

WAYCROSS

m a g a z i n e
Fall/Winter 2016-2017 • Issue 28





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Cover photo: Phyllis Perry, while visiting her daughter in Port Wentworth GA in 2015, they ran across the firetruck on Highway 30 in Effingham Co. Phyllis thought it would make a great photo, she told her daughter to turn around so that she could get a shot. Phyllis tries to always keep her camera with her especially while traveling; you never know what treasures you may find.

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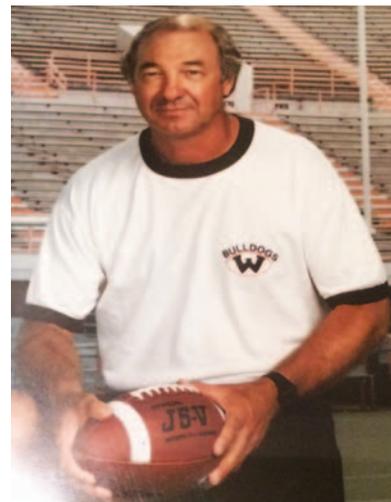
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I owe a tremendous amount of gratitude to Coach Williams for helping establish the foundation of success in my life. I take great pride in being a member of his 1981 State Championship team and have fond memories of the coaches and teammates that accomplished what has not been repeated since in our community. *Steve Stipe*

I remember Dale as a championship football coach, teacher, and builder of young men. An important aspect of this championship character was that he seemed to be able to always present a calm demeanor in the middle of the storm of a tight football game or in the many other events of daily life. Dale also seemed to meet very few strangers and was well known for greeting people with the true Southern "Hey Bubba" or "How you doing Bubba." He was certainly a great credit and asset to the Waycross-Ware community during his coaching/teaching career here. *Ted Walden*

Dale is considered an offensive minded genius. When it came to calling plays for his football team, He was the type of coach who could take his players and beat your players, or take your players and beat his, plus Coach Williams is such a nice man, so involved in the community and he always cared deeply about his players. *Mayor John Knox*



It was the greatest rivalry in South Georgia. Ware County Gators vs. Waycross Bulldogs. Coach Dale Williams pulled me to the side and said, Tunde we need 6 points, crossfire 34 pass fullback in the flats, touchdown!!!! That was my best night running with three touchdowns. Thanks to Coach Williams for all he has meant to me. *Tunde Howard*



My first thoughts of Dale are about what a positive and influential mentor and friend he was for me. He was a great example as to how to approach life just a little less seriously. He allowed me to do what I was hired to do (direct and coach the defense) and offered advice only when he thought necessary.

Dale taught me much about how to handle ball players, as well as, their parents and other adults. Listen to what they have to say then make the best decision you can. As Athletic Director, Dale enjoyed and looked out for all sports, making sure they had whatever they needed to be competitive.

After a win, we celebrated and looked forward to the next game. If we lost, he shrugged it off, evaluated the game, and looked forward in preparation for the next game. He never let a loss, or a win upset his outlook on life. He just moved on. Dale was never afraid to take risks. He was always willing to try most any play offensively, defensively, or special teams to give our team the opportunity to win. He kept life and football very exciting! *Rusty Ganas*



Carolyn and Dale have been married 54 years. Daughter Caroline is shown with her father. Unconditional love between these two.

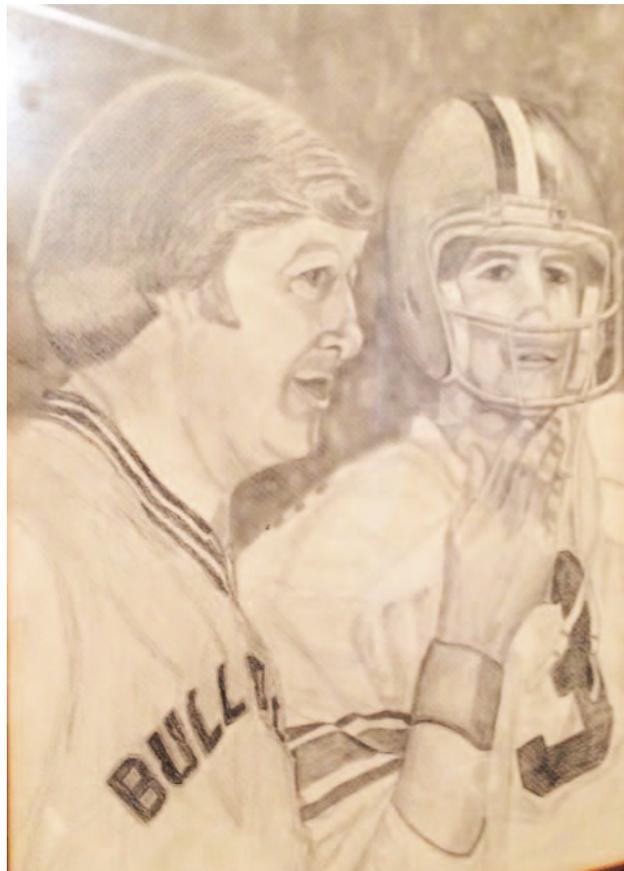


Coach Dale Williams has taught me more about football and life than I can thank him. A great Coach, mentor, and friend. Two things I have carried with me since I became a Waycross Bulldog in 1975 that has guided me along my life's journey. It's not the will to win it's is the will to prepare to win, we were always only one play away from a touchdown. The second and most important was Patience, a Coach's greatest virtue, he lived it by example on and off the field, love ya Coach. *E. B. Price*

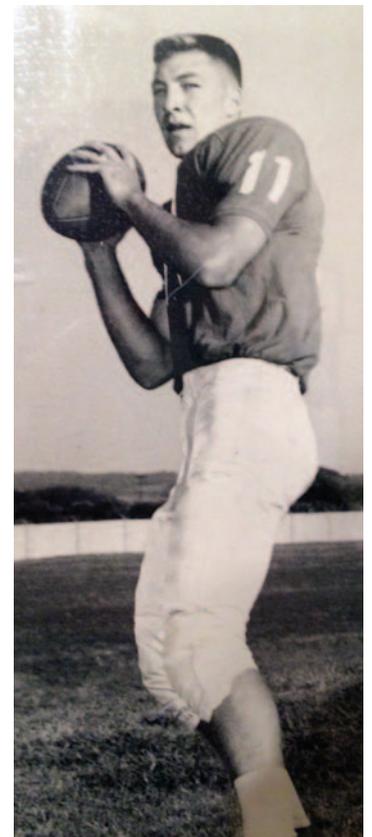


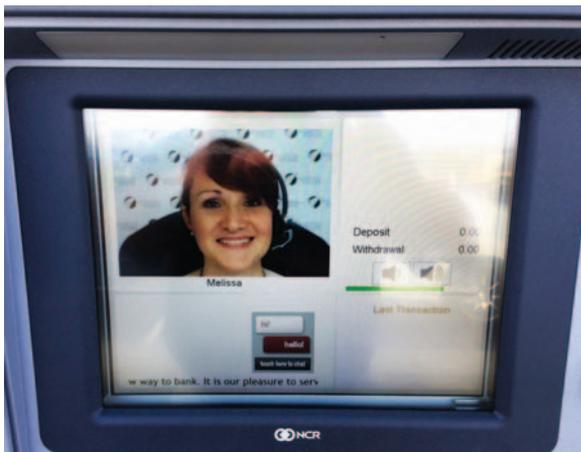
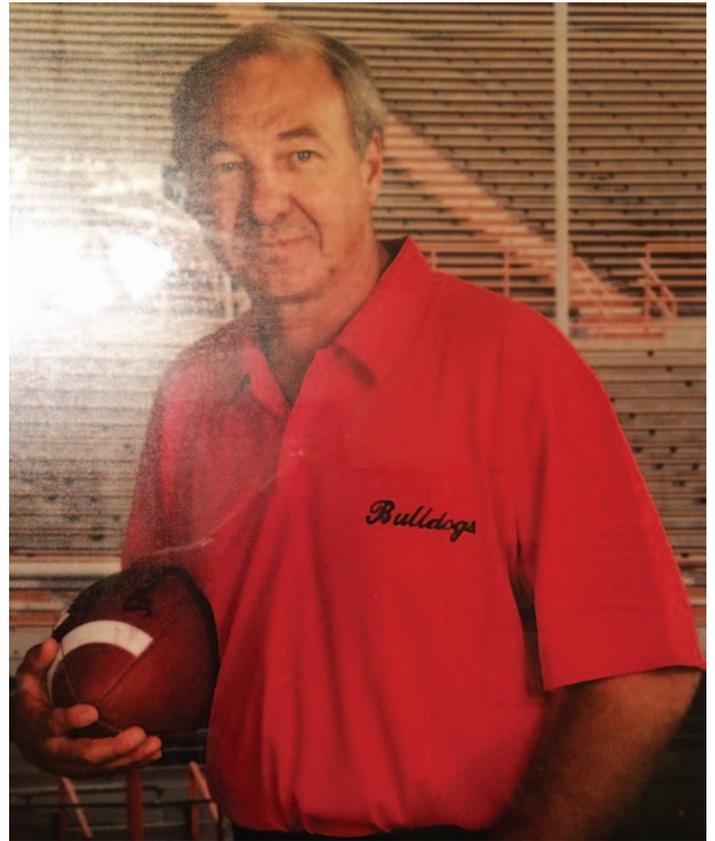
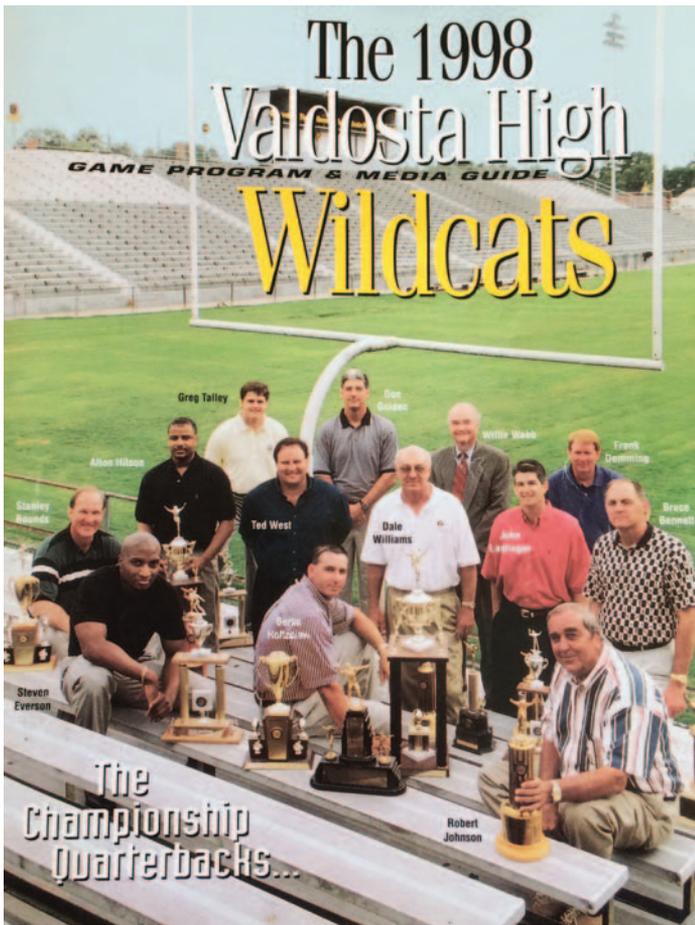
Dale and Todd

