

# WAYCROSS

m a g a z i n e  
Spring/Summer 2018 • Issue 31



The Satilla River



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**Natalie Herrin & Ethan Carlson**

2017-18 Best All Around Athletes at Pierce County Middle School. Congratulations! Shown is Maureen Brown and Perry Tison.

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# WAYCROSS magazine

Issue 31 - Spring/Summer 2018  
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The cover picture was taken by Wayne Morgan of the Satilla River. It was selected as one of the winners in the Georgia Council for the Arts III Contest. It will hang in the Governors office in Atlanta for six months beginning May 21st.

Wayne can be reached at (912)288-0810.



*From our readers:* In February we had an occasion that required we spend the night in Waycross at the Holiday Inn. While there we viewed your magazine and it made me want to move to your city. What a fantastic publication. They had only one left so I would not take it with me although the lady at desk offered it to me. Next time through I will stay at Holiday Inn just to view your publication. *BV, Durham, NC*

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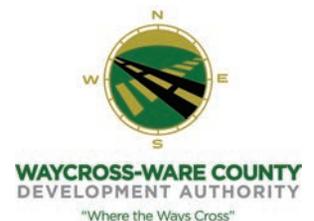
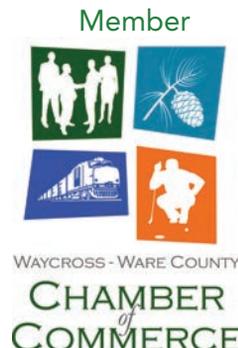
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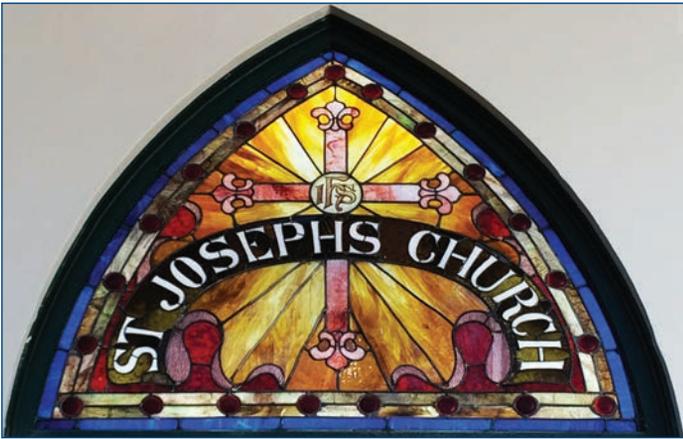




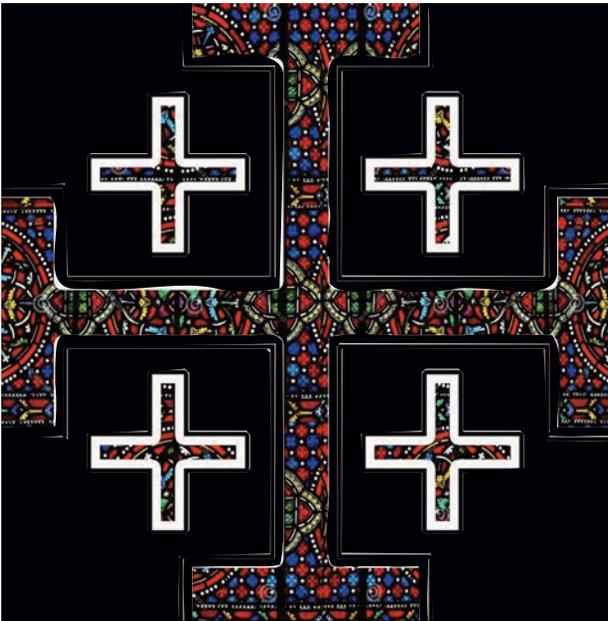
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The Spring production at WACT of **Tom Sawyer**. Cast and crew l-r: (front) Collin Hendley, Camden Jewell, (second row) Elijah Morris, Johannah James, Carmen Barber, Bonnie Tullis, Austin Sprinkle, (back standing) Allyssa Barber, Eli Varnadore, Jessica Sprinkle, Sarah Braswell, Allen Hamilton, Sami Jo Kuhbander.

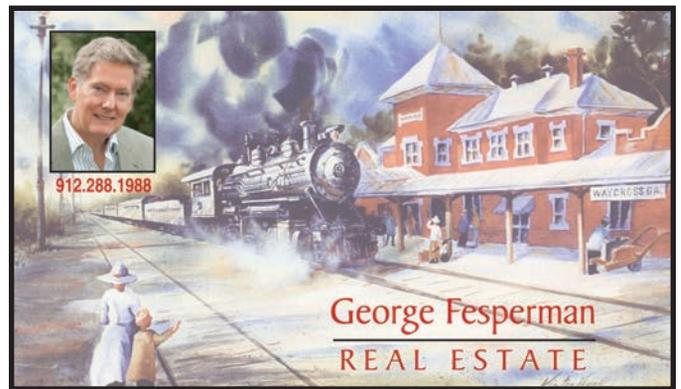
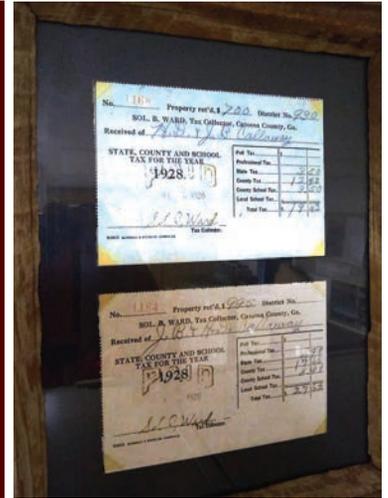


Window is from the Mary St. location. The original church was built in 1888. This church was built in 1920. This stained glass window hangs at the front of the current St. Joseph's church located on Darling Ave.



The Jerusalem Cross dates back to the 11th Century.

Here are two tax receipts showing payments made by my father and my Uncle Harry. One for property valued at \$700.00 was taxed at \$19.43, and the other one was for property valued at \$995.00 was taxed at \$27.62. How things have changed. Sam Ward, a good friend of mine sent this to me. His granddaddy was the tax collector Sol B. Ward.



Team A from Ware County High School finished third in the annual Mathematics Tournament held at SGSC. I-r, Justin Lucas, Abby Grimes, Rick Walker, and Michaelyn Tapley (not pictured).

Topics included – algebra, trigonometry, geometry, and calculus. The tournament is an opportunity for our institution to recognize academic talent within our region," said Dr. Lisa Howell, professor of mathematics at SGSC and tournament coordinator.



# Wonderful South...Wonderful People!



Our grandchildren are growing up to fast. This picture taken on Memorial Day weekend. Oldest to the youngest, Annie, Caroline, Tripp, Jackson, Natalie, Nicholas, Kathryn, Jenna, Jones and Sara. Mimi and Poppie are proud of you all.



Jonathan (c) with the TV series Property Brothers was in Blackshear recently. He is shown with Craig and Sandy Kubik.

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With Sandra Deal, l-r, husband Bruce Dean, Debbie Dean, son Ellis Dean & Governor Deal.

We are very proud of Debbie and her contributions showing the beauty that is all around us. Here is a note from photographer Debbie Dean:

Just want to share ...my pic that was previously chosen as the cover for **WAYCROSS magazine** will hang in the State Capitol! I received the following email this weekend while I was at Georgia Ladies Retreat! I feel very blessed and thankful to be able to share what God blesses me to see! To God be the Glory!

Thank you for sharing my work in your wonderful magazine!

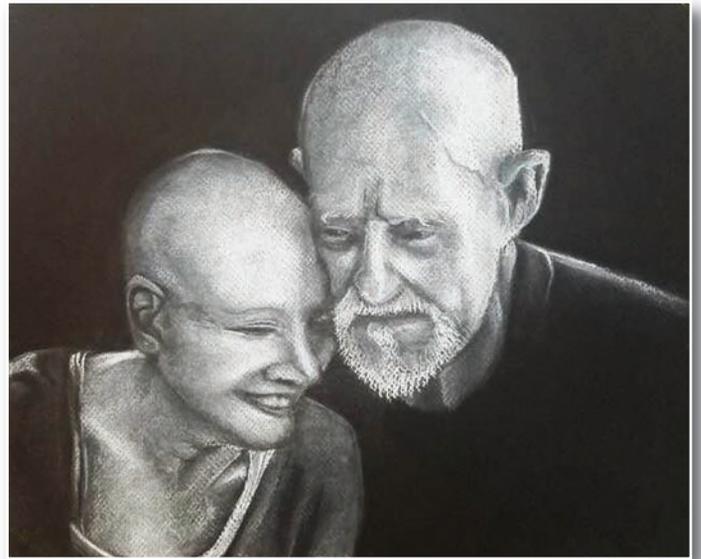
From Atlanta: Debbie

Congratulations! Your work, "A Peaceful Easy Feeling in the South" has been selected to hang in the executive offices at the State Capitol as part of the "Art of Georgia" exhibit. Approximately 100 entries were submitted from artists throughout the South Georgia region, and your work stood out as an exceptional representation of contemporary Georgia art work.

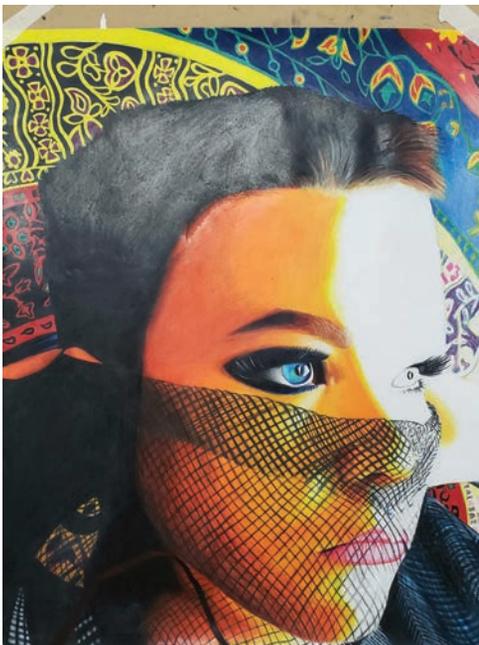
# Wonderful South...Wonderful People!



