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## Grady County Historical Society – Schools

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# Shiver Elementary

Includes newspaper clippings regarding Shiver Elementary.

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Congress and the General Assembly.

Meanwhile, Reed will be showing off his Boy Scout smile, helping little old ladies cross the street and exuding boundless

does not even have a computer system that works, as evidenced by the high-tech crash and the near debacle of the chairman's election at the 2001 convention. Their second-tier leaders spend

Isakson, Bob Barr, Saxby Chambliss, Mac Collins, Nathan Deal, Jack Kingston, John Linder, Charlie Norwood — but it has no roster of would-be governors, lieutenant governors or attorneys general. And it has no name

gent or vice president. Such talk would thrill an ordinary soul. But Barnes and Kahn know that speculation about national ambitions is a potential killer in state politics.

So far, Barnes is facing two challengers — state School

to irk taxpayers who believe she should resign or take a leave of absence before embarking on a statewide speaking tour for governor.

Despite an abrasive manner and a grating New York accent,

the Republican Party, Reed will be the drum major and field general for the entire elephant effort in 2002.

# School board named new Shiver principal Tuesday

Randolph H. Wind  
Editor & Publisher

The Grady County Board of Education on Tuesday voted to hire Margie Jordan as the new principal of Shiver School.

Jordan, a Shiver teacher since 1987, currently serves as a fifth grade teacher.

"Coming right out of the classroom and remaining in the same system will be beneficial to me as principal. I already feel the support of my fellow teachers," Jordan said.

Jordan, a resident of Thomas County, is married to Rick Jordan, who is minister of music at First Baptist Church in Thomasville. They have two sons, Kyle, 26, and Kevin, 21.

The new Shiver principal says, "It has been a dream of mine to serve in this capacity. I just love this school. I chose to work in Grady County and I chose to work at this school."

Since 1999 she has worked as the after-school program director and she applied for a Georgia Reading Grant to start the program.

Prior to coming to Shiver, she served as a teacher and director of the kindergarten program at First Baptist Church in Thomasville. She also has taught in Rome and Louisville, Ky.

Jordan has been an educator since 1968.

She graduated from Boone High School in Orlando, Fla., and Shorter College in Rome.

Jordan earned her master's in education leadership in 1998 at Valdosta State University.

"Shiver is already an outstanding school, my goal is to continue that tradition and improve where improvement is needed, strengthen where strengthening is needed," Jordan said.

Jordan's praises are already being sung by parents and facul-

ty. In fact, she says that it was the parents and faculty who encouraged her to apply for the job.

Jordan's appointment was unanimously approved by the board.

In other action Tuesday night, the board:

- Transferred former Northside principal Jacqueline Powell to CrossRoads alternative school, where she will serve as principal.

- Approved the purchase of four mobile classrooms to be set up on a site near the CHS cam-

pus to house CrossRoads. During this school year, students in the alternative school program have been transported to a joint alternative school program in Thomas County.

- Discussed SPLOST financed

capital improvement projects and purchase of furniture.

- Approved application for a Next Generation School Grant and supported the program's goals.



VETERAN Shiver classroom teacher Margie Jordan will become the school's new principal. (Staff Photo)



LOCAL GOLFERS teamed up to raise over \$2,600 to benefit the Ken Smith family in a charity golf tournament coordinated by Plantation Ford-Mercury on Friday, April 27. The first place team included, front row, l-r, Bill Elkins, Joe Knight; second row, l-r, Kevin Walden and Charles Renaud. Plantation Ford-Mercury owners and tournament coordinators Kay and Gene Hill are shown in the rear. The Hills expressed their appreciation for the outstanding support of this worthwhile cause. Smith who was injured in a Christmas holiday accident remains hospitalized in Thomasville. (Staff Photo)

## Grady well represented at republican state convention

Mesha C. Wind  
Staff Writer

A delegation of seven Grady countians attended the state Republican Convention Saturday in Atlanta, where Ralph Reed was elected chairman.

Billy Hester, Wilkes Nicholson, Donna and Richard Powell, Sam Prince, Richard Robinson and Robert Robinson represented Grady County Republicans in the balloting for officers to lead the Georgia Republican Party.

