

SIX MILE POST

The Student Voice

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Photo by Kaitlyn Hyde

(From left) William Gourdine received the Spirit Award; Christie Boyd, the Steve Burns Service Award; and Abraham Ortiz, the Leadership Award at the Honors Assembly. Read the full story on page 5.

Special pull-out graduation section inside!

With a listing of 2012 graduates and two special graduation columns.

Student boxer going pro

Buck Courson, a student at the Floyd campus is preparing for his professional boxing debut.

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Athletics recruitment pays off

GHC signs high school basketball star.

Page 16

Georgia Highlands College - Rome, Georgia

GHC to end joint-enrollment program

By Ross Rogers
Staff writer

Georgia Highlands College is ending its joint-enrollment program with Georgia Northwestern Technical College.

The two colleges have been working together to offer seven Associate of Applied Science degrees. These degrees include business and office technology, ac-

counting, drafting, radiologic technology, marketing management, computer information systems and management, and supervisory development.

The degrees offered in these programs of study had formerly only been available by joint enrollment but are now completely available at Georgia Northwestern.

Renva Watterson, vice president for academic and

student affairs at GHC, said, "Upon, serious consideration, we believe these degrees are more appropriately delivered at Georgia Northwestern."

Watterson said that the decision to end the joint-enrollment program was mutually reached between the two colleges and presented to the Board of Regents.

An estimated 80 students are affected by the termina-

tion of the joint-enrollment program. However, not all of the estimated 80 students are active in their chosen degree program. Students enrolled in any of the seven joint programs were notified of the decision in early March.

Watterson emphasized that the decision was made in students' best interest. She said, "We're attempting to simplify students'

academic life by articulating coursework, providing flexibility and availability, so that the coursework is most beneficial to students."

Students' enrollment in any of the joint programs will still be honored until spring 2013.

Any in-progress program of study must be completed at Georgia Highlands by the end of spring semester 2013.

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SEC now officially the SGA

By Brandon Allen
Staff Writer

On April 6, there was a vote to make changes both to the name of the Student Engagement Council (SEC) and to some parts of its constitution.

John Spranza, student life coordinator for the Floyd campus, said of the changes, "When the constitution was written 10 years ago, we had only two sites. This change was made to reflect the growth of the student body."

At the April 6 meeting, SEC members participated in a vigorous debate for 25 minutes before deciding on exactly what changes should occur.

Some of the changes include changing the name of the SEC to the Student Government Association (SGA), which "better reflects the purpose and duties of the student council," according to Lyric Burnett, student

life coordinator at the Douglasville campus.

There will also be some changes that involve student membership in the organization.

In the past, membership within the SGA has included all designated student leaders (presidents or other designated representatives) of all registered student organizations. This will not change.

What will change is the number of organizations one member is allowed to represent. Members will only be allowed to represent a maximum of two organizations. In the past, there has not been a limit.

If a member is representing more than one organization, though, that person will only be allowed one vote on issues brought before the SGA.

Also, each club will appoint up to two designees to represent it at SGA meet-

ings.

Another issue discussed at the meeting was faculty involvement with the SGA.

According to the last constitution, the SEC was supposed to have representation of at least one faculty member from each campus amongst its membership.

With the recent growth of the college, the SGA decided that faculty members need to be nominated by Renva Watterson, vice president for academic and student affairs.

John Spranza said, "It's all about building relationships between faculty and the student body."

The council voted 10 – 0 for approval of the revised constitution, with only one person abstaining.

The new student government constitution will become effective in the fall of 2012, dependent on the approval of the college president.

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**It's not too
late
to sign up
for summer
classes.**

College hosts second annual speech competition

By Joshua Fisher
Staff Writer

Jacob Perry won the Georgia Highlands College Second Annual Public Speaking Competition held on the Cartersville Campus on Friday, May 30.

The event started off with 32 contestants in five different semi-final rounds. One contestant from each semi-final room was picked to compete in the finals.

Perry, who attends classes on the Floyd campus, spoke on the subject of Cyberbullying. Taking second place was Andrew West (Floyd), who spoke about censorship of literature. Am-era Samha (Floyd) came in third with her speech about oppression. Jessica Beckham (Floyd) took fourth with her speech on gay marriage, and Jonathan Lugo (Cartersville campus) came in fifth, speaking about separation of church and state.

The event was coordi-

nated by Meredith Ginn, assistant professor of communications, and Travice Obas, associate professor of communications. The final round was judged by Lindsey Icenogle, instructor of communication at Georgia Perimeter College, Rob Page, dean of social sciences, business and education at GHC and Randy Richardson, director of forensics and senior lecturer of communications at Berry College.

Ginn said, "It is so rewarding to see students who are eager to compete and speak about topics that they are passionate about. We were thrilled with the turnout this year."

Obas said, "It is a delight to have a platform where our students can showcase their public speaking skills and have the opportunity to educate others about topics they care about."

The winner won \$150, second place received \$100,

third place received \$50 and the fourth and fifth place

winners won Starbucks gift cards. All prizes were provid-

ed by the Rome Area Council for the Arts.



Photo by Tatiana Smithson

Speech contest winners are (from left) Jonathan Lugo, Jessica Beckham, Am-era Samha, Andrew West and Jacob Perry.

GHC to graduate 650 students in May; separate ceremony for nursing students

By Ross Rogers
Staff Writer

Spring graduation will be held at the Forum in Rome in May. Nursing students will have graduation ceremonies on Friday, May 11, at 7 p.m. The general graduation will be held on Saturday, May 12, at 10 a.m.

Members of the Board of Regents will be participating in the May 12 graduation ceremonies. Regent Jim Jolly of Dalton will welcome

students and attendees, and Regent Ken Bernard of Douglasville will deliver the graduation address. In addition to students, outstanding faculty and staff will be honored.

Six hundred fifty students will be graduating in May, up from 500 students last year.

Rob Watts, interim president of Georgia Highlands, said, "Graduation is a high point of the year, and it's a great day in the lives of our

students and their friends and families. Georgia Highlands has a lot of first-generation students, and it is a very special occasion for them."

