

SIX MILE POST

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The Student Voice

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**Baseball and Softball
teams knock out openers
see page 16**

Photo by Shelby Hogland

Kristen Mullis takes off towards first base during the first softball game of the season against Gadsden State Community College.



**IT-support
partners with
high schoolers**

See page 3.



**Professor
publishes
inspiring book**

See page 5.



**Highlands
recognizes
Black History**

See page 8.

West Georgia discontinues education classes at Floyd

By Brianna Drake
Staff Writer

Recently the University of West Georgia left Georgia Highlands's Early Education Program.

"Georgia Highlands had a 2+2 program with the University of West Georgia for Early Childhood Education," said Darrell Sorrells, associate professor of education. This means a student could finish their associate degree at Highlands and continue with their bachelor's with West Georgia while staying on Highlands's campus to take classes.

Renva Watterson, vice president for academic affairs, met with Donna Harkins, director of the Early Childhood Education Program at West Georgia. "They cite a 'vitality and sustainable enrollment' as

reasons for their need to stop offering the degree program in the Floyd Campus," said Watterson.

There are only around 15-20 students yearly that are involved with this program; West Georgia said they will be open to restarting the program if Highlands could start getting an enrollment of 20-25 students.

"We are sad to see this program come to an end, though gratified that UWG will still accept our students to their Early Childhood Education programs and let them do their field experience in Floyd or Polk counties," stated Alan Nichols, dean of academic social sciences.

According to Sorrells, West Georgia did not contact Georgia Highlands about the subject, but instead they

sent an email out to the students regarding the issue.

Watterson said that if the program does not get the enrollment needed to start back up, students will now have to complete their degrees on the Carrollton or Newnan campuses. They are encouraging students to look into the Newnan campus because it is new.

She also stated that West Georgia will continue to have an Early Childhood Education advisor at Highlands once a month. There are currently 12 students set to graduate in May 2015 and 13 to graduate in May 2016, after this the program will close.

Georgia Highlands is going to have a discussion on the subject soon and point their focus towards students who are wishing to choose education as their careers.

Marietta campus's status with Kennesaw State Univ. to be discussed in May

By Christina Goodwin
Staff Writer

With the approval of the consolidation of Kennesaw State University (KSU) and Southern Polytechnic State University (SPSU) on Jan. 6, the question remains, how does the consolidation affect Georgia Highlands' Marietta campus?

Ken Reaves, the dean of GHC's Marietta campus, said that the consolidation will not affect the operations of the Marietta site.

As of now, there has not been an official agreement between KSU and Highlands since GHC still has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with SPSU which will end in May of this year. Discussions of rental agreements, space allocation, shared services and residence hall opportunities

will begin with KSU once the MOU with SPSU ends.

Renva Watterson, vice president of GHC's academic affairs, said, "Our relationship with KSU that we've built on our Paulding campus is a good example of what can happen when we work together." KSU has several offices, faculty, and programs at the Paulding campus.

She continued, "We want KSU to offer seamless transfer to our students, and we have every indication that they want that as well. It is, after all, mutually beneficial to our institutions."

In a previous SMP article published in January 2014, Reaves said, "This merger will strengthen our relationship with KSU." Reaves still stands by that statement, and asked, "Why break an already great bond?"



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Those nominated must:

- Be eligible to graduate by May 2015
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- Show involvement in community or campus activities/student life

Deadline:

March 12, 2015

Submit at:

SpeakerNomination@highlands.edu

Students learn cyber security skills

By Anna Douglass
Managing Ed., Online

Georgia Highlands' Chief Information Security Officer Richard Davis and Information Security Specialist Mike Peterson have teamed up with Rome High School's Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program (AFJROTC) to participate in the Air Force Association's CyberPatriot program to help encourage students to learn more about science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

According to USCyberPatriot.org, CyberPatriot is the National Youth Cyber Education Program. During competitions teams of students are given "a set of virtual images that represent operating systems." The team must locate vulnerabilities and keep the system operational during



Photo by Anna Douglass

Mike Peterson, GHC information security specialist, helps the Rome High JROTC CyberPatriot program prepare for next season's competition.

a six-hour period as if a system was in the process of being hacked.

GHC was asked to participate in the program by Lt. Col. Michael Washington, who is in charge of the JROTC program at Rome High School.

"He asked if this is something I would like to be in-

terested in, and I thought that it was a pretty cool idea. Let's teach kids and get them interested in being geeky and security minded," said Davis.

Davis and Peterson worked with the team two times a week on various training programs that were provided by the CyberPatri-

ot program.

"We can all work together very well and we all know what our strengths are, like Kane and I are both really good at viruses and networking," said Lauren Gaston, a sophomore at Rome High School. Senior Kane Bearden was another

team member.

The team placed first in the Regional competition, but did not qualify for nationals.

"I'm proud of the kids and we could not have done this without the mentors from Georgia Highlands," said Washington, United States senior aero space science instructor at Rome High School.

Davis and Peterson worked to help prepare the team on their own time, free of charge, so they could get Georgia Highlands' name out and let high school students know that GHC offers programs related to information security as well as to help reinforce their own knowledge.

Davis and Peterson are still working with the team from Rome High to help them learn and better prepare themselves for competition next year.

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Highlands Happenings

Old Red Kimono seeking submissions for 44th edition

By Derweatra Hammock
Managing Ed., Design

Old Red Kimono encourages students, faculty and staff to participate in the 44th issue of the annual literary magazine.

Nancy Applegate, professor of English and ORK adviser, said, "Submissions are preferred by Feb. 17, but we will accept work until all spaces are filled."

Submissions can include original work such as fiction, poetry, art and photos.

Applegate stated that ORK is one of the only college sponsored journals that also accepts outside work. "It allows our literary magazine to go into circulation all around the world," she said.

The student staff includes Thomas Dobson, head literary editor; Mary Roberts, art editor; Caleb Howard, assistant editor; and Megan Broome, assistant editor.

Broome stated, "I like that you get to read different people's work from all around the country. It helps me with my own writing."

Howard also enjoys being a part of ORK. "Being an English major, I love working with literature," he said.

This year's literary magazine will have a carnival theme, and the reception is planned for late April.

Prizes will be awarded for creative writing, art and the third annual ORK Loves GHC Photo Contest.

For more information contact Applegate at napplega@highlands.edu or go to <http://www.highlands.edu/site/ork>.

ASF trip sign-ups: first-come, first-served

By Anna Douglass
Managing Ed., Online

Sign-ups have begun for Georgia Highlands' 30th annual trip to the Alabama Shakespeare Festival located in Montgomery, Ala.

The two plays being seen are Shakespeare's "As You Like It" and "King Lear."

