

# SIX MILE POST

*The Student Voice*

January 31, 2011

www.sixmilepost.com

Vol. 40, #4

## Snow fell on Highlands



### Snow way did that just happen!

Jason Bowen grabs some cardboard and hits the snow behind the tennis courts on the Floyd campus.

Photo by Michael Davis

Please see page 2 for the story on GHC's closing due to snow and page 6 for more fun snow pictures...

#### Alabama Shakespeare Festival

Reserve your spot early for GHC's annual trip to the festival.

Page 3

#### IT cracks the whip on file sharing

The Information Technology Department has begun actively enforcing its usage policy.

Page 5

#### No more texting in the car

Put down the phones! Texting while behind the wheel is now illegal.

Page 10

Georgia Highlands College - Rome, Georgia

# Jack Frost puts the freeze on start of classes

By Michael Davis  
Editor

Not to be outdone by 2010's white Christmas, the New Year put on a snowy showing of its own.

The problem came about when the winter wonderland became a giant ice patch covering most of North Georgia. This caused businesses, roads and schools to be closed across the area, including Georgia Highlands College.

All GHC campuses were closed Monday-Wednesday of what was supposed to be the first week of classes; the Marietta campus remained closed through Thursday of that week.

Upon news of inclement weather, Dana Davis, director of college relations, and Randy Pierce, president of Georgia Highlands College, discussed whether or not to close and which campuses, if any, to close. Davis said, "We wait for the snow." In other words, they do not close at the chance of snow.

After the decision is made to close, Pierce contacts the site directors for the campuses and sites to let them know, and Davis is in charge of getting the word out to the GHC community and the public. She

begins with the GHC Notify program, saying that "it is the fastest and most reliable way to get out the information."

GHC Notify is an Emergency Communications System that offers the option to receive alerts for emergencies, weather and general school information via text, voicemail and email.

Students can sign up for this service through the GHC connect page or by going to [www.highlands.edu/connect](http://www.highlands.edu/connect).

Once Davis has sent out the messages from GHC Notify, she contacts the GHC webmaster and has a message placed at the top of the GHC homepage in big red print. Davis also contacts channel 11 news and several local stations as well.

Due to the closings, teachers and students alike have to play catch-up to cover the material missed during the snow days.

Mark Greger, assistant professor of Spanish, said, "It definitely creates a situation where I am having to rearrange my material to compensate for the days missed."

Also, students missed out on the Welcome Back Week events that Student Life worked to put together.



Photo by Spencer Willis, Campus Safety

## Snow and ice blanket the Floyd campus on Jan. 11.

Despite all this, the big question in the back of students' minds is whether or not we are going to lose spring break.

Morgan Billings, a general studies major on the Floyd campus, said "I don't feel rushed, yet. I just hope we don't have to make those days up. I'd much rather be rushed than it take away from spring or summer

break."

According to Renva Watterson, vice president of academic affairs, the college is going to try to absorb the days missed.

The Board of Regents requires a set number of minutes of class time in relation to the number of credit hours. For a three credit hour course, 2250 minutes of class time is required. "At

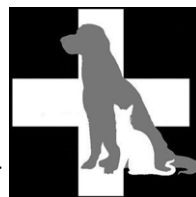
present it appears we can get in the required number of classroom minutes per credit hour," said Watterson.

As of now, no official decision by the Board of Regents or GHC officials has been made, but they are hoping to stay the course, absorb the time missed and, most importantly, keep spring break!

## Culbreth-Carr-Watson Animal Clinic



Jeff Culbreth, D.V.M.  
Barry Carr, D.V.M.  
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## GHC snowfall Jan. 9, 2011

**Floyd**  
5 inches  
**Cartersville**  
6 inches  
**Paulding**  
5-6 inches  
**Douglasville**  
4.5 inches  
**Marietta**  
5 inches



# Much ado about Shakespeare festival

By Hayden Jones  
Staff Writer

Sign-up begins Feb. 1 for Georgia Highlands College's 26<sup>th</sup> annual trip to the Alabama Shakespeare Festival (ASF) in Montgomery April 30-May 1.

