

SIX MILE POST

The Student Voice

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Photo by Kaitlyn Hyde

(From left) Angela Vargas, DaQuan Singletary, Salvador Torres and Kat McMackin of the Cartersville campus create candles using different colored wax beads and a blow torch during a student life event.

HOPE changes are probable in near future

Georgia legislature is currently discussing possible changes to the HOPE scholarship.

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Lyric Burnett and Alexis Carter are ready for action

Burnett and Carter are on the job and ready for whatever comes their way.

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Super bowl anthems not all equal

Christina Aguilera falls shorts of the mark set by Whitney Houston at the '91 Super Bowl.

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Legislature considers HOPE changes

By Kim Riggins
Staff Writer

Discussions in the Georgia Legislature are underway concerning a possible overhaul to the HOPE scholarship program.

HOPE, which currently assists over 200,000 college students statewide by covering tuition and providing some money for books and other fees, is often the only means some have of paying the cost of higher education.

According to Assistant Financial Aid Director Kimberli Causby, HOPE is currently assisting 905 Georgia Highlands students, approximately 20 percent of students enrolled for spring semester.

Despite the rising concern of students across the

state, there have been no formal declarations concerning HOPE. Rep. Katie Dempsey (R-Rome) said, "No decisions have been made regarding it." Dempsey emphasized, however, the importance of the HOPE scholarship and said that it is not a matter the legislature is taking lightly.

"HOPE dollars are one of the most important issues we have to consider this year," Dempsey said. "We are working hard to listen to all possibilities and consider the budget impact on all facets of higher education."

As HOPE reserves struggle to keep pace with the increases in tuition, students who merit the award could face the possibility of paying many costs out-of-pocket. One suggestion currently

on the table is to reduce the award itself, meaning HOPE would no longer cover 100 percent of the tuition cost. Other suggestions involve cutting the amount of money allotted for books and eliminating coverage for remedial classes.

In addition to cost cutting, there is also the possibility of raising the minimum grade point average to qualify for HOPE from 3.0 to 3.2.

"We have one of the best dollar producing lotteries," Dempsey said, "but we have a great many students who qualify."

However, many of those qualifying students are uneasy about the changes. Georgia Highlands sophomore English major Smith Holder said, "Without

HOPE I can't pay out-of-pocket, so I would be in serious trouble."

Freshman biology major Elizabeth McNair said, "My parents make too much money, so I don't qualify for Pell. If I had to take a loan out, I would."

Some students, like sophomore general studies major Minh Chuong try to remain objective. "I don't like the fact that they're reducing everything, but I kind of understand where they're coming from," Chuong said. He is in favor of raising the minimum grade point average. "A 3.0 is really easy to get," he said. "I honestly think they should up the GPA more, to like 3.5. You know, to show that you're actually trying."

A reduction in HOPE

could also mean a decrease in in-state college enrollment. For many students, HOPE is a deciding factor in their school of choice. Sophomore general studies major Amber Hulsey said, "I had considered going to a school out of state, but since I can't afford school without HOPE, I had to stay in state."

Chuong echoed this sentiment. "I chose to stay in state because of HOPE. If I didn't have it, I would be more open to out-of-state schools," he said.

According to Dempsey, the possible drop in enrollment "will factor into the discussion on HOPE" as the legislature decides the fate of the program. "That is certainly not something we want to see happen," Dempsey said.

Library changes in store for Georgia Highlands

By Ross Rogers
Asst. Print Editor

The Georgia Highlands library system has had several policy changes that affect how students conduct business with the library.

Georgia Highlands' libraries will no longer have courtesy cards available for students to use for printing materials, according to Elijah Scott, director of libraries.

Students will now be responsible for making sure that they have funds available on their Charger Cards. Non-students and students who may have forgotten their cards may purchase a reusable guest card from the Charger Card station on any of the GHC campuses.

Another new policy change deals with overdue materials. Any materials borrowed from a GHC library will no longer be subject to late fees, but any materials that remain overdue for over 60 days or beyond



Photo by Jade Santiago

Jenny Fricks uses one of the Floyd campus library's printing terminals.

the last day of classes of any semester will be marked as "lost" in the library system.

If this should occur, the borrower will be responsible for paying a \$35 fee to the

University System of Georgia, plus the cost of the materials lost.

T.J. Beckman, biology major at the Floyd campus, said, "I believe the policy

changes will benefit the students in the long run, and will help with the school's budget."

On the Floyd campus, a new color copier is available

for student use. Color copies will cost 15 cents each, while black and white copies will remain at 10 cents each.

Scott said that the policy changes are "all geared to give better service to our students." Additional changes in GHC's library policies will be discussed at a meeting of the Library Faculty Committee in March.

In addition to policy changes, the Floyd campus library "is being renovated floor to ceiling," according to Scott. The renovations will include new energy efficient lights, new carpet, new paint and the addition of three new study rooms.

A room in the southeast corner of the library that was formerly a television room will be converted into a lab that will be used to instruct students on library research.

When the lab is not being used for this, it will be an open lab for the use of other instructors on the Floyd campus.

GHC decentralizing services for students

**By Michael Davis
Editor**

Georgia Highlands College is currently in the process of decentralizing its student services division.

The area of student services currently falls under the responsibility of Ron Shade, vice president for student services. He is responsible for admissions, financial aid, registrar, student life and student support services.

According to Randy Pierce, president of Georgia Highlands College, GHC is restructuring its student services in order to place services at the lowest level and as close to the student as possible. Due to the decentralization, Shade will

not be returning to GHC in the fall.

Shade's responsibilities will be passed on to people at each of the GHC locations in order to better serve their student populations. According to Pierce, this is going to make students' problems solvable at each location, rather than students having to drive to the Floyd campus or try to solve the problem by phone.

"All decisions, from an institutional standpoint, have the students' best interest in mind. I have to take emotion and personalities out of the equation," said Pierce in reference to Shade not returning.

Pierce said that this is a process and is going to take some time to implement.