I played for Coach Williams from 1987-1989. The thing I most admired about him was his ability to convince players that their position was the most important one on the field. That allowed a player to understand the team aspect. He was a father figure to thousands. *Bubba Mincey*



Sketch by Cynthia Herrin





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Jana Dyke recently relocated to Waycross-Ware County from Sylvester Georgia, along with her husband of 13 years William, and two sons Harrison 12 and Tucker 8. Jana is passionate about economic development and South Georgia. Jana brings over ten years of economic development experience with her to her new position as the Executive Director of the Waycross and Ware County Development Authority. Jana is a graduate of the Georgia Academy of Economic Development and a member of the 2017 Leadership Waycross class.



Sarah Rudick has been the Executive Assistant at the Waycross and Ware County Development Authority since March 2012. Originally from Kennesaw, GA, Sarah moved to Waycross in 2005. She received her A.A in Business Administration from South Georgia State College and her B.B.A in Management from Valdosta State University. She is a graduate of the Georgia Academy for Economic Development and was a member of the Leadership Waycross Class of 2014.



Chambe night at Hawks game.

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I met my wife while we were both students at UGA years ago. She was an art major, and I was a journalism major. Sharon pretty much gave up painting so I could finish school. A few months ago she took an art class taught by our friend Roland Thurston. She did a very good job on the painting. Our youngest daughter saw it and wanted her to paint a picture to be placed at her house. This picture is the one she painted, and it now hangs proudly in my daughter's dining area. I think she is pretty good. I encourage her to do more painting. BTW, in September we celebrated our 45th wedding anniversary. Three children and ten grandchildren later we are still going full blast.

Bicycle Winners Congratulated at Kids' Day

The annual Waycross Police Department's Kids' Fun Day in September, meant "great fun" for these bicycle winners. "Everyone was a winner, as they not only played on bounces and water slides, but enjoyed hot dogs, popcorn, cold drinks, and balloons," said Police Chief Tony Tanner. Volunteers from Okefenokee Alliance for Kids, the child abuse prevention chapter for Ware and Pierce Counties, sponsored the giveaway of four bicycles and two tricycles.

The bikes were donated by former Waycrossan Mrs. John B. (Wynn Carswell) Plowden and her husband John B. Plowden of Fernandina Beach, Fla. Chief Tanner thanks all his department staffers for their "dedicated work in making the day much fun for so many children. They can surely say 'We are their friends!'" Winners of the bicycles (not pictured in order) include girls' bicycles, Bella Tatum and Sage Jacobs; boys' bicycles, Bobby Arnold and Omere Jones; tricycles/bicycles for younger children, winners Braylee Moon and Johanthan Gares. *Photos by Nickie Carter*

Okefenokee Alliance for Kids



Congratulations! Matthew Bagley, son of Kim and Wendell Bagley won the GRPA state singles title last summer. He competed against Rob Wallace from Colquitt County and won in straight sets of 6-0,6-2. Matthew is no newcomer to the sport of tennis. He plays number #1 singles for Ware County High School.

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WCHS Volleyball

Varsity, l-r, Kierra Reid, Lauren Walker, Jayme Russell, Miya Malone, Hanna Rowell, Sutton Rollins, Paloma Mobley, Kiersten Moye and Joy Douglas.



Coaches l-r, Tiffany Musgrove and Alesia Gibson



JV, l-r, Mikayla Tyre, Jaie Love, Waynisha Coleman, Rodniqua Davis, Brooke Guy, Zaqualla Bryant, Valencia Baker, Madison Willyoung, Rahneisha Stewart, Kennia Kirksey, Delia Beyer, Kiersten Thrift, Macy Bennett, Grace Sirmons and Jasmine White.



Pictured l-r, Mary Pitts, Founder and CEO of BWIN, Chenille & Pastor White.

Business Women Inspirational Network (BWIN) 6th Annual Women of Excellence Awards
 Lady Chenille White with I-Win Women's Network from Waycross was one of three honorees. Our congratulations!

Chenille is the Founder & CEO of I-WIN Women's Network established to empower women to "Win from Within!" In order to truly win in life, women must discover who they are in Him. Mrs. White spent many years searching for her purpose in life. She embarked on a journey of self-discovery and sought the assistance of God and the Holy Spirit to reveal her purpose. It was during this time, that she received the revelation and experienced the inner tranquility she longed for. This experience created a deeper passion and desire for women to discover their purpose rather than solely rely on the insight of others.

As a result, Mrs. White developed a women's bible study series entitled, "Self Discovery ...the Journey" scheduled for release early 2017.

Chenille White serves in ministry with her husband Apostle Carlos White, Senior Pastor and Founder of Kingdom Dominion Ministries International, Waycross GA. They have three (3) young adult children.

**Pierce County Middle School Softball Champions
 Southeast Georgia Middle School Athletic Conference**



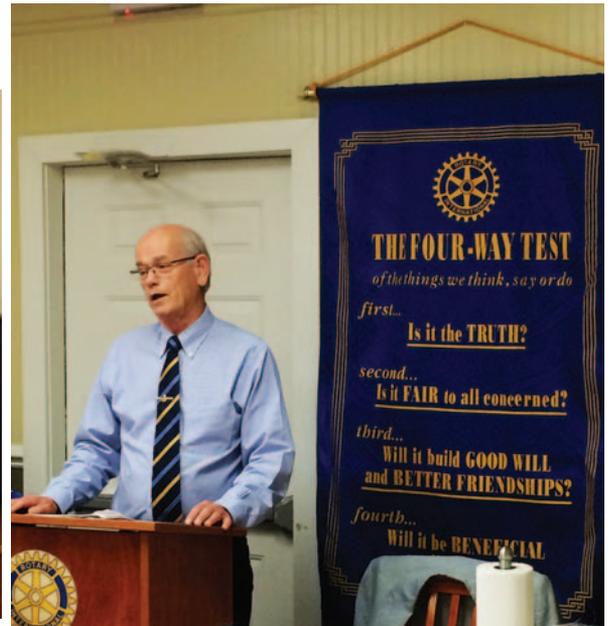
Back row l-r: Kimberlyn McCauley, Madison Pickett, Natalie Sullivan, Kaylee Cravey, Rebecca DeLoach, Kylie Allen, Tivona Myles, Natalee Griffin, Natalie Herrin, Brooke Williams, Gracie Stafford, Ansleigh Clough, Amiya Tomlinson, Sarah Davis and Cadee Raulerson. Front row l-r: Kirsten Raulerson, Makayla Pitts, Tristen Music, Matti Williams and Reagan Larson.



Coach Jason Bradley and Head Coach Jessica Thornton Johnson with granddaughter Natalie Herrin.

Photo by Kathy Ham Hendrix
 Freelance Photographer & Writer
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Waycross Rotary Welcomes Retired Norwegian Ambassador



Former Waycross resident Jimmy Hill, l-r, club president Richard Sowell, club secretary Danny Yarbrough, speaker Sverre Stub and Mayor John Knox.

Photo by Jimmy Hill

In 1966/67 Sverre Stub studied at ABAC, with a scholarship from the Rotary Clubs of Brunswick, Tifton, and Waycross Rotary Student Fund. (include info about the foreign student fund)

This year It will be fifty years since he came to ABAC (when Dr. J. Clyde Driggers was the president). Sverre is president of one of the leading Rotary clubs in Oslo, Norway, Gimli Rotary Club.

Sverre's roommate from that time, Jimmy Hill, lived in Waycross back in the 70s working with Georgia Power. Jimmy organized and was the first President of the local Toastmasters Club.

During his year at ABAC, he spent most of his free time with a family in Brunswick and attended some meetings and events of the Brunswick Rotary, made many trips to the Golden Isles, etc.

Sverre last visited ABAC and Tifton Rotary in 1977, then as a junior diplomat at the Norwegian embassy in Washington D.C. He remembers that the visit included a lecture to a group of interested students.