Roland Thurston shown holding a picture of Sandi that was taken while they were on a cruise, with Roland I-r, Christy Thurston, Alex Davis, Jennifer Davis, Brian Davis and Abby Davis.



A drawing of Sandi and Roland Thurston by their 13 year old granddaughter, Abby Davis.



Abby Davis is a 13-year-old Texas native and resident. She started showing an interest in visual arts at 5 and had developed into quite an amazing young artist. Local master artist, Roland Thurston, is her grandfather and takes great pride and ownership in this talent. He has helped guide her in her efforts to grow in her abilities.

Abby attends the Grand Prairie Fine Arts Academy in Texas, where she works with an amazing group of teachers that specialize in visual arts. Abby has won many district and state awards, has met the first lady of Texas, won top ten percent ranking at state, and has already been commissioned to create several pieces.

Abby remembers being praised in 1st grade for her quality of work, and that gave her a desire to continue to this day. She also discovered every time she draws it makes her entire spirit happy. Her goal in life is to be known as a good artist, for her art to make others happy, and to be well known in the art community. Dry media is her favorite medium, and portraiture is her favorite subject.

Abby's grandmother, Sandi Thurston, started losing her hair due to cancer treatment, so Sandi shaved her head. Roland shaved his head to support his beautiful wife. Abby was so drawn to this photo and the hope that Sandi exuded, that she had to recreate it through dry media. This piece is a beautiful memorial to her grandparents and the love they have for one another.

Abby's art journey can be followed through Instagram at [abby\\_thejedigirlthing](#).

*Story submitted by Jennifer Davis*



# Tarren's 40th Celebration of Life

On February 17, 2018, 205 family and friends gathered for Tarren's 40th Celebration of Life at the Waycross Exchange Club wearing red T-Shirts made by Danny Bennett at Sunset T's as a gift for her attendees.

For those that know Tarren, knows that she is truly an Angel. When you meet Tarren, you have made a friend for life. The room was filled with Tarren's favorite colors of pink and purple. Tarren also wore her pink and purple Tarren's 40th Bash T-Shirt that Danny Bennett of Sunset T's opened up his shop and let her help design and make.

The party was opened up by her Dad, Buddy Sills and then Bonita Lairsey sang Angels Among Us by Alabama which is Tarren's favorite song. Then Smiling Bob Karaoke and the Cruzing Line Dancers got the party started with making Tarren an Honorary Member of the Cruzing Line Dancers by presenting her with a shirt and hat.

A BBQ buffet was on the menu which featured BBQ Chicken, Green Beans, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Rolls, Fruit, Cookies, and Cupcakes which was enjoyed by all after Brother Donnie Laughinghouse opened up with prayer.

After lunch, the Cruzing Lind Dancers continued entertaining Tarren and her guest. Tarren sang some songs to her guest as well. Everyone gathered around the beautiful cake and sung Happy Birthday as Tarren blew out 40 candles.

We thank God each day that we are blessed with Tarren.

*Story and pictures furnished by Crystal Sills Worsham.*



Pierce County Middle School Basketball Champions  
S. E. Georgia Middle School Athletic Conference



Keara Clark (1) is shown with Caroline Herrin after the Long County game. Keara scored her 1,000th career point. Keara is the only female to do this at PCHS. Keara finished her high school career scoring 1,130 total points. Caroline had a school record 24 rebounds. Congratulations to both!



Congratulations on an incredible 16-0 season! PCMS team members (front, l-r) Natalee Griffin, Tivona Myles, Natalie Herrin, Makayla Etheridge, (back, l-r) manager Gracie Stafford, Harley White, Elena Clough, Kaylee Cravey, Lily Varnes, Sarah Davis, Jenna Bennett and head coach Maureen Brown pose with the championship trophy.

Photo by Rick Head

One of the best action photos we have seen in a long time. Chandler Watson Productions truly captured the concentration in playing high school basketball. In Reidsville for the region championship for the PCHS Bears are #12, Caroline Herrin, #3 Madison Puryear and Abby Cox. Chandler's webpage address is [www.cwphotovideo.com](http://www.cwphotovideo.com).



PCHS Varsity Girls recently dressed in Pink to help keep Breast Cancer awareness in the forefront.

*S. E. Georgia Middle School Athletic Conference*  
Pierce County Middle School Girls Golf Champions



**Congratulations!** Front row l-r: Maddie Malone, Lily Spivey, Kaley Robins, Jami Strickland  
back row: Coach Brandi Metts, Maggie Sapp, Bayleigh Sinclair, Lily Varnes, Isabel McEuen,  
and Britton Larson!

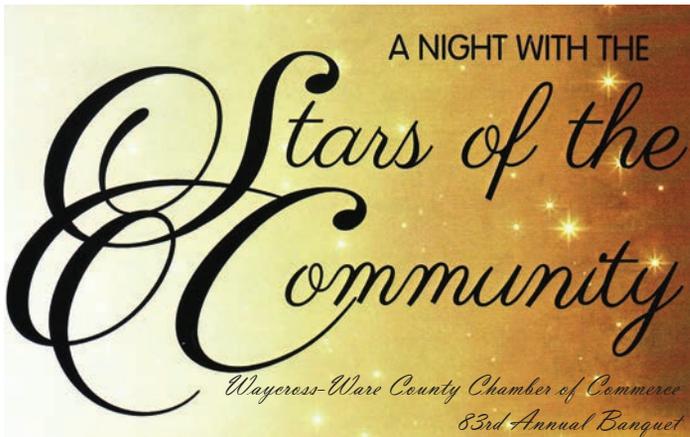
Pierce County Middle School Boys Golf Champions



**Congratulations!** Front row l-r: Davis Hersey, Jake Wolff, Bowen Tyre, and Benjamin Swain.  
back row l-r: Fisher Crews, Coach Corey Lesseig, Ellison Kirkland, Bryce Mulkey, Eli Metts, and Gavin Carter.



**Ralph and P. O. Herrin Business and Industry Award**  
 Joe Kirkland  
 Presented by Scott Howard, grandson of Ralph Herrin.  
 Shown left, Jana Dyke and Dr. William Clark.



**Jack Williams Community Service Award**  
 Ladonna Johnson  
 Presented by Roger Williams



**Randy Sharpe Health Hero Award**  
 Allison C. Herrin  
 Presented by Dave Callaway



**Jamie Renee & The Walkers**  
 Entertainment



**Katherine Foss Education Award**  
 Papani Saini  
 Presented by Dr. Wendy Good

**Mission Statement:** The Waycross — Ware County Chamber of Commerce exists to provide exceptional services to its members in the areas of professional development, information and networking opportunities; and to advocate for economic and community development in Waycross and Ware County.



Photos by Myra Thrift  
 Society Editor  
 Waycross Journal-Herald

Invitation and program  
 art by Becky Jordan.

Georgia Recreation & Parks Association • Youth Basketball State Tournaments



WCRD 9U Class B Boys State Champions



WCRD 10U Class B Girls State Runner Up



PCRD 10U Class C Girls State Champions



PCRD 12U Class C Girls State Runner Up



PCRD 14U Class C Girls State Runner Up



PCRD 8U Class C Boys State Runner Up





**PAGE STAR Region 11 Winner is Maggie Zheng from Glynn Academy with her STAR Teacher Mrs. Marie Feazel. Congratulations!**

**Ware County Star Student • Bettie (Abby) Grimes**



Shown at the STAR recognition luncheon l-r, Principal Bert Smith, counselor Jewell Sharpe, Abbie Grimes, STAR Teacher Christian Bush and Superintendent Jim LeBrun.

## Region 11 Winners



### Congratulations 2018 PAGE STAR System Winners

**Appling County** - Appling County High School

Student: Caroline Lindsey      Teacher: Ms. Terry Spell  
 Sponsor: *Baxley-Appling County Chamber of Commerce*

**Bacon County** - Bacon County High School

Student: Hanna Sears      Teacher: Mrs. Alison Lee  
 Sponsor: *Alma Lion's Club*

**Brantley County** - Brantley County High School

Student: Grant Jacobs      Teacher: Dr. Gregory Jacobs  
 Sponsor: *Brantley County Chamber of Commerce*

**Camden County** - Camden County High School

Student: Olivia Irvin      Teacher: Mr. Kevin McAree  
 Sponsor: *Kiwanis Club of St. Marys*

**Charlton County** - Charlton County High School

Student: Cason Howard      Teacher: Dr. Audrey Pickren  
 Sponsor: *Okefenokee Chamber of Commerce*



**Glynn County** - Glynn Academy

Student: Maggie Zheng      Teacher: Mrs. Marie Feazel  
 Sponsor: *Brunswick Women's Club*

**Jeff Davis County** - Jeff Davis High School

Student: Forrest Clark      Teacher: The Late Mr. Chris Calhoun  
 Sponsor: *Hazlehurst-Jeff Davis Chamber of Commerce*

**McIntosh County** - McIntosh County Academy

Student: Major Robinson      Teacher: Mr. Knox Robinson  
 Sponsor: *McIntosh Chamber of Commerce*

**Pierce County** - Pierce County High School

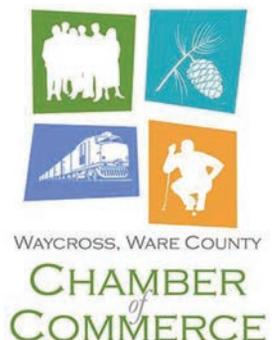
Student: Carolyn Lesseig      Teacher: Mrs. Gia Kay  
 Sponsor: *Blackshear Rotary Club*

**Ware County** - Ware County High School

Student: Bettie (Abby) Grimes      Teacher: Mrs. Christan Bush  
 Sponsor: *Waycross-Ware Co. Chamber of Commerce*

**Wayne County** - Wayne County High School

Student: Christina Thomas      Teacher: Ms. Tammy Sellers  
 Sponsor: *Wayne County Chamber of Commerce*



