

SIX MILE POST

The Student Voice

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www.sixmilepost.com

After years of finding her own genre and trying to start up her music career, singer/songwriter Lakin performs at GHC
see page 9



Photo by Shannon Francis

Lakin performed at each GHC campus as part of Black History Month. For more Black History Month content, see page 12.



GHC Players theatrical club re-activated

See page 8.



Hofmann joins C'ville IT team

See page 9.



Lady Chargers' softball team plays first game

See page 14.

Latino lit classes expected to expand across all campuses

By Shawn Bunyard
Staff Writer

Opening its curriculum to diversity, GHC has created a new Latino Literature class for Spring 2017 at the Cartersville campus.

A growing area of interest among the student body, this course offers a look into Hispanic culture and literature, without requiring knowledge of the Spanish language.

Future plans are for this class to become established across all campuses and become a regular choice to fill the Area C literature requirement.

Instructor Jessica Lindberg said her class will follow GHC's mission statement to "encourage inclusiveness" by studying literature that discusses the ideas and issues of Latino society.

According to Lindberg,

lessons will discuss "what it means to be a Latino writer, and how writers from different regions contribute in different ways."

Her goal is to bring increased awareness of "diverse cultural perspectives" as a fundamental part of college education.

Dean of Humanities Jon Hershey expresses the need for this class as part of increasing globalization. Americans are surrounded by different cultures, and being able to experience other perspectives promotes empathy among peers, according to Hershey.

Hershey said, "Having more options allows for students to explore their own interests." As this course was student-requested, it shows that more and more people are recognizing the need for representation of Latino society in mainstream education.



Photo by Kaileb Webb

Jessica Lindberg is teaching in the new Latino Literature class at Cartersville.

Check us out at www.sixmilepost.com

 An advertisement for Greene's Jewelers. The background is a close-up of several large, faceted diamonds. The text is overlaid on the image in a mix of serif and script fonts.

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High school students get ahead with MOWR

By Moira Hale
Staff Writer

About 6 percent of the entire GHC student body consists of dual enrollment students.

According to Breanna Bush, MOWR coordinator, these students participate in a program called Move On When Ready (MOWR).

This program allows them to take classes at a college while they are still enrolled in high school.

Students can be in the program beginning their junior year of high school. They earn both high school and college credits at the same time.

Students can choose to take all their classes at the college as a full-time MOWR student or to take some classes at the college and some at their high school.

Georgia Highlands began

its MOWR program in the fall of 2015, replacing the former dual enrollment program called Accel.

This change saw an increase of dual enrollment students at GHC from 166 in the spring of 2015 to 353 in the current spring semester.

According to Bush, out of the 353 currently enrolled MOWR students, 274 of them are part-time, equating to about 78 percent or 79 students; 22 percent of these students are full time at 12 hours or more.

Dual enrollment students are spread across all five campuses, just like traditional students.

Cartersville has the most with 115 MOWR students, and Marietta has the least with 22. In the middle are Floyd with 84, Paulding with 68 and Douglasville with 64.

Highlands wants to go beyond financial aid

By Kayla Jameson
Editor-in-chief

GHC is trying to serve students in a way that goes beyond financial aid.

Referred to as BFA, the Beyond Financial Aid initiative is part of the University System of Georgia's Complete College Georgia plan, which is an effort to help raise the graduation rate of college students in Georgia. BFA works to identify and fill the gap between students' financial aid and what it really costs them to stay in college.

"Federal financial aid is a wonderful blessing of many college students. It allows them to attend college and afford courses, textbooks and, in some cases, housing. But

some students have additional impediments to their education. These may be financial or they may affect other facets of their lives," said GHC President Donald Green.

According to Jesse Bishop, director of the college's Center for Excellence and Learning and a member of GHC's Complete College Georgia team, Beyond Financial Aid's purpose is to help colleges like GHC identify obstacles and resources to help students get past their financial barriers.

GHC has acquired a six-step BFA toolkit through the partnership of the USG and the Lumina Foundation.

The toolkit will help Highlands' review, update, reorganize and streamline the internal processes of the college

that can help students graduate quicker and provide that information to faculty.

For example, GHC is currently focusing on partnering with high schools and community organizations to create FASFA days. It is also focusing on understanding and revising the process for emergency assistance for low-income students.

Student Support Services currently offers a food pantry at each GHC campus that Bishop says may become part of the BFA effort.

It has also identified resources in the community of each GHC campus that students can be referred to depending on their needs. These resources include local food pantries, shelters, crisis cen-

ters and more.

"I would encourage Georgia Highlands students to utilize all the services and resources that are available at college while they're here," said Angela Wheelus, director of Student Support Services.

"I would encourage Georgia Highlands students to utilize all the services and resources that are available at college while they're here,"

-Angela Wheelus

Todd Jones, vice president of student affairs and dean of

Floyd Campus, said "Beyond Financial Aid refers to services funding whatever the students may need that go beyond the typical process to pay for college, kind of meeting Maslow's hierarchy of needs."

Jones said, "Georgia Highlands College understands the value of a college education, especially for this generation of students.

A high school diploma is not enough anymore. And we want to do as much as we can to help students be successful. And sometimes that means going above and beyond and assisting students with the other issues that are impacting their ability to be successful. We just want to do what we can to remove as many barriers as possible."

Highlands Happenings

Speech competition registration begins soon

By Michael Lewis
Staff Writer

Georgia Highlands College students will have the opportunity to participate in the seventh annual GHC Public Speaking Competition.

"The competition is an opportunity for students to stand in front of an unfamiliar audience and speak about something that matters," states Steven Stuglin, assistant professor of communication and the speech competition director.

Any student who has completed or is currently taking Human Communication or Public Speaking is eligible. There will even be prizes available for students to win. Prizes last year included money, T-shirts and other various

GHC logo items.

The competition will take place on Friday, April 14 at the GHC Cartersville campus academic building. Registration will start in March, and more information can be found on the Georgia Highlands College website.

EBA dates set

By Andi Kuykendoll
Staff Writer

Early Bird Advising at GHC is March 13 through March 24.

EBA is designed to help students plan out future semesters with a knowledgeable faculty adviser.

The advisers are organized based on areas of study, and a list of advising contacts for each major can be found at www.highlands.edu/advising.

Students can learn more about Early Bird Advising by

contacting the advising department at advising@highlands.edu or by utilizing the "Need Help? GHC 411" button on the GHC website.

Transfer fair to be held at Cartersville campus

By Andi Kuykendoll
Staff Writer

The Next Step College Fair, hosted by the Advising Department, is just around the corner.