The group will also be taking a trip to the final destination of the 1965 Selma voting rights march where Martin Luther King Jr. delivered a famous speech.

Since there are only 55 spots available, sign-ups are on a first-come, first-served basis with a \$50 deposit due at sign-up.

If a student wishes to participate he or she should sign-up with student life

on any GHC campus before March 2, though the trip may be filled up before then.

The cost of the trip varies by number of people per hotel room. The prices are \$135 for a double room, \$120 for a triple and \$110 for a quad. This also includes transportation, a boxed lunch, tickets for the shows and dinner.

EBA for summer and fall semesters begins March 2

By Ashlee Gilley
Staff Writer

If students want to make sure they get the classes they need, then they need to know about Early Bird Advising. The dates for EBA this year are March 2-13.

Students who go to an EBA meeting with an adviser will be allowed to register

for classes a week earlier than other students.

Fall registration for Early Bird participants begins April 6 and registration becomes open to everyone on April 13.

Summer Registration starts March 9.

Students should make sure that their adviser puts an EBA note in their SCORE account to indicate that they took part in EBA.

EBA was designed with the goal of creating a connection between students and faculty members in their area of study.

Early Bird Advising gives students a chance to get advice from people with first-hand knowledge on what classes they do or do not need to take.

For more information go to <http://www.highlands.edu/site/advising-early-bird-advising>.

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GHC professor authors memoir about the grieving process, her personal journey

By Tyler Hogue
Asst. Online Editor

Susan Claxton, professor of sociology and human services coordinator, explained what gave her the inspiration for writing her book "Just Keep Praying: A Journey about Life, Death, and Living" at a book signing and presentation hosted by the Old Red Kimono, Jan. 29.

This is Claxton's first book, and she has a second book in the works as a continuation to this first one.

Claxton said the inspiration for the book came from her daughter's death and how she learned to deal with it.

The presentation, which was held in the Floyd campus library, began with a memorial slideshow of pictures of Claxton's daughter, Felicia Claxton, at different times in her life.

After the slideshow, Nancy Applegate, professor of English and adviser of the Old Red Kimono, introduced Claxton and talked a little about how Felicia Claxton's death had impacted her.

After Applegate's introduction, Claxton stood in front of the room and thanked everyone for coming.

She then began to recount the heartbreaking events that led her to write the book and brought everyone in the room to tears.

Several others, family and friends of Claxton and her daughter, also spoke about the impact of Felicia's death on their lives.

Claxton said after Felicia died she was depressed and even questioned her

faith. She went on to say that after having gone to workshops that dealt with death and talking with her preacher, she came to the understanding that death is a part of life and is not something that we should let overwhelm us.

One of Claxton's main drives in writing this book was to inspire and motivate people who are going through the same thing. She believes people need to be able to talk about it without being uncomfortable and

that others should be there for the griever when they are upset.

Claxton's view is that "Grief has no timeline, grief is unique and it is OK." She hopes that through sharing her experiences she can help others deal with their grief.

Those who missed the signing and were unable to get a copy of the book can visit Claxton in her office (F-144) on the Floyd campus, where she has extra copies.

The book is also available on Amazon.com.



Photo by Callie Stokes

Susan Claxton discusses her newly published book in the Floyd Library.

Two new book clubs form

Cartersville

By Jessyca Arndt
Digital Technician

Amanda Monson, from the Bartow County Public Library, and Amy Burger, the assistant librarian for public services at the Cartersville GHC campus, have teamed up to create an informal "Book Club" for students.

The club meets every second Wednesday of the month at 12:30 p.m. in the library by the fireplace, and anyone can attend.

"It doesn't just have to be books. It can be an interesting blog that you follow, a comic book series or just something interesting that you have read. It is really just a group who loves reading," said Burger.

Although this is not a traditional "Book Club,"

and there won't be any assigned readings, Burger and Monson thought that maybe there would be enough interest in the student body for this once-a-month event.

Emma Bach, an avid reader, vlogger and general studies major, stated, "There's a book club now? That is pretty incredible. Now I can do something interesting while I'm on campus."

If enough interest is shown in the Book Club, there is potential for a lot of exciting future events.

The English Majors Association has taken field trips to various locations for reading related fun in the past, and Burger agreed that there are possibilities for this club to do the same.

Floyd

By Stephanie Davis
Staff Writer

Georgia Highlands' Book Club is a reading group for anyone at GHC or in the community that will give participants the opportunity to socialize, discuss and have his or her opinions heard.

GHC previously sponsored a book club and it has been resurrected with the help of John Kwist, assistant professor of English.

For the first meeting, a small committee chose a book that it hopes will draw a crowd and generate interest: a Pulitzer Prize-winning graphic novel, "Maus," by Art Spiegelman.

"Maus" was called "the most affecting and successful narrative ever done

about the Holocaust" by the Wall Street Journal, and "the first masterpiece in comic book history" by The New Yorker.

The book selection process will become more democratic as membership grows and suggestions are encouraged.

Kwist said, "You may be introduced to works of literature you haven't encountered before, but, more importantly, you will be given the opportunity to interact with a group of like-minded individuals. And we may have refreshments."

Book club meetings will be in the large computer classroom in Georgia Highlands' Floyd campus library, twice per semester. The first meeting is Thursday, Feb. 19 at 2 p.m.

Six Mile Post claims victory at GCPA

By Anna Douglass
Managing Ed., Online

In its first year competing against four year schools the Six Mile Post received 12 awards from the Georgia College Press Association at the annual awards luncheon in Athens, Feb. 7. The awards recognized work from spring and fall 2014.

In addition, two SMP staff members were elected to state office.

The Six Mile Post was awarded first place in General Photography, third place in Best Website and third place in Best Campus Community Service-Sports.

Pedro Zavala, former SMP editor-in-chief, was awarded first place in General Photograph-Sports.

Former SMP photographer Tatiana Smithson placed second in Best Photograph-News, and staff writer Brianna Drake placed



Photo by Derweatra Hammock

From left: Karlee Helms, Kiston Dowler and Joey LeFurgey listen as Bryce McNeil, adviser of the Georgia State Signal, critiques the Six Mile Post.

third in that category.

Zavala and Karlee Helms, managing ed., sports, placed second in Best Photo Essay.

Helms also placed third in the Best Entertainment story category and second in Best Sports Story.

Kiston Dowler, editor-in-chief; Derweatra Hammock, managing ed., design; and Zavala placed first, second and third, respectively, in the Best Editorial category.

The general awards category was divided into large and small colleges by enroll-

ment. The two individual award categories were first and second year students and junior and seniors.

Holly Chaney, staff writer, was elected treasurer, and Helms was elected to the Georgia College Press Association board.

