
Grady County Historical Society – Schools

Cairo High School Pt. 3

Includes various newspaper clippings, class of 1956 reunion paper, 2018 back to school supplement to Cairo Messenger, copy of the 2009 edition of The Zone: High School Sports, and copies of the Cairo Messenger.

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Great, proven overall sports programs

By MIKE GRUBB

Times-Enterprise Sports Writer



Staff Photo — Mike Grubb

1988 Region 1-AAA golf champion Neil Barnhill

CAIRO — There are a lot of high schools in Georgia that claim to have great overall sports programs, but the Syrupmakers from Cairo have proof they once did and are about to again — sooner than most think.

Cairo first tasted what it was like to be a champion in 1946, when Jeff West's football Syrupmakers romped on the gridiron to a 10-1 record that included winning Cairo's only state championship with the pigskin. Led by such stalwart players as Roy Robertson, L.C. Collins, Lewis Carr, Tonny Green, Bob Lashley, Jud Mayfield, Paul Tyson, Julian Hudson, Tom Harper, Sonny White and many others, Cairo rolled through such opponents as Valdosta, Thomasville, Moultrie, Bainbridge during the regular season with their only defeat coming at the hands of Billy Mixon and Tifton.

Cairo got the last laugh on the Blue Devils. These two squads met again for the South Georgia Football Association championship in Moultrie and the Syrupmakers came away 40-0 winners. The momentum carried over, as Cairo rolled the following week over Rockmart, 40-19, for the Class B state championship. In the past, Cairo has been region champions on the gridiron in 1946, 1963, 1964 and 1967.

When it came to playing on the hardwood, Cairo wasn't a slouch there either. The Syrupmakers dribbled their way to consecutive boy's Class AA state titles in 1965 and 1966. With Bill Stanfill, Mike Killimett, Bobby Burt, Charles Prince and Ronnie Walden leading the way, Tommy Taylor's troops stormed past Thomasville, 65-47,



Julian Byrden crosses finish line for '89 track team

for the Region 1-AA West title. The Irish of Dublin were the next to fall. This time it was by a 43-28 count in the region title game. During the state title drive, Newnan and West Rome fell victim to the Cairo hardwood express before the Syrupmakers dropped Dublin for the state title, 52-31.

In 1966, with Woody Montgomery, Ricky Heath, Burt and Prince just to name a few, Taylor's troops won it all again. This time they left Crisp County, Dublin, Crisp County (again), Dalton, Hart County and Russell in their wake before disposing of Newton County, 55-46, in the title game. Just like Stanfill in '65, Montgomery was selected the tournament's MVP. The Cairo men cagers also captured region titles in 1957, 1960, 1963, 1965-67, 1969, 1973 and 1975.

Don't think for one minute that the men are the only ones that can play basketball in Grady County. Under the direction of Billy Daniels, the Syrupmaids captured the 1974 Class AA state title by rolling through the season undefeated. Behind the play of Sharon Cassels, Janet Dixon, Pam Ray, Ginger Holton and Karen Holton to name a few, the Syrupmaids defeated Franklin County, 39-27, for the title.

With Teresa Edwards, Pam Lewis, Chiquita Miller and Mary Blaydes providing the spark, Cindy Kozlowsky's Syrupmaids won it all again in 1982. This time with a thrilling 49-48 overtime win against Hart County.

Perhaps Cairo was most noted for the track teams that coach Tommy Taylor fielded. During his tenure at the helm of the Syrupmaker track

program, Cairo reeled off 11 state championships (1959, 1961-63, 1966, 1968-73,) and 19 straight region titles running from 1956-1974. In addition to the state titles, his squads finished second in the state on at least three other occasions, 1957, 1958 and 1965.

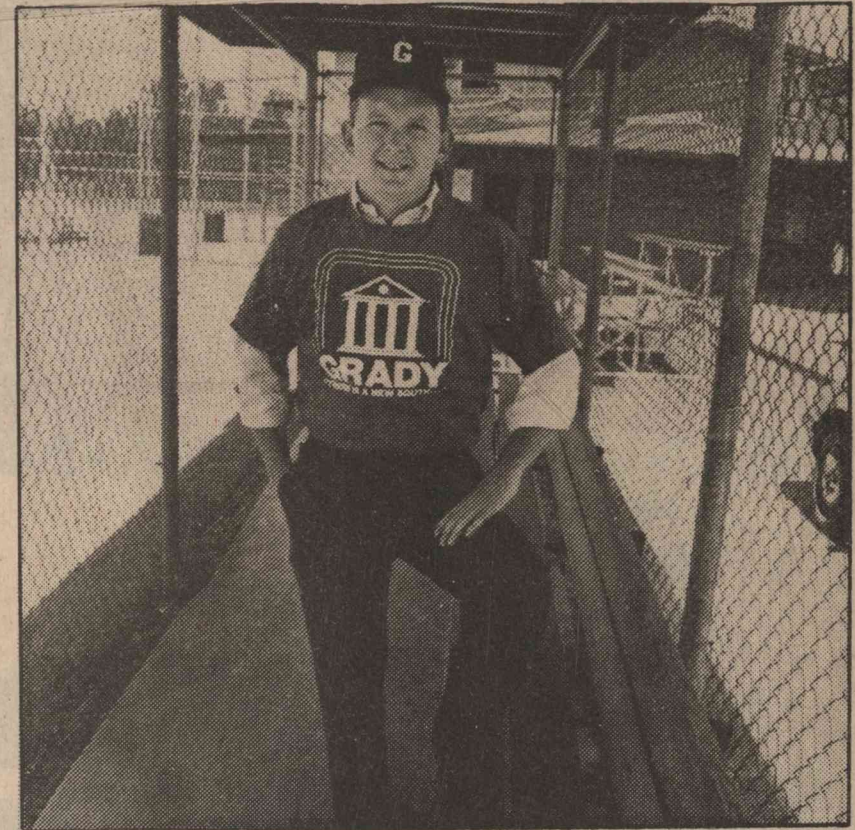
Providing the spark on the first state champions was Elmer Davis, Randolph Wimberly, Pat Ward, Earl Baggett, Lewis Gainey, Robert Long and many others. His final group of state champions in 1973 included such performers as Scottie Akins, Melvin Ray and Snake Willis.

Cairo has also won region titles in girl's track (1981, 1986, 1988), boy's cross country (1970-74, 1985, 1988), girl's cross country (1986-88) and golf in 1977. Cairo had an individual region golf champion in Neil Barnhill in 1988.

Under the direction of Athletic Director and Head Football Coach Ralph Jones, Cairo is starting to get that winning tradition and pride back in all areas of the local sports scene. Before Jones took over the reins at Cairo, the Syrupmakers finished the running for the 1987-88 region All-Sports trophy in sixth place out of an eight team field. Under his leadership, Cairo finished fourth out of a nine school field, improving from 47 points the previous year to 67½ this time around.

Helping supply Cairo High with quality young athletes is Washington Middle School. With Joe Caldwell, Stan Shepard, Brenda Weaver, Scott Starr and Tim Helms providing encouragement, Washington Middle school has seen a rebirth of enthusiasm on the football field (90 people out for the team) and on the hardwood (boys posted a 12-0 record). This kind of participation is what any school system needs to develop an overall winning sports program.

The progress is already showing at Cairo as the track is undergoing a renovation. They are in the process of adding new lights and an irrigation system to their football sta-



Staff Photo — Greg Bryant

RECREATIONAL OUTLET — Cairo: Grady County Administrator Mike Stephenson sports Grady County's new logo on a T-shirt he designed. His cap, with a "G", further denotes Stephenson's allegiance, as he stands in the dugout of Barber Park, the county's recreational complex on Longbranch Church Road. Land for the park was donated to the county by the W.T. Barber Family in the late 1970s. The complex, which has been described as one of the state's best, consists of four ballfields, a concession stand, a children's park, county recreation department offices and a parking area. Construction is about to begin on tennis courts at the site, which is equipped with lighting for nighttime events. The park, which opened in the early 1980s, has undergone several stages of development.



Staff Photo — Greg Bryant

1988-89 CAIRO SYRUPMAIDS — (top row, L-R) Assistant Coach Joe Kelly, Debbie Ray, Adrienne Adams, Tosha Mobley, Sonya Brown, Marier Butler, Coach Lucy Baker; (middle row) Yushondia Evers, LaDalida Sanford, Yolanda Ash, DeAndre Currin; (bottom row) Nicki Crawford, Evelyn James and Robin Maxell.



Where are they now?

THIS YEAR MARKS THE 70th anniversary of the 1946 state championship won by the Cairo High School Syrupmakers. As part of the upcoming celebration, organizers are reaching out in hopes of making contact with all of the 1946 football team members and cheerleaders who are still living. If you were involved or know the contact information for those who were, contact Jack Drew or Linda Drew Johnson at (229) 977-0343.

9-21-2016

Groundbreaking held for new College and Career Academy

► ACADEMY, from Page A1

governor made the same prediction for the new Cairo High School College and Career Academy.

He shared a story with the audience of another Georgia school district, which is already home to a College and Career Academy. The region school district officials were arguing over whose responsibility it was to fund the transporting of students to the academy. "I told them that if they remained committed to this, it would land them an economic development deal. Six months later they landed a very, very large manufacturing company," Cagle said.

Georgia's 11th lieutenant

governor made the same prediction for the new Cairo High School College and Career Academy.

Not only is Cagle optimistic about the impact the new College and Career Academy can have on economic development, but he also said the impact on local students would be even greater.

The lieutenant governor told the audience about the experience of a young woman in Athens who had contemplated dropping out of school. Once she began attending the College and Career Academy, the young woman became excited about her future and her continued education.

"Jasmine had opportunities she otherwise would not have had. Now, she has plans to continue her education at Georgia State University with the goal of becoming a lawyer," he said.

Cagle shared other success stories from other College and Career Academies in the state.

He predicted that if the school district and community continued their commitments to the College and Career Academy, "you will see an economic explosion in this region of the state."

During Thursday's groundbreaking, Grady County School Superintendent Dr. Kermit Gilliard and College and Career Academy

CEO Todd Gainous both paid tribute to former local educators whose work paved the way for the new project to become a reality. Those recognized educators included former superintendents Dr. Tommy Pharis, the late Lee M. Bailey and former Cairo High School principal David McCurry, who attended Thursday's groundbreaking.

Special recognition was paid to the Grady County Archway Partnership and the involvement of former Archway professional Sharon Liggett and current Archway professional Betsy McGriff.

Others who spoke Thursday were CHS Principal Chris Lokey, Southern Re-

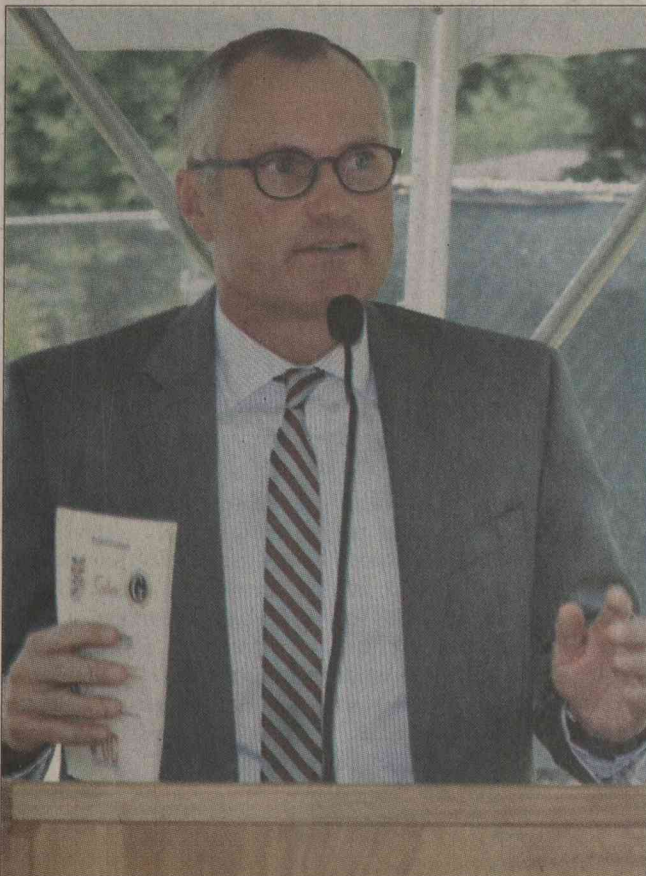
gional Technical College President Dr. Craig Wentworth, Technical College System of Georgia Executive Director Mark Peevy, State Representative Darlene Taylor and State Senator Dean Burke.

CHS cheerleaders greeted guests and distributed programs to those in attendance. The new pastor of Eastside Baptist Church, the Rev. Andrew Donaldson, presented the invocation. CHS Assistant Principal Chief (Ret.) Andrew Jones pronounced the benediction.

Following the groundbreaking ceremony, school officials treated the audience to a reception inside the

lobby of the CHS gymnasium.

The new facility, which is scheduled to open for the 2017-2018 school term, is being constructed by PDC Construction Inc., of Bainbridge at a contracted price of \$5,094,225. The Grady County School System was awarded a \$3.15 million grant from the state for the College and Career Academy project and the remainder is being funded with proceeds from the Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax.



GEORGIA LT. GOV. CASEY CAGLE said the creation of a College and Career Academy here could spur an economic explosion for the region.



A PORTION of the crowd that attended last Thursday's official groundbreaking of the new Cairo High School College and Career Academy.



FORMER STATE REPRESENTATIVE Dr. Eugene Maddox welcomes Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle to Grady County last Thursday.



LAST THURSDAY while the lieutenant governor was in town, Steve and Stacey Croy of The Croy Group treated Cagle and the Grady County commissioners to lunch. The group also toured Tired Creek Lake. Shown are, l-r, Grady County Commission Chairman Charles Norton, Commissioner Ray Prince, Steve Croy, Stacey Croy, Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle, and Commissioner Elwyn Childs.



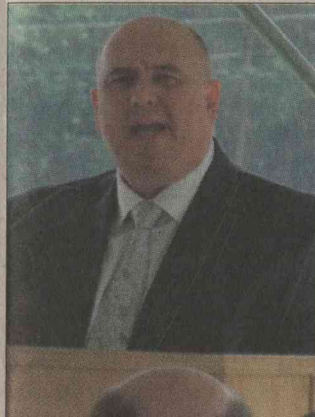
**College and Career Academy CEO
Todd Gainous**



Senator Dean Burke



Supt. Dr. Kermit Gilliard



**Cairo High School
Principal Chris Lokey**



**State Representative
Darlene Taylor**



I want to give a heartfelt thanks to all of the voters in Grady County who voted on May 24th. I am pleased with the outcome, and looking forward to the runoff on July 26th. Thank you for your support!

**RYAN
CLEVELAND**

FOR SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE

**EARLY VOTING
BEGINS JULY 5TH
RUN OFF ELECTION
JULY 26TH**

Please Join Us For Worship and a Patriotic Celebration!
Everyone is welcome!

Stars & Stripes
Russell Maudin's

**Cairo
First United
Methodist
Church**
318 South Broad Street

**July
3**

Sunday 10:45 am
Songs of Faith and Country

Cagle helps break ground for College and Career Academy

Braving a blistering sun and donning a red & black hard hat emblazoned with the Cairo High School logo, Georgia Lieutenant Governor Casey Cagle led a group of state and local officials in officially breaking ground for the new CHS College and Career Academy Thursday.

Cagle told the large crowd in attendance that the Grady County School System is "transforming education" with the addition of the College and Career Academy.

"I've had the privilege of traveling the world and meeting with top CEOs. Nat-

urally, we discuss incentives, but the conversations always pivot back to if we can guarantee them a trained workforce," the lieutenant governor said.

He said the new College and Career Academy will play an integral role in economic development and will serve as a conduit between public education and business.

Cagle, who launched the Georgia College and Career Academy Network and credits it as his foremost legisla-

► See **ACADEMY**, Page A12



GEORGIA LT. GOV. CASEY CAGLE, center, was joined by general contractor Doug Young of PDC Construction Inc., of Bainbridge, architect Greg Smith, Technical College System Executive Director Mark Peavy, Grady County School Superintendent Dr. Kermit Gilliard, State Representative Darlene Taylor, (Cagle), Senator Dean Burke, Grady County Board of Education Chairman Laura Register, Cairo High School Principal Chris Lokey, and College and Career Academy CEO Todd Gainous in officially breaking ground for the new Cairo High School College and Career Academy last Thursday.

Progress is being made on school system projects

Lt. Gov. Cagle set to attend groundbreaking for new facility

Randolph H. Wind
Editor & Publisher

Progress continues to be made on major construction projects within the Grady County School System, according to Superintendent Dr. Kermit Gilliard.

However, some projects are moving along faster than others, he reports.

Barber Contracting Company of Moultrie officials are now saying the renovation of the Southside Elementary School auditorium will not be completed until mid-July.



CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS were executed by, l-r, Grady County Board of Education Chairman Laura Register, Grady County School Superintendent Dr. Kermit Gilliard and PDC Construction Inc., President Doug Young following a called school board meeting on May 13.

Previously, the projections had been the work would be finished this month.

Superintendent Gilliard says he has visited the construction site on numerous

occasions and reports he is pleased with the work.

City of Cairo public works crews have completed construction of a retention pond on the southeast end of the Cairo High School campus. Now, all that remains to be done is to install pipe connecting the pond to the city's stormwater drainage system.

"We appreciate the partnership with the City of Cairo. They have been invaluable to us on all of our construction projects. Public Works Director Raymond Stokes in particular has saved the system a lot of money and time," Dr. Gilliard said.

Work is expected to ramp up on the construction of the new College and Career Academy on the southwest end of the CHS campus and on the new facilities at Southside Elementary School.

Georgia Lt. Governor Casey Cagle is tentatively scheduled to attend an official groundbreaking for the College and Career Academy on Thursday, June 23 at 1 p.m., Dr. Gilliard reported this week.

A contract with PDC Construction Inc., of Bainbridge was executed May 13 for \$5,094,225 for the College and Career Academy building. Site work is underway and the school superintendent expects foundation work will be underway when the groundbreaking is held later this month.

Site work also continues at Southside where the "ABC Project," which includes new classrooms to replace those in the original structure that will be razed as well as a new two-story administrative building.

According to Dr. Gilliard, the downstairs of the new administrative building will include three Pre-K classrooms, a school nurse's office, a conference room, and office space for the principal, receptionist and bookkeeper. The upstairs will have space for eight classrooms.



SITE WORK is underway for the new College and Career Academy facility being built just south of the NJROTC building. A groundbreaking ceremony featuring Lt. Governor Casey Cagle is tentatively set for Thursday, June 23 at 1:30 p.m.



CONSTRUCTION AT SOUTHSIDE for the new administrative building and classrooms is expected to ramp up in the next few weeks.



THIS RETENTION POND on the Cairo High School campus was constructed in partnership with the City of Cairo public works department. The new pond will retain storm water from the school's new College and Career Academy facility and release it into the stormwater drainage system. **THESE PIPES** are yet to be installed that will connect the retention pond to the city's stormwater drainage system.



Additional classrooms will be included in a new wing and the plans call for a new media center. The existing media center will be converted into cafeteria space that will allow for the kitchen area of the existing cafeteria to be expanded.

CGM Construction Company LLC of Colquitt is the general contractor on the Southside ABC project. The contract for this project is \$4,925,000.

Both the College and Career Academy and the Southside ABC project will be completed in June 2017.

"We will be opening the 2017-2018 school term in these new buildings," Dr. Gilliard said.



WORK IS PROGRESSING in the lobby of the newly renovated Southside auditorium. A staircase in the background leads from the lower level to the balcony. An identical staircase is located on the opposite side of the building. At left is an elevator shaft for a new elevator that will provide access to the balcony level.

Cairo Messenger

WWW.CAIROMESSENGER.COM

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2016



THE THOMAS COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM honored the late Lee M. Bailey by naming the Prep Academy at Thomas County Central High School after him. Members of the Bailey family on the front row listen as Thomas County School Superintendent Dr. Dusty Kornegay addresses the crowd at the dedication ceremony held Sunday in Thomasville. Bailey's father, Dr. Bill Bailey, is shown at right with his back to the camera.

New school facility named after the late Lee M. Bailey

Randolph H. Wind
Editor & Publisher

Colleagues, friends and family of Lee M. Bailey gathered in Thomasville Sunday to pay tribute to the former Grady County school superintendent and Thomas County Schools and Thomasville City Schools administrator.

Bailey died Nov. 9, 2015, mere months after having retired as the Grady County School superintendent on June 30, 2015.

On Sunday, Thomas County Schools officially named the school system's prep academy the "Lee M. Bailey Prep Academy" during an afternoon ceremony.

The program featured educators who had worked with Bailey both in Grady and Thomas counties.

Grady County School Superintendent Dr. Kermit Gilliard told the audience that Bailey's impact on Grady County Schools will "span generations."



THE LEE M. BAILEY FAMILY is shown with the plaque designating the Lee M. Bailey Prep Academy. Pictured are, l-r, son-in-law and daughter Hunter and Emily Aldrich; wife Cecelia M. Bailey; Thomas County School Superintendent Dr. Dusty Kornegay; and Bailey's son and daughter-in-law Brian and Ashley Bailey. Other family members in attendance at the Sunday ceremony in Thomasville were Bailey's father Dr. Bill M. Bailey and his sister and brother-in-law Lynn and Mark Weigly.

Dr. Gilliard credited Bailey with advocating for the new Cairo High School College and Career Academy, the largest school construction project here in decades, as well as the

new construction at Southside Elementary School.

Bailey was also instrumental in the decision to renovate the historic Southside auditorium,

which was formerly the Cairo High School auditorium and the site of high school graduation for generations of local residents.

"He told me on more

► See BAILEY, Page A12

CHS CLASS OF 1956

40TH REUNION

AUGUST 10, 1996

Compiled by:
Marilyn Williams Joyner
P. O. Box 131
Cairo, Georgia 31728

BROAD STREET 1956-1996
EAST SIDE

THEN

Barber Shop - Bennett's
behind: Byron Sanders Garage

Burrough's Furniture

Belk's

Cairo Furniture

Smith's Feed & Seed

Kate & Elmer's Fashionette

Kramer's

McClenney Furniture

Bulloch's Grocery

Joe Poller's - Stripe Store

Jake Poller's

Cairo Banking Company

Lorenzo's

Trend Shop

Wight Hardware

Wight & Brown Drugstore

Style Shop

Wilbur Wood - upstairs

Cairo Pharmacy

Dixieland 5¢ & 10¢

Dr. H.L. Cheney - upstairs

Edwin Carlisle, Attorney - upstairs

Cain & Smith, Attorneys - upstairs

H.R. Rushin's Dry Goods

Collins Dry Good

Ben Mauldin & ML Mayes Insurance - upstairs

He-Po Gas Inc.

Cairo Library

S&L Furniture

Hillcrest Florist

Courthouse

Eskew's Service Station

Service Station

NOW

General Dollar

Allied

Radio Shack

Henry Hayes Insurance

Kate & Elmer's

Sgt. Pepper Menswear

Park

Sue's Alley

Merle Norman Cosmetics

Blough Tech Computers

Lorenzo's

Quality Home Care

First Franklin Financial

Massey-Ledo Designs

Deli-by-the-tracks

Ponder's Insurance

J&J Carpets

Consolidated Loan Co.

Board of Education

Offender Management

Courthouse

Roddenbery Library

Why Syrupmakers?

Now that you've asked, this is the way it was

(Editor's Note: Those who are not aware that, at one time, hundreds of Grady County farmers grew sugar cane and produced syrup from it; that Cairo was the nation's second largest market for pure Georgia cane syrup; and that a Dept. of Agriculture sugar cane experiment station was located here for many years, often ask how the Cairo High School sports teams came to be identified as "Syrupmakers" and later "Syrupmaids."

The community's long involvement in the production, processing and marketing of syrup is the "why" of it. We hope the following information, mostly from Messenger files, can set the record straight as to how.)

Cairo High School's first football team was fielded in 1922, a year after the high school added an eleventh grade, earned accreditation and built a new school building for all grades (now Southside Elementary School) to replace an earlier two-story brick building that had burned.

That first-year team defeated Havana, also a first-year team, twice; lost to Thomasville, Havana and Pelham, another first-year team, once; and lost to Plunkett School for Boys in Thomasville twice.

The first published mention of a nickname for the new football team appeared in the Cairo School News column in the October 19, 1923, issue of The Messenger, the report stating, "Showing a decided improvement over any game they have played this year, the Cairo Tigers romped on the Plunkett School lads to a tune of 12-0."

The team was still the Tigers in 1928, as far as the CHS student body was concerned, a Cairo School News report about the

ball."

The September 13, 1929, Cairo School News column reported in an article written by Jack Wood, "Every afternoon from 3 o'clock until the shades of nightfall, big tigers and little tigers pass and kick the old pigskin around until they have weary arms and legs."

Washington High Notes in the September 27, 1929, issue of The Messenger reported, "The Washington High Tigers' have elected Howard Williams as captain; noted that the first game would be with Douglass High School in Thomasville on October 3, with other games to follow against Bainbridge, Pelham Valdosta, Moultrie, Quincy, Tallahassee and Georgia Normal in Albany; and stated that a big social was planned before the first game with music to be provided by the Syrup City Ramblers."

The October 4, 1929, Messenger mentioned the Cairo High School Tigers in both a news article on preparation for the game with Pelham and an editorial stressing that the Tigers needed community support.

Messenger game accounts in the next three issues called the CHS team the "Tigers," as did the Cairo High School News column of October 11.

But, in the November 1, 1929, issue, The Messenger reporter wrote, "The Cairo High School 'Syrup Makers' were put in first place in the Southwest Georgia Conference when the Valdosta-Cairo game was ordered forfeited to Cairo by Valdosta because of the use of ineligible players."

In that same issue, in the Cairo School News column, Jack Perkins referred to the Cairo

basketball games during these early years.

It seemed for a while early in the 1932 season that "Syrup Makers" had lost favor with the writer of Messenger news reports on football games, "Cairo High gridders," "CHS team," and "Cairoites" seeming to be preferable identifications through the first four games.

In the October 14 issue of The Messenger, however, it was reported, "The Wildcats of Valdosta High and the Syrup Makers of Cairo High are set for their annual football game to be played in Cairo at 3 p.m. Friday. Business houses are to close during the game and a large crowd is expected to see it."

Writers of the Cairo School News column remained loyal to "Tigers" in their reporting on football news during 1932.

By 1934, the use of "Syrup Makers" had become commonplace in Messenger reports of football games. There was no "School News Column" published in The Messenger during 1934, but it is in order to assume that "Tigers" was still the official name of Cairo High School athletic teams for several more years after 1932 because class rings as late as 1939 featured a tiger.

All of the above record of this metamorphosis of the Cairo High School Tiger into the Cairo High School Syrupmaker is based on published information and hard evidence. What follows is based on recollection.

*It has been remembered that West Thomas, a member of the CHS Class of 1939 before he became a long-time Syrupmaker football coach, wore a class ring with a Tiger on it.

CAIRO MESSENGER
11-1-2000

body was concerned, a Cairo School News report about one game mentioning "Coach John Herndon and his Cairo High Tigers," and a write up of the Cairo-Pelham game identifying the "Tigers."

But "Tigers" was mentioned sparingly in the regular Messenger news reports of games published in 1928, the writer referring, instead, to the "Cairo High eleven," "Cairo gridgers," "Cairo team" or "the Cairoites." For example, the October 26, 1928, game write up noted, "The Cairo High 'eleven' threw a big scare into the Valdosta 'Wildcats' by scoring first, but the Wildcats overcame and won by 12-6."

In the Cairo School News Column published prior to that 1928 Valdosta game, the writer added another element to this identification saga, reporting, "Cairo's 'Sweet Boys' go to Valdosta Friday" (not "Syrupmakers" but it's close).

It was in The Messenger's story of the final game of the 1928 season against Carrabelle, found in the December 2, 1928, issue that the monicker, "Syrup Makers" (two words) first appeared in print. It was used only one time, with familiar references such as "team," "gridgers," and "eleven" being used more frequently.

The name of the writer of that article is unknown. Also unknown is his motivation for that lone use of "Syrup Maker" to identify a team that had been known as "Tigers" since 1923.

In 1929, the Tiger-Syrup Maker thing got a little confusing as the following items will indicate.

In the Messenger issue of August 23, 1929, (published before school opened for the term) the Washington High Notes column reported, "Real interest has been shown concerning a football team and we hope that the boys can have one and follow in the footsteps of the famous C.H.S. team. Every school in southwest Georgia wants to play Washington because we did so well in base-

school news column, Jack Perkins referred to the Cairo "Tigers" in a story about the team's defeat by Thomasville.

The November 8 Washington High Notes column reported, "The 'Tigers' are doing fine with football. This is the first time in the history of the school that we have had a team. We have played four games and lost three. They have the grit to play and are getting stronger each day. The 'Tigers' have done so well they were called to play Lincoln in Tallahassee. They lost the game by 13-0 and the most thrilling feature of the game was a completed pass of 45 yards from Brown to Sheppard."

The name "Syrup Makers" made its first appearance in the Cairo School News column in The Messenger issue of November 15, 1929, in an article written by Gordon Reddick, a member of the team. "Syrup Makers" was used again in the November 22 column, this one written by Jack Wood, another member of the team.

But in the November 29 Cairo School News column, Adeline Arline, a student, wrote, "In a game attended by more than 200 rabid Cairo fans, the 'Tigers' of Cairo defeated the Thomasville Bulldogs in Thomasville by a score of 7-6."

Carlos Cone, team captain-elect, wrote in the December 6, 1929, school news column, "The Cairo High 'Tigers' finished their football season for 1929 in a blaze of glory by defeating a strong Sylvester eleven," and, the next week Robert Lee, a team member, referred to the "Tigers" in a summary of that successful season.

Throughout the 1930 football season, those who wrote up the games for The Messenger were consistent in identifying the Cairo High School team as the Syrup Makers. Contributors to the Cairo School News column played it neutral during the year, referring simply to "team," "football squad," "Cairo High eleven."

Neither Syrup Makers nor Tigers was used in write ups of

football coach, wore a class ring with a Tiger on it and owned a "Tiger" football jacket.

*Another member of the class of 1939 says that he has a class ring that does not have a tiger on it.

*A member of the CHS class of 1941 is pretty sure her class ring featured the head of a Tiger in lieu of a stone.

*Another member of the CHS class of 1941 who played football recalls that, in the fall of 1941, the W.B. Roddenbery Co., Cairo's long-time primary processor and distributor of pure Georgia cane and blended syrups, presented the football team with red parkas with "Syrupmakers" in black across the back.

*A member of the CHS girls basketball team who graduated in 1942 remembers that she was a Syrupmaker.

From all this "remembering" it seems logical to deduce that the Cairo High School Tiger became history sometime between 1939 and 1941 and that, in the fall of 1941, "Syrupmakers" (one word) gained acceptance from one and all as the legitimate identification of Cairo High School athletic teams.

It wasn't the first time athletic teams in this area had been given a nickname associated with a vocation - the Moultrie "Packers" - having long paid homage to that community's importance as a meatpacking center.

But the "tiger" has remained a respected athletic mascot locally, even thought the CHS Tiger became a Syrupmaker. The Washington High School and Washington Consolidated High School Tigers continued to thrill their fans for another 30 years, more or less and the Washington Middle School Tigers continue to do so.

(Editor's note: We hope the above information will set the record straight and clears up any misunderstandings as to why the Syrupmakers are Syrupmakers and how they got to be Syrupmakers. If, however, you have any contrary or additional information, or can be more specific about the time of final change from Tiger to Syrupmaker, please let us know.)

Back to
School

School
**SUPPLY
LISTS**
inside!



A new school year with new opportunities

Dear Supporters of Grady County Schools:

A new school year brings new opportunities for all of us in the school system. We welcome everyone back to school and look forward to the new opportunities we will have with our students, parents and community.

We have approximately 56 new employees joining our faculties and staffs this year. They represent all departments of the school system: teachers, paraprofessionals, bus drivers, cafeteria staff, custodial staff, maintenance staff and administrators. It takes all 645 of us working together to make our system better. I encourage you to get to know our staff and to see where you can lend a helping hand. Volunteers are welcome at our schools!

Student engagement continues to be our focus in the classroom with our students. We know that student engagement will lead to student achievement. We want well rounded students when they graduate from Cairo High School. Our elementary schools provide the firm foundation our students need in order to be successful at the middle school. The middle schools provide the building blocks necessary to support the education they will receive at the College

and Career Academy to "top off" their education in Grady County Schools.

Our partnerships with ABAC at Bainbridge, Southern Regional Technical College and Thomas University allow us to offer college classes on the Cairo High School campus during the school day. Again this year, we anticipate having students graduate with Technical Certificates and Associates of Arts degrees in addition to their high school diploma.



Dr. Kermit V. Gilliard
Superintendent
of Schools

While student achievement is our main focus, student safety is also a top priority. New fencing and security doors have now been installed at each campus. We work closely with our local EMA Director and GEMA officials to ensure that our staff are trained and understand the potential dangers that face our schools today.

Parents and community members, you are vital to the success and safety of our students. You are our children's first teachers. I encourage you to stay involved in their activities, volunteer at school, join the PTO/Positive Parents/Booster Clubs, and join us for lunch or breakfast one day. Our school system is stronger because we have the support of the parents and community.

Our staff is preparing our children for

jobs yet to be invented; our teachers have the most important task of any in our county. Thank you to all of our Grady County Schools employees for the jobs you do each day to make our children's futures better.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to make a difference in your child's life.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kermit Gilliard
Superintendent

Back to School

is a publication of
The Cairo Messenger
with cooperation from
The Grady County School System

Randolph H. Wind
Editor & Publisher

Brynn Knight
Layout & Design

Jennifer Searan, Linda Lee
& Mesha C. Wind
Advertising

2018 - 2019 Grady County

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Schedule

Aug. 14, 2018 - 6 p.m.

Sept. 11, 2018 - 6 p.m.

Oct. 9, 2018 - 6 p.m.

Nov. 13, 2018 - 6 p.m.

Dec. 11, 2018 - 6 p.m.

Jan. 8, 2019 - 6 p.m.

Feb. 12, 2019 - 6 p.m.

March 12, 2019 - 6 p.m.

April 9, 2019 - 6 p.m.

May 14, 2019 - 6 p.m.

June 11, 2019 - 6 p.m.

July 9, 2019 - 6 p.m.

The board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at the Grady County Board of Education VanLandingham Center, 203 N. Broad St., Cairo, Ga.
All meetings are open to the public.



GRADY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jeff Worsham
District 1

Robbie Chaplain - thru 12/31/18
Derrick Majors - effective 1/1/19
District 2

Laura Register
District 3

Teresa Gee Harris
District 4

John White
District 5

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Welcome Back

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School System Telephone Directory

Central Office
Main: 377-3701
Fax: 377-3437

School Nutrition
Main: 377-2513
Fax: 378-1214

Special Education: 377-7396

Maintenance: 377-2939

Bus Shop: 377-2124

Cairo High School
Main: 377-2222
Fax: 377-2812
Guidance: 377-2883
Vocational Ctr: 377-2044

Eastside
Main: 377-8441
Fax: 377-7816
Guidance: 378-1143

Northside
Main: 377-2422
Fax: 378-1133
Guidance: 378-1137

Shiver
Main: 377-2325
Fax: 377-4366
Guidance: 378-1149

Southside
Main: 377-3723
Fax: 377-5939
Guidance: 378-1116

Washington
Main: 377-2106
Fax: 377-7779
Guidance: 378-1125

Whigham
Main: 762- 4167
Fax: 762-4477
Guidance - 762-4253

NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION

The following items are required to register: Birth Certificate, Social Security Card, GA Certificate of Immunization (form 3231), GA Certificate of Ear, Eye, Dental, Nutrition Examination (form 3300), and proof of residence. Please note: if you are enrolling a child in Kindergarten, you must bring the child with you on registration day.

EASTSIDE
Wednesday, July 25
9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

NORTHSIDE
Monday, July 23
Friday, July 27
9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

SHIVER
July 30th - August 2:
8:30 AM - 2:30 PM

SOUTHSIDE
Monday, July 25-27
9:00 - 2:00 p.m.

WASHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL
Wednesday, July 25
Thursday, Aug. 2
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

WHIGHAM
Monday, July 30
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, July 31
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Grady County Schools Calendar 2018-2019

- New Teacher Orientation.....Thursday, July 26th, Van. Center @ 8:30 a.m.
- Professional DevelopmentMonday, July 30th & Tuesday, July 31st
- Teacher Pre-PlanningWednesday, August 1st & Thursday, August 2nd
- First Day Students.....Friday, August 3rd
- Labor Day Holiday.....Monday, September 3rd
- GAA Main AdministrationSeptember 4th - March 22nd
- MidtermWednesday, September 5th
- End of 1st Nine Weeks.....Friday, October 5th (45 days)
- Fall BreakMonday, October 8th - Friday, October 12th
- Teacher WorkdayMonday, October 15th
- Grades StoredTuesday, October 16th
- Report Cards Go HomeThursday, October 18th
- Teacher of the Year Announcement...Refreshments - CHS, Friday, Oct.19th - Van. Center @ 7:30 a.m.
- PSAT.....Wednesday, October 24th
- MidtermWednesday, November 14th
- Thanksgiving HolidaysMonday, November 19th - Friday, November 23th

Best Wishes!

WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR VERY BEST WISHES TO ALL GRADY COUNTY STUDENTS & STAFF ON A SUCCESSFUL NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

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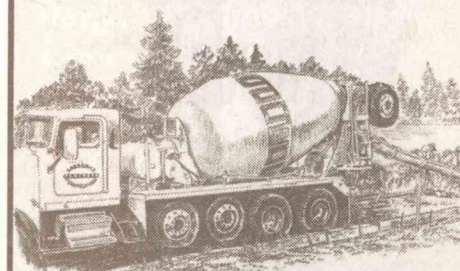
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WELCOMES BACK students & faculty

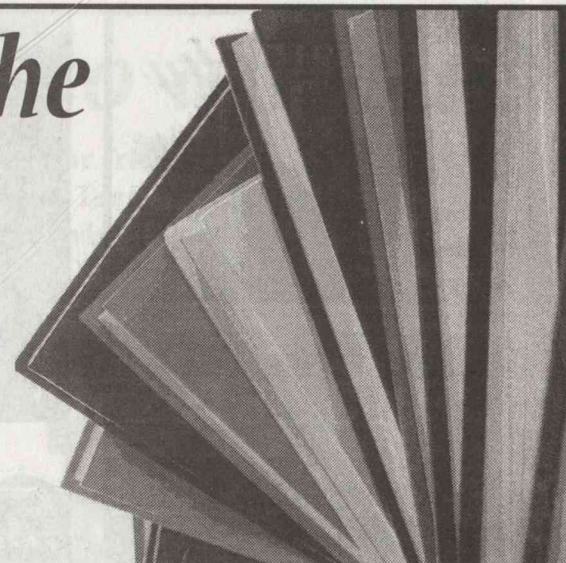


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Back to the Books!

If you study hard, you will go far!

Best of luck this school year!




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- GA Milestones Winter EOC Gr. 9 – 12December 3rd – December 14th
- End of 2nd Nine Weeks / 1st Semester / Early Release Friday, December 21st (45 days)
- Winter Break.....Monday, December 24th - Friday, January 4th
- Teacher WorkdayMonday, January 7th
- Professional Development DayTuesday, January 8th
- 2nd Semester / Students ReturnWednesday, January 9th
- Grades StoredWednesday, January 9th
- Report Cards Go HomeFriday, January 11th
- GKIDS Midyear Data CheckpointMonday, January 14th
- Martin Luther King Jr. HolidayMonday, January 21st
- ACCESS Testing WindowJanuary 16th – March 8th
- Spelling Bee – Refreshments – Shiver & Whigham.....Friday, February 1st – Van. Center @ 9:00 a.m.
- Midterm.....Friday, February 8th
- Young Georgia Authors – Refreshments – ES & NS.....Friday, March 1st – Van. Center @ 9:00 a.m.
- End of 3rd Nine WeeksThursday, March 14th (46 days)
- Teacher WorkdayFriday, March 15th
- Grades StoredMonday, March 18th

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TSRQP

- Report Cards Go Home.....Wednesday, March 20th
- Kiwanis Art Show – Refreshments – SS & WMSFriday, March 22nd –Van. Center @ 9:00 a.m.
- Voices Program.....Thursday, March 28th – CHS Aud. @ 7:00 p.m.
- Spring Break.....Monday, April 1st – Friday, April 5th
- GA Milestones Spring EOG Gr. 3-8Grades 3, 4, 6 & 7 (April 10th – 12th)
Grades 5 & 8 (April 15th – 19th)
- MidtermMonday, April 22nd
- AP Administration Window.....May 6th – 17th
- GA Milestones Spring EOC Gr. 9 – 12.....May 6th – 17th
- GKIDS Window Closes – Last Day for Data EntryMonday, May 13th
- Grades StoredTuesday, May 21st
- Report Cards Go Home.....Friday, May 24th
- End of 2nd Semester / Last Day of School / Early Release.....Friday, May 24th (44 days)
- Memorial Day HolidayMonday, May 27th
- Teacher Workday / Post-Planning.....Tuesday, May 28th
- Professional DevelopmentWednesday, May 29th

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CAIRO HIGH SCHOOL

At CHS, we are dedicated to our students

Welcome back to Cairo High School College and Career Academy for the 2018-2019 school year! I hope you had a great summer vacation and are looking forward with enthusiasm to the new school year. As the Principal of Cairo High School College and Career Academy, I am very proud to have the opportunity to work with the parents, community, teachers and students of Grady County. I am excited about all of the opportunities that Cairo High School College and Career Academy has to offer both academically and extracurricular.

As a College and Career Academy, this school year we will open our School of Fine Arts and our School of Agriculture, Trade and Industry. This year will also mark the second year of our 9th Grade Academy.

Around campus you can already hear the sounds of the Syrupmaker Band and see our Syrupmaker football team on the gridiron preparing for their first scrimmage of the year. Our Syrupmaid softball team is swinging bats and fielding balls in preparation for the upcoming season. We also will be offering a dance class this year and will open a new dance studio on campus. When our CTAE building renovation reaches completion, we will be offering a state of the art Culinary Arts training program.

Parents, I am dedicated to ensuring that your child receives the most outstanding educational experiences possible.



CAIRO HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM: l-r, CEO of Student Affairs Laura Elliott, College & Career Academy CEO Todd Gainous, Principal Chris Lokey, Assistant Principal Chief Andrew Jones, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director Tom Fallaw, Assistant Principal/9-12 Curriculum Director Tammy Donalson, and Assistant Principal Dr. Gloria Fuller.

Our mission at Cairo High School College and Career Academy is to prepare all students to graduate and be fully prepared for post-secondary education and/or careers, as well as for their roles as responsible citizens.

I encourage all parents to become involved in their child's education and to make an effort to attend our Open House, Monday, August 27, at 6 p.m. We will discuss important information and you will have the opportunity to meet your child's teachers at that time. This year, we will continue our Positive Parents Program and will appreciate your support and help with various activities throughout the year.

The Freshman Walkabout will be held

Wednesday, August 1, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Ninth grade students may pick up schedules in the front lobby that day. School begins on August 3. You will be given a student handbook on the first day of school with information concerning all procedures at CHS. We will have grade assemblies soon after the start of school to discuss in detail what will be expected of you as a student at Cairo High School.

I look forward to a great school year!

Sincerely,
Chris Lokey
Principal

Investments into CTAE facilities continues

To the students and parents of Cairo High School:

I am excited about the upcoming school year at the Cairo High School College and Career Academy. If you have passed by the campus recently, you may have seen that the Grady County Vocational Center renovation is in full swing. The renovation will be complete after Thanksgiving. The completion of these facilities will mark the beginning of a new era at Cairo High School. An era in which we have the most up-to-date Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) facilities for use in training our students for their 21st century careers.

As the Chief Executive Officer of the Cairo High School College and Career Academy, let me say welcome to all of our returning students as well as those first time ninth graders coming to the high school from Shiver Elementary School, Washington Middle School and Whigham Elementary School. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible and look forward to sharing with you the opportunities that exist at the College and Career Academy.

Through our CTAE department at CHS, we strive daily to fulfill our school's Mission Statement:

"The Mission of Cairo High School is to prepare all students to graduate and be fully prepared for post-secondary education and/or careers, as well as for their roles as responsible citizens."

In the CTAE Department we offer many opportunities for our students to learn valuable job skills as well as life skills in 15 Pathways. These Pathways are routes that students can choose to participate in so that they can learn the skills necessary to achieve gainful employment at entry

level positions in their chosen field. These Pathways include:

- Architectural Drafting and Design
- Welding
- Food and Nutrition
- Engineering Drafting and Design
- Business and Technology
- Plant and Landscape Systems
- Forestry/Wildlife Systems
- Horticulture and Animal Science
- Automobile Maintenance and Light Repair
- Web and Digital Design
- Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC)
- Early Childhood Education
- Patient Care - Certified Nurse Assistant
- Healthcare Support Services
- Mechatronics

In most of these pathways, when students complete three semesters of study, they have an opportunity to take an End of Pathway Assessment and receive a nationally recognized credential, proving that they are ready for an entry level position in their chosen field. Students also re-

ceive graduation honor cords as a pathway completer. Some of our pathways give students a chance to earn college credits for their coursework, as they are taught at the college level and

are overseen by Technical College Instructors from the Southern Regional Technical College.

I would encourage both students and parents to take a look at the CTAE pathways offered at Cairo High School and pursue a CTAE pathway while you are in high school. By completing a pathway you will receive valuable training and work opportunities that can help you discover the career that you want to pursue once you have graduated from Cairo High School. That career choice may lead you to a post-secondary college, the mili-

tary or straight to the workforce. Whichever route you decide, our CTAE Department gives you opportunities to explore some of the jobs that are in the world of work and help guide you through that decision making process.

Again, welcome back to Cairo High School College and Career Academy. The CTAE Department looks forward to working with you throughout your high school careers and wants to help you be successful while you are here.

Have a great rest of the summer and we will see you on Aug. 3.

Sincerely,

M. Todd Gainous
CEO - Cairo High School
College and Career Academy



M. Todd Gainous
CEO - Cairo High School
College & Career Academy

School's In!

Best Wishes for a Successful Year!

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Best Wishes!

Best wishes for a safe and successful 2018-2019 School Year.

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Cairo High School Dress Code 2018-2019

Cairo High School takes pride in the fact that our students present themselves in a respectable manner at all times. It is the desire of this school to prepare students for the work force or postsecondary education after graduation. Take pride in yourself and your school. Dress each day as if you were meeting your future employer. If you question the appropriateness of an outfit while getting dressed in the morning, then most likely it is not appropriate.

1. Students, both male and female, must not wear hoods, hats, caps, shower caps, combs, picks, ear buds, headphones, etc. inside the building.

2. No clothing, or other article such as bandannas or headbands, may be worn or displayed which may indicate membership in a gang. The principal or designee shall have the final say in determining if an item is gang related.

3. Clothing or accessories which advertise drugs, alcohol, tobacco or tobacco products, sex, weapons, or which contains inflammatory, vulgar or suggestive writing (slogans), pictures, or emblems shall not be worn. Emblems which are found to be offensive, cause a disturbance, or have a history of a disturbance at school will not be permitted.

4. Shirts that are sheer, showing undergarments, cut too low, have lacy inserts exposing skin, backless blouses and blouses with cutouts, razorbacks, spaghetti straps, strapless blouses and dresses, and shirts that completely

expose the shoulder and/or waistline are prohibited. Shirts, blouses and dresses must have straps that are a minimum of 2 inches in width. Females will not wear shirts, blouses and dresses that reveal cleavage. Undergarments should not be visible.

5. Skirts/dresses/rompers should be a modest length (below the fingertips/mid-thigh) all the way around. Dresses with a sheer overlay at the bottom should have a panel underneath that is below the fingertips/mid-thigh and is not see through. Slits in dresses/skirts may be no higher than fingertip length.

6. Clothing that is too tight or too loose so as to be immodest is prohibited. Leggings, tights, and other stretchy fabrics are not considered pants and must be accompanied by a fingertip length shirt all the way around. Sagging pants (worn below the waistline) shall not be permitted. All pants must be worn at the natural waistline. Belts must be worn with pants that have belt loops, and must be properly fastened.

7. Torn, cut and sloppy looking clothes are not appropriate. Jeans/pants that display disruptions in the integrity of the fabric (i.e. frayed or frayed) are prohibited. Leggings/tights under jeans do not make holes acceptable.

8. Denim or khaki type material shorts may be worn as long as they are approximately knee length. Shorts with frayed (ragged) edges are not permissible.

9. Gym shorts/mesh shorts should be worn in PE only. Students who have PE/Weight

Lifting 1st block or 4th block must be dressed appropriately when they arrive on campus and when they leave campus.

10. Sweatpants may not be worn.

11. Shoes/sandals must be worn at all times. Cleated shoes are prohibited inside the building. Sandals or any other open footwear will not be allowed to be worn in the agriculture, construction, metals and/or transportation program.

12. Outer clothing which resembles loungewear, pajamas, or underwear is prohibited. House/bedroom slippers are not acceptable.

13. Hair must be well groomed.

14. Piercings are allowed in the ears only. This applies to both male and female students.

15. Students enrolled in the Crossroads Program are required to wear red collared shirts with khaki pants.

16. All dress and grooming related issues are at the discretion of CHS administration.

CHS SUPPLY LIST

School supplies are unique to each subject and grade level. Students need only bring the basics the first day (pencil, paper, etc.). Specific supplies will be covered in each class on the first day.

Important Information from CHS

ADMINISTRATION:

Chris Lokey
Principal

Tammy Donalson
*Assistant Principal of
Curriculum & Instruction*

Dr. Gloria Fuller
Assistant Principal

Andrew Jones
Assistant Principal

Todd Gainous
*CEO College & Career Academy
CTAE Director*

Tom Fallaw
Assistant Principal, Athletic Director

Laura Elliott
*CEO of College, Career, Guidance & Student
Affairs; District Director of Performance
Evaluations*

School Colors:
Red and Black

School Motto:
"With Pride We Give Our Best"

**ANNUAL
PARKING PASS
is \$25.**

**OPEN HOUSE
August 27, 2018
at 6:00 p.m.**

**BOARD OF
DIRECTORS
of CHS/College and
Career Academy**

Marty Cannington
Laura Kelly
John Meis
Laura Brown
Otis Byrden
Fannie Johnson
Vacant

Student Discipline Code for Dress Code Violations

No student shall repeatedly violate the school dress code. Students must follow the school's accepted Dress Code Policy.

Disposition:

1st Offense: Warning
2nd Offense: Administrative Detention
3rd + Offense: 3 days ISS

NOTE: Any student that violates the school dress code that cannot contact someone to bring proper attire must sit in ISS for the remainder of the day.

Freshman Walk-About



**Wednesday, August 1
from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

POSITIVE PARENTS

Parents are encouraged to join Positive Parents. Membership will be available at Freshman Walk-About and Open House.

Welcome Back
Good luck in the 2018-2019 school year!

CAIRO
PHYSICAL THERAPY

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Reach for the Stars!

Grady County Sheriff Harry Young wishes all local teachers, staff and students the very best for a successful new school year!



Proud Supporter of Grady County Schools

Sharing our Similarities & Celebrating our Differences

Eastside Parents/Guardians & Students:

Our 2018-19 theme is "Sharing our Similarities & Celebrating our Differences." Eastside wants all students to know that they are unique and exceptional!

"We are like a box of crayons.
Each one of us is UNIQUE.
And when we get together,
Our school is complete."
-Anonymous

We will provide ongoing character education throughout the school year to teach our students how to appreciate and treat others with respect. Character education will be a key component of our Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) Program. Eastside is dedicated to ensuring that our students are successful in both academics and behavior. Eastside students will follow the Wise Owl Way: Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Safe. We are committed to maintaining a solid partnership with our parents and the community to ensure that our students have an exceptional year of learning!

It is our privilege to introduce the newest members of the Eastside Elementary School (EES) family:

Mr. William Bradford,
Physical Education/Health Teacher

Mrs. Pamela Brinson
Kindergarten Paraprofessional

Ms. Keyla Byrden
1st/2nd Grade Paraprofessional

Ms. Latoya Crawford
4th Grade ELA/Gifted Teacher

Miss Selea Devalle
Sped. Inclusion Paraprofessional

Mrs. Linda Hines
4th Grade Paraprofessional

Mrs. Llarie Michael
4th Grade Math Teacher

Mrs. Petulia Morton
1st Grade Paraprofessional

EASTSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



EASTSIDE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM: l-r, Assistant Principal Stacy Fallaw, Principal Chiquilla Wright, and Instructional Coordinator Jennifer Willis.

Miss Danielle Roach
5th Grade ELA Teacher

Mrs. Candy Welch
5th Grade Paraprofessional

The first week of school is always an adjustment for our students and parents. It is imperative that we establish and follow key procedures to ensure the safety of our EES family! We ask that you remain patient on the first week of school as our new parents learn our procedures. See the below procedures to make the first week of school more efficient for you and your family:

Arrival Procedures:

Supervision for our students will begin at 7:15 a.m. Parents are asked not to drop students off before this time due to the lack of supervision. All students who arrive between 7:15 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. must report to the cafeteria. No students will be allowed in any classrooms or hallways before 7:30 a.m.; this procedure is in place to ensure adequate supervision. After eating breakfast, students will be released to their designated areas according to grade-levels. Students in K-2nd grades will report to their assigned duty room until the bell rings at 8 a.m. Students in 3rd-5th grades will remain in the gymnasium until 8 a.m. Students who arrive after 7:30 a.m. may report to breakfast, to the appropriate duty room (K-2nd grades only), or to the gymnasium (3rd-5th grades only). PreK students who arrive before 7:30 a.m. will report to the Media Center. PreK students who arrive after 7:30 a.m. may report to their respective classrooms.

Car-Rider Dismissal Procedures:

All parents enjoy bringing and picking their students up on the first day of school. If your child

will be a bus rider for the school year, we encourage you to allow your child to ride the bus home on the first day to learn this procedure. It can often be confusing to students once they begin riding the bus home after being picked up on the first couple of days of school. Allowing them to ride the bus home on the first day will also help the bus drivers learn the students and their drop-off locations.

Parents of daily pick-up students will be issued a Car Rider Identification Tag. The Car Tag will feature an identification number specifically assigned to each student. The Car Tag must be displayed on the rearview mirror daily during pick-up. The tag should remain on the rearview mirror until your student is safely in the car. Our returning parents will maintain their same pick-up number from last year. Faculty/staff will call students to the pick-up lane according to the identification numbers. Cars without identification tags will be stopped by an EES faculty/staff member to obtain more information.

Eastside prefers for its parents to go through the pick-up lane. Parents who opt to park and walk up must remain under the covered catwalk until their child has been called. Be sure to park in nonreserved parking spaces; only park in the handicapped spaces if you have a permit. Benches are available on the catwalk for parent waiting. We must keep the lobby clear to allow teachers to get students to their dismissal locations in a timely manner. Dismissal will begin promptly at 3:00 p.m.; cars may begin lining up at 2:15 p.m. Any parents who arrive before 2:15 p.m. are welcome to park in a nearby parking space until the appropriate time to avoid crowding the driveway area.

Bus Dismissal Procedures:

Remember, if your student will ride the bus home daily, we encourage you to allow your student to ride the bus home the first day of school.

The sooner your child learns their regular schedule, the sooner he/she will adjust to school.

Bus riders will be dismissed from classes according to their bus arrival times. The first wave of bus riders will be dismissed at 3:10 p.m. and the second wave at 3:20 p.m. If you need to change your child's afternoon transportation, we ask that you call the front office before 2:00 p.m. to allow us to get the information to the appropriate teachers in a timely manner. If you must pick your child up early for an appointment, you must do so before 2:30 p.m. We will not dismiss any students after 2:30 p.m. Over seven hundred students are dismissed from EES each day; our procedures ensure that we get each student home safely. Thank you for adhering to these procedures.

During the first week or two of school, buses may be delayed due to the drivers adjusting to new students and routes. Please be patient with this process; safety is a priority for us! We do encourage all of our parents to sign up for our Bus Rider text messaging system during Open House. If you join this text messaging system, you will be alerted when buses are late throughout the school year. Please obtain a student bus label during Open House to place on your child's backpack for the first day of school. This will ensure your child arrives home safely.

Pay close attention to the information/handouts that will be sent home with your student(s) on the first day of school. Changes have occurred to the Grady County Attendance Policy. EES will be taking attendance by period. Repeated tardies or early dismissals could mean that your child is missing an entire class regularly. Let's work together to ensure that EES students make the most of each day by being present and ready to learn!

Additional procedures and helpful tips will be discussed in our Student Handbook, at our Open House, in our newsletters and handouts, and during upcoming Parent Events! We want to encourage our parents to continue completing the Title I surveys each year. The majority of our procedural changes occur based on parent input. We value your input and efforts to improve Eastside! Parents are a vital part of the Eastside Family!

We are looking forward to an exceptional year of learning!

Respectfully,

Chiquilla P. Wright, Ed. S.
EES Principal

EASTSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL VISION

To provide students, faculty, staff and parents with a safe, positive and caring environment in order to help our children meet their highest academic potential and to empower our students, faculty and staff to become "Owl" Standing leaders and lifelong learners.

Dress code for Eastside students

Students may wear capri pants, blue jeans or long pants. Appropriate length shorts, dresses and skirts are allowed. "Appropriate length" is defined by the following rule - Measure by holding arms at the side and extending fingers. Dresses, skirts and shorts should not be shorter than the bottom tip of the fingers. Pants must be worn at the waist and not sagging. A zip tie will be provided to students who are present with sagging pants/shorts. Parents may be called to bring a belt or a change of clothing.

The following clothing is prohibited:

- Baggy or sagging pants
- Leggings/jeggings may be worn under skirts and dresses
- Hats, caps, bandanas, visors, combs, picks, sunglasses
- Tank tops, muscle shirts, spaghetti strap tops or dresses
- Extremely short shorts, skirts or dresses
- Low cut and revealing blouses, undershirts, extremely tight clothing, bare midriffs,
- Backless shirts, halter outfits, bike pants or "cheer shorts"
- Graphics on clothing may not include weapons, skulls or skeletons or and other depictions of violence and/or death.
- Clothing which advertises alcohol, tobacco, drugs or other inappropriate content or inappropriate writing such as inflammatory, vulgar or suggestive slogans is prohibited.
- Pictures or emblems which are determined to be offensive or cause disruptions are not allowed.
- Clothing which has holes cut or torn above the knee is prohibited.

• No flip flops (except on designated days), bedroom shoes, skate shoes, or cleats. Shoes with backs must be worn to PE. Shoes requiring strings must be tied at all times. For safety reasons, it is advised that students wear tennis shoes or sneakers to P.E. Depending on the activity, "cros," sandals, or boots may not be appropriate and may be dangerous. Students wearing inappropriate shoes may be required to participate in alternate activities.

Hair must be well groomed. Hairstyles which cause disruptions or excessive attention are not allowed. Hair must be that of natural colored human hair, including extensions. Administrative discretion may be used in determining dress-code violations.

Body piercings other than ears are prohibited; no nose, tongues, lips, or other facial piercings allowed. Body tattoos will not be visible, whether these are permanent, "stick on," or temporary tattoos.

Extreme fads in dress apparel or grooming are discouraged and will be evaluated by the staff from time to time as to the appropriateness for school wear.

All students at Eastside are encouraged to be as clean as possible and neat in appearance. The administration reserves the right to determine appropriateness in cases not covered by this dress code.

DAILY BELL SCHEDULE

8:00 a.m. - School begins

8:05 a.m. - Tardy bell

3:00 p.m. - Car Pick up bell

3:10 p.m. - First bus bell

3:20 p.m. - Second bus bell

3:30 p.m. - All students picked up



Thursday, August 2nd

Pre-K Open House

9 a.m.-10 a.m.

Kindergarten Open House

10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

1st-5th Grade Open House

1 p.m.-3 p.m.

Eastside Elementary School 2018-2019 Supply List

Pre-K

- 1-regular sized book bag or backpack (No wheels or rollers)
- 2-bath size towels or small blanket for rest time (no oversized towels or large blankets due to limited space)
- Rest Mat (for rest time)
- A change of clothes (including underwear & socks) in a Ziploc bag to be kept @ school – ENSURE THE NAME IS ON THE BAG
- Family photo for us to keep for the school year for activities.

Donation List (optional)

- 1-box of Gallon size Ziploc bags
- 1-box of Sandwich size Ziploc bags
- 2-containers of disinfectant wipes
- 1-container of baby wipes
- 1-bottle of hand sanitizer
- 1-bottle of hand soap
- 1-box of facial tissue
- 2-rolls of paper towels

Kindergarten

- 1-regular size towel - No beach towels, No mats (for rest time)
- 1-regular sized book bag or backpack (no wheels or rollers)
- 1-bottle of hand sanitizer
- 1-bottle of liquid hand soap
- 1-box of tissues
- 1-container of disinfecting or Clorox wipes
- 1-container of baby wipes
- 1-box of quart sized Ziploc freezer bags
- 1-Box of 2.5 gallon sized Ziploc bags for nap towels

First Grade

- Book bag (No wheels or rollers)

- 1-box of quart Ziploc bags
- 1-box gallon Ziploc bags
- 1-container of Clorox or disinfecting wipes
- 1-box of tissue
- 1-bottle of antibacterial hand soap
- 1-bottle of hand sanitizer
- 2-packs of pencils
- 1-pack of glue sticks
- 1 box of crayons
- 1-pack of wide-ruled notebook paper

Second Grade

- Book bag (No wheels or rollers)
- 4-packs of Ticonderoga pencils
- 2-packs of pencil top erasers
- 2- packages of wide-ruled loose leaf notebook paper
- 2-boxes of tissue
- 1 bottle hand sanitizer
- 1-bottle of liquid soap
- 2-containers of Clorox or disinfecting wipes
- 1-container of baby wipes
- 1-box of Crayola crayons -16 count
- 2-boxes of quart sized Ziploc bags
- 2-boxes of gallon sized Ziploc bags
- 2-multi-pack glue sticks

Third Grade

- Book bag (No wheels or rollers)
- 1 - 2-inch Notebook binder (3-ring binder for subject areas)
- 3-packs of notebook paper
- 4-composition notebooks
- 1-pencil pouch (No boxes)
- 2-packs of pencils
- 2 packs of pencil top erasers
- 1-pack of Chisel Tip Highlighters
- 4-large glue sticks
- 1-container of Clorox wipes

- 2-boxes of Kleenex
- 1-box of Ziploc quart sized bags
- Crayons
- Scissors
- 2-packs of copy paper

Fourth Grade

- Book bag (No wheels or rollers)
- 2-boxes of Ticonderoga pencils (no mechanical pencils)
- One 2 inch 3-ring binder
- One 1 1/5 inch 3-ring binder
- 1-large box of Kleenex or tissue
- 1-bottle of hand sanitizer
- 1-bottle of hand soap
- 2-containers of Clorox or disinfecting wipes
- 1-box of Ziploc quart sized bags
- 4-black and white hard covered composition notebooks
- 3-packs of pencil top erasers AND large pink handheld erasers
- 1-pack of Chisel Tip highlighters
- 1-pack of dry erase markers (chisel)
- 3-packs of wide-ruled notebook paper
- 3-large glue sticks
- 1-pencil pouch (no boxes)
- Crayons
- Scissors
- 1-pack of copy paper

Fifth Grade

- Book bag (No wheels or rollers)
- 1-three-ring binder (1 in. or 1 1/2 in.)
- Notebook paper
- Pencils (no mechanical pencils)
- Pencil erasers
- Colored pencils
- Red ink pens
- 8-composition notebooks (small, black and white, hard back notebook)
- 1-box of Kleenex
- 1-bottle of hand sanitizer
- 1-container of Clorox or disinfecting wipes

This is a beginning of the year supply list. Teachers may request additional items at Open House and throughout the school year as items are needed.



EASTSIDE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

- Chiquila Wright, Principal
- Stacy Fallaw, Assistant Principal
- Jennifer Willis, Instructional Coordinator

EASTSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL VISION

To provide students, faculty, staff and parents with a safe, positive and caring environment in order to help our children meet their highest academic potential and to empower our students, faculty and staff to become "Owl" Standing leaders and lifelong learners.

SCHOOL COLORS

Red & Black

SCHOOL MASCOT

"Hootie", the Owl

SCHOOL MOTTO

"Owl" Standing Teaching, Learning and Leading Today for a Wiser Tomorrow!"

2018-19 Theme

Sharing our Similarities & Celebrating our Differences!

EASTSIDE PTO

We encourage our parents to become a part of the PTO Team! Information regarding volunteer opportunities will be sent home with your child on the first day of school and throughout the school year! For more information on how you can serve the students of Eastside, please see Mrs. Wright (Principal), Mrs. Fallaw (Asst. Principal) or Mrs. Willis (Instructional Coordinator)

EASTSIDE SCHOOL COUNCIL

Teacher Representative:

Ms. Martissa Moore, Teacher of the Year

Parent Representatives:

- Mrs. Trista Prater
- Mrs. Angela Mitchell
- Miss Susan Sweat

Community Representative:

TBA

The Eastside School Council meets once per nine weeks.

First Meeting: TBA



Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) Expectations
 LEARNING THE WISE OWL WAY (WOW):
 BE RESPECTFUL, BE RESPONSIBLE

EASTSIDE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT TEAM

Chiquila Wright
Principal

Stacy Fallaw
Assistant Principal

Jennifer Willis
Instructional Coordinator

Kasie Singletary
Media Specialist

Melanie Stuckey
PreK

Karen Humphries
Kindergarten

Angela Mitchell
1st Grade

Martissa Moore
2nd Grade

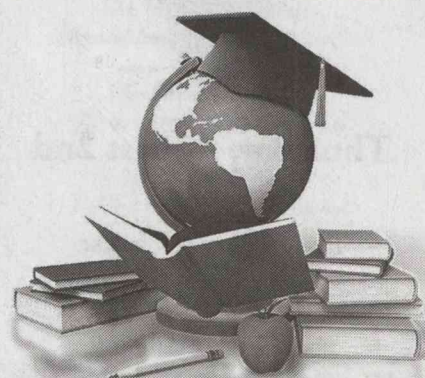
Nichole Tucker
3rd Grade

Susan Germani
4th Grade

Janet Burch
5th Grade

Angie Strickland
Special Areas

Amy Phillips
Special Education



School's In!

Welcome back
Grady County students
and faculty!

THE KEN YOUNG COMPANY, INC.
www.kenyoungco.com

147 HALLS CT,
CAIRO, GA 39828
(229) 377-9444

Northside is "Soaring with Kindness"

Dear Parents and Students,

On behalf of the staff at Northside Elementary School, I am happy to welcome you to the 2018-2019 school year! We are looking forward to a productive partnership with our parents to ensure our children can achieve their highest potential and SOAR like EAGLES.

Our Motto at Northside is "Achieving Excellence Together: Teachers, Parents, Students and Community." The theme for the 2018-2019 school year is: "Soaring with Kindness."

In order for our students to be successful, it takes faculty, staff, parents and community leaders committed to working together to support the academic, social and intellectual development of each child. By allowing all stakeholders the chance to spread their wings, Northside will SOAR like EAGLES!

Northside would like to welcome several new faculty and staff members this school year: Mrs. Monica Austin - Kindergarten Teacher; Ms. Meagan Ingram - 5th Grade Teacher; Yakarii Vance - 5th Grade Teacher; Mrs. Selena Williams - Instructional Coordinator; Terryl Cooper - Paraprofessional; Hannah Owens - Paraprofessional. We are excited about them spreading their wings and soaring with the Eagles' team.

There are a few things to remember as we get back into the swing of things.

Supervision for students will begin at 7:20 a.m. each morning. Parents are asked NOT to drop off students before this time. The school day starts at 7:55 a.m. Students need to be on

NORTHSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



NORTHSIDE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM: Instructional Coordinator Selena Williams, Principal Dr. Cheryl Larkins, and Assistant Principal Michael Singletary.

time and ready to work.

When students are absent, please remember to send a doctor's excuse or parent excuse back to school when the student returns. We will continue implementing PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions & Support) in an effort to help students with character development and building self-confidence.

Please make plans to join the Northside PTO (Parent/Teacher Organization) and parents are encouraged to attend the School Council meetings.

As we anticipate an exciting and enjoyable school year, we are grateful for the opportunity to

teach your children. Please make plans to attend Open House on Thursday, August 2, 2018, from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Once again, I am so excited to be the Principal of Northside Elementary School. We like to think that we are the best kept secret of Cairo, Georgia. Our goal is to provide our students with a safe, supportive and nurturing environment where they can spread their wings and SOAR like a true NORTHSIDE EAGLE.

Respectfully,

Dr. Cheryl Larkins,
Northside Elementary School Principal

Northside Elementary School 2018-2019 Supply List

Pre-K

- 1 Box each: Quart, Gallon, 2 Gallon Ziploc Bags
- Kleenex
- 1 Bottle Hand Sanitizer
- 1 Bottle Hand Soap
- 1 Can Lysol Spray
- Clorox Wipes
- Baby Wipes

Kindergarten

- Headphones for computers
- 1 towel for nap time
- 2 pkgs. wooden pencils with erasers
- 1 box of crayons (16 count)
- 2 boxes Kleenex tissue (for class use)
- 1 large pencil box
- 1 book bag (no wheels)
- 1 tub baby wipes
- 2 pkg. chunky pink erasers
- 1 box of qt. zip bags
- 4 glue sticks
- 2 containers Clorox wipes
- 3 rolls paper towels
- 2 bottles liquid hand soap
- Change of clothes including socks (In a Ziploc bag with name on it)

First Grade

- Headphones for computers
- 4 pkgs. #2 pencils (12 count)
- 4 Chunky, rectangle, pink erasers
- 1 Plastic pencil box
- 2 Boxes of 24 count or less crayons in box
- 4 Glue sticks
- 3 Pkg. Dry erase markers (4 count black)
- 2 Pkg. Kleenex
- Clorox Wipes

- Baby Wipes
- Book Bag (no wheels)
- 1 Box Ziploc Slider Quart bags

Second Grade

- Headphones for computers
- 2 Boxes of crayons (16 count)
- 1 Pair of scissors
- 5 Glue sticks
- 48 Pencils
- 1 Bottle each: Hand Sanitizer & Soap
- 3 Containers of Clorox Wipes
- 3 Boxes Kleenex
- 3 Pkg. Wide-Rule Notebook Paper
- 3 Composition Notebooks (1 subject wide rule)

Third Grade

- Headphones for computer
- 3 Composition notebooks (no wire)
- 3 Pkg. notebook paper
- 2 Pkg. pencils
- 1 Pkg. pencil top erasers
- 2 Large glue sticks
- Clorox Wipes
- Hand Soap
- Hand Sanitizer
- 3 Boxes Kleenex
- 1 Can Lysol
- 1 Roll Paper Towel
- 1 Box Multiplication flash cards

Fourth Grade

- Headphones for computer
- 3 Packs of 3x5 ruled Index cards
- 3 Packs of pencils
- 3 Packs of notebook paper
- 2 Binders (3 inch size)
- 2 Packs of dividers

- 1 Composition notebook
- 1 Pack of glue sticks
- 1 Pack of crayons
- 1 Pack of markers
- 1 Pack of erasers
- 1 Box of Ziploc Quart bags
- 1 Box of Kleenex

Fifth Grade

- Headphones for computer
- 3 Pkgs. Notebook Paper (wide-rule)
- 2 Pkgs. #2 pencils (non-mechanical)
- 1 Box 16 count crayons
- 1 Pkg. highlighters
- 2 Composition Books
- 1 1-1/2 in. Binder with 5 subject tabs
- 3 Pkg. Clorox Wipes
- 3 Kleenex
- 1 Bottle of each: Antibacterial Soap, Hand Sanitizer
- 1 Pkg. Primary Color Markers (8 count)
- 3 Glue sticks
- 2 Pkgs. Index cards

Thursday, August 2, 2018
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Fill Your Baskets with All A's

Ira Higdon Grocery Co.
150 IGA Way - Cairo, Georgia 39828
(229) 377-1272

Best Wishes for a Great Year!