Wednesday, Feb. 22, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. near the Library stairs in Cartersville campus's academic building students will have the opportunity to meet with representatives from a variety of colleges to discuss transfer options and opportunities.

Pizza for students will be provided by Student Life.

Some of the colleges represented will include: Geor-

gia College, Armstrong State, Columbus State, Fort Valley, Kennesaw State, Georgia Gwinnett, Georgia Southern, Georgia Tech, Reinhardt, Savannah State, Georgia Southwestern and West Georgia.

For more information, contact Jillian Petro either by email at jpetro@highlands.edu or by phone at 678-872-8111.

Geology students head to Wyoming for summer classes

By Margaret Gardner
Managing Ed. Design

The 21st annual summer Wyoming trip is near and will be conducted by Billy Morris, the geology professor on the Floyd campus.

Twelve students will be able to get credit for Geology 1121k and 1122k.

While earning credits, the students also have the oppor-

tunity to travel around the state of Wyoming.

Morris' favorite part of the trip is the Grand Teton National Park because he is "an avid hiker and climber."

It is a two-week long trip from June 19 to July 1.

Prior to leaving, students will be required to attend mandatory classes on June 12, 13, 14 and 15 from 6 to 9 p.m.

The cost of the trip is \$1700 with a \$500 deposit fee that must be paid upfront when the application is turned in.

This payment includes students' airfare, hotels, selected meals, field equipment and admission to the attractions.

It does not include tuition to get credit for the class or other personal expenses.

If anyone is interested in the trip, more information, and the application can be found at highlands.edu/Wyoming.

Public openings for Floyd observatory coming up

By Joshua Lehto
Staff Writer

The Bishop Observatory, located on the GHC Floyd campus, has possible openings approaching.

The next date the observatory will open is tentatively March 30. This will be around the time the moon is in its first quarter.

Two other dates the observatory may open on are April 7 and June 15.

Jupiter will be in view near April 7.

Saturn will be in the view of Earth near June 15.

All dates are tentative and weather dependent. Notifications regarding the observatory will be relayed through the GHC Inform email.

Equipment at the Bishop Observatory includes a 16"



Photo by Joshua Lehto

The observatory on the Floyd campus is named in honor of John Bradford Bishop, former GHC student and assistant professor of physics and math. Bishop worked with NASA and studied the protein growth of insulin crystals in outer space.

Meade LX 200 telescope. Mark Pergrem, associate professor of physics, said that the telescope is on par with the telescope the physics department at Georgia Tech has, "which is very exciting."

When the observatory is not available for use, Pergrem recommends that students access the free online website,

Micro-Observatory, hosted by Harvard University.

The website allows anyone to observe celestial bodies and request real time photos be taken and sent to an email account.

Bryan Johnson, a student at GHC, said he would use the website to look at star constellations.



Photo by Joshua Lehto

The Bishop Observatory is located on the Floyd campus near the Paris Lake walking trail.

Tentative observatory openings:

March 30 - moon in first quarter

April 7 - Jupiter will be in view

June 15 - Saturn will be in view



TRANSFER VISIT DAY

Join us for Transfer Visit Day, where you will have the opportunity to experience Georgia Southern University and get a glimpse into life as a Georgia Southern student.

Friday, April 7, 2017

Space is limited, so RSVP to GeorgiaSouthern.edu/transervisit

Study abroad trips in place for China, Costa Rica and Italy

By Autumn Pritchard
Staff Writer

Every year students are given the opportunity to go study abroad. This year's trips are to China, Costa Rica and Italy.

The application deadlines for the Costa Rica and China trips have already passed. The Italy trip deadline is March 1, according to Bronson Long, director of global initiatives.

The Costa Rica trip will be taking participating students to the UGA Costa Rica campus located in Monteverde during Spring Break, from March 26 to April 2.

The China trip will be from May 8 to June 5. The trip will be taking the enrolled students to Zhengzhou University in Zhengzhou, China. Each student is required to take two courses worth three credit hours each. While there they will also be visiting China's capital city of Beijing, Shanghai, as well as three other cities.

The trip to Italy will be taking place over the summer from June 22 to July 27.

The destination for this trip is to KSU's Montepulciano campus, located in Tuscany. Like those going on the China excursion, each student is required to take two classes worth three credit hours each. The students must choose one for the morning and one for the evening. However, students will have free time on the weekends to go do extra exploration and shopping.

Through the week there will be excursions taken to surrounding areas such as Rome, Florence, Siena, Pisa, as well as several others.

Long said that before each trip all participating students are to attend a mandatory orientation session. No students are allowed to be a part of a Study Abroad program without attending orientation. The orientation for this year's trips was held on Feb 10.



File photo

Students, from left, Kendall Sciascia, Karla Cruz and Rachel Allison help pack dirt in preparation for tree planting during last year's Spring Break Costa Rica trip.

Women's History Month events planned at GHC

By Moira Hale
Staff Writer

March is Women's History Month in the United States. After 14 states declared that they wanted March to be National Women's History Month in 1986, it was adopted nationwide in 1987.

Georgia Highlands will have Women's History Month events on every campus this March and April.

A Memorial Women's History essay contest will take place, where students will write about a leading figure who is significant to women's history.

Submissions are due March 15, and winners will be announced on the 23rd.

Activities at the Cartersville campus include a HipHop Herstory March 1 at noon, a presentation by Lisa Williams of Living Water on Girls on April 20. A film series will take place on March 7, 13, 15 and 24 in room 102.

Activities on Douglasville start Feb. 28 with HipHop Herstory. On March 15, Emily Whitfield, Peace Corps regional recruiter, will host a screening and discussion of Girl Rising. On March 16, Chiamanda Ngozi Adichie will do a TED Talk on "We Should All Be Feminists" and a discussion will take place.

Activities on Paulding start Feb. 28 with HipHop Herstory. A month-long Women's History display and trivia will take

place in the library.

Activities on Marietta start March 2 with HipHop Herstory in room A215. There will be a screening and discussion of Malala Yousafzai's Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech on March 14 at 2 p.m.

Activities at Floyd start Feb. 27 with HipHop Herstory in the student center. There will be an "Equal Means Equal" screening and discussion on March 15 in room 135 in the library. A film series will take place on March 6, 13, 20 in the Solarium.

According to Carla Patterson, professor of English and Women's History event coordinator, a full list of events can be accessed at www.highlands.edu/celebratewomen.

Student Life sponsored spa pampers, calms GHC students



Photo by Michael Lewis

Isabelle Wilkins prepares for her hand wax treatment at Douglasville.