"Those interested in attending are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible because spaces usually fill up fast," said Kristie Kemper, English professor and a trip coordinator.

On Saturday, April 30, the trip will begin with lunch, shopping time and a visit to the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts. After supper at Golden Corral that evening, those attending will be seeing one of the two comedies featured at the festival this year, Shakespeare's "Much Ado about Nothing."

Sunday, after lunch and time to explore the ASF grounds, participants will see "Moonlight and Magnolias," a modern comedy by Ron Hutchinson.

Michael Perry, a criminal justice major who went to ASF last spring, stated, "I really enjoyed the trip. There were tons of people who were fun to talk with. We saw really good plays, and the actors did a good

job. I recommend the trip to everyone."

ASF is the sixth largest Shakespeare festival in the world. The festival is set in a 250-acre park and attracts more than 300,000 annual visitors from all 50 states and 60 countries, according to the ASF website.

The trip fee covers transportation, hotel, admission to the two plays, information packet, supper at Golden Corral and a boxed lunch at ASF. Prices vary depending on the number of people per hotel room and begin at \$104 per person.

The trip is open to GHC students and employees and their guests with sign-up taking place in the Student Life offices at Floyd and Cartersville and the GHC offices elsewhere.

Kemper said that the sign-up deadline is March 1, unless tickets sell out before then, and a \$50 deposit is due at sign-up. The balance of the trip fee is due March 29, and the balance becomes non-refundable on that date.

Some financial assistance will be available to students who cannot afford to pay the whole trip fee. ASF Financial Assistance forms will be available at



Contributed

(Front row from left) Jessica Bishop, Aimee Meeks, Brittney Hines, Brittany Lively, Betsy McElhannon and Jesse Reimer (back row) enjoy a spring afternoon on the ASF grounds.

the sign-up offices and must be returned to the Floyd campus Student Life office by Feb. 22.

English classes, some social sciences and humanities classes and some other classes as well will offer extra credit to those who attend.

Kemper stated, "One of the things I really like about this trip is that employees

and students from all of the different GHC campuses can spend time and get to know one another by attending the festival."

Anthony Donaldson, a mathematics major, said "I highly recommend it; it allows you to get to know students in a different way from class."

For more information, contact John Spranza in the

Student Life office (706-295-6363), Megan Youngblood at Cartersville (678-872-8040) or Kristie Kemper in the humanities division (706-368-7626). Trip information and forms are also posted online at <http://www.highlands.edu/site/asf>.

The annual trip is co-sponsored by the Office of Student Life and the humanities division.

## Old Red Kimono to publish its 40th issue

By Ross Rogers  
Asst. Print Editor

GHC's literary publication, Old Red Kimono, will be celebrating the release of its 40<sup>th</sup> volume this year.

The first volume of Old Red Kimono was published in 1971. English professor Nancy Applegate, who has been working on the publication for 12 years and is one of the faculty advisors, stated that "the staff may try to do something special to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> issue at the reception in April."

Old Red Kimono publishes student and faculty

art work, poems and short stories. It is also one of the only two-year college literary magazines that accepts poems and short stories from authors who are not currently students.

Old Red Kimono also sponsors the annual Paris Lake poetry contest and features submissions to the contest in the magazine.

Old Red Kimono is staffed by paid student editors, including an art editor and print editor, who are usually chosen on a recommendation from faculty. Students begin working on Old Red Kimono in September, and the magazine is published

the following spring semester in late April. The deadline for entries for the 2011 issue of Old Red Kimono is Feb. 20.

Any students who are interested in learning more about Old Red Kimono, including the guidelines for all entries to the publication, should visit the student publications webpage on the Georgia Highlands website or check out the magazine's Facebook page. Students may also obtain more information by contacting faculty advisers Applegate ([napple-ga@highlands.edu](mailto:napple-ga@highlands.edu)) or Jesse Bishop ([jebishop@highlands.edu](mailto:jebishop@highlands.edu)).



