

WAYCROSS

m a g a z i n e
Fall/Winter 2021-2022 • Issue 38



Thanks to All Our Veterans

Phases of the Lunar Eclipse November 19, 2021

2:00 AM - 4:02 AM



*From Savannah, GA
Patrick Prokop*

4:02 AM



Pat's Astronomy FB page:
<https://www.facebook.com/SavannahBackyard>

Weather and Nature Website:
<https://www.savannahpat.name/>

YouTube Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/c/HeavenlyBackyardAstronomy>

***Pat Prokop's
Heavenly Backyard
Astronomy***

Waycross

At the heart of Southeast Georgia, the historic town of Waycross is a city filled with Southern hospitality and charm with numerous opportunities for dining, lodging and shopping, as well as attractions such as the Historic Downtown district, the Okefenokee Swamp Park, the Southern Forest World Museum, the Okefenokee Heritage Center, and more.

Stephen C. Foster State Park

Immerse yourself in an authentic swamp experience surrounded by the quiet, abundance and beauty of 120 acres of nature. Enjoy short-term and long-term camping and cottage stays, kayaking, canoeing, walkways, boat tours and boat rentals, self-guided exploration and more.

Okefenokee Swamp Park

Enjoy a variety of fun activities and a wonderful show-window into the swamp under a forest canopy. Wilderness boardwalks and walkways, guided boat tours along swamp waterways, live wildlife shows and habitats, a pioneer island homestead and railroad tour are just a few of the park highlights.

Laura S. Walker State Park

Near the northern edge of the mysterious Okefenokee Swamp, Laura S. Walker State Park is located along a beautiful serene lake and is home to many fascinating creatures and plants with plenty to do and see, including boating, swimming and fishing, trails, campgrounds, cottages, and even an 18-hole championship golf course.

LEGEND



Boat Launch



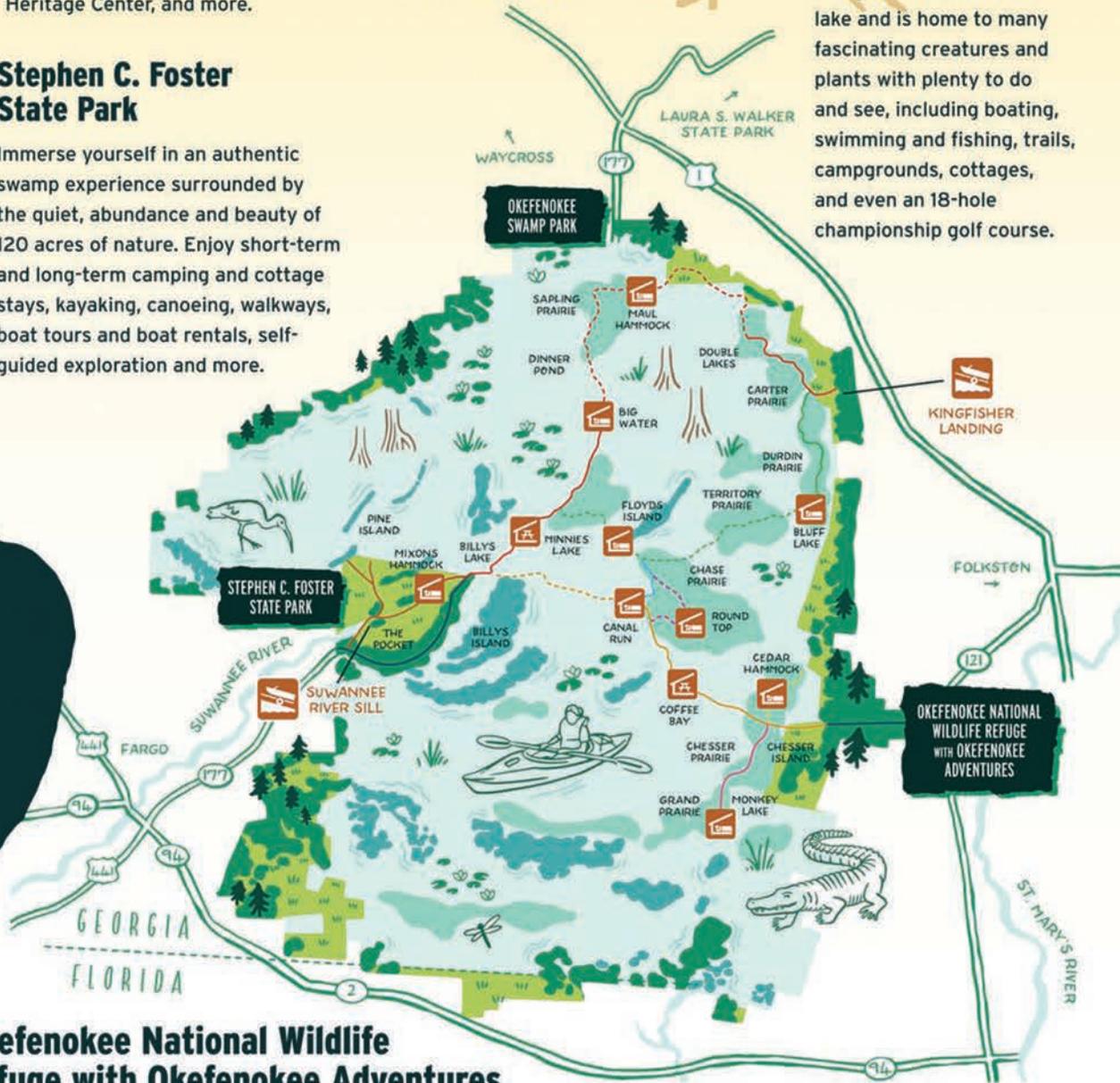
Overnight Shelter



Day-Use Shelter

Day-Use Trails

Overnight Trails



Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge with Okefenokee Adventures

Enjoy exploration and wilderness observation, hiking, driving or biking along our Swamp Island Drive. Stop by our visitor center, take a guided boat tour, or kayak or canoe into our famous swamp prairies through cypress-lined waters, lily pads and grassy islands. Onsite concession, Okefenokee Adventures, offers canoe, kayak and Jon boat rentals, cafe and gift shop.

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WAYCROSS magazine

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We honor our Veterans with the cover photos taken during Veteran's Day Activities at the Okefenokee Heritage Center.

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We want to thank you for your support during these 38 issues. We look forward to many more. You all make it worthwhile. We want to apologize for being late. Between the two of us, we have had health problems plus both of us having Covid.

Sharon & Dave Callaway



**BLESS
GOD
AMERICA**

2 Chronicles 7:14

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"Where the Ways Cross"

The Sidney Lanier Bridge is a cable-stayed bridge that spans the Brunswick River in Brunswick. It is currently the longest-spanning bridge in Georgia and is 480 feet (150 m) tall. The bridge hosts the WX4BWK amateur radio repeater on the top of one of its pillars.

Our good friend from Canebroke Hill in Brantley County, Jack Sandow, took the picture with his drone. Nice work.



Congratulations to **Miss Allie Carter**. Pierce County High School eleventh grader Allie Carter was crowned Miss Spirit of Pierce--Miss PCHS--during the annual Miss Spirit of Pierce Pageant staged by Pierce County Competition Cheerleaders at the PCHS auditorium. She is the granddaughter of Linda and Ken Smith of Waycross and Nickie Carter and the late McCoy Carter Sr. of Hacklebarney Community, Pierce County.

Photo by Scott Beahan



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Veterans Art



My Dad and Veteran, Jacob Davis as told by his son Jerry Davis

I want to share a bit of information about my dad, Jacob Davis, who is a World War II Veteran. I'll give you a summary of his life. Jacob Lloye Davis, Jr. was born to Lloye and Cassie James Davis on October 6th, 1921, as the 7th of 10 children. He and his siblings worked hard helping his mom and dad on the family farm. Life was very hard on the farm in the 1900s. He knew what it was like to work from sun up to sundown. They grew cotton, tobacco, corn and raised hogs and cattle.

Dad recalls when electricity first came to their home in 1938 at the age of 17. So many things we take for granted today did not exist during this time, such as telephones, television, computers, air conditioning, indoor plumbing, microwaves, and the list goes on and on.

Despite lacking all of the modern conveniences, Dad recalls many good times spent with his siblings, playing, swimming, fishing and hunting.

Dad and his family attended Beulah Baptist Church, and he accepted Christ at a very young age. He has attended Beulah faithfully his entire life and has served as a Deacon for many years. He remembers riding to church in a wagon pulled by a mule, and they picked up other children along the way.

He attended Alabama School as a youngster, and he and his siblings walked 3 miles to and from school each day. After graduating high school, he attended a technical school, where he learned welding, a skill that would be very useful later on.

Around the age of 20, his father told him he would have to leave the farm and find work elsewhere because the family farm could no longer support all of them. He found a job as a welder in the Norfolk Navy Shipyard in Portsmouth, VA, and worked there for a couple of years until he was drafted into the Navy in 1943.

He was sent to Great Lakes, IL, two days before his 22nd birthday, for basic training. When their training was completed, all of the men were sent home on a ten-day leave. While on the way home, Dad became very ill with tonsillitis and was given an extended leave until he recovered. When he returned to the base, all of the men had been deployed.

He was reassigned to Dallas, TX, where he served as a fireman on the runway at the base. North American Aviation was building planes nearby for the military. The aircraft was being flight tested at the base before being sent into war. While there, he completed his training to become a mechanic. However, before using those skills, he was reassigned to a naval base in Shoemaker, CA, where he later boarded the USS Intrepid. The ship sailed towards the Philippines, and for the next nine months, Dad called this ship home. He recalls the Typhoons they encountered being almost as scary as the war itself.

Dad served as a tail hook operator aboard the Intrepid. His job was to operate the cables that hooked the rear of the planes to land them safely on the flight deck of the ship.

Today, the USS Intrepid is dry-docked in the New York Harbor as a museum. Several years ago, he had the opportunity to visit the ship. He said it brought back so many memories of an earlier and uncertain time in his life.

Dad was discharged from the Navy in December 1945, and he returned to the family farm. One year later, he met and married the love of his life, Janell Henderson, from Manor, GA.

Mom was working as a secretary at Satilla Rural Electric. The two met on a blind date with another couple. Mom was not Dad's date that night, but she said he kept eyeballing her the entire evening. The next day, Dad called her and asked her out, and the rest is history. They will celebrate their 75th wedding anniversary in a couple of weeks on December 1st. They have been blessed with 5 children, 11 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren, and they now have a great-great-grandchild on the way. Including spouses, there is now over 50 total in their family.

The entire Davis family lives within a few miles of where they were born and raised. As Dad often says, "None of his nuts fell far from the tree."

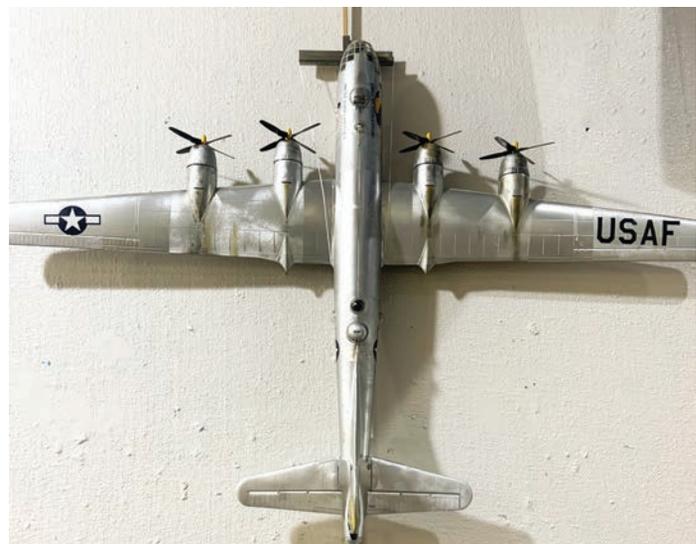
Dad farmed with his father for a few years after he and mom were married, and then he purchased a small farm of his own. Over a lifetime, he managed to grow his farm to over 1,000 acres through hard work, perseverance, and faith. At the age of 100, he is still very active on the farm today, tending to his pecan orchard. He does most of the spraying, fertilizing, pruning, mowing, and harvesting. Dad is often heard saying, "The older I get, the more I see that needs to be done." If the sun is shining, you can bet that Jacob Davis is outside working.

