A program to compete with an established King of the Hill like the Knights did is remarkable.

And by the way, Tammil Square is playing for the AAA title again this weekend.



Chris Bridges
Staff
& Top

For All The Marbles

BCA hosts David Emanuel Eagles for state trophy

By Chris Bridges
cbridges@barrowjournal.com

And that there were two.

Bethlehem Christian and David Emanuel will battle for a state championship beginning Friday as the two schools are the last two standing in the GISA Class A baseball playoffs.

The Knights, who are 19-5-1 overall, defeated Crisp Academy in the semifinals (see sidebar story in today's edition) while the David Emanuel Eagles advanced by eliminating Palmetto in two games.

"Our goal all season has been to play for state," BCA first baseman Ramon Rivers said. "It will be a great experience and one we are all looking forward to."

While pleased with how his team performed in the anticipated rematch with Crisp Academy in the finals, Knights coach Nick Poo said it is not time to celebrate just yet.

"By the time we go back to practice, that series will have been forgotten," said Poo.

On Deck:

"Bethlehem Christian Academy baseball hosts David Emanuel, GISA Class A state baseball championship, doubleheader Friday beginning at 2 p.m.; third game — if necessary, Saturday.

"This team has done a great job of focusing on the task at hand. We were ready to play against Crisp and I have no doubt we will be ready to face David Emanuel in the finals. A team doesn't reach the finals without being good and having quality players. We have to be ready to compete, just like we have all seasons."

After reaching the semifinals a year ago, Poo went into the 2013 season with a new vision of guiding his team a step further. The BCA season loaded up the non-region schedule with the likes of defending AAA champion Tammil Square and defending AA champion Inwoodwood.

See Knights on Page 3B



PLENTY OF OFFENSE
Matt Westera (LEFT) and Jordan Fountain will look to stay hot at the plate in the state finals. Photo by Jessica Brown

See First & Top on Page 3B

High School Golf: State Competition



GOLF'S BIG STAGE

Winder-Barrow High School's Savannah Rainbolt ventured to Jekyll Island for the Georgia High School Association state golf tournament last week. Rainbolt finished the Indian Mounds Golf Course with a round of 86, earning her 22nd place among the 48 golfers who competed.



COMPETING AGAINST THE BEST

Apalachee High School's Cody Johnson competed for the first time at the Georgia High School Association state golf tournament last week. The AHS standout finished with a round of 85 while competing against 152 other golfers who qualified. The boys event was held at Pine Lakes Golf Course at Jekyll Island Golf Resort.

3rd Place

Barrow Journal, Winder

Sports Section or Pages

G

2nd Place

The Madison County Journal, Danielsville

The Madison County Journal
SPORTS
1B
October 31, 2013

Red Raiders advance to Columbus

By Jack Michaux
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By Dallas Burdick
dburdick@madisonjournal.com

Get the bats packed, the gear in the trunk and the hotel reservations made — Madison County is going to Columbus again.

The MCHS girls' softball team (5-2) is ranked #1 in Class AAAA and is heading home for the state title, a year after finishing second.

"It was a great accomplishment," said Red Raider head coach Doug Kesler of his team advancing to Columbus. "There are eight teams left playing in

softball updates

- Keep up with the Red Raider softball team in Columbus on The Madison County Journal Facebook page.

And for Kesler, it was his final home game after 16 years of leading the Red Raider softball team.

Kesler's players gave him a great send-off as the Raiders advanced November 6-7 and 11-12 to advance to the Elite 8 of the State Championships in Columbus beginning on Thursday.

Seven coaches and last year's squad were in town for Kesler's final game at Raider Field. Kesler got the Raiders on top by three to game one after delivering a two-run triple and added a home run in a game two blowout.

"The girls felt nervous because it was the final appearance at Raider Field," Kesler said. "They're about what they needed to do to get there. It's a team that's worked hard and played hard all year. And to get to Columbus, that's what your goal is when you start practicing back in May. We know that once you get there, anything can happen. We're just excited to be back in there and be on the site. We hope we may see and play well and we'll see what happens."

For the Raider veterans, last Wednesday was the final appearance at Raider Field.

—Dan Furbush on 1B



Doug Kesler's 16-year tenure as Madison County's softball coach ends this week when the Red Raiders travel to Columbus, where the program hopes to win the school's first-ever state softball title. Photo by Dallas Burdick

LAST AT BAT

Kesler wraps up lengthy career this week in Columbus at Elite Eight

By Dallas Burdick
dburdick@madisonjournal.com

Madison County's softball program will live on beyond 2013, but this week marks the end of a significant era in the school's softball history — the final "in hat" for long-time coach Doug Kesler.

Since 1998, the first year of varsity softball at Madison County High School, Kesler has had dreams of building a winning tradition and he has been successful in doing so.

During his 16-year career as head coach, Kesler's teams have made 17 appearances in the state tournament, which have included the years 11-2005, 2006, 2008, 2009, and 2011.

Elite Eight in 2002, 2005, 2011, and 2012. The Final 4 in 2008, 2010, and state runner-up in 2003 and 2007. Kesler holds a career record of 400-170 and under his direction he has won 27 players to the national level.

Kesler, a member of Crossroads Church in Hall, attributes all of his success to his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, as well as building relationships with his players, saying, "Kids have to know you care about them. In time they will play harder for you."

Kesler believes that having a positive effect on his players' lives means more than wins or losses.

The Raider has had more than just his three daughters come through his system and according to his wife, Deanna, every girl who played for him has been a part of the family and will always be remembered.

"I know that the one thing Doug has always stressed to the girls is that there is more to



Doug Kesler has racked up more state titles as Madison County's softball coach.

—Dan Furbush on 1B

MONROE AREA 68, MADISON CO. 14

Red Raiders fall to Purple Hurricanes in game marred by fight

By Jack Michaux
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By Dallas Burdick
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Madison County's showdown with Monroe might not be remembered as much for the softball as for the fight.

The Red Raiders fell 68-114 to the Hurricane Pirates, but the game was interrupted by an altercation on the Hurricane sidelines between Madison County and Monroe players in the first half.

Madison County's Ned Balle was injured in the incident and was transported by ambulance from the field. He suffered neck pain from the "unprovoked" effect of getting speared by a Monroe player, according to Madison County head coach Chris Smith, who added the Reds a OK.

Smith said Thursday he received word from the South Georgia Officials' Association on suspension, but he said he was told he couldn't comment on it.


After the incident, seven Monroe players and two Red Raiders were ejected.

"It's unfortunate for both schools," said Smith. "You never want to see this happen. You're here to compete and you want to see it happen in a way that's positive for our schools and communities. It's a black eye for us, for Monroe and for our region. There's no place in athletics for things like this."

Smith noted that the incident got statewide attention, with numerous comments posted about the fight on the Atlanta Journal-Constitution web site. He said he felt a number of comments didn't accurately portray the incident, which he said wasn't a "bench-clearing brawl."

He noted that the Raider players on defense went to add a fellow defender on the Monroe sideline, but that Madison County players stayed on their own sideline as coaches looked across the field.

The incident began when Madison County's Redburn Gordon hit a player late on the



Madison County and Monroe Area got into an altercation in the second quarter of Friday night's softball game. Dan Furbush on 1B

Sports Section or Pages

G

Walker County Messenger

Wednesday, September 4, 2013

Page B1

Sports

For the latest on local stories, visit catwalkchatt.com



Is this the year for a first-time Super Bowl winner?

I had several thoughts about writing this column.

Let's face it. When it comes to sports, you reach for the future, especially in a league like the NFL, where injuries can change the landscape of a team and the entire league as a whole to such a degree. "It's why you're here," they say. "Then again, you get lucky every once in a while. After 11 failed attempts over the years, I finally picked both of last year's Super Bowl teams correctly when I picked the Ravens and the 49ers to meet for the title."

Part of me wanted to start it down and end on a high note. Just what the fan is that?

So, with your permission, I offer up take on the 2013 NFL season while taking another stab at making myself look like a genius.

I don't want to pick New England to win the AFC East, but what chance do I have? The odds of the Patriots at least being last year's AFC East are 1 in 100,000. I'm on injured reserve, and C is in jail on murder charges.

But they still have Tom Brady, and I just don't know if Brady is ready to overcome King Richard just yet. The New York Jets are a disaster. I've said and Buffalo is likely going to start a guy named Josh Cose in the season opener. The Jets win this division by default.

The AFC North is a true two-team race between Baltimore and Cincinnati. Even with some major off-season rebuilding, the Ravens defense will be stout, although they will be limited on offense. Meanwhile, the Bengals have an above-average offense and perhaps the best defense in the AFC.

Cleveland could contend for a wild-card spot, but Pittsburgh is on the decline. Give me the Bengals to win the division with Baltimore in a wild-card spot.

Last year was supposed to be Houston's year. Now it seems the window is already closing on the Texans. Still, the AFC South isn't the strongest of divisions, although it is getting better. Indianapolis played way over the limit last year and I just don't think they can live up to those standards again.

Someone will be back to raising the curtain on the AFC South. Houston should still win the division, but it's not a guarantee.

Out in the AFC West, it's Denver's division to lose. I fully expect Peyton Manning to be over his best with a full year in the offense. Kansas City is recovering with Alex Smith now at the helm, but they can't match the Broncos for goodness.

There's a total prediction for you. Tomlin's Prover will have a good season as quarterback for Oakland. Not good enough to get them to the playoffs, but good enough to keep the team in the division's basement.

The NFL is a punishing league, but you still

Hargett, page B8

Gordon Lee grinds up LFO

By Scott Hargett

The offensive line was a concern for Gordon Lee heading into the 2013 season as graduate transfer head coach Charlie Wright and his staff to do some major overhauls.

One game into the new season and it appears the Trojans have hit on the right combination.

A revamped line paved the way for 366 yards on the ground and Gordon Lee scored 36 unanswered points in a 30-7 pounding of LFO Friday night in Fort Lauderdale.

Senior Zach Cobb headed the way from the play of the week in the trenches, rushing 16 times for 218 yards and two touchdowns, while junior transfer Terrence added 71 yards on 13 carries.

"The offensive line did great," Wright beamed after the game.

"Cobb and the rest of the guys really step into the game and we reach the 60-line was getting after people. They seemed to just get stronger as the game went on. Just when you think for over 300 yards with a 200-yard number, you're doing something good so fast."

LFO answered at the



Gordon Lee's Zach Cobb (24) leaves LFO defenders in his wake as he sprinted toward the end zone. Cobb had 218 of the Trojans' 366 rushing yards in a 30-7 victory. (Photo by CollinsPictures.com)

Gordon Lee, who led to more in last year's 2012 loss to the Clear Lake Warriors, down 5-0. Cobb's 13-yard run game from the line at the 4:00 mark of the first quarter. Bruce Salton provided the first of three extra points.

800 mark of the second quarter as new quarterback Rhyker Rogers connected with Jordan Bergman on an 81-yard scoring strike. Zach Cobb added the first to tie the game at 7-7.

But just over four minutes later, the Trojans regained the lead through the air as

Stephen Cantel hooked up with Garrett McClinton on a seven-yard TD pass with 3:48 left in the half. Salton missed the extra point, giving the visitors a 14-7 lead at the break.

The second half would be all Cobb. Cobb ran it in three 22 yards out with 4:22 left

in the third quarter and

Senior 36-yard receiver

at the 4:40 mark of the

third quarter added to

the advantage.

Salton would tack on

one final rushing touch-

down from 12 yards out

with 20 seconds left to

play. The extra point was

Trojans, page B8



Calhoun's Matt Corvey (18) and Brett Moss (2) tackle Ridgeland running back George Johnson. The Jackets gave up just 53 yards and two first downs in a drubbed win over the Panthers. (Messenger photo/Matt Ledger)

Swarmed under

Calhoun blanks Ridgeland in battle of state finalists

By Scott Hargett

Calhoun's Matt Corvey (18) and Brett Moss (2) tackled Ridgeland's George Johnson.

Calhoun's Matt Corvey (18) and Brett Moss (2) tackled Ridgeland's George Johnson.

Calhoun's Matt Corvey (18) and Brett Moss (2) tackled Ridgeland's George Johnson.

last year's 43-38 shootout in Calhoun, the Jackets' transfer Brown and senior Paul and scored a 28-point second quarter to blow out the Panthers, 27-6. The game was played with the merry air in the effort in the fourth quarter.

Calhoun finished with 394 yards of offense — 275 coming through the air — but it was their defense that was the star of the show before a live television audience and approximately 8,000 fans.

The Jackets, who returned just five starters on that side of the ball, looked like a momentary setback in 2012 season here, leading Ridgeland to just 90 total yards and only one first down.

The Panthers' initial first down didn't come until the 8:28 mark of the third quarter.

Ridgeland's offense didn't do itself any favors either. They finished three times in the first half, being all three as the Jackets converted three into 18 crucial points that changed the tide of the game.

The game began as a battle of field position, with Calhoun getting the upper hand on a 20-yard offensive kickoff.

After an exchange of punts, Ridgeland's offense recovered the Panthers' second field at the Ridgeland 15-yard line. However, Ridgeland's offense stalled and held the Jackets to a 20-yard kickoff field goal.

Calhoun forced an other Panther punt and

Panthers, page B8

Mustangs corral school's first victory

By Scott Hargett

LAFAYETTE — This past Tuesday morning, the doors of Lufkin High Middle School opened to students for the first time.

When they arrived, they already had something to celebrate — a football victory.

The Mustangs made their glorious debut a successful one last Monday, beating Andrews Middle School of Gordon County to join 18 total yards in a 20-0 non-league game played at Lafayette High School.

"This feels great," said head coach Darin Madala. "These kids have worked hard since June 11, and they came out and worked hard every week, which is a credit to them. We only have two kids that have ever played a middle school football game before today, so I'm very proud of them."

The Lufkin High Mustangs and the team early on Noah Green recorded a sack, stripped the ball, and recovered the fumble to give the ball to the offense at the Mustangs' 8-yard line.

The play later, Justin Deppner made his history starting through the Andrews defense for the first time in the program's history. Deppner also added the conversion run.

The Mustangs defense kept the pressure on late in the second half as Deppner Mitchell's punt, which was recovered by Clay Baker and Green picked off an Andrews pass on the opening play of the second half to set the table for the offense near midfield.

A powerful 80-yard run by Deppner was followed by a 21-yard scoring play wrapped by Green down the Mustangs' Mustangs, page B8

1st Place

Walker County Messenger, Lafayette

Sports Section or Pages

F

3rd Place

The Oconee Enterprise, Watkinsville

Lady Warriors edge NOHS

By Derek Wiley
 With just 6:42 remaining in Monday's match against its county rival, a goal by Oconee County senior Courtney Lewis gave the Lady Warriors their first lead. With 5:2 seconds left, Lewis scored again to seal the 3-1 victory and end any hope North Oconee had of winning OCHS with the Region 8-AAA championship.

"Honestly, it was right place, right time," an emotion-filled Lewis said after the match. "They were beautiful balls from my teammates and I was there to follow through and this was a tough match. North Oconee is a great team and it was a great match for us. I think this was exactly what we needed. It was just a fun experience and a great win for my senior season. It was a good victory for us. We really needed it."

The Lady Titans, who have never beaten OCHS, started the game undisciplined in region play. However, the loss dropped them to third behind region champion Jackson County and runner-up Oconee.

"It's good the region is competitive like this," NOHS coach Thomas Frey said. "It gets you ready for state."

You don't want a bunch of outsiders. But it was tough. All these goals actually were the type of goals we anticipated and knew we would have to deal with. We didn't deal with them good in goal. We didn't deal with them good by shutting down the spaces in between them or get the shot off and then we didn't win the outfield."

With 10 minutes remaining in the first half, North Oconee scored first on a free kick by junior striker Jessica Deane. With only 1:00 left in the first half, a goal by Anna Kate Shreve tied the match for the Lady Warriors, 1-1.

"That team [NOHS] was well prepared," OCHS coach Paul Dallas said. "They have a lot of game-playing girls. They've got some good freshmen coming in and they're really a very solid team and I know it just looks like they're better today but that's the game, somebody is going to win and somebody is going to lose but they're a very, very good team. I expect them to stick as I have been in the past. They're probably going to have a good play-off run and represent the county well on the other side of things."



Jessica Wiley, left, and Jessica Deane fight for possession Monday night at Oconee County High School. (Photo by Derek Wiley)

Titans clinch region

By Derek Wiley
 With one of its highest scoring games of the season, North Oconee's football team defeated Elbert County 15-7 Monday to clinch the Region 8-AAA championship.

John Jensen caught and scored to leadoff the game. The Titans added six more runs in the second, taking advantage of a wild pitch.

After John Beady and Bradley Glenn walked, Cory Taylor drove them home with a single. Taylor was later caught ending his three walks later. Aaron Beady delivered a base hit to score two more runs. Kyle Vaughn followed with an RBI double.

With a 7-0 lead, NOHS had a lineup in the bottom of the second.

Starting pitcher Grant Arvino walked Warren Niggie to leadoff the inning.

After back-to-back errors, Elbert's McKinley singled to drive home runs.

Wesley Dene delivered a single to score a third run. Arvino then struck out James White for the first out of the inning but walked Brent Hillis on his final pitch of the day.

In relief, Glenn entered the game with the bases loaded. After allowing a home clearing double, Glenn worked a strike out and grounded to shortstop to end the threat.

"We haven't had an inning like that all year and that's really something over 20 games into the season," NOHS coach Dwayne Sapp said.

"Usually when you give up six runs in an inning, you don't win but we never relinquished the lead. We still came into the dugout leading 7-4."

Glenn finished the game for the Titans and allowed just one more run in the sixth, while recording seven strikeouts in five and two-thirds of an inning.

NOHS scored three runs in the third and one in the fourth, sixth and seventh.

Glenn also led the Titans to several close games.

Taylor and Zach Sims each drove in three runs. Beady and Vaughn had two RBIs.

Friday's game at Morgan County, which was postponed due to rain, was made up Tuesday and NOHS defeated the Redskins 4-1.

Beady got the start on the second and allowed just two hits and one run in five innings.

He also recorded five strikeouts to earn the win.

In relief, Zach Williamson pitched a hitless final two innings to get the win.

The Titans were led at the plate by Vaughn, who was 2-for-3 with a run scored. Jensen, Beady and Glenn drove and had a RBI.

After falling behind 2-0 in the first, NOHS bounced with two runs in the second. The Titans took the lead in the fifth on an RBI single off the bat of Jensen.

They added an insurance run in the top of the sixth. With two runs, catcher John Wiggins drove a walk and later scored on Glenn's single.

In its final home game Wednesday versus Elbert County, NOHS hosted its seniors but results were not available at press time.

The Titans will finish their regular season Friday at Archer. The first round of the state playoffs, which NOHS will host, begins Friday, May 1.

Revenge of the Titans

North Oconee defeats Warriors on penalty kicks at OCHS to win Region 8-AAA title

By Derek Wiley
 Last season, North Oconee lost its penalty kicks at home to rival Oconee County.

With the Region 8-AAA championship on the line at OCHS Monday, the Titans returned the favor by defeating the Warriors 2-1 (1-2) in overtime.

"I can't even describe it right now, to come back out after last year, the same exact thing, the same exact situation, it came down to PKs," NOHS goalkeeper Dakota Houston said. "They took it from us on our home field. We came back and did the same exact thing to them and it felt great. We've worked so hard at practice, every single day just work and work effort for this game specifically. We knew this game was coming up. We knew we were going to have to play them in the region championship and we knew we were going to have to work our butts off to win the region championship."

NOHS scored first on a goal by Chase Kater in the 33rd minute and the Warriors led 1-0 at halftime. With 11:40 remaining in the second half, NOHS replacement Justin Peachey tied the match by setting in on a free kick from the left.

Five minutes later, OCHS senior Luke Hankins scored one-on-one with Houston but just missed off the right post. It was that kind of sight for the Warriors, who controlled the possession but struggled to finish their chances.

"This is revenge for you," OCHS coach Eddie Coleman said. "I've been on both sides of it where you can outscore an opponent 20 to one and lose one to nothing or you can get outshot 20 to one and win one to nothing. I've been on both sides of it. We were obviously down on either side. We had lots of corners and shots. The larger [Houston] played well. We hit the post a couple of times."

"We just couldn't quite finish our opportunity and they got that free kick from left and Peachey's got a miracle. That's professional. From that distance, I don't know if I've seen a high school player with a shot that hard on a free kick. He's a great kid with a great shot."

The Warriors had another chance to score in overtime but Mikele Alexander's free kick veered wide left.

After a successful overtime as both teams prepared for penalty kicks, NOHS coach Billy Hensel had a decision to make at goalkeeper. While he was leaning in one direction, Hensel's team made the final pick.

"Dakota [Houston] did what he was supposed to and had a great work of practice, stepped up and just played an amazing game," Hensel said. "It was a little tired because in practice when we work on PKs, Jack [Hensel] looked a little bit stronger. But this is what's awesome about this game, they said nope, this is Dakota's game."

Hensel didn't let his teammates down, leading the Warriors first two penalty kicks, while Peachey and Dwayne Coates made the first two for NOHS.



North Oconee senior goalkeeper Dakota Houston, left, and assistant coach Colby Strake celebrate Monday night after the Titans edged Oconee County 2-1 (1-2) in penalty kicks to claim the Region 8-AAA championship. (Photo by Derek Wiley)

The Ellis Pain Center/Oconee Enterprise Athlete of the Week



Athens Academy senior Nick Miller scored four goals Friday to lead the Spartans to a 3-1 victory over Aquinas. (Photo by Ryan Deane)

Miller scores four goals to clinch area title for Spartans

By Ryan Deane
 Going into Friday night's region soccer game with Aquinas, Athens Academy needed to outscore the Spartans' 10th by two goals or more to clinch the region championship.

Senior Nick Miller took care of that by scoring four goals in the game's 5-1 victory at Slougher Field.

"I just had to come out here and give it my all being the region final," Miller said. "We needed a good performance and I was hoping I could play really well and I did, so that was good."

Miller was in attack mode from the get-go Friday, as he had a hat trick before the halftime buzzer sounded. Miller scored his first goal on a sliding kick that hited perfectly over the goalkeeper's head, then added another with 7:47 remaining in the first half. One added in front of the goal just under 7 minutes later.

Miller says he probably hasn't scored that many goals since he was about six years old, but he has played for a few years. "I don't know how many goals I've scored, but I know I've scored a lot of goals. That's going to be the key to us making a run to the state championship is individual guys stepping up and having huge games for us."

Miller's first two and when he scored those first two, I knew we had won it," Hensel said. "I knew it was over. That's Dakota. He steps up in big games. That's going to be the key to us making a run to the state championship is individual guys stepping up and having huge games for us."

As the Spartans prepare for the state playoffs next, fellow senior Frank Deane knows that having Miller at the top of his game is key for Athens Academy's chances to move toward their goal of a state championship.

"He's got been the first striker, just that guy that gets it done up top," Deane said. "He's been the night player that everybody needs to watch out for."

The Ellis Pain Center/Oconee Enterprise Athlete of the Week is chosen by the sports staff of The Oconee Enterprise. Local athletes are welcome to email their nominations to: news@oconeeenterprise.com by Monday at 11 a.m. Ellis Pain Center can be reached at www.ellispain.com.



ATHENS-BOGART COMMERCIAL ROYSTON

Sports Section or Pages

F

2nd Place

Donalsonville
News

Page 28 Donalsonville News Thursday, September 26, 2013 www.donalsonvillenews.com

Sports



Seminole County Indians

A Friday night Swatting

Indians move to 4-0!

Swarming Indians sting Hornets 42-12

The anticipated matchup of the Albany Herald's FFA's #2 ranked Seminole County and number 43 ranked the Hornets was billed as a Carolina War getting two highly ranked southern Georgia football powerhouses. Both teams were undefeated at 3-0, and the Region IAA Hornets had rushed for more than 300 yards in their own half.

Cowh Alan Ingram was expected to be a decisive and competitive battle. Instead, beginning in the first quarter, it was a total domination performance by Seminole County and the game became an Indian State celebration of the aggressive and dominating offense given by the entire Seminole County team. The Indians piled up 201 yards, rushing in a 43-11 meeting of the highly respected

YARDSTICK	
Team	Yards
Hornets	128
Seminole County	301

swarm of Hornets, in their own half.

Cowh Alan Ingram was not to be denied. He led his Indians to a deep possession run in Class A, especially considering how well they ran the option. The Indians' speed around the corners seemed to be the match for Ingram.

The Carolina War that night became an offensive explosion for the Indians. Seminole County's commanding lead at the end of the first quarter forced the game officials to play the fourth quarter under a running clock in accordance to Georgia High School Association rules.

Seminole County set the night's tone early in waiting while time and rushing 47 yards down the field for the game's first score.

Robert Sprague took a pitch, rolled to his left and down the sideline to give the Indians a 7-0 lead.

Matthew Williams was five for five and Troy Taylor was one for one on extra point attempts.

"I really didn't want to score that last one," Indians Coach Alan Ingram said.

Pelham entered early in the second quarter on the 40-yard line. The extra point attempt was blocked, and the scoreboard read, 7-6, Seminole County.

Indian quarterback Alex Fudge scored two touchdowns, a 28-yard run and a 7-yard sweep. In the second and Seminole County led at the half 21-6.

But coach Pelham had a plan to get back into the game and on Seminole County's opening possession of the second half when Sprague and the Indians marched 88 yards on eight plays. Sprague scored on a 12-yard run and the Indians led 28-6.

Seminole County wrapped just one pass in the game, which was for a touchdown in the first quarter when Mike-Glass lashed in a 30-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Alex Fudge. The Indians led 34-6. Junior Scott added a touchdown run for the Indians to extend their lead to 40-6.

Matthew Williams was five for five and Troy Taylor was one for one on extra point attempts.

"I really didn't want to score that last one," Indians Coach Alan Ingram said.

Pelham scored on a 18-yard touchdown pass from Cameron Glass only in the fourth quarter but it was too little too late.

Seminole County had general control of the game early and the ever-present winning game victory celebration for how they did had already begun.

Pelham managed just 100 yards of total offense, 113 yards on the ground.

The Indians are off this week before visiting South County on October 4th.




Southwest Georgia Academy Warriors

SGA falls to Westfield 42-7

Last Friday night the SGA Warriors were ready to defend their lead against the much larger school, Westfield. As soon as the game began it was obvious to the players and the fans who

the bigger school was. Westfield's players were double the size of SGA's and three times the amount of players on the field compared to the Warriors. The Westfield Warriors came out and dominated the game. The score was 42-7 with the Warriors on the losing end. Perry Bridges had the only SGA touchdown and Austin Cowart's extra point kick was good. The Warriors rushed 27 times for 112 yards. They were 3-for-13 in punting for 37 yards. The total yards for the Warriors were 389 yards. SGA punted six times for 176 yards.

Player of the Game was Thomas Vines, Linebacker of the Game was Davis Henderson. Offensive Player of the Game was Perry Bridges. Defensive Player of the Game was Travis. Safety Player of the Game was KJ Harrison. Hardball Player of the Game was...



SGA Lady Warriors Softball

Region Champions

Lady Warriors host first round of state Monday, October 7

Cowh Tommy Marry and his Southwest Georgia Academy Lady Warrior softball team are having another outstanding season. SGA defeated Oconee County 10-0 on Tuesday and finished undefeated in the region.

The Region Champion Lady Warriors will host the first round of the state playoffs in Donalsonville on Monday, October 7th. The games have been exciting through the regular season and the excitement will be at several levels as the Lady Warriors begin their quest for a state title at home on the 7th. Show your support and make plans to be in Donalsonville on Monday.

Breanna Hornady from Iron City and Addison Ponder of Donalsonville discuss game strategy with Coach Marry.

Sports Section or Pages

F

1st Place

Franklin County Citizen Leader, Lavonia

Page 1B
January 10, 2013

Franklin County Citizen Leader

Sports

Fighting for leadership



Senior A.J. Reed and the Franklin County Lions will play at Morgan County Friday night for first place in Region 8AAA.

Lions, Lady Lions take on 8AAA's top teams this week

By Steve Scovron
Proton

In two games this week, Franklin County's basketball teams will face off with the leaders of Region 8AAA.

The Franklin County Lions will play at Morgan County Friday.

The winner will have the edge in the Region 8AAA Morgan County is ranked No. 1 in the state and has an 18-0 record overall record in the 8AAA.

Morgan has played some top teams and played in a post-Christmas tournament in Ocala, Fla.

The Lions' four losses were all to Class AAAAA teams.

On Thursday, the Franklin County Lady Lions were scheduled to travel to Hartsville to face the region-leading North-Carolina Lady Titans.

The Lady Lions went into the game tied for third in the region standings at 22.

North-Carolina ranked No. 1 in the state, is tied for the region lead at 44.

Results of Thursday's game were unavailable at press time.

The game wasn't the first time the Lady Lions have played a top 10 team.

The team led Albert County in the fourth quarter on Dec. 21 but eventually lost 60-40 to the No. 10 team in the state, Hartsville, on the night with North-Carolina.

On Dec. 26, the Lady Lions lost 30-22 to Class AAAAA, No. 4 Parkview in a holiday tournament.

Despite that loss, the Lady Lions finished third in the tournament.



Senior Cassie Hall and the Lady Lions took on Region 8AAA leading North-Carolina Tuesday in Hartsville.

In your face: Lady Lions down Hart 49-45



Lady Lion Kayla Russell saves a ball from going out of bounds by throwing it back at Hart County Lady Bulldog Shakara Little Friday night in Hartwell. Russell had eight points in the Lady Lions' 49-45 victory over Little's Bulldogs.

By Steve Scovron
Proton

The inside-outside game of the Franklin County Lady Lions captured another victory Friday night in Hartwell.

The Lady Lions defeated the Hart County Lady Bulldogs 49-45 in the first Region 8AAA game since before Christmas.

The victory pushed Franklin County into a third place tie in the region standings with a 22 record. The team has a 9-0 overall record, the best among those tied for third place.

The Lady Lions 84 behind senior Hart County.

Coach Terry Marsh said Hart County jumped on his Franklin County team early and did some things that were unexpected.

"I thought the girls being in there and adjusted to it," Marsh said.

Hart held a lead as high as seven points a couple of times in the first quarter and was ahead 10-4 at the end of the quarter.

The Lady Lions opened the second quarter with a run.

Autumn Brooks made two free throws with 4:30 left in the quarter to tie the game at 13-13.

Franklin took the lead once again by Jade Swanson with 3:48 left.

Hart didn't score their first points in the quarter until there was 2:00 left in the half.

Franklin led 20-22 at halftime.

The Lady Lions extended the lead in the third quarter to 30-18, thanks to some solid defense.

Adie Hunter blocked four shots in the quarter. Swanson and Brooks each had three pointers on the offensive end.

Franklin's lead grew as big as 20 points in the fourth quarter, but Hart made a run to cut it to two points with 31.2 left in the game.

Hart County's Shakara Little, a former Franklin County Lady Lion, then stole the in-bound pass, but set the ball out of bounds.

Brooks was then fouled and made two free throws to tie the game for the 49-45 victory.

Marsh said his girls' team is getting better every time it plays and looked the team's defense and free-throw shooting.

Franklin made 14 of 37 free throws in the game.

Swanson led the Lady Lions with 18 points. She made two three-pointers and also made five of seven free throws.

Brooks had 12 points, including three three-pointers.

Other Area 8AAA teams that added eight points: New Tazewell had three, and Jennings-Archer had two.

Lions lap Bulldogs

By Steve Scovron
Proton

It was a rivalry game that had the Franklin County Lions on top of the 8AAA on the line.

That could have made for a lot of pressure and tension Friday night in Hartwell.

But the Lions never let that happen.

The team blew out the Hart County Bulldogs on their home court in 40 to stay unbeaten in region play.

After a close first quarter that ended with a hot Franklin lead, the game was never close again.

The Lions automatically built a huge lead in the second quarter, leading 16-11 at halftime.

The lead got as high as 30 points in the third quarter before the Lions let up and allowed the Bulldogs to cut some of that lead down.

Red Montgomery led the Lions with 18 points, Tawana McCooking added 14 and Kaley Leverette had 11.

A.J. Reed and John Peterson scored six apiece, and Jovan Peterson, Drew Patten and Quin Thomas had two each.



Franklin County Lion Kaley Leverette goes up for a shot over a Hart County defender Friday night in Hartwell. Leverette had 11 points in Franklin County's 41-40 victory over the Bulldogs.

Wrestlers compete at area duals

By Steve Scovron
Proton

The Franklin County Lions competed in the area duals tournament Friday and Saturday in the toughest wrestling arena in the state in Class AAA.

Some 8AAA, which includes Franklin County has six of the Top 10 ranked high school wrestling teams in the state, according to the latest rankings published by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Franklin County ranked No. 3 in the state, won the tournament over No. 1-Orange County.

Franklin lost its first round match to No. 4 ranked Albert County and then was eliminated by just three points to East Hall.

Other Area 8AAA teams ranked in the top 10 are Jackson County (No. 6) and the tournament's fourth-place Graham, Baker (No. 8) and North Hall (No. 9) and the tournament's third-place team.

The Lions will face Haywood County and Hart County Tuesday in Tazewell.

Sports Section or Pages

E

The Eatonton Messenger Thursday September 19, 2013

PUTNAM COUNTY Sports

MORGAN COUNTY 28 / WAR EAGLES 7

PCHS falls in neighborhood rivalry

Breaker Daniel
Messenger correspondent

Morgan County was a tough neighborhood rivalry Friday against Putnam County, losing the War Eagles 28-7 to Madison.

The two teams are not in the same region, but both wanted the win against their next-door neighbors.

PCHS scored a big lead since it played without senior wide receiver Dustin McMiller, who was out with a pulled groin.

Morgan County scored quickly, getting on the board with only two minutes gone in the game, and led the whole game.

Putnam went three and out and punted back to Morgan. However, on Morgan's second drive, Morgan County scored quickly.

SEE WAR EAGLES — 28

GATEWOOD 17 / PIEDMONT 14

Gators hold off Piedmont

Breaker Daniel
Messenger correspondent

Lake Howard falls on a fumble for Lake Wood against Piedmont, maintaining possession of the ball for the Gators.

GATEWOOD 17 / PIEDMONT 14

PUTNAM 4 / TAYLOR 2

'Pink out' victory

Lulu Schell
Messenger correspondent

The Lady War Eagles defeated Taylor County, 4-2, in their "Pink Out" softball game Sept. 10 — showing support for finding a cure for cancer. In a busy week of games, PCSD was three of four contests. In each...

PUTNAM 4 / TAYLOR 2

BUILDING TEAM SPIRIT

PCHS cheerleaders take third in competition

Lulu Schell
Messenger correspondent

The War Eagle variety cheerleaders took third place in competition at West Laurens Sep. 1 and the JV squad competed for the first time. PCSD did not have a junior variety team in 2012.

The JV team hit every note and making pace in its routine. JV has only one...

CHEERLEADERS — 28

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The Eatonton Messenger

Sports Section or Pages

E

Sports

The Dahlonega Nugget
"The Gold of the News"

BASKETBALL SUMMER CAMP

Lumpkin County High School
Girls 6-8 grade
June 10-14, 8 a.m.-noon

Section **C**

June 5, 2013

INDIANS JUMP INTO ACTION

Team keeps eye on goals and raises expectations

Here we go: The Lumpkin County varsity boys basketball squad is looking to keep up its intensity during the upcoming season



By John Ryan
The Dahlonega Nugget

Sports is a lifestyle for our young athletes

For those of you reading this page and wondering why there is any news about school sports teams that won't begin playing their season for three months or more, I'll let you in on a little secret. Sports doesn't stop. It's a lifestyle.

Whether you are an elementary school kid, an up-and-coming middle school student, or an experienced varsity player, there is never a lull on the team from just playing in the game.

Our athletes walk onto the field, the court, the mat, or grab their air rifle and take aim long before the big competition commences.

Setting up for practice is something athletes do not only because they have to, but because they want to spend time with their teammates and do activities with the team.

It's not just about making one big play during the game. It's about all the days leading up to the game.

In the world of sports, there is always room for more athletes who are hard workers and good teammates.

Summer kids can contribute to the team, they are going to benefit because of the experience of being with the team.

For someone who puts on a uniform, it's about something different.

Some kids just want to do their part, which others expect the commitment of the previous past seasons.

But to matter who an athlete is, being involved in their sport is a truly basic part of their lifestyle.

SIGN UP

Don't miss your chance to get involved and get active

- Summer camps for many sports are happening all over Dahlonega and Lumpkin County this time of year. Please see Page 3C for more information and how to sign up.

Parks & Rec Summer Programs

For more information contact Lumpkin County Parks and Rec, 900 W. 402.

- Football and Cheerleading Registration going on now through June 7. Cost is \$85.
- Swimming Camp Dates: June through August 5, Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Cost is \$50/day or \$150/week.
- Swim League Dates: June through the end of July. Ages 6-12 years old. Cost is \$100.
- Swimming Lessons Session 1: June 17-20 and 24-27. Session 2: July 1-5 and 8-12. Times are: 8 a.m. or 11 a.m. Cost is \$85.

Read The Nugget's sports section on your smartphone

Scan which page you are on with your smartphone to view the sports section on your website.



2nd Place

The Dahlonega Nugget

Sports Section or Pages

E

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SECTION B

JHS Football
Dragons expect a challenge from North Hall
By Cassie Wenzel

AN 84-0-point spread is only two games wide, likely to be enough to make any football team feel uncomfortable week to week. But as Jefferson (2-0) prepares for its next opponent, the Dragons are expecting nothing less than a serious challenge.

North Hall (2-0) leads in Memorial Stadium on Friday night with among GEBA AAA teams. Meanwhile, the Dragons recently moved up to fourth place among class AA teams. Dragon head coach Tom Hall has no doubts that North Hall will be the toughest team he's faced in his career.

"We have a big test this week," Hall said. "North Hall will be the best team we have faced. They are a senior team this year and a very physical team. This is one of the best I've ever seen that they've had in the four years that they've played us. It's going to be a tough one for us and we are going to have to play our best game to date on both sides of the ball."

Coming up
North Hall vs North Hall, 7:30 p.m., Memorial Stadium


Last year, the Dragons upset North Hall on the road in a game that came down to the wire. The Jefferson defense made a goal line stand in the waning moments of the game, hanging on to a 27-21 victory.

The Dragons will likely have strategy on their minds, and will seek to repeat the favor this season. The North Hall offense has been firing on all cylinders, as the Trojans have put up 95 points in their first two games. But they will have to score on a Dragon defense that has allowed zero points and less than 200 yards over the first two games.

"The kids have been playing very hard on both sides of the ball, but especially on defense," Hall said. "I've been very pleased with the way we are playing. Our defensive coaches have done a great job of preparing our kids."

The Dragon defense will have to work on dealing with multiple schemes this week, as North Hall runs several different looks out of a Wing T base formation.

See Dragons on Page 26



ROLLING THUNDER
Jefferson fullback Treason Jackson takes a carry during the Dragons' 49-0 win over Jackson County last week.
Photo by Clint Buffington

JCHS Football
Panthers aim to rebound against Athens Christian
By Cassie Wenzel


JACKSON County heads into its week three matchup with Athens Christian nursing for a win.

After being edged by Winder Barrow and shut down by Jefferson, the Panthers are keen on working out the kinks they have experienced on both sides of the ball.


Panthers' head coach Brent Harrison believes that process starts with self-analysis and improvement.

"We just have to do the same thing that we've been doing. For us, we just need to keep improving on ourselves," Harrison said. "After last week's game and studying the film, we've seen the areas where we really need to work. Really, this week has been all about us and making sure that we get better at the things we need to improve on or win."

See Panthers on Page 26



JCHS Softball
OUT OF YOUR LEAGUE
Sophomore Lady Panther Wadd Peck fields a ground ball and throws a runner out at first base during a contest with Franklin County last Thursday.
Photo by Cameron Whitlock



CHEMISTRY 101
Team effort pushes Lady Panthers forward
By Cassie Wenzel

AS THE end of the regular season approaches, the Jackson County Comprehensive High School softball team is finding itself in a position to make a great season end.

Showing a 6-2 record overall (2-4 overall), the Lady Panthers are clinging on to the second place spot in the region 9-AAA standings, only one game behind Franklin County.

However, with six games left on the schedule, the top seed could belong to any of the five teams (Franklin County, Jackson County, Greene County, North Greene and Wilkes County), which are separated by three games or less.

With such strong competition within region 9-AAA, it's understandable why head coach Christie Laird is less worried about tournament seeding, and more concerned with each individual game.

"In this point, we are taking the season game by game," Laird said. "This season has certainly showcased the importance of each game. If we make the adjustments, we will be where we need to be at the end of region play."

See Lady Panthers on Page 26

JCHS Football
Banged up Eagles play host to Vikings for homecoming
By Cassie Wenzel

FOLLOWING a tough loss to rival Commerce in the road last week, East Jackson (2-0) returns to its field for homecoming on the regular season, East JHS (2-1).

The Eagles have only faced the Vikings one other time -- in last year's meeting, when East Hall came away with a 30-20 victory.

But a revamped East Jackson defense could provide the Eagles the boost they need to compete with a high-caliber East Hall offense.

In last Friday's matchup with Commerce, the Eagles gave up 211 yards of total offense,


Coming up
East Jackson vs West Hall, Friday, 7:30 p.m., Eagle Stadium

has faced setbacks on key positions and kept the Tigers off of the scoreboard until the fourth quarter.

With East Hall's explosive backfield, it's impressive that the Eagles beat the Vikings' top play opportunity.

East Jackson's offense only had one turnover against the Tigers, but it came in the

See Eagles on Page 26



SEARCH AND DESTROY
Senior Eagle Austin Beauchamp brings down a Commerce ball carrier last Friday during East Jackson's 19-7 loss to the Tigers.
Photo by Cameron Whitlock

1st Place

The Jackson Herald, Jefferson

Sports Section or Pages

D

3rd Place

Clayton News Daily, Jonesboro



Drew freshman Myrick Walker, left, listens to some instructions from Titans coach Jarrett Lewis during a recent practice. Walker is in the running for a starting linebacker position this season. (Photo by Derrick Mahone)

IS IT TOO SOON?

Freshmen will try to make their impact this season

By Derrick Mahone
mahone@news-daily.com

In the ideal world of high school football, incoming freshmen would learn the game on the lower level teams.

But that will not be the case for many freshmen this season as they are being thrust into starting and impact roles on their varsity teams this season.

Some are there out of necessity, while others have shown the maturity and athletic ability to make an immediate impact.

"It is a great privilege to be able to play varsity football as a freshman," said Drew freshman Myrick Walker, who is earning a starting linebacker spot on the Titans defense.

"Usually, the most established program will allow the freshmen room to grow in their first year," Drew coach Jarrett Lewis said. "Now a days, kids come in more physical and prepared

IMPACT FRESHMEN

These freshmen could make a significant difference for their teams.

• **Dean Andrews**—Riverside: Younger brother of former Panthers standout Tony Wright.

• **Jordan Boiden**—Drew: Injuries will allow him to play early at running back spot.

• **Lanorris Copeland**—Mt. Zion: T-torn receiver could be go-to player in offense.

• **Anthony Crider**—Mt. Zion: Has letters, and leadership ability to make impact.

• **Torlando Hamilton**—Riverside: Has physical tools to cover speedy receivers.

• **Myrick Walker**—Drew: Titans coaching staff loves his high football IQ, athleticism.



Mount Zion freshmen Quinton Newton (28) and Anthony Crider could find themselves in the starting lineup this season for the Bulldogs. Newton plays defensive back, while Crider is a linebacker. (Photo by Derrick Mahone)

Drew's Knauls keeping good outlook on returning

By Derrick Mahone
mahone@news-daily.com

RIVERDALE — Lester Knauls didn't hear a sound, but he knew something was wrong with his right ankle.

As he tried to avoid a tackle during the Drew spring game, his foot planted in the ground as he was being tackled.

And soon after, the pain was radiating through his leg.

That was three months and a surgery ago. Now, the rising senior is back walking with the aid of crutches and a wheelchair.

"Everything is a lot better now," Knauls said as he watched the Titans preseason practice on a humid August day. "I'm doing a lot better. God got me back walking."

And he has the faith that he will see the field this season for his senior year. It has been that positive attitude that has Knauls a little ahead of the schedule that doctors predicted after surgery to repair some torn ligaments. He walks with a brace on the ankle, but walking is a major step.



When he was healthy last season, Drew running back Lester Knauls rushed for a team-leading 767 yards and seven touchdowns. He sustained a potential season-ending ankle break during spring practice in May. (Photo by Derrick Mahone)

See KNAULS, Page 7A

Griggs living 'normal' life after playing days

By Gabriel Stovall
gstovall@news-daily.com

Former Clayton State women's basketball star Dreamika Griggs may go down as arguably the best player to ever play for the Lady Lakers.

The former Jonesboro High standout has gone from Division I honors to Division II glory, helping Clayton State bring home its first national championship in 2012.

Now, with her college playing days officially behind her, Griggs turns her focus to becoming a post-collegiate success.

Clayton News Daily/History Daily Herald sportswriter Gabriel Stovall got the chance to catch up with Griggs and talk with her about her next steps in life.

Question: Now that your playing days are done at Clayton State, what are you doing to keep yourself busy this summer?

Griggs: "Other than taking those summer school courses, I actually spent my entire summer catching up on sleep that I have missed for the past four years



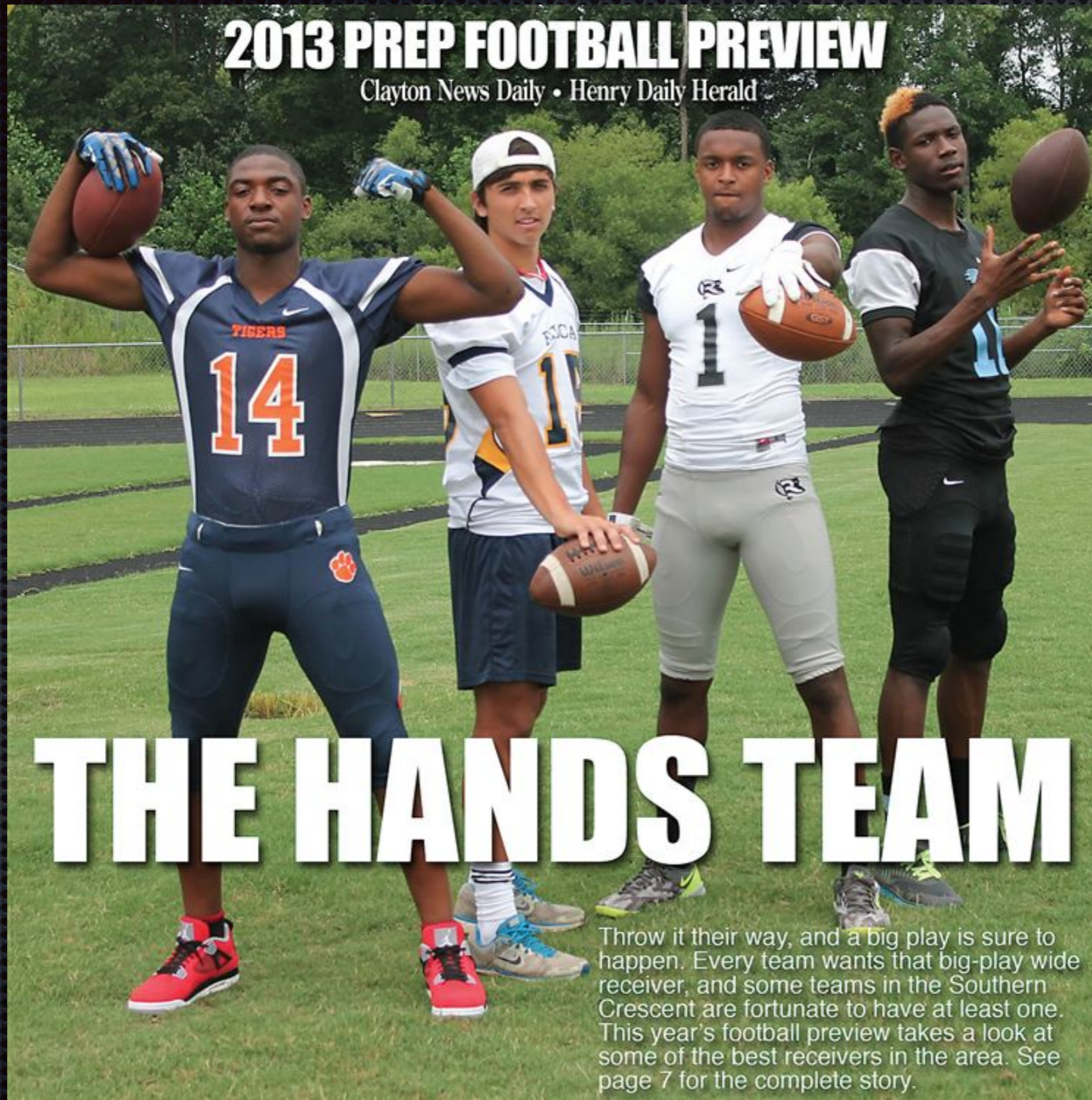
Former Clayton State guard Dreamika Griggs (No. 12) averaged 19.1 points per game in her final season with the team. (Special Photo)

of my life, spending more time with my family, since I've missed many family events, traveling and I did some coaching at basketball camps down in Missouri. I

See GRIGGS, Page 7A

Sports Section or Pages

D



2nd Place

Henry Daily
Herald,
McDonough

Sports Section or Pages

D

Coming Friday:
Ellison shines in Eagles' victory

Sports

The Northwest Georgian, Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Nelms wins Pickin' Contest

Robert Nelms is the winner of the Week 7 Pickin' Contest.

Nelms, of Dawson, posted a 3-1 record this week to win the \$250 prize. Nelms' best wins were S.C. State and Michigan.

Mr. Aley's Andrew Ervin and Dawson's Gary McEwen and Stanley Terrell each finished the week with a 0-3 record.

Among the Pickin' Contest board, Habersham Central High School Assistant Principal Octavio Hilligan had a 1-2 record.

See Page 42 for this week's contest.

Going to state



Senior **Natasha Pitts** drove in the winning run with a two-run double in the Lady Raiders' 2-1 victory over Mountain View Thursday in Rockford. The win clinched NCHS' bid to the Class AAAAAA playoffs.

Gosnell named All-Area

By MARK TURNER

Habersham Central's Lainey Gosnell picked up the first all-area honor of her high school career last week as the Swainsboro softball player was named to the 9-A All-Area All-Star softball team.

Gosnell, who led the Lady Raiders in hits and strikes, was the lone Swain player named to the All-Area team. North Oconee's Carlee Newell, Abner Macko and Mt. Zion's Grace led the Lady Raiders to the area title and were named to the All-Area squad. Macko was

See Area, Page 28



Senior **Lainey Gosnell** had 227 hits and 135.5 strikeouts this season.

Lady Raiders earn first AAAAAA tournament trip

By MARK TURNER

Habersham Central is headed to the Class AAAAAA softball tournament. The Lady Raiders clinched the program's first large tournament bid week after the 7-A AAAAAA tournament in Swainsboro. NCHS went 3-0 in the tournament to finish fourth and set up a matchup with Toccoa in the opening round of the state playoffs.

The Lady Raiders traveled to Marietta today for the start of a three-game series with Lexington, the 5-A AAAAAA champion. The series opens at 5 p.m. with the second game set for 7 p.m. The third game, if necessary, will be played Thursday in Marietta at 9 p.m. The Lady Raiders got one of the hardest draws in the entire AAAAAA bid as Lexington, the No. 2 team in the latest state poll, posted a perfect record in making playoffs and were tabbed as the region's tournament, knocking off Cherokee in the finals.

The Lady Raiders clinched the state bid last Thursday, splitting a pair of games. NCHS dropped a 1-0 decision to Mt. Zion in the opening game, setting up a elimination matchup with Mountain View.

The Lady Raiders trailed 1-0 heading into the bottom of the sixth inning. Georgia White started the inning with a line drive single to right center. Bailey Sanders tried to lay down a sacrifice bunt to move White to second base but her bunt attempt went over the head of Mountain View third baseman Ernie Fletcher as he fielded single, giving NCHS runners at first and second. One-out later, Hailey Sullivan looped a pitch into shallow center field.

See Lady Raiders, Page 28

"I took a deep breath. I knew it was my time to shine. I knew she was going to throw it right down the middle."

— NCHS senior Natasha Pitts

HC falls to Mustangs

By MARK TURNER

Headoverneck made the most of throwing plays and bashed the Habersham Central Raiders 5-14 last Friday night in Swainsboro.

The win was the first for the Mustangs since the second week of the 2008 season and dropped the Raiders to 0-2 on the season.

The Mustangs scored twice in the first two innings of the game and then held off a second half rally by the Raiders to pick up a season-opening victory.

On the final play of the game, the Raiders got the ball on the ground and Headoverneck's Adriel Henderson-Rodriguez wrapped up the Swain win.

See Raiders, Page 28

1st Place

The Northeast Georgian, Cornelia

Sports Section or Pages

B

3rd Place

Forsyth County News, Cumming


SECTION B Sports Editor Brian Paglia can be reached at bpaglia@forsythnews.com or (770) 205-4983.

ForsythSports

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FOOTBALL



PHOTOS BY BRIAN PAGLIA FOR FORTS YH COUNTY NEWS, AND MIKE BROWN FOR THE FORTS YH COUNTY NEWS

WORKING OUT THE KINKS

For most Forsyth football teams, tonight is the final non-region game — the last chance to get things right before the games start to really count.

By John McWilliams
jmwilliams@forsythnews.com

With one week left to work out the kinks before region play begins, coaches expect to see improvement.

Forsyth Central, North Forsyth and West Forsyth all finish the non-region schedule on the road, while Lambert, Pioneer Academy and South Forsyth City play at home.

Not all regions have the luxury of having these non-region games before the season truly begins. Region 1AAAAA, featuring East Forsyth, plays 10 consecutive region games. When other regions have only two or fewer non-region matchups, while some regions have a gaudy six-game non-region schedule, according to research done by FCN sports editor Brian Paglia.

"I look at it as two seasons," said Forsyth Central coach Steve Williamson. "We've got the non-region season and that's an opportunity to get momentum going, especially coming in as a first-year head coach."

"It allows you some availability to kind of cool your heels into what you're going to be and find that identity. You want to get those things done before you get to your region."

Added West coach Frank Taylor: "I like the way it's set up. It's good to be

See KINKS | 28

OPINION

Don't judge a book



BRIAN PAGLIA
Sports editor

By now, things should be a little clearer. Or should they? Two weeks into the high school football season, Forsyth County teams have begun to secure their name. The North Forsyth and South Forsyth are off to strong 2-0 starts. Lambert, Pioneer Academy and West Forsyth are 1-1 but coming off nice rebound performances after big season-opening losses. Forsyth Central is 0-2.

This is one of this generation's great temptations with sports. One line and a record already in its column. One victory and playoff tickets start getting priced.

When, really, we should be smarter. Sports fans have years and years of history to give our snap judgments of teams, players and seasons can be woefully misinformed.

There were plenty in Forsyth last season. In one week, Lambert was 3-0 and North and South were 3-0. They eventually finished 3-5, 3-7 and 4-6, respectively.

Each provided fans that a promising season was underway. Lambert showed it could win the close ones against Rowan (14-7) and Rowan (14-17) and run up the score 30-27 against Southfork. North proved it could come from behind, erasing a three-touchdown deficit against Cherokee County. South looked as beloved as any team in the area, winning at least 40 points in three straight games.

Then everything changed. Lambert started losing play on an injury. North and South started losing region games. Whatever identity had been built up during the non-region schedule was completely obliterated by the season finale.

"I believe every team has an identity," Forsyth Central coach Steve Williamson said. "We need to find that identity."

Indeed, each team is developing an identity during the non-region portion of the schedule. Here's my assessment of what that identity is for every Forsyth team. But be warned — in the past few stories, identities can often be deceiving.

Central Rebuilding. This year is going to be spent refining Williamson's new spread offense.

Lambert Rebounding. Longhorns started to figure things out last week against Rowan.

North Dethroned. First-year coach Jason Galt's Double Wing offense has proved fit so far for opponents.

Rowan Dethroned. Expectations have shown to be high since (Northfork) and Rowan (Central) wins.

Pioneer Rebounding. Defense looks like it's getting better while the offense works out the kinks.

West Continues. Lots of momentum showed in last week's win at No. 10 Class 5A Forsyth Branch.

Brian Paglia is a sports editor at the Forsyth County News. He can be reached at bpaglia@forsythnews.com or on Twitter @BrianPaglia.

Sports Section or Pages

B

2nd Place

Marietta Daily Journal

Sports


SPORTS EDITOR: John Bednarek
770-426-9677 ext. 227

MARIETTA DAILY JOURNAL SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2013

College Basketball, 2C
Prep Basketball, 3C

SPORTSEditor@MDJONLINE

Matt Brickley, the new wrestling coach at Lassiter, brought the traditional events to previously hosted at Wheeler to continue at his new school.



Matt Brickley

Lassiter invite begins season

16-team tournament followed Trojans' new coach from Wheeler

By Carlton D. White
white@mdjonline.com

It didn't take long for Lassiter wrestling coach Matt Brickley to get accustomed to his new surroundings. Friday marked the first day wrestling programs could compete, and Brickley will oversee the new season — and his new job — by leaving today's Trojans Invitational, which features 16 programs from around the state. Handlining the list of participants are Pope and Ardren, which accept their respective traditional and dual state championships last year in Class AAAAA and AAAAAA. Promoted state site coordinator Collins Hill will also be in attendance.

Other programs scheduled to be in action today include West Forsyth, Kell, Higgins, River Ridge, Grayson, Johns Creek, Cherokee, Harrison, McEachern, Conley, Loganville and Atlanta.

Cherokee placed seventh in last year's Class AAAAAA national meet, while Loganville was sixth in Class AAAAA. Conley was the Class AAAA national meet runner-up.

"There are some great schools coming to this tournament," Brickley said. "It's a good way to get the season rolling."

Much like the traditional state meet, each team will submit one wrestler per weight class and the 16 wrestlers will be seeded in a bracket-style format. Individual wrestlers will compete for five through

See Inmate, Page 3C

GEORGIA TECH 80, GEORGIA 71

Golden the spark to lead Jackets

McEachern product scores 18 as Tech prevails in Athens

By Charles Odum
odum@mdjonline.com

ATHENS — Former McEachern High School star Tim Golden scored 18 points, including a 1-pointer to cap Georgia Tech's 12-0 run to open the second half, and the Yellow Jackets beat Georgia 80-71 on Friday night in their third straight win in the new rivalry.

Golden's 1-pointer gave Georgia Tech a 55-49 lead (sixth 4 minutes into the second half). The Yellow Jackets led only 43-39 at halftime.


Georgia Tech kept the lead in double figures most of the second half. Senior center Daniel Miller had 14 points and 13 rebounds for Georgia Tech (3-0), which dominated play inside.

Georgia Tech has three straight wins in the series for the first time since 1962-64, including two straight wins in Athens. The Yellow Jackets won in Athens two years ago for the first time since 1979.

Charles Mason led Georgia (1-1) with a career-high 24 points. Mason made each of his four 3-point attempts.

Miller and forward Kameron Hubley, who had 20 points and 12 rebounds, helped Georgia Tech take a 36-19 advantage.

See Odum, Page 3C



When Georgia visited Jordan-Hare Stadium a year ago, Todd Gurley routed Auburn on the way to the SEC title game and a near miss for a shot at the national championship. This year, the reins are reversed as the Bulldogs reclaim the Plains. Now, the reurgent Tigers are in the position of contending for the SEC title and a spot in the BCS discussion.

FLIP-FLOPPED

Auburn now chasing SEC glory as Georgia visits

By John Zener
zener@mdjonline.com

AUBURN, Ala. — It's no surprise that the Georgia Auburn game features a headline: "FLIP-FLOPPED." The title is that the series has been reversed.

Tigers are the ones to control their destiny while the 25th-ranked Bulldogs' championship chances have taken a hit during an injury-plagued season going into today's meeting.

"I think it is kind of eye-opening or shocking, I guess, to some," said Auburn tight end C.J. Garrett, who is from Georgia. "We know that we were going to have a successful season, maybe not as successful as this. And coming into this game, we know that there were going to be a lot of implications for 2 games for Auburn. We know that."

Indeed, they have. Auburn (9-1, 5-1 SEC) can claim a spot in the league championship game with wins over the Bulldogs (4-3, 4-2) and

No. 3 Alabama at Jordan-Hare Stadium.

"If that happens, and some teams always have to, the Auburn's Tigers could be playing for a second national title in four years, a year after going 3-8."

"It's super impressive what coach Malinda has done," said Georgia coach Mark Richt, whose team made some help to win the East. "Everywhere he has gone he's won. If you look at his track record it's amazing, especially as a head coach and when his teams have done. It's hard to avoid very quickly — quicker than maybe I would hope — but you have to give him credit. They are doing a great job."


Auburn is led a field goal (fourth in the long-standing border rivalry history) in the third quarter. It has historically been on tight, but through 14 meetings the record is 24-24-4 with an average margin of 0.9 points.

"It's kind of legendary how tightly contested most of these games have been and how close the series has been," Richt said.

The Bulldogs have opened a rivalry with a pair of 16-point wins the past two seasons.

See Auburn, Page 3C

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Tim Golden (21) drives to the hoop against Georgia's Harry Gamble — another Cobb County product — in the first half of Friday's game.

Weatherspoon slated to start against Tampa Bay

The Associated Press

FLOWERY BRANCH — In a season rife with injuries and lineup changes, the Atlanta Falcons will deploy their fifth configuration of linebackers Sunday at Tampa Bay.

This time, it will be good news from Weatherspoon, not vice versa. Being a first option in the second game, was activated this week and will start in his customary weakside spot when the Falcons (2-7) play host for Buccaneers (3-4).

"Last two years the leader of our defense the last three years and the signal-caller," said Falcons coach Mike Smith. "He brings a lot of energy and passion to the game. He's earned the role of a leader. You don't start me, they start it and he's earned it."

See Start, Page 3C

COBB COUNTY PREP FOOTBALL SCOREBOARD

COLLINS HILL 41 WALTER 7	WILLOWDALE 41 ALDRED 13	KELL 31 NATOTONA 27	LANCASTER 27 MARIETTA 23	MC-EACHERN 26 NEWTON 21	NORTH COBB 60 GUELLA 18	PENNINGTON RIDGE 68 LAWRENCE 29
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FOR MORE ON FRIDAY'S GAMBL, SEE COBB FOOTBALL FRIDAY IN SECTION 4.

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Sports Section or Pages

B

1st Place

The Times,
Gainesville

C SPORTS

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The Times
gainesvilletimes.com
Saturday, October 5, 2013

CHESTATEE 48
JOHNSON 7

SOFT KICKS: The Chestatee team's Chris Hargrove blocks the jump of Johnson tight end Hens during the first half of the Eagles' win Friday night in Gainesville.

Blocking the path

War Eagles rout Knights at home

BY CHARLES PHELPS
cpheps@gainesvilletimes.com

The Chestatee War Eagles (4-1, 3rd Region 5-AAAA) defeated the Johnson Knights (0-5, 4th) Friday night at War Eagle Stadium.

After a slow start early in the first quarter, the War Eagles offense, defense and special teams picked up the pace for the last three quarters of the game.

The War Eagles offense was led by senior running back Dan Chenkin, who rushed for a game-high 89 yards and two touchdowns.

Junior running back Trey Bryant added six other touchdowns on the ground and scored a fumble with a sack for the War Eagles offense. The fumble occurred 49 yards for seven points by senior defensive line man Khalil (senior).

The War Eagles defense accounted three fumbles, and returned a second one for a touchdown.

"I thought in the first half our defense played excellent," Chestatee coach Stan Ledford said.

"Against you can score on special teams and score on defense it's a good night for offense scoring a little sluggish, but made it up during the second quarter. I think it's because of the momentum that we got from our special teams and our defense. It's a good team victory. You see get hurt. Everybody get hurt. It's a good night for War Eagle."

The first quarter saw an exciting start after offense. However, the War Eagles special teams made their first big play to keep the game exciting, blocking the Knight's ground first play attempt.

With 1:08 left in the quarter, senior defensive back, Darin Spears intercepted a Johnson pass, returning it 30 yards for a touchdown, but it was called back by a penalty.

It then fell to the offense to take the momentum into games. Bryant made sure that happened, finding the end zone from 1 yard out with 10:44 left in the second quarter.

Photo by WOLFE, JC

4 **AB** NLDG GAME 2 **LA** 3

Minor provides major boost

Atlanta draws even with LA as series heads West

BY PAUL HENNING
paulhen@gainesvilletimes.com

ATLANTA — Flanking plenty of first and second stringers, the Atlanta Braves' incumbent first baseman provided a major boost.

Now, they're headed to Dodger Stadium with the NL division series still going.

Minor pitched six strong innings.

Photo by WOLFE, JC

NLDG Game 2: Braves vs. Dodgers
When: 8:07 p.m. Sunday
Where: Dodger Stadium, Los Angeles
Braves: Braves, Jeff Jeffers
Dodgers: LHP Ryan Lundy
TV: MLB Network, 9:30 PM, 11:30 AM

Atlanta Braves first baseman Chris Johnson (28) celebrates after scoring on a Jason Heyward single in the seventh inning of Game 2 of the NLDS against the L.A. Dodgers on Friday in Atlanta.

Photo by WOLFE, JC

GAINESVILLE 51, CEDAR SHOALS 6

OUT OF REACH

Gainesville wide receiver Chad Henninger (4) in a 20-yard touchdown pass out of the reach of Cedar Shoals cornerback Brentwood Cooper Friday night at City Park Stadium.

Watson surpasses 11,000 career passing yards in comfortable win over Jaguars

BY BRENT HOLLINGS
bhollings@gainesvilletimes.com

It took Gainesville one step to reach its dominance as Friday night's 30-4 win over Cedar Shoals.

Red Carpeted sophomore QB Brad Turner (senior) led the team's opening drive, and then threw a touchdown in the second quarter.

Photo by WOLFE, JC

Scoreboard

- Flowers Branch 42, Rockledge 0
- Levon County 46, Springwood 28
- Washington 30, Jefferson 14
- Johnson County 36, Poplar County 12
- Sevier 49, Mountain 3
- Eastern County 44, Jones County 12
- Commerce 33, Athens 21 (OT)
- Putnam County 65, Howard 7
- Madison 38, Lakeview Academy 7

200 through the air — and it was a 11,000-yard milestone.

His last are working in practicing every day.

His coach Steve Miller said.

Photo by WOLFE, JC

BUFORD 63
WEST HALL 0

Spartans can't handle Wolves

BY BO HOFFER
bohoff@gainesvilletimes.com

Buford found its rhythm. Again. The Spartans were scored on every offensive possession.

See video of the game on YouTube at www.gainesvilletimes.com

The last four weeks, over the Gainesville game, we've had an impressive plan for each player.

Photo by WOLFE, JC

West Hall tight end Hunter Wilson is unable to return a pass with momentum coming from Buford linebacker Justin Smith on Friday at Spartan Field in Calhoun.

Photo by WOLFE, JC

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

East to battle West in inaugural 'Classic'

Free staff reports

The Gainesville West County Fellowship of Christian Athletes is leading the inaugural East-West Classic football game (The Star City Park location, featuring players from 18 area high schools).