This will be Watts' second time participating in graduation ceremonies at GHC.

His first was while serving as GHC interim president during the 2000-2001 academic year. Watts said, "It should be a wonderful occasion."

Sign up for fall classes!
Registration underway as
of April 16

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Highlands Happenings

C'ville and Floyd host Passport to Success

By Jackson Walsh
Staff Writer

The Georgia Highlands College Cartersville and Floyd campuses hosted the annual Passport to Success program on April 3 and 4. The two day event featured a career fair, resume writing workshop, fashion show, and graduation fair. Alison Lampkin, alumni development specialist, described the event as "a way for students to gather information for their future."

Lampkin said, "We had transfer colleges and some businesses attending so that students could ask questions about transferring, and talk with businesses about internship possibilities and what types of education that particular company's jobs might need. There was also a graduation fair for students to order their cap and gown and other graduation materials. We also had an ongoing workshop to help students with resume writing and review cover letters."

The colleges that were in attendance included the

Medical College of Georgia SPSU, West Georgia, Georgia State, KSU, Valdosta State, Chattahoochee Technical College, Shorter, Berry College, Jackson State and Clayton State. The companies in attendance were Georgia Power, Floyd County Schools, City of Rome, the Department of Labor, Lowes, Liberty Mutual, and Waffle House.

Floyd campus gymnasium to get renovation

By Andrew West
Asst. Print Editor

The gymnasium at the Georgia Highlands College Floyd campus will be renovated this year, according to Phillip Gaffney, athletics director. The work is expected to begin sometime in April.

Upgrades to the gym are needed to prepare for the new intercollegiate basketball team being organized for the fall 2012.

The floor of the gymnasium will be sanded and repainted to include new logos, a charge circle and two 3-point lines to allow for both college and high school play. In addition

to the new floor, GHC is having new bleachers installed in the building. Other upgrades include fresh paint on the walls featuring the school colors.

The gym is used for a high school tournament every year, and Gaffney says that tradition should continue.

AAWCC opens closet for job interviewees

By Jesse Beard
Editor

The Georgia Highlands College chapter of the American Association of Women in Community Colleges has created a clothing closet for an initiative called Dress for Success. The clothing closet is open to any student who is in need of professional attire for a job interview or a presentation. The clothing is on loan to the student and must be cleaned before being returned to the closet.

There is a closet located on the Cartersville campus as well as the Floyd campus. Students at the Cartersville campus can contact Rachel Wall by email at rwall@highlands.edu or by phone at 678-



Photo by Brenda Escutia

Donna Mantooth, associate professor of psychology, looks at the clothing available for loan in the Floyd closet.

872-8051 for information. Students at the Floyd campus can contact either Alison Lampkin at alampkin@highlands.edu or 706-368-7772 or Cindy Wheeler at cwheeler@highlands.edu or 706-295-6307.

The majority of the clothing has been donated by GHC faculty and staff.

Human Services students to travel to New Mexico

By Christine Sisson
Staff Writer

Human Service students will take a trip to Gallup, N.M., May 14-25 to visit the Navajo Reservation.

Susan Claxton, associate professor of sociology and human services coordinator, said, "We don't know poverty like that on the reservation."

Claxton finds that the human service students come away from the trip "with an experience that changes their thoughts on sensi-

tivity, nature, God, poverty and freedom."

Claxton said, "The trip teaches the students to appreciate nature and to accomplish things on Indian time, when the spirit moves." This trip is a class that counts as one field placement credit for human service majors. Students must pay for the trip itself, on top of the tuition and fees for the actual class.

There will be hands-on assignments such as construction projects and feeding the people on the reservation.

"The greatest part of the experience is it gives the students back their awe and wonder again," said Claxton.



Contributed

(From left) Michelle Baker, Amber Ellis and Karla Hernandez offer a free meal to a Navajo man in Gallup, N.M.

Georgia Highlands College celebrates 40th annual Honors Assembly

By Kaitlyn Hyde
Chief Photographer

Georgia Highlands College students were honored for their accomplishments at the college's 40th annual honors night ceremony on April 4 at the Clarence Brown Conference Center in Cartersville.

Honors night is held every spring semester. Honorees and their families are invited to celebrate the students' accomplishments. One hundred forty students were invited to attend this year's ceremony.

John Spranza, student life coordinator on the Floyd campus, was the host for the evening of celebration.

Among the categories of awards given were academic, leadership, nursing and special recognition awards.

Three awards were presented at the end of the program to recipients who had been previously unannounced.

The 2012 recipient of the Steve Burns Service Award was Christie Hufstedler Boyd, nursing student at the Heritage Hall campus. "It made me cry when I found out that the faculty at the nursing school nominated me. It makes my heart

full and is a great way to end my time in nursing school," Boyd said after the award was announced.

The Spirit Award went to William Gourdine of the Paulding Campus. "I'm not the best academically here but I always strive to do my best, and just growing up, this is one thing that I can actually look back on and say I am proud to have this," he said.

Michelle Abbott, who advises the Gaming Club of which Gourdine is a member, said, "This man is the heart of this Paulding Campus. If there is an organization to be a part of, to start, to make it happen, he does it. Paulding will not be the same when he moves on next year."

The Leadership Award was given to Abraham Ortiz of the Marietta Campus. Ortiz said, "This award means a lot to me, but it's not just about me. It's about all the members, everybody in my community where I came from. It's an honor and a privilege to have received this award because I've come so far and I would never expect to be here. I am so grateful and honored to receive this."

Visit sixmilepost.com to see all the honorees.



Photo by Kaitlyn Hyde

Renva Watterson and William Gourdine embrace as she presents his award.



Photo by Kaitlyn Hyde

(From left) Rob Watts, GHC interim president; William Gourdine; Christie Boyd; Abraham Ortiz; and Renva Watterson, vice president for academic and student affairs, gather after the awards ceremony.

Allroads Music Festival debuts in April

By Sarah Lane
Staff Writer

The first annual AllRoads Music Festival is scheduled to take place April 28 at Heritage Park in downtown Rome. AllRoads is designed to showcase local talent in all genres of music.