"In his nominating speech, Ralph Reed spoke of his vision for the Republican Party that accepted anyone who agreed with its ideals....he won the chairmanship on the first ballot by a large margin, and immediately after the vote was announced, both of his opponents agreed to make his election unanimous by voicing their support," reports Robert Robinson.

Reed, 39, was challenged for the chairmanship position by David Shafer and Maria Strollo. Reed is a political consultant who helped shape the Christian

Coalition into a powerful national political force.

Robert Robinson, who says he voted for Shafer as chairman, joined in Shafer's support for Reed. "I had not supported Shafer because I disliked Reed, but because I liked what Shafer had to offer. I now support Reed, along with my party, because he is our chairman, and because he wants what we all want for Georgia, positive change to offer all people equal opportunity for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," Robinson says.

Robinson reports to The Cairo

Messenger that diversity and division reported by the media leading up to the convention appeared non-existent Saturday. "Speech after speech during the convention spoke of moving beyond our minor differences to work together. I saw Republicans from all walks of life decide in one body to stop tearing each other down," he says.

This was Robert Robinson's first Republican State Convention.

## Findings—

continued from page one

according to testimony given by the three board members who voted to fire him, was a complete lack of faith and trust in the superintendent.

That lack of faith and trust developed over a period of time involving a number of issues including the preparation and passage of the former superintendent's contract adopted last

September, the loss of "key personnel" to other school systems, Hickerson's response to personnel problems and concerns at Northside School, and the budget overruns and handling of the ServiceMaster maintenance and custodial contract.

Going into Monday's review of the board's action, Board Attorney Tom Lehman determined that he would only call on three witnesses because the panel's findings are not conclu-

sive results.

"Nothing was binding about it, so why spend days running through witnesses," Lehman said Monday.

After learning of the findings and conclusions Tuesday, Lehman said the results were much what he had predicted and expected.

In fact, Lehman presented only four of the eight major charges the board has levied against Hickerson.

The other four "points" were considered matters of law and were not presented during Monday's review.

When asked if he would release the board's letter outlining all eight charges, Hickerson refused to make them public at this time.

During the board meeting Tuesday night, board members met behind closed doors to dis-

cuss the findings of the panel.

Following the closed session, Lehman issued a statement that the board would evaluate the findings and determine what, if any, action the board would take.

"No further action by the board is contemplated at this time," Lehman said.

The board attorney said that Monday's review was a good faith effort by the board to com-

ply with the provisions for a hearing stipulated in Hickerson's employment contract.

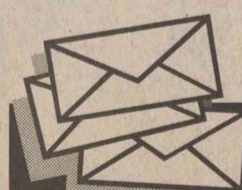
"We've done that, so now we can move on," Lehman said.

While the board is not planning on any further action on the matter, Hickerson thinks the ball is in the board's court and it's their next move, according to statements made to WALB.

Dear Mr. Editor,

Thank you for your continued support of the Grady County Council on Child Abuse. The Family Fun Day on Saturday, April 21, was well attended, due in part to the publicity we received through your paper.

We would also like to thank area businesses for their support in displaying the large blue ribbons designating April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in the state of Georgia. These ribbons



### Letters to the Editor

The opinions or views expressed by the author do not necessarily represent those of this paper or any of its employees.

helped the Grady County Council on Child Abuse raise awareness of child abuse and neglect in all forms. The ribbons may be removed at this time. Our hope is that awareness of

this problem will continue throughout the year.

Annette Giddens  
Secretary,

Grady County Council on Child Abuse, Inc.



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# Hearing—

*continued from page one*

mend placing Hickerson on administrative leave, but she denied that and said she did ask about the possibility.

Hickerson's attorney asked if she had discussed her reasons for firing the superintendent with anyone. Harris said that former board member Oshie Williford had called on February 26, but she did not discuss the reasons with her.

Wilson also questioned Harris about the transfer of Ed Gravenstein to the central office and Arthur Anderson to Washington.

She responded that she had had complaints from parents about Gravenstein and that she felt his skills would be better utilized at the central office.

She admitted having had complaints about Anderson as well, but more about Gravenstein.