Games will be 7:30 p.m. East and West will play on each side. Players from the East will be represented by Johnson, Flowers Branch, East Hall, Riverdale Military and Sevier County. West players will be picked from Chestatee, Chestatee, North Hall, West Hall

and Lakeview Academies. Five winners will be selected from each school, with the remaining spots to be filled by the 10th grade players.

Photo by WOLFE, JC

Sports Section or Pages

A

3rd Place

The Augusta Chronicle

SPORTS

SUNDAY
October 23, 2011
The Augusta Chronicle

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Virginia Tech	19	Texas	26	Alabama	48	Penn State	43	Wisconsin	38
Pittsburgh	8	Oklahoma	20	Kentucky	7	Michigan	42 (ACF)	Northwestern	6
Clemson	24	Oregon	43	Stanford	27	Baylor	28	Georgia Southern	28
Ball State	14	Washington	24	Florida	21	Kansas State	20	The Citadel	21

► No. 14 Gamecocks Pump Pumpkinade

'A tough, tough day'

By Scott McCreary
Sports Editor

Bulldogs are simply good now, not great

ATLANTA, Ga. — It seems as if the Georgia Bulldogs have found their groove. They are 10-1 in their last 11 games, including a 35-14 victory over No. 10 Tennessee on Saturday. The Bulldogs' offense is clicking, and the defense is playing hard. But the Bulldogs' defense is still a work in progress. They have allowed 30 points in their last three games, and they have given up 100 yards per game on average. The Bulldogs' offense is clicking, and the defense is playing hard. But the Bulldogs' defense is still a work in progress. They have allowed 30 points in their last three games, and they have given up 100 yards per game on average.

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Detroit blanks Boston

By Jimmy Butler
Assistant Editor

TIGERS 1, RED SOX 0

DETROIT — As the Detroit Tigers' season came to a close, they did so with a bang. They defeated the Boston Red Sox 1-0 on Saturday night in the American League Championship Series opener. The Tigers' offense was quiet, but their defense was stellar. They held the Red Sox to a shutout, and they won the game on a single by Justin Verlander in the bottom of the ninth.

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Dogs' title hopes likely over

By Matt Winters
Sports News Service

ATLANTA, Ga. — The night that Georgia's hopes for a national championship were dashed. The Bulldogs' season ended in a 31-14 loss to the Alabama Crimson Tide on Saturday. The Bulldogs' offense was out of sync, and their defense was overwhelmed. They were unable to score a touchdown, and they gave up 31 points. The Bulldogs' season is over, and their hopes for a national championship are likely over.

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Grading the game

By Matt Winters
Sports News Service

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Paine struggles in return to action

By David Lee
Staff Writer

PAINEVILLE, N.C. — Paineville's first football game in 10 years didn't have a favorable result for the Lions. The program's return to action ended in a 28-14 loss to the Fayetteville State Panthers on Saturday. Paineville's offense was struggling, and their defense was overwhelmed. They were unable to score a touchdown, and they gave up 28 points. Paineville's return to action is a struggle.

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Kešelowski wins after late caution

By David Lee
Staff Writer

CONCORD, N.C. — Brad Kešelowski escaped a 21-year winless streak Saturday by beating Drew Hammaker in the closing laps at Charlotte Motor Speedway. Kešelowski's victory was a surprise, as he had never won a race before. He finished the race with a lead of 1.4 seconds over Hammaker.

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Keşelowski wins after late caution

By David Lee
Staff Writer

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Sports Section or Pages

A

2nd Place

The Telegraph, Macon

The Telegraph **INSIDE: Northside hosts showdown with Flowery Branch, 3C**
COLLEGE KICKOFF
Saturday, August 31, 2013 Sports Editor David Sharkey | dsharkey@macon.com | (478) 744-6227

Focus before feeling



Key to UGA victory is execution, not emotion
Seth Emerson
semerson@macon.com

ATHENS — Two days before playing in the nation's most highly anticipated game of opening week-end, and the game that could dictate the course of its season, the Georgia football team spent valuable meeting time talking and posing for pictures with Jeff Greenstein, Star, the NCAA poster boy who was in town anyway, so what's a few minutes away from the grid?

A couple of days before that, the atmosphere was just as tense. Star linebacker Jordan Jenkins happily recalled his ability to keep his feet over a blocker during a scrimmage. Star quarterback Aaron Murray

Quarterback Aaron Murray (12) and the Georgia Bulldogs open the season Saturday night at Clemson in a matchup of top-10 teams. **SEE INWOOD, 7C**

Join the Mercer football conversation on Twitter at #Mercerkickoff

It's game time at Mercer University Stadium

Mercer's long-awaited return to football has arrived with game against Reinhardt

Reinhardt at Mercer
6 p.m., Saturday (ABC)
macon.com ONLINE
Go to macon.com/oncampus for Michael A. Logan's local coverage sports and also follow him at twitter.com/mloganpages.

Reinhardt
since 2011, an anxiety levels on both sides will be high. It's certainly not the way for two head coaches wary of seeing their players go against each other for so long. But the list of unknowns is long. "Initially, it's not going to be super bright," Crooks said. "Just recognizing, 'Good, we've been going so long, they're jacked up and getting these to settle down.'"

Football isn't the only thing going on on a practice field. "These kids have never warmed up before go program," Lamb said. "We had to literally walk through the warm-up these days."

IN TODAY'S PAPER
A special section on Mercer's return to football this season.

Reinhardt
The vast majority of those in uniform haven't played a football game

Reinhardt
Led by head coach Bobby Lamb, Mercer will play its first football game since 2011 on Saturday night against Reinhardt. The game at Mercer University Stadium is a sellout. **SEE MERCER, 7C**

More Kickoff
• Vast Lee set for first start with Georgia Tech
• Daniel Shirley column on Mercer fight and Grant Rodewald
• Sun Macon's era opens at Auburn
• SEC/ACC capsule

Page 7C
• Georgia Southern set for opener against Savannah State
• Telegraph picks
• Saturday's schedule and TV schedule

Sports Section or Pages

A

1st Place

Gwinnett Daily Post, Lawrenceville

sports gwinnettdaily.com

SECTION B • FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2013

KICKOFF EDITION

THE REWINDS
A quick look at this weekend's high school football in the Gwinnett area.

TODAY'S GAMES
7:30 p.m.

- Apalachee at Salem
- Buford at Brookwood
- Buford at Fenton Co.
- Central Gwinnett at Parkview
- Collins Hill at North Gwinnett
- Commerce at Fenton
- Habersham Central at Duluth
- Hapeville Charter at DAC
- Mountain View at Mountview
- Peachtree Ridge at Norcross
- South Gwinnett at Archer
- Stephens Co. at Lanier
- Wesleyan at Linnet
- Woodstock at Cedar Shoals

BY THE NUMBERS

5
Straight North Gwinnett winners over last Collins Hill

1
Win needed by Lanier (5-2) to break the school record for wins in a season

5
Five points that separate Gwinnett's two highest-scoring teams — DAC, which averages 31.7 points, and Buford, which averages 31

FAVE CHOICE
PLAYER OF THE WEEK
Each week during the football season, the Daily Post will nominate four players for its Fave Choice Player of the Week. Online voting at www.gwinnettsports.com will begin Monday morning and will end Thursday at noon. This week's winner is **Wheeler Collins Hill's** **Corey McCreary**.
Class: Senior
Position: Wide receiver
Year: Senior
Note: McCreary had a 77-yard interception return for a touchdown and a 49-yard reception for another score in a win over Mountview.

Coach Kevin Beach's take: "It's a great kid. The aptitude of what we look for in a Collins Hill kid isn't a big target out there (at wide receiver) and he does everything right. He blocks well, he's got good hands. He plays in the secondary and always seems to be on top. He's just a solid football player and he'll have an opportunity to play at the next level." **Result:** McCreary (66 yards) beat out Mt. Creek's Carter Gooden (41 yards), South Gwinnett's Corey Reed (37 yards) and Brooks Jeremy McCreary (25 yards) in his voting this week. Nearly 2,000 votes were cast this week.

FLASHBACK
On this week in 2006, **Darwin LeGarde's** TD run set a region and record in double OT for Brookwood to a 13-7 win at Dawson. ... Peachtree Ridge keeps its play-off hopes alive — in a season that overall includes a 16th tie — with a 27-13 comeback win over Mt. Creek. Central Gwinnett holds on to beat Panthers (21-14), its first victory over the Panthers since 1994.



North Gwinnett quarterback coach Eric Young looks over some offensive alignments on an iPad with head coach Bob Sphar, left, as offensive line coach David Braxton, right, looks on during the home game against Mt. Creek earlier this season. The iPad played a role this year allowing communication devices on the sidelines. Below, Mountain View coach Braxton QB records the action on his iPad from the coaches' box during a game (Photo: Karl L. Moore)

iFootball

Technology pushes its way into high school athletics

By Brandon Brown
bbrown@post.com

As the beginning of the season, North Gwinnett had a player run down from the top of the press box with an iPad in hand.

He would get to the field, give it a coach and take a second iPad up to the press box. It was an exhausting task to go back and forth time and time again.

"We had to go through some trial and error the first couple of games," North Gwinnett head coach Bob Sphar said.

North players and coaches weren't checking their Facebook pages during the game or watching old episodes of "Modern Family." The iPad, and technology in general, has become the new tool at Georgia high school football. Technology has long been used for filming games, but now it's being used during games on the sidelines. The Georgia High School Association passed a rule this summer allowing communication devices to be used during games.

"It's a major move in the right direction," Sphar said. "The NFL has been sending down pictures of plays for years."

The rule, which was adopted by the National Federation of State High School Associations, means that coaches can now be used during games to help players and coaches make adjustments. Many of these things have long been used by the pros.

"The traditional hesitation had been that many schools could not afford the devices and there would be a competitive disadvantage," GISA Executive Director Ralph Swanson told Georgia High School Football Daily in August. "As the communication devices became smaller and less costly, more and more schools had access, and it was nearly impossible for game officials to enforce the rule since violations tended to occur in press boxes, locker rooms or on the sidelines."

While the rule was passed this summer, not every team takes full advantage of it.

"It hasn't been a big deal for us. We've used it very little," Norcross head coach Keith Mahor said. "We're just doing what we've been doing in the past. As we learn more about it and get the equipment we need, we'll use it more in the future."

North Gwinnett was able to

Measuring stick game for Eagles, Bulldogs

By Bob Berman
bberman@post.com

When it's a game like this, even the coaches can't obstruct. Well, not too much.

"We respect our opponent every week," North Gwinnett coach Bob Sphar said, "but we are getting ready to go into Week 8. We all kind of know how it is starting to shake out. If you are a true competitor these are the weeks that outline all the work you put in in January."

"This is a huge game," Collins Hill head coach Kevin Reach said. "I think we've played well to get us in this position. This is a game, we win this game it will keep us going to where we want to be and that's to win a region championship."

Collins Hill remains in control of Region 3-A, but with just one region loss to Norcross, the Eagles have at least the opportunity to shake up the top of the region with a win. They head to Lawrenceville as healthy as they've been all season and coming off a road win at Mountview.

Christian Harris, the

Lifestyle Coverage

H



3rd Place

Rockdale News,
Conyers

Lifestyle Coverage

H

COMMUNITY

The Meat & Potatoes of Life

She'll do it — Always

By LISA SMITH MOLLARI
Special to the Journal

Her husband comes home from work, carrying a dirty coffee cup. Entering the kitchen, he sees that everything is neat, tidy and just as he likes to eat. The stove of dinner is ready for him. Standing next to the dishwasher and sink, he thinks, "She'll do it." He puts a dirty cup in the sink and heads for his favorite chair.

Theresa comes home from school and hangs up her backpack. She looks at the coffee cup in the sink and thinks, "She'll do it."

Theresa comes home from grocery store to find dirty dishes in kitchen, backpacks in hallway, and laundry in bathroom. Growing under her breath, Theresa wonders why, despite years of stating otherwise, the family still thinks she'll do everything. The contemplation knowing a week's work, telling everyone to go pack up, and leaving town for a week, but she'd do it might be easier to just clean up the mess and go microwave herself a cup of coffee.

Later the same week, husband needs transportation after a bad day at work. Theresa says she'll drive to work, but she'll do it. Theresa says she'll drive to work, but she'll do it. Theresa says she'll drive to work, but she'll do it.



Theresa's mother comes home from school and hangs up her backpack. She looks at the coffee cup in the sink and thinks, "She'll do it."

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Turk's Cap: Relished by hummingbirds, butterflies

By NORMAN WINTER
Special to the Journal

Whether the Turk's Cap is a perennial or annual in your garden, you will be unable to see the hummingbirds and butterflies leaving on the secret rich red blossoms. In the house, the Turk's Cap could see a little Madison Avenue advertising, as it has a host of constant customers — some of which do the plant justice.

First, consider the official common name in West Milledale, that we also have Shady Hillside, Bleeding Heart, Turk's Balm, Ladies' Slippers, Touch-me-not-Pain and Mexican Apple associated with the plant. During my years with Mississippi State University, I frequently received calls from concerned gardeners who told their blooms had failed to fully open. Indeed this year giant needs marketing help. From through to in others called Turk's Cap, however, in botanical studies it is a Malvaceae arboreum. It is a tough as nails woody shrub that can reach five to six feet tall and last to some 75, where winters will cut it to the ground each season.

Once you find your plant in fields well drained soil — keeping in mind that egg white soil will be one of your biggest challenges in a spring sowing in the northern limits of its hardiness zone. Since the plants reach five to six feet in height, consider using them in the middle to the back of the border.

You'll find that it thrives in sun, part shade or morning sun and afternoon shade, giving a festive dose of its bright red color. I've watched them really take abuse from drought and long periods of rain, but a little irrigation goes a long way and really makes for a shorter looking plant.

The Turk's Cap is at home in the tropical, personal, compact or backyard wildflower garden. In the tropical garden, plant in front of tall banana or in a large drift adjacent to elephant ears. In a tropical cottage garden, use an against a white picket fence draped with a yellow alfalfa.

For a garden's cottage look, by combining with the Yellow Ironweed sage, catnip, rue, red hot piper and blue salvia. The key here will be to plant a host group of companion plants as the Turk's Cap will form its own large clump.

I have found the Turk's cap in some without flowers, butterflies, bees and hummingbirds, making it a very special plant that anyone can grow and enjoy. It should happen without the help of Madison Avenue. I hope you will give it a try in your garden.

Editor's note: Norman Winter is the executive director of the Columbia Botanical Garden and the author of "Tough on North Flowers for the South and Caribbean." Contributions: Color and Style in the Garden.



The Turk's Cap attracts a variety of its insects. Especially if you're a hummingbird, it's a backyard wildflower garden.

2nd Place
Bayonet and
Saber, Fort
Benning

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suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Lifestyle Coverage

H

1st Place

Smoke Signals,
Big Canoe

Smoke Signals Living

RESIDENTIAL NEWS & EVENTS & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES • JUNE 2013



The summit of Traylor Bay Hill offers a view of three bays in northern Lake Thomas: Traylor Bay, left; Bass Bay, center; and McGregor Bay, upper right with the La Crosse Mountains in the distance. COURTESY OF KATHY ANDERSON/PHOTOGRAPHY. INSET: Dad plays at home with my siblings, circa 1952. PHOTOS COURTESY OF PHIL SPURLING.



My Dad's Boat

By Phil Spurling

On an early morning in June 1962, my father made his final checks before loading up the family for a two-day road trip from Columbus, Ohio to Birch Island, Ontario on Lake Huron. That year was particularly special as he was making a new, 38-foot, stern drive boat. The station wagon was packed with my parents, my sister, my brother and me, two cats and a dog and all our luggage and provisions. Mid-afternoon of the second day, we arrived at Chief Joe McGregor's dock at Birch Island on the Ojibway Reservation. Dad launched the boat and we loaded on all our paraphernalia.

Our new "big boat" was set for her inaugural cruise. The weather was perfect - calm and sunny. All the Spurlings were excited to be in their new boat heading to their cottage in McGregor Bay. We christened her Genie from "Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp." She was a beauty.

Built in Denmark, Genie is a Coroner B Fiberglass. Originally powered by an 85-horsepower Volvo inboard-outboard runner, Genie's handcrafted construction - fiberglass fabric laid up over a wood frame with oak and mahogany woodwork throughout - reflects precision craftsmanship.

The design, including the seaworthy deep-V hull, is all Danish. Coroner Fiberglass was an innovator in powerboat fiberglass construction and a key player in the development of the inboard-outboard engine. Genie was the first stern-drive on the local waters.

Years later, I realized this was the year my father turned 50. His birthday usually passed with little fanfare. Genie must have been a private gift to himself, one the

entire family could enjoy. Dad was raised in a small town west of Columbus. He was outgoing, down-to-earth and could do anything with his hands. He was an

excellent carpenter and could plumb and wire, too. He made his living as a surgeon, McGregor Bay, located at the north end of Georgian Bay in Lake Huron, is a



Genie, my dad's boat, awaits her next trip. PHOTOS COURTESY OF PHIL SPURLING.



The cabin, erected in 30 days in 1955, remains a testament to my parents. PHOTOS COURTESY OF PHIL SPURLING. INSET: My father, circa 1950, made his living as a surgeon. PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE.

protected body of water (8 by 14 miles), filled with several hundred islands. It's a picturesque area bordered by the La Crosse Mountains to the north and Killarney Provincial Park to the east. Over the years many artists, including the famous Group of Seven, have painted the exceptional scenery.

My folks bought a one-acre island there in 1954. The next year, my father, mother and a carpenter returned to the island, lived in tents and built a simple 16' by 30-foot cabin in 30 days. Electricity came to McGregor Bay a year later. And, in 1957, when I was 7, my parents started bringing the entire family - all the kids and pets.

As a surgeon, my dad was very busy. His life centered on the care of his patients. An early riser, he'd leave home before 7 a.m. and return after 6 p.m. He went to the hospital seven days a week, though usually just for rounds on weekends. He was continually on call for emergencies. Phone calls in the middle of the night were not surprising. He survived summer breaks at his wilderness hideaway in the Northern woods - spending time with family, working on handyman projects and fishing with his son.

Wild specimens from Ohio had come to McGregor Bay in the late 1960s and early 1970s, drawn by the fishing, hunting and solitude of the northern woods. Both the pan fish - perch, bass and muskell - and sport fish - walleye, pike and muskie - were plentiful.

Wildlife was abundant, too, from black bear, deer and beaver to some, weasel and red squirrel. Despite occasional runs-ins with deer flies and mosquitoes, McGregor Bay was an outdoor wonderland for kids and outdoor enthusiasts.

In retrospect, conditions were austere: no phone, TV or indoor toilet. Water was pumped from the lake with a screen mesh for a filter. But we didn't notice. Along with routine chores, we stayed busy swimming, fishing, boating and exploring the woods and rocky points.

Our conversations were peppered with words like nightcrawlers, crissalids, pump house, outboard, garter snake, porcupine, blueberries, catfish, marly, dragonfly.

See MY DAD'S BOAT, Page 2

Lifestyle Coverage

G

3rd Place

Barrow Journal,
Winder

Barrow Journal
Michelle Stewart, Features
770-867-6397, phone
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In the Barrow
COMMUNITY
SECTION: **C**
February 27, 2013
www.BarrowJournal.com



THE RESULT OF PRODUCTIVITY
The team has been working on this robot four days a week for almost two months.
Photo by Michelle Stewart



THINK AND PLAN
Now that the robot is basically completed, the team must finalize their strategy plans for the competition.
Photo by Michelle Stewart

Robotics Competition
Barrow-Jackson 4-H Robotics team completes robot

By Michelle Stewart
mstewart@barrowjournal.com

The Barrow and Jackson County FIRST Robotics Competition team has met their Feb. 19 deadline for building their robot for the FIRST Robotics Competition, held March 14-16. The theme of this year's competition is the Ultimate Survival Game and each team robot must be able to throw frisbees to score points and climb a 10-foot tall metal-framed pyramid in 30-second intervals. The students built the robot themselves, with help from adult mentors and volunteers.

The team is currently practicing for the competition, taking time to refine the robot and work out any kinks. The Barrow-Jackson team attended a mini-ages scrimmage in Alpharetta on Feb. 17.

The 2013 team members, who have devoted their time to building the robot are as follows: Tristan Gaskins, team president, Jeffrey Littleton, officer, C.J. McLaughlin, officer, Hal James, officer, Travis Adams, officer, Sarah Gaskins, and Heather Kalisch.

Matthew Washidge, Julian Bailey, James Hardgrove, Eric Justice, Matthew Lambrecht, Sara Lambrecht, Matthew Ellis, Jeremy Bender, Kasey Kelly, Brandon Register, Gabe Mason-Pollack, Connor Dumas and Luke Black.

The 2013 mentors are: Bob Gaskins, Wayne Adams, Maggie Adams, Harold James, Bob James and Heather Kalisch.

Paula Sherill and Jackie Elliot are the team's parent volunteers, offering assistance to 4-H agents, Wanda McLaughlin and Kurt Hebbes. Participating teams have the opportunity to advance to the championship as well as qualify for more than \$10 million in scholarships.

See Robotics on Page 3C.



GOING THE DISTANCE
Tristan Gaskins uses a tape measure to test the Frisbee launching distance of the robot.
Photo by Michelle Stewart



READY FOR LAUNCH
Part of the scrimmage included a rehearsal of the Frisbee launching portion of the competition.
Photo by Maggie Adams

Review: 'Project-based Homeschooling' by Lori Pickert

"How many children realize that education is for them, so they can do whatever they want to do in life...?"

—Lori Pickert, author of *Project-based Homeschooling: Working Self-Directed Learners*.

Friends of mine know that I'm a fan of Lori Pickert's book *Project-based Homeschooling: Working Self-Directed Learners*. I had begun following her blog before her book came out, and it piqued my interest in this style of homeschooling that is based on the Emilia Reggio Approach, an educational philosophy for early-childhood that began in Italy shortly after World War II. Now there are Reggio-inspired schools around the world.

I don't like that Pickert titled her book with the word "homeschooling." To me, it's a manual for every parent who wants to become a better mentor for his or her child. Though homeschoolers have the luxury of time, any parent can use the strategies in this book, especially since the work you would do with your child would have no time constraints. If you want to understand

how you can support your child's interests and foster independent thinking and entrepreneurship, then you need to read this book.

Revisiting our perspective about how our children should learn is a good idea anyway. According to Carly Davidson, author and professor at Duke University, "80 percent of today's grade-school kids may end up doing work that hasn't been invented yet."

I got that quote from an interview with Davidson on *MindShift*, an excellent education blog, and one of her suggestions to parents is to have students embark on meaningful community projects. "Discussing big, taking risks, and scaling back if and when you have to are fantastic skills. These skills are hardly ever taught in the school system..." she writes. This sounds very much like the kind of learning Pickert writes about, though projects could be big or small. They could be shared within your family or outside of it. Whatever the size, they are going to give students a chance to direct their own educa-



shell bond pabis

tion. Adults and children learn best when they are studying subjects of their choosing, and with a good mentor, they'll take their learning to a higher level and find ways of sharing it with other people.

After all, teaching what you know to others is the final stage of learning. What Pickert has done with her book is explain in an easy-to-read and practical manner what parents can do at home to ensure that children will take charge of their own education and gain essential skills. If that sounds far-fetched, I suggest you read the book.

Project-based learning (PBL) is for any parent who wants to be involved in their children's education. What I found inspiring in the book is the way she insists parents must live the lives that they want their children to aspire to. After all, to be a mentor, you must be doing the work yourself. One way to teach your children how to fulfill their goals is to show them how you work toward your goals. Your children will learn from your example. Your goals don't have to be lofty —

Everyone has work, hobbies or other interests that they can share with their children, and sharing your disappointments are just as important as sharing your victories.

In PBL, children choose their projects and make long-term deep inquiries into their chosen subjects. Unlike traditional school where students have time constraints, PBL students can take the time they need to dig deep. They could take months or years to complete a project. It may branch off into other projects. Letting them make mistakes and learn from them is a key component in PBL. As mentors, parents will be writing down their questions, reminding them of what they wanted to know, documenting their work, and most importantly, scheduling dedicated project time. You will ask them what materials they need to do their work, and you'll make suggestions when they get stuck.

What you don't do is take over the project or push your agenda on the child. That's not easy, but Pickert gives practical advice on how to do it. I love how she includes lists of "things you might do" which includes materials you might have on hand. (I'm assuming she considered the

"third teacher" in the Reggio Approach.) She even suggests things to say to your children when you're trying to get out of the rut of doing things for them.

One of the best pieces of advice I've gotten from Pickert is that parents need to pay attention (i.e. giving empty praise) to what they want their children to do more of. By writing down their questions, recording their progress, photographing their work, hanging their artwork on the wall, you are sending them a message that this is meaningful work. If you do this (and don't give attention to the less desirable acts), kids are going to want to do more of the good stuff. After reading the book, I had many questions about how PBL would look for young children like mine. If you're interested, you're welcome to visit my blog (www.mamawellington.com) next week for an interview with Lori Pickert on this very subject.

Shell Bond Pabis is a Winder resident and contributing columnist for the *Barrow Journal*. Send comments about this column to her at shellpabis@gmail.com. You can also visit her blog at www.mamawellington.com.

Lifestyle Coverage

G

INSIDE:
Graveyard site of dinner party fundraiser
...page 7B

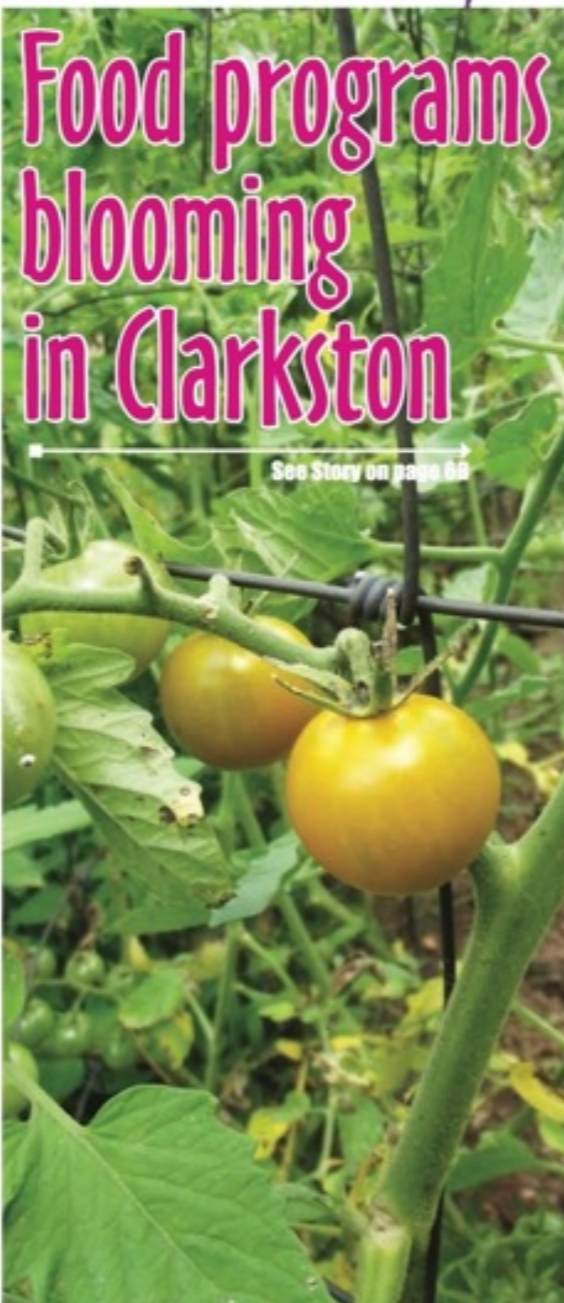


LIFE *Style*

Section: **B**
Thursday, September 5 - 11, 2013

Food programs blooming in Clarkston

See Story on page 6B



2nd Place

The Champion,
Decatur

Lifestyle Coverage

G

LIFE *Style*

Section: **B**

Thursday, June 6 - 12, 2013



View from atop Arabia Mountain; nature at its finest.

Photos by John Hewitt

400 million years of history and nature await discovery at Arabia Mountain



A pool of diamorpha adds a stark contrast to weathered rock surface.

by John Hewitt

An often-used slogan for the Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve area is "See 400 million years from here." All it takes is a little imagination and an open mind.

As we began our ascent to the top of Arabia Mountain in Lithonia, it wasn't difficult to imagine dinosaurs roaming the area or hunters and gatherers looking on the fertile land to spot their next meal. And eons later, Native Americans holding ceremonies and later still, the thriving granite industry that once was prevalent in the area. According to the Arabia Alliance's website, archaeological studies show that humans have inhabited the area for an estimated 12,000 years.

Technically older than the more popular Stone Mountain, Arabia is classified as a monadnock, literally a large rock outcropping or a lone mountain that has risen above the surrounding area.

Park Ranger Robby Astrove

refers to Arabia Mountain as DeKalb's hidden jewel. An informal pool of my coworkers proved Astrove's assertion to be correct. Many people are unaware that Arabia Mountain is located within the boundaries of DeKalb County or that it is part of a federally designated National Heritage Area.

The Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve encompasses approximately 2,500 acres just south of Interstate 20 and west of the Stonecrest Mall area. It is actually owned by DeKalb County and operated by the county parks and recreation department. The nature preserve is part of the larger Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area that is administered by the National Park Service and includes the Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Rockdale County, Panola Mountain State Park, Flat Rock Archives and Atlanta Wild Animal Rescue Effort (AWARE).

The nature preserve is home to five endangered plant species, including the bright red diamorpha that flourish in the many pools of



Evidence of earlier mining in the area still remains.

See Arabia on page 9

1st Place

The Champion, Decatur

Lifestyle Coverage

F

3rd Place

Franklin County Citizen Leader, Lavonia

DA wants criminals to fear, 4A
Bigg Daddy's cuts ribbon, 3A



SAVING RAYMON, LAVONIA, FRANKLIN SPRINGS, CONY, CARROLLVILLE AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 30 THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2013 WWW.FRANKLINCOUNTYCITIZEN.COM 75¢



Struck

Lightning hits sheriff's office, cooking phones, computers

By Dana Matthews News Editor

CARROLLVILLE — It's all good now, but things were a little dicey on July 11 when lightning hit the Franklin County Sheriff's building during a severe storm, taking out the phone system and filling the lobby with smoke.

"It punched the phone lines," Sheriff Steve Thomas said of the lightning that hit the top of the building about 5:30 p.m.

The strike took out not only the phones, but also cooked the main circuit board, filling the lobby with smoke and shutting down electricity to some of the PCs in the diversion center.

"We did not lose any records," Investigator Joanne LeCroy said. "The generators kicked in and kept things running."

They did evacuate one out, LeCroy said, which was checked out by the Carrollville Fire Department. Damages were put in the multi-purpose room, he said, until the fire department declared it was safe.

Thomas said the strike took out a fax machine and a work station server, among other computer equipment, and "Wenderson had to dig new lines for the phones."

"The phone lines were out until 6 or 10 a.m. on Thursday," LeCroy said.

Thomas said they were "very fortunate" to have not sustained more damage from the lightning strike and that nothing like that had ever happened there before.

Currently, Thomas said they are using some old equipment they had in storage until they can make a claim through their insurance and purchase replacements for what was lost.

Thomas said his office thanks the Carrollville Fire Department and all the county workers who came and worked throughout the evening to get the office back in running order.



Trial set for Lavonia murder; death penalty sought for Canon crime

By KENNETH S. BARNARD Staff Writer

CARROLLVILLE — Trials in two Franklin County murder cases have been set or are taking shape.

One trial, for a January 2012 shooting near Lavonia, has been set, while the Northern Judicial Circuit District Attorney has announced plans to seek the death penalty in a high-profile murder case from Canon earlier this year.

The homicide trial of Marlon Owens is scheduled to begin Aug. 5 at 9:30 a.m. at the Franklin County Courthouse in Carrollville.

Owens was charged in January 2012 with fatally shooting a 16-year-old male and two months of imprisonment in connection with the death of Tommy Cleveland Jones, 11, of Lavonia.

See TRIALS, Page 4A



The first shall be last

By TRAVIS WATSON Staff Writer

Dr. Travis Watson cleans the teeth of Anderson Galloway on the doctor's last day at his Franklin Springs Street office in June. Galloway, a long-time friend of Watson, was both the first and last patient for Watson's 52-year-old practice. For more on Watson's career, see Page 2B.



Johnny Cash Now Saturday

LAVONIA — "Folsom Prison Blues" and "Ring of Fire" will ring out from the Lavonia Cultural Center Saturday as Johnny Cash Now comes to town.

The Johnny Cash tribute act will play some of the greatest hits of the Man in Black.

Made from other rock and roll and country legends will also be performed.

For details, see Page 2A.

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Wake Hartwell rides the waves — Page 10B

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F

2nd Place

Donalsonville
News

CHEROKEE LIFE

10/24/2013

THE CHEROKEE LIFESTYLE NEWS 17

God's Garden

BY JULIE RICHSTONE
jrr@donalsonville.com

What started out as a seedling of an idea by a man named Norman Burns has grown into a garden — God's Garden. The garden produces crops from spaghetti to zucchini, and then donates the produce to charities, ministries and individuals in need around Cherokee County.

Six years ago, Burns met with a couple of guys from his Sunday school class who had loved to help him out the best of his 1-acre property. While tending to the lawn, these men noticed that Burns had fruit trees on his property that were not harvested. One of these men, Steve Thompson, now a liaison for God's Garden, said they could local food pantries to see if they had a need for the fruit. The food pantries said they did, but there was no plan in place to collect the fruit. An idea was planted to begin a ministry of sharing the crops that Burns grows.

"I think one of the most profound things (Burns) said was, 'I really would like for this to be given to people in need,'" Thompson said. "He knew what it was like

to be hungry and he said no one should ever have to be hungry."

The garden is now in its sixth year, and it produces several crops. Typical produce planted in God's Garden include potatoes, onions, beans, eggplant, squash, okra, cucumbers, tomatoes, peas and some winter plants. Organizers also still harvest apples, pears and grapes from Burns' fruit trees.

The garden has several retail partners including Mountain's Ace Hardware in Woodstock and Donnie Plants, who have donated out of date seeds and plants available for retail sale. The garden also receives individual plant and seedling donations and, occasionally, volunteers at the local farmers markets who have left over items will donate to the garden.

"Everything here is donated, and everything is given away," Thompson said. "We don't take anything out of that garden for ourselves."

Over the past five years, the garden has produced between 1,200 and 4,000 pounds of donated crops per year, according to Thompson. He said a bulk of the produce is donated to MUST Ministries, but they've also given to a number of



Hanno Williams is pictured working in God's Garden where volunteers help grow crops to be distributed to local charities, ministries and individuals in need across the county.

other ministries, such as Forever Fed, a mobile food ministry and local individuals in need.

"God's Garden helps to feed the people in Cherokee," said Kaye Cagle of MUST Ministries.

In the garden, behind the rows containing eggplant and cucumber, is a cross that reads "1 Corinthians 3:3-6." This Bible verse is

known to highlight the Christian belief that while people may plant and water seeds, God is the one who makes all things grow. This verse also is featured on the garden's Facebook page, which was created to share information and pictures of the garden.

Thompson said the garden is called God's Garden for a

reason, and he believes that God has helped them with the garden since the beginning. "At times, when we didn't have a way to get somebody there to water (the garden), it still grew," he said. Thompson said God's Garden is something that he feels like he was led to do.

SEE PAGE 18

Local men place in Pan American competition

BY BECCA WINDNER
beccaw@donalsonville.com

James Jones was right on target last month, earning a silver medal in the 2013 Pan American Shotgun Championship standard national division. Jones, an assistant solicitor general in Cherokee County, also fared well as a member of the American team, taking home a gold medal.

Joining Jones on the podium June 30 was Cherokee County Sheriff's Office Capt. Joe Satterfield, who earned a third-place medal in the standard national division and a gold medal as a member of the American team.

Satterfield took home those same honors during the 2010 championship match.

"I am really proud of the U.S. team this year. In the 2010 Pan American, I was the top U.S. shooter and Pan American Champion, and this year, I was third overall," he said, adding that the first- and second-place winners were teammates. "We covered the podium with American flags."

Hosted by the International Practical Shooting Confederation (IPSC), the championship is a Level 4 shooting event held once every three years in a Pan American country.

"The countries that are officially recognized for awards are from North and South America and Central America, but countries like Canada and some European countries compete for individual titles," Jones said.

Unlike contestants from Pan American countries, Jones said shooters from around the world are not eligible for prize money.

"They are shooting for pride, so to finish in the top three or to earn a medal in a team event is a really big deal for these countries," he said. "It is more national pride for who you are shooting for and to get the chance to shoot for the United States is something I take a lot of pride in."

Satterfield said the team match has more meaning to him than individual matches.

"As long as team U.S.A. dominates the podium, the order of finish is really not that important," he said.



James Jones, who is an assistant solicitor general, recently earned a silver medal in the 2013 Pan American Shotgun Championship. Jones also is a member of the American team and together took home a gold medal, which he is pictured with.

To paint a picture of their expertise in practical shooting, Jones explained that competing countries hand select their team shooters out of thousands.

SEE PAGE 18



On a recent day at Chukkar Farms, Jack Cashin greeted a new polo student, Leigh Strickler, of Marietta. Instructor Beth Milwood, of Alpharetta, also is pictured.

Where polo, charities and fun meet

BY CAROLYN HAINSWORTH
carolynh@donalsonville.com

Tucked into the wooded hills of eastern Cherokee is the heart and soul of horse country — Chukkar Farms Polo Club and Event Facility.

The 179-acre horse farm, owned by longtime Atlanta entrepreneur Jack Cashin, is a place where even hills standing on the sidelines are a part of the action, as those visiting immediately are caught up in the spirit of the motto of Cashin's family — "Live life aggressively, as if you are on a cavalry charge."

Cashin's father served in the cavalry during World War I, and the motto is emblazoned in

Latin above the hitting posts at the fields.

"There's no reality except in action," Cashin explained. "One should dare to do mighty things."

In Cashin's family tradition is that when one is married, they receive a cavalry sword as a gift.

The horseman, now 87, embodies the reality of the words his family lives by. A former military officer, magazine publisher, male model, actor, restaurateur, politician and businessman, Cashin still plays polo.

He currently is recovering from a back injury sustained by falling off a horse three months ago, but he plans to be back in the saddle soon.

SEE PAGE 18

Lifestyle Coverage

F

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SPORTS



Softball team back on track, 1B

Reaction on roundabout mixed

DOT outlines plan for intersection

By Michelle Reuter
mreuter@dawsonnews.com

Residents have mixed feelings about a proposed roundabout at Hwy. 53 and Elliott Family Parkways, though many agree something is needed to drive traffic in the area west of Dawsonville.

"I think the roundabout would be good. We just need to get some good construction," Larry Anderson said. "My concern is I'm not getting a good answer from the Georgia Department of Transportation as to if we will see speed reductions."

State transportation officials presented preliminary plans for improvements to the crossing during a public information meeting last week at the Dawson County Government Center.

Currently in the preliminary design phase, the project is slated to start in April or May 2014, according to project manager Derrick Bowen.

See DOT 1A

COMMUNITY

Marriage milestone



By David Reuter
dreuter@dawsonnews.com

Loy and Dot Reuter met in August 1938, a few days before commemorating at Lumpkin Campground was set to begin. Five days later, the couple stopped off after the evening service to marry. On Saturday, they will celebrate 74 years of wedded bliss.

Couple celebrates 74 years together

By Michelle Reuter
mreuter@dawsonnews.com

Dot Reuter was recently talking to a friend who asked how long she had been married.

"I said it'll be 74 years on Aug. 24, and she asked, 'in the same man?'" said Reuter, recalling the conversation with a laugh.

Dot and Loy Reuter met in 1938, a few days before commemorating at Lumpkin Campground was set to begin. Five days later, the couple stopped off after the evening service to marry.

"I've noticed here lately if one of us gets a little bored or something, we don't talk," she said. "So there's no fussing going on. That's the secret. I guess. We've never really had fusses."

An Atlanta girl visiting her grandmother for the work of church services at the historic campground, Dot Reuter was 17 when she stopped away after the evening service to marry her husband.

Dot Reuter, 91, said "learning to both" is the key to a successful marriage.

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Dot Reuter, 91, said "learning to both" is the key to a successful marriage.

See YEARS 1A

Qualifying begins next week for city

Two council seats, liquor sales on ballot

By David Reuter
dreuter@dawsonnews.com

Qualifying for Dawsonville's Nov. 5 election begins Monday.

The ballot will feature two city council seats, as well as a referendum on Sunday restaurant liquor sales.

Qualifying will run through Aug. 30.

City residents will be able to register for voting from 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. next week at the Dawson County Board of Elections & Registration office on Academy Avenue.

The last day to register to vote in the Nov. 5 election is Oct. 7.

This year's ballot will feature the council seats currently held by Mike Savelber and Angie Smith.

Savelber has confirmed that he will seek reelection. Smith, however, was more tentative.

"I have been involved in the city and helping it in any way that I can, but I have family and kids to consider," she said. "This is a very big commitment. I'm still in the thought process."

The qualifying for a council seat is 1,000 votes and fees for this year's election were set by the council during its Jan. 7 meeting, pending for next year.

In addition to the municipal posts, voters also will consider whether to allow restaurants in the city to sell liquor by the drink on Sundays. Currently, they can only buy beer and wine.

Contact

- For more on the Dawsonville election or registering to vote, call the Dawson County Board of Elections and Registration at (706) 248-2640.
- For any questions involving the city or city council positions, call (706) 265-3208.

Beer festival on tap this weekend

By David Reuter
dreuter@dawsonnews.com

Be on the lookout for food, drinks and fun this weekend at the Georgia Racing Hall of Fame plays host to the inaugural Dawsonville Music and Beer Festival.

Proceeds will benefit Camp Southern General, a nonprofit for kids.

"Cuteberry Ale House has put together this," Mayor James Grogan said. "We sold him the permits and everything is ready to take place."

Portions of the proceeds will also go to organizers, the Georgia Racing Hall of Fame and vendors, according to officials.

Doors open at 5 p.m. Friday and 11 a.m. Saturday. The festival lineup includes bands such as Cold Mountain Band, Back in Black, The Back Band, Southern Accents and Rock Room Revival.

Tickets are on sale for both days, with prices at \$5 in advance and \$15 at the door. VIP tickets are available for \$25 and include a free T-shirt and two-day tickets.

Grogan has hopes that the event will let people see what Dawsonville has to offer.

"Since there's nothing of this nature that has taken place north of Alpharetta and Newnan, I really see it as a possibility of drawing in 5,000 to 10,000 people into our community," he said.

Ale House officials echoed Grogan's hopes.

"Dawsonville doesn't really have a place for a live music venue. It needs one," said manager Donovan Ryder. "We got people from Dawsonville who come down to Cumming all the time for live music because they don't have a place to go."

On the Net

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/dawsonvillebeerfestival.

At a glance

Bands will be playing throughout the day. Here are some of the times:

Friday

- Heavy Brothers, 5 to 6:30 p.m.
- Cold Mountain Band, 7 p.m.
- Back in Black, 9 p.m.

Saturday

- Southern Accent Band, 4 to 6 p.m.
- Ale House Band, 6 p.m.

Inside

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- Classical 4C
- Dear Abby 6C
- Deaths 3A
- Legal 7C
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3A County asks for pet license fee.

6A Student recognized by state board.

Lifestyle Coverage

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3rd Place

The Eatonton
Messenger

Lifestyle Coverage

E

WHITE COUNTY NEWS
Mountain Life
 Section C • June 13, 2013

INSIDE
 Shadow needs a home!
 Page 6C



Car Sherlock, a 'Quilts in the Garden' volunteer and Master Gardener in Clarksville, holds a friendly alpaca from Adena's Alpaca Farm. Poking it are Jerry and Beadie Kiefer, grandchildren of Jerry and Theresa Satterkirk of Satter Nacoochee.



Sharon Titman, a quilter and volunteer for the event, admires two different kinds of lavender. (Photo by Esther)

'Quilts in the Garden' raises more than \$1,500 for Helen branch of White County Public Library

By Ivy Hubley
 Special to the News

Linda and Ted Dell located "Quilts in the Garden" on Saturday, June 8, at their Satter Nacoochee home on Riverside Road, which features a 3-acre garden. "Lots of people had asked to see our garden. And quilting, gardening and books are activities that lots of people share—they're all nurtured and need to flourish," Ted Dell said.

The Mountain Laurel Quilters' Guild of Clarksville and Gold Rush Quilters' Guild of Cleveland sponsored the event. It included a self-guided tour of the garden, a book sale and a plant sale.

More than \$1,500 was raised for the Helen branch of the White County Public Library.

Around 250 guests attended from 17 Georgia counties, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and even Florida.

"It was a festive, community event, and for a good cause," noted Beadie Kiefer.

About 300 quilts were on display, and close to 100 quilts purchased.

Stylin in Cleveland donated quilts and Beady's 14-year-old twins in Helen donated other valuable items. Judy and Helen Mohr of Satter Nacoochee loaned a canopy, pot benches and tables. The Satter Garden Club donated plants for sale. Mildred Gessert, Helen post-and-courier for the White County News, donated copies of her book, *Quilts for Helen*, as a fund raiser.

"The success of the event was due to the hard work of 26 volunteers," Ted Dell said.



Bill Eckert of Satter Nacoochee entertains book browsers on the book sale porch. All proceeds go to the Helen Library. His wife, Beady, is a volunteer at the library.



Beady Kiefer of Satter Nacoochee enjoys the day. Her grandmother made quilts by hand.



Kiefer-Kiefer made this headwaters memory quilt from her husband Wally's photos with the bookshelves. This helped out with the book sale.



Helen Library's Regina Carlson, left, and branch manager Deborah Kelly are pleased with the bookshelves. They helped out with the book sale.

2nd Place

White County News, Cleveland

Lifestyle Coverage

E

SECTION D Retrospective

AUGUST 26, 2013 INDEX 2013 More News & Features D2, D3 & D4 • Legal Advertising D1



Found the lost

Study by the Madison-Morgan Conservancy uncovers "Walton Mill's Hidden Past"

Down there near the western edge of Morgan County near the larger County border, there's a secret that remained hidden in the woods for generations. It wasn't buried, and it wasn't wanted.

In fact, it was the beginning of Georgia's industrial revolution, nestled in a single cotton mill — which is pretty rare, considering. During a 10-week project led by Madison-Morgan Conservancy Board, Laura Dinkels, the director of historical events going back all the way to the 1820s was discovered on the 80-acre site of land left by the Little River basin, colloquially as the Walton Mill Tour.

The document produced by the study will trace the history of the Walton Mill Tour, its current condition, and possibilities for future research on the area. Sources for the study ranged from diaries, maps, historic aerial views, newspaper articles, and oral interviews.

The history of the Walton Mill Tour is carefully detailed, beginning with the 1807 Land Lottery, when the land that now makes up part of Morgan County was divided and sold off at approximately six cents per acre. The cotton mill that was built by William Gregg in 1828 on the Little River is considered to be the first in the state of Georgia, and a community began growing around it known as "Walton."

The Methodist Episcopal Church was established in 1830 north and by 1831, there was a post office in the community.

Following the War of 1812, the need for domestically produced textiles increased, and the cotton mill/loom area around the Little River suffered. Gregg went bankrupt in 1830 and the "Waltons," the most prominent family of the time in the area, completely left the area by the mid 1830s.

During the 1830s, however, P.W. Walton purchased land in the area and built a logging plantation, covering 4,500 acres in the 1830s. Walton also owned 130 slaves during this time.

The Walton estate in Waltons in the 1850s, and P.W. Walton's land was eventually split between his heirs. Multiple mills were still operating near the turn of the century, but they shut down after the Civil War, which ended in 1865, when a reconstructed mill and the Walton's 1830s are believed to have been built and were so built.

•• See PGW20 Page D2



Graphic: Matt Hunt • Photos by Jesse Walker

Clockwise from top: The truss bridge once ran from the mill across the Little River. The mill, which was originally wood, is long gone, but the concrete pillars that support the bridge are left ready in place. This metal structure that supported the mill is located at the Walton Mill. However, none of the original stone appears to be much older. The stone house is one of the only preserved structures at the site, but it is in danger of being lost. It appears to have been built around 1870. The stone structure contains roads and lots of cemented gravel. Some gravel company buildings and foundations, but none bear visible markings.

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Morgan County Citizen, Madison

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CRASH KILLS TEEN

16-year-old Quincy, Fla., boy dies in Saturday accident off Old Quincy Road

BY BRENNAN LEATHERS
News Writer

A Quincy Fla. teenager died in a two-vehicle accident Saturday night in Bainbridge, according to officials with the Georgia State Patrol's Colquitt, Ga., post.

The accident happened at approximately 8:45 p.m. Saturday night at the intersection of State Route 97 South and the State Route 97 South Connector, also known as Old Quincy Road.

Joshua Timothy Wicker, 16, of Quincy died as a result of injuries he received when his pickup truck collided head-on with another truck. His passenger, 15-year-old Lucas Dondrick Stokes of Quincy, suffered a broken leg.

According to a GSP accident report filed by Trooper First Class David Fretwell, Wicker was driving a 2011 Chevrolet Silverado north on State Route 97 South toward Bainbridge, when he attempted to pass a stopped vehicle that was attempting to turn left onto Old Quincy Road.

The front of Wicker's truck struck the front of a 2011 Ford SEF Super Duty truck, driven by Tyler Chad Bennett, 18, of Bainbridge, Ga.

Wicker's truck spun around counter-clockwise and came to an uncontrolled final rest on

See CRASH, Page 14

Man arrested after he threatens police

BY BRENNAN LEATHERS
News Writer

A Bainbridge man was arrested Saturday night after engaging with and threatening police officers who were attempting to disperse a crowd.

At approximately 11:11 p.m. Saturday night, BPS Officer Gary Eason, Cpl. Tom Foster and Officer John Mills had responded to a disturbance on the 1000 block of Sroughton Street in reference to a motor disturbance.

According to a BPS report, several minutes later, after the officers had received the initial

See POLICE, Page 14

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According to a BPS report, several minutes later, after the officers had received the initial

See POLICE, Page 14

Future Runaways: Class

Harrison (left) and Charles Collier (right) make plans to escape their responsibilities, early in the BLT "Class Act" production of "On the Tip of My Tongue."

BY CAROLYN IANON
News Writer

Children naturally love pretending and using their imaginations. They act out scenarios when they play. It follows that they would like to get on stage and act out an original story line or script.

This Friday and Saturday the "Class Act" children of Bainbridge Little Theatre will present "On the Tip of My Tongue," a new play described as a mystery fantasy for children.

Two young kids decide

See ACT, Page 14

Theatre tots

BLT's 'Class Act' performing soon

BY CAROLYN IANON
News Writer

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Two young kids decide

See ACT, Page 14

Community leader Bill Jones passes away at 84

BY CAROLYN IANON
News Writer

Bill J. Jones, 84, passed away Sunday, June 9, at Memorial Hospital.

The funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday at First United Methodist Church, with the Rev. Randy Stealy officiating and will conclude in the church. Interment will be at Oak City Cemetery.

Jones was born March 14, 1929 in Bainbridge. Following his graduation from Bainbridge High School in the Class of 1946, he went to Atlanta where he attended Emory University. In 1952 he received his Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from Emory University.

He attended Emory Law School. Mr. Jones was a veteran of the United States Army, serving during the Korean War.

He spent 18 years in Atlanta where he was involved in banking, first with the Citizens Southern National Bank, now known as Bank of America, before returning to Bainbridge. He retired in 1987, but in 1990 he became involved with a group that formed the Bainbridge National Bank, where he was chairman of the holding company as well as a member of the bank board. That bank merged in 1998 with First American Bank and he served as a director of First Bankshares, Inc. and member of the board for a number of years. In a previous feature article about Jones, which was published in The Post-Searchlight in 2004, he stated that all told he was in banking 45 years before retiring as President of FAB.

See JONES, Page 14

OBITUARIES:
Full obituaries can be found inside the edition on page 8.

- E.T. Curdick
- Homer L. Golder
- Bill Jones
- Julia Maxwell Purcell
- Melissa Day
- Signatory
- Joshua Timothy Wicker

YOUR NEIGHBOR:
Great morning to **TIFFANY HALL**. Tiffany lives in Bainbridge and is a kindergarten teacher at Pines. Bainbridge Elementary School.

WEEK AHEAD:
Full calendar can be found in the edition on page 24.

Wednesday
• Family Committee will meet at 8 p.m. at the BCC. Kisha Carter.

Thursday
• Toodle Time will be at 10 a.m. at the Deane County Office HI Group Library.

Friday
• The Spring Alive group of Morris Baptist will meet at 8 p.m. at 222 W. Second St.

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Lifestyle Coverage

D

2nd Place

Calhoun Times

Check out the Calhoun Times pet photo competition information included in this week's Pets of the Week. 30

Crossword, Sudoku, and Celebrity Cipher puzzles on p. 4B

Gordon Life

Society, school, arts, entertainment, news inside... Calhoun Times Wednesday, September 25, 2013 • 1B

Agriculture Alley

Gordon County Extension Agent Greg Bowman offers advice on everything agriculture.

Mice and rat control for the home

Greg Bowman

I will be the first to admit that today's topic is not one that sounds fun and interesting. In fact, your county agent is not a fan of rodents at all. He will have been known to leave his clean pants and over the counter medicine on the floor and I am not a fan of the either.

Let's face it, at some point you are going to have a mouse or even a rat take up residence on your property. In these situations, you need to decide what you are going to do in order to safely eliminate the problem. I will be sharing information from a USA publication by Mike Starnick, USA Wildlife Specialist.

Who is it important to control mice and rats? First, these rodents can damage things and can carry disease. In their search for food sources they can tear into food bags and spoil those items. I kindly remember the scene in Charley's Web where the boy and rat, Templeton, had a great time feeding on all the items they had hidden at the county fair. I think he ate more than three times his weight in food. That was funny in a cartoon movie, but not in real life where a rodent has ruined your food pantries.

In Georgia, we have three kinds of rodents that will live with people. They are the common house mouse, the Norway rat and the roof rat. Also, keep in mind that if you see one rodent there are normally more. They like to hide out in the daytime and then are out and about in the safety of darkness.

Rats and mice are highly diverse in what they are going to eat. According to Mammal, they will eat grain and seed, nuts, meat, candy and even processed cereal to name a few. Their eye sight is limited, but their sense of smell, taste and touch is outstanding.

If you think you have mice or rats but have not seen them, you may have to further investigate. You can look for tracks. How fast you do this on the inside of a house. You can put some flour or talcum powder on the floor and rub it well on a hard floor surface. You can put a stick of incense or a candle in the middle of the floor or porch. You would then see the rodent tracks in the flour or powder. Look for droppings and signs of

Cook of the Week: Evelyn Shuler

Something to remember

Tasha Bunch

Not too long ago, upon receiving Facebook, I noticed a few friends in Calhoun all having their dog had managed to get out of her view and into a lot of trouble. She had simply allowed Charlie, her nine-month-old miniature dachshund outside long enough to see the restroom and when she went to let him back in, realized that he was nowhere to be found.

After walking several nearby roads and neighborhoods, calling his name for quite a bit, her heart began to sink. She immediately posted photos online with her previous posts there and long several lost dog posters on various sites. Friends and family members helped search for days and finally, after what seemed like forever, she received some helpful leads.

Someone from Facebook had informed her that they knew who had picked up her dog but she supposedly "wasn't out of a tree".

She called the person, got their name and address, only to learn that they had returned her to someone at a local store, almost an hour after she heard back again. Her dog would be an abandonment at this point.

She asked for the name of the store and called immediately. Fortunately, she managed to get the name of the lady who had possession of Charlie and learned that she was a frequent shopper and would be in the following week. My blood was devastated and could not wait that long to hold her Charlie again.

She and a few friends began calling all of the vets in that area, asking about Charlie and if any miniature dachshunds had been returned.

In her heart she knew that if someone would take her precious dog to a vet and would have his chip checked, he would be home in no time.

She had no such luck, well, not until she received a call from the lady herself. For some reason, she decided to return the dog even a little longer than usual and a kind employee informed the woman of the heartbroken girl in a desperate search for her dog, several hours later.

Things worked out well in my friend's favor and everyone was relieved to see little Charlie return home to his loving family.

I said all of that to share this please because that just because a dog is missing the stress, doesn't always mean it is hopeless.

Most of the time, you can have a dog returned for a chip or a local vet for free.

Think before before giving up and rehoming a dog before you search for rightful owners.

Give outside the bathroom (not necessarily the animal shelter) you may be getting someone's very loved pet in risk of being put to sleep. Not all lost dog stories have a happy ending. Luckily, little Charlie had determined owners, a membership, and a loving forever home.

Mississippi Mud Cake

Ingredients:
2 sticks butter or olive
1 cup brown powder
1 egg
1/2 cup milk
1 cup plain flour (not self rising)
1 cup sugar
1 cup chopped nuts, if desired
Marshmallows

For icing ingredients:
2 cups sugar
1 stick of butter or olive
1 cup cream milk
2 tsp vanilla

To make cake: Melt butter in pan over low heat. Stir in brown, then sugar and egg well. Add flour and milk. Mix well. Pour in pan and bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Remove from oven and cover with small marshmallows. Allow to set while making icing.

To prepare icing: Mix sugar and cream together. Add cream milk and vanilla and mix well. Add stick of butter and mix well. Bring to a boil and allow to boil for 2 minutes. DO NOT REMOVE THE SPONGE OR YET (will allow the cake and top). Remove from heat, beat and pour over the marshmallows on cake.

From the corporate world to the stage

Lee

Lee Carter-Cas, a former corporate executive, is now a professional dancer and performer. She is shown performing a dance move on stage.

Lee Carter-Cas, a former corporate executive, is now a professional dancer and performer. She is shown performing a dance move on stage.

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Lifestyle Coverage

D

1st Place

Bryan County News, Richmond Hill

Life on the hill
BRYAN COUNTY NEWS

DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS WEEK'S EVENTS. PAGE 16.

PAGE 17 • WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2013 • WWW.BRYANCOUNTYNEWS.NET

GREGG ALLMAN

RAMBLIN' MAN

opens up about autobiography, book festival

By Caitlyn Ross

Rambler Greg Allman might have no down time in Richmond Hill, but he's a king when it comes to sitting down.

The Rock and Roll Hall of Famer is still actively touring and recording with both the legendary Allman Brothers Band and a solo effort. His latest album, "Low Country Blues," released in 2011, reached No. 5 on the Billboard 200 chart and No. 1 on the Billboard Top Blues chart.

"Through age and experience, I've learned how to do it right," said the 67-year-old rocker. "I just come off the best time I've ever done. My head and I are just on another level now. Life is good."

He had some details of that life last May in his memoir, "My Cross to Bear." In its first week, the title jumped to the No. 2 spot on the New York Times nonfiction best-sellers list, due largely to Allman's honest and unflinching portrayal of the behind-the-scenes world of sex, drugs and rock and roll.

In the book, Allman candidly recounts the highs and lows of his 30-year career — from the death of his brother Duane to a brief marriage to Cher and a rocky road paved with addiction and illness.

The memoir, though it all, he said, has been his music.

"It's what I was born for. I used to play to feed. It sounds strange, but I had to feed to hold onto reality if I can't play. It's like, what is it that I do, besides take up space and feed and waste it? I can't play!"

Allman will be a featured local author at the 2013 Savannah Book Festival. He will be on hand from noon-2 p.m. Feb. 16 in White Square in Savannah's historic Old Town Square. The public is encouraged to attend. To find out more, visit www.savannahbookfestival.org.

Allman lives in Richmond Hill with his two dogs, Maggie and Oba. When he's not on the road he enjoys riding his motorcycles, painting and being on the water.

In an interview at his home, Allman chatted with Life on the Hill about his memoir and living in Bryan County.

Q&A

Why did you decide to write a book?
It was just a period at first. I was never supposed to be a book until my manager got hold of it. I started it about 1985 and spaced by the time I got to be 70 or 80. I'd go back through and write it all.

Was it hard to hold the mirror up to your life?
Not really. It was more just remembering the life you had and reflecting on the experiences.

Is going back over your life, did you discover anything new about yourself?
Oh, that's a good question. I did. I learned that I'm a patient man. Never knew that about myself before.

How does it feel, knowing that anyone with a library card can be privy to the most intimate details of your life?
[Laughs] Well, did you have to get it like that? You know, there's nothing in there that I don't want people knowing. There's actually a whole lot of love in it to get to there.

Do you have any favorite lyrics or songs that you're proud of?
It's different from anyone else's. You have more time to write until. You can get to know your fans deeper.

Other than reading what others say about you?
Quite different. In a good way. They just write for the sake of writing, and the last place they go for is below the belt. It's really a drag. It's a shame that they can write something about you, get your name wrong and we're held accountable for it.

Has there been any talk about making a movie based on your book?
Well, my manager called me a little while ago and said he-and-we-here-would-we picture wants to come and talk to you about a movie. ... So the guy came, and he was really into it, but you never know with these Hollywood producers if it's on the level or not. So we'll see.

What do you want people to take away from your story?
My book is just a plaything. It's just something to read and enjoy, to peek in on another man's life. I've had a real fun life, and every day is a new experience and a new bucket of laughs.

Has anyone come up to you and told you how your book affected them?
Oh, man, boy! [Tearing up] Yes, you know, with the stories they tell. Any time you think you've got enough, just line up a bunch of people (at a book signing) and really talk to them.

What does it mean to be a local author at this year's book festival?
I don't know yet. This is the first one I've been to. Should be fun though.

Is it different signing a book than an album?
It's different from signing stuff after a show. You have more time to write until. You can get to know your fans deeper.

Do you have a favorite book or author?
I like Mitch Albom. I just finished "Five Days with Maurice." I also really like fantasy. "The Hobbit," for example.

Why did you decide to come to Richmond Hill?
The year I started playing music, I was 10 years old. My mother, my brother and me — my father was killed when I was 2 — rode through Savannah. I remember going down this road that was like a tube with the oak trees, and at the end of the road was a Harley Davidson. I thought, man, this is paradise. I possessed myself I'd be back here someday. And here I am.

What's your favorite thing about living in Bryan County?
The peace and solitude. When I moved here, I had my mother. Later, I want a place that's just the opposite of Times Square. And that's just what I found here.

Do you have any favorite haunts?
I'm pretty much a stay-at-home kind of guy. I like to get out on the water when I have a chance, go fishing.

What does the next chapter of your life hold?
The guy I worked with on my last album, T Bone Burnett, wants to cut an album with the Allman Brothers, and I definitely want to get them back in the studio. For my next solo project, I want to do an album where I write the whole thing.

If you'd followed your original plans and become Gregg Allman the dentist instead of Gregg Allman the rock star, where do you think you'd be today?
Oh, I'd be the owner. It would have dragged me back — the music, the lifestyle. I'd have seen my brother doing what he was doing and come around.

Photo: Provided

Photo: Caitlyn Ross

Gregg Allman sits with one of his custom Harley-Davidson motorcycles.

"MY BAND AND I ARE JUST ON ANOTHER LEVEL NOW. LIFE IS GOOD." — Gregg Allman

Lifestyle Coverage

B

3rd Place

The Albany Herald

south view albanyherald.com

SECTION C • SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2013



Mandy Flynn

Witches made me do it

It was brought to my attention this week from an article I read that there are some people who believe Halloween candy is possessed by the devil. Or is it that Halloween candy is the devil? I don't recall, exactly, but I do remember one woman said, and I quote, that most of the candy sold this time of year — a.k.a. Halloween candy — is dedicated and prepared over by witches.

Well, that explains it. That explains why this bag of Halloween Fun Size Twix I bought at the grocery store last Friday was these candy bars that before I made it home, I didn't eat them willingly. The devil made them jump out of the bag and into my mouth. It wasn't my fault. Don't witches.

Now, I'm not one to usually scare witches or the devil, especially this time of year. I just find it hard to believe that there are a bunch of witches sitting around sharing over bags of M&M's and candy corn. Where does this take place? How do they do it? They have enough willpower as to be afraid that each chocolate and nut nut will be a "at least one" for Scrooge Bolla given just as much trouble as you or me, a literary foe because our words are his hair since Scrooge Bolla are so much stouter? In many questions.

I guess here and admit that I would not find it entirely strange to have witches do have something to do with that. I believe ever been flustered hard candy. That should be allowed to be called candy.

Regardless of my own profession, I believe wholeheartedly that everyone is entitled to their opinion. Celebrating Halloween, for many, is not their thing and I really, completely respect that. But can't we just leave the candy alone? For one, it's confusing. If I buy candy that does not exist in a plastic bag covered in pictures of pumpkins and bats, is it okay? A man bag of "butterworth hard candy" for example. Is it possessed because I purchased it at Halloween? What could be worse than possessed "butterworth"?

There are quite a few candies I stay away from at Halloween, and not because I think they are incarnations of the devil. I just don't like them, and when I was of sick or treating up my friends and I used to have in-depth conversations and sometimes arguments over what was the worst candy you could find in your trick or treat bag after a night out in the neighborhood. Some of the ones I remember were:

Necco wafers
New & Lovers
Barnacka Bubble Gum
Mary Jane candy
Candy corn
Necco wafers (like chedd, New & Lovers can break your teeth, and Barnacka Bubble Gum can also break your teeth and other late state, however.

See **FLYNN**, Page B4



A ghostly visitor is mysteriously captured on film in the picture of an abandoned house on Residence Avenue. (Special photo)

ghosts AMONG US?

Time of year for supernatural visions

By LAURA WILLIAMS
williams@albanyherald.com

ALBANY — At this time of year, ghostly visions seem to be lurking everywhere, whether they're real, imagined, or re-created in a digital event. Today's visions in the streets with supernatural happenings occur now that we're here. From television shows featuring otherworldly creatures, to movie screens down depicting the adventures of real life ghostbusters, these times are mysterious.

The most recent visit to The Albany Herald occurred a month ago a ghostly apparition on Residence Avenue, and even brought along a photograph of the visitor. Of course, there are several legends surrounding places in Albany and the area — tales of seeing and hearing the strange and unexplained activities.

No matter what your personal opinion may be on the matter, these stories remain interesting, and of course, full of mystery.

Residence Avenue: Brian Boyd of Albany tells the story of one visit, Danny, who was driving home one night a couple of years ago when he was stopped by a funeral procession. While passing the time, Danny began snapping photographs of an old house nearby on Residence Avenue. After getting his pictures developed, he noticed something strange about one photograph. After speaking with the film developer and examining his original footage, he had no explanation for the man who now appeared in his photograph.

Cautiously, he took down the property owner, who shed some light on the mystery. The house, which now sits abandoned and condemned, was originally a house of prostitution and illegal gambling in the 1920s. The owner of the house claimed the man in the photograph was some other than her father, who ran the illegal business and was murdered in

the property in the 1930s. Perhaps he never left! Maybe this is one abandoned house that still haunts a resident.

The Bridge House: Designed by noted Bridge Builder Thomas King and built by Albany founder Nelson Van, now known as the Albany Widener Center, but apparently known as the Bridge House, the property is well known for its architectural details as well. Numerous investigations claim to have recorded images of shadowy figures in the building, and explore the spirit of the building, and opening their doors to the public.