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# Highlands Happenings

## Study Abroad

By Hayden Jones  
Staff Writer

Room is still available in the Georgia Highlands summer abroad programs available to students this year.

Bronson Long, director of study abroad, urges students to sign up soon in order to avoid late fees.

Trips this year include spring break in Costa Rica and summer trips to Spain and Great Britain, the Netherlands and Belgium.

For those interested in visiting Costa Rica, the trip will cost approximately \$2,100. It will take place during spring break, March 4-14. Sign up as soon as possible because the deadline is Feb. 11.

The trip to Spain will

take place June 1-11 and will cost approximately \$3,278.

The last trip to Great Britain, the Netherlands and Belgium takes place May 20-29 and costs around \$2,800.

The deadline for both the Spain and European tour trips is March 1.

This year's trip leaders will be Erica Simpson (Costa Rica), Kathryn Garcia and Meredith Ginn (Spain) and Becky Sims and Alexandra MacMurdo (Great Britain, the Netherlands and Belgium).

Any interested students may contact Long at blong@highlands.edu.

## Leaving so soon?

By Brandon Allen  
News Writer

Some students will soon

need to begin the process of transferring to another college.

Three of the main colleges in our area that most students will transfer to are Southern Polytechnic State University, University of West Georgia and Kennesaw State University.

The final application and document deadline for fall semester for Kennesaw State is May 13, for University of West Georgia is June 1 and July 1 for Southern Polytechnic.

The requirements for transfer students are similar at all three schools.

A prospective transfer student should have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 and have any remedial classes completed.

The student also must not be on dismissal from his or her previous institution.

Kennesaw State also requires students to have completed 30 semester hours at the previous institution according to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

Cathy Ledbetter, director of the Paulding GHC site, suggests that prospective transfer students visit <http://www.highlands.edu/site/advising-transfer>.

## Student services under scrutiny

By Mike Geibel  
Asst. Online Editor

Decentralization of several student services including the areas of student life, financial aid, admissions, student support services and the Office of the Registrar was among the topics discussed at a town hall meeting of all Georgia

Highlands employees on Jan. 21.

Randy Pierce, GHC president, had announced previously that the position of vice president of student services, currently held by Ron Shade, will be eliminated as part of the student services restructuring.

A decentralization steering committee is currently working on the issue, and Pierce indicated more details will be available later.

Other topics discussed at the meeting included budget concerns, intercollegiate athletics and the possibility of offering a four-year nursing degree at GHC.

The town hall meeting was held at the newly constructed Clarence Brown Conference Center located directly across the street from the Georgia Highlands Cartersville campus.

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5006/5007



# Is GHC's IT Dept. playing 'Big Brother?'

**By Kim Riggins**  
Staff Writer

When freshman political science major Cody Thomas booted up his laptop, he was surprised to find that his GHC Connect account had been canceled by the Information Technology department.

According to Thomas, he received an email stating that he had been in violation of the IT Acceptable Use Policy by running file sharing software on his laptop.

"I just came to school one day and couldn't connect to the Internet," Thomas said that although he only uses his laptop for email and note taking at school, he does run file sharing software on his computer.

"I do run uTorrent on my laptop and it is possible

it was running in the background but there were no active downloads or uploads," Thomas said.

Fall semester 2010 the IT department began reinforcing its Acceptable Use Policy, emphasizing that computer users must respect all pertinent licenses and copyrights in addition to respecting the use of the network.

Information security specialist Richard Davis said, "It's not a new policy. We started to actively enforce it because students were complaining about slow Internet and because we began getting copyright violation notices."

Chief Information Officer Jeff Patty affirmed this. "The benefit is to the student body. For those who want to do legitimate work. When

someone starts downloading a movie it bogs down the network," said Patty.

Even though the policy is not new, many students remain confused as to the purpose of the policy or the ramifications of violating it.