She also denied Wilson's assertion that the Gravenstein principalship at Washington was a campaign focal point in the race between her and former board member Mary Henderson.

Board member Bundrick testified that he came on to the board "open minded and laid back for the first year," but trouble began to develop when Tim Helms left to become principal at Thomasville High School.

Around that time Bundrick requested that Hickerson identify members of the local staff who showed promise as administrators and prepare them for leadership. Hickerson never responded, he claims.

Bundrick also said he asked Hickerson to allow the board to assist him after the departure of Helms and Jones, but Hickerson declined.

The third board member to testify also was concerned about Hickerson's handling of finding a replacement for Helms at Washington.

Bundrick claims Hickerson did not ask...

sons for termination.

In cross examination, Gainous admitted to Lehman that he was aware of problems between the board and Hickerson.

He said that the Northside problem was not resolved until the principal transfer was made and it took the board to take action and gain information concerning the situation.

Gainous also credited Interim Superintendent Steve Wooten for resolving some problems.

Wilson then called board member Tyler Maxwell, who testified that Hickerson was doing "an excellent job."

He, too, did not participate in the charge letter and says he did not know Hickerson was going to be terminated.

Maxwell says Helms and Jones left for better paying jobs and not because of the superintendent.

He said Hickerson performed 30 to 35% better than previous superintendents.

Maxwell says the board was aware of the situation at Northside and that Hickerson was working on the matter.

Under cross examination by Lehman, Maxwell admitted that the September contract was not listed on the meeting agenda and was not an emergency situation.

When asked who prepared the contract, Maxwell said he did not know.

Lehman prodded him and finally Maxwell said he assumed Wilson did it. Maxwell said it

was prepared at his insistence and that he presented it for approval.

When asked who put in the three year buyout, Maxwell responded the lawyer did.

Maxwell testified that only he and Hickerson knew about that the contract and that he got multiple copies from Hickerson to hand out at the meeting.

He admitted that the school board's own attorney had not reviewed the document.

Lehman later asked, "How is the contract beneficial to the people of Grady County?"

Maxwell replied that it would have been if Hickerson had been allowed to do his job.

Maxwell testified that it was not a conflict for him to super-

vised Hickerson at the same time Hickerson directly supervised his wife, School Nutrition Program Director Nila Maxwell.

The board member also testified that he had never had access to school board records without authorization.

Maxwell was not "exactly sure" whether or not he had discussed a confidential letter from Lehman to Wilson with anyone, he testified.

Next Wilson called former board member Bill Bass to the stand.

Bass said that Hickerson was "a professional, not a politician."

He also described him as a "skinflint when it comes to our money."

Bass described the school

maintenance program as "deplorable when he (Hickerson) came."

The former board member also testified that Hickerson brought the idea of promotion for performance with him, he didn't get it here.

Lehman asked if Bass was concerned about the loss of Helms and Jones, to which he replied they were not key personnel and that he disagreed with promoting coaches.

Lehman asked Bass if he didn't think Helms was qualified as a principal. Bass said he had not seen any changes when Helms was at WMS.

Helms was promoted "because he couldn't win games (See TESTIMONY, Page 7A)

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before the board was going to take some action.

Then the candidate he recommended did not have unqualified references, because some said the candidate would require some "hand holding."

The board rejected Hickerson's choice. Bundrick said he thinks that Gravenstein was Hickerson's "last choice" for WMS principal.

Bundrick classified the problems at Northside as a "mutiny on our hands."

He says the issue could have been handled earlier, but that Hickerson said it was a problem with only a "few teachers."

Lehman asked Bundrick about Hickerson's satisfactory evaluations and he explained that if three board members score him a five on every item and two member score a one, two or three, it still results in a satisfactory grade.

Bundrick also stated that the evaluation is very generic and is a difficult instrument to use to grade Hickerson's performance.

During cross examination, Wilson pointed out that Bundrick says he supported promotion from within and that Northside Principal Powell was an inside promotion, and he had voted for her.

Wilson also quizzed Bundrick on the same day retirement of CHS principal Wayne Tootle and hiring of Helms.

"Wasn't Arthur Anderson the logical choice for principal at Cairo High School?" Wilson asked.