A committee and an implementation team have already been selected and are in the process of planning the changes.

Pierce said he is "always hoping to make the hard decisions in the best interest of the college." He believes that this is in the best interest of the students and the college for the long-run. Changes will be seen as early as the end of March, according to Pierce.

A big reason for the push toward decentralizing student services is Georgia Highlands' structure as a multi-campus college. Pierce sees each location with its own student body. The student bodies are different as far as make-up, and each has different needs.

Six Mile Post continues its award-winning tradition

**By Ryan Edelson
Staff Writer**

The town of Athens, Ga., is home to many things—a revered university, a renowned football team and a lovable mascot, but it is also home to something else, and that's the annual Georgia College Press Association Press Institute.

Each year student journalists from colleges around Georgia gather for workshops and critiques. The main attraction, however, is the Better Newspaper Contest awards luncheon.

This year GHC's Six Mile Post racked up 11 individual awards and four overall newspaper awards. The Six Mile Post placed third in General Photography, third in Layout and Design and first in Best Campus Community Service-Sports category. The SMP also placed

third in overall Improvement.

Casey Bass, staff writer at the Douglasville site, stood out amongst the SMP staff with three individual awards this year. He took first place in the Best Column category for his sports column "The Extra Point." He placed second in the Best News Article-Objective category and third place in the Best News Article-Investigative category.

Christie Boyd, Nick Godfrey, Austin Biddy, Michael Davis, Kursten Hedgis, Jesse Beard, Kaitlyn Hyde and Chiara VanTubbergen were also individual award winners.

SMP photographer Hyde was elected to serve as the GCPA treasurer.

Anyone who is interested in joining the SMP staff may apply online at www.six-milepost.com.

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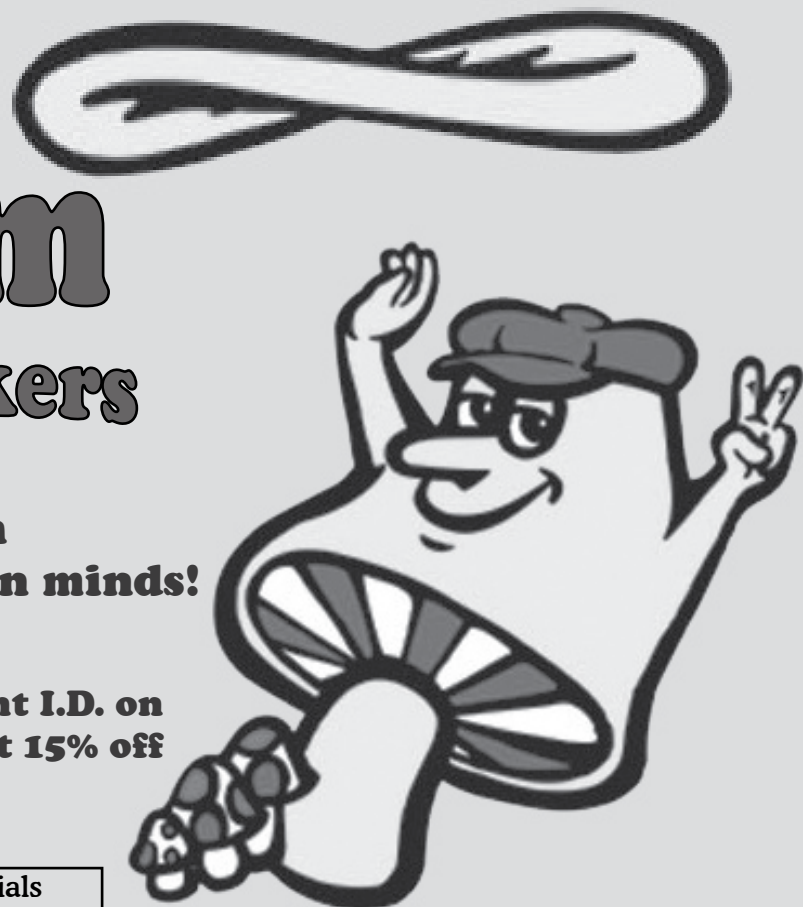
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Students travel to Athens for leadership conference

By Mike Geibel
Asst. Online Editor

Thirty-one students and four college employees, representing all GHC locations, travelled to the 15th Annual Georgia Collegiate Leadership Conference in Athens Feb. 12.

"We had the largest number of students who traveled there," said Alexis Carter, GHC orientation coordinator.

Since the Georgia Highlands students made the trip to Athens the night before the conference, a team-building activity was planned by the Office of Student Life which included bowling and dinner.

Students also had the

"This was the largest group we've taken to the conference, and overall it was a very good trip."

-John Spranza

opportunity to meet and socialize with campus and community leaders from the different campuses of GHC.

During the conference on Saturday, students heard speakers and participated in workshops on leadership,

communicating in a group setting, and other topics.

"I was extremely proud of our students," said Carter. "I went to some of the student sessions, and our students were volunteering to answer questions and give their opinions."

Opening remarks were by Kristin Skarie, president and founder of Teamworks, and the closing speech was given by the UGA Dean of Students William McDonald. McDonald spoke about making leadership personal and how leadership is a quality that can be developed over time.

"This was the largest group we've taken to the conference, and overall it was a very good trip," said



Contributed photo.

(From left): Mike Geibel, Erin Terry, Gricelda Alvarado and Rick Watters enjoy time together during the conference trip.

John Spranza, director of student life.

The conference was put on by UGA's Center for

Leadership and Service, the Leadership Resource Team and the Office of Campus Life.

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New four-year nursing program under consideration for GHC

Decision lies with the USG Board of Regents

By Hayden Jones
Staff Writer

Georgia Highlands College is currently looking into a possible four-year nursing program.

Renva Watterson, vice president for academic affairs, stated, "I believe we are in a position to look at what our students need, our offerings, and our ability to deliver."

According to Watterson, right now in the state of Georgia there is a pressing issue and demand for health care. "In the future, we will be short of nurses because the nurses currently working are graying or getting older and our supply is lacking," said Watterson.

