

SIX MILE POST

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The Student Voice

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GHC's Matt Welch, #52, and Ryan King fight fiercely at the tip off of the Chargers' first home game while Rashon Dumas, left, and Jamalcom Griffin wait for the action to begin. See pages 8, 9, and 16 for more.



Presidential Series Part 3

See page 6 for the third and final installment of our series on the presidential election covering Barack Obama's reelection.

GHC administrator helpful to students

Todd Jones is willing to go out of his way to help students deal with issues like financial aid and schedule problems. See page 5 for more.

Photo by Ryan Jones

Georgia Highlands College - Rome, Georgia

Slamin' & Jamin'

Award-winning slam poets perform for students at the Floyd campus

By Sarah Lane
Asst. Print Editor

Boris Rogers, also known as Bluz, and Carlos Robson, master slam poets from Charlotte, N.C., entertained students on the Floyd campus Nov. 7.

Bluz and Robson took turns performing poems dealing with issues ranging from equal rights to being a good parent.

Bluz coaches a team of poets called Slam Charlotte. He is currently ranked number 13 in the world for poetry slam.

He is also a two-time Emmy winner.

He won one for quick turnaround of a live event and one for the Ray Cob sports documentary "The Cameron Crazy's."

Bluz said that his journey of becoming a slam master started when he had to rewrite Shakespeare in high school.

He rewrote a section from "Romeo and Juliet" and he thought it was very good, even if the teacher didn't.

Bluz really enjoyed performing at Georgia High-

lands. "I performed here a couple of years ago and the atmosphere and energy is incredible," said Bluz.

Robson started out as a student of Bluz, performing on the Slam Charlotte team that won national championships in 2007 and 2008.

He has been nominated twice for the Association for the Promotion of Campus Activities (ACPA) Spoken Word Artist of the Year award.

Robson said that Bluz has been his biggest influence and inspiration.

"I really like storytellers. Bluz was the first storyteller that I was introduced to."

Robson also said that he is influenced by "anyone who can tell me a story."

Robson also enjoyed performing his poems at Highlands.

"I feel like I kept a connection with the audience the whole show, which is great."

During the performance, both poets took time to answer questions from the audience, including the question "What rhymes with orange?"



Photo by Ryan Jones

Slam master poets Carlos Robson (left) and Bluz (right) recite spoken word poetry at the GHC Floyd campus.

First ever Halloween soiree a big success

By Neen Snowball
Staff Writer

The Writer's Collaborative inaugural Halloween Soiree was held Wednesday, Oct. 24. Over 20 students and non-students alike came to join in the festivities, some in costume.

Guests enjoyed dancing and literary readings, and a couple of students gave a musical performance.

The purpose of the soiree was to reintroduce Writer's Collaborative as an official,

active club and to recruit future writers. A few talented students came to share their literary works with other members to gain valuable insight on the revision and publishing process.

"It was a great way to relax and have some fun, but creatively. It was even better because we had a casual environment to throw around literary ideas," said Becky Crooks, English major at Georgia Highlands and the treasurer for Writer's Collaborative.

"After talking to club leadership, we decided that an event outside of normal school times would allow us to recruit more students and show how diverse our group is," said Jesse Bishop, assistant professor of English and faculty adviser for Writer's Collaborative.

The calm atmosphere at the soiree ensured that no one worried about when the next class would be. The focus was on having fun with fellow writers.

Writer's Collaborative

meets on the Floyd campus every Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. in room F-129. It is open to all GHC students who love to write or who have an interest in learning more about the writing process. Writers generally are inspired by other writers, and there is usually free coffee as an added bonus.

Writer's Collaborative may decide to hold another soiree for the upcoming holiday season that will be open to anyone who would like to come.

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Paulding students make plans for future

By Kevin Horan
Staff Writer

"As long as you have a plan, you can get there," claimed Enrollment Management Specialist Angelica Mosley, referring to the fact that if students plan properly to obtain their degree and their dreams, they can achieve them.

Such was the point of the final week of the Paulding campus' "Student Success Month." During that week of October 22-26, there were two meetings held about "planning your bachelor's party," or preparing to switch to a four-year university to complete one's degree.

Hosted by Mosley and Student Support Services' Andrea Truitt, a wide range of topics was covered from financial aid to choosing the right courses at Georgia Highlands and more.

On the subject of planning financially for a four-year degree, the advice Mosley and Truitt urged as the most important was that one can never start planning too early. Planning for financial aid, student loans and scholarships early can prevent one from having to scramble to get it together at the last minute. It can also prevent the heartbreak of being unable to go to a dream school because the student did not

plan the proper finances for it.

Also important was that students who have the HOPE Scholarship need to fill out the HOPE evaluation form when they transfer so that the new university will know they are supposed to have HOPE.

Another recommended point was taking courses that would likely have large class sizes at four-year universities at Highlands instead. They said that this would not only save money in the long run, but it is also far easier for a professor to help students in a class of 30 students as opposed to 200 plus.