Maggie Jackson, a sophomore middle grades education major, admitted that she received an email in the fall concerning the policy but felt that it was unclear. "I understand them not wanting the illegal file sharing and that YouTube and things like that can slow stuff down."

But, according to Richard Davis, the purpose of the policy is not to block streaming sites. "People thought we were trying to block Facebook or YouTube but that's not what we're after," Davis said.

In addition to file sharing, downloading, regardless of legality, puts a strain on the network. According to Davis, "You could be downloading perfectly legal things but we are not able to differentiate...We don't have the time to go through all those."

Davis also stated that usually students do not even realize that some things are downloading onto their machines, such as video game updates.

According to Thomas, IT informed him that his account could only be reinstated once all file sharing software was removed from his hard drive. This echoes some concern among students that IT could be monitoring all activity on personal laptops.

The IT Acceptable Use

Policy states that authorized individuals within IT may monitor equipment, systems, and network traffic for security and network maintenance purposes.

Davis said that file sharing programs such as uTorrent wouldn't have to be removed.

"Whatever someone has on their computer is none of our business. Just make sure it isn't running."

In response to concerns that the IT department might be monitoring personal laptops, Davis said, "That is absolutely not true."

"Basically, our computer sees all the network traffic and it sees that an IP address has a certain type of traffic. It isn't an actual person. There is no kind of invasion of privacy," said Davis.

**Visit [www.highlands.edu/site/it-policies](http://www.highlands.edu/site/it-policies) for a full overview of all of Georgia Highlands' IT Department policies.**

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Photo by Michael Davis

**Steven Gugat rides an improvised cardboard snowboard down a hill on the Floyd campus.**



Photo by Andrew Calvert

**Even ice is sometimes beautiful.**



Photo by P.K. Choi

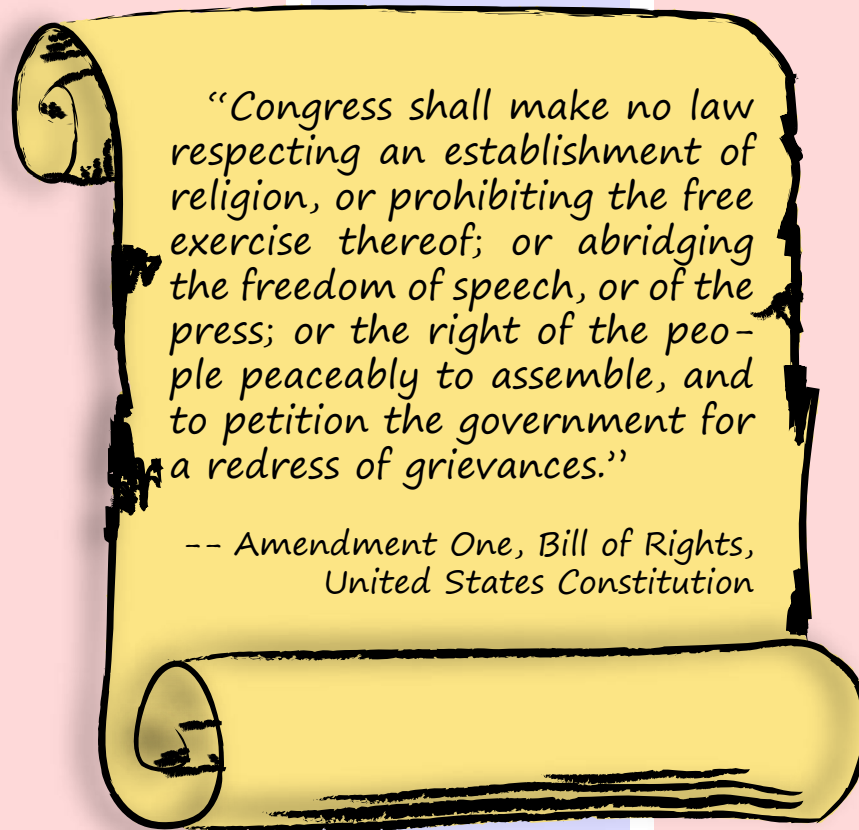
**A quiet solitude descends on a fountain in Rockmart.**