Theravastika (The Village Center): This site at Albany's old main square on the 100 block of Broadway Avenue is said to have ghostly inhabitants, with nearby residents claiming their doors are haunted.



The Bridge House, at 110 Front St., above, allegedly haunts a ghostly visitor who likes to play with the electricity. (File photo)

Left, the Widener Center in Albany is allegedly haunted by a woman and little girl. (Special photo)

HEALTH & FITNESS

Measuring and evaluating body mass index

As I'm writing this week's article, I'm thinking about my high school reunion coming up this weekend. I see a lot of my classmates, I will be one to see how others have changed over the past 35 years. Now, yes, 35 years. Certain events like seasons and holidays do tend to make us focus more on our weight, especially this time of year. From Halloween to New Year we can become overly stressed with the scale.



Perry Buchanan

So, what does the number on the weight scale really mean? It simply tells us how much we weigh, but how many of those pounds are actually fat. Body mass index, used to estimate weight relative to height, and waist circumference give us a general idea of our condition, but also fail to distinguish the composition of that weight. A BMI of 25 or higher is classified as overweight, while 30 or greater is classified as obese. The measurement of your waist provides a little better insight due to the location of excess fat. A waist above 40 inches for men and 35 inches for women places you at a greater health risk. In contrast to weighing and measuring, body composition testing reveals what that weight actually consists of. What's a good amount of body fat to have? For men, essential fat varies typically considered to be 3 to 5 percent and for women, 8 to 12 percent. Essential fat is the minimal amount of fat necessary for normal physiological function. Generally,

A range of 10 to 22 percent for men and 20 to 32 percent for women is considered satisfactory for good health. Within this range, you have less risk of developing obesity-related diseases such as type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, coronary artery disease and even some cancers.

If you are interested in getting that coveted six-pack, you will probably

See **HEALTH**, Page B4

Lifestyle Coverage

B

2nd Place

The Daily Citizen,
Dalton

Sunday, January 27, 2013 Online at www.daltonnow.com

'Sidelined' NO MORE:
Ken Davis has endured years of illness, had his stomach removed and received a new liver, but now he is

BACK IN ACTION



Ken Davis works with Hunter Smith on shooting the ball during a recent practice at Tunnel Hill Elementary School. Davis has recently been able to return to coaching, one of the many activities he was forced to give up before receiving a liver transplant in April 2012.

By **Chris Stephens**
Special to The Daily Citizen

The time last year, Ken Davis didn't know if he would have a next year. It has been more than 12 months since the Tunnel Hill incident was featured in The Daily Citizen article titled, "Sidelined."

Unable to work, drive, coach, officiate or perform any of the many activities that he was accustomed to, Davis was recovering from having his stomach removed while also awaiting a new liver.

After 2012, Davis is driving, playing golf, working out at the Bradley Wellness Center and helping coach basketball, all leading up to fulfilling his New Year's resolution of returning to work.

"It's been a long journey and it's not over yet," Davis said. "I didn't know if we would ever get here, added Vonda, Ken's wife of 29 years. "I didn't know if he was going to make it."

"It's even nice to have his usual health back," she added with a smile. "Meat."

Sometimes you have to get worse, before you can get better.
Only six months after having his stomach removed, Ken got the call on April 3, 2012 that a donor had been found. He and Vonda

traveled to Atlanta. The surgery was performed on April 2, making him the first person at Emory University Hospital to have a liver transplant with no stomach.

The 26 days, Ken and Vonda were on a roller coaster of ups and downs. Each good day was usually met with a bad day.

While his liver was functioning, the doctors used numerous drugs to allow Ken to be able to eat while also helping his liver from the surgery and get his liver to function properly.

Ken would feel good one day but then terrible the next.

On April 26, Ken was moved to the Mason House, a Ronald McDonald type residence for Emory transplant patients.

He and Vonda were there about three weeks before returning to Dalton for the first time since the surgery.

"Clear we got home, things really started going downhill," Vonda said. "He couldn't eat and kept falling. His breathing tube kept coming out and he just kept getting weaker and weaker."

"That was a bad time. There was a lot of crying. He kept falling and didn't want me to help him and would want me to get our son Tanner to help him. We just kept wondering who he wasn't getting better. I was afraid he was giving up."



SIDELINED
Ken Davis and his wife Vonda were on a roller coaster of ups and downs during his recovery from having his stomach removed.

ROAD TO RECOVERY



Left, Ken Davis with wife Vonda prior to surgery to remove his stomach at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta in October 2011. Below, Ken with his brother Terry Davis at the Oakeswood Circle during a "Friends of Ken" benefit.



Above left, Ken with son Tanner and above with Vonda prior to Tanner's graduation from Northwest Whitfield High School. Tanner's graduation was "one thing I wasn't going to miss," according to Ken.



As Ken continued to regain his strength during the summer of 2012, he and Vonda were able to attend a family outing at Harrison Bay and participate in a Heart Walk in Chattanooga for nephew Landon Christopher.



Ken and Vonda returned to Emory to have his feeding tube replaced.

While Ken was unable to make it home to see Tanner off to his senior prom at Northwest Whitfield High School, Ken and Vonda were able to attend Tanner's graduation.

"That was one thing I wasn't going to miss," said Ken, who attended the ceremony in a wheelchair.

Eventually, Ken was released to the Vicksen Hospital for Physical Rehabilitation in Chattanooga.

The turning point
Ken and Vonda both agree that the time at Vicksen was a turning point in his recovery.

returning home. He qualified for leave modifications, but after one visit it was decided that he was not far along in his recovery.

He also was sent to the Bradley Wellness Center to continue his rehab, but they said him to just needed to go ahead and go because he was doing so well.

"He didn't want to go to work, working out two or three days a week," Davis said. "The struggle is slowly returning and I'm still working to build up my stamina. I can put in some good workouts, but I pay for it the next day."

"He overcame it," Vonda agreed. Ken said that when he first returned to Dalton, he didn't have the strength to shoot a basketball into the hoop.

"Nothing but airballs," he said. But he recently hit 17 of 20 from the free throw line. But then had to make a quick rest.

"There were three guys down on the other end and I know where this was going," he said. "I was going to end up in a 2-on-2 basketball game and I'm just not ready for that."

"And he never runs from a game," said a relative Vonda. Ken's weight reached a low point of 136. He is now between 170 and 180.

Lifestyle Coverage

B

1st Place

Marietta Daily Journal

GO!

MARIETTA DAILY JOURNAL

Dear Abby, 2D
Movies, 4D

LIFESTYLE EDITOR
Kathy Gombory
kathyg@mdjonline.com

Top 5
THINGS TO DO
IN COBB

1 Daniel Tosh

WHAT: Live Nation and Comedy Central welcome "The June Gloom Tour" with comedian Daniel Tosh and special guest, Jarrod Carmichael.

WHEN: June 15, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

WHERE: Cobb Energy Performing Arts Center, 2800 Cobb Galleria Parkway, Atlanta, 30329

COST: \$29.50 and \$75 (plus applicable fees)

INFO: www.cobbenergy.com





June 15th celebration
June 15th celebration Chairman Jerlene Ornes and Cobb County NAACP President Debra Boyner preside to start their planning meeting with an eager group of volunteers for the 10th annual event and concert to be held today and Saturday on the Marietta Square. Juneteenth is the celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the United States, and about 15,000 visitors are expected at this year's event.

Friday Film Festival — Romantic Comedies series

WHAT: The East Cobb Library will have "Romantic Comedies" as part of its Friday Film Festival — Romantic Comedies series. Participants can bring a book, CD or other media for this weekly event.

WHEN: Today, noon to 2 p.m.

WHERE: East Cobb Library, 4440 Lower Roswell Road, Marietta, Ga.

INFO: Contact Susan (ext. 277) 544-2750 or see www.cobbenergy.com

Fellowship & fun

June 15th to include giveaways, dancing, music and speeches

By Sally Lindfield
MDJ Features Editor
sallylindfield@mdj.com



Seven-year-old Inna Farris, center, looks back at her grandmother, Sheryl Duffin, to follow her lead as Duffin and members of the Turner Chapel AME Zumba fitness class dance during Juneteenth in Glover Park last year.

WHAT: Juneteenth celebration
WHEN: Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
INFO: Visit www.cobbenergy.com or call (770) 424-5750

3 Gentle Yoga

WHAT: South-Cobb Gardens will have gentle yoga classes in the Garden as another series. Participants should bring a yoga mat. Instructor is Gaby Schmitt.

WHEN: Friday, July 16, 8:30 a.m.

WHERE: South-Cobb Gardens, 2300 Pine Mountain Road, Kennesaw

COST: \$10 per session for Garden members, \$20 per session non-members.

INFO: (770) 424-5248 or www.southcobbgardens.com

WANT TO GO?

WHAT: Juneteenth celebration
WHEN: Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
INFO: Visit www.cobbenergy.com or call (770) 424-5750

4 History Walk

WHAT: Historian Philip Whiteman will conduct a history walk at the (Duckhorn Hill) Battlefield area of Kennesaw Mountain National Historical Park. Participants should bring a water bottle. Instructor is Gaby Schmitt.

WHEN: Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

WHERE: Kennesaw Mountain National Historical Park, 900 Kennesaw Mountain Drive, Kennesaw, 30144

COST: Free

INFO: (770) 427-4888, ext. 2



WANT TO GO?

WHAT: Juneteenth celebration
WHEN: Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
INFO: Visit www.cobbenergy.com or call (770) 424-5750

5 Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

WHAT: The well-known musical tale of a young man with a very special gift and his adventures following music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyrics by Tim Rice. The full stage show is produced by the Marietta Civic Theatre.

WHEN: Now through Sunday and June 23, 2012

WHERE: East Cobb School Theatre, 117 N. Park Square, Marietta

INFO: (770) 571-9883 or www.eastcobbtheatre.com



Restaurant of the Week

Front Porch Southern Dining

WHERE: 2940 Dallas St., Kennesaw

PHONE: (770) 795-0455

OPEN: Tuesday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

SERVES: Southern cooking

SPECIALTY: Fried chicken, meatloaf, mashed potatoes, macaroni and cheese and green beans.



WHAT: Juneteenth celebration
WHEN: Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
INFO: Visit www.cobbenergy.com or call (770) 424-5750

Media Guide: A look at the latest releases

Movie

"The Bling Ring"

Release date: Today

Director Sofia Coppola looks for more on a 2010 Vanity Fair article about the so-called Bling Ring, a group of mostly 19-year-olds who stole some \$3 million in jewelry and designer goods from Paris Hilton, Lindsay Lohan and others. It's obvious that Coppola knows the milieu, what these kids wear and how they speak. Coppola has chosen newcomers for leads, and gives her most famous cast member, Emma Watson, a supporting role.

Album

Kanye West "Yeezus"

Release date: June 18

West's fierce spirit is fearlessly present in the songs of "Yeezus" - it is, on the whole, a stark, dark, political album through which West tries to use his power and influence to make an impact on the world. Produced by Rick Rubin, West's label, Roc-A-Fella Records will distribute the album. West's previous album, "My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy," is available on iTunes.

Rentals

"Jack the Giant Slayer"

Release date: June 18

The film is directed by Brad Peyton with a screenplay written by Damon Lennox, Christopher YOUNG and Dan Sudyay and stars Nicholas Hoult, Eleanor Tomlinson, Steven Yuen, Ian McElwaine, Bill Nighy and Ivan McGee. The long-standing peace between man and giant is threatened as a young boy leads an expedition into the giant's kingdom in hopes of rescuing a kidnapped princess.

One Step Ahead

Grammy-award winner Jason Crabb will perform June 23 at 10:30 a.m. at Marietta Church of God. The performance is part of his "Love is Stronger" tour. Crabb has won 17 GMA Dove Awards, Christian music awards and has performed on some of the most prestigious stages across the world. "Love is Stronger" was produced by Musical Field's Jay DeMeroux, Ed Cash and Wayne Hesse. The church is at 1083 Highland Road in Marietta. For more information, call (770) 671-4252.



Lifestyle Coverage

A

3rd Place

Savannah Morning News

Savannah Morning News | savannahnow.com/accnt

ARTS & CULTURE SUNDAY JUNE 9, 2013

CONTACT US Josh Rayburn, Metro Editor, 912-652-0414, josh.rayburn@savannahnow.com

WERE YOU SPOTTED? Go to spotted.savannahnow.com to see pictures from Humane Society's 10th annual Doggie Carnival.

It's a ride not a race

To a person, the reaction has been the same: You're crazy.

Crazy to ride your bike in South Georgia. Crazy to ride your bike in South Georgia in June. Crazy to ride your bike some 60 miles a day six days in a row in South Georgia.

Maybe it's these persistent and persistent love handles that made me want to do the like. Kate Adams

Georgia (BRAN) again after a 12-year hiatus and before that a 12-year hiatus. Maybe it's the urge to do something out of the ordinary and blast out of monotony. I'm learning, to a blessing and a curse. The blessing being a push to do something different. The curse being something like, "So what's wrong with staying home and reading?" I mean living is a very regular activity. It's not really white-water rafting or hot air ballooning or hang gliding. All you're doing is pushing a pedal around and round and round (moving to both wheels, smelling corn and grass, passing through towns like Okefenokee that are proud to be a "participating certified literary community." At the end of the day, the most exciting thing is pulling into the designated town and checking up your mileage.

Riding a bike is navigating a simple machine that can only be described as a road, my favorite descriptor.

The bike is a handle. Yes, there are many, many bells and whistles that people incorporate in their handle whistles —

SEE FISHMAN, PAGE 3E

Little B Honey

Little B Honey

Georgia Wild Shrimp

Georgia Wild Shrimp

GALLERIES FORM COLLABORATIVE EXHIBIT

BY ALISSON HERD For Savannah Morning News

Artist Jane Straton, owner of the Whitney Gallery in downtown Savannah, has always had a passion for figurative work.

"It's very intimate," she says of art inspired by the human form. "For me, it's about capturing the essence of the person."

"Stratons Figurative Works," a new group exhibit on display at Whitney Gallery, showcases narrative compositions by eight contemporary painters and photographers. The group show marks the first curatorial exhibition resulting from an ongoing collaboration between Susan Lacey of Lacey Contemporary and Jane Straton of Whitney Gallery.

"Partnering with Susan allows me to show more work and to have expanded gallery hours," Straton explains. "This partnership combines our strengths and helps bring some fresh faces into Savannah art scene."

Prints and vintage-inspired photography by Savannah photographer Rod Cook, to photography paintings by SCAD graduate Amy Lind, "Stratons" celebrates the timeless appeal of the human figure. Artists explore the wonders of physicality, including sunlight reflecting on skin and the body moving through space.

"We cast a wide net. I want people to come away from the show amazed at the variety and approaches to figurative work."

Jane Straton of Whitney Gallery

With two levels of original art, Whitney Gallery underscores the range of creative approaches to the figure in "Stratons."

"I love work with a human presence," says Lacey. "So much can be captured, revealed and expressed through the form."

Whitney artist Kerry Brooks, who has studied art at the Ukrainian Academy of Art in Kiev and the New York Academy of Art, exhibits a series of portraits evoking her experiments with the human figure.

"I consider my portraits as window reflections. The group often presenting the subject in a state of intense and dignified stillness," she explains. "I strive to make paintings and drawings that are beautiful and meaningful, based on both my own interests and the timeless principles of classical art."

When it comes to portraiture, however, Straton's decadent oil paintings steal the spotlight. With their focus on feminine features

details like cleavage straining at the seams of a black strapless dress, any stray hair and an open hand holding a pair of dice in a metaphorical allusion to fate, these layered compositions display remarkable technical prowess. The artist lends an elegant air of mystery to each of the women in the paintings, whether their faces are seen or unseen, suggesting richer narratives behind each composition.

"The talent and technical skill from these career artists is first-rate," Lacey says. "I hope people will enjoy seeing the range and depth of the work and the many takes exploring this theme."

IF YOU GO

What: "Stratons Figurative Works"

When: Through June 29

Hours: Wednesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and by appointment

Where: Whitney Gallery, 475 Whitaker St.

For more info: 252-1417 or 404-452-6656

SAVANNAH DINING: MERCER'S STEAK AND SEAFOOD

Mercer's keeps up tradition of excellence

BY JOSHUA PEACOCK For Savannah Morning News

Restaurant Mercer's Steak and Seafood

Chef Michael Marchand Cuban types Steak and Seafood

Restaurant like: Located in the West Wind Plaza on Johnny Mercer Boulevard, Mercer's has become the new local hot spot for Wilmington Island residents a brief nine months after opening its doors. Originally, the location served patrons as the Oyster Bar, a successful business that was open for more than 60 years. Under new ownership, Mercer's has continued the seafood tradition of its predecessors, serving award-winning crab cakes, and has added a new line of fresh seafood in an exquisite menu.

"I saw the potential of the restaurant, it's a very fluid facility," new owner and Savannah native Mark Ryan said. "It has a great location

most venue as well as a dining area. And if you put that together it makes for a great evening experience."

Live music: Attached to the primary dining facility is a full-service bar with two stages called "Johnny's." On Thursday nights, the secondary stage is illuminated with a showcase of single person or small bands. Friday and Saturday nights, the main stage hosts full bands, mostly from the Savannah area.

Chef's story: Chef Michael Marchand has been enjoying fresh seafood since his childhood growing up in the Boston area. After military school at Annapolis and Wake and a stint in his family's restaurant, Marchand moved to the Savannah area, where he has been serving up seafood for several different restaurants for a number of years now. Marchand owned his own restaurant, Michael's Club, prior to joining Ryan at Mercer's.

"It's a kid growing up with

dig items, and have them taken on the beach," Marchand said. "I love the water. I am very traditional when it comes to food. I like the classic recipes. I won't eat anyone junk. (Food) is my passion."

Favorite dish: Crab Cakes

Why it's a six-digit 14, and people seem to like it."

MERCER'S STEAK AND SEAFOOD

Address: 444 Johnny Mercer Blvd.

Phone: 912-999-0288

Hours: Monday-Tuesday 5 p.m.-midnight; Wednesday-Saturday Noon-midnight; Sunday Open for lunch 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Johnny's is open until 2 a.m. on the weekends.

BALTIMORE STYLE CRAB CAKES

Shared recipe with Savannah "Tech for 'Best Food' by The South in 2010.

Yield: 12 each

1 cup mayonnaise
3 large eggs
1 teaspoon Tabasco sauce
2 teaspoons Old Bay Seasoning
2 teaspoons mustard powder

1/8 teaspoon baking powder
1.5 oz. Worcestershire sauce
1.5 oz. Dijon mustard
1 each soft-shell cracker (crushed)
Jumbo lump crab meat*

Step 1: Mix may, mustard, eggs, Tabasco, Old Bay, baking powder, and mustard powder together in hand, and then add crushed soft-shell and fully incorporated.

Step 2: Add jumbo lump crab and all liquid. Gently fold so as to not break up crab.

Step 3: Refrigerate for 30 minutes.

Step 4: Carefully portion cakes by hand (4-5 oz.)

Step 5: Bake until golden brown, approximately 6 minutes on 400 degrees.

Serve with a crab sauce and a full salad of spring mix with carrots and pine nuts. The garnish is topped with apple slices and a Dijon mustard dressing.

*This is the basic recipe for Baltimore Style Crab Cakes, the exact recipe and the amount of crab used by Mercer's is a trade secret.

Lifestyle Coverage

A

2nd Place

Savannah Morning News

Savannah Morning News | savannahnow.com/accnt
ACCENT
 FRIDAY
 JUNE 14, 2013

Go to spotted.savannahnow.com to see pictures from Groves High School's graduation ceremony.

WERE YOU SPOTTED?

CONTACT US
 Josh Rayburn
 Metro Editor, 912-652-0414,
 josh.rayburn@savannahnow.com

It's time to round up a few buddies

BY GUINN FRIEDMAN

The race is on, and we've passed the 100 pet-adopted mark!

We've got a long way to go if we want to beat our goal of 200 adoptions this month.

While we're at it, let's empty the shelter over and over again this summer by making sure "no buddy gets left behind!"

If you haven't already heard, absolutely everyone can participate in saving some lives — even those of you who don't have room for a pet.

Our new referral program called "No Buddy Left Behind" is designed to give you an incentive to encourage your friends and family to adopt a pet before Aug. 31.

Here's how it works:

1. Pick up your "No Buddy Left Behind" referral card from our shelter on Sullivan Road Drive, or at any of our off-site events. The card also doubles as a 24 percent off adoption coupon.
2. Write your name and phone number on the card.
3. Give cards to people you know are thinking about adopting a pet.
4. When your cards are redeemed, you get a prize.
5. The person with the most points (before the month ends) before Aug. 31 will win a fully loaded Tybee Getaway Beach Weekend (lodging, parking pass and restaurant gift cards).
6. The winner will be announced Sept. 1.

What's the catch?

We are competing in the ASPCA 400K challenge and we must to have 200 pets before Aug. 31.

With so many pets needing homes, and because June is Adopt-a-Buddy-Cat Month, all our cats and kittens are free all month. "No Buddy Left Behind" cards can still be used and counted for you to win.

This program will also boost our chances of winning the \$10,000 Community Engagement award — the one you helped us win in 2011.

It's a perfect way for everybody to win: you, 400K and most of all, the many no-homed animals!

So come on by, get your referral cards, save more lives and start planning for your Tybee Getaway Beach Weekend!

Follow our success at www.challenge.savannahnow.com and make sure you "like" us on Facebook to see who is in the lead for the Tybee Beach Weekend.

SEE HUNAME, PAGE 2C

A visit to the swamp

Any day is better with bird watching

I recently made a trip to Charleston, S.C., mostly to give a talk at the local Wild Birds Unlimited. To make it a better day, I added a visit to a new-for-me birding location — the Francis Beidler Forest.

This 26,000-acre forest near Huger, S.C., is owned by the National Audubon Society and sits within the 45,000-acre Four Holes Swamp.

Francis Beidler was a Chicago lumber boss who, back in the 1930s and early 1900s, bought swampland to harvest and sell to timber.

In 1924, before his death, he put some of his swampland into timber reserve status. Eventually, some of these acres were preserved as Congaree National Park, and some within Four Holes Swamp became Beidler Forest.

What, you might be asking, is the difference between a marsh and a swamp? Basically, a marsh is flooded gradually, while a swamp is flooded often.

To grow in water, trees need special adaptations.

Bald cypress and water tupelo have found an "old-timer" team. Cypress trees even produce waxy projections known as "knees" that grow up around the base of the tree.

Because swampland is wet and muddy, accessing it can be tricky. Beidler Forest has a wonderful 14-mile boardwalk to allow visitors to experience this unique habitat.

It was Monday morning, and I wasn't in church, but when I walked out of the center and onto the boardwalk, I felt as though I had entered a green cathedral.

Light filtered through the leaves of the tupelo trees as if it were coming through stained glass.

Remarkably, there were no biting insects.

My eyes caught fluttering near me and I watched in amazement as damselflies with electric blue bodies and black wings flitted from leaf to leaf.

These slinky jewelwings, I later learned, are common near streams or in wet woods.

One thing about swamps is that it can be easier to hear the birds than to see them.

As I walked, I listened and began my list. An embercreeper "you-ah" told me that the Audubon Foundation was establishing its territory.

"Sweet, sweet, sweet, sweet," sang out from one side of the walkway. To be without more gently from the other side. I caught a glimpse of brilliant yellow among all the green.

SEE CHURCHILL, PAGE 3C

A prairie warbler is also known as a "swamp canary." (LEFT) A male shows breeding plumage.

LEFT: A barred owl peers down at visitors at Four Holes Swamp in South Carolina's Francis Beidler Forest. RIGHT: A white ibis perches on a log in the swamp while sporting its spring best breeding plumage.

Kayakers paddle down Ebenezer Creek. It is a great way to see and hear the sights and sounds of a swamp.

SEE HUNAME, PAGE 2C

The sound of folk-rock worship
 Savannah native's band, Ghost Ship, releases contemporary Christian album

BY LINDA SKLER
 912-525-8754
 lskler@savannahnow.com

Part of contemporary Christian music will rejoice to know a new album, "The Good King," is the product of Savannah native Cam Hurford IV.

Hurford's folk-rock worship band Ghost Ship released the full-length album Tuesday.

"Each song is about one passage of scripture," he says. "It's an experiment. It's trying to look at the Bible that Jesus Christ is king. Every song looks at that from a different angle."

Hurford's father, Cam III, is senior pastor of Savannah Christian Church. The younger Hurford is the lead worship pastor at Mars Hill Church in downtown Seattle.

At East Tennessee University, Hurford studied both theology and music. After graduation, Hurford and his wife, Stacy, were called to an urban ministry.

"We wanted to move to a city that had the least amount of churches because we figured we'd go where there was a need," Hurford says. "We were looking at cities, and Seattle is No. 1 with the fewest churches."

"I also considered with the music scene in Seattle," he says. "The music scene is thriving. There are a lot of musicians I like and wanted to learn from."

SEE HUNFORD, PAGE 3C

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SEE HUNFORD, PAGE 3C

Lifestyle Coverage

A

D **O**
SAVANNAH
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INSIDE
Savannah Harbor
Festival of Lights
Guide

FASHION FOR ALL
MANGUE BANZIMA SHARES HIS DEFINITION OF STYLE

Savannah Morning News

The collage features a central image of Mangue Banzima, a man with a beard wearing a red jacket over a blue shirt and a watch, holding a camera. Surrounding him are several smaller photos: a man in a blue shirt, a man in a white shirt and brown pants, a woman in a grey top, a man in a blue jacket and sunglasses, a woman in a floral dress, a woman in a pink floral top, a woman in a striped dress, a woman in a white shirt and sunglasses, a woman in a pink top, a woman in a patterned top, and a man in a grey suit and glasses. A leather strap with the word 'STYLE' is also visible in the top right corner.

1st Place

Savannah
Morning News

Local News Coverage

H

3rd Place

The Lanier County Advocate, Lakeland

BLACK CYAN MAGENTA

FCCLA HEADS TO NATIONALS... PAGE 2 DIAMOND DOGS WALLOP CLINIC... PAGE 9

LANIER COUNTY ADVOCATE

VOLUME 2, EDITION 24 • © 2012 LANIER COUNTY ADVOCATE • WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 2012 • LAKELAND, GEORGIA • 16 PAGES, ONE SECTION

NEWS BITS



LCHS Paw Print in this issue!

The Lanier County High School newspaper, the Paw Print, is in this issue on page 6 and 7. Check out coverage of Page Day as the paper gets a spotlight on Special Education and more.

Historical Society 10th Ann. April 13

To celebrate its 10th anniversary, the Lanier County Historical Society will hold its 10th Anniversary Meeting at the grounds at Rural Church, on Wednesday, April 11, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The program will include the flag presentation by the Boy Scouts, singing by the Rural Church Stagers, and a presentation of the history of Rural Church by Dr. John Crowley. Everyone in the community is invited. Each adult who attends is asked to bring a covered dish, and everyone should bring a chair. Chicken potpie and watermelon will be served. Call Mary McIlwain at 339-482-2740 for additional information.

Rabies clinic to be held April 13th

A Rabies Clinic for dogs and cats will be held Wednesday, April 11, from 8 a.m. to 12 a.m. at the Lanier County Courthouse. Rabies shots will be \$10 per animal with other vaccines also available. Dr. Jeff Harkin will be the attending veterinarian. The Lanier County Cooperative Extension, 4-H Club and LACS are sponsoring the event. For more information, call 682-3896.

Moody Motorcycle ride set for April 27

The City of Lakeland and the Lakeland/Lanier Chamber of Commerce are hosting the Moody Motorcycle Ride for Rural Access Awareness on Saturday, April 27th, which will start and end at Requeens Park. This event is sponsored by The Braves and the Moody Air Force Base Rural Access Awareness and Promotion Program. Please support this event by riding and call (339) 357-7878 for more information.

Lanier County 4-H \$10 challenge

Lanier County 4-Hers are excitedly awaiting the arrival of summer and the opportunities that our program has to offer them. One of the most well-known 4-H activities is summer camp, and children all over Lanier County look forward to it all year long. Lanier County 4-H is looking for 100 businessmen, club groups or individuals to donate just \$10 each. This would provide five 4-Hers with the opportunity to attend a week of summer camp. All donations are tax deductible and can be mailed to Lanier County 4-H, 302 W. Thayer Ave., Lakeland, GA 31808.



75¢ AT THE NEWSSTAND



Going Egg Huntin'...

Saturday, Southside Baptist Church held an egg hunt at Requeens Park with over 15,000 eggs to find. During the event, Pastor Mark Dossan gave a sermon on the meaning behind Easter. See more photos on Page 15.

Motorcade set for this weekend

With a parade of Quilting Guilds will be open at the FMS Backstage building and the vintage cars will be on display on Main Street until 1 p.m. At 1 p.m. there will be a parade through downtown of the Motorcade Center at 10 a.m. At the same time, the Motorcade will be set for this Saturday.

Registration will begin at the Motorcade Center at 10 a.m. At the same time, the Motorcade will be set for this Saturday.

City to discuss Sheriff's Contract

By Aaron Govea

Consideration continues for the proposed contract between the city and sheriff on the possibility of providing law enforcement for the city.

Mayor Bill Darney stated Monday that he would be discussing again at the Lakeland City Council meeting on April 9th. A study on the economic pros and cons was announced at the March meeting.

So far, Mayor Darney presented the sheriff's department with a new contract taken from the city of Shelton, which the department has rejected. According to Lanier County Sheriff Nick Burton and Mayor Darney, no contract is near completion and nothing is official.

"It was nothing more than a discussion between us on a possible provision to explore whether or not money could be saved between us," said Darney. "The Lanier County News reported on it and everyone has known it was out of preparation. There's no story there and that's the bottom to goodness truth."

The next city council meeting will be Tuesday, April 9th at 5:30 at City Hall.

TELL ME A STORY

Historical stories from Lanier County

By Aaron Govea

See the video of this story on our Facebook Page

This month we are hearing a story from retired farmer and teacher George Burke about Lloyd McKelvin, who was killed in action during World War II and the effects of the war on Lakeland.

LCSA Tell me a little about Lloyd McKelvin.

Burke: I know him after he and his father were living together on approximately two and a half miles west of Lakeland just off Hwy 27 and the fork of Requeens Road and Hwy 32. I remember seeing them there and see them walking the road, while riding my bicycle maybe on Hwy 27, at least that one occasion, walking to or from work the two and a half to three miles of their early life, that is the biggest thing I know about him.

George Burke and Ashley George stand by Lloyd McKelvin's grave - photo by Leanna Warren

LCSA: What happened in his time I know the McKelvin, she was not there.

Burke: I don't know, by the way.

(Continued on Page 2)

LCES celebrates success with superhero pep rally

By Aaron Govea

Lanier County Elementary School held the Renaissance-Pep Rally for the 10th time weeks. The theme was "Super Heroes." Students and teachers dress as super heroes and played superhero themed games. The LCES teachers showed a "Harkin Shake" dance video for students. Many students were recognized for academic achievement during the rally. Two likes were given away as grand prizes.

Students recognized included:

For A honor roll: Caleb Swann, Hayden Buaps, Gabby Carpenter, Adeline Jefferson, Anthony Johnson, Lillie Lopez, Jevy Allen, Ryler Dugan, Kianwan Lay, Victoria Mann, Genise Eshelwood, Andrew Simmons, Taylor Spivey, Tali Brockland, Ava Bingham, Amara Huff, Ethan North, Ronak Patel, Grant Spikes, Justin Kravens, Kai Rodgers, Abby Rowan, John Russell, Durawan, Maryam McLeod, Rogayeh Nourzadeh, Ashlee Risher, Janice Chadwick, James Cook, Ronald James, Jenna Shaw, CJ Smith, Kaylyn Holt, Tucker Browning, Devin Yarnette, Marquon, Caleb North, Daniel Kirkland, Devonne Bailey, Meredith Burton, Colby Conley, Lavonia Lopez, Keyana Madala, Matthew Wandy, Jessica Ralston, Hannah Register, Cody Spivey and Daelys Holland.

For A/B honor roll: Elissa Deane, Hester Adridge, Makenna Bell, January Williams, Leana Hunt, Cedric Davis, Jonathan Brown-Cook, Ted Brown, Danae Davis, Harrison Carter, Russell White, Breanna Dangler Miller, David Foster, Logan Finney, Neah Jenkins, Kayana Marshall, Nacie Harrison.

(Continued on Page 2)

Local News Coverage

H

2nd Place

South Forsyth News, Cumming



Softball stars honored, 1B

SOUTH FORSYTH NEWS

Vol. 5, No. 48 Sunday, December 1, 2013 50 cents

Packaging cheer

Thousands of cookies ready to be shipped

By Crystal Ledford Staff writer

After less than two years of packaging homemade cookies for U.S. soldiers and sailors serving overseas, Linda Lewis and her

small army of volunteers have the process running almost like a military operation. Dozens of volunteers gathered again Nov. 21 at Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9043 for another packing effort. Long tables were covered with thousands of cookies, all compartmentalized into groups of a dozen each. Some were wrapped in ordinary zip-top baggies, while most were contained in colorful, Christmas-themed cellophane.



Dorcia Wilford boxes up homemade cookies during packaging event for Troop the Troops-Southern Style on Nov. 21.

Matter of principals



Ann-Margaret Johnston of Johnston & Associates Inc. and South Forsyth Middle Principal Sandy Traylor welcome students to campus Nov. 20 as part of the principal for a day program.

Program takes officials behind scenes at school

By Jennifer Sant Staff writer

"When there's a fire drill, students file out in an orderly fashion. The same students can produce their own morning show using cell

make equipment. And when a lesson calls for a fun science experiment, that's exactly what happens." But these actions don't happen on their own. It takes administrators, teachers and parents to make everything run smoothly. "Sometimes there's an image that things just happen and run," said Paul Smith, principal of Midway Elementary School. "There's a lot of preparation that goes into making an environment where things function smoothly."

Coach hailed by 'Y'

Father of 3 urges others to join in

By Crystal Ledford Staff writer

A South Forsyth man was recently honored as the top YMCA volunteer for all of the metro-Atlanta area.

Some Curry has spent the past several years coaching youth soccer and basketball at the Forsyth County Facility YMCA in Vickery Village.

A single dad of three, Curry said he began coaching at the Curry residence of his son.

"My son told me I was going to coach," Curry said. "He said, 'I'm playing soccer and you're coaching.' And I said, 'Well, right then.'"

That was about six years and Curry continues to coach youth soccer, as well as youth basketball for the local Y.

Each season, he coaches two teams, one with children 8 and younger and a second with children 10 and young-er.

Phil Bennett, senior sports director at the Forsyth facility, said he was surprised to learn Curry had received the volunteer of the year award.

See COACH | 1A

Tour enlightens commissioners

Offers glimpse of economic growth

By Crystal Ledford Staff writer

County commissioners recently had an opportunity to tour some of the Forsyth's most sought-after businesses.

Arranged by the Forsyth County Chamber of Commerce, the more than 100 members from a broad range of fields and of varied geographic origins. They included Tom, Matthews, CSA International and Automation Design, Randall Tronstad, the chamber's vice president of economic development, said the tour was organized as a way to help county leaders understand their role in creating jobs in the community.

"We wanted to provide our commissioners with direct access to one-on-one of the companies that are expanding in our community," Tronstad said. "This year, we have had a phenomenal year in terms of our econ-

omic development activities. We've worked on projects that are focused on growing over 100 new jobs and approximately \$40 million in new capital investment within our community."

Those members have surpassed the goal for the year of \$40 million in capital investment. According to Tronstad, much of the community's economic development success has come from county staff, which the commissioners had a chance to learn more about through the tour.

"I think one of the key benefits in looking the tour for our county is... commissioners to get a chance to really see firsthand the value of what the county government has been able to contribute toward each company's growth partners," he said. "That's everyone from the planning staff all the way down to the local teams within each department, even down to business licensing."

"Everyone's done a great job with helping to make sure that we have a great community to do business in." While all five of the county gov-



Forsyth County commissioners, Brian Holt, Jim Buff, Cindy Jones Mills and Pete Arnes visit CSA International in south Forsyth on Nov. 18 as part of a tour of unique businesses in the county. CSA uses a variety of measures to test light bulbs before they go to market.

ernment's leaders were invited to take part, only Chairman Pete Arnes and commissioners Cindy Jones Mills and Jim Buff were able to attend.

Arnes said the event was a good learning experience. "You know, you see these companies from the outside, but you don't really realize what they do



Home Matters
Christina Harris is
South Forsyth
Page 4A

Levels on
Lake Lanier

Date	Level
Nov. 24	1020.48 ft.
Nov. 25	1020.46 ft.
Nov. 26	1021.24 ft.
Nov. 27	1021.24 ft.
Full gauge	1021.24 ft.

A product of the
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Local News Coverage

H

SPIRITS
Drive thru for your fall spirits
706-651-4749
1455 Washington Rd.
COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA

The following accounts were taken from Columbia County Sheriff's Office incident reports.

Man chases two men from truck

A Martinez man called authorities Tuesday after chasing two men who broke into his truck.
The 33-year-old man said his truck was parked in front of his apartment in The Haven at Reed Creek apartments off Washington Road. Just after 7 p.m., the man said his wife told him the lights were on in his truck.
The man walked outside and found the driver's-side door of his truck ajar and a stranger walking away, looking at him as he talked on a cell phone.
The man then saw a second stranger going through items in the passenger seat of his truck. He grabbed the second stranger's foot and he chased the stranger around the building after he broke away.
The man said he then chased the stranger who had been using a cell phone. Both ran into woods on the south side of the property.

Store manager reports attack

On Tuesday, the manager of a local restaurant said she was attacked by an employee she recently fired.
The 36-year-old Subway manager said she went to Wal-Mart on Steiner Way at about 1 p.m. She got out of her car and saw a man that she had fired the previous week for several incidents. He was extremely hostile when she fired him.
The man approached the woman, yelling and cursing at her and threatening her. The man circled her before she said he hit her in the face, knocking off her hat. The woman said she tried to walk away but the man followed her, spitting on her.
A Wal-Mart employee said she saw the incident. She said she saw the man yell and scream in the woman's face. She never saw the man hit the woman, but said he did follow and spit on her.
Video surveillance footage from the store showed the man approached the woman. She bent down and her hat fell off. She tried to walk away, but the man followed her.

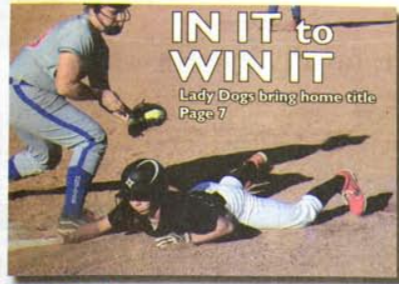
Woman reports home break-in

A woman told police Tuesday that someone broke into her home while she was in the shower.

Woman reports home break-in

A woman told police Tuesday that someone broke into her home while she was in the shower.

See BLOTTER on 3



IN IT to WIN IT
Lady Dogs bring home title
Page 7



County could bill Barrington residents
Page 5

THE COLUMBIA COUNTY News-Times

Sunday, October 13, 2013 www.newstimesonline.com 75 cents per copy

Falconer trying to earn his wings

By VALERIE ROWELL
STAFF WRITER
TWITTER @VALERIE.ROWELL

Some men spend their free time playing tennis, collecting stamps or flying remote-control helicopters and planes.
Keith Messmer's bird needs no remote control — she flies on instinct.
The Grovetown man trapped a 7-month-old Red-tailed hawk he named Candace that he plans to train and hunt with as part of his two-year apprentice falconer's license.
"I hunted with guns for a long time," Messmer said. "Now I bow hunt. I only use a bow. It's a challenge being out there in the woods and stuff like that. As my wife has gotten more into permaculture and urban agriculture, I wanted to get back to small-game hunting. This just seemed like a natural thing to go with this."
"We spend so much time outside because of different stuff we're into, it just made sense."



Messmer said the hawk's desire for food is the key element in its training. When the bird comes to Messmer's gloved hand, it is always fed.

Falconry, one of the world's oldest hunting sports, is heavily regulated in Georgia. There was nearly an explosion in the sport of trapping wild birds and keeping them as pets after the white owl became well known in the popular *Harry Potter* books and movies.
Messmer, who is a member of the Georgia Falconry Association, was required to get a sponsor, pass an in-depth test and have his hawk enclosure, called a mew, inspected by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources before he could get his apprentice falconry license through U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department.
He passed the test in May, just after getting a zoning variance from Grovetown officials in April to allow the hawk to be flown in Messmer's back yard on a long tether.
By trapping the hawk

and caring for it during his two-year apprenticeship, Messmer said he's actually extending her lifespan.
"Transformers — electrocution is one of the biggest killers of them," Messmer said. "They have a 20-year lifespan, but most hawks never make it to that point."
Messmer said he plans to keep the hawk a few years. She gets regular veterinary care, and is fed and kept pest-free. Messmer said his hawk will be ready to breed when released.
"One of the ones that would have died along the way winds up going back (to breed)," Messmer said.
Messmer trapped the hawk using a Bai-Chhatti



Keith Messmer, of Grovetown, captured a red-tailed hawk that he is training to hunt small game. Messmer had to obtain an apprentice falconry license through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department.

Driver charged in death

By VALERIE ROWELL AND STEVE CAMPBELL
STAFF WRITERS

Columbia County sheriff's investigators suspect the driver who killed a 14-year-old Evans boy Thursday, was distracted by his cell phone when he veered off of Hardy McManus Road and plowed into the boy on a go-kart.

pronounced dead at 12:16 p.m. at Georgia Regents Medical Center, where he had been airlifted after the crash, according to Columbia County Coroner Vernon Collins.
"He's just a real good kid," said Pat Becton, who has rented the Hardy McManus Road home to the Smith family for about a year. "It's a sad situation, it's something that did not

need to happen."
Kenneth Earl Gill, 59, of North Augusta, was charged with first degree vehicular homicide, reckless driving, failure to maintain lane and driver to exercise due care, proper use of radios and mobile telephones. He was booked and released from the Columbia County



Kenneth Gill, the driver of a pickup that struck two boys on a go-kart, talks on the phone.

Evans Towne Farmers Market
This Thursday
on the Grounds of the Columbia County Public Library
LOCAL FARMERS • LOCAL ARTISANS • HANDCRAFT GOODS
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1st Place
Columbia County News-Times, Evans

Local News Coverage

G

3rd Place

Walker County Messenger, Lafayette

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2013
ONLINE: wcmessenger.com EMAIL: walkercountymessenger@walkercountymessenger.com

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Local teams test their talents at the North Ga. Invitational at Heritage.

Sports

Check out GoWalkChats Facebook page. It's a great place for you to post items of interest such as upcoming events, the news, what's happening in our community and in the state, or just send us a message. And don't forget to "Like" us!

Walker County Messenger

Hutcheson seeks partner.

News

LOST negotiations finally settled

By Christi Mullins

After nearly a year of debate, Local Option Sales Tax negotiations are finally settled between the governments of Walker County and its citizens.

Walker County commissioners Steve Hinkley announced the news with relief during his public meeting Thursday afternoon, Sept. 12.

"I have agreed to the other request," he said. "Chickamauga signed it last night. It's over. It is done."

Lafayette and Chickamauga were the last to agree to the deal proposed — with Lafayette formally signing the county's offer during the city council's monthly meeting Monday, Sept. 9, and Chickamauga doing the same Wednesday, Sept. 11.

The other three cities, including a small portion of Port Oglethorpe, previously had agreed to the settlement.

"It's a done deal," Hinkley mayor Todd Harris said.

The agreement re-negotiates the split of what is expected to be nearly \$60 million in one-cent sales tax collected over a 10-year period. The current split, in place since Walker County first instituted a LOST in 1974, was 60 percent to the county and 20 percent divided among the cities based on population.

The finalized negotiations call for a 10 percent change in the other favor, to be gradually phased in over the next five years.

"This year is about finished and it stayed 60-20 because we didn't negotiate the contract,"

LOST, page A3

Williams paints art of war

Art

A Confederate rifeman takes aim at advancing Union troops during the Battle of Chickamauga.

By Mike O'Neal

Chris Williams probably never looked so good in real life as they do in the art of "Lost of Williams" resident Allen "Wayne" Williams.

"I try to depict soldiers and civilians, as well as the battles and scenes of the battlefield in and around Chickamauga, as they all may have appeared at the time of the battle in 1862," Williams said. "I want to bring the atmosphere and the look of the participants in the great struggle to the viewer."

His realistic portrayals of scenes and soldiers, both Union and rebel, of that battle will be on display and available for purchase at McLane's Cove.

It will not be Williams' first time to visit a re-enactment of the Battle of Chickamauga of the Civil War.

Five years ago he came out as much to witness the battle as to photograph the scenes of modern-day combatants who eagerly accepted to bring

Art, page A2

Battle revisited: Host of events planned

By Mike O'Neal

It was said September 1862 when two great American armies — one undefeated in battle, the other in good — clashed on the hills and woodlands of southwest Georgia is what turned out to be the last major victory for the Confederacy.

That the two days of fierce fighting came to be known for the creek that considered across these killing fields is appropriate because Chickamauga, in the native Cherokee language, translates as "River of Death."

Commemorating the 150th anniversary of that epic struggle of Sept. 18-20, 1862, the National Park Service is presenting a compilation of events to illustrate what happened on the very ground where it happened and explain why it was important then — and now.

A number of extra special events are scheduled for this year.

Re-dedication of the Little Roundtop as Pickett's Sept. 18

On this day, 150 years ago, Union Brig. Gen. William H. Lytle fell mortally wounded on the battlefield.

As a civilian, Lytle was a fervent abolitionist and before the war had been a nationally recognized poet.

"He was often called the poet-warrior," Chickamauga National Battlefield Superintendent Cathy Cook said.

Upon discovering Lytle's body, a Confederate soldier who served with the state guards during the Shiloh and American War guarded his body until it was claimed by Union troops.

His body was transported by soldiers from both sides back to Corinth, under a flag of truce, which was a rare occurrence as most men were buried where they fell.

When the national barbed wire park was created, Lytle, along with other local poets, composers, artists or mortally wounded at Chickamauga, were memorialized by stone-erected gravestones at Chickamauga. This still sits a real state of Georgia, but on the 150th anniversary of the battle, a newly restored monument to 150 men of letters and of war will be dedicated. Park-

Events, page A3

Tourists can follow signs to the Cove

The historic McLane's Cove Park will receive temporary signs to secondary thoroughfares (Ga. 138, Ga. 141, Battlefield Parkway, Battle of Chickamauga National Battlefield) that will take visitors to the cove situated against the eastern slope of Lookout Mountain.

Law enforcement officials will restrict access to the cove through the park by using signs and creating alternate routes as necessary to ensure an orderly traffic flow.

"We are putting up signage in all directions," McLane's Cove Park coordinator David Johnson said. "There is no question the signs mean we have to be traffic on Battlefield Parkway. We have a plan A, B and C that will direct people to other roads."

Walker County Sheriff's deputies and Port Oglethorpe police will monitor the regulated corridor.

"Not only are they helping to deal with the increased traffic, but also the Chickamauga Battlefield traffic," Johnson said.

Law enforcement

Numerous signs have been employed around Walker and Calhoun counties for the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Chickamauga, some which give directions to the re-enactment on Sept. 21-22 and others that steer visitors to local historic sites like Gordon Hall in Lafayette. (Messenger photo/Matt Ledger)

Georgia State Patrol Office and Lafayette Walker County Sheriff's Walker County Sheriff's Traffic, page A2

Signs for the Battle of Chickamauga Re-Enactment.

Georgia State Patrol Office and Lafayette Walker County Sheriff's Walker County Sheriff's Traffic, page A2

Local News Coverage

G

2nd Place

The Madison County Journal, Danielsville

APRIL 11, 2013

Madison County Journal

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LOCAL NEWS

D'ville to seek more SPLOST money

By Margie Edwards
margieedwards@madisonjournal.com

Danielsville leaders plan to ask for a considerably bigger slice of the state's SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) pie.

Madison County voters will go to the polls this November to decide whether or not to raise a 1.5-cent, one-cent sales tax for county improvements, with some of that money to be divided among the county's six towns.

The tax, if approved, is expected to generate roughly \$12.5 million to \$13.6 million over the next six years — approximately the same amount generated over the past six years.

An Danielsville's Monday night council meeting, Mayor Todd Hopton gave the city council an overview of what he planned to present at an April 30 meeting between county commissioners and voters to discuss the entire question of SPLOST dollars. He said he planned to ask for \$700,000 as the city's portion. The city received approximately \$150,000 in the last SPLOST.

Hopton pointed out that Danielsville is where much of SPLOST funds are generated, while being in a disadvantage since it can only draw approximately 40 percent of local property taxes because of the county and school-owned property that do not pay taxes, but still utilize city services.

He said the city's infrastructure needs are dire.

"We are plagued with water problems," he said. "Our 1940 water pipes are really showing their age."

In the past 12 months, the maintenance department has replaced over 120 water leaks, he said.

And in turn, the continued patching and repatching of waterlines has taken a toll on the city's assets and revenues.

"There's a \$300 fee of..."

—See "D'ville" on B3.

REGIONS

Schools to face \$2 million cut

Drop in metro-Atlanta property values leads to lower 'equalization' funds for poorer systems

By Pam Michien
pam@madisonjournal.com

Madison County schools will take a \$2 million cut in "equalization" funds from the state for the 2013-14 school year.

School superintendent Dr. Allen McCassey recently wrote a letter to county school employees following news of the decision.

"Equalization is an attempt to address equity," he wrote. "Because of con-

"FOR THESE FUNDS TO BE TAKEN AWAY FROM A TRUE LOW WEALTH DISTRICT LIKE US IS SIMPLY UNCONSCIONABLE."

— Superintendent Dr. Allen McCassey

ditions we are created equal in terms of property tax wealth, they cannot raise the same amount of money from local property taxes."

The state provides "equalization" money to poor school systems in an attempt to level the playing field with more affluent systems.

Madison County ranks as 180 out of 180 school systems in Georgia in terms of property wealth.

McCassey said Madison County already receives \$4 million less per year than what it should receive from the state, according to the state's own funding formula. He said the coun-

ty's decrease in equalization funds for next year is due to the major drops in property values in metro Atlanta counties, such as Gwinnett, Clayton and Paulding counties.

These counties receive substantial education money through sales taxes, the instance, Gwinnett County, which will receive \$22 million more in equalization funding next year, despite its \$1 billion every five years in sales tax revenue.

—See "Cut" on B3.

BRINGING THE HEAT



Austin Dean throws the ball to the plate for Madison County Monday during the Red Bankers 12B win over Johnsons. See Page 18 for more baseball coverage. Photo by Dallas Dinkin.

REGIONS

School system to purchase police dogs

By Margie Edwards
margieedwards@madisonjournal.com

The Madison County Board of Education voted 6-1 Tuesday night to purchase police dogs for the middle and high schools.

The dogs will be under the control of the respective officers at each of the schools. The decision came after some hesitation on the part of board members, who questioned how much the dogs would cost and how the dogs would be cared for and housed.

Superintendent Dr. Allen McCassey told the board that the school system currently spends \$9,400 per year for the services of "K-9" canine dogs who periodically bring stolen dogs to the schools to search for drugs.

He said this has not been a financial success and that the school's office refused to purchase two dogs and train them in drug dogs to be kept on site.

He said both revenue officers are already trained K-9 officers. During the day, the dogs will be kept in kennel cages at the school and will go to and from school each day with the officers.

Board member Amy McKenzie said she was concerned about whether the cost of the program would go up and about how the dogs would be used by the other cited areas the sheriff's department has had dogs in the past.

Board member Dr. Robert Hooper made a motion at one point to table the matter for further discussion, but McCassey said that the dogs would need to be purchased and training would need to begin even if they were to be ready by fall. Hooper withdrew his motion.

McCassey said he hoped having the dogs on site would provide a stronger deterrent against students bringing drugs to school, while saving the school system money once the dogs have been purchased. He said the startup costs for the program would not exceed the current budgeted amount.

"The main thing is to be a deterrent," he said.

In other business, the board heard that eighth grade writing assessments would be for this year were considerably lower than in previous years. He made plans to January, 20 percent of students of...

—See "K-9" on B3.

LOCAL PROJECTS

Dam project under way in Madison County

The Broad River Soil and Water Conservation District is beginning a \$2 million rehabilitation of the South River Waunder Dam 70 in Madison County.

This dam has been classified as a "high hazard dam" by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, Safe Dam Program. Eventually, a dam becomes a high hazard dam, if in the event of a dam failure there are existing structures downstream in the Danielsville breach area where the associated flooding could potentially cause loss of life.

These 70-dam are not meet current dam safety requirements, however, the on-going rehabilitation construction will allow the dam to be compliant with new dam safety regulations.

Michael Wahl, communications/education resource specialist for the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

Current regulations require that high hazard dams accommodate approximately 15 inches of rise in an hour.

The selected rehabilitation option for Dam 70 will be the installation of a concrete structure through the existing dam embankment capable of safely withstanding such a storm.

South Georgia Concrete has been selected as the contractor for this project. The company has offices in Dalton and Fayetteville. The select project will involve generally the installation of a concrete flow spillway with safety rock, through the dam embankment.

The structure will have a width of 75 feet and a length of 104 feet, requiring approximately 300-cubic yards of reinforced-concrete. The existing auxiliary spillway will be modified using conventional fill material.

Proposed construction time is estimated to be 100 days. Construction began on March 11.

CITY NEWS

Comer police plan drug take-back day

By Frank Gilligan
frankgilligan@comernews.com

The Comer Police Department has scheduled a Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) drug take-back program for Saturday, April 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the police department.

Chief Dennis Bull said the program was designed to remove and destroy unwanted, excess and out of date pharmaceuticals and other drugs in the community.

"If they voluntarily turn in the drugs, we will not ask where they came from," he said.

Chief Bull reported to the council that his department responded to 37 calls in March. They had one incident reports and one Domestic Violence Report. They investigated two accidents, issued 40 citations and 28 written warnings. They made two arrests including one for DWI and drug possession. They spent 17 hours on community policing.

The council agreed to a new garbage can. They will collect \$1.5 per month for each needed can. This will help simplify the city's billing process.

—See "Comer" on B3.

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Local News Coverage

G

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Saturday - Partly Rain High: 45/ Low: 25

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Peek Inside

SALARY SUPPLEMENT

DeKalb's Superior Court judges are asking for a \$15,000 pay raise.

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MORE SCHOOL CLOSINGS

The DeKalb school district is planning to replace some schools, close others.

LOCAL, 14A



COPING WITH GRIEF

School counselors help students through tough times.

EDUCATION, 16A

Quote

“It's more of a concern for the future. I'm not real confident in DeKalb County government.”

— Mary Kay Woodworth

LOCAL, 12A

Quick Finder

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School district: Atkinson out, Thurmond in

Members of the DeKalb County school board approved a settlement agreement for Superintendent Cheryl Atkinson Feb. 8 and appointed former Georgia Labor Commissioner Michael Thurmond as interim superintendent.

by Daniel Beaugard
daniel@dcalbchamp.com

After less than two years, Superintendent Cheryl Atkinson is leaving the DeKalb County School District (DCSD) in a condition some residents say is worse than when she was hired. The DeKalb County School Board held a meeting Feb. 8 and approved a separation agreement with Atkinson and voted to appoint former Georgia Labor Commissioner Michael Thurmond as interim superintendent. “We are delighted Mr. Thurmond has agreed to serve as our interim superintendent,” said board Chairman Eugene Walker. “Our school district is facing significant challenges, and we need a leader with a strong record of making

Thurmond's contract, page 17
Thurmond speaks, page 24



See School on Page 15A

Chinese New Year celebration in Chamblee

Photos by Dorel Beaugard



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1st Place

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Local News Coverage

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Buzzard beaters

City calls in feds to help with vultures

By Susan Scorsone
Piscataway

CARROLLVILLE - The looming presence of vultures could be seen from the windows of city hall.

Good citizens have been vilified for quite a while, Mayor Hertha Little said, so he cast an eye toward the dark figures just a few yards away.

It is a problem neither the city nor its citizens can handle alone. The city needs and will receive federal help.

Agents from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will be in town next week, Little said.

to take care of some of Carrollville's ongoing problem with buzzards.

The city has received complaints about the black vultures sitting atop houses and creating problems. As the council met Tuesday, a note of vultures flew a few feet from the mayor's desk.

Little said the birds are a nuisance the city has had to deal with before.

"A flying menace is all it is," he said.

Council member Mike Barrett said Carrollville isn't the only city plagued by the birds. He said he's

heard other complaints about buzzards covering the roofs of homes in the area.

The buzzards are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Little said that citizens can't shoot the birds without a permit. A permit allows just five birds to be shot.

"That's why the city contracted with the USDA to come 'mitigate' the problem, Little said.

The last time the USDA came to the city agents killed 17 buzzards, Little said.

Council member Sid Gize joked that the last time the USDA came to town, the birds had to his



A wave of black vultures perch in a tree in Carrollville Tuesday. The city will contract with federal agents to take care of the birds.

back yard or stuck his head home. Gize said he didn't need that kind of advertising.



Prepping for painting
CARROLLVILLE - Contractors blast off old paint from the Franklin County Courthouse Monday. Work began this week to repaint the courthouse. All of the painted surface on the courthouse, save the dome at the top, will be repainted. The painted areas of the building are actually metal, County Manager Sid Morse said. The county is using special purpose local option sales tax funds for the work. Davis' Painting of Franklin County was awarded the bid for the work, which should take a few weeks.

Cobb shooting suspect nabbed at truck stop

By KAREN S. BISHAM
New River

CARROLLVILLE - The Franklin County Sheriff's Department arrested a 24-year-old man wanted for a shooting in Cobb County Sunday morning.

According to an affidavit, William Dennis Devere III, 24, shot a man and woman at a party in Marietta about 1:30 a.m. Sunday and was being sought by Cobb County law enforcement.

Franklin County Sheriff's deputies were notified that Devere may be in the Carrollville area and were given a description of the vehicle Devere was operating.

See **SHOOTER**, Page 1A



William Dennis Devere III was arrested in Carrollville Sunday after he was named as a suspect in a Cobb County shooting.

Commissioners to talk over policy to add wells to water system

By KAREN S. BISHAM
New River

CARROLLVILLE - A meeting to take on another well turned into a discussion about direction in government at Monday's regular meeting of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners.

Commissioners discussed adding a second well owned by Wayne Erbinger to the county water system.

According to Commissioner Jeff Jacquez, Erbinger already has one well on the county's list and the second well meets all of the requirements.

"I made the studies that we accept this well and the contract for services as the other contractors," Jacquez said. "Being on the list doesn't mean the county is under any obligation to buy water from the owners. It just means the county has the option to buy it."

Commissioner Clint Harper said the board had played a lot of long-term because a well owned by another citizen had gone through the steps to be added to the county's list before Erbinger's second well was dug.

Remember the other citizens well was not voted on by the board, Harper suggested the second well could be added to the list without a vote.

Jacquez said he was fine with taking the issue, but he didn't understand why Harper wanted to do so since the wells are in different parts of the water system and he was interested in getting as many wells on the list because they benefit the county more than any policy.

Jacquez said he thought the board should regulate what well the county would pull from more so than any policy.

The board agreed to table the matter on the wells until they could look over the policy draft.

Ink!

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Bunnies abound

Royton and Carrollville hold Easter egg hunts Saturday. Hundreds of children of all ages took just minutes to clean fields of thousands of eggs. Prizes and other activities were also part of the events. For more photos of the Royton egg hunt, see Page 10B. For more from the Carrollville egg hunt, see Page 12A.

PHOTO BY DENNIS MCCOY

3rd Place

Franklin County
Citizen Leader,
Lavonia

Local News Coverage

F

Inside this week's edition

- Two charged with breaking into business and vehicles in Louisville... see page 2A
- Melvin Farmer wins seat on Wrens city council... see page 3A
- Rev. Bertram C. Smith appointed pastor of the Lofton Circuit... see page 1B

\$1 Thursday, June 28, 2012

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Wrens win peewee league tournament at University of Georgia... Page 15A

Gator removed from sewage system

Unlucky reptile got wedged in pipe leading from ponds into city system

By Patrick Howard
Editor/Publisher

We've all heard tales of killer alligators in big city sewers, but last week it was a killer sewer for a Louisville reptile.

Utility Superintendent Jerome Jones was visiting thousands of the city's semi-populated ponds around 11 a.m. Thursday when he noticed something floating

in the contact chamber of the city's waste water treatment system.

The contact chamber, which is a part of what looks like a concrete tunnel, reflects water that has come through the city's three oxidation ponds for final disinfection before release.

"I saw what I thought was a piece of driftwood in the contact chamber of the city's waste water treatment system. The contact chamber, which is a part of what looks like a concrete tunnel, reflects water that has come through the city's three oxidation ponds for final disinfection before release."

"I don't know how he got over to there, but he was in the middle chamber where the water dumps in from the pond before it flows into the other chambers," Jones said. "He was making an effort to get out."

Jones said that the incident may have caused the nearby Opalton River to back up into some nearby areas near the city's ponds.



The 7-foot-3-inch alligator found its way into the contact chamber of the city's waste water treatment system last week.

One killed in drive-by at club

Second victim treated and released

By Carol McLeod
Staff Writer

Law enforcement officers from three agencies are looking for a suspect in shooting that left one man dead and another injured.

Officers and EMS responded to a 911 call shortly after midnight Tuesday, June 19, regarding a shooting near Club Apollo, which is located at the corner of East 50 and Value streets in Louisville.

Kenneth Quarones Jr., 21, of Augusta was found on the sidewalk suffering from at least one gunshot wound to his head.

He was taken to Jefferson Hospital where he was pronounced dead at 10:30 p.m. Saturday, June 20, after surgery at the Medical College of Georgia, in Augusta.

Jefferson County Deputy Coroner Fay McCabrey said Monday, Quarones was pronounced dead at GMC. His body has been taken to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation Crime Lab in Augusta for an autopsy.

"He had a single gunshot wound to the head," McCabrey said.

A second victim, identified as 19-year-old Charles Lewis Brown II of Wrens was taken to a nearby hospital.

(See Suspect on page 2A)



Deshae Thomas stands in front of his E. Fifth Street house holding a picture of the home that should replace it in the next few months.

House to home

Current housing projects renovating and reconstructing homes for area residents

By Patrick Howard
Editor/Publisher

Deshae Thomas has lived his whole life in the same house on East Fifth Street in Louisville.

He has three children there and when they come along, he adds rooms with his own hands.

When they all grew up and moved away, he was aware of those rooms off.

A hard working man, he has always taken care of things himself.

For years he has lived what he called fixing with whatever materials were around, his, stumps, press board.

He is 60 and still recently, according to his youngest daughter, Shelia Kiffin, he was still working since the roof is patch holes and awning under the house to work on heated pipes. One of the rooms he has ever known is being torn down and replaced.

In the next few weeks the only home he has ever known is being torn down and replaced.

"The kinks were, 'They ain't got' some, but I tell 'em they are,' Kiffin said.

Thomas recently invited contractors into his house, guided them through the sunlight rooms he has paved together into his kitchen where he sat in a single-back chair. In the light from a single, unworked back, he looked at a picture of the house they are going to build for him.

He was the last person in the program to decide to let them do it, only

(See Housing on page 3A)

Hospital cuts 15 positions

Pioneer Health Services submits plan that proposes to take hospital from losing \$200,000 a month to profitability in two years

By Patrick Howard
Editor/Publisher

Friday 17 positions were cut in the first phase of Pioneer Health Services' plan to save Jefferson Hospital.

Thursday evening, the hospital's authority signed a five-year management contract with Pioneer, who for the past several months, has been reviewing hospital operations in all departments and developing a plan to save the financial losses that drive the authority to seek outside help.

Ray Davis, the authority's chairman, said last week that the hospital has been "bleeding between \$200,000 and \$300,000 a month" for some time now.

"We looked at what we could do to save the hospital assets," said Interim CEO Steve Widmer. "We've had a month here for two months. More than a dozen people from Pioneer have flown in and examined and analyzed and made recommendations in many areas. The higher-paying opportunities have been looked at."

And after receiving the authority's approval, they began implementing that plan. Last Monday, Interim CEO Ralph Randall was put in administrative leave and Friday, the other cuts began.

Davis characterized it as a reduction in force. Widmer called it a restructuring.

"There are a few more

(See Hospital on page 3A)

2nd Place

Jefferson Reporter/ News & Farmer, Louisville

Local News Coverage

F

1st Place


The Oconee Enterprise, Watkinsville

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FOOTBALL 2012
The season is on



Bigger football preview is here
We profile all four high school teams.
Special insert



Widows and orphans helped
Adoptive ministry helps others to raise money.
Lifestyles, A10



OCHS falls to Cedar Shoals
The Warriors lost a pre-season scrimmage Friday night. Sports, B3

Coming next week
We will report on the early qualifiers for city elections.

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The Oconee Enterprise, August 22, 2012. Watkinsville, GA. Phone: 706.333.2222. Fax: 706.333.2223. Website: www.oconeeenterprise.com

Homer Hansford was a family man


By BLAKE GILAN
Homer Hansford was a family man. He loved his community and his church held tightly to him throughout his life. He died Aug. 14, at the 77th birthday.

Best-in-class David Kjekshus remembered when Hansford was working with a trucking company in Atlanta. Hansford got to take a job with Steve Trucking.

"Homer was a real big family man," said Kjekshus. "After a few years in Atlanta, he just wanted to come home. All his family was here, and life in Atlanta just did not suit him."

Hansford later was a sales rep for Spac-A, a truck trailer.

— See Oconee page A7




Lollipop stain leads to inquiry

By MICHAEL PROCKNOWSKI
A deputy met the Station master at her residence Aug. 17 after she had alleged that her 6-year-old son had gotten off the school bus with blood on his clothes.

School system administrators were told by Sheriff Kemp that the 6-year-old boy had blood on his clothes.

— See Oconee page A7



Oconee County volunteer firefighters Benjamin Bidder and L.W. Thomas quickly fix a burst hose as part of practice for the Georgia State Firefighters Association Competition in September. (Photo by Michael Procknowski)

Volunteer firefighters to compete

By MICHAEL PROCKNOWSKI
As the sound of a judge's whistle, a team of firefighters dash to stop the flow of water from a burst 20-foot section of the hose. They are given a seven-down top hose clamp, five spigots, two valves and one replacement section of hose. In seconds, the hose is back in commission and pointed to put out a fire.

Luckily this time, there is no fire. The task, called "Shovel Fire," is one of several assignments given to firefighters who will compete in the Georgia State Firefighters Association Competition, Sept. 13 in Albany.

Other events include a rapid hose competition and the "Bucket Brigade," which is "maintenance of the old hose, when they actually had to have a bucket of water to get out the fire," said Mike Tomaszak.

The Oconee Fire Rescue Competition Team is composed of seven members: Max Freeman (coach), Mike Tomaszak, Ben Bidder, Jesse West, L.W. Thomas, Neil Ross and Kevin Bidder.

"It's the people on the team, the drive and the training—those are the three things that will make us win," said L.W. Thomas.

There are no awards or trophies or cash prizes. "It's just pride," said Tomaszak.

"Specially being a volunteer department," commented Freeman. "The good guys don't like it too much when they get beaten by volunteers."

Oconee's team took a one-year hiatus but had entered in the regular practice three years.

"This event comes down to teamwork," said Bruce Thomas, the chief. "You're working different events by yourself. They have to be precise and meet in each event that they are doing. There's no room for a mistake."