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The formula for **SUCCESS**
is to work hard & study!
Best Wishes this school year!

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(229) 377-1901

WE SUPPORT GRADY COUNTY SCHOOLS

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Mission Statement

The mission of Northside Elementary School is to provide a nurturing environment that enables students to reach their educational potential.

Vision Statement

The Northside Elementary vision is to promote a relationship between staff, parents and students that will foster maximum learning. We strive to provide each student with a safe and nurturing environment where lifelong learning skills are constantly developed and enhanced.

NORTHSIDE PTO OFFICERS

Ms. Alexandria Stewart
President

Mrs. Elena Alexander
Parliamentarian

Mrs. Quanz Peters
Vice President

Mrs. Leila Gomez
Chaplain

Dr. Yvonne Stewart
Secretary

Ms. Rhonda Black
Fundraiser Coordinator

Mrs. Angel Baker
Treasurer

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Angel Baker
Parent Representative

Claudia Lay
Parent Representative

Cassandra Cooper
Business Representative

Arnaldo Gonzalez
Business Representative

Sherry Robinson
Teacher Representative

Bridget Williams
Teacher Representative

Dr. Cheryl Larkins
Principal



Northside Elementary School student dress code

Students may wear capri pants, blue jeans or long pants. Appropriate length shorts, dresses and skirts are allowed. "Appropriate length" is defined by the following rule: measure by holding arms at the side and extending fingers. Dresses, skirts and shorts should not be shorter than the bottom tip of the fingers. Pants must be worn at the waist and not sagging. A zip tie will be provided to students who are present with sagging pants/shorts. Parents may be called to bring a belt or a change of clothing.

The following clothing is prohibited:

- Baggy or sagging pants
- Hats, caps, bandanas, visors, combs, picks, sunglasses (except on special days when hats & sunglasses are permitted)
- Tank tops, muscle shirts, spaghetti strap tops or dresses
- Extremely short shorts, skirts or dresses
- Low cut and revealing blouses, under-shirts, extremely tight clothing, bare midriffs, Backless shirts, halter outfits, bike pants or "cheer shorts"
- Graphics on clothing may not include weapons or and other depictions of violence and/or death.
- Clothing which advertises alcohol, tobacco, drugs or other inappropriate content or inappropriate writing such as inflammatory, vulgar or suggestive slogans is prohibited.
- Pictures or emblems which are determined to be offensive or cause disruptions are not allowed.
- Clothing which has holes cut or torn above the knee is prohibited.
- No flip flops, bedroom shoes, skate shoes, or cleats. Shoes with backs must be worn to PE.
- Shoes requiring strings must be tied at all times. For safety reasons, it is advised that students wear tennis shoes or sneakers to P.E. Depending on the activity, "croc", sandals, or boots may not be appropriate and may be dangerous. On special days, students may be allowed flip flops. Students wearing inappropriate shoes may be required to participate in alternate activities.
- Hair must be well groomed. Hairstyles which cause disruptions or excessive attention are not allowed including extreme hair coloring. Administrative discretion may be used in determining dress-code violations.
- Body piercings other than ears are prohibited; no nose, tongues, lips, or other facial piercings allowed.

- Body tattoos will not be visible, whether these are permanent, "stick on", or temporary tattoos.
- Extreme fads in dress apparel or grooming are discouraged and will be evaluated by the staff from time to time as to the appropriateness for school wear.

All students at Northside are encouraged to be as clean as possible and neat in appearance. The administration reserves the right to determine appropriateness in cases not covered by this dress code.

Northside Elementary School

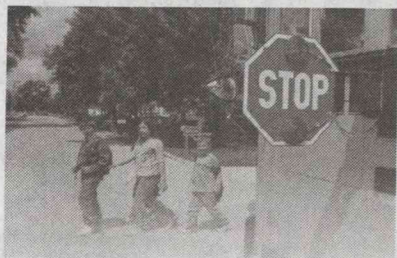
985 1st Street NW
Cairo, GA 39828
377-2422

Mascot: Eagles

Colors: Green and White

2018-2019 THEME
"Soaring with Kindness"

Let's Keep Them Safe!



We'd like to remind everyone to watch for children whenever a school bus is present. The safety of our community is more than our business—it's our purpose.

CITY OF CAIRO
MAYOR & COUNCIL

119 N. Broad Street • Cairo, GA
(229) 377-1722

Watch Out FOR KIDS!

School Is Back In Session So Please Watch Out for Students Going to and From School!

Best wishes for a wonderful 2018-2019 term



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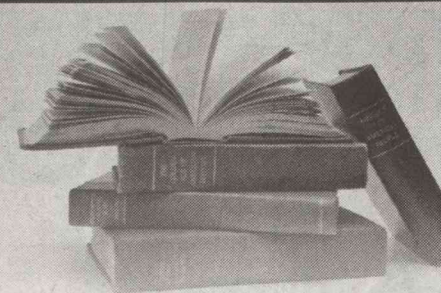
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"In a world where you can be anything, BE YOUR BEST!"

The 2018-2019 school year is upon us, and at Shiver Elementary School, we are certain it will be our BEST year yet! The Shiver Elementary School faculty and staff are looking forward to a very special year for students, parents, teachers, and all stakeholders who make up our Shiver School family. This year's school-wide theme is, "In a world where you can be anything, BE YOUR BEST!"

Last year's school theme, "In a World Where You can be Anything . . . BE KIND," was based on The New York Times Best-Selling novel, "Wonder," by R.J. Palacio. Shiver faculty, staff and students embraced this theme and it became more than words around which teachers decorated our hallways and classrooms. It became our school's culture. We were so touched by the book's message and characters and the positive impact it had on our Shiver family that our staff decided to adapt and expand last year's theme for the 2018-2019 school year.

Our Shiver Family will not only focus on "Choosing Kindness" as we did in 2017-2018, but we will choose to "BE OUR BEST" by focusing on additional qualities such as empathy, respect, love and perseverance which also exemplify some of the positive character traits that we strive to have our students see in us as administrators and as a faculty/staff.

Based on research, we believe that teaching positive character traits improves student out-

SHIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



SHIVER ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM: I-r, Instructional Coordinator Erin Simpson, Principal Todd Jones and Assistant Principal Leigh Stalvey.

look, behavior and academic performance. At Shiver School, we foster an atmosphere of support, love and perseverance and truly feel that our 2018-2019 school theme exemplifies and continues to improve our school culture. It is important to all stakeholders at our school that we create an atmosphere where students exceed in learning while developing bonds of friendship and a sense of community that will last a life-

time.

At Shiver School, we will offer our children the best academic environment possible. Our goal is for each student to exceed his or her academic expectations. We strive to produce students who will be productive citizens who have a desire to go above and beyond in everything they do. Students at Shiver School will be recognized for their outstanding achievements in academic

and exploratory classes, as well as their commitment to positive behavior.

We will be welcoming two new faculty members to our Shiver family this year. Mrs. Brittney Heard will be transferring from Scott Elementary School in Thomasville, Ga. She will be teaching 5th grade Math. Mrs. Heard brings 8 years of experience to our staff, as well as a Specialist Degree in Brain-Based Teaching. Mr. Alan Collins will be teaching our Agriculture Education classes. He comes to us from Mitchell County High School where he has been the Young Farmer Adviser there for the past 6 years. Mr. Collins has 12 years of experience as an educator. Our faculty

and staff look forward to welcoming both Mrs. Heard and Mr. Collins to our Shiver family this year.

Several faculty members will be taking on exciting new challenges in different positions for the 2018-2019 school year. Mrs. Amelia Faircloth will be moving to a 1st grade teaching position. Mrs. Marsha Green will be teaching Pre-K this year. Mrs. Cile Teehee will be joining our 7th grade team as the 7th grade Social Studies teacher. Mrs. Raenelle Boyd will be taking on a new role as our Computer teacher. Also, we are excited to announce the addition of Art Classes at Shiver School! Mrs. Paige Elkins will be join-

ing our team of exploratory teachers in the new Art teacher position.

As always, we anticipate the opening of school with a renewed sense of excitement. We are grateful for the opportunity to teach the children of Grady County as we strive to "BE OUR BEST" during the 2018-2019 school year and beyond. We look forward to seeing you at Open House on Thursday, August 2, from 4-6 p.m.

Sincerely,
Todd Jones
Principal

Shiver School student dress code for 2018 - 2019

No student shall repeatedly violate the school dress code. Students must follow the school's expected Dress Code Policy. Shiver School expects students to be well-groomed. Clothing should be appropriate for the occasion, in good taste and in good condition. Extremes in dress are considered in poor taste and will result in parents being contacted to bring appropriate clothing. Students may be removed from class or sent home at which time his/her absences will not be excused.

The principal has the final authority of what should/should not be worn.

No Leggings, jeggings or clothes that are so tight they are immodest.

Sagging pants (worn below the waistline) shall not be permitted. All pants must be worn at the natural waistline. Parents will be called to bring a belt or the school will use a zip tie to keep pants up.

Outer clothing that resembles lounge wear, pajamas or underwear is prohibited. See-through clothing is prohibited. All clothing must be worn with appropriate undergarments.

Clothing which has holes cut or torn above the knee is prohibited.

No spaghetti straps, tank tops, muscle shirts, halter-tops, backless blouses, strapless blouses/dresses may be worn. Females wearing sleeveless tops must make sure the shoulder strap measures at least three finger widths. Sleeveless tops are prohibited for males.

No midriff may show below the blouse or T-shirt. Excessively low cut clothing is not allowed. No cleavage should show above neckline of garment. 4th-8th Grades: Shorts must be MIDTHIGH. Dresses with or without leggings/jeggings must be KNEE-LENGTH.

Sweat pants, warm-up pants and bike shorts are

prohibited.

Jr. High students may not wear gym shorts.

PK- 5th Grade: Shoes/sandals with backs must be worn at all times.

6th -8th Grades: May wear slip-on sandals/shoes without backs.

Cleated shoes or bedroom shoes are prohibited for all students.

ALL STUDENTS MUST WEAR TENNIS SHOES DURING PHYSICAL EDUCATION. Clothing shall not be worn which advertises alcohol, tobacco products, sex, or which contains inflammatory, vulgar or suggestive writings (slogans), pictures or emblems.

Students must not wear or bring hats, caps, visors, sunglasses, combs, picks, etc. inside the building. Teachers have the right to prohibit these items in their classroom. Hoodies are not worn in buildings.

Hair must be well groomed and not distracting. Extreme hairstyles will not be allowed.

No clothing or other articles such as bandannas may be worn or displayed which may indicate membership in a gang.

Neither male nor female students may wear ornaments (jewelry) that pierce the skin other than in the ears.

Back to the Books

It's that time of year Grady County! Our local schools are preparing to open and thousands of students will return to the classroom. Please pay extra attention in both the morning and afternoon for those walking to and from school as well as those entering and exiting busses. Let's all work hard to make it a safe, successful school year!

We are especially proud of our relationship with Grady County schools. Go Makers! #makerbucks

Now that's "Your Kind of Bank"!

FIRST NATIONAL BANK | 600 N. Broad St. Cairo, GA 229-377-3543

Member FDIC

Welcome Back!

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Cairo, GA 39828
(229) 377-7925

Grady Finance Co.

Welcome back
students and faculty

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Cairo & Grady County
Since 1983

Shiver Elementary School Supply List 2018-2019

Pre-K

- 3 boxes of Clorox wipes
- 1 box of Kleenex
- 2 boxes of baby wipes
- 2 cans of Lysol Spray
- 1 bottle of Germ-X
- 1 box of band-aids
- 1 book bag
- 1 box of ziploc Bags (Sandwich & Gallon size)
- 1 towel
- *No rest mat

Kindergarten

- 1 rest mat & towel
- 2 glue sticks
- 2 large pink erasers
- 1 box of Kleenex
- 1 box of baby wipes
- 2 containers of Clorox wipes
- 1 bottle of hand sanitizer
- 1 box of Ziploc bags gallon size
- 1 box of Ziploc bags quart size
- 1 pack of copy paper
- 1 pack of pencils

1st Grade

- 1 box gallon size Ziploc bags
- 1 box quart size Ziploc bags
- 2 boxes of tissues
- 1 box of colored pencils
- 2 pkgs. of Clorox wipes
- 2 pkgs. of Pearl erasers
- 1 box of baby wipes
- 1 pkg. of crayons (16 count)
- 2 bottles of hand sanitizer

- 1 hand held pencil sharpener
- 1 pair of scissors
- 1 pencil box
- 2 pkgs. of copy paper

2nd Grade

- 1 pkg. of #2 pencils
- 1 pkg. of crayons
- 2 boxes of tissues
- 1 pencil pouch/bag
- 1 (3 pack) of Clorox wipes
- 2 boxes of baby wipes
- 1 bottle of hand sanitizer
- 2 pkgs. of copy paper
- 1 box of Ziploc bags

3rd Grade

- 2 pkgs. of wide ruled notebook paper
- 2 pkgs. of pencils
- 2 highlighters
- 2 boxes of tissues
- 2 boxes of Clorox wipes
- 1 bottle of hand sanitizer
- 2 pkgs. of Expo Dry Erase Markers
- 1 box of quart Ziploc bags
- 2 pkgs. of white copy paper
- 1 bottle of Elmer's glue
- 1 Composition Notebook
- 1 (1 1/2") Ring Binder
- 1 pack of Multiplication Fact Cards

4th Grade

- 2 pkgs. of pencils
- 3 pkgs. of wide ruled notebook paper
- 1 (1 1/2 in.) 3-ring binder

- 1 plastic duo-tang folder with prongs
- 1 pack of white copy paper
- 1 pencil pouch
- 4 composition notebooks
- 2 highlighters
- 2 pkgs. of Scotch tape
- 2 boxes of tissue
- 1 box of quart size Ziploc bags
- 2 boxes of Clorox wipes
- 1 bottle of hand sanitizer
- 1 pair of earbuds

5th Grade

- 2 pkgs. of wide ruled notebook paper
- 2 pkgs. of pencils
- 1 pkg. of pencil top erasers
- 1 box of tissue
- 1 box of baby/wet wipes
- 1 box of Clorox/Lysol wipes
- 1 bottle of hand sanitizer
- 3 bound composition books
- 2 highlighters
- 2 folders with pockets & fasteners
- 1 (1.5 in.) 3-ring binder
- 2 packages of Scotch tape
- 1 pkg. of white copy paper
- 1 pkg. of colored pencils
- 1 pkg. of Elmer's glue sticks

6th Grade

- 1 duo tang folder with prongs
- 1 3-Ring Binder (1 1/2")
- 1 bottle of hand sanitizer
- 2 boxes of tissue
- 2 boxes of # 2 pencils
- 1 box of Clorox wipes/Baby Wipes

- 1 box of baby or wet wipes
- 1 box of colored pencils
- 3 composition notebooks
- 2 pkgs. of Scotch tape
- 2 pkgs. of Notebook paper
- 1 pkg. of white copy paper
- 1 pack of 3x5 index cards
- 1 box quart size Ziploc Bags

7th Grade

- 2 pkgs. of #2 pencils/Pencil Erasers
- 4 pkgs. of notebook paper
- 2 (2 in.) 3-ring binder
- 1 (1 1/2 in.) 3-ring binders
- 2 composition notebooks
- 3 sets of plastic dividers with pockets
- 1 pkg. of colored pencils
- 2 pkgs. of copy paper
- 1 pencil pouch
- 3 boxes of tissues
- 1 bottle of hand sanitizer
- 1 container of Clorox wipes
- 2 pkgs. of Scotch tape
- 1 box of Ziploc sandwich bags

8th Grade

- 2 boxes of pencils
- 1 box of tissue
- Clorox wipes
- Copy Paper
- 1 package of Notebook Paper
- 4 (2in.) 3-ring binder
- 4 Composition Notebooks
- 3 packs of binder dividers
- 3 packs of Scotch tape
- TI30XS Calculator (Optional)

Agriculture

- 1 (1in.) binder

- 4 dividers
- 1 pkg. of notebook paper
- 1 pencil pouch with holes to stay in binder
- 1 pkg. of pencils
- 1 set of erasers
- 1 pkg. of colored pencils
- 1 pair of scissors
- 1 Glue Stick
- 1 pkg. of wipes
- 1 pair garden gloves (optional)

P.E. (Donations)

- Band-Aids, alcohol prep pads, wraps
- Antibiotic ointment
- Hand sanitizer
- Kleenex
- Hula hoops
- Rubber softballs and baseballs
- Softball bats, gloves, batting tees
- Balls: football, basketball, soccer, volleyball, kick balls, beach balls, etc.
- Basketball nets
- Flag football belts
- Tennis balls and rackets
- Pool noodles
- Horseshoes
- Jump ropes
- Frisbees
- Cones

OUR SCHOOL'S MISSION

In our school we will accept personal responsibility for inspiring each other to work diligently so we can all become learners for life.



Thursday, August 2
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

START & END TIMES

Start Time: 7:55 a.m.

Students will be tardy if they arrive after 8:00 a.m.

End Time: 3:15 p.m.
For Students Picked Up

Attendance will be taken per class period for all grades. If a student misses more than 30 minutes for their first or last class period they will be absent for that class. If they miss more than 15 minutes of any other classes they will be considered absent.

Note: For a student to have Perfect Attendance, they must be present all class periods.

Make the grade!

Dollar Business Solutions, Inc.

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Cairo, Georgia • 229-378-2766
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Luther and Marilyn Dollar,
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Keep reeling in the A's!

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Best Wishes FOR A GREAT YEAR!

CAIRO PACK-N-SHIP
613 US Highway 84 E
Cairo, GA 39828
(229) 377-7799

Welcome back to School!

Ameris Bank wishes you a successful year.

Ameris Bank

Member FDIC
Cairo Location | 201 South Broad Street
amerisbank.com

Shiver School PTO Officers

President.....Mrs. Nikki Josey
 Vice President.....Mrs. Megan Durrance
 Treasurer.....Mrs. Melissa Addison
 Secretary.....Mrs. Amanda Sheffield.
 Chaplain.....Mr. William Hurst
 Parliamentarian.....Mrs. DeAnn Ansley
 Academic/Attendance Booster.....Mrs. Leslie Hurst
 Staff Appreciation.....Mrs. Jamie Walker
 Fall Festival Coordinator.....Mr. Larry Plank
 Teacher.....Mrs. Lindsey Powe
 Teacher.....Mrs. Brooke Pollock

Shiver PTO Meetings Scheduled

October 1, 2018
 6:00 p.m. - PTO

December 17, 2018
 6:00 p.m. - PTO/Christmas Band Concert

March 6, 2019
 6:00 p.m. - PTO/Festival Band Concert

May 6, 2019
 6:00 p.m. - PTO/Spring Band/Chorus Concert

May 20, 2019
 6:00 p.m. - PTO/Honors Night 6th - 8th Grades

HERE'S TO A
**HEALTHY
 & HAPPY**

- SCHOOL YEAR! -



COX PHARMACY

300 SECOND AVENUE S.E.
 CAIRO, GEORGIA
 229-377-9017



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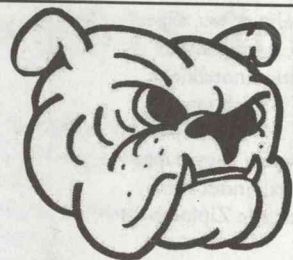
Well Drilling
 Pump Sales & Service

1714 Highway 112 N - Cairo, GA
 (229) 377-7883



**Lonnie R. Harrison, DMD
 & Staff**

80 ALTON HALL ROAD
 CAIRO, GA • (229) 377-1350



School Council MEMBERS

Mrs. Melissa Addison

Parent

Mrs. April Lee

Parent

Mr. Ricky Powe

Business Parent

Mr. Dusty Sheffield

Business/Parent

Mr. Steve Harrison

Teacher

Mr. Todd Jones

Principal

Forging bonds with students, parents, and community

Dear Parents,

On behalf of Southside Elementary, I am happy to welcome you to the 2018-2019 school year! We are looking forward to a productive partnership with you to ensure that our children embrace learning opportunities, unlock their potential and inspire excellence in themselves and others.

We certainly recognize the fact that, for children to be successful, a bond must be forged with the school, the parents and the community. Support from each of these fronts must be present to create an environment for our children to thrive socially, emotionally and academically. As partners, we share the responsibility for our children's success and want you to know that we will do our very best to carry out our responsibilities. We ask that you guide and support your child's learning by ensuring he or she:

1. Attends school daily and arrives on time, ready for the day's learning experience
2. Completes all homework and assignments prescribed by teachers
3. Reads daily to develop a love for reading and improve literacy skills
4. Shares school experiences with you so you are aware of his/her daily interactions
5. Informs you if he/she needs additional support in any area or subject
6. Knows you expect him/her to be successful in school for a bright future

We look forward to a very positive year together. We extend a special, yearlong invitation to our families to join us at school activities and events whenever possible. We want . . . we need . . . and we value your involvement and support in your child's education. Together, we can and will make a difference!

We are excited about the opportunities and challenges this year offers. We are ready for new adventures in learning at Southside Elementary. We plan to "learn, live, lead and leave a legacy!" As you return to campus to begin the 2018-2019 year, you will note several changes have taken place over the course of summer break. Most obvious is the demolition and removal of the two wings that once graced either side of the historic Southside Auditorium.

Additional changes you may notice include many new faces on campus. We welcome two additional Pre-Kindergarten classes originally slated to be housed on the campus of Northside Elementary. Along with the 44 beautiful children,

SOUTHSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



SOUTHSIDE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM: l-r, Assistant Principal Christina Issac, Principal Kevin Strickland and Instructional Coordinator Kelly Joyner.

we also gain teachers Brenda Jones and Sharon Johnson, as well as paraprofessionals Elena Alexander and Felicia Armstrong. We are also excited about the arrival of new paraprofessionals Christina Alicea, Brandy Brown and Priscilla Myers, as well as teachers Holly Butler, Steven Figueroa, Andrea Gandy, Heather Hunter, Celeste Jewell, Brett Montgomery, Martin Pugh, Ann Sleep and Kyndra Young. We are also excited about our newly hired nurse, Mrs. Brandi Hurst. These new staff members are joining an awesome family of excellent educators who stand ready to serve you and your children's educational needs.

Procedures for 2018-2019 will remain the same as this past year. Morning drop-off and afternoon pick up for car riders will be on Hawk's Lane (next to the "Pickle Stream"). Morning drop-off will be no sooner than 7:15 a.m. and pick up will begin around 3 p.m. with the expectation that all students will be picked up no later than 3:30 p.m. Bus riders will be released at 3 with buses rolling out shortly thereafter. Bus drop off and pick up will continue to take place on 3rd Street near the gym and auditorium. Please refrain from car traffic in this area as we have designated a large portion of 3rd Street as bus-only traffic.

Also, please remember ALL campus visitors throughout the year need to report to the front office and receive a visitor's pass. This is for the protection and safety of all stakeholders.

Of special interest to parents is a change we have made with the student dress code. We have added the descriptor of "no holes above the knee" in any apparel, regardless of student age. Parents also need to note attendance will be taken for

each class/subject period of the day. Please try your best to have students report to school on time and please refrain, as much as possible, from checking students out early as they miss instruction and will be counted absent for any applicable content areas.

Again, we welcome you to Southside and to our exciting learning community - a place alive with energy, enthusiasm and a high standard of excellence. Southside is a place where opportunity abounds.

We encourage you to contact us if/when the need arises and to be informed about your child's studies, assignments, assessments and school activities. Here's to an AMAZING new school year as we work together to make Southside a great place to work and learn each day!

Sincerely,

Kevin Strickland
 Principal

open house



**Tuesday, August 1
 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

Mission Statement:

The mission of Southside Elementary School is to provide a developmentally appropriate education which will enable each child to acquire the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary for a lifelong pursuit of learning.

Vision Statement:

Southside Elementary School's vision is to create an environment that includes and fosters happiness, enthusiasm, productivity, cooperation and acceptance of one's self and others. We will guide children to

learn essential skills through developmentally appropriate instruction so they may live a full and satisfying life and in turn lead themselves and others to leave a legacy of a better world.

Motto:

"Learn, Live, Lead...Leave a Legacy"

School Colors:

Royal Blue and White • Mascot: Hawks

Southside School Council Members for the 2018-2019

year are to be announced at a later date as well as the Southside PTO Members.



SCHOOL INFORMATION

Southside Elementary School
491 Third Street, SE
Cairo, Georgia 39828

Telephone (229) 377-3723
Fax (229) 377-5939

<http://southside.gce.schoolinsites.com/>

SOUTHSIDE PTO DATES

August 27, 2018
PTO Parent Night
Southside Auditorium at 6:00 p.m.

October 22, 2018
PTO & Reading Campout
Southside Auditorium at 6:00 p.m.

December 17, 2018
PTO & Christmas Concert
Southside Auditorium at 6:00 p.m.

February 11, 2019
PTO & Family Math/STEM Night.
Southside Auditorium
at 6:00 p.m.

March 22, 2019 PTO
sponsored Spring Fling
4:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

April 29, 2019 PTO
End-of-Year Business Meeting

GRADY COUNTY AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

2018-2019

Aug. 3, 2018 - May 24, 2019

3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Full time - \$40 weekly
Part Time - \$30 weekly

Located on the Eastside Elementary Campus
• Quality care
• Snack
• Homework assistance

Courtesy transportation provided to Eastside from Southside and Shiver.

Pre-registration and \$25 non-refundable fee required. You may also register at Eastside Elementary School OPEN HOUSE Thursday, August 2, 2018 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Contact Karon Salter at 977-6353. Leave your name and telephone number. Your call will be returned as soon as possible.

Southside Elementary School 2018-2019 Supply List

Pre-Kindergarten

- 1 full size kindergarten backpack
- 1 plastic kinder mat (no rolled mats)
- 2 small bath towels
- 1 large Germ-X bottle
- 2 24 pack of Crayola crayons
- 3 containers of Clorox wipes
- 1 large pack of Expo marker
- 1 box of tissue
- 8 glue sticks
- 1 bottle of hand soap
- 1 can of Lysol

Kindergarten

- Bookbag- non-rolling
- pink rubber erasers
- Ticonderoga pencils (My First Pencils)
- glue sticks (4-pack)
- hand sanitizer
- 24 count crayons
- Clorox wipes
- Kleenex tissue
- Tri-fold Kinder mat
- 1 bath towel

1st Grade

- Bookbag- non-rolling
- 24 count Crayola crayons
- 1 pair of kid scissors
- 1 pack of #2 pencils
- 2 packs of glue sticks
- 1 composition book
- 3 dry erase markers
- 3 large boxes of Kleenex
- 1 12 ounce bottle of Germ-X
- 2 large Clorox wipes

2nd Grade

- 1 pack cap erasers/block erasers
- 1 box 24 count pencils (no mechanical)
- 1 marbled composition notebook
- 1 box of #16 crayons
- 1 pack of 4 glue sticks
- 2 packs of wide-ruled notebook paper
- 2 boxes of Kleenex
- 2 pack container of Clorox wipes
- 1 4 pack Expo Dry Erase markers
- 1 bottle of hand soap

3rd Grade

- 1 three ring binder (1.5" or 2")
- 1 pack dividers
- 2 packs of #2 pencils (no mechanical)
- 1 pack erasers (pink pearl 3 pack or pencil cap)
- 1 multi-pack of glue sticks
- 2 packs of wide-ruled paper
- 2 composition notebooks
- 1 set of earbuds or headphones (labeled w/name)
- Lysol wipes
- Kleenex
- 1 bottle antibacterial hand soap or sanitizer

4th Grade

- 2 12 packs of #2 pencils or mechanical pencils
- 4 pink pearl big block erasers (not pencil toppers)
- 1 set of earbuds or earphones (labeled w/name)
- 3 packs wide-ruled notebook paper
- 1 pack of glue sticks scissors
- 3 marble composition books (not spiral bound)
- 1 pack of 24 crayons
- 2 red
- 2 blue ball point pens
- 1 zippered pencil pouch (3 holes)
- Book bag (non-rolling)
- 1 box tissue

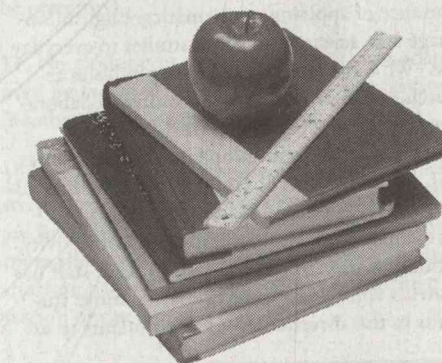
- 1 hand sanitizer
- 1 Clorox wipes

5th Grade

- 2 200 page composition notebooks
- glue sticks
- Clorox wipes
- Germ-X
- notebook paper
- pencils highlighters
- 2 3-ring binders
- dividers
- large book bag (no wheels)

Special Education

- Kleenex tissues
- hand sanitizer
- disinfecting wipes
- foaming hand soap
- baby wipes
- gallon & quart (slide zip) Ziploc bags
- Bookbag (non-rolling)



Southside Elementary School Dress Code for Students

- Students may wear dresses, decent length shorts, Capri pants, blue jeans, or long pants. Shorts, dresses, and skirts should be an appropriate length – midhigh for shorts and to the knee for dresses and skirts. Gym shorts and bike shorts are prohibited.
- Students may wear dresses, decent length shorts, Capri pants, blue jeans, or long pants. Shorts, dresses, and skirts should be an appropriate length – midhigh for shorts and to the knee for dresses and skirts. Gym shorts and bike shorts are prohibited.
- Sagging pants shall not be permitted. Belts must be properly fastened.
- Shirts should be appropriate for school. Bare midribs, spaghetti strap shirts, tank tops, T-shirts with inappropriate slogans or emblems are prohibited.
- Clothing which has holes cut out or torn that may expose the seat or parts of the body unique to the male or female is prohibited.
- Shoes or sandals must be worn at all times. Cleated shoes, skate shoes, bedroom shoes, and flip flops are not allowed.
- Body piercings other than earrings in the earlobes are prohibited.
- Heavy chains such as Tommy Gear worn around the neck are not permitted due to safety reasons.
- Hair must be well-groomed. Hairstyles should not cause disruptions or excessive attention in class as to take away from instructional time. Hair should be worn so that vision is not impaired.
- Students may not wear sweat bands, combs, picks, etc. Caps and sunglasses may not be worn inside the buildings.
- Fads and styles which differ extremely from conventionally accepted standards causing unnecessary attention or interfering with the process of learning are prohibited.

The administration reserves the right to determine appropriateness in cases related to student dress, student appearance and hair styles.

Preparing our children for the challenges of the 21st century

The faculty and staff at Washington Middle School are moving forward with the vision to prepare students for the twenty-first century workforce. We began the initiative last year as we laid a solid foundation for our students to have a twenty-first century learning experience. We will continue in this direction as we provide the following: Makerspace STEM classes during connection, integration of math and science in the academic classes, a Tinker Lab where students can build and explore with science and engineering, increased use of technology with additional mobile labs on each academy and a computer for each seventh and eighth grader on the Honor's Academy to be used during the school day, creation of an Urban Garden, "The Tiger Terrace," built by our own students, parents and community members, continuation of our after school program, Project STEM, and additional coding instruction in the computer science class.

Faculty and staff will provide project-based learning so that students will understand the importance of applying mathematics, English/language arts, science and social studies to everyday life. We want students to develop skills in research and interrogative questioning, collaborative leadership, critical thinking, problem solving, creative innovation and personal expression. At WMS, it is not only imperative that students develop skills in reading, writing and mathematics but also develop skills in creativity, communication and collaboration. Our staff has shown a willingness to be trained to move students in this direction. We want students to ex-

WASHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL



WASHINGTON ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM: front row, l-r, Instructional Coordinator Lynn Arline, WMS Principal and Assistant School Superintendent Tilda Brimm, and Associate Principal Natalie Hudson; back row, l-r, Assistant Principal Chad Parkerson, Associate Principal Justin Amaro, and Assistant Principal/Director of Virtual School Dr. Ansu Mason.

ploring the many opportunities that lie ahead in a 21st century workplace while fully preparing them for the high school experience.

The faculty, staff and entire student body would like to take this time to thank our Grady County School Board Members for providing the funds to purchase air conditioning units to be placed in the WMS gymnasium. This has been a school improvement project that WMS has needed for years. The air conditioning units will provide a great comfort to our students during our student body assemblies and evening programs as well. The air conditioning units have al-

ready allowed for a very comfortable 2018 8th Graduation Program and Honor's Night Program. We are fortunate to have a superintendent and board members who make the safety and comfort of the students a top priority. We would also like to thank all the businesses who made donations for this effort. The community support has been overwhelming. The faculty and staff want to express a great appreciation for your commitment to making schools great in Grady County. Again, Thank You!!!

With commitment, the faculty has already begun to prepare for the students to return to school. Teachers have already begun to plan collaboratively. Their goal is to provide support, reinforcement, enrichment and rigor in all academic subject areas. The teachers are committed to finding new avenues to meet the academic needs of all students. Teachers have participated in professional development throughout the summer. Our focus is to create innovative ways to make full use of instructional time. In an effort to meet the needs of all students, our teachers have prepared to lay the foundations for remediation on grade level and enrichment instruction so that all students can learn to their greatest potential. Our organizational structure is composed of three academies: 6th Grade Academy, the Green Hall; 7th Grade Academy, the Gold Hall; and 8th Grade Academy, the Tiger Hall. The Honors Academy classes will include students who are only admitted through application. The goal is to address the needs of our diverse population of students at Washington Middle School. We hope our students return refreshed, renewed and eager to be emerged in a total academic experience.



**Senator
DEAN BURKE
District 11**

(404) 656-0040



*Have a great
SCHOOL YEAR.*

**Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.
I am proud to be your Senator.**

Dean.Burke@senate.ga.gov

2018 - 2019 WMS Dress Code

Research has indicated that there is a correlation between student attire and classroom behavior, attitude and achievement. Washington Middle School enforces a dress code that prevents distractions from learning. Jeans and T-shirts are encouraged. Staff will make a personal appearance check of students each day. Any attire deemed inappropriate will be called to the attention of an administrator. Appropriate clothing will be loaned to the student, if possible.

The following dress code will be followed at Washington Middle School:

1. Students are not allowed to wear hats, caps, sunglasses, hair coverings, combs, picks, etc., inside the building.
2. Any clothing or hair that is viewed as distracting because of extremes in style, color, pattern, length, fabric, etc. is not permitted.
3. Hair must be well groomed and nondistracting. Well-groomed mustaches are permitted; goatees and beards are prohibited.
4. Neither male nor female students may wear ornaments (jewelry) that pierce the skin such as the nose, lips or eyelid.
5. See-through clothing is prohibited. All clothing must be worn with appropriate undergarments, which should not be visible. T-shirts must be worn under mesh shirts. Outer clothing resembling lounge wear, pajamas or underwear is prohibited. Clothing that is too tight or too loose so as to be immodest is prohibited. Clothing which has holes above the knee is prohibited. Shirts that expose the midriff or the lower back areas are prohibited (no belly shirts).

6. Tank tops, halter-tops and sleeveless T-shirts are prohibited. Blouses, dresses and sweaters, which are backless, low-cut or strapless, are not appropriate. They should be modest and not revealing. Dresses must be knee length.

7. Girls may wear shorts that fall below the knee (exception - gym shorts in P.E.) Skirts and dresses should be knee length.

8. Boys may wear shorts that fall below the knee. All pants must be at the natural waist line. Sagging pants (worn below the waistline) are not permitted. If a belt is worn, it must be properly fastened. Oversized shirts and pants are not permitted.

9. Sweatpants and sweatpants-type joggers are prohibited; wind suits are permitted. Gym shorts outside of PE are prohibited.

10. Clothing shall not be worn which advertises alcohol, drugs, tobacco or tobacco products, sex, or which contains inflammatory, vulgar or suggestive writing (slogans). Writing on the seat of pants is prohibited. Pictures, language or emblems which are found to be offensive, cause a disturbance, or have a history of a disturbance at school will not be permitted.