"I am honored for the opportunity to work as a GCPA officer. It is an exciting opportunity to be able to serve as treasurer along with such bright individuals, and I have high hopes for what we will achieve this year," said Chaney.

Antonio Garcia, former SMP managing ed., online, who currently attends Georgia State, was elected GCPA president.

"It's a great feeling being elected as president of such an established organization. I'm excited to have two people from the SMP and another from The Signal in office with me, and I look forward to working with other great people," said Garcia.

Representing the Six Mile Post staff at the GCPA meeting were Dowler, Helms, Chaney, Hammock, Anna Douglass, Tyler Hogue, Tendraia Perry and Joey LeFurgey.



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Georgia Highlands College takes study abroad to a whole new country for the summer of 2015

By Derweatra Hammock
Managing Ed., Design

Thanks to Kennesaw State's consortium program, a few GHC students with a minimum 3.5 GPA will earn summer course credit while spending a month in the town of Montepulciano located in Tuscany, Italy.

"Once you've traveled internationally, you will find new opportunities that come knocking at the door," said Todd Harper, co-director of the Montepulciano Program and associate professor of English at Kennesaw State University.

Bronson Long, director of study abroad and global initiatives, stated that the trip will be June 25-July 26.

The cost is \$4,900, and this covers airfare, ground transportation, housing, field trips, emergency health insurance and some meals.

This cost does not include personal trips and tuition, but Long said that participants should be able

to use their financial aid to cover expenses for the trip.

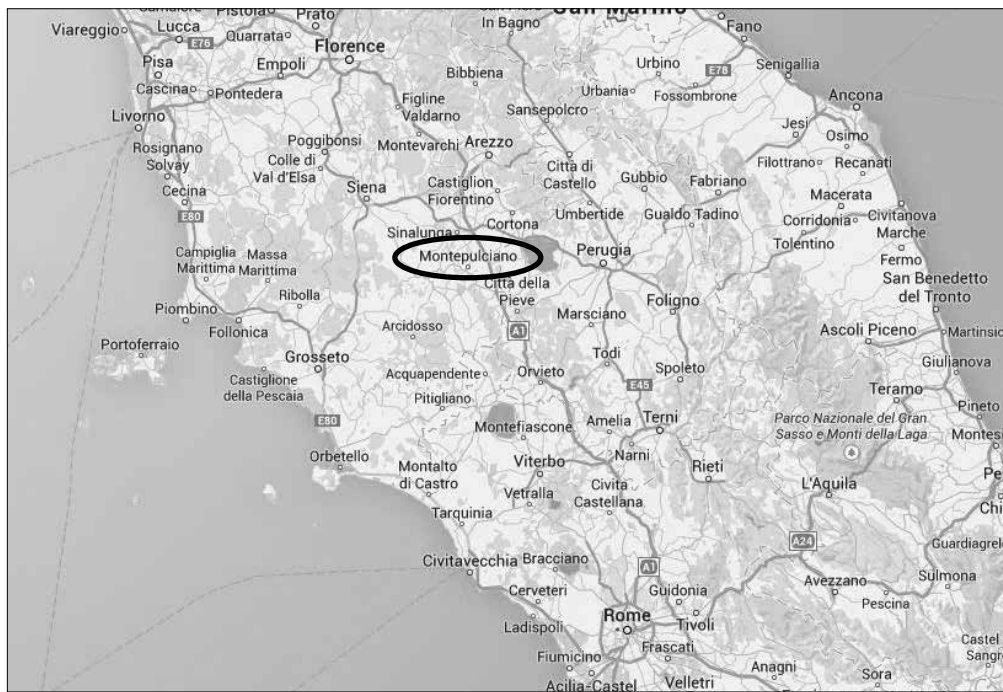
The deadline for applications, along with a \$300 deposit, is March 4.

Jon Hershey, professor of English and dean of Humanities, will be accompanying GHC students to Italy and believes that this is a remarkable opportunity. "Our students will come away with a new perspective on Italy and on their own cultures as well," her said.

While in Italy, students will take two, three credit hour courses at the renovated medieval fortress, La Fortezza.

They will take one in the morning and one in the afternoon two days a week. The other two week days are for field trips that correspond with the courses. Students will have a three day weekend, Friday-Sunday, to travel on their own.

Long stated that since Montepulciano is located between Rome and Florence, students will have a won-



Google Maps

Students will be staying in Montepulciano located between Rome in the south and Florence in the north. During the weekends, students may make trips to surrounding areas.

derful experience exploring. "It's scenic, gorgeous and safe. I am very impressed with KSU's setup."

While GHC will send a

small group this year as a test run, Long said that they hope to expand the number of students who can participate next year.

Students who would like to apply or find out more information should contact Long at blong@highlands.edu.

Confidential HIV testing now available to students on the Marietta campus

By Mellisa Parr
Staff Writer

Adebayo Onabule, counselor of student support services, and Abraham Ortiz, student life coordinator on the Marietta campus, have brought awareness to students about HIV screenings scheduled to be held in the Norton building.

The January screening was considered a success by Onabule.

He said, "Even though we had projected to have at least 11 people tested, we blew past those estimates by almost tripling those numbers."

Someone Cares Inc., an Atlanta non-profit HIV-AIDS outreach organization, is conducting the screenings. Its goal is to spread awareness of HIV as well as to eradicate it. Someone Cares' motto is "We are not just an agency, we are a friend."

The screening process consists of giving a sample via a mouth swab, and everything is kept confidential about the students who go through with the testing process.

Onabule is the one who reached out to Someone Cares Inc. to make the screening available. Ortiz

was involved with this as well.

Ortiz said that it's "important to bring awareness about what is going on and that it can happen to anyone."

Katherine Russell, a nursing major, said, "I feel like it's a really good idea for students who are scared to get checked."

There are two more dates scheduled for HIV testing on the Marietta campus this semester, March 25 and April 29.

More information on times and locations may be obtained from Ortiz at aortiz@highlands.edu.