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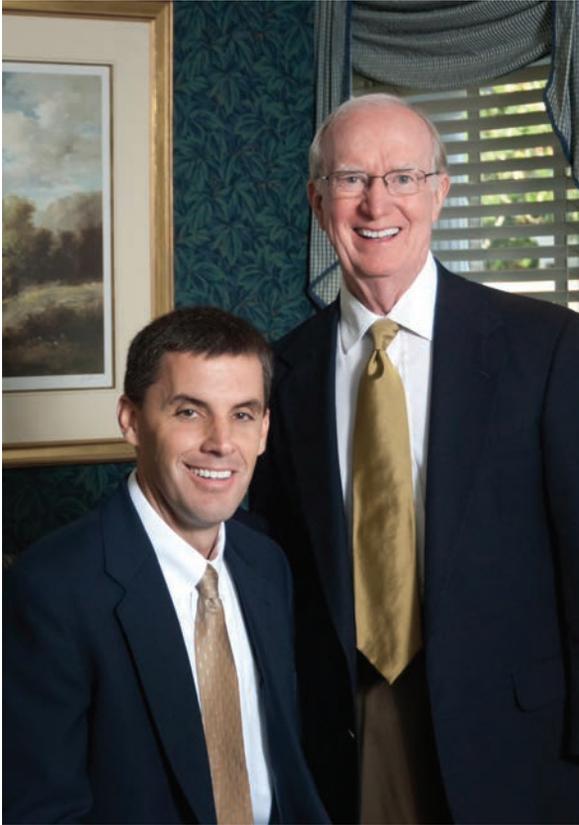
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## More snow pictures



Taylor Lewis, a senior at McIntosh County Academy, is shown on National Signing Day in early February as she inks her letter with South Georgia State College to play softball. Shown with Taylor is David Callaway, Jr. David has coached Taylor since she was 8 and she invited him to the signing. Also in the back are Spec, Christy, and Logann Echols. Spec and Christy were employed by the McIntosh County Recreation Department for much of Taylor's playing career. Taylor's parents are Neisha and Eric Lewis. We wish Taylor well in her collegiate career as a Hawk.

## A Touch of the Past by Clint Bowman

"Hey grandpa, what's this?"

The old man slowly turned from his work, his hand poised to drop the next few watermelon seeds into the freshly turned Georgia soil.

His smiling face revealed clearly his love for his ten-year-old grandson. "Looks like an old clay pipe, buddy," he answered as he drew near. "And look here!" the excited child almost shouted in his excitement. His hand shot upwards with what was left of a small rusted knife blade. "Well!", his grandfather said, "Looks like you have found a treasure, for sure."

Turning the knife over slowly, he noted how rusted the blade was, the tip now long gone as was the handle. Turning his attention to the simple clay pipe, he noted the roughly scratched outline of what could have been a deer on the small bowl of the pipe. As he slowly turned it in his hands, he suddenly realized where they were standing. This was the spot, he remembered, where he had once cut down an old oak tree which had long stood silent watch over this corner of his yard. He had worked long and hard first to dig, then burn, then dig again to remove the tree's stubborn stump. The old tree had been long dying and hollowed out inside. Undoubtedly the pipe and knife had been inside or underneath that old tree's base. "Well now," he slowly said, as his very curious grandson kicked the clumps of soil around, seeking more treasure.

"Grandpa, who do you think lost these things?" he asked. "Well, buddy, I'm just not sure, but this is the exact spot where that old oak was standing. It may be that someone long ago hid them in a hollow space at the base of the tree." "Wow!" the excited child almost shouted as he reached for the pipe. "Reckon it was an Indian or like a bank robber or somebody like that?" His grandfather chuckled answering, "Who knows? But in the very early 1800's there was a little settlement a couple of miles from here called Kettle Creek. It was named after that little creek just down the road yonder. There was an old Indian trail which crossed the creek there, and the early settlers used it. Actually, there were Indian trails all over these parts. That Kettle Creek settlement is where the first school Ware County ever had was started by a man who was a surveyor."

"Ah, I hate school," his grandson muttered. "Reckon the old school teacher lost this?" he asked. Again, the old man chuckled. "I doubt it. This is more like something an Indian or a frontiersman might use. A highly educated man probably would have had one a bit fancier, but who knows? Sure is gettin' hot here in the sun, let's ease over to the shade while we think about this treasure you've found. Think I've got a couple of apples we can snack on."

The old whitetail buck suddenly lifted his head and froze in position. His ear twitched nervously as he attempted to sort out the message his senses were bringing him. In a nearby oak, two busy squirrels noted his sudden movement and sat up on their haunches suddenly alert, noses twitching. A silent gray rat snake, making his way quietly up the side of the oak searching

for a meal, even seemed to hesitate. Suddenly, the buck bolted away; tail held high! The squirrels began their warning barks to the world and scampered up higher in the tree. The silent snake continued on, oblivious to the goings-on of the larger animals, his black tongue flicking in and out gathering the scent of the squirrels. Soon, the source of the buck's alarm came slowly into view. An injured Creek warrior limped through the scattered palmettos and pines.

Spying the oak, he limped toward it and settled at its base, gently dropping his spear by his side. Slowly, he removed the small bag hanging from his shoulder and let it fall beside the spear. He still held tightly to his fighting knife as he leaned back, exhausted. Gradually his eyes closed as sleep conquered his fevered mind and body.

"Be careful, buddy. You are about to eat that sticker on the apple." Laughing, the boy peeled the sticker from the apple and replied, "Hey, we can stick it on that old pipe for a decoration." The old man smiled and gently shook his head as he continued to turn the pipe slowly in his hand as if he was willing it to tell its story.

The afternoon passed quietly. The rat snake, thwarted in his search for food in the oak, began his descent. The squirrels hiding high above watched his retreat. Another pair of eyes peering out of a well-built nest in a nearby pine also watched and then issued a warning call to its mate. The large male red-headed woodpecker swooped to its nest opening quickly, eyes alert for any danger. Soon, he spotted the large snake descending the nearby oak and quickly resented his presence. The attack was quick, loud, painful, and effective as the big male attacked his enemy. The surprised snake jerked this way and that as he attempted to elude the pounding beak and wings of his attacker. The violence of the attack caused the hunter to lose his grip on the rough bark. As he fell, his long black and gray body twisted wildly as he sought a secure grip to halt his fall. The big male flew back to his perch atop the pine and again watched over his nesting mate.

The feverish warrior soon woke, his mind troubled by the dream which had become so life-like that he actually reached to brush away the hand of the young lady in his dream. His hand found nothing to brush away as the retreating tale of the rat snake disappeared out of reach around the side of the oak. The young warrior slowly regained full consciousness. His mind registering the time of day as the pain of his injured leg began to remind him of his need to reach his people soon. He had traveled far and was very tired. And hungry. Very, very hungry.

"Wonder why he put a picture of a deer on his pipe?" the young boy asked, almost to himself. The way his grandfather was looking at the pipe and slowly turning it in his hand, allowing his fingers to feel the cool smoothness of the pipe's surface, had had a calming effect on the young boy. "Well," his grandfather began, "I guess it depends on how old this pipe is as well as who made it. You see, buddy, long before the white man's priests and preachers came to these parts to teach Christianity to the Native Americans, the Indians would often worship spirits of different

sorts and even ask for their help in life. Maybe the man who had this was that away. Or if it is from after the time of the coming of the white man then the Indian might have just been using the deer as a decoration and not as a religious symbol. No way to know for sure." "So maybe if he needed help to run fast he might use that deer's help?" asked the boy. "Maybe," replied the old man thoughtfully.

The young warrior slowly got to his feet. In the distance, he heard the warning bark of a squirrel. He noticed the quick darting flight of two doves as they fled through the pine tops. Someone was coming. He reached for his spear and stood still pondering his situation. Then, turning, he hobbled away from the oak and headed downhill. In his fevered haste, he forgot his small bag. In it were a few remaining dried grapes, a small skinning knife, a piece of flint, his pipe and a bit of tobacco. Not much and not anything to delay for as he fled for his life. He knew well; the white men were coming.

They had deeply resented the raid on the farm from which the young warrior and his companions had stolen two horses and a hog which he soon after butchered. The warriors had believed that the white men had gone to fight the Seminoles who were raiding along the trail west of Waresboro. That assumption had spelled doom for their small, inexperienced band.

Word had traveled quickly, and the next morning the warriors had awakened to a hail of lead followed by slashing knives as the settlers had their revenge. Known by his peers as Kikikwawason (Lightening), he had used his speed to quickly get out of sight among the nearby palmettos. The musket ball which had hit him passed almost all the way through his thigh. It had been painful and had slowed him down a good bit as he fled the campsite. Now, two days later, he hobbled towards the nearby Satilla River. He quietly entered slow moving, cool waters. The river, a little high due to recent rains, helped carry him downstream as he swam quietly. Gradually, he eased across the current and rounded a bend. There he slowly hobbled out of the river onto a beautiful white sandbar. He entered a small stand of trees growing against the somewhat higher bank on which stood several towering oaks. Easing up the bank, he headed southward. Soon, he would be back with his small band of people. Soon he would be home.

The two white men eased carefully through the palmettos, their horses at a walk. They knew the man they sought was wounded. They also knew that to rush quickly through the pine forest was unwise. Seminoles were about. Bands of them were using the nearby Okfenokee Swamp as a base of operations as they raided the surrounding farming settlements. As the two men moved carefully forward, they stopped at the sound of a gray squirrel's warning bark. They saw him perched on a limb of a lone dead pine standing in the midst of a large clump of palmettos. The two men slowly edged closer, one nervously shifting his eyes here and there. The squirrel ran higher up the tree. After a short, fruitless search, the two nervous men gave up and turned their mounts homeward.