"We definitely have a little swagger," commented Tomaszak. "It just comes down to how we're going to perform on game day."


McNally remembered as a pioneer

By MICHAEL PROCKNOWSKI
The late State Senator William D. Moore III (Latham) spoke in John McNally was at the Oconee County Courthouse.

"John appeared a bit late (but he was not)," Latham recalled. "But he had a lot of spirit. He walked in with that strong, steady gait and that strong, steady voice. When you talked to John, you knew he was listening to you and he cared about what you had to say."

McNally died Aug. 1 of last year at the age of 95. A year later, community organizers who knew McNally first and foremost as a legislative friend of the county honored his legacy.

— See Oconee page A7



Claude Williams receives French Legion of Honor

By BLAKE GILAN
It took years for Claude Williams to receive the medals he earned as an Army lieutenant serving in the European theater near the end of the Second World War.

But he never thought he would receive the French Legion of Honor.

The 91-year-old Crystal River resident was one of four local recipients of the distinguished honor in ceremonies last week at the Atlanta History Center.

"This medal was begun by Napoleon in 1802," Williams said with a laugh.

A letter from a French ambassador to Williams read, "This award belongs to President Franklin's high esteem for your merits and accomplishments. In particular, it is a sign of France's infinite gratitude and appreciation for your personal and precise contribution to the United States' decisive role in the liberation of our country during World War II."

Williams served with the 48th Division as platoon leader for Company L. He was part of the team that captured the German supply line, Germany's so-called "Imperial Line."

Williams was shot in the hand during action, but he dismissed it as a minor event. Instead, Williams prefers to talk about his post-war encounters with Gen. Eisenhower.

Williams was the special services officer for headquarters command in Frankfurt. He first met Eisenhower when he was assigned to the general's staff as a French liaison officer.

— See Oconee page A7

OCPRD to finalize SPLOST projects

By MICHAEL PROCKNOWSKI
Although the current special purpose local option sales tax will not expire until Sept. 30, 2013, the next SPLOST referendum will be in March in less than a year.

That means county departments will take the next of the calendar year to plan projects that could be covered under a new SPLOST that would take effect Oct. 1, 2013 and run through September of 2015.

"You have a great opportunity to improve the road network," Oconee County Board Chairman John Gentry told members of the Citizen Advisory Committee on Recreation Affairs.

The advisory committee met to discuss a timeline for adopting SPLOST projects. A public hearing next month will involve staff at the Recreation Department, volunteer coach groups, youth softball association, Little League, and local cycling, soccer, basketball, agriculture and football groups. Don't the Oconee County Historical Society, 4-H Extension Service and FFA will have a voice.

The following dates for planning meetings have been confirmed:

- Monday, Sept. 17: an invited public hearing meeting starting at 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, Sept. 17: a town hall meeting for the public from 5-7 p.m. at the Oconee Veterans Park Community Center.
- Monday, Oct. 15: a regular meeting discussing SPLOST projects.

These meetings will be followed by project reviews Nov. 18 and Dec. 17 with the latest date serving as final recommendations to the advisory committee. An official date of projects will be presented to the Oconee County Board of Commissioners in early 2014.

Local News Coverage

E



The Northeast Georgian

75 cents DECEMBER 20, 2013 Weekend

Water system transfer removes \$8.2 million in assets

Commission bears concerns delivered in county audit report

By DONALD FRASER

A quick look at Habersham County government's audit could create concern if explanation were not given. A first glance look at revenue over expenses for Fiscal Year 2012-13 shows the county being almost \$8.4 million in the hole.

Chris Hollifield, with the county's Gainesville-based auditing firm Rushon & Company, quickly offered up the explanation Dec. 16 during the Habersham County Commission's monthly meeting. The "\$8.4 million was the transfer of the county's water system to Demorest. It came off the

books and went to Demorest," Hollifield said. The county would have been in the positive \$112,000 otherwise, Hollifield told the commission. He pointed out the county's water system has been a financial drain for at least the five most recent years. In 2009, revenue was \$243,036 while spending was \$509,068. The gap was greater in FY 2011, when revenue was \$240,826 and expenses were \$533,195. In 2013, revenue was \$247,206 while expenses were \$466,485. County revenue saw a 3-percent increase over FY 2011-12, with property tax

es up \$282,785 [up 2.5 percent] and intergovernmental revenue up 17.5-percent [\$182,238]. Expenditures in some areas exceeded budget, including the sheriff's office, with \$154,774 in increased spending and the Account- See County, Page 2A



CHRISTINA SANTEE/Staff

An Alto family lost everything in a house fire Thursday morning. Resident Sandy Wright's younger brother, Cody Ball, looks to his canine companion for comfort as he buries his head in the dog's neck while sobbing. The family watched as their personal belongings and rented home burned to the ground.

Alto family homeless after fire

By CHRISTINA SANTEE

An Alto man sobbed, his face buried in the neck of his dog, as he and relatives watched their home burn to the ground Thursday. Public safety personnel with Banks and Habersham counties responded to the blazing structure at 637 North County Line Road just minutes after the initial call was received at 9:27 a.m., Dec. 19, but were unable to salvage it.

The loss of the 1,600-square-foot, single-story wood-frame house left a family of four - along with two dogs, cat and a chicken - homeless. Two guests visiting the family were also displaced. Resident Sandy Wright said she was first alerted to a clamor in the attic when she heard what sounded like someone on the roof.

"I was on the phone and then I thought somebody was walking around on my roof, so I pulled the hatch to [the attic] down and it was full of smoke," Wright said. It was then Wright roused the household, frantic to rush her family and company to safety. "I shut it back up and started hollering for everyone to wake up [and] get out of the house," she said, which included her sister, mentally-challenged brother, elderly mother and two guests, along with their pets. "Got everybody out of the house except for maybe the cat. I haven't seen her, she still might be in there," Wright said. Wright said she and her family had rented the house since January, after relocating to Banks County from Rome. "Everything we owned, everything burned to the ground, and we just sat here and watched it," she said. "[But] I wasn't worried about anything but the

living people - my family [and friends]," Wright's mind had already been consumed with panic, as she thought aloud of where she and her family would go. "We have absolutely nothing [other] than what you see in now, a couple [pairs of] boxers and borrowed boots," she said. "What's going through my mind, is where am I going to get the money to get another place to rent, another place for my family and 85-year-old mom to live?" Wright had been advised American Red Cross representatives were already en route to assist the family, but said she had no other family or friends in the area. "Just when you thought you could make ends meet, somebody always moves the ends," she said. "I just got another situation I have

See Fire, Page 7A



KIMBERLY BROWN/Staff

Faith Inglis, who serves on the Sharing and Caring board, packs the shopping cart of Riley Fowler, 12. Fowler and Inglis were two of about 100 volunteers who spent Wednesday morning at the Habersham County Fairgrounds, filling 600 bags with groceries for the Sharing and Caring annual food distribution held Thursday. Also shown is Rita Cantrell, a volunteer from Unicol State Park.

Sharing and Caring project fills 600 bags for needy families

By KIMBERLY BROWN

For more than 20 years, Sharing and Caring has made Christmas happier for hundreds of families in Habersham County. This year, 600 families received bags of food, including fresh potatoes and sweet potatoes, onions, eggs, oranges, canned vegetables, chicken, stuffing mix and more.

On Dec. 18, about 100 volunteers were at the pavilion at Habersham County Fairgrounds to fill those bags, pushing shopping carts provided by Lowes. Valerie Fenlon, who volunteers with her husband, Hugh, has been filling

and distributing bags for many years. "It feels good," Fenlon said. "This is one of the ways we give back to the community. Helping our community gives you a warm, fuzzy feeling, a good holiday feeling." Mike Rhoades, teacher at Habersham County's Success Academy, brought a group of Success Academy students to help fill the bags on Wednesday. "We try to do a community service project each semester," Rhoades said. "I knew this was coming up because my family does this every year. It's just the idea ... a lot of these kids come from difficult backgrounds, too. This

See Sharing, Page 2A

ANGEL GABRIEL APPEARS IN CLARKESVILLE

Mary (Rebekah Jennings) is visited by the Angel Gabriel (Hannah Johnson) during Clarkesville First United Methodist Church's live Nativity pageant performed Dec. 18 in front of the church's new ministry facility on Washington Street in Clarkesville. The production, an annual tradition for the church, included parts for approximately 25 children. Judy Forbes, one of the organizers of the event, said, "What a wonderful job [the children] did sharing the reason for this season. We were all blessed by it."



KIMBERLY BROWN/Staff

3rd Place

Monroe County Reporter, Forsyth

Volume 122, No. 52



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MEET THE BROWNS: Morgan siblings lead on basketball court. >>> **SPORTS**

Lake Oconee News

Your community newspaper serving Greene, Morgan and Putnam counties in Georgia's Lake Country | www.LakeOconeeNews.com

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inside

ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A FIFTH-GRADER?

Madison students take on adults.

COMMUNITY - C3



SHARE YOUR FAMILY'S THANKSGIVING WITH US!

Submit pictures for next week's edition.

→ PAGE A3

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FRIDAY 53/31

NOVEMBER 29

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GREENE COUNTY

Moran resigns as chairman of economic development authority

County Commission chairman to fill seat temporarily

Billy W. Hobbs
bhobbs@lakeoconeenews.com

GREENSBORO — Lane Moran has stepped down as chairman of the county's economic development authority, a position he held for nearly two years.

Moran, a retired former General Motors executive, announced his resignation to the County Commission on Monday. He will be replaced by County Commission Chairman Ed Bellard until a permanent chairman is named.

Moran said he was stepping down to spend more time with his family. He will continue to serve on the authority as a member and chairman of the Greene County Economic Development Commission, Moran said.

"We regret that Bob is no longer with us, but we are grateful for his service," said Bellard.

SEE DESIGNS - A4

Checkpoints nets arrests

Snatchville Police Officers Jeff Manning and Tom Whelan examine some pills taken from the car of a DUI suspect during traffic checkpoint at Union Plant No. 2.

Willy W. Hobbs
whobbs@lakeoconeenews.com



GREENE COUNTY

St. Mary's opens

Ribbon cutting ceremony marked opening Monday

Billy W. Hobbs
bhobbs@lakeoconeenews.com

GREENSBORO — After nearly a year of waiting and anticipation, the new St. Mary's Good Samaritan Hospital near Lake Oconee in Greene County became a reality Monday.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at 7 a.m. Monday. The new hospital is located near the intersection of Lake Oconee Parkway and Long Station Road near the lake in Greene County.

SEE ST. MARY'S - A5

MORGAN COUNTY

Food pantries see fallout from cuts

Local organizations struggle to keep doors open

W. Elizabeth Neal
wneal@lakeoconeenews.com

MAKERSVILLE — Food pantries in Madison are feeling the pressure of recent cuts in local agency budgets for families and individuals.

And other local organizations devoted to helping hunger are feeling a pinch from government cutbacks, as well.

"The Caring Place located on Road 100 in Madison has had to close its doors for good," said Cindy Mosley, pastor of First Methodist Church of Madison. The congregation, like several others in the community, conducted a canned food drive for Morgan County's food pantry last week.

They followed that drive the week before at Morgan County Elementary and Primary schools.

Charlene and the others, and long-time Caring Place Director Nancy Phibbs, are making contributions to keeping the doors to the food pantries open.

Prior to the closures (2012), the number of people lining up at The Caring Place's doors on the Marietta Highway each Friday morning would have topped out at about 75, she said.

With the closures and truncating of its involvement, the number has declined steadily, to the point that The Caring Place now averages about 20 people per week, Phibbs said.

SEE FOOD PANTRY - A3

GREENE COUNTY

Authorities investigating poisoning of plants

Landing resident offering \$1,000 reward

Billy W. Hobbs
bhobbs@lakeoconeenews.com

GREENSBORO — This Avon is up and under some scrutiny. He is offering \$1,000 reward in regards to who poisoned several trees and grasses in the yard of his home, which overlooks Lake Oconee at Reynolds Plantation. The trees and grasses at around \$10,000.

Avon called the Greene County Sheriff's Office to investigate.

"I can't believe someone would poison my trees and grass," he said. "This is very upsetting to me and my wife."

SEE POISONING - A6

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Monkey shines at Dash >> SPORTS, B1

Jarrell cleaning up for July 4th celebration >> LIVING C1

The Jones County News

YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR VOICE.

THURSDAY JUNE 13 2013

LEGAL ORGAN FOR JONES COUNTY AND GRAY, GEORGIA

VOLUME 119 | NUMBER 28

SUPERIOR COURT

Accomplice from Smith murder back behind bars

▶ Gets last chance at finishing sentence outside of prison

DEREK LUKIE SMITH
dlsmith@jcnnews.com

Production violations brought one of the convicted men in a 2007 shooting back to Jones County Superior Court last week. If he fails to appear at the scheduled hearing, he will be sentenced to 180 days in a State Prison and a \$10,000 fine.

of his production were made special, which means any future violations could result in a longer sentence.

He was found guilty in the crime of voluntary manslaughter July 30, 2002, in connection with the fatal shooting of Joshua Smith.

PHOTO: SMITH IN 2007

COMMUNITY

Daylily Festival proves to be most successful yet

▶ At least 3,000 estimated in attendance

DEREK LUKIE SMITH
dlsmith@jcnnews.com

The 2013 Gray Station State Fair Daylily Festival will be another successful one for the Gray Station community.

GERBERT Manager Jennifer Haggerty said the rain started coming down June 7 just as the event was getting underway. The Daylily Festival had a couple of surprises of its own, as it had in a separate event in the past few years. It, but it was completed before the rain started falling in earnest.

PHOTO: Haggerty with a child

Our history

The house is 113 years old and stands despite the many challenges time has presented. Owners, at heart.

NEAL CALABRO
ncalabro@jcnnews.com

Home nearly as old as Jones County could be lost to time, bad economy

NEAL CALABRO
ncalabro@jcnnews.com

One last Civil War battle has begun in Jones County.

Although it's been 140 years since the battle, the home still stands. It is a two-story brick house with a porch. The house is nearly as old as Jones County. It is a two-story brick house with a porch. The house is nearly as old as Jones County. It is a two-story brick house with a porch.

PHOTO: CALABRO

why is this home so important?

- ▶ Dates back to 1863
- ▶ Was the home of Henry Ware, who is remembered for being the first Confederate and Union soldiers at Sandhollow Church during the Civil War
- ▶ Has a unique address called "Warren's" to give the house, and while the rest of the property was destroyed, the house stands.

what can you do?

- ▶ Funds are needed in order to be able to move the house onto a new site owned by the Old Stone Church Historical Society.

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- ▶ Sarah "Mama" Joyce Maxwell Jones
- ▶ Jones World

PHOTO: JONES

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Tribune & Georgian

Thursday, April 10, 2013 73 CENTS

INSIDE

Dog park
A dog park opens in St. Marys to the delight of local pet owners and their leashes. **see 28**

Purple Page
The 2013 Netty for Life is just around the corner. **see 54**

TODAY'S POLL
Do you think the new plan for Atlanta Technical College is a good one?
Vote online at tribune-georgian.com

LAST WEEK
Do you think Camden's economy is improving?
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Probate judge will be elected Tuesday

Jessye Breshnagh
jessye@tribune-georgian.com

The probate judge seat in Camden County will be filled next Tuesday, April 16 in a runoff election.

Robert "Boss" Swann Jr. and Martin Turner received the most votes out of six total candidates in a special election on March 19, but neither received at least 10 percent of the total vote. The winning candidate must receive a majority. Swann earned 18.4 percent, 1,825 votes while Turner received 947 votes, 20.4 percent.

Swann, an attorney and municipal judge in Kipland, said that campaigning has been less intense since March 19, but wishes about a low-vote turnout on Tuesday. "The more people that get out and vote, the better," he said.

Turner agreed and said that while the campaign has been less intense, he thinks that most voters may already have their minds made up.

"Whatever's going to happen is going to happen," he said.

Early voting began April 8 and will remain open until Friday. Voters can be out from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. each weekday at the courthouse in Woodbine.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. on Election Day. Voters who did not cast a ballot in the March special election are still eligible to vote in the runoff, as long as they have registered before the Feb. 19 runoff.

Swann said that he's looking forward to Tuesday's results and asks

See RUNDY, page 5A

New Georgia law on tap

Bill makes it easier for home brewers to enjoy, share hobby

Jessye Breshnagh
jessye@tribune-georgian.com

Steve Schacht has been making his own beer and other malt beverages for at least 40 years, perfecting the amounts of yeast and hops in each batch and storing each bottle of the homemade brew until it's gone. But according to current state law, sharing a six-pack, bottle or even a cup of his concoctions is complicated.

For years, Georgia has completely banned the transportation of homemade malt beverages, meaning that Schacht could make up to 10 gallons of beer each year, but it could not leave the location in which it was brewed. Schacht is legally prohibited from making his beer in a friend's home as a Christmas gift and has been banned from transporting a pint to a beer competi-

tion. However, thanks to a bill that cleared the recent state legislative session, Schacht may be more easily able to have others try his concoctions.

House Bill 99, which was sponsored by State Rep. Jason Spencer (R-Claxton 180), will allow up to 12 gallons of malt beverages to be transported and delivered to special events like meetings and concerts, pending Gov. Nathan Deal's signature.

See BREW, page 10A

Burglars targeting Clarks Bluff

Jessye Breshnagh
jessye@tribune-georgian.com

After a number of burglaries from homes and cars in the area surrounding Clarks Bluff, Veterans and Emory roads, the Camden County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) is encouraging residents to keep their eyes open for suspicious activity.

Sheriffs have been killing in the front doors of homes and occasionally the back and side doors to steal different items, Assistant Chief Investigator Lt. Steve Wade said. He added that a majority of the burglaries happen during the day when people generally aren't home or are at work.

See CRIME, page 10A

Kingsland council nixes rate increase for water, sewer

John Brinkland Bell
john@tribune-georgian.com

Kingsland City Council unanimously voted down a water and sewer rate increase at a regular meeting Monday.

Faced with an ordinance that would have hiked up rates by 5 percent or about \$2.50 a month, council elected to balance the budget another way. Council first saw the ordinance in March and postponed a decision.

"The water/sewer fund has taken a share of the debt ratio coverage required for its bonds and is projected to be about \$140,000 short by the end of the fiscal year in September, according to a memo created by finance personnel. To meet the ratio, the city either needs to bring in more money or pay out less."

"What the council has focused on is ways to remove some of the burden from the water fund and part of that will be, more than likely, salary adjustments -- the way they're currently being split, that being altered to put more of the burden into the general

fund where it's easier to cut without raising positions," council member Mike Blount said. "We're certainly very much involved in that process right now and will continue to be."

Presently, 100 percent of salaries in the information technology department and 30 percent of several administration positions — city manager, deputy city manager, city engineer, human resources manager, director of finance, deputy director of finance, bookkeeper, purchasing agent, accounting technician and accounting clerk — are paid from water/sewer.

Finance director Tanya Edwards said the issue is revenue, not expenses because there is little fat in the water/sewer fund, and slight increases every five years were planned.

"There's more revenue went down in 2011, a 5-percent increase should hold the city for about three years, she said. Rates were last applied in 2011 when the hike was nearly 15 percent to compensate for seven years without increases.

See WATER, page 10A

Signature hat



John Bony / Tribune & Georgian

MASCAR legend Richard Perry got a warm Camden County welcome on Tuesday when he made an appearance at the grand opening of the Pilot Travel Plaza at East Mall Interstate 95. Jeff Berg (left) was among hundreds who showed up for the event.

Local News Coverage

D

EXPERIENCE
A taste of Clarkesville
 a distinctive culinary occasion
 Special section inside

The Northeast Georgian

75 cents SEPTEMBER 25, 2013 Midweek

Daniel pleads guilty in Habersham Superior Court

Teacher sex case resolved after more than a year

By E. LANE GRESHAM

An open case involving a former teacher having inappropriate sexual contact with students in French received a resolution last week. Jessica Cooper Daniel, 30, of White County, pleaded guilty Sept. 20 to two counts of sexual assault against a person in custody and distribution of material depicting sexual conduct and indecent exposure to minors. Daniel is a former Spanish teacher at Habersham North Grade Academy. According to Habersham Judicial Circuit Chief Appointer Charles Armentrout, Daniel is now in custody in White County.

It was reported at the time of the guilty plea that there is support of her many teachers and school personnel who were there to show their support for her. Additionally, he said, the victim Daniel was there. "They did not speak but they were able to see the whole process," he said. Daniel was initially arrested July 11, 2012, and charged with distribution of material depicting nudity or sexual conduct, distributing obscene material and electronically transmitting obscene material to a minor. She was subsequently indicted Aug. 16, 2013, for

Personnel file shows past concerns

By E. LANE GRESHAM

A former Spanish teacher at Habersham North Grade Academy had a history of documented inappropriate contact with students as far back as 2006, but continued working until May 6, 2013. Jessica Daniel, 30, who pleaded guilty last week to two counts of sexual assault against a person in custody and electronically transmitting obscene material to minors, was placed under a professional development plan in 2006 by then-BCGA Principal Pam Dalton. The charge of inappropriate sexual contact was dismissed as part of the plan agreement, Daniel said. Additionally as part of the plan deal, Daniel said, Daniel has waived her Fifth Amendment rights.



See Daniel, Page 2A

See File, Page 2A



BROOKS NAMED HOMECOMING QUEEN
 Chip Brooks wants to be home for daughter's homecoming. Brooks, 60, is Habersham Central High School's 2013 Homecoming Queen during the Homecoming game Friday night. Brooks is also the mother of five Brooks and the family lives in Clarksville. Working Brooks is a member of Key Club and the Lady Riders varsity basketball and golf teams. She is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Artists and attends Bethlehem Baptist Church.

Superintendent issues statement in aftermath of Daniel sex case resolution

By E. LANE GRESHAM

Habersham County School Superintendent Matthew Cooper wants to reassure the community in the aftermath of news a former Habersham North Grade Academy teacher pleaded guilty to a case involving inappropriate sexual contact with students. Cooper, who joined the school system July 1, 2011, said he couldn't comment about specifics involving the case but issued the following statement: "Our school system is committed to doing everything that is within our control to ensure that something like this does not happen in the future. Conversely, our school system has the following things in place to protect our students: "Preventing our students starts with hiring good people. This is a primary responsibility of our principals. We strive to make sure hire teachers who know their content, but teachers who have strong character and who are ethical. "In our school system, we have the typical safety protocols in place including background checks and fingerprinting. This is to ensure that people who are hired do not have a criminal history, in addition to those basic safety protocols, teachers that are hired in Georgia's public schools must have a valid teaching certificate. I believe this is one of the things that make our public schools a safe option for parents. Through this public education trust, some teaching certificate that is in good standing. This adds an additional measure of safety to the hiring process. Educators who commit deplorable acts and violate the trust of their students face severe penalties with regard to their teaching certificate. In the most serious cases, educators lose their teaching certificate for life and can never teach in a Georgia public school again. "In the State of Georgia, our public school teachers are bound by a very strong Code of Ethics. Our system chooses to require all adults who work with children to participate in ongoing related Compliance Director, Compliance Director." See Superintendent, Page 7A



A rescue crew in Tallulah Gorge prepares to attach a rescue basket to a hoisting helicopter during helicopter training held Sept. 22. See the northeastgeorgian.com for video from the exercise.

Agencies conduct training in the gorge

By KIMBERLY BISHAM

Sept. 18, two Department of Natural Resources helicopters, based through Tallulah Gorge all day, as more than 30 from Clayton Falls Fire Station 7. It is the first time this year, DNR is in the area. Sgt. Stephen Adams, with the Law Enforcement Division of the DNR, said those trained included

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douglas county Sentinel

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COMMUNITY, B1
Victims' Rights Week ceremony filled with emotion.

GOOD JOB NEWS: The Douglas County Office of Economic Development Thursday said that declining layoffs and modest job creation were behind some positive March job numbers in Douglas County and Douglasville. Douglas County saw the unemployment rate fall to 8.8 percent in March after an 8.8 rate in February. Douglas County's unemployment rate was at 10.1 after being at 10.2 in February. In Douglas County, the unemployment rate fell to 8.8 percent in March after an 8.8 rate in February. Douglas County's unemployment rate was at 10.1 after being at 10.2 in February. In Douglas County, the unemployment rate fell to 8.8 percent in March after an 8.8 rate in February. Douglas County's unemployment rate was at 10.1 after being at 10.2 in February.

THE END OF AN ERA

Pop's closing after 7 decades

BY MITCH NEEDS

It's been over a decade since you've ever stopped by Pop's Country Store at the corner of Post Road and Highway 166 Thursday. The store will close its doors Saturday for the final time, ending a nearly 70-year run of serving the Fairley community.

IRAQ VET SPEAKS ON LEARNING FROM FAILURES AT CHARACTER BREAKFAST

BY RON DANIEL

Who better to talk about character than a member of the military? Lt. Col. Jason W. Fryman was the keynote speaker at Thursday's annual breakfast of the Community Character Coalition of Douglas County at First Presbyterian Church.

SCHOOL SYSTEM CELEBRATES RETIREES

54 employees worked combined 1,259 years

BY RON DANIEL

Retirement means different things to different people. But for school system employees, from teachers to bus drivers to food service workers, to custodians and clerks, there is inevitably the satisfaction in knowing they touched so many young lives along the way.

MOLESTATION CASES TAKE SPOTLIGHT

DOUGLAS COUNTY COURT

Man arrested for rape, 3 counts of molestation

BY ANANDA THOMAS

A jury will hear closing statements this morning in the child molestation trial for a Maryland man accused of molesting a 7-year-old girl.

SCHOOL SYSTEM CELEBRATES RETIREES

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BY ANANDA THOMAS

A jury will hear closing statements this morning in the child molestation trial for a Maryland man accused of molesting a 7-year-old girl.

1st Place

Douglas County Sentinel, Douglasville

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3rd Place

Times-Georgian, Carrollton

Page A - The Journal, Brunswick, Ga., Thursday, July 3, 2003

OPINION

Letters to the Editor

You never forget your first boss

A tribute to the late Bobby L. Lowe

Dear Editor,

My first boss, Bobby L. Lowe, passed away last week. Bobby was the Executive Director of the Middle Flur Area Planning and Development Commission in Ellsville and American for many years until his retirement in 2002.

Middle Flur APC began in the late 1980's and was located in what is now the Chamberlaine or Flat RENA Building in Ellsville. In fact Joseph Evans, past chairman of the Ellsville/Seibey Co. Chamber of Commerce, worked to get Middle Flur APC located in the corner of the north county region, which was Ellsville. Jerry Carter was one of the first members of the board of directors.

Through Bobby Lowe's leadership, the eight county Middle Flur APC region including Seibey County, received millions of dollars in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), transportation improvement grants, economic development grants, water and sewer line grants, historic preservation grants, industrial development grants, housing grants, and job training grants. Bobby was instrumental in securing the funding for the Ellsville/Seibey Co. Health Department, Seibey County Health Department, Seibey County Jail and Seibey County Fair and EMS Building. Water and sewer grants were obtained to improve and upgrade service and to install a water system throughout Seibey County. Industrial development grants were obtained to provide expansion for King Carter Builders, Southwest Concrete, T & R Custom Builders, and D.J. Law enforcement and fire protection grants were obtained to provide equipment and vehicles for the

Ellsville Police Dept., Seibey Co. Sheriff's Dept., and Seibey Co. Fire Department. Many of the eight counties would not have had the department, trucks and equipment if it were not for Middle Flur APC.

Bobby was one of the last people that pushed for the region and for being of Highway 19 through Seibey County. He was on the board which Richard Ray and Ward Edwards that he really got behind and state funds to push through for the expansion.

You know you always re-member your first job and your first boss. I started to work with Middle Flur APC when I was 19 years old. I was a lot in the leadership of Bobby Lowe. I know I wouldn't be the person I am today or have experienced the success I have achieved without Bobby giving me that first chance at a job.

Thanks Bobby for all you did for Seibey County and the eight county Middle Flur Region.

Sincerely,
John E. Gosses,
Director, Seibey County
Family Connection

A Perfectly Natural July 4th

Will you be celebrating Nat-
ural Law this July 4th? You should be. Your Founding Fathers did.

In declaring their independence and asserting their first person rights, the Founding Fathers - particularly the ones of Thomas Jefferson - acknowledged the "Laws of Nature and Nature's God." These laws were no man-made things. Instead, they were natural laws, just laws, that were meant to show (these were days when an education meant something rather than they are now).

The Founders were not only declaring their independence from the British Crown (itself a man-made thing), they were asserting self-evident truths and claiming certain unalienable rights that were theirs not only as Americans but as humans.

No, what is this Natural Law? What did and does it mean? And why does it still matter?

There can be no doubt that these delegates in Philadelphia who adopted that Declaration believed in, and based the nation's independence on, the Natural Law. States Robert Bellarmine, a medieval theorist of law and theologian. University of Notre Dame, Natural Law Study Group, in covering the relevance, explained in the nature of man's body of law in which all human beings are subject, which is superior to man-made law, and which is knowable by human reason.

So, what is this Natural Law? It is a universal law that transcends earthly regimes and stands constant to all human beings, "even when there is no authority to lead them to one another."

In Aristotle's parable, the Natural Law is a natural law that transcends earthly regimes and stands constant to all human beings, "even when there is no authority to lead them to one another."

Cicero's own Natural Law is a law that is "not law in which you are not bound to obey, it is of universal application, unchanging and everlasting. It is a law to be obeyed in all times and places, and it is impossible to do anything that is not in accordance with it."

Starting Missions in the Philippines

Someone forwarded me one of Charles W. Swindoll's study devotionals pages to me. I had enjoyed reading the Bible daily, but I began to read his Bible devotionals when they came in. Most of the verses in the Bible are complete and easy to understand. The effect of his devotionals leads me to a story.

We have heard tales about the "Early Americans" in foreign lands but the majority of us know did not see that way. Then and today most service personnel and families relate to missions of our countries with devotion and good will.

In 1976, a few missionaries and wives were challenged by a young Filipino man at a group meeting in a friend's home in Clark Air Base on Luzon to teach the Bible to Filipinos. I had developed a sort of worldly, "missionary" attitude and, being having neglected principles of missions should follow. The challenge by this Filipino man was a life saving step toward to me as I was starting into a missionary approach to life.

Some Christians and one chaplain on base thought we were not prepared to carry the Gospel to the Philippines. After much discussion and prayer a few of us decided to go and teach from the Bible what we clearly understood. The central message was about Jesus Christ, who was crucified in Judea, the capital, and was raised, believing the strong faith of the crowd, raised every day. We could

the Natural Law "is being from himself and being to himself same."

The Natural Law is profound and perfectly true. Bobby L. Lowe has been profoundly inspired and inspired by justice, liberty and development and the values as a whole. We could only call it a thing of examples, but a major one, is the fact that it is the very of "man's nature."

The idea of a man and a woman and a woman carrying one another in an unspoken act of love of the Natural Law is an unspoken, gently country to human nature. De-terminably today's liberalism-progressive could not live, they are far too highly embracing any and all variations of Natural Law in general of their own, individual lives. It's part of that glorious "unchanging, unchangeable" of America.

Beyond liberalism-progressive, there are countless millions of ordinary Americans who like me would care less. They care about justice and July 4th is not their day, but it is ours. Natural Law? Swindoll's saying.

Will it be? For those who are actually celebrating, spirit-ing, remaining. Thank God if the "Creative" explained to you that is, in your very nature - a body of truth and law in which you and all human beings are subject, it is superior to man-made law, and it is available and knowable by human reason. Reminds like something worth knowing.

Car Care for your summer trips

Dear Editor,

If you are planning a road trip this summer, it's important to remember that you should have your car inspected by a qualified mechanic. By conducting a thorough vehicle inspection, you can determine how much money you should invest in your car before any problems start to develop.

Check the brake system and make sure the battery connection is clean, tight and secure.

Check the tires and fluids, including engine oil, antifreeze, coolant, windshield washer and power steering, brake and transmission fluids. Dirty oil filters can waste gas and cause the engine to lose power.

Check the belts and bolts and replace if they become cracked, brittle, loose, bent or show signs of excessive wear. There are critical to the proper functioning of the electrical system, air conditioning, power steering and the cruise control system.

Check the fans, including the pressure and head. The distributed fans reduce a vehicle's fuel economy and increase wear indicators a need for wheel alignment. They should

been always regular like an oil and an spark-plug check. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

On the day of Pentecost, the disciples did speak with "other tongues" but they did not speak in "unknown" languages. In fact in the same chapter in verses 7 and 8 the Bible lets us know that the tongues they were speaking in were simply the "known" languages of the people who had come from all over the world to Jerusalem for that occasion.

Furthermore, Paul, in 1 Corin- thians chapter 14, gives a clear discourse about speaking in tongues and says if a person is speaking in a tongue not understood by others, then it should be done by oneself and there should be no interpretation at all.

Letters to the Editor must be signed and it is this newspaper's policy to include the name in print with the letter. A day-time telephone number is also requested for possible verification (it will not be published). The newspaper reserves the right to refuse letters, but believes it is important to be as open as possible to the "Opinion Page" can be a forum for the community. The newspaper does not necessarily agree with the opinions expressed in letters to the editor.

The Journal

Formerly The Tri County Journal & Chatham/Cherty County Legal Organ of Marion County & Seibey County

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This newspaper tries to present balanced and fair reporting. Management will have access to requests for more and quality customers for returns. The newspaper does not accept letters to the editor based on whether or not the staff agrees with the content of letters. Letters to the editor are a way for our community to express their views.

The newspaper is not responsible for unsolicited material. The publisher's liability for an error will not exceed the cost of the space occupied by the error. Periodical postage paid in Brunswick, GA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Journal, PO Box 339, Brunswick, GA 31503.

Local News Coverage

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2nd Place

Rockdale Citizen, Conyers

TALENTED GRAPPLERS
51 local wrestlers headed to sectionals • In Sports, 8A

Tuesday
February 5, 2013
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Rockdale Citizen

Conyers, Georgia
50 Cents

www.rockdalecitizen.com

Sign up open for cancer walk

By MICHELLE FLOYD
Staff Writer
mfloyd@rockdalecitizen.com

CONYERS — You can walk to home or in memory of a cancer patient next month, while supporting mammogram education in the community.

The Kimberly Chance Adams Foundation is holding its third annual Walk with Angels, an eight-mile walk that honors or remembers any cancer patient.

"We are proud to be a part of making a difference right here in our home town," said Benny Adams, husband of the late Kimberly and president of the board for the foundation.

The walk is scheduled for Saturday, March 2, rain or shine. Registration is scheduled from 7 to 8 a.m., and the walk will start at 8 a.m. in Old Town Conyers. It is expected to finish about 11 a.m.

"All ages are welcome to walk," Adams said.

—See Walk, Page 4A

Nonprofit summit slated for March 12

By MICHELLE FLOYD
Staff Writer
mfloyd@rockdalecitizen.com

CONYERS — Nonprofit organizations in Rockdale and surrounding counties can gain valuable capacity-building resources by participating on March 12 in the third in a series of workshops being held at the Rockdale Center Academy.

The workshops are aimed at sharing with nonprofit agencies information they need to sustain their organizations as they continue to enhance the lives of Rockdale residents.

Teaming up to offer this opportunity are the Board of Directors of Rockdale County, the Rockdale Coalition for Children and Families, Rockdale County Government, Rockdale County School System, United Way in Rockdale and 4th District Congressman Hank Johnson.

The series, which began in September 2012, continues on at 8 a.m. on March 12 with a workshop focused on resource development.

—See Summit, Page 8A

Sheriff opposes changes in Ga. seizure law

By ALICE QUINN
Staff Writer
aquin@rockdalecitizen.com

CONYERS — Rockdale County Sheriff Eric Lovett has said he opposes legislation that would take control of seized and forfeited assets away from the law enforcement agencies that seize them and give that control to the commissioners in the county in which the property was seized. Commissioners would determine what law enforcement purposes were appropriate for the seized assets.

"I am joining other sheriffs and the Georgia Sheriff's Association in opposing House Bill 1," Lovett said in a statement. "The ability to seize lawfully obtained money and assets is a great tool in combating criminal activity. House Bill 1 would change the seizure process by taking away my discretion of how the seized property may be used to further reduce crime in Rockdale County."

Sony Norris, executive director of the Georgia Sheriff's Association, said the legislation is "vigorously opposed by the sheriffs of Georgia."

"It effectively requires any asset to seize the ill-gotten assets of hoodlums," he said.

Putnam County Sheriff Howard Hill, president of the Sheriff's Association, wrote in a message on the Putnam Sheriff's Office website that a law re-

—See Bill, Page 4A

Newton schools release Carpenter settlement terms

By MICHELLE FLOYD
Staff Writer
mfloyd@rockdalecitizen.com

CONYERS — The Newton County Board of Education will pay a top school official and a high school principal nearly \$500,000 as part of a settlement.

The Newton County School System released Monday afternoon a settlement agreement between Dr. Dennis Carpenter, deputy superintendent for operations, and his wife, LaQuanda Carpenter, principal of Alcega High School. Last week, NCSO announced that the Carpenters were being released from their contracts that would be part of a settlement.

The Citizen had requested an open records request for information about the settlement on Wednesday afternoon, after NCSO initially refused to provide further information, saying it was a personal issue. David Hudson, attorney for the Georgia Press Association, said Thursday that the settlement documents are open.

—See Carpenters, Page 5A

170 students compete in regional science fair

By MICHELLE FLOYD
Staff Writer
mfloyd@rockdalecitizen.com

CONYERS — Nearly 200 students have spent the school year — and some longer — focusing on things like mold prevention, welding metal materials, oil drilling and robotics.

Rockdale County students presented their research on Friday at the Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology in a culminating event for some students, the Rockdale Regional Science and Engineering Fair.

"We had 170 students participating in the fair, making it the largest RRSEF we've had," said Amanda Radtke, co-director of the fair.

Students participated from all four middle schools and all three high schools, as well as the Magnet School.

"I'm very excited about the caliber of projects — they are varied and in depth," Minors Middle School principal Andrea McMahon said. "The students discuss very articulate about their projects."

Radtke said that many of the students started brainstorming new project ideas or commitments immediately after last year's fair.

"Experimentation can take place anytime during the year, but most students experiment in the early fall so they are ready for the school fair in December," she said. "All students at RRSEF were chosen based on their performance at their school's science fair. Student project ideas can come from problems students encounter in daily life, topics in the news or current scientific research they read about in journals."

Sophomore Patrick Mannie, a student at the Magnet School, said he has worked on his project, "Zero Emission Car: Air Compression System," last year.

—See Fair, Page 4A

SNARLED

Rush hour traffic was girdlocked for well over an hour Monday morning following a one-vehicle crash in the eastbound lanes of Interstate 20 near Seton Road in Rockdale County. According to the Georgia State Patrol, a 27-year-old Newton County woman was traveling east in the center lane when she suddenly steered left and hit the median wall. After hitting the wall, her vehicle began to overturn, ejecting her onto the roadway, according to GSP spokesman Gentry Wright, who added that it was unknown why the woman hit the wall. He said the woman was not wearing a seatbelt. No other vehicles were involved.



—See News, Page 1B

Newton County woman who was ejected from an overturned vehicle on I-20 Monday morning is put into an ambulance by emergency medical personnel to be transported to Atlanta Medical Center. The woman received serious injuries, according to the Georgia State Patrol.



—See News, Page 1B

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The Daily Tribune News, Cartersville



The Daily Tribune News

THURSDAY
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DEADLY TORNADO BATTERS BARTOW COUNTY



Cartersville Firefighter Department Squad 4 and Barlow EMS help get Brenda Mulkey to an ambulance with injuries she suffered at her home when the tornado touched down Wednesday in Adairsville.

Tornado cuts path through Adairsville; 1 dead

By James Lanning
jlaning@dailytribune.com

A tornado that left a path of destruction through the heart of Adairsville Wednesday morning left one dead and homes and businesses damaged.

The reported EF-2 tornado cut a swath along the Ga. Highway 140 corridor, according to Adairsville Police Chief Robert Dean. The majority of the damage was centered in the area of the intersection of Highway 140 and U.S. Highway 41.

Trucking down about 10:30 a.m., the storm left a trail of homes and businesses partially or completely destroyed, the roads and ground littered with downed trees and power lines. At 9 p.m. Georgia Power reported more than 15,000 people without power statewide, 4,000 in northwest Georgia.

A gas leak in the aftermath near Noland and McManis streets sparked concerns over five lines rising with the gas and extinguishing.

Dean confirmed early Wednesday afternoon that one person was killed at a South Cass Street address.

Bartow County Coroner Joel Gospe identified the deceased as 70-year-old Anthony Bates, of 307 Cass St.

Cartersville Medical Center Director of Emergency and Triage Referrals Greg Tyson said the facility received three patients — two women treated for head injuries and released, and a male who was deceased on arrival.

Bartow County Emergency Management Agency Director Craig Millroy said Wednesday evening 15 people were transported by EMS, including the family, and several homes were damaged — 13 ac-



The Education Play Station on Sumner Street was one of the many buildings on Sumner Street in Adairsville damaged by Wednesday's tornado.

res were like some they have ever experienced.

He said crew members were able to get a better handle on the assessment, a financial estimate would be released, possibly as early as today.

The damage prompted Gov. Nathan Deal late Wednesday afternoon to declare a state of emergency in Bartow and Gordon counties.

For those in the path, Wednesday's storm was like some they have ever experienced.

Cherry Street resident Alexia Jones, who was watching the weather reports on TV, sat in the hallway with her granddaughter as the funnel passed overhead.

Jones said she thought, "I'm going to die," as she looked in the periscope.

"I was never worried about my granddaughter that I was myself," she said. "I

Agencies to accept donations, provide relief

Stacy Bennett

As those in Adairsville affected by Wednesday's tornado assess damage, local agencies are working to help tornado victims.

United Way of Bartow County, 775 380 3877, previously contributed a tornado relief fund following the April 2011 tornado. The agency is accepting monetary contributions and the funds collected will go directly to Adairsville tornado victims who qualify.

The Daily Tribune News, 211 S. Sumner St., Cartersville, and WRBF Community Radio, 7 N. Wall St., Cartersville, are serving as United Way drop-off sites for supplies. These supplies might include bottled water, flashlights, batteries, blankets and blankets.

NorthPointe Church, 770-387-8033, located at 30 Orchard Road, Adairsville, currently is serving as a shelter, but a church spokesman said the church is not accepting donations until it can determine the needs of the area.

The Georgia Emergency Management Agency said they are prepared to support local agencies in the tornado relief effort, but at this point have not received notification of the need for additional assistance.

Jeffrey Penner, executive director of the Northwest Georgia Chapter of the American Red Cross, said on Wednesday the organization began recruiting itself and other teams to establish a shelter at the Manning Mill gym and provide aid. He said residents looking to assist in the relief effort may make a financial contribution to the Red Cross at 700-241-6644.

Living Way Community Center, 678-614-0054, located at 118 E. George St., Adairsville, also will be serving as a shelter.

Due to dangerous conditions on the ground Wednesday, preparation for long-term relief efforts will begin in earnest today. Volunteers were not permitted entrance Wednesday and several made plans to create staging areas and assess needs today.

Announcements for the Bartow Chapter Association has already received calls from volunteers across the Southeast and will be answering needs and preparing meals for relief teams today. To register to help, Penner urges residents to contact their church through which the BBA will coordinate efforts.

For volunteers not connected to a local church, visit www.bartowem.com, which also will be here to a mailing list of needs as they become available. Penner advised however, that personal needs are gift cards and monetary donations. For more information, contact the BBA at 125 Powell St. or call 770-387-0383.

Georgia Power reported more than 4,000 power outages in northwest Georgia due to the storm.

Email The Daily Tribune News at news@dailytribune.com to report more damage and describe locations.

GDOT taps board member Jeff Lewis to chair P3 committee

By Matt Barnett
mbarnett@dailytribune.com

The Georgia Department of Transportation's Public-Private Partnership program invites private companies into the construction of traditionally public projects, which can reduce the department's burden and will ultimately save taxpayer money.

Overseeing the program, known colloquially as P3, is a committee of two GDOT board members, representatives from each division of the department and the

program director.

Earlier this month, Bartow County native and GDOT board member, Jeff Lewis was appointed to the position of P3 Steering Committee Chair. In this role, he will help steer the program, recruit new companies to partner on transportation projects and provide oversight on existing projects.

Previously, the concept was developed for large road projects because it's three very large, expensive infrastructure projects that local and state governments need help funding," Lewis said. "A number of water

works the nation started doing this, probably as early as the late '80s or early '90s, for toll roads and toll bridges and tunnels and some sort of things as a means to transportation infrastructure.

"In my opinion, it is a 21st century solution to challenges that we're only going to get more expensive and it's something that deserves serious attention and utilization if and when necessary and when it makes sense."

A relatively new program, the idea that would lead to P3 got the green light from

Georgia legislators while Lewis served in the State House of Representatives. His first project was the conceptualization of the new under-construction Northwest Corridor. Since its inception, the Northwest Corridor project has been reduced from a wholly P3 initiative to a largely public endeavor with elements of P3.

As it is completed in 2017, the Northwest Corridor is a traffic relief project for Interstate 75 from Cobb County to



Jeff Lewis

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The rise and fall of teen pregnancy

ONCE TOPPING THE CHARTS: While birth rates have dropped, 'we're nowhere near solving that problem'

By Lee Steiner
lsteiner@athensbanner.com

Teen pregnancy and a soaring teen birth rate posed a crisis in 1991. The U.S. had one of the highest teen birth rates in the industrialized world. Georgia had the highest teen birth rate in the nation. Clarke and some other area counties were near the top of the charts among Georgia's 159 counties.

BIRTHRATE NUMBERS VARY
Per 1,000 teens, the birthrate for Clarke County may vary depending on the agency collecting the numbers.

\$8.7 MILLION: Amount the state of Georgia provided in 2011 for adolescent health and youth development.

In 2011, funding for the program was cut in half.

BEYOND THE STEREOTYPE: Young mom aims to overcome the odds

By Lee Steiner
lsteiner@athensbanner.com

Firenze Burrows knows the statistics on teen moms: They don't graduate from school, their children are likely to grow up in poverty, and so on.

But Burrows is determined not to be a statistic.

Four months after giving birth to daughter Peyton Echols on Jan. 26, 2011, Burrows went back to school, finishing her coursework in December.

"It would have made life much harder if I just gave up," said the 19-year-old. "If you don't do it for yourself, you're not going to get it taken care of."

As soon as she finished up at Clarke City High School, she enrolled in classes at Athens Technical College, beginning work in the college's culinary arts program.

Burrows has a plan, a schedule for her life and ambitions.

"I want to start out with culinary arts, and then go back for business administration," she said.

If all goes according to plan, she will become financially independent in two years. In five years, she'll have her own catering business.

Burrows, who was a member of the Cedar Shoals mock trial team, thinks she might like one day to become a state senator.

"I don't think they listen to the people," she said of lawmakers. And she wants to keep on with volunteer work at her church.

See **TEEN** on A2

See **YOUNG** on A2

IN LIVING: More women ages 40-44 now having children

This THURSDAY, August 15, 2013

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Family Connection

Compliments in Schools


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Marietta Daily Journal

A GRAND SLAM DAY FOR COBB TUESDAY, NOV. 12, 2013 75 CENTS
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HOME OF THE BRAVES

From left, Chairman of the Cobb Board of Commissioners Tim Lee, Commissioner Bob Ott, who represents the area, and Paul Lathard, chairman of the Cumberland Community Improvement District, stand on the undeveloped land that Braves officials said Monday will become the site for the new Atlanta Braves Stadium.

Team president '100% certain' move to Cobb will take place; new stadium to be built near Cumberland Mall; batter up in 2017

By Jon Gilfooly
gilfooly@gaape.com

CUMBERLAND — If County Chairman Tim Lee and Atlanta Braves President John Schuerholz get their way, Cobb will be the home of the Braves by 2017.

That was the headline news item out of last night that ended the metro-Atlanta area Monday morning.

The first plan must pass muster with the Cobb Board of Commissioners, which will have final say on the contract and is expected to take the matter up for a vote at its Nov. 26 meeting.

Schuerholz announced Monday that his organization had selected Cobb as the site to build a proposed \$472 million, 43,000-seat Major League Baseball stadium. He estimated fans in the city, paying 16 to 17 percent

"The new stadium, we believe, will be one of the most magnificent ever built."

John Schuerholz, Braves president

at the end of 2016.

"The new stadium, we believe, will be one of the most magnificent ever built," Schuerholz told reporters on Monday.


The open-air stadium is projected to cost between \$1,000 to \$2,000, compared to Turner Field, which cost over \$600 million.

The franchise is eyeing a 60-acre wooded parcel near the Cumberland Mall. The new stadium would sit on 17 of those 60 acres. The Braves have an option to buy the site from Bethesda, Md.-based B.J. Seal Co.

County 75 Parkway and Windy Ridge Parkway are the two roads that help form the perimeter of the property.

The stadium would be owned by the Cobb-Marietta Citizens and Exhibit Hall Authority, which also owns the Cobb Galleria Centre and Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre.

See Move, 3A



'Let's do lunch'

'Matchmaker' Rep. Ehrhart got Braves' exec, Cobb chairman together, pitched idea of move

By Jon Gilfooly
gilfooly@gaape.com

CUMBERLAND — Call him the matchmaker.

Cobb Board of Commissioners Chairman Tim Lee said it was state Rep. Earl Ehrhart (R-Powder Springs) who got him in touch with Atlanta Braves executive in a pitch that ended up in a proposal to move the Braves to Cobb County in 2017, if all goes as planned.

Ehrhart has facilitated a number of Braves executives through his involvement in developing Etowah-based LakePointe Sporting Community in executive vice president

of Butte County, which develops itself as the largest sports recreation destination in the world.

"I just came up in a conversation out here," Ehrhart said. "They asked me if I could



introduce them to those in Cobb County. They said not every very clear motion for me but most of the population of Braves' fans are right here in the Cobb County area. This they showed me the 1000 outline or so of economic impact that it would have. I'm thinking, wow, this is a wonderful thing for Cobb County."

Ehrhart said he arranged for Lee to meet with Mike Plant, Braves executive vice president of business operations, at the Marietta Country Club in July.

"We sat and talked for about three hours and Tim and his team put together an executive deal, I think," Ehrhart said.

During a press conference in Atlanta on Monday, Plant said following that lead, "The quickly — at Cobb County conducts its business — got the Chamber's economic development

See Lunch, 3A



Cobb Chairman Tim Lee said state Rep. Earl Ehrhart (R-Powder Springs), above, set the plan in motion on the Braves move.

Local News Coverage

B

1st Place

Marietta Daily Journal

ANGER WILL SUBSIDE, MOST WILL EMBRACE ...
NEW KSU
OPINION / 6A

NO MERCY!

COBB'S LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1866

Marietta Daily Journal

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BRAVES ARE COMING TO COBB COUNTY

PLAY BALL!

Cobb, Braves have deal on table

Team will pay for 55% of proposed \$672M stadium complex cost Remaining 45% will be funded without tax hike for 95% of residents

Plan must be finalized by vote of commissioners Nov. 26

By Jon Gilwey
jgilwey@mdjonline.com

MARIETTA— When the numbers for the proposed Cobb County Atlanta Braves stadium are released today, they will show the Braves are paying for 55 percent of the \$672-million stadium and county chairman Tim Lee said the deal was Wednesday night.

"The other 45 percent will be funded without a tax increase for over 95 percent of Cobb County residents," Lee said. "This is a public-private partnership and the Braves are paying for 55 percent of the cost."

Commissioner Felix Gordon, who has been reviewing the proposal, said that is a lot.

"I'm very enthusiastic with it," Gordon said. "The taxpayers are going to be pleased with the arrangement that is going to be done with the media very shortly."

Neither Gordon nor Lee would go into specifics Wednesday, but Gordon believes the Braves will work to the county's advantage.

"I believe that those who are going to benefit the most from the Braves moving to Cobb County will be the ones that will be making the largest investment in it," Gordon said. "Who are those people?"

Lee said they were "those who live in areas of the Cumberland Community Improvement District" where the new stadium's home is expected to be built.

"It's a win-win deal for Cobb County and the Braves because it provides a fiscally sound, balanced budget would that takes advantage of the great opportunity provided by the Braves for economic development, job creation, at a great investment for Cobb County," Lee said.

The Board of Commissioners is scheduled to vote on a recommendation of understanding with the Braves at its Nov. 26 meeting. Gordon, who has located the Braves were making a move to Cobb County only a week ago, said she would there was more time before the vote than she's the nature of the project.

No light rail!

Cobb Commissioner Chairman Tim Lee says Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed is wrong with his statement that the Braves' move to Cobb will be the first introduction of light rail. Lee says that, if any new transportation plans are implemented, it will be a bus rapid transit plan. A county study has recommended a \$1.1 billion light rail project connecting Kennesaw State University to downtown Marietta, and the study is expected to be finished in the spring, according to county officials.

Chairman rails against statement by Atlanta mayor that light rail will make move with Braves

By Jon Gilwey
jgilwey@mdjonline.com

MARIETTA— Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed, who claims the Braves' move to Cobb County means Cobb would need to have light rail to attract it, wrong, county chairman Tim Lee said. Reed said in a press conference this week that "because of the transportation issues, if Cobb goes forward with this, they're going to have to have rail, which would be the first introduction of light rail."

"The MDT asked Lee whether Reed's statement was accurate. "No, absolutely not," Lee said. "We're not going to see that, we're going to see bus rapid transit, if we do, it will be BART."

The county's \$1.1 billion "Northwest Corridor Alternatives Analysis" study led by Marietta-based City Engineering has recommended building a \$1.1 billion bus system connecting Kennesaw State University to downtown Marietta.

Hinojosa's not sharing evaluation

Superintendent says he'll keep it confidential

By Hannah Morgan
hmorgan@mdjonline.com

MARIETTA— Michael Hinojosa, superintendent of Cobb's 128,000-student public school system, said his annual evaluation by the school board will not be shared with the public. The board approved a new method for evaluating the superintendent last year, which includes grading him on five indicators: academic achievement, school performance, local management, board management, superintendent relations and stakeholder satisfaction.

Lee said, "I don't work for the public, I work for the Braves." Hinojosa said Wednesday.

The district is now compiling all of the data that will be used in the evaluation, including test scores and graduation rates, and the board is on track to complete its first evaluation of Hinojosa in spring 2014.

One part of the evaluation, board superintendent relations counts for 15 percent of Hinojosa's total evaluation, but can't be kept private, as Hinojosa has made it clear he intends to do.

Each board member separately writes up an evaluation of how the superintendent is doing, and those reports are compiled into one score, which the board determines how to calculate, said Board Chairman Brady Scarborough.

"The confidential portion I would prefer to keep confidential," as the board's evaluation of Hinojosa, which occurs during a closed executive session, "is designed," he is proven, he said.

Scarborough thinks the new system provides enough transparency for the taxpayers, who ultimately pay Hinojosa's salary, he said.

By holding 87 percent of Hinojosa's evaluation to student success in the classroom, parents and residents will be able to get a solid understanding of exactly how the superintendent is performing, Scarborough said.

As to the confidential part of the evaluation, Scarborough said, "I'm usually confident in some privacy and discretion in regards to their performance."

The board is in the process of writing up each member's private evaluation, Scarborough said, and they are due by the end of the year.

Dr. Michael Hinojosa

Apt. plan raises ire of Smyrna residents

They're tired of all razing; want more shopping, dining places

By Nikki Wiley
nwiley@mdjonline.com

SMYRNA— In the wake of millions the city has spent to rent transitional apartments, some Smyrna residents say they don't want another apartment complex in their city, even if it's targeting high-income tenants.

Blackhead-based Branch Capital Partners has asked for a rezoning to develop Inland Village, an 11-acre site at the corner of Inland Road and Spring Street in the downtown area. The development was first announced in 2006 and was intended to be a \$140-million mixed-use project, including 20,000 square feet of office space, 140,000 square feet of retail space, 500 luxury condominiums and an underground parking deck. The property has changed hands several times since then.

Some residents are angry because they don't want another apartment complex in their city, even if it's targeting high-income tenants. Blackhead-based Branch Capital Partners has asked for a rezoning to develop Inland Village, an 11-acre site at the corner of Inland Road and Spring Street in the downtown area. The development was first announced in 2006 and was intended to be a \$140-million mixed-use project, including 20,000 square feet of office space, 140,000 square feet of retail space, 500 luxury condominiums and an underground parking deck. The property has changed hands several times since then.

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Sunday, July 13, 2003
The Telegraph
MIDDLE GEORGIA'S NEWSPAPER
macon.com

LAUREN GOODING'S SLAYING

McDaniel answers federal lawsuit

Denies involvement in death

By ART LEECH WOLSKEL
wolskel@macon.com

In a federal court filing, accused killer Stephen McDaniel has denied having any involvement in the slaying and dismemberment of law student Lauren Gooding, claiming she was in a car with her mother.

McDaniel is charged with murder in the death of 27-year-old Lauren Gooding.

On June 27, Gooding's parents filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the 27-year-old McDaniel and are seeking more than \$2 million and permission from a judge to search McDaniel's maternal grandfather's Pike County farm for their daughter's remains.

Gooding's body was discovered June 30, 2002, in a garbage can outside the Georgia Avenue apartment complex where the two students lived in neighboring

SEE B2B6L, B4



Georgia State Patrol troopers wait outside the Grand Opera House for a ceremony to start Wednesday morning honoring Macon native William Frederick Black Jr., the first Georgia State Trooper killed in the line of duty. A 2007 Ford V8 patrol cruiser, restored by The Georgia State Patrol, was parked in front of great visitors attending the ceremony.

End-Of-Course Tests scores up in midstate

By ERNA KING and BOB STOKES
Telegraph staff

An steady stream of test scores released Wednesday suggest that 30 of the Georgia schools generally lag behind the state, but are improving.

In the latest End-Of-Course Test results, Middle Georgia schools often had passing rates at least 20 percentage points below the state's average.

Among the nine exceptions was in Newton County, where the passing average was above the state average — sometimes just by a hair — on the most common tests. At the individual school level, Newton County's Warner Robins High and Northside High had passing rates that almost always fell below the state's average.

On the more popular End-Of-Course Tests, the 10th County school system fell well below the state average in every test. Only Howard High School, the Houchings Career Center, Howard

SEE B2E7L, B4

Fallen trooper honored

Macon intersection named after first Ga. State Patrolman killed in line of duty

By STEPHAN WOLSKEL
wolskel@macon.com

For more than 70 years, the heroism of a Macon man appeared to be lost to time with him at Kilmister Cemetery.

William Frederick Black Jr. was the first Georgia State Trooper killed in the line of duty.

Although he made quite a name for himself in his early years, the memory of his sacrifice seemed to be lost until Wednesday afternoon, when the bridge at Interstate 85 and Columbus East Boulevard was dedicated in his honor.

As a Luther High School state champion football player in 1975, "Fred" heard plenty of cheers in his youth.

His achievements on the gridiron and football court carried him on a full scholarship to Alabama Polytechnic Institute, where he got a degree in aeronautical engineering at what became Auburn University.

SEE TROOPR, 3A




Georgia State Patrol cars and motorcycles drive in a procession under an iron cross on Spring Street by the interchange dedication ceremony honoring Black.

THE RAIL

YOUR NEWS EXPRESS



First Apple computer sells at auction for \$387,750

An original Apple computer from 1976 was sold at auction for nearly \$390,000. Known as the Apple 1, it was one of the first Apple computers ever built.

It sold Monday for \$387,750 at a Christie's online-only auction. Before, an Italian collector's company, with a statement that it bought the computer.

— Associated Press

The calm before the storms

Emergency planners urge preparation for tropical season

By STEPHAN WOLSKEL
wolskel@macon.com

The third tropical storm of the Atlantic hurricane season ended Wednesday evening, but those charged with sheltering people out of harm's way are no less vigilant.

"That's why we are constantly preparing because we don't know when it will happen," said Tracy Willis-Kin, executive director of the Central Georgia chapter of the American Red Cross.

The remnants of Tropical Storm Charley could regenerate, and heavy rains could still be in Middle Georgia, as a couple of the computer models have indicated.

SEE STORM, 3A

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Savannah Morning News

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2013 SAVANNAHNOW.COM LIGHT OF THE COASTAL EMPIRE

Cop's hiring overruled

City re-hires frequently disciplined patrolman; Cutter says procedure violates policy requiring 3-year wait

BY LESLEY COHN
lesley.cohn@savannahnow.com

In his 11 years with the Savannah-Chatham police department, Officer Tony Townsend resigned twice while under Internal Affairs investigation. He had been censured or disciplined more than 30 times for inappropriate conduct that included sleeping while on duty, insubordination and being leashed from a Circle K after he repeatedly sexually harassed female customers and employees.

A few weeks ago, the city hired him again.

City Manager Stephanie Cutter on Monday reviewed Townsend's work history and determined that Townsend, still a probationary employee, he terminated, the cited a policy that states that employees who are terminated or who resign in lieu of termination are not eligible for rehiring for at least three years.

Townsend could not be reached for comment, but in 2010, for the appeal of suspension prior to dismissal, he indicated he should have been given more time to correct problems.

"...I was headed toward the positive change," he wrote. "I wasn't really given that chance after my last incident."

SEE FIBER, PAGE 7A

INSIDE
Pet pig recovering at home

Oliver, the pet pig that was attacked by a man and two dogs in an Effingham mobile home park, is now continuing his recovery at home. Also in public safety summary: Fire crews coastal middle school; Marring crash injures three, blocks road. 5A

Three 3rd ID soldiers killed in Afghanistan

SAVANNAH MORNING NEWS

Three Fort Stewart soldiers were killed in combat in Afghanistan Sunday, the Department of Defense announced Tuesday.

The soldiers, all cavalry units assigned to the 6th Cavalry, 7th Cavalry Regiment of the 3rd Infantry Division (Air Assault) Brigade Combat Team, died of wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked their unit with a mortar (some improved explosive device in Kabul, Afghanistan, the DoD said.

Their deaths follow the loss of nine 3rd ID soldiers last month.

Killed in action Sunday were Staff Sgt. Christopher M. Ward, Sp4. Wilbur A. Bolden-Sims, and Sp4. Delta M. Sutton Jr.

Ward, 24, of Oak Ridge, Tenn., joined the Army in November 2000; he was on his third deployment.

Bolden-Sims, 25, of Anson, Puerto Rico, joined the Army in October 2001 and was on his second deployment.

Sutton, 24, of San Jose, Calif., joined the Army in February 2007 and was also on his second deployment.

A helicopter crash March 11 killed Sp4. Darbury L. Shannon, Staff Sgt. Matt A. Kilday, Capt. Sara M. Kunkin, Chief Warrant Officer Bryan J. Henderson and Staff Sgt. Steven P. Blass.

Chief Warrant Officer James E. Green III died in a separate helicopter crash March 16.

Staff Sgt. Rex L. Redd was killed by a roadside explosion of the Afghan police in what the Pentagon has termed "an insider attack" on March 6.

Chief Warrant Officer Curtis A. Ruggen died March 29 of a non-combat related illness.

SEE SOLDIERS, PAGE 6A

MOLD CLOSES RONALD McDONALD HOUSE



Lisa Dean, left, with the Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Coastal Empire Board of Directors, chats with Yvonne Heasley in the new Ronald McDonald Family Room at Memorial University Medical Center on Tuesday.

Charity opens Family Room

New facility offers showers, private rooms, food and more to families with children in Memorial's Children's Hospital

BY COREY SICKSTEIN
sickstein@savannahnow.com

While the facility is primarily geared toward local families who may use it while their children are in the hospital, the Family Room will help ease out-of-town families' transitions while the Ronald McDonald House across the street on Memorial's campus is closed, indefinitely beginning Friday, the charity's executive director Nicole Layton said Tuesday.

"We're going to be booting up the Family Room volunteer services and our staff's going to be based in other Coastal hospitals at Memorial," Layton said. "Our shower rooms will be open to serve families who unfortunately won't be able to come to the House for just a little bit."

SEE McDONALD, PAGE 6A

UCONN ROUTS LOUISVILLE | 1B

Connecticut won its eighth national championship with a record 10-60 rout of Louisville on Tuesday night. The victory was the most lopsided in a championship game.

TOLLISON NEW SEDA CHIEF | 6C

Savannah Economic Development Authority's Board on Tuesday voted unanimously to make SEDA's interim president and CEO Trip Tollison the group's permanent chief. Tollison, who spent 10 years with the chamber before accepting the interim position, has a long history with SEDA. He played a critical role in helping the group with various economic development projects.

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Savannah Morning News

75¢ MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2013 SAVANNAHNOW.COM LIGHT OF THE COASTAL EMPIRE

Son faces charges in shooting death of his father

Incident happened on Mossy Court in the Laurelwood subdivision off Quacco Road

BY DASH COLEMAN
912-432-0762
dash.coleman@savannahnow.com

A 20-year-old Savannah man arrested with multiple warrants and arrested Sunday night after allegedly shooting his father to death earlier in the evening.

The son, Thomas Andrew Burroughs, 20, was arrested about 9 p.m. and Julian Miller, Savannah-Chatham County spokesman.

At about 6 p.m. Sunday, police were called to Mossy Court in the Laurelwood subdivision off Quacco Road to the shooting that occurred during a domestic dispute at a residence, Miller said.

Frank James Burroughs, 66, was taken to Memorial University Medical Center by ambulance, where he was declared dead, Miller said.

West Chatham Precinct patrol officers, Savannah officers and Violent Crimes detectives were investigating on Mossy Court into the evening.

SEE DEATH, PAGE 3A

Returning to normal

Business owners, police say crowds behaved pretty well overall

BY DASH COLEMAN
912-432-0762
dash.coleman@savannahnow.com

Other than a few decorative Southern Shaws into bushes and green glitters lining the roads in a sidewalk, evidence of Savannah's massive St. Patrick's Day Parade and festival overall has gone away Sunday afternoon.

That didn't matter to 26-year-old Lucy Tarkenton, who jumped out of the Marine Corps and was glancing and checking in front of Wild Wing Caffe to live music in still-crowded City Market.

"I missed the parade, but I got to drive down in a convertible, so that wasn't bad," she said.

Sunday was actually St. Patrick's Day, and the veteran who used recently was stationed at the Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, N.C., was happy to be celebrating in one of her favorite cities.

"Love Savannah — one of my favorite cities in the world," she said. "I love the people here, I love the parks here, I love the positive energy here."

Sweet Caroline Cupcakes will serve 1,500 cupcakes on the day of the St. Patrick's Day Parade in the City Market.

Back at work

Outside of City Market, things were moving a little slower. After an intensely busy Saturday, 26-year-old Leah Hensh and her 7-month-old miniature poodle, Chewie, were relaxing in Savannah Royal Bike Taxi just south of Kille Square while they weren't any customers.

SEE NORMAL, PAGE 8A

Closing time for St. Patrick's

Well-coordinated city effort shuts down party, cleans up city

BY LESLEY GONN
912-432-0326
lesley.gonn@savannahnow.com

It's just after midnight on West River Street.

A slender young woman takes over the responsibilities in platform wedges. She has her head down, a cellphone pressed against her right ear. She pulls her long hair back with her left hand, and without warning, winks twice, narrowly missing two cops sitting on the curb as they drink from a cup of beer.

The cellphone never leaves the woman's ear. She winks forward. The two cops check. They are spitter-free. They share a laugh and resume their drinking.