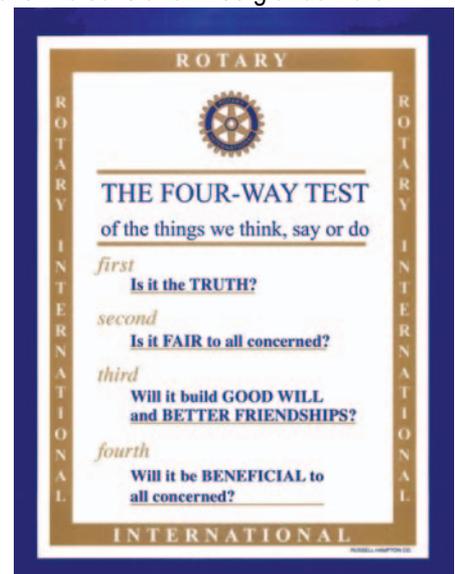
More than forty years in the Norwegian diplomatic service, including postings in the Hague (Netherlands), Washington D.C., Caracas (Venezuela), Geneva and Paris. He concluded his service abroad as ambassador in Amman (Jordan), also accredited to Baghdad (Iraq), and then in Athens (Greece), also accredited to Nicosia (Cyprus). While in Amman, he was a member of Amman Cosmopolitan Rotary Club. Sverre has also attended the Senior Course at NATO Defense College in Rome, Italy

His responsibilities in Oslo included the position as Director of the Foreign Minister's Office and Political Adviser in the Norwegian Government. I have also been dealing with natural resource management, environment, energy and climate change, as well as international security issues. His last responsibility was to coordinate Norway's Chairmanship of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council. He retired in 2014 and is now president of the Group of retired ambassadors.

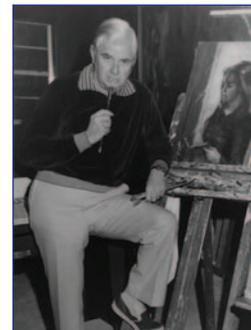
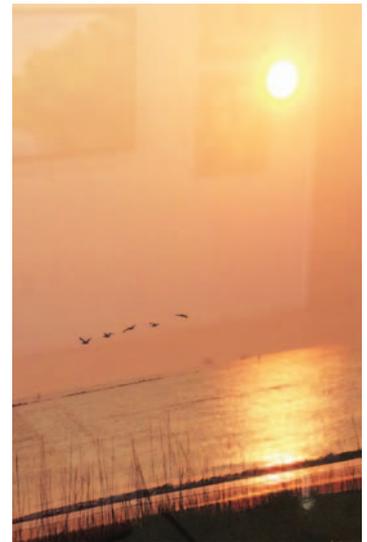
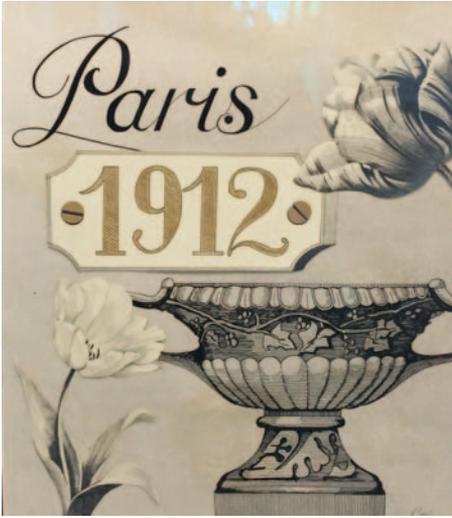
Anne Marie (also Norwegian) and Sverre have been married since 1971. They have two sons and three grandchildren.

The Waycross Rotary Club was founded in 1930 with 23 charter members. The Club follows the "object of Rotary" which is: to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise; the development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service; high ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying by each Rotarian of his occupation as an opportunity to serve society; the application of the ideal of service by every Rotarian to his personal, business, and community life; the advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

Waycross Rotary meets each Tuesday at 12:00 noon at Jerry J's Restaurant, 1406 Plant Avenue, Waycross.



Judge Ben Smith Art Competition



Above, top, 1st Place Sketch, 1912 by Chris Janes, 2nd Place Sketch, Koi by Chris Janes, 1st Place Painting, Exhilaration by Jerry Luke.

Above, top, 2nd Place 3-Dimensional, Christmas Handle Baskey by Wanda Peterson. 1st Place Photography, *Cabin in the Woods* by William Hinesly, 2nd Place Painting, *A Rose is a Rose* by Jerry Luke, 2nd Place Photography, *The Tree of Light* by Robert Johnston, Honorable Mention Painting, *Satilla River* by Glenda Cason, Honorable Mention Photography, *Old Homeplace* by Wayne Morgan, 2nd Place Photography, *Fernadina Jettie Sunrise* by William Hinesly.

Our own Dedrick Mills plays at Georgia Tech



The Roundtrees visit with Dedrick at Tech. Clara Grace in front, back, l-r Jonathan, Dedrick, Alyssa and April.

Right photo, Taylor & Deborah Hereford's family also attended the game. L-R, Kent, Morgan (on Dedrick's shoulders), and Lucy.



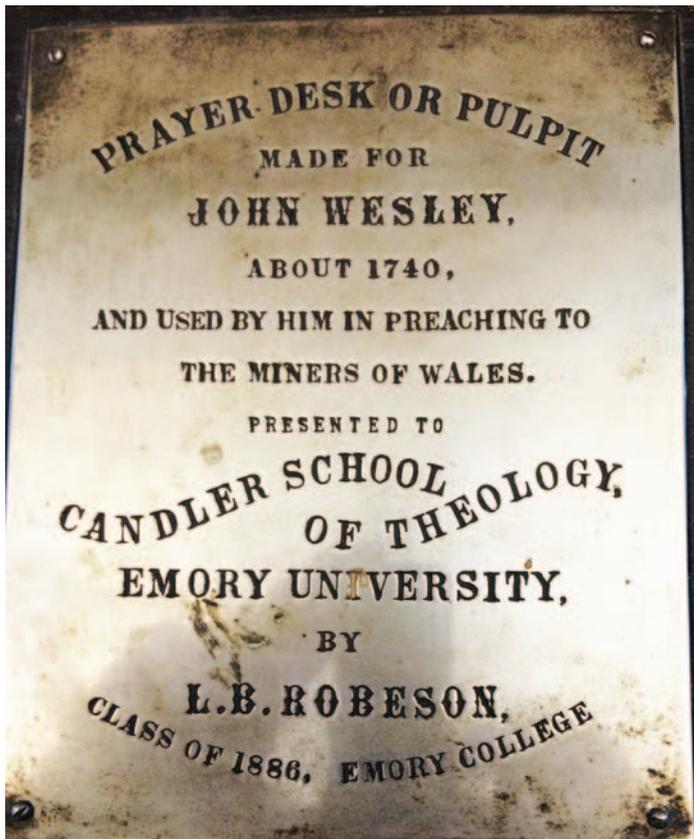
*More Judge Ben Smith
Art Competition*

1st Place 3 Dimensional, Bluejay on Grapevine by John Jordan, and Honorable Mention, Miniature Horned Owl by John Jordan.

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Publisher's note, we visited Emory University last summer doing some research. I saw this and thought you all might find it interesting.



Unison Before

This is the old site located at 305 Nicholls Street.

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Waycross Plumbing was located on this corner for many years. Here is their ad as shown in *The Ware County Times*, December 1956 issue. Thanks to Gus Darden for providing the ad.

Unison's Ware County Child and Adolescent Program

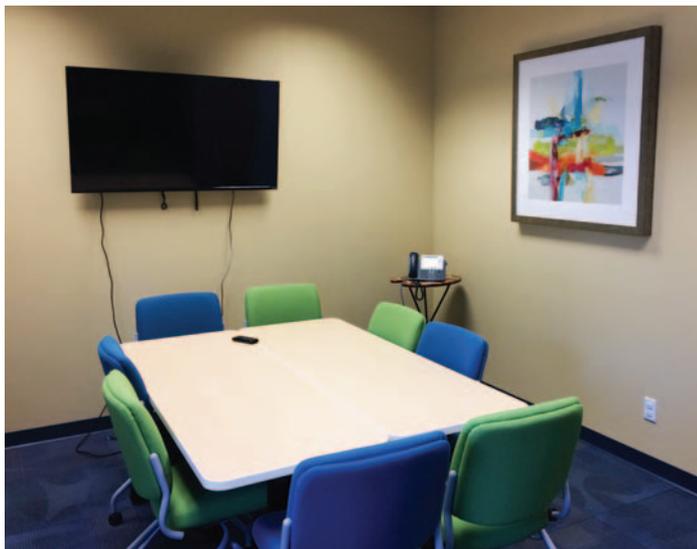


Unison's Ware County Child and Adolescent program recently held its Open House at the new program site in Waycross. The Ware C&A staff offer school-based mental health services, psychiatric services, nursing, therapy and family therapy services. Positive results are likely when teachers, parents, mental health, and community agencies work together to identify students' needs and implement strategies to meet them so that early detection of children and adolescent mental needs is achieved. Unison strives to provide easy access to mental health services for children and youth and collaborating with community partners assists in this effort.



Camille Conley is pictured with Dr. Glyn Thomas. Sarah Thrift is pictured below and Laneshia Sellers Wallace is pictured to the left. Laneshia is the program manager.

Their phone number is 800-342-8168.



The Call of the Satilla

By Clint Bowman



You know you should've left here and stayed away for a while, John," Clifton spoke quietly so his voice wouldn't carry very far through the still woods along the Satilla. Even so, the barking squirrel off in the denser brush hushed his warning call almost immediately. Both men tightened their grips on their rifles. Cross-Toed John slowly shifted his position as he slightly turned to be able to watch the brush behind them. The two long-time friends were no strangers to being stalked in the South Georgia woods of the southern frontier. Each knew what to do.

They were kneeling inside a slightly circled clump of waist high palmetto bushes. The bushes had taken on their fall colors along the edges but still were heavily green. Clifton watched eastward along the river, slowly sweeping his gaze from the river around to his right. John swept his gaze from his left around to the western run of the river towards which he had now positioned himself to face. Neither worried much about the river itself. No one could approach from that side without making plenty of noise.

After what seemed a long few minutes John responded, "I know. But I had to come tell you 'bout that." The "that" he referred to was the news he had just shared with Clifton. A band of Indians, called Seminoles by the locals, had moved northwards out of northern Florida and been easing up around the western edge of the Okefenokee. Cross-Toed John had seen them south of Waresborough almost a week ago. The warriors had been taking careful precautions to avoid being seen by the local hunters and farmers. When John had headed over to the Kettle Creek community to warn his friend, he had been met with a barely disguised sense of discomfort on the part of the usual folks there.