11. No clothing or other article such as bandanas may be worn or displayed which may indicate membership in a gang.

12. Shoes/sandals must be worn at all times with straps across the back. Shoes with cleats or rollers are prohibited inside the building. Slippers, bedroom shoes and flip-flops are not acceptable. Shoes must be hard-soled, except sneakers, for the protection of the foot.

MORNING PROCEDURES

On arrival, all sixth and seventh graders go to the supervised cafeteria. Eighth graders may go to their supervised recess area (bus ramp) or the cafeteria for breakfast. At 7:40 a.m. students are released to go to their homeroom. Announcements begin at 7:50 a.m.. The instructional block begins at 8 a.m. At the end of the day, students who are picked up by their parent are dismissed from class at 3:15 p.m.

Breakfast – All students are offered free breakfast. All 6th and 7th graders should report to the cafeteria when reporting to school. When students enter the cafeteria they begin a study hall until breakfast is served. The cafeteria remains quiet through the study hall period. If a student is eating, he or she must sit in green chairs. If a student is not eating, he or she must sit in the gold chairs. Students are dismissed from the cafeteria at 7:40 a.m. to report to their homerooms.

The custodial staff has worked diligently throughout the summer. They have moved teachers to new classes, painted the hallways, cleaned the carpet, and stripped and waxed the floors. The campus has been landscaped and necessary repairs have been made to get the school prepared for the students to return to a safe, beautiful and student-friendly campus.

WMS also welcomes a host of new faculty members starting with two new members to the administrative staff: Mr. Chad Parkerson, 7th grade Assistant Principal, and Dr. Ansu Mason as the Connections and ISS Assistant Principal. We also welcome to our teaching staff Mr. Kevin Collins, 8th grade mathematics; Mr. Jon Mizell, 6th grade social studies; Mr. Eric Elkins, 6th grade social studies; Mr. Austin Watson, 7th grade social studies; Ms. Courtney Edwards, special education teacher; Ms. Theresa Jones, special education teacher; Mr. Layton Stephenson, STEM teacher; and Ms. Maya Siler, art teacher. Additional staff include Mrs. Angelita Perry, Career Counselor. We are proud of these new additions to the faculty, and we know that they will provide excellent instruction and support for our students.

Parent Involvement is one of the key factors in students' academic success. WMS welcomes parents to the school and appreciates them being actively involved in their children's education. We promote parent involvement and encourage parents to be active members of the Washington Middle School Parent/Teacher Organization. Parents can join for an annual fee of \$10. We are asking all parents to participate in this worthwhile organization. The PTO provides incentives for students, teachers and staff. The organization takes an active role in keeping Washington Middle School academically rich and environmentally safe for all the students. Another very important organization that parents can participate in is the Washington Middle School Advisory Council. These two parent organizations do great work at WMS, and the students, faculty, and staff appreciate all of their efforts.

I would like to extend a personal "Thank You!" to all businesses who have supported WMS School Improvement efforts. I would like to say "Thank You!" for your commitment to assist us in creating a safe, comfortable environment for all of our students, family and community. If you are interested in contributing to this very worthy cause, please contact Tilda Brimm at Washington Middle School, 229-377-2106.

Remember, the WMS focus for the 2018-19 school year is 21st Century Learning: A Building Block for the Future. The faculty and staff are committed to this focus. WMS encourages your participation in our effort to enhance Washington Middle School's standards of excellence by visiting our school and showing your support. Please feel free to contact the school office if you have any question or concerns.

Sincerely,
Tilda S. Brimm, Principal

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Washington Middle School is to provide a safe and orderly learning environment that will address the individual needs of students both academically and socially which will enable students as individuals to develop the appropriate skills, knowledge and attitude necessary to become lifelong learners and productive citizens

OUR VISION

Our vision is to become a community of learners that provides an engaging environment for both students and teachers, promoting community involvement and parent engagement. Our vision is to become a learning community with personalized academic experiences for all students. Our vision is to provide a clean, safe, orderly environment that promotes social and academic growth.

OUR BELIEFS

Technology plays a vital role in the delivery of instruction and enables the WMS faculty to move students into Twenty-First Century learning.

Inspiring students to perform at their greatest intellectual potential is essential in developing leaders for tomorrow.

Goal Setting promotes focus and fortitude and must be aligned with academic standards.

Engagement of students, parents and teachers is an imperative step to academic achievement for students.

Relationships build cohesiveness and trust among students, faculty and parents and opens avenues for students to receive information more readily.

Safety is a top priority. When students, faculty, and staff feel they are in a safe and orderly environment, the learning process flows and flourishes.

WMS Basic Supply List

- Several packs of Pencils
- Black or Blue Writing Pens
- 1 Pack of Colored Pencils
- Pencil Pouch
- 1 Large 3-ring binder
- 4 Folders with prongs and side pockets
- Dividers
- Notebook paper
- 1 Pack of Graph Paper

Additional items may be requested by your teacher



6th Grade Walk About
4-6 p.m., August 1, 2018

6th – 8th Grade Honors Academy Parent Meeting
6 - 7 p.m.
August 1, 2018

7th and 8th Grades Open House – 2 - 4 p.m.,
August 2, 2018

First Day of School
August 3, 2018

PTO Open House
6 p.m. – August 27, 2018

Washington Middle School PTO Executive BOARD MEMBERS

CO-PRESIDENTS
Mr. and Mrs. William Jones

VICE PRESIDENT
Mrs. Jennifer Majors

TREASURER
Mrs. LeAnn Vickers

SECRETARY
Mrs. Leslye Upton

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS
Leitha Francis, Paige Moore,
Sherika Hubbard, Trista Prater,
Dr. Alex Greenberg, Amanda Russo

School Advisory Council

PARENTS
Mrs. Julie Barrineau, Mrs. Mya Greenberg,
Mr. Cornelius Mathney,
Ms. Chiquita Prince, Mrs. Deena Wilcox

BUSINESSES
Mr. Tyler Lee and Mrs. April Lee

TEACHERS
Mrs. Amanda Russo and
Ms. Jennifer Donalson

ADMINISTRATORS
Mrs. Tilda Brimm and Mr. Justin Amaro

School Motto

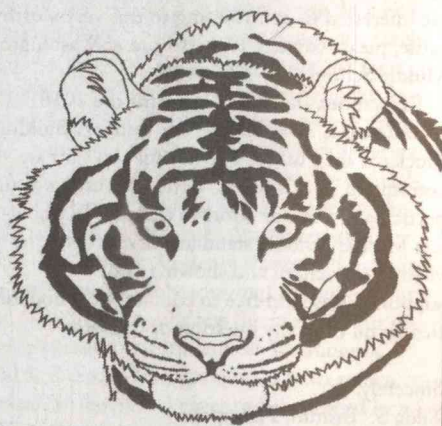
"Our Best Today for a Better Tomorrow"

School Mascot

Tiger

Spirit Color

Green & Gold



"Relentlessly Pouring Into the Lives of our Future"

Greetings and Welcome Back! Our staff is elated about this school year as we continue to pour into the lives of our students. For the 2018-19 school year, we will replenish our students with Motivation, Creativity, Respect, Honesty, Great Work Ethic and Perseverance. As we journey through this school year, we will meet each student at his or her level by saturating them with appropriate skills which will bring forth fruits of Motivation, Creativity, Respect, Honesty, Great Work Ethic and Perseverance.



Noni Brown
Grady County Educational Center Director

Grady Educational Center's goal is to provide students with the opportunity to be successful through an alternative setting consisting of four programs:

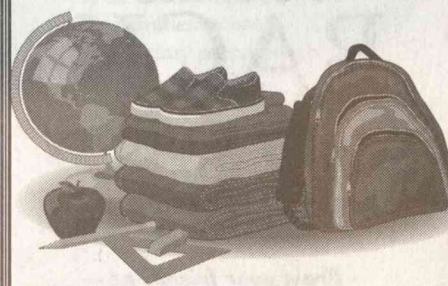
PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Grady Educational Center has four programs: Crossroads Academy (6-12), Learn to Learn (Credit Recovery,9-12), On Track Program (9-12), and Ready, Set, Go (6-8). The GEC provides alternative school services for students in grades six through twelve who has been unsuccessful in a traditional school setting due to a variety of challenges.

Crossroads Academy

- Students will only enter by way of Tribunal, Waiver, Manifestation Meeting or I.E.P
- Uniform Required
- Orientation with Parent and Student before enrollment

Have A Great Year!



BLOUGH TECH

119 S Broad St • Cairo, GA
(229) 377-8825

GRADY EDUCATIONAL CENTER

- CA students exit program contingent on the requirements of decision letter (committee decision, Intake Meeting)

Learn to Learn (Credit Recovery)

- No Tribunal Required
- No Uniform
- Only attend for 1 to 3 Blocks
- Must comply with policy and procedures in order to receive credits.

On Track Program

- No Uniform
- Credit Deficiencies
- Students may enter through one of the other programs
- All classes at GEC

Ready, Set, Go

- No Tribunal
- Failed 2 grades

As our students complete the required program(s), we prepare them to transition to an Eager Indian at Whigham Elementary School, a Gregarious Bulldog at Shiver Elementary School, a Dynamic Tiger at Washington Middle School and, ultimately, a productive and responsible citizen in our community.

Our Mission is to maximize each student's full Potential through different aspects of learning.

Our Vision is to pour into the lives of our students and prepare each student for the future and provide a pathway for him or her to be great. We are determined to help each student realize his or her potential.

We look forward to an awesome school year!

Sincerely,
Noni Brown

Grady Educational Center

2018-19 School Uniform Dress Code Policy

- Shirts*
- RED short or long sleeve polo type shirt with a collar; solid in color with no fringes or embroidery. Brand names/symbols (e.g. Duck, Polo, Nike, etc.) must be pocket size or smaller (4 inch maximum). No other picture, symbol, statement or advertisement on clothing is allowed.
 - Undershirts should not contain any type of writing or graphics.
 - All shirts must be worn tucked into the pants at all times.
 - Undergarments should not be visible through shirts.
 - Long sleeve white or red shirts maybe worn UNDER red collar shirt.
- Pants*
- Only Khaki pants/shorts are permitted for ALL

three programs.

- Must fit at waistline and be the proper size for the student; may not be too tight or too loose.
- Undergarments should not be visible through pants.
- Must be worn with a belt.
- Must be hemmed, and the length should touch the top of the shoe.
- Cargo pants, capri-style, hip-huggers, jeggings, joggers, leggings, stretch pants, as well as pants with holes or frays, are not permitted.
- Gym shorts cannot be worn with pants.
- Skirts, shorts, or jumpers are not permitted.

Belts

- Color choices: Black, Brown, White or Uniform Shirt Color
- Must fit at waistline and be the proper size for the student with no parts of it hanging in the front of sides of the pants.
- Should not have any decorative or removable buckles.

Shoes and socks

- Color choices: Black, Gray, White or Uniform Shirt Color
- Must be closed toe shoes.
- Must be properly laced and/or buckled at all times.
- Slides, sandals, flip flops, slippers/mules, bedroom shoes, clogs, shoes with lights or roller blade heels are not allowed.

Hats/Headgear/Hair

- No forms of hats and/or headgear are permitted to be worn during class time. This includes hoods, bandannas, doo-rags, wave caps, sweatbands.
- Hair should not be a distraction from the learning process by appearance, statement, color, or style.
- Hair should be neat and clean; it should not cover the student's face or eyes.
- No fish hooks on hat lids
- Combs, curlers, picks, or rakes are not permitted to be worn in the hair.

Other Non-Permitted Items

- Book bags and purses are not allowed.
- Students may not wear coats, jackets, hooded shirts, or hooded sweatshirts during class time or while in the school building. All coats must checked-in at the beginning of the day and put on the coat racks once student enters into classroom.

GEC Supply List

- Willing Heart
- 100% Determination
- Positive Attitude
- 100% Motivation
- GIVE YOUR BEST EVERY DAY!

Whigham strives to offer a 'World Class Education'

To the Students, Parents, Community, and Stakeholders of Whigham School,

Welcome to Whigham School for the 2018 - 2019 school year. As Principal, I look forward to another great year. Our school theme for this year is "A World Class Education." As you walk through the halls of the school, students will take a journey around the world through the many continents and cultures on display.

Whigham School is committed to providing a workplace where the viewpoints and talents of every employee and student are valued, welcomed and appreciated. Our goal is to provide a safe, secure and nurturing environment where students feel connected to and supported by faculty and staff. We have four new faculty members for the 2018 - 2019 school year. Jesse Miller will be teaching 7th grade math and Dawn Jackson will be teaching 6th grade math. Also, Misty Cox will be joining our staff as a special education/inclusion teacher. David Chastain will be teaching 6th grade ELA/SS. We are very fortunate to have these individuals join our staff.

Overwhelming evidence shows that parent involvement is a key factor in student success. When parents are involved, students have higher grades, higher test scores, better school attendance, increased motivation and more

WHIGHAM SCHOOL



WHIGHAM ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM: l-r, Assistant Principal Zack Wilson, Principal Mark Willis, and Instructional Coordinator Andrea Bentley.

self-esteem. When parents sustain their participation in their child's education at every level, student achievement increases substantially. Our goal at Whigham School is to engage families and connect them to the school. I strongly encourage parents and guardians to get involved in our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). The objective of PTO is to bring into closer relation the home and the school.

Whigham School will have Open House for parents and students on Thursday, August 2, from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m.

The first day of school for students is Friday, August 3. Our academic day begins at 7:55

a.m. and ends at 3:24 p.m. Please have your child at school by 7:55 a.m. and do not pick them up early unless there is an emergency or a doctor's appointment that could not be scheduled after school hours.

Once again, I am honored to be the Principal of Whigham School. It's a special place to so many people in our community. Our goal is to build a foundation for academic success through high academic standards and a safe, nurturing environment. We are a "Tribe of Excellence".

Sincerely,
Mark A. Willis
Principal, Whigham School

Study hard!

Bell/Payne LLC

102 West Broad Avenue
Whigham, GA 39897
(229) 762-4000

Welcome Back!

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Cairo, GA 39828
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Welcome

BACK

Grady County

Students & Faculty!

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Whigham School supply list 2018 - 2019

PreK

Nap mat
Full size book bag without rollers
2 small blankets or towels
Box of Kleenex
Bottle of hand sanitizer
Box of crayons (box of 16)
Extra set of clothes in Ziploc with child's name

Kindergarten

2 large boxes of tissue
1 bottle hand soap
2 canisters of Clorox wipes
2 boxes of large #8 Crayola crayons (not Jumbo)
Book bag without rollers (full size bag)
Nap mat (about 1/2 in. thick)
Nap towel
2 packs of Elmer's glue sticks (8 glue sticks)
2 packs white copy paper
1" 3-ring binder (any color)- can be flexible

First Grade

Book bag without rollers
4 boxes of 24 count crayons
3 boxes of Kleenex
Hand sanitizer
4 pkg. of #2 pencils
3 canisters of Clorox wipes
1 ream/pkg of white copy paper
1 jumbo fabric book cover (any color)
2 packs of glue sticks (8 glue sticks)
8 or 10 pack of Markers
2 packs quart-size Ziploc bags

Second Grade

Book bag without rollers
12 glue sticks
4 packs of 24 count crayons
2-24 pack #2 pencils (no mechanical pencils)
1 large fabric book cover
2 large Paper-Mate pink pearl erasers
2 boxes of tissue
3 canisters of Clorox wipes
1 pair Fiskars student scissors
1 3-ring heavy-duty pencil pouch
1 pk copy paper
1 bottle hand sanitizer

Third Grade

2 pkgs wide ruled paper
24 #2 pencils and extra erasers
1 pkg white copy paper
1 Highlighter
1 box crayons or colored pencils
1 pack 3x5 note cards
1 pack of glue sticks
1 Book bag without rollers
2 boxes of tissue and 1 roll of paper towels
1 box quart size Ziploc bags
1 bottle of hand sanitizer
1 composition book- 100 pages
Binders (1" binder and 2" binder) and 8 Dividers

Plain Band-Aids
Ear buds for laptop use

Fourth Grade

Book bag with rollers
3 pkg wide ruled notebook paper
#2 pencils - NO mechanical pencils
Binders (1" binder and 2" binder)
1 pkg white copy paper
1 pack Crayola crayons/ colored pencils/markers
2 book covers
1- 2 roll pack of paper towels
2 Spiral notebooks
Dividers with tabs for binders (8)
Large pink erasers
Quart size Ziploc bags
Index cards (3 pks- size 3x5)
Band-Aids
Glue sticks (8-10)
2 highlighters
Ear buds for laptop use

Fifth Grade

3 pkg 3x5 lined note cards
1 pkg of red pens
#2 pencils
Notebook paper - college ruled
3 - 1 inch binders
Dividers with tabs for binders (for each 1" binder) Colored pencils and markers
Thin markers/highlighters (yellow and pink)
Glue sticks
Book bag (with or without rollers)
3 boxes of tissue
1 pkg pencil top erasers
1 large and 1 jumbo books socks
2 Clorox wipes
Scissors
1 box 16 count crayons
1 pkg of white copy paper
1 composition book
Hand held pencil sharpener

Sixth Grade

Book bag
Pencils - regular or mechanical
4 - 1 inch binders
2 Clorox wipes
Notebook paper
Black or blue ink pens
Erasers
Highlighters
Colored pencils
Hand sanitizer
2 boxes of tissue
1 pkg white copy paper
4 glue sticks
Scissors
Ear buds for laptop use

Seventh Grade

Book bag

Pencils - regular or mechanical
4 - 1 inch binders
2 Clorox wipes
Notebook paper
Black or blue ink pens
Erasers
Highlighters
Markers or colored pencils
Hand sanitizer
2 boxes of tissue
1 pkg white copy paper
4 glue sticks
Scissors
Ear buds for laptop use

Eighth Grade

Book bag
Pencils - regular or mechanical
4 - 1 inch binders
2 Clorox wipes
Notebook paper
Black or blue ink pens
Erasers
Highlighters
Colored pencils
Hand sanitizer
2 boxes of tissue
1 pkg white copy paper
4 glue sticks
Scissors
Ear buds for laptop use

Agriculture Class

Required:
1 inch binder with 4 dividers
pencils
blue and/or black pen
scissors
glue stick
colored pencils
notebook paper
garden gloves (optional)

Donations:

wipes
hand soap (antibacterial preferred)
old towels

PE Class

PE uniform will be required and available for sale during the 1st week of school. The cost is \$15.00.

Art Class PreK-2nd Grade

- 1 roll of paper towels
- Salt

3rd Grade-5th Grade

- Clorox wipes
- Q-tips

6th Grade-8th Grade

- Kleenex tissues
- 1 pack copy paper

Whigham School Dress Code

WHIGHAM SCHOOL STUDENT DRESS
Whigham School recognizes the importance of being well-groomed. Clothing should be appropriate for the occasion, in good taste and in good condition. Extremes in dress are considered in poor taste and will result in parents being contacted to bring appropriate clothing. Student may be sent home or taken out of class, at which time his/her absence will not be excused. Students are encouraged to be clean and neat in appearance. The principal and teacher shall have final authority of what should not be worn.

APPROPRIATE FOR ALL STUDENTS:

- Belts must be buckled and neat.
- Outer clothing which resembles lounge wear, pajamas, or underwear is prohibited.
- Hair – No unnatural colors such as purple, blue, green, etc. Hair should be worn so eyes are visible. Grooming should occur in restrooms.
- No hats, caps, sweatbands, sunglasses, bandanas, combs, picks, etc. worn on campus
- Hoodies are not worn inside buildings.
- Tattoos, real or stick-on are to be covered by clothing.
- Middle school students must bring appropriate clothes for physical education. Students will dress back into school clothes after P.E.
- PreK – 5: Tennis shoes are to be worn and no flip-flops or sandals. Middle School students should bring tennis shoes to wear for P.E. Shoes requiring strings must be laced and tied neatly.
- No Slides are to be worn
- Extreme fads in clothing and hairstyles are prohibited. Writing on clothes or bodies shall not be allowed. Clothing with holes must be from natural

wear and below the knee. Suspenders are worn over the shoulders.

- Body piercing: nose, lip tongue, eyebrow, etc., no body piercing jewelry allowed.
- If body odor becomes an issue, the student will be referred to the counselor.
- No obscene emblems, pictures including alcohol/tobacco, slogans or emblems of gangs are allowed.

APPROPRIATE DRESS FOR FEMALE STUDENTS:

- Feminine attire with traditional undegarmets is required.
- No halter, midriiffs, off the shoulder, crop, low cut blouses, tube tops, or lace-up clothing. Shirts must cover the top of the pants or be tucked in.
- Straps of tops and dresses should be at least 1".
- Shorts may be worn for PreK-5 if hemline is touching fingertips. Shorts for 6-8 must reach the top of the knee. NO cheer or cycling shorts.
- Skirt hemlines should be near the top or below the knee. No miniskirts, with or without tights. No leggings.
- Sundresses, backless dresses or halter dresses are not allowed. All jumpers should be worn with a blouse underneath.

APPROPRIATE DRESS FOR MALE STUDENTS:

- Masculine attire with traditional undegarmets is required.
- No hair below neckline.
- Pants must be worn on the waistline, front & back.

WHIGHAM SCHOOL PTO MEETING DATES 2018 – 2019

August 23, 2018
6 p.m.

September 20, 2018
6 p.m.

FALL FESTIVAL
October 20, 2018
4 p.m. – 7 p.m.

February 7, 2019
6 p.m.

April 11, 2019
6 p.m.

WHIGHAM SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Whigham School community is to empower all students with the knowledge and skills to think critically and independently. Our students will become productive members of society who are self-motivated to becoming lifelong learners. Whigham School provides a variety of rigorous educational programs through the use of engaging and relevant instruction. Whigham maintains high expectations of all students and educators while simultaneously addressing the effective use of multiple talents and intelligences. Whigham School provides an environment that nurtures the social, emotional and academic growth of every child. The Whigham School team, consisting of parents, community, educators and staff, works together with students to provide a safe and orderly school climate wherein excellence in education is paramount.

WHIGHAM SCHOOL VALUES

- We will develop students with the moral qualities of cooperation, loyalty, respect, integrity and self-discipline.
- We will strive to motivate, encourage and instill responsibility in our students.
- We will create a community of learners by promoting confidence, excitement and high expectations by providing positive learning environments for our students.
- We will provide highly qualified teachers who will develop students to their fullest potential.
- We will strive to create open, honest and flowing communication between school and home.
- We will celebrate student successes!

WHIGHAM SCHOOL VISION

Our school vision has three essential components: 1) a supportive leadership, 2) strong teacher/student relationships, and 3) parent and community involvement.

Leadership:

- Everyone feels appreciated and respected, and feels that they are significant members of a very important team

- Teachers and students are encouraged to take risks

- Low anxiety and high standards are promoted for both teachers and students

Teacher/Student:

- High achieving learning environments
- Desire for knowledge
- All learners will reach full potential through differentiated instruction

- Instill moral values of honesty, hard work, integrity and respect for all types of students

- Capitalize on the unique talents of teachers and students

Parent/Community:

- Parental support and involvement
- Community support and partnership
- Strengthen links with outside agencies to support learning within a friendly, caring and stimulating environment, Whigham School will educate and prepare all students for life.

GRADY CO. SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM

Students can enjoy several new, fun menu options

Grady County School Nutrition is looking forward to another wonderful year serving you, our customers. We have several new and fun menu options we are going to roll out; we will continue our fresh salad bar every day at every school which also contains at least two fruit options and much more!! We are still operating under the Community Eligibility Program (CEP) which allows all of our students to eat at no cost and our adult breakfast and lunch prices will remain the same at \$2 for breakfast and \$3.50 for lunch. We will continue the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program at Northside and Southside Elementary which allows all students to get a fresh fruit or vegetable during the school day as a snack three days a week. Cairo High students have a lot to look forward to in August as their cafeteria is getting a makeover, thanks to Dr. Gilliard and our Board of Education. Cairo High will continue to have fruit smoothies as a breakfast option on Tuesday and Thursday. We will be working closely with our Agriculture Department this year by serving fresh vegetables grown on campus in the school gardens, special thanks to Mrs. Champagne and Mrs. Harrison. Be on the lookout for fun events in the near future such as: National School Breakfast Week and National School Lunch Week.

Come, eat breakfast and lunch with us!

As always, if you have any questions please feel free to contact your school cafeteria manager or me, Mallory Barrett, SNP director, at 229-377-2513 or m.barrett@grady.k12.ga.us. Also please visit our website at www.grady.k12.ga.us and click on Lunch Menus under the Quick Links section for all of our menus and fun nutrition facts!

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING DATES

September 6, 2018 at 5 p.m.

November 15, 2018 at 5 p.m.

January 10, 2019 at 5 p.m.

April 25, 2019 at 5 p.m.

open house



Thursday, Aug. 2, from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m.

Wishing you a **SWEET** School Year!

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Cairo, GA 39828
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Monday - Friday

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J. William Bass, Jr.
ATTORNEY AT LAW

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Best **Wishes** this school year.

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Thursday, Aug. 2, from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m.

Title 1: What you need to know

What is Title I?

Title I is a part of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). This Act provides federal funds through the Georgia Department of Education to local educational agencies (LEAs) and public schools with high numbers or percentages of poor children to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic content and student academic achievement standards.

LEAs target the Title I funds they receive to public schools with the highest percentages of children from low-income families. These funds may be used for children from preschool age to high school. Title I is designed to support state and local school reform efforts tied to challenging state academic standards in order to reinforce and enhance efforts to improve teaching and learning for students. Title I programs must be based on effective means of improving student achievement and include strategies to support parental involvement.

¿Qué es Título I?

Título I es parte de la No Child Left Behind Act de 2001 (NCLB). Esta ley provee fondos federales a través del Departamento de Educación de Georgia a escuelas públicas con altos números o porcentajes de los niños pobres para ayudar a garantizar que todos los niños cumplan desafiante contenido y el estudiante logro académico normas académicas y las agencias educativas locales (LEAs).

Estos fondos pueden ser usados para niños de edad



Jackie McCurry
Grady County Schools
Director of Federal Programs

preescolar a secundaria. Título I está diseñado para apoyar los esfuerzos de reforma escolar local y estado desafiante normas académicas con el fin de reforzar y mejorar los esfuerzos para mejorar la enseñanza y el aprendizaje de los estudiantes. Título I programas deben basarse en medios eficaces de mejorar el rendimiento de los estudiantes e incluyen estrategias para apoyar la participación de los padres.

Parents' Right to Know Information

The Grady County School system is very proud of our teachers and feels they are ready for the coming school year and are prepared to give your child a high-quality education. In compliance with the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act, you

have the right to request information about the professional qualifications of your student's teacher(s) and/or paraprofessional(s). The following information may be requested:

- Whether the student's teacher- has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade level and subject area in which the teacher provides instruction;
- is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; and
- is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher.
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

Our staff is committed to helping all students reach his or her maximum academic potential throughout their school career. That commitment includes making sure that all of the teachers and paraprofessionals are highly skilled and delivering quality instruction to your child. Should you have any questions, or concerns please contact your child's school or the Title I office.

Derecho de los Padres a Recibir Información

El sistema escolar del Condado de Grady está muy orgulloso de nuestros maestros y se siente que están listos para el próximo año escolar y están dispuestos a darle a su hijo una educación de alta calidad. En cumplimiento de las regulaciones federales bajo Cada estudiante tiene éxito la ley de, usted tiene el derecho de solicitar información sobre entrenamiento y credenciales de maestros. Estamos encantados de proporcionar esta información a usted. En cualquier momento, usted puede pedir:

- Si el profesor cumpliendo con los requisitos de la Comisión de normas profesionales de Georgia para la certificación para el grado de nivel y área en la que el profesor proporciona instrucción;
- Si el maestro está enseñando bajo un estado provisional de emergencia u otro por los que las calificaciones de Georgia o certificación criterios han sido renunciados;
- ¿Licenciatura o postgrado sostiene el profesor, incluyendo certificados de posgrado y títulos adicionales y especialidades o áreas de concentración;
- Si su niño es proporcionado servicios por paraprofesionales y si es así, sus calificaciones.

Nuestro personal está comprometido a ayudar a todos los estudiantes a alcanzar su máximo poten-

cial académico a lo largo de su carrera en la escuela. Ese compromiso incluye asegurarse de que todos los profesores y paraprofesionales son altamente capacitados. Si Usted tiene alguna pregunta o concernimiento por favor llame a la escuela de su niño/a o a las oficinas del Título I (Título I).

Grady County Schools Complaint Procedures

The complaints process may be initiated at the school or directly to the Federal Programs Director.

- Parents, guardians, students, unaccompanied youth, vendors, public or private school who initiate a complaint, may do so in writing.
- The Federal Programs Director will provide a written response to the dispute within 5 school days.
- If the parent, guardian, student, unaccompanied youth, vendor, public or private school does not agree with the decision of the Federal Programs Director, an appeal may be filed with the Superintendent of Schools.
- The Superintendent will provide a written response to the appeal within 5 school days.
- If the parent, guardian, student, unaccompanied youth, vendor, public or private school does not agree with the decision of the Superintendent, an appeal may be filed with the Local Board of Education.
- Within thirty working days of receipt of the appeal of the Superintendent's decision, the Superintendent will present the matter to the Board of Education.
- If the parent, guardian, student, unaccompanied youth, vendor, public or private school is dissatisfied with the decision of the Local Board of Education, an appeal may be filed with the Deputy Superintendent of Teacher and Student Support at the Georgia Department of Education, 1854 Twin Towers East, Atlanta, GA 30334.

Procedimientos de queja de las escuelas del Condado Grady

El proceso de quejas puede iniciarse en la escuela o directamente a la Directora de programas federales.

- Los padres, tutores, estudiantes, jóvenes no acompañados, vendedores, escuela pública o privada que iniciar una queja, pueden hacerlo por escrito.
- El Director de programas federales proporcionará una respuesta por escrito a la disputa dentro de 5 días.
- Si el padre, tutor, estudiantes, jóvenes no acompañados, vendedor, escuela pública o privada no está de acuerdo con la decisión de la Directora de programas federales, una apelación puede ser presentada con el Superintendente de las escuelas.
- La Superintendencia proporcionará una respuesta a la apelación por escrito dentro de 5 días.
- Si el padre, tutor, estudiantes, jóvenes no acompañados, vendedor, escuela pública o privada no está de acuerdo con la decisión del Superintendente, una apelación puede ser presentada con la Junta de educación Local.
- Dentro de treinta días hábiles de la recepción de la apelación de la decisión del Superintendente, el Superintendente presentará el asunto a la Junta de educación.
- Si el padre, tutor, estudiantes, jóvenes no acompañados, vendedor, escuela pública o privada está insatisfecha con la decisión de la Junta de educación Local, una apelación puede ser presentada con el Superintendente Adjunto de profesor y de apoyo al estudiante en el Departamento de Georgia de la educación, 1854 Twin Towers East, Atlanta, GA 30334.

LEA Parent and Family Engagement Plan In support of strengthening student academic achievement, each district and school that receives Title I, Part A funds or services must develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to, parents of participating children, written parent and family engagement plans that contain information required by Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). These plans establish the district's and school's expectations for parent and family engagement and describe how the district and schools will implement a number of specific parent engagement activities. School districts, in consultation with parents, are encouraged to include other relevant and agreed upon activities and actions that will support effective parent and family engagement and strengthen academic achievement. Grady County Schools LEA Parent and Family Engagement Plan is located on the Grady County website and copies are available upon request. School Parent and Family Engagement Plans are located on each school's website, are distributed on the first day of school, and additional copies are also available upon request.

Padre LEA y el Plan de participación de las familias

Apoyo a fortalecimiento de logro académico del estudiante, cada distrito y la escuela que recibe título I, parte A fondos o servicios debemos desarrollar conjuntamente con, acordar con y distribuir a los padres de niños

participantes, las políticas de participación de los padres que contienen la información requerida por la primaria y la ley de educación secundaria (ESSA) por escrito. Estas políticas establecer las expectativas de la escuela y del distrito para la participación de los padres, describe cómo el distrito y la escuela implementará una serie de actividades específicas de participación de los padres. Los distritos escolares, en consulta con los padres, se anima a incluir otras relevantes y acordados de actividades y acciones que apoyará la participación efectiva de los padres y fortalecer los logros académicos. Las escuelas del Condado de Grady LEA política de participación de los padres se encuentra en el sitio web del Condado de Grady y copias están disponibles bajo petición. Políticas de participación de padres de escuela se encuentran en la Página Web de cada escuela, se distribuyen en el primer día de escuela, y copias adicionales están también disponibles a petición.

Title 1 Parent Center



USAVEit
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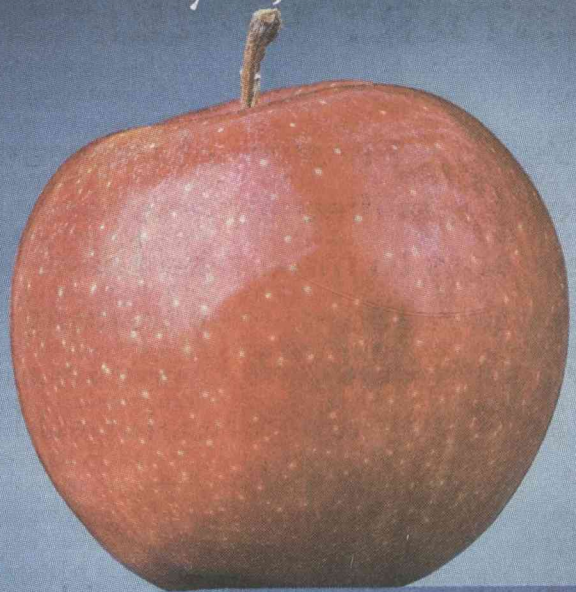
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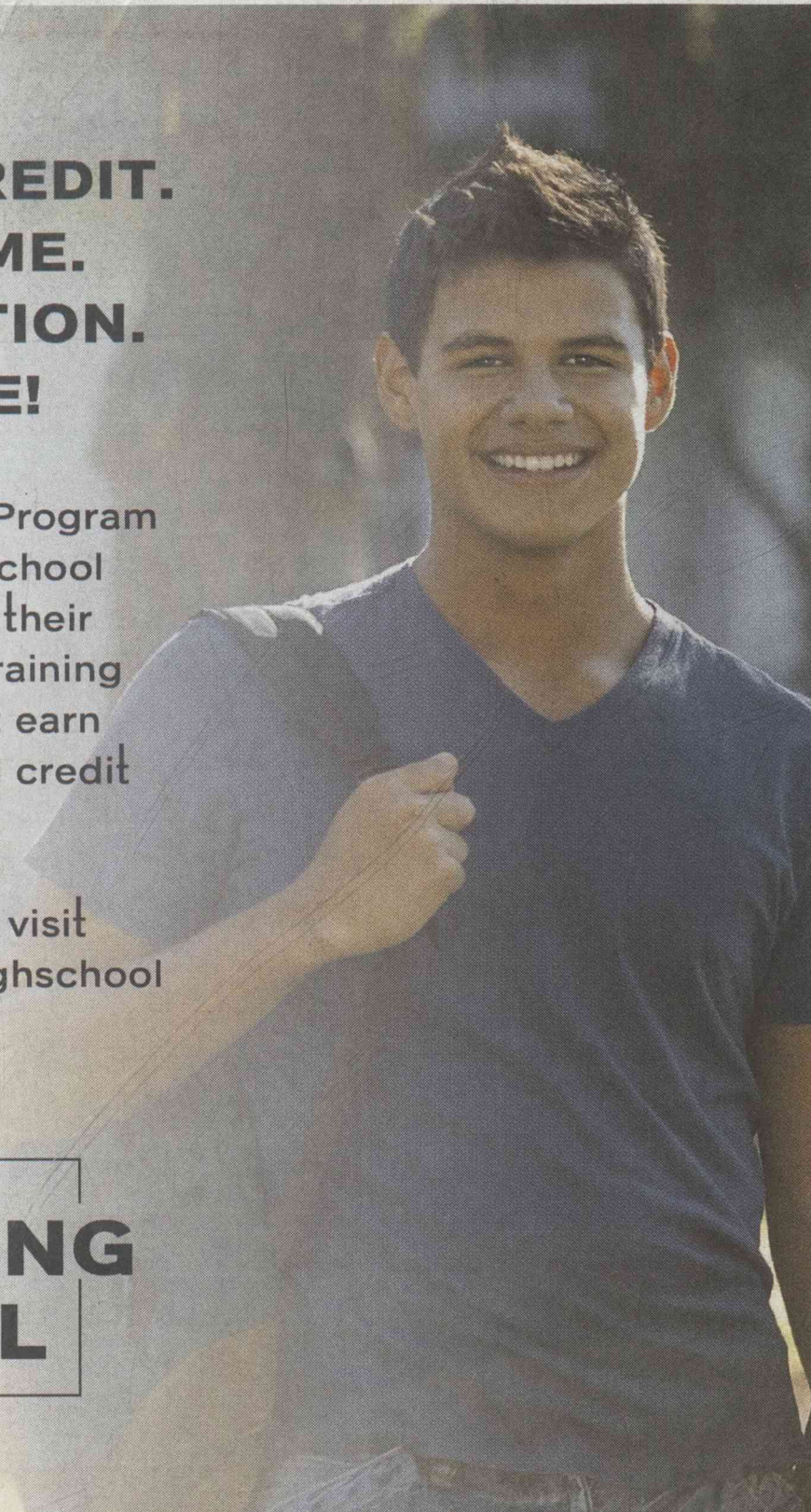
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Wilcox is Sunday's keynote speaker at C.H.S.