Photo by Christina Goodwin

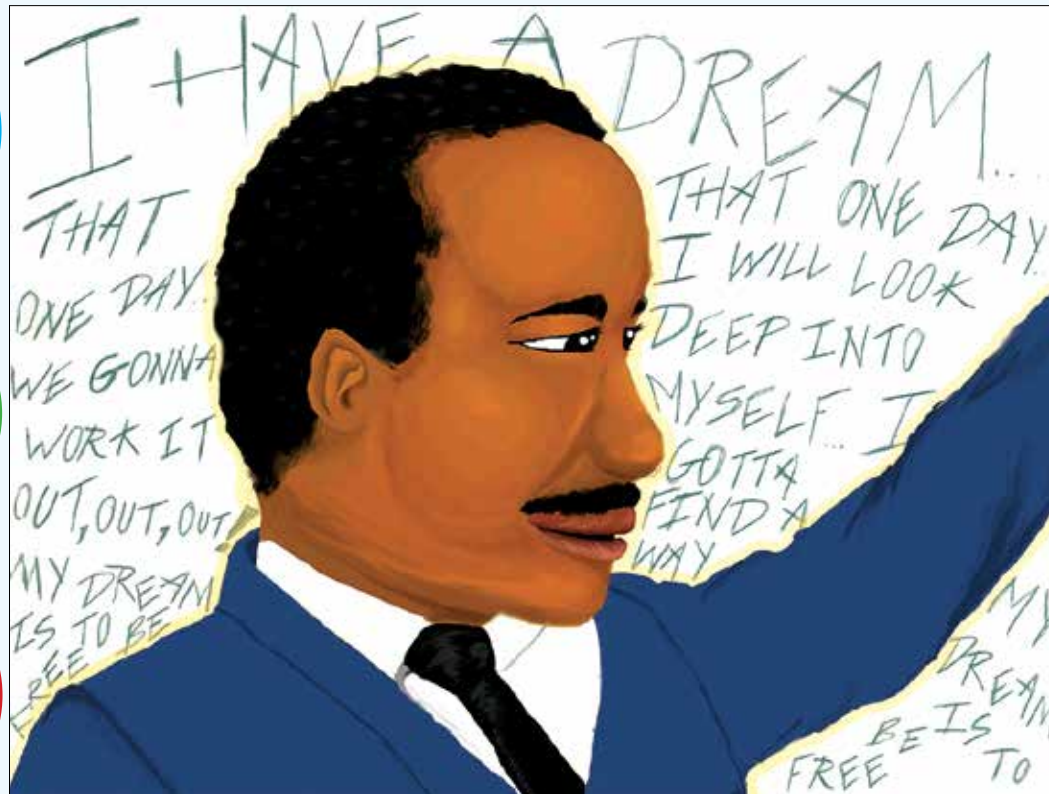
Buttons that were given out while tests were administered are worn by the volunteers for Someone Cares Inc.

Martin Luther King Jr. Quotes

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

"Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into friend."

"I look to a day when people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."



"Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed."

"Faith is taking the first step even when you can't see the whole staircase."

"If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward."

Quotes from BrainyQuote.com and artwork by Bryanna Lawton 2015

McCoy, a one-woman success, to perform at GHC

By Emily Varnum
Staff Writer

Morgan McCoy's talents and passions have allowed her a successful career in "edutainment."

She is a historical interpreter in a show where she acts as 12 different characters.

A few of her characters are based on historical figures who have contributed to the history of African Americans, such as Maggie Lena Walker.

Throughout high school, McCoy always tried to bring cultural awareness to her peers and teachers but was often viewed negatively for doing reports on African American inventors, artists and business owners.

She grew up in Virginia and attended a high school where she was only one of five African American students in her class. She felt like less was expected of her

because of her race. Her determination and hard work allowed her to graduate as the valedictorian of her class.

From there she went to Hampton University to study theatre, and then she got her master's at Region University in communications.

She became a professor of public speaking at Bryant and Stratton College for two years before starting her full-time acting career.

In response to her hardships, McCoy said, "I am grateful for all of my experiences, the good, the bad and the indifferent, because they all shaped who I am and thus my production."

Now she has combined her love of acting, writing and teaching into one program for others to learn from and enjoy.

In her appearances at colleges, churches, etc., she performs her one-woman



Contributed

In "Evolution of a Black Girl," McCoy portrays the lives of 12 women and their impact on history.

show and has a Q&A segment as well as a workshop.

In her workshop, she talks about how to become a dream catcher instead of just a dreamer. This will be

open to all students.

McCoy's 2015 tour is sponsored by Louis Gossett Jr.'s Eracism Foundation. She is very honored to be an ambassador for this founda-

tion that is devoted to the removal from existence of the belief that one race, one culture or one people is superior to another.

After all of her experiences, she has learned to just see people for people. McCoy encourages others to "love who you are and who you are created to be."

McCoy will be coming to all GHC campuses: Marietta on March 2, Floyd on March 3, Douglasville on March 5, Paulding on March 6 and Cartersville on March 9.

Lyric Sprinkle, student life coordinator at the Paulding and Douglasville campuses said, "I am excited to see her characters change throughout her performance as she highlights iconic black women from our history."

More information on McCoy and her show can be found at www.evolutionofablackgirl.com and www.morganaverymccoy.com.

87th annual Oscar preview

By Ashlee Gilley
Staff Writer

What does one get when they have an actor trying to reinvent himself and drop the character he is most known for, a man reliving his time growing up in a luxury hotel and an up and coming Cambridge graduate who learns he has a progressive neuron disease? They get three of the nominees for the 87th Annual Academy Awards, Best Picture.

The films above are "Birdman," "The Grand Budapest Hotel" and "The Theory of Everything," respectively.

Another nominee for best picture is "American Sniper," which follows the story of Chris Kyle and his journey as he struggles with the toll of being deployed as a military sniper.

"The Imitation Game"

follows Alan Turing, played by Benedict Cumberbatch, and several other British mathematicians as they try to create a device that can crack the German Enigma inscription machine and help them win the war. Turing must also complete this already stressful task while trying to keep his homosexuality a secret.

Other nominees for Best Picture include "Boyhood," "Whiplash" and "Selma."

"Boyhood" shows a portion of a young boy's life for 12 years. "Whiplash" is about a 19-year-old music conservatory student who gets the attention of a teacher who believes that the only way a student can excel is through humiliation and fear. Finally, "Selma" follows the life of Martin Luther King Jr. examined through events surrounding the 1965 freedom march

from Selma to Montgomery.

The nominees for Best Actor in a Leading Role include Steve Carell for "Foxcatcher," Bradley Cooper for "American Sniper," Benedict Cumberbatch for "The Imitation Game," Michael Keaton for "Birdman" and Eddie Redmayne for "The Theory of Everything."

The nominees for Best Actress in a Leading Role are Marion Cotillard for "Two Days, One Night," Felicity Jones for "The Theory of Everything," Jullianne Moore for "Still Alice," Rosamund Pike for "Gone Girl" and Reese Witherspoon for "Wild."

There is stiff competition this year in the Best Animated Feature category with nominees such as "How to Train Your Dragon 2," "Big Hero 6" and "The Boxtrolls." Also in the running are, "Song of the Sea"



and "The Tale of Princess Kaguya."

The 87th Annual Acad-

emy Awards, hosted by Neil Patrick Harris, will air on ABC Feb. 22, at 7 p.m.