Photo by Michael Lewis

Sasandra Maceus of Douglasville enjoys a dose of oxygen while waiting for her back rub.



Photo by LaTonya Kilgore

The renovated hallway on Paulding campus features new flooring and freshly painted walls.

Bagby is being renovated with new walls and floors

By Kayleigh Foster
Staff Writer

The Paulding campus renovations are currently underway or are already completed.

Connie Watjen, Paulding and Douglasville dean, said, "We have painted the third and fourth floors. There is new flooring and tables, along with doors."

Watjen stated, "I planned on giving the campus a more updated and fresh look, some-

thing more inviting for our students." Watjen said she feels renovations "are an important way to communicate to our students how much we care about their entire experience. She said, "I could not be happier, and the results are magnificent. Plant Operations did a wonderful job."

Student Samuel Mcninch said, "The renovations seem nice. The campus has changed for the better. And I really like the gray on the third floor."

SMP wins prestigious awards

By Lucas Caylor
Asst. Online Editor

The Six Mile Post has won the first place award in overall General Excellence for colleges with enrollment under 8,000 in the Georgia College Press Association's statewide contest. This is the second consecutive win in this category for the SMP.

According to Kristie Kemper, SMP adviser, "This award is hard to win because everyone on the publication staff has to be doing excellent work consistently."

Second place went to Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, and third place was awarded to Piedmont College. The other colleges in this division are Berry College, Georgia College and State University, Augusta University, Morehouse College, and SCAD-Atlanta.

The SMP also took first

place for Best Campus Community-Sports.

Individual SMP writers and photographers competed with other first and second year students at all Georgia colleges and universities regardless of enrollment.

The Six Mile Post swept the Best Editorial or Feature Photo category in the individual awards.

Daniel Smith placed third with his photo of a spoken-word poet, Taylor Barton took second with her photo of a Costa Rican sunset and Stephanie Corona won first place with her photos of Cartersville Dean Leslie Johnson playing Whiffle ball.

The Six Mile Post won a total of 17 awards, with three first place awards and 14 second or third place awards.

"I am so proud of the staff and all the hard work they do. I'm blown away by how great we've done," said Editor-in-

Chief Kayla Jameson.

The annual GCPA press institute and awards luncheon were held Feb. 10 and 11 at Mercer University in Macon.

The press institute featured workshops and networking opportunities for collegiate journalists and was attended by college newspaper staffs from all over Georgia.

Representing the Six Mile Post in addition to Jameson and Kemper were Kacey Neese, Josh Mabry, Margaret Gardner and Lucas Caylor. Assistant Adviser Cindy Wheeler also made the trip to Macon.

Holly Chaney, outgoing GCPA president and a former SMP managing editor, was recognized for her service as president over the past year. Also, Corona was elected vice president of the GCPA.

For a full list of the award categories and winners, please visit the SMP website at sixmilepost.com.



Contributed photo

Back row from left, Lucas Caylor, Kacey Neese, Adviser Cindy Wheeler, Kayla Jameson, Margaret Gardner and Adviser Kristie Kemper along with Joshua Mabry, front, bring home several awards from the GCPA press institute.

Learning to balance life's obstacles in college

By LaTonya Kilgore
Staff Writer

Balance is a crucial life skill. As a college student, social, school and work responsibilities can become overwhelming if they are out of balance. Imbalance is a serious issue that college students are facing today, and it can cause serious side effects such as stress, anxiety and depression. One way of reducing stress, anxiety and depression is to have balance.

Tara Holdampf, Georgia Highlands' student success counselor, says keeping balance is "a big challenge for everyone. The big subject is procrastination." Holdampf explains that procrastination is a habit, one that can be broken. To help break the procrastination habit, first students need to recognize they are doing it. Holdampf says to be "self-reflective and honest." Once

students understand why they are trying to avoid something they can put in place strategies to overcome.

Procrastination is not the only hurdle to success for students. Holdampf provided several tips for success. "Don't cram. Have a study plan. Study at the same time every day, at whatever time you are at your best. Start with the most dreaded or difficult task. Review your notes and avoid distractions," she said.

With all the demands of school, work and other obligations is there time for socializing? Holdampf said, "One of the best things out of college is networking."

She goes on to say that socializing not only helps students get a job but "research constantly points to the importance of natural supports in your life." These supports are the friends and family that are there during the good times



Photo by LaTonya Kilgore

Brittany Smith is studying on her laptop at the Paulding campus.

and bad.

Brittany Smith, a full time GHC early childhood education student and employee at a local day care, emphasized the importance of down time

as well. Smith said,

"It can be overwhelming but you have to destress. Set up a couple days to relax." Smith has succeeded in combining study time with social time,

studying with her best friend.

Smith and Holdampf agree that the keys to success are not to procrastinate, find what works and not to underestimate the value of socializing.

SGA moderates an appeals process for students who receive parking tickets

By Kacey Neese
Managing Ed., Online

There are a number of different ways to receive a ticket on Georgia Highlands' campuses.

Security guard and faculty member Tracey Monroe said that students can receive a ticket for things such as parking in reserved spots, speeding on campus grounds and stop sign or yield sign violations. The cost of these fines varies depending on the violation and can range from \$25 to \$100.

According to John Spranza, director of student life, a student who feels their ticket is unjust has an opportunity to appeal the ticket within seven business days of receiving it.

If the student chooses to appeal the ticket they must

request an appeal form from their campus's safety office.

After the form is filled out, the student should submit the form to their campus's Student Life coordinator.

When the Student Life coordinator receives the completed appeal form, the ticket is held until the Student Government Association meets.

When the SGA meets, the appeal will then be voted on and will either be approved or denied.

If the appeal is approved, the student will be informed and will no longer have to pay the fine.

If the appeal is denied, the student will be informed and will have to pay the fine or face having a hold put on their record for further enrollment.

President of SGA Lucas

Lester said, "Everybody makes honest mistakes sometimes and it's nice to have an opportunity to explain yourself. The appeals process does just that."

Spranza said, "A student can attend the SGA meetings to appeal their ticket in person.

If you don't want to attend the meetings, make sure the appeal form is as detailed as possible."

If the student doesn't attend the meeting, the appeal form is the only information the SGA has to determine if the ticket is within policy or not.

With students traveling from classes to the parking lot, Monroe advised, "Please be safe; the life you save might be your own."