Recently Georgia Highlands went through a feasibility study. The goal was to look at the community and

the students. Through this study, the college discovered that what the community and students need is more education for nurses.

Currently in the nursing program, there are three to four applicants per available seat.

In addition to the feasibility study, the Board of Regents and the University System of Georgia (USG) also conducted a study.

In this study, the college found out that nurses are in high demand in Northwest Georgia, and the college's goal is to supply them.

Randy Pierce, president of Georgia Highlands College, Mary Norton, special projects coordinator, and Watterson have attended meetings to make certain that the University System of Georgia knows the college's needs and its willing-

ness to supply those needs.

Ashley Blevins, a Floyd campus nursing major, said, "I feel that if Georgia Highlands offered a four-year program for its nursing students that it would not only benefit the students, but also the college. It would be great if I could finish all four years here without having to transfer."

Although there is no immediate answer to the question of whether GHC will be offering a four-year nursing program, the college is making progress.

Watterson said, "The Board is very serious about rising to the demands of the community, the state and the students at the college. Although there is not a definite answer yet, we are hopeful that we will know our direction later on this academic year."

Phi Theta Kappa

PTK's spring induction ceremony will be held on Friday, March 4, at the new Clarence Brown Conference Center in Cartersville. Students who have received a letter from the GHC Phi Theta Kappa chapter to attend this event are eligible for membership. At the induction, students will hear from guest speakers, including President of Georgia Highlands College Randy Pierce. The PTK chapter will also provide food and refreshments prior to the ceremony.

The opportunities in Phi Theta Kappa are designed to strengthen students' academic and post-college careers through leadership, scholarship and service.

SEC

The Student Engagement Council (SEC) has a new chairperson. Lee Cox was appointed to finish out this year after the former chairperson, Courtney Coen, decided not to return to Georgia Highlands.

Cox took over the chairperson position and relinquished his former role as secretary. Orry Young was named interim secretary. Both positions will become available again in late spring when new officers are chosen.

The SEC's goal for this semester is to update the

student government constitution as well as determine club budget dispersals in the spring. SEC will also vote on any fee changes that may arise during the spring semester.

Several amendments to the constitution are up for debate this spring, including changing the election process for officers and possible revamping of the entire model of student government at GHC.

GHC Gaming Club

Gaming Club potlucks are planned for March and April. Bring \$2 and a dish to pass. No dish? Bring \$5. The Gaming Club provides the games and fun. No gaming experience is necessary. The potlucks will be located in the student center on the Floyd Campus 7 p.m. to midnight on March 18 and April 15. The Cartersville potluck will be in the game room on the Cartersville Campus, 4 p.m. through 9 p.m. on March 24.

Students Without Borders

CiCi's Pizza will be partnering with GHC and the Students Without Borders Club for a pizza fundraiser to help Study Abroad students. Every Friday until the end of spring semester, CiCi's Pizza locations in Cartersville, Rome and Woodstock will

offer a 10 percent donation of sales for lunches and dinners purchased by GHC faculty, staff, students and their friends and families. In addition, if a GHC ID is shown, the person will receive a free drink (worth \$1.50).

It is important that the student/faculty/staff members and friends mention to the CiCi's employee that they are there to support the GHC Fundraiser.

Baptist Student Union

BSU's weekly luncheon and devotional meetings take place on Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. in W-306 at the Floyd campus. Bible devotions, prayer time and music are a part of the regular meetings.

If any students are interested in a Spring Break Mission Project, BSU plans to do a short-term service project during break. Interested students may contact campus minister Frank Murphy at frankmurphy@netzero.net. The cost would be under \$50 per person for the week.

Green Highlands

To celebrate Georgia Arbor Day, Green Highlands planted trees on the Floyd Campus on Feb. 16. The club also passed out free tree

seedlings on the Cartersville Campus.

The third Annual Spring Green Service Trip will take place during the week of spring break (March 7-11). This year Green Highlands members will be headed to Tybee Island. Active members will be sponsored by the organization. For more details please contact Devan Rediger at greenhighlands@highlands.edu.

Regular group meetings will be held the second Friday of every month from 10-11 a.m. The meetings will be conducted with video conferencing between Floyd, Cartersville and Paulding sites.

Student Veterans of America

The University of West Georgia has invited Georgia Highlands College veterans, veteran faculty and staff members and members of the Student Veterans of America to attend a Student Veterans Family Fun Day.

The event will be held at John Tanner State Park on Saturday, March 26, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

This free event will include paddle boats, putt-putt, a cookout and door prizes.

The event will also provide a venue to raise awareness of counseling services available to students, support for the challenges faced by

veteran students, and information on suicide and mental health issues.

Email va@highlands.edu for more information about the GHC Student Veterans of America Club and events.

Writers Collaborative

The Georgia Highlands College Writers' Collaborative, along with Green Highlands and Phi Theta Kappa, is sponsoring a reading by Janisse Ray, an environmental activist and poet. The reading will take place on Wednesday, March 31, at 2 p.m. on the Cartersville campus as well as at 6 p.m. at Heritage Hall in Rome.

A Georgia native, Ray is the award-winning author of "Ecology of a Cracker Childhood," a highly praised book that combines elements of ecology and autobiography. For more information about the Writers' Collaborative, contact Faculty Adviser, Clayton Jones, at cjones@highlands.edu.

The Writer's Collaborative encourages students in pursuing creative original literary works.

Editors' Note:

All GHC organization advisers were asked to submit club news via email to the Six Mile Post.

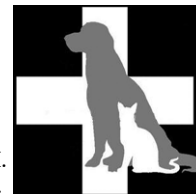
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Highlands Happenings

Cartersville building construction on hold

By Audrey Helms
Staff Writer

The new academic building for the Cartersville campus, which was previously estimated to have construction finished as early as fall 2012, is now completely pushed back for at least one full year.

"Everything is on hold" for the new building construction, confirmed Rob Whitaker, vice president for finance and administration at GHC.