Though John had been coming and going through the area for close to twenty years, he keenly felt the uncomfortable attitude around the community. He had stepped into the general store there to ask about news of Clifton and to buy some more coffee which he was fond of. The store keeper waited on him quickly and then quietly suggested that he leave soon. He stated as he walked away from John, that there had been an Indian attack down near the Carter community and folks were nervous.

Feeling it smarter to heed the suggestion and move quickly on down the trail than to stay and seek more information, John left. He soon found Clifton along the river with his feet propped up on one log and his back against another, fishing pole in hand. Or rather "at hand." The pole had been lying across Clifton while he snoozed with a piece of a green branch dangling from his mouth. John's sudden appearance had caused Clifton a bit of a surprise and his pole, as a good sized catfish had taken that opportunity to drag it into the water and quickly out of reach.

Now the two friends were here kneeling motionless as they waited for some sign of who was hiding nearby. It had been a

good sized doe crashing towards them through the brush which had warned the two. Their conversation had ceased immediately as they moved quickly with no spoken command or urging, as if one were a shadow of the other, into their concealed position.

Their many years of traveling together and fighting together had served them well now. The doe barely veered away from them as it ran. This was immediately followed by the warning bark of the squirrel. That served as a confirmation to the two woodsmen. Someone was coming, trying to hide as they approached. Fortunately, they had startled the deer and ruined their chance of surprising the two friends.

The fall sun was dropping slowly and here on the edge of the woods along the river the darkness would come quicker than out on the not too distant sandbars. The air would cool quicker here also. The Satilla was famous for its gleaming white sandbars. At almost every turn of the river, one would be located beckoning any traveler to stop off to camp and fish a while. But now, the two friends were too preoccupied to be tempted by the call of the Satilla. Silently, Clifton wished for a small fire and a bit of coffee. Still, the two waited motionlessly. From time to time one or the other would slowly shift a hand to his belt to loosen his knife in its sheath, the only perceptible bit of nervousness to be seen about the two men.

Time stretched on. The two still waited. Knowing their lower bodies were concealed behind the palmetto bushes, they would occasionally stretch a leg slowly out to keep the blood flow moving in case swift action were to be required. John had once told Clifton that he had known a Creek Indian who crouched too long in one position as he tried to outwait a Cherokee who had been camped up somewhere north of the Altamaha River. The Cherokee had a horse, and the Creek wanted it and planned to steal it. The Cherokee took too long to settle down that evening around his fire and the Creek, who had actually snuck up very close to the camp, suddenly got a bad cramp in his leg. The pain of the cramp caused the one to leap up, where he then soon caught a musket ball fired from the old British-made musket carried by the Cherokee. The Creek died a few days later after suffering for a good bit. What became of the Cherokee and his horse, John

never could say. Clifton doubted the exactness of the whole story, but he thought the lesson implied by it worth remembering.

Just as the darkness began to overwhelm the wooded riverside, the two heard the sound of someone wading in the river. Both slowly turned, and soon three warriors came into view. They were armed with clubs and short spears, the kind used to jab at an enemy. None of them appeared to be carrying guns. At the sound of the cocking of Clifton's rifle, their heads swiveled rapidly towards the clump of palmettos. All three gave full voice to their war cry, and they charged straight up the small slope out of the river. As they came in, Clifton fired first. The lead man stumbled obviously hit in the stomach as he grabbed his midsection with one hand and then fell face first into the mud at the river's edge.

John's rifle sounded quickly after and the now closest Indian twirled around and appeared to be trying to run away as he fell into the river with a loud splash. The third warrior came on quickly, but Clifton's attention was suddenly drawn to the brush in front of his position. Two more warriors had emerged within a few short feet of them with drawn bows ready to fire! Almost calmly, John said, "These are some of those men." Later Clifton recalled how completely calm John sounded as if the two were watching the men from far off... and not in the middle of life or death fight!

Clifton reached back and grabbing John's shoulder as he stepped forward to confront the still charging warrior from the river, he pulled John downwards with as much strength as he could muster. This was accomplished as the two loosed their arrows simultaneously. One arrow caught Clifton atop his shoulder, and he felt it as if he had been pricked or bitten by a rat, he thought later as he recalled it. The other struck John's arm as he held it up to meet the charge of the oncoming warrior. Clifton quickly vaulted over the palmettos swinging his rifle at the heads of the two as John caught the other on the tip of his knife. Clifton's rifle glanced off the forehead of one warrior. His fist connected with the side of the other's head. Both men stumbled back into the brush, their hands frantically grasping at their fighting knives.

Within seconds John stood beside Clifton, the remaining attacker from the river now dead. Both men quickly stepped behind nearby trees waiting. In the darkness, they could hear the other two stop moving as they sought to identify where Clifton and John were in the, now very dark woods. After a few muttered comments, the two attackers withdrew. The sound of their going was much louder than their approach had been as they stumbled over small bushes and tree roots in the dark woods.

Slowly, both Clifton and John reloaded their rifles. Each made as little noise as possible as they sought to decipher the night's noises. One of the Indians on the river bank groaned and moved slightly. John eased over to Clifton's tree and whispered, "We need to go west. That is not all of them, and those two went east. The rest of them might be off thataway." "Let's go," Clifton answered. The two woodsmen slowly turned and moved away from the scene. Slowly, they made their way upriver, at times walking along the forest edge on the sandbars, gleaming white now in the half-moon lit night.

Two days later the dawn broke and the morning light revealed

two men are sitting back to back beneath a towering oak tree on the out skirts of the Kettle Creek community near the stage route. The startled gasp of the trooper assigned to the last hours of the night's guard shift could be heard for quite a distance. The two had eased up and sat down to wait out the remainder of the night right under the noses of the army dragoons assigned to help guard the settlement. The fact that the growing light showed one of the two men to be an Indian caused, even more, excitement. Soon the story had been told to the assembled locals and army dragoons. It was then that Clifton and John heard more about the recent attack near the Carter Community. Seminole Indians had emerged from the Okefenokee and attacked a wagon train carrying supplies to the various forts built around the swamp. The wagons had been following the stage route. One soldier had been killed that folks knew of. Others had been wounded.

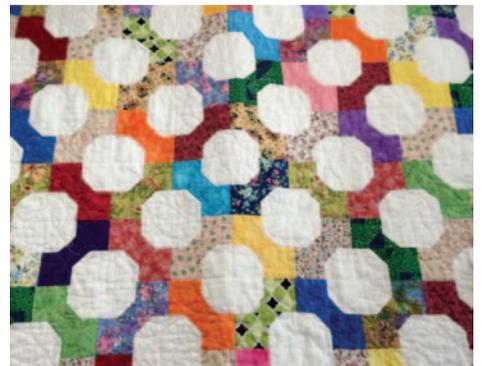
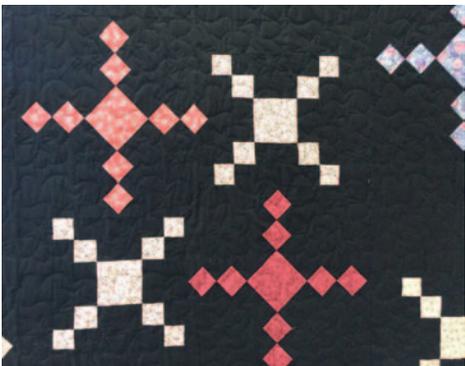
After this, the two friends withdrew towards Kettle Creek leaving the locals to stand around and discuss these new happenings. Quietly, John said, "I think I will go for now." Clifton nodded in agreement, knowing that the tempers and nerves of the locals might begin to get the best of them if another attack occurred. "Where will you go?" he asked. "I will go back southwest of here to the old Spanish priest's cabin. No white man has ever found it. It is near the swamp. And I can hide on an island if I need to do so." There seemed to be nothing more to say.

Reluctantly, the two friends parted ways, hoping that one day these troubles would pass and that they might once again be free to enjoy the call of the Satilla.



Clint Bowman is a native of Waycross, GA. He graduated from Waycross High School in 1975. He served in the US Army. He graduated from Valdosta State and from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is married to Harriet Willis Bowman and they have three children Jeremy (Jessica), Jessica Peters (Matt), and James. They have eight grandchildren. Clint served for 19 years with the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention as a missionary to Africa. He currently teaches 7th grade Social Studies at Waycross Middle School and works part time at Okefenokee Swamp Park.







The Heritage Quilters Guild organized in January 2007 with nine charter members. The Guild was formed to see that the art of quilting would continue through the years and that new quilters would pass this love on to the next generation.

The Guild was recently commissioned to do 12 quilts for the Mayo Clinic OBGYN offices as art for the walls. These quilts are enjoyed by those who work in the offices as well as the patients.

The Okefenokee Heritage Center hosted the Quilt Guild as the artist of the month during August. With the theme of "Friendship through Quilting" members displayed many beautiful quilted works of art for the public's enjoyment. Many of the quilts were made from the same fabrics but designed in a pattern of the quilter's choice.

As of 2016, the Heritage Quilters Guild has a membership of 29. They are: Blanche Aldridge, Barbara Lee, Camille Purcell, Carole Mullis, Cheryl Sloan, Cindy Lukas, Dianne Vinson, Dolores Clark, Doris Gagnon, Edie Mardany, Evelyn Dunlap, Gladys McClelland, Joan Wardle, Joy Brock, Joyce Thomas, Judy O'Steen, Karla Parker, Katie Cox, Linda Hickox, Lynn Brown, Marie Williamson, Marjie Tison, Norma Mims, Norma Burdell, Pat Strickland, Rachel Snider, Virginia Brad-dock, Wannelle Gillis and Lucy Harrelson. Only two members have passed away in the nine years of being organized, our beloved Vida Shuman and Gloria Finn.