Dad attributes his longevity to the Lord, healthy living, working every day of the week, except Sunday, having a wife that takes such good care of him, and also genetics. His aunt lived to be 108 years old.

In closing, I would like to say "Thank You" to all our Veterans. Thank you for your service and sacrifice for our country.



Photo by Tara Eichfeld



Ware County Gator Fall Sports



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If you would like to purchase any of Bo's Sport pictures, contact him by phone or email. He does a great job in capturing the action, and we thank him for sharing with us.





Ware County Middle School • 2021-22 SE Ga Middle School Conference Wrestling Champs
Photo by LaCie Jorgensen



Madelyn Musgrove
WCHS Homecoming Queen
2021-22



WCHS Competition Cheerleaders
WAYCROSS magazine



This is Jake Fleming!





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I'm a Bird
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I'm a Bird
Watcher.

Watching
Birds go by.
by Jim Fairley



Green Jay

Jim was born and raised in Waycross. He graduated from Valdosta State University in 1974 and began his career working for the Southeast Health District as an Environmental Health Specialist.

In 1978 Jim married Margaret Park, and they have two wonderful children, their son, Dr. Jonathan Fairley, and his wife Yva, and their daughter Dr. Meg Fairley Wood, and her husband, Will.

After 34 years of service with the State, Jim retired. As his retirement neared, he began thinking about a potential hobby to help him fill the work void. He has always enjoyed cameras and found birds to be fascinating, so he purchased a digital camera and a telephoto lens. That purchase has led to an ongoing pursuit of photographing birds, landscapes, etc., which has spanned almost 14 years. He does not claim to be an artist, just someone who enjoys bird photography. He is not a gifted ornithologist, although he does enjoy identifying birds.

If you are looking for a hobby to fill your time and enjoy nature and the outdoors, Jim highly recommends taking up birding in some shape or fashion. You can simply start with a pair of binoculars and a bird identification guide, put up some bird feeders in your yard, and you will begin enjoying a lifelong hobby that exhibits the glory of God!

"Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will, they existed and were created." (ESV) Rev. 4:11



Belted Kingfisher



Hooded Warbler



Barred Owl



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher



Baltimore Oriole



Little Blue Heron



Prothonotary Warbler



Orchard Oriole



Northern Harrier



Painted Bunting



Rufous Hummingbird



Summer Tanager



Sandhill Crane



Rose-breasted Grosbeak



Vermillion Flycatcher



Swallow-tailed Kite



Yellow Warbler



Tennessee Warbler



Western Tanager



Cerulean Warbler



Blue Grosbeak



Anna's Hummingbird

Raylee Alvarez Honored at Georgia State Fair

Raylee Jayden Alvarez was recently honored with a prestigious award for her entry in the 2021 Georgia National Fair Bear Creative Writing Competition. She won third place in the state for the Fourth Grade Level.

Raylee was nine years of age when her essay was submitted to represent Ware County Center Elementary School. Ms. Jenna Corley entered her essay titled "Fair Bear Launches into Space", in the Spring of 2021. The announcement that her essay was selected was made prior to school ending in May.

Raylee and three guests were invited to the official Fair Bear Writing Awards Ceremony. Raylee and her family travelled to Perry for the 32nd Annual Georgia National Fair on Saturday, October 9, 2021. She received a certificate and a check in the amount of \$50. She also received a Fair Bear backpack which held snacks, a hat, writing tablet, stress ball, sunglasses, \$50 worth of ride tickets, and \$50 worth of food coupons to enjoy the fair with.

Center Elementary will also receive a check in the amount of \$75. Tyler Bennett, principal, commented, "I am very proud of Raylee for working so hard on this essay and representing our school. She is a gifted student, in the top 3% of her class, makes all A's. Her Lexile score is 1299, she is reading and comprehending at a high school level."

Tara Cox, Raylee's mother, and big sister, Payton Alvarez enjoyed the award and fair with Raylee. Her father, Rex Alvarez, was working and unable to attend. Paternal grandmother, Dorris Alvarez, of Kentucky, and maternal grandparents, Glenn and Letta Cox, of Waycross, are very proud of Raylee.

Raylee also won the Young Georgia Authors Writing Competition representing Center's fourth grade for her essay, "Fiona and the Shark", and was named Center's Student of the Month for September 2021. Ms. Legena Clark-Wooten is Raylee's current fifth grade teacher. Raylee is a member of the Elementary National Honor's Society, Girl Scouts, Art Club, the school choir, and STEM and Confetti Summer Programs. She was invited to participate in the National Youth Leadership Forum: Pathways to STEM in the summer of 2020 at Wake Forest University campus. The program was created to identify young students with academic and leadership potential. Jeanette Causer selected her for this honor so Raylee could expand her knowledge about communications, team work, robotics, the medical field, and career development. However, COVID shut down the program. She hopes that she will be given the opportunity for this experience at a later time.

Raylee, at age 10, has a Black Belt in Tang Soo Do at K South (formerly known as Pak's Karate). She also takes classes in Jiu Jitsu and violin. Girl Scouts has taught her commitment, team work, and the importance of community service. She has visited nursing homes, delivered food baskets, and met a lot of new people while selling cookies. Jiu Jitsu has taught her how to get back up when knocked down and physical endurance. Taking violin lessons has helped her confidence and focus. She has played violin solos in three community performances.

Raylee attended the Tang Soo Do Nationals in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, when she was eight years old and placed sixth in the nation. Her first tournament was the Georgia Winter Battle of 2018 where she placed first in her division and was awarded a sword. Raylee also participated in three virtual challenges where she logged miles for walking, swimming, and exercising. She received medals for completing the Inca Trail Virtual Marathon Challenge for 26.2 miles, English Channel Virtual Challenge for 21 miles, and Hadrian's Wall Virtual Challenge for 90 miles. She is currently participating in the Ring of Kerry Virtual Challenge for 124.3 miles, the

Grand Canyon Virtual Challenge for 280 miles, and the Route 66 Virtual Challenge for 2280.3 miles.

Raylee's future goals include becoming a Black Belt Master, attending college, and getting a job that allows her to be independent. She loves reading, travels, and experiencing new cultures and people. She likes to study hard, practice hard, and learn new things. She plans to get a medical degree and to be either an anesthesiologist or psychiatrist.

Raylee winning a Top Tiger Award for all A's.

Raylee showing off her medal for completing Hadrian's Wall.

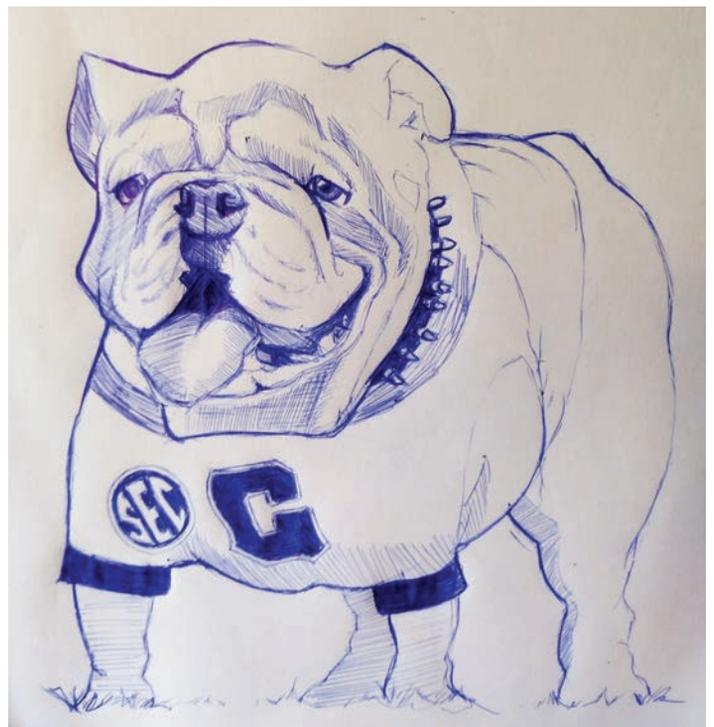
Story and photos by Letta Cox.

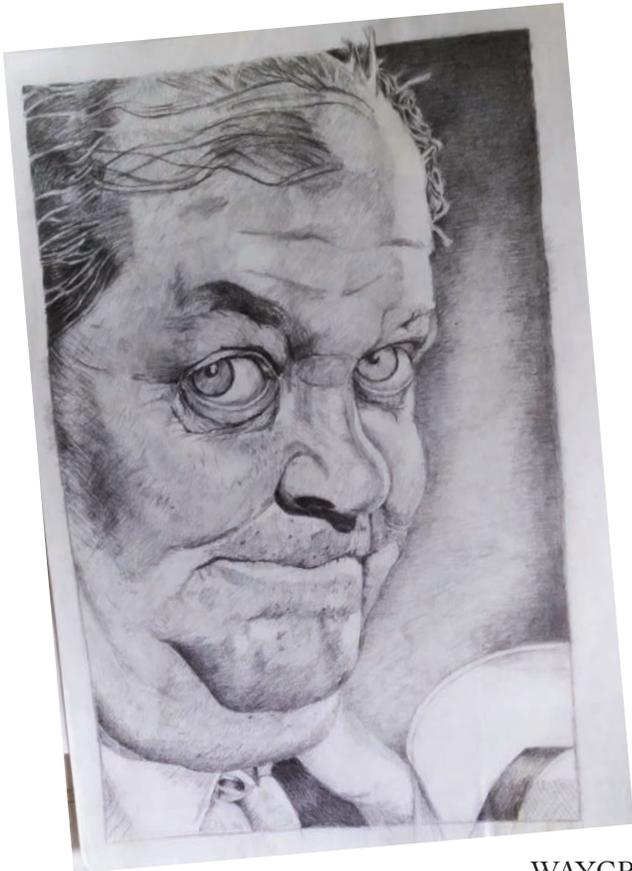
Letta is Raylee's Granny.