Specifically, it was the design funding for the building that was denied for this fiscal year. Whitaker explained that the state's budget is "very lean" due to the economic situation in Georgia.

The denial of the funds affects the entire building process. "Planning and design is the initial stage of building a new facility and takes about a year to complete," Whitaker said. "Thus, the state sometimes

funds design in one year and then construction in the next fiscal year. For now, without funding for design, the building is on hold."

Whitaker also elaborated on what the denied costs would have covered. Design funds do not include the actual cost of construction but are only "the costs associated with planning and designing the construction of the building."

Students chat with advisers online

By Jesse Beard
Asst. Print Editor

The GHC website is now home to a new application which allows students to chat with academic advisers.

Students are able to ask questions relating to their majors and careers. To access the application, students should go to the GHC home page and search "advising" in the search box at the top of the page. If Joan Ledbetter, academic adviser and coordinator, is online, she will be able to

respond immediately.

Ledbetter said she is available to chat with students Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Friday morning until noon. Ledbetter said, "It is a live chat-line. Once logged on, just ask a question." If for some reason she is unavailable, the chat box will say "busy." If this is the case, students are encouraged to use the email address listed on the page for their questions.

Stoplight in store for Cartersville campus

By Meaghan Czachor
Staff Writer

A new stoplight will be placed at the front entrance of the Georgia Highlands Cartersville campus to enhance safety for the main entrance of the college and the new county civic center across the street.

The intersection will consist of a four-way light, crosswalks and a pedestrian island. The light will also help manage the flow of traffic on Highway 20.

Rob Whitaker, vice president for finance and administration, said this project will have no monetary effect on the students. He stated, "The stoplight will not affect the school budget. The expense for this construction was provided for in Fiscal Year 2010 (last year), and will not have any impact on tuition."

Jaylon Hadley, a psychology major at the campus, said, "I am afraid the light will disrupt the flow of traffic despite what anyone says, but I believe the pros will outweigh the cons and trust the D.O.T knows what it is doing."

Rome campus eats at Charger Cafe

By Judson Hartline
Staff Writer

The Floyd Campus has recently reopened the Floyd campus food service under a new name, The Charger Cafe, and new management.

The cafeteria is now run by Old Fashioned Foods, a catering company based

in Georgia. The company has cafeterias in several office buildings, but this will be the company's first attempt at serving food for a college.

"We really don't have a mission statement," said Marc Peterson, manager of the Charger Cafe. "It's all about the food. Make it good and make it fast," he said.

Allison Holliday, a dental hygiene major, seems to think that the new cafeteria is meeting Peterson's goals. She said, "It's pretty fast, which I think is pretty nice and the food is usually pretty good."

The new Charger Cafe serves breakfast from 7:30 a.m. until around 10 a.m. Then the cafeteria serves lunch until it closes at 2:30 p.m.

Peterson says, "We appreciate being out here and really appreciate any thoughts the customers have."

He intends to get an email address up where customers can send recipe suggestions or comments on the food.

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Highlands bids farewell to Ron Shade

By Michael Davis
Editor

In the summer of 2004 a man's journey brought him to Georgia Highlands College, and at the end of the year his path takes him elsewhere.

This man is Ron Shade, vice president for student services. Shade oversees the student services at GHC, which include admissions, financial aid, career services, student activities, student conduct and many others. Due to the decentralization of student services, Shade will not be returning to GHC in the fall.

Shade has accomplished many things since arriving at GHC, but his journey did not begin here. He has been involved in education for around 35 years in four states and at five colleges. "I moved with the jobs that were offered," said Shade.

From 1975 to 1977 he was a teacher, counselor and coach at Palestine High School (PHS) in Palestine, Ill. He taught psychology and physical education in addition to coaching baseball and basketball.

After leaving PHS, he took the position of director of financial aid/counseling at Lincoln Trail College in the Illinois Eastern Community College District from 1977 to 1980.

From 1980 to 1983,

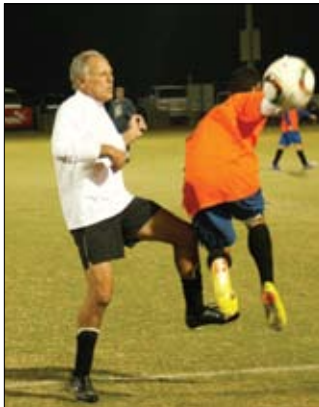


Photo by Andrew Calvert

Ron Shade plays intramural soccer with GHC students at the Rome YMCA.

Shade took a break from his educational career to obtain his doctorate from Illinois State University.

After obtaining his doctorate, he returned to the educational circuit as the dean of students at Lincoln College in Lincoln, Ill., in 1983. There Shade was responsible for admissions and records, financial assistance, advising and counseling services, campus security, student conduct and high school and university relations; he also oversaw many other tasks as dean of students.

In 1987, Shade left Lincoln College and the state of Illinois altogether to blaze new trails in Missouri. From 1987 to 1998 he helped "launch and establish a state-of-the-art community college" in St. Charles County, Missouri.

At St. Charles Community College, he served as the vice president for student services. Starting from the ground up, he helped to create the student services program there and played a leadership role in all areas of student life.

Shade packed up and hit the road again in 1999 to become the dean of student services at Kingwood College in Kingwood, Texas. They do it bigger in Texas, and with a student body of 10,000 credit students, this was his biggest college yet. Here he again oversaw all areas of student life.

In 2004 his path led to GHC, where he took the position of vice president for student services. Shade serves as the chief student affairs officer for GHC's multi-campus college of 5,200 students. He is responsible for planning, leading, developing, budgeting, staffing, evaluating and advocating on behalf of student services and the student body.

Since 2004, Shade has overseen the implementation of student services at the Cartersville, Marietta,



Photo by Jade Santiago

Ron Shade is leaving GHC after seven years as the vice president of student services.

"Working at Georgia Highlands College for the past seven years has been a great experience."