Bundrick responded Anderson wanted Washington, not CHS.

Following the testimony of the three board members, the board rested.

Wilson opened by calling board member Todd Gainous.

Gainous testified that Douglas had told him Hickerson "had to go," but his reasoning was not sufficient to convince the new board member.

Gainous also testified that he had not participated in the charge letter outlining the rea-



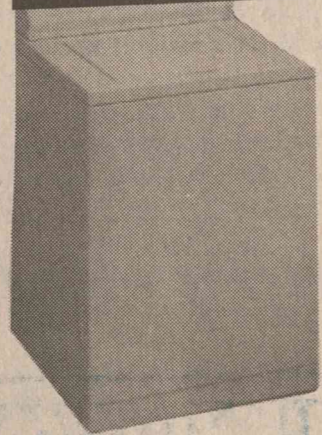
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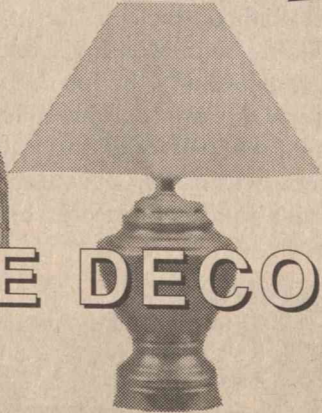
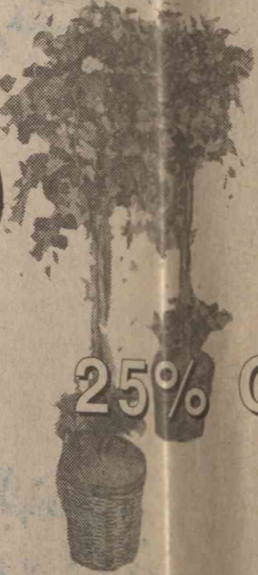
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Wednesday, May 2, 2001. Johnson's live-in boyfriend, Ricky Ricks, 37, was at a neighbor's house at the time of the search and apparently fled the scene when he saw the officers, according to Scott Newberry, chief investigator with the Grady County Sheriff's Department.

A child under the age of 2, also at the house, was removed and is now in the custody of his father.

Newberry says inside the

rials team from Tennessee was called in to assist in the cleanup. Five days later, on May 7, 2001, investigators received a tip on Ricks' whereabouts, and discovered him parked in a yard on Midway Road, asleep in his car. Ricks was arrested without incident.

Ricks and Johnson are charged with manufacturing of methamphetamine and possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute. Both remain

meth. lab busts at two other Grady County homes. Sheriff's investigators arrested six suspects in March in connection with meth. lab busts at two other Grady County homes.

Authorities made a ninth meth. arrest when they responded to a domestic dispute charge at 642 Stanfill Road on Saturday, May 5, 2001.

After receiving permission, officers searched a pickup truck belonging to Richard Bond, 26.

were confiscated by sheriff's investigators and disposed of by a hazardous materials team from Fairburn, Ga.


**Thanks for reading  
The Messenger!**

the crash shattered the glass door and window and caved in the rock wall. No one was inside at the time. A new business was planning to move in later this week, according to building owner Pete Boring. Contractor Kevin Baggett covered the damage with plywood to prevent any injuries before the building is repaired. (Staff Photo)

## CHS Bands presented wonderful concert Tuesday



IF YOU MISSED the annual Cairo High School Bands in concert TUESDAY night you missed a treat. The Messenger reported that the concert was this Thursday instead of Tuesday. We apologize for the error and are glad to report a great crowd attended the concert on the right night. (Staff Photos)

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# Looking Back

Shiver Elementary School opened in the fall of 1956 and, to celebrate that event and mark the consolidation of Spence, New Home and Elpino to create the new school, a float was entered in the October 1956 REA Appreciation Day Parade. Linda Carter (Booth), an eighth grader, represented Shiver, the new school. Representing the three schools that were closed to form Shiver were, left to right, Twila Matthews (Poitevint), New Home; Jane Willis (Bentley), Elpino; and Gerris Morey (Pearson), Spence. This photo was presented for publication by Twila Poitevint, 1926 Stage Coach Rd.