► WILCOX, from Page A1

palachian State Mountaineers who were undefeated at the time. He cemented his college career as he was named First Team All-Southern Conference as a safety in 2012.

He finished his education and earned his degree in Business Management with a minor in Coaching in 2013.

As a top safety prospect, Wilcox received an invitation to the NFL Combine and completed all of the required combine drills and positional drills. Amongst all safeties, Wilcox finished top 10 in all categories that day.

In May 2013, Wilcox was drafted in the third round to the Dallas Cowboys where he competed and won the position of starting free safety.

Sadly, tragedy struck the Wilcox family as his mother

succumbed to lupus. Devastated, Wilcox took a leave of absence to be with his family, leaving the starting safety position open for another player. However, he came

back in time to make his professional debut against the New York Giants in the season opener with an assisted tackle. In his starting safety debut, Wilcox recorded three tackles in a 31-7 victory over the St. Louis Rams.

In 2015, Wilcox proved his toughness on the field in the season-opener against the New York Giants. Wilcox gave a vicious hit to New York Giants receiver Odel Beckham Jr., that successfully broke up a pass attempt by Eli Manning, but received a broken nose in the process.

Instead of leaving the game, Wilcox powered through and finished the game. In his four seasons

with the Cowboys, Wilcox recorded 214 combined tackles and five interceptions.

During the offseason of 2017, he became an unrestricted free agent and was signed to The Tampa Bay Buccaneers. He was later acquired through trade by the Pittsburgh Steelers on Sept. 3 of that same year. He later signed with the New York Jets after the 2017-18 season.

On April 22, 2019, after brief stints with the New York Jets and the Indianapolis Colts, Wilcox decided to return to his home state by signing with the Atlanta Falcons.

Baccalaureate Service will take place in the C.H.S. Gym. Graduation is scheduled for Friday, June 3 at 8 p.m. at West Thomas Stadium.

6/1/2022

McFee pushes through major reorganization of school leadership



CHRIS LOKEY is the new director of human resources.



MICHAEL BEST is the new director of student services & community outreach.



DR. CHERYL LARKINS is the new director of federal programs.



MICHAEL SINGLETARY is the new director of curriculum, assessment & school improvement.



DR. WILLIAM HUFF is the new principal of Cairo High School.



TOM FALLAW is the new principal of Washington Middle School.



STACY FALLAW is the new principal of Southside Elementary School.



SELENA WILLIAMS is the new principal of Northside Elementary School.

A major reorganization of the leadership within the Grady County School System was approved by three members of the board of education Tuesday night.

During a special called meeting of the board, which was attended by Chairman Gerald Goosby and board members Teresa Gee Hardy and John White, five recommendations made by superintendent Dr. Eric McFee were unanimously approved. Board vice chairman Jeff Worsham and board member Derrick Majors were absent.

Superintendent McFee has promoted Cairo High School principal Chris Lokey, Washington Middle School principal Michael Best, Northside Elementary School principal Michael Singletary and Southside Elementary School principal Dr. Cheryl Larkins to new positions in the central of-

office. Lokey has been elevated to director of human resources for the school district and will be charged with overseeing the system's recruitment efforts in attracting new teachers to the system.

"Mr. Lokey has the best personality in the world and I cannot think of anyone better suited to serve as our recruiter," Dr. McFee said.

Best has been named the new director of student services and community outreach. His new duties are part of the work outgoing assistant superintendent Tilda Brimm has done in the past. Brimm is stepping down and under McFee's recommendation one of two assistant superintendent positions in the district is being eliminated.

"Mr. Best is a strong people person and has a tremendous understanding



TODD GAINOUS is the director of transportation & safety.

of the community and the people who live here. He will be the 'mouth' of the district and will be responsible for our internet, website, social media as well as being responsible for disciplinary tribunals," McFee stated.

Best will also oversee the operations of social services, the alternative school, and health services.

Singletary will shift into the role of director of curriculum, assessment, and



CHAD PARKERSON is a new assistant principal at Cairo High School and the system's athletic director.

school improvement. "Anyone who knows Mrs. Singletary knows that she is the numbers person and she will be crunching the data and helping develop our school improvement plan," Dr. McFee said.

Dr. Larkins will assume the position of director of federal programs, which is the post currently held by Jackie McCurry, who works

► See MCFEE, Page A11



Chorus

ON THE GREENS

“ He still *tells* me to this day he signed up for chorus because all of the *good* looking girls were in my class,”

SAID EDWIN TIMMERMAN, REFLECTING ON A FORMER STUDENT'S MOTIVATION FOR JOINING THE CHORUS.



TIMMERMAN'S first chorus at Cairo High School as pictured in the 1958 Raconteur yearbook.

Celebration of choral program's 60th anniversary is May 14

The Grady County community and surrounding areas are invited to a special celebration on Monday evening, May 14, in observance of the 60th anniversary of the choral music program at Cairo High School.

many schools outside of the larger cities in Georgia had instrumental or choral programs. Thanks to the support of the Grady County Board of Education and supporters of the arts like the late Julien B. Roddenbery Sr., CHS had a band program

ing fun and at the same time interacting with the students and working to recruit them to join the chorus," Timmerman said.

According to former chorus member Danny Griner, Timmerman's job of recruiting boys to join the choir was

thankful for the support of Superintendent Dr. Kermit Gilliard and the Board of Education for making this new equipment available for the choral program," Principal Lokey said.

The program will begin at 6 p.m. sharp with the presen-



1960s



1970s



1980s



1990s



2000s

"Chorus on the Greens" is a celebration of the fine arts in the community and will spotlight the Cairo High School Chorus and school choirs from Washington Middle School, Eastside, Southside and Northside elementary schools.

The choral program at CHS was formally organized in the fall of 1957 with the arrival of Edwin Timmerman.

Timmerman was hired to teach general music at Northside and Southside, as well as chorus at CHS for the 1957-1958 school term. As the choral program at the high school grew, he was assigned to the high school full time and taught piano after school.

In its history, the CHS Choir has had only three directors, Timmerman from 1957 until 1996; Michael Inlow from 1996 until 2017; and now Erikka Edwards.

"Chorus on the Greens is the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the choral program here at Cairo High School. This couldn't come at a better time as we debut our School of Fine Arts in the 2018-2019 school year. As we look to the future, we honor our past. We celebrate those traditions and milestones that make us who we are today. I would like to say thank you to Mr. Ed Timmerman and Mr. Michael Inlow for the invaluable work they did through the years of cultivating our choral program. A big thank you goes out to Ms. Erikka Edwards for organizing this event for our community. I would like our community to come out and help celebrate a program that is steeped in tradition and excellence," said Cairo High School Principal Chris Lokey.

According to Timmerman, in the late 1950s not

and in the 1957-1958 school term the choral program, under the direction of a certified music teacher, was organized. The same year Timmerman was hired, the Grady County School System employed two full-time piano teachers.

Prior to coming to Cairo, Timmerman had student taught in Baxley where he also earned his first teaching job and taught for four years. At that same time, former CHS principal Ben Waller was the principal in Baxley and the late West Thomas was coaching there.

Thomas returned to his hometown of Cairo and Waller was hired as the CHS principal. It was Waller who recruited and hired Timmerman to come to Cairo.

"I was quite familiar with Cairo, having grown up in Plains. Cairo was one of the first schools in southwest Georgia to be lucky enough to have a band," Timmerman said. The former CHS choral director said he remembers fondly when he first came to Cairo working with the late Major W.T. Veran, who was the director and founder of the CHS band.

Timmerman originally taught chorus on the stage of the CHS auditorium as the original Roddenbery Music Building (now the NJROTC building) was under construction.

"We moved into the new music building after Christmas, which would have been in January 1958," Timmerman recalls.

According to Timmerman, the choral program began to grow rapidly, but he had to think outside of the box in recruiting male voices to join the chorus.

"In those early years, I'd go down to the track and race the students. I was hav-

also aided by all of the attractive girls who were in chorus. "He still tells me to this day he signed up for chorus because all of the good looking girls were in my class," Timmerman said.

Under the direction of Timmerman, the CHS chorus grew to as many as 120 members and the now retired director is hopeful the program will continue to grow and diversify as the School of Fine Arts opens this fall.

"One of the most rewarding things for me was to have the opportunity to direct my own son, Frank, who is now a music educator in Cobb County, as well as to have students who graduated and went on to become music educators, church musicians and even professional singers. The late Darryl Singletary was one of my favorite students," Timmerman said. He also enjoyed teaching daughter Miriam, and many others who did not make music their career.

Timmerman said he is looking forward to attending "Chorus on the Greens" and helping celebrate the CHS choral program's past, present and future.

Chorus on the Greens will be held on the band practice field in front of the CHS auditorium. The choral program's new acoustic shells and risers will be debuted at the program. "We are so



EDWIN TIMMERMAN, the first certified music teacher hired to teach chorus, came to Cairo in the fall of 1957. His impact on the high school choral program will be celebrated May 14.

tation of the colors by the cadets of the CHS NJROTC and the National Anthem to be performed by members of the Syrupmaker Band followed by the Alma Mater.

The CHS Chorus will take the stage for part one of its performance, followed by the Northside, Southside, Eastside and Washington choruses, which will each perform two selections. Also scheduled to per-

form is the CHS Mens' Choral Ensemble and the Advanced Women's Choral Ensemble.

During the transition back to the CHS Chorus, the Syrupmaker Majorette Corps will perform. The CHS Chorus will then close out the program with its final selections.

On sale during Chorus on the Greens will be BBQ plates, snow cones, and funnel cakes with all proceeds benefiting the choral program. There will also be face painting for a \$1 fee, with those profits also going to the choral program.

The schedule calls for the program to conclude by 8 p.m.

"Please come out and support our student musicians. It's going to be a blast!" CHS Chorus Director Edwards says.



Cairo High School alum is fighter squadron commander at Moody AFB

Mesha C. Wind
Staff Writer

Born into a family where working for the public good is a way of life, Brandon M. Kelly says it was only natural that he'd choose a career in the military, especially when it includes his true passion, airplanes.

The 1994 graduate of Cairo High School is now a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Air Force and was recently named Commander of the 76th Fighter Squadron based at Moody Air Force Base in Valdosta. "It's good to get to do what I absolutely love, and it's good for a Geor-



LT. COL. BRANDON KELLY is the new Commander of the 76th Fighter Squadron based at Moody Air Force Base. (photo courtesy Judie Kelly)

gia boy to be able to get back home," Kelly says.

After high school, Kelly attended the University of Georgia for one year, then transferred to Brigham Young University. After graduating with his bachelor's degree, Kelly was commissioned into the Air Force through BYU's AFROTC program in December 1998. Six years later, he was an A-10 instructor pilot and flight commander with the 25th Fighter Squadron based in Korea. He has continued to rise up through the ranks while maintaining his instructor status.

According to information

from USAF, Kelly was "most recently Director of Operations for the 47th Fighter Squadron at Davis-Monthan AFB in Tucson, Ariz. . . he was responsible for nearly 9,000 annual flying hours, 28 A-10C aircraft, 40 instructor pilots, and nearly 20 percent of Air Combat Command's annual training and production of fighter pilots."

His deployments have included Kuwait, Afghanistan and Iraq.

Kelly says he was 8 years old when his parents took him to see the Thunderbirds fly in a show at Warner Robins. He says he knew then that he wanted to be a

pilot.

Kelly's father, the late Jim Kelly, worked in law enforcement 25 years, ending his career in Cairo as chief of police. Brandon Kelly says with a father, brother and uncle in law enforcement, and his mother, Judie, working in social work, he was destined to work for the pub-

lic. To ascend to the position of squadron commander, he says, is both humbling and exciting.

Kelly and his wife, Sherry, live in Lowndes County with their 5-year-old son, Dylan. Kelly's daughters, Dakota and Dinae, remain in Tucson.

Spring Concert was a homecoming of sorts

Randolph H. Wind
Editor & Publisher

The annual Cairo High School Bands' Spring Concert held last Thursday evening was a homecoming of sorts for a former band member including one of the founding members of the band, who has returned to Cairo less than a handful of times since he graduated nearly 70 years ago.

Jimmy Brunson, who was recruited to play trombone in the first CHS band by the late Major William T. Verran, spent several days in Cairo last week visiting familiar sites and catching up with old acquaintances with his brother, David.

The Brunson family came to Cairo when their father, an employee of the former H.V. Kell Company, was transferred to the Cairo warehouse. The Kell salesman and his family's first home here, according to the Brunson brothers, was the former Grady Hotel before eventually living in a home on Fourth Avenue N.W.

Ironically, current CHS Band Director John Scanling was going through old scrapbooks and came across an old photograph of Jimmy Brunson in his vintage band uniform and holding his trombone. What seemed like just a few days later, Scanling said he was shocked to receive a call from Mr. Brunson, who shared his story about being in that first band and his desire to come to Cairo and hear the band one more time.

The Brunson brothers arrived in Cairo last Tuesday and were guests at the Best Western Executive Inn through last Friday. Upon arriving, they went to CHS to meet with Director Scanling.

"We had a chance to share stories and he (Brunson) told me that when he went to the University of Alabama and auditioned for the marching band his audition was with the band director Col. Carleton K. Butler. He asked Mr. Brunson where he was from and when he told him he was from Cairo, Ga., he responded 'Where the



ONE OF THE ORIGINAL members of the Cairo High School Band, Jimmy Brunson of Greenville, SC, poses with members of the trombone section of the CHS Symphony Band following last Thursday night's Spring Concert. Shown are, l-r, Clay Brown, Truett Hendrix, Sadie Scott, Elizabeth Sanchez, Jimmy Brunson, Prospero Castellanos, Michael Addison and Caleb Davis.

hell is that?'. Col. Butler asked him who his band director was and Jimmy responded, 'William Verran.' Col. Butler then asked 'You were in Billy Verran's band?' to which Jimmy said, 'yes' and Col. Butler got up and left the room. A short time later, a student assistant entered and said a playing audition was not necessary, that being in Major Verran's band was qualification enough and he was fitted with a uniform," Scanling recounted from the story Brunson told him last week.

Jimmy Brunson was in the marching band at Alabama for one Fall before joining the U.S. Navy, which he served faithfully.

In addition to visiting the high school, the Brunson brothers also visited Southside Elementary School, The Cairo Messenger and other familiar stops from their childhood.

The trip also gave David Brunson an opportunity to catch up with friends from his youth who would later be members of the CHS band. Unfortunately, the Brunsons moved away before David had the opportunity to play in the Cairo band.

Both of the Brunsons spoke of their fondness for

this community and shared many of their favorite memories of growing up here.

"I wonder if Major Verran realizes the impact he had here. I was a member of that first band and now there are bands at every school in the county. It is amazing,"

Jimmy Brunson said.

Jimmy Brunson was also amazed by the size of the Syrupmaker band. He described last Thursday night's performance as "awesome" and after it was over he posed for photographs with members of the trombone



FORMER, CURRENT AND FUTURE drum majors got together for a photo. Shown are drum majors Bobby Jefferson (1954-55 & 1955-56), Rebecca Roberts (2014-15 & 2015-16), Hyatt Hendrix (2017-18), Anna Roberts (2018-19), and Trey Bentley (2016-17).

section of the CHS Symphony Band and enjoyed talking with the band members.

"I was there when the Cairo Band played its very first notes. Being here tonight and hearing what it's become was incredible. Major Verran had high standards, and clearly those standards have continued," Jimmy Brunson said.

"Having Mr. Brunson at

the concert was an incredible experience for him and all of us. He visited with the trombone section after the concert and had a great time exchanging stories. We were all so happy that he had the opportunity to come," Director Scanling said.

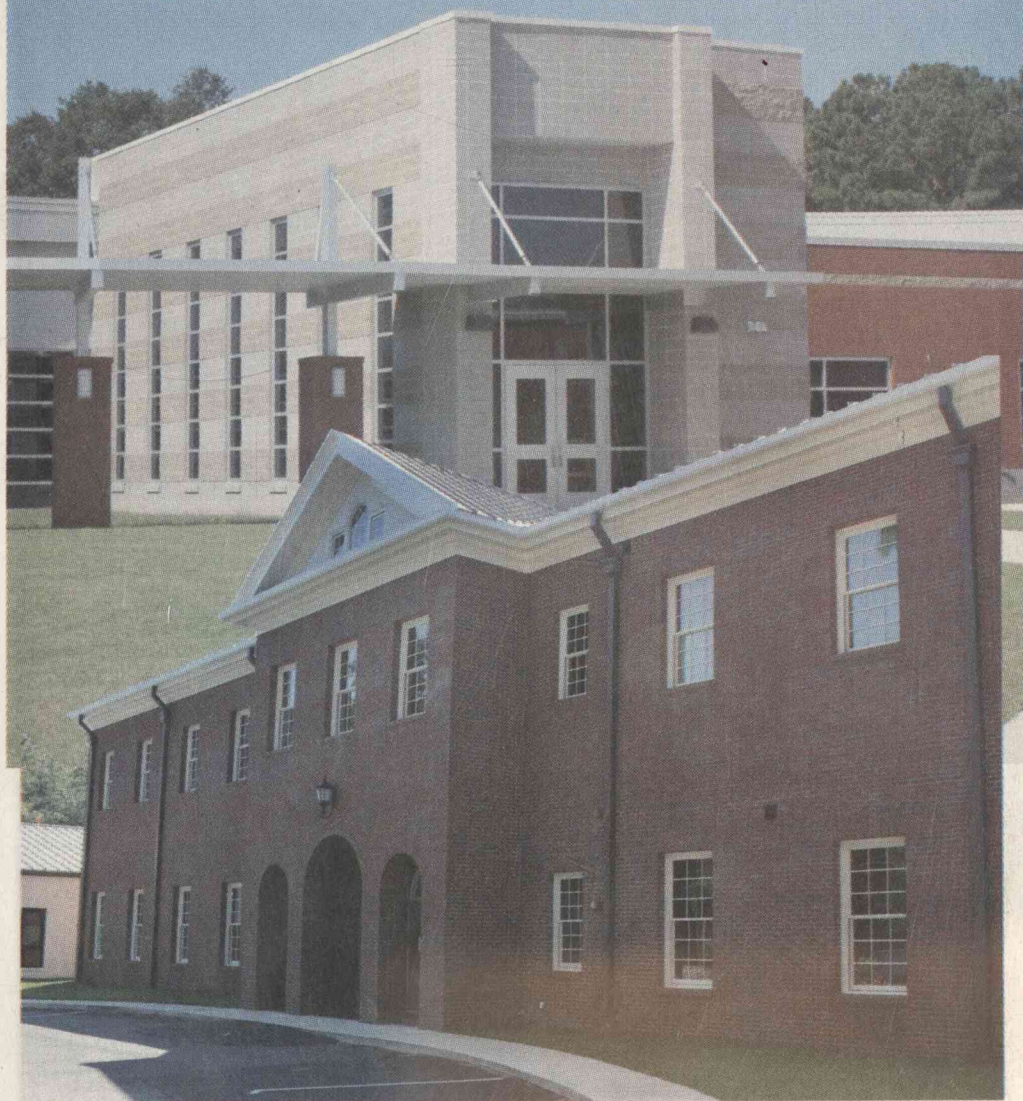
Jimmy is currently a resident of Greenville, SC and his brother David is a resident of Cumming, Ga.



SYRUPMAKER BAND MEMBERS from the past who attended last week's Spring Concert are shown with Director John Scanling, left, and Asst. Director Adam Swan, far right. The former band members include, l-r, saxophonist Wyman Richter (Class of '57), drummer George Thomas III (Class of '58), Jimmy Brunson, French horn player/drum major Bobby Jefferson (Class of '56), and saxophonist Dick Porter (Class of '57).

FIRST *Class*

Grady County School System Constructs World Class Facilities



A publication of The Cairo Messenger • Wednesday, September 27, 2017

Dear Grady County stakeholders,

Not since 1956 has the Grady County School System had as aggressive a facility improvement program on multiple campuses as we have this year. The Grady County Board of Education remains committed to providing the best possible public education for all students and that includes providing safe, comfortable and efficient facilities for our students and faculty members.

We are all very proud of the new facilities that opened this year at Cairo High School and Southside Elementary School. In addition to our new College and Career Center at the high school and the all-new buildings at Southside, we are also very pleased with the renovation of the historic auditorium at Southside.

The school system was fortunate to have highly qualified contractors and subcontractors partner with us on these projects. Architects Greg Smith of James W. Buckley & Associates, Inc., and Ray Finger of Raymond C. Finger Architects, LLC, provided

exceptional professional design and construction management services on our facilities projects at both schools.

We are also grateful to have had our Facilities Coordinator Jerry Cox help guide and oversee the construction process from day one until completion. His experience and expertise were invaluable to the Grady County School System.

As I have said on numerous occasions, the community's investment in these new facilities will benefit generations of Grady County students for many years to come. Thank you for the opportunity to educate your children and for your

confidence and support of our county's schools.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kermit Gilliard



Dr. Kermit V. Gilliard
Superintendent
of Schools

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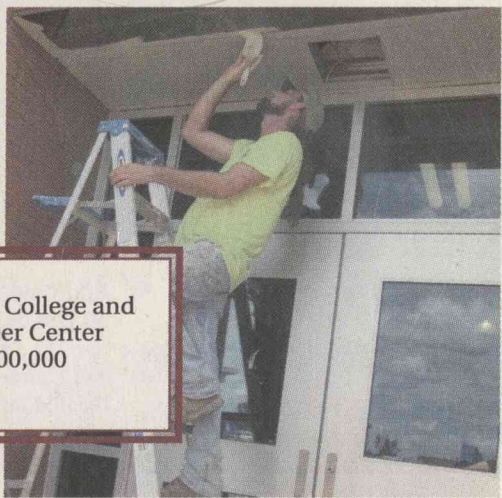


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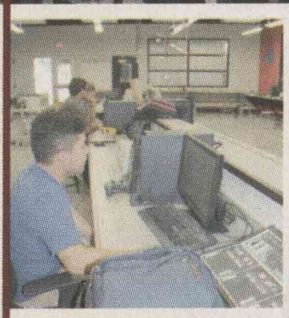
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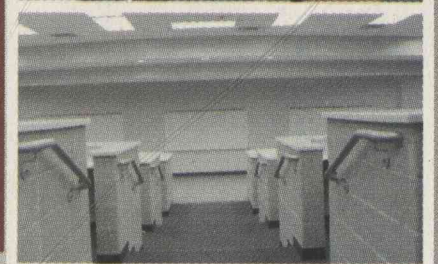
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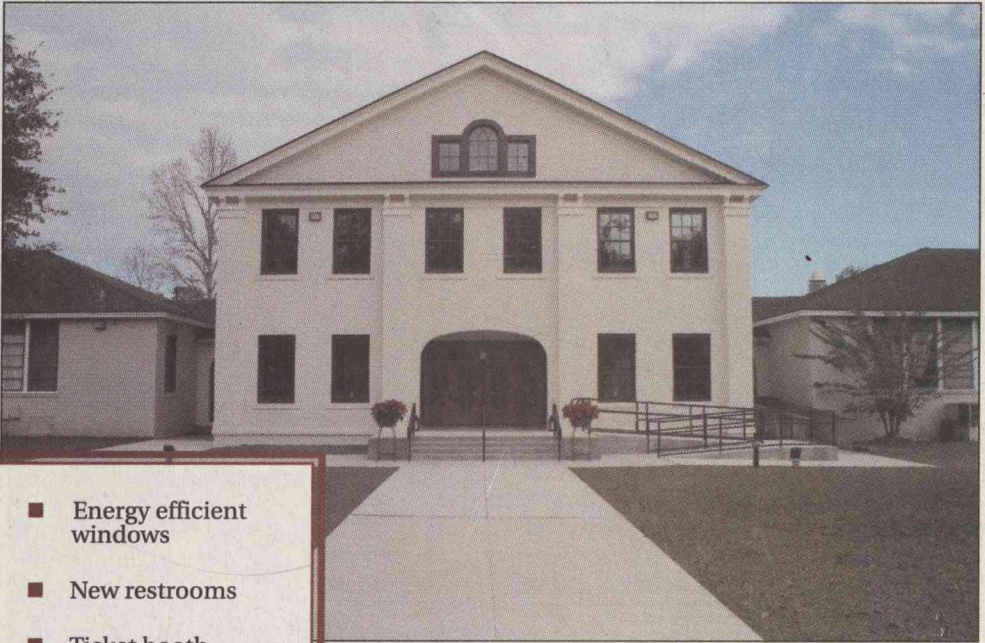
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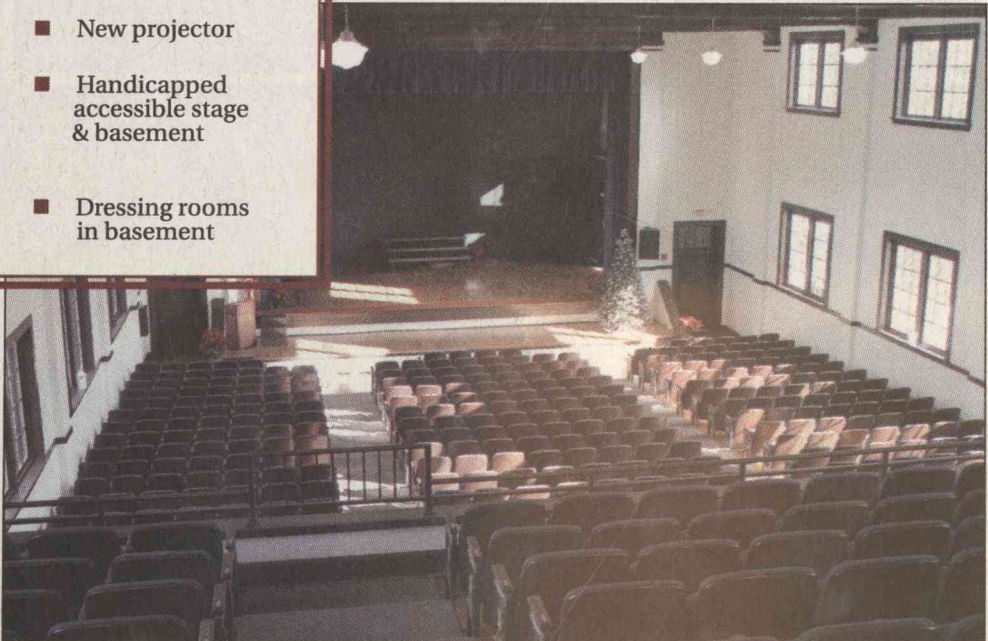
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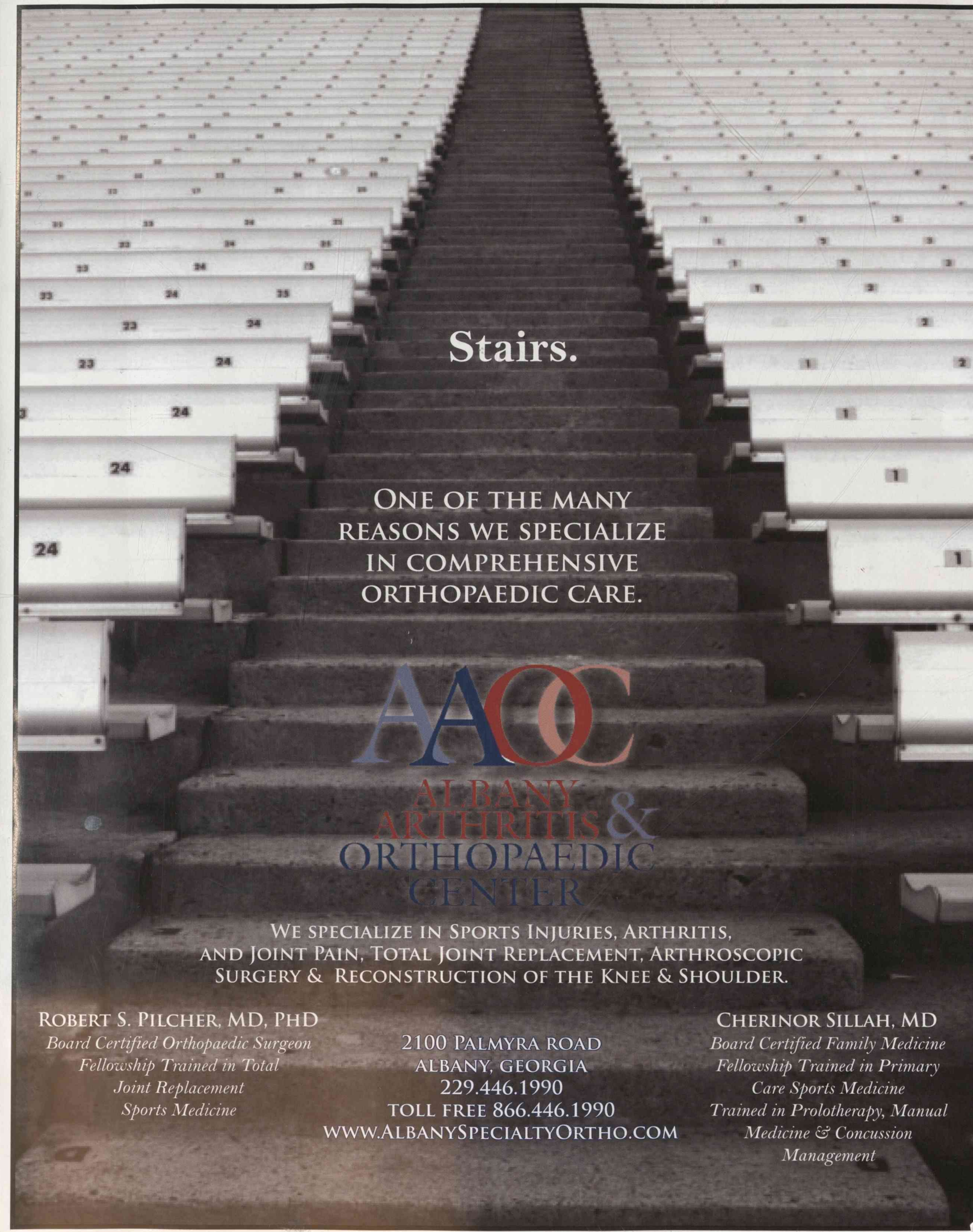
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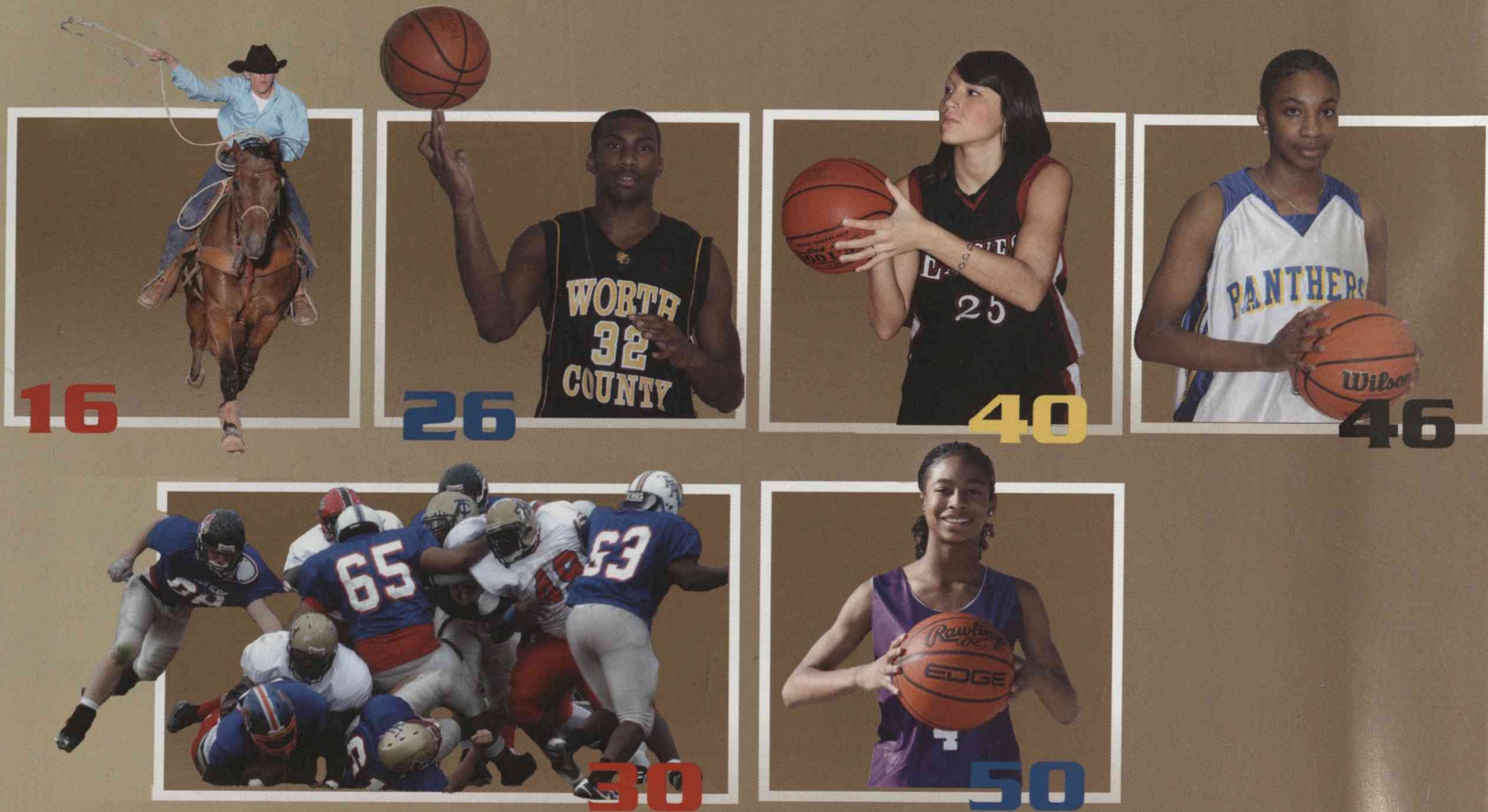
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THE ZONE

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2009

contents

On the Flip Side	16
Southwest Georgia Player Spotlight	26
Border Wars All-Star Game	30
Florida Big Bend Player Spotlight	40
Academic Athlete	46
Rising Star	50

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The calendar has turned another page and we at "The Zone" could not be more excited. It's good to have our first year behind us and what an awesome year it was. As you will notice we have made some changes to "The Zone" by combining our Southwest Georgia and Florida Big Bend editions into one information packed publication. We have discovered that our readers have an interest in their neighbors to the north and south as was further evidenced in the excitement demonstrated during the Border Wars All-Star Football Game.

This past football campaign saw six local football teams advance to the state final game claiming a total of four State Championships. We congratulate the Deerfield Windsor Knights, Terrell Academy Eagles and the Cairo High Syrupmakers of Southwest Georgia, and North Florida Christian, Lincoln and Godby in the Big Bend for their memorable seasons. These teams played well all season and had the determination to peak at the most crucial time of the state playoffs. We are so proud of these players and coaches. We would also like to thank all the fans who continued to support these kids well into December.