-Ron Shade

Douglasville and Paulding locations and provided leadership during that time of enrollment growth and expansion. He has helped to double the size of student services and increased its diversity. Shade also helped the GHC Soccer Club get involved with a local community league and even played with them.

Shade is not just some old curmudgeon sitting up in his office making decisions about GHC's future on a whim. Not only did he participate with the college; he has been an active member in the community as well. He served as the president of the Rome Ki-

wanis, as chair of the Rome-Floyd County Communities in Schools and as a member of the Education Committee of the Rome Chamber.

"Working at Georgia Highlands College for the past seven years has been a great experience. The college has an excellent mission, is staffed with hard-working high quality people, and has its best days still ahead of it. I will miss both the people and the place," said Shade.

While Shade does not yet know where his journey will take him, he is currently searching for positions at the two-year college level and sticking to what he knows.

"We wish him well," said Randy Pierce, GHC president, and "the best of luck in the future."

Shade brought a sense of lightheartedness to the job. In 2004 when he arrived at GHC, he attended his first in-service meeting of faculty and staff and had to introduce himself. To lighten the mood he decided to end his speech with a joke from Texas, where he had worked previously. This became somewhat of a tradition, and he would, on occasion, end meetings with a "Texas joke."

With Shade leaving, so do his Texas jokes, but he does offer this last bit of Texas humor: "The most important mannerly act taught to young Texans is to never ask a man where he's from. If he's from Texas, he'll tell you. If he isn't, don't embarrass him!"

Fabulous Fridays at GHC

Local middle school students get hands-on experience

By Mike Geibel
Asst. Online Editor

Several Fridays a semester on the Floyd campus, kids as young as 10 years old can be found in classrooms and labs around campus. No, this is not a group of super-genius middle school prodigies. This is Georgia Highlands College's Fabulous Friday program.

This program brings in local middle school students on Friday mornings to experience things they may not have the opportunity to learn in their own schools. Several departments of the college put on learning modules and labs in subjects including math, communication, anatomy and others.

The lessons are very



Photo by Michael Davis

In the anatomy lab students learn about many different organs; this student is using an air pump to inflate actual pig lungs.

hands-on and get the kids engaged and involved in their own learning.

Throughout the nearly empty Friday morning halls of the Floyd science build-

ing, a chorus of a classroom full of "oohs" and "aahs" and "gross" can be heard. Paulette Jordan, a laboratory technician on the Floyd campus who helps with the anatomy lab sessions, said, "I like doing these because it helps give these potential college students a chance to see what college is like."

The science portion of the program includes anatomy labs with real organs including pig lungs, sheep eyes and brains and several others.

Students learn about each of the organs and have the opportunity to see each part up close; they can even hold them.

Biology and nursing students in Phi Theta Kappa volunteered to teach the basic functions and structure of each organ while the children looked on wide-eyed and occasionally grossed out. Jordan said, "It is fun to see them react to the stuff in our biology labs."

In the session put on by the Humanities division, Laura Beth Daws, assistant professor of communication, taught the students about team-building and problem solving techniques.

They put the knowledge

they just learned to use by working in small groups to build towers out of spaghetti noodles and marshmallows. Daws said, "It's neat to see their eyes light up when I tell them that I'll be teaching them some of the same things I teach my college students every day!"

This creative project teaches the kids a lot about how to share ideas and work as a team to get the best end result.

The students seem to enjoy coming to Georgia Highlands for the morning; it gives them a break from the everyday pace of middle school.

Even those students who come into the anatomy lab afraid to hold a sheep's eyeball usually warm up to the experience and leave with a smile.

The dates for the upcoming Fabulous Fridays are Feb. 25, March 4 and 25 and students are encouraged to get involved in any way possible.

Students interested in helping out with this program can contact Alison Lampkin in the Advancement Office at the Floyd campus at alampkin@highlands.edu.



Photo by Michael Davis

These middle school students work as a team to build a tower out of spaghetti, tape and a marshmallow.

Two new faces join Office of Student Life staff

Carter takes over orientation

By Haley Middleton
Staff Writer

Alexis Carter recently joined the staff at Georgia Highlands College as the new student orientation coordinator.

Carter's job entails many things, but her number one priority is orientation.

At all orientations, Carter helps the students get familiar with all the offices located on their campus.

She is also there to help students with academic advising and getting their Charger Cards. Carter not only works with new students but also with transfer students.

Carter also loves working with students, and always tries to make each student as comfortable as possible.

Carter said, "I love working with all different kinds of people, and I try to get to know each and every student as well as I can." Even though Carter is very busy, she still has time to be the new coordinator of the



Photo by Andrew Calvert
Alexis Carter

Black Awareness Society (BAS).

John Spranza, Director of Student Life, said that, "We are very excited to have Alexis as part of the Student Life team. She came in with lots of energy and enthusiasm and immediately jumped in and directed all the spring semester orientations with great focus and ease."

Carter graduated from Georgia State University and is now attending Armstrong Atlantic to pursue her master's.

Carter's office is located in the Student Life area on the Floyd campus.

Burnett serves students at three GHC sites

By Hanna Yu
Staff Writer

Georgia Highlands College's student activities continue to grow at Douglasville, Paulding and Marietta with the help of Student Life Program Coordinator Lyric Burnett.

Burnett's goal is to increase student involvement, and though it is steadily rising, her expectations are left open for higher potential.

Burnett says, "I want students more aware of opportunities and know that I'm here to help them."

Burnett, who began work at GHC in fall 2010, said that the fall semester activities, such as Make Your Own Street Signs, Fall Frenzy, Wax Hand and Temporary Tattoos, "gave a lot of fun opportunities for students on every campus."

Amari Harkness, has attended Georgia Highlands for two years and has seen the development of student life. Harkness enjoyed in particular the Pet Rock activity. She said, "The craft events



Photo by P.K. Choi
Lyric Burnett

"I want students to be more aware of opportunities and know that I'm here to help them."

-Lyric Burnett

give the student an opportunity to act silly and a chance to have fun when they need a break from school."