Welcome to the final hours of St. Patrick's Day 2013 in Savannah.

SEE CLOSING, PAGE 3A

Moving parade to Saturday every year a bad idea

SEVERAL IRISHMEN OF A certain age remember going door to door to raise funds for the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade.

The holiday march was more exercise than event back then. Local Irish families saw the tour de force as a celebration of their heritage and a salute to a community so welcoming to their ancestors. Whether the crowd numbered 400 or 400,000 mattered not.

But fireworks and several decades. The last two parades, both staged on Saturdays, drew half-a-million revelers each.

Naturally, many parade-goers talked about how great it is to have the parade on Saturday, when nobody has to take off work on parade day or to accommodate the next morning's hangover and when the business community, particularly the hotels, restaurants and bars, can reap the biggest windfalls.

These conversations inevitably lead to the following question: Why not have the parade on the closest Saturday to St. Patrick's Day every year?

The answer is one word: no need to head and respect. It's not our parade.

"Tradition, that's why not," one past grand marshal said.

SEE MOVING, PAGE 3A

3rd ID soldier dies in Afghanistan

The Department of Defense announced Sunday the death of a soldier who was supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

Chief Warrant Officer James E. Gross III, 41, of Kettering, Ohio, died March 16 in Kandahar Province. He was assigned to 2nd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division (Aviation) Army Airfield. This incident is under investigation.

Source: Department of Defense

ADAM VAN BRUNN

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CORRECTIONS: If you spot an error of fact, call Susan Galt, executive editor, at 912-432-0322.

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The Paper

of Braselton, Chateau Élan
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Training center will house inmate crew

BY LEAH ANK
[ank@chickpaper.com](#)

It is planned to house inmate firefighters from the Jackson County Correctional Institute at the Jackson County Fire Training Center near Hoschton. The agency is currently negotiating the lease for the building, which is being constructed in West Jackson also planned a lot of work. However, a call on Feb. 19, a meeting will be dedicated to that subject which includes litigation and legal review.

The inmate firefighter training center was on the agenda of the meeting of Jackson County Commissioners on Feb. 19. The meeting was held at the Jackson County Courthouse in Hoschton. The meeting was held at 10 a.m. and lasted for about an hour. The meeting was held at 10 a.m. and lasted for about an hour. The meeting was held at 10 a.m. and lasted for about an hour.



Carnations shared at Medical Plaza. 7A

Ministering to the body



Members of the Pastor Brad Greene and the volunteers served Tuesday morning's cold weather with the mobile food pantry. Pastor Brad Greene said his challenge to his church resulted in almost four truckloads of food being sponsored.

Taking the cold plunge

Leadership Jackson jumping in for animals with shelter fundraiser

BY KAREN ADKINS
[karen@chickpaper.com](#)

The time is coming for 11 brave Jackson County athletes to take the plunge into the freezing waters of Lake Lanier. "Take the Plunge" is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 23, at 10 a.m. The event is being hosted by the Leadership Jackson team. The event is being hosted by the Leadership Jackson team. The event is being hosted by the Leadership Jackson team.

Volunteers, local families in need brave weather for first mobile food pantry



Members of the Pastor Brad Greene and the volunteers served Tuesday morning's cold weather with the mobile food pantry. Pastor Brad Greene said his challenge to his church resulted in almost four truckloads of food being sponsored.

Citizen committee, technical group to review SPLOST

BY LEAH ANK
[ank@chickpaper.com](#)

Members of a Jackson County citizen advisory committee formed to be the county's representative to the Statewide Planning and Policy Council (SPLOST) will meet on Feb. 21. The meeting will be held at 10 a.m. at the Jackson County Courthouse in Hoschton. The meeting will be held at 10 a.m. at the Jackson County Courthouse in Hoschton.

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Love through the ages

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Missing, not forgotten

Veterans' families keep searching **Page 6-7**

Day for Heroes, Page 3



GOOD MORNING!
to subscriber

Jason Cosby



Birthday tax no more

By Danielle Everson
news@rockdalenews.com

March 1 is deadline for decision on opting in or out

Anyone who has recently purchased a new or used vehicle within the last year or is looking to do so should be aware of a new state law that will change how consumers pay taxes on their cars.

H.B. 386, tax reform legislation enacted by the Georgia General Assembly in 2012, has created a new system for taxing motor vehicles registered in Georgia. As a result, the annual vehicle title ad valorem tax — widely known as the "birthday tax," — will change. According to a news release from the Association County Commissioners of Georgia, beginning March 1, state and local sales tax will no longer apply to the purchase of a motor vehicle — except for the 1 percent transportation tax on the first \$5,000 of any vehicle sale in regions that have this tax.

See Cars Page 10

Quick Bee win for Duncan

By Michelle Kim
mkim@rockdalenews.com

Memorial Middle School eighth grader Jazz Duncan won the 2013 Rockdale County Spelling Bee in record time for the third straight year, after spelling only five words. This is the sixth consecutive year a Duncan sibling has claimed the Rockdale trophy.

The bee was dispatched in less than 30 minutes as most students were eliminated within two rounds.

After being given three regular round words, Jazz Duncan went on to correctly spell her remaining opponent's word and the

winning word "accomplice." The runner up, who stumbled on the word "ontemorial," was Conyers Middle eighth grader Carlos Haynes, son of Debora and Hay Haynes.

This year, the second round continued even after coming down to two contestants. Jazz's parents, David and Heather Duncan, pointed out the standard procedure is to stop the round and move into a championship round. However, the judges decided to let the round continue.

Afterwards, Jazz said it was one of the shortest bees she had been through and that there were no words she heard that were challenging.



Rockdale Bee winner Jazz Duncan

Haynes censured by WSA

Water Authority asks for removal

By Michelle Kim
mkim@rockdalenews.com

The Water and Sewerage Authority voted to censure member Garvin Haynes for violations of the code of ethics and bylaws and to recommend the Board of Commissioners remove Haynes from the Authority.

Members Elaine Nash, Chip Hatcher, Bill Murrain, Dwight Thomas voted unanimously at the Tuesday morning meeting that was called to discuss a complaint lodged by Rockdale Water Resources employee Michele Prescott (go to www.rockdalenews.com to see documents) regarding email correspondence from Haynes. Newly appointed member David Shipp abstained from voting, stating that he had not been present while the issues being discussed had occurred. Newly appointed member Craig Mims was reportedly out of town. Haynes was reportedly out of town.

In Prescott's complaint, she described a Nov. 8 series of emails between her and Haynes. "His tone and comments about Mr. Wicks were rude and offensive along with his second email with comments directed to me which was even more offensive." She continued, "I have worked for RWR for 12 years and I have never seen the department run as well as it is today... I thought the two entities (RWR and the Water and Sewer Authority) had gotten past the distrust and the verbal abuse to Mr. Wicks and the staff. I for one do not accept Mr. Haynes' comments lightly. I have watched him almost tear the Authority and RWR apart, and also seen him berate many staff members in meetings and through many emails over the past year. No one deserves to be on the receiving end of this type of behavior."

In the emails being discussed, Prescott had sent out a revised proposal of fiscal policy for Authority members to review on Nov. 8. "I apologize," she wrote. "Dwight made some additional changes just after I sent the original email out. Please replace the previous version with this one. Thank you."

Haynes replied, "There are a number of obvious contradictions between what Mr. Wicks states either as TRD or verbiage that totally is make believe regarding the lease. This needs

See Water Page 15

2nd Place

Rockdale News, Conyers

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Smoke Signals

News and views from Big Canoe and around North Georgia

January 2013 • Vol XXV No 1

Tavern at Wolfscratch Village to reopen in January

By Melissa Lenoir
mlenoir@bigcanoenews.com

Owners Jason and Kristy Fitts have temporarily closed the Tavern at Wolfscratch Village for renovations. Depending on construction and licensing, the upgrades should take two to three weeks. The Tavern will reopen in January.

The Fittses are expanding into the shop next door, formerly occupied by Gatewood Hall Gesso's Home, with a pizza oven and a larger kitchen. The Gatewood Hall store closed Nov. 3.

The restaurant opened last May in the space occupied by Medical Joe's and EA Express near the Big Canoe Realty office.

There will also be a new drive-through for pizza to go orders and customers will be able to pick up wine, beer and sodas. The upstairs dining area is being remodelled and there will be a new all-Italian menu.



Kristy and Jason Fitts will reopen the Tavern with a new menu, renovations complete.

Long-time Big Canoe resident Brenda Joiner was 'gifted leader'



Brenda Joiner

By Laura Link
link@bigcanoenews.com

Brenda Joiner, Big Canoe BOA board vice president, died Wednesday, Dec. 19, following a brief illness.

Brenda and her husband Larry had been long-time residents of Big Canoe, a place Brenda termed "a great place to be."

Her focus in her first year of board service had been programs and activities such as the July 4 Family Day and Trunk or Treat. For the past six months she served as vice president, helping to orchestrate and oversee all BOA sponsored activities. She was a

See BRENDA JOINER, P2



Santa Claus, Cameron Martin, and Mrs. Class, Kayla White, presided over the traditional White Christmas program of music and the best behavior bringing gifts for less fortunate among the Tate student body. PHOTO BY WAYNE TERPIL

Tate and Wildwod students reassured

By Laura Link
link@bigcanoenews.com

Christmas programs at Tate Elementary School and Wildwod Christian Academy in Marble Hill cleared a week-long assurance of safety and teachers' expressing of love for their students. After the massacre at Sandy Hook School in Connecticut and before continuing Christmas activities locally, Tate and

Wildwod officials have focused on reassuring children they are safe at their schools.

"Feeling safe is the most important thing now. We are putting Christmas activities on hold to get our children and parents to feel safe in school," Dr. Michelle Stangline, Tate counselor, commented the day before children returned to school after the mass killing Dec. 14.

See TATE, P2

Historic ceremony marks beginning of new Pickens County government

By Wayne Terpill
wtterpill@bigcanoenews.com

In a historic ceremony, Pickens County's first ever multi-member commission was sworn in Thursday, December 19 at the Pickens County West Annex facility. Current re-elected

Commission Chairman Bob Jones, new Post 1 Western District Commissioner Jerry Barnes and new Post 2 Eastern District Commissioner Becky Donney were officially sworn in by Judge Rodney Gibson in a packed courtroom. Donney will not only be the first district

Commissioner but also the first female

to hold a commissioner office in Pickens County. Also sworn in at the ceremony were Clerk of Court Gail Brown, Tax Commissioner Sharon Truglio, and School Board members Michael Cowart and Peggy Andrews.



Pickens County's first three person county commission includes CL. RD. Insurancment Commission Chairman Bob Jones, Eastern District Commissioner Becky Donney and Western District Commissioner Jerry Barnes. PHOTO BY WAYNE TERPIL

1st Place

Smoke Signals, Big Canoe

Layout and Design

G

3rd Place

The Madison County Journal, Danielsville

FEBRUARY 7, 2013

Madison County Journal

Merged with The Comer News and The Danielsville Monitor, 2006 MadisonJournal.com



MAX NASH WINS REGION WRESTLING TITLE
—Page 1B

MADISON COUNTY LADY RAIDERS WIN DRAMATIC GAME ON THE ROAD
—Page 1B

Woman charged with stealing from MC Little League



DEBORAH RENEE SEAGRAVES
Seagraves served as treasurer the last at a Danielsville address, Meritt said.

Collins talks guns, health care, debt with Chamber



DOUG COLLINS

HEALTH CARE



The cost of Hearing

Local family among those pushing 'Hearing Aid Coverage for Children Act'

Four hurt in Monday wreck on Hwy. 72



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Contact
Phone: 706.736.2367
Fax: 706.736.2700
Mail: P.O. Box 658, Danielsville, Ga. 30033
Email: MadisonJournal@GDD.com

'The Senior Connection'



Madison County Senior Center members participate in a variety of programs Monday - Friday at the Center on Hwy. 90 West, Putnam during a 15th presentation on activities provided by Mary Griggs this week at the center are (L-R) Isabel Arnes, Lela Thompson, Mildred Wright, Don Wilson, Grace Jones and Opal Bridges. (Steph Schuchman)

Layout and Design

G

Smoke Signals
Living
RESIDENTIAL NEWS • EVENTS • VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES • JANUARY 2013

Making a difference

By Anita Rosen, arosen@bigantennetv.com

In 1971, French doctors and journalists created an organization to provide medical assistance to some of society's most vulnerable members. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), known in the U.S. as Doctors Without Borders, is an international humanitarian organization delivering assistance to populations who are experiencing "violence, neglect, or catastrophe, primarily due to armed conflict, epidemics, natural disasters, exclusion from health care, or natural disasters." (msf.org)

MSF's American branch opened in 1990. By 2010, it was sending aid workers to more than 40 overseas projects. When Hurricane Sandy hit the northeast in late October 2012, MSF opened a clinic in The Rockaways, N.Y., to assist storm victims lacking access to medical care. This was the first time MSF opened a clinic in the U.S. Exploration teams assess a population's medical needs and work to satisfy gaps, but do not duplicate existing programs. Upon determining a need, a "Memorandum of Understanding" outlining the specifics of the mission is signed by MSF and the receiving country's governing health body. When the mission is completed, the project is handed over to the recipient nation.

Finding a way to help

Enter Laura Shepers, whose mother Vivian lives in Big Cove. Having earned a bachelor's degree in 1998 from the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, Shepers continued her studies at the New School for Social Research in Manhattan.

During this time, she worked at Family Care International (FCI), an international non-governmental organization (INGO) dedicated to making "pregnancy and childbirth safer around the world" and which administered the international "Safe Motherhood Initiative." (familycareintl.org)



Shepers reached a turning point. At an FCI conference in Tunisia in November 2008, she met midwives from around the world who were working to improve maternal health outcomes. Shepers was inspired to continue her international health work by becoming a midwife.

Shepers began her studies at the State University of New York, Downstate Medical College and School of Health Related Professions, graduating with a master's degree in midwifery in 2005. She worked for a busy not-for-profit hospital in the South Bronx. After more than five years there, she was ready to follow her passion - international midwifery.

Shepers called MSF and found they were desperate for midwives. Her education, work experience and French language skills made her a prime candidate for employment. She fit one profile for MSF staffers: a young, unpartnered professional with a language skill and a desire to use her education to help vulnerable populations. MSF also draws from retired and established professionals taking a break from their careers. But for all, the salary is small and the lifestyle remote.

"The people you work with are generally pleasant and usually have an interesting life story. Living and working together, we share our successes and frustrations, form an instant family and manage to have some fun in the process," said Shepers.

"Laura worked at Family Care International (FCI), an international non-governmental organization (INGO) dedicated to making 'pregnancy and childbirth safer around the world' and which administered the international 'Safe Motherhood Initiative.'"

■ SEE MAKING A DIFFERENCE, PAGE 2

2nd Place

Barrow Journal, Winder

Layout and Design

G

1st Place

The Commerce News

TWO STATE CHAMPIONS
Commerce High School and East Jackson Comprehensive High School each have a state champion wrestler. **Page 1B**

KISS FOR A CAUSE
For a good cause, a pig endures a kiss from the lieutenant governor of the Kiwanis Club. **Page 8A**

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No. 3
20 Pages
2 Sections
www.CommerceNews70604F.com

The Commerce News
WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 20, 2013

30 CENTS COVERING THE COMMERCE AREA SINCE 1875

"Town hall" meeting on tap Feb. 28

The Commerce City Council will hold a "town hall meeting" on Thursday, Feb. 28, at 6:30 p.m. at the Commerce Cultural Center on Cherry Street. Mayor Clark will be present to hear the views of the City address, which will be followed by a question-and-answer session with the mayor and city council members.

1987's address, which he has presented to the city council, the Commerce Area Business Association and the Commerce Kiwanis Club to date, in a PowerPoint presentation that shows the financial challenges the city has faced over the past five years and the steps the city has taken to overcome them.

The gist of the presentation is that the city has dealt with its revenue issues and has positioned itself — though not without challenges — to make the most of future opportunities.

Jackson schools moving forward with plan to consolidate facilities

The Jackson County School System is moving forward with plans to consolidate some school facilities next year in a bid to save money and make better use of school buildings.

In an announcement posted to the system Web site Tuesday, superintendent John Green said the system will proceed with several steps, including:

- adding a wing onto West Jackson Intermediate School to help relieve overcrowding from West Jackson Middle School. That would be completed by the following school year of 2014.
- closing the current South Jackson Elementary School facility and moving that school into the current Kings Bridge Middle School building next fall.
- combining sixth and seventh grades from EMS with East Jackson Middle School next fall.
- making a "school" within a school" for eighth and ninth grades in an unused wing of East Jackson Comprehensive High School next fall.
- closing the Gordon Street Center.

"These immediate actions will assist us in our efforts to create awesome learning experiences for all students," Green said in the announcement.

Among other things, Green said the moves would save the system about \$1.5 million in operating costs.

See "Schools" on 3A

Prospect said to be looking at 85 Business Park

The director of economic development for the Jackson County Area Chamber of Commerce reported that she "feels good" about a handful of the industrial projects considering the county.

One of them, she said, is looking at the Commerce 85 Business Park.

"Unfortunately, they're not looking at the building," Courtney Bernard told the Industrial Development Authority last Friday referring to the 90,000-square-foot "Bunker" building that's been vacant since it was built five years ago. "It's a build to suit. Most of them [current industrial projects] are."

Other than the fact that it has a manufacturing and a distribution component and needs 100-150 acres, Bernard said she knows nothing about the project.

See "IDA" on 3A

Report from the House

Benton awaits details on ethics legislation

By Mark Bourdilly

Rep. Timothy Benton is anxiously awaiting the details of changes being made to the proposed ethics reform legislation being considered by the Georgia House of Representatives, but he's not discouraged by what he's hearing.

A subcommittee of the House Rules Committee is holding hearings to assess the constitutionality of "lobbyist" as an act to not inhibit a citizen's ability to come to Atlanta and speak with his representative about pending legislation.

Those changes, Benton supports, but he's also hearing talk about lowering the amount of money a lobbyist may spend on a representative to zero. The changes could come to the full Rules Committee, of which Benton is a member, this week.

"My opinion, and only my opinion, is I think the [ethics] legislation will need a [substantive] underpinning," he said.

"A lobbyist represents a group of businesses, and if a lobbyist can't take people out, there is nothing to stop [lobbying] underpinning," he said.

See "Benton" on 8A

County water authority apprised of major costs from Bear Creek

By Mark Bourdilly

Members of the Jackson County Water and Sewerage Authority got a wakeup call last Thursday about major costs over the upcoming year for capital improvements at the Bear Creek Reservoir.

Manager Eric Clark briefed the authority on the Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority's capital funding plan, which includes a new monthly assessment to cover authority-owned assets and projected costs for replacement of equipment owned solely by Jackson County.

Through 2016, Clark demonstrated, the authority must come up with over \$5 million — just related to the Bear Creek Reservoir and water treatment plant and not including capital needs for its own operations.

In a related move Thursday, the authority voted to spend \$200 for a rate analysis by Cybrius Consultants. The Bear Creek costs will be a part of the analysis, which means that future rates will likely be adjusted to start collecting money for those anticipated expenses.

As of Jan. 1, the basin group began billing Jackson County an additional \$3.78 monthly for maintenance and operations.

See "Water" on 3A

SPLOST Showdown

Commissioners to meet Monday for 'facts' regarding allegations of 'hidden' spending & SPLOST misuse

In the county "tidy" expenses on the West Jackson EMS station? It is improperly using SPLOST money?

At the request of commissioner Chair Hardy, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners will meet Monday night at 6:00 a.m. to discuss allegations made by chairman Jim Crow and member Dean Smith in a series of newspaper ads. Crow is also behind a suit filed by those citizens alleging misuse of SPLOST funds.

At a board of commissioners meeting last month, Hardy questioned a newspaper ad purchased by Smith and Crow alleging that someone in county government is "tidy" money being spent. "This led Hardy to call for a meeting with all of the information to be presented."

The meeting will also address concerns related to a lawsuit about the EMS station in West Jackson and the use of SPLOST money.

The ad included the following statements: "405M is the amount being reported as spent on the West Jackson station. Over \$1.3 million is the true amount spent based on the information the concerned employees and citizens provided \$400,000 budgeted for the station. This includes contracts signed. This is \$64,239 more than reported. Why the difference? Someone does not want the public to know how much the commissioners are really spending?"

In line for gun show

A crowd awaits the opening last Saturday morning of the Gunrunners Gun Show at the Commerce Civic Center. The three-day event drew hundreds of people to town over last weekend.



See "Gun Show" on 3A

WEATHER

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Partly cloudy low 41, high 56 20% chance rain

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Partly cloudy low 44, high 45 20% chance rain

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Partly cloudy low 46, high 43 20% chance rain

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Partly cloudy low 47, high 43 20% chance rain

Precipitation this month 1.77 inch

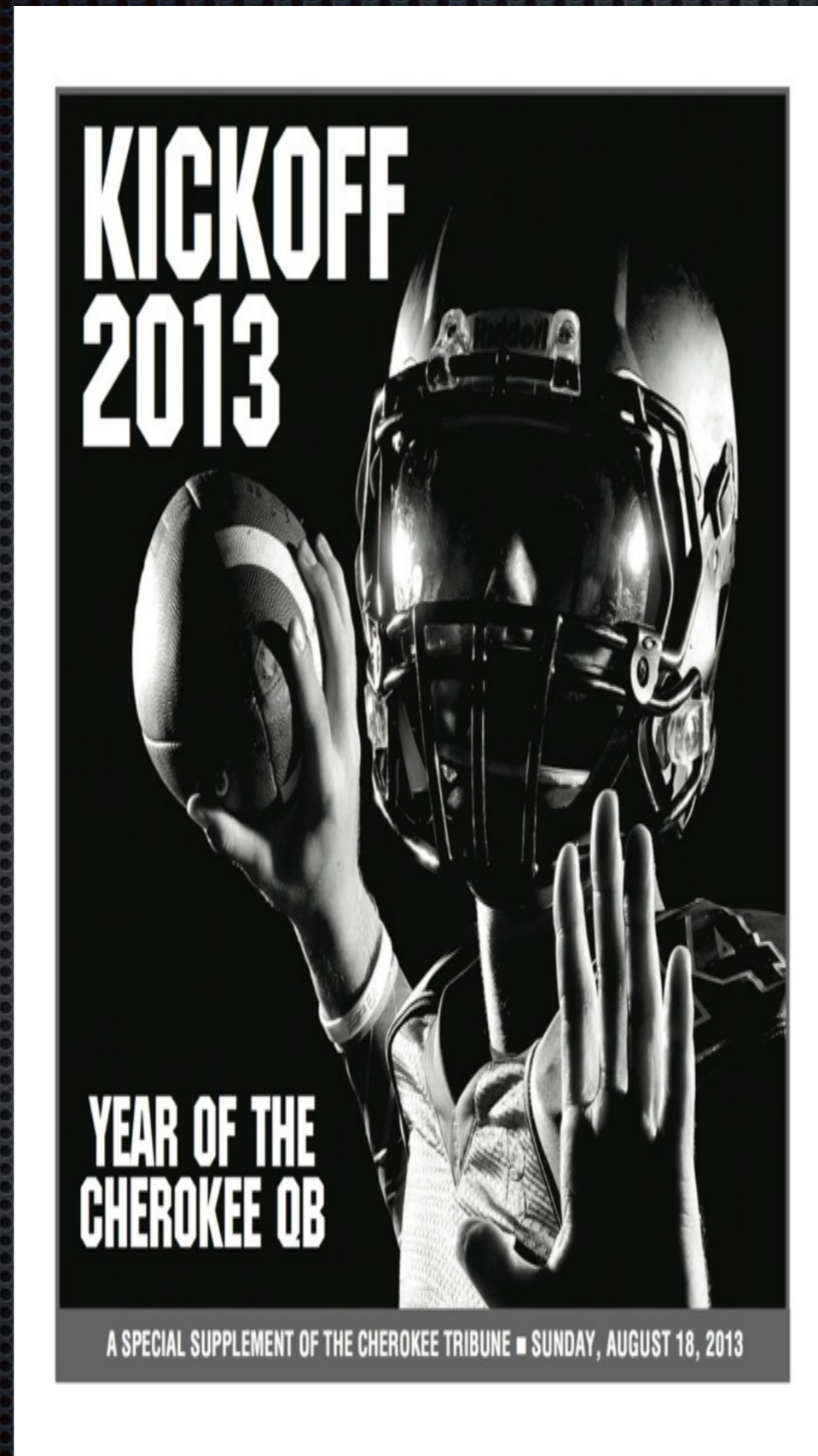
Phosphorus Tox Test 8.13 inch

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3rd Place

The Blackshear
Times

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1st Place

Dawson Community News, Dawsonville

SOUTHERN CRESCENT Sports

Check us out on
Facebook at Henry Sports.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2013 • PAGE 6A

CLASS A PRIVATE SCHOOL MOUNT PARAN CHRISTIAN BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP EAGLE'S LANDING CHRISTIAN

TWICE AS NICE

With strong pitching and timely hitting, ELCA sweeps Mount Paran for its second state championship



Eagle's Landing Christian Academy baseball players pile on Chargers pitcher Cole Ganopulos after clinching the Class A private school championship against Mount Paran on Saturday. Photo by Brian Paglia

By BRIAN PAGLIA
bpaglia@henryherald.com

McDONOUGH — Eagle's Landing Christian Academy followed the protocol to perfection. Players waited in the dugout with one leg over the rail. School administrators coordinated supervision of the seemingly inevitable celebration over walkie-talkies. Families converged on the dugout as the feeling of finality built.

Then the moment came. Chargers pitcher Cole Ganopulos fielded the weak grounder by Mt. Paran's Taylor Trammel, threw to first baseman Matthew Hammers for the final out and waited for the dog pile. Next to the pitcher's mound, Ganopulos was covered in teammates and ELCA students who rushed the field after jumping over the out-field fence.

Turned out it was just the rehearsal. Trammel's grounder was foul. "Everyone piled on. It was hilarious," Chargers junior pitcher and shortstop Dalton Etheridge said. "Then someone comes over and says, 'It's foul.' I was like, 'Are you serious?'"

See ELCA, Page 7A

On the hill

A look at pitching performances from ELCA's Dalton Etheridge (Game 1) and Cole Ganopulos (Game 2):

ETHERIDGE	INNINGS	GANOPULOS
7	7	7
5	HITS	5
1	EARNED RUNS	1
2	WALKS	3
10	STRIKEOUTS	4

Coming Friday

The Henry Daily Herald will publish a special commemorative page to honor Eagle's Landing Christian Academy's baseball state championship.

When mind and matter collide



Brian Paglia
COLUMNIST

The words hung in the air almost one year to the day.

They were the final words Eagle's Landing Christian Academy gave to the media last season after losing to George Walton Academy at home in the Class A quarterfinals.

Chargers' second baseman D.J. Curl stood outside the team's locker room with Jacob Heyward — which, 367 days later, now seems fitting — and said: "I feel like everybody's going to mature from this experience, and we'll be able to bring our mistakes

See PGLIA, Page 7A

SEASON RECAP By Brian Paglia

Chargers live up to expectations, go wire-to-wire for title

The season: Exactly as planned, right? Eagle's Landing Christian Academy went virtually wire-to-wire as the No. 1 ranked team by Gasports.com. The Chargers and won their second straight Region 5-A championship and defeated Mount Paran, 5-1 and 4-1, in the Class A private school finals to cap a 30-3 season and win their

second state title in school history.

What went right: It's a tired cliché in sports that a lot has to go right in order to win a championship. For ELCA, two things stand out.

First, there was Dalton Etheridge. The junior right-handed pitcher unexpectedly seized the void left by the

graduation of ace Kevin Martin, last season's Henry Daily Herald Pitcher of the Year. Etheridge was virtually flawless, going 12-0 with 92 strikeouts in 66 1/3 innings and a 1.49 earned-run average.

Second, there was the state tournament bracket. When the Georgia High School Association split the Class A

playoffs into public and private, it seeded teams using a points system. Despite being ranked No. 1 in the polls, ELCA was seeded No. 3 in the tournament. The Chargers appealed and got bumped to No. 1, meaning it got home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.

Needs to improve: If

there's something to nit-pick with a state champion, it might be that ELCA had trouble finding a consistent No. 2 starter. The Chargers at various times during the regular season went with Matthew Hammers and Patrick Busscher. That switched to Joshua Smith in the post-season. Even freshman Cole Ganopulos made

two starts in the playoffs, including in the decisive Game 2 in the state finals.

Sure, ELCA coach Doug Campbell would've liked to have more stability in the No. 2 starter's role behind Etheridge, but Chargers pitchers not named Etheridge still went 18-3. Campbell and the Chargers

See RECAP, Page 7A


Layout and Design

E


FANNIN BAND MEMBERS SHINE • 3



SRO
Deputy Sheriff Kevin Dye has been named a new resource officer for Fannin schools. **• Page 2**



LADY REBELS TITLE CHASE FALLS SHORT
Decatur too powerful for Fannin County in first round of state tourney. **• Page 10**



THE NEWS OBSERVER

Blue Ridge, Georgia **Friday, February 22, 2013** 10 Pages • 1 Section • 75 Cents

Fannin investigating erased answers

Spring CRCT tests flagged by state officials

By Dan JONES

The Fannin County Board of Education is investigating the cause of erasures on the Criterion-Related Competency Tests taken last April and May at East Fannin Elementary School.

School Superintendent Mark Henson said he was notified Tuesday that East Fannin had been flagged during statewide analyses of last spring's CRCTs.

He said the erasures involved two classrooms and two different subject areas that appeared to be totally unrelated.

"The official in the Governor's Office of Student Achievement told me that there were a number of erasures that could be involved with the incidents," Henson said. "So, until we complete the investigation we won't know what happened to erase the answers."

He said the state will be sending an student-level data that will be used in the investigation.


"I want to assure everyone that if there is an issue appropriate action will be taken," Henson said. "We'll take our lumps on the scores, but we won't tolerate anyone not following the rules."

He said, "We are not saying anyone is guilty of anything, but because the incident is in the minimum category, we have to investigate."

When asked if the erasures could have been a child simply changing his or her mind on an answer, Henson said, "yes, that is correct."

He said Assistant Superintendent Art Hubbard, who oversees all testing for the school system, will conduct the investigation as quickly as possible.

Henson would not say if Henson would not say see ERASURES, page 3



Mark Henson said the problem is being taken very seriously.

Tax law changes March 1

Vehicles to be taxed one time only

By Brian K. FINKEL


State regulations for motor vehicle ad valorem taxes are changing March 1, and Fannin County Tax Commissioner Marjorie Southern wants Fannin residents to be aware of those changes and the effects they will have.

Currently, motor vehicle owners pay a sales tax at the time of purchase and an annual ad valorem (property) tax on the vehicle when they renew the vehicle's tag. However, that will change for any vehicle purchased on or after March 1.

Under House Bill 386, a comprehensive revision of the state's tax and revenue code that was signed into law by the governor last year, vehicles purchased beginning March 1 will be taxed a single time only, at the time of purchase and initial registration.

Southern said that tax, known as the title ad valorem tax or TAVT, initially will be 6.5 percent of the vehicle's value as determined see TAX, back page

MACA SITE OF COMMUNITY MEALS



Steve Chesser prepared the dishwasher machine for Thursday night's community meal at Mountain Area Christian Academy. Several Fannin County churches provide the free Thursday night meal.

• See story on page 16

Election change sought

Staggered terms wanted in Blue Ridge

By Cynthia MACE

Blue Ridge Mayor Donna Whitener hopes to get her term and those of two of the city council members staggered by the time voters go to the polls for the Nov. 5 municipal elections.

It is important to have staggered terms "because the city is growing," Whitener said. In four years, the city has gone from having 327 businesses to 433 businesses, she said.

"We have so many projects, it would be hard of a whole new council came (into office) if everyone on the council were not re-elected," Whitener said.

Council member Michael Eaton agreed, saying he is "definitely" in favor of staggered terms. "If a whole new council came on, everybody would be green," he said Wednesday.

To change to staggered terms, the mayor and two council seats would be elected for two-year see TERMS, page 3



Donna Whitener wants terms for city officials staggered.

100-year-old wall repaired at St. Luke's

By Cynthia MACE

The 100-year-old stone wall around the Witzel family cemetery, part of the St. Luke's Episcopal Church cemetery, was crumbling, but few people still know how to repair such walls, church rector, the Rev. Victor Morgan said.

"It's almost a lost art to do this stone work that goes back a hundred years," Morgan said. Luckily, the church found James Newton, whose father knew how to build dry stone walls, or rock fences, so they are sometimes called, and passed the technique on to his son. Newton and Clay Dye used the old method of mortaring the wall like it was, Morgan said.

Dry stone walls are constructed of stones without mortar to bind them together, and are often used as field boundaries in Scotland and upland areas of England and Scotland. The technique of construction was brought to this country primarily by English and Scots-Irish immigrants.

Tennessee field stone and slate are the stones they used for the wall, Dye said. "There's no mortar between. We just pack the dirt in good," he said. The final layer on top of the wall will consist of large stones called capstones, Morgan said.

The stone walls enclose the graves of the Witzel family, a leading family in Blue Ridge in the late 1700s century. The current graves in front (left), of the young son, John Edward




The old stone wall around the Witzel family cemetery behind St. Luke's Episcopal Church was crumbling, and James Newton and Clay Dye have reconstructed the wall using an old method that Newton learned from his father, said the church rector, the Rev. Victor Morgan. Dye is shown demonstrating the technique of constructing the walls without mortar.

see WALLS, page 2

FANNIN ANIMAL CONTROL HOMELESS

Fannin Animal Control has several dogs waiting for a new home. **• Page 9**



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3rd Place

The News Observer, Blue Ridge

Layout and Design

E

2nd Place

The Toccoa Record

SPORTS
STEPHENS SOCCER POSTS VICTORY, C1



LIVING
ARCHERS TAKE AIM, B1



The Toccoa Record

COMBINED IN 1995 WITH THE STEPHENS COUNTY CHIEFTAIN
VOL. 140, NO. 9 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2015, TOCCOA, GA 31077 75 CENTS
www.toccoarecord.com

County weighs SPLOST options

BY A TODD TRULOVE
THE TOCCOA RECORD

Many approved sales taxes which are required to fund only governmental capital projects may be used to also fund the maintenance and operation costs of those projects if the state accepts a proposal presented by the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia.

During a recent regular meeting of the Stephens County Board of Commissioners, the board unanimously approved a resolution also supporting that proposal.

The proposal, however, will not likely be approved before Stephens County voters drop their ballots for this year regarding the county's current Special Purpose Local Option sales tax (SPLOST).

The county SPLOST is set to expire at the end of June next year and commissioners are to preview every alternative on how that next round of funding should be spent if approved.

The projects chosen will be put before local voters, who will choose on Nov. 3 whether or not to continue the county's 1 percent SPLOST when it expires.

County administrator Myrtle Agnew said rough estimates indicated a near seven tenths amount from the SPLOST would be an estimated \$19 million.

The primary project all five county commissioners agreed upon was roads and bridges, consistently stating a transition toward those alternatives.

While discussing the roads and bridges, commissioner Don Southworth suggested the possibility that the county could move toward building a medium-sized bridge over the Toccoa River at Stephens County High School, a proposal that was abandoned when the necessary warrants.

However, it's doubtful that a lot prioritizing road projects will be put on the ballot and instead rely on such projects generally as the funds can be used on those projects as needed.

County voters also will present the construction of

SEE SPLOST A13

Jail census drops

Average daily inmate count and revenue declines from last year, sheriff says in annual report.



BY A TODD TRULOVE
THE TOCCOA RECORD

The Stephens County Sheriff's Office saw a \$61,500 decrease in the amount of revenue it generated in the county's general fund last year.

It's the first time that revenue generated by the sheriff's office is a total of \$10,000 to \$11,000 and \$105,000 in 2014, has declined in the past three years, according to the office's recently released annual report.

Sheriff Reedy Clarke said a primary reason for the decrease is revenue in the county did not increase in every one of County inmates in 2014 — which costs about \$400 per day per inmate.

SEE SHERIFF A8

Gun fires in church altar call

BY A TODD TRULOVE
THE TOCCOA RECORD

Mark Wilkinson has attended Trinity Creek Baptist Church on Highway 334 just across the Stephens County line in Franklin County for 34 years.

He's seen a lot in that time span, but he had never witnessed an occurrence as the one that occurred Sunday toward the end of the morning service.

Wilkinson was in the front of the church singing "The Holy Spirit Came Along with the Congregation" when he heard a gunshot.

According to a report from the Stephens County Sheriff's Office, what had happened was a handgun had accidentally gone off, hitting its owner, George Bentley Delawalla, 36, of Toccoa, in the right leg.

"Everybody stopped when they were and were pretty quiet," said Wilkerson. "We've got another grand in-laws at the church and they looked after him and took him to the hospital."

Afterward, Wilkerson said that church pastor Gerald Boney explained to the congregation what had happened.

Wilkinson said that the bullet had gone through the knee, but had not entered anything vital.

He said Delawalla was released Monday from Stephens County Hospital and is recovering.

"He (Delawalla) is a fine young man," said Wilkerson. "Of course, his leg is sore, but he's doing well. He just feels very bad that this happened and very sorry that it happened."

SEE GUN A13

Collins outlines Capitol Hill view

BY OLIVIA WAIN
THE TOCCOA RECORD

Two months into his initial term as a congressman, U.S. Rep. Doug Collins said he never tires of the landmarks that make Washington, D.C., such as important places.

"Every time I touch down in the capital, the first thing I walk by are the Washington Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial, I've recognized that this is a very special place," he said. "It's a dysfunctional, a very broken place at times. But you see people here from all over the country all over the world, people who have all to make sense that this is the bright, star of freedom."

"I've never been there, I think one of my biggest jobs is to be the No. 1 driver."

Mr. Collins, a congressman from Delaware, returned to the state last week to see his family closer to home.

As one of more than 900 freshmen lawmakers, Collins isn't likely to have much legislative impact until he begins work next month, but he believes he can still make a difference.

SEE COLLINS A8

Other Sheriff Numbers

\$4.1 MILLION TOTAL BUDGET
\$2.14 MILLION FOR JAIL
21,179 SERVICE CALLS
630 BURGLARIES
192 DOMESTIC/FAMILY VIOLENCE
THREE MURDER CASES

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Dog, family reunited

BY A TODD TRULOVE
THE TOCCOA RECORD

A family from Nicholson in Jackson County was recently reunited with its Labrador retriever dog, Rocky, after he had been missing from home for almost a year.

"The (Rocky) was a year old when I got him," said Nathan Auburn, explaining that Rocky was adopted from the Jackson County Humane Society in the summer of 2008.

Auburn and his wife, Jessica Love, are both graduates of Stephens County High School.

Last May, Auburn said that he returned home from work and noticed that Rocky wasn't there.

He said he thought that Rocky had simply wandered off and would

SEE DOG A8

TOCCOA TABLES ACTION ON LOANS - SEE PAGE A2

Phone: 706-898-8478 E-mail: toccoarecord@windstream.net Fax: 706-898-2301 Mail: P.O. Drawer 1000, Toccoa, Ga.

Layout and Design

E

Lady 'Hounds eliminated in first round of tourney
Boys play Wednesday. **SPORTS, B1**

Jones County dogs pardoned
County officials agree to give Isaac and Janet Smith and Patsy for Dixie and Faith the opportunity to find homes for sheltered animals. **B5**

The Jones County News

YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR VOICE.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 14, 2013

LEGAL ORGAN FOR JONES COUNTY AND GRAY, GEORGIA

VOLUME 119 | NUMBER 7

SUPERIOR COURT

Alleged drug traffickers indicted

DEBBIE LURD SMITH
dlurd@jcnnews.com

▶ See full list of February indictments in Open Records, Page C2

Two Macon men were indicted by a Jones County grand jury last week on charges of drug possession and trafficking. Francisco Javier Angel Garcia and Domingo Ochoa-Diego were indicted Feb. 8 for trafficking in methamphetamine and possession of a firearm during the commission of a crime. They are both indicted with a \$50,000 cash bond. The charge of trafficking involves the sale, delivery, or possession of 10 or more grams of the illegal drug, and a gun conviction, would occur with a \$100,000 cash bond. Angel Garcia and Ochoa-Diego were arrested Nov. 28, 2012, and are being held in the Jones County Law Enforcement Center, each with a \$50,000 cash bond.

THE CHARGE OF TRAFFICKING involves the sale, delivery, or possession of 10 or more grams of the illegal drug, and a gun conviction, would occur with a \$100,000 cash bond.

ANGEL GARCIA AND DOMINGO OCHOA-DIEGO WERE ARRESTED NOV. 28, 2012, AND ARE BEING HELD IN THE JONES COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER, EACH WITH A \$50,000 CASH BOND.

PHOTO: INDICTMENTS BY AP

EDUCATION

Child left on bus OK

▶ Driver failed to ensure all kids got off at school

DEBBIE LURD SMITH
dlurd@jcnnews.com

The question of who and how a 10-year-old special needs student was left on a school bus for five hours last week will most likely never be answered.

Richard Jasper, school principal William Williams and superintendent Drayton Allen told the Feb. 7 court that school officials and the Jones County Sheriff's Department were conducting separate investigations at his request, and a response will be given later with the incident being reviewed.

Furthermore, the abandoned student appears to be unharmed.

"I understand the concerns of the parents and I share those concerns. I wish there were more that could be done," the superintendent said. "We are trying to find out what happened and make sure it doesn't happen again."

A statement from the Sheriff's Department dated Feb. 7 simply states the fact that a complaint was filed that a child was left alone on a school bus and that the investigation is to be completed soon.

PHOTO: BUS BY AP

Newlyweds celebrate first Valentine's Day together

▶ Couple hits some road bumps on journey since high school

DEBBIE LURD SMITH
dlurd@jcnnews.com

The story of Craig and Katie White's journey to find each other is a story worthy of being told on Valentine's Day, which they are spending together on bed and bath for the first time this year.

Both were born, raised, and attended school in Jones County. As an eighth grader, Craig was working Katie, then a senior, part-time bookend. It never occurred to him as a possibility.

"I remember thinking I would just have her one time," he said.

Katie did not remember him.

The couple did not see each other from 1979 until Katie joined the housing program in 1983. They were married Dec. 19, 2009, at Jordan Chapel.

From kindergarten to now, Katie said she grew up in Haddock, and her mother was Mrs. Brown. She worked for Brown and TV Chassis and stayed with the company when it merged with B. J. Reynolds in 1979. Katie was one of 10 children, had two children, and divorced in 1993 after 18 years.

PHOTO: WHITE BY AP

Corrections noted

The previous article and week's front page may have been slightly off about 1-year-old baby girl who was hospitalized for a week. The picture was of a 1-year-old girl.

A second error occurred in the Feb. 7 story about U.S. District Judge William W. Wood. It was incorrectly reported that the three-month-old child was hospitalized for a week. The correct number of children is three. The apologies for both errors.

PHOTO: PATTY BY AP

HISTORY & HERITAGE

Preservationist wins Hamilton-Williams history award

▶ Simmons' efforts have focused on one-room Holt schoolhouse

DEBBIE LURD SMITH
dlurd@jcnnews.com

Jones County History & Heritage, Inc. had its annual meeting last month to present the Hamilton-Williams Preservation Award.

The Feb. 7 event was held at the historic Fox House in Haddock, and this year's award recipient was Judy Simmons.

Historical Heritage President Matt Sims was the master of ceremonies for the evening, and Loretta Jordan, one of the award's Hamilton-Williams, was the keynote speaker.

Jordan gave a history of education in Jones County and spoke of her personal journey.

PHOTO: SIMMONS BY AP

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1st Place

The Jones County News, Gray

Layout and Design

D

The Walton Tribune
Named Best Newspaper in Georgia for General Excellence by Georgia Press Association

IN SPORTS, B1
NEW CHIEF
FOR WARRIORS
Walnut Grove High School welcomes Ben Neaves, who replaced departing CJ Soto as football coach.

IN BUSINESS, B4
DRESSING UP
DOWNTOWN
Sadie Krawczyk says she has been preparing for her new role as Mainstreet director for 12 years.

INSIDE, C1
JANUARY PUBLIC
RECORDS REPORT
County's most wanted, deadbeat parents, arrests made in January as well as health scores and building permits issued.

WaltonTribune.com Wednesday, February 13, 2013 One Dollar

BOND DENIED FOR SLATER

Burglar shot five times by homeowner now in Walton County jail

By **ROBBIE SCHWARTZ**
Staff Writer
www.waltontribune.com

Bond was denied for the burglar who was shot five times by a Logansville mother.

"Paul (Slater) was released from the hospital and we brought him in Sunday," Walton County Sheriff Joe Chapman said. "He had his first court appearance Monday morning and bond was denied."

Slater was taken off a ventilator earlier this month and was formally served warrants on charges of aggravated assault, burglary and possession of tools for the commission of burglary. Chapman confirmed Slater, 34, does require extra medical attention, including being detained in a medical isolation unit as well as being restricted to a liquid diet. Now that Slater is in the Walton County Jail his medical needs are being paid by the sheriff's office.

On Jan. 4, Slater broke into a Henderson Ridge Lane residence. Melinda Herman was home with her two children and, according to reports, fled to an upstairs attic as the burglar used a crowbar to gain entry into the house. When Slater tracked Herman down in the attic, she had two kids with her — and a 30 revolver she shot him five times before fleeing with the children to a neighbor's home.

ICGA Loganville Christian Academy
www.icga.com

Buyer lined up for old Monroe Elementary

Macon company offers \$250,000 for campus vacant since 2007

By **STEPHEN WILKINSON**
Staff Writer
www.waltontribune.com

MONROE — The Walton County Board of Education approved the sale of the former Monroe Elementary School at its monthly meeting last week.

The board agreed to sell the old school on Bold Springs Avenue for \$250,000 to Macon-based developers by a 6-1 vote at the Feb. 5 meeting.

Board member Jeremy Kilburn was the lone dissenting vote on the sale. He refused comment on his vote.

The former MEES has stood vacant since 2007, when the replacement campus behind Monroe Area High School opened. The board previously thought it found a buyer in 2011 when the Landmark Group, out of Winston-Salem, N.C., approached the system with plans to turn the school into residential units.

But the deal was contingent on the buyer's ability to win federal tax credits and the deal ultimately fell through.

Finding a buyer has also been complicated by the efforts of local preservationists who want to see the Landon library preserved, as well as the Book Gym behind the school, as part of any deal.

No details have been released on the buyer's plans for the property but according to documents obtained by an open records request, the library and gym are part of the purchase deal.

The closing is scheduled to happen by mid-March.

Battling increases of ID theft in Walton

State ranks second in reported cases

By **MICHAEL WARD**
Staff Writer
www.waltontribune.com

What if one day you wake up without your identity — or your dignity?

Think this could never happen to you? Think again.

Fig. David Hunt of the Logansville Police Department knows what it feels like to be a identity theft victim because he's experienced it twice.

"It can happen to anyone," he said. "It's across a broad age group and there is no targeting just one person."

Hunt discovered he had been a victim of identity theft when he received a phone call from a business in Miami in reference to an order of \$1,000 wheels. He remembered while traveling he had left a receipt out in a hotel and attributed that act as a big mistake.

"You have to watch your bank account on a regular basis, be cautious of what around you and be careful where you buy online," Hunt said. "Identity theft is pretty common. We get those cases quite a bit."

No easy answer
in preventing ID theft

The Federal Trade Commission ranked Georgia second in the nation for identity theft complaints and locally officials say that number is dead on.

See 12, Page A3



3rd Place

The Walton Tribune, Monroe

Public Works director apologizes for 'mistake'

TO SUBSCRIBE

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OBITUARIES

TODAY'S WEATHER

COMING SUNDAY

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2nd Place

The Covington News

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Preview Day: February 24th at 2pm
News available on Tuesdays at 11am

Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2013 The story of your life Vol. 146, No. 22 75c

Doin' the Cupid Shuffle...



Four K students from South-Salem Elementary School posed a fun way to promote healthy eating habits. They are participating in the Healthy Starts Contest. Parents, teachers and students all participated in the contest, and received about healthy habits at the same time. The students learned to get into 10-15 minutes of physical activity and eat 5-7 servings of fruits and vegetables. The girls were also taught to dance with their children, and several teachers made that way out to dance with their students. (Photo by author/Photos)

Covington council welcomes new manager

DANIELLE EVERSON
The Covington City Council welcomed its new city manager Monday afternoon in a meeting held in the city manager's new office. Mayor Dennis Johnson welcomed the new manager, Leigh Knight, to her new position. Knight was appointed to the position by the council on Feb. 7. Knight said she was honored to be named city manager and that she was looking forward to working with the council and the city staff to see the city grow and prosper in a manner that is beneficial to the citizens, the customers and the employees because that is very important. I believe we have an excellent staff and that we will continue to work and make it a great place to be a part of," Knight said.

Student's path from Pakistan leads to Oxford

NICOLE GOYE
Oxford College sophomore Faheem Masran is a hard-working student who is very involved on campus and highly respected among students, faculty and staff. One has to wonder what made her who she is today.

Masran was born in Karachi, Pakistan, where her parents are originally from. When she was only 2, her father moved the whole family to Uganda, Africa to take on a new job. According to Masran, "Life was very in Uganda. You did not need much to live off of there." Masran would spend the next five years of her life in Uganda before her father decided to return to the United States for a new start.

"My parents kept hearing about opportunities to go to the U.S.," Masran said. "My parents really wanted her and her sister to have the opportunity to receive a good education in the U.S. Unfortunately, getting a visa to come to the U.S. was not easy. Masran's father was denied a visa six times, but he remained adamant.

"He took it to his heart that he wanted us to come to the United States and get the best education possible. He wanted us to attend the colleges here because he heard they were very prestigious and rigorous."

In 1996, Masran's family was granted visas to come to the U.S. However, it took a bit to leave Uganda. In Uganda, Masran's family was considered in the upper-middle class, but that status would not hold once again arrived in America.

Masran's family came to the United States with only a suitcase full of clothes. Moving was very expensive and they had to leave everything behind in order to do so.

The transition proved to be very difficult for Masran's family. Her parents were both jobless when the family arrived in Chicago. Her father did not know where to look, and if he even knew how to look for a job.

"Knight told the council that she was honored to be named city manager and that she was looking forward to working with the council and the city staff to see the city grow and prosper in a manner that is beneficial to the citizens, the customers and the employees because that is very important. I believe we have an excellent staff and that we will continue to work and make it a great place to be a part of," Knight said.

In other business, the council approved adding a second lane to the City Hall Subdivision and reducing the speed limit on Green Acres Drive. The council also will be all business because on Dec. 31 of the year they are issued. Masran also said business because several minutes are also needed out to mental business that they need to see new business.

Records from the Department of Development Services show that Masran operated his business without a business license for 11 months last year, with a renewal date of Nov. 7, 2012. Masran operated his business without a business license for eight months, renewing on Aug. 22. In addition, the business had late materials for several months, which were Feb. 5, 2011, Feb. 24, 2010, Feb. 5, 2009 and Feb. 26, 2007.

There were no business licenses available for the years 2002 to 2006 in the files. However, it was noted on a new business license for 2007 that 2007 was closed for those years which raised the question of whether Dennis Lewis Masranmas operated without a business license from 2002 to 2006.

Layout and Design

D

COMMUNITY
County Line's annual Snowball Dance puts the "fun" in fundraiser
Page 1C

SPORTS
Bethlehem Elementary Shooting Stars place third in regionals
Page 1D

Barrow County News

WINDER, GEORGIA | WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2013 | 50 CENTS
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Winder reaffirms licensure revocations

Council votes unanimously to pull business licenses after major issues

By Lena Paster
Barrow County News

The Winder city council on Tuesday night finalized an earlier decision to pull the business and alcohol licenses for Green on Churchman, owner of Heart of the City Station Restaurant & Lounge. The council had approved the council's January decision, which was based on information presented from public safety officers that the establishment had an adverse effect on the citizens of the city and county.

Heartman was arrested on Jan. 6 and charged with a variety of code violations, including 147 charges of overcrowding. Winder officers went to the parking lot at the 1000 shopping center, and found approximately 200 cars parked there after an off-duty Sheriff's deputy called authorities, saying the club might be over capacity.

"Members from the Winder Police Department and the Barrow County Sheriff's Department along with members from the Winder Fire Department pulled in the front of the building and went to the door," the report states. "Once inside the club I noticed it was extremely sticky, sticky to the point it made me cough. There was a very strong odor of burning marijuana inside that could be smelled from outside the door but was extremely strong inside as if we

See **WINDER**, Page 2A

Board OKs adding 10 days to its school year

By Kathy Bridges
Barrow County News

The Barrow County Board of Education voted at Tuesday's meeting to accept the superintendent's recommendation of the 176-day calendar which was presented at last week's work session.

Dr. Woods-Craig said she had met with a group of 10 parents that day to obtain feedback on the calendar and was hearing from other school systems that 2-3 furlough days was a common plan. The calendar includes a reduction in furlough days from 4 to 3 and a half week for fall break and Thanksgiving.

Board member Barclay Bailey told the board to keep in mind the number of good people that the system has lost.

"I think this is a fair and well-thought out calendar," said Mitch Churchill. "I would like to do away with the furlough days, but I mean to accept the recommendation."

Will there be any other changes? Board members Randall Holland and Tim Crowder.

The board unanimously passed the contract agenda which included:

- Bus purchase: 18, 72 passenger buses at a cost of \$10,762,000 each and 1 special of buses for \$94,224 each.
- The 1,740 beds for Winder-Barrow High School at a cost of \$66,700 (7 beds, 130 sq-ft).

The stakeholders and stakeholders at the

See **BAR**, Page 2A

CHAMBER HOLDS ANNUAL DINNER BANQUET

Shining Star

Kathy Bridges Barrow County News

Chamber President Tommy Jennings presents Judge Peter McWhorter the Barrow County Chamber of Commerce's Shining Star Saturday night at the organization's annual dinner. For more on this story, see Pages 2B & 2C.

Commissioner terminated, under investigation by city

By Lena Paster
Barrow County News

A Barrow County commissioner is at the center of a Winder County city's internal investigation.

Winder City Administrator May-Beth C. Cherry told the Barrow County News that Winder was an interim employee with the city.

He said the Winder City had been terminated for "violation of city policies."

Winsky was the director of Public Works for Winder. He had been employed with the city for a number of years.

Cherry said she was unable to reveal the nature of the incident, as it is currently under investigation with the city.

Winsky began his second term as a Barrow County commissioner in January. He represents the third district of the county.

While working as commissioner, Winsky has been part of budget and long-term plans for the county.

A phone call to Winsky had not been returned at press time.

MEETING A LIVING HERO

Kathy Bridges
Barrow County News

One of the former Teenage Titans, Odie Livingston-Jones, was in Winder Saturday and took time to speak with several children at the event. For more, see Page 1B.

1st Place

Barrow County News, Winder

Layout and Design

C

3rd Place

The Moultrie Observer

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SPORTS, 18

The Moultrie Observer

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AREA DEATHS
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By 4/20/13

Observer Online
www.moultrieobserver.com

The Georgia House of Representatives passed three significant bills this week, according to Rep. Sam Watson of Moultrie.

- A bill to allow Superior Court judges to issue statewide warrants.
- A bill expanding the state's list of illegal substances.
- A bill to fund the state's Medicaid program.

Read more from Watson about all these on The Observer's website.

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CONTACT US

Thank you for reading The Moultrie Observer. We value your comments. You're welcome to call us at (904) 865-1100.

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John C. Johnson, Jr., 1174

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Several cars sit in a parking lot adjacent to where firefighters battle a fire in a three-story apartment building in Moultrie, Ga., Friday during a major winter snowstorm. Up to 2 feet of snow is expected in the area, and the fire has been mostly kept under control.

Terror & wonder

Snowstorm moves into Northeast

MOULTRIE — A snowstorm that started in the Midwest and moved eastward is expected to bring heavy snow to the Northeast and parts of the South. The storm is expected to bring heavy snow to the Northeast and parts of the South. The storm is expected to bring heavy snow to the Northeast and parts of the South.



Jeff Traver, 3, tries to catch snowflakes in his mouth as he walks with his mother Casey Traver, 47, in Moultrie, Ga., Friday during a major winter snowstorm. Up to 2 feet of snow is expected in the area, and the fire has been mostly kept under control.

...of snowflakes...
...of snowflakes...
...of snowflakes...

Senators seek pact on gun background checks

WASHINGTON — A bipartisan group of senators is pushing for a pact on gun background checks. The pact would require gun owners to undergo background checks before purchasing a firearm. The pact would require gun owners to undergo background checks before purchasing a firearm.

County raises spending figures

Staff Reports

MOULTRIE — The county board of commissioners has approved a budget for 2013 that raises spending figures. The budget includes increases in personnel, equipment, and other expenses. The budget includes increases in personnel, equipment, and other expenses.

...of snowflakes...
...of snowflakes...
...of snowflakes...



Jeff Traver, 3, tries to catch snowflakes in his mouth as he walks with his mother Casey Traver, 47, in Moultrie, Ga., Friday during a major winter snowstorm. Up to 2 feet of snow is expected in the area, and the fire has been mostly kept under control.

...of snowflakes...
...of snowflakes...
...of snowflakes...



Michael Williams, of Moultrie, Ga., carries a flag as he leads a rally during the Georgia State Capital Pro-Gun Rally at the state entrance to the Georgia State Capitol on Friday in Atlanta. The group held a protest of gun laws.

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South Georgia Banking Company

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C

2nd Place

The Cherokee Tribune, Canton

A Senior Day Surprise

Mary Persons softball player Darrell Brady embraces her brother, Sgt. Justen Shaw, after he surprised her by returning from deployment in Afghanistan unannounced, showing up at her Senior Night last Thursday. Her teammates and their families tearfully look on. The Lady Dogs celebrated by pounding Northside in their final regular season home game. See full story on page 1B. (Photo/Richard Dumas)

Inside



Local man gains fame for his ribs
See page 12A.
Destination: Bolingbroke

Deaths

Geneva Patricia Jones
See page 6A

WELCOME To the Family!
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Reporter

Walmart, Dollar General

Kroger and CVS

"Can Westside stop the Dawgs?"

Game preview, see page 1B

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www.mymcr.net • VOL. 42 NO. 40 • USPS 997-840 2 sections, 28 pages • Forsyth, GA • Wednesday, October 2, 2013 • \$1

Castleberry burglar gets 20 years

BY RICHARD DUMAS Monroe County Superior Court Judge Tommy Wilson. Wilson subsequently released Jordan's co-defendants, Rico Usary, 34, and Christopher Jordan, 27, who is Vernon Jordan's brother. Towaliga Circuit district attorney Richard Milam said he was pleased with the 20-year sentence because not only was Jordan committing a burglary, he stole prescription drugs, which have a potentially lucrative street value and are harmful to the public. Milam pointed out that more deaths in the U.S. occur as a result of overdosing on prescription drugs than all illegal drugs combined. Milam said he offered Vernon Jordan a lesser sentence in exchange for testimony against his co-defendants.

VERNON JORDAN

Vernon Jordan, 34, was given the maximum sentence for his crime by

See PRISON page 6A



School board selects this as new Fine Arts Center

System will spend extra to add balcony

BY DIANE GLIDEWELL Monroe County's school board last week chose the design for the new fine arts auditorium at a called meeting, picking one that will cost \$500,000 more than their second choice.

The design board members preferred is a 33,200-square-foot, two-story building with a balcony. It will seat 700 on the main floor, about 350 in the balcony, and 100 on each side of the main seating area in removable seating (folding chairs).

The \$7.5 million fine arts auditorium was the crown jewel of a \$33 million Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax

See FINE ARTS page 5A

St. James, Reporter to sponsor candidate forum

Public welcome on Oct. 14, the day early voting starts

The Monroe County Reporter and St. James Baptist Church are teaming up to host a political forum for city council candidates at the church at 6 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 14.

All 11 council candidates are invited to introduce themselves and make the case for their election to city council. The public is also invited to attend and may

See FORUM page 6A

WED Sep. 25th	HIGH 85° LOW 57°	THU Sep. 26th	HIGH 84° LOW 57°	FRI Sep. 27th	HIGH 87° LOW 60°	SAT Sep. 28th	HIGH 87° LOW 63°	SUN Sep. 29th	HIGH 78° LOW 58°
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Layout and Design

C

SUNDAY
For 80 years they've been a love story
Southern Spice

SPORTS
Prep basketball scores & reports
Page B1

TIMES-GEORGIAN
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2013 • 51 • CARROLL COUNTY'S TRUSTED INFORMATION LEADER SINCE 1871

Home Depot projects 100 jobs

Retailer anticipates growth at local stores

BY WINSTON JONES
The 100 jobs will be created this spring when Home Depot Inc. hires about 80,000 seasonal workers nationwide, company officials announced Friday.

"Most stores expect to hire between 80 to 100 seasonal associates each, but the number varies according to the individual store's needs," said company spokeswoman Katherine Ellison. The jobs will include both part-time and full-time positions.

Home Depot has retail stores in Carrollton, Villa Rica, Douglasville, Norcross and Marietta in the West Georgia region.

All Home Depot applications must be made online at www.careers.homedepot.com, and job-seekers can apply now.

"If you don't have access to a computer, you can go to any Home Depot store and they will provide a computer for your application," Ellison said.

SEE JOBS PAGE A5

'In the eyes of daddy'

Alison Kennedy Bess, left, T. Anna-Kate Samples, 5, and Katelyn Borge, 7, are followed by their fathers Greg Borge, Cole Samples and the Bess as they walk down Bradley Street Thursday night to the Depot for the annual 'Daddy/Daughter Dance' hosted by the Carrollton Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department. Thursday the "couple" were treated to refreshments and a dessert bar along with door prizes. Right: Makayla Frankley, 5, holds onto her father's arm as they dance Thursday. Girls get a chance to dance the night away with their fathers and took a little gift home — came with their prizes. Tickets are still available for Monday's dance for 4th through 8th graders and for Tuesday's Mother/Son Dance. If interested go to openair.org or call 770-832-1761.

© 2013 WinStar Times-Georgian

FDIC lawsuit cites 14 loans from bank

Civil action by federal agency seeks \$30 million

BY ANDREW CAMPBELL
Federal regulators are suing for damages of at least \$29.5 million in a lawsuit filed against the officers of a failed Carrollton-based bank.

The 10-page civil action was filed on Jan. 23 in the U.S. District Court for the Northern Georgia District, with the attorney representing the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. demanding a jury trial on the matter.

The filing lists 13 former officers and directors of the First National Bank of Georgia, which closed on Jan. 29, 2012.

SEE LAWSUIT PAGE A7

A long-lasting love

Couple marks 80th anniversary

BY LORRAINE WRIGHT
A couple with roots throughout west Georgia and east Alabama celebrated on Jan. 29 what is believed to be one of the longest enduring marriages in the United States.

Jose Carlos Crenshaw, 91, and Lu Lee Richardson Crenshaw, 96, of Ebenezer celebrated their 80th wedding anniversary at Haggins Hospital in Bremen with family, friends and staff of Tanner Health System. Numerous well-wishers dropped by to congratulate the couple who were married on Jan. 29, 1933. He was 21, and she was 16.

SEE ANNIVERSARY PAGE A5

HOPE change has local support

GPA requirement to be lowered back to 2.0

BY WINSTON JONES
Local state lawmakers are giving their support to a change announced Thursday by Gov. Nathan Deal that will lower the grade requirements to qualify for HOPE grants at Georgia technical colleges.

Gov. Deal and a bipartisan group of legislators hold a news conference to announce that the threshold for HOPE grants would be returned to a 2.0 grade point average, down from the 3.0 that was set two years ago. Lawmakers raised the requirements to 3.0 after lottery revenues had dipped and concerns were raised over the program's solvency.

SEE HOPE PAGE A5



Carrollton and its neighbors celebrated their 80th wedding anniversary at Haggins General Hospital in Bremen last week with their four children: Colleen Workman, from left, Daniel Crenshaw, Terrie Kold and Clark Brown. A host of other relatives and friends joined the celebration.

1st Place

Times-Georgian, Carrollton

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Marietta Daily Journal

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Keeping it together COUPLES TELL HOW TO KEEP MARRIAGE GOING

PREP SECTIONAL WRESTLING 1C

MDJ Sunday

ONLINE
FEBRUARY 18, 2013
COBB'S LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1866

PREP SECTIONAL WRESTLING 1C

Tumlin only mayor sold on IMAGE

Kennesaw, Acworth against program to verify illegal immigrant work status

MAYOR SURVEY

MARLETTA
I think we have a duty to make sure the subcontractors are in compliance with the law. They're not representing us whether they're on the list or not.

POWELL SPRINGS
We need to know the law and the rules.

DAVID
I've done it before. I've done it before. I've done it before.

TOWN ALLEGED TO
We do not have any plans of this kind to implement any kind of program to our employees or our contractors.

W. NEWTON
There's not been a big push for us to do anything at this point in any way.

LAUREN
We don't want any money, I don't have a problem with us being it.

JUSTIN
If we need to do anything, we'll do anything. I'm not sure.

MARLETTA
I will pass no un-validated results on to the members of the Queen's Society. I will pass no un-validated results on to the members of the Queen's Society. I will pass no un-validated results on to the members of the Queen's Society.



QB Mason, WR Bennett will help people in poverty stricken area of Dominican Republic

By John Bednarowski / jbednarowski@mdjonline.com

Hatton Mason is the backup quarterback at the University of Georgia. He also holds the Georgia High School Association single-season passing records of 4,560 yards and 54 touchdowns.

But Mason is more than just a quarterback, and he's more than just a college student. The Lawrence High School graduate believes in helping those who are in need, and he's not the least bit afraid about sharing his faith.

Last month, Mason, along with Georgia receiver Michael Bennett and 25 friends, will travel to an area 200 miles outside of San Juan de la Magdalena in the Dominican Republic on a mission trip to try and bring aid and comfort to people who live in poverty.

"One of the most appealing things is to help them," said the 21-year-old Mason, who went on numerous mission trips, both to the United States and abroad, while growing up attending the First Baptist Church in Woodstock.

He will be returning to the Dominican Republic for a second time after serving there when he was a sophomore at Lawton.

"I've seen the poorest of the people," Mason added, "to make you realize that you have to assist your blessings, and it's important to assist people."

For Bennett, all he has had to do is see the opportunity to learn about what it is to come, and see Mason, Page 6A

W. NEWTON
There's not been a big push for us to do anything at this point in any way.

LAUREN
We don't want any money, I don't have a problem with us being it.

JUSTIN
If we need to do anything, we'll do anything. I'm not sure.

New DA Reynolds says he will focus on white-collar crime, helping elderly

By Jon Gibboody / jgibboody@mdjonline.com

MARLETTA — District Attorney Vic Reynolds plans to turn up the heat on crime and victim services who are not only going to look particularly easy, but they prey on the elderly and are often experts in financial fraud.

Another focus of the new D.A. will be on mental health and making sure some violent offenders get help, without taking up space in the Cobb County Jail.

Reynolds' challenge in making these changes will be to "do more with less," as he likely won't be able to add to his team of prosecutors.