The Quilters Guild has enjoyed a great partnership with the OHC for most of the years of being organized.

Compiled by Marjie Tyson



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Artists Regina and Arthur Coffee live in Douglas. Regina creates ceramic replicas of old farm buildings she grew up around in the rural areas of Georgia. The church pictured is one Regina sculptured by Kit Carson. Some of Arthur's works are of real life scenes that you would see in our area and some are from photos enhanced with imagination. Regina's FaceBook page is located at <https://www.facebook.com/regina.coffee?fref=ts>.



Childhood Cancer Awareness



For more local information go to <http://www.mattiesmission.org>



Pierce County Middle School 6-7th Grade Basketball Champions
Southeast Georgia Middle School Athletic Conference



Coach Lauren Hyers with granddaughter Natalie Herrin.

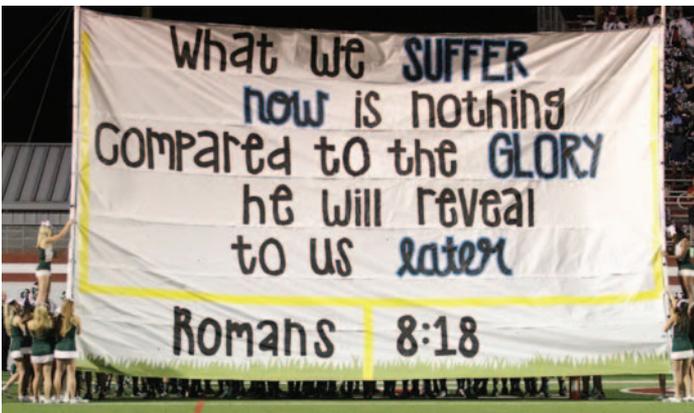
Standing (left to right): Makayla Etherdige, Lily Varnes, Tivona Myles, Kaylee Cravey, Sarah Davis, Reagan Larson, Sarahlenn Evans, and Madison Bowen.

Middle (left to right): Kylie Allen, Natalie Sullivan, Natalee Griffin, Elena Clough, and Harley White.

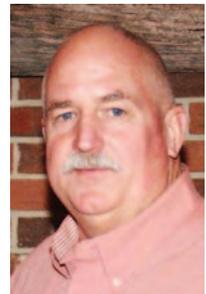
Bottom (left to right): Natalie Herrin and Jenna Bennett.



Front row, l-r, Paula Simmons, Dr. Kit Carson, Keith Douglas, Jimmy Brown, John Knox and Allie Dance. Back row, l-r, Taylor Hereford, Patsy Bond, Wanda Tolbert Taylor, Stacie Jones, Wayne Kilmark and Dave Callaway
Photo Larry Gattis



WCHS Sports photos by
Bo Carter
912-282-4499
<http://bocarter.zenfolio.com>



Two very special friends, Marilyn Craft (l) and Barbara Moore. They are special to a whole bunch of people. This picture was taken while they were visiting Okefenokee Heritage Center.



Congratulations! Rokia Sallett
2016 WCHS Homecoming Queen

The Good Life • What's Right About MY America By Nickie Carter

My America is such a great nation; a country which sparkles with multitudes of blessings.

Freedom rings from its shores, peace and hope rain down from my Heavenly Father Jesus Christ upon which my great nation was founded.

My great blessings are so numerous! I want to sing the "Star Spangled Banner." I want to salute my American flag which flies in my front yard. I want to bow down on my knees in prayer and thank my God for life He has allowed me to live.

I am blessed to be a 56-year citizen of Hacklebarney Community of Pierce County, my life at age 76 enriched by the knowledge that I live in a nation of freedoms. I can worship my God with the knowledge that I can have life everlasting, as I accepted and believed in Him.

I am blessed to live as one of the sixth generation of Carters. Two great-granddaughters live near me in this same community.

I know the world may be in conflict, splashed with problems of all kinds, but Love has to be the power to erase the bad and fuel the good.

I try to embrace an attitude of gratitude. I am blessed to have two children live near me and two in Florida. A 20-year colon cancer survivor, I take kisses from my grands and greats and share the beauty of the sunrises and sunsets. I watch fluffy white clouds chase the blue of the skies.

I marvel at the beauty of nature God created. He told the flowers when to bloom---in what season. Spring/summer leave to allow autumn to bloom in all its glory. The message of life and death is explained in the paling of the lovely red rose, to the blossoming in autumn of the golden rod. This tells me I will see my deceased, beloved ones again. (Always cherishing John 3:16)

I appreciate the stray bulldog---God's creature-- which came to me starving. I gave him food and shelter, and now he is my protector and buddy.

I love the grocery stores which are delicious carnivals with thousands of food brands. I can pick and choose and take them home to feed my family and myself.

I admire the many department stores in this area and the restaurants which offer such fine foods; so many from which to choose.

I can discover new recipes, not worrying where my next meal is coming from.

I can lunch with friends, not afraid to discuss my religious or government choices.

I can shout and cheer at my grandchildren's soccer, track, and basketball games, not afraid to let the world know that I am a proud grand/great grandmother. I am "blessed," and so proud to support the fine schools/teachers, coaches here at home.

I worked hard, and so did my late husband. We reared our four children seeing them through colleges and in fine careers.

I can lay my head down at night and not be afraid. I am secure in my peace with my God. I could call 911, and there is help on the way.

I can rest on clean linens at night; washed and dried in my washing machine and clothes dryer.

I can click the television channel to any program I desire, and I can drive anywhere in America if I choose.

I can type and e-mail and call someone on my cell phone.

I can turn my thermostat high or low for my comfort.

I can turn on a switch or turn on a faucet to get light or water. I can bake in an oven, or microwave a meal as that magical current comes from somewhere.

I ponder in the choice of hundreds of wrinkle free cosmetics and hair coloring shampoos and spank my selfish thoughts when I read the newspaper of humans/families/children exiled from their homes in war-torn countries.

I can watch my dog Gus hunting a place to bury his bone. And marvel at the time that he goes back to it, knowing where he buried it.

I can fuss at the squirrels. I can swat the mosquitoes. I can admire the beautiful birds which choose my home, like brilliant ornaments on a Christmas tree.

I count my blessings that the only guns my sons have to use are to hunt the traditional game carrying out an American patriot tradition.

I can clean my house today, or wait until tomorrow or take a nap. I am retired.

I can cook what I want, buy what I want, feed my family what they want.

I can read my Bible or a book I like. I can see the movie I like. I can run on a sandy beach or climb a mountain crowned by the clouds and enjoy my God's divine creation.

I can watch the planes fly overhead and have no dread of danger, as there are thousands of brave men and women protecting my great country.

I can enjoy the roar of a nearby diesel locomotive, see the dedicated drivers of semi trucks on the highways and hear a rooster crow in my distance; letting me know my great country is alive and well.

Ag in the Classroom

by Mary Alice Aldridge

Training participants - left to right - Ware County Ag Extension Agent Joe Slusher, Cager Moody (Moody's Dairy), Jeffery McCarthy, Jeanette Causer, Tina Goble, Dana Lucas, Morgan Hyers, Anita Lee, Elizabeth Grantham, Christopher Klaeger, Breanna Dixon, Lori Barber, Richard Bell, Jan Hughes, Mary Alice Aldridge and Susan Shepherd.

Ware County Farm Bureau Women's Committee hosted its first Ag In The Classroom educator training recently at the Mixon Pond House in Waresboro. Teachers from all Ware County Elementary schools were included. The day began with breakfast items, served by Ware County High School FFA executive board member Jordan O'berry and WHCS FFA student Chasity Whitley, and an introduction by Ware County Farm Bureau's Executive Board President - Lannis Moody. Joe Slusher, UGA Extension Agent for Ware County, gave a presentation on the economic impact agriculture has in Ware County. Teachers also heard from the Ware County Interim Women's Committee Chair, Mary Alice Aldridge, concerning the purpose of learning for the day and introduction of the workshop conductor, Ms. Donna Rocker - Ag In The Classroom Facilitator. Assisting Ms. Rocker with presentation set-up and delivery were Michael Purvis and Katie Gazda.

The day's progression included lessons presented by Ms. Rocker, including an assistant during a lesson who was very familiar to the attendees, Mr. Jim LeBrun, Superintendent of Ware County School System. Many of the classroom activities Ms. Rocker shared related to a very prominent topic of learning in the world education today: STEM. STEM involves the integration of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics into everyday classroom standards-based lessons. Teachers participated in sample agriculture-related lessons which can be incorporated into many core subject standards they already teach in their classrooms. When lesson presentations were completed, the participants all received a donation of varied and rich sets of consumables and lessons sponsored by Ag in the Classroom.

After lunch, everyone enjoyed a leisurely but educational farm tour. Two farming sites were visited. The transportation for teachers was sponsored by Ware County Schools transportation and Ware County 4-H. At Moody's Dairy, the first stop on tour, many were awed by the process of milking dairy cows. Cager Moody was a gracious host and expert discussion leader as participants learned important points such as the length of time required to milk the entire herd of cattle, the steps necessary to ensure the best health of the cattle and delivery of best milk, along with the importance of blending the appropriate proportions of varied nutrients in feed that are fed to the cattle. The second and final farm visit of the afternoon was a peanut field, located near Bickley, where Mr. Z.A. Music and daughter Laura were harvesting peanuts. At this site, the group heard from both Mr. Music and Laura on the steps involved in harvesting the peanuts. Laura



shared with the group the process of digging and harvesting the peanuts, as well as explaining the pieces of equipment being used in the field. Z.A. shared the importance of rainfall, the types of pests that impact the quality of the peanuts harvested and the average production per acre, among many other interesting facts.