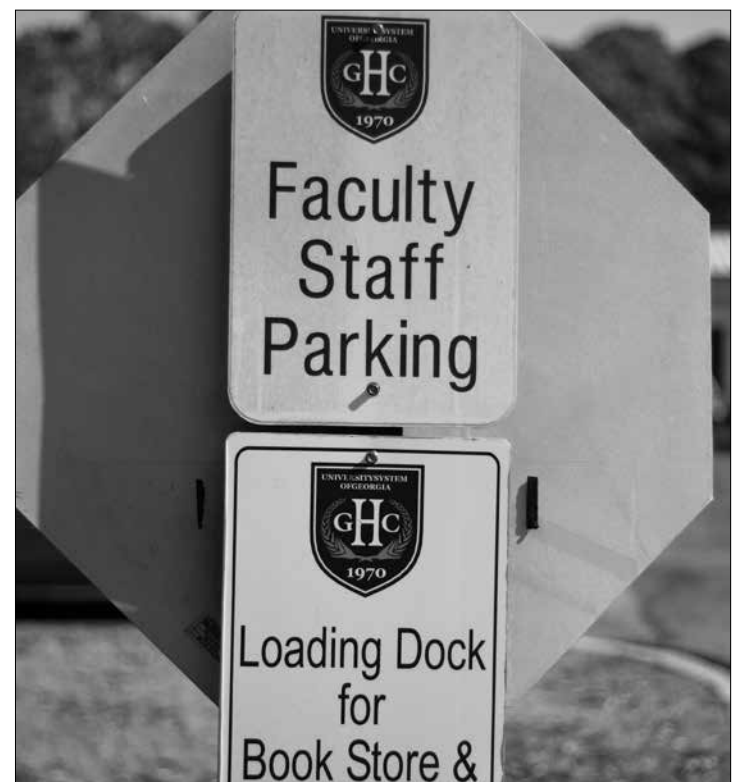


Photo by Shannon Francis

GHC's restricted parking sign on Floyd campus marks entrance to faculty/staff lot.

Theater club returns to Georgia Highlands

By Kayla Jameson
Editor-in-chief

The GHC Players theatrical club grew out of a musical ensemble class when there was a desire to learn and perform more songs than time allowed.

Students taking GHC's Musical Ensemble class wanted a way to expand their class.

Bryce Pitts, president of the Players, inquired about a theatrical club to further her and other club/class member's theatrical experience. The students took over the pre-existing club in October and renamed it the GHC Repertory Players, GHC Players for short.

Adjunct instructor of music and teacher of GHC's musical Ensemble class Julie Carver became the adviser of the GHC Players. Carver is also the owner of a theatrical coaching service called The Callback Company.

The group was contemplating ways to raise money for the club when Carver suggested they sing carols and have a dessert buffet at Heritage Hall.

They ran with the idea, reserving the venue, booking the catering company and organizing a full dinner show.

Their first play "Murder Under the Mistletoe" sold out 150 tickets at Heritage Hall on Dec. 16, 2016. Pitts and club member Kendalyn Millsap wrote the script for the play together.

The three-course meal was catered by GHC's Floyd catering company.

"There is a really beautiful camaraderie among theatre people and it's about telling a story but it's about the process of bringing that story together and bringing that story to life," said Carver.

She continued, "I am just so proud of these students

making this happen, especially that production."

Their next performance is still in the works, but they are currently thinking of a showcase of different songs and acts with some original narration around the end of April or beginning of May.

There will be auditions open to students and teachers of all campuses.

According to Pitts, "When people think of theater and the arts they just think acting. But really there's so much more that goes beyond it."

She also said, "There's a place for everybody, so it's not only for actors."

There are ways to get involved other than just being an actor.

People interested in being a part of the stage crew, set design and set building can contact Pitts by emailing her at bpitts1@student.highlands.edu.



Photo by Kayla Jameson

The GHC Players is made up of, back row from left, Karsten Black, Tanner Jordan, Kendalyn Millsap, Christian Humphreys, Shelby Wehunt, middle row from left, Randi Drummond, Bryce Pitts, front row from left, Autumn Townsend and Joseph LeClaire.

GHC gives French classes another shot at success

By Stephanie Corona
Staff Writer

The French program has been reintroduced with the hope that there will be enough student interest to continue offering more classes.

Academic Dean of Humanities Jon Hershey said, "It has been quite a few years since we have been able to offer French, primarily because the French teacher had retired."

Ablawa Martinez, instructor of the class, speaks five languages including French.

Martinez earned her master's at Florida Atlantic University, which she stated as being beautifully located in Boca Raton in Palm County, Florida.

Martinez is currently teaching French this spring semester at both the Cartersville

and Floyd campuses.

Martinez said that when learning a new language, "the more you listen, the more opportunities you have to practice and ask questions."

On the possibility of other classes, Hershey said, "Although we are definitely looking into summer, we will definitely offer the course in the fall."

He is currently looking into making it possible for the French class to be held during the upcoming summer term if there exist a student interest that will make up a class.

With the current languages offered, Spanish and French, Hershey said that he would most definitely be open to new suggested languages if there is a large enough student interest and available professor for that position.



Photo by Stephanie Corona

Ablawa Martinez, left, teaches Evan McMinamin, Travis Serrano, Brook Oermann, Brett Arnold, Avery Isaman, Grace Johnson, Marcelino Mejia Lopez, Marysol Marquez and Lucy Karanja French on the Cartersville campus.



Photo by Shannon Francis

Lakin takes a break during her Feb. 1 performance at the Floyd campus.

Lakin serenades GHC campuses

**By Breyuna Shorter
Staff Writer**

Lakin, singer/songwriter and Independent Music award winner, who recently performed at Georgia Highlands, was born and raised in Riverside, CA.

Lakin took a general interest in music from her father, a jazz musician who toured with the great George Benson. Lakin's earliest memories of musical influence come from being back stage when her father would perform. She instantly fell in love with live performance.

Lakin's mother also played

a huge role in the development of her musical skills by teaching her how to play the piano.

Lakin's love for music grew even deeper when she finally performed her first self-written song, "Seize the Moment" for her school basketball banquet. The song later on became the school's graduation anthem.

Inspired by the likes of John Mayer, Sarah Bareilles and underground Australian artist Brooke Frasier, Lakin admired their great writing and creative musical skills. Although she admired mostly indie artists, she imitated Mariah Carey in her younger years and was greatly influenced by her outstanding vocalism.

After growing into her own, Lakin finally found what her genre was and she describes it as a fusion of pop, neo-soul, and indie-folk.

Getting her music off the ground hasn't been the easiest process, but her love and passion for music motivates her to keep grinding until she gets the recognition that she deserves.