Prior to his taking office, there was not a unit dedicated to handling older abuse crime. Reynolds changed that by assigning his cases to the Crime Against Women and Children Unit. This department is reviewing every crime in the county to which the victim is 60 or older, whether the crime is physical or financial. The victim are assigned to older abuse crime. Reynolds changed that by assigning his cases to the Crime Against Women and Children Unit. This department is reviewing every crime in the county to which the victim is 60 or older, whether the crime is physical or financial. The victim are assigned to older abuse crime. Reynolds changed that by assigning his cases to the Crime Against Women and Children Unit. This department is reviewing every crime in the county to which the victim is 60 or older, whether the crime is physical or financial. The victim are assigned to older abuse crime.

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Layout and Design

B

CASHWORD: NO NUMBER THIS WEEK • JACKPOT INCREASES TO \$850, PAGE 17

WELDON'S STYLE BO

SEE THE DAILY DEAL AT ONLINEATHENS.COM

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ATHENS BANNER-HERALD

11 30 • WWW.ONLINEATHENS.COM SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2013 © 2013 ATHENS NEWSPAPERS INC. VOL. 181, NO. 51

Series of DUI wrecks a worry

By Joe Johnson
jojohn@athensnews.com

A teen passed his car through a yellow light on South Avenue and crashed at the side of another car that was turning, seriously injuring several children.

Less than 72 hours later, a pickup truck topped a curb on Oak Street, and when the driver tried to steer it back onto the road, the pickup truck and critically injured a pedestrian.

Both crashes occurred during the first two weeks of this month, and were due to alcohol, according to Athens-Clerk police, who are keeping their eyes peeled for a link between the DUI-related deaths and injuries.

Last year, there were nearly 1,000 alcohol-related accidents on the road, both those that involved alcohol and those that did not. There also were more serious injury wrecks in 2012 than in 2011.

The only category that saw an increase was in the number of DUI arrests made by local police, up 7.5 percent, from 1,095 in 2011 to 1,173 in 2012, and in total DUI accidents, up 2 percent, from 807 in 2011 to 827 in 2012.

The department had no change in any other area.

"There's no pattern," said Sgt. Don Eckert, who commands the Athens-Clerk and Oak Traffic Unit. "The wrecks go down and then they just pop right back up."

Last two months into 2013, three DUI accidents have resulted in an injury, two of which were non-fatalities.

Police hope that January and February have not set the tone for the rest of the year.

"It seems like we're on a variable one lately with impaired drivers," said Sgt. Tom Anderson, a Traffic Unit sergeant.

Anderson made the comment last week, while investigating a hit-and-run accident that nearly killed a pedestrian and placed her in a coma.

"I'm training on lanes, especially with what happened

See ACCIDENT on A3

ABH INVESTIGATES

He was a successful Athens businessman, scoutmaster and community leader.

By many accounts, he also was a child sex predator.

Ernest P. Boland thrived in a culture and system that enabled him to prey on

'Boland's Boys'

The acts of sexual abuse Boland perpetrated on [redacted] happened numerous times and continued on a periodic basis until [redacted] family moved away from Athens in approximately 1975.

Boland would often expose the group to sex by showing the boys sexually explicit materials and by telling the boys about Boland's own sexual activities.

A story of abuse

By Nick Colman
nickcolman@athensnews.com

Alan McArthur wants to talk about his early years.

He wants to talk about how he joined the Boy Scouts at age 12, how bugs from his scoutmaster turned into worms, and how he can still catch the warmth of the day he thought he avoided the man by taking the bus home instead of accepting a ride only to find his scoutmaster drinking his way with his parents at their house.

Alan McArthur, a 49-year-old Athensian with a successful business, wants to reveal 30-year-old experiences he says were induced by Ernest P. Boland, the man he alleges raped him for years when he was a teen.

"I need to speak the truth," Alan said. "I need to take my power back."

Today, Alan jokes about how much he hates camping, something for which the Boy Scouts

of America are renowned.

But then, in the early 1970s, he was through the ranks of dozens of boys in the troop to become the troop leader. His parent's friend Boland's troop because of its great reputation.

It was headed by a successful businessman and scout leader. At one point, a troop of his was profiled in the *U.S. magazine* and he received dozens of accolades to the *U.S. magazine*.

"He was a big man, not fat, just a big man, and he was hugging all the boys," Alan remembers.

No one there seemed to know that Boland had left the woman before under the suspicion of child molestation and allegedly forcing another woman, possibly multiple women, to perform sex acts. Alan just remembers being 12 years old and uncomfortable around the big man who insisted upon being called by his first name.

See ABUSE on A4

By Boland

Boland, who died Feb. 7 at age 85 and was wheelchair bound, started sexually assaulting boys decades ago, according to court-released documents and victims.

So much time had passed that the state archive of litigation prosecuted Boland's prosecution, even though his alleged acts harmed the victims into adulthood.

"Probable cause may now be established, based on a reported and documented history of similar accusations against Boland from within the Boy Scouts of America and within a similar time frame," an Athens-Clerk officer wrote in the police report filed in December.

However, in light of the statute's sunset, the cases — not yet prosecutable at this time, had offenses do not fall within even the widest limitations on a time period for which prosecution is allowed.

Since the Christmas Eve report, another victim, Alan McArthur, filed a police report on Feb. 10 — also without hope of a going further

See BOLAND on A5

ONLINEATHENS.COM EXTRA:

Read the "Perversion files"

Ernest P. Boland was listed among about 1,300 alleged child molesters identified, yet kept confidential, by the Boy Scouts of America. The files were released last year as part of a court order.

Find police reports

Read a narrative given to police that alleges years of abuse by Boland.

Photo: Ernest P. Boland's home was allegedly where some of his abuse took place, according to police reports later filed by a victim. Staff photo illustration

2nd Place

Athens Banner-Herald

Layout and Design

B

1st Place

The Times, Gainesville

A GRAMMY WIN
Local man credits higher power for award-winning creation
LIFE, 1E

NEW IN TOWN?
Welcome: Your guide to Northeast Georgia.
INSIDE

The Times SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 24, 2013
Your news. Your Times. gainesvilletimes.com \$1.50 GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA

A TIMES SPECIAL REPORT

Where will federal budget cuts fall?

Congress faces March 1 deadline to stop 'sequestration,' across-the-board spending reductions

BY JEFF GILL
jgill@times.com

Many Americans are hearing a new word, "sequestration," which Congress elected to avoid one, "gridlock." And meanwhile, automatic spending cuts set to kick in March 1 have many citizens, including those in government and business, scratching their heads, not sure how to get around whatever their personal impact may be.

"We don't have a military base on top of Gainesville or an agency like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention... In our civilian life, and yet we have so many areas where federal spending shows up in our local economy," said Tom Evans, the former chief of budget of Congress's vice president of economic development.

"These dollars do circulate in Gainesville and County's economy, so there are lots of unknowns. We may be indirectly impacted in ways we don't see just yet."

Alan Craig, executive director of the citizens-based Georgia Budget and Policy Institute, said he believes each federal agency will plan differently to address funding cuts.

INSIDE
Sequestration would be affected by cuts. **B8**
Impact on schools. **B8**
How to avoid the cut. **B8**
Rep. Doug Collins says president must lead. **B8**

2014 TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

HALL COUNTY SCHOOLS
Ashley DePree
Lester Elementary School

GAINESVILLE CITY SCHOOLS
Denise McConnell
Shaw Middle-Independence Academy

WORKING INMATES NOW UNDER ONE ROOF
Couch consolidates county jail's work release program

BY JONNA WITMAN
jwitman@gainesvilletimes.com

Hall County Sheriff Gerald Couch announced and launched Friday the department's consolidation of the county's work release program to the jail's main facility on Archer Road. Six months of work release is allowed to inmates, and when their terms end, inmates have to jail.

Manufacturing separate quarters for work release inmates has been a significant financial burden on the department, Couch said.

"Consolidating the facilities will save industrial supplies, maintenance expenses, utilities, equipment and supplies," he said.

Couch's operational savings are about \$1 million for the department.

READ THEIR STORIES ON PAGE 4A

LEARNING AS LABOR OF LOVE
Area's top teachers go all out for their students

STORIES BY SANDRAN KING; PHOTOS BY TOM REED

When you put your heart and soul into a job, usually it shows. Your energy is contagious, your work superb and you meet every challenge by looking for the best solution. And for those honored as Teachers of the Year, that's certainly the case.

Today, we honor those teachers who get creative to meet the needs of every student, like Ashley DePree, who knows that each child learns a little bit differently. We honor those who push their students to be their best because they know they can be, like Denise McConnell, who believes her students just need some positive reinforcement to know they can find the answers.

And we recognize teachers at all 33 Hall and eight Gainesville schools who put their effort into every day to shape the minds of future leaders.

INSIDE
View profile information on Gainesville and Hall County schools teachers of the year. **B8**
Editorial. **B8**

Share with Us! Luster Elementary School teacher Ashley DePree explains a math program to 5th graders. DePree was named the 2014 Hall County Teacher of the Year. Right: Evolve Middle-Independence Academy teacher Denise McConnell explains a science activity to a group of students. McConnell was named the 2014 Gainesville City Schools Teacher of the Year.

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Layout and Design


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The Augusta Chronicle
MASTERS 2013

\$1 AUGUSTA.COM MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2013

"It's amazing that it's my destiny to be the first Aussie to win."
— Adam Scott, 2013 Masters Tournament champion

Aussie rules now



Australian Adam Scott celebrates with caddie Steve Williams on the second playoff hole after defeating Angel Cabrera (right), of Argentina, in the 2013 Masters Tournament.

Playoff decides winner second year in a row

By David Westin
Staff Writer

After decades of frustration and numerous close calls in the Masters Tournament, Australia's dry spell ended when Adam Scott rolled in a playoff birdie on Sunday.

Scott birdied two of his final three holes and beat 2009 winner Angel Cabrera on the second hole of sudden death to become the first winner from Down Under.

"It's amazing that it's my destiny to be the first Aussie to win. It's incredible," Scott said.

Scott called himself a "proud Australian" after closing out a 6-under weekend with rounds of 69-69.

Using a controversial long putter that he anchors to his body, Scott rolled in a 15-foot birdie putt on the second playoff hole, No. 18, which is becoming the place to win the Masters. Three of the past five Masters titles have been won on that hole, which is the second hole under the sudden-death format.

Australia's Jason Day bogeyed two of his final three holes and finished with 70 to take third place, two shots out of the playoff.

Tiger Woods (70 on Sunday) and first-round co-leader Marc Leishman (72), another Aussie, tied for fourth place.

Third-round co-leader Zoran Saveljic, who shot 75, tied for sixth place with Denmark's Thorbjorn Olesen (66). Spain's Sergio Garcia (70), England's Lee Westwood (71) and former Georgia Tech golfer Matt Kuchar (72) followed with a three-way tie for eighth place.

China's 14-year-old Tianlang Guan, the youngest ever Masters participant, finished 58th out of the 61 players to make the cut. Guan, the lone amateur to make the cut, shot 73-75-77-75, including a one-stroke slow play penalty in the second round.

Helping to ease the pain of his collapse on the final holes of regulation that cost him the 2012 British Open, Scott won his ninth PGA Tour event and first major.

See SCOTT on PAGE 4M

Look back
See Masters history at augusta.com.

His story
Tianlang Guan, 14, leaves Augusta with the low amateur trophy and fond memories of his historic appearance.
Page 3M

Great Scott
Adam Scott finally has his breakthrough in a major, but Angel Cabrera made sure the Aussie earned it.
Page 5M

3rd Place

Savannah Morning News

Layout and Design

A

2nd Place

The Telegraph, Macon

WEATHER INCIDENT

Struck by lightning:

Madison County woman survives July 3 incident

By Margie Richards
margie@madisonjournal.com

Donna Jordan is counting her blessings these days. After all, there are not many who can say they survived being struck by lightning.

Jordan says she's always loved the beauty and excitement of a thunderstorm coming in, but the frequent storms this week have had less of an appeal after her ordeal.

The incident happened last week, as she and her family returned from a vacation to Panama City, Florida, where about half their week at the beach had been dampened by thunderstorms moving up from the Gulf.

Jordan said the family had just pulled into their drive-



DONNA JORDAN

way in Colbert Wednesday afternoon, July 3, about 4:45 p.m. in a moderately heavy rainstorm.

"I don't remember any-

—See "Lightning" on 2A

PRECIPITATION

Rain, rain, and more rain!

County continues to get drenched

By Zach Mitcham
zach@madisonjournal.com

The summer of rain continued this past week, with showers drenching northeast Georgia and much of the Southeast.

Madison County's annual Fourth of July Parade in Colbert was threatened by the weather, but the showers wipped long enough for the floats, candy tossing and flag waving to proceed, then the skies let loose the torrents

again, making for a soggy holiday.

Mark Jenkins, the cooperative weather observer for Madison County, said rain totals last week averaged three-to-six inches across the state north of Americus to Augusta, with some of the heaviest in the state in Madison County.

Jenkins said the county is already beyond its normal rainfall for July. Through July 9, the county had received

—See "Rain" on 2A

Correction

A photo on the July 4 front page of The Madison County Journal of Cooper Minish was incorrectly identified as Wyatt Danagan. We apologize for the error.

INSIDE

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Contact:

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Danielsville, Ga. 30633
Web:
MadisonJournalTODAY.com



Man sentenced to 10 years for molestation

A Hull man was sentenced recently in Superior Court to 10 years confinement for child molestation.

—See Page 3A



MADISON COUNTY ALL STAR SEASON IN FULL SWING; SEE UPDATES ON LOCAL TEAMS INSIDE

—Page 1B



COLBERT'S Fourth of July

Marissa Moon, 19 months, Comer, enjoys a flag and a sucker at the 44th annual Colbert Fourth of July Parade Thursday. The rain held off just long enough on the soggy holiday to keep the umbrellas put away for the parade. See a photo gallery of the parade on The Madison County Journal Facebook page. Zach Mitcham/staff



Grand Marshal Bennie Tuggle is pictured at the Colbert Fourth of July Parade Thursday.



Hull resident Jim Papp of the American Legion Riders offers a big smile before riding in the parade on his motorcycle.

CITY NEWS

New D'ville chief sworn in Monday

New businesses coming to town

Brenan Baird was sworn in as the City of Danielsville's new police chief during the council's Monday night business meeting.

Baird was set to assume his duties as police chief on Tuesday. He addressed the council, thanking them for the chance to serve the city and said he plans to build "an exemplary police department" for Danielsville.

Mayor Todd Higdon reported Monday night that a number of new businesses are moving into Danielsville over the next few months.

Among those businesses are Normaltown Cafe, which will move into the strip mall, along with a retail business. Another free-standing retailer will construct a store next to Williams Used Cars. O'connor Lenders has moved in next door to Paparelli's Pizza and the Tanner House is re-opening as a retail yard sale shop. A seafood restaurant named Wal's Place is moving into the old Country Confections building next to

—See "D'ville" on 2A

TAXES

County digest nearly complete

By Zach Mitcham
zach@madisonjournal.com

Madison County chief appraiser Robin Baker said this week that he expects the county digest — its overall property value — will be submitted to the state by Aug. 1.

That means property tax bills can be expected to hit mailboxes this year in October, with a due date in December.

Baker said overall property values will be down slightly, though he said he hasn't "run the numbers" yet and declined to offer an estimate of how far down the digest will be.

"It's going to be a small decrease," said Baker. "I'm thinking it may be down a little."

Last year, county and school governments felt the pinch of reduced property values, which lowered their property tax revenues considerably. But Baker said he doesn't expect this year's decrease will be like last

—See "Digest" on 2A

Layout and Design

A

1st Place

Columbus Ledger-Enquirer

SUNDAY The Chattahoochee Valley's Largest News Team
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February 27, 2011 | Breaking news as it happens at ledger-enquirer.com | \$0.50

Replacing BTW units could revive Liberty area
100 apartments planned if zoning request approved
By KEN AND JONIK
ajones@ledger-enquirer.com

The area surrounding the historic Liberty Theatre, once the hub of Columbus' black community, may be getting a rethink.
The Housing Authority of Columbus hopes to build 100 multi-family apartments on property surrounding the theater as part of its plan to demolish the aging Booker T. Washington public housing complex at Veterans Parkway and Victory Drive. The new units, proposed for a three-block area, would provide replacement housing for some BTW residents.
But before trying to revive one of the city's most neglected areas, the Housing Authority must clear multi-level zoning for seven acres bounded by Eighth and Ninth streets, from Sixth to North Avenue. The city-owned property is currently zoned for residential office, light manufacturing and general commercial use. The zoning must be changed before the agency can apply for federal tax credits needed to fund the BTW revitalization project.
Les Williams, the Housing Authority's chief executive officer, said the plan is to tear down the BTW

In Living
7-YEAR-OLD FINDS READING BUDDY IN 85-YEAR-OLD

In Sports
Spencer's Sampson wins state title

GBI INVESTIGATION
One child died and three more were injured when a home daycare caught fire three years ago. The first engine to get to the blaze had only three firefighters. Was that enough?
BURNING QUESTIONS

GBI combing Columbus Fire & EMS records of fire
By TIM CHURCH
tchurch@ledger-enquirer.com

Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) investigators of Columbus Fire & Emergency Medical Services records is reconstructing questions of whether the fire engine at a 2003 home day care fire that killed one child and injured three others was under staffed.
The questions aren't new. They were the subject of an internal fire department investigation sparked by firefighters' complaints that Engine 7 from Station 7 at 1001 Hanna Vista

Read should have had five firefighters instead of three.
It was the fire fire unit to reach the blaze at 5029 Mill Branch Road, off Amber Drive north of Hanna Vista Road. The fire was reported at 1:27 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26, 2003. First responders described a chaotic, uncontained scene, with neighbors gathering on the street and parents rushing to find children.
The one-story house was the west entrance of a set of houses that had been off a paved driveway on the east

School fire safety inspections under scrutiny
GBI questions if inspection reports for Muscogee County schools were fulfilled
By TIM CHURCH
tchurch@ledger-enquirer.com

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) is questioning whether workers fulfilled reports of school fire safety inspections.
An affidavit backing the search warrant served Thursday at fire department headquarters says the investigation into Louise Miller said the GBI

has 150 to 200 schools that have been inspected in years and some had fire code violations that remained uncorrected, per inspection reports clearing those schools were on file.
Some Muscogee County school administrators advised that no one from the fire department had been to their schools for fire inspections in several years," reads the sworn statement from a GBI agent Miller talked to.
"These false reports created the perception that the risk of injuries to students and staff in a fire emergency had been minimized through the inspection process when in reality significant risks were

dealsaver.com
For 80¢ receive \$40 worth of groceries from at Backyard Steak and Wine. dealsaver.com/foodandwine.

News Elsewhere
Nation
VETERANS The processing time for disability claims at the Department of Veterans Affairs worsened in a majority of its regional offices last year, according to two recent audits. **Page A1B.**
Waffle House: A White House in Atlanta has been charging customers 20 percent extra to serve their meals with hand-sewned waffles. **Page A1.**

Today's Forecast: Cold morning, then sunny. High 55. Morning low: 21. **WEATHER: A2**

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Bark & Boogie fundraiser nears, 3A

SOUTH FORSYTH NEWS

Vol. 5, No. 36 Sunday, September 8, 2013 50 cents

Rezoning near LHS moves on

Neighbors fret over traffic, crowding
By Rippe Laffoon
Forsyth County's planning board has recommended approval of a rezoning for a



'Digging in the dirt'
Program teaches students how to grow organic food
South Forsyth High School student Britney Lynn Baker, after learning to plant a garden.

8 groups to receive funding
New law factors in grant decisions

By Rippe Laffoon
The Forsyth County Social Services Committee recommended grants for 2014 to eight agencies that work with the juvenile justice system.

Annual college fair set for Tuesday

Home Matters
Group offers outdoor fun to women, Page 5A
Levels on Lake Lanier
Date: Level
Sept. 7 5:30-7:30
Sept. 8 5:30-7:30
Sept. 9 5:30-7:30
Full page: 5B7-5C7

At a glance
The event will run from 9 a.m. to noon Tuesday at the Lanier Technical College Forsyth Conference Center. For more information or to register, visit www.probe.org/colleair.



Brittany Mallinger, right, talks with University of Tampa representative Quentin Johnson during the 2013 PROBE College Fair. This year's event will be Tuesday at the Forsyth Conference Center.

3rd Place

South Forsyth News, Cumming

2nd Place

Columbia County News-Times, Evans

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Police Blotter

The following accounts were submitted from Columbia County Sheriff's Office incident reports:

Martinez man shoots at another

A Martinez man was arrested Thursday after police say he shot at another man.

Bradley Richard Parikh, 23, of Pleasant Drive, was charged with aggravated assault and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Parikh

A 20-year-old man said he drove to Adam Thursday afternoon to pick up a friend and her boyfriend. The man said he couldn't find his vehicle. He opened the trunk and a young white male and a female were inside an Adam store and found his wallet and a handgun. The man said he became angry and drove away, leaving the couple.

The man said he made contact with the woman on Facebook and made arrangements to return her phone. He was to take the phone to Parikh's home. He arrived at about 4:30 p.m. and put the gun under his leg as he sat in the driver's seat.

When Parikh opened the passenger door to get the phone, the man said, he saw the gun and grabbed it.

Parikh told the man, "You don't know who you are messing with," before pointing and firing the gun. The bullet missed the man, went through the driver's seat and out through the left rear door.

The man went home and called authorities. A deputy found a spent shell casing on the front left side of the windshield of his car.

Parikh is being held in the Columbia County Detention Center without bond, according to jail records.

Man exposed himself to teen coworker

A teenager told deputies Friday that a coworker exposed himself to her at work.

The 15-year-old employee of World's in Martinez said while working between 8 and 6:30 p.m., a coworker asked her to have sex with him. The woman said she didn't like him in that way and went back to her business. The man said he needed to show her something in the walk-in cooler. Once inside the cooler, the woman said her

Athlete Spotlight
Lakeland's
Alexis Dunbar
Page 10



Fall Classic Page 11

THE COLUMBIA COUNTY News-Times
75 cents per copy
Wednesday, September 18, 2013 www.newstimesonline.com

READY TO PADDLE



People got in at the Savannah Rapids Pavilion before the start of Paddlefest on Saturday.

Photos by Jim Pichon, Staff

Business is growing near I-20

Grovetown retail center will have more options

By Vance Brown
Evans Staff Writer
Dorcas 475-2266

The Grovetown Wal-Mart opened in late 2009, and because the floor is mostly businesses to locate at the new busy Interstate 20 interchange.

The area on the southeast corner went from a wooded property to housing retail center in only a few years.

"I don't think it will slow down that much," said Richard Harmon, the director of Columbia County Engineering Services Division.

An Applebee's restaurant is under construction and is expected to be open around the end of the year. It joins restaurants Jersey Mike's and Aky's and retailers including Wal-Mart, Verizon and Furrish 123.

The Center for Primary Care opened a location earlier this year, and Harmon said his office is reviewing building plans

for a 16,000-square-foot University Hospital Prange Care facility.

The boom in commercial and retail development is no surprise, Harmon said. Businesses tend to follow residential development, which has exploded in the area surrounding the interchange in the last several years.

"If you count the real-estate, like always, that's what you end up with," Harmon said. "You're going to get the medical and things like that that are going to service all these people in the area."

"It's what's going to happen... They are going to locate where the people are. Look at the stores, my goodness. Hopefully they are going to pull people off the interstate to out at Applebee's, Aky's, get gas, whatever."

AMCDonald's is already planned for the opposite corner of the interchange on

5,000-10,000 more people expected to come to Fort Gordon, he expects residential development, followed by commercial growth to continue.

"Eventually, all these centers will be there," Harmon said.

He doesn't think, however, the growth will give up Horton South Parkway toward Grovetown.

The Branch and Center facilities own several parcels totaling about 400 acres on the east side of Horton South and about 100 acres on the west.

"I don't see it going in that direction that much," Harmon said. "It's not near the market is there yet. In 10 years, 15 years, who knows what is going to happen then."

He does, however, expect the growth to follow the typical pattern and eventually spread to the next west interstate interchange at Appling-Horton Road.

The likely won't be for many years.

"It's got to have a material (progression) to it," Harmon said. "It's going to go from one interchange to the next."

Harmon said with

Green Thumb West
Garden Center and Florist
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Police Blotter

The following accounts were taken from Columbia County Sheriff's Office incident reports:

Man's truck vandalized with condiment

An Evans man told deputies Wednesday that someone poured barbecue sauce on his truck.

The 21-year-old man said he worked outside and found "some red" written in barbecue sauce on his truck.

The man asked several neighbors about the incident and they told him their vehicles were sprayed recently, but didn't know who was doing the vandalism.

Man's info used to spend his money

A Milledgeville man called police Tuesday stating he gave out his personal information to someone who used it to spend his money.

The 57-year-old man said he got a call from a blocked number on July 10 from someone claiming to be a representative from a software company.

The caller said he needed the man's Social Security number and credit card number to upgrade the man's computer anti-virus software.

The man provided the information to the caller, who then hung up.

The man said he recently found two unauthorized transactions on his Discover card statement, one for \$90 and another for \$95.

Rash of car break-ins near Interstate 20

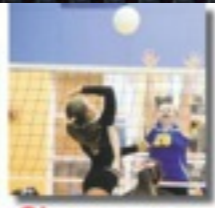
Several people reported car break-ins off Dublin Road near Interstate 20 Tuesday.

Two residents of Yellowbank Drive just off Park West Drive said that the previous night someone entered their vehicles parked in the driveway of their homes.


Two were unlocked and a third was locked but had the windows down. A handgun was stolen from an unlocked truck.

Two guests at the Holiday Inn at 810 Park West Drive told deputies that someone broke back windows of their trucks, which were parked in a side lot overnight.

A backpack was stolen from one and nothing was stolen from the other.



Clean sweep
 Augusta Prep wins three straight in last-of-five month Page 7




INDICTED
 Former HCA treasurer faces 10 charges of theft by taking Page 6



Girl on the gridiron
 Augusta Prep manager Brooke Arnold proves it's not just a game for guys Page 7

THE COLUMBIA COUNTY News-Times 75 cents per copy
 Sunday, September 1, 2013 www.newstimesonline.com



Connor Kertain (left) and Zachary Lyons share an electronic notepad in their sixth-grade language arts class at Greenbrier Middle School. The Columbia County School System is using the Bring Your Own Technology program in some middle and high schools.

County students go high-tech

By TERRY BOWEN
 From WACHA
 TERRY@WACHA.COM

Greenbrier Middle School sixth-graders Connor Kertain and Zachary Lyons huddled over Lyons' Kindle looking up definitions and origins of words during a vocabulary lesson.

Such a sight could be the new look of education in Columbia County.

As part of the Bring Your Own Technology program, students are allowed to use cell phones and other wireless devices in classrooms to enhance learning, Columbia County School System officials say just beginning to implement the program that allows children to have a world of information at their fingertips.

"It's a tool, but we think it's a great tool to engage kids," Columbia County School System Associate Superintendent Dr. Jeff Carney said. "I really do think it's going to be a game-changer."

Carney said the system is in the process of installing wireless internet infrastructure into all the high schools. Some middle schools, such as Greenbrier Middle, and elementary schools are opting to raise their own funds to get Wi-Fi up and running ahead of the school system's timeline.

Carney said all schools will be wired and ready to access a secure school system server within two years.

In the digital age, Carney said, children learn differently and mobile technology, including cell phones and tablets, is a part of their daily lives. Educators need to use that technology as a tool to engage students and make teachers more efficient and effective.

"They are just so connected," Carney said. "It just makes sense. The kids now are just wired different. They want that immediate engagement."

Greenbrier Middle Principal

ATMs could be put in several county facilities

By TERRY BOWEN
 From WACHA
 TERRY@WACHA.COM


Patrons at several Columbia County parks and buildings will soon have easier access to cash.

Commissioners are expected to vote Tuesday to place ATM machines at several county facilities.

"At Evans Town Center Center Park, we've had multiple folks ask for ATM machines during events," Community and Leisure Services Division Director Barry Smith said at a recent committee meeting.

The machines are slated to be placed at the park, at the Evans Government Center Building C, Patriot Park, Six-n-nuch Rapids Pavilion, the Columbia County Justice Center and Courthouse Annex and the Exhibition Center at the Gateway. An ATM machine that has been inside the lobby of the Columbia County Library in Evans for a few years will remain.

Columbia County has an ATM machine owned by Cash Ready ATM Inc. in the lobby of the Columbia County Library. The commission is expected to vote Tuesday to put machines in several county facilities.



128 Make this Christmas special for you and your family with a beautiful meal. Contact Terry at 706-671-8769 and let them help you find your next dream home, just in time for the holidays!

Meybohm

1st Place


Columbia County News-Times, Evans

Banks County News


www.BanksNewsTODAY.com Banks County's Legal Organ

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

50¢ • Homer, Banks County, GA 30547 • A Publication of HartStreet Newspapers, Inc. • 24 Pages, 2 Sections Plus Supplements • Vol. 42 No. 15

Recreation  Shooting Stars 4B

Sports  Alumni baseball game 1B

School  Maths serves as PEP 1B

Homer hosts Festival of Arts

The Holiday Festival Committee is planning the Festival of Arts event scheduled for 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, April 27 on the historic downtown square in Homer.

All area artists are invited to participate as a vendor. The vendor spaces are 8' X 12' at \$25 each and the committee is currently accepting vendor applications.

"I am so excited about this new art event here in Homer," committee member Tracy King said. "Our community has so many artists and I hope they will come out and participate in this event."


Although the festival will increase the visibility of the participating artists, the event will also feature a concert by the group "Back to Time" from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and live music performances available for purchase at cost.

"I think April is the perfect time of the year to host a festival like this," committee member Tim Hager said. "I think an art event with great music and food will be a great way for a family to come out and enjoy an afternoon."

For more information and/or to reserve your vendor space, contact Scott Rogers at 706-670-4580 or email scott@banksnews.com for a media application. Completed applications and vendor fees should be returned to Scott Rogers at 280 Newnan Circle, Newnan, GA, 30888 by the March 30 deadline. Space is limited and spaces are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Being good citizens

Last week's annual meeting of the Banks County Chamber CVB included an award for Banks County resident Lisa McClure, named the Citizen of the Year, along with other awards. The event took place at Foxopolis with live music provided by Laura Bryant. For more photos from the event, see [Page 2A](#).



MCCLURE NAMED CITIZEN OF THE YEAR
Banks County resident Lisa McClure gets a hug from 2012 Banks County Chamber CVB Chairman Todd Hubbard for being named the Citizen of the Year. McClure was honored with a plaque at the annual meeting on March 16. Photo by Steve Rogers

3 face robbery charges

Trio allegedly part of "tilt tapping" scheme

BY SHANNON HOGAN

Three people with Florida addresses were arrested on Saturday afternoon for their part in "tilt tapping" at Walmart, Commerce.

According to the report on file at the Banks County Sheriff's Office, Mike Melton, 36, 8090 Corey Circle SE, Tallahassee, Fla., Richard Lee Mitchell, 27, 207 South-Cross Drive, Tallahassee, Fla., and Tracy Mitchell, 36, 8090 Corey Circle SE, Tallahassee, Fla., each face charges of party to another robbery. Melton and Mitchell were also charged with obstructing or hindering a law-enforcement officer.

A warrant was taken for a fourth person, a 20-year-old female, in connection with the crime and a female juvenile that was with the group was placed in foster care by a Banks County Department of Family & Children Services counselor that was called to the scene.

"Stepping is a drug term that refers to the theft of money from a cash register. The perpetrator is chosen whether a customer, clerk or cashier's attention while he surreptitiously grabs a handful of money from the register.

According to the report, \$100 was taken from a register at a store at Tallahassee.

According to the report, an officer responded to a 911 call to suspicious persons at Walmart and was advised by Banks County the party to stage at the Store's (SBC) restaurant parking lot. The complainant advised that the people had left the building and were heading to a 2012 Chrysler Town and Country van.

The officer reported he located the van on the north side of the building and noticed a traffic stop. When the officer approached, Mitchell, the driver of the van, he kept asking what was going on. The officer stated that the three females and the male passenger at second jump and there was a lot of movement in the van.

The male passenger Melton, told the officer he needed to take his medication due to chest pain and the officer allowed him to exit the vehicle and go to the back of the van to get the medication.

The officer reported that when the 20-year-old female started to complain of chest pain and advised she needed a med call.

The complainant law enforcement officer at Walmart told the officer the Melton had taken a large "50" dollar bill of a bag inside the store. The two females left in the van stated they didn't know what was going on.

Medical calls arrived and both Melton and the 20-year-old female were transported to Northridge Medical Center, Commerce, for treatment. However, the female left the hospital with an IV in her arm and BCO officers and Commerce Police Department officers were not able to locate her. The officer stated when he asked for her brother's help in the van tonight, Mitchell needed to Mitchell some cash and Mitchell stated "I was a witness" and he handed the cash to the officer.

The complainant advised BCO was missing out of the cash register and when the officer received the money, Mitchell gave him three more \$100 bills. Mitchell stated the money that was lost was \$100 and it was being stolen. The money was returned to the complainant.

The officer reported when he searched the van he found the other "50" dollar bills the complainant stated was taken from inside the store.

The complainant provided video footage of the van that showed the 20-year-old female carrying the "50" bag out of the van and the register. Mitchell and the female juvenile arrested in the Hefsey and R. Mitchell was seen walking behind the cash register as he was walking a "look-out" for the store between Melton, Mitchell and Mitchell were located in the Banks County Jail on the above charges. The case remains under investigation by the BCO's Criminal Investigation Division.

Council approves 2013 budgets

City's Wi-Fi should be up and running soon

BY SHANNON HOGAN

At the monthly meeting on March 12, the Alto Town Council unanimously approved the fiscal year 2013 general fund and water fund budgets.

The FY2013 general fund budget totals \$614,490 -- up \$25,038 over the 2012 budget -- or less than a five percent increase.

The water fund budget for FY2013 totals \$125,984 -- down by \$29,228 from 2012.

OTHER BUSINESS

In other business at the monthly meeting:

- The council unanimously approved the minutes for the Feb. 26 meeting.
- The council adopted a resolution proclaiming April 20-21, 2013 as Georgia Class Week.
- The council approved the final reading of the ordinance for the General and Special Elections to be held from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2013 at the town hall, 92 South-Cross Street, Alto, for the Post 1, Post 3, Post 4 and Post 5 council seats.
- Carolyn Cole currently holds the Post 1 council seat and Margaret

The FY2013 general fund budget totals \$614,490 -- up \$25,038 over the 2012 budget -- or less than a five percent increase.

Mayor holds the Post 3 seat on the council. The Post 4 and Post 5 council seats are currently vacant.

"Tanner announced the annual CleanUp Day in Alto is set for 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday April 27. Volunteers are needed to pick up trash on streets inside the city limits.

All supplies will be furnished and participants will get a free lunch and a T-shirt. Anyone interested in volunteering is asked to call city hall at 706-778-8322 to sign up or just show up at city hall the day of the event.

Tanner received the council that the annual Spring Fling is set for Saturday, June 1.

The next regularly scheduled council meeting is set for 7 p.m. on Tuesday April 9, at city hall.

Inside

- Boys, girls tennis standings -- page 3B
- Hammer egg hunt -- page 3A

Op/Ed

- Legislators have done a whole lot of nothing -- page 6A

Other news

- Church -- 10A
- Obituaries -- 1A
- Public Safety -- 3A-4A
- Legal -- 7B-7D
- Classifieds -- B5-9B

3rd Place

Banks County News, Homer

BLACK COUNTY MAGAZINE

PANTHERS WIN REGION OPENER... Page 5 CCMS PANTHER PROWL PAGE... Page 7

The Clinch County News

Where the stories of your area come to life

50TH YEAR ISSUE 49 © 2013 THE CLINCH COUNTY NEWS Wednesday, October 2, 2013 HOMERVILLE, GEORGIA 12 PAGES, ONE SECTION

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

What's going on in your community

Reward offered in fountain vandalism

The City of Homerville is offering a \$500 reward for information that leads to the conviction of the person or persons responsible for the vandalism of the fountain at Empire Plaza recently. Contact the Homerville Police Department at 912-487-5146 with any information.

County Commission holding work session

The Clinch County Board of Commissioners will hold a work session on Thursday, October 3 at 9 a.m. at the commission office. The session is open to the public.

Gospel meeting at Church of Christ

The Homerville Church of Christ will be holding a gospel meeting through Thursday, October 3. Special speakers will include Kyle Blomquist and Mike Shook of Apalachee Press. Service times include Tuesday, October 1 at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 2 at 7:30 p.m., and Thursday, October 3 at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Police no longer unlocking vehicles

The Homerville Police Department no longer can unlock vehicles due to liability for damage. A phone number for a certified locksmith will be available by calling the Tri-County 911 Center (911).

Ministry service at depot on October 3

The Homerville will be having a Ministry Service at the Station #11 Depot, featuring Reverend Tim Smith, on Thursday, October 3. Everyone is invited to attend.

CCMS band now selling Boston Butts

The Clinch County High marching band is selling fully-cooked Boston Butts for \$25. Tickets can be purchased from any band director or band leader. Pick up will be Saturday, October 19, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the downtown gazebo.

City holding annual pumpkin contest

The City of Homerville is holding the 2nd Annual Pumpkin Carving Contest. The contest is free and entries will be accepted Monday, October 28 until 4 p.m. at City Hall. Prizes will be judged on appearance, originality and creativity. It will be divided into five age categories. Be sure to include a handwritten note with the entry. All entries will be on display at City Hall until Thursday, October 24th. The savings will be on display at Empire Plaza Mallroom evening. For more information, or entry form, and complete list of guidelines stop by City Hall (Homerville Municipal Complex).

Follow us on Facebook



Another 'gang-related' shooting

For the second consecutive Sunday, a local man is shot and hospitalized

By Len Robbins
Staff Writer

Another shooting occurred in the Fox Ridge community. On Sunday, September 29, at around noon, Shelby Lee Clark, 36, of Homerville, was shot in the back of the head and stabbed three times. Register said he believes both assaults were "gang-related." Two Homerville men were arrested in Clark's shooting and stabbing.

MOTEL MAKEOVER

Homerville Edition



Work is in the renovated bathroom. It left in the featured room with Royal Inn owner Ron Patel, washed out, from left, Cindy Gibson, James Robbins, Jordan Park, and Bruce Brown. Below is a photo of the room and door to the renovated room.

Team rehabs Royal Inn room for training video

By Len Robbins
Staff Writer

Others have to do it on a budget." Earlier this year, when a state tourism team visited Clinch County, they recommended more first-floor lodging in the county geared toward tourists. Robbins then invited the team to come back to Homerville to make the training video.

"Royal Inn owner Ron Patel was gracious enough to allow us to make over one of her rooms and film it," said Robbins. "Patel paid for some of the fundamental work, and the team came in and did the rest, buying most of the supplies locally." Robbins said Patel provided new flooring for the main and a new toilet, among other improvements, while the team came in last week and painted, restored the aluminum windows, utilized local artwork from Ron Morgan, and smoothed a "touchy, feely" bed that is also fresh and modern," said Robbins. Patel was impressed with the results.

City Tree Board announces Downtown Tree Project

By Len Robbins
Staff Writer

The newly-formed Homerville Tree Board is asking for the community's help in beautifying the downtown area.

The Tree Board has announced the Downtown Tree Project, a fundraising effort to plant trees in downtown Homerville. The plan is to raise funds to pay for shade trees to be placed along Plant Avenue and on Church Street downtown. Those who donate to the cause can place trees in honor or memory of someone for \$25. A plaque will be placed with the names of those who donate, or who they place a tree in honor or in memory of, according to Tree Board Chairman Len Robbins.

2nd Place

The Clinch County News, Homerville

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BLACK COUNTY MAGAZINE

► **REMEMBERING:** Memorial Day Service honors veterans, C8
THREE SUSPECTS FACING DRUG CHARGES
 Authorities attempting to serve a warrant made arrests and seized drugs, cash • A2
LEAGUE CHAMPIONS NAMED • C2
READING
 The Fannin County Library Summer Reading Program begins with a kickoff event in Blue Ridge • B1

THE NEWS OBSERVER

Blue Ridge, Georgia Wednesday, Mar 28, 2013 24 Pages • 2 Sections • 70 Cents

Utility rates reduced

Water, sewer charges fall in McCaysville

By Brian K. Finnegan

Water and sewer rates for customers of the McCaysville water system have been reduced. At a called meeting Wednesday, May 22, members of the McCaysville City Council voted unanimously to accept the new structure that had recently been imposed and exact new rates.

Under the new rates, customers will see a reduction from their last bill.

The rates that were scrapped had been the subject of a great deal of disapproval from customers of the McCaysville system, with some reporting bills that had doubled, tripled or more.

Councilman Richard Wagner, the city's water commissioner, said when it was realized that the city's water system was going to the hole, that he had contacted the Georgia Municipal Association for assistance, and the GMA had referred him to the Georgia Rural Water Association, which devised a rate structure that the council then enacted, effective April 1.

The rate structure devised by Georgia Rural Water was complex, and included base charges based on "individual residential units," debt service charges, and administration fees, as well as escalating rates for water, so that as customers' water consumption went up, the charge for that water got progressively higher.

City Clerk Nancy Goddard said equivalent residential units, or ERUs, were based on estimated water consumption by square footage, with one ERU

see WATER, page A2

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

196 Fannin High School seniors receive diplomas

News Observer photo/Don Jones



Fannin County High School 2013 graduate Brittany Collins shows off her diploma following the 37th annual commencement ceremony Friday, May 24. She was among 196 graduates who received diplomas.

By Don Jones

One hundred sixty-six Fannin County High School seniors received their high school diplomas Friday, May 24, during the 37th annual commencement, as a crowd of more than 3,000 family and friends watched in the football stadium.

Among the graduates were 28 honor graduates, including valedictorian Williams-Alex Paterson and salutatorian Heather Nicole Johnson.

In his speech, Paterson encouraged his fellow classmates to "never forget where you came from, because this class has accomplished things we never thought possible."

He said, "Have the fear of your life as you leave here because tonight we start out on a new life."

Johnson said her classmates to "find a love, whatever it is ahead," and thanked her dad

see FCBS, page A2

Boy dies from injuries

10-year-old was struck on SR 60 in McCaysville

By Brian K. Finnegan

The young boy struck by a vehicle while trying to cross Hwy 60 last week in McCaysville has died.

Jacob Stubbs, 10, of Ellaville, Ga., near Americus, succumbed to his injuries at Erlanger Medical Center in Chattanooga early Wednesday morning.

May 22, two days after the accident occurred.

According to a report filed by Trooper First Class Cody White of the Georgia State Patrol, the accident occurred Monday, May 20, at about 5 p.m. when Stubbs ran up a set of steps on the Toccoa River side of Hwy 60 near the Rolling Thunder River Co. and dived out into the path of an oncoming pickup truck driven by Gregory A. Sims, 35, of McCaysville, who was driving eastbound of McCaysville toward Mineral Bluff on Hwy 60.

White said Stubbs ran up the steps and into the road without slowing down, and that the speed of Sims' truck was not an issue. "It's just an unfortunate situation," he said.

White said no charges are being filed, and the Troop "was just in the wrong place at the wrong time."

"It was just a tragic accident," White said. "It could have happened to anybody."

see SAFETY, page A2

3,000 attend 37th annual commencement

By Don Jones

One hundred sixty-six Fannin County High School seniors received their high school diplomas Friday, May 24, during the 37th annual commencement, as a crowd of more than 3,000 family and friends watched in the football stadium.

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He said, "Have the fear of your life as you leave here because tonight we start out on a new life."

Johnson said her classmates to "find a love, whatever it is ahead," and thanked her dad

see FCBS, page A2

Officials agree safety improvements needed on SR 60

By Glenn Harrison

Government and law enforcement officials agree the safety needs to be improved along a stretch of state highway where a 10-year-old boy was killed last week.

Jacob Stubbs of Ellaville, Ga., passed away Wednesday, May 22, after being struck by a pickup truck two days earlier on SR 60 just north of River Road in McCaysville.

The accident has been called unspeakable by the Georgia State Patrol, but officials said the area could still be much safer.

A whitewater rafting company banks one side of the narrow, two-lane road and a river tubing company the other, near the site where Stubbs was hit. During the summer months, both attract large numbers of visitors.

Last Wednesday after learning of the boy's death, McCaysville Mayor Tom Seabolt and members of the city council agreed to request the city's police officers to increase their patrols in the area.

Police Chief W.L. Patten said that drivers exceeding the speed limit are not a big problem there. He said police presence would make drivers be more careful.

However, Patten said lowering the speed limit to 30 mph through the area would improve safety. Currently, the limit climbs from 30 to 35, and then to 45, as drivers leave McCaysville along SR 60.

Fannin County Commission Chairman Bill Sizemore said he had contacted the Georgia

Government and law enforcement officials, including, from left, Fannin County Commission Chairman Bill Sizemore, McCaysville Police Chief W.L. Patten, Georgia State Patrol Trooper First Class Jason Beal, and Fannin County Port 2 Commissioner Larry Jim Beal, on a drive near the site of where 10-year-old Jacob Stubbs was struck. He later died from his injuries. Area leaders have pledged to work to improve safety on the congested stretch of SR 60 near McCaysville.

see SAFETY, page A2

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FANNIN ANIMAL CONTROL HOMELESS
 Chow mix waiting with several other dogs for new, good homes • B3

Volume 23 • Number 102

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1st Place

Barrow Journal, Winder

3rd Place

Dawson Community News, Dawsonville

A community newspaper serving community needs.

Dawson Community News

Wednesday
March 13, 2013
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Students showcase artwork, 1B

STATE BASKETBALL FINAL

'Whole town was proud'

Inside
•Tribute to the Lady Tigers, Page 4-5A
•Our view, Page 6A
•Game coverage, Page 1B



Dawson County Elementary students show their support for the Lady Tigers on Friday. The team finished as state runners-up Saturday after falling to St. Paul's of Atlanta in the final 23-25.

Supporters gather to rally team

By David Hester
dhester@dawsonnews.com

Dawson County turned out in droves to support the Lady Tigers in the team's road through the state basketball playoffs. And while the title eluded them, they will always be winners in the eyes of the community.



Dawson County High School senior Cole Waters, center, leads fellow students to pump up the crowd.

Dawson County High School senior Cole Waters, "It's like they're giving us support to give them support. It's feeding our enthusiasm."



David Hester/Dawson Community News Students greet senior Alle Costley as she makes her way to the bus for Mason on Friday.

Lady Tigers reflect on the season

Finish as state runners-up

By Michelle Hester
mhester@dawsonnews.com

Despite a hard-fought loss Saturday, the Dawson County High School Lady Tigers returned to Dawsonville with their heads held high, proud of their second-place finish and knowing they gave it their all.

School board in talks to purchase buildings

By David Hester
dhester@dawsonnews.com

The Dawson County school system's central office may soon relocate downtown.

The community building would be used for teacher training and meetings.

Community mourning child, 12, who inspired

By Michelle Hester
mhester@dawsonnews.com

Dawson County's beloved "Soldier Boy" died Monday night after a more than five-year battle with cancer.



4B Church events
5C Classifieds
5B Dear Abby
2A Death
5C Legal
7A Opinions
1B Sports

5B College president finalists narrowed.

Inside Dawson County Chamber Chronicle

The Blackshear Times

Liked by Many • Cussed by Some • Read by Them All

146th YEAR • ISSUE 27 • \$1 including tax BLACKSHEAR, GEORGIA 30514 • WEDNESDAY, JULY 3, 2013 16 PAGES, ONE SECTION

Students score well on CRCT

► Pioneer students meet or exceed requirements on 25 of 26 sections on test

Pioneer County students scored high on this year's Criterion-Related Assessment Test (CRCT) according to results released last week.

Students had higher scores than both the state and the eight nearby... The Blackshear region also includes...

...percentage lower than 81. Pioneer County's students met or exceeded requirements in 15 of 26 sections on the test when compared to state and...

...marks just in plain this year," she says. "We can learn quite a bit about what to expect with the results, but the good results are a testament to our students and to our teachers."

Final cost of NFC, gym, library nears \$8 million

By James Hines, Staff Writer

It started in 2004 with a \$10.5 million budget study. The initial construction estimate was \$11 million.

A revised construction budget adding a library at the site put the cost at just over \$7 million — \$7,012,722.28 to be exact.

The final price tag will be close to \$8 million. It is the recently completed NFC building, gymnasium, library and library annex on College Avenue.

The county commission after last week released total expenditures on the complex.

The final bid is \$7,914,000.00. The bid isn't quite final.

"That is all of the expenditures on the building — except for the furniture for the NFC building," says Amy Pitt, financial operations clerk for the board of commissioners.

Although largely complete since March, the NFC building is still under construction. The county commission just last week gave approval for the purchase of tables and chairs. Yushanbough of Superior was awarded the bid at \$10,000.

Several methods were used to pay for construction and materials. Of the total costs, \$10 million, more than 90 percent came from capital projects bond options, some tax (SPLINT) proceeds.

The county also secured a United States Department of Agriculture (Rural Development) loan in 2004 at an interest rate of 4.5 percent. The loan is to be paid back over 10 years with quarterly payments of about \$15,000. The county borrowed \$4.5 million from the USDA for the project. With interest, the total package would be over \$6.7 million.

The county received a \$1.5 million state grant for the library in the 2009 budget. Another \$100,000 came from an income tax referendum after the design of the second floor of the NFC building in March 2012.

County chairman Mark Bowen described the project early in his first term with a vision of having both ends of the street.

Civil War site dig unearths more of prison history

By Warren Hester, Staff Writer

The wooded site of a former Civil War prison camp near Blackshear is a scene of new archeological discovery as a team of volunteers...

...ing, which also uncovered both white and black artifacts...



Georgia Southern University graduate student Robert Gibson (left) and Blackshear State University student Duane Badger examine a fire pit unearthed at the site near Blackshear.

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BOOK 'EM, JOHNNY

Former GBI agent, 94, tells of work busting bad guys

By Russ Anderson, Contributing Writer

Johnny Dixon has been retired longer than he worked, but he hasn't forgotten the 30 years he was an agent for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. During those years he...

...of those cases could have been an episode of CSI.

"We had a good working relationship," he recalls, sitting in his Pioneer County home. "These two brothers dug a hole up and I showed him, if you can believe that, they took the bodies half of their body to their house for several months. We got in. They were not easy to do."

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From left: Johnny Dixon, former GBI agent and author of 'Book 'em, Johnny'; and two other men at a desk.



Rec all-star teams making run to state



Times closed July 4; delivery unchanged. The Times will be closed Thursday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day. Next week's June 10 issue will be published and delivered as to regular schedule.

Patterson packs in the fun at Spirit of Liberty. Page 2

Rec all-star teams making run to state. Page 6

Murder suspects indicted

True bills returned in Cooner case, baby's death

By Kaycee S. Roseman
Staff Writer

CARNEVILLE — A Franklin County grand jury returned an indictment Friday in the death of Benny Anne Cooner.

Cooner was reported missing Dec. 26, 2011, while on her way to work by her boyfriend, David Stuford.

The body was found Feb. 4 in a wooded area off of Coony Road.

David James Stuford, Cooner's boyfriend, was indicted Friday on one count of first-degree murder and one count of kidnapping.

According to the indictment, while in the commission of the felony of aggravated assault, caused the death of Benny Anne Cooner by strangling her with a wire and "did knowingly and intentionally" caused the death of Cooner on or about Jan. 20.

An indictment means that the grand jury found there was enough evidence for the case to continue to trial.

Also indicted by the grand jury on one count of kidnapping and one count of murder was Cheyenne Nicole Stuford.

Stuford was arrested following an investigation into the death of her baby.

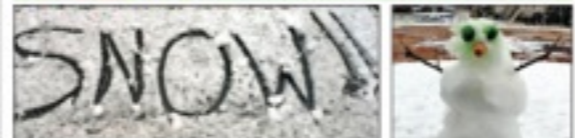
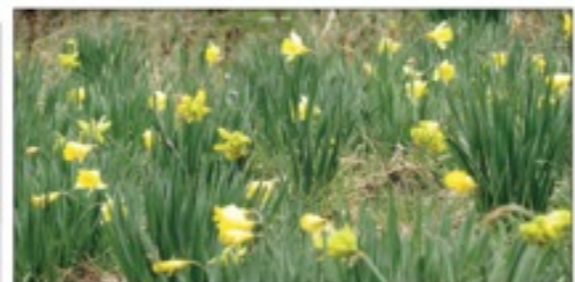
The indictment says that Stuford, while in the commission of the offense of custody of children in the first degree, caused



David James Stuford



Cheyenne Nicole Stuford



Yep, it's March!

April may be chiller some places, but in Northeast Georgia, March can be a brute. The March calendar looks the promise of the beginning of spring and the change to daylight savings time this Sunday. However, nature often reminds local residents that winter is not yet over. Such was the case last week in Franklin County, while yellow daffodils are sprouting in some areas, some local residents woke up to a dusting of snow Saturday and all have dealt with cold temperatures and cold winds this week. The dusting of snow did allow some to make very small snowmen, such as one built by the Rev. Dan Bailey atop his car in Royston Saturday morning (right photo).

County OKs water line project

By Susan Matthews
Staff Writer

CARNEVILLE — Most county residents will soon have access to the county water system.

Franklin County commissioners approved a \$6.6 million project Monday night to extend water lines along four roads in the county.

Lines will be extended on Evans Lake Road, Highway 100 from Coopers Road to Higginbotham Road, Higginbotham Road, Stone Bridge Road from Cherokee Road to Adams Fork Road and Adams Fork Road from Highway 100 to Stone Bridge Road.

The county will pay for the work with about \$600,000 from the Georgia Environmental Protection Authority (GEPA) and the remaining \$6,000,000 or so from special purpose local option sales tax funds.

The GEPA funds must be used on the water system, County Administrator Billy Morse said.

The county will have to get right-of-way for the lines on Higginbotham Road and Adams Fork Road, Morse said.

The work on Stone Bridge Road will connect with the city of Lavonia's lines, Morse said, and provide water to the remaining portions of the road without county or city water.

All of the roads in the project are on the county's priority list for water line extensions, Morse said.

Karing for the Kellums event set for Saturday

LAVONIA — Karing for the Kellums will be Saturday from 4-6 p.m. at the Lavonia American Legion Building.

The event will include bingo games with prizes donated by area businesses, cake and coffee service, a silent auction and raffles.

Proceeds will go to help Courtney and Greg Kellum and family with ongoing medical expenses.

The silent auction includes a USA blanket, a John Deere lawn, a new holiday laptop bag and more.

Included in the raffles are a Haier model 77 rifle with choice of outfit and choice of target, a 4 x 4 SUV cart and a 2004 ATV.

Blanket photos will also be available for sale in or take out. The photos will include one for dog, child and a drink for \$1. Each additional bottle is \$1.

Raffle and bingo prize tickets can be purchased before the event from Tracie Alowitz, Tracy Eldridge, Jeff Eldridge, Melissa Barrett, Cary Barrett, Angie McCaskey, Cindy Herring, Frank's Insurance, Patsy Shank and Roger Dery Clark Cain.

For more information, call Tracie Alowitz at 706-899-7378 or Tracy Eldridge at 706-844-2734.



Dog stylist Leesa Galle shows off Shay the peacock dog.

Poodle proud as a peacock

By Susan Matthews
Staff Writer

LAVONIA — What is blue and brown and turquoise all over? Stay, the comest walking, wagging, wagging, canine canine owned by Leesa Galle.

Galle, a pet stylist at Topline Animal Hospital in Lavonia and longtime professional groomer, has put her considerable artistic skills to work once again and is taking Shay her standard poodle and her other dog looking forward, Henry,

to the Atlanta Pet Fair competition March 3-5.

Last year Galle entered four competitions:

- Dogparent, which is any kind of hair grooming on any breed or mixed breed.
- Brownies, where dogs are brought in to be groomed and the stylist is judged on how they handle the dogs and personal skills.
- Abstract Hairway the stylist is judged on how well they do a cut.

See S14E, Page 10A

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1st Place

Franklin County Citizen Leader, Lavonia

The Blackshear Times

Liked by Many • Cussed by Some • Read by Them All

1965 YEAR • ISSUE 10 • BLACKSHEAR, GEORGIA 30364 • WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2015 • 22 PAGES, TWO SECTIONS

\$1.00
Wednesday

Blackshear budget will need some trimming

City says rising costs, less revenue drain general fund

By Wanda Hester
Managing Editor

The lights on Blackshear's budget talk of a City leaders will have to work out of a nearly \$100,000 general fund deficit as they face their next budget. The City Administrator Scott Hester said several members at Monday's work session.

Problems are on tight budgets are caused by keeping the lights on so much so possible - not only at City Hall office but generally for select areas of street lights. Even if the city believes operating these may not be any money left over for major purchases such as replacing worn out public works and public safety vehicles or for emergency repairs to the city's aging sewer lines.

There is also uncertainty whether voters will approve a continuation of a general fund. Mayor and Councilman Steve Tom (D-2000) that adds millions to city of tax.

All these pressures are contributing to a budget already described as "two years" by city officials in recent years.

Hester said this year's budget is a slight increase of the challenge ahead for the city is creating a finance committee of council members Jerry Smith, David Smith and Jeffrey Pate to review a budget draft for the upcoming 2015-2016 fiscal year that begins July 1.

Hester explained the draft uses the same figures as last year, however, lower rates and rising costs for the same purchase as have caused the non-restricted budget. The council questioned the city's ability to spend about \$10,000 on repairing or replacing sewer lines when only \$40,000 is budgeted. Such problems are common as each year money for the city's deteriorated infrastructure.

A resolution general fund highlight proposed in the second round of the budget for revenue. Roughly \$40,000 is transferred from the general fund to balance the city's 2015 budget deficit. The requirement is a *(Continued on Page 2)*



Four-month-old Jake Westberry of Peterson Creek, a young athlete's dream to Westberry, who was the winner and surprised the first race in Blackshear's recreation department "Yard" Run, announcement to his brother Alan Westberry and cousins Tyler and Trueman.

Teen takes biggest steps yet on road to recovery

Four months after a truck crashed into him while jogging, Jake Westberry goes from wheelchair to one-mile race

By Wanda Hester
Managing Editor

The crowd around the finish line at Blackshear's Platte County Parks and Recreation Department one-mile "Yard" Run began to buzz as 14-year-old Jake Westberry emerged around one of the race's final turns.

A well-wisher held a sign as when he began running his first mile as he pushed his way through the daily morning air.

Westberry in this case, however, had nothing to do with when he started, but in that he did finish. The end of the field had already crossed the line. Jake never got up to a pace faster than a casual walk, as he was accompanied by his father and two cousins.

hunting and work - at a time when he showed just how strong he has been.

"I'm not his family was afraid that cancer was a bright light of my children," says his mother, Pat Westberry.

"He wasn't going to get that close and quit."

Pat Westberry
Mother of Jake Westberry

Some reasons will train for weeks or months at a time for a run. In 2014, Jake, though his training included learning how to walk again.

Four months ago the Petersons manager and his son 17-year-old Jake, Brian Lennan, had been

training for a 5K along Trueman road when they were hit by a pickup truck. Lennan suffered broken bones, but the broken leg, 2-year-old Jake sustained and clinging to life.

Jake spent all of his 40 days in intensive care in a medically induced coma and much of that time on a ventilator. He suffered a mild brain injury, but after surgery, he was able to walk and talk.

He also survived the director of medical equipment and instruction with the Blackshear County School System and as the state director of cancer, behavioral and agriculture education for the Georgia Department of Education.

Concern over whether he would ever survive the trauma *(Continued on Page 2)*

Georgia school chief to visit Fri.

Main school superintendent Dr. John Borge will be visiting Platte County Schools this Friday.



Borge has planned to visit Platte County Middle School and Platte County High School. The district superintendent is expected to stop in and observe classes at all three schools.

Borge will visit Midway Elementary to begin the day. He is expected to arrive at 7:30 a.m. and plan to sit in on classes at the high school at 10:30 and spend one or two hours visiting them.

After leaving home, Borge is expected to visit several schools in Ware County during the afternoon.

Borge has served as Georgia's state school superintendent since his election in 2010.

Prior to entering politics, Borge served as a high school English teacher, middle school principal, assistant principal, and principal during his 22 years in public education.

He also served as the director of secondary curriculum and instruction with the Blackshear County School System and as the state director of cancer, behavioral and agriculture education for the Georgia Department of Education.

Steady rains push Satilla to highest level in four years

By James Allen
Staff Writer

Platte County Schools closed last Tuesday. The county had steep, steady rains and the Satilla River reached its highest level in almost four years during last week's heavy rainfall.

The received no reports of injuries or damage, according to James Linnert Roberts, director of the Platte County Emergency Management Agency (EMA). No injuries or damage were reported.

Most areas of the county reported at least four inches of rain through last Tuesday with some isolated areas receiving over six inches. Roberts said Platte County weathered the storm well.

"We had some mud in bad spots and the streets closed for a day, but we didn't have any real damage that I know of," he said.

Roberts said Monday this flood was the *(Continued on Page 2)*

Pierce rec girls are state champions!

By James Allen
Staff Writer

The Platte County Pierceton Girls 7th grade team won the 2014-2015 Georgia Recreation and Park Association (GRPA) state championship in Georgia last week. The girls defeated a 2014-2015 and Pierce County 7th grade team from Wilkes County, 148-100 over Bladen County, and



The Platte County Pierceton Girls 7th grade team won the 2014-2015 Georgia Recreation and Park Association (GRPA) state championship in Georgia last week. The girls defeated a 2014-2015 and Pierce County 7th grade team from Wilkes County, 148-100 over Bladen County, and

a 138-120 over Wilkes County with a 7-0 run in the final minutes. Team members gathered from, in clockwise order: Angela Green, Nicole Lewis, Angela Lenoir, Nicole Lewis, Nicole Lewis, Nicole Lewis and Nicole Lewis. Coachman Brian and Brian C. *(Photo courtesy: Bill Lenoir)*

Say 'I do' to these tips and deals

Check out our annual bridal and prom special section inside!

Spring clocks forward this weekend

Don't forget to spring forward this weekend. Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 a.m. Sunday, March 8. Clocks are set forward one hour to convert to Daylight Saving Time.

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3rd Place

The Clayton Tribune

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SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS
Leaders vow to find out if Boston bombers had help. Nation, 5A

walking, talking
MIRACLE

Micro-preemie Gerson Xavier Vasquez, shown here with sister, Alyssa, left, and Ella, was born nearly 18 weeks early, weighing 1 pound, 8.7 ounces.

Film studio in the works for OFS site
By Casey Young
casey.young@gwinnettdailypost.com

Micro-preemie now toddler to walk in March of Dimes
By Casey Young
casey.young@gwinnettdailypost.com

Hero firefighter's girlfriend says 'yes'
By Tracy Ecker
tracy.ecker@gwinnettdailypost.com

Celebrities spotted filming in Norcross
By Melissa Kormanik
melissa.kormanik@gwinnettdailypost.com

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2nd Place

The Toccoa Record

► **NO RESPONSE:** Polk County officials won't respond to allegations, A7

SHERIFF ADDS PILL DROP OFF

Outdated or unneeded medications can be dropped off at the Fannin Co. Sheriff's office 24 hours a day for destruction • A2

MONTH TARGETS CHILD ABUSE • A3



MOVED

Snack in a Backpack has a new home in Blue Ridge and has received its first food delivery • B1



THE NEWS OBSERVER

Blue Ridge, Georgia **Wednesday, April 17, 2013** 28 Pages • 3 Sections • 75 Cents

Land deal threatens grant

City stands to lose \$4 million

By **CRYSTAL MACE**
Staff Writer

Needing a location for a new water tank has Blue Ridge officials scrambling

to obtain property in time to meet a July deadline. Under the terms of a \$4 million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant, the city must bid out a new water tank and other water and sewer system improvements by July and complete the work by 2014. Otherwise, the city will lose the grant.

The mayor and council members discussed the situation at their workshop session Tuesday morning, April 9, and again at their regular meeting last night. During those sessions, the city officials heard an offer from one of the two property owners, Roy Patten, and also agreed to a ultimatum for Patten and the other property owner, Glenda Marchant. Since then, Marchant passed away unexpectedly Friday, April 12.

Mayor Donna Whitener told Patten at the end of the workshop that she would look into his offer. Council members approved an offer of \$7,500 for the property and gave Patten and Marchant 10 days to reply. Otherwise, they would move forward with condemnation proceedings. The next day, information on LANDS, page A3



Donna Whitener and Roy Patten at the workshop.

Eaton, Johnson at odds

Animal rescuer says proposal not requested

By **BRIAN K. FINNEMAN**
Staff Writer

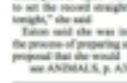
Animal rescuer Jan Eaton took issue at the Fannin County Board of Commissioners meeting Tuesday, April 9, over State 1 Commissioner Earl Johnson's comments at the meeting two weeks earlier calling for a proposal to take over the county's animal control operation.

Eaton had offered at the Feb. 25 commission board meeting to take over operations of animal control through her group, 10-State Pet Rescue.

At the March 26 commission board meeting, Johnson said he had asked at the March 12 meeting for a proposal to be submitted at the next meeting, and called for that proposal. However, no one was present with a proposal and his call went unanswered.

At the April 9 meeting, Eaton said she did not recall any request from Johnson for a proposal to be submitted. "I was not asked by Mr. Earl Johnson for a proposal," Eaton stated in the board meeting minutes.

Eaton said she was in the process of preparing a proposal that she would see ANIMALS, p. A3



Jan Eaton says she was not asked for a proposal.

RACERS FIND CHALLENGES

Annual adventure featured new obstacles for participants



Emily Edmondson prepares to help a competitor at the end of a zip line during Saturday's Blue Ridge Mountain Adventure Race. This part of the course, at Zip-Line Canopy Tours in Cashew Valley, was one of several new twists and turns that participants faced in the 10th annual event.

► Please see SPORTS for more about the race

Alcohol blamed in deaths

By **BRIAN K. FINNEMAN**
Staff Writer

Alcohol appears to be a factor in an early morning crash on Hwy. 64 in Polk County last week that claimed the lives of a Horraman, Ga., couple. According to an accident report filed by Trooper Cameron Aubill of the Tennessee Highway Patrol, the crash occurred Wednesday, April 10. The report states driver William F. Rogers, 74, and his passenger, Judith L. Rogers, 75, both of Horraman, were traveling west on Hwy. 64 in a 2002 Chevrolet Silverado pickup with a bear trailer attached when an oncoming eastbound 2006 Nissan Titan pickup driven by Warren G. Rogers, 31, of Cleveland, Tenn., crossed the centerline of the highway and struck Rogers' vehicle head-on.

The wreck occurred less than five miles west of Ducktown, between Road Gap and the Boone Whitewater Center in a 50 mph speed zone. During the crash, the bear came loose and struck Rogers' truck, the report states.

Both William and Judith Rogers were dead at the scene. Rogers was transported to Skidmore Medical Center in Cleveland with injuries that were not his death, according to the report.

The report states Rogers is believed to have been drinking prior to the wreck, and blood test results are pending. Criminal charges are pending in connection with the wreck, the report states.

Autopsy says death was suicide

By **BRIAN K. FINNEMAN**
Staff Writer

The death of a Blue Ridge woman whose body was found in a wooded area along Windy Ridge Road that had been listed as a suicide. Investigations Lt. Justin Turner of the Fannin County Sheriff's Department said the preliminary autopsy results on Rhonda Dorelli, 31, determined that her manner of death was consistent with having been self-inflicted.