When the tours were completed, the groups returned to Mixon Pond House to depart. The day's activities were greatly enjoyed by all attendees. Food items for both breakfast and lunch were prepared and set forth by members of the Ware County Farm Bureau Women's Committee and volunteers: Mrs. Angie Moody, Mrs. Maisie Stewart, Mary Alice Aldridge and Ware County Farm Bureau Office Staff members - Mrs. Emily Godwin and Mrs. Ruby Pittman. The gracious donations of members of Ware County's Ag community and its supporters made the day's events possible by absorbing the costs for substitute teachers for the educators and food items supplied for the meals. Contributors to this wonderful learning experience include Cornelius Farms, Aldridge Farms, Mixon Farms, Rouse Farms, Waters' Logging, General Bearing and Industrial, Waycross Bank and Trust and Ware County Farm Bureau Office Staff. For more information contact Emily Godwin, at 912-285-1816.



Above, Z. A. Music and right Cager Moody

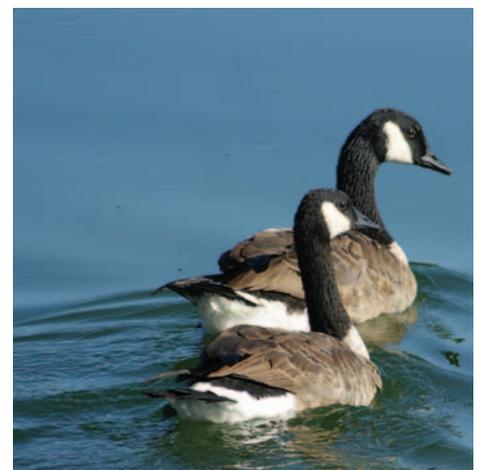
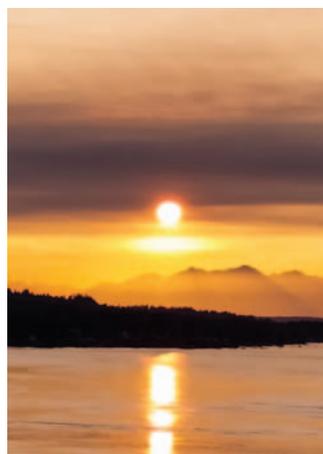


Above, Laura Music & right, Jim LeBrun with Donna Rocker



Expressions of God

by
Phyllis Perry



My Life Experiences by Willie R. Character

I came to Waycross in 1965. It was here that I began my professional career as a music instructor in the Waycross City School system until I retired from the Ware County School system around 1992. During this period I taught in the elementary schools. Later I was assigned to teach general music and chorus at Center Jr. High. It was at Center Junior that I organized the first chorus.

I am a native of Rome, Georgia. It was there that I had my formal education, and most importantly, I learned strong moral and spiritual values from my mother, Naomi Character and my Aunt and Uncle Ada and James Character. I was one of those "it takes a village" child.

At the age of 9, I joined Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in East Rome. I played the piano each week for Sunday school. While there, I organized and played for the first Junior Choir. Two other areas of interest to me were sports and civil rights. I played baseball as a pitcher for the Lindale Dragons in the North West Ga. League. I was a member of the NAACP at the time that it was seeking better treatment and respect for black people in the Floyd County Hospital.

Although I was raised in a segregated, racist society, I never heard my mother, aunt or uncle utter words of bigotry, racial hatred, or any other kinds of derogatory words against anyone. My wife, Dorothy and I have applied this same principle in raising our four sons, Jason, James, Jordan and Justin. We are also proud of our five grandchildren Aria, Jada, Maya, Laila and Noah.

After graduating from Main High School in Rome, I attended Ohio State University where I earned a B.S. Degree In Music Education and several years later, earned an M.M. degree in music Education from The University of Georgia. Other schools included the U.S. Naval School of Music, Emory University, Shorter College, and Valdosta State University.

Time spent at Ohio State, and the University of Georgia was in the military. I was drafted into the U.S. Army and assigned duty in the Fourth Armored Division in Goeppingen, Germany. While there for almost three years, I played baritone horn in the division band. I also had the honor and distinction of being assigned to be the conductor of The Fourth Armored Division Chorus.

I feel that anyone who begins or has retired from a chosen area of work has two reasons for doing so. The first one is to be able to make at least a comfortable living, and the other is to be able to serve and help others who can benefit from one's chosen line of work or profession.

Willie is shown in various pictures including with his wife Dorothy and with Linda Henderson and Mayor Charles Lee at a festival in Hoboken. We are glad to call Willie our friend.





Willie is shown in his natural pose at the piano and he plays with the violinist at a Heritage Center Gala.

The two areas of my chosen career are the music profession and the other I would refer to as public service. First, I would like to highlight some of the most memorable moments of my music career.

1970's -1990's;

Appointed to serve on the Music Television Advisory Committee for the Georgia State Department of Education.

Organized, directed and produced a series of Composer's Concerts that were designed to feature local original compositions by local area musicians.

Appointed by Lt. Governor Zell Miller to serve on the Citizens Advisory Committee of the State of Georgia Senate Music Industry Council.

Prepared and arranged ceremonial music for the arrival of President Brazauskas of Lithuania.

In July of 1996 on his visit to Waycross during the Olympics Produced an album of the Waycross Community Chorus conducted by Lyndon Woodside.

2000-2015;

Researched and produced "From Waycross To the World" music documentary that was broadcast on Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB) in September 2004. It is a history about Local musicians who have achieved national and international recognition up to the year 2000.

Received the Distinguished Guest Composer's Award from the Southeastern African American Music Festival Consortium.

Wrote "Sacred Harp Singing In Hoboken, Georgia. It was written to educate middle school students about the history and development of sacred harp singing in their community. The manual was officially approved and adopted by the Board of Education.

Under the auspices of the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M. E.) Church taught music in the Bible to ministers in training.

Composed "Listen To The Lamb," a four-movement instrumental tribute in honor of Caroline Miller, Waycross native Pulitzer Prize winner in 1934 or 1935.

Completed cantata "Sketches of Job," a forty-minute sacred musical work.

Composed theme songs for the Waycross Area Community Theater and the Waycross City Commission meeting.

Overall, I have composed over two hundred musical compositions and arrangements. They include music for chorus, orchestra, band, piano, organ. Solo, voice, violin, guitar two musical comedies, and two unpublished booklets about the history and practice of music in the Bible.

Next to my music career is my interest in local/area history. This led to the establishment of "Rogers History House" It is an information source concerning various aspects of historical events about people, places and things in Waycross and surrounding communities. Its primary focus deals with Afro/American history dating from around 1830 to the in of the 1900's. The history house is an unfunded, nonprofit information service. All information was researched, documented and edited by yours' truly.

Local/Area Exhibits;

"From These Roots" at the Okefenokee Heritage Center

"From Waycross To the World Music Exhibit" (Okefenokee Regional Library)

History and Development of Sound Recordings" South Georgia State College Library(Waycross)

"Woods For Acoustic Instruments(Southern Forest World)

Other Services;

Lectures and live presentations about local area history

Non-denominational seminars and lectures about the history and practice of music in the Bible

Workshops about the music business (Copyrights, Publishing, composing and songwriting.)

Locating grave sites.

Music Lessons in voice, piano. folk/classical guitar.

Taste of Chamber 2016



Jake Fleming Customer Service Award
Rashad Clark shown with
McDonalds store manager Dale Clark (l)



Best Dessert
The Sweetest Thing Gourmet Cupcakes
 Glenn Deibert, Oneida Oliver-Sanders, Laticia Gilliam and Allie



Best Decorated Table - Plant Cafe
 Glenn Deibert, Marla Howell, Ashley
 Watson and Allie Dance



Best Entree - Okefenokee Country Club
 Glenn Deibert, Allie Dance and Kas Asbury



Best Place to Work
Atlantic Coast Bank

Accepting the award were Atlantic Coast Bank employees Jennifer Joseph, Kathy Hutchinson, Cynthia Grant, Maggie Smith, Sheri Johnson (SVP Georgia Market), Brenda Steverson, Amy Chancey and Kay Clark. In the center is Gary Sanchez, AT&T. To his right is Allie Dance, Chamber Membership Director. Glenn Deibert, Chamber Chairman, is on the far right.



A Taste of the Chamber
 The Waycross-Ware County
 Chamber of Commerce presents
 The 5th Annual
A Taste of the Chamber
 September 15, 2016
 5-7 pm
 REA Building



Jamie Bowen with Ella Murphy



Overall winners, David Howard and Teresa Ulrich.

HEELS & WHEELS FOR MEGAN'S HOUSE TWENTY SIXTEEN



L-R, Elizabeth Bennett, Sara Coggin and Celia Malek



Christine Dominguez, Statesboro



Dr. Craig Kubik



WCHS students assisting I-r, Kiersten Moye, Noah Shepard, Andrewanna Taylor



Photos by Stephanie Bell. Stephanie is the Executive Director for Pierce County Family Connection. She has photographed the Heels & Wheels event for the past three years and has loved every minute of it. Before moving to Georgia, Stephanie was a professional photographer and staff writer for an extreme sports producer traveling all over the US covering sporting events for extreme sports magazines, websites, and the local newspapers. In her "spare" time Stephanie spends time with her husband and 6 kids going on adventures, hiking and exploring new places.