The festival is a benefit for the Rome Area Council for the Arts, and all ticket proceeds will go towards the organization. The festival will start at 11 a.m. and run till 11 p.m. and the tickets allow for re-entry to the festival.

Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 the day of. Tickets can be purchased at Old Havana, La Scala/ 400 Block Bar, Mellow Mushroom and Fuddrucker's.

The bands will be per-



Contributed

Shown above is the logo for the newly created Allroads Music Festival.

forming on two stages so there will be constant music. The lineup of bands includes 23 bands total with 21 of them being local talent. The headliner for the festival is Tinsley Ellis who will be performing at 9:50 p.m. on

stage one. Some other local acts include: Scott Warren and the Booze Mountaineers, The Jolly Rogers, Muletide Perkins Trio, The Saddle Mountain Bluegrass Boys, The Van Lears, and several other local artists.

All of the music performed will be original.

A member of Mr. Synyster, one of the bands performing, said, "We are very excited and honored to be a part of the first annual AllRoads festival and want to thank the Rome Area Council for the Arts for putting the area's best original talent together for one heck of a line up! We love playing outdoor festivals and can't wait to bring our show to the people of Rome on April 28."

A member of Nosecone Prophets, a punk band who is performing, said "We're stoked to the max about playing this festival! It's gonna be diverse in genre so there should be a little something for everybody. It's a show we are really looking forward to."

In addition to all of the music, AllRoads is bringing in food as well as arts and crafts vendors. For more information about the AllRoads Music Festival visit the website at www.romearts.org/allroads, or email the Rome Area Council for the Arts at info@romearts.org.

Other musical talent includes:

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My Ninja
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Obtuse Caboose**



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ORK reception scheduled for April 19

By Neen Snowball
Staff Writer

The Old Red Kimono will host its 41st annual reception on Thursday, April 19, in the Solarium on the Floyd campus.

The literary magazine publishes works from students, faculty, staff and on occasion from outside contributors. The theme of this magazine is "the apocalypse."

The Old Red Kimono has been in existence since the college opened in 1970. The literary magazine was by different advisers until it was passed to Nancy Applegate, professor of English,

who is the Old Red Kimono's leading adviser.

Jesse Bishop, assistant professor of English, is the magazine's assistant adviser.

"This year's ORK is going to be great. I really feel like I say that each year, but it's true. One of the things I love about the ORK is that each year our student editors bring a different aesthetic sensibility to the magazine. Dr. Applegate and I know what we like, but having students with such diverse opinions about art and literature is one of the most rewarding aspects of being an adviser," Bishop said.

This year's student edi-

tors are Ross Rogers, literary editor, Jennifer Bolden, assistant editor and Rebecca Layson, art editor.

Artists and writers whose work has been published speak about it at the receptions. "It's showing the professional side of the free-thinking, artistic students in school," said Kori Broadway, a math major on the Floyd campus. She was one of the many students who attended the reception last year.

Some artists and writers that got their start with the Old Red Kimono expand their work to other literary magazines.

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Spring Fling

Spring Fling took place at the Floyd campus on April 11, 2012 with a Mardi Gras theme. Students gathered in the Lakeview building auditorium to participate in games while they listen to the sounds of Blair Grimmins and the Hookers. Activities available to students were Cornhole, Inflatables and a mechanical bull ride. The event was catered by the Charger café staff (Almora Culinary Services). Spring Fling took place at the other campuses from April 9-13.



Photo by Kaitlyn Hyde

Sarah Lane gets her face painted.

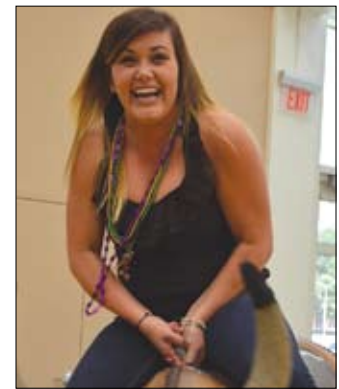
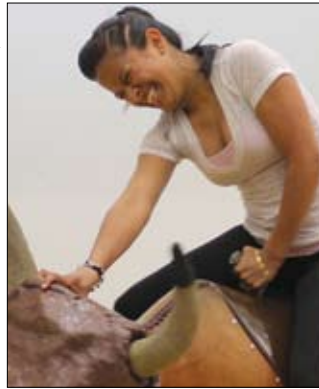


Photo by Kaitlyn Hyde and Ryan Jones

Cowgirls (from left) Ana Alvarado, Ashley Patty and Haley Brooke McCain ride the mechanical bull at Spring Fling.



Photo by Scott Hale

(From left) Demetria Almond, Stevanie Pruitt and Hannah Smith create Mardi Gras Masks.



Photo by Scott Hale

Students try their hands at a game of Cornhole.



Photo by Scott Hale

Blair Grimmins and the Hookers perform for students and faculty.

GHC Graduation Class of 2012

Graduates

Kai Ulrich Abrahams
Monica Denise Ackey
Brittany Leann Adams
Jennifer Lynn Adams
Melissa Morgan Adams
Nicole Rachelle Agadoni
Haley Danielle Agan
Oluwadamilare Adeniyi Aina
Timothy A Akins
Onyekachi B Akpuchukwu
Elizabeth Michelle Alford
Krystin Elizabeth Allaire
Christopher Jacob Allmon
Gary William Alston
Samantha N Amyx
Codie Autumn Anders
Amber Lynn Anderson
Tricia Kilgore Anthony
Stacy Michelle Armstrong
Jennifer Marie Arnett
April Michelle Arnold
Shanisha Antionette Artis
Lara Jean Babb
Taylor Ann Bagwell
Breanna Hilburn Bailey
Tina Marie Bailey
Erin Nicole Baker
Michelle Leigh Baker
Alexander James Baldwin
Jade Nicole Barner
Stephen Chey Barnes
Andrew Thomas Barnett
Carla Deanne Barnett
Deanna Dyer Barnette
Clyde Z Barrett