Up on the old dead pine, a flicking black tongue signaled the

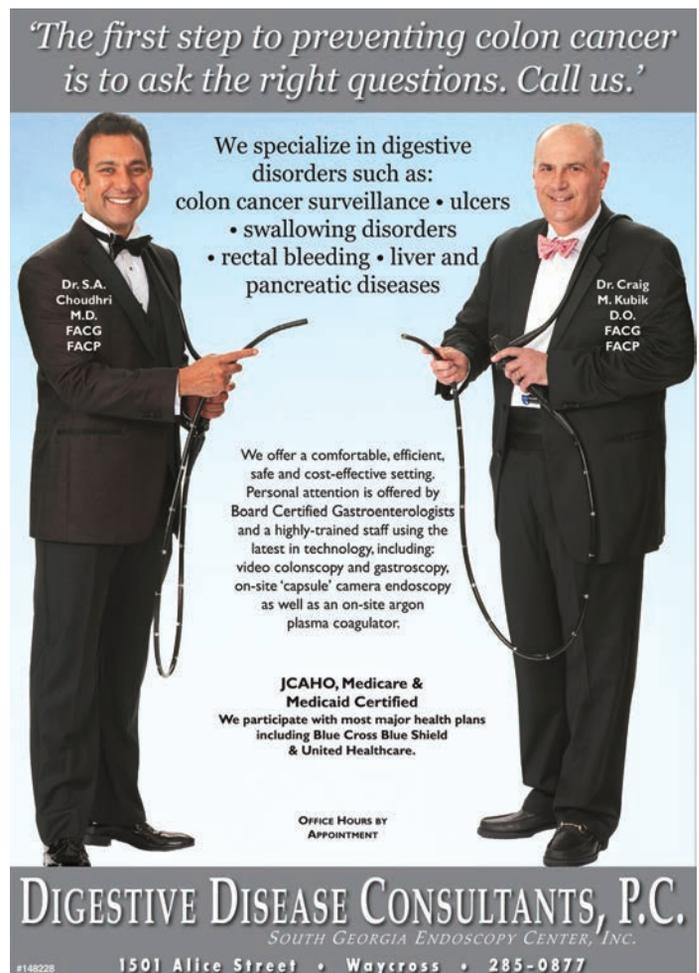
presence of a gray rat snake as he emerged from an empty hole in the tree long ago vacated by a woodpecker family. It was one of several holes in the old tree. The squirrel grew frantic.

As evening fell, a hungry raccoon emerged from a rotted out knothole high in the trunk of the oak. Climbing down he quickly discovered a treasure of sorts, the young warrior's small bag, and the smell of the dried grapes quickly drew his attention. Suddenly, noting the sounds of other browsing and squabbling raccoons in the area, he picked the bag up in his mouth and quickly returned to his hiding place in the oak to eat his find.

"So what will we do with them, grandpa?" asked the boy. "Well buddy, I'm inclined to think that I'll put them up on the mantle above the fireplace. That way folks can see them, and we can enjoy speculating on how they got in that old oak tree." "Yeah, maybe we can make up a good story to go with it, huh?" the boy replied. "Maybe so," his grandfather answered with a smile, "But now, we had better get to work planting these watermelon seeds, or grandma will skin us both."

The little boy's laughter drifted across the yard as the spring-time breeze rustled the leaves of the palmettos shading a small and hungry gray rat snake busily nosing through the dead pine needles and leaves on the ground.

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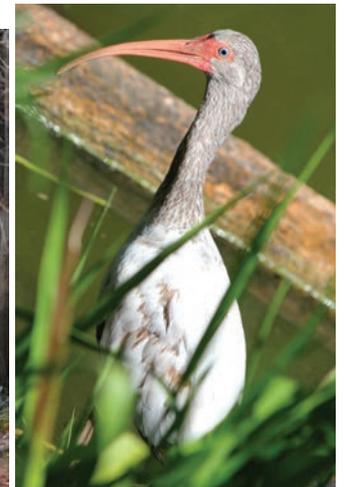
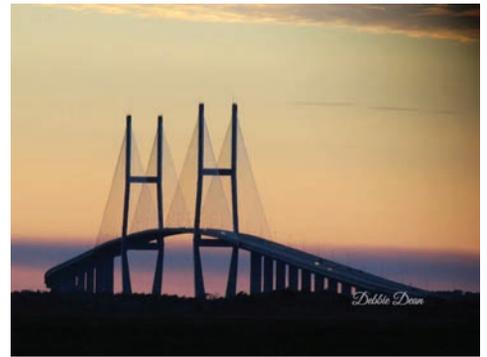
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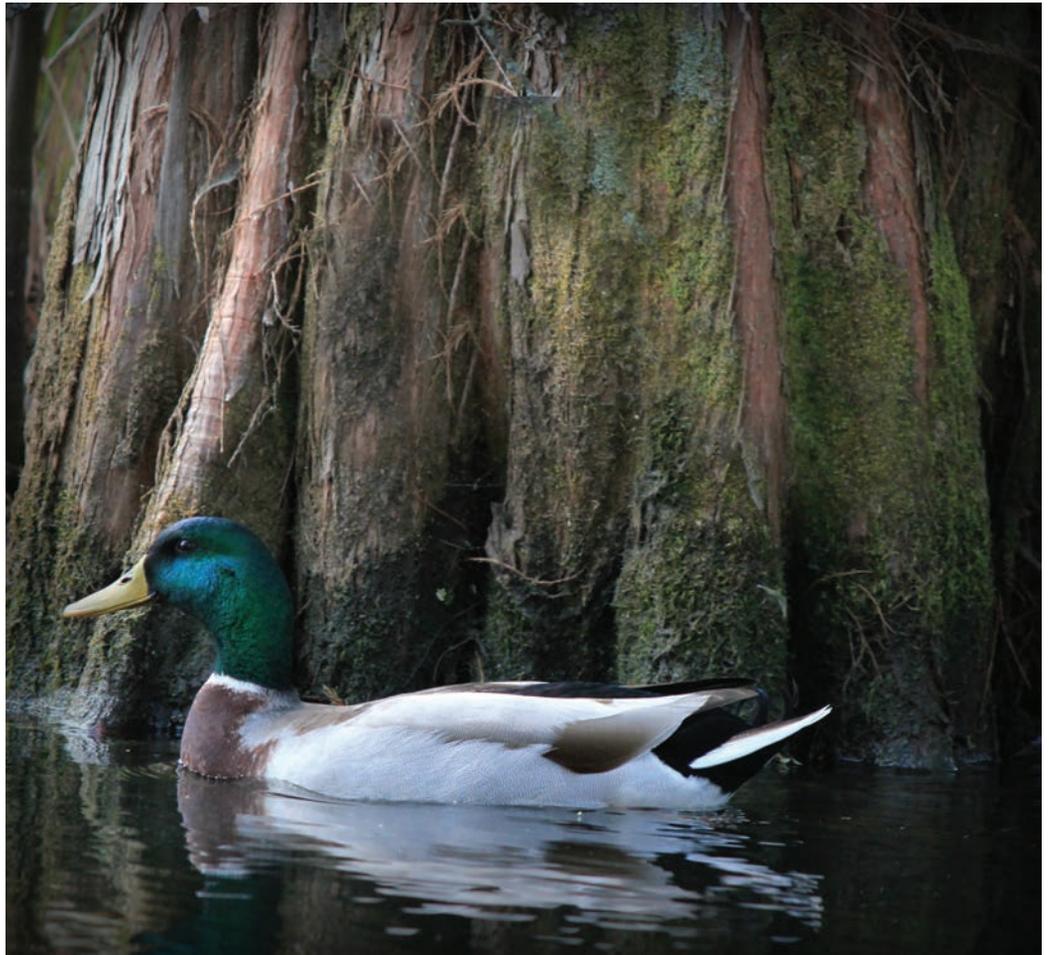
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**Debbie  
Dean**





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 country life. Some of her favorite outdoor activities include nature walks with her grandchildren, camping, fishing, canoeing, bike riding, and photographing God's beautiful creation. Debbie treasures the time she spends with her family and friends.

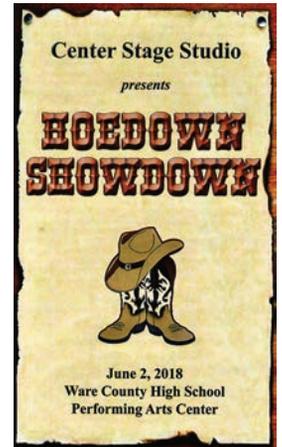
Debbie can be reached at [debwdean@hotmail.com](mailto:debwdean@hotmail.com).



4 pm Show



7 pm Show



**WE ARE BLESSED...WE HAVE A LOT OF TALENT IN OUR COMMUNITY.**



Elaine Howe, now living in Utah, shared this snow picture in her neighborhood. Slightly more than we had in January.

**The Creche at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Christmas 2017.**

# Wonderful South...Wonderful People!



Congratulations to Captain Danny Hampton of the Waycross Police Department. Danny recently graduated from the FBI Academy after spending 10 weeks away. Danny joined the WPD in May 1994.



My mother-in-law, Donna Hetherington, in June celebrated her 90th birthday. With her are Jenna, Jones, Kathryn, Natalie, Caroline, Allison and Sharon. DBC

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Taylor Hereford of SGSC welcomes *The Mayberry Deputy*, David Browning. David was the entertainment for the President's Club Dinner held in February, and he delighted the crowd with stories about Barney and Mayberry. Yes, he did have his one silver bullet in his shirt pocket.

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# Summerlin Family Farm

The herding events include the following classes: Novice, Pro/Novice, Open Ranch, Nursery and Open



Glenda and Charlie Summerlin, the gracious hosts.



Above are Judges Jean Murphy, (l) of Ocala, FL and Peg Anderson of Chickamauga, GA.



Above left is organizer Flo Hicks and to the left is assistant Cindy Carrington.

*Photos by Rene' Bolden and Dave Callaway*



Doug Gibson with grandson Garrison Head and in the background is Van and Brenda Spradley.



Above is Hubert Bailey, a director from Dawsonville, GA. Hubert has won many competitions and he is also a trainer of many dogs.



David Saunders with his Border Collies Curtis and Cody. Curtis at left had just finished his trial.



Spectators Sherry Lee and Joanne Korn are enjoying watching the dogs herd the sheep.



CAROL CHAMBERS  
912.599.9332  
ladymayor@yahoo.com

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Kevin Moore, Connie Moore, Autumn Murphy and Cora Beth Murphy are enjoying the time trials.