As we roll into 2009 and head toward the spring our attention is starting to focus on other sports. This season looks to be one for the record books. Rivalries are showing up all over Southwest Georgia and the Florida Big Bend and on occasion they get to compete head to head.

We are certain that 2009 will be just as exciting as last year. We at "The Zone" will be there every step of the way. Check your local schedules and get out there and see first hand the talents of your local coaches and student athletes.

Once again we welcome any suggestion or comments that will aid us in putting out a better publication that will highlight the wonderful student/athletes we have in Southwest Georgia and the Florida Big Bend.

Till next month,
See you on the sidelines

*Josh Pollock
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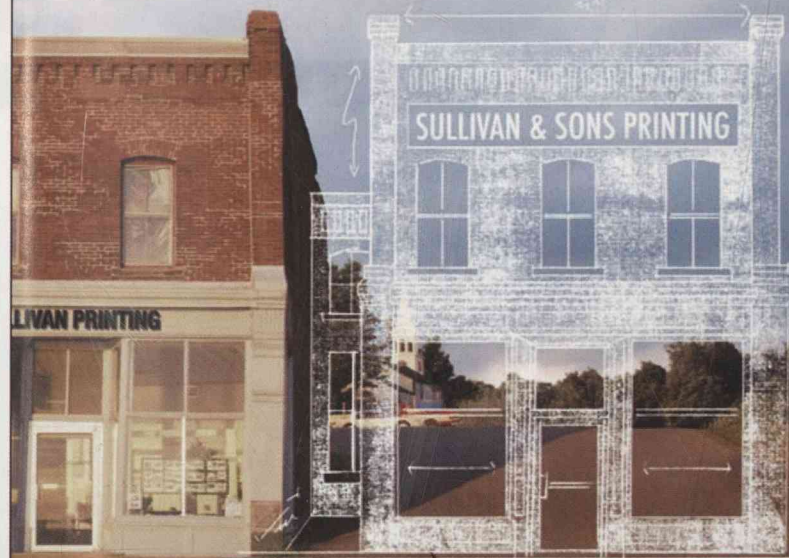
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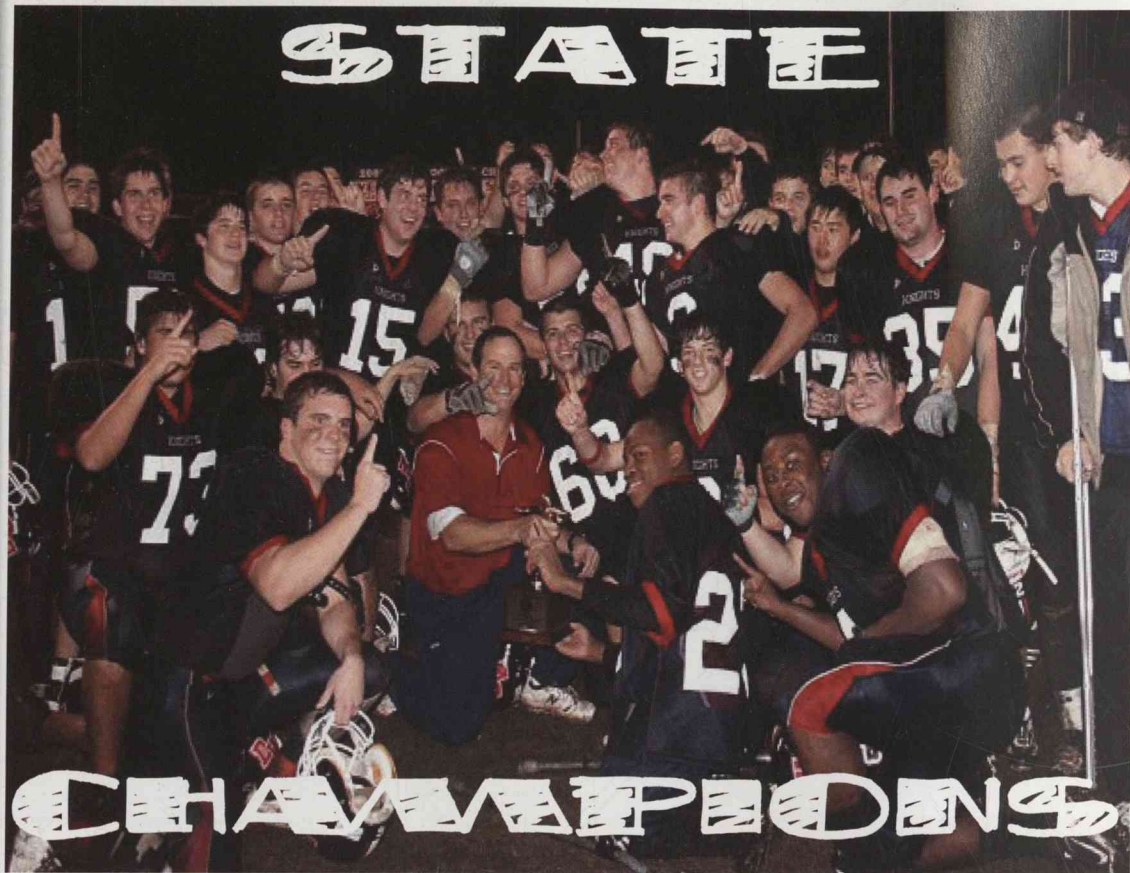


Photo Courtesy of Deerfield-Windsor School

For the past two years, the GISA has been virtually dominated by the Tattnall Square Trojans. Coming into the 2008 season it looked as if it would be much of the same. However, the Deerfield-Windsor Knights were one team that was determined to prove everybody wrong. The Knights would get that opportunity early, as they opened the season by traveling to Macon, GA to play the Trojans. Nevertheless, this game ended as most had predicted with the Trojans pulling it out 21-6. The Knights then went on to lose to Stratford Academy two weeks later, giving them a 1-2 to start the season. Senior captain and linebacker Patrick Miller said, "I was nervous. In my career at Deerfield we have never had a losing record, and I did not really know what to do. However, I did know that we had to keep working hard, listening to our coaches, keep becoming closer as a

team, and win the next game. There was nothing we could do about the past, we could only look ahead." That is exactly what the Knights did. They went on to win the remainder of their regular season, which made them region champions. However, the Knights knew that being State Champions was the ultimate goal, and to do that they would have to try and go through Tattnall Square for the first time in the last nine meetings. Since the Knights won region, they had home field advantage throughout the playoffs. The Knights breezed through the first two rounds, but then staring them dead in the face were the Tattnall Square Trojans, 39-1 over the past three years. Although the Trojans had this tremendous record it was apparent that it meant nothing to the Knights. Senior running back and all-state player Andy Clack said,

"I knew we were going to do it. It was our last chance to prove all of the outsiders wrong. We felt like we had outworked them and that we wanted it more. We knew we were better, all that we had left to do was to prove it."

That is exactly what the Knights did. On a night that felt below freezing, the Knights came out like a team that was possessed and simply refused to lose. The Knights won the game 14-3 and now only had the Westfield Hornets standing in their way between them and a ring.

Earlier in the season, the Knights had beaten the Hornets 6-3 on a last second Matt Mercer field goal in a game that had now become known as the "Mud Bowl". Knowing that it would not be easy beat Westfield again; the Knights did not relish the Tattnall victory for too long and started preparing for the Westfield immediately. As the state championship game got closer, so did the rain. Just as before, the Knights and Hornets were going to be playing "Mud Bowl II".

Deerfield-Windsor jumped out to an early 14-0 lead. However, the Hornets were resilient and answered back

almost immediately, making it 14-6. The Knights then kicked a field goal to go into the half with a 17-6 lead. The Knights were done scoring. They had to rely on their defense to win it for them. The Hornets scored a touchdown making it 17-12, in favor of the Knights. The game then became a defensive struggle, both teams just looking for a break to go their way. Late in the game Westfield got what they had wanted when Clack fumbled the football in Hornet territory.

Senior all-state linebacker Jake Moore said, "I knew right then and there that if they scored that our dream of winning state was finished, but I knew that our defense was not going to let that happen. Plus, Clack had been too good of a player and friend to all of us to let it end that way for him." Moore was right; the defense went on to hold. On second and long, a sigh of relief fell upon Webb Memorial Stadium when Deerfield's sophomore defensive back Davis Moore came down with an interception to seal the game and the state championship for the Deerfield-Windsor Knights.



Photo Courtesy of Deerfield-Windsor School

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LINCOLN TROJANS



December 20 marked a renewal in Trojan success.

For the first time in seven years the Lincoln football team made an appearance at the state championship game. The Trojans last appeared on the big stage in 2001 winning their second state title, the first preceded that victory by two years.

This time the scoreboard at the end of the game read 34-14 in favor of the Tampa opponent Plant High School.

The state loss was a disappointment for the Lincoln team who came back from a 3-3 record proving they could compete at the top level despite negative opinions hovering from various sources.

"I was very proud to see how each week they seemed to get better," head coach Kyle Rice said, "they never lost their vision to reach their goal."

The season started off with a 34-14 victory against Rickards which brought promise of a decent season record.

Byres, one of the top football high school teams in the nation, was Lincoln's third opponent; the strong matchup brought Lincoln's first loss (38-0); however, Lincoln's excitement about the chance to play a team that holds such a distinction made the South Carolina game a learning experience for the team.

Lincoln came back the next week to compete

against their town rival the Lion Lions. The Trojan victory of 44-27 defended their winning streak and made the overall record between the two rivals break even at 17-17.

This victory made the Trojan record 3-1 for the season as they went into their senior, Pine Forest, and homecoming, Rutherford, games. After losing both to Pine Forest and Rutherford respectively the hopes of the fan base dwindled a bit as they feared the worst from the 3-3 record.

"They believed they still had the ability to be a good football team," said Rice addressing the athletes view after their consecutive losses.

The Trojans there after never let an opponent get in their path to the top; to state. They won their next five season games leading the team to playoffs.

For the first time Lincoln played Leon in post season to move to state quarter finals, after a closer game than was expected, due to the Leon's display at the season's first encounter, the Trojans came out on top. The next week the Trojans racked another victory against Fort Walton Beach.

The Tallahassee team then found themselves in the state semi finals on their home turf, Cox stadium, competing against Seabreeze High School from Daytona Beach. The scoreboard read 30-12 after 48 minutes of play meaning more than simply a victory for the Trojans. It meant this Tallahassee native team was



on the road to Orlando.

"Obviously it is a tribute to their hard work and resiliency," Rice said.

The state game began with what seemed as equally talented teams, neither able to crack the opponent's defensive line and break away to score. With six fifty three left in the first quarter it appeared that Lincoln would be the first to put a number on the scoreboard when the Plants had a bad punt that the Trojans recovered, placing them first and goal on the eight yard line. Unable to break through Plant's strong defensive line and with a blocked 34 yard field goal attempt the Trojans saw that scoring would not be an easy task.

Plant came back their next possession to score the first points of the game with 1:55 left in the first quarter.

This started a touchdown run for Plant who scored three more in the second quarter. The last touchdown was scored with three seconds left in the first half and was a 72 yard scoring pass making the game score a 28-0 shutout the first half. The shutout was unexpected by many Trojan fans who had seen the team progress as the season had.

Lincoln showed they refused to be shutout of the state finals in the third quarter. They proved they deserved to be in the game; they scored two touchdowns and although the first extra point attempt was no good the Trojans got the lost point back with their successful two point conversion after their second touchdown. The Trojan fans spoke up for the first time of the game and momentum

grew for the Lincoln team. They were the team the fans had expected to see; a team that would not go down without a fight.

This rally brought the game difference to two touchdowns allowing the Trojans to hold on to the hope that the game could sway in their favor. Their hope was hindered by Plant's fifth touchdown in the fourth quarter and diminished when Trojan quarterback Ryan White threw an interception into the end zone giving plant procession with less than a minute left in the game and in turn giving the state championship to Plant with a final score of 34-14.

The score may seem dismal but the Trojans dominated the third quarter keeping Plant from an excessive score. They made their own comeback to prove to everyone they were the team that earned that spot in the state championship.

On Dec. 20 the Florida Citrus Bowl was filled with 4,872 people all there to see the 2008 state final that was between Plant and Lincoln. Lincoln made an appearance this year at the state finals and that in itself was an honor for the school, it displayed the hard core determination amongst the football players.

"They (the players) balanced a lot and still performed to a high standard," Rice said.

The 11-4 2008 football season was one that brought Lincoln back to the state playoffs, a place that since the Lincoln football program started in 1975 the Trojans have appeared 14 times.

As far as what the school should expect from the team next year, it depends on the players.

"I think the senior class this year showed the rest of the classes how to get there (to state)," Rice said, "I hope the returnees take us back next year."

By: Kate Schofield



LET'S RODEO!



RODEO. Once thought of as the everyday life and daily work of ranch hand cowboys and cowpokes, the sport of rodeo is on a comeback. Most people think of rodeo as bull riding and bucking horses. But, there are other aspects of rodeo that aren't as well known as the bulls and horses but are becoming more familiar to spectators of all ages. Like other sports, both amateur and professional levels exist.

The most common amateur and professional events in rodeo are Bull Riding, Saddle Bronc, Bareback Riding, Barrel Racing, Steer Wrestling, Team Roping and Tie-Down Calf Roping. Each event is a timed event, meaning the faster the time on the clock, the closer to the top of the leader board you are, with the exception of Bulls, Saddle Bronc and Bareback Riding. These are ranked by score, not just how fast your time. You have to stay on the back of the bull or horse for a total of 8 seconds, and both the rider and the animal are scored on a scale of 1-50 for the rider and 1-50 for the animal. The higher the score, the better the ride. If the rider is bucked off the animal before the 8 second horn sounds, they receive a "no score" for that ride. As the rider yells, "Open the gate boys," can you imagine sitting on the back of a bull with no saddle and nothing to hold on to but a rope that's tied around the belly of a 1,500 pound bull with horns, pumping your legs along his neck like a swing, while this wild animal bucks his back legs up in the air and jumps off the ground with

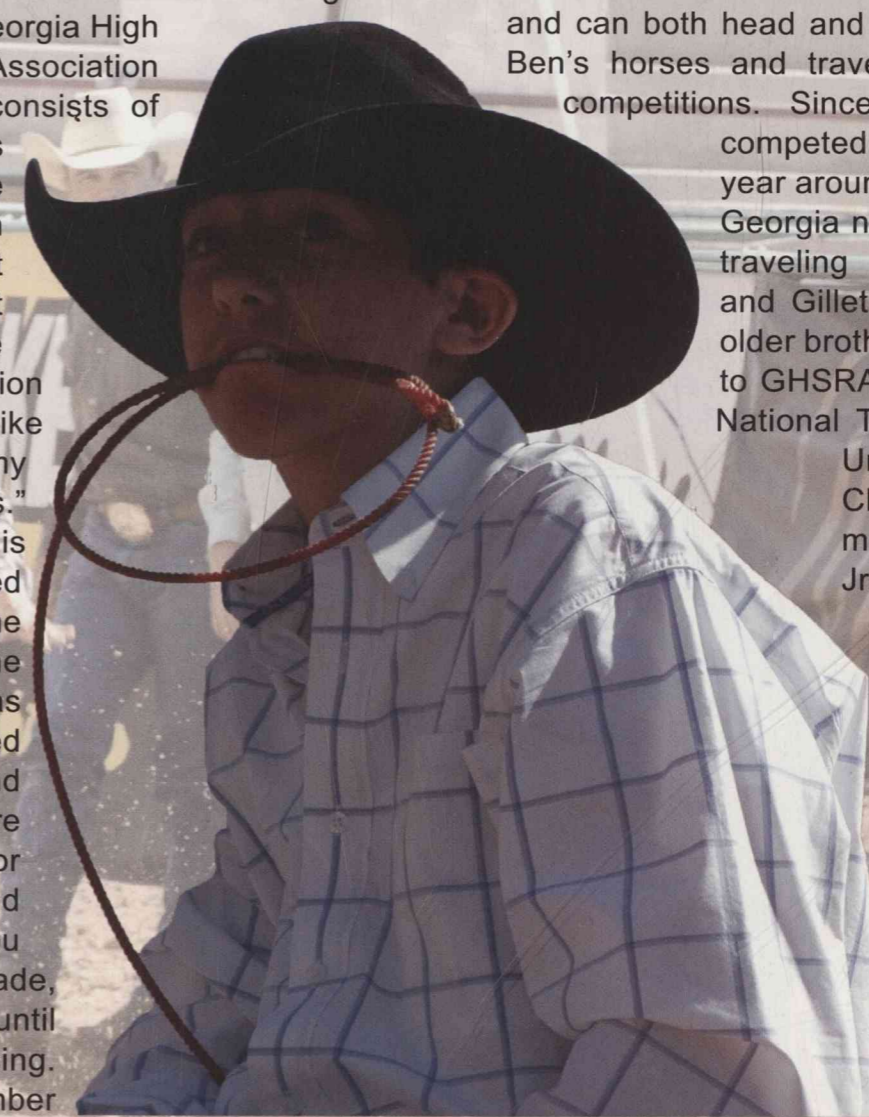
his front feet trying to buck the rider off who is trying to stay on for 8 seconds? Bulls and horses, are the more colorful events of rodeo. But not to worry, the other events are just as tense and competitive.

Local student athlete, Ben Whiddon, a ninth grader at Robert F Munroe School in Mt Pleasant, Fl, is an example of a modern day cowboy and participates in the sport of rodeo for the state of Georgia. He is a member of the Georgia High School Rodeo Association (GHSRA), which consists of 9th - 12th graders for the entire state of Georgia. When we asked Ben what he enjoyed most about the rodeo he said, "The competition is great, but I like spending time with my family and friends." Even though rodeo is not a sport sponsored by Ben's school, he is still held to the same standards as a school sponsored sport. Grades and school conduct are a deciding factor for membership and participation. If you don't make the grade, you don't rodeo until your grades are passing. Ben is also a member of the Beta Club and Key Club at school and is an honor student. His favorite event with the rodeo is Team Roping. His partner, Sara StClair, also a freshman this year, is from Locust Grove, Ga. Currently, Ben and Sara are sitting in 5th place in the Georgia High School Rodeo Association. The regular rodeo season will end in May. The State Finals are in June and will be held in Perry, Ga., at the Georgia National Fair Grounds, and hopefully end the season with a trip to the high school Nationals in Farmington, New Mexico. In order to make the national level, you must compete throughout the regular season,

placing in the top 20 of your state. The next step is State Finals. After State Finals, those in the top 4 positions of their respective events are invited to participate at the national level. This is the ultimate. Seven days consisting of fourteen rodeos with over 1500 contestants from the US, Canada and Australia.

Ben was introduced to team roping by his uncle, and can both head and heel. Sam and Grey are Ben's horses and travel with him to his rodeo competitions. Since the age of five, Ben has competed in 14 - 20 rodeos per year around North Florida and South Georgia not counting the time spent traveling to Shawnee, Oklahoma, and Gillette, Wyoming to watch his older brother participate. In addition to GHSRA, Ben is a member of the National Team Ropers League, the United States Team Roping Championships and former member of the Southern Jr. Rodeo Association and Georgia High School Wrangler Jr. High Association which is a part of the National High School Rodeo Association. This past summer, Ben qualified in four events to compete at the jr. high national level in Gallup, New Mexico. He traveled with his parents to Gallup for the week long competition and finished 15th in one of his events in the Wrangler Jr. High National Championship Rodeo. Participating at the junior high national level were over 800 kids from the US, Canada and Australia. Practice has paid off for Ben. He has won three trophy saddles in his rodeo career, many Top 5 buckles, prize halters and two GHSRA Champion State Finals awards. For two years running Ben was named the Boy's Breakaway Calf Roper Champion, and Reserve All Around Cowboy for the state of Georgia.

Rules make up the playing field of rodeo, just like



other sports. And one rule is the dress attire. All participants must be in western attire one hour before the rodeo begins and while they are participating in their respective events. Western attire consists of boots, western hat, jeans and long sleeve button up collar shirt.

Other sport

participants pack their gear in a duffle bag and board a bus or plane to their next event. Rodeo gear requires a different level of taking care of; for instance, your horse. You can't pack your horse in your travel bag and stow it away until you've reached your destination. It is a 24-7-365 continuous process. Feed, water, wash, brush, groom, oh, and don't forget the time you have to invest in practicing and keeping your horse in tip top shape as well as your own physical wellbeing. While football players are busy lifting weights and working out in a climate controlled weight room, you and your horse are battling the elements in an outdoor arena. Summer, Winter, Fall, Spring; no weather is perfect all of the time. Rain, cold, wind. If it's time to practice, it's time to practice and ride your horse. Exercise for the animal is just as important if not more so, than the participant's physical conditioning. Attitudes and mindsets. People can be persuaded to change their ways or habits. When dealing with animals, one never knows....

Ben's practice field, better known

as an arena, is adjacent to his house along with the barn where he keeps his horses. Practice time, usually around 6 PM in the afternoon, is when Ben heads out the back door, across the yard to the barn, saddles his horses and waits for the "coach" to arrive. His coach and mentor is his dad, Wayne. Another supporter of Ben's is his older brother Wil. Wil too is a team roper and former Georgia High School Rodeo Association Team Roping Champion. In order to practice team roping, you need at least two people, and Wil is his brother's practice partner. Additional instruction has come from watching professional teaching DVD's and attending roping schools hosted by world famous ropers such as Walt Woodard, and Ricky Green.

Rodeo is truly a family oriented sport. There are times when Ben and his parents are in the truck traveling five to seven hours one way to a rodeo. Usually the rodeos are held over a Saturday and Sunday. During the down time between rodeos, families can be found around their grills sharing food and good times with everyone. At the beginning of the rodeo season, a few parents host an association wide cookout inviting new and current members to join together and get to know one another. These cookouts are the beginning of lifetime friendships. Sunday mornings begin bright and early before the rodeo with Cowboy Church.

Ben's favorite event, team roping, is an event that hosts two riders, two horses, two ropes, and one steer. These seven factors are definitely a timing issue. In Team Roping, there are two three sided boxes and a chute, similar to a tunnel, for the steer to be held at one end of the arena. The chute holds the steer between the two boxes, which is where the riders and horses are. You have a horse and rider in one box, beside them is the chute with the steer, and on the other side of the chute is the other rider and

horse. The riders are mounted or sitting on their horses. One rider is called the header and is in the heading box, and the other rider is the heeler in the heeling box. Terminology is everything. The ropes the riders have are for roping or catching the steer. The object of this event is for the header to catch the horns of the steer and the heeler to catch the back feet or heels of the steer. Oh, and let's not forget the gate man. He is the one standing immediately beside the chute where the steer is and will open or release the latch on the gate for the steer to run out. Team Roping is just that, a team effort that is accomplished when the header nods his head for the gate man to turn out the steer. The rider and his horse run out of their box, chasing a running steer, while swinging his rope above his head, and trying to lasso, or rope the steer's horns. When he catches the steer by the horns, the header wraps his end of the rope around his saddle horn, the knob on the saddle, and gently pulls the steer behind his horse so the heeler can get into position and rope or lasso the hind feet, wrapping his end of the rope around his saddle horn. The header all the time is watching the heeler to make sure he had caught the feet of the steer so he and his horse can turn to face the steer with both of the ropes taunt between the header and heeler. An average time for team roping, beginning to end is around 7.5 seconds. That is what "team work" is all about and why it's called team roping.

For years to come, rodeo and team roping are sports Ben will be able to enjoy, even into his adult years. Fishing and hunting are his other hobbies. Although team roping on a professional level is not in Ben's future, he is seriously considering becoming a dentist. Rodeo scholarships are available to many colleges, especially in Texas, Oklahoma and the western part of the US. Like any sport, it does take time and money. In addition to the per rodeo fees each contestant pays, local sponsors have helped Ben obtain his goal in a sport he truly loves. There

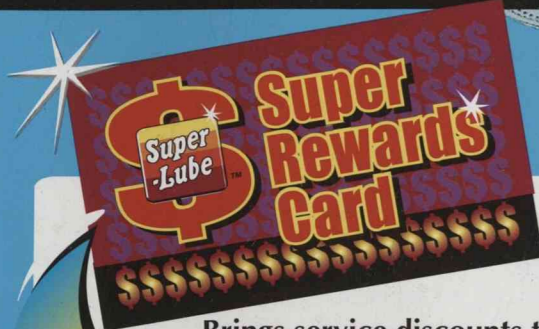
have been many sponsors over the years. A few local sponsors helping Ben and a sport he enjoys make its comeback are, CW Roberts Contracting, Clark Munroe Tractor, Keith Lawson Co., Mr. Kinson Cook, Bishop's Travel Center, Circle B Contracting, Nutrena Feeds, K-Bar Construction, Circle S Timber and Ben's grandparents and family.

The Georgia High School Rodeo Association is strictly a volunteer organization. It takes the participation of all parents. The Association has a Board of Directors, elected officers from the general membership, a state secretary, treasurer, president and rodeo secretary. It takes many man hours to put together each rodeo. Since the contestants' schools in this area do not have a rodeo team, the contestants must obtain sponsorships to help offset the cost of the rodeos, State Final year end awards, cattle charges and other items needed to put on the event. There is also a Scholarship Fund from which seniors are awarded a monetary scholarship to any school of their choice. Students have to show proof of enrollment in a college or university in order to receive the scholarship. It is very closely monitored by the Scholarship Committee.

Be sure to keep a check on Ben and his rodeo standing by visiting the Georgia High School Rodeo Association on the web at www.ghsra.com. You can find a complete schedule of rodeos in your area and current point standings on the site as well. Some upcoming rodeos will be Jakin, Ga., Nichols, Ga. and Andalusia, Al. The National High School Rodeo Association offers you the chance to look at other states and their standings. Check them out at www.nhsra.com.

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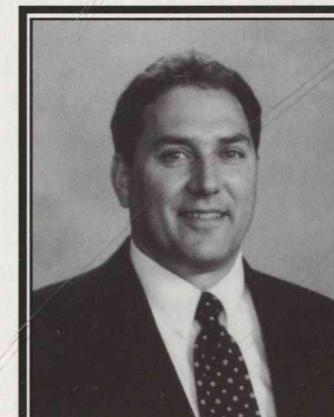
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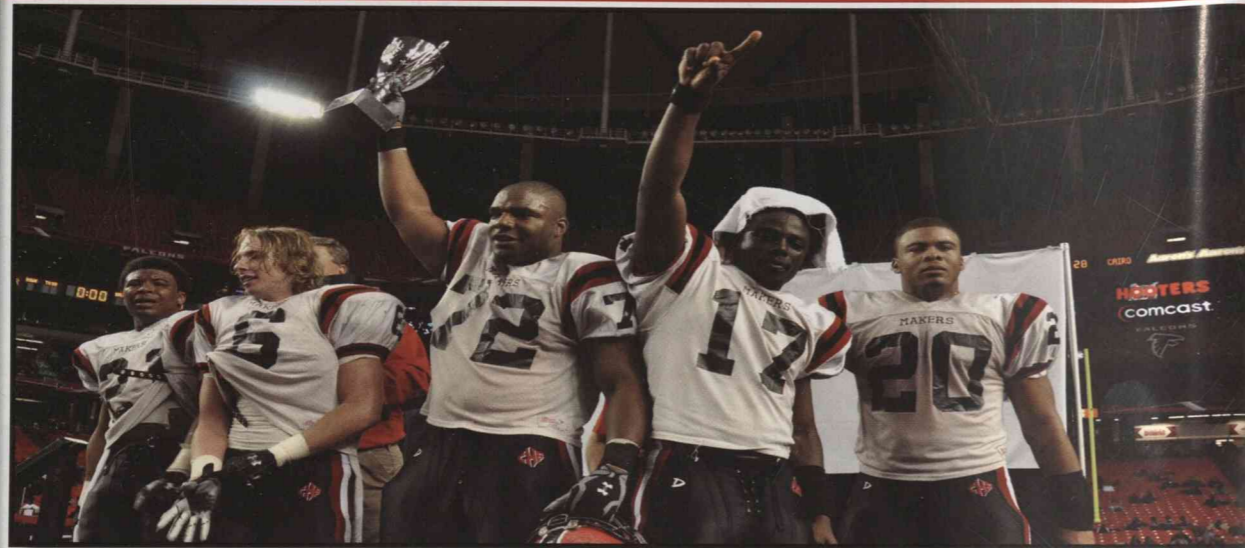
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CAIRO SYRUPMAKERS



Redemption is Sweet!

By: Michael Best

The current senior class of Cairo Syrupmaker football players remember all too well that cold and dreary Saturday afternoon in late December last year as the Carver- Columbus Tigers fought back one more time and claimed the 2007 AAA State Championship in the final minutes of the title game.

It wasn't supposed to end this way. This Syrupmaker team had come from behind several times all season to win games, and they had apparently done that one more time as Reginald Bryant bulled his way in the endzone in the final minutes of the state game to give Cairo the lead. But the Tigers made their own come back drive, and defeated the Syrupmakers on their home field 16-13 in the final minute of the game.

It wasn't supposed to be like this, Cairo was playing in the first ever state championship game in Cairo, they won their first game ever in the Georgia Dome the week before, and they were on their way to winning only their third state title in the history of the school. It wasn't supposed to end like this, and those returning players made a promise to one another, and their coaches on that very day that they would be back next year to finish what they started.

As soon as school opened back up after the Christmas break, the team hit the weightroom with a purpose. As winter turned to spring, and spring to summer, the Makers were there. Gone were the thousands of cheering fans, the cheerleaders, and the Syrupmaker band. There was no media around looking for interviews, and no pictures being taken.

The only sounds audible now was the clanking of iron weights, and the encouragement of teammates who believed in each other. "This group got to work right



away getting ready for the season, they knew what was ahead them, the challenges, the expectations, and what it would take to get there," said Cairo coach Tom Fallaw.

As the '08 season approached, the talk of championships, titles and rings began to circulate through the media, and community, but the Syrupmaker's head coach maintained a level balance with a realistic perspective. "Our expectations for this year were the same as every other year, we want to beat our rivals, win our region, make the state playoffs, and win the state championship. Everyone was talking about championships, and things, but nothing was a given, this group had to approach this season like every other year, focus on our goals, play the games, and make the plays, there's a lot to do between starting the season, and getting to Atlanta in December," said Fallaw.

The season started with a false start actually, as the Cairo-Bainbridge game was postponed from Saturday August 23rd to Monday August 25th, and then canceled because of torrential rain from Tropical Storm Faye that dropped over 28 inches of rain over south Georgia. The Makers then had an open date, and had to wait another week before finally playing Thomas County Central to open the season.



After finally getting the season underway, the Makers would go on to win 14 games in a row, including big games over their rivals, Thomas County Central and Thomasville, and claiming the region 1-AAA championship by going undefeated through the region, and making the state playoffs.

The Syrupmakers earned their right to play in the state title game, by defeating the team that beat them last year, Carver-Columbus. The Syrupmakers tamed the Tigers this time 42-13, handing the defending state champions their worst defeat since 2005, and leaving no chance for another last minute come back.

The bulletin board in the Syrupmaker's weightroom clearly mapped out the Makers goals for the season, RIVALS, REGION, REDEMPTION. With two of the three goals in hand, the Syrupmakers hit the Georgia Dome with a purpose. Standing between the Syrupmakers and their goal was the Flowery Branch Falcons.

The Falcons were considered underdogs, road warriors, who made it to the Dome as a three seeded team winning big games on the road. They were a relatively new school, playing in their season of "destiny." Ironically, in the past, those were the attributes the Syrupmakers were known for, and loved. Being the under dogs, given no chance to win, just trying to gain respect. However, this time, the Syrupmakers were clearly behind the 8-ball, the team that should win, and was supposed to win. After a close first half against a very talented Flowery Branch team, the Syrupmakers took control of the second half and put the game away.

Cairo trailed 6-0 at one point before driving 97 yards to take



the lead 7-6 on a touchdown pass to Dewayne Isom. Cairo scored in the third quarter on a 73 yard scamper by quarterback Angelo Pease, only to have the Falcons fly right back down the field and tie the game a 14 with a touchdown and two point conversion. Cairo would put the game away with two fourth quarter touchdowns by J.J. Wilcox and Reginald Bryant. Fittingly, Angelo Pease intercepted the Falcons final pass of the game to preserve the victory.

Though the Syrupmakers traveled over 200 miles for the game, the cheers of the thousands of Syrupmaker fans that followed the Makers to the Dome filled the huge stadium announcing the crowning of a new champion, the Cairo Syrupmakers, as Cairo defeated the Falcons 28-14. It took 365 days, but the Cairo Syrupmakers had claimed goal number three ... redemption, Syrup Sweet Redemption!

And that's the way it was supposed to end.





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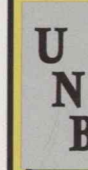
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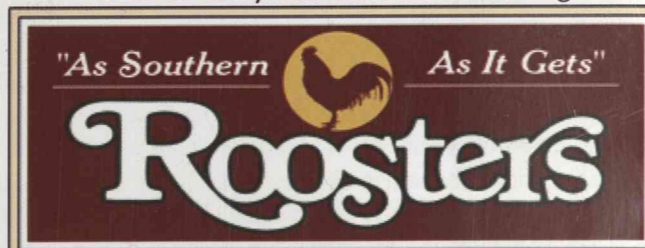
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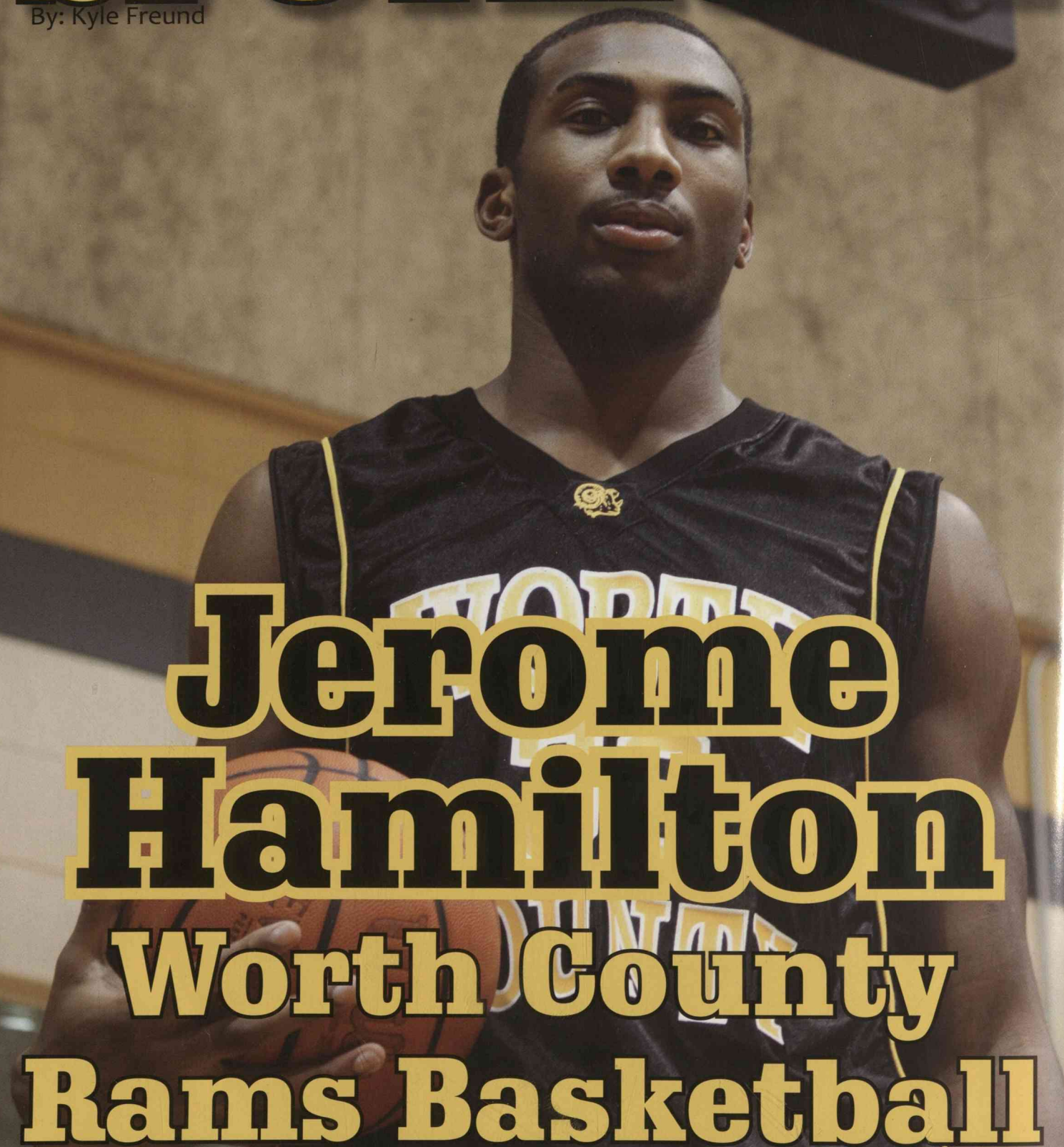
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PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

Southwest Georgia

By: Kyle Freund



Jerome Hamilton Worth County Rams Basketball

Worth County High School Senior Jerome Hamilton can stand-out in a crowd. As a matter of fact at 6' 7" tall Jerome pretty much stands out where ever he goes. Most frequently, where Jerome is going is to the basketball court to help lead his Ram teammates into battle. Next he'll stand-out for the Wichita State University Shockers and after that who knows. Jerome is the kind of player and young man that you can never count out. He is also the kind of talent college coaches from major universities set out to find in recruiting. He possesses boundless energy at the power forward position, plays defense and brings a great attitude to the court. With attributes like those, Jerome has the kind of potential that will carry over to college success and should provide ample evidence of why he was selected as this month's Player Spotlight feature.