However, Turner said determination of the exact cause of death is awaiting completion of the full autopsy report by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation crime lab.

Dorelli's body was discovered last night, April 6, by a neighbor shortly after a missing person report had been filed on her, according to Turner.

Turner said the two deer were seized at the same time by a DNR wildlife biologist. He said the deer were subsequently destroyed "according to department policy and by law" by a wildlife biologist because no suitable place could be found for them due to their age and numerous following the arraignment, Mitchell said he had been of a 12-month probation and a \$500 fine in exchange for see MITCHELL, page A3



Earl Johnson said he was not asked for a proposal.

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FANNIN ANIMAL CONTROL HOMELESS Blue-eyed husky among pets waiting at Fannin Animal Control • B4

Volume 25 • Number 97

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1st Place

The News Observer, Blue Ridge



COMMUNITY
Wayne Moore honored for his gifts and service to community
Page 1C



SPORTS
Winder-Barrow Softball holds off Apalachee
Page 1D

Barrow County News

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Board OKs study on privatization

Commissioners express concern over possible changes

By Lisa Foster
Barrow County News

The Board of Commissioners — with the exception of Linda Berry — Tuesday night approved a plan to spend up to \$2,000 to study whether privatization of county departments would result in significant savings.

County Manager Jack Connel explained the move, saying it would not change anything within the county, noting it only set theoretical lines to how a consultant and look at the potential of privatization.

Connel said he'd talked to Berry about the privatization study, and had received a proposal costing \$5,000 to spend 30-60 days to "ascertain, in their view, in their level of expertise ... is there any significant savings?"

If the county proceeded to the next stage of the process, the county could spend \$27,000. If the county moved all the way to privatization, the lion's fee would be \$25,000.

He also noted that he had spoken with several firms which had done similar studies and helped other cities — Barrow is the first county in Georgia to consider a move — to see if there might be savings. Connel

said the firms all said there was a potential for savings ranging from hundreds of thousands to a million dollars annually.

Connel also touched on what several employees in the audience were concerned with — whether privatization meant loss of jobs.

"Based on what the firms have told me ...

See **COMMUNITY**, Page 2A

Project ADAM buys county building

By Lisa Foster
Barrow County News

The Barrow County Board of Commissioners approved a sale to a local drug and alcohol rehabilitation center Tuesday night.

Project ADAM will purchase the old water authority building for \$700,000 and pay for it by selling services to the county.

Project ADAM's residents will clean several county buildings once a week, at rates depending upon the size of the building and that money will go toward paying off the building. In addition to the \$700,000 purchase price, the county will also allow the facility to use money from funds specifically set aside for drug and alcohol rehabilitation to bring the building up to needed standards.

The contract was unanimously agreed to the plan, but will require quarterly reports on the progress and amount of money expended.

In late 2012 Project ADAM's CEO, Mike Connel, spoke to commissioners.

See **ADAM**, Page 2A

WINDER HOSTS ANNUAL SUMMER'S END RACE

Catch me if you can



Lisa Foster
Barrow County News

The streets of Winder were filled with spectators instead of cars Saturday morning, as the annual Summer's End Race came through town. Runners completed in both a 5K and 10K, and there was a fun run for youngsters. For more on the race, see Pages 2B & 3B.



Local authorities, feds investigate counterfeit ring

By Stanley Dunlap
Barrow County News

Local authorities and the U.S. Secret Service are investigating a suspected counterfeit money ring that's led to over \$100,000 being found in Barrow County.

Last week, authorities were able to seize 24,000 \$100 bills. The allegedly forging in counterfeit money into the county after being tipped off about its arrival. The investigation began after business security reported

that they had received counterfeit money.

"On Aug. 9 a small amount of marijuana along with counterfeit bills was found in a vehicle the District resident was driving, according to Sheriff Paul Smith."

Smith was charged with one count of possession of marijuana and second-degree forgery.

"We did intercept that person coming into town, intercepted him and found more counterfeit bills in the vehicle," Smith said. "Overall \$20,000 of counterfeit

money has been recovered so far by Barrow County authorities.

"What we've done is been able to get a pretty good feel by getting back \$10,000," Smith said.

"We do know there is some more counterfeit money floating out there."

The Barrow County Sheriff's Office and Winder police are asking businesses to be on the look-out for counterfeit bills ranging from \$20's to \$50's. The money at first appears to be authentic but the paper is rough, according to

Winder police news release.

"We've found out it's not being produced in Barrow County but possibly the Atlanta area or (Gwinnett County)," Smith said.

It's important, says Smith, that any money believed to be counterfeit is reported to law enforcement as soon as possible. In some states on the person paying with a counterfeit bill is someone that it's not real. In other cases people are occasionally seeing fake money so with real bills to not seem suspicious, he said.

See **WINDER**, Page 2A



INSIDE

Clayton 1C
Crawford 1C
Dicks 2A
Opava 1A
Sims 1B

BARROW COUNTY, HOME OF...

Bob
Radgway
Richard (D.) Winder III
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3rd Place

Barrow County News, Winder

Page One

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2nd Place

The Walton
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LONGTIME CMH EMPLOYEES HONORED... Page 5 VALCOURT CLINIC HOLDS OPEN HOUSE... Page 10



99th YEAR, ISSUE 95 • 2013 THE CLINCH COUNTY NEWS Wednesday, June 26, 2013 HOMERVILLE, GEORGIA 13 PAGES, ONE SECTION

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Formers Market set for Thursday, June 27

June's Formers Market is set for Thursday, June 27, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Everyone is invited. The Better Horticulture Program is looking for all types of growers and hobby gardeners to showcase and sell produce on that date. Please contact Jenny Robbins at 912-487-4900 or e-mail jrobbins@clinchcountynews.com for more information.

New Vision to hold July 4th celebration

New Vision Church of God will be having a 4th of July Celebration on Thursday, July 4, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the church. There will be games for all ages, water slides, a beauty lesson, live music, and free hamburgers, hot dogs, and refreshments. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Fundraising golf tournament is Saturday

A golf tournament fundraiser will be held Saturday, June 29, at the Pines Golf Course starting at 8 a.m. Cost is \$200 per team. Maximum size is 12 each (4 per team max). A driving contest will be held and cost is \$5 per hole (max of 3 holes). Hole sponsorships are \$100 per hole. For information contact Renee Magan at 912-470-8993.

Fifth Sunday Service to be held at Shiloh

The 5th Sunday Community Service will be held at Shiloh Congregational Methodist Church on Sunday, June 30, at 9 a.m., with Rev. James Davis of Homerville United Methodist Church speaking. Everyone is invited to attend. This community-wide worship service.

Color Guard holding doughnut fundraiser

Clinch County High School Marching Band Color Guard is holding a Doughnut Fundraiser to raise funds for uniforms. Color Guard members will be taking orders through Tuesday, July 9, for doughnuts or chocolate breaded donuts. For information or to place an order contact Color Guard Sponsor Chris Moore at 912-239-8904.

St. Paul celebrating pastor's anniversary

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church will celebrate the Pastor's 25th anniversary Monday, Wednesday, July 14, Friday, July 19, and Sunday, July 21. Week night services will be at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday services will be at 11 a.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

CCMS football starting football workouts

Homerville Clinch County Middle School football will start Monday, July 8, at Clinch County High School. Workouts will be from 9 a.m. to 12 a.m. Day rating 6th-8th graders playing in shorts for CCMS need to have physicals updated prior to workouts.

Revival services at New Vision COG

New Vision Church of God is having Revival services with Jan Albridge from Wednesday, June 26-Friday, June 28. Services begin nightly at 7 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.



WORTH THE 'TRIP'

Dr. Gayle Hughes reflects on educational career on eve of retirement as superintendent

By Tanya O'Berry, Contributing Writer
Most people begin a career with the idea of retirement as the destination, but for retiring Superintendent Dr. Gayle Hughes, her career has been about the "TRIP."
"Her system has been successful because we have Trust, Respect, Integrity, and Pride. TRIP, which has led to our progress," said Hughes, whose retirement is effective at the end of June. "We will never reach our destination because even as I leave, I know our system will continue to connect to our children and ensure the 'TRIP' continues as we reach all the children we educate."
Gayle Hughes' trip began in Newark, where she was born while her mother waited on her father to return from his stint in World War II within 15 days after her arrival. Eugene and Helen Clark moved to his hometown of Crossville where she has two brothers and sister Lind. It was here Hughes received her education at Alexander Stephens Institute until she left high school early and attended Oglethorpe at Emory and completed her first degree at Emory.
"My parents had a huge impact on my entire life," she said. "I would have ended up majoring in English and journalism at Emory during the late 1960s, but I realized I needed to have a profession where I could be justifiably employed as my daddy called it."
At the encouragement of her mother, she took courses that would enable her to teach, but she met Homerville native John Hughes, and his career in the military took them out of Georgia until 1976.
"Number of my children was born in Georgia," she said. "John (he was born in California and Tavis was born in Texas. John made the decision to come home, and we arrived here in 1976."
When she arrived in Clinch County, Hughes plunged into Homerville life not realizing she had found her life's work.
"I thought I wanted to be part of the community and feel like the path was teaching," she recalled. "I never looked back. I didn't always know what I wanted to do, but it was the opportunity of a lifetime."
Hughes began teaching English and journalism - at the old high school - on the same campus where she returned 10 years later as the curriculum director. She served as the Literary Coordinator, Pastor Beta and Cheerleading sponsor, while serving as a class sponsor for the classes of 1980 and 1986. She was named STAR teacher also during her time in the classroom.
In reflecting on her career, she recalls her days in the classroom as among her favorite.
"The beauty of my years, truly, has been in the range of students," she said. "I was very fortunate to have taught students who were college prep, vocational and compensatory, plus the journalism students and literary team students. Yes" (Continued on Page 2)



Zoning change clears way for new business

By Len Robbins, Staff Writer
A new business that could bring an extra \$20 million to Homerville passed a hurdle Friday, as the Homerville City Council approved a zoning change.
The Homerville Zoning Board recommended that the zoning of a Gilman Circle residence be changed from residential to B2. At a public hearing Friday, the council approved that recommendation, clearing the way for Best's new Normal Life of Georgia to plan a "community living arrangement" group home for disabled residents on the property.
McIntire, executive director of BestCare of Valdosta, said the home will employ between 15-20 people, mostly CHAs who will care for four wheelchair-bound residents. She said McIntire Partners is in the process of purchasing the building, which will be renovated and modified to meet codes required for such a facility. BestCare will then lease the building, according to the arrangement.
McIntire said the location, formerly the home of Jim and Helen Chambers, was chosen because of its proximity to Clinch Memorial Hospital, and retail outlets in the area.
McIntire said they hope to have the home in operation by August or September.

Annual Family Fun Day to be held Friday at John Cooper Park

By Len Robbins, Staff Writer
Community
Christa Daniels said this year's event will have games, a water slide, a beauty lesson, food and more.
"We'll also have some learning opportunities for kids this year, with a speaker from the armed forces, and others," said Daniels. "We'll also have games, live music, and free hot dogs, hamburgers, and drinks for those who attend."
Daniels and other organizers started the fun day last year in an effort to bring the community together and spread positive activities for local youth and families. He noted that anyone wanting to help with the event to call him at 912-487-4110 or stop by Christa's Beauty Supplies on North Church Street in Homerville.
Tickets for the event are also on sale and can be purchased from Daniels at Christa's Beauty Supplies or by calling Daniels.

School board considering November date for SPLOST vote

By Len Robbins, Staff Writer
The Clinch County Board of Education is eyeing a November date for a SPLOST renewal date. At a public meeting Monday board members discussed having the renewal referendum for SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) on the November 5 general election ballot. "SPLOST 2," the potential third one-percent sales tax that will go toward educational programs and facilities in Clinch County school system history, would ask county voters to raise the tax for another five years.
At Monday's meeting, Superintendent Dr. Gayle Hughes said... (Continued on Page 2)



'Blend' bringing unique sound to Homerville
Blend, a reggae duo with horns, will bring their unique sound to Homerville Wednesday, June 26, performing at the United Methodist Church social hall at 6:30 p.m. Blend performs around the nation, playing recordings of music from the '60s and '70s with no instruments other than their voices. Everyone is invited to attend this special performance.

1st Place

The Post-Searchlight, Bainbridge

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Former Charleston forward transfers to GSU Sports | Page 11

Mother charged in toddler's mauling death Region | Page 8

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GSU professor survives bombing

Former students also in Boston for race recall the experience

By MIC BOSTON
 While thousands of people throughout Southern New Jersey and Georgia recalled the aftermath of Monday's bombings at the Boston Marathon, a few members of the Statesboro and Georgia Teachers' Association found themselves in the middle of the tragedy.

Former GSU students Robert Galt and Galt's wife, Susan, were in Boston when the bombings occurred. Galt was in town to cheer on a friend running in the race while sports management professor Kris Minkler was competing in the marathon.

Thankfully, none of them found themselves in harm's way, but all were in the immediate vicinity of the bombs that killed seven and injured more than 170 slightly more than four hours into the race.

"We were right down the street at the (Columbian) hotel when it happened," Galt's wife said. "The first we noticed for obvious reasons it sounded like thunder. I said for a minute I was in a dream, but the second explosion went off."

The Wiggin was in town with three others to watch their friend Whitney Swanson compete in the race. Swanson had qualified in past years, but Monday was the first time she had

See BOSTON, Page 7

Beach Night at the Averitt Center



Arnellia Jones, center, joins the singing on stage with Beach Boys tribute band Surfer USA during Saturday's performance at the Averitt Center. The Averitt Center for the Arts brought the California band to town as part of their performance season and packed the house with fans who were at the concert and picnic. Jones was introduced as the winner of the Connect Statesboro Business Contest after generating the most votes of seven candidates. The contest benefited the Averitt Center's Youth Scholarship Fund and Bulloch County's Relay for Life. For more coverage on the contest, see Connect Statesboro in stacks today.

Boom in Boro

No official cause given for loud noise that shook walls, windows in Bulloch County

By MUIR EAG BRADY
 A loud boom that rattled both windows and eaves in Bulloch County Tuesday evening still hasn't been officially explained, but some public safety leaders believe it was a sonic boom.

Witness reports are conflicting as to the cause of the boom. Statesboro Public Safety Director Wendell Turner said it was likely a military aircraft from Fort Stewart, but officials at Fort Stewart deny the boom was a result of an aircraft from that military base.

A Statesboro man said he witnessed the cause of the loud noise.

"I was taking the dog walk," said Mike Moses, a 24-year-old professional

guitar and Georgia Southern University student who lives on Old Highway Road. "I was looking up at the sky, thinking about how pretty it was, when I saw a 7-37. It was in the military or I knew what it was. I was looking toward the front end. The 7-37 flew overhead, about 7,000 to 10,000 feet, low to the ground, came straight and then, I heard the boom. It was real loud."

The reports that Fort Stewart-based aircraft caused the boom might have originated from "misheard" reports from a Georgia Emergency Management Agency official who was at a public safety training class in Statesboro Tuesday. GEMA Public Affairs Director Ben Davis said.

See BOON, Page 3

Boy Scouts celebrated at fundraiser

Al Burke named 2013 Good Scout Honoree

By EIT HARRISON

Boy Scouts and their supporters were honored Monday for service to the community and dedication to the group's ideals.

The local friends of Scouting organization held its fourth annual Good Scout Banquet at Statesboro Presbyterian Church to support The Boy Scouts of America, Ogeechee District.

More than 100 Scouts representing Boy Scouts of America Groups 362 and 363 — parents and business owners gathered to celebrate and promote civic and scouting programs.

WTOG-TV news anchor Senay Dixon, a former state representative, headlined the program as keynote speaker.

Dixon praised young men for exhibiting determination listed in the Scout Law — loyalty, trustworthiness, cheerfulness and obedience — that he believes are vital to our nation.

"In our youth, my grandfather, a poor dirt farmer, used to tell me that if you want to get ahead in life, you need to get involved in scouting to serve as leaders."

See MOUNTAIN, Page 7

Two arrested in Foxridge shooting

By MUIR EAG BRADY

Statesboro police arrested two men in an apartment complex shooting Tuesday.

Around 8 p.m., Statesboro police responded to Foxridge Apartments, where they found Jonathan Burton, of Prichard, who had been shot in the pubic area. Statesboro Public Safety Director Wendell Turner said.

Burton was treated at the hospital.

On Tuesday, Statesboro police Detective Kevin Hester arrested Courtney Spence, 21, of Chatham County, and Steven Carter, 24, of Georgia Highway 24, in connection with the shooting. Both were taken to the Bulloch County Jail, each charged with aggravated assault, possession of a firearm during a crime, and possession of a firearm within 1,000 feet of a housing project.

A 911 call from someone reporting "multiple gun shots fired" resulted in police responding to the apartment at Buckingham Road near U.S. Highway 90 North.

Officers and detectives searched the area and interviewed several witnesses and determined there were no other victims involved, there were a few more vehicles that appeared to be damaged by gun fire, he said.



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Police reports available
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MOULTRIE, GA WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2013 TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2013 50 CENTS

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AREA DEATHS
 With Roy Jamerson, 50, of Moultrie; **Kevin T. Garcia**, 16, of Moultrie; **Dorcy Porter Wynn**, 81, of Moultrie.

South Ga. officials expecting sinkholes

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Engineers and public works officials in south Georgia say recent rains could lead to sinkholes forming in the area.

At the Moultrie Public Works Board meeting, Jim Deaton-Bowman said the town has received several sinkholes in the area since about the middle of last month when a Florida earth quake and other factors were said to have caused the holes.

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Hail of gunfire on 2nd Street

More than 30 shots: 1 person dead, 3 hurt

By Alan Wadden

MOULTRIE — The sound of a hail of gunfire was heard on 2nd Street in Moultrie on Tuesday night as a gunman shot at a group of people who were standing around a car on the street.

The hail of gunfire started around 10 p.m. and lasted about 15 minutes, according to police. One person was killed and three others were injured.

Police are looking for a suspect who fired the shots.



Police are looking for a suspect who fired the shots. The photo shows a bullet hole in a wall. The photo shows a street scene at night with a car and people.

AREA DEATHS
 With Roy Jamerson, 50, of Moultrie; **Kevin T. Garcia**, 16, of Moultrie; **Dorcy Porter Wynn**, 81, of Moultrie.

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MOULTRIE, GA WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2013 TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2013 50 CENTS

Mental health: More patients than one doctor can handle

By Susan Wadden

MOULTRIE — There are 100,000 people in Georgia with mental health issues, but only 10,000 doctors to treat them. The shortage of mental health professionals is a growing problem in the state.

Local health officials are looking for ways to address the shortage. One idea is to train more people to become mental health professionals.

Park chief wins state award

Staff Report

ALBUQUERQUE — A Georgia State Park Manager has won the 2012 National Park System Award for his leadership and dedication to the park system.



Local health officials are looking for ways to address the shortage. One idea is to train more people to become mental health professionals.

By Susan Wadden

MOULTRIE — There are 100,000 people in Georgia with mental health issues, but only 10,000 doctors to treat them. The shortage of mental health professionals is a growing problem in the state.

Local health officials are looking for ways to address the shortage. One idea is to train more people to become mental health professionals.

MOULTRIE, GA WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2013 TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2013 50 CENTS

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The Moultrie Observer



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SPICE They're ensuring that victims have a voice **Page B1**

SPORTS All hands on deck in Region 5-AA **Page A12**

TIMES-GEORGIAN

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The tent covering the music stage at the Curves & Chrome Rally for a Cure at the V-Plex in Villa Rica collapsed Saturday afternoon under the weight of too much rain, injuring five people who were treated and released from Turner Medical Center/Villa Rica's emergency departments. All five were reported to be in good-to-fair condition.

Five treated, released after tarp collapses at V-Plex

FROM STAFF REPORTS A tarp collapsed onto a stage Saturday at the Curves & Chrome Rally for a Cure at the V-Plex in Villa Rica, injuring five people who were later listed as in good to fair condition. The collapse came following a sudden thunderstorm. "People were trying to get the water off the tarp," said Villa Rica Mayor J. Collins said. "They had already pulled the plug on the electricity, and people were trying to get the water off the tarp."

Smith expects new fire chief by Oct. 1

Chairman: Some firefighters were underpaid

BY WINSTON JONES Carroll County should have a new fire chief in office by Oct. 1, with 42 applicants now seeking the position, according to the county commission chairman. "We hope to have a new fire chief named and in place within the next 30 to 60 days," commission Chairman Marty Smith said. "There is such a large department, with more than 100 employees, we want to make the selection slow and deliberate." Veteran Carroll County firefighter Jerry Eason is currently serving as interim chief, following the departure of Tracy Smith last spring. Marty Smith said an outside consultant, with more than 20 years of firefighting experience, will help review all the applications and narrow the field down to about 10 top candidates. He said the consultant is being used to help with all the experience and certification issues that are involved in the field. "We've posted the job at the local level and on state websites, so I don't like we're getting the best candidates," he said. "We've had applicants from Georgia, Florida, Tennessee and North Carolina. Two are former firefighters." Smith said, as with past county administrative hiring, a five-person panel will interview and rank the final 10 candidates. He said the panel will be put together within the next week and will include himself, a human resources representative, and county Executive Assistant Susan Malry, one person with fire experience. **SEE CHIEF PAGE A7**

A Run for the Ages

Smith carrying the torch for Carrollton senior citizens

BY GREG CURICK Will Smith refuses to slow down in his 67th year. The Carrollton resident has been showing off his speed in recent years and now he's taking his talents to Cleveland, Ohio. After dominating the Peach State track and field scene over the past two years at the Georgia Golden Olympics, Smith has qualified to compete in the 2013 National Senior Games this week, where his goal remains the same — bring home the gold. Smith, 76, won a gold, silver and bronze medal during his first trip to the Georgia Golden Olympics in 2011 and then returned to Warner Robins last year and captured the gold medals, sweeping the 50, 100 and 200-meter dashes and also claiming top honors in the shot put and weight throw. A U.S. Army veteran that served his country in the Korean War, Smith intends to add to that collection this coming week when he hits the track for the 50, 100 and 200-meter dashes, along with facing some muscle for the shot put, in the 75-79 age group. And while Smith, a cancer survivor, will be that competitive fire in his belly, his mission is about more than just winning in quality times and winning medals. First and foremost, Smith is carrying the torch for all senior citizens in and around Carrollton. **SEE SMITH PAGE A6**

After the fire

Services will continue at Bethesda Baptist

BY WINSTON JONES The ashes from a destructive early morning blaze at Bethesda Baptist Church were still smoldering Wednesday night when its parishioners met for their traditional prayer service. "It was really well," said the Rev. Mike Overby, Bethesda's pastor. "We had an opportunity for people to share their memories of the building and begin the healing process. They have lots of good memories about their baptisms and weddings in the church. It will take time to get past the grieving stage." Fire units from both Carroll County and city of Carrollton were called to the church southwest of Carrollton about 4 a.m. Wednesday, and found the old sanctuary fully engulfed in flames. The cause of the fire has not yet been determined, but hot play is not suspected. The church had been holding its Sunday services in the adjacent Family Life Center for the past few years since it had outgrown the sanctuary, but Sunday school classrooms and the church office were still located in the building. **SEE BETHESDA PAGE A7**

Southwire Back to School Giveaway



Southwire Company employee Jennifer Brinkley talks to a group of students at the annual Southwire Back to School Giveaway. Southwire distributed 1,000 of the large container supplies. Younger students received large containers of crayons, colored pencils, rulers, markers, hand sanitizers, glue sticks and scissors. Older students got pencils, index cards, highlighters, notebooks, rulers, ballpoint pens, paper and hand sanitizer. **CPH Photo/Times Staff**

1st Place

Times-Georgian, Carrollton

3rd Place

Athens Banner-Herald

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Franklin Forum

Franklin County Citizen Leader

Our View ▶ Votes needed on personnel changes

The Georgia Open Meetings Act allows for Franklin County Board of Commissioners and other local government boards to hold private meetings for only a few reasons. Discussing specific employees or positions is one of those reasons.

Boards are not allowed to vote in closed sessions on such matters. All votes must be in the open in front of the public.

In their last two meetings on Monday and on Sept. 30, commissioners have spent nearly three hours total behind closed doors discussing personnel issues.

No public votes have been taken. At that time, the following personnel changes have been made:

- One county manager's resignation has been accepted.
- An interim county manager has been appointed.
- The EMSA Director has been fired.
- An interim EMSA Director has been named.
- The fired EMS Director has been rehired.

County Commission Chairman Thomas Springs insists that no votes have been taken behind closed doors on these issues. That's either untrue or shows a dereliction of duty on the part of the commissioners.

Commissioners may very well have just given verbal instructions or have come to a consensus on the issues before EMS Chief James Deasley. The hiring or firing of that position is in the purview of the county manager.

But if that happened, we would argue that the board should still have voted openly if they are going to instruct the county manager to hire an employee, they should be on the record, in public, for or against such an action.

As the outpouring of support for Deasley shows - and his subsequent rehiring as EMS Director indicates - commissioners should have sought out the public need and taken input from the public on the issue before Deasley was let go.

Having the firing or former County Manager Billy Moore shown's laid water of this: If commissioners can't stop a former county manager from firing a valued employee before the fact, then they need to do a better job.

No while technically commissioners can skirt the issue of closed sessions on these issues, they cannot on the appointment of John Phillips as interim county manager.

Phillips is well qualified to be interim county manager and possibly permanent county manager - but he is hired by commissioners exclusively.

The appointment as interim manager should have required a vote and that vote should have been made in public.

Commissioners need to be very careful about following the law in the letter - and in the spirit - on these issues. Citizens breed distrust from the public.

In short, commissioners should take the advice given by County Attorney Dale "Huber" Sowards in a presentation about the new Open Meetings Law.

"The Open Meetings Act (as well as the Open Meetings Act) is always interpreted in favor of openness," Sowards wrote in his presentation. "When in doubt the law requires openness. Exceptions are always narrowly construed."

—Steve Scoggins

Life, family, friends are precious gifts

Life has been sad and has made me realize even more that you should be grateful for every day you are greeted and every loved one you have.

In the past two months, I have lost a good friend, his mother, the mother of another close friend and some folks I have written about that I had come to think of very fondly.

Truth to tell, I have been wary of answering my phone of late in fear of more bad news. As it was with great trepidation that I answered a call from the husband of a dear friend who has been very ill for a while.

"Is Vicky OK?" I asked her husband John before he could get a word out. "Is she worse?"

Let me explain that I have known Vicky Wilson Okerthuckel since we were in sixth grade. She was one of the first friends I made when we moved to Louisville. A Louisville native, she is always glad to see me, she offered a job and, moved into my neighborhood and I have loved her ever since.

Brown eyes and red headed, Vicky has always been like the sun, a source of energy and bright light.

When she walked into a room, the air fairly crackled with the energy she exuded and it was inevitable that you would be laughing in just minutes of her meeting.

Casual, kind and caring are the words that I have long used to describe the friend that my children call aunt, though no blood link flows between us.

She, she captured the hearts of my entire family upon that meeting. My husband met her when we were dating. I think, if she had not been married already, he might have taken her over me. Through the years she watched Pam and I see her through her divorce, the death of her sister, her father and then her meeting and marrying her new husband, John.

I claim the honor of being her wedding photographer.

As my children and her daughter grew along, we traded traditions, parenting stories and presents at Christmas. She was my confidante in shop-

ping, vacations and parent meetings. And every two or three days, you would find me at 2 a.m., on the phone, talking.

"What do you talk about with Vicky all these hours?" my husband would ask, shaking his head at our marathon conversations. "I would think your tongue would go numb after a while."

Neither our conversation nor our friendship has ever diminished. Vicky has miraculously been there whenever I have needed her. She was at the hospital for my husband's first non-major surgery (though I was hysterical) and she was at my mom's bedside before she left us.

In recent years, though, Vicky and I have not shared in each other's lives as much as we would have liked.

Work, distance, time and family were factors, but I have been blessed that kept us apart the most. First, my husband's, then mine and most recently hers. A few years ago Vicky contracted a liver disease that almost crushed her and it has developed into liver cancer. She has been undergoing treatment and is hoping to be on the organ transplant list.

When I saw that afternoon that the doctor was John, I did not know if it would be good news or bad.

"Turned out, it was a little of both. Vicky was in the hospital, getting a test to help for a major surgery she will be having next week.

"If all goes well," John said, "they said they will put her on the transplant list."

With all of the sadness of late, I am praying that all will go well with Vicky, that her life will get better in the months to come and that we will again enjoy good times together.

Some things I have realized of late, every day is truly a gift, every family member and friend a blessing and your life is never as bad as you might think.

Denise Matthews is news editor for the Franklin County Citizen Leader. Her column appears regularly.



Denise Matthews



"What if we just shut down Congress and the White House and re-opened the rest of the government?"

Your View ▶ Seeking information on ancestors

I want to locate descendants of John Adams and Agnes Miller who were in Greene County about 1780 and John died there about November 1780.

I have no info on Agnes. Where was their property and where are they buried?

John had a brother Francis Miller who served in the Revolutionary War in North Carolina, as did John. John may have been born in Philadelphia.

Their father was Leonard and it is believed they came from Ireland about 1750.

To request information, email Nancy J. Miller at nancy2013@comcast.net or call 800-862-1407.

Nancy J. Miller



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2nd Place

Athens Banner-Herald

Inside: Jackson County's 10th Habitat for Humanity home dedicated — page 12C

June 19, 2013

The Jackson Herald

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SECTION C

For the sheer joy of it

Area homestead produces natural yarn for knitting, crocheting

BY KATIE COFER

A LOT goes into the natural yarn produced three miles north of Brashton off Pickett Road in Jackson County — at a family homestead that sits on 20 acres of land. Jim and Karen Beckstine have been raising Suri alpacas and Angora sheep at Mockingbird Hilltop Farm since the mid-2000s, which they shear, wash, pick, comb, dye and turn into yarn.

It isn't an easy job, but having steps to reward. A textile artist in her spare time, Beckstine turns the yarn into finished garments — from sweaters to socks to bags.

Raising goats up about 700 miles apart in separate dairy farms, the Beckstines met through a 4-20 trip and married. After raising a family and experiencing life away from farming, the couple always knew they wanted to return to their upbringing.

"When you're raised on a farm, there's a real dependence on nature," said Karen. "There's a love for the soil. There's a significance in just getting your hands dirty... it's just part of your whole being I think."

The parents of four children and nine grandchildren, the Beckstines built the farm in 1997 beginning with two mountains. Then, they took a trip down to the South Side in Mountain, Ga., and acquired six Suri alpacas. By 2002, the Beckstines attended the types of fiber they would produce by purchasing Angora goats in 2006. Now, they have 20 alpacas and about 12 Angora goats.

Alpacas have to be shorn once a year and the Angora goats must be shorn twice a year. The Beckstines shear their own animals and also intend to offer the service around the area. After processing the fiber, they send it to mills in the northeast to be spun into yarn and sold.

"The hardest thing about selling the fiber is that people compare it to what they can buy in a yarn shop," said Karen. "People haven't realized yet the difference in what an acrylic yarn and what a natural yarn is from an animal."

Beckstine offers knitting classes through the Brashton Heritage Site Festival. It is intended to be a part of an ongoing class, contact Karen Beckstine at 706-656-1264.

To purchase the Beckstines' yarn, call 706-656-1264 or visit <http://mockingbirdhilltopfarm.com>. The natural yarn and some of Karen's original knitted pieces are also for sale at The Brashton Gallery, 56 Powers St., Brashton. The phone number is 678-968-8377.

GOATS, ALPACAS PRODUCE NATURAL YARN
ABOVE: One of the Angora goats at Mockingbird Hilltop Farm shares out from the pen it shares with other goats on the Beckstines' homestead. **RIGHT:** A couple of the Beckstines' Suri alpacas are shown. There are currently 20 alpacas at Mockingbird Hilltop Farm. **TOP PHOTO:** A basket of colorful yarn is available for sale. Units of yarn made from the alpacas and Angora goats raised at Mockingbird Hilltop Farm can be purchased at the Brashton Gallery in downtown Brashton or through the Beckstines' website.
 Photos by Katie Coffey

EACH UNIT IS UNIQUE
 Each unit of alpaca yarn made at Mockingbird Hilltop Farm comes with a picture of the animal that provided the fiber.

TEXTILE PRODUCTS
 Karen Beckstine displays some textile products she is working on at her home. **LEFT:** A unit of extra soft second-grade alpaca yarn can be used to knit rugs on a loom. **ABOVE:** Dyed mohair is used to knit a colorful scarf. Mohair is a yarn spun from the hair of Angora goats.

HAPPY HOMESTEADERS
 Jim and Karen Beckstine and one of their Pyrenean mountain dogs stand on their 20-acre farm in Brashton.
 Photos by Katie Coffey

The Athens Regional Medical Center (ARMC) Prince Avenue Parking Garage will be closed from June 10th until August 4th for repairs. During this period, valet service will be provided for ED and Obstetric emergencies. The valet service will be located in front of the Emergency Department entrance off Prince Avenue.

All other visitors and non-emergent patients are asked to park in the Talmadge Parking Garage located off Talmadge Drive.

We thank you in advance for your understanding and patience.

Athens Regional MEDICAL CENTER

CM K

Couple's storybook wedding took a movie-like twist when Waters Dam burned down. **LIFE, 12**

SAFE SUMMER
Group urges caution on lake. **OUR REGION, 1C**

The Times SUNDAY
MAY 19, 2013

Your news. Your Times. gainesvilletimes.com \$7.50 GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA

Proposed left-turn ban on Green raises a stir
Business owners don't support move as a way to ease Gainesville traffic

BY JIM BELL
jb@times.com

The proposed left-turn ban on Green Street has raised hackles along the busy, four-lane road, according to one of the most vocal business leaders. The ban is probably 20 property owners on the street, and I haven't heard a single person who's for it," said Frank Harrison Jr., president of The Harrison Agency in Gainesville. A ban is "talked about as the solution to Gainesville's traffic problems. There are probably 10 or 20 individuals, and I really don't have a problem with the idea if it's one of 20 different things."

The issue surfaced at a May 15 transportation meeting when Gainesville Mayor Deane Evans appointed George Department of Transportation to study the road.

"I think it would cause traffic," Harrison said. "I think it would be a detriment to the street and it would be a detriment to the city."

"If you have a left-turn ban, you can't get the left turn going with it."

Since the request, changes could be heard from a law enforcement on the street and

Some officials are talking about banning left turns on the stretch of the road. Business owners in the area aren't too sure about the idea.

PHOTO BY GREGG, 42

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

SHINING A LIGHT

NOT FOR SALE

Nonprofits, state agencies work to help victims

BY SARAHAN KING sking@gainesvilletimes.com

Jessica Bales sits in front of her laptop computer and scrolls through a list of names of adult women, looking for a next victim to help.

Bales is the founder of Shantel Foundation, which reaches out to women and children involved in the sex trafficking industry in Hall County.

Bales recently started a call center where she and another female member of the ministry go through the list of names looking for next women they can help.

The ministry is part of the South Street Foundation in Gainesville and is also affiliated with an Atlanta-based sex trafficking prevention organization called the

of Georgia. Bales works with the organization's hotline number and works with every woman she calls.

"We're trying to build relationships up over the phone," Bales said. "We're not trying to help these ladies out and let them know they're not alone and we're praying for them. If they want or need a way out of the industry, there are ways out."

In 2011, the FBI deemed Atlanta to be one of the top 15 cities in the country for sex trafficking, with the highest incidence of child exploitation for prostitution.

According to the Georgia Service of Investigation

SPOTTING THE CRIME

Officers are to be officers through their observations, tips from the general public and business, and drug

PHOTO BY TRAVIS, 44

Photo Submitted by SEPT BAKER, The Times

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WEATHER 24

High: 81
Low: 65
7:17 AM
Lake Lanier Level: 1,075.18 feet
Source: © NOAA, 4/20/13

DEATHS 2C

Jimmy Wayne Anderson, 75
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Mary Eleanor Miles, 81

Curly Wayne Harbin Sr., 72
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1st Place

The Times, Gainesville

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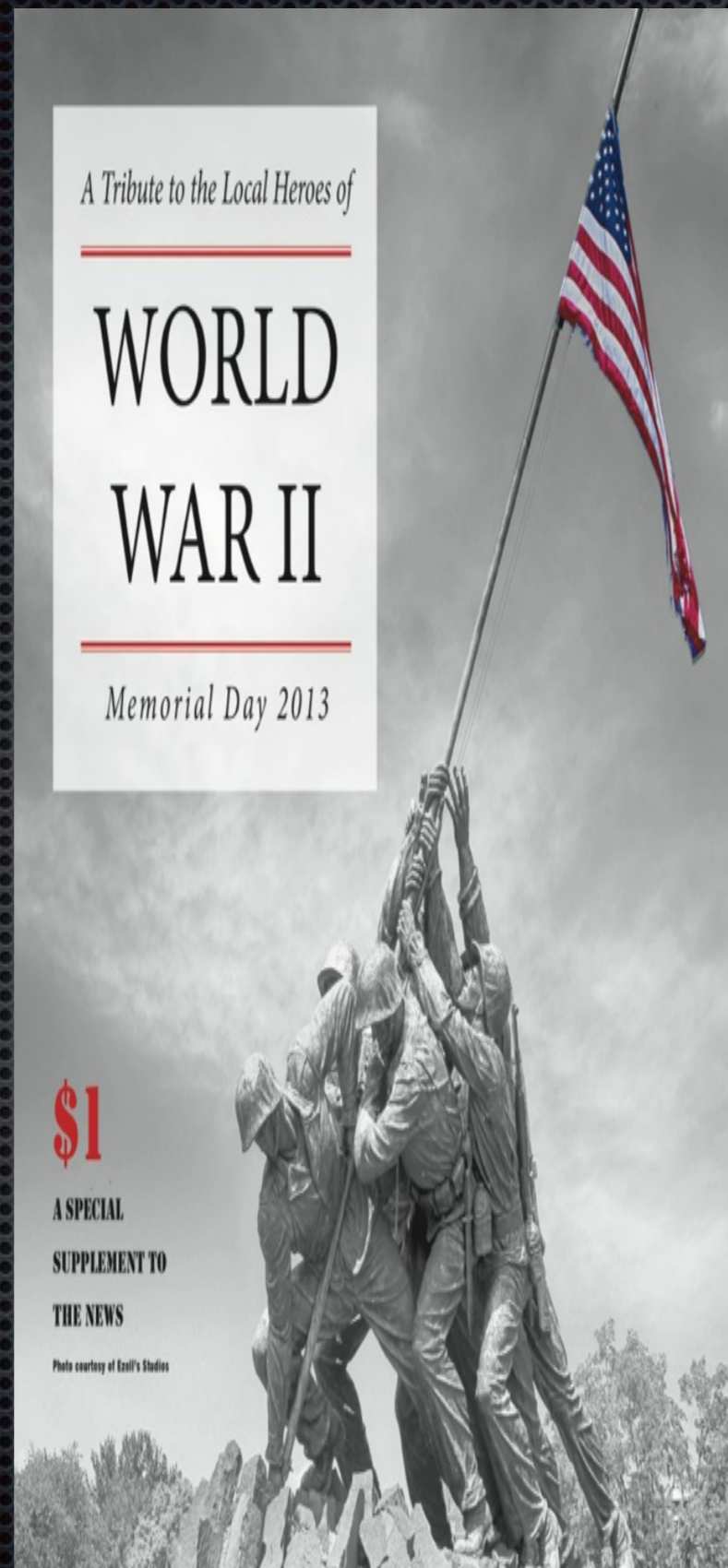


3rd Place

Columbus
Ledger-Enquirer

Page One

A



2nd Place

The Augusta
Chronicle

1st Place

Savannah Morning News



Savannah Morning News

75c SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2013 SAVANNAHNOW.COM LIGHT OF THE COASTAL EMPIRE

3rd ID, families mourn

Deadly week claims seven soldiers; five names not released

BY CONY DICKSTEIN
912-433-0263
www.8states@savannahnow.com

The remains of the five 3rd Infantry Division soldiers killed in a helicopter crash in southern Afghanistan on Monday were returned to their families in the U.S. on Tuesday evening.

On Wednesday, more than 1,000 mourners and state-to-state partners gathered in a hangar at Fort Belvoir, Ariz., for a memorial service for the fallen. The 3rd ID soldiers who died when the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter they were flying during a routine night-vision target training mission crashed, and Maj. Gen. Robert Abrams, the commander of the 3rd ID and the International Security Assistance Force's Regional Command-South.

Although the Pentagon has not released the names of the five soldiers — citing Department of Defense policy — Hunter Army Airfield officials Friday identified the units to which the four male and one female soldiers belonged.

SEE SOLDIERS, PAGE 3A

Deadline looming on ethics proposal

BY BILL BARROW AND RAY HENRY
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — As the Georgia General Assembly's legislative session winds toward a close, members of a key Senate committee next week will consider a plan from House Speaker David Ralston to limit lobbyist spending.

The Senate Rules Committee is scheduled to meet Tuesday to discuss legislation from Ralston, R-Blue Ridge, that overwhelmingly passed the House earlier this year.

The two-bill package would generally prohibit lobbyist spending on individual state officials, including lawmakers, though it contains significant exceptions.

Under the plan, lobbyists would still pay for lodging, meals and travel expenses — though not airfare — when lawmakers travel to events related to their official duties.

SEE ETHICS, PAGE 4A

SAVANNAH ST. PATRICK'S DAY Celebration begins

BY CONY DICKSTEIN
912-433-0263
www.8states@savannahnow.com

Grab your green: Savannah's biggest day is here again. Across the Historic District on Friday, local preparations for the Hunter City's largest annual party were made and the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee held its final pre-parade-day meeting — a tribute to the nation's military.

War hero Sgt. William Jasper, parade Grand Marshal Jimmy Ray and Army Command Sgt. Maj. Jimmy Pagan selected the historic noncommissioned officers.

The "Jasper Green" ceremony in Madison Square honors those who have served in the U.S. military.

SEE CELEBRATION, PAGE 5A



THE PARADE: Go to savannahnow.com to watch a live stream of the parade from the Savannah Morning News and WTGS. Don't forget to keep an eye on the chat box to converse with parade spectators from around the world.

ON YOUR PHONE: Download the free SavannahNow 3D Patrick's Day mobile app by searching "SavannahNow" in the iTunes or Google Play store, or by going to app.8states.com in your smartphone's web browser.

FULL COVERAGE: You can get photos, videos and updates throughout at savannahnow.com/stpatricksholiday on your desktop or mobile device.

PAGE 5A: See the winner in our #SavGreen photo contest.

INSIDE Patient to see Braves at last

Ash Cooper, 76, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in October.

He has always been a loyal Atlanta Braves fan but has never been able to see his favorite team play in person. That is about to change. TD

DETECTION FOR EVERYONE | IC

Sherry Shalva Muhammad died of breast cancer in July at the age of 35. Hoping to prevent more deaths, Kanan Coastal Georgia is striving to reach African-American and Latino women to make sure they get mammograms and proper care to fight cancer.

CITY TRENDS 4Q SALES DOWN | IB

Savannah-based fashion retailer Citi Trends Inc. reported sales for the fourth quarter that ended Feb. 2 were down from the same quarter a year ago, while sales for the full fiscal year increased 2.2 percent to \$654.7 million compared to \$643.8 million a year ago.

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TODAY: 77 | 52
It's an excellent day for a parade. 5A



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General Excellence

H

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Cherokee avoids pull sweep of Lashier in Region 5AAAAAA affairs

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Detectives investigate Woodstock homicide

BY JESSICA LINDLEY
jlindley@ledgernews.com

The Cherokee Sheriff's Office is investigating the death of a 47-year-old Woodstock man who was found shot to death inside his home.

A spokesman for the department said Christopher Piarce's body was discovered by his father on Sunday evening. Lt. Jay Bulter said investigators do not believe this is a random crime and think the suspect(s) knew Piarce, who lived alone in the home off Misty Hollow Way where his body was discovered.

"Investigators continue to work on identifying a suspect(s) and establishing a motive," Bulter said, adding a weapon was not found at the crime scene.

Investigators still were interviewing family members and acquaintances at press time Dec. 9, and no charges had been filed. Anyone with information is asked to call investigators at (770) 928-0236.

For information on any developments in this investigation or any breaking news throughout the week, visit www.ledgernews.com.

School board nixes anonymous donor idea

BY AIGAN THORNTON
athornton@ledgernews.com

The Cherokee County Board of Education voted against accepting funds raised by a private group of residents looking to extend the fiscal audit presentation at the board's January meeting.

In a 2-5 vote, with board members Kelly Marlow and Michael Geist in favor, the board rejected Marlow's proposed motion that the board accept an unknown amount of money raised by an anonymous group to extend the audit — but not to defray the existing cost — for the presentation by financial auditing firm Marafin and Jenkins on the Fiscal Year 2011 audit.

SEE SCHOOL, PAGE 12

Puppy Love Christmas



Over the weekend, the Cherokee Animal Shelter hosted a house for the holidays event where more than 75 pets were adopted at no cost. The shelter's annual holiday open house was also an opportunity for residents to take a photo with Santa and their pet.

Pictured, at left, Santa visits with Piper, who was adopted from the shelter by Amanda and Ken Locke, a Cherokee Sheriff's Office captain.

EDUCATION BY LEDGER NEWS

Wreaths to be laid on Saturday at National Cemetery

BY BILL BUCHSTONE
bbuchstone@ledgernews.com

The holidays are a chance for families and friends to spend time with one another and to give thanks for their blessings throughout the year.

However, the holidays also can be full of painful memories of lost loved ones who won't be home for Christmas.

Wreaths Across America is a national organization that coordinates wreath laying ceremonies on a specified Saturday in December at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as veterans' cemeteries and other locations across the country each year.

This year, Wreaths Across America will take place on Dec. 14. Our local ceremony will be happening at the Georgia National Cemetery, 1000 Veterans Cemetery Road, Canton.

The wreath laying will begin at 10:30 a.m., rain or shine. Volunteers who wish to participate should be at the cemetery section they wish to lay wreaths at by 10 a.m.

SEE WREATHS, PAGE 11

Officials consider Flash Foods request

Holly Springs City Council hears applicant's requests during work session

BY JESSICA LINDLEY
jlindley@ledgernews.com

After taking a month to address some of the concerns voiced by farmers on the Lakes incidents, the applicant seeking to construct a gas station on Hickory Flat Highway appeared again before the Holly Springs City Council last week.

Jim Rollins of Peach Consolidated Properties is seeking to annex about 3 acres of land near the north entrance to the Harmony on the Lakes subdivision and rezone the property from residential to general commercial. Rollins also has applied for a conditional use permit to operate a 6,000 square foot, 24-hour Flash Foods gas station and convenience store on the property.

The Holly Springs Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval for the proposed gas station in September, and the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners also agreed not to protest the annexation request that same month.

The application made their way to the City Council in October, but were pulled from the agenda at the voting meeting after Rollins requested more time to address some of the concerns residents voiced at previous meetings.

SEE HOLLY SPRING, PAGE 10

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3rd Place

Cherokee Ledger-News, Woodstock

Smoke Signals™

News and views from Big Canoe and around North Georgia

January 2013 • Vol XXV No 1

Tavern at Wolfscratch Village to reopen in January

By Melissa Lowrie
mlowrie@bigcanoenews.com

Owners Jason and Krissey Fitts have temporarily closed the Tavern at Wolfscratch Village for renovations. Depending on construction and licensing, the upgrades should take two to three weeks. The Tavern will reopen in January.

The fitness are expanding into the shop next door, formerly occupied by Gatwood Hill Gracious Home, with a pizza oven and a larger kitchen. The Gatwood Hill store closed Nov. 3.

The restaurant opened last May in the spaces occupied by Medical Joe's and K&A Express near the Big Canoe Realty office.

There will also be a new drive-through for pizza-to-go orders and customers will be able to pick up wine, beer and sodas. The upstairs dining area is being remodelled and there will be a new all-Italian menu.



Krissey and Jason Fitts will reopen The Tavern with a new menu. PHOTO BY SHERI SMITH



Santa Claus, Cameron Martin, and Mrs. Claus, Kayla White, presided over the traditional White Christmas program of music and the box bearers bringing gifts for less fortunate among the Tate student body. PHOTO BY SHERI SMITH

Tate and Wildwod students reassured

By Laura Link
llink@bigcanoenews.com

Christmas programs at Tate Elementary School and Wildwod Christian Academy in Marble Hill closed a week-long assurance of safety and teachers' outpouring of love for their students. After the massacre at Sandy Hook School in Connecticut and before continuing Christmas activities locally, Tate and

Wildwod officials have focused on reassuring children they are safe at their schools.

"Feeling safe is the most important thing now. We are putting Christmas activities on hold to get our children and parents to feel safe in school," Dr. Michelle Stangline, Tate counselor, commented the day before children returned to school after the mass killing Dec. 14.

■ See TATE, P2

Historic ceremony marks beginning of new Pickens County government

By Wayne Tidwell
wtidwell@bigcanoenews.com

In a historic ceremony, Pickens County's first ever multi-member commission was sworn in Thursday, December 19 at the Pickens County West Annex facility. Current re-elected

Commission Chairman Rob Jones, new Post 1 Western District Commissioner Jerry Barnes and new Post 2 Eastern District Commissioner Becky Denny were officially sworn in by Judge Rodney Gibson in a packed courtroom. Denny will not only be the first district 1 commissioner but also the first female

to hold a commissioner office in Pickens County.

Also sworn in at the ceremony were Clerk of Court Gail Brown, Tax Commissioner Sharon Troplin, and School Board members Michael Cowart and Peggy Andrews.

Long-time Big Canoe resident Brenda Joiner was 'gifted leader'

By Laura Link
llink@bigcanoenews.com

Brenda Joiner, Big Canoe HOA board vice president, died Wednesday, Dec. 19, following a brief illness.

Brenda and her husband Larry had been long time residents of Big Canoe, a place Brenda termed "a gentle place to be."

Her focus in her first year of board service had been programs and activities such as the July 4 Family Day and Thank or Treat. For the past six months she served as vice president, helping to orchestrate and oversee all HOA sponsored activities. She was a

■ See BRENDA JOINER, P2



Brenda Joiner



Pickens County's first three person county commission includes (l. to r.) incumbent Commission Chairman Rob Jones, Eastern District Commissioner Becky Denny and Western District Commissioner Jerry Barnes. PHOTO BY WAYNE TIDWELL

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Smoke Signals, Big Canoe

General Excellence

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1st Place

Columbia County News-Times, Evans

SPIRITS
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OLD FRIENDS & NEW ENIGMAS
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EVANS, GA 31801

Police Blotter

The following accidents were taken from Columbia County Sheriff's Office incident reports.

Man's truck vandalized with condiment

An Evans man said his truck was vandalized last week. The 21-year-old man said he walked outside and found "your name" written in barbecue sauce on his truck. The man asked several neighbors about the incident and they told him their vehicles were vandalized monthly, but didn't know who was doing the vandalism.

Man's info used to spend his money

A Marietta man called police Tuesday saying he gave out his personal information to someone who used it to spend his money. The 47-year-old man said he got a call from a blocked number on July 30 from someone claiming to be a representative from a software company. The caller used his Social Security number and credit card number to upgrade the man's computer and virus software. The man provided the information to the caller, who then hung up. The man said he recently found two unauthorized transactions on his Discover credit statement, one for \$100 and another for \$200.

Rash of car break-ins near Interstate 20

Several people reported car break-ins off Duluth Road near Interstate 20 Tuesday. Two residents of Vashonsville Drive just off Park Road Drive said that the previous night someone entered their vehicles parked in the driveway of their homes. Two were unlocked and a third was locked but had the windows down. A handgun was stolen from an unlocked truck. Two pairs of the Holiday Inn at 441 Park West Drive said they received multiple break-in attempts of their trucks, which were parked in a lot for overnight. A handgun was stolen from one and nothing was stolen from the other.

Clean sweep
Augusta Prep wins three straight in best-of-five match. Page 7

INDICTED
Former HCA treasurer faces 10 charges of theft by taking. Page 6

Girl on the gridiron
Augusta Prep manager Brooke Arnold proves it's not just a game for girls. Page 7

THE COLUMBIA COUNTY News-Times
75 cents per copy
Sunday, September 1, 2013 www.newstimesonline.com

County students go high-tech

Corner Sartain (left) and Zachary Lyons share an electronic notebook in their sixth grade language arts class at Greenbrier Middle School. The Columbia County School System is using the Bring Your Own Technology program in some middle and high schools.

By Susan Rennie
Staff Writer
Doreen QV@newstimes.com

Greenbrier Middle School students Corner Sartain and Zachary Lyons hold up their iPads during a lesson on the Bring Your Own Technology program. The program allows students to bring a mobile device to school to use in class. "It's a tool, but we think it's a great tool to use in class," said Superintendent Dr. Jeff Carney. "It really does think it's going to be a game-changer." Carney said the program is in the process of installing wireless Internet infrastructure into all the high schools, some middle schools, and elementary schools are trying to raise their own funds to get Wi-Fi up and running ahead of the school system's timeline. Carney said all schools will be wired and ready to access a secure school system server within two years. In the digital age, Carney said, children learn differently and actively.

Photos by Joe Blanton

ATMs could be put in several county facilities

By Susan Rennie
Staff Writer
Doreen QV@newstimes.com

Patrons at several Columbia County parks and buildings will soon have easier access to cash. Commissioners are expected to vote Tuesday to place ATM machines at several county facilities. "At Evans, Terrell Center Park, we've had requests to put ATM machines during events," said County Administrator Terrell Sartain. "It's a convenience for our patrons."

See MONEY on 2

Columbia County has an ATM machine owned by Cash Ready ATM Inc. in the lobby of the Columbia County Library. The commission is expected to vote Tuesday to put machines in several county facilities.

Photos by Joe Blanton

Make the Christmas season for you and your family with a beautiful new home. Contact Tom or Mike and let them help you find your next dream home, just in time for the holidays!

128
CHRISTMAS!

Meybohm
1784 1784 1784
1784 1784 1784

General Excellence

G

3rd Place

The Madison County Journal, Danielsville

DECEMBER 12, 2013

Madison County Journal

Merged with The Corner News and The Danielsville Monitor, 2006. MadisonJournal.com

90¢

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Kids' Christmas section deadline extended

Get us your pics by Monday at 5 p.m.; see Page 5B



MCHS grad rates up

More than average.

For MCHS students, the county's on-time graduation rate is 84.3, 20 percent higher than the state average, which is 66.2 percent.

In other sections, Corner and the elementary school were recognized as Title I Reward Schools for the second year in a row.

The board approved hiring an additional kindergarten teacher and professional at Colton Elementary to offset the class sizes, which are at or above the class size waiver of 29 students per class.

The board approved the construction plans of seven field buses set to cost \$2,500,000 in 2014.

Personal recommendations:
The board approved the following personal recommendations:
Colton Elementary - The board approved additional doses for ACP workers Tracy Robinson, Abby Noland and Lorie Buchanan.
Ball-Fairfield Elementary - The BOC approved the acquisition of program County Email and approved the transfer of paraprofessional Cynthia Harbo from Ea.
The BOC hired Tracy Heath as a new paraprofessional and hired Megan Kester as a...

—See "Class" on 2A

BOC close to finalizing budget

By Zach Micham

Madison County commissioners are close to finalizing the county's 2014 budget.

The group met for several hours on the budget Friday and will hold a public hearing Dec. 19 to get input from citizens on proposed increases and expenses.

The proposed total budget is up slightly from the year. From \$11,500,761 to \$11,528,542, it would represent an increase of 2.4 percent. Meanwhile, expected revenues are up slightly from \$12,854,228 to \$12,887,400, an increase of less than one percent.

Commissioners kept the year's tax rates steady, but the county will bring in slightly more in property tax revenue, from \$6,910,000 to \$6,914,170 due to a small increase in the county's share of overall property taxes.

—See "Budget" on 2A

County to establish elections website

By Zach Micham

Madison County will soon have a website dedicated to informing voters about elections and the election process.

County Commissioner David Fisher from Board of elections member Len Smith, who suggested that the county start such a site.

"Voters need to be able to find answers to their questions immediately," said Smith. "Just you do this through a website."

The site would include an array of election information and allow citizens to see which districts they're registered in. The site could also be used by local candidates for required mail filings.

—See "Elections" on 2A

The Reindeer Run



Runners young and old lined up in Corner's Arnold Park Saturday morning for the 20th annual Madison County Reindeer Run. See inside for more Reindeer Run coverage and photos from other Christmas activities this past week in Madison County. Zach Micham/Journal

Colbert man charged in drug bust

CRIME

A Colbert man was taken into custody last week for having a search warrant on Long Branch Road.

According to a press release from Sheriff Deputy Mark Smith, Madison County Sheriff's Office deputies executed a search warrant at a residence located at 501 Long Branch Road on Wednesday, Dec. 4, where they found a large marijuana grow operation.

An arrest warrant was then issued for the property owner, Ted Wiggins, 47. Officers then went to a...

—See "Drug" on 2A

Solicitation ordinance?

LOCAL LEAD

County may require solicitors to register before going door-to-door.

By Zach Micham

An ordinance may soon be passed requiring door-to-door solicitors to register with the county before visiting local homes.

Sheriff Ed Thomas and county commissioners discussed the possibility Friday morning during a budget meeting. Thomas said that Madison County dispatchers sometimes get calls regarding people knocking on their doors and that the sheriff's department can't offer any information on whether the solicitors is legitimate.

A "solicitation ordinance" could give citizens an opportunity to identify who is knocking on their door.

It is solicitation ordinance gives us something...

—See "Solicitor" on 2A

'A place of refuge'

LOCAL LEAD

Camp Maranatha works year-round to bring fun, comfort to kids

By Zach Micham

Every Lee Wayne remembers going to Madison County's Camp Maranatha in a fall and enjoying the warm days of horse riding, swimming and games with other children.

The 20-acre camp on Floyd Road off Hwy. 94 has always had a special feel for the Madison County nation.

"I think of camp as a refuge," said Wayne, who now serves as the camp's executive director, and whose mother, Linda, has long volunteered as a cook and head of the kitchen. "The way it's always been a steady, stable place, a place that I can come back to."

This notion of "refuge" is integral to the camp, which opened in 1962 with the aim of providing kids, particularly those in need, with a memory-making — and fun — week-long experience in...

—See "Camp" on 2A

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General Excellence

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Barrow Journal, Winder

Wednesday, July 3, 2013

BARROW JOURNAL

Barrow County's Legal Organ Georgia's Best Weekly Paper, 2012-2013

Vol. 5, No. 27 24 PAGES 2 SECTIONS plus inserts A Publication of WinderDirect Newspapers, Inc. WINDER, BARROW COUNTY, GEORGIA 30080 No COPY

Animal Control seeks volunteers

Barrow County Animal Control announces a new volunteer program for people who wish to assist with the animals at the animal shelter. The first orientation will be Friday, July 5, at 2 p.m. at the shelter, 644 Barrow Park Drive. Future orientations will be held.

According to program coordinator Lisa Ross, the group has three main goals: help improve the lives of animals at the shelter, educate as many pets as possible, and support the Barrow County Animal Control staff.

Volunteers will walk dogs, socialize cats, play with the animals and provide other appropriate toys. Help is also needed with photographing adoptable animals, posting more online and transporting animals for rescue and to foster homes.

Funding will be necessary. Assisting the animal control staff with tasks like neutering the shelter throughout the day, helping with laundry, working dishes and keeping water bowls filled are also needed tasks. Volunteers can participate in one or all of these activities.

Also, one of the current volunteers has started a training program to teach dogs basic skills that make them more adoptable. The Special Obedience and Rehabilitation program (S.O.A.R.) will be expanded as volunteers are trained.

For more information or a volunteer application, call or email program coordinator Lisa Ross at 770-377-7744, lross@barrowjournal.com.

Vendors sought for Sunflower event

The 2013 Sunflower Festival will be held Sept. 21.

Vendor applications are now available at City Hall or online at www.cityofwinder.com. All vendor space is on a first come, first served basis. Applications cost. Contact Betty Lyle for more information at 770-325-5123.

WELCOME to the family!

New additions

Peggy Stephens
Kenneth Brown
Russell Renaud
Joyce Spiller

Get your name on this list by subscribing today. 12 issues per \$18.00 in Barrow County. Call 770-867-6287 or go to www.barrowjournal.com

BARROW & REGIONAL

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770-867-6287

Auburn Festivities



While most Americans will celebrate the Fourth of July by grilling out and watching fireworks, Winder's hometown — resident warrior Samuel Walley — will be creating the war cry of freedom.

The 21-year-old graduate of Winder Barrow High School received a letter's welcome May 30 when he returned home a year after signing on a federal improved explosive device. He stayed in his newly renovated apartment for three weeks and now has entered his second year of rehabilitation in Berkeley.

Walley lost to the blast of the hand-drawn two limbs — his right leg and left arm — and for much of the past year there has been a question about whether he would be able to keep his other handly right leg. But he said that left leg is healing.

On Monday, he was to receive two new prosthetic devices for his amputated lower right leg.

See Walley on Page 2A

JROTC leadership under fire at WBHS

The command staff for the popular JROTC program at Winder Barrow High School is undergoing changes.

1st Sgt. Franklin Brown resigned and accepted a position in another county. And rumors say that Barrow County school superintendent Wanda Coul wants Major Thomas Evans out.

Brown and Evans were recruited in 2009 from Cedar Shoals High School in Athens to start the WBHS JROTC program. This year, it was named as "Honor Unit with Distinction," which means it is in the top 10 percent of all JROTC units. During the school year that just ended, Evans also served as the lead flight instructor.

In response to the newspaper's inquiry Monday, Coul confirmed Brown's resignation, and she did not deny that there is a personnel issue regarding Evans.

"I can confirm that Sergeant Brown has resigned his resignation in order to seek another job opportunity," she wrote. "The School District and JROTC program appreciate all of his service to the program at WBHS and wish him the very best in his future professional endeavors."

See JROTC on Page 2A

Inside:

Winder city clerk Gloria Andrews resigns her post.

— Page 3A

ROAD WORK AHEAD

Plenty of sidewalk construction continued Monday morning in downtown Winder. Photo by Jessica Brown

AMERICAN LEGION CLOSES WINDER POST 509

By Susan Norman
susan@barrowjournal.com

Winder's American Legion Post 509 has been shut down by the American Legion Department of Georgia.

The executive committee took the action June 27, according to a spokesman for District 93, which covers 11 posts in southeast Georgia.

Senior vice commander Stanley Blanton of Lugawville said he recommended the revocation based on continuing law enforcement problems on Post 509's property that is east of downtown Winder.

"The Winder post has had a lot of problems with the police department there," he said Monday.

Over 1000 ago as the commander of District 93, Blanton recommended the suspension of the post's charter.

"My responsibility to the department is to keep my eyes on the goals in the district," he said. "And Winder has had numerous arrests, numerous complaints, conduct not becoming representatives."

Post 509's members failed to take corrective actions required in the wake of the suspension, he said.

"They didn't comply. So when we started getting police reports again with them breaking the law, period, then before somebody ends up getting killed or hurt and had over there my recommendation was to pull their charter."

The revocation means that the organization must cease operating as an American Legion post, close its meeting facility, and turn over to the state organization its records and assets. A year from now it also could be forced to turn over to the state organization the deeds to its properties.

See Legion on Page 3A

WELCOME to the family!

New additions

Peggy Stephens
Kenneth Brown
Russell Renaud
Joyce Spiller

WINDER

Winder's American Legion Post 509 has been shut down by the American Legion Department of Georgia.

ROAD WORK AHEAD

Plenty of sidewalk construction continued Monday morning in downtown Winder. Photo by Jessica Brown

General Excellence

G

1st Place

The Champion, Decatur

Friday - Sunny
High: 57/ Low: 35

Saturday - Partly Rain
High: 45/ Low: 25

The Champion

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Section A-94, 22 No. 35 | www.championnewspaper.com | February 14 - 20, 2013 | 50¢

2013 DEKALB
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Peek Inside

SALARY SUPPLEMENT
DeKalb's Superior Court judges are asking for a \$15,000 pay raise.
LOCAL, 8A

MORE SCHOOL CLOSINGS
The DeKalb school district is planning to replace some schools, close others.
LOCAL, 14A



COPING WITH GRIEF
School counselors help students through tough times.
EDUCATION, 16A

Quote

“It's more of a concern for the future. I'm not real confident in DeKalb County government.”

— Mary Kay Woodworth

LOCAL, 12A

Quick Finder

Business — 10A
Classified — 10A
Education — 16-17A
Legal Section — 1C
Sports — 21-23A

CHAMPION

64116 00001



Members of the DeKalb County school board approved a settlement agreement for Superintendent Cheryl Atkinson Feb. 8 and appointed former Georgia Labor Commissioner Michael Thurmond as interim superintendent.

School district: Atkinson out, Thurmond in

by Daniel Beauregard
daniel@dekalbchamp.com

After less than two years, Superintendent Cheryl Atkinson is leaving the DeKalb County School District (DCSD) in a condition some residents say is worse than when she was hired. The DeKalb County School Board held a meeting Feb. 8 and approved a separation agreement with Atkinson and voted to appoint former Georgia Labor Commissioner Michael Thurmond as interim superintendent.

“We are delighted Mr. Thurmond has agreed to serve as our interim superintendent,” said board Chairman Eugene Walker. “Our school district is facing significant challenges, and we need a leader with a strong record of making




→ See School on Page 15A





Photos by Daniel Beauregard

Chinese New Year celebration in Chamblee

→ See more pictures on Page 15A







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General Excellence

F

3rd Place

The Blackshear Times

Will your favorite business, service or merchant be a winner this year?

The winners are going to be the ones who have the best products or services to offer, the best prices, and the best customer service. If you have a business, service or merchant that you think is a winner, please send us your name and address to: **The Blackshear Times**, 1448 Yearwood Blvd., Blackshear, Georgia 30516. We will be holding a contest to determine the winners. The winners will be announced in our "Reader's Choice" section. The winners will receive a certificate of appreciation and a prize. The prize is a \$500 gift certificate to the winner's choice of business, service or merchant. The contest ends on December 31, 2010. For more information, please visit our website at www.blacksheartimes.com.



The Blackshear Times

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1448 YEAR • BOX 13 • BLACKSHEAR, GEORGIA 30516 • WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2010 • 20 PAGES, ONE SECTION



Lawmakers talk ethics, budget and gun rules

By Jason Shaw, Staff Writer

The budget — as it has been for the last several years — will be the major issue of this year's Georgia General Assembly. The proposed budget for 2010-11 is a \$1.2 billion increase over the 2009-10 budget. The increase is due to a combination of factors, including the projected increase in the cost of health care, the need to increase the state's investment in higher education, and the need to increase the state's investment in infrastructure. The budget also includes provisions for gun control, ethics reform, and other issues. The General Assembly will vote on the budget in late February. The Governor will sign the budget into law.

(Continued on Page 2)

Petition stirs emotions, not action

County leaders stay firm against push to reinstate former EMS director Ken Justice

By Jason Shaw, Staff Writer

The presentation of a petition seeking former EMS director Ken Justice's reinstatement to his old job resulted in heated emotions, but not action, by the Board of Health and Emergency Services. The board voted 5-2 to reject the petition. The board also voted to hire a new director. The board's decision was based on the fact that Justice had been removed from his position for cause. The board also noted that Justice had not met the requirements for reinstatement. The board's decision was final.