Photo by Kaitlyn Hyde

**The snow creates a peaceful scene in Ball Ground, Ga.**





"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

-- Amendment One, Bill of Rights,  
United States Constitution

Graphic by Michael Davis

## 1st Amendment Awareness Week

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The first ten amendments, known as the Bill of Rights, to the Constitution were passed on December 15, 1791, after a majority of the states ratified them. The first of these amendments gives each of us the fundamental freedoms of religion, speech, press, assembly and petition.

## Our First Five Freedoms

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# A new age of reasonable dissent

Using our First Amendment rights to reach a greater understanding of others

In 1787 a group of men gathered together to write a document that would change the world.

The Constitution of the United States established the guidelines by which America would rise from colonial upstart to world super power.

While a magnificent blueprint for governance, the Constitution did not go far enough to protect the personal liberties of Americans. The Bill of Rights was instituted to insure the rights the colonials had fought for would not be infringed upon by the new governing body.

The First Amendment to the Constitution

is both what makes this country great and what makes it difficult. While protecting American's right to worship openly, write a newspaper article critical of the government and gather in public, the Amendment also protects those who would burn a flag or march through town wearing white hoods and carrying swastika flags.

In 1969 the Supreme Court ruled that the government can only restrain speech which is **LIKELY** to incite **IMMINENT** unlawful action (Brandenburg v. Ohio). The ruling solidified the principle that unpopular speech is not illegal speech. The

founders would have been proud of the country's highest court for protecting American's right to dissent.

Lately, it seems, dissent has been turned into idiocy. It is no longer acceptable in this country to disagree with someone.

Shouting someone down as dumb, uninformed, or even unpatriotic has become commonplace. Gone are the days of great debate.

This is a great tragedy. The First Amendment stands as a blueprint for what Madison, Jefferson and Adams had in mind for our great nation.

Protecting the right to dissent means encour-

aging thorough contemplation of issues so that, together, the proper answer may be reached. The founders understood the value of opposing viewpoints, and it is time America took note.

Read the First Amendment again and look for personal value. While the Constitution only protects speech from infringement of the government, embrace the sentiment and extend the right to a peer.

Find a peer you disagree with on any issue-abortion, taxes, size of government, evolution, etc.- and have a debate. Use only facts and never raise your voice.

Make it your goal to convince the other person of your viewpoint while keeping an open mind to his or hers. In the end, minds might not be changed, but the fundamental principle of dissent will be given justice.

In the end, the more the country disagrees, the more American it is.

As Dwight D. Eisenhower once said, "Here in America we are descended in blood and in spirit from revolutionists and rebels -- men and women who dare to dissent from accepted doctrine. As their heirs, may we never confuse honest dissent with disloyal subversion."

## Stubborn old dogs

Not as dumb as you think

There is an old phrase that says, "You can't teach an old dog new tricks."

That means that it is hard to learn a new skill the older we get. Well, my dogs and I have proved this wrong.

My family has had Zooey, a 2½-year-old stray, for a couple of years now.

She is very well behaved and full of personality.

We would give her treats from time to time to get her to do tricks like lay down, sit and shake; she would never beg for one though.

Christmas of 2009, my sister bought Allie, a yellow



### Editor's Box

**Michael Davis**  
Editor

Labrador retriever puppy, for her boyfriend. As with Zooey, we gave her treats as a reward.

Allie, unlike Zooey, figured out where the treats were and knew to beg for them when she wanted one.

One day Zooey began to catch on and she now begs for treats at her discretion.

Like my dog learning something new, I had to as well.

In high school, I rarely, if ever, studied and was able to get A's and B's throughout my high school career.

Once I graduated and entered college, I was out of

my element.

Studying was required to just keep up in the class.