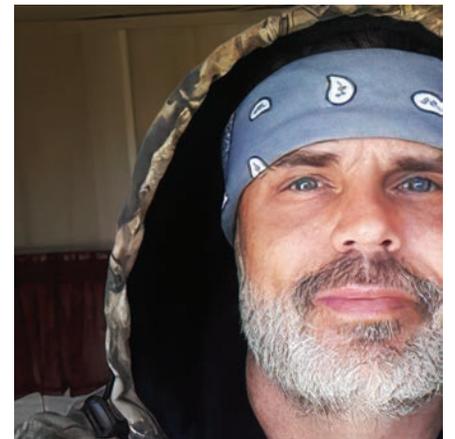
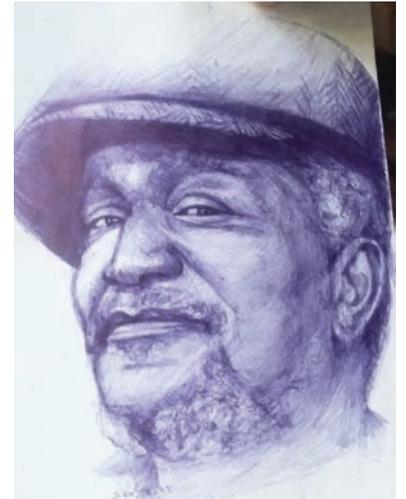
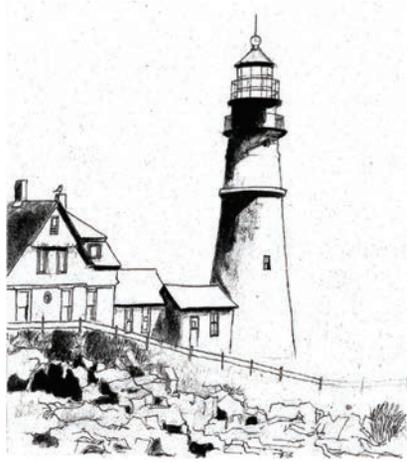
WAYCROSS **magazine**



Tim Fletcher



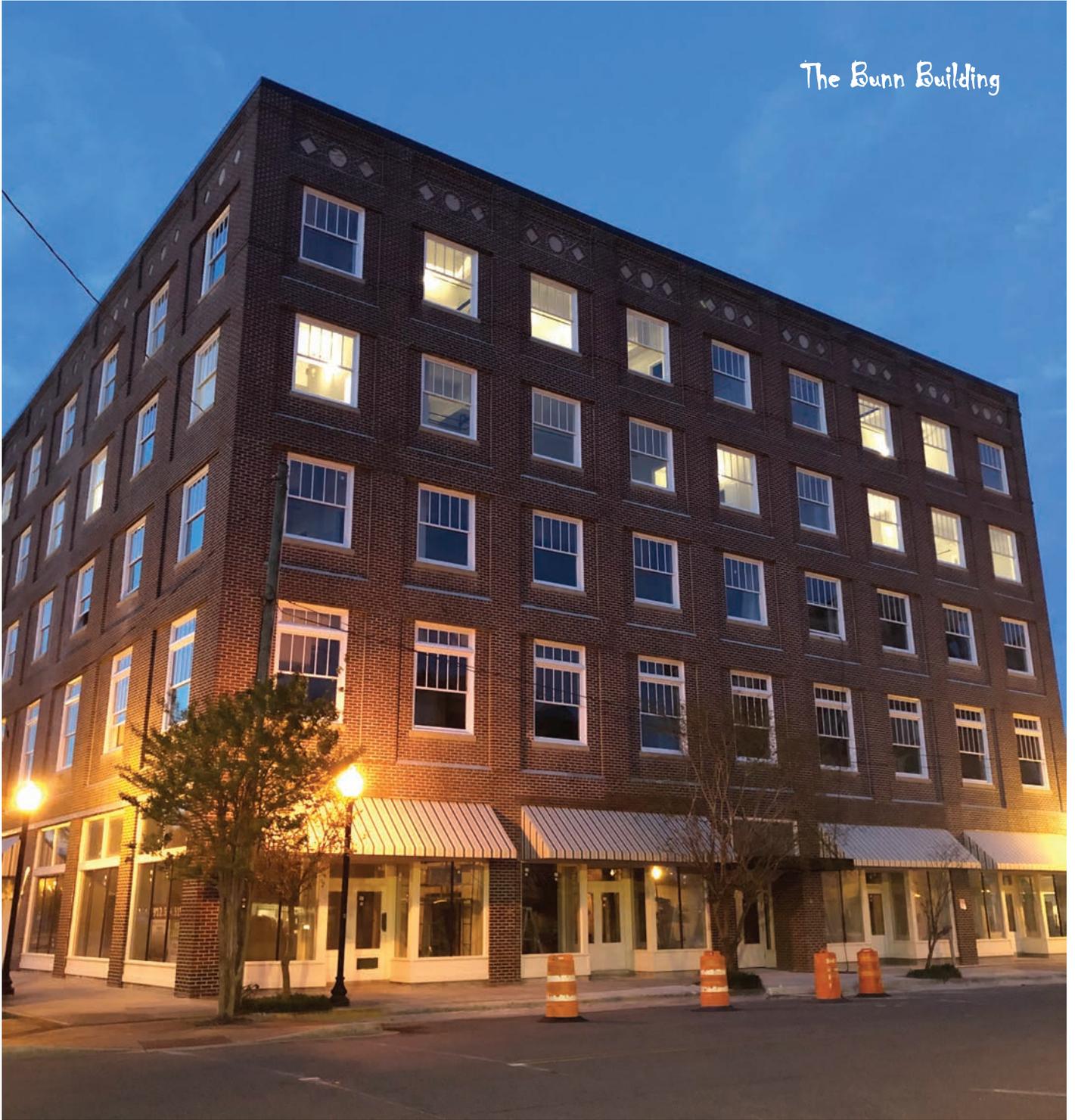




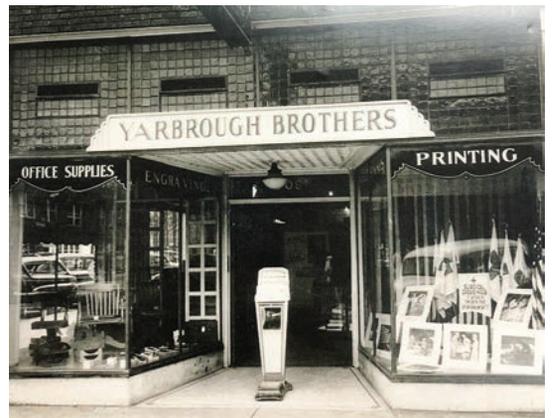
Tim is 48 years old. He has never been married, and he has no children. Tim attended ABAC, a college in Tifton, Ga., and also Valdosta State College. Tim has been drawing since he was in the third grade, but he didn't get serious with it until he was in his twenties. Tim loves animals. He also plays the piano but not real well. Tim grew up in the church and lived on a farm when he was growing up. His favorite artists are Michelangelo and Van Gogh. He comes from a small town with only two red lights. The main thing that he draws is the human face, but he can draw just about anything.

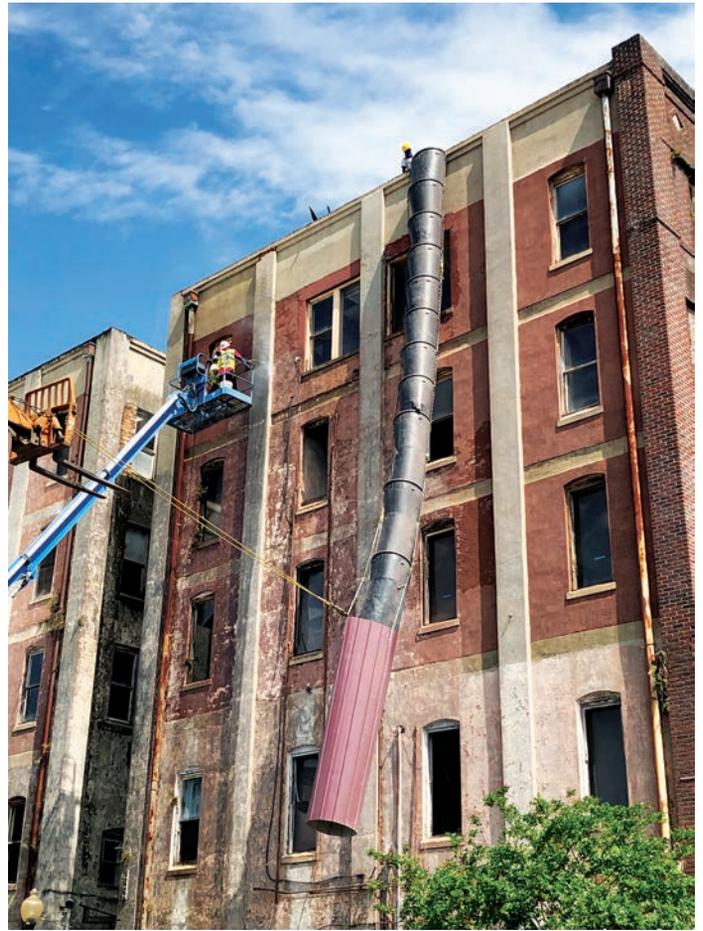
You can contact Tim at 229-326-6385.

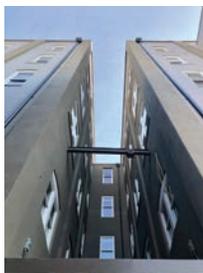
The Bunn Building



Photos by Danny Yarbrough









How to teach preschool children about the moon cycle. Furnished to us by Zina Ponsell. Clever!



Zeta Bray is the area 6 region winner in the FFA Floral Design competition! Zeta has dedicated a lot of time and effort into learning this competition and pushing herself to get better. Her advisors, Mr. Ratliff and Mr. Prescott, are very proud of all of her efforts and dedication. **Go Ag Bears!!!!**



PCHS Lady Bears Softball team heading to Sweet 16 • Then onto the Elite 8 • Congratulations on a great season.



Coach Robbie Spires 300th Softball Win!



Natalie Herrin broke the school record for career points scored recently at Pierce County High School. The previous record was held by Ronnesha Smith, PCHS 2005-2009, and Georgia Southern 2009-2013. **Natalie now has over 1500 points. Congratulations!**

Natalie shown with coaches l-r, Phila Bryant, Lacie Lynn Evans, and Robert Douberly.

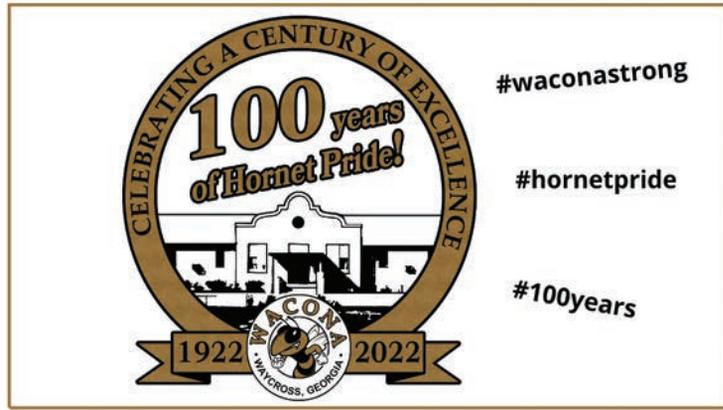
Ronnesha is CEO of Learning to Learn Services in Statesboro.



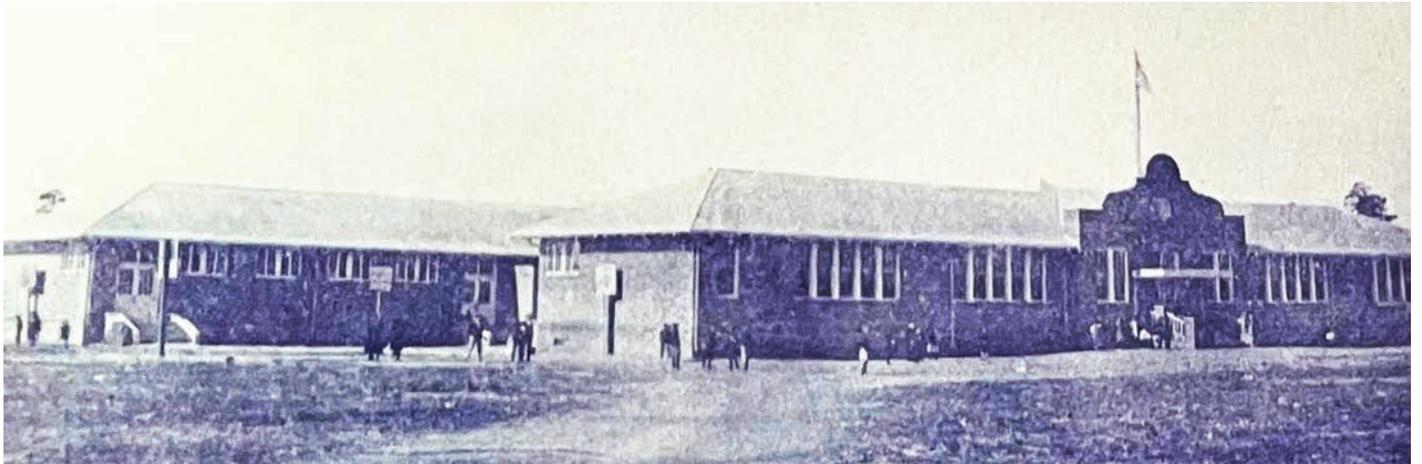
Senior teammates l-r, Tivona Myles, Harley White, Makayla Etheridge, Natalie, Natalee Griffin, and Sarah Davis. A great group of young ladies.