John Thrift & great grandson Joby Crews enjoying the festivities.



The Code of Conduct and Rules can be found at <https://gsda.org/code-of-conduct-and-rules>



Our good friends from Racepond, Dan Wilson (l) and Charles Burch.

# Pernell Roberts Memorial Park

*"Never forgotten"*

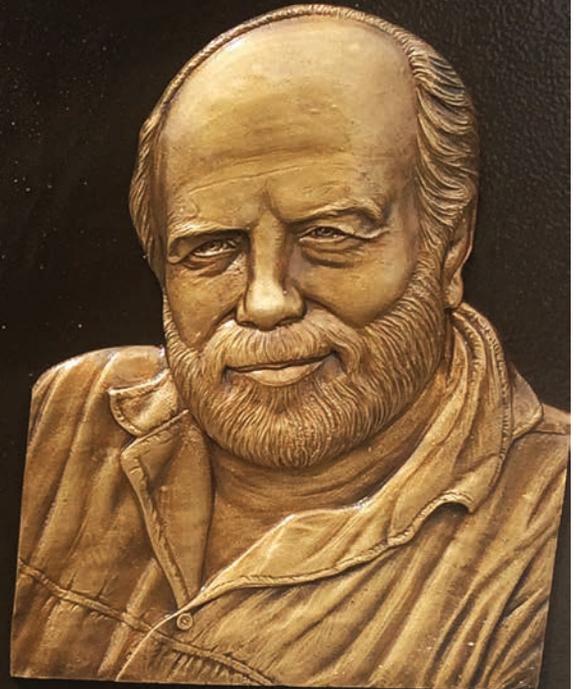
Pernell Roberts, the only child of P.E. Roberts, Sr. and Betty Roberts, was born in Waycross on May 18, 1928. After graduating from Waycross High School in 1945, he spent two years in the United States Marine Corp where he was a member of the Marine Corp band.

Pernell had a long and successful career performing on Broadway, in movies, as well as numerous television shows. He is best known for his portrayal of Adam Cartwright on the long-running TV western *Bonanza* and as the title character in *Trapper John, M.D.* for which he received an Emmy nomination.

Active in civil rights, he participated in the Selma to Montgomery marches in 1965. Pernell lost his battle with cancer on January 24, 2010. He continues to live on in the memory and hearts of his fans throughout the world.

Monument provided by fans of Pernell Roberts.

Dedicated May 18, 2016



On a Friday in May, Waycross' Pernell Roberts Memorial Park celebrated the installation of the fan-financed monument sign for the Park. Yes, that means the \$1900 bronze plaques monument cost City taxpayers probably less than \$200 for the complete installation. Pernell Roberts fans from across the nation and the world donated \$2967.97 via a dedicated Park "Point and Pay" that was available on the Waycross web page. That donation portal which provided a safe, secure method to donate directly to the City for 2 years paid for the monument.

The City selected a local monument company and paid it \$840 out of that fund from Pernell Roberts fans. A City Commissioner reports the final \$227.97 of the fan fund will pay to pour the foundation of the monument. If the concrete pour costs more than that, then-City taxpayers will pay the rest. Though if fans knew all the costs donations would roll in to fully cover the expenditure. That's how much they care about Pernell and his hometown of Waycross.

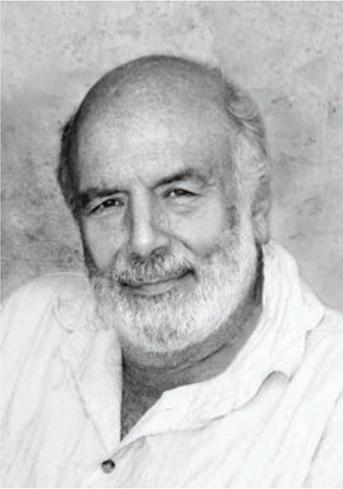
For those readers sufficiently young that they have no idea who Pernell Roberts was: Pernell was an actor best known as Adam on NBC-TV show *Bonanza*, and years later as the lead in CBS's *Trapper John, M.D.* Diane Jarrett went to a public hearing in Waycross to ask the city to re-name Mary Street Park where Pernell played as a boy in his honor. None opposed the name change during the hearing. Diane was one of two addressing the City officials that evening for the change of name. she told the assembled commissioners that Pernell who passed away in 2010 had a wish for a world "where children of all colors, races, and creeds could play together and learn mutual respect together." The Park could and hopefully is helping to fulfill Pernell's wish. Pernell on this his 90th birthday would be proud of Waycross for trying to live that wish.

Waycross can count on Pernell Roberts fans to step forward to help it when asked. They will follow his lead and generally act quietly but with unabashed pride in his hometown of Waycross.

*The original article was submitted by Diane Jarrett, Martinez, GA*

My first memory of Pernell Roberts was as his character Adam Cartwright in *Bonanza* in the episode 'The Crucible.' In this episode, he was pushed beyond physical and emotional boundaries to stay alive and return to his family. Most fans will tell you that it is their favorite episode. I followed Pernell throughout his career, always struck by the emotion, passion, and believability of the characters he portrayed both on screen and in the theater. I appreciated his concern, as a civil rights activist, for all people and his willingness to stand up for them when most were silent. He had a wonderful baritone voice which was so evident in his rendition of the Christmas song 'The New Born King.' Pernell always stayed true to himself, and I try to pattern my life in the same way.

*Diane Posey – Reynolds, GA*



Once again some of Pernell Roberts friends, family and loyal fans recently gathered in his hometown of Waycross to celebrate the actor and the man that he was. Best known for his roles as Adam Cartwright on Bonanza and Trapper John on the show by the same name, his fans keep the memory of him alive. Over the past couple of years, fans donated money to have a monument made and placed in the Pernell Roberts Memorial Park. His 90th birthday seemed like the perfect time to have it installed and unveiled. Pernell was a long time friend of mine, and I was very excited to see the finished monument. Sandra Moultrie wrote the words that are on the monument and the image of Pernell was created from a photograph I took of him one afternoon in October of 2000 after we had lunch in Malibu.

The weather in Waycross leading up to May 18th held more rain than anything else, and it was touch and go as to whether or not the monument would even be able to be set in place for the special day. I arrived in Waycross on May 17th and Diane Posey, and I headed straight to the park to see if they had been able to place the monument despite all the rain.

Sure enough, city commissioners and the Bailey Monument Company had made it happen! It is hard for me to express how touched I was as I stood there and looked at the monument for the first time. It rendered me speechless, as it was more beautiful than I ever imagined it would be. The image created from my photograph is so striking, and it is actually three-dimensional on the monument. Looking at it brought back many memories of our visit together the day I took that photograph. I feel like a part of me will always be in Waycross as long as the monument is in place.

I want to thank the fans that gave money to make this monument a reality, A big thank you to all that made the unveiling of this monument possible on his 90th birthday despite all the challenges the weather brought in the days leading up to it. Waycross is a wonderful town and a true slice of Americana.

I believe that Pernell would be very pleased with this monument, and I know that his wife Eleanor is. Pernell loved Waycross, and I feel certain he would be very touched that his hometown and his fans have honored him through the renaming of the park and this beautiful monument.

Dave Callaway (Waycross magazine) and his wife Sharon joined all of us for supper the night before the unveiling. Thank you to Marla at the Plant Café for her help and input along the way. Those that came in town for the unveiling came from near and far. In attendance were: Sandra Moultrie (Georgia), Diane Posey (Georgia), Carol Carter (England), Anna Geisel (Ohio), Robin Davis (North Carolina), Pat & Barbara Gallagher (Pennsylvania), Melissa Canady (Georgia), Cindy Roberts Rhyne (Georgia), Bridgett Roberts Scarbary (Georgia) and myself Pam McComb (Maryland). I want to say thank you so much to the city of Waycross and all those who made sacrifices of time and expense to come to Waycross to honor my friend in this way. We missed Cheryl Joseph, Peg Gratz Langford, Jane Simpson and Delores Barnosky who were scheduled to come but at the last minute had family health challenges that prevented them from coming.

We celebrated Pernell, the friendships forged because of him, with a birthday cake, the unveiling and the love and admiration we had for him. You will be remembered, my friend.



Greetings Mr. Callaway,

I was in Waycross on May 18 for Pernell's 90th birthday celebration. I would like to share my thoughts about Pernell and Waycross for the next issue of your magazine.

While I grew up watching Pernell as Adam Cartwright, it was only in recent years that I learned about Pernell himself - how masterful an actor he was and a wonderful humanitarian. I will never forget being mesmerized by his roles of Sam Boone, Adam Cartwright, and Hezekiah Horn. All speak to Pernell's strong acting abilities and his desire to see values of honesty and integrity being carried into the world. In many of his roles, he showed like the brightest star in the sky.

Being able to visit Pernell's hometown was a dream come true for me. I would like to thank the city of Waycross and all its residents for being a warm, welcoming town. I have been to Waycross twice - on May 18, 2016, for the naming ceremony of the Pernell Roberts Memorial Park, and on May 18, 2018, to celebrate Pernell's 90th birthday and the unveiling of his memorial plaque at the Park. Each time I felt at home and was always greeted with warm smiles by the business owners. The best part was meeting some of Pernell's relatives and neighbors, and hearing their stories of the man, actor, and humanitarian. Thank you, Waycross for honoring Pernell and for welcoming his friends and fans so warmly. He would truly be proud.

Thank you, Mr. Callaway, for putting this magazine together.

Sincerely, Robin Davis, Greensboro, North Carolina

Dear Dave,

I once again thank you so much for allowing me to participate in this most special of occasions. It was lovely to meet you and your wonderful wife that night at Jerry's Cafe. Well, here is my small bit for your terrific magazine. I wish you all of the peace in the world to surround you and your family. Thank you again.

Hello, my name is Anna Elizabeth Geisel. I am a twenty-two-year-old Ohioan and, while young by most stereotypes, my gratitude and love for Pernell Roberts are no less than those of my mature peers. Almost five years ago, I saw the handsome actor stroll across my television screen, and he stepped through the front door of my life. I fell instantly in love, both with Pernell and Bonanza, the program on which I had seen him, as Adam Cartwright.