Jerome, who currently resides in Warwick with his grandmother Pauline Green, got his start in sports at a young age. It was his mother, Cindy, who pushed Jerome to play sports. Jerome's mother is a member of the United States Army and was recently transferred to Virginia. Jerome had always played basketball for fun, but didn't start taking it seriously until middle school. He then began playing with the AAU Georgia Hawks as a freshman. Although Jerome got his start with the Hawks, he grew tired of the selfish style of basketball and moved on to the Georgia Elite AAU team. "The Georgia Elite has a lot of talent, good players, good chemistry and we play together," Jerome says. This past summer was a good one for the Georgia Elite and Jerome. Not only did they reach the third place game of the AAU National Championship in Orlando, they had a great showing at the Rumble in the Bronx Tournament in New York. At the New York tournament, Jerome was named MVP of a game and considers the showing his breakout performance.

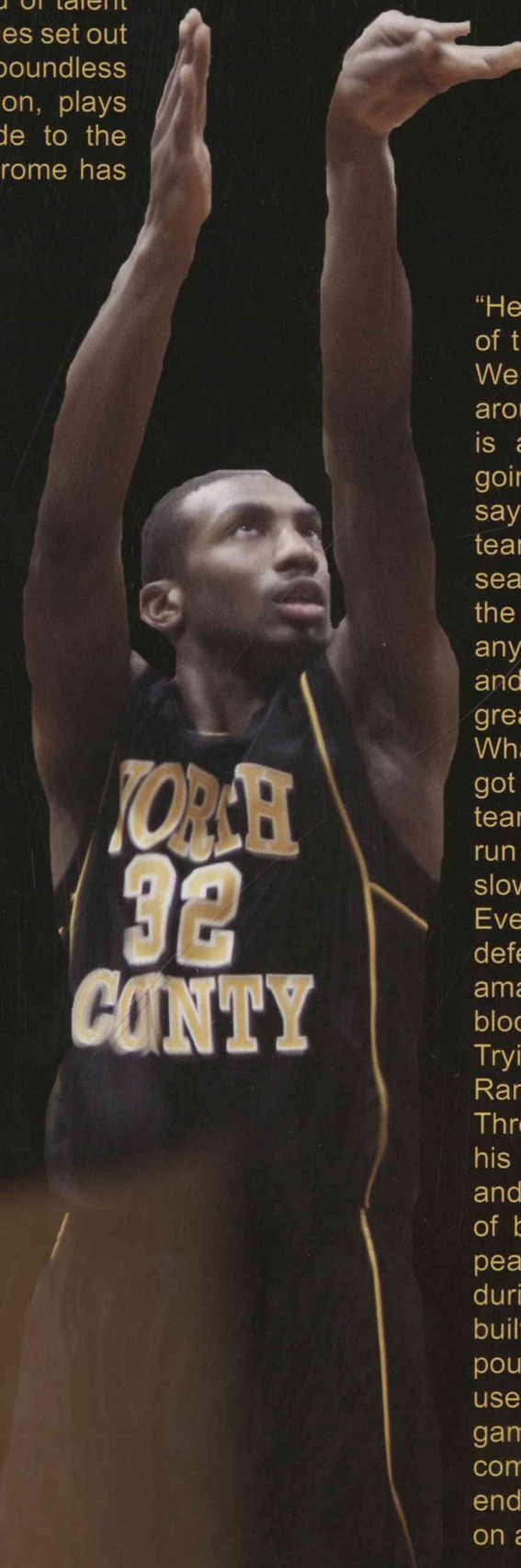
Coached by Andy Harden at Worth County, Jerome is tested every day in practice and during

games. When big Jerome gets the ball inside he attracts the attention of double and sometimes triple teams. Opponents are not likely to play Jerome man to man. He is too gifted around the basket to have just one defender trying to keep him out of scoring opportunities. Luckily with Jerome's physical tools and mental aptitude for the game, he is able to find other options on his team to score with the basketball.

Playing power forward requires a fair amount of "dirty work". Grabbing rebounds, blocking and getting good post position are Jerome's specialties. And although he is a good shooter, Jerome is so good in the paint he doesn't always get the chance to display it.

"He isn't going to say it but he is one of the better shooters on the team. We just run stuff that keeps him around the basket because if there is a loose ball around, Jerome's going to clean it up," Coach Harden says. Last year Jerome and his teammates put together a great season and even beat Westover for the first time in 38 years. More than any other, basketball is a team sport and beating Westover was one of the greatest moments of Jerome's life. What is even better is that Jerome got to share that moment with his teammates. Last year's impressive run has drawn more attention to slowing down the Rams' offense. Even with all the extra attention from defenders Jerome still managed to amass 24 points, 11 rebounds and 4 blocks against Cairo earlier this year. Trying to build on the momentum, the Rams are 5-1 so far this season.

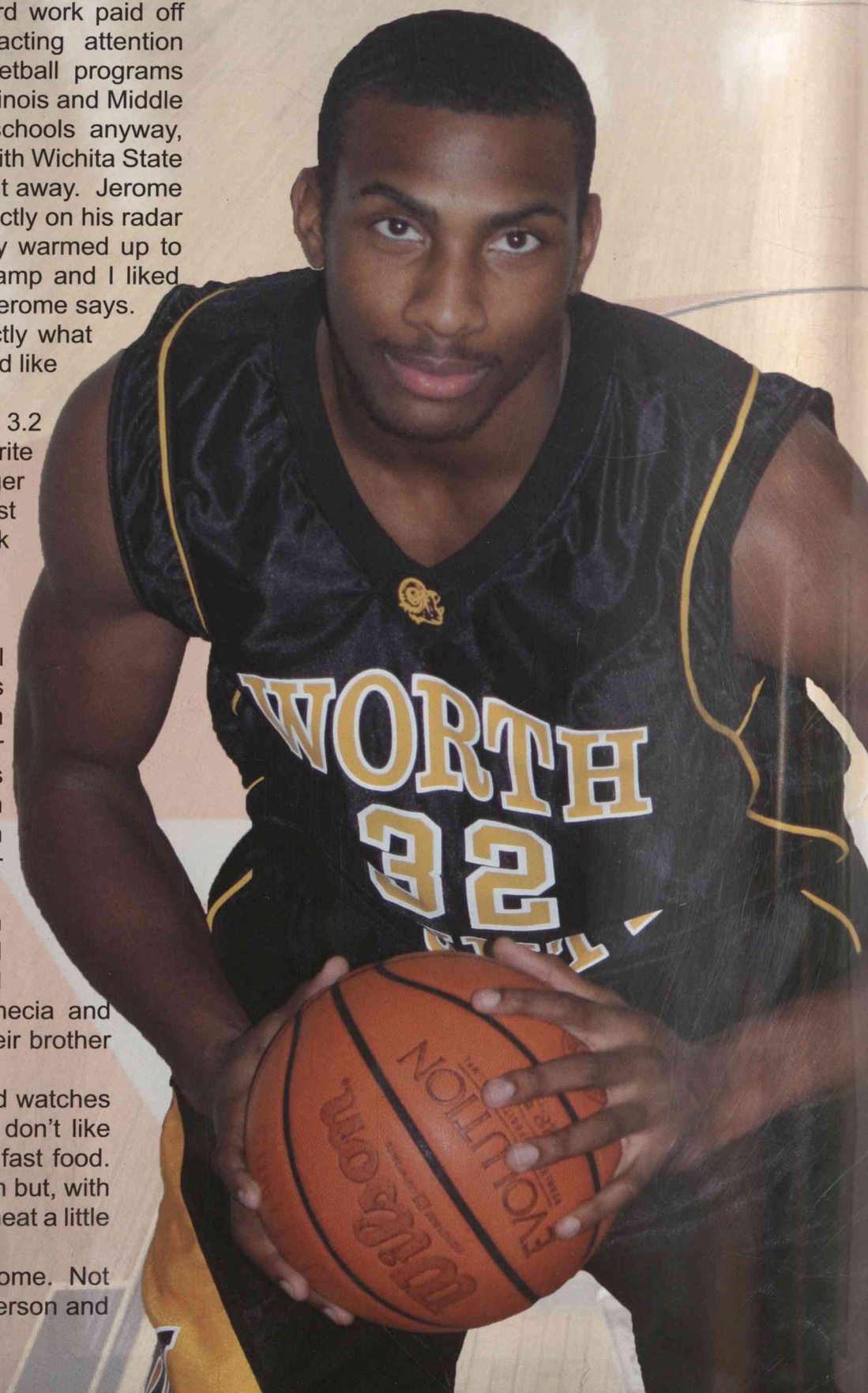
Throughout the year, Jerome spends his conditioning time by running and sprinting. The lung capacity of basketball players has to be at peak performance to prevent fatigue during long seasons. Jerome is built for basketball. Weighing 220 pounds and as tall as he is Jerome uses his length for all facets of the game. But, Jerome's height has come with a steep price. He has endured his share of growing pains on and off the court. "Last year he



hit a growth spurt and there was a stretch for months where he couldn't play ball because his growth plates in his knees were together. He couldn't even make it through pre-game warm-ups," Coach Harden says. Player's with Jerome's size are often plagued with these types of pains. Still, he persevered and plays the game with as much intensity as ever. A fierce defender, Jerome has the ability to use his gifts at multiple positions. "I love to play defense," he says with conviction. All of Jerome's hard work paid off during the recruiting process attracting attention from as many as 25 college basketball programs including, Georgia State, Southern Illinois and Middle Tennessee. But sadly, for those schools anyway, Jerome has signed a letter of intent with Wichita State and will look to play and improve right away. Jerome admits that the Shockers weren't exactly on his radar when he first got the call but quickly warmed up to the school. "I went to their team camp and I liked the place, the city and the players," Jerome says. Although Jerome doesn't know exactly what route he'll take academically, he would like to one day coach a basketball team. Academically, Jerome holds a 3.2 GPA and says that math is his favorite subject to study. His advice for younger athletes is likewise academic. "First you've got to get the grades and work on and off the court as hard as you can," he says. During his down times Jerome likes to hang out with friends and check out other area basketball teams. Watching competition gives Jerome a scouting advantage when it is his turn to do battle against other Georgia teams. He also admires Amare Stoudemire. Stoudemire won the NBA Rookie of the Year Award in 2003 and is good model for the power forward position. A support group like Jerome's is tough to come by. Besides his mother and grandmother, he has three sisters and a brother. Tierra, Synquesse, Rhonecia and Anfernee are all there to cheer on their brother during his games. Jerome likes listening to all music and watches Sportscenter. Although his coaches don't like it, Jerome likes to eat junk food and fast food. Hopefully his diet won't slow him down but, with Jerome's schedule, he can afford to cheat a little bit when it comes to food.

Worth County has a great thing in Jerome. Not only as a basketball player but as a person and

someone that will be hard to replace next year. "What the average person doesn't know about Jerome is that he is a good kid and well-mannered. His teachers love Jerome and that says a lot," Coach Harden says. The next step for Jerome is to help lead the Rams to a Region Championship and in to State. If you haven't caught a game, get over to Worth County and check out one of the area's best talents.



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GEORGIA vs FLORIDA

This article was written primarily based on information previously printed in The Albany Herald, The Tallahassee Democrat and The Camilla Enterprise.

The first ever Georgia/Florida Border War high school all star football game was held at Thomas County Central High School Stadium on January 3, 2008. By all measures, the game and the experience surpassed even the most aggressive predictions. A game that was originally an idea of Bobby Latmore, Region Director of "The Zone" High School Sports Magazine created a buzz throughout the Southwest Georgia and Florida Big Bend regions, where the magazine is published.

The game featured approximately 100 uncommitted seniors from over 30 high schools in North Florida and South Georgia. The Georgia team was coached by Albany High head coach Reginald Mitchell, and Wakulla High coach Scott Klees coached the Florida squad.

"It's great," Scott Klees said. "It gives these kids a great opportunity to stay with the area schools they've been competing against for four years, and now they get to play together. We don't have to do much coaching because the coaches in the area have done such a great job with them."

Coach Klees was assisted by several area coaches including FAMU High's Ira Reynolds. "I can remember being a senior and loving the opportunity to play one more high school game and I'm sure they're going to feel the same way," Reynolds said. "It's just a chance for them to earn a scholarship and to have a little pride game."

This game was a chance for several new coaches on the Georgia side to interact with some of the old veteran coaches. "It's great being a coach. With this being my first year in coaching the opportunity to come down and help out with the all-star game is great.

To be around some of the coaches that have been in the game for a while is a wonderful experience. I'm coming here to learn and it's great be around and working with some of the talented athletes in our area. The game is going to be great and I hope Georgia comes out victorious," Coach Dondrail Pinkins of Mitchell County High School said before the game.

First year Coach Glenn Palmer of the startup Baconton Community Charter School Blazers also stated, "It's a privilege to be working around this caliber of coaches. I'm here just to learn from these coaches. The main thing is to beat Florida. We don't want to lose to Florida in anything."

The Georgia team practices were hosted at the new football facilities at Pelham High School. "It's overwhelming; this is all about the kids. The thing about it is that we have been able to present our facility here to them and let some kids from surrounding counties play here. We have got great football players here. We have got some of the greatest talent assembled on one field. These guys are competitors and they are hard-nosed and football savvy. They are fun to coach; they know what's going on. It gives these kids an opportunity to be able to show what they've got and gives them the opportunity to possibly move to the next level. This game allows them to take their God-given

talent and gives them an opportunity to go get an education. This is what excites me more than anything. Working with these coaches, we are all at each others throats all year long and we are competitors but we are all here for a common purpose. That common purpose is to show these kids' talent to everyone around and give them one more chance to play," Coach Jim Morrell of Pelham High said. Other coaches for the Georgia team included Charles Truitt of Monroe, Charles Flowers of Dougherty, Danny Blaylock of Westover and former Lee County Coach David Johnson.

"The Zone" kicked off its All-Star weekend with a banquet Friday night in Thomasville for the players, coaches, family, friends and fans. The atmosphere was electric as more than 500 people turned out, with more than 100 having to be turned away. This was a certain indication of the interest generated by this event.

That excitement carried over into game day as the parking lot overflowed into neighboring businesses with an estimated crowd in excess of 3000 people, including an estimated 30 college scouts. This is a great success," Team Georgia and Albany High coach Reginald Mitchell said. "This does not need to stop again. The Georgia-

Florida game was in when I was playing high school football. Now it is back and as I told the organizers, if I can do anything to ensure it keeps going let me know." What started out as a tight defensive battle in the first half turned into a second-half beat down in the Georgia All-Stars' 35-3 win over the Florida All-Stars at Thomas County Central Stadium.

"I think we represented Florida well even though the game didn't go our way," Godby offensive lineman Denzel Bonner said. "We had fun out there. I enjoyed playing with these guys, so it was a great experience." The Florida All-Stars got on the board first early in the first quarter after a fumble recovery. Chile's kicker Alex Jones, who was later named Offensive Player of the Game for the Florida stars, nailed a line-drive kick for a 47-yard field goal

to put Florida up 3-0. The score remained 3-0 for the rest of the first half. The momentum swung to Georgia in the second half. It took a 12-play, 80-yard drive that ate up 8:16 in the third quarter for Georgia to score its first touchdown on a 12-yard run by Thomas County Central High quarterback Taylor Payne. With Georgia leading 7-3 with 5:44 left in the third quarter, the Florida offense began to unravel. Five plays into Florida's next drive, a fumble by Rickards running back Jeremy Willis was recovered by Thomasville High's Jamarce Carr, who reeled it in 35 yards for a score. The floodgates really opened in the



ALL STAR GAME

fourth quarter. To make matters worse, two of the three fourth-quarter touchdowns came on interception returns. "The big thing is turnovers," said Florida Head Coach Klees, "You can't have turnovers in a game like this, and you've got three days to prepare."

Klees and the Florida coaching staff expressed nothing but pride for their players after the tough loss. "We're proud of each and every one of these kids," Klees said.

Payne hopes his performance impressed more than his hometown fans, but said he enjoyed playing with — instead of against — his former South Georgia rivals.

"It's great to come out and play with these guys that you're battling against all year, trying to beat somebody else," Payne said. "You finally get to come out here and work with them, build friendships and that's a great thing about it."

At the end of the game as many of the Georgia and Florida All-Stars finished posing for photographs, exchanging phone numbers and flowing to the locker rooms, Tyler Knight of Lee County never left the middle of the field at Thomas County Central High School.

Moments after accepting his team's Offensive Player of the Game Award of the Inaugural Florida/Georgia Border War Senior Bowl on Saturday afternoon Knight catered to his new fan base.

At 6-foot-5, 245 pounds, Knight, who finished the day with seven catches, fielded questions from college coaches,

congratulations from friends and even leaned down to pose for pictures and sign autographs with children.

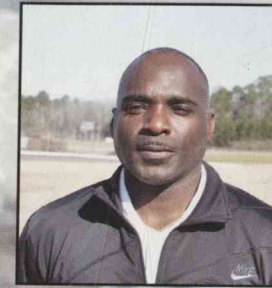
"I decided I was just going come in and have a good time," said Knight, "To me, I was just going to have fun and play. This was a once in a lifetime experience. Not many people get to play in this type of football game."

To the rest of the players on the field, especially the Georgia players, the score mattered and will be remembered. But in the end, it was the chance to play and interact with other players and coaches that will be the true reward for the game..

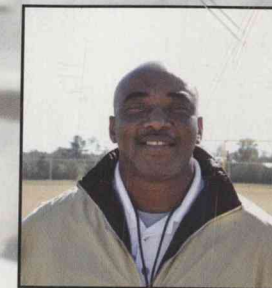
GEORGIA ALL STAR GOACHES



Reginald Mitchell
Albany High School



Charles Truitt
Monroe High School



Charles Flowers
Dougherty High



David Johnson
Lee County High



Danny Blaylock
Westover High



Dondrail Pinkins
Mitchell Co. High



Glenn Palmer
Baconton High



Jim Morrell
Pelham High



Buzz Payne
Thomas Co. Central



Mikael Lovejoy
Thomasville High

FLORIDA ALL STAR



Scott Klees
Wakulla High School



James Vernon
Wakulla High School



Chris Tomaini
Wakulla High School



Chris Merritt
North FL Christian

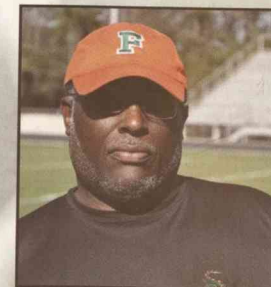


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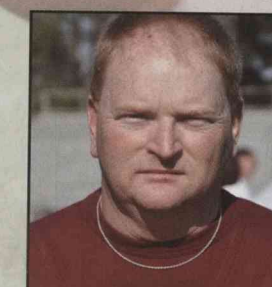
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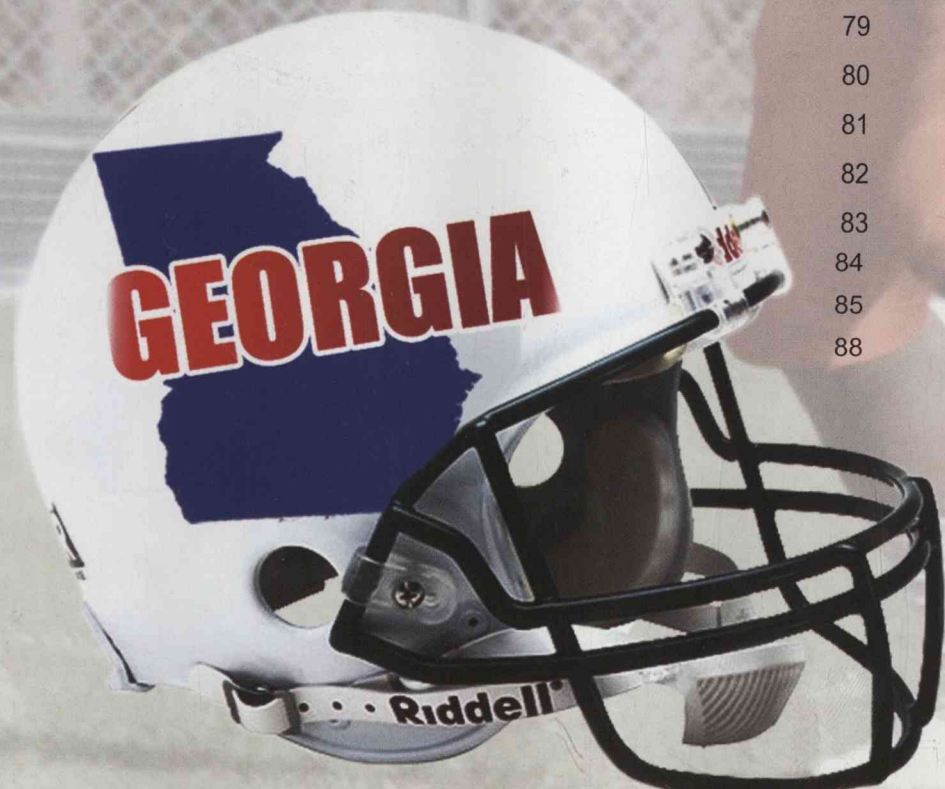


Pete Barnett
Rickards High School



GEORGIA ALL STAR ROSTER

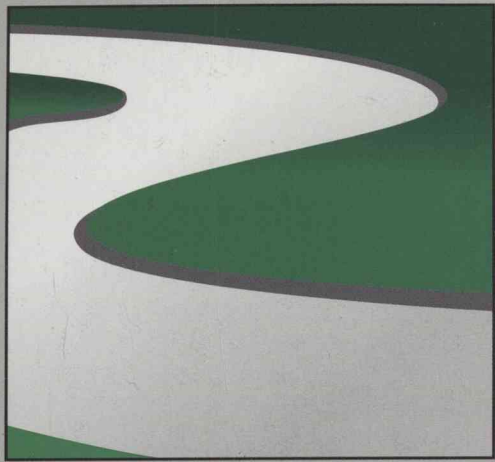
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2	Matt Hillard	Pelham High	QB	34	Lindsey Jackson	Thomas Co Central High	DT
3	Felton Walls	Dougherty High	RB	35	Brian Hughes	Bainbridge High	LB
4	Greg Green	Westover High	DB	36	Buster Jackson	Worth Co. High	RB
5	Kenji Breedlove	Westover High	WR	44	Montavious Williams	Cairo High	DT
6	Travis Tinson	Westover High	DB	47	Jarvis Howard	Worth Co. High	DB
7	Logan Bennett	Cairo High	DE	49	Dwight Williams	Thomas Co Central High	DT
9	Collin Florence	Mitchell Co. High	QB	50	Ben Reynolds	Bainbridge High	OL
10	Jamarce Carr	Thomasville High	RB	51	Jarvis Newberry	Worth Co. High	OL
11	JJ Wilcox	Cairo High	WR	52	Gerrod Loud	Worth Co. High	DT
12	Taylor Payne	Thomas Co Central High	QB	53	Cedric Brown	Thomasville High	OL
14	Todd Lawson	Turner Co. High	DB	54	Keenan Boston	Albany High	DE
16	Tavares Burkes	Dougherty High	S	55	Hank Summit	Thomasville High	OL
20	Rico Watts	Dougherty High	RB	56	Jackson Rackley	Thomas Co Central High	OL
21	Ronnie Wooton	Cairo High	RB	60	Colt Glover	Lee Co. High	DE
22	Curtis Walker	Monroe High	S	61	De'nAurius Hayles	Turner Co. High	LB
24	Eric Walker	Turner Co. High	LB	62	Ontarius Arnold	Mitchell Co. High	OL
25	Shawn Bryant	Thomas Co Central High	RB	63	Keenan Spooner	Mitchell Co. High	OL
28	Eric Henry	Bainbridge High	S	64	EJ McCorkle	Baconton High	OL
30	Kenny Jordan	Albany High	DB	65	Micah Baisden	Dougherty High	OL
				70	Robert Baker	Miller Co. High	DE
				75	Lorenzo Hampton	Albany High	DT
				77	Dontavious Jones	Westover High	DT
				78	Keanon Metz	Lee Co. High	OL
				79	Collin Enfinger	Westwood High	PK
				80	Rashard Hunt	Albany High	WR
				81	Terrell Perkins	Terrell Co. High	DE
				82	Phillip Kennedy	Lee Co. High	S
				83	Dwayne Ison	Cairo High	WR
				84	Lawrence Ellis	Thomasville High	LB
				85	Tim Jackson	Monroe High	WR
				88	Tyler Knight	Lee Co. High	TE



FLORIDA ALL STAR ROSTER

1	Quanta Barfield	Madison	LB	54	David Dekle	Florida High	OL
2	Donteris Huggins	Madison	S	55	Tyrie Florence	Madison Co	OL
3	Lavaski Kenon	Taylor Co	WR	56	Thomas Harp	Lincoln	OL
4	Kadeem Bin-Salaom	Godby	WR	60	Shayne Broxsie	Jefferson Co	DT
5	Jordan Johnson	Madison	LB	61	Jacob Morris	Florida High	OL
6	Josh Arnold	Madison	DB	62	Brandon Cervenka	NFCS	OL
7	Brandon Hover	Godby	LB	63	Antonio Floyd	Rickards	OL
8	Denard Holmes	Lincoln	WR	64	LeNorris Wilson	Lincoln	DT
9	Lee Smalls	Wakulla	DB	65	Denzel Bonner	Godby	OL
10	Zach Klees	Wakulla	QB	70	Benjamin Fullington	FAMU	DT
11	Cortez Akins	Madison	LB	75	William Henderson	FAMU	DT
12	Jeremy Willis	Rickards Lincoln	RB	79	Jordan Zuhl	Wakulla	DT
13	Gerald Trueblood		WR	80	Chris Revell	Chiles	TE
14	Kyle Stewart	Florida High	QB	81	Antonio Bostick	West Gadsden	QB
20	Jamel Gavin	Wakulla	RB	82	Kendre McCloud	East Gadsden	WR
22	Monterius Lovette	Rickards	DB	83	Theodore Robinson	West Gadsden	WR
24	Clifford Stokes	Rickards	WR	84	Kenny Lewis	Lincoln	WR
25	Bryckoski Jackson	Taylor Co	RB	85	JaVarris Johnson	Florida High	WR
28	Anthony Hubert	West Gadsden	RB	88	Chance Smith	NFCS	TE/D
30	Quanterrius Josey	East Gadsden	DB				
32	Tre Maddox	Godby	S				
34	Derrick Demps	Blountstown	RB				
35	Ardis Miller	Lincoln	WR				
36	Kendrick Hall	Wakulla	RB				
40	Chris Williams	West Gadsden	DT				
42	Matt Adkins	NFCS	S				
44	Cody Watson	Munroe	WR				
49	Donte Payne	FAMU	RB				
50	Alex Jones	Chiles	PK				
51	Sean Poole	Chiles	P				
52	Tony Mashburn	Lincoln	DE				





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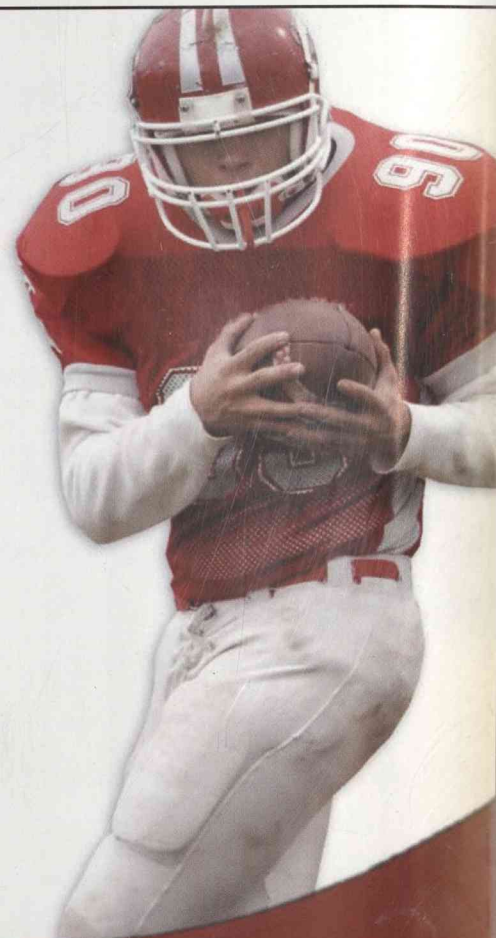
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GODBY COUGARS

Godby Went to State & Faced Defeat

By: Johnnie Walters III

On December 19, 2008 the Godby Cougars played a difficult game against the Cocoa Tigers at the Florida Citrus Bowl in Orlando Florida. The Cougars lost in overtime due to a one point deficit: Tigers 7- Cougars 6. This class 3A championship football game was the first championship Godby played since 1987 (21 years ago). In that game, they defeated Ely High School of Pompano Beach 31-3 in a class 4A championship football Game at the Dolphin Stadium.

Before the game against Cocoa, Godby had a total of 3,652 passing yards, 37 touchdown passes, 551 rushing yards, and 10 rushing touchdowns. The Cougars were led by A.J. Graham, number 11, their starting quarterback. A.J. is a 6'4", 195 lb. senior who has gained the interest of colleges like Clemson, Illinois, Marshall, Oregon, and South Carolina where he caught the attention of head coach Steve Spurrier at a football camp.

"I met (Spurrier) up there and he said he really liked me and wanted me down there," said Graham. "I'm waiting until after the season to get into recruiting."

Willie Downs, one of the Cougar's starting wide receivers, caught 14 of Graham's touchdown passes one of which was caught in the championship. "(A.J.) came a long way this year," said Downs. "He came up with a lot of big plays and big yardage and just passing

the ball around. And he's the leader of the team right now."

Willie Downs, as well as Corey Gaines, will be the first two football players in Godby history to play in the Army All-American Bowl. As for Graham, he will be heading towards Sebring to play in the Florida Athletic Coaches Association North-South game.

"I feel good that we came to state," said Downs. "We did something that not many get to do, play for a state title."



PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

Florida Big Bend

By: Kyle Freund

Alaska's Loss is Florida's gain. Although she only spent a year there this month's Player Spotlight feature, Samantha Stephens, is a transplant from America's frontier. The North Florida Christian Senior is wrapping up an incredible athletic career for the Eagles and college coaches are hoping she brings her act to the university level next year. A dependable player offensive threat for the girl's varsity basketball team at the guard position gives Samantha an opportunity to make plays for her teammates. As with most outstanding Florida Big Bend athletes, Samantha is also an excellent student. But there can only be one Player Spotlight and Samantha definitely fits the bill.

After her family moved to Florida, Samantha enrolled at Covenant Christian School in Panama City. Soon after, she began playing basketball and baseball recreationally with the Boys & Girls

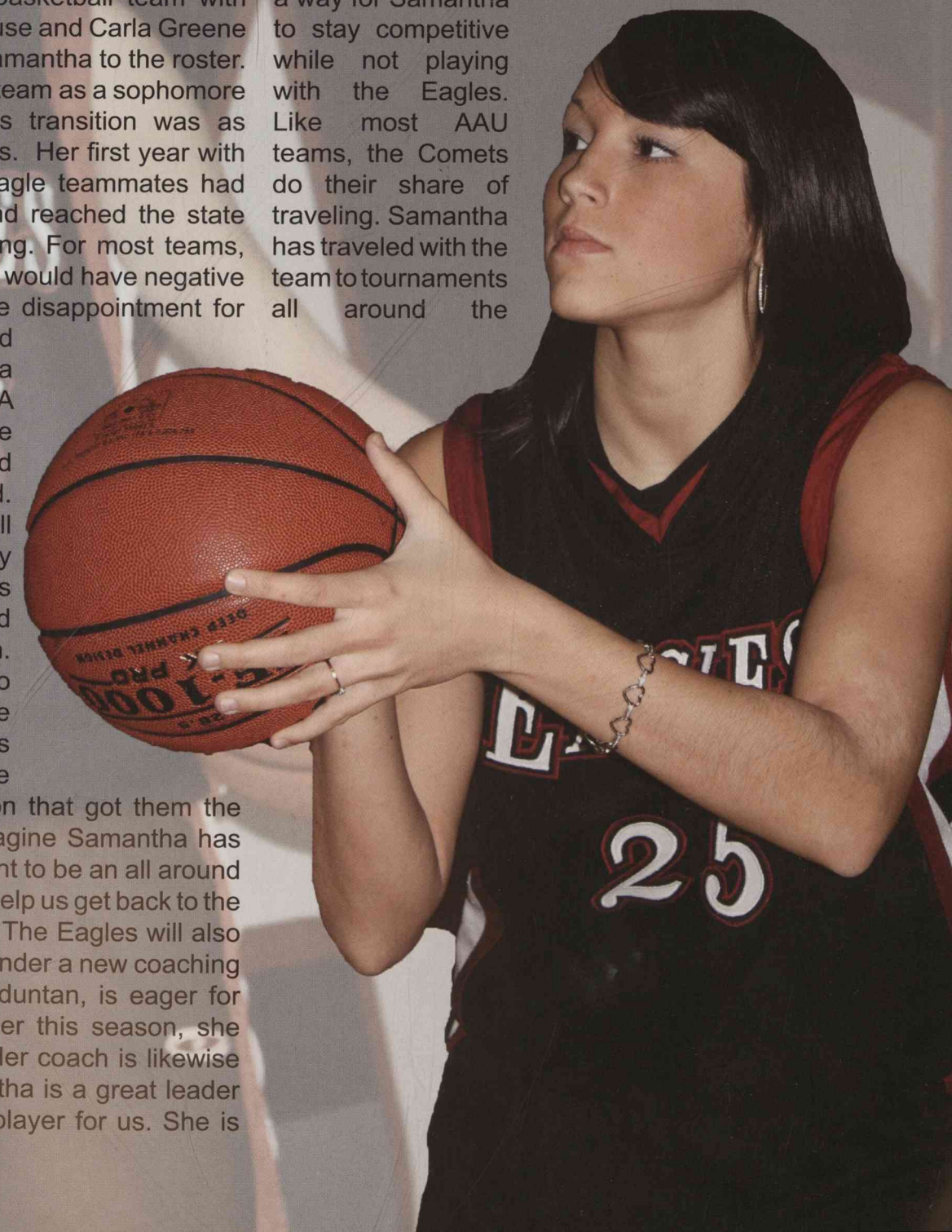
**Samantha
Stephens
North Florida
Christian Eagles**

Club. Playing baseball with the boys, Samantha played shortstop, pitched and sent her share of ball players home wondering how they got struck out by a girl. But Samantha's love is basketball, a sport she saw immediate success in. In fact as a sixth grader, Samantha was already starting for Covenant Christian's varsity basketball team. She still owns the record for most points scored in a game with 38. Also in that game she recorded a quadruple double, which is when a player records double digit stats in four categories. Only four players in NBA history have achieved a quadruple double and none have been recorded in the WNBA.