Willard Edward Barrett
Carlye Allison Barton
Christopher Andrew Bates
Jesse Troy Beard
Amanda Gale Bearden
Mollie Elizabeth Beatty
Laura Susanne Becker
Patrick Coleman Bellamy
Taylor Dianne Bennett
Lauren Lane Bergman
Elesser Sheree Berrian
Brenda Dale Bertelsen
Kimberly Dawn Bestland
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Alex Tremayne Bishop
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Ian P Blankenship
Amanda Treglown Bohannon
Jennifer Sue Bolden
Sylvia Mauldin Boling
James Kevin Bond
Brandi Danielle Booser
David Jack Bosarge
Jennifer Jean Botsford
Christie Hufstedler Boyd
Victoria Candace Boyd
Heather Renee Braden
Callie Elizabeth Bradley
Nicholas Sean Bradley
LeAnna J Bradshaw
John Michael Brady
Jason Paul Bragg

Joshua Todd Branch
John Christopher Brandon
Tyler Ray Branham
Deborah Lee Branson
Robyn Nicole Brass
Tera Odessa Brooks
Katie Danielle Brookshire
Kaleb Ira Broster
Catherine Janee Brown
Danielle Yvonne Brown
Kimberly Sarah Brown
Proctor Pace Brown
Christopher Andrew Bruce
Jacilyn Briana Brumbelow
Lawrence Michael Bruner
Phillip Matthew Brunson
Andrew Claude Bryan
Ryan C Bucki
Matthew James Buffington
Brian David Bullock
Ashley Michelle Bunch
Mahmud Hasan Burgeba
Winifred Dawn Burge-Miller
Andrea Lynn Burk
Melanie Haney Burk
Matthew Caleb Burleson
Macey Erin Burnley
Ashley Machelle Burton
Deidra Leigh Bush
Brittany Ann Butler
Katherine Leigh Butterworth
Betsy Lee Cagle
Tamela Sue Cagle
Devin Kyle Caldwell
Lisa Diane Callaway

Kayla Elaine Campbell
Marlon Anthony Campbell
Pamela Brooke Canada
Colby Wayne Cantrell
Crystal Belle Carr
Matthew Kelly Carrier
Bryan James Carroll
Christopher Tyree Carter
Courtney Self Carter
Michelle Renee Cason
Daniel Castaneda
Jacqueline Chambers
Jennifer Edwards Chambless
Lakeisha Yvonnda Champion
Krissy Anne Chance
Rebecca Lynn Chandler
Christina Carter Chapman
Gregory Logan Chastain
Jason Ray Chastain
Devin Bishop Chidsey
Karmin Skyler Childers
Nataley Christine Childers
Kalen Gregory Chupp
Ashlee Antoinette Clark
Christina Marie Clark
Tiffany Nicole Clayton
Brandi Nicole Cline
Kyle Ashley Cobb
Amy Nicole Cochran
Fionna Elizabeth Cody
Joshua Louis Colburn
Dustin Ronald Cole
Haley Kate Ellis Cole
Justin Michael Coleman
Joshua Steven Collier

Amanda Christine Collins
Kristin Aiken Collins
Mitzi Collins
Erin Leighanne Condon
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Continued...

From books to bedsides

Nursing Notes

By **Christie Boyd**
Staff Writer

The graduation for Georgia Highlands College's nurses is finally in sight. We will graduate on May 11 at 7 p.m. at the Forum in downtown Rome.

Those few words literally take my breath away! We have worked so hard to get to this point. Students in the nursing program have overcome so many obstacles to reach this goal. We've lost loved ones, contended with tornadoes (two in less than a year in my case), sick children and illness ourselves, but we have persevered and we are here!

The nursing program has its own graduation ceremony because there are so many of us, around 180. When we gather at the Forum, we will fill it with family and friends who will come watch us graduate.

Unlike the other GHC students, we don't wear caps and gowns. We wear white nursing uniforms. We may never wear them again, but on graduation night, we will glow as we file into the Forum and down the aisles.

The Highlands Association of Nursing Student officers have been working on the graduation for more than three months. The nursing students on two campuses elected the participants in our ceremony. We collected nominations from the students, prepared ballots for both campuses and then spent hours counting the ballots. Each participant and the back-ups were personally e-mailed.

Specific to nursing, we will all receive a rose, recite the nursing pledge, light a candle in our Nightingale lamps and receive a pin. All these have been a part of the



Christie Boyd

tradition in our profession since Florence Nightingale founded modern nursing in the 1800s. I love history and tradition and plan to have my pockets full of tissues!

All of this culminates in our walking across the stage as the Master of Ceremonies calls our names, and we will be pinned by Rebecca Maddox, director of nursing, and receive our diplomas.

The class of 2012 will still have one more hurdle to cross. We will take all that we have learned to pass our Nursing Licensing Exam (the N-Clex) after graduation. Then we will enter our profession to care for our patients with the knowledge that we were nurtured and prepared by the faculty and staff of Georgia Highlands College.

Congratulations, Class of 2012!

Marquez A Dennis
Donjeta Devcha
Craig D Dickerson
Daniel Thad Dittmer
Bailey Jordan Dobbs
Keri Jean Dobson
Anthony Rashad Donaldson
Heather Nicole Dougherty
Thomas Scott Dowdy
William Corey Dowdy
Cassandra Marie DuBose
Donald Wayne Duggar
Kaytelynne Marie Dugger
Bobby Lowen Dukes
Anita Shea Duncan
Annalee Michele Dunkerly
Bianca Lemuriel Easley
Richard E Eberhart
David Ernesto Echeverria
Carlo E Edison
Mary Karen Ehlke
Jessica D Elder
Stephanie L Elliott
Amber Danielle Ellis
Joseph Robert Ellison
Crystal Gail Elrod
Anna J Enger
Luisa Sarai Estrada
Amanda Denise Everett
Teresa Renee Everhardt
Kristen DeAnn Fallin
Lori Rogers Fallin
Lauren Abbott Farrington
Sabrina Fatima Fatha
Cheney Alysán Fennell
Joshua Eugene Ferguson
Fernando Miguel Fernandez
Daphne Rochelle Firestone
Kristy C Fleming-Smith
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Continued....