I would like to express my gratitude to the beautiful and charming city of Waycross. Being a devout Bonanza and PR fan, among thousands of others, I was greeted with the greatest of warmth by the city officials at the unveiling of the Pernell Roberts Memorial monument. A special thanks to all of the wonderful professionals who took time out of their busy days to help us fans celebrate Pernell's 90th birthday in style.

Sincerely, Anna E. Geisel, Marysville, OH



Alexandria Weekley, a junior at Ware County High School and a member of the Ware County Advanced Symphonic Band, was selected to participate in the John Philip Sousa National High School Honors Band. Students were required to audition for this ensemble, which included two prepared pieces of music and a chromatic scale, and were then submitted for evaluation. She is 1 of only 12 French Horn players in the nation chosen to participate and the only student chosen from the state of Georgia.

She traveled to Boston Massachusetts in June to rehearse with the honor band and perform for the public at the historic Faneuil Hall at the end of the week. The conductor of the 2018 John Philip Sousa National High School Honors Band will be Col. Jason Fettig, Director of "The President's Own" United States Marine Band of Washington, D.C.

Parents are Robert Weekley and Talethia Knight, Grand parents are Reavis & Gilda Dixon of Waycross, Nancy and Larry Childs of Macon and Bobby and Mitzi Weekley of Gray.



## Imus in the Morning

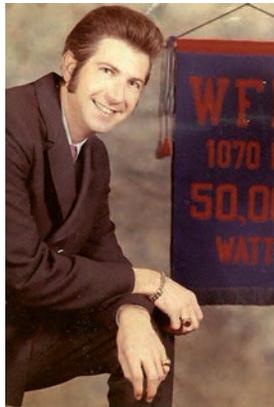
JUNE 1st 1968 – MARCH 29th 2018

Imus just retired. Years ago, a DJ could call and put you on the air without getting your permission. I believe Don Imus was responsible for changing that rule. Check out his *1200 Hamburgers To Go* on Youtube and you will see what I mean. There are others of course.

I enjoyed listening to Imus as he was very entertaining and a showman. He and his listeners have raised millions of dollars for many different charities. He finished his career at WABC in NY.



We wish Don Imus in the Morning well during his retirement. To find out more, go to your favorite search engine and type in Imus. That's all you need to do.



Tommy Jett, upper left, passed away recently in Chattanooga, TN. He was 77. May TJ rest in God's PEACE! TJ along with Dale Anthony, pictured at his desk, were two men that perked my interest in being a DJ. Tommy and Dale in a recent photo remained friends all of these years. Dale was the morning DJ on WFLI and Tommy did afternoon drive and early evenings in Chattanooga with 50,000 watts. WFLI, WBAM in Montgomery, WVOK in Birmingham and WAPE in Jacksonville were all connected by some common ownership, and they all had the same wattage.

I spent many hours listening to these two and waiting to hear their next words. TJ's first job was in Waycross at WAYX. They were real DJ's, played Rock n Roll music, and they had great influence on me as my interest in radio continued to grow in high school. Still, to this day, there is that urge to put on the headphones, open the mic, and say Hello South Georgia. DBC. Photo assistance by David Carroll, WRCB, Chattanooga

*S. E. Georgia Middle School Athletic Conference  
Pierce County Middle School Tennis Champions*



**Congratulations!** 22 Straight victories and only 2 losses in the last 3 seasons. Bottom row: (l-r) Joshua Roberts, Easton Hall, Matthew Bennett, Dawson Scurry, Matthew Rodgers, Wade DiBiase, Braydan Kirkland. Top Row: (l-r) Davis Green, Matthew Taylor, Ethan Carlson, Ty Dawson, Trevor Stephenson, Hugh Saussy, Carter Johnson, Kai Freeman, Henry Peagler, and Coach Brandon Carlson.

*Pierce County Middle School Baseball Champions*



**Congratulations!** Kneeling l-r, Carson Sloan, Brett Tuten, Brandon Pittman, Allen Boatright, Ty Holloway, Cole Royer, Brent Johnson, and Mason Woodcock. Standing l-r, Coach Juan Alonso, Zach Murphy, Elijah Crump, Knox Bennett, Hoke Skipper, Payton Walker, Ashby Simonin, Jacob Pittman, and Coach Jeffery Sloan.

**2017-18 Cheerleading Class AAA State Champions  
Pierce County High School Girls Cheer Team**



**Congratulations!** PCHS has won 5 of the last AAA State Championships and the last three years in a row. Quite impressive. Bottom row l-r, Emmeline Dixon, Amber Taft (captain), Allie Caroline Long, Chelsea Thrift (co-captain), & Jincy Strickland. Middle row l-r, Anna Claire Long, Isabelle McQuaig (co-captain) Coach Candace Douglas, Coach Amy Nimmer, Alyssa Nolan, and Zoie Johnson. Back row l-r, Taylor Turner, Nicole Farr, Raegen Taylor, Torin Bryant, Kate Davis, Joscie Johnson, Alyssa Whitt, and Sage Young.

*Photo courtesy of In The Game Magazine SEGA and Jennifer Carter Johnson*



**Ware County High School Girl's Track Team • Region 2-AAAAA Champs.** (Sitting L-R) Natalya White, Emareeyah Harris, Aja Brown, Miyah Daniels, Arviniec McDonald, I'daja Davis, Latreona Holmes, Valencia Baker, Savannah Boyd, Isabella Mignaca, Mia Sandiford (Standing L-R) Coach Alesia Gibson, Destiny Boyd, Princess Alston, Ayanna Moody, Eniya Monroe, Ronasche` Fluker, Cornesha Cannady, DeMya Gibson, Olivia Sharpe, Heather Spivey, Kayla Youngblood, Mataea Boyd, Anne Lin, D'najah Boyd. Not in picture, Jordan Williams, Aaliyah Sandiford, Waynisha Coleman, Dyonne McClain, Coach Nelson, Makayla Thomas, Hannah Boggan, Geniya Rawls, Trinitee Johnson, Laniah Patterson, Saniyah Patterson, Dyonne McClain, Korianne Yawn, Amari McKelvin, Tyra Howard, Shouvier Spaulding, Kelsey Davis, Chasity Jones, Managers Keytonia Hillman & Aaliyah Weiland.

*S. E. Georgia Middle School Athletic Conference*  
Pierce County Middle School Girls Soccer Champions



**Congratulations!** 11wins and 0 losses. They did not give up a single point the entire season. Top row: l-r, Coach Ansley Cueno, Becky Thigpen, Zoey Vaught, Alania Harvard, Julia Green, Rylee Carden, Kalyn Strickland, Allie Carter, Lillie Stipe, Elizabeth Moon, Raylee Watley, Harley White, and Coach Tina Cravey. Bottom row: Addison Smith, Natalee Griffin, Emily Stovall, Madison Bowen, Kaylee Cravey, Lucy Coleman, Elena Clough, Sarah Davis, Emma Wood. Missing: Sophie Scruggs, and Maura Kate Waters.



Pierce County Middle School Boys Cross Country Champions



**Congratulations!** Bottom L to R: Braden Thorn, Tristen Jewel, Davis Hersey, Gary Monroe, Cam Boyd, Blaize O'Steen, Lane Doss, Ty Yarbrough.  
Middle L to R: Herbert Perritt, Brett Tuten, Yahir Espana, Matthew Bennett, Clark Stovall, Luke Bennett, Josh Adolphson, Willie White, Reid Young. Top L to R: Coach Chad Brown, Hugh Saussy, Matthew Rodgers, Brennan Fey, Ethan Carlson, Allen Boatright, Dylan Hill, Bailey Bowen, Dalton Hill, Josh Sanchez .



# Autism Awareness Day 2018

Pictures shown represent 1st, 2nd and Honorable Mention. The talent is superb!



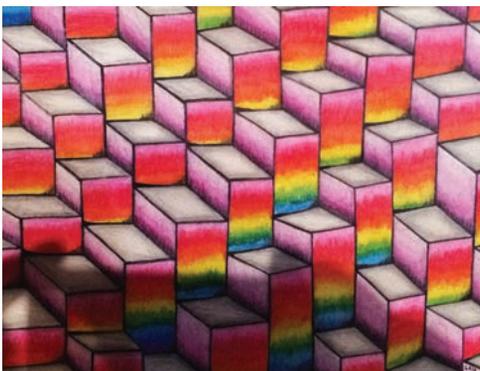
Dana Robbins (l), USA National Miss Georgia 2018, Madison Lucas and Lisa Fesperman at Okfenokee Heritage Center.



Kelly Thrift and Jann James



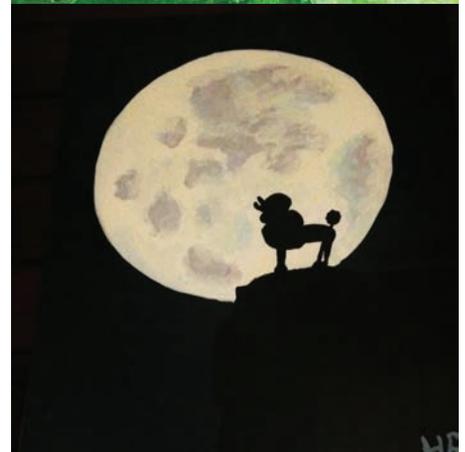
Penny Knox and Belinda Tiller



Logo furnished by:



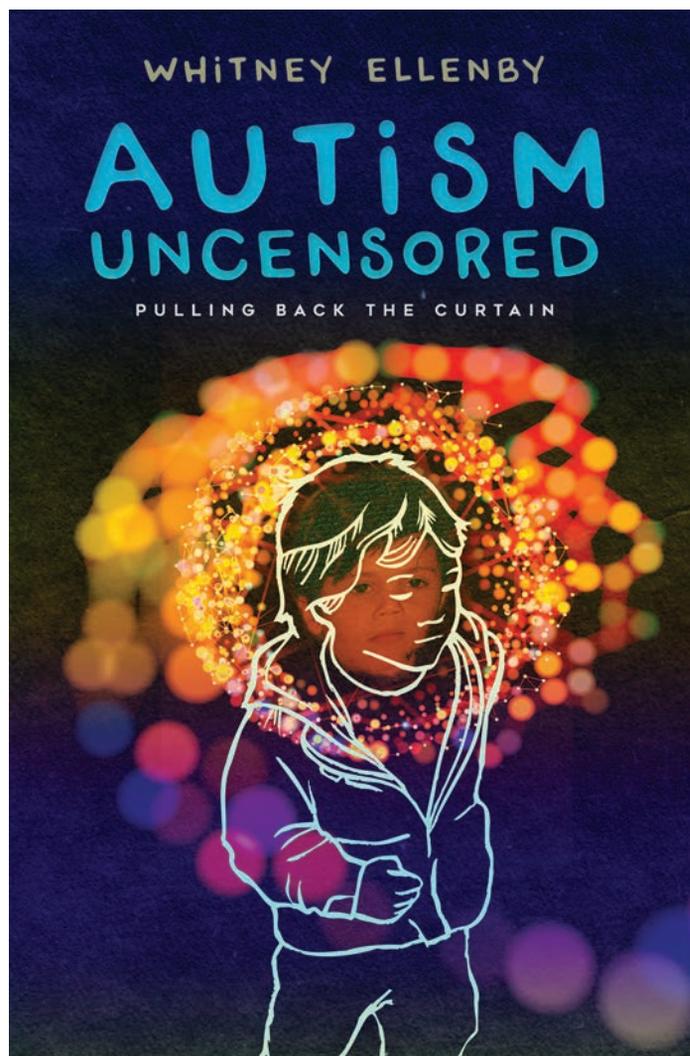
WAYCROSS magazine



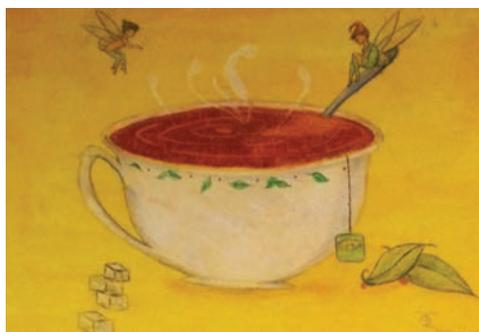
*Autism Uncensored* is a transparent account of the life of Whitney Ellenby, a lawyer by trade, mother by choice, advocate too many, a hero to Zack and ambassador to autism. Whitney and her husband, Keith, were blessed with a beautiful boy, Zack, early in their marriage. Shortly before Zack's second birthday, he was diagnosed with Autism. Whitney gives insight into the life of Zack, before the diagnosis, when she knew he was not developing typically. She recounts the grueling multidisciplinary evaluation that ultimately led to Zack's diagnosis and the raw emotions that quickly followed. Whitney opens the door to her home and exposes the inner walls of the life of a child with autism and the effects it has on the entire family unit. Details of the countless hours of therapy Zack endured, the ever-changing, sometimes extremely violent behaviors Zack displayed, and the daring attempts to leave the comfort of their own home are shared with readers, not to frighten them, but to provide insight into such a mysterious condition that is becoming more and more prevalent in our communities today.

In the eyes of Zack, his mother is his superhero but was often the target of his violent outbursts. These outbursts were in no way premeditated or were they intended to harm anyone. Whitney's perseverance during these trials and keen observations to Zack's behavior resulted in a non-traditional attempt to overcome the anxiety that was the root of all of Zack's meltdowns. She brilliantly shares how she went with her gut and used a strategy that ultimately was a success in bringing down the many, many walls that surround a child with autism often preventing them from functioning in our societies.

The book is, at times, difficult to read, but even through the darkest chapters, the underlying love that is present between a mother and a child is what, I believe, Whitney wants all readers to feel. She is a mother, and she does what most mothers do, she loves! Whitney has taken the knowledge she has gained from her own personal experiences and is giving back to the autism community. *Autism Uncensored* ends with the story behind her priceless gift back to others in the form of service. Yes, not only was the curtain pulled back for Zack but read the book, and you will get the curtain pulled back for you as well!



*Review by Allison C. Herrin,  
Owner of The Speech Clinic  
with offices in Waycross,  
Brunswick and Jesup.*



# The Okefenokee Aquatic Club (OAC)



The fastest 10-year old swimmer in the state of Georgia!! Matthew Davis is the GRPA State Champion with a time of 13:01 in the 25 freestyle! Matthew is shown with coach Kevin Sullivan.



Mixed 14 & under 200-yard Freestyle Relay (Drew Bowen, Lily Grace Watson, Mary Rylie Davis, & Dowl Bowen) **STATE RECORD**

OAC Gators bring home two state records and more state championships under the coaching of Kevin Sullivan and assistant coaches Michelle Watson, Eden Jacobs and Lindsay Laumann. Okefenokee Aquatic Club has over 55 swimmers. The swim team continues to grow!



First place in the Girls 13-14 50-yard Butterfly Lily Grace Watson.



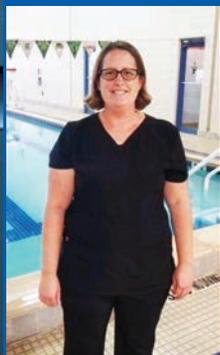
First place in the Girls 11-12 50-yard Breaststroke MaKayla Chapman.



Group at GRPA District Swim Meet



First place in the Girls 11-12 50-yard Butterfly Sophie Cochran.



Assistant coaches, l-r. Lindsay Laumann, Michelle Watson and Eden Jacobs.



10 and under swimmers



## Wonderful South...Wonderful People!



Lori Marx of Pierce County High School always has a smile on her face. She is responsible for ticket sales at PCHS basketball games. Thank you for being our friend.

### **Charity 2018 Love & Soul Music Showcase with mama Edith & Friends**



Charity Johnson is a multitasking singer, dancer and twirler who grew up performing around Waycross. From winning local pageants and national baton twirling titles to performing as the first African American majorette at the University of Georgia, Charity has been entertaining audiences for a lifetime.

In recent years, she has worked with Contemporary Christian and R&B music producers to record material that appeared on their respective albums. Charity currently performs with Love Nation, a band of talented musicians who perform covers of popular pop, rock, blues and soul tunes. Charity's contact information is [HearCharitySing@gmail.com](mailto:HearCharitySing@gmail.com) • (678) 637-7721 • [www.HearCharitySing.com](http://www.HearCharitySing.com)



Dorothy Keen is the mother of Marilyn Craft and one of our favorite friends. Ms. Keen has read and saved all issues of **WAYCROSS magazine**. From day 1 until this one, she has them all. We want to thank her for being a faithful reader and our friend.



Carter Griffin is shown with his grandmother, the late Sandy Straley, recently at a party in his honor. Carter graduated from Bacon County High School and recently the Ga Police Academy. He has worked in the Bacon County Sheriffs Dept and now the Alma Police Dept.

He is 19 and is one of the youngest law officers in the state. His mother is Becky Griffin who lives in Pierce County and teaches school in Alma.

**VACATIONS AND SPRING BREAK PICTURES FROM OUR READERS.**



Many Glacier, Glacier Nat Park



Peyton Lake, Canada

In June of 2017, Carolyn and I experienced the 'trip of a lifetime' to Jasper, Yoho and Waterton Lakes National Parks as well as Banff and Calgary in Canada, then dropped down to Glacier, Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks in the U.S. We also squeezed in the National Bison Range in Montana. We flew to Montana, rented a car and drove almost 2,500 miles before returning by plane from Jackson Hole. Truly, a magical tour, and all in 10 days!

*Notes and photo by Danny Yarbrough.*



Carolyn and Danny in front of Jenny Lake, Mt. Moran, Grand Tetons.



Athabasca Glacier, Canada



Bobbie Wildes, Anniston Mancil, Mickey Mouse and Sandee Dial at Disney World. Sandee and Denton are shown in the bottom photo.



Judy & Danny Barnes Anniversary Week in the North Ga Mtns.



Cousins having fun with Amanda Dixon.



Twins, Jackson and Olivia Ray, age 10 enjoying their first tent camping trip at Laura S. Walker State Park. Parents are Jeri and Scott Ray.



The traveling pup is Mya Walker soaking up the sun at Laura Walker State Park for spring break. Also, Mya enjoying the rich history of Saint Simons at Fort Frederica National Monument. Mya's friend is Ericka Walker.

Satilla  
Faith  
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Sadie and Max Warren enjoying a crisp Spring Break at Mexico Beach. Parents are Tiffany and Daniel Warren.



In the hammock at Fernandina for Spring Break is Dawson and Weston McLaughlin. Above is Hunter McLaughlin and to the left is Kadee and Weston. Their parents are Tyler and Mandi McLaughlin.



Keith and Gloria Douglas





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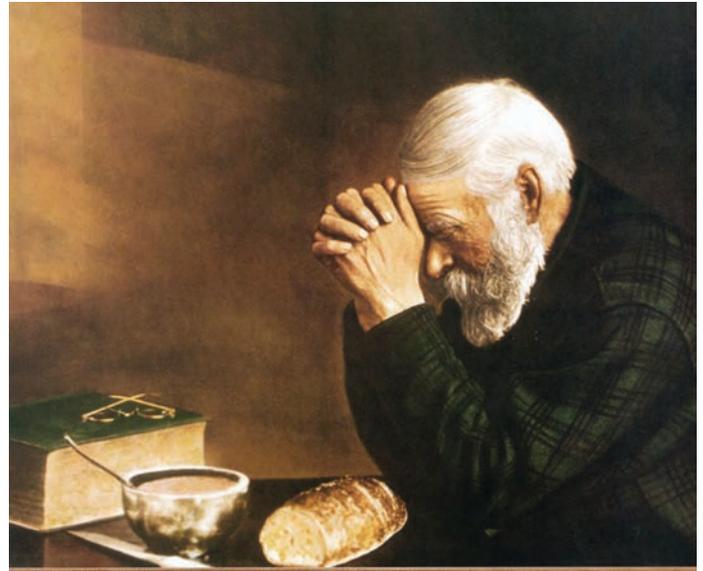
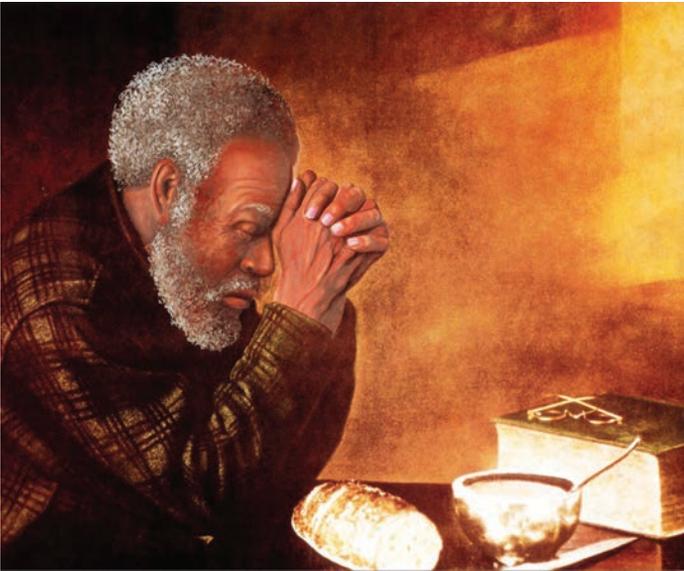
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# Wonderful South...Wonderful People!