Shown, top l-r are Gracie Nimmer, Chloe Barber, Katie Jo Mills, Maddie Malone, Sarah Jane Moore, Julia Green, Molli McQuaig, Alli McQuaig, Makayla Etheridge and Kaden Sweat; Shown bottom row, l-r are Kalan Mills, Zoie Hendry, Kaitlyn Sapp, Lindy Jane Dyal, Ansley Tippins, Paris Starling, Alaina Harvard and Lillie Stipe. -Photo by Malayna Wetherington



by Andrea Miller



This is the original Wacona building.

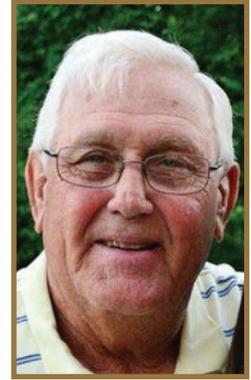




Our friend, Roy Colvin, played and excelled on the first Wacona football team in 1958. Roy led the Gators to an 8-2 record in that first season. Roy has been inducted in the Waycross-Ware County Sports Hall of Fame. Roy also played baseball for four years excelling in that sport. He is the real deal. Roy and I travelled many miles on Saturdays going to softball and baseball tournaments as umpires. He is a great teacher.

Roy's favorite teacher was Miss Linnie Mae Hall, his history teacher. Jack Douglas was his typing teacher and Robert Hurst taught him English. Coach C. B. Littlefield was Roy's football coach and P. E. teacher.

Roy is married to Nadine Hagen Colvin. They have one daughter, Kelly Veal and her husband Todd. Grandsons Dillon and Rhett. *DBC*



It was the start of the Roaring Twenties, a time when cars, radios, and telephones were becoming more widely available, and people were feeling optimistic about the future. Education at that time began focusing on the importance of secondary education as a preparation for college. In South Georgia, many small neighborhood schools were combined to provide better resources and higher quality education.

Such was the case for the Jamestown School and the Pineview School. These two small schools were joined together and given the moniker "Pineview-Jamestown Consolidated School Plant." It was housed in a four-room wooden structure under the leadership of Principal W. L. Sprouse. It is unknown exactly how long the Pineview-Jamestown Consolidated school met in that small wooden building, but sometime in early 1922, it was destroyed by fire.

The Ware County Board of Education raised \$35,000 through the sale of school bonds to build what the 1922 Wacona yearbook described as "a beautiful new building, equipped with every modern improvement." The brand new Pineview-Jamestown Consolidated School opened for registration on September 18, 1922. The building itself was constructed of brick, in the familiar shape that many would later refer to as "the alamo." That first year in the new building, four seniors, seven juniors, and twenty-seven first-year students.

It wasn't until the seniors began working on that first yearbook that a problem arose. They decided that Pineview-Jamestown Consolidated was too long and cumbersome of a name to put on the yearbook. Everyone immediately began thinking up words for the new school. Still, none seemed to fit until one of the yearbook advisors, Miss Eddie Mae Barrett, suggested an acronym for the school's location- Ware County, North America. Everyone liked the name Wacona and the school's name was changed to Wacona High School.

Although school attendance was not required back then, the school that was renamed Wacona had set high standards for itself and its students. An announcement printed in the 1922-1923 yearbook states "We have quite a number of consolidated schools in Ware County who are doing Junior High School work. These schools have a special invitation to send their students to

Wacona to do their advanced work. We have one of the best rural school plants of the single story type in Georgia."

Just a few years later, the school would again be destroyed by fire. In December of 1926, while several hundred people were attending a singing convention in the Wacona Auditorium, a blaze "of unknown origin" started in a stack of firewood that had been placed close to the back wall of the school. The Waycross Journal-Herald stated that the proximity of the wood to the building and the high winds made it impossible to save the building. In a follow-up article, the Journal-Herald quoted Ware County School Superintendent R. C. Cavender in saying that a plan was being devised whereby the students would attend school in temporary classrooms while a duplicate building would be constructed on the site. Upon completion, the new Wacona High School building featured the white stucco exterior that most people remember.

During the 1940's and 1950's, journalism students at Wacona published a school newspaper called The Wacona Wheel. Old copies of this school paper can still be found with some of the Wacona graduates from that time. Issues from the early '40s describe how Wacona students joined the WWII war effort by purchasing war bonds and stamps, writing letters to former Wacona students who had joined the military, and even rolling bandages for the Red Cross after school on Mondays.

From the very beginning, Wacona students have participated in a variety of sports. The 1922 yearbook shows that Wacona had both boys and a girls basketball team in its first year. In the spring, the boys played baseball while the girls played tennis. Basketball, baseball, and track continued to be the primary sports until 1949 when Wacona started a football team. By the third year, the Wacona Hornets football team was undefeated in the regular season, losing to Cordele in the South Georgia playoffs. The Wacona Hornets represented Ware County on the football field for just nine short years before Wacona and Waresboro were combined to form the new Ware County High School in 1958. Since Waresboro High School did not have a football team, the majority of the players on that first Ware County Gators football team were former Wacona Hornets.

Wacona may have begun as a high school, but it didn't stay that way for long. It isn't known precisely what year Wacona added the middle school and elementary grades to its campus, but by the 1940s, Wacona consisted of grades one through twelve. This was the case until 1958 when the new Ware County High School was created by combining the high school students from Wacona and Waresboro. Wacona continued to thrive as an elementary and junior high school. In 1978, Kindergarten was added, and the middle school grades were gradually moved out. The sixth grade was the last to move to the middle school in 1983. Today, Wacona serves more than 600 students in grades K-5.

The mid-1980's saw many changes at Wacona. Computers entered the classroom at a ratio of one computer for every 20 students, higher than the state average. In 1987, Wacona moved out of the landmark white building it had inhabited for decades and into a brand new brick building constructed beside the old one. That same year, Wacona was honored to receive the 1987 Georgia Schools of Excellence Award. Principal Richard Brantley is quoted as saying "No one thing or one person makes a school program effective. The honor belongs to the entire Wacona family--staff, students, parents, and community. Excellence has come because Wacona's staff has worked harder; adjusted to change; dared to trust a new principal; and dared to offer fresh, new ideas. Truly, the honor belongs to all."

More than thirty years later, those words are just as true as



they were back then. Wacona continues to be a successful school thanks to its ever-growing Hornet family of staff, students, parents, and the community. Today's classrooms look very different from those of the 1922-1923 school year. The Ware County School system is now one-to-one with regards to technology, meaning that each student has his device, whether it be a Chromebook or an iPad. Brand new Clear Touch Interactive Boards were recently installed in all classrooms. Times may have changed, but Wacona's standards are just as high as they have always been. Wacona has continued to be recognized by the state with awards such as School of Excellence, Platinum School, and Distinguished School.

Wacona's longstanding history in the community is another source of pride for the school. Many of the students have parents and grandparents who also attended Wacona. A number of Wacona's staff, including current Principal Jeri Ray, attended school at Wacona. It is the sense of family that continues to set Wacona apart from other schools. There is a saying at Wacona- Once a Hornet, Always a Hornet. Wacona Elementary School is committed to preserving the legacy of greatness passed down from previous generations of staff and students.

Wacona would like to thank the following people for donating or loaning photographs and other memorabilia related to the history of Wacona: Bertise Glisson Hampton, Curtis Bryson, Emily Wilde, Reba Smith, and Georgia Sumner Hough.



Andrea Miller is a former Wacona student and is currently the Media Specialist at Wacona. She has worked at Wacona for 24 years. She and her husband Bruce are the proud parents of 7 dogs and 4 cats. She also has a daughter, Kaitlyn Yeatman, (husband Jacob) and granddaughter, Parker Yeatman.



We want to thank Andrea for putting this together for us. We appreciate her work.

You can view the 1922 yearbook and more at our History of Wacona website located at <https://sites.google.com/ware.k12.ga.us/waconahistory/home>

If you have any photos that you would like to contribute to the Wacona History Website, please email them to [Andrea Miller at amiller@ware.k12.ga.us](mailto:amiller@ware.k12.ga.us)

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Hurst, Robert. Wacona Consolidated County High School.

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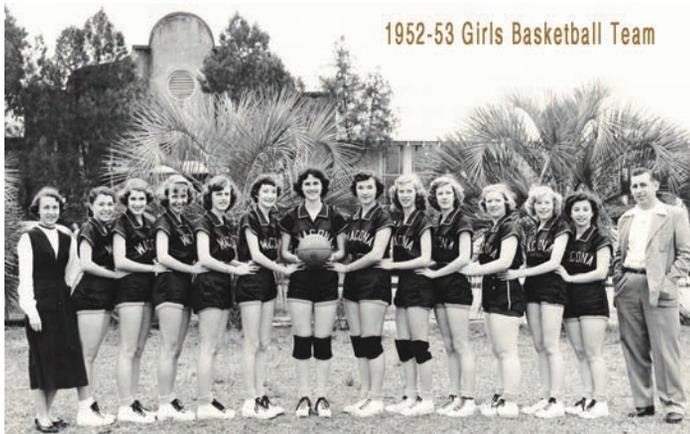
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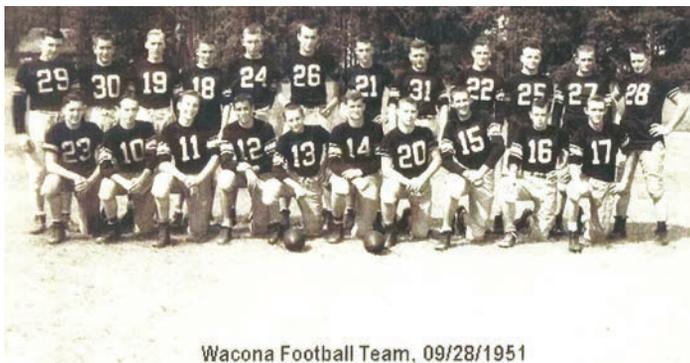
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1952-53 Girls Basketball Team



Wacona Football Team, 09/28/1951

Louise Childs

WACONA  WHEEL

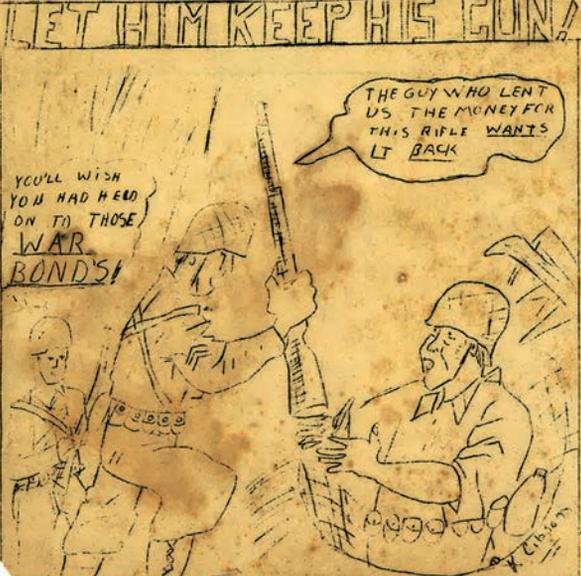
DECEMBER 1, 1944

KEEP YOUR BONDS!