It's been a good run

By **Jesse Beard**
Editor

While most other students graduating from Georgia Highlands College have only spent two years here, I have been privileged enough to spend three, due to my half-time status during my first year. During my three years here I have had some very inspiring instructors, held an exciting and interesting job and changed the course of my future.

When I started taking courses at GHC, my major was computer science, and I planned to get some certifications and start working in the Information Technology field. My plans changed around halfway through that semester, largely in part to my experiences with my English 1102 instructor, Jesse Bishop. His style of instruction as well as his choice of reading materials and the things we were discussing in class caused me to want to be a teacher. At the time, I did not know what I wanted to teach, but I knew that was what I wanted to do. Bishop and I had many interests in common, and I still stop by his office when I can and I am glad to consider him a friend.

The following year I started to take classes full-time and enrolled in astronomy with Mark Pergrem. His quirky mannerisms and his passion for science ignited my own passion for physics and astronomy. His class was very difficult, but he was so entertaining and made the material so interesting that I looked forward to every class session. By the end of the second course, I knew that I wanted to teach science.

Another great instructor I've had here is Darrell Sorrells. He teaches about teaching, but I think I have learned more about myself in his classes. He is truly a master of instruction, with many years of experience behind him. He has also proven to be a great adviser, helping me to make choices about where I plan to enroll after GHC and what level of education I want to work in.

Even though I have never had



Jesse Beard

her as a professor, the person I have learned the most from is Kristie Kemper. When I enrolled in classes full-time, I also started working as an assistant editor at the Six Mile Post. Kemper is the adviser, and I have learned so many things from her. She has taught me how to be a good editor as well as a good leader.

Working with the Six Mile Post has given me many chances to meet interesting people, travel to places I would never have otherwise had the opportunity to go and given me experience in leadership and management. If anyone has the opportunity to work with the Six Mile Post, I highly recommend it.

Another great experience I have had with GHC is establishing the Georgia Highlands Gaming Club. Michelle Abbott, assistant professor of English, and I worked very hard to create this club, which now has many members and is active on most campuses. It started as a few friends playing games at the Floyd campus and now has a large group of members as well as officers on each campus who are also getting experience in event organization and leadership.

While I learned so many things in my classes, I learned as much from my experiences outside of class through my job, my clubs and my friends. If I had to give any freshman one bit of advice, it would be to get involved around GHC. The people here are great, and the opportunities here are endless.



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Instances of rabies high in Northwest Ga.

By Jessyca Arndt
Staff Writer

With recent high numbers of rabies cases being reported in the Northwest Georgia area, animal owners are advised to keep a close watch on their pets this spring.

The Northwest Georgia Public Health Department states that there are ten counties in Northwest Georgia's district.

In 2011, the total number of reported rabies cases in

Northwest Georgia was 34. Fifteen of these were in Floyd County, and only five were in Bartow County. In 2011 the total number of reported rabies cases in the state of Georgia for 2011 was 297.

This year there have already been five reported rabid animal cases in the region, with Floyd already having two.

With rabies cases on the rise and outdoor activities becoming more popular during spring and summer, the Northwest Georgia

Public Health Department is fighting to raise awareness. Nearly 20,000 letters to parents regarding such problems went out in Floyd County last week.

"We've used traditional and social media to spread the word," says Northwest Georgia environmental health director, Tim Allee, "but wanted to try another way to reach parents and remind them that with warmer weather approaching and outdoor activity soon to increase, now is a good time to

teach their children not to go near, tease or play with wild animals or strange dogs and cats."

The Northwest Georgia Department of Public Health offers advice for protecting family and friends. Their first tip is to make sure pets get their rabies shots regularly and to keep them either in the yard, on a leash or in the home at all times. The department advises not to leave garbage or pet food outside, because it may attract stray animals. Staying away

from any wild, sick, hurt or dead animals is imperative in preventing rabies. If one is found, animal control should be contacted. Taking in wild animals as pets can also be dangerous, and, in most cases, is illegal.

Residents are asked to report any suspicious animal to their local environmental health office. If a pet is bitten by another animal suspected of carrying rabies, call a veterinarian or the Georgia Poison Center at 800-282-5846.



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GHC student to be professional pugilist

By Jesse Beard
Editor

At 6 feet 2 inches and 240 pounds, Buck Courson is not what one would call a little guy. But his friendly smile and peaceful attitude would never give away the fact that he is a brawler. In 2008 Courson was 5-0 and won a state amateur boxing championship in the super heavy-weight division. Currently he has a 13-2 record. He has been boxing for five years and says he would like to continue for 10 or 15 more.

"College is a lot harder than any sport," Courson said. Courson is a sophomore at Georgia Highlands and plans to major in physical therapy. His experiences coaching middle school football and with boxing injuries have led him to want to work as a physical therapist.

Courson trains with Lee Fortune in Cave Spring four to five days a week and also works part time at a pharmacy in Rome. As a full-time student he says he struggles a little bit with juggling school with work and training. "Sometimes you feel like you want to drop something, but you know that if you do, your life would feel out of order," Courson said.

Fortune said, "Buck is an all around good guy. He has a ton of desire, more than anyone I've ever met, including myself. Desire is 55-60 percent of winning the fight."

Courson grew up in Rome and graduated from Coosa High School in 2010. He said his father was an amateur boxer and really encouraged him to get into the sport. He played football in his freshman year of high school but quickly got into boxing and didn't play football again until his senior year. He was surprised by how much weight he put on playing football and had to work hard to get back to his fighting weight.

In the future, Courson wants to go to North Georgia College in Dahlonega to continue his education and get his degree in physical therapy. He also says he wants to win a belt. "It doesn't matter how minor. Not many people can say they have gotten into a ring and come out with a belt," he said.