Her advice to aspiring artists is for them to stay organic

to themselves, perform locally, and connect with your audience on a personal level.

Lakin connects well with her fans with her constant live performances and her fundraisers to help produce her music with the incentive of performing for all her supporters free of charge.

Her latest fundraiser was to fund her recent project titled, "If Night Turns to Daylight", and she was completely surrounded by her fans as she performed the project for the first time before it was even released.

Over 120 people listened with excitement to her new album that day, and Lakin claims that day to be the best day of her musical journey, and it was all about connecting with her supporters.

Lakin is set to release a new demo soon and needs support to attain this goal. A fundraiser will start for her new project soon, and for more information on where to donate, people can visit Lakinmusic.com, where they can find all her upcoming events, fundraisers and social media accounts.



Photo by Kayla Jameson

Lakin sold CDs out of a suitcase.

GHC Cartersville welcomes new staffer

**By Morgan White
Staff Writer**

Sandra Hofmann is the Cartersville campus' new Information Technology Network Support Specialist.

She works with security servers to protect personal information, and with network equipment, which are required for communication and interaction between devices on a computer network.

A graduate of Georgia Highlands College, Hofmann earned an Associate in Applied Science in Business in 2003 at the Floyd campus in Rome.

She then went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology degree from Southern Polytechnic State University in 2008.

In 2015, she earned a Master of Information Technology Security and Assurance degree

from American Public University, an accredited online university. She graduated with honors at all three of these colleges while working full time.

Before working for Georgia Highlands, she worked remotely providing technical support for computer related issues including software installations, network set-up and computer system analysis.

Jason McFry, director of client technology & media service and assistant chief information officer, said that Hofmann "has a wealth of knowledge and experience."

McFry said, "We are very excited about her joining our ITS team."

Hofmann remembers when the Cartersville campus was just a small building in downtown Cartersville.

"From one building, it has grown so much," she said about the campus.



Photo by Kaileb Webb

Sandra Hofmann is now Cartersville's new IT Network Support Specialist.

Activities prepare students for success

When attending a school like GHC, the goal is to move on to a four year school as soon as possible. Most students want to wait to get active in school activities once they reach that goal. There are many reasons to get active before starting a four year experience.

By being active, students learn new things. Every experience builds on skills they already have. Being involved is one way to learn outside of the classroom. This gives a student a chance to put themselves into problem-solving situations or try something "hands on."

Participating in activities can help build a resume. A student's resume is something that should constantly be improved by the diverse things one does in life. Work is only one way to build a resume. Activities and organizations can also help build a resume and demonstrate what student have to offer as a future employee.

When joining organizations, students can also increase scholarship opportunities. Scholarships can be an important part in paying for college. The more prospects for scholarships, the higher probability of earning a type of financial aid that will not have to be paid back. Clubs, organizations, and activities sometimes have scholarships related to them. If not, activities will be helpful when completing scholarship applications.

People can develop stronger personal skills. A person changes and grows with each new experience. Getting involved might provide the chance to take on a leadership role in an organization or club. By becoming active students learn more about how to lead people and groups. If one doesn't have a leadership position, they wouldn't learn key teamwork strategies.

By being active, a student will inevitably meet new people. This is one of



Art by Josh Jones

the most important reasons to get involved. The chance to meet new people from various cultures will help provide different perspectives. All people encountered by participating in

activities and organizations have traits that can be learned from and may become a friend for life.

- Six Mile Post Editorial Board

Online classes make higher learning obsolete

First, let me start by saying that I think that online classes are a good option for some students and I am glad that most colleges offer them. There are some students who cannot drive to campus every day to attend class in person because of other obligations, such as work. It is great that there is still an option for those people to receive an education.

However, it seems that online classes are becoming the norm at the college level and that is a scary reality. More online classes are offered every semester while fewer in-person

classes are being offered. It seems that students that believe in traditional education are being forgotten.

When there is an online option for a class, that same class should be available on campus. For example, Astronomy would be a class that I would love to take. I would never consider taking it because it is only offered online at GHC. I would want to have an opportunity to take that class in person and use the tools available through the observatory at the Floyd campus.

Taking an in-person class



Editor's Box

Joshua Mabry
Managing Ed., Sports

is much easier. A student goes to class and a professor lectures while that student engages with the professor and takes notes. They are learning from the professor as well as others in the class. If that same student took the same class online, they would have

to teach themselves the majority of the information.

My hope is that colleges continue to offer online classes for those that need them and expand their options to include more on campus classes for those that still enjoy the traditional way of education.

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Mandatory military service would teach life skills

During several periods in our history, most recently from World War II into the 1970s, our country enacted a compulsory military draft.

This means that your country required certain young people (men only to this point) to serve in the country's military under penalty of law. The draft in which I was involved drafted 19-year-old men based on a national lottery of birthdays.

In 1970, my birthday was picked as draft number 007, and I was promptly drafted in January 1971. I was forced to serve either two years in the US Army, or I had the option to voluntarily join another branch of service.

I was not happy. I was married and settled into a job and new marriage, but I chose the US Navy, and I am honored to have served for six years.

You may wonder why a person compelled to do some-

thing that he did not want to do at the time wants to put this burden on others. I have several reasons to believe that we should enact a mandatory two-year active duty obligation for every man and woman in the country from the age of 19 to 21. My reasons range from facetious to extremely serious.

First, every person in the country between nineteen and twenty-one would have a paying job. Along with this would come learning the financial responsibility of handling money, along with the built-in fallback that, regardless of their initial success in monetary usage, they would have a place to sleep and three meals a day.

Second, according to some studies, up to 40 percent of all crime is committed by late teens and early 20 year olds. If these individuals were taken off the streets and put into a military setting, these crimes

would virtually disappear overnight.

Also, college access would increase to near 100% either through education while serving, by more financial security derived from the two years of financial income while serving or through the G.I.Bill.

Another important reason is the maturity and self-discipline that comes from military service. The very tough growing years between late teens and early 20s are fostered by a military style of learning and living. You also are surrounded by people your age and in the same situation for moral support.

From a nationalistic point of view, the influx of soldiers, airmen and sailors would alleviate any potential shortages of manpower if needed for national security.

If overages should occur, I'm sure Washington and its politicians could find a hu-



Larry's Outlook

Larry Oswalt
Guest Writer

manitarian or practical use of the warm bodies.

Lastly, and probably the most important, is the honor and privilege everyone would derive from this. I have used the term service several times in this argument. Please understand that military service is just that, a service to your country.

You serve your country, your state, your county,

your friends and your family. NOTHING is more important than your gift of service to your community and country.