I had no idea how or where to begin with this new concept of studying.

I was forced to learn how to study properly in order to become a successful student and continue with my college career. I learned a new trick.

Similar to my dog learning new tricks, I had to adapt and build my study skills.

I, unfortunately, didn't get any treats for learning new tricks.

### Six Mile Post

6mpost@student.highlands.edu

**Editor**  
Michael Davis

**Assistant Print Editors**  
Jesse Beard and Ross Rogers

**Assistant Online Editor**  
Mike Geibel

**Chief Photographer**  
Jade Santiago

**Advertising Sales Manager**  
Renee McCloud

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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. 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.



## I need my space!

At the Cartersville campus, the first thing many new students may notice is the parking, or lack thereof. Rumor has it that there is only one parking spot per seven students.

In my opinion, the parking situation needs to be addressed. It is a stressor for students that may be running late to class because they are having to cruise the parking lot for 15 to 20 minutes. This can cause them to be tardy.



### Soap Box

Kaitlyn Hyde  
Staff Photographer



Photo by Kaitlyn Hyde

**Students struggle to find space in the overcrowded car park at GHC's Cartersville campus.**

## Living Life after the Tucson tragedy

The Tucson tragedy that recently occurred was the result of a young man who had mental problems that were never addressed in a way that could have prevented this tragedy.

I have known people that I thought were mentally unstable and never did anything about it.

This situation may have changed my mind.

According to Time Magazine, there were six warning signs that Jared Loughner was mentally ill:

A classic symptom of psychosis is disorganized thoughts and speech.

Another symptom of psychosis was an inability to function in social situations.

Loughner showed symptoms of paranoia telling a classmate the government was trying to control people through grammar.

He smoked marijuana regularly. John Monahan, a professor of psychology at University of Virginia School of law says that this correlates with violence



### Living Life

Christie Boyd  
Staff Writer

when mental illness is combined with drug use.

Classmates reported that being in class with Loughner scared them.

One classmate said that she sat by the door with her purse, prepared to run out if shooting started.

Loughner had 5 contacts with the police, but the reason for those contacts is unclear.

According to the National Alliance for Mental Illness in their article: "Grading the States 2009 Report Card: Georgia," received a grade of D.

We don't have nearly enough funding for services for our residents.

We also don't have a governor or legislature that provides strong leadership in the area of mental health. However, we do have stu-

dent support services at Georgia Highlands.

Counseling is provided to students, faculty and staff on all campuses.

If you have problems coping with school or life in general, walk down the hallway and make an appointment.

If another student displays any of the above symptoms, make a trip down the hallway and speak to student support services.

Let's not let a Tucson tragedy happen in our school.

Let's support and watch over one another.

This tragedy need not have happened if people had reported this young man.

In the meantime, you will find me thinking about this tragedy and Living Life...



"To learn to play the banjo."

Jasmine Williams  
E. Childhood Edu.  
Floyd



"To go to UGA by the end of the year."

Jacob Yancey  
Biology  
Floyd



"I don't have one."

Trenton Temples  
Pharmacy  
Floyd



"To make all A's."

Kadie Montgomery  
Undecided  
Floyd



"To get serious about school."

Sara Billian  
Art  
Floyd

## What is your New Year's resolution?

Poll and photos by Jade Santiago

# Text it for a ticket

Georgia cracks down on texting and driving

**By Audrey Helms**  
Staff Writer

On July 1, 2010, Senate Bill 360 and House Bill 23 went into effect, making texting while driving illegal in the state of Georgia.

These bills outline the specifics about what constitutes as "texting while driving," and what penalties drivers in violation of these laws will face. Senate Bill 360 explains that the laws now exist because "sending or reading text based messages has resulted in numerous traffic accidents, injuries and deaths throughout our state and nation."

The bills specify that an individual in violation of using a "wireless communications device" while operating a motor vehicle will be punished by a fine of \$150 and receive one point against his or her license.