He was supposed to be able to go to a national championship in 2008 after winning the state championship round, but no one informed him or his trainer about another round he had to compete in first. "We started questioning amateur boxing after that," Courson said. Now he boxes in what are called "Club Shows," which are associated with local boxing clubs.

Courson has the opportunity to train with professional boxers at a boxing club in Douglasville. He works with Deontay Wilder, who is an Olympic bronze medalist. He also trains with Neil



Photo by Scott Hale

Student boxer Buck Courson works out in the Floyd campus weight room.

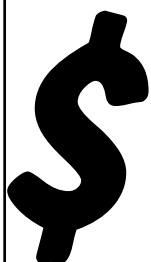
Bell, who was the second undisputed champion after Evander Holyfield. He says that training with people with a much higher skill level really allows him to improve

his technique. Courson says, "You may go in the ring and get beat up, but you learn every time you go through something like that."

Courson and Fortune are

working toward Courson's pro debut sometime in the near future. Courson expects to have his first professional match near the end of April or the beginning of May.

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GHC recognized as friendly to veterans

By Rachel Buckley
Staff Writer

Military Advanced Education, a journal of higher learning for today's service members, recently recognized Georgia Highlands College as one of the most veteran friendly schools in the country.

A total of 300 colleges and universities made the list, and GHC is one of 11 Georgia schools to receive the honor.

GHC has earned this recognition by offering several programs and resources carefully crafted to fit the unique needs of veteran students.

As one of many resources for student veterans, the GHC Veteran Student Organization (GHC Veteran Club) has worked to fulfill its goals of ensuring the academic success of veterans and helping veterans feel more closely tied to the student body. "It's a place to have the camaraderie that we had in the military," said the president of the GHC Veterans Club, Byron Hoag.



Photo by Scott Hale

Byron Hoag, president of the GHC Veterans Club, discusses life in the military after a viewing of the film "Restrepo" on April 10 at the Floyd campus.

From the Tutorial Center to the advisers' offices, GHC makes an effort to provide accommodations for its student veterans.

According to Hoag, one of

the most influential contributors to the veteran cause is the adviser for the GHC Student Veterans of America Club, Amy Wise. Wise feels that a veteran-friendly aca-

demic environment starts with the GHC staff. "I think the key to continue being military friendly is to make sure that employees are diligent in attending training

sessions, meetings and conferences that focus on veterans and military and to continue looking for additional services that we can provide our service members, based on their needs," Wise said.

By helping student veterans navigate the mountains of paperwork and guidelines, GHC has increased the number of students using veteran benefits from 57 in 2005 to 161 today.

The GHC Veterans Club meets every two weeks. Meetings take place on Tuesday at 11 a.m. or Wednesday at 11:30 a.m.

Also, the club has a special event planned for April 27. Students can gather on the Cartersville campus at 11 a.m. for a special tribute to Frank Bramlette. Bramlette was a veteran and GHC security officer before recently passing away. In honor of his services to GHC and to his country, the flagpole on the Cartersville campus will be dedicated to his memory.

For more information on GHC's Veterans Club contact VA@highlands.edu.

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GHC's founding campus needs sprucing up

Decentralization here at Georgia Highlands College has made itself apparent to us in many ways over the last year. At times, it has been difficult to track down certain staff members in certain departments to get help with our student needs. At other times, staff members have been moved to other departments or campuses. Some of the GHC faculty and staff have undoubtedly seemed to be stretched a little thin with all the

tasks they have been asked to perform.

One issue that doesn't seem to come up often regarding decentralization is the general condition of the classrooms and buildings on the Floyd campus (the original campus). Has anyone been to the Cartersville campus lately? Man, that place is nice. Everything is clean. It's apparent from the moment one walks in the door that almost everything there is new and really nice.

That is a good thing.

It is good to see GHC growing and opening more locations where people can get their education, and it's also good to know that the facilities being made available to students in other areas are nice. It reflects well on the college.

What doesn't reflect is the seemingly apathetic attitude toward the condition of the F-Wing of the Administration Building and the Walraven Building in Rome.

It's almost depressing to sit in some of those classrooms for an hour and 15 minutes. From carpet stains that have been on the floors for years to the bleak, bland and outdated walls and ceilings, it's almost enough to cause a student to want to make that hour-long drive to Cartersville every day to take classes.

Whatever happened to remembering one's roots? The Floyd campus was the first GHC campus. In fact, it used to

be the only campus back when it was Floyd College.

We are hoping that as summer comes around this year, the upgrades to the Rome campus don't just include the remodeled gymnasium. We want to see our money go toward making our education a better experience for us. Even if that just means something to keep us from wishing to be anywhere else as we sit in those dingy old science labs in Walraven.

Combat high gas prices with a scooter

Editor's Box

By Scott Hale

Assistant Print Editor

Now that gas prices are above \$4 per gallon, many households and families are feeling the tight grip of fossil fuel costs around their wallets. Many economists are speculating that the prices of crude oil per barrel will continue to rise with the possibility of a conflict with Iran looming on the world stage. But there is a way to escape the shackles of petroleum dependency. Ride a scooter.

Motorized scooters have been around since 1914 and grew in popularity in Europe and America between World War I and World War II. Since their conception, scooters have come a long way in terms of design, comfort and safety.

Scooters are great because they give the freedom of riding a two-wheeler on the road, without having to worry about shifting gears like on many motorcycles.

The best thing about scooters is that they can average anywhere from 45 to 79 miles per gallon in gas.

Scooters are normally fashioned for urban areas and city commutes but are now being designed for off-road purposes and longer commutes on interstates and highways.

Two-cycle scooter engines range in size from 50cc to 500cc. Anything over 200cc is legal to ride on the interstate. Someone who is commuting only a short distance can consider a smaller engine or possibly an electric-powered scooter.

Some types of scooters do not require a valid motorcyclist license (scooters of 50ccs or less). A learner's permit is available from the DDS for a fee of \$15 or less after taking a knowledge test.

Obtaining a good riding helmet and gear is the next step. I prefer Snell certified helmets. Snell goes through extensive concussion and crash tests that exceed D.O.T. standards. The drawback is the helmets tend to be sizably more expensive than the average D.O.T. stamped helmet.