I challenge you to find one person over 30 who, having served in the US military, regrets his or her service. I am convinced that no matter what I may have done in my life, or may ever do, my military service will have been the best thing I ever did.

Agree? Disagree?
Let us know at
6milepost@highlands.edu

Donald Trump: How sensationalism leads to ignorance of a country

After the election of President Trump, sales for George Orwell's dystopian classic "1984" jumped to the #1 spot on Amazon. Other sales of dystopian novels have also gone up since the inauguration.

Aldous Huxley's "A Brave New World," only reached the number six spot on Amazon; this happened despite "A Brave New World" being a better predictor of current trends. Orwell feared those who would ban books; Huxley feared that there would be no reason to; no one would want to read one.

We haven't gotten to the point of a voluntarily illiterate society, but we already have one where people are content with boxed thinking. In a way, this has always been true with



Soap Box

Karen Kinsey
Staff Writer

the main difference now being how it is produced.

In today's world, we have mass media, news and opinions disseminated to an audience of millions, 24/7. It is simplified, caricatured and sensationalized to be broadly appealing. Providing details, different points of view and reasoned explanations are now exchanged for broad generalizations polarization, and sensationalized conflict.

President Trump repre-

sents the zenith of this culture, one in which the concept of "alternative facts," has become a reality due to the rampant conspiratorial paranoia and hostile tribalism.

This has now become acceptable in mainstream thought and is displayed by both sides of the aisle. Because of this we have a society that refuses to compromise. In the words of Abraham Lincoln: "A house divided against itself cannot stand."

Letters to the Editor

Georgia Highlands College
is still a non-smoking campus

Dear editor,

The smell of a cigarette may not bother you, but it does bother me. If there is one thing I can't stand more than anything, it is the smell of a cigarette. Yes, many of you might think, "Well, if you don't like the smell, walk away," but when you are in a non-smoking place, like Georgia Highlands, people have to respect that. This is my second year at Georgia Highlands, and I keep seeing people smoking in the parking lots, outside of the buildings or hiding close to the lake. You might think nobody sees you, but what about the smell in the air? Or what about when you have one of the smokers in the same classroom as you, and you can smell the strong scent of a cigarette as soon as your classmate enters the room? I personally don't think it is fair; it bothers many of us. Please be aware that Georgia Highlands is a non-smoking campus. If you want to smoke, don't do it on campus, take your time and drive to a place where you are allowed to smoke. Respect the space of others and the fact that secondhand smoke is toxic and even fatal.

Maria Cisneros
Nursing major
Floyd campus

'Hidden Figures' overcomes barriers**A Review...****By Breyuna Shorter
Staff Writer**

"Hidden Figures" is just in time for Black History Month, with its riveting story about three young African-American women who worked for NASA and played a huge part in sending the first American man, John Glenn, into orbit around the Earth.

The three women—Katherine G. Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson—were just basic "computers, or math calculators," at the time for NASA, along with several other African-American women.

Johnson was a single widow who raised three kids while also working long hours as a computer for NASA, but the people of NASA realized that she was much more brilliant than what they could have imagined.

Johnson was excellent at mathematics and ended up solving the issues in the math

that sent the first man orbiting around the Earth, and she wouldn't get credit for anything until recently at the age of ninety-eight.

Vaughn was an African American woman who supervised the ladies who were the so-called "colored computers" of NASA, but didn't get the title of supervisor until she learned how to work the newly created IBM machine. And she learned how to work it better than the specialist.

Jackson was also considered a "computer" for NASA, but she had bigger dreams of becoming an engineer. Being an engineer as not only an African-American, but a woman was seen as taboo, and a lot of people tried to hinder her from obtaining that level of success. She later went to court about it, and the judge was so moved by her speech that he granted her the right to take classes at an all-white school, where she obtained her degree in engineering.

This movie was moving, and it made it obvious that

people don't have to be accepted by everyone, but they can gain respect by being the best at what they do. No one can take away true talent.

These women had to push through oppression and being degraded to leave their mark. The saddest part of it all was that this story began in the late 1940s, and the ladies are just now getting the recognition they deserve, and only one of them is still alive to see it.

The acting was marvelous and really conveyed all the raw emotion exhibited throughout the story. This film is a must-see, and it's definitely an A+ for quality, humor and history.

This movie
gets a grade of



Can you name all the historic African Americans in the picture?
See answers bottom left.



Clockwise from bottom right Jackie Robinson, Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King Jr., Muhammad Ali and Barack Obama(center).

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans. It is a time set aside for recognizing the important role African Americans have and are playing in U.S. history. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month.

'La La Land' revives the genre of musicals

A Review...
By Mat Shankute
Staff Writer

"La La Land" stars Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone as an aspiring jazz musician and actress who both are miles away from their ideal careers. Through a handful of chance meetings, the pair fall in love and try their hardest to help the other realize their dream.

"La La Land" (much like Gosling's character) is a movie that is head over heels in love with an era in filmmaking that has been virtually dead for decades.

The once vibrant genre of the Hollywood musical is revived here, and "La La Land" does this with varying degrees of success.

The musical numbers range from spellbinding to completely skippable, but

thankfully the movie moves relatively quickly so it's difficult to feel bored by the more forgettable music sequences. The two leads are both fantastic actors in their own right, but when they come together there's a spark of chemistry between them that is absent in most onscreen romances. This is supported by a surprisingly funny and punchy script that keeps the movie flowing pretty smoothly until about three-fourths of the way in. Sadly, the movie stumbles significantly in its attempt to introduce conflict.

Characters who once felt vibrant and real become underwritten and irrational, almost irritatingly so. "La La Land" redeems itself completely with its fantastic act/epilogue, but the mid-section of the movie just feels like dead weight.

"La La Land" wants to write a love letter to the bygone musicals of the past, and for the most part it succeeds, thanks to its lead actors, beautiful cinematography and set design and the occasional amazing musical number.

This movie gets a grade of



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Nine films vie for best picture at the 89th academy awards

By David Pulliam
Staff Writer

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences will present the 89th Academy Awards on Feb. 26 at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, California.

Oscar nominations for Best Picture include "Fences," "Hacksaw Ridge," "Hell or High Water," "La La Land," "Manchester by the Sea," "Moonlight," "Arrival," "Lion" and "Hidden Figures."

Denzel Washington and Viola Davis received nominations for Best Actor and Best Supporting Actress, respectively, for their roles in "Fences."

Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone are both nominated for Best Actor and Best Actress for their leading performances as a jazz pianist and an actress in "La La Land."