Highlands' veterans share thoughts on 'American Sniper'

I thought the movie was one of the better depictions of what it is like serving in the current military. It blends what life is like serving overseas and how emotional it is when you are away from your family for an extended period of time.

By no means is it your "average business trip." What you're paid to do and what is in front of you on a daily basis can be life or death situ-

ations. It shows what the moments are like.

There has been a lot of criticism towards the movie as of late, saying "violent" Chris Kyle is a "murderer." What they don't see is all the people he didn't kill. The hours, days or even possibly months he went without even pulling the trigger.

It takes all his moments of violence at its purest and jams them

into an hour and a half. He served four tours. Three-fourths of the people who gave negative sentiment towards the movie probably never did one.

He is not the first one to fire his gun at someone half his age. I know this for fact, and what makes this movie even more accurate is the absence of glory at the end. He dies at the hand of his own brethren. I

was beyond tearful at this moment, and I am glad they didn't show the most violent thing of all-an American Hero getting killed. Where is the glory in that?

Anthony DePaola
Specialist, U.S. Army
Cartersville student



I have seen other recent shows and movies trying to show how military life and the Iraq and Afghanistan wars are depicted. Every time I find myself shaking my head saying, "That is not how it is."

After watching "American Sniper," I have to say it was the most accurate movie for the modern war. They got everything right, from the background of how the military bases were to the sand storms.

It reminded me a lot of when I was in Iraq, even how Bradley Cooper's character acted when he was back from the war with his awkward silences.

It is no doubt an amazing movie,

and it does show what war can do to a person.

Served two tours in Iraq
Cartersville student



I have seen "American Sniper" numerous times. Unfortunately, I have to say this is a pretty accurate description of the war in Iraq and is also a very symbolic form of how military members from each branch deal differently with coming back from any war.

The internal battles that you fight when you come home from sce-

narios and events that happen while you were overseas in any combat situation differ from person to person, but they inevitably have an effect one way or another on someone.

To this day, if I hear a helicopter around, it still brings back memories. I did my time jumping out of them, configuring them and unfortunately getting shot at while in

them and on the ground by them. It will always bring back memories-some fond and some horrific, but how I deal with them is different than how others deal with them.

The depiction of heroism and how he seemed like he could not save enough people is strongly embedded in our heads if we serve for the right purpose, and it shows when you see

a veteran helping another veteran, helping a person with a flat tire or whatever the case. Usually a veteran is the first one that will respond and help in these situations.

Jeremy Smith
U.S. Army
Served one year in Korea
Floyd student



Feature

Student punches through to success despite obstacles

By Chazmyane Griffin
Staff Writer

David "Peanut" Willis, retired professional boxer and current GHC student at Cartersville campus, continues to aim for success after suffering a severe stroke six years ago.

Willis' stroke left him unable to walk and talk, but he fought back by enrolling at Georgia Highlands where he majors in Psychology. These college level courses occupy Willis' mind and allow connections with his brain to be rebuilt.

Since his enrollment, Willis has not only regained his basic motor skills but his gift of boxing as well.

During his youth, Willis was involved in many school fights and some even resulted in his contact with law enforcement.

This led Bill Kicklighter, former Cartersville police chief, to introduce Willis to boxing through the Police Athletic League rather than to take him to youth deten-



Photo by Chazmyane Griffin

David "Peanut" Willis

tion. It was an outlet for him to release his anger and energy.

To Willis' excitement, he enjoyed boxing and carried on with it to make it his career.

He went on to win state championships three times and traveled to countries such as Germany, Singapore and France just to name a few.

Willis said, "Boxing saved my life; it occupied my free time."

Although Willis no longer fights professionally, he does utilize his 35 years of boxing experience as well as

his 17 years of coaching experience to coach local youth and give back to the community.

Over the years, Willis has developed seven local state champions, three of which were girls. As a result, Willis plans to start a boxing club at the Cartersville campus.

Currently, Willis is working with Noah Paris, information technology specialist at the Cartersville campus and one of Willis' boxing trainees, to get the organization off the ground. Paris believes he has progressed quickly with his boxing skills since working with Willis.

Paris stated, "Willis breaks it down to basic footwork, moving in all directions, and then building on top of that."

According to Paris, the boxing club will be a great addition to the college.

Sign-ups have started, and anyone interested should contact Paris at nparis@highlands.edu.



Contributed

David "Peanut" Willis poses in his uniform during his time as a boxer in this picture from his personal collection. This photo was taken in 2001 during Willis' glory days as a professional boxer and before he suffered his stroke.



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Cash in and win big with Highlands' Stamp-ed Card

By Marquis Holmes
Staff Writer

GHC's Stamp-ed card rewards program, named after our school mascot, Bolt, is a new incentive used to earn various prizes for supporting the college's various events and ultimately bring the students together.

If students attend any event that is labeled with an asterisk on the Flush Flash and in the student life weekly emails, with Stamp-ed cards in hand, students will receive a stamp on their card. GHC student life events can range from

scavenger hunts to comedy shows and even school festivals.

Students can hang on to their cards as they participate in more events, and these stamps can then be cashed in for prizes ranging from a free GHC student life T-shirt, to free food at Chick-Fil-A.

"I think the program is a great way for students to get free stuff. Who doesn't like free T-shirts, GHC swag and free food coupons or discounts?" said Lyric Sprinkle, student life coordinator of the Douglasville and Paulding campuses.

Current GHC students that take advantage of the Stamp-ed card have described the program as "convenient" and even "exciting."

Roderick Presswood, president of the Douglasville's Chapter of GHC's Brother 2 Brother, feels that the Stamp-ed program is a "great way to go to events and be with other students on campus."

Students who have not received a Stamp-ed card may acquire one by attending one of the student life events or by locating their campus' student life coordinator.

Ignorance is not always bliss

Not long ago, Jimmy Kimmel hosted a segment called "Lie Witness News: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Edition." A fake news team went around and asked 14 random people what they thought about Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech on MLK Day, Jan. 19, 2015.

Only seven of the 14 people realized that it was a setup.

The participants acted as if they had seen Martin Luther King Jr. speak on that day just so they wouldn't look like they were out of the know.

Martin Luther

King Jr.'s assassination is in the pages of our American history books, so one would think that all 14 participants would have caught on.

"Ignorance is really no excuse for that; that's just probably laziness," said Steven Terry, adjunct history professor.

This is why students shouldn't sleep in history class. History is in our curriculum for a reason: to learn where we came from.

If our generation doesn't know that Martin Luther King Jr. died in Memphis, Tenn., many years

ago, then who wrote the Declaration of Independence or what event made America join World War I?