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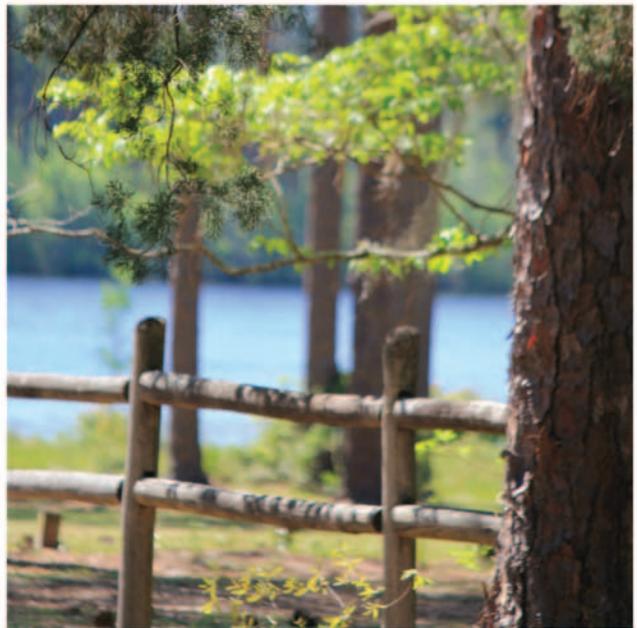
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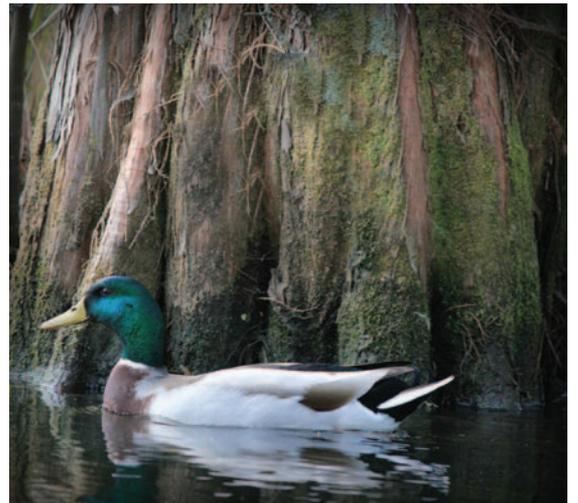
Nature with Debbie Dean





Brantley County is home to Debbie Dean. She is married and has two children and three grandchildren. Debbie has always enjoyed the outdoors and is appreciative of God's beautiful creation. Debbie treasures the time she spends with her family and friends.

Debbie can be reached at debwdean@hotmail.com.



Old Waltertown Brick Factory by Larry Purdom

We peer through the dim mists of history to glean important details of how we got where we are today. One signpost along the way was the old Waltertown Brick Factory. Old Waltertown Road, still on the maps and still located in “downtown” Jamestown saw plenty of activity toward the turn of the (19th) century. That’s when the family of Wilbur Fisk Moore of Marietta, GA bought the whole town of Waltertown, lock, stock, and barrel and turned its brick-making facilities into a peach orchard. The idea was to grow peaches in South Georgia. The effort was termed “the Waltertown experiment.” One of the last of the living connections to those days, Ralph Carl Moor of Atlanta died “of natural causes” April 12, 2015 at the age of 102.

Waltertown at the time of its purchase consisted of several houses, a hotel, and several churches. Operating as “George A. Moor and Company” the family sought to produce peaches in the Wiregrass. Peaches were grown there, but eventually, the effort was abandoned due to the climate’s this far south in Georgia being just too hot for Georgia’s namesake fruit for commercial development. The family then turned its efforts toward growing pecan trees. You may have one of these old “Moor” pecan trees in your backyard there.

According to his obituary from the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, the deceased Ralph was born “in a country farmhouse on Dec. 18, 1912, in Waltertown.” His was an idyllic country upbringing, picking peaches in the field and driving the wagon carrying

the peaches to market. His time was spent with the family’s mule team of Jim and Elic, along with Sookie the milk cow and Bess, the family horse.

When he grew up, Ralph left his rural ways behind and made quite a name for himself in the military and government service. Commissioned as a 2nd Lt. in the Adjutant General’s Corp of the U.S. Army before the outbreak of World War II, he served for several years in the War Department in D.C. When General Douglas McArthur returned to the Philippines, Ralph volunteered to serve on his staff and worked to help plan the anticipated invasion of the Japanese homeland. He was scheduled to be in the third wave of the invasion force. Fortunately, the war ended before the invasion was needed. After the War, Ralph continued to serve his country and commanded a unit in the Georgia National Guard, rising to the rank of Brigadier General. He served on the Washington, D.C. staff of several Georgia Senators, including Richard Russell and Herman Talmadge, and as Dean of Men at South Georgia College. His first job with the State of Georgia was working for the Georgia Board of Regents as an assistant to Dr. Steadman V. Sanford (of Sanford Stadium fame).

A graveside service was held in April 2015 at the Georgia National Cemetery in Canton, as another link to those old days-gone-by headed to that “great peach orchard” in the sky.

--information contributed by family members and local historian and collector Joe Ballentine.



The Waltertown home of Arthur Fisk Moor



Peach Orchard owned by Mr. Moor



Covered bridge over the Satilla at Waltertown in the early 1900s. The view is from the north.

The Journal-Herald recently published an article about the death of Ralph Carl Moor of Atlanta, one of the last living connections to old Waltertown, who died in April 2015, at the age of 102. Moor’s family had bought the entirety of old Waltertown at the turn of the 20th century to grow peaches and cantaloupes in South Georgia. As a result of the article, with information supplied by local collector and historian Joe Ballentine, a family member has made available these antique photographs of activity there. As these photos show, there were mighty peaches and cantaloupes grown in Waltertown. We believe the distinguished, better-dressed gentleman to be a family member. Do you recognize the workers? And while we are at it, does anyone know how Waltertown and Jamestown got their names? Who was Walter? Who was James? Call Ballentine at 283-2221 if you know.



Packing shed first floor of abandoned hotel



Three workers in the cantaloupe field



Cantaloupe field 1910-1912



Peaches from orchard, early 1900s



Barn converted from abandoned church and tenant house



Cantaloupes in transit to packing shed



Some items Devin and Chad Radford have found around the old steam engine. The steam engine was located behind this picture which is looking toward the Satilla River at the Jamestown Landing.



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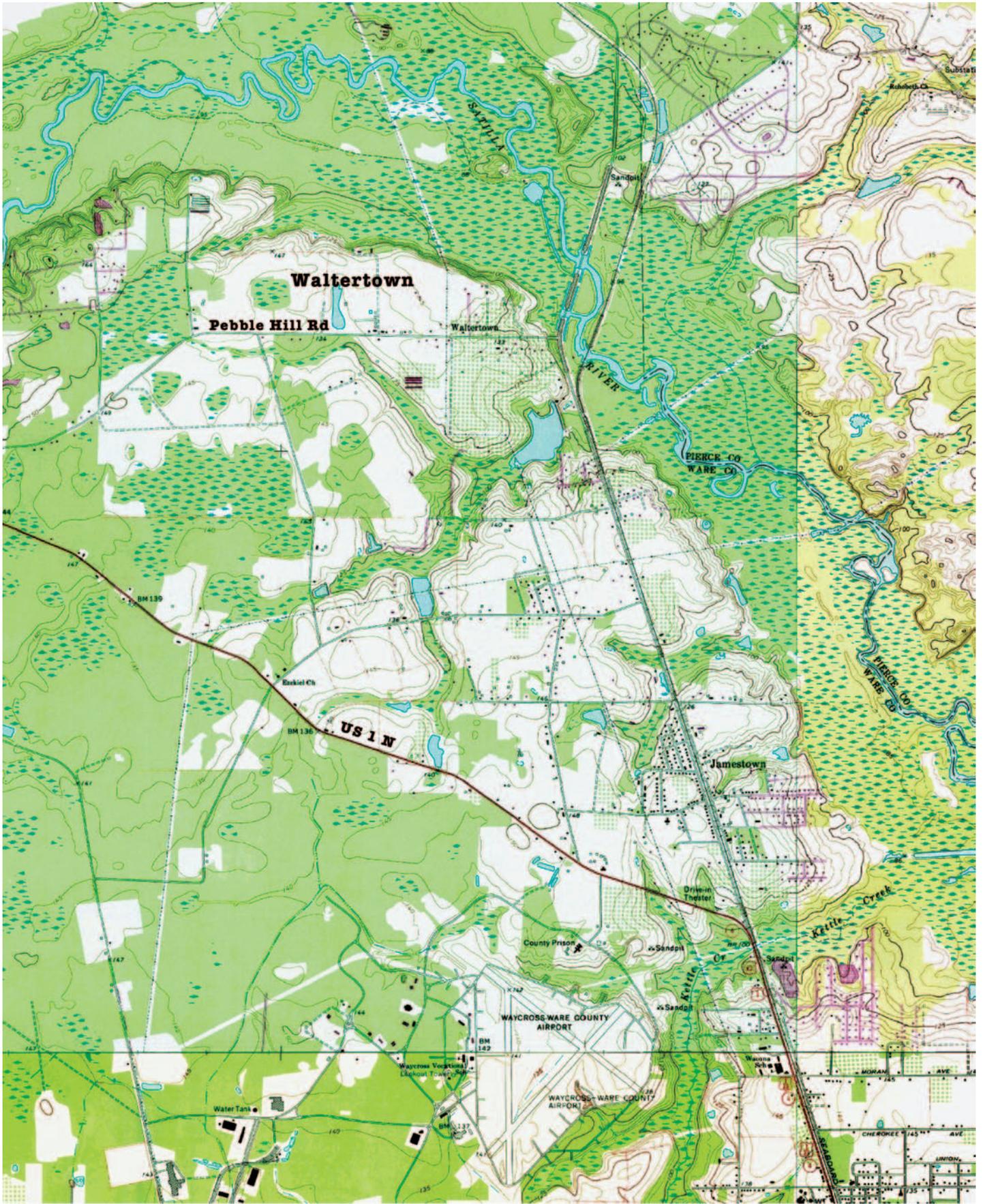
e-mail: thomaslucasdentistry@gmail.com



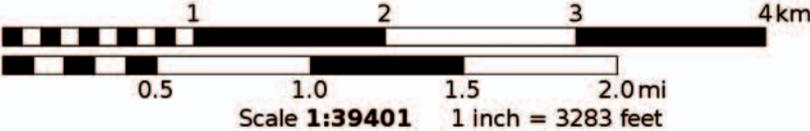
Devin and Chad Radford are standing at what we believe to be the supports for the water wheel that powered the steam mill/engine that operated the brick factory. Devin and Chad have spent many hours clearing and clearing the growth around these supports. Just go into the Jamestown landing and take a left and that is where you can find these.

Below is a brick that was uncovered by Devin.





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Waycross Area Community Theater



A Seussified Christmas Carol



And Then There Were None



University System of Georgia Chancellor Hank Huckaby (l) presents South Georgia State College's Suzie Brown with a Silver Award in Customer Service Excellence. Congratulations!