Andrew Garfield is nominated for his portrayal of Desmond Doss, a Seventh-day

Adventist and pacifist who served as a combat medic during World War II, in "Hacksaw Ridge;" Mel Gibson received a nomination for Best Director for this film.

Casey Affleck, Michelle Williams, and Lucas Hedges are all nominated for their roles in "Manchester by the Sea."

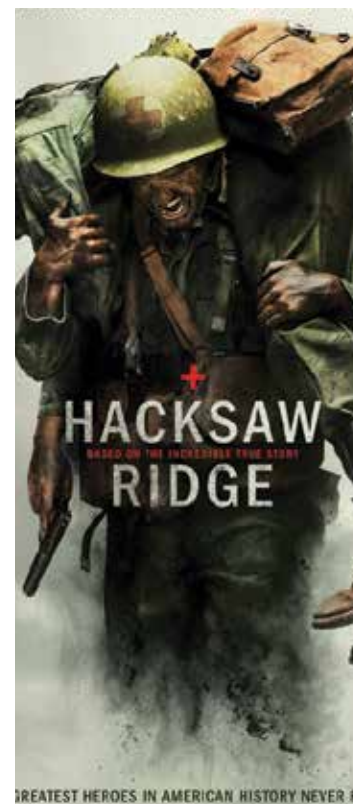
Jeff Bridges is nominated for Best Supporting Actor for his work in "Hell or High Water," also nominated for Best Original Screenplay.

"Lion," based on Saroo Brierley's memoir "A Long Way Home," is nominated for Best Adapted Screenplay; the star of the film, Dev Patel, is also nominated for Best Supporting Actor.

Ruth Negga earned a Best Actress nomination for her role in the film "Loving," about the landmark Supreme Court decision, which nullified laws prohibiting interracial marriage.

Meryl Streep, Natalie Port-

man and Isabelle Huppert round out the Best Actress nominees.



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Featured game: Frigid home opener results in softball split

By Joe Webster
Asst. Sports Editor

Wind gusts and temperatures below 40 didn't stop the Lady Chargers softball team from making their first appearance in front of the home crowd this season on Feb. 3. They split a doubleheader with the University of South Carolina-Salkehatchie Indians.

Game one had the Lady Chargers jumping out to an early lead, plating three runs in the 1st and a lone run in the second frame.

The offense stalled there, and starting pitcher Rebecca Meade began to struggle as she tired, giving up a run in the fifth and sixth runs in the 6th. USC- Salkehatchie closed strong, and took Game 1 by a final score of 7-4.

Brianna Fickes led the offense with a home run and 2 RBI, inching her within one bomb of the GHC career home



Photo by Daniel Smith

Lauren Womack takes a swing at the plate.

run record.

Head Coach Melissa Wood said that she was "disappointed" about this game. She said, "We left too many runners on base and let uncontrollable

"We... let uncontrollable factors, like cold weather, affect our play."

-Melissa Wood

factors, like cold weather, affect our play."

Game two reinvigorated the Chargers, as Hannah Wills walked it off in the 7th inning for a 4-3 GHC victory. The offense was once again led by power-hitting first baseman Fickes, who had a single, double and 2 RBI. Shay Wooten tallied two base hits and 2 RBI. Micayla McCoy tossed 5 strong innings, allowing 9 hits and 3 runs. She was relieved by Natalie Pederson, who col-



Photo by Daniel Smith

The umpire looks on as a Lady Charger slides into home against the University of South Carolina-Salkehatchie Indians.

lected her first win of the season.

The Lady Chargers have started the season 5-3.

Wood said, "We don't want to peak right now, but we are hitting the ball well and making adjustments."

The team looks to keep pushing towards a national championship run.

Sports Update

As of Saturday, Feb. 11, the Lady Chargers are 9-3 for the season after defeating Cleveland State 5-0 and Shelton State 13-0.

Featured game: Taylor, Bodison lead opening day rout

By Joe Webster
Asst. Sports Editor

Six solid frames from Colby Taylor and a freshman debut from shortstop Grant Bodison helped the Chargers soar to a 12-0 Opening Day win over the Chattanooga State Tigers.

According to Head Coach Dash O'Neill, who notched his first win as a collegiate head coach, Taylor "pounded the strike zone."

Taylor went six strong innings, allowing only three hits and walking two.

The offense was led by the left side of the diamond, as Bodison and third baseman Brandon Bell led the high-powered Chargers offense to 12 runs. Bodison went 2-3, with a 2-run home run and two walks. The home run "off the end" of his bat, according



Photo by Daniel Smith

Nick Fink stretches to make an out against Chattanooga State.

to Bodison, sailed over the left-center field wall for 2 RBI's.

Brandon Bell's second in-

ning grand slam flew out of the same spot in the ballpark and broke the game open. Three

hits by second baseman Israel Zackery and five errors by the Chattanooga State defense aided the Chargers offense in their high-octane first showing for the 2017 campaign.

Coach O'Neill added that the Chargers "have 55 more" games to play, and coming out the next time and playing the same level of baseball is key for a successful season.

Students are encouraged to get out and support them on their road to the National Championship.

Sports Update

As of Wednesday, Feb. 15, the GHC Chargers are 3-4 for the season after defeating Bryant Stratton 6-5.

The next baseball game is on Friday, Feb. 24, at 3 p.m. at LakePoint. Students, faculty and staff get in for free with their GHC ID.

Khomenko travels from Italy to play basketball at GHC

By Joshua Mabry
Managing Ed., Sports

Kateryna Pazzaglia Khomenko has traveled from Bologna Italy to Rome, Ga. to play basketball for the Lady Chargers of Georgia Highlands College.

Khomenko had not originally planned on coming to GHC. She planned on going to another college but there was a problem and that didn't work out. The college that Khomenko was planning on attending called GHC and GHC accepted her.

Khomenko said that even though she had not originally intended on coming to Georgia Highlands, she is "so proud and so happy to be here."

Besides playing basketball, Khomenko said that "the fact that I can right now transfer to another school and I can have choices" is something that GHC has made possible to her. She loves the small class sizes



Photo by Jaida Lovelace

Kateryna Khomenko

at GHC because "you can really talk with the teachers."

Khomenko said that the people are her favorite part of living in the United States. She said that while at GHC she has "met a lot of beautiful people who are nice to me and who are always available.

I think that's important."

The language has also been a favorite part of the United States for Khomenko. She said, "It was hard at the beginning. Now that I can understand everything, everything is much easier."

Not everything about the United States has been an easy adjustment for Khomenko, however. She said the biggest difference between Italy and the United States is the food.