For spring 2011, Burnett's goals still revolve around the students.

Burnett said, "Since Student Life has had more

presence on southern sites, the Stamp-ede card has been an incentive program to encourage students to get more involved." Each student receives a card and gets a stamp for each Student Life event attended. After so many stamps, students receive prizes.

Burnett wants students to start new clubs and make existing ones stronger. Club roundup was held on Jan. 24 and 25. All the clubs at the various campuses set up booths to recruit new members.

It was the first time for the Marietta campus to hold the roundup in the Student Center. Musician Jason LeVasseur performed songs on the stage in the Student Center. He connected with the audience by singing a few familiar songs and even sang an improvised song about Burnett, praising her involvement with student life.

Looking forward to the rest of the spring semester Burnett said, "I'm glad the students are back after a long few weeks without them."

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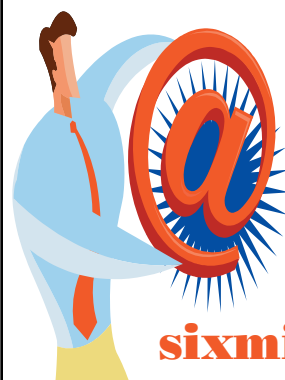
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EDITOR'S PICKS

Fresh picked for Feb.

Homefront Video game

By Michael Davis
Editor

Imagine an America where the enemy has invaded and we are fighting on our home front.

This new video game, releasing March 15, from Kaos Studios, Digital Extremes and THQ, places the player in a first-person shooter set in an America devastated by an EMP strike and occupation by an advanced Greater Korean Republic. Players step into the shoes of a former helicopter pilot new to the growing resistance. The gameplay is set

in suburban neighborhoods, shopping center parking lots and major cities.

Homefront takes a fresh twist on first-person shooter games; it moves gameplay away from foreign lands and unknown areas and places it in a world that is very real and recognizable to the player. The developers are using real brands and recognizable companies so the player truly connects with the game.

The game shows ordinary citizens, such as teachers, neighbors and mechanics, banning together to fight back and reclaim their once great nation. They fight as the last line of defense, and they fight on our home front.

"Big Man Japan" Movie

By Jesse Beard
Asst. Print Editor

"Big Man Japan" (2007) is a documentary style film following the life of a possibly insane middle-aged man named Masaru. Like his father, he has the ability to turn into a giant and battle giant monsters that are constantly attacking Japan. In real life he is a lonely shut-in, and as a monster he is unappreciated and sometimes scorned.

It is a unique take on the Japanese superhero and has some really interesting and bizarre monsters as well as

one of the most surreal endings I have ever seen. It is available to watch instantly on Netflix.

"The Deer Hunter" Movie

By Ross Rogers
Asst. Print Editor

"The Deer Hunter" (1978) is, quite simply, my favorite film.

I have never connected emotionally with a movie so much before, and the characters are portrayed perfectly.

The film is 33 years old now, but its messages about friendship and the cost of war are timeless.

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Mellow Mushroom gets served Restaurant Review

By Jesse Beard
Asst. Print Editor

Mellow Mushroom chose a great town to put one of their new franchise locations in since Rome is home to four colleges. If there are two things that college students love, they are pizza and beer. The restaurant has a friendly, hippie atmosphere, psychedelic art and a really good variety of pizza and beer.

I chose to go on the Saturday after the restaurant opened, and of course the place was packed. I stood shoulder to shoulder with my friends at the bar and shared a pitcher of Yuengling before we got our table. The menu was similar to those of all of the other Mellow Mushroom restaurants I have



Photo by Andrew Calvert

Mellow Mushroom moves in on Broad Street.

been to, listing many different ways to get bread with cheese melted on top.

I ordered the "Funky-Q Chicken" pizza, which is a pizza with BBQ sauce, smoked chicken, bacon and onions. The pizza was superb. It had an appropriate amount of toppings, and the crust (made with spring water) was crispy and light. It was the best pizza I have ever eaten in Rome.

I'm unable to really judge the service, since the restaurant was absolutely crowded, so the servers had little to no time to do their jobs.

As for the beer selec-

tion, there could have been a few more bottled choices, but the draft variety was as good as or better than that found in most other restaurants in the area. Mellow Mushroom offers a beer club, with some pretty cool rewards for drinking all of their different beers (not in one night!). Those who run the gamut of brews get a T-Shirt, an engraved mug and a discount on beers as well as their name on a plaque in the restaurant.

For people who like good pizza and beer, the Mellow Mushroom on Broad Street might just be the place for them.

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Technology Management
Theatre



Bright beginnings fade without HOPE

From Sept. 1 1993, to Feb. 12, 2011, the HOPE scholarship has awarded \$26,340,084.49 to 11,931 students at Georgia Highlands College, according to a report from the Georgia Student Finance Committee (GSFC). That number of 11,931 represents students that may otherwise not have been able to attend GHC.

In 1991, then newly inaugurated Gov. Zell Miller introduced legislation proposing the creation of the Georgia lottery.

The legislation passed in November 1992, and by late 1993 Miller had established three separate and individually funded programs from the lottery proceeds—the HOPE scholarship, a voluntary pre-kindergarten program and an instruc-

tional technology program.

June 29, 1993, Georgia's first lottery ticket was sold. In the first year of sales the lottery set a national record of \$1.13 billion dollars; this provided \$360 million for each of the three programs Miller had established.

However, in recent years the HOPE scholarship and the other programs funded by the lottery have begun to exceed the incoming revenue. To continue funding these programs, changes must be made.

Nothing official has been decided, but some possible changes include requiring an increased minimum GPA, eliminating the HOPE Book Allowance, re-establishing

a household income cap, reducing the number of hours HOPE pays for and many others.

Rather than change the HOPE scholarship program or cut its budget, legislators should look for savings in other areas funded by the lottery, for example, the pre-kindergarten program.

While the pre-k program is free and voluntary to anyone in the state, only about 53 percent actually attend.