LET HIM KEEP HIS GUN!

YOU'LL WISH YOU HAD HED ON TO THOSE WAR BONDS!

THE GUY WHO LENT US THE MONEY FOR THIS RIFLE WANTS IT BACK



A hand-drawn cartoon on aged paper. On the left, a soldier in a helmet holds a rifle. On the right, a man in a suit holds a large money bag. A speech bubble from the man says, "THE GUY WHO LENT US THE MONEY FOR THIS RIFLE WANTS IT BACK." The soldier looks angry. The text "YOU'LL WISH YOU HAD HED ON TO THOSE WAR BONDS!" is written in the background.

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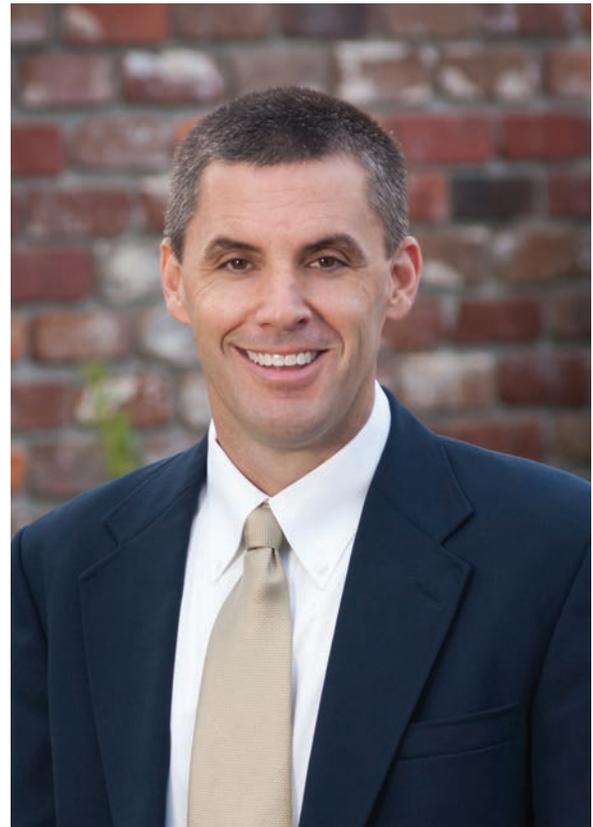
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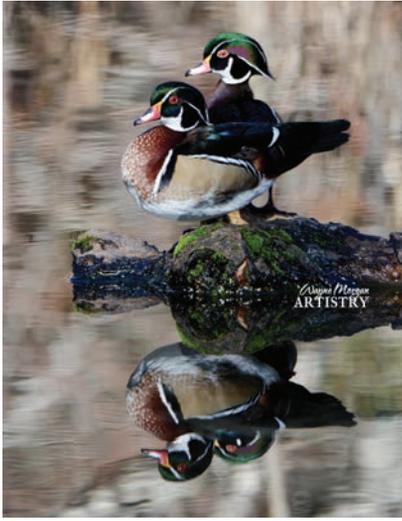
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Congratulations to Tiffany Henderson as she is Unison's new CEO. Tiffany succeeds Dr. Glyn Thomas.



Great artwork by Carly Lightsey from Pierce County. A tribute to Stetson Bennett, IV.



Wayne Morgan
ARTISTRY



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Preparing the Next Generation of Educators by Amy Hancock & Dr. Kit Carson

In the fall of 2019, the South Georgia State College (SGSC) teacher education program admitted its first students into the Elementary/Special Education baccalaureate degree program, and during the spring 2021 commencement exercises, those students walked across the stage as the first graduating cohort. Since its inception, the program has developed into a top-quality model of training for teacher preparation based on working relationships with local schools and teachers. The students not only learn in the traditional college classroom setting, but they also gain experience working with elementary students' first-hand in supervised clinical experiences in local county partner schools.

The program originated after the establishment of a partnership with the University of North Georgia to help SGSC design and offer its own Elementary/Special Education degree program on the Douglas and Waycross campuses using both on-line and in-person classes. South Georgia State College has always wanted to start a four-year teacher preparation program. However, requirements for teacher education are very complex which makes this partnership with a university that has an established program so valuable. "We are fortunate to be working with the University of North Georgia on the design and development of this program and realize it is dependent on solid working relationships with our local partner schools," explains Dr. Ingrid Thompson-Sellers, SGSC president. "With the partnerships with local school districts, the training of future teachers will take place through a robust teacher education curriculum with trained educators at SGSC as well as in elementary classrooms throughout the area."

Dr. Kit Carson, SGSC Chair of Teacher Education, says, "Our unique partnership permits SGSC to provide a high-quality dual-major of 127 hours in elementary and special education, preparing students to work in both fields from pre-kindergarten through fifth grade. Not only are our teacher candidates in the ELE/SPED program at SGSC well prepared for the classroom due to intensive field experiences and internships, but our ELE/SPED candidates work with faculty and supervisors who are experts in the most current pedagogies and research. To further enhance their marketability, our students also receive a reading endorsement as well."

"By offering a program that provides intensive academic rigor in the areas of both elementary education and special education, students enrolled in SGSC's program are prepared to meet the needs of every student in every setting," says Dr. Donna Ryan, former Clinch County Superintendent and part-time field placement supervisor. "Rotating interns through multiple practicum settings throughout their junior and senior years provides the opportunity for them to apply skills as they learn them, as well as build confidence in a supportive learning environment. When students complete the SGSC program they are confident and competent educators; and the systems who partner in our intensive process are confident the teachers they helped mold are not only competent, but eager to stay."

As a former elementary school teacher, Niki Hersey, Assistant Professor for Education, understands the importance of a strong

teacher education program. Schools need teachers who are prepared to meet the diverse needs of their students. She says, "I truly look at SGSC's program as a "grow your own" type of program. Our students are passionate about education and have spent the last two years in our program working alongside mentor teachers in various elementary schools, all of which has prepared them to be effective teachers in the classroom."

Another SGSC faculty member, Assistant Professor Amy Fitzgerald, has this to say, "The SGSC program provides an opportunity for students in our area to stay close to home and family, while pursuing their dreams of changing lives through teaching. Through our program, students get a real picture of the challenges and joys that come when serving the community from the classroom. I look forward to seeing our students continue to learn and grow as they move into the classroom after graduation."

The best measure of a teacher education program usually is represented by the individuals closest to the program – the students. Marissa Dixon graduated as part of the first Waycross cohort. She states, "When I look back at the program, it really has been the best experience because the program really prepared me to walk into my own classroom. When you look at statistics concerning new teachers coming into the classroom, their largest concern is becoming prepared for their first year of classroom experience. I would say that SGSC has prepared me for my own classroom. Every semester, we are working in a school system with highly qualified mentor teachers, our college professors and our supervisors to make sure that we are totally prepared. Because of SGSC, I am fully able to walk into my classroom and be a rock star for my students."

South Georgia State College's innovative program has helped stem the elementary teacher shortage for the Ware County School District in Waycross, GA. As many as 11 graduates have been hired by the district and are performing exceptionally well as novice teachers. The district credits their performance to the excellent preparation they received from SGSC professors as teacher candidates and the increased number of field experiences the program requires. Because they spend additional hours performing observations, candidates are able to get a feel for the culture of each school and the dynamics of various grade levels, enabling them to hone in on where they fit best.

"It's almost like an extended interview period," noted Paige Coker, Director of Special Projects at Ware County Schools. "Principals get to know the candidates over time and can observe their performance in the natural classroom element. The other benefit we see is that when SGSC graduates enter our classrooms as teachers in their own right, they already know 'the Ware County way' and are leaps and bounds ahead of their other colleagues in their first year of teaching." Principals noted that the first group of SGSC graduates were the most well-prepared, conversant, and confident group of interviewees of any they had ever encountered. John Chancey, former Wacona Elementary school Principal and now the Director of Student Achievement for K-5 said, "We filled all of our open positions and

still have some of the SGSC candidates to choose from if anything additional opens up. The SGSC program has been a huge source for local, well-trained teachers. Nothing but great things to say about it! They're all dual certified with a reading endorsement. I can honestly say they were the best group of interviewees I have ever heard."

This model of teacher preparation has truly become a "grow your own" program for Waycross and the surrounding communities. As the students who began in fall 2019 walked across the stage during the spring 2021 commencement, 100% of them were offered positions in elementary schools for current academic school year. Dr. Carson, the staff and faculty of the program agree the first cohort has exceeded their expectations and know they are well-equipped to enter their first year of teaching. The hard work, dedication and determination shown by this group will set a precedent for years to come. SGSC's current juniors will become seniors and a new cohort of juniors began in the fall of 2021. Another cohort will start in the fall of 2022. For more information on the program, visit www.sgsc.edu/academics/bse.cms

"Through this program at SGSC, I have been trained to seek challenges and step out of my comfort zone. I now feel comfortable with change, collaboration, and self-reflection. I am confident in my ability to take feedback and apply it with positive energy. Overall, my professors and advisors have pushed me to reach my full potential as a future educator."

-Kynlee O'Berry (Waycross Senior)

"While the education program at SGSC requires a large amount of effort and determination, I truly feel like each part is preparing me to be a successful classroom teacher. The field experience that is required has allowed me to gain insight on multiple grade-levels and classroom environments. My professors throughout this program are always willing to answer any questions and encourage each of us through our classes and field placements. Altogether, I would recommend this program to anyone who is wanting to obtain an elementary/special education degree. I am very blessed to be able to complete this double major while serving and learning in the community I grew up in."

-Karly Tippins (Waycross senior)





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Congratulations to the PCHS Ladies Tennis Team • 1 AAA 2020-2021 Region Champs



My apologies to these young ladies. I had scheduled this picture to be included in our last issue. I have no clue as to why I did not make that happen. **Congratulations**, on a job well done.



Here are Lydia and Bert Wright. The picture was taken in 1955 and furnished to us by classmate Jane Silvers Frye. Jane found it in her sister's collection. Mr. Wright was our shoe repairman in Ringgold a few years back. I don't know how many times he repaired my shoes and gloves and at N/C. Mr. Wright built a pitching toe cover for my right pitching foot. To make a matching pair, he added one to my left toe. I still have those shoes, and I have included a picture of them. He always told me when he ran for governor, I should vote for him. I said I would. He was very special to me while growing up. Sometimes I would stop in, and we would talk. Their daughter was Thelma, and she married William Lee Childers, who became a Methodist preacher. William's daddy and Vicki Ray Yates daddy had the only two grocery stores in town for a long time. These were the good old days.



Renegade

by Hillary Cooler



Before he was even conceived, his name was planned. He was going to be a special basset hound to me, I knew, but little did I know how special he would end up being. His mom, Scout, was the dumbest basset I have ever owned. Not trying to be rude; it's a fact. But her lack of brain she made up for in sweetness. She was a kind dog and never caused the first bit of trouble. I swear she was housebroken from day one, which says a lot for a hound.

I found a handsome male, Barnabas, to be the daddy of just one litter of pups. (Little did I know then I would become his owner 9 years later.) A litter was planned, and I intended to keep one male with the most black on him to call Renegade after the Florida State University Seminoles horse mascot.