She said with a laugh, "It was so hard for me when I first came here because y'all eat like really unhealthy." Khomenko said that she enjoys eating pizza also, but she prefers Italian pizza.

Khomenko started playing basketball when she was 13-years-old.

She said that basketball is different in Italy than it is in the United States. People here typically play on a team at their high school. In Italy,



Photo by Jaida Lovelace

Kat Khomenko fights for space under the basket as the action heats up.

there are clubs that people play with after school. Khomenko played with two clubs.

In addition to playing basketball, Khomenko was also a ballerina when she was younger. "I did ballet for seven

years," she added.

Brandan Harrell, Khomenko's head coach, said, "Kat is a great person and a great student. She is a player that catches scouts' eyes as soon as she walks onto the floor."

Basketball teams hope to go to NJCAA national tournament

By Joshua Mabry
Managing Ed., Sports

The Georgia Highlands College men's basketball team will be playing in the Region 17 tournament in Spring 2017. The Region 17 tournament starts on Monday, March 6 and ends on Saturday, March 11.

According to Phil Gaffney, athletic director and head men's basketball coach, the game on March 6 is referred to as the "playing game." He said that as of now, the game will be at the Floyd campus gym.

During this game, the team that is ranked 8th in the GCAA will play the team that is ranked 9th. On March 7, the winner of the "playing game"

will go on to play the Chargers if the team is still ranked 1st in the GCAA at that time. The games on this day are referred to as the Region 17 Quarterfinals.

The 2nd ranked team will play the 7th ranked team while the 3rd ranked team will play the 6th ranked team on March 7. The 4th ranked team will play the 5th ranked team on this day. The 1-4 teams will be the teams that will have home court advantage.

On March 10, the winners of the Quarterfinals games will go on to play the highest seed. Gaffney hopes that the Region 17 semifinal games will be played at the Floyd campus gym. Gaffney said that there will be two games on this day.

On this day, the 1 vs. 8 winner will play the 4 vs. 5 winner while the 2 vs. 7 winner will play the 3 vs. 6 winner. The winners of these games will play on March 11 in the Region 17 Finals.

According to Brandan Harrell, women's head basketball coach, the Lady Chargers will also be playing in the Region 17 tournament. They will host a first round game on Feb. 28.

There will then be the Semifinals on March 3 and 4. The highest seed will host this. Harrell said that this will most likely be South Georgia Tech.

The teams that win the Region 17 Finals will automatically go on to play in the NJCAA National Tournament. The men's national tourna-

ment in Hutchison, Kan. in late March. The women's national tournament is in Texas.

If a team does not win the Region 17 Finals, that does not mean that they are not going to the national tournament, however. There will also be four other teams that get picked to go to the tournament.

Even if GHC does not win in the Region 17 tournament, they will still have a chance to go to the NJCAA national tournament if the team remains highly ranked.

Gaffney said, "That's why we want to try to win all our games." He also said, "We have a little bit of a tradition of being in the national tournament even though this is only our fifth year to have a team."

Sports Update

As of Wednesday, Feb. 15, the GHC Chargers are 11-1 after defeating Atlanta Metro State 100-67. They are still ranked 1st in the GCAA and are now 6th in the NJCAA.

The Lady Chargers are 13-13 overall and 8-2 in conference play after defeating Atlanta Metro State 64-57. They are ranked 2nd in the GCAA.

Tennis extramural program coming to GHC

By Margaret Gardner
Managing Ed., Design

A new extramural tennis program is set to come to GHC soon. The "Tennis on Campus" program is being done through USTA, and students will have the opportunity to go up against players of different skill sets from other colleges.

There is no cost to join, and the overall goal is to produce a new type of extramural that would appeal to students who enjoyed playing tennis in high school and would like to participate in college.

Angelyn Riaz, assistant professor of physical education at Floyd, will be the adviser of the program.

"Since the tennis courts have just been redone at Floyd and Rome is such an enthusiastic tennis town, this new extramural will allow our students to continue to play a great lifetime sport at a competitive level," said Riaz.

The format for both men's and women's teams will be



Photo by Shannon Francis

Joseph Cheriampurathu is in mid-stance ready to hit the next shot at the Floyd campus tennis court.

composed of doubles, singles and one mixed doubles match.

Space is not limited, but there are only a certain number of

lines that can be played. It will have a state, sectional and national campus championship. The reason for creating "Tennis on Campus" is to encourage students to get actively involved on campus and to help recreational tennis flourish on college campuses.

The players that join this tennis sports club could be anywhere from a beginner to advanced.

The new tennis program provides a way to make new friends and get great exercise at the same time.

Registration is ongoing and interested students should contact the men's and women's captain coordinator Joseph Cheriampurathu at jcheriya@student.highlands.edu.

More information will be available soon, but if anyone has any questions about how USTA works they can contact either Lindsey Davila at davila@ustageorgia.com or David Araiza at araiza@sta.usta.com.



Photo by Shannon Francis

Ryan Miller is focused as he gets ready to serve the ball.

SMP Ping-Pong Tournament

Floyd Campus: Tournament Feb. 27

Contact: J.J. Merritt jmerritt@highlands.edu



Cartersville Campus: Tournament March 14

Registration ends March 13

Contact: Clifton Puckett cpuckett@highlands.edu

Cosponsored by GHC Intramurals

It is an exciting time to be a Braves fan because the future looks bright

The Rome Braves held their Hot Stove Championship Celebration on Jan. 28 at The Forum in Rome. The Hot Stove was exciting because it was a reflection on the awesome 2016 Rome Braves championship season, and a preview of the upcoming 2017 season.

At the Hot Stove, many of the players that contributed to the championship season were present, as well as Braves dignitaries. It was great to get to see last season's players and hear about the upcoming season for the Rome Braves and the Atlanta Braves.

Attending the Hot Stove event brought back memories of the 2016 season, in particular the moment they won the



Mabry's Pitch

Joshua Mabry
Managing Ed., Sports

championship. I remember how overjoyed I was as I listened to the final game on the radio.

At the Hot Stove, we learned that the upcoming season for the Rome Braves should be exciting as well. According to the Atlanta Braves office staff, there are a lot of young players who can potentially compare with the players from the 2016 Rome team. While I find this hard to believe, it will be interesting to

see how well they perform.

Many players from the 2016 Rome Braves will be moving up in the Braves farm system this season to become closer to Atlanta. This makes it a fun time to be a Braves baseball fan.

It appears to be promising that there will be more South Atlantic League Championships for the Rome Braves in the future and possible trips to the World Series for the Atlanta Braves.