Though the actions of younger drivers were mentioned within the bills for

their "inexperience and increased willingness to take risks while driving," the majority of Cartersville students questioned generally or partially agreed with the laws creation and the consequences.

"It's a necessary law, especially for learning drivers," Halie Beavers, a general studies major at Cartersville, pointed out, while Ben Wong, also a general studies major said, "It's hard for the brain to multi-task like that."

What some drivers may be unaware of is the fact that drivers can be ticketed for using their cell phone while stopped at a red light.

In respect to this fact, Lindsey Hughes, a psychology major, stated, "The punishment is appropriate if you're doing it while actually driving and not while you're stopped."

Kyle Gary, a general studies major, also argued that the law should be en-

forced only "subjectively." Gary said, "If the violator is doing so recklessly and endangering themselves as well as others, the law properly serves its purpose. Punishing the innocent... is unfair to the accused."

On the other end of the spectrum, early childhood education major Laurie Vance observed, "Many compare the act (of texting while driving) to drinking and driving... If anything, (the penalties) could be harsher. Texting and driving is a serious issue, and I feel that many people do not take it as serious as it should be."

The term "wireless communications device," used within the bills, means a "cellular telephone, a text messaging device, a personal digital assistant, a stand-alone computer or any other device used to initiate or receive a wireless communication with another person." The bill does not include navigation/GPS systems.

## What is your opinion on the Texting and Driving Law?



"I think it is a good law since texting and talking on the phone while driving can result in accidents affecting many others."

**Brent Griffin**  
Associate Professor of Math  
Marietta

"I think the law doesn't make sense. A radio or AC controls can be just as distracting."

**Wesley Brown**  
Political Science  
Marietta



"I agree with the law because it affects others' safety."

**Adam Brown**  
Business  
Marietta



Poll and photos by P.K. Choi

## Considering Abortion?

Information on a Woman's Choices . . .

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## Study like a champion

**By Dana Hogan  
Staff Writer**

Studying is the key to achieving and maintaining better grades in the New Year.

For many students, making better grades this year is a New Year's resolution. Many would like to start out the year with good grades and keep them up rather than cram at the end of the semester. Professors agree that the number one way for students to achieve this goal is to increase the amount of time spent studying.

Studies show that what a person can remember 20 minutes after having learned it is transferred to long-term memory. If after 20 minutes the person cannot recall the information, then he or she is not likely to ever remember it. This is why cramming often does not work, and when it does, it is only temporary. If students would devote small increments of time to studying each day instead of having a cram session the night before the test, they

would likely get much better results and even retain more of the information.

Cynthia Harrington, a nursing major who attends the Floyd campus, recommends starting study groups



Graphic by Michael Davis

of three to four people. Harrington says that study groups worked well for her because they kept her accountable and focused while allowing her to spend time with friends.

Another study tip is to actually read the assigned text. Students who read the assigned text before going to class reported that they were better able to keep up during lecture and retained more of the material.

Camille Hernandez, a mathematics lecturer at GHC, says, "Always check your e-mail." Hernandez says that this is a great way to be prepared for class because teachers often send important e-mails out to their students. She also says, "Ask any questions that you have." Teachers want students to understand what is going on and are there to answer students questions.

These tips, including many others such as making flash cards, taking notes and having someone quiz the student on the material could dramatically improve academic standing this semester. Students who prefer more one on one attention should check with their professors about coming to see them during their office hours. Also there are free tutoring services available at each campus.

## Walking your way to a more successful future

### Why graduating makes sense

**By Ryan Edelson  
Staff Writer**

To graduate or to transfer, that is the question.

College is a time of serious decision making. Unlike high school and the years before, there is no one to hold a college students hand and make all of the decisions for him or her.

One of the more important decisions that students at a two-year college must make is whether or not they should receive an associate degree before transferring to a university or just make a "running start"; jumping right into university classes with no degree in hand.

According to recently published information on the Georgia Highlands College website, national research has shown that community college students who finish their major

program are academically more successful as upper-classmen.