On November 25, 2009, Scout birthed 12 basset puppies. Renegade was number 6, if my memory is correct. As soon as I saw him, I knew he was mine. He was mostly black with a white blaze between his eyes and white paws and belly.

Through the weeks of puppy madness, Renegade and I spent a lot of time together. He was the one I held most and the first to be shown off to friends and family. My plan for Renegade was for him to just be my companion and friend. Little did I know God had put a special intuition in him that would lead to greater plans than I ever imagined.

A short history about me is that I lived with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). I had my quirks and ways because of it. I avoided going places and crowds, slept with lights on, and avoided touch like the plague I thought it was.

So, back to Renegade's story. When he was about 5 months old, I had a typical PTSD night terror. This night something odd happened. There was something heavy pawing at my chest and licking me. I awakened to Renegade on top of me, trying to wake me up. No dog ever had done anything like that before. Once I was awake, Renegade laid over my chest. He was breathing so slowly, and for the first time in a long time, I fell back asleep. Renegade did something for me that had never happened before; he helped me get grounded, allowing me to go back to sleep safely.

That night wasn't a fluke. It happened several other times. I shared the experience with a friend. She told me I should look into training him as a PTSD service dog. I had never heard of such. A lot of research was done into who qualifies for a service dog, what training Renegade would need, and what the legalities are for service dog teams.

The first year, Renegade learned how to be a very good puppy with basic training like sitting and staying, and then more advanced training was found in the Canine Good Citizen test. He learned about encountering new places, bright lights and loud noises, new people, and other animals. He had to learn that in those busy places, he was to focus on me alone. The second year of training was learning the tasks I needed him to do. He also learned how to behave in public places where pets were not allowed. He got a little purple vest identifying him as a working service dog in training.



He learned to “watch my back” and would stand behind me, watching and alert me to someone approaching. That way, I could turn and see them before they got to me.

I taught him crowd control. He was to be between me and others, be it one person conversing with me, or someone behind me at the checkout, or even being in a crowded place with people moving all around me.

He mastered turning on light switches, so I was eventually able to sleep without a light on all night. He also learned how to check a hotel room before I entered to make sure it was clear and safe.

He could lead/guide me away from triggering situations. He was to find the exit or a quiet place and guide me there to begin then the task of grounding me to his presence and not the trigger. He could even safely guide me to the truck in a parking lot of people and moving cars. All in all, I believe he did over 20 trained tasks.

Over our years working together, I got a life back I thought was beyond hope to have. Renegade loved working and would get so excited when I pulled his vest off the hook to work. He wiggled so much it was hard to snap it on him!

During his career, we had many adventures! We flew to Seattle for a wedding. Renegade had never flown, but he was a champ! On all our flights, he was complimented by other passengers and the flight crew on how well he behaved. I was so proud of him!

Over the years, we went to places I may never have been able to go alone. We visited the state capital building. He was personally invited to friends’ weddings when I was. Literally, his name was on the invitation. He even had a bow tie made just for him to wear. He accompanied me to museums and zoos where other animals were curious about his appearance. We went to concerts, bowling alleys, and also a rival university where I wondered if anyone there realized where his name came from.

We had countless trips to the local grocery stores and restaurants. Employees began to recognize Renegade, and we were also able to educate them on proper service dog etiquette and what they could legally ask a service dog team. He was an ambassador for service dogs everywhere we went.

Renegade made appearances at local schools to educate kids about service dogs and their important job! I would take off his vest at the end so the kids could spend time loving on him. He knew if his vest was off, he was off duty!

In the summer of 2020, Renegade had a seizure. I rushed him to the vet. He stayed the day with them so



they could treat him. About

a month later, Renegade had two seizures. Back to the vet, and medication was prescribed to hopefully prevent more.

But now, knowing he was at risk to have a seizure anywhere at any time, I made the decision to retire Renegade from public work. This was a hard adjustment for both of us.

In November 2020, Renegade had cluster seizures overnight. He went back to the vet, where he spent the day under their care again. That night of cluster seizures was scary for both of us.

In July of 2021, he had another seizure. A random seizure was still possible on medication, so it was decided to just keep a close eye on him. But he didn’t have any more for weeks.

On August 29 at 8:00 pm, Renegade was asleep and began to seize. I got down on the floor with him to comfort him and protect his head from slamming on the wood floor.



A couple of hours later, Renegade seized again. I knew this was not a good sign. I was praying they would stop. Then he had a third. At this point, I knew he needed emergency care. I contacted an emergency vet in Valdosta to let them know we were on the way.

As soon as we arrived, they immediately took him from my arms to begin stabilizing him. We sat in the waiting room as another family was having to say goodbye to their pup. I remember praying that I would not have to do the same. Renegade is only 11, after all.

The vet came out to give me an update on him and her plan for treatment. All seemed better. An hour and a half later, she came back out to let me know Ren was trying to seize even medicated. His heart rate was almost 300, and he was in afib. This was not good news. A plan was made to stay there under her care until time for us to leave and go to our vet at home.

We got into town a little before our vet opened. I called as soon as they opened to let them know about our night and that we were headed right over. I carried my boy straight inside and left him in their trusting hands and the Lord's.

Around 3:30 in the afternoon, I received a call to come see Renegade. He was not well. There was nothing more we could do for him.

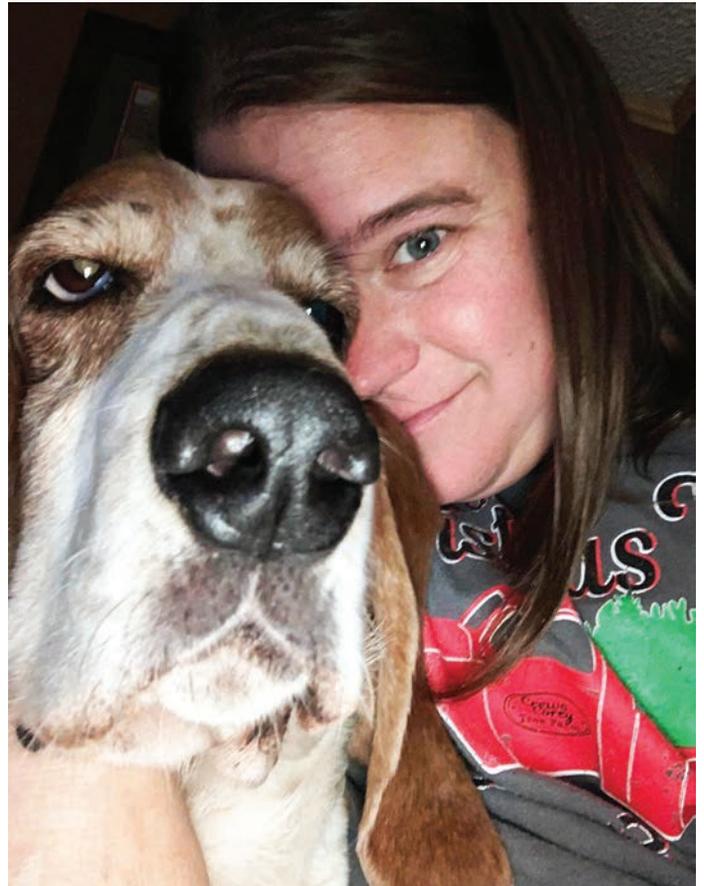
At 4:30 pm on 8/30/2021, I said goodbye to my right-hand man and best working service dog and basset hound ever. I couldn't let him suffer. Renegade had given me his all his entire life! I had to do what was kindest for him. His brother, Huey, was with us as we said our goodbyes.

A large part of my heart went with my boy. There is a huge void I feel and see in my home. Breakfast time for the hounds is too quiet. There's an empty bowl on the counter that I don't know what to do with yet. His vest and collar sit empty.

There's something deeper in the loss of a service dog. I will not deny the great impact the loss of a pet is, as the Lord knows I've buried more than I wish. But losing a service dog is deeper. Our service dogs are a lifeline in so many ways. That absence leaves a feeling of vulnerability layered with grief, fear, and feeling so lost.

Renegade, I miss you but am so thankful you will have no more seizures or fear. You left such a huge impact on my life and those you met along the way. I love you. *Renegade 11/25/2009-8/30/2021.*

I would like to thank Dr. Pritchett and the staff at Valdosta Veterinary Associates for taking care of my boy as best they could until we could get back to our vet at home. Huge thank you to Dr. Reuben Flanders and his staff at the Veterinary Clinic for their kindness and effort to do everything to save Renegade. You guys have no idea how thankful I am for your compassion and kindness to us. I'm so thankful for the care you gave Renegade, and you continue to give my other pets. God bless you!





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SAINT FAUSTINA AND THE DIVINE MERCY IMAGE

By Frank Hoffman

Saint Faustina was born on August 25, 1905. She came from a poor family and was the 3rd of 10 siblings. She was a simple Polish peasant girl with only three semesters of grammar school. At the age of 16, she worked as a housekeeper, but she desired to join a religious order. She was accepted to the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy at the age of 20, where she took the name of Mary Faustina Kowalski. Doing menial chores, she remained with that congregation for 13 years. Jesus appeared to her several times, and on February 22, 1931, He told her, "I want the image that you see, painted, and that you are responsible to spread this image and the divine mercy message around the world." This is the only time that Jesus asked anyone to paint a picture of Him.

She began keeping a diary in 1934 and in four years wrote 600 pages about her vision experiences, including heaven, hell, and purgatory, as well as her thoughts and insights.

She went to her confessor, who persuaded her to keep this diary and to seek an artist to paint the divine image of Jesus. Thanks to her spiritual director and after several attempts, she finally found an artist. One of the most challenging tasks for the artist was to capture the gentle, loving expression that she observed on Christ's face when He appeared to her. She insisted that the presentation be loving and merciful. The central feature of Jesus's appearances was to convey to Faustina that His Divine Image would be painted and displayed so the people would see it. He wanted to make his mercy visible.

The nuns were unaware of what was going on inside Faustina as she went about her routine tasks. She had this close relationship with Jesus that resulted in her mission to teach the mercy of God for the whole world.

What is so special about the image? Let's take a look.

1. The dark background indicates the world without Jesus is in darkness.

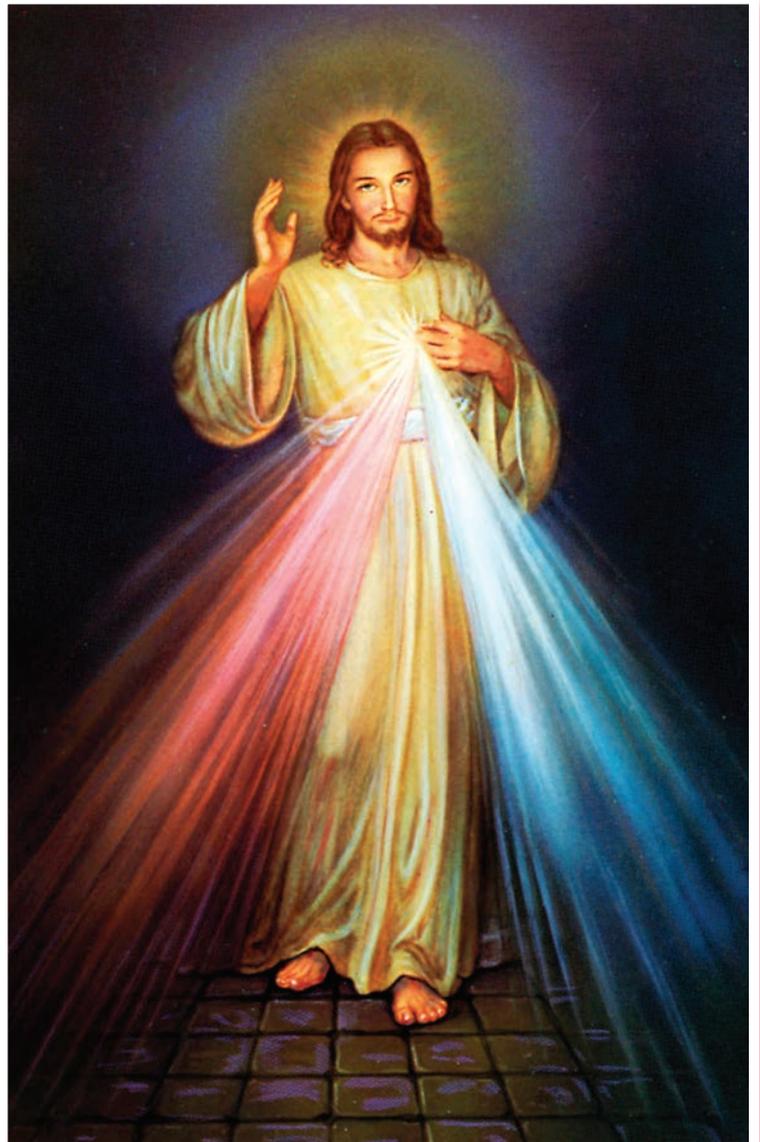
2. The illumination of the image shows that Jesus is the light in the darkness.