(Continued on Page 2)

Better Hometown asking businesses to steer its future

By Jason Shaw, Staff Writer

The City of Blackshear will hold a meeting to discuss the future of its downtown program. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 20, at 7 p.m. at the City Hall. The meeting will discuss the city's downtown program, including the city's vision for the future of downtown Blackshear. The city is currently in the process of developing a downtown master plan. The meeting is open to the public. For more information, please call the city manager at 478-385-1234.

Rec basketball returns to Blackshear

Who knew basketball games had become a thing in Blackshear? The game is back in town, and it's a good thing. The game is being held at the Blackshear Community Center. The game is being held on Wednesday, Jan. 20, at 7 p.m. The game is being held for the benefit of the Blackshear Community Center. The game is being held for the benefit of the Blackshear Community Center. The game is being held for the benefit of the Blackshear Community Center.

(Continued on Page 2)

Showtime for Civil War site?

State advises to visit former prison camp, discuss development as tourist attraction

By Jason Shaw, Staff Writer

The State of Georgia is advising the City of Blackshear to visit the former prison camp site at the site of the old Confederate Prison Camp on Highway 208. The state is advising the city to visit the site to discuss the possibility of developing the site as a tourist attraction. The state is advising the city to visit the site to discuss the possibility of developing the site as a tourist attraction. The state is advising the city to visit the site to discuss the possibility of developing the site as a tourist attraction.

(Continued on Page 2)

Dr. King's legacy to be celebrated at banquet and parade

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will be the guest of honor at this year's Martin Luther King Jr. Banquet and Parade. The event will be held on Saturday, Jan. 23, at the Blackshear Community Center. The event is being held for the benefit of the Blackshear Community Center. The event is being held for the benefit of the Blackshear Community Center. The event is being held for the benefit of the Blackshear Community Center.

(Continued on Page 2)

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General Excellence

F

Book signing for local author, Saturday in Colquitt
Details on Page 21A

1916 • Celebrating 97 Years • 2013

Vote!

Donalsonville News

Donalsonville, Georgia

Volume XXVII, Number 38 Donalsonville, Georgia 39801 www.donalsonvilnews.com Thursday, October 31, 2013

City of Donalsonville Municipal Election Tuesday, November 5

Decision Time!

Mayor



Dan L. Peadar, Jr.

Council



Terrielle D. Reynolds



Lindsay C. Rogers, Jr.



Mike Spencer

Three days remain to cast your vote

VOTE

Thursday, October 31
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Donalsonville County Courthouse

Friday, November 1
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Donalsonville County Courthouse

Tuesday, November 5
7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
All voting precincts

On Tuesday, November 5, voters in the City of Donalsonville will determine the city's future direction with the election of a new mayor, Dan L. Peadar, Jr. or Terrielle D. Reynolds and a city councilman, Lindsay C. Rogers, Jr. or Mike Spencer.

Each of the city's 1849 registered voters has the opportunity to elect their future and the obligation as a citizen to take the time and vote.

1849 - 177 = 1672

Registered voters in the 2012 Donalsonville Municipal Election.

Balls cast as of 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, October 30th.

of 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, October 30, 177 voters had done that, 360 votes have been cast in person and 16 of 70 absentee ballots have been returned. 1673 registered voters remain with the opportunity to cast a ballot in the Municipal Election.

In the last municipal election of November 2008, less than 12% of 1400 registered voters bothered to cast a ballot. Advance voting at the Donalsonville County Courthouse continues through 5 p.m. Friday, November 1. The final opportunity to vote will be on Election Day, Tuesday, November 5, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at all city polling precincts.

It's time to fall back Sunday

Daylight Saving Time in the United States and Canada ends on Sunday, November 3, at 2 a.m., so when you go to bed Saturday night on November 3, you can sit cross-legged back and forth, or get up and stretch, or try to remember the "fall back" and "spring forward" trick to determine whether to set the clock forward or back when Daylight Saving Time ends, an alternative way to remember to set your clock back is to remember that winter time means more sleep.

Donalsonville and Safety Fire Commissioner Keith Hodgson is urging Georgians to change the batteries in their smoke alarms at the same time they set their clocks back.

Region Champs!



One Act Play performance at the Yellow Brick Road to Statal! Donalsonville High School's One Act Play performance of "The Wizard of Oz" stole the show in the Region 1-A competition Wednesday, October 23 at the Kirby Center in Bainbridge. The 40-member cast and crew brought home the Region 1-A Championship Trophy. Jessica Harris, playing the part of Dorothy, was named the region's Best Actress and Charles Rogers, playing the part of the Wizard, was named the region's Best Actor. Heidi Burt was named an "All-Star" lead actress. The group will travel to Warner Robins, November 28, for an 11:00 a.m. State Competition performance at Warner Robins High School. A local performance of the production is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Thursday, November 7 at the Olive Theatre. Tickets will be \$8 at the door, and \$3 for children five and under. All funds raised will help pay for the trip to Warner Robins.

CHIP to offer Housing Repairs for City's Low Income Homeowners

The City of Donalsonville announces the sign-up period for Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP). The CHIP through the State of Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) provides funds to local governments, to rehabilitate housing for low-income homeowners.

The CHIP funds are available exclusively for housing activities and the sole purpose of the program is to respond to the supply of funds.

For more information, visit www.chip.ga.gov

Trick or Treat Downtown

The Donalsonville Downtown Development Authority invites everyone to trick or treat with participating downtown merchants today, October 31 from 4 - 6 p.m. All your trick or treat bags will be full of goodies, then join the fun at 6 p.m. in front of the Olive Theatre for a Costume Contest. All address tags will be 10 years old and returned! Have a fun, safe and Happy Halloween.

Veterans Day parade set for November 11

The first annual Donalsonville County Veterans Day Parade is set for 9:30 a.m. Monday, November 11th, in downtown Donalsonville. The parade, established to increase attendance at the 10 a.m. ceremony in front of the Court House, will travel down Second Street beginning at Donalsonville and ending at the Courthouse. All veterans, retired military personnel and family members of veterans and spouses are invited to participate. It is the hope of parade organizers to have several floats, Donalsonville Area to the Courthouse, lined with cheering, participating veterans, family members and all who intend to be a part of the parade are asked to meet at 9 a.m., Monday, November 11, at the Olive Theatre. Sign-up at the corner of Donalsonville Avenue and Second Street.

For business located on Second Street this is the perfect opportunity to celebrate local veterans by participating in the parade.

For more information, visit www.donalsonville.com

We Salute Our VETERANS!



50 Cents	Editorials.....5A	Lake View.....15A
Two Sections	Church News.....5A	Lifestyles.....21A
	Obituaries.....10A	Sports.....22A
	Farm and Outdoor.....12A	Classifieds.....6B
	School Days.....13A	Public Notices.....7B

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This issue was mailed on October 24, 2013. If it arrives late, call your local Post Office. Subscribe and view online at donalsonvilnews.com or call 209-624-2161

2nd Place

Donalsonville News

General Excellence

F

1st Place

Franklin County Citizen Leader, Lavonia



Betty Vandiver puts her dog Buddy while reflecting on her family's return to Lavonia 50 years ago after serving in the Governor's Mansion for four years.

Coming home ... 50 years later

By Dawn Mattern
News Editor

LAVONIA — Former First Lady of Georgia Betty Vandiver chuckled softly as she sat on the sofa in her comfortable, yet elegant, living room.

"That picture brought back a lot of memories," she said, looking at the old photo that appeared in the Franklin County edition of the Franklin County Citizen Leader Jan. 16.

The photo, one of her and late husband, Gov. Ernest Vandiver, with children Chip, Beth and Jana, was taken Jan. 10, 1963, when the family returned home after Ernest's four-year term as



Betty and Gov. Ernest Vandiver were photographed in their Lavonia home in 1963 shortly after returning home from serving the state.

See BETTY, Page 2A.

Death ruled homicide

Investigation ongoing into shooting of businessman

By Kenneth S. Eversmann
Steve Wilson

CARNESVILLE — The death of Keith Ratliff, whose body was discovered on Hayes Road near Carnesville, has been ruled a homicide.

According to a press release by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI), authorities are making progress in the search for the suspect. No party in Ratliff's murder. However, specific information concerning facts identified through an exhaustive investigation are being closely safeguarded because they have been deemed critical to the investigation.

The release states that Ratliff was not found and the cause of death, as determined by an autopsy at the GBI Medical Examiner's Office, was a gunshot wound to the head that was not self-inflicted.

Although weapons were located at the crime scene, none of them have been linked directly to Ratliff's murder.

Ratliff was living at his place of business, FFS Industries on Hayes Road near Carnesville, at the time of his death.

His body was discovered Jan. 5 in an office by friends who then notified the Franklin County Sheriff's Depart-

ment of the discovery.

After deputies responded to the scene and secured the residence, Franklin County Sheriff Steve Thomas contacted the GBI for assistance in the investigation.

Ratliff was co-owner of FFS Industries and cooperator of FFSMedia, which are both Carnesville related businesses.

FFS Industries is geared towards the development and production of firearms and related items while FFSMedia is an internet video production appearing on YouTube.

The case is being investigated jointly by the Franklin County Sheriff's Department, the Franklin County Coroner, the Piedmont Northern Office of the District Attorney and the GBI. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) are also participating in the investigation and providing resources.

Anyone with information concerning the Ratliff case is asked to contact the Franklin County Sheriff's Department at 706-884-0202 or the GBI Tip Line at 800-950-4470.

Hospital CEO Seagraves resigns

By Dawn Mattern
News Editor

LAVONIA — The chief executive officer of the new Ty Cobb Regional Medical Center has resigned.

David Seagraves submitted his resignation to the Ty Cobb Regional Medical Center Board Jan. 8, a press release from the hospital said.

Seagraves had served as Regional CEO and as the Ty Cobb Healthcare System Executive Vice President of Acute Care Services for the past three

years. "Mr. Seagraves was instrumental in combining Cobb Memorial and Bart County Hospital into Ty Cobb Regional Medical Center," the press release said.

Seagraves' resignation was the latest in a series of changes in the leadership of Ty Cobb Healthcare System, which runs Ty Cobb Regional Medical Center.

Former Ty Cobb Healthcare CEO Chuck Adams resigned in September, just a few months after the new Ty Cobb

Regional Medical Center opened.

Greg Heers was named the new CEO for the healthcare system in November.

The press release said that the boards of the hospital and healthcare system are working to streamline "the administrative structure of both the system and the hospital."

"The restructuring initiative measures toward patient care and away from administrative overhead," the press release said. "Under the rebranded

administrative personnel structure, Ty Cobb Healthcare System CEO, Greg Heers, will also serve as the CEO of Ty Cobb Regional Medical Center."

Hospital Board Chair Dave Toney expressed appreciation for the professional manner in which Seagraves served the hospital, the press release said.

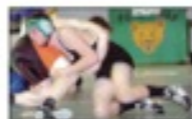
The further conveyed confidence in the ability of the hospital to move forward under the new structure, the release said. "Under the rebranded



David Seagraves (left) leads former Gov. Sonny Perdue on a tour of the new Ty Cobb Regional Medical Center on its opening day.

Inside

Mat Lions win 4 straight ... Page 1B



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Subscribe today
in county - \$21
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Nine-year-old Magen Rollins is Franklin County's Relay for Life chairperson for 2013.

2013 Relay kicks off

By Dawn Mattern
News Editor

LAVONIA — The Ty Cobb Regional Medical Center meeting room was full in buzzing as folks gathered for the 2013 Relay for Life Kickoff Tuesday evening.

There was fellowship, food, fun and a few tears as Linda Magan, Rollins, 9, was introduced as this year's Franklin County Chairperson.

Magan, a fourth grader at Central Franklin Elementary School, was diagnosed with A.L.L. Lei-



Relay's Relay for Life kickoff was a time for friends to reconnect in the fight against cancer.

Levin is the first grade, and after years of battling the disease, told the assembly that she is now one year cancer free.

The theme for the 2013 Relay for Life is Celebrating the Grace of Life.

The Relay for Life Franklin County is scheduled for May 10 beginning at 8 a.m. at Franklin County Middle School.

General Excellence

E

Monkey shines at Dash >> SPORTS, B1

Jarrell cleaning up for July 4th celebration >> LIVING C1

The Jones County News

YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR VOICE.

THURSDAY JUNE 13 2013

LEGAL ORGAN FOR JONES COUNTY AND GRAY, GEORGIA

VOLUME 105 | NUMBER 24

75¢

SUPERIOR COURT

Accomplice from Smith murder back behind bars

► Gets last chance at finishing sentence outside of prison

DEBBIE LUKER SMITH
dluker@jcnnews.com

Production could have brought out one of the defendants in a 2007 shooting back to Jones County Superior Court last week. Judge Stephen Pate told the defendant that he had to be sentenced to 100 days in a State Prison and Detention Center, a 10-year term.

of his production were made special, which means many states will not allow him to spend the remainder of his 10-year sentence in prison.

Steph paid guilty to the crime of voluntary manslaughter July 26, 2007, in connection with the fatal shooting of Indee Smith.

PHOTO: SAPPIN/AP

COMMUNITY

Daylily Festival proves to be most successful yet

► At least 3,000 estimated in attendance

DEBBIE LUKER SMITH
dluker@jcnnews.com

The 2013 Gray Station Daylily Festival will be remembered as a very good year despite the rain that started the festival's start.

2013 Festival Manager Jennifer Wagner said the rain started the evening drive June 7 just as the crowd started to arrive. The Daylily Club had a couple of surprises of its own, as it had in a separate story in the week's edition of the News, but it was completed before the rain started falling in earnest.

PHOTO: SAPPIN/AP

Our history

The News' home is 100 years old and stands despite the many challenges time has presented. Here's a look at the home.

NEEL CALABRO
ncalabro@jcnnews.com

One last Civil War battle has begun in Jones County.

Although it's been 140 years since the battle, there will be destruction, and there will be loss of property. And the destruction won't require bullets or cannon, it's the loss of history that may take Jones County to the line someday.

When the property in Jones County, the home of the Old Store, was bought by the Big O Ranch, some of the most important history in the county was lost. But it's time to look across the road. They will see an empty plot of land. Not quite yet, though. It depends on how the

near future will be.

A 100-year-old home sits there, in jeopardy, on Old Store building. The home and its land have seen many battles, wars, and many more. It's a home that has seen many battles, wars, and many more. It's a home that has seen many battles, wars, and many more.

why is this home so important?

- Dates back to 1882
- Was the home of Mrs. Clark, who is known for being the first Confederate and Union soldier at the same time during the Civil War
- Has been a witness to many of the county's most important events, including the burning of the home, and the loss of the property to the state, the home stands

what can you do?

- Funds are needed to be able to raise the home and land owned by Old Store Historical Society

3rd Place
TIE
The Jones
County News,
Gray

General Excellence

E

SECTION **D** Retrospective

AUGUST 26, 2014 INDEX » More News & Features D2, D3 & D4 • Local Advertising D5



Found the lost

Study by the Madison-Morgan Conservancy uncovers "Walton Mills' Hidden Past"

Down there near the southern extreme of Morgan County near the larger County border, there's a secret that remained hidden in the woods for generations. It wasn't hidden, and it wasn't wanted.

In fact, it was the logging of Georgia's industrial revolution that overtook a single cotton mill — which is pretty cool, considering. During a 30-year project by Madison-Morgan Conservancy staff, Leta Dinkler, the remains of industrial sites going back all the way to the 1830s were discovered on the 400-acre site of land left by the Little River. It was discovered as the Walton Mill Trust.

The document prepared by the study was from the history of the Walton Mill Trust, its current condition, and possibilities for future research on the site. Issues for the study ranged from debris, logs, historic aerial views, newspaper articles, and oral interviews.

The history of the Walton Mill Trust is carefully detailed, beginning with the 1807 Land Lottery, when the land that now makes up part of Morgan County was divided and sold off at approximately 40 cents per acre.

The cotton mill that was built by Walton Gregg in 1839 on the Little River is considered to be the first in the state of Georgia, and a community began growing around it known as "Waltonville."

The Methodist Church was established in 1840 around, and, in 1851, there was a post office in the community.

Following the War of 1812, the need for domestically produced cotton increased, and the cotton milling business around the Little River suffered. Gregg used his insight in 1830 and the Whitesley, the most prominent family of the time in the area, eventually left the area by the mid-1830s.

During the 1830s, however, P.W. Walton purchased land in the area and built a logging operation, creating 4,500 acres by the 1850s. Walton also owned 150 acres along the river.

The Walton owned the land in the 1850s, and P.W. Walton's land was eventually split between his heirs.

Multiple mills were still operating near the town of the century, but they were mostly mills and saws, which were used until 1903, when an experimental mill and the Walton's 1830s-era horizontal wheel and water were rebuilt.

» See PGWB Page D3

LEARN MORE
The complete study, "Walton Mill's Hidden Past," which can be found at the Madison-Morgan Conservancy's website — <http://www.madison-morgan.org/learn-more-and-visit/> — is a 136-page document, including a more complete version of the area's history, photographs of the current conditions, and appropriate environmental impact statements and transcriptions of oral interviews with people who remember the mill near Little River during their last phases of operation in the 1930s.



Clockwise from top: The main bridge over the Little River spans the site. The deck, which was originally wood, is long gone, but the concrete abutments that support the bridge are still visible in 2014. 1940s aerial photos show the mill and its operation at the Walton Trust, including a view of the industrial site, as well as the mill itself. The image shows one of the two industrial buildings at the site, built in 1839. It was one of the first cotton mills in Georgia, and it is believed to have been built around 1830. The image shows the mill's location and the surrounding area, including the river and the mill's structure.

Don't miss it! Follow us online for up-to-the minute news and event reminders! www.madisonmorgan.org [f](#) [MORGAN COUNTY NEWS](#) [@madisonmorgan](#)

3rd Place TIE

Morgan County Citizen, Madison

General Excellence

E

2nd Place

The Jackson Herald, Jefferson

THE JACKSON HERALD Wednesday, October 30, 2013
VOL. 127 NO. 21 48 PAGES 5 SECTIONS PLUS INSERTS A PUBLICATION OF Southeast Newspapers, Inc. JEFFERSON, JACKSON COUNTY GEORGIA \$0.50 PER COPY

Early voting ends Friday for town elections

EARLY voting is ending today for town elections, including the mayor's race in Jefferson and Peachtree.

Early voting is being held at the Jackson County Administrative Building in Jefferson from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Friday.

Now voters will speak

City elections slated for the final act next Tuesday

AFTER weeks of candidate campaigning and voting, now it's the voters' turn to speak out. Early voting is being held at the Jackson County Administrative Building in Jefferson from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Friday.

After an anonymous letter detailed that accused Clerk of Being led to completion from these old accusations. The letter said enough time on the case and several to police both camps.

Despite that, Glenn said the work he's responsible election experience this fall.

"This journey has been a wonderful and rewarding experience for my family and me," he said. "We will cherish these memories for a lifetime."

Glenn also said he was glad city voters have a choice in this election.

"I would also like to thank my opponent. It is a great thing to live in a county where people can give a choice, and the opportunity to have a say in their government."

Plott said he believes voters want to continue with the same direction the city has been going.

PLOTT GLENN

"I entered this race to help the city continue the progress we have made over the last six years," he said.

continued on page 18

Local frozen food business to be sold for \$38 million

BY KATE COVER

A PEDESTAL, two-hour business is poised to close on a deal to purchase a Jefferson-based frozen food processing plant for \$38 million by the first week in November, according to Matthew Jackson with Leichter, Edwards & Associates, a spokeswoman with Inverness Foods Inc.

If the deal goes through, Inverness (NYSE: INVO) will purchase substantially all of the assets of Fresh Frozen Foods LLC, a locally owned and operated processor and supplier of frozen fruits and vegetables. The business was started in Jefferson in 1975 by Billy F. Griffin Jr. and continues to ship more than 10 million of frozen vegetables and fruits to retail outlets throughout the Southeastern United States and the Caribbean. Much of the plant's annual output is used to produce the \$38 million.

Fresh Frozen's processing facility is located in Thomasville, Ga., where it employs about 70 full-time workers, according to company founder Billy F. Griffin Jr.

The products are packaged in both in Jefferson, where about 100 full-time employees work, which includes drivers, said Griffin. The business now has 30 part-time employees because the majority of employees live in the area where the plants are located, but there are a handful of employees who live outside the Jefferson and Thomasville boundaries. The company also packages local produce

from more than 200 regional growers and uses that \$38 million.

Fresh Frozen's processing facility is located in Thomasville, Ga., where it employs about 70 full-time workers, according to company founder Billy F. Griffin Jr.

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POTENTIAL \$38 MILLION SALE

Founded in 1975 by Billy F. Griffin Jr., Fresh Frozen Foods, headquartered in Jefferson, will be sold for \$38 million to Atlanta-based Inverness Foods Inc. (NYSE: INVO), according to a Sept. 26 letter of intent signed by both companies. The deal is set to take place the first week of November.

Photo by Kate Cover

Gambling machines seized from Hoschton gas station, warrants issued for operator

BY KATE COVER

A SEARCH warrant in a Hoschton gas station last month led to the seizure of several illegal gambling machines and warrants issued for the arrest of the man who operates the store.

The Jackson County Sheriff's Office announced a search warrant following an undercover investigation regarding illegal gambling machines within the Hoschton gas station located at 700 Hwy. 41, according to Sheriff John Mangrum.

The sheriff's office says it seized four machines, a tablet printer and an undisclosed amount of cash as a result of the search. Deputies also reportedly seized numerous packages of cigarette machines from the store.

Criminal arrest warrants have been obtained for Mark Baldwin of Lawrenceville. Baldwin will face charges of commercial gambling, keeping a gambling device and possession of gambling device or equipment. Baldwin was not at the store at the time of the search. Mangrum said Baldwin's attorney said he is supposed to turn himself in sometime this week.

Photo by Angela Gray

HAUNTS AND SAINTS CEMETERY TOUR

The 27th annual Haunts and Saints Cemetery Tour was held Friday and Saturday in Jefferson with more than 200 visitors attending. See more photos on page 12A.

Photo by Missygh Sogor

Jackson Co. IDA approves \$81 million in bonds

BY MIKE HANDEL

THE JACKSON County Industrial Development Authority approved \$81 million in bonds in a public meeting last Friday for the Carter's project. The action also provided a property tax exemption throughout most of the year.

Friday's action covered two bond structures, one for \$35 million to cover the real estate, which is owned by Duke Realty, and the other for \$46 million to cover Carter's costs for equipment at its new Research and Innovation Center.

The tax abatement schedule is similar to those offered other industries, although abatement would be phased over time, starting in "fully phased abatement" with Carter's officials, during which they already concluded no more can going to charge our state" on an extra year of abatement might be to compare.

According to Jack Freese, the president, CEO and managing development director for the Jackson County Area Chamber of Commerce, Carter's employment in the \$80 million IDA bonds and would be completed by the end of the year.

"They're picking up steam," he said. "It's like there's a little time to get where they want to be, but it's still going pretty strong."

Carter's manufacturing children's clothing.

The vote for the only business conducted at the meeting, but Handel also reported that the Atlanta Wood Pellets project is "still proceeding," although progress has been delayed on the company continues in the shipment.

"We're talking into next year before we will do a closing," Handel said.

The company plans to purchase the former Louisiana Pacific facility in Carter or which it will make wood pellets destined for shipment to Europe for fuel used in generating electricity.

Meanwhile, real economic development activity has picked up following the end of the partial government shutdown.

"We've been very busy with over 70 active projects," he said, adding that during the shutdown many of the projects were halted over the uncertainty.

Frost also indicated that there could be a project announcement in the near future by saying he expects the IDA to need a cabinet meeting before its next regular meeting which is scheduled for Friday, Nov. 15.

TASTE OF JACKSON

The annual Taste of Jackson was held Thursday in Jefferson with area restaurants and businesses being showcased.

Photo by Angela Gray

Read Warriors: Lady Dragon volleyball team is only one win away from a state championship match

Page 18

Op/Ed: The liberal Jefferson City Council wants to spend other people's money

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Sports: Lady Dragon volleyball team is only one win away from a state championship match

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The Eatonton Messenger

Vol. 152, No. 45 Published Continuously Since 1861 75 cents

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COUNTY COMMISSION



sports
Gators fall
Continued over the region this fall will be in the state playoffs. Today.
PAGE 1B



community
25 years
A group of year girls has been honoring a European contingent for a quarter century.
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Murder
The State Supreme Court upholds the 2011 conviction of David Santos Soren.
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Videos?
The county commission discusses making videos of its meetings and posting them on YouTube.
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Art
An exhibit of art with a Korean theme is at The Plaza Arts Center.
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Veterans Wall of Honor approved

Location of memorial source of debate: admin building vs. downtown

Ben Briggeman
Contributing Writer

All the members of the Putnam County Board of Commissioners were present at Veterans Wall of Honor and agree it should be built on county property.

Commissioners voted 4-0 to approve the original Friday. Most then discussed attending the BOV's next meeting to be held in downtown Eatonton to support the project.

BOV members did not specify where on county property the memorial should be built. It wasn't designated because, as was noted during the discussion, the vote likely would have been 2-2.

Press comments at the meeting, it appeared commissioners Paul Ward and Jack Bird would have voted for a separate site downtown, along New Market Street, near the county administrative building. Commissioners Alan Foster and Billy Wilhoite would have voted to place the memorial at the county administration building.

Three votes are required for a non-judicial BOV Chairman Steve Hinesy did not attend Friday's meeting. A vote on the location of a memorial was avoided by introducing a portion of the original resolution.

The Wall of Honor was proposed by a past member of the American Legion, Post 581, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 6086. The group has proposed a

Ceremony Nov. 11
Special services to honor veterans and their families will be held on the courthouse steps at 11 a.m. Nov. 11, 2013.
The memorial will be the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I.
The approval of the project has an attached schedule for the next meeting to be held on Nov. 11, 2013.

www.msgr.com • 121A

CRIME
GUILTY:
Reese takes plea bargain

Warren Briggeman
Contributing Writer

"Thanking the State for granting guilty pleas to (R) and various counts of aggravated assault after repeatedly attacking police officers on U.S. Highway 821 in August 2011.

He received 18 months in prison and 180 days of probation, but he will serve more than 12 years, said the Putnam County sheriff — who says it is "just seven years" added onto a sentence Reese is already responsible for serving, in cages.

Reese's plea bargain dropped a number of charges and an extra month of probation and several sentences that resulted in a "90 percent to no-arrest guarantee" sentence. It also included financial restitution to the victim, Sheriff David Pelham and Morgan Swain, the warden of the prison.

State Court Judge Michael Gaddy, sitting in for Superior Court Judge Trent Stevens, explained that to include the entire eight counts of aggravated assault would have resulted in a year in prison.

"Personally, I thought that the plea and sentence were totally inappropriate," Gaddy said Monday night. "Considering the number of law-enforcement officers on the scene of the 2011 attack, it is my duty to protect the citizens of Putnam County, and I don't like plea and sentencing plea the various individuals present," Gaddy said.

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Officials tour state prison



The City of Eatonton also views the former state prison in the south part of town, and city council members, City Administrator Dan Enlow and Public Works Director Joe Hinkle toured the facility Tuesday evening. One idea for using the facility is to update a portion — including a basketball area — and have resident prisoners do additional work to put the building back in operation. The city bought the facility from the state for \$10 — donated by council and staff members at \$1 each. Council members also have mentioned hiring a contractor for the prison. The contractor would pay a management fee to the city.

Ben Briggeman/Staff

WOUNDED WARRIORS
Kitchen Store sets place at table

Patricia Cummings
Contributing Writer

The Wounded Warrior Project built a special place in the hearts of many in and outside of Eatonton as the Kitchen Store in the Village at Hickory Crossing.

Both lived outside the United States for 10 years.

Ben Briggeman/Staff

Did you see the idea of a veteran's kitchen getting into support? Here are some signs of a kitchen project with the building and construction. We put the — how to sign with Commissioner Ward as first step. Sign the request of the meeting for the past several days.

Ben Briggeman/Staff

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The Walton Tribune

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WaltonTribune.com WEEKEND EDITION • May 18-19, 2013 One Dollar

GARRETT ALLEGES THREAT MADE

Told arrest would come out if didn't leave race; Richardson denies

By ROBBIE SCHWARTZ
Managing Editor
rschwartz@waltontribune.com

Norman Garrett knew his armed military arrest would become an issue, that he is ready to take his gun head on in an attempt to win the District 8 seat in the Monroe district.

"On April 26, I met with District 8 Chairman Jimmy Richardson at his office. He told

me if I didn't get out of the race, that this was going to come out," Garrett said, adding he felt it was a threat from the incumbent. "I don't have a problem with that and that is what I told him. When we run for public office, our lives become an open book. I feel so strongly about making positive change in our community that I decided that I would not let my private get in the way of helping the people of Monroe. I am not proud of what I did 20 years ago and I am very sorry it ever happened. One thing is for sure, it never happened. One thing is for sure, it never happened. One thing is for sure, it never happened.

See RACE, Page A3



New program offers free meals to local children

Joins FISH4Kids in providing food to youth during summer

By STEPHEN MULLIGAN
Staff Writer
smulligan@waltontribune.com

MONROE — Children at the Walton County Boys & Girls Club will be able to eat their fill this summer as a partnership with Georgia Nutrition Services will provide hot meals for members.

The club will serve two meals a day, Monday through Friday, starting June 3, with breakfast at 8:30 a.m. and lunch at 11:30 a.m. for all club members.

"The meals are provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture," said Patrick Braggins, director of the local Boys & Girls Club. "It's the same sort of stuff you get in a school lunch."

Meals of chicken nuggets or spaghetti, green beans or fruit and oatmeal, will be an offer every day, providing members with balanced, healthy meals.

See HEALTH, Page A3



Locals leery over lowering of DUI threshold

Federal officials want limit lowered to .05

By ROBBIE SCHWARTZ
Managing Editor
rschwartz@waltontribune.com

The National Transportation Safety Board offered 30 recommendations last week to reduce drunk driving in the U.S., but only one made headlines: lowering the blood alcohol content threshold from .08 to .05 for driving under the influence statute.

"Our goal is to get to zero deaths because each alcohol-impaired death is preventable," NTSB Chairman Deborah Hensman said. "Alcohol-impaired deaths are not accidents — they are crimes. They can and should be prevented. The task is clear. What is needed is the will."

The new level would mean to even those who drink per hour for a woman weighing less than 130 pounds and to more than two drinks for a man who weighed less than 200 pounds.

Any such move would require an act of the Georgia legislature and Walton County's delegation won't quite ready to offer any Southern hospitality to anything

See DUI, Page A3



Debbie Fritts Hendrix: That's pretty much zero tolerance. Wondering if that will dog our court system even more. Gonna be difficult to have a drink anywhere. Even a beer with pizza or at a baseball game. SOB, drinking and driving don't mix.

Shelby Victoria Coulter: There are multiple studies showing that BAC isn't a very good way to measure how drunk someone is or how impaired because everyone's metabolism, especially for alcohol, varies so much depending on weight, height, how much you've had to eat, etc. So lowering a level that is already arbitrary isn't a good idea.

Sarah Ann Mills Forester: You think it should. So many people drink and drive and think nothing of it. You go in a grocery store and beer, wine, alcohol is everywhere. You go in to eat and they have alcohol in all the restaurants. People feel as if they can drive and have no consequences. I feel it should be lower — zero tolerance for such the choice you may make. If you drink I agree with having someone with you to drive that is not drinking.

Beverly Durden Brock: I do not think changing it will make people stop drinking but I do think it has a lot to do about money.

Dana Beck: My son is a victim of a drunk driver — he will never be the same. At 27 years of age, he must start over. His name (and) tolerance in our schools, why not on the road?

Funds approved for bridge replacement

Mount Carmel Church Road project will use state, county funds

By ROBBIE SCHWARTZ
Managing Editor
rschwartz@waltontribune.com

MONROE — The bridge going over Turkey Creek on Mount Carmel Church Road has been closed for years, but the county is moving forward to replace the bridge after opening four sealed bids for the project recently.

The board of commissioners earlier this month formally approved accepting the low bid for the project, which will use state and Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax money to pay the \$945,200 price tag.

The bridge was closed initially after significant damage to the roadway. County officials deemed it necessary in August 2012 to begin working toward replacing the structure.

Delays came as a result of the design of the structure and what could be done utilizing

See BRIDGE, Page A3

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Wynne Tordella among the 94 students recognized as the highest of the class of 2013.

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Heavy, 10 percent chance of rain both days.

INSIDE

Newsroom of the annual Tribune NE Design on Ad contest.

3rd Place

The Walton Tribune, Monroe

General Excellence

D

SPECIAL EDITION
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Henry WEEKLY Herald

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2013
www.henryherald.com Henry County's News Source since 1874 50 cents ©2013 SHC Vol. 42, No. 143

Open government — It's the law

By Jim Zachary
zachary@henryherald.com

"Government belongs to the government, not the governing."
McDONOUGH — These words resonate in our newsroom as we work each day to provide local news, features and commentary. It is our commitment to these principles that guides us as we serve the citizens of Henry County.

This special edition of the Henry Daily Herald is designed to empower citizens and inform elected officials for the purpose of refining and improving our community.

The Henry Daily Herald believes that open government is good government.

In this edition, reporters Kelley Cochran, Rachel Shroy, Heather McElfresh, Johnny Jackson, Kirby Johnson and Carl Yonemas take a look at government transparency, the Freedom of Information Act, the practices of local officials and the laws of the state of Georgia.

You will find articles dealing with your access to public documents, your rights to request records and your reasonable expectation of knowing what elected officials are doing with taxpayer dollars.

We have provided explanations for how to make an open records request and instructions for how to proceed if a request is denied.

We have cleared up common misconceptions about executive sessions held by local governmental bodies and explained exactly what the Georgia Open Meetings Act says about the public's access to the public's business.

Public notice requirements, that must be met by local government, are fully explained as well.

See LAWS, Page 1A

“The Henry Daily Herald believes that open government is good government.”
— Editor Jim Zachary

Jim Zachary

Citizens have recourse if denied access

By Heather McClellan
hmccl@henryherald.com

All Henry County citizens have a right to know what their government is doing.

Each citizen has the right to access public records.

The Georgia Sunshine Laws are in place to ensure a citizen can request and receive documents pertaining to their government.

To get documents, citizens can make an Open Records request. The most specific the request, the better.

For the Sunshine Laws, governments have three business days to honor a request or explain why the documents are unavailable.

If citizens feel they should have access to a desired request there are steps they can take as a remedy.

First step, citizens can make a second more formal request for documents.

Jim Zachary, editor of the Clayton News Daily and Herald Daily Herald said it is generally wise to make an informal request first. "There is no need to be heavy-handed," Zachary said. "Most people who work in local government offices want to do the right thing and will have no problem providing requested documents, but sometimes Henry almost always works better than Virginia."

However, he said citizens need to understand that on those occasions when government officials deny a request, they should be persistent because requesting public records should never be viewed as something controversial or out of the ordinary.

"They're asking for something that belongs to them," Zachary said. "They should feel that they can just go into a place like city hall and ask."

If an initial request is denied, citizens can use a more formal route by submitting an Open Records Request either using a form provided by the government agency or writing a letter.

When a local government denies a request they are required — by law — to not only give the reasons for the denial but to specifically name the code section in state law they are using as the basis for denial.

If the second request is denied and a citizen feels the laws are being violated, they can contact the Georgia Attorney General's office to see what the next step is to obtaining the documents.

The Attorney General's office has an Open Government Mediation Program in place to help citizens.

"We work with governments to make sure citizens are getting what they ask for," said Lauren Kane, communications director for the AG.

See ACCESS, Page 1A



The Stockbridge City Council meets over city business in this Aug. 8 file photo. The Henry Daily Herald found itself in a battle with Stockbridge officials over public access to police chief applications and resumes. (Staff Photo: Jim Zachary)

'Nothing to hide'

Transparency battles put citizens first

By Carl Yonemas
cyonemas@henryherald.com

There are times when getting a government agency to allow access to public documents can be compared to pulling teeth from a shark's mouth.

But there are other times when it can be as easy as pie.

A recent request by the Henry Daily Herald from the city of Stockbridge — over applications for police chief applicants — falls most in the "teeth" category.

Reporter Kelley Cochran said the creation of a city police department went up and flags almost immediately.

"First, the mayor and council approved the department with little public discussion and zero public hearings," said Cochran. "This was such a serious issue that affected all of the citizens on such a personal level, yet they had no say in the matter. We thought that was wrong."

— Reporter Kelley Cochran

city "wrecked the deck" in favor of former Henry County deputy police Chief Benny Moulton, said Cochran. Mayor Mark Alcorn then pulled the appointment from a meeting agenda at the last minute, and Cochran said that in when she divided to pursue an open records request for the names of finalists and resumes and applications of applicants for the police chief position.

"After the mayor pulled the appointment from a meeting agenda, I figured the process was already over then for enough along for us to find out who was being considered for the job," she said. "I wanted to find the truth in the resumes, and hoped to be able to debunk them."

"The city, however, refused to release the documents on the grounds that the hiring process wasn't far enough along for the documents to be made public. However, Cochran said that through her investigation she was able to verify that the city may not have been as transparent in the process as the mayor had claimed.

Although she was able to track down some of the information she was seeking through other sources, Cochran still needed those documents to support her research.

When the city wouldn't comply, she turned to attorney and open records expert David

Hobson for advice.

Eventually, however, she had to take the extraordinary step of going to Senior Assistant Attorney General Stefan Ritter when other efforts to resolve the dispute failed.

"In a word, it was disappointing," said Cochran. "The AG's mediation process is obviously there for a reason, but taking such formal measures and asking for assistance from state-level officials is always a last resort. This entire issue could have easily been avoided."

"I always want to be able to, in good faith, believe my open records requests can be answered after a phone call or an informal email," she added. "Government organizations with nothing to hide would never have reacted to this simple request the way Stockbridge did."

In light of the newspaper's dugged and public efforts to bring light on the situation, city officials have credited on the idea of creating a police department and it

See BATTLES, Page 1A

2nd Place

Henry Daily Herald, McDonough

General Excellence

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1st Place

Douglas County Sentinel, Douglasville

COMMUNITY, B1 Rotary Club has a very busy week.

douglas county Sentinel

FRIDAY August 23, 2013 Local News. First. 51 The Playbook — your complete local football guide.

INSIDE
The Playbook — your complete local football guide.

GOOD LOCAL JOB NEWS
Employment in Douglas County has risen and regional trends are positive, according to the unemployment rates in July, according to Georgia Labor Commissioner Mark Dubler. Douglas County saw unemployment drop to 4.8 percent in July, a comparison to 5.1 percent in June. In July, the county saw a 0.7 percent increase in job openings to 1,716 jobs, compared to 1,622 jobs in June. The total number of job openings in Douglas County was 107 percent in July 2012. The total number of job openings in the state was 11.7 percent in July 2013, compared to 10 percent in June. The total was 10.4 percent in July 2012. The total number of job openings in the state was 10.4 percent in July 2012. The total number of job openings in the state was 10.4 percent in July 2012.

NATIONAL SHOWS OFF
The National Association of State Parks and Recreation (NASPR) will hold its annual convention in Douglas County on Sept. 23-25. The convention will be held at the Stone Mountain Park Convention Center. The convention will be held at the Stone Mountain Park Convention Center. The convention will be held at the Stone Mountain Park Convention Center.

CHRISTMAS FOR INDIGENTS
The Douglas County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on the proposed budget for the Christmas for Indigents program. The program is a charitable program that provides food and clothing to the poor. The program is a charitable program that provides food and clothing to the poor.

WELCOMING DOCTOR
The Douglas County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on the proposed budget for the Christmas for Indigents program. The program is a charitable program that provides food and clothing to the poor. The program is a charitable program that provides food and clothing to the poor.

Jury convicts Hines in bank theft case
Justice served: Bank manager now faces Aug. 27 sentencing
BY MITCH EMMETT
A Douglas County jury took a little more than three hours to find a former bank manager guilty of five counts including the theft of money from an elderly customer at the bank where she was working.
Pinned to her attorney, Mar Hines, with hands and thumbs who had been there with her throughout the trial, Steven Whitlock Hines, 45, stood stunned as the jury returned guilty verdicts on charges of identity fraud, two counts of theft by taking and two counts of burglary with first degree.

County's take-home cars rack up miles, fuel cost
BY RON DANIEL
The citizens of Douglas County will soon be suffering the financial pain of a 20.75 percent increase in county property taxes approved by the Board of Commissioners last month.
The BDC approved the 18th straight year of 27 speakers and nearly 200 attendees at three public hearings, many of whom begged the commissioners to hold up their end of the budget.
But while those pleas fell largely on deaf ears, the Sentinel has learned through an open records request that over 25 county vehicles are not meeting law enforcement personnel have take-home vehicles. Employees from County Administrator Eric Linton to Parks and Recreation Director Gary Dukes have their own vehicles.
Paul Linton, Dukes and many of the county's top government officials don't even live in Douglas County, meaning local citizens are picking up the tab for their commutes.
"It's just the industry standard for most and for certain law departments leads to have vehicles, and that's just the model we've followed," Linton said.
Douglas County Director of Purchasing and Asset Control Bill Pritchard said the county has for its work. Over a 12-month period from July 2012 to July 2013, Pritchard said the average mileage of county vehicles was 18,000.

Changes coming to way state parks are policed
BY RON DANIEL
A change in the way the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will handle law enforcement in the future has some worried state parks. Six Stone Mountain Park in eastern Douglas County will be lost into under the new system.
The commission started after the DNR's governing board decided to take away the policing power of about 60 park rangers.
John Kennedy, a volunteer with Friends of Stone Mountain Park, was upset by the changes and had an appeal on her own.

Local businesses 'get on the bus' with local schools
FROM STAFF REPORTS
A record crowd of close to 100 people attended the Douglas County School System's Partners in Education (PIE) breakfast Thursday morning at Georgetown Power.
The message this year is "Get on the bus" and "Keep moving" and local businesses are excited to get on board as many agreed up to be a valuable part of the lives of local students.
The school system now has more than 500 partners.

Partners in Education Kickoff
Local business leaders gathered at Georgetown Power for the "Get on the bus and keep moving" partners in Education (PIE) breakfast event. Thursday morning, more than 100 were on hand and the school system now has more than 500 partners. Linton, Dukes and many of the county's top government officials don't even live in Douglas County, meaning local citizens are picking up the tab for their commutes.

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Sunday, June 30, 2013 Vol. 134, No. 242 Pages: 12 Circulation: 20,000 Publication: Print Edition

Inside: Farm belt sees frequent rain, 3A ... Sports: Local NFL star Branch talks future, Hernandez, 1B

Preliminary SACS report on Darton unflattering

By Steve Lewis
SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

ALBANY — Darton State College Vice President of Student Affairs Gary Bernetti said a **preliminary** accreditation report from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) was an eye opener for the college.



The 10-page document outlines numerous concerns and questions that accreditation committees would ask at a recent site visit.

The report was an unflattering look at the college's performance, but Bernetti said it was a necessary step in the accreditation process. He said the college will have to work to address many of the concerns outlined in the report, but he said the college is committed to making the necessary changes to meet the standards of SACS.

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The report was an eye opener for the college, Bernetti said. He said the college will have to work to address many of the concerns outlined in the report, but he said the college is committed to making the necessary changes to meet the standards of SACS.

Albany TAD on the verge of substantial growth

By Carolyn Fletcher
SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

ALBANY — It is, perhaps, unfortunate that the momentum of the district needed to allow voters to vote in 2010 to encourage development in certain areas of the city that, in these days, many would have seen as a development setback with a higher tax projection on what would be a new job complex.



Workers install trusses Friday at the site of a new Albany city station under construction on Oglethorpe Boulevard. The business falls within Albany's tax allocation district and will bring in new tax money for redevelopment in the district.

The Royal Treatment

By J.D. Sanchez
SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

ALBANY — Literally speaking, the Miss Georgia crown isn't very heavy.



Leahy Miller Galy Weston has been crowned Miss Georgia 2013. Weston will represent Georgia at the Miss America Pageant on Sept. 15.

Weston said she is excited to represent Georgia and to be crowned Miss Georgia. She said she will be working hard to represent Georgia well at the Miss America Pageant.

Weston said she is excited to represent Georgia and to be crowned Miss Georgia. She said she will be working hard to represent Georgia well at the Miss America Pageant.

3rd Place

Times-Georgian, Carrollton

CLASSIFIED 6B | CROSSFORD 11B | LOTTERIES 4A | OBITUARIES 10A | SOUTHVIEW DC | SPORTS 1B

Daily Views, 11A
Immigration and DACA in Texas
Quote of the Day
Have you realized that every teacher will bring someone from their classrooms with me.
April L. Nissen

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Corrections
This newspaper is committed to providing you with accurate information. Errors that do occur will be corrected as soon as possible. Please contact us at 229-446-1400 for corrections or contributions will appear in this issue.

CONKEY: CAPITALISM, NOT SOCIALISM, PROVIDES EQUAL OPPORTUNITY OPINION / 4A



Duo to sell new cookbook at FoxTale Book Shoppe

Living / 2A

Run the Towne Rivals expect to lead local cross country programs

Sports / 1B



Cherokee Tribune

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2013 BREAKING NEWS 24/7 @ CHEROKEETRIBUNE.COM 60 CENTS

School district cleared by AdvancED

By Michelle Babcock

The Cherokee County School District learned Wednesday afternoon it was cleared by AdvancED...



Kelly Marlow, superintendent of Cherokee County School District...



Dr. Mark Egan, president and CEO of Southern Association of Colleges and Schools...

response and its comprehensive documentation, AdvancED finds the Cherokee County School District is not in violation of AdvancED Accreditation Standards and/or policies...

and learning." After receiving the notification, School Board Chair Brent Road said the news leaves him feeling relieved.

See ClearEd, Page 12A

Board approves sale of Jones Building to developer for \$1.8M

By Michelle Babcock

CANTON — The Cherokee County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the sale of the Jones Building in downtown Canton to an Atlanta-based developer for \$1.8 million...



Jerry Cooper, County Manager...

Additional costs include a construction contingency of \$21,000 and minor alterations...



Left: Todd Kristopher Grigg, 31, of Woodstock, was arrested Wednesday after being found armed with several weapons including a 9mm handgun...

Armed man arrested at Canton school

By Joshua Sharpe

One day after a gunman opened fire at a DeKalb County school, a man was arrested Wednesday morning outside the Cherokee Charter Academy...

Li Jay Baker, spokesman for the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office...

The deputy was at the Charter Academy as Sikes Road working morning traffic and approached Grigg...

See Armed, Page 12A

Former Atlanta Brave Nixon indicted on cocaine possession

By Joshua Sharpe

CANTON — A popular former Atlanta Braves player has been indicted by a Cherokee County grand jury on possession of cocaine...



Mike Nixon

Nixon was indicted August 12 on a felony count of cocaine possession and a misdemeanor charge of possession of a drug-related object...

Nixon, a resident of Range, was arrested in the early morning hours of May 4 when Cherokee County 911 received a call reporting his Dodge Ram was entering on Interstate 75 near Ball Creek...

but police said they had already found a bag of crack cocaine and a pipe in his pocket...

Nixon was on the roster for the Atlanta Braves from 1991 to 1993 and again in 1996...

2nd Place

The Cherokee Tribune, Canton

General Excellence

C

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Crazy Crimes
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Toddler killed by vicious dogs

7 family dogs attacked child in yard

Bryan County Sheriff Clyde Smith speaks Thursday to local media during a press conference regarding the death of an 18-month-old child who was attacked Wednesday by seven dogs.

CRISIS BACK
From Early News

FEMURALS — No charges have been filed, and the investigation continues Thursday into the Wednesday evening of a North Bryan toddler by a pack of family dogs.

According to Bryan County Sheriff Clyde Smith, family members were from a dog around 6:30 p.m. Wednesday to find a 21-month-old Moxie Rose Lasterack being attacked by seven dogs in the yard of their home on Lily Drive in Elbert.

"Apparently what happened is the child and the dogs were all in the house together and ended the house through the dog door," Smith said during a news conference Thursday morning in Reidsville. "The dogs apparently live in the house also ... and then all went outside and at some point they started attacking the child, mauling her and dragging her all over the yard. They saw her status off and scattered her clothes all over the yard."

See F000008, Page 4

Eye on Bulloch schools

'Student teachers' at WJMS

William James Middle School eighth-grader Seth Apperson, 13, left, helps classroom Carl Carter, 13, learn about the wave nature of light. According to teacher Rob Lindsey, students get more one-on-one time learning from their classmates, and that learning how to teach their subjects helps students retain the information.

BY JEFF HANSON
Special To Herald

ATLANTA — Investigation is looking at a possible gang tie in the slaying of a Georgia toddler and his mother Thursday that a bullet used in the shooting has been recovered.

Most search warrants were returned Wednesday night, though Glynn County Judge Clark Blum didn't say specifically what evidence might have been found.

The chief did reveal Thursday the investigators have reviewed the bullet they believe was used in the killing of 15-month-old Antonio Santiago as his mother cradled his dying child on March 21 in Brunswick, a town in Georgia's coast. The bullet and a .33-caliber handgun, which was found separately in a pond 1 mile

See B000007, Page 4

State lawmakers reach agreement on lobbying rules

BY RAY HENRY
Special To Herald

ATLANTA — Lobbyists could not spend more than \$100 a time on government affairs under a bill passed Thursday by Georgia's legislature in the last day of their annual session, state lawmakers said.

If approved, the legislation would impose the five limits on what lobbyists can spend in Georgia. Lobbyists can now spend as much as they want to influence state legislators as long as they publicly report their expenditures.

The plan would tighten lobbyist registration rules, forcing people to register as lobbyists if they are paid to

lobby or get more than \$200 in reimbursements for their lobbying work.

News on the legislation, which has not been publicly released, was reported last Thursday. An agreement was not about of a five deadline amid the chaos of the General Assembly's final working day called State Day. Gov. Nathan Deal approved by midnight Thursday automatically led for the year.

"Sometimes you just have differences of opinion with people, and sometimes it's

See L000000, Page 3

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CASHWORD NO WINNER THIS WEEK • JACKPOT INCREASES TO \$1,000, PAGE C5

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The rise and fall of teen pregnancy

ONCE TOPPING THE CHARTS:
While birth rates have dropped, 'we're nowhere near solving that problem'

FUNDING DROPPING
Local advocates worry cuts in funding for teen pregnancy prevention programs could stop the downward trend.

BIRTHRATE NUMBERS VARY
More than two decades later, the rate of children born to teen mothers is about half what it was nationwide, in Georgia and in Clarke and neighboring counties. But a high teen birth rate remains a crisis, according to public health officials and child welfare advocates.

IN 2011, funding for the program was cut in half.

BEYOND THE STEREOTYPE:
Young mom aims to overcome the odds

INSIDE

FORECAST

91°

73°

FULL DETAILS, PAGE 2

IN LIVING: More women ages 40-44 now having children

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A TIMES SPECIAL REPORT

Where will federal budget cuts fall?

Congress faces March 1 deadline to stop 'sequestration,' across-the-board spending reductions

BY JEFF GILL
jgill@gainesvilletimes.com

Many Americans are learning a new word, "sequestration," while Congress debates how to avoid "gridlock."

And meanwhile, automatic spending cuts set to kick in March 1 have

many observers, including those in government and business, are warning their friends and even how to put in words just what their potential impact may be.

"We don't have a military base on top of Gainesville or an agency like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention... it has a visibility,

and yet we have so many areas where federal spending shows up in our lives," says Tom Brink, executive director of the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce and vice president of economic development.

"These budgets do circulate in Gainesville and County's economy, so there are lots of unknowns. We

may be adversely impacted in ways we can't even see yet."

Alan King, executive director of the Atlanta-based Georgia Budget and Policy Institute, said he believes each federal agency will plan differently to address funding cuts.

◆ Please see **BUSINESS**, 1A

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Services that would be affected by cuts, **B6**
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New Georgia leaders' perspective must lead, **B6**

2014 TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

HALL COUNTY SCHOOLS
Ashley DesPres
Lester Elementary School

GAINESVILLE CITY SCHOOLS
Denise McConnell
Chris Multiple Intelligence Academy

Working inmates now under one roof

Couch consolidates county jail's work release program

BY ERICA WYBICKI
ewybicki@gainesvilletimes.com

Hall County Sheriff Conard Couch announced and started Friday the department's consolidation of the county's work release program for the jail's main facility on Barber Road.

An inmate on work release is allowed to work at a job outside the jail, but must report back to jail.

Consolidating separate quarters for work release inmates has been a top priority for Couch since he took office. Financial hurdles at the department, however, have delayed the plan.

"Consolidating the facilities will mean reduced equipment, maintenance expenses, uniforms, equipment and supplies," he said.

Couch's consolidated savings are about \$1 million for the department.

◆ Please see **A&B**, 1A

Learning as labor of love

Arca's top teachers go all out for their students

STORIES BY SARAHAN KING | PHOTOS BY TOM REED

When you put your heart and soul into a job, usually it shows. Your energy is contagious, your work superb and you meet every challenge by looking for the best solution. And for those honored as Teachers of the Year, that's certainly the case.

Today, we honor those teachers who get creative to meet the needs of every student. Like Ashley DesPres, who knows that each child learns a little bit differently. We honor those who push their students to be their best because they know they can be. Like Denise McConnell, who believes her students just need some positive reinforcement to know they can find the answers.

And we recognize teachers at all 33 Hall and eight Gainesville schools who put their effort into every day to shape the minds of future leaders.

READ THEIR STORIES ON PAGE 4A

Inside
View profile information on Gainesville and Hall County schools teachers of the year, **A6**
◆ Continue, **A6**

Also tell: Luster Elementary School teacher Ashley DesPres overcomes a math problem to help her students. DesPres was named the 2014 Hall County Teacher of the Year. Right: Denise McConnell, multiple-intelligence Academy teacher Denise McConnell, implements a social studies program for a group of students. McConnell was named the 2014 Gainesville City Schools Teacher of the Year.

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Staff photos / Kelly J. Huff

John Loui, president of Loui Securities, poses for a photograph in victory after the Cobb County Commissioners voted 4-1 on the memorandum of understanding to finance a new stadium for the team that will play here in 2017. Also seated with Loui in front are EMS (seated) Shane Gorman, Community Outreach Liaison Government & Community Affairs at Purcell, Edith Stynes, Cobb and Kennesaw Mayor Mark Mathews.

LOUI DISSENTS IN 4-1 VOTE: 'I WILL NOT EVER BE BULLIED.'

BRAVES PRESIDENT JOHN SCHUERHOLZ: 'THIS GOLD STANDARD FRANCHISE HAS JOINED WITH A GOLD STANDARD COUNTY AS WE PLAN OUR FUTURE TOGETHER.'

Celebrating a 4-1 vote from the Cobb County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday night are, from left, Atlanta Braves Executive Vice President of Sales and Marketing Derek Suttler, Cobb Chamber CEO David Carroll, Braves President John Schuerholz, Braves Chairman and CEO Terry McGuirk, Cobb Chairman Tim Lee and Executive Vice President of Business Operations Mike Piersi outside The Strand Theatre, which welcomes the team to Cobb County on the marquee.

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SUNDAY January 26, 2008
MIDDLE GEORGIA'S NEWSPAPER

The Telegraph

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EVERY GIVEN SUNDAY

The man who lives and lives and lives for the Atlanta Falcons

Kroger killing puts Taser use in spotlight

By AMY DEER WOODS
awoods@macon.com

In the weeks since a Macon police officer fatally shot a man at a local grocery store, there has been a lot of talk about what could improve the officer might have had.

Some City Council members have suggested that Sumner Davis Jr. might still be alive if officer Clayton Nation had been carrying a Taser on his duty belt Dec. 2 along with a gun.

The Macon police SWAT team has used Tasers for about five years and the department has wanted to try more, said Chief Mike Burns. Police are considering the delivery of about 60 Tasers in the next month or so, he said.

Other area law-enforcement agencies...

SEE T22R, 3A



Football superfan Joe Curtis, 54, of Macon, will be at Sunday's game against San Francisco. Since Atlanta first fielded a team in 1966, the Falcons have played 138 games. Curtis has attended 103 of them — at 267 home games in the team's history, and 182 on the road. (That's not counting preseason home games. He's been to every last one of them, too, including one in Japan.)

By BE HENNING
bhenning@macon.com

Joe Curtis is the nearest thing the long-trampled franchise has to sporting royalty.

Women stop by his seat on Aisle 136 and plant smooches on his cheek.

On Sundays, he shakes more hands than a Baptist preacher.

Fans buy him beers, but these days he is more likely to sip a vanilla Creamer.

SEE T22R, 3A

U.S. mood tentative leading up to inauguration

Economy, safety top nation's worries into Obama's second term

By DANIELA HANSEN
Dhanesen@macon.com

WASHINGTON — As President Barack Obama prepares to begin his second term, he will govern a nation where people feel insecure about their economic future, worried about their personal safety and concerned that international affairs are spiraling out of the United States' control.

They're also angry at and disappointed with their government, blaming Washington as impediment rather than promoting progress in ending the loss of irish & irishmen.

While Obama wins a second term with a popular vote majority, stability...

SEE T22R, 3A

INAUGURAL ROAD TRIP

Charles Richardson, editorial page editor, will be traveling to Washington, D.C., to take in President Barack Obama's inauguration. Follow along on his trip on Twitter. @charlesr2008

ALSO

- A look at inauguration history, 3A

Yelp to add restaurants' health-inspection grades to reviews

Reviews site 'helps' add restaurants' health-inspection grades to its site, giving users yet another tool through which they can decide where to eat.

Yelp Inc. said Thursday that city-provided health-score information will be available in San Francisco first. Restaurant grades in New York City will be added in the coming weeks.

San Francisco-based Yelp says its engineers have been working with the city in designing technology that lets municipalities publish inspection information on its website.

For San Francisco businesses, the new program displays restaurant health scores — for example, 82 out of 100. Clicking on the number takes users to a page with more detailed information about the restaurant's recent inspections. In New York, restaurants are given letter grades of A, B or C by health inspectors.

— Associated Press

Correction

The name of the deceased was incorrect in a headline and photo caption on Page 1B Saturday. The funeral procession pictured was for retired Macon-Dodge County Fire Department Capt. Glenn Eric Wuchard. The Telegraph regrets the error.

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www.augustachronicle.com THE SOUTH'S OLDEST NEWSPAPER -- ESTABLISHED 1785 Sunday, May 26, 2013

On the right track

With the help of a federal program that poured millions into each school, Lucy C. Laney, T.R. Jolley and Glenn Hills high schools have made improvements in attendance, discipline and other aspects of school culture in the past three years.



T.R. Jolley High School students work with laptop computers purchased with money from federal School Improvement Grants. In 2010, Jolley was part of the bottom 5 percent of the nation's worst performing schools.

Federal money transforms schools

By Tracy McInnes
Staff Writer

There was a federal factory for the 11 percent high school graduation rate in 2008. In 2008, another record low for the nation with more than 100 states with one other to the state. At the time, going to school and staying there were almost unheard of for students.

Each had their own identity and character. But one thing Lucy C. Laney, T.R. Jolley and Glenn Hills high schools had in common by 2010 was being in the bottom 5 percent of the nation's worst performing schools.

Well, with that distinction came help.

In the 2009-10 school year, the three Buchanan County schools began receiving federal money through the grant. The grant awarded each school about \$1 million for extensive teacher training, curriculum, extended learning time, and three state intervention specialists and a network of support.

The program, part of the Obama administration's effort to reduce persistently low-achieving schools, awarded \$2 billion nationwide last year.

IMPROVEMENTS IN ABSENTEEISM, REFERRALS

Though test scores haven't necessarily improved since the three Buchanan County schools began using a three-year "improvement" grant, all report lower chronic absenteeism and fewer disciplinary referrals.

	ABSENT 15+ DAYS			DISCIPLINE REFERRALS		
	'10-'11	'11-'12	'12-'13	'10-'11	'11-'12	'12-'13
T.R. Jolley High	28.8%	27%	18%	1,488	1,277	1,202
Lucy C. Laney High	18.2%	21.7%	9%	1,440	1,172	472
Glenn Hills High	14.2%	14.8%	12%	583	362	381

► See what subjects the schools have improved on or all on page A17B.

These aren't small and millions of dollars later, significant changes have been made in attendance, discipline and other aspects of school culture at the three schools. Improved on test scores has been done in some cases where scores were worse - but experts say it's a long-term program in discipline and culture before academic improvement is seen.

"It's never been the idea to hold students quickly to a high standard," said Timothy Korman, Buchta (now director of the University of Chicago Urban Education Institute, who has mentored reform efforts at 20 Chicago schools over four years. "Students in chronically failing high schools typi-



Wolpack derailed state title
Buchanan High School baseball players Grant Pappas (left), Derek Murray, Steven Mace and Brent Little (right) after Pope High School scored 12 runs in the fourth inning of Game 2 of the Class AAAA state final series. Pappas took the title with the 10-run win. May 25.

COMPounding PHARMACIES

Group says FDA checks go too far

Businesses face scrutiny after deaths

By Tom Cowen
Staff Writer

With legislation pending in Congress to give the Food and Drug Administration authority to issue regional emergency alerts, some manufacturers are questioning the FDA's authority to do what has been the FDA's role in the past: to check drugs on its own in each state on more than 40,000 prescription drugs across the country, including over-the-counter.

The same issue was at the center of a lawsuit filed last week by the National Consumer Pharmacies Association (NCPA) against the FDA. The lawsuit claims that the FDA's new authority to do what has been the FDA's role in the past: to check drugs on its own in each state on more than 40,000 prescription drugs across the country, including over-the-counter.

The NCPA lawsuit was filed in federal court in Washington, D.C., and was filed on March 18 through April 3 and was filed in 11 "states" including Alabama, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

The most serious allegation is that the FDA's new authority to do what has been the FDA's role in the past: to check drugs on its own in each state on more than 40,000 prescription drugs across the country, including over-the-counter.

The FDA's new authority to do what has been the FDA's role in the past: to check drugs on its own in each state on more than 40,000 prescription drugs across the country, including over-the-counter.

DEATHS

James Dale Thomas, 78, of Thomas County, Ga.
James Dale Thomas, 78, of Thomas County, Ga.
James Dale Thomas, 78, of Thomas County, Ga.
James Dale Thomas, 78, of Thomas County, Ga.
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INSIDE TODAY

Residents hope for downtown retailers

Augusta's downtown has succeeded in attracting residents. Now residents are hoping they will attract commercial growth.

Longtime attorney dies at age of 84

William Dale Barnett, 84, longtime attorney and managing partner of the law firm Barnett, Barnett & Barnett, died Saturday.

Troop deployment puts strain on families left awaiting return

By Wesley Green
Staff Writer

Once a budding expert, one Shelly Barnett found with her father, the video game "Call of Duty" became all she could think of when she was in the military.

Shelly Barnett, 30, is a 10-year-old daughter who grew through military deployment, starting early and eventually becoming a part of the "Call of Duty" world of military warfare.

Shelly was not alone in her army. The entire Barnett family, which has entered their deployment to 10 years, became afraid.

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SUNDAY

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SPLOST 2013: A SPECIAL REPORT

Decision time

Keep, dump special sales tax? Savannah seeks \$190M from tax

BY MARCUS E. HOWARD • 912-432-0448 • marcus.howard@savannahnow.com

Few local issues divide this community like the special purpose local option sales tax. Residents appear to either support the 1 percent optional sales tax as a better deal than property tax hikes or oppose it as an example of government's insatiable appetite for tax revenue. Either way, voters have once again been asked to head to the polls to decide whether SPLOST will live for six more years. Polls around the county will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday.

Besides the county-wide SPLOST vote, Port Wentworth has a special and three-city council races on the ballot. Former candidate Mike Woods withdrew from one race. Garden City has two City Council elections. Both Thunderbolt and Hiram residents have open municipal elections. Three Island residents will decide three city council races.

There were a total of 2,300 people who cast ballots, including mail-in ballots, in early voting, according to the county Board of Registrars. That's somewhat low, officials acknowledged.

Russell Bridges, county elections supervisor, said 10-15 percent voter turnout would be typical on Tuesday. He referenced the 2004 special election that drew 30 percent. Most of the voters there were a total of 2,300 people who cast

BY ERIC CUNL • 912-432-0752 • eric.cunl@savannahnow.com

Chatham County residents approved the first 1 percent sales tax for capital improvement projects on June 13, 1986. Since then, voters have extended the special purpose local option sales tax six times to pay for roads, drainage improvements, cultural centers and recreational facilities.

On Tuesday, voters will again determine whether the tax continues.

County and city leaders estimate the six-year tax would raise at least \$170 million. The funds would go toward the completion of new projects, as well as previously approved ones that need additional funding.

The most expensive project would be a new arena

ON PAGE 6A
Memorial Stadium upgrades top Chatham county's \$12 million bid

SEE TAX, PAGE 6A

SEE CITY, PAGE 7A

A grand finale

16th annual Savannah Film Festival closes with award for teen actress Abigail Breslin

BY LINDA SICKLER • 912-522-0724 • linda.sickler@savannahnow.com

An age 12, the Savannah Film Festival's latest award winner is looking at colleges.

Actress Abigail Breslin is very impressed with the Savannah College of Art and Design. "SCAD is an awesome school," the Discovery Award winner said enthusiastically on Saturday.

"I'd love to go here," she said. "It's pretty tough to get into, though."

Despite her success — 40 films so far — getting a college degree is important to Breslin. "I hope next year to be going to college and making movies," she said. "I'm trying to figure out how that can be done."

Breslin would like to study psychology. "It does help with acting," she said. "I've always been interested by human beings and the human experience. It's something I definitely want to delve into."

While in Savannah, Breslin met with SCAD students to discuss acting and filmmaking. "I saw their talent and enthusiasm

and passion for the arts," she said. "Being around people who love the arts is very exciting."

Accepting the Discovery Award she was exciting, Breslin said. "It's so honored that they chose me to give it to," she said.

Several other awards were given on Saturday, the film festival's final night. Among the winners was SCAD graduate student Amber Hancock, who won the festival's first Discovery the Savannah Film Festival competition.

SCAD president and co-founder Paula Wallace founded the competition, but outside the college, it has received little attention. "It's completely free under the radar," said Deputy Films, the festival's executive director.

Continents writer and film introductions, which were judged by Wallace. The winning Hancock was allowed to introduce Breslin and present her with the award.

Following the award presentation, "Savage: Orange County" in which Breslin has a part, was screened. Based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning play by Tracy Letts, the widely anticipated book movie will be released on Christmas Day with an all-star cast that includes Meryl Streep, Ryan Reynolds, Julia Roberts, Kate




ON PAGE 4A
The complete list of award winners at the 2013 Savannah Film Festival.

ON PAGE 4A
The complete list of award winners at the 2013 Savannah Film Festival.

changed and how they interact years after they've seen each other. It's very funny."

"When she was only 10, Breslin was nominated for an Academy Award for her role in 'Little Miss Sunshine,'" the festival's principal person-in-charge. "It was all kind of a blur to me, but it was really exciting," she said.

It was exciting to her mother, too. "She grew up watching the Oscars and, like, wow, you're there," Kim Breslin said.

Breslin began her film career

SEE TAX, PAGE 6A

SEE FINALE, PAGE 4A

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Wind and occasional drizzle

Forecast by Heather Edwards

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