Wearing the proper riding gear, like a reinforced or leather jacket, is extremely important. The last place

anyone wants to be is lying on the highway.

One drawback to riding scooters is most high-end scooters require premium gas. Another drawback is that routine maintenance tends to be expensive, almost double the price of having the oil changed on most cars.

Then there is the most obvious concern, safety. A cyclist is exposed in traffic and the surroundings sometimes work against safety if it's raining, but driving a bike gives people a reason to hone their attention span and pay careful attention to their surroundings and possible obstacles.

Gone are the days of paying a dollar per gallon. But that doesn't mean people have to continue to pay ridiculous prices for gas. We have to figure out viable ways to wean ourselves off foreign oil dependency. Scooters can be a great segue to more viable forms of transportation. So, while Congress and the president fight over off-shore drilling and alternative forms of energy, students can literally save a little money and ride off into the sunset.

Six Mile Post Editorial Staff



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Editor



Scott Hale
Assistant Print Editor



Andrew West
Assistant Print Editor

Don't drop out; drop in and find yourself



Make your Mark

Mark Ewings
Staff Writer

What do George Washington, Tom Hanks, Mark Twain, Bill Gates, Jack Kerouac, Oprah Winfrey, Walter Cronkite, Woody Allen, Maya Angelou and Steve Jobs all have in common?

None of them ever finished college.

This may make you ask yourself, "Then why am I in college?"

Not all of us have the drive, ambition, intelligence or means to do what all of these famous people have accomplished. Not to say that we're not here in college to find those things, but

it seems that college is the easier way in the end, to obtain our goals.

It's apparent that most of us are here to make a better life for ourselves, whether that is by being eligible for a higher salaried position, qualifying for positions we otherwise wouldn't or just broadening our horizons and gaining enlightenment.

In 2011 the National Center for Educational Statistics reported that male college graduates made 35 percent more than their high school graduate counterparts and female college graduates

made 38 percent more.

The Minnesota Office of Higher Education reported in 2008 that those who obtained a doctorate on average earned more than 300 percent of what high school graduates made.

So, if it's money you're after, college is a safe bet. Though college can't guarantee you'll father a country, star in films or create them, author legendary novels or have your own television network or computer company, it will help you find a means in life.

The passion for life itself, you will have to find yourself. Being in college certainly may guide you, even open up doors that you didn't know existed, but it is your choice as to whether or not you will take advantage of those opportunities.

After having been out of

school for five years between dropping out of high school and going to college, I have found through fellow students and professors alike, a drive to know, experience and gain more from life. I've learned the confidence to take advantage of opportunities such as writing for this newspaper, joining a club, writing a play or even just taking advantage of the library and checking out a book.

Not to say that I could not have done those things without going to school, but I'll be the first to admit that when working full-time before going to Georgia Highlands College, I never found the time or was inspired enough after getting home from work to do anything else but relax.

Take it from Bill Gates: "Life is not divided into semesters. You don't get sum-

mer off and very few employers are interested in helping you find yourself. Do that on your own time."

So take the opportunities you have now, while most of us aren't working in our careers, and find yourself. Find something you're passionate about, and if you already know what it is, go on and be passionate! Try everything you ever wanted. Taste a new cuisine. Take a road trip, because sooner than later you won't have the time to discover and you may just be left a passionless life.

That truly is the only thing that separates the people on the list above from the general population. They were fearless, and passionate enough to do what they truly wanted. They were not driven by fear, greed, jealousy or lust, just pure passion.

Six Mile Post

6mpost@student.highlands.edu

Editor
Jesse Beard

Assistant Print Editors
Scott Hale
Andrew West

Chief Photographer
Kaitlyn Hyde

Advertising Sales Manager
Amanda Banks

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Online Consultant
Jeannie Blakely

The "Six Mile Post," a designated public forum named after the old railroad station and trading post that was once located near where the college was founded in Floyd County, publishes seven print and online issues a year and is funded through student activity fees and ad revenue.

Letters to the Editor may be brought to the SMP office, emailed to 6mpost@student.highlands.edu, or mailed to Editor, "Six Mile Post," 3175 Cedartown Highway Rome, GA 30161. Letter must be signed by the author. Publication and editing of letters will be at the discretion of the editors, and letters may appear in print and/or online.

You, me, Jesus and the Easter bunny



Soap Box

Gayle Golden
Staff Writer

Every year I look forward to my favorite holiday, Easter. This year was no different. Easter is my favorite holiday because I can celebrate my belief in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I enjoy attending the sunrise service at my church, because, according to Scripture (John 20:1-2), it was early on the first day of the week when the tomb was found empty. Being at the sunrise service reminds me that I am celebrating Jesus' resurrection, and that feeds my faith and gives me hope.

You may not agree with me about the resurrection, but will you give me the right to believe without condemnation? I respect you and your right to practice or

not practice your religious beliefs, whatever the case may be.

We live in a big world and there are many religious beliefs represented. If you don't believe as I do, I am not offended. My belief in Jesus is not intended to cause you harm.

Jesus was all about love (John 3:16). That's why he died. There is plenty of hatred in the world. Some of that hatred is directed toward not only Christians, but other religious groups as well. Why? Don't we have the freedom to worship and the freedom to speak?

Why not build relationships with people of all races, nationalities and those of different faiths. We don't

have to agree on everything to value each other as human beings. Why not find a common interest and find out who they are and why they believe the way they do. You can agree to disagree. Who knows? You might actually find a friend.

As a non-traditional student here at GHC, I have been accepted by the students I have met. They may not want a grandma to be their best friend, but they have been very respectful and accepting. That same respect can cross racial, cultural and religious boundaries. As a nation, we have come too far to begin drawing those kinds of boundary lines again. We are people living life together. We all have value. We might as well like each other.

Oh yes, not to leave the Easter Bunny out, I like him too. He doesn't really have anything to do with Jesus and the resurrection but he does lay those wonderful chocolate eggs!