The classes we take are required for a reason, so we should take advantage of that. The benefits will pay off in the long run.

As Terry says, "Having the well-rounded knowledge about the way things are and why they are makes you a better informed person, and that allows you to make better informed decisions."

**-Six Mile Post
Editorial Board**

Focus on the future, not past regrets

Every person has had that phase when they were a teenager and didn't want anything to do with their "embarrassing" parents. I was no different.

But as I have gotten older, I have grown much closer to my parents and try to spend as much time with them as I can. There is a reason for that.

A year ago, my dad got very sick with pneumonia and the flu. He had to be placed in a medically induced coma, and we sometimes thought that he wasn't going to make it. After that, I started to feel a ravaging guilt.

I kept wondering, "Have I spent enough time with him? Will I regret anything if something happens to him?"

My parents are divorced;



Editor's Box

**Kiston Dowler
Editor-in-Chief**

my mother lives in Ohio while I live with my dad in Georgia. My first boyfriend lived in Ohio, and some might think that would help me spend more time with my mother, but it didn't.

I was always with him, and when I wasn't, I was texting him.

Now, I haven't seen my mother since I graduated from high school two years ago, and I keep telling myself, "If only I wouldn't have wasted all that time I could have been spending with her."

Guilt is a feeling that consumes me when it comes to the people I love, and I let it. I feel like there isn't enough time in the day or enough of me to spread across the people I hold close.

I don't have an answer or a solution when it comes to these feelings. All I know is that I just have to keep reminding myself to remember the times I have spent with my parents instead of the times I have not.

Maybe we should all keep that in mind.

Now...WHAT?!



Six Mile Post 6mpost@student.highlands.edu

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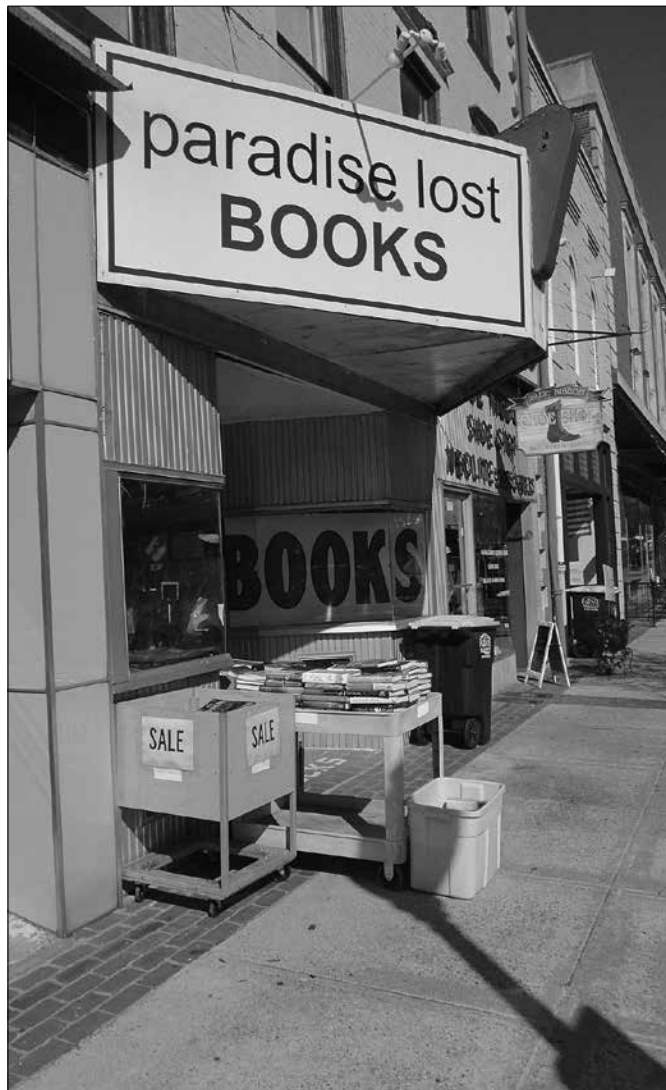


Photo by Kiston Dowler

Paradise Lost Books' storefront is on Broad Street. Outside, a customer may find \$1 hardbacks as well as other books on sale. Customers may also find the store mascot, Cormac McKitty, sitting in the window watching people pass by on the sidewalk.

Students should shop for books locally for the best experience

By Kiston Dowler
Editor-in-Chief

We live in a time when big businesses rule over small, local shops that often replenish the community.

Local bookstores are those types of stores that help the economy of small towns in particular as well as offer a whole different, more personal experience than a larger bookstore would.

"With a used bookstore, it's great because all of the books here come from people bringing in their books to trade," said Alan Crocker, owner of Paradise Lost Books on Broad Street in Rome.

Crocker, who opened his store in 2008 when the economy was bad, says that bookstores and thrift stores in general do better in times of economic decline. He believes buying thrift actually feeds into the economy as well.

Kenneth Studdard, owner of Dogwood Books, another store located on Broad in Rome, also believes in the prospects of buying locally instead of paying a large



Photo by Kiston Dowler

Comic books at What If Comics and Collectables line the racks, ready to be purchased by anyone inside who enters the store.

corporation.

"I don't think they are good for the community," he said.

Self-starting bookstores also tend to carry more local titles.

Both Paradise Lost and Dogwood Books carry books by authors from Georgia or around Rome.

Studdard said, "We do a lot of focus on local authors and local interests, things that corporations would never carry."

When people buy from

local bookstores, a town's economy is improved, and the community as a whole is strengthened.

Jason LeCroy, co-owner of What If: Comics and Collectables, also said that local store owners can get to know their customers better and cater to their interests.

Buying from a bookstore nearby is a great way to stay involved in the community, but it is also an excellent way to find some interesting books and have a great time while doing it.

Being inspired by others should be just the beginning



Soap Box

Holly Chaney
Staff Writer

I recently took a trip to Atlanta's new flagship Restoration Hardware store in Buckhead.

It is a six-story monument to the divinity of beau-

tiful furniture, precise lighting and great floor design.

I never leave places like that without a tinge of excitement because I know the things I have seen are

things that I can do myself.

As an area of pride, I maintain a D-I-Y anything is possible mentality, and so I never buy anything. Instead, I gather mental images and ideas of ways in which I can pursue my own design.

It is an invigorating exercise, yet, more often than not, my ideas lie in wait, simmering for some far-off, unforeseen time when I will find myself compelled to create.

This failure to launch is convenient and like the ideas themselves, my ambitions eventually die away.

I walk through life blissfully complacent, not bothered at all until it happens; I see someone else's amazing design.

Not the product of a global furniture brand, but rather the knock-your-socks-off, brilliant design of a hard working and talented individual.