If children do better in kindergarten because of the pre-k program, then it should be included in the state education budget along with K-12, rather than be funded by the Georgia lottery.

Any changes to whom or what HOPE covers could negatively affect

college enrollment. According to a study, conducted in 2002 by Joseph McCrary and Thomas J. Pavlak of the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia, half of HOPE recipients decided to stay in Georgia because of HOPE. Also, nearly a quarter of recipients would not have been able to attend college without HOPE.

That means that over the past 18 years approximately 2,983 students would not have been able to attend GHC.

People can debate the importance of starting to educate students earlier to prepare them for kindergarten and why that effort needs funding; they can also debate what should be done to help

overcome the shortage of funds for HOPE, but in the long run it comes down to where the money serves Georgians best.

An early, good education and a high school diploma do not offer a whole lot if the student is unable to afford a college education and continue that educational growth.

Hindering higher educational opportunities by cutting how HOPE is awarded only serves to hurt Georgia down the road.

If anything, there should be a surge of interest in increasing HOPE funding and helping students achieve their dreams in college.

A bright beginning is nothing without the HOPE of a bright future.

Having the nerve to ask

Skepticism as a springboard to understanding

When I wake up, the first thing I do is start to think about why I did it. This is probably a bit deep for most early risers, but it definitely has its purpose.

It really seems that we, as a species, do not doubt things as much as we used to. This might seem counterintuitive to some, as we are told to have confidence in ourselves and everything around us, but a little skepticism goes a long way. After all, if it weren't for history's great doubters, such as Charles Darwin, Thomas Payne or David Hume, would we as a civilization know what we know now?

It can be a real eye-opener to consider what you are



Editor's Box

Ross Rogers
Asst. Print Editor

doing every day and why you are doing it, or even what you believe in. It is especially important to question how the systems in place around you work the way they do.

Stop to think about why your major's program is set up the way it is or why our government is taking action in the areas that it is. Question why things in nature work the way they do and, more importantly, seek out the answers.

Questioning what you

see and the motivations behind your thought processes is the cornerstone of reaching a higher level of understanding. Isn't that why we are going to college to begin with?

It is good to seek a degree in order to open opportunities for yourself career wise, but it is great to have your mind changed through allowing yourself to question your motivations or personal philosophies.

Let us hear from you! Letters to the Editor may be emailed to 6Mpost@student.highlands.edu. Letters 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.

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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.



Soap Box

Dana Hogan
Staff Writer

I write to bear arms

As everyone knows, weapons are banned from all GHC campuses. If a student is found in possession of a weapon on school property, he or she may be banned from ever returning to a GHC campus and may even be banned from the University System completely.

I completely disagree with this rule and think that it is a violation of our Constitutional rights as free American citizens.

The Second Amendment to the United States Constitution states that American citizens have the right to keep and bear arms. There has always been strong controversy over this issue. People who do not like guns say things like "guns kill," but I have to disagree.

A gun, or any weapon for that matter, is just a material object. It has no power of its own to do anything. In order for a gun to kill, a person has to consciously make the choice to pick up that gun and pull the trigger.

The problem with guns is not the guns themselves. It is the people who use them. There are many responsible people who cherish our

Second Amendment rights. They understand the value of life and being able to protect their own lives and the lives of their families.

The reason that I so strongly disagree with our school banning weapons is that the people who would actually misuse a gun are the people that are not going to care about the rules anyway.

A person that really wants to hurt another person is going to bring a gun whether there is a rule against it or not.

I do not like the fact that when I come onto school property I am forced to leave my most prominent method of self-defense behind. That does not make me feel safe at all.

I feel even more uncomfortable because GHC security does not even carry guns. I would like to know how any of us are expected to be able to defend ourselves if we are ever attacked at school.

I think that concealed weapons, with the proper legal permit, should be allowed on campus just as they are almost everywhere else in the state.

Make yourself heard!

Visit www.sixmilepost.com
to leave a comment and voice
your opinion on any article.



I was only joking about the "all guys" spring break... Don't be mad... I promise I'll do whatever you want to do for spring break this year!

Artwork by Patricia Ogle, 2011

Go clubbing on campus

All of the cool kids are doing it

I'm not hanging out in clubs. Well, not the kind that serve drinks, have loud music or bodies pressing together. I did hang out in clubs and small groups at GHC Floyd when I was a freshman.

Research shows that students that participate in clubs and groups at college have a fuller experience. Have you joined a group since you came to GHC?

I was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa and the National Honor Society.

I joined the Political Science Club and College Democrats.

It was hard to get to the Political Science Club meetings, but I would swing by on my way to class.

Now, I am a member of Highlands Association of



Living Life

Christie Boyd
Staff Writer

Nursing Students. We don't have meetings, but we do a lot of good things for the community. Right now we are having a "Biggest Loser Contest" to see which student can lose the greatest percentage of weight during the semester.

The student who wins will not only be healthier but earn some cold, hard cash.

I also attended all the Student Life events that I could while on the main campus. I saw funny shows, bands and motivational speakers.

There was a young man with no legs. His program inspired me.

I saw and met the young lady from MTV's Real World.

She was from Iraq and had a different perspective on life in America.

Her father had been a high ranking official and they had to escape to save their lives.

There's always something exciting going on at all the different campuses. Be a "joiner!"

Check out the Student Life page on the GHC website and see what exciting things are coming your way.

Make your life fuller and your college experience more than just slogging through your classes.

In the meantime you will find me at all the extra-curricular activities I can schedule and...Living Life!

Spring Break Survival Guide

By Hanna Yu

1. Enjoy the sun, but don't get burned... wear sunscreen.
2. Bring friends or make friends... why not both?
3. Keep the spare tire in the trunk... NOT around your waist.
4. Take pictures... they capture the memories your mind may not remember.
5. Don't get arrested... start the night at the bars, but don't end up behind them.
6. Don't get lost... on second thought it does make for some interesting adventures.
7. Go swimming... remember your phone, iPod and camera can't swim so don't take them with you.
8. HAVE FUN... Spring Break only comes once a year.