In addition, students attain a higher rate of bachelor's degree completion than those who transfer with just a "bag of credits." More reasons to attain an associate degree before transferring can be found on the GHC website under the Current Students tab.

Having spoken to counselors and academic advisers regarding their opinion on the pros and cons of each choice, it seems clear that they lean towards obtaining a degree first. They supported their opinions with both objective facts and personal experience with many students.

The general consensus is that it is worth obtaining the associate first. In no way can it adversely affect those who seek to acquire it before moving on.

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# Coaches impact more than just victories

The world of youth sports is full of horror stories involving the misguided good intentions of volunteer coaches. Whether it is a kid never wanting to play a sport again or not being able to play again due to injury, or a 12-man cage match involving parents, coaches and umpires, youth sporting events have a tendency to have unintended consequences. But, it doesn't have to be that way.

The job of a youth coach is threefold.

First, teach the kids to play the game properly and safely. Coaches have a responsibility to teach players how to play the game with proper technique.

In the future, a player who plays the sport correctly will have more success and give future coaches more time to work on strategy without focusing as much on foot work. Good technique



## Extra Point

Casey Bass  
Staff Writer

will also keep kids safe; a safe child is a happy child.

Second, make sure the kids want to play the sport again next year. If the lasting impression a coach leaves on a child is the extreme desire to never play that sport again, that coach is a massive failure. Good coaches make players better, teach proper technique and foster a love for the game simultaneously.

Remember, kids have to sit and be quiet all day at school. Many schools don't even allow talking in the cafeteria, so make practice fun. It is also a good idea to plan practice time so that

the kids are always moving. Minimizing the downtime will maximize efficiency and keep the players from getting bored.

Third, use your incredible influence to encourage kids to be better people. Talk to your players. Find out what interests them and use that information to forge a relationship built on more than sports.

I require my 9-and ten year-old football team to do a community service project every year, teaching them the value of giving back at an early age.

Youth coaches always have a strong impact on



Contributed

Casey Bass poses for a photo with a member of his youth football team.

the development of a child. By employing these three techniques we can do our best to make that impact a

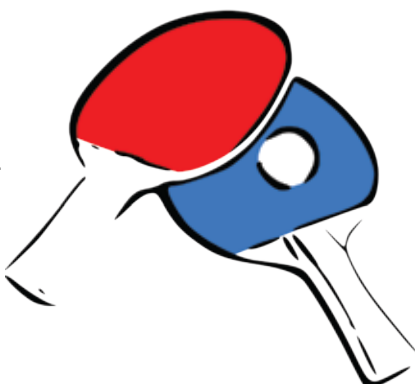
positive one. And when you figure out how to do the big three and win, then you are a legend.

## Six Mile Post Ping Pong Tournament

The Six Mile Post is hosting its third annual Floyd Campus Ping Pong Tournament with the help of the GHC intramural sports program. The 2011 champion will receive a custom engraved SMP trophy.

Sign-up deadline will be Feb. 10 and the bracket will be published in the February issue of the Six Mile Post. The first round will begin Feb. 22, and the second round will start March 14.

Sign-up sheet  
located in Floyd  
campus game  
room!



## Georgia Highlands students enjoy ski trip over winter break

By Judson Hartline  
Staff Writer

A total of 30 participants including trip leader Ken Weatherman, professor of physical education, took part in GHC's annual skiing/snowboarding trip to the Appalachian mountains over winter break.

"It's been the most ideal weather for skiing in the 31 years of offering this program," said Weatherman.

"It's a great way to meet people from the school," said Annaca Sills, pharmacy major and student at the Floyd Campus. This was Sills' first time skiing, and she was able to ski an entire slope after the class.

Some participated in the trip for physical education course credit, while others went just for fun.

## Intramural Sports

- 5-on-5 basketball play begins Feb. 1.
- Co-ed and indoor volleyball sign-up ends Feb. 11.
- Dodgeball sign-up ends Feb. 28.