After four success filled seasons with Covenant Christian, Samantha moved to Tallahassee and enrolled at NFC. The Eagle basketball team with inspirational coaches Aaron Krause and Carla Greene were more than happy to add Samantha to the roster. Joining a new school and a new team as a sophomore is never easy but, Samantha's transition was as smooth as one of her jump shots. Her first year with the team Samantha and her Eagle teammates had a successful regular season and reached the state championship game before falling. For most teams, getting so far only to taste defeat would have negative effects, but the Eagles used the disappointment for motivation. All the hard work and extra effort put in by Samantha and the Eagles paid off with a 2A State Championship. After the season, Samantha was nominated for the Coaches Player award. She was also selected for the All Big Bend Second Team. Oh by the way, Samantha did all of this with a broken finger that required surgery at the end of the season. Now the challenge is trying to stay on top. The Eagles have a chance to go back to back as state champions but it will require the same attitude and dedication that got them the ring last year. As you could imagine Samantha has the right goals in mind. "I just want to be an all around player, a leader for my team and help us get back to the state championship," She says. The Eagles will also have to learn a different system under a new coaching staff. New coach, Ganiyat Adeduntan, is eager for the challenge. In a game earlier this season, she dropped 27 points on Maclay. Her coach is likewise pleased with her effort. "Samantha is a great leader by example as well as a go to player for us. She is

such a hard worker and competitor... The things I like best about her are: her selflessness, her commitment to detail and her championship mentality," Coach Adeduntan says.

Samantha has also been a member of the AAU Tallahassee Comets for the past three years. Searching the web while still living in Panama City, Samantha's mom, Glenda Stephens, found the Comets and thought her daughter should give it a shot. Glenda saw the potential in Samantha and found the closest team that could offer steady completion. Joining the Comets required Samantha to travel to Tallahassee three days a week for practice. Learning under Coach Mickey Clayton has given Samantha added confidence with her game. The Comets also provide a way for Samantha to stay competitive while not playing with the Eagles. Like most AAU teams, the Comets do their share of traveling. Samantha has traveled with the team to tournaments all around the



southeast including Tennessee and Virginia. The dedication of Samantha and her family shows in her play. She describes her mom as her greatest influence and why she has been able to accomplish so much. "My mom has always done everything possible for me," Samantha says.

The Eagles do everything as a team and that includes conditioning. The team gets together every seventh period for extra practice and begin some work in the gym three months before the season starts. In September the Eagles get together to lift weights and run. Physical conditioning is an integral part of any successful basketball team and the Eagles will not allow anything to slow them down. By putting in hard work in the off-season, Samantha and her

in Georgia. Although Samantha is unsure of whether she will play in college, she is certain that she would like to study nursing. "I want to focus on my degree," Samantha says.

Off the basketball courts, Samantha is a regular at the Fellowship of Christian Athletes meetings. The FCA is the largest Christian sports organization in America. She also likes to get out there and play other sports. Samantha loves football and gets a chance to play with the annual powder-puff game. Unfortunately the love of football is what caused her broken finger Samantha suffered through last year.

In the classroom, Samantha boasts a 3.2 GPA and is a regular on the honor roll. Besides her mom, Samantha is also supported by her dad Robbie and her brother Cody.

Samantha says that basketball star LeBron James is her favorite athlete. She also enjoys listening to hip-hop music and eating Mexican food. Her favorite subject is math and she loves to read especially the Twilight Series. Samantha also gets to travel back to Alaska to visit family and says that it is her favorite place to go. She also enjoys hanging out with her boyfriend and fellow Player Spotlight feature athlete, Dayne Read.

The NFC Eagles do their part to field the best athletes for their athletic teams. One of the best might be suiting up for girls basketball. Samantha Stephens has had a storied career in basketball and one that might finish up with another state title.

teammates are some of the best-conditioned athletes strolling NFC hallways. Samantha also frequently attends basketball camps. She has attended both the Florida State University camp and the Gulf Coast Community College camp.

As one might expect, with all of Samantha's success, colleges have tested the waters to see what interest Samantha has in playing at their school next year. Colleges expressing interest include Santa Fe, Gardner-Webb and some smaller schools

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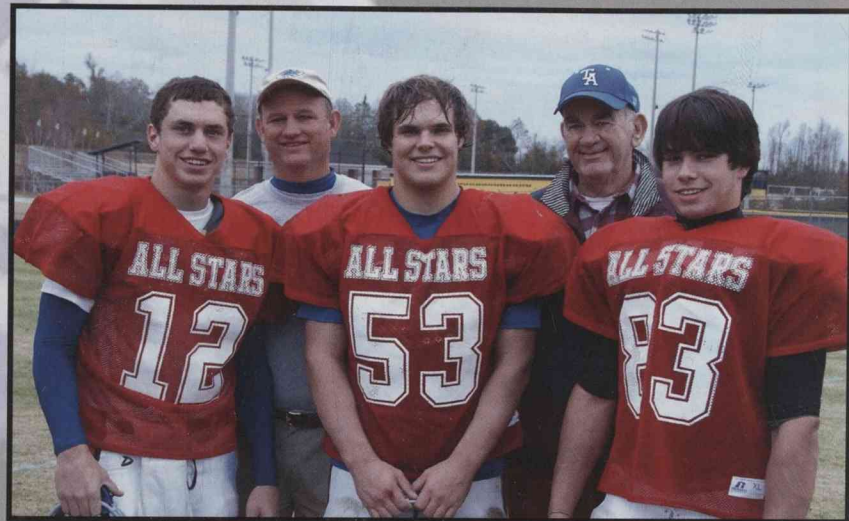
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TERRELL ACADEMY EAGLES



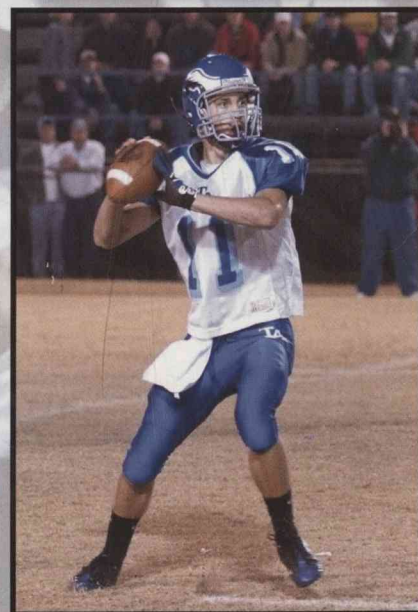
hard fought, hard hitting high school game. The team was able to prevail with a 41-39 win. The Terrell team was 3-1 and looking solid in the Class A classification. The Eagles won their next non-region game versus Central Fellowship before beginning a string of five region contests. The team opened with a wins against Crisp, Dawson Street and Fullington before a big

The Terrell Academy Eagles were an afterthought coming into the 2008 season. The Eagles returned only three starters on offense and four on defense. The previous two seasons came to an end with losses to Thomas Jefferson in the semifinals of the GISA Class A playoffs. The Eagle football team started off the year against four tough AA teams. The Eagles were 2-0 after the games with Valwood and Southwest Georgia Academy. The Terrell team suffered their only defeat against eventual AA finalist Flint River as they were stopped on the six- inch line on the last play of the game in one of the most exciting games in the GISA in many years. "Coach Beard and I talked on the way home and even though we were disappointed, we knew we had a chance to have a special football team." The next week saw the Eagle team take on the number one ranked AA team, the Windsor Knights. This was a

region contest against Westwood. The Eagles won the game by the score of 53-33 to set up the region championship match against Randolph Southern. The game was a hard fought contest in the first half with the Eagles leading 15-8 at halftime. The Eagles took control in the second half on a Scotty Bishop interception return for a touchdown to make the final score 36-15. "When I caught the ball, I knew I had a chance to score", stated Bishop. That was definitely a huge play as the team clinched the Region Championship. The Terrell team had to wait until Monday night to learn who their first round playoff opponent would be. As it turned out it was Bethesda Day from Savannah, a team that had defeated the Eagles in the regular season in 2007. "We had all the incentive we needed", according to Coach Murdock. The Eagles easily handed Bethesda a

49-15 loss to advance to the state semi-finals. Lo and behold the Westwood Wildcats were the next opponent in line.

We were excited to play Westwood again. We knew they could play us better than the first time if they did not turn the ball over", stated senior linebacker John Garrett. Little did anyone know the Eagles team would play their best game to date in a lopsided 51-10 victory that propelled them to the State Championship game against none other that the Thomas Jefferson Jaguars. The Jag team had only lost three games in the past four years. The Eagles had to make the four-hour drive to Louisville where Thomas Jefferson had lost one game in the previous four years. The Jags had ended Terrell's season for two years running and the players were determined to end the string. The Eagles had a good week of practice during the week of Thanksgiving. "Almost everyone was hunting, but we were happy to be practicing during Thanksgiving", stated defensive lineman Cody Smith. The heavily anticipated match up began with a bang as the Eagles took a 7-0 lead in the first quarter. The Jag came roaring back and took a 14-7 lead. The Eagle offense hit high gear and the defense made a stand right before half to hold Thomas Jefferson out of the end zone for a 27-20 lead. Coach Don Beard switched to a 5-3 defense in the second half and shut down the number one rush offense in the GISA. The defense gave the Eagles the ball at the 11-yard line and the offense scored to give the team a three-touchdown lead. The Eagles never looked back as they scored on 9 of 11 possessions in the game to defeat the Jaguars for the State Championship by scoring a school record 61 points, making the final score 61-26. "I knew we could do it", stated senior linebacker Daniel Crawford. Quarterback Keaton Icard added, "Our defense played awesome, this is a great win". The Eagle team had made a long journey and come away with the gold. Coach Murdock added, "This is an outstanding accomplishment for the players and coaches. I am so happy for them! It is every coach's dream to play for the State Championship. It makes it that much sweeter when the team plays to the best of their ability".



TERRELL ACADEMY EAGLES STATE CHAMPIONS!

STATE CHAMPIONS! TERRELL ACADEMY EAGLES

Academic Athlete

by Andy McGrotha

Abril Peeples



At almost every sporting event from high school to the pros there are statisticians present whose job it is to numerically record what transpired on that given day. Many athletes and fans pour over these numbers as an assessment of how they performed, and after a game you can find many a high school basketball player peering into "the book" to see just how many points they scored.

So when the Americus-Sumter High School girl's basketball team defeated the AAAA defending champion Kendrick High School recently, it was natural to wonder how many points Abril Peeples, Americus' star guard, had scored. What wasn't expected was her answer. "I don't know. I didn't look at the book. About 10 I think."

That may not seem like the typical answer for a high school athlete, but then again Abril Peeples isn't the typical high school athlete. Peeples has been a starter on Americus' varsity basketball team for all four years of high school, and has parlayed her talent and her determination into a basketball scholarship at Jacksonville University.

While her natural talent may be hard to deny, the 5'7" Peeples has to work hard in order to achieve the success she has had. "Everybody thinks basketball's just pass, shoot, dribble, make a lay-up or something. You've got to have a lot of conditioning. You've got to run. You've got to also be smart...And you've got to make a lot of adjustments in the game."

That hard work doesn't just stop once Peeples is off of the court. She has transferred those same attributes and made them work for her in the classroom, earning her a grade point average of 3.5. "It's not easy. Once I hear it in class, I get it. But I do go and look over my notes after practice." Math is her best subject, and she professes, her favorite as well. At Jacksonville University she aspires to attain a bachelor's degree in accounting, which will be a challenge in itself, as Jacksonville has one of the top business schools in the country.

Like Peeples, Jacksonville University is more than just great academics. The Lady Dolphins basketball team won the Atlantic-Sun conference last year to earn a berth

Americus-Sumter Panthers Basketball

in the NCAA tournament. Last season, they beat intra-state rivals the University of Florida and the University of Miami, and received votes in 2008's pre-season poll.

The decision to sign with Jacksonville was not easy. She was also recruited by Stetson, Alabama, and FAMU, among others. In the end it came down to either Jacksonville or Stetson, and she chose Jacksonville for a multitude of reasons, including the immediate impact she could make there. "First is my family, and the environment that it's in, and the program. How they run their program, I can adjust to it quick....and also I get to play my first year."

While getting the chance to play as a freshman is certainly important, the location of Jacksonville and the fact that she has family in the area make it an ideal choice. Abril Peeples has two sisters and a brother, who never seem to far away. Not surprisingly, when Peeples thinks of the people who have been influential in her life she immediately says "the greatest is my mother," referring to mom Constance.

It's evident that family is important to Abril Peeples. She credits her cousin, Phillip, with teaching her to play basketball, which she started playing at the ripe old age of five, and her other cousin Eulish and brother Patrick make it to every game, even though Patrick lives in Columbus and has to drive over 50 miles to make it. Abril's younger sister, Ebony, is a 6'0" freshman on Americus' Junior Varsity squad.

Phillip may have introduced her to the sport, but Peeples has had numerous coaches over the years that have built the basketball player into what she is today. Her first coach at Americus was Coach Shelton, whom according to Peeples "taught me everything I know," in respect to the basics and fundamentals of the game. Current coach

Evelyn Wright is "just like a mom to me. She's like on and off the court she's everything. Make sure we do right in school, not in school; on the court, off the court; everywhere."

Coach Wright is certainly doing her job, as Americus-Sumter has improved every year over the past four years that Peeples has been there, as has Peeples herself. At just under 5'7", she plays both the point guard and shooting guard, but feels more at home with bringing the ball down the court and setting up the play. Peeples vision on the court is one of the many attributes that has fueled her success. Something she credits to her AAU Coach, Kimberly Davis, "She taught me how to be in the game, and how the games get harder and tougher, and running plays too."

On the backs of seven seniors, Americus-Sumter has started the season strong, with an away win over the afore-mentioned defending champions Kendrick, and is a contender for the state title this year. Peeples sees their biggest foe in rival Bainbridge, "they got a good squad, tall girls that can shoot and drive." Last season's Regional Final game against Bainbridge was Peeples greatest moment in basketball to date when she was able to drive to the lane and make a last second lay-up to win the game for Americus, 40-39.

Her hard work on the court is evident. She loves pressing on defense and taking charges, and proclaims that she enjoys assists as much as she does baskets. Her hard work off the court, though perhaps not as evident, is just as strong. It's these characteristics that will continue to drive Peeples at the next level, both athletically and academically. And that's something that cannot be measured in statistics.



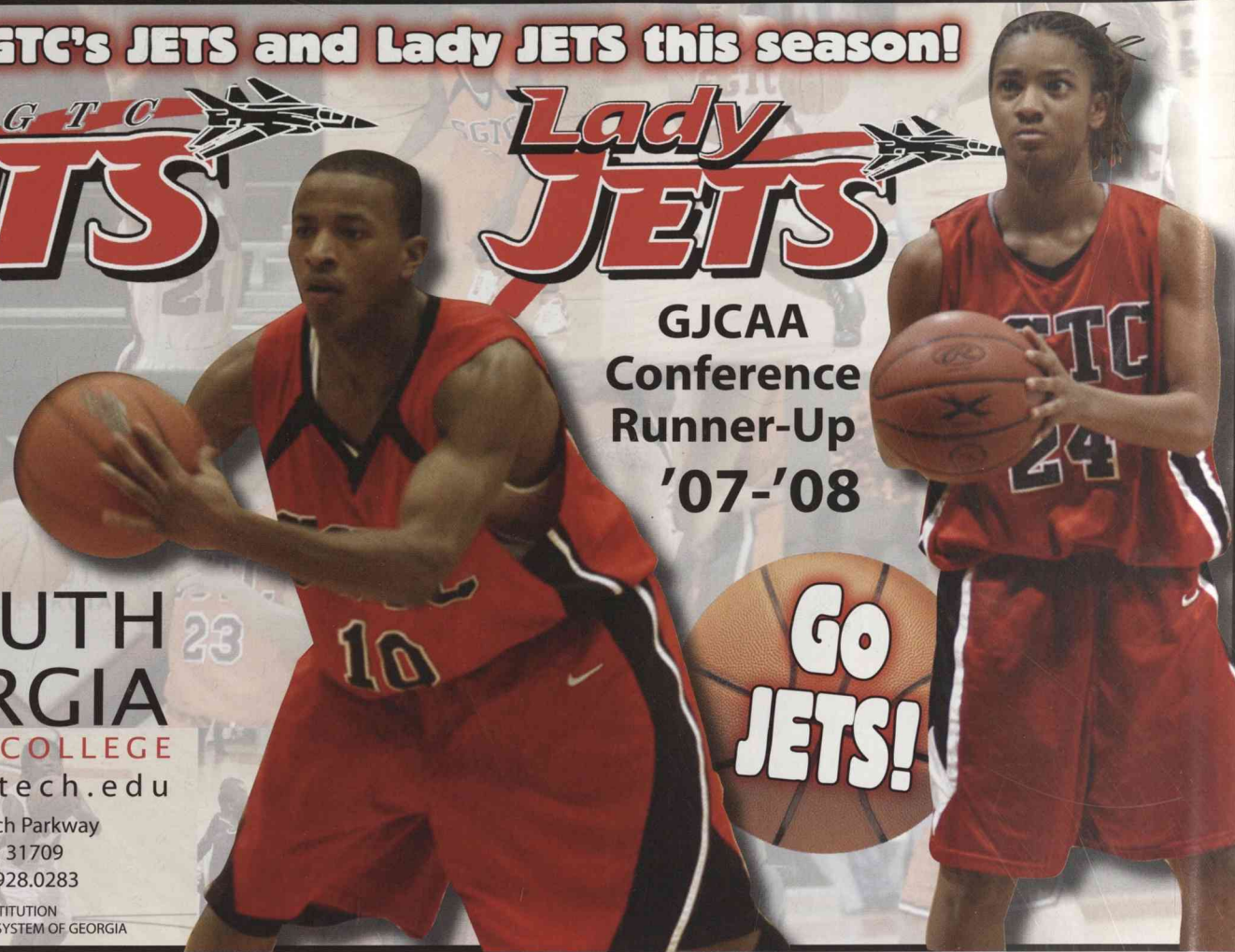
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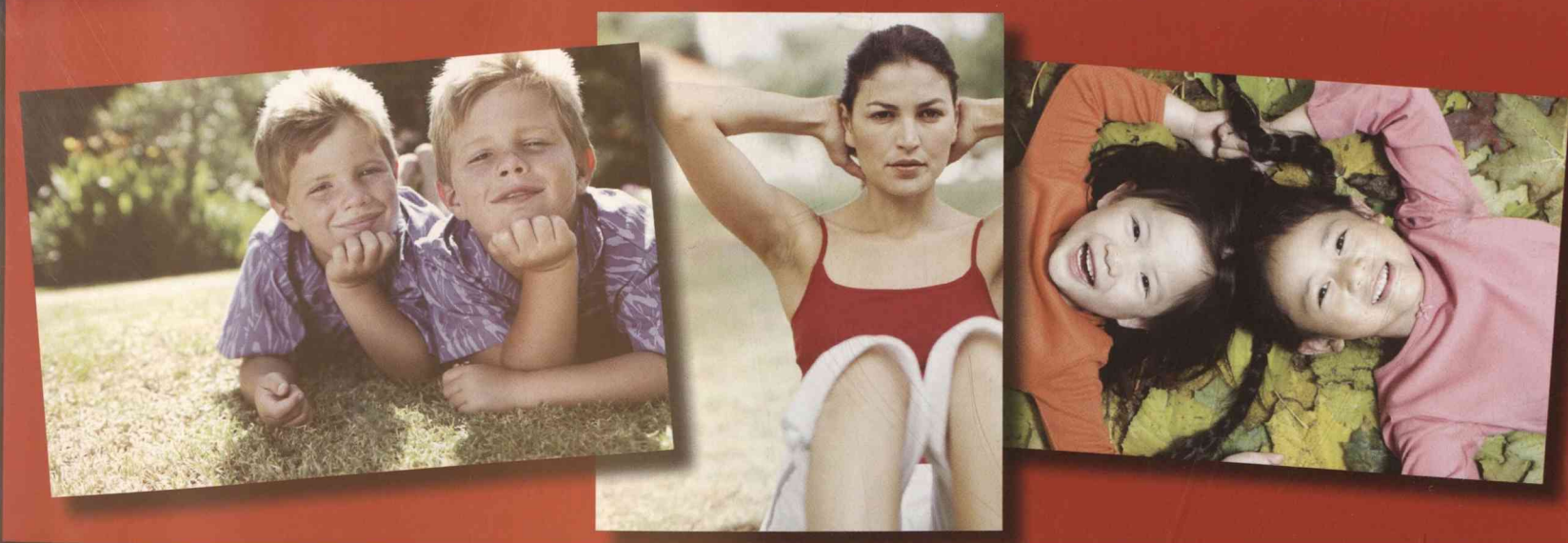


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Rising Star

Kenya Pye

by Andy McGrotha

At a mere twelve years of age, Kenya Pye is well on her way to becoming one of the elite basketball players in the Tallahassee area. The seventh grader from Cobb Middle School, nicknamed "Speedy" by her teammates and coaches, is fast-arriving on the local basketball scene. She is also just plain fast.

A native Tallahasseean, Pye is a dual-sport athlete for Cobb. Basketball is her passion, but she also runs track and field and cross-country, which no doubt played a role in her "Speedy" designation. She has quickly turned the Cobb Middle School girls' basketball program into a force to be reckoned with. Now in her second year at Cobb, Kenya Pye has yet to deal with the bitter taste of defeat.

In 2007, the Cobb Cubs went undefeated and won the Tallahassee Area Public School Division 1 Title, and also left a high standard to play up to. Luckily for Cobb, Pye, in her relatively brief basketball career, is used to living up to high standards. In 2008, the Cubs again went undefeated and beat Fairview Middle School 41-24 to claim their second straight championship title and extend their record to 21-0 for the two-year span that Pye has been there.

This year, the 5'4" Pye has averaged just under 12 points per game, with her season-high coming early in the season against Fairview, when she scored 28 points. In the championship game rematch between Cobb and Fairview, even a defense tweaked to stop Pye couldn't get the job done, as she put 18 points on the board, just six points shy of the entire Fairview team's total.

After such a successful two-year run, the expectations are only growing for Kenya Pye. She speaks of wanting to play college basketball, and perhaps, one day the WNBA. If genetics are any indication, she has a good shot. Kenya's mother, Glenda Pye, played college basketball for Florida State University in the 1980's, and was a member of FSU's first top-twenty ranked program when the Seminoles reached No. 19 in 1983. Her aunt, Jennifer Stokes, played college basketball at Clemson University.

But Pye has more going for her than just genetics. Both of Kenya's parents, Glenda and Ted Pye, have instilled that basketball is secondary and academics come first. When asked what she was the most proud of, Kenya Pye didn't speak of undefeated seasons, scoring highs, or championships. Rather quietly, Pye simply stated "my grades."

Pye has consistently been on the honor roll at Cobb, and has been able to translate her academic focus off the court into game insight on it. "What makes her different from many other players is that she is coachable," says Melissa Lilly, who is in her first year as the coach at Cobb, "She is intelligent in the classroom, and that has obviously carried over into her game. She listens well and asks the hard questions. She also truly understands that academics come first."

Although this is her first year coaching Pye, Lilly can already see marked improvement in Pye, particularly in the intangibles Pye provides her team. "Kenya's leadership abilities have grown throughout her seventh grade year. Her teammates

have described her as a 'quiet source of strength'. She often reminds her teammates that they 'play like they practice', constantly challenging her teammates to heighten their levels of play."

That sentiment is echoed by Cobb's Athletic Director Gary Rady, "It just comes to her very naturally. She's very intelligent on the court. She just understands the game extremely well...and she works hard."

Without pause, Pye credits as her greatest influence "my mom because I look up to her, because she was really good in basketball, and because she finished college. She taught me how to be a good student and a good person." Pye hopes to follow in her mother's footsteps and go on to play college basketball. She is smart enough, however, to not limit herself to a particular "favorite" school, wanting only to go to the school that has the best opportunity for her.

Before Pye can even begin to think of college and beyond, she must first take care of her eighth grade year at Cobb, as well as tackle the toughest

demands of high school, for which she is zoned for Rickards High. In the meantime, Pye will continue honing her skills on the Cobb team and also on the AAU team that she plays summer basketball with, the Tallahassee Comets.

Pye has been a member of the Comets for over 4 years. Although the

Comets haven't had the success that Pye has gained at Cobb, the competition is consistently tougher, forcing Pye to improve her ball handling skills and court vision under Coach Mickey Clayton's guidance, vital to a player striving to solidify her game and reach the next level of competition.

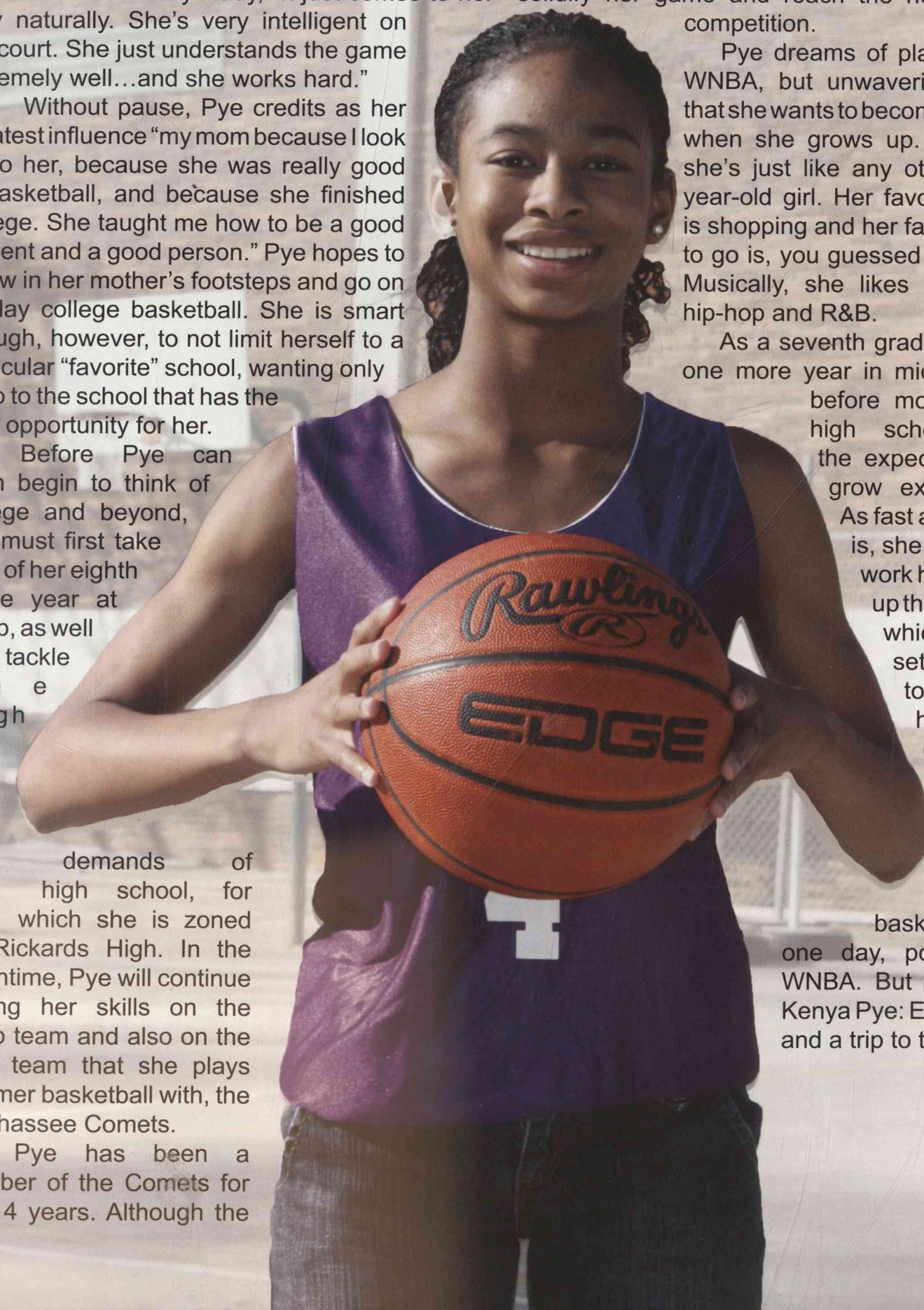
Pye dreams of playing in the WNBA, but unwaveringly states that she wants to become a teacher when she grows up. Otherwise, she's just like any other twelve-year-old girl. Her favorite activity is shopping and her favorite place to go is, you guessed it, the mall. Musically, she likes listening to hip-hop and R&B.

As a seventh grader, Pye has one more year in middle school before moving on to high school where the expectations will grow exponentially. As fast as "Speedy" is, she will have to work hard to keep up the standards which she has set in order to achieve her goals of playing college

basketball and one day, possibly the WNBA. But first up for Kenya Pye: Eighth grade and a trip to the mall.

Cobb Middle School Basketball

4



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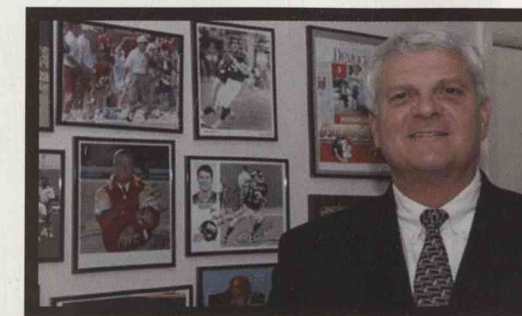
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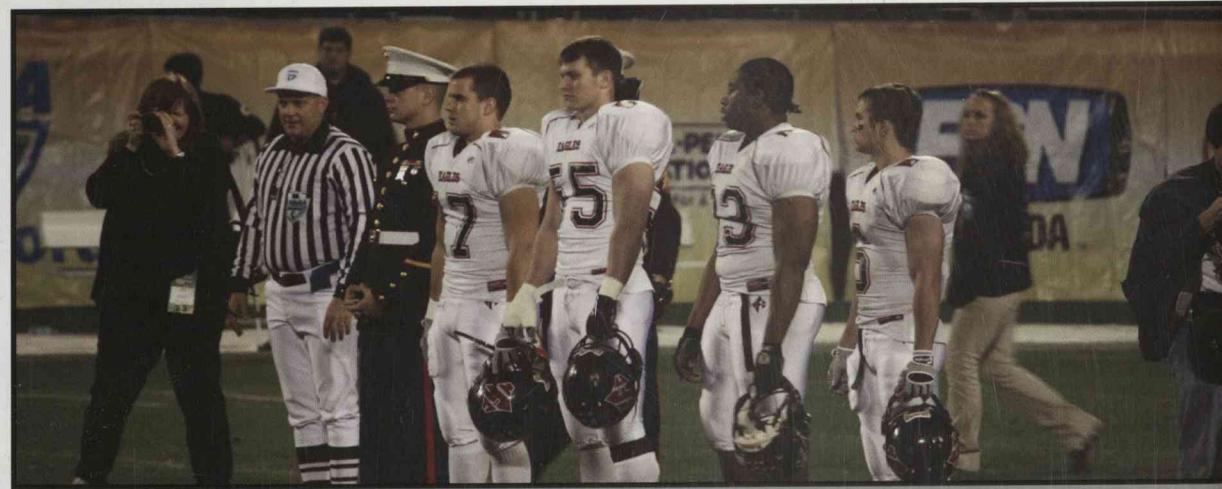
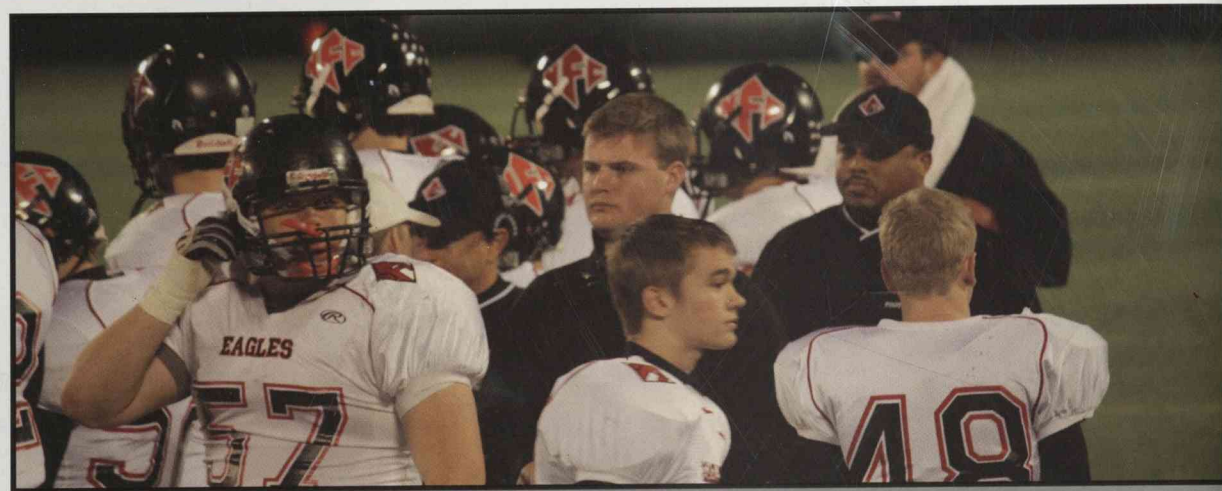
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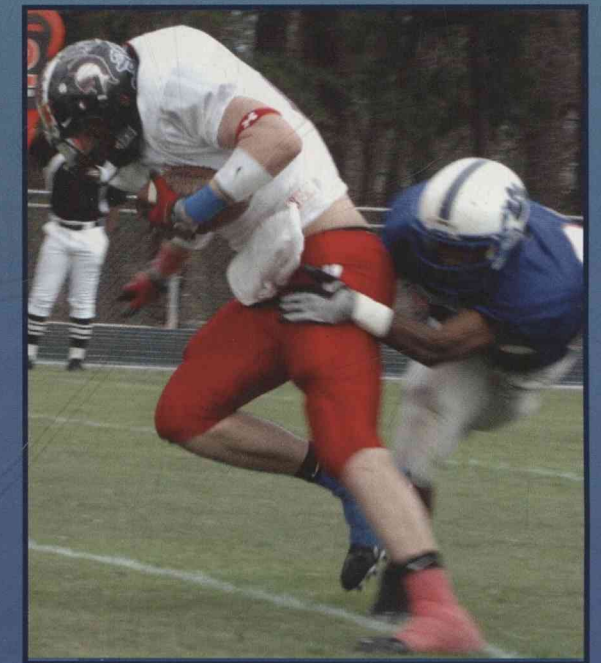
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JAMES "J.J." WILCOX, a C.H.S. graduate and former NFL player, is the guest speaker for Sunday's Baccalaureate Service.

Wilcox is keynote speaker Sunday

The Cairo High School Class of 2022 will don their caps and gowns Sunday for their first official ceremony celebrating their impending graduation. Their Baccalaureate Service is scheduled for Sunday at 2:30 p.m., and former Syrupmaker James "J.J." Wilcox is the featured speaker.

If asked what made him the man that he is today, Wilcox would say, "God, family, and football." He is the proud son of James and the late Marshall Wilcox. Growing up in Cairo, Wilcox played a variety of sports including soccer, basketball and baseball. However, he knew that football was his true passion and dreamed of one day playing for the NFL.

He says the motivation to pursue this goal came from sitting in his mother's office and watching her work tirelessly. At the age of 12, he promised himself to pay her back for all of her hard work and dedication.

Wilcox became a versatile player for the Cairo Syrupmakers of Cairo High School, playing wide receiver and safety. During his senior year, he caught 22 receptions and one interception, and he made five touchdowns, 77 tackles, and three forced fumbles. His contributions led his team to win the 2009 3-A state championship. Wilcox received First Team All-Region and First Team All-Area honors as a wide receiver.

After high school, Wilcox went on to play for the Eagles of Georgia Southern University, where he started at wide receiver and transitioned to safety by his senior year. That year, he recorded 88 tackles and two interceptions in 13 games. Wilcox states one of his proudest moments was in 2010 when the Eagles beat the Ap-

► See **WILCOX**, Page A16