3. The wounds seen on the hands and feet reveal the image of a risen Christ.

4. Jesus is dressed in a white garment symbolizing the white garment of the priesthood.

5. The hands tell the story. What is the right hand doing? Christ is raising His hand in a gesture of blessing which comes from the Father who through Jesus pours the Holy Spirit into our hearts.

6. What does the left hand tell us? Faustina writes that the left hand of Jesus was touching the garment at the breast. The thumb and the index finger are drawing open the garment in the area of the heart. What does this gesture mean? He is inviting us to come into his heart to show how much He loves us.



7. She asked Jesus the meaning of the two rays. He replied the pale rays stand for the water, and the red rays stand for blood. John 19:34-One of the soldiers pierced his side with a lance and immediately, there came out blood and water, which represents the complete outpouring of Christ's lifeblood. He has held nothing back. He has given all. THIS IS MERCY!

Jesus said to Faustina, " My agonized heart was opened by a lance on the cross.

Water symbolizes the sacraments of Baptism and Reconciliation, which makes the soul righteous and purified.

The red rays represent the Eucharist. The blood is the life of the soul and keeps the soul alive and healthy.

8. And that brings us to the bottom of the image, which states, JESUS I TRUST IN YOU, urging Faustina to encourage all souls to trust in His Mercy, thus creating a family bond through a covenant relationship.

9. Now for the feet--the left foot is slightly forward of the right foot to show He is in a walking position. How do we fulfill our part of the covenant? We have to open our hearts to Jesus and place our trust in God's hands

One of the most challenging tasks for the artist was to capture the gentle, loving expression that Faustina saw on Christ's face when He appeared to her. She insisted that the expression be loving and merciful.

This image is not just a picture for us to look at. It is, in reality, an icon that helps us enter into the reality of Jesus not only looking at us but the way He loves us. Christ is shown walking to the viewer.

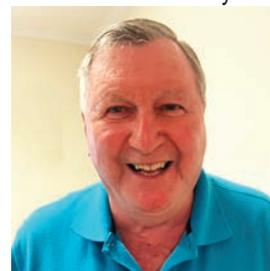
The image emphasizes not so much on the movement from us to Christ but more from Christ to us as evidenced by His rays of merciful love flowing from His heart spreading out to embrace us with a blessing of peace even before we ask for it.

The Divine Mercy is a form of God's compassion, an act of grace based on trust and forgiveness. Jesus said, if you follow the chaplet, I will grant to souls great graces, and at the hour of death, I will defend every soul, and that mercy will flow out upon the whole world.

God teaches us about His Mercy through St. Faustina, who lived a devout life, endured great sufferings for the sake of Christ, and yet it's through people like her that we're taught, even as great sinners that we are, that we are receiving God's mercy and learning to be merciful to others. She died of tuberculosis on October 5, 1938. She was the first Saint to be canonized in the twentieth century.

The original Divine Mercy image rests in Lithuania. Numerous versions have been painted by other artists and are widely venerated around the world.

Frank Hoffman was born in Boston, MA, attended Cathedral High School, graduated from Stonehill College in N.Easton, Ma, majoring in Business Administration, and received a Master's degree in education from the University of Massachusetts. A former teacher and Principal for 35 years. College instructor of business and educational courses, facilitator of Bible studies. He is presently involved in Parish ministries at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Waycross. Frank resides in Blackshear with his wife, Louvella.



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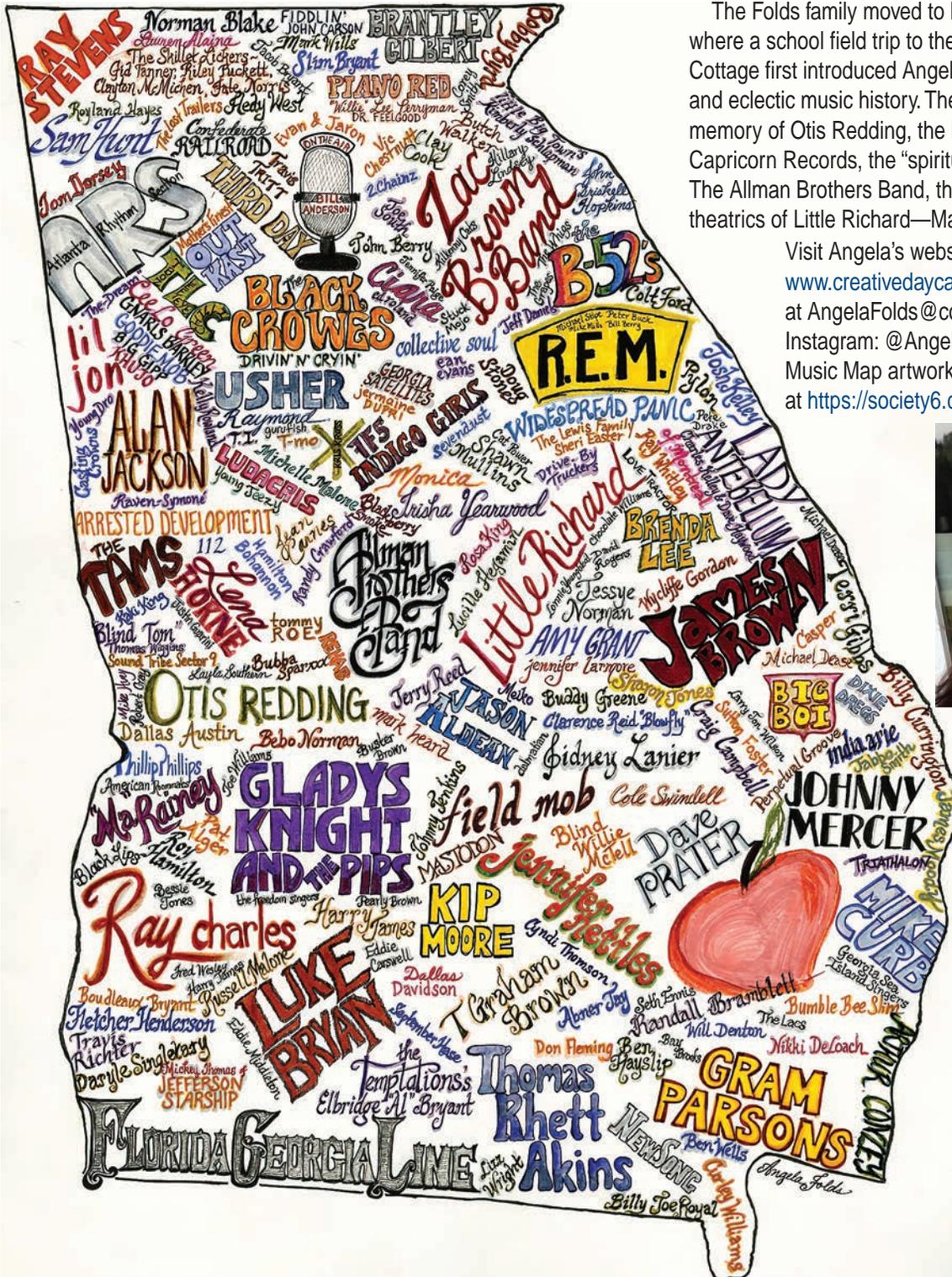
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Georgia On My Mind by Angela Folds



The Folds family moved to Macon in 1982, where a school field trip to the Sidney Lanier Cottage first introduced Angela to Macon's deep and eclectic music history. The music and memory of Otis Redding, the legacy of Capricorn Records, the "spiritual" birthplace of The Allman Brothers Band, the mesmerizing theatrics of Little Richard—Macon had it all.

Visit Angela's website, www.creativedaycafe.com, reach her by email at AngelaFolds@comcast.net, or visit her on Instagram: @Angela.Folds. The Georgia Music Map artwork is available for purchase at <https://society6.com/creativedaycafe>.



Angela

Georgia-native Angela Folds is a freelance writer, artist, and mother of two sons residing in Franklin, Tennessee (a Nashville suburb). She attributes her love of all genres of music to her Georgia roots.

During her earliest years, her father, Rev. H. Gary Folds, pastored Morningside Baptist Church in Valdosta (1974 – 1982), where (then) gospel quartet, "NewSong," was formed. Over the years, that connection would expose her to numerous other artists and bands in Christian music.

Most recently, her contemporary, top country artist Jason Aldean named his most recent album, "Macon," in honor of his hometown.

To show her respect and appreciation for Georgia's significant influence on all genres of music, Angela embarked on an artistic journey to visually display as many artists and bands from Georgia as she could. An admitted rabbit-hole-chasing-researcher, the project took her years to complete. "I can't count the number of hours I spent researching this project. It was a labor of love," she said. "I know I've overlooked well-deserving artists, and I always welcome suggestions for people I should add."

Our Friend, Hank Orberg as told by Josh Sharpe.

I was honored to write Hank's obituary announcing his service, which was Oct. 21 at 11 a.m. in Brunswick. Hank Orberg, a retired journalist who worked at newspapers around southeast Georgia for decades and held a long-running Oktoberfest at his home in Waycross, died on Aug. 5. He'd been hospitalized for months after a devastating stroke and then contracted COVID-19. He was 77. The memorial was set for 11 a.m. Oct. 21 at Saint Mark's Episcopal Church in Brunswick, located at 900 Gloucester Street.

Orberg grew up in Altoona, Pa. He was raised as an only child by mother Evelyn Marguerite Kough, who served as an assistant for five mayors of Altoona, and a grandmother, who introduced him to the food, music and tales of the family's German roots.

Anyone who knew Orberg more than a few hours how much he loved those women, especially his mother. Even in his 70s, years after he moved her to Waycross to care for her as she died, Orberg would start to cry when talking about her. Orberg lived for family.

"A family, if large and well-connected, is like a religion," Orberg wrote in 1989, quoting the novelist Paul Theroux in a story on Ozzie Davis, the film and civil rights legend who had roots in Waycross. "It serves the same purpose, to bewitch the believe with joy and offer him salvation; it consoles, it enchants, it purifies."



Orberg never had many close blood relatives, so he chose friends as family. He picked up new kin in Altoona, at his beloved Penn State, in newsrooms, at sporting events, at the barber shop. In the early 2000s, you could've found him laughing with some of his closest

friends at a place in downtown Waycross called Andrew's, where they had their own large booth.