It is a moment that I

have experienced several times in my life, and it is gut wrenching. A bitter, why-not-me, can be tasted at the back of my tongue.

It is jealousy. An often counter productive disposition, jealousy can also be used for good.

It doesn't have to be a marathon of embittered stagnation but, it can be an opportunity to self-access and set goals, create visions and get to the business of being who you want to be.

Have something to say? Tell us! Send your letters to the Editor 6mpost@student.highlands.edu



SSS offers students a helping hand

By Candace Whitfield
Staff Writer

Angela Wheelus, director of Student Support Services, and an advocate for helping students reach their goals independently, described Student Support Services as a guide for students to “navigate through difficulty.”

According to Wheelus, Student Support Services offers various support systems for a wide range of strife college students experience.

SSS offers help for mental health, personal, academic and career development, counseling, funding and workshops.

The three branches of the Student Support Services include Counseling, Disability and the Workforce

Investment Act (WIA).

Students who suffer from depression and anxiety have benefited from Student Support Services because they found help before their issue neared the point of no return. SSS assists students who suffer from anxiety and depression, which can potentially heighten to suicide.

“Suicide is the leading cause of death among students ages 18-24,” Wheelus stated. Student Support Services offers training for suicide prevention and ensures that no student feels alone.

Wheelus stated that Student Support Services provides support for students who struggle with test taking confidence and perform poorly due to nerves before an exam.

SSS also offers person-

ality workshops, counseling on how to stay married, couples counseling and sessions concerning life plans.

The greatest benefit of having access to Student Support Services is that counseling is unlimited and confidential. “Counseling outside of GHC would cost \$100 per session,” Wheelus said.

SSS offered at GHC is free and ultimately saves lives, creates order and gives students taking the road less traveled the hope they need to progress. Wheelus said that Student Support Services’ goal is “to help students finish what they started,” the journey to success.

For more information concerning Student Support Services contact sss@highlands.edu.



Photo by Holly Chaney

Angela Wheelus, director of Student Support Services, poses with her information on healthy relationships as a part of Day of Love on the Douglasville campus.

Marietta students build community through student life organizations

By Ariana Carter
Staff Writer

Colleges across the state of Georgia invest their time into making students feel a part of the community on and off campus. Multiple organizations, new and old, keep all students involved by hosting events on their own or through collaborations.

Georgia Highlands works hard to keep the students involved because of the various campuses with different club offerings.

Specifically, at the GHC Marietta Campus, Abraham Ortiz, the new student life coordinator, is dedicated to keeping the students involved and always has his door open.

Ortiz has started with “reinventing the approach”

on how to get students interested in different events that take place on the campus.

Since the beginning of the 2014-15 school year, he has hosted a few events through the Student Life Office to students bring the GHC community together.

Since this new approach has been proven successful, many students have become enthusiastic about the idea of what it means to be involved at GHC.

Currently, at the Marietta Campus, there are four registered student organizations: Phi Theta Kappa, La Mano, Brother 2 Brother and Woman to Woman.

Each of these clubs relies on collaborating with each other to get more involvement.

The president of La

Mano, Guadalupe Ortiz, said, “We work with other student organizations to plan events for the students like the multicultural festival.”

She said, “We help our peers achieve their academic goals as well as personal goals.”

Guadalupe Ortiz feels that La Mano has allowed herself and the members of the club to build relationships with other students and faculty which helps them get more out of their education.

The Student Life Offices at any GHC site always have an open door and thrive on students wanting to be involved.

Students interested in starting a new club or getting involved should visit any Student Life Office.

Brother 2 Brother's Black History Bash is Feb. 25 from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the Floyd Student Center

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Chargers crush the competition

**By Adam Hatcher
Staff Writer**

Georgia Highlands' Chargers defeated the East Georgia State Bobcats on Feb. 7 with a final score of 70-56.

The Chargers are hot on the heels of rival, South Georgia State.

The Chargers had a sluggish offensive effort throughout the night shooting only 34 percent from the field.

"In the first half we played very good defense, but we just couldn't get any shots to fall so we just played on our defensive end," stat-

ed Taquan Givens, freshman guard for the Chargers.

He continued, "Our defense is a big part of what we try to do."

By halftime the score was 27-24 with the Chargers on top.

Leading the Chargers to their 21st win of the season was Givens with 19 points, Montrel Goldston with 13, Doniel Dean with 13 and Denzel Council with 12 points.

Donovan Harris led all rebounders with a total of 10.

The Chargers' next home game will be Wednesday, Feb. 18, against Chattahoochee Tech.

Tip-off will be at 7:30 p.m.



Photo by Karlee Helms

Montrel Goldston attempts a lay-up, helping his team claim a victory.

East Georgia State collapses under GHC Lady Chargers

**By Adam Hatcher
Staff Writer**

On Saturday, Feb. 7, the Lady Chargers defeated the Lady Bobcats of East Georgia State 51-48 in a nail-biter.

The Lady Bobcats were leading the Lady Chargers 21-17 at halftime.

After making adjustments, GHC's Lady Chargers turned up the heat on

the Lady Bobcats, going on a 17-0 run in the second half.

The Lady Chargers were led by Va'Queshia Hall with 22 points and Danyelle and Deana Blankinship with 7 each.

Michaela Suttles also contributed a basket made while sitting down, which brought smiles to the entire team, including Brandon Harrell, women's basket-

ball head coach, and Deme-trius Colson, women's assistant basketball coach.

"I just threw the ball up and hoped it went in," Suttles stated.

The Lady Chargers' next game will be Wednesday, Feb. 18, against Chattahoochee Tech.

This will be the last game of the regular season.

Tip-off will be at 5:30 p.m.



Photo by Adam Hatcher

Bria Ratliff drives the ball down court Feb. 7.

**Basketball
Game Admission
Prices**

**Students, faculty and staff with college ID.....FREE
Attendees five and under.....FREE
General admission.....\$5**

Canadian Fritz Lucien finds a new home at GHC

By Joseph LeFurgey
Staff Writer

Fritz Lucien is a transfer student from Montreal, Canada, who just moved here to play basketball for Georgia Highlands College.

Lucien has liked basketball since he was a child, but did not start playing seriously until he was in high school.



Photo by Adam Hatcher

Fritz Lucien

He started playing for one of the best teams around Montreal, St. Laurent High School, in 2010. He played there for two years until he moved to Hazard, Ky. and played for Cordia High School.

While Lucien was playing for Cordia High School, Matt Williams, assistant men's basketball coach, found Lucien and started talking to him about coming to play for GHC.

"I had just seen an article about him being a McDonald's All-American Nominee, and it said that he was 6-8 and was looking to go to a junior college," Williams said.