Graphic by Michael Davis

What are your spring break plans?



"Going to Panama City Beach."

Andrew Williams
Business Administration
Cartersville



"I'm going to Hawaii with my family."

Alexis Gebhardt
Journalism
Cartersville



"I will be going to Tampa with my friends."

Gwynn Walker
Business
Cartersville



"Being unaccounted for."

Sam Cantu
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The Extra Point

Casey Bass
Staff Writer

In February 1991 the country was in a weird place. For months, Americans had watched as CNN provided pictures of the United States bombing sorties on strategic targets in Iraq.

Over 500,000 US troops had deployed, and a ground war was imminent.

The Iraqis had invaded Kuwait months earlier, and with diplomacy failing, the country braced for the worst.

With brave men and

women in harm's way and tension building in the Middle East, the New York Giants and Buffalo Bills prepared to play in the Super Bowl.

With boots on the ground in Saudi Arabia and planes in the air over Baghdad, Super Bowl party conversations focused on Hussein and Schwarzkopf, rather than Parcels and Kelly.

A somber mood existed at most parties as people tried to have a good time while not forgetting the

men and women fighting in the desert. Cupcakes sported red, white and blue icing, and every block was covered in yellow ribbons. And then came Whitney Houston.

Houston stepped onto a stage surrounded by 70,000 flag waving fans and delivered the performance of her lifetime. In just under two minutes she fully expressed the emotional state of a nation.

I was 12 years old, and I remember looking

around the room at my parents and their friends, who all had huge smiles and tear-filled eyes, proud to be American.

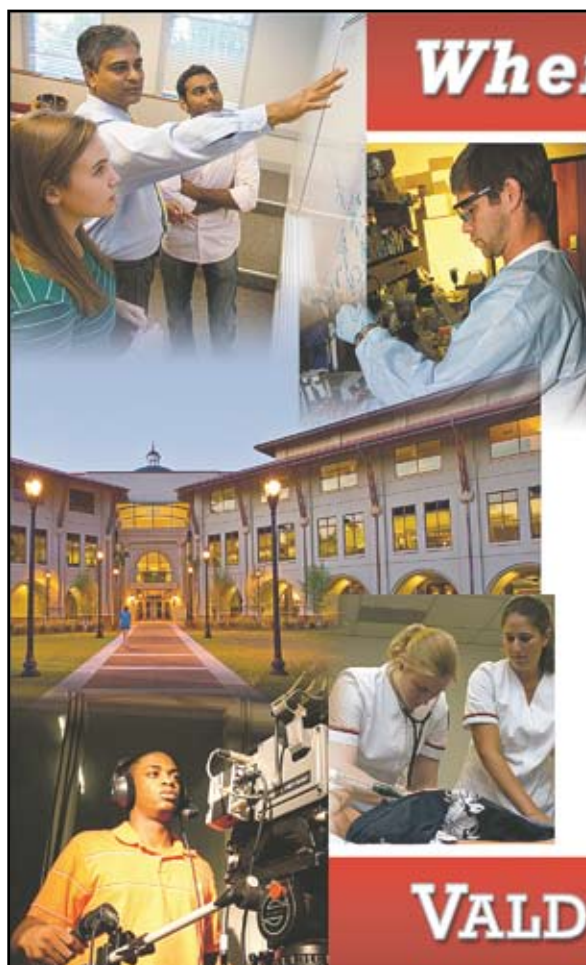
For two minutes it felt like we were holding hands with the soldiers who were away at war.

That was the stage Christina Aguilera stepped onto at this year's Super Bowl; she didn't stand a chance.

Every anthem performer will forever be measured against Houston's heart-stopping ren-

dition, framed by a country struggling with being at war. While Aguilera did forget the words and over sing, I blame Houston. It can never be that good again.

So let's stop trying. From now on let Whitney Houston sing the Anthem. Put her up on the Jumbotron in her white jump suit and headband (someone has it taped on VHS, right?) and share with every generation what it felt like to be an American in 1991.



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Intramural 5-on-5 basketball



Photo by Andrew Calvert

Demarius Morgan takes a lay-up shot for the Six Mile Sensation, while Old School members Fernando Lemus (45) and Luis Hernandez (15) play defense. Old School defeated Six Mile Sensation 64-50 on Feb. 8.



Photo by Austin Biddy

Rome High player Devin Ware attempts a lay-up while Those Dudes players Will Anderson (left) and Jamaris Adams attempt to block the shot. Rome High defeated Those Dudes 54-24 on Feb. 8.

2011 Six Mile Post/Intramural Ping Pong Tournament

- There are 22 players competing in the 2011 Six Mile Post/Intramural Ping Pong Tournament
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- Match results must be sent to dmathis@highlands.edu or by phone to David Mathis at 706-204-2202.
- If an opponent cannot be reached, Mathis must be notified or both opponents will be eliminated.
- After each match, winners must update the bracket and contact next opponent.

Round Deadlines:

First Round Feb. 22

Second Round March 14

Third Round March 21

Fourth Round March 28

Championship April 7

Cartersville campus to host intramural quidditch tourney

By Erin Baugh
Staff writer

Ever wanted to be just like Harry Potter? Well your chance is now! Quidditch is coming to the Cartersville Campus.

Quidditch is a sport that consists of endurance, strength and the ability to outsmart the other team.

Kevin Ruff, a student at the Cartersville campus, said, "Quidditch will be an awesome experience. I think that GHC students will have a blast and absolutely love it!"

In Quidditch, there will be four players and a goalie.

Being exactly like Harry Potter, the players will use broomsticks to "fly" around on. They are also encouraged to wear wizard attire.

Trying to get a goal, a player has to watch out for dodge balls, volleyballs and handballs getting thrown at him or her. While all of this is going on, there will be a "seeker" trying to capture the "snitch."

Sign-ups will begin March 21, and the tournament will be March 29. Clifton Puckett, the head of intramurals at Cartersville said, "We hope to have a great outcome. This is a unique opportunity."