Orberg would call friends just to say hey, or that he was proud of them, or that he loved them. He made them tapes of songs he knew they liked, or thought they would. He asked them over to watch movies from a collection that claimed more space in some of his homes than he did.

As a journalist, Orberg worked at the Waycross Journal-Herald, the Press-Sentinel of Jesup and the Savannah Morning News. Those who worked with him recall an entertaining and personable journalist who often talked about classic movies, music and family (chosen or otherwise).

Orberg, who mostly covered sports, wrote about a high school baseball pitcher overwhelmed by calls and letters from scouts. About a team of doctors studying the hearts of drivers at Darlington Raceway. About the Allman Brothers blowing through Savannah, where they played a pickup softball game.

He retired in 2006 as sports editor at the Press-Sentinel after years of traversing the backroads of the state, from game to game, in his white rumbling 1988 Mercury Grand Marquis. Everyone knew it was Orberg's from the "PRESS" sign on windshield and the large Penn State decal emblazoned on the back glass.

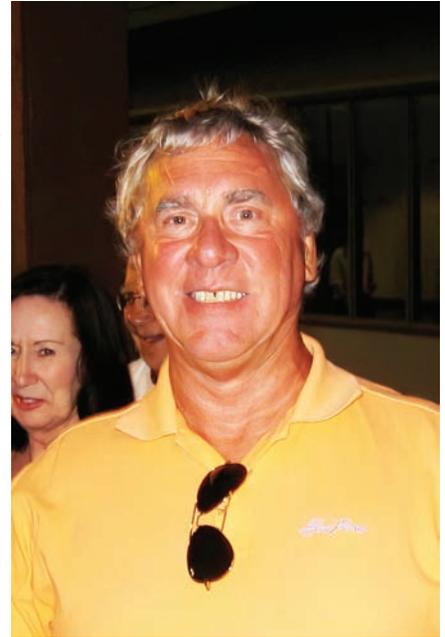
At his annual Oktoberfest, which had its last year around the time of Orberg's retirement, Orberg could be found milling a crowd of dozens on the grass lot across the street from his baby-blue house on Hill Street. He'd have a drink in hand, stories on his lips. Orberg packed in the tradition around the time he retired and moved to St. Simons to live with his former late wife Rosemary D'-Cunha. Orberg's family promptly grew as he made new friends at concerts and festivals around the island and in Brunswick. In recent years, Orberg attended Saint Mark's church. He talked often to dear friend Bertie Warlick about how much a priest there helped him.

In Orberg's last days, the Rev. Alan Akridge administered last rights. Orberg was cremated. Warlick said Orberg, who'd helped her cope with the death of her son, struggled greatly to speak after his stroke earlier this year. But he'd unknowingly left her with a gift.

"Three days before he got sick, out of the blue, he called," Warlick said. "He said, 'I just wanted to say I love you.'"



Hank Orberg, a friend of my family who became family, has died. Hank was a journalist, and helped me get my first gig freelancing at The Georgia Times-Union. I owe Hank so much, and I remember him.
Josh Sharpe



Historical Markers in Ware County



BLUE STAR MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

A tribute to the Nations Armed Forces who served in World War II

Sponsored by
Garden Club of Georgia
In cooperation with

State Highway Department of Georgia

Oakland Cemetery on US 84, NE section of Waycross



BLUE STAR MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

A tribute to the Armed Forces that have defended the United States of America

SPONSORED BY
The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.

IN COOPERATION WITH

The Dogwood Garden Club of Waycross

US 1 at Ga 177 junction about 6 mi SE of Waycross



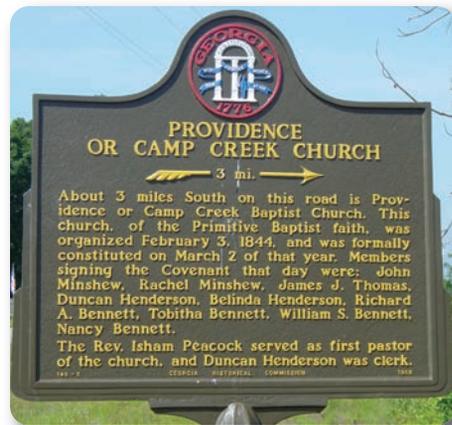
OKEFENOKEE SWAMP

<-- 13 mi. -->

Okefenokee Swamp, 400,000 acres of waterways, swamp prairies and floating islands is a region of many legends. Here DeSoto's men told of trees that turned to warriors, Indians hunted and fished in its fastnesses and fled to safety on its islands from raids on South Georgia settlers. Now the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge is a sanctuary for plant and animal life. The Seminole Indians named the swamp Okefenokee or 'Land of Trembling Earth' for the islands, built on networks of roots, leaves and soil, that tremble at a footstep.

048-3 Georgia Historical Commission 1954

US 1/US 23 at US 82 junction in south edge of Waycross



PROVIDENCE OR CAMP CREEK CHURCH

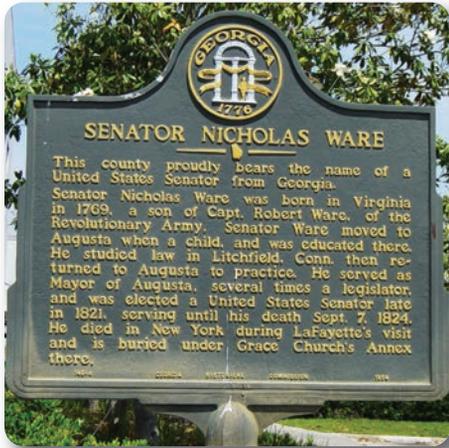
--- 3 mi. --->

About 3 miles South on this road is Providence or Camp Creek Baptist Church. This church, of the Primitive Baptist faith, was organized February 3, 1844, and was formally constituted on March 2 of that year. Members signing the Covenant that day were: John Minshew, Rachel Minshew, James J. Thomas, Duncan Henderson, Belinda Henderson, Richard A. Bennett, Tobitha Bennett, William S. Bennett, Nancy Bennett.

The Rev. Isham Peacock served as first pastor of the church, and Duncan Henderson was clerk.

048-5 Georgia Historical Commission 1958

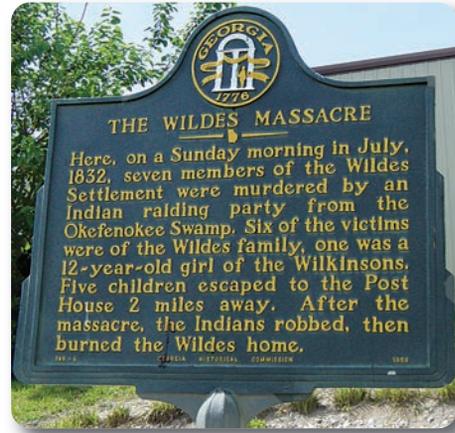
US 84/Ga 38 at Manor, about 3 miles from Clinch County line



SENATOR NICHOLAS WARE

This county proudly bears the name of a U. S. Senator from Ga. Senator Nicholas Ware was born in Virginia in 1769, a son of Capt. Robert Ware, of the Revolutionary Army. Senator Ware moved to Augusta when a child, and was educated there. He studied law in Litchfield, Conn. then returned to Augusta to practice. He served as Mayor of Augusta, several times a legislator, and was elected a United States Senator late in 1821, serving until his death Sept. 7, 1824. He died in New York during LaFayette's visit and is buried under Grace Church's Annex there.

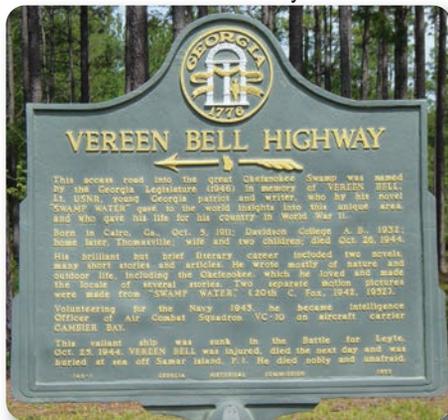
148-4 Georgia Historical Commission 1954
 Courthouse in Waycross



THE WILDES MASSACRE

Here, on a Sunday morning in July, 1832, seven members of the Wildes Settlement were murdered by an Indian raiding party from the Okefenokee Swamp. Six of the victims were of the Wildes family, one was a 12-year-old girl of the Wilkinsons. Five children escaped to the Post House 2 miles away. After the massacre, the Indians robbed, then burned the Wildes home.

148-6 Georgia Historical Commission 1958
 US 23/319 just south of US 84 in Waycross



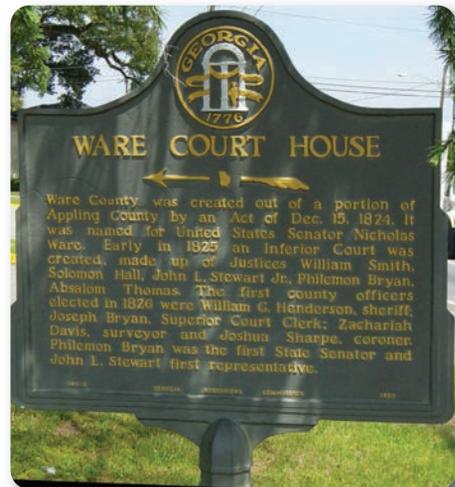
VEREEN BELL HIGHWAY

This access road into the great Okefenokee Swamp was named by the Ga Legislature (1946) in memory of VEREEN BELL, Lt. USNR, young Georgia patriot & writer, who by his novel 'SWAMP WATER' gave to the world insights into this unique area, & who gave his life for his country in World War II. Born in Cairo, GA., 10/5/1911; Davidson College A.B., 1932; home later, Thomasville; wife & two children; died 10/26/944.

His brilliant but brief literary career included two novels, many short stories & articles. He wrote mostly of nature & outdoor life, including the Okefenokee, which he loved & made the locale of several stories. Two separate motion pictures were made from 'SWAMP WATER,' (20th C. Fox, 1942, 1952). Volunteering for the Navy 1943, he became Intelligence Officer of Air Combat Squadron VC-10 on aircraft carrier GAMBIER BAY.

This valiant ship was sunk in the Battle for Leyte, 10/ 23/1944. VEREEN BELL was injured, died the next day and was buried at sea off Samar Island, P.I. He dies nobly and unafraid.

148-3 Georgia Historical Commission 1953
 US 1/US 23 at Ga 177 junction about 6 miles SE of Waycross



WARE COURT HOUSE

Ware County was created out of a portion of Appling County by an Act of Dec. 25, 1824. It was named for United States Senator Nicholas Ware. Early in 1825 an Inferior Court was created, made up of Justices William Smith, Solomon Hall, John L. Stewart Jr., Philemon Bryan, Absalom Thomas. The first county officers elected in 1826 were William G. Henderson, sheriff; Joseph Bryan, Superior Court Clerk; Zachariah Davis, surveyor and Joshua Sharpe, coroner. Philemon Bryan was the first State Senator and John L. Stewart first representative.

148-2 GEORGIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION 1953
 US 23/319 at Courthouse in Waycross

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Robbie with a 1926 Ford Model T Touring



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Our Response to Covid: First and foremost, we want you to know that we value the health and safety of our customers and staff. As a business, Robbie Roberson Ford Inc. is taking the extra steps necessary to maintain a healthy and sanitary workplace while still meeting our customers' needs.

We continue to monitor information from state health authorities and the CDC for their guidance and recommendations on how we can help to prevent the spread of this virus.

Our steps include:

- Thorough cleanings of all dealership facilities daily
- Sanitizing gel and foam stations available on-site
- Providing our staff with specific instructions on hand washing and the importance of staying home if they are not feeling well
- Adhering to the recommended six feet of social distance from other staff and customers.