## Men at Prayer



For most of the last half of the 20th century, the McDonald Street Rattlers were the Chicago Bears (you might say) of the Waycross -Ware County Recreation Department's Midget League. And the reason they were so fierce and fearsome year in and year out can be summed up in two words ...Hollis Bethea,

In football (basketball too), Hollisfield Bethea could get the most out of his young players and the results were plain: .800-plus winning percentages most seasons and championship trophy after championship trophy. The Rattlers didn't win the league every year, but they usually had a say in who did.

Well-known to family, friends and the community on the whole, Hollisfield Bethea has that winning personality that folks admire. The colorful coach is called by a variety of names, among them "Coach Shake," "Shakedown" and "Bee-Shay." And after grandson Fred Gibson made his mark on the football field at Ware County High and UGA, those who didn't really know him would say, "See that guy? He's Fred's grandfather!"

Hollis and Delores raised their grandson all the way to adulthood and Fred par-layed his granddaddy's coaching example to a great career... even to the NFL for a short while!

Hollis played football for the Center High Tigers, graduating in 1967. By the 1970s he was coaching the McDonald Street team and refereeing rec league games in whatever sport was in season. He also served on the community Recreation Board.

His former players credit him with giving direction for their life and helping them find a purpose. He provided transportation to and from practices and games for the many of them who would not have been able to participate otherwise.

In 2012, his fading health sidelined him from his great love for coaching. Toward the end of his career, he coached four of his own grandchildren in Flag League foot-ball.

Hollis and Delores Bethea have eight children, 22 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren. They worship at Macedonia Baptist Church (though Hollis hasn't been able to attend of late due to his health). He resides at Harborview Satilla.

## F. J. Beverly Beacon of Light Award



The F. J. Beverly Beacon of Light Award was awarded to Hollisfield Bethea at the last Ware County Sports Hall of Fame banquet. Shakedown is shown here with Deloris Bethea (l) and Gloria Bethea.



Rev. F. J. Beverly



Shakedown with just a few of his grandchildren.

## 2018 Inductees • Ware County Sports Hall of Fame



Newest Sports Hall of Fame members l-r, Mike Cuneo, Edie "Peanut" Spence Palmer, Kennon Taylor, Marian Fesperman Block and Edward Mitchell.

### The Hall's History



The Micky Rigsby Scholar Athlete winners are Rick Walker and Sara Hitt. Both attend WCHS.

The history of the Waycross-Ware County Sports Hall of Fame began with an idea to honor individuals who have graced our community with their play on the athletic field and who have inspired us with their unique leadership qualities. In 1985 that idea began to take form during a rather casual phone conversation between two long-time friends and community leaders, Mr. E.L. Cribb and Mr. Paul Robinson. Shortly after that phone call a group of local sports enthusiasts met at the YMCA to discuss ideas to honor local athletes and to assess interest in establishing a local sports hall of fame. After a series of meetings, the Waycross-Ware County Sports Hall of Fame was duly formed. Soon a constitution was adopted, a set of by-laws was written, and a method for electing inductees was approved. The Hall was granted a tax exempt status making contributions tax deductible.

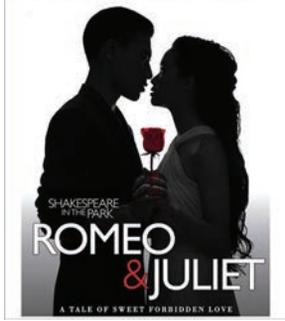
The insight, the vision, and love for community present in the hearts and minds of those who first led this organization in 1985 continues to this day in those who have served through the years. Gary Griffin and Mr. Jim McClelland are the lone survivors of that original Board of Directors. But the names and contributions of the other nine founders shall never be forgotten: Oscar Moody, E. L. "Coot" Cribb, George Bowen, Paul Robinson, Vernon Willis, Fleming Tyre, Bill Green, Jimmie Lee Dowling, and Robert Nabers.

The first Induction Banquet was held in 1986. At this first event, 15 former local athletes were inducted and became both the first Inductee Class and Charter Members in the local Sports Hall of Fame. During the 1987 Banquet, 10 more former local athletes were inducted. The 1988 ceremony saw five inductees admitted. And for all subsequent years following the 1987 banquet, the Hall has typically inducted five new members each year. And since 1987 the Hall has also recognized one male and female student athlete from each local high school. Over the 33 - year span the total number of inductees in the Waycross-Ware County Sports Hall of Fame has reached a total of 177 honorees.



Photos by Myra Thrift

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**The Montagues**, I-right, Warren Wilson, Kimberly Beck, Alicia Westmoreland, Seth Altman, Brittany Burkett and Marisa Nino.



**The Citizens of Verona**, I-r, Emily Riggins, Isaac Simpson, Emma Stewart, Kyler Austin, Jada Courson and Glenda Austin.

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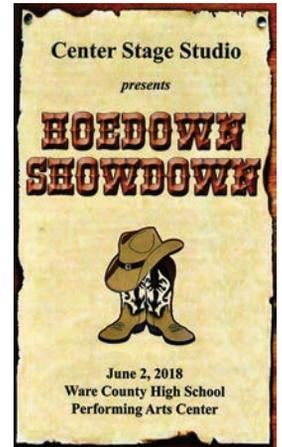
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7 pm Show

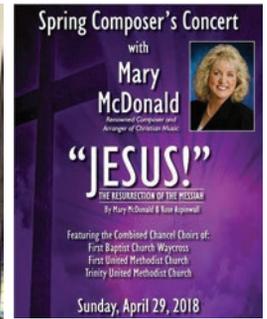


**WE ARE BLESSED...WE HAVE A LOT OF TALENT IN OUR COMMUNITY.**



Elaine Howe, now living in Utah, shared this snow picture in her neighborhood. Slightly more than we had in January.

**The Creche at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Christmas 2017.**



*Great concert!*

*Concert photo and Waycross At Night photo by John Wheeler.*



### **Sounds of the Night by Sandra Strickland**

Night sounds differ from day sounds.

It is in the stillness of the night that we hear a distant dog bark or an owl hooting. Or, we can hear a nearby bullfrog croak. A plane in flight passes high overhead, and the sound breaks the stillness of the night. The whistle of a freight train near a crossing blows a warning. The wind blows through the trees. The cry of whippoorwill echoes in the darkness. As we look up, the stars fill the sky with brilliant light. The moon shines bright, and we behold shadows from its light. The North star appears as we behold the wonders of the heavens. We know the Lord neither sleeps nor slumbers. We feel safe knowing he watches over us.

It is then that we hear the still, small voice of the Creator. He calls us to arise and watch for the dawn of the day. We hear the coo of the turtle dove.

In the twilight, we pray. He hears us before the birds begin to sing. How sweet is the first light of day? We behold the morning star. We arise in His strength and roar like a young lion. Jesus is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah.



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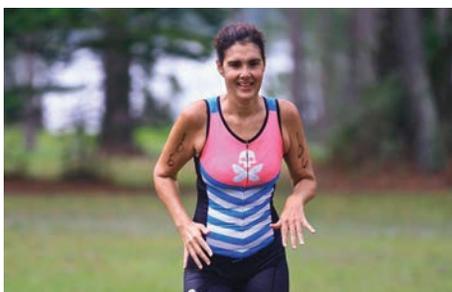
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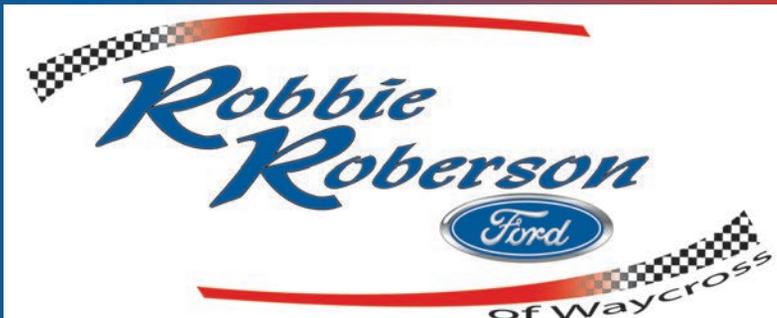
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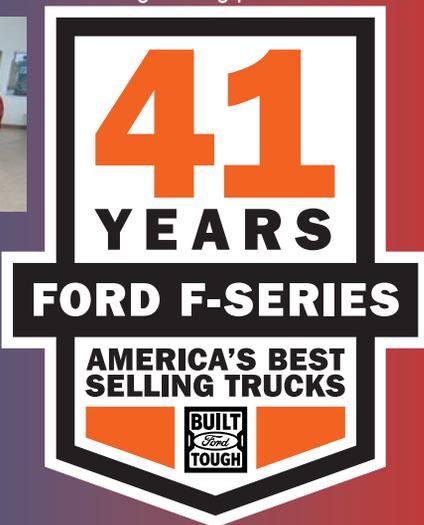






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