He continued, "At the time he was in Kentucky. I was able to get his contact information through Twitter and started talking to the people he was with and making connections with him."

After a visit to campus, Lucien decided that GHC would be his next move.

When Lucien graduated in 2014, he signed on with the Chargers basketball team.

Since he has been here, he has had time to see a few differences between Rome and home. "This town seems a bit smaller than the places I've been," says Lucien. "Everyone is very friendly and accepting, though."

Lucien is a physical therapy major, but he is unsure



Photo by Adam Hatcher

Lucien (left) and Williams talk in the gym before the Lady Chargers' win over Andrew College.

what career he is going to choose when he graduates.

Right now he is focusing on keeping his grades up so

he can transfer to a four-year college.

GHC Spring Intramurals

Dodgeball planned for Floyd

By Adam Hatcher
Staff Writer

The new semester brings a new start for intramurals at Georgia Highlands.

Spring intramurals give students the chance to participate in sports such as a Ping Pong tourney sponsored by the Six Mile Post and Dodgeball, which JJ Merritt, assistant men's basketball coach and Floyd intramural coordinator, said is "fun for the college kids to play."

Other intramurals include

five-on-five basketball and a corn hole tourney, which was brought back this semester due to its popularity.

Flag football will also be back this spring. "A lot of students asked to bring back flag football after they all had a lot fun last semester," said Merritt.

Lastly, for those interested in golfing, a golf outing is planned for a few times during the semester.

For more information about Floyd intramurals, contact Merritt at jmerritt@highlands.edu.

Cartersville to offer soccer

By Ryan Zambrzyck
Staff Writer

The time for Cartersville intramurals is quickly approaching. Soccer, volleyball, table tennis, basketball and even a poker night will be offered.

Melissa Wood, head softball coach and Cartersville intramural director, is hoping to start soccer in late February, but the start time for soccer is weather dependent.

Wood plans to send teams for both soccer and basketball to

tournaments as long as there are enough participants.

There will be bulletins posted around the school promoting the upcoming activities for intramurals, so students should be on the lookout if interested.

Wood also mentioned that the golf club is looking for more participants so that it may participate in more tournaments and get GHC on the map. Golf enthusiasts should consider joining this club.

For more information about Cartersville intramurals, contact Wood at mwood@highlands.edu.

GHC baseball team splits doubleheader to open season

By Jacob Koziara
Staff Writer

GHC's Chargers' baseball team won the first game

of their home opener against Roane State Saturday, Feb. 7, at Lake Point with a score of 6-3.

Starting pitcher Albert

Harless was calm and collected before the game. Drifting in a hammock before getting ready to warm up, he looked determined, not worried, just relaxed.

While warming up in the pen, he said, "I need to trust in my pitches and give my team the best chance for a win."

Ray Baker, pitching coach, sees Harless as a leader for his staff. He is a "Gym Rat," Baker said. "I like that about him."

As the sun began to warm up, so did the Chargers. Brandon Gonzalez, the catcher, went 3-4 with two singles and a double.

The first baseman, Zach McCrum, had two hits and an RBI.

Pitcher Tanner Thomson also gave the Chargers some action with a RBI single to left field.

The impact player of the game was Nick Day, who in the seventh hit a walk-off blast to left field. Pitcher Mitchell Mannino got the first win.

The second game was close, but Roane State defeated the Chargers, 6-5.



Photo by Shelby Hogland

Justin Pedone pitches at the Chargers' home opener, Feb. 7, against Roane State.

Medlin's first home run of the season brings Lady Chargers a victory

By Shelby Hogland
Asst. Sports Editor

The Lady Chargers' softball team played their first game of the season on Feb. 6, beating Gadsden State 10-4.

Gadsden and GHC played a close game until the third inning when Emily Willingham made her second hit to the fence, helping two Lady Chargers make it home.

Adding two points to

the scoreboard, Willingham helped the Chargers take a strong lead with a score of 7-4.

Kayleigh Medlin made two big plays in the game with the first home run of the season in the second inning, followed by a second in the fourth inning.

"It's early in the season and I'd like to see a cleaner defense, but we were swinging like a seasoned team today," said Melissa Wood, GHC softball head coach.

Medlin said that she "just wanted to get on base." She said, "Home runs come when they come, but we had consecutive hits when we needed them so that's a positive."

The team went on to beat Gadsden again that day with a final score of 10-2.

The game on Feb. 7 was also a success, with the Lady Chargers beating USC Salk 3-0 in the first game and 8-0 in the second.

Which team will you be on?



Karlee's Corner

Karlee Helms
Managing Ed., Sports

When drafting begins for professional athletes, we always wonder who exactly is going to go to which team. While watching the draft, have you ever thought about how the coaches pick the players they want on their team?

This came up in a discussion I had with a friend a few weeks ago. He used to play football at Berry before coming to Georgia Highlands, so, naturally, being the sports editor, I talk to him about sports-related topics from time to time.

He started talking about how coaches will look at someone big and intimidating before looking at someone who is smaller and talented.

Now, I'm not saying that all coaches use this method. I know that talent level is a huge factor when it comes to competitive sports, but think about it.

If you are playing football, which guy would you be more afraid to cover? The tall, big guy who might crush you with his giant calf muscles or the average guy that you have a better chance of tackling.

If I were a football coach,

I would have the bigger, intimidating guys covering the average sized guys that are phenomenal athletes so they can focus on moving the ball and not being tackled.

I'm definitely not saying that bigger athletes aren't talented or that they aren't an important asset to the team because that definitely isn't the case. Most athletes have a larger frame. Just look at the GHC basketball team. Every single one of those guys towers over me, and their talent level is through the roof.

There are many different sports that are only based on size, wrestling for example. Those guys have to lose and gain weight in a short amount of time just to stay in their weight class.

For students who aren't very sports savvy, this relates to everyday life, and it teaches a lesson.

You may be a fantastic artist, writer, accountant, chemist or whatever it is you want to do in your professional life, but you may not be the exact thing that your potential employer is looking for.

It's all a matter of what team needs you the most.



Floyd

Intercollegiate

- Lady Chargers' basketball team will have their final game of the regular season Feb. 18 against Chattahoochee Tech. Tip off at 5:30 p.m.
- The Chargers will have their last game of the regular season Feb. 21 against rival South Georgia State. Tip off at 2 p.m.

Cartersville

Intercollegiate

- Lady Chargers' softball team will be participating in the Arctic Blast Tournament Feb. 20-21.
- Chargers' baseball team will play Shorter JV at Lake Point, Feb. 18. The first pitch is at 6 p.m.

See full game schedules of all GHC sports at ghcchargers.com