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Front l-r: Kennedy Sanders, Lizzie Shubert and Alexis Trusty. Back l-r: Chyna Carter, Cullee Peavey, Valerie Ortiz, D'Yonne McClain, Bailee Stephens, Laylay Holmes, Amber Holley, Emily Oliver, Sierra Taylor, Lauren Smallwood and Adrian Harris. Coaches are Rebecca Kirkland and Tony Wheeler.

CAMP HOPE presented by Hospice Satilla



CAMPERS

What is "Camp Hope"? Camp Hope is a free grief camp for children ages 5-19 years old that have experienced a significant loss through the death of someone close to them. At Hospice Satilla we believe that "Camp Hope" is a very worthwhile experience that gives these children the opportunity to process the grief they are experiencing in a safe and fun environment. The camp was sponsored by generous contributions from various businesses in the community. This year the camp was held on Saturday November 12, 2016 at the GA Lions Camp for the Blind and included many fun activities which were therapeutic in design. Several times during the camp, the children attended small group sessions conducted by professional counselors who helped them deal with their loss. At the conclusion of a full day of activities, positive comments were expressed throughout the evening on how meaningful and memorable the event was to the participants. For more information about camp hope or other services Hospice Satilla offers please call us at 912-285-2340.



VOLUNTEERS

Article and pictures furnished by Misty Strickland

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Ernie Andrus, WWII Vet

93 years old, Coast to Coast

www.Coast2CoastRuns.com



In left photo Ernie is shown with his friend Renee Krajcar at Laura S. Walker State Park. Renee is from Syracuse, NY. Above, Ernie is with his daughter Cathy Ratledge in front of their camper. They enjoyed their time in Ware County.

My name is Ernie Andrus, and I have recently run coast to coast. I turned 93 in August 2016. I started by touching the Pacific Ocean near San Diego, CA on October 7th, 2013 and I have touched the Atlantic Ocean near Brunswick, GA.

This feat was undertaken to raise money for the LST 325 SHIP MEMORIAL, INC.

I was one of the crews that brought the LST 325 back from the Isle of Crete, Greece to the US in 2000-01; aired on The History Channel and YouTube in 2001 as "The Return of LST 325". One thousand fifty-one LSTs were built during World War II. The 325 is the only one left that has been restored and still operational. I hope to raise enough money to return the ship to Normandy for the 2019 D-Day memorial service (its 75th Anniversary), and beach it at the same location where it was on D-Day. The cost of taking this ship across the Atlantic and back is tremendous. Shortage of finances forced a 2014 trip to be canceled.

The goal is to raise enough money for D-Day plus 75 years in

2019 and return her back home to the US. Learn more about the USS LST 325 Memorial here: www.L-ST-Memorial.org. I ran three days a week averaging from a half to full marathon every week. (A marathon is 26.2 miles.)

I warmly invited people to join me on any leg of my journey: running, walking or driving a shuttle. News representatives were..."Welcome!" My web address is www.Coast2CoastRuns.com. Drawing a line from San Diego, CA to Brunswick, GA will give a general idea of the course I ran. Find "Ernest Andrus" and "Coast2CoastRuns" on Facebook.

Donations made to "U55 LST Ship Memorial" are tax deductible. Make checks payable to "USS LST Ship Memorial." Donations can be made with checks payable to "Coast to Coast Runs." Checks can be mailed to Ernie Andrus - 304 Brooklawn Dr., Banning, CA 92220.

<http://www.agypsygene.com/running-the-distance-with-ernie-andrus/>



Mission Accomplished! I reached the Atlantic August 20th, 2016 on Saint Simons Island, GA. Fanfare was enormous. Family and friends from all across the country were there to the finish. I don't have an accurate count. It looks like runners and greeters combined must have been more than a thousand. A whole string of escorts. A band is playing. A fly over. A three-year-old girl ran all the way. She holds the record for the youngest runner.

Here are the final results. 2631.08 total miles in 999 hours, 32 minutes and 15 seconds. Averages: pace 22:47, leg 6.13, miles per week 18.4

Editor Notes: It took three years for Ernie Andrus to run 3,000 miles from California to Georgia. His mission was to raise awareness about the Landing Ship Tank, what he says is the unsung hero of World War II. "This should not be forgotten," explained Ernie."



Ernie at the finish on St. Simons Island. Congratulations!



Daughters (l), Linda Inforzato, Ernie and Cathy Ratledge



Ernie with step-daughter Sandy Suelzle, daughters Linda Inforzato, Cathy Ratledge, son-in-law Carl Inforzato, grandsons, Jacob & Joshua Kocher.



AN INSPIRATIONAL ARTIST by Kim Smith and Melissa Guy

A young man by the name of Hunter Bryant can be found on Facebook as not only an artist but as an inspiration to many people. Son of Melissa Guy and Dee Bryant, he is a 2015 graduate of Pierce County High School. Graduation was an overwhelming day considering all that Hunter had been through in his lifetime.

Hunter was born with Hydrocephalus (excessive fluid on the brain). He had severe brain damage. He had 18 brain surgeries by his first birthday. When Hunter was 3, he was diagnosed with Autism. Before Hunter was even born, he was given a 50/50 chance of survival. The doctor had met with his parents and advised them it would be best to abort the pregnancy due to the lack of quality of life the baby would have if delivered. The parents had a strong faith in God and a firm stance against abortion, so they chose to reject the doctor's advice.

Despite the many struggles that accompany Autism, Hunter has overcome many obstacles. Every day he is learning new things and amazing those around him. He attends Pebble Hill Worship Center and has a strong love for Jesus. Hunter enjoys playing baseball for The Satilla Miracle League. He also races with Miles for Smiles. Panama City Beach, Florida and Disney World are his favorite places to visit. He also loves riding roller coasters at Wild Adventures.

His favorite hobbies are singing and making art. Karaoke and Facebook are two fun pastimes he enjoys. Each week Hunter attends both voice lessons and art lessons. Jim Hall is his voice coach. Hunter always has a song in his heart. He sang at his high school talent show in front of most of the student body. Hunter loves singing songs about Jesus and His love for us.



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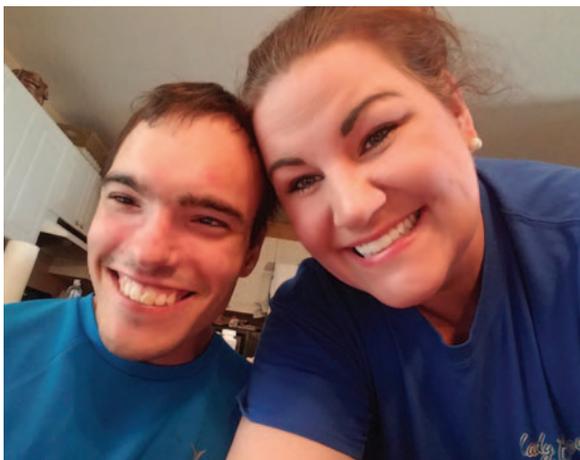


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As for his art lessons, he gets lessons and praises from Kim Smith. She is a former 1994 graduate of Ware County High School. Mrs. Smith is a current Art teacher at Pierce County High School who knows Hunter from when he was a student there. Mrs. Smith stated, "It's been over a year that we've been making art together, and I have noticed such an improvement in his control and patience while painting. The lessons we do have truly been a wonderful sense of therapy for Hunter. We do hand-over-hand technique which allows me to guide him, yet let go enough to allow him to feel the freedom to create."

Hunter Bryant has produced multiple artworks with the guidance of Kim Smith since last year. In efforts to raise money for a service dog for Hunter, his family will be auctioning off some of Hunter's paintings on Feb. 4th at Reho-beth Baptist Church. All proceeds will go to the service dog campaign.

WAYCROSS **magazine**

Ware County Recreation Department Football Champs



8U Champs



8U Runner Ups

Photos by Gary Coker



10U Champs



10U Runner Ups



Simply Amazing - Ann Gillis



Bench (Sitting) l – r, Pam Johnson, Sirena Cady, Tami Eason, Nancy Mock, Danny Mock, Kelly Kimbrell and Lynn Moore.
 Standing (Middle Row) l-r, Toby Eason, Jon Drawdy, Paula Drawdy, Sherri DeLoach, Mike Johnson, Sabrina Smith, Scott Smith,
 Beth Thrift and Gene Moore. Standing (On Porch) l-r, Wilton DeLoach, Trent Cady, Tim Thrift, Brown Kimbrell and Gene Moore.



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Congratulations to Thomas Wesley, the Rick Perkins 2017 Instructor of the Year winner at Coast Pines Technical College.

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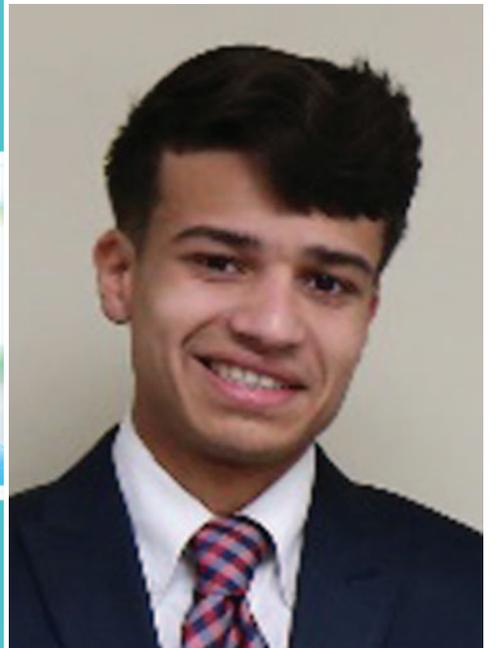
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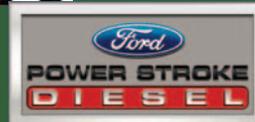
Congratulations to Cody Morris, Coastal Pines Technical College 2017 GOAL winner!

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