Sal's Pizza boasts great food, quaint atmosphere

Restaurant Review

By Kevin Horan
Staff Writer

Sal's Pizza, located at 308 Main Street in Dallas, Ga., is a small pizzeria within easy walking distance of the Paulding campus. What the restaurant lacks in size it makes up for in fantastic food.

The pizza at Sal's is wonderful, reasonably priced and comes quickly with friendly service.

Pizza is, of course, not all that is available at Sal's. Even something as simple as a cheese calzone is fantastic when made at Sal's, and the subs and wraps are excellent as well.

Chef Oscar said, "Everything on the menu is great."

Judging by the hectic lunch rush that day, it

would seem the local crowd agrees.

Sal's is a quaint and quiet restaurant, the kind of place where family or friends can eat in peace.

The waitresses that I met there were friendly and polite, and I never felt rushed or unwanted.

My food was delivered promptly. Especially long waits always came with a warning and an apology. It was certainly refreshing to see a restaurant take the customer's time so seriously.

I do have one criticism of Sal's; the alfredo sauce was a bit too runny for my taste. Considering the quality of everything else, however, this was easily forgiven.

I, for one, look forward to going back to Sal's in the future and recommend it to anyone in the area.



Photo by Gayle Golden

Sal's Pizza, in Dallas, offers good food at reasonable prices.

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Mathis leaves intramurals for new GHC post

By Scott Hale
Assistant Print Editor

After 17 years of running the intramural program at Georgia Highlands, David Mathis is moving on to become physical education programs manager and assistant director of athletics for the newly created intercollegiate program.

But what is to become of the intramural program? According to Mathis, intramurals at GHC will not be going anywhere; he explains that even though he is leaving, the program will continue.

"Students will still have the opportunity to be part of intramural sports, and I feel confident that the intramural program will continue for a long time at Highlands,"

Mathis said.

Not only has Mathis been part of the intramural program for a long time, but he attended GHC himself back when it was Floyd College.

Mathis said that he has enjoyed his time working with the intramural sports program. "It's sad really. It's been 17 years, but I am looking forward to new challenges and opportunities with the intercollegiate program. I am confident that whoever they get to replace me, will do a good job," said Mathis.

John Spranza, director of student life, said, "We have been given the go-ahead to hire someone from outside to be in charge of intramurals at the Floyd campus." Spranza said that the college hopes to have someone in place as early as June 1.



Photo by Ryan Jones

David Mathis stands next to the new GHC charger logo on the Floyd campus.

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Rome Braves looking forward

By Becky Crooks
Staff Writer

In 2003, State Mutual Stadium opened its gates to Braves baseball for the first time. This year, on April 12, State Mutual Stadium opened for the tenth season.

The first season was a season to be remembered, as Rocket Wheeler, then manager, led the Rome Braves to the national championship. Though they lost, the season laid the groundwork for teams to come.

There have been many ups and downs throughout the years, but as they did with the Atlanta Braves, Rome Braves fans are sticking with the team through the low points. The last winning season was in 2006.

This year is promising to be an exciting one. The first home game this season featured a matchup between the Braves and the Charleston RiverDogs. Wheeler returned to Rome for the honorary first pitch, and John Berry, who sang the National Anthem at the first Rome Braves game, re-

turned to sing and mark the anniversary.

According to the Rome Braves' website, there are many events and promotions to commemorate this tenth season. As of right now, there are four firework nights scheduled. Every Sunday is Family Fun Fest, where you can get four box seats, four hot dogs, four soft drinks, and four popcorns for just \$30. The Rome Braves are giving a dollar off any ticket for college students with a valid school ID, and a dollar off any ticket for the members of Armed Forces.

Jim Jones, assistant general manager for the Rome Braves, is very excited and ready to get the season going.

"The weather turning warmer so early," Jones said, "got us ready early."

Jones stressed the fact that the organization is keeping "family affordable prices" so that everyone can come enjoy the atmosphere. He has appreciated all the support from north-west Georgia in the past and hopes for many years to come.

Recruitment efforts beginning to pay off

By Kaitlyn Hyde
Chief Photographer

Fall 2012 will be a first in Georgia Highlands College's history with the welcoming of the first intercollegiate men's and women's basketball teams.

For the men's team, Athletic Director Phillip Gaffney has already scheduled 26 games. More games will be scheduled before the season begins. For both teams, the first game will be on the road at East Mississippi College on Nov. 1.

The home opener for the women's basketball team will be Nov. 6. The men's home opener is yet to be scheduled. All home basketball games will be held at the Floyd campus.

Expectations for GHC's first season are high. "We are planning on hitting the ground running and being

competitive right away. We will be playing five games against teams that were in the Sweet 16 last year at our level, which is Division 1 NJCAA," Gaffney said.

All year Gaffney has been recruiting Floyd and Bartow County students to be a part of this groundbreaking athletics program, and branching out to the metro Atlanta and Atlanta area schools. Between March and the end of April, 11 or 12 student athletes will have visited the campus. The goal is to sign 10 student athletes and combine some athletic money with financial aid money along with the HOPE scholarship to help the student recruits pay for their education.

On April 11, Gaffney signed his first recruit. He is Vantrail Commings from Douglas County. Commings

is the Region 5-AAAA high-school player of the year for 2011-12.

Since Georgia Highlands College has never had a team to rally behind, Gaffney plans to develop the school's spirit by building support within the communities and within the college. He hopes to have themed nights where local organizations can be a part of the event, such as having local step teams preform at halftime or having a half-time show with younger basketball teams playing a game.

Gaffney feels the key to building support within the college is to get students engaged in the games and promote the program.

The search for a women's coach is still underway, but Gaffney is hopeful that the college will hire someone in May.



Photo by Kaitlyn Hyde

Open try-outs such as this one on April 7 in the Floyd campus gym, are part of the recruiting process.



Andy Mathis



Tony Hendrix

2012 Six Mile Post Intramural Ping Pong Champions

Andy Mathis took first place in the Floyd campus tournament for the second year in a row, and Tony Hendrix took first place in the Cartersville tournament.