Mosley and Truitt also recommended checking the course catalogs of both colleges, as well as the required courses for a specific major at the university the student will be transferring to, to check which courses can be taken at Highlands and which courses may not be needed.

They also recommend students make contacts with professors in their major since they will be passionate to help students succeed and can write recommendations to the college students hope to transfer to.

Keeping grades as high as possible can also help. Although a student's grades

may meet a college's minimum requirements for transferring, if the average student who transfers has a much higher GPA it will be far more difficult for others to get in.

On the subject of changing majors, or changing the college a student wishes to transfer to, it was Truitt who claimed that "It's alright to change your plan, as long as you're moving toward your goals."

The students who attended the meetings by all accounts found them extremely informative, and the hosts took time to address each of the students individually.

Questions exist regarding dining decisions at Highlands

By Gregory Karnes
Staff Writer

GHC is currently seeking a new provider for its 2013 food services.

According to Renva Waterson, GHC's interim president, Allmora and its parent company Old Fashion Foods Inc., who currently provide catering and vending services, have opted out of renewing their contracts with GHC.

According to Rob Whitaker, vice president of finance

and administration, the company took a great risk due to "lack of guaranteed revenue" when it started providing catering and vending services in the 2011 fall semester. Allmora has suffered an estimated \$30,000 loss on its operations at GHC. Due to legal conditions, Allmora could not comment on the subject.

Whitaker says the college is looking into ways in which it can provide food and vending services in the future. Whitaker also notes

the possibility of students working for the café in the spring semester. It is unclear if this would be a work study opportunity, or open to any student.

According to the Floyd County Public Health Inspection website, on Oct. 2, the Floyd campus' Charger Café failed its first inspection of the year with a score of 64. Due to this unsatisfactory score, another inspection took place on Oct. 17, this time resulting in a redeeming score of 93.

Help those in need this holiday season.

This year, GHC's Floyd campus is a drop-off location for the Toy Drive sponsored by Angel Express, a local charity. You can help by donating new or like new clothes as well as toys. Items can be dropped off until Dec. 10, at the following Floyd campus locations:

Admissions Office
Business Office
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Student center

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Highlands Happenings

New dean to start in January

By J.P. Erickson
Asst. Print Editor

On Jan. 1, Janet Alexander, currently the coordinator of the nurse educator track in the master of science program at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., will become the GHC Health Sciences dean.

She is also a professor of nursing with an Ed.D. in educational leadership from Samford and a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) and Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from the University of Alabama.

Laura Musselwhite, interim associate vice president of academic and student affairs, said, "I am

very excited to have Alexander join GHC."

GHC celebrates Kindness Day

By Jessie Summers
Staff Writer

The Paulding and Douglasville campuses celebrated World Kindness Day on Nov. 7 and 8, respectively. Students were given sheets of paper to write a letter of encouragement or thanks to any person they chose.

These notes were given to friends, relatives or other people.

The event was used to help motivate students to be uplifting to others, including those they may have not known very well.

ASF trip sign-ups to start in spring

By Jackson Walsh
Staff Writer

The spring trip to the Alabama Shakespeare Festival is open to students, employees and anyone else who would like to go. The trip is scheduled for Saturday, April 20, through Sunday, April 21, 2013.

Though there are no Shakespeare productions being performed at the festival, two comedies will be seen.

One is a newer version of the Jules Verne novel "Around the World in Eighty Days." The other is entitled "God of Carnage," and it won a Tony on Broadway in 2009.

Sign-ups will start in the early part of the spring semester, and students from all Highlands campuses will be able to take part.

The cost of the trip is estimated to be around \$130, including hotel, play tickets, tour bus transportation, and the cost of two meals.

Extra credit will be available in a number of classes.

Yoga sessions open to students

By Chasity Thomas
Staff Writer

Students who are looking for a healthy, relaxing way to start their day may visit the Beginner's Yoga

sessions. John Reiners, leader of Beginner's Yoga and retired business and economics professor, welcomes more students and faculty.

"Students have so many worries that they cannot focus on themselves," Reiners said. "Yoga provides the opportunity to take a break from classes, jobs and home life so that they can appreciate the self."

The exercises are basic balances and poses for people of any age. There are no set members of Beginner's Yoga.

Anyone is welcome to join the meetings, and attendance at every meeting is not required. Beginner's Yoga meets every Tuesday and Thursday at 8 a.m. in the solarium on the Floyd campus.

Vista set to disappear as D2L comes online

By Natasha McCrary
Staff Writer

In the 2013 spring semester, a new learning management system (LMS) will be taking the place of the current program, which is Georgia View Vista. The new program is called D2L, which stands for Desire-to-Learn Learning Environment.

Simon Grist, professor of reading and psychology and instructional technologist, gave some insight on the new program D2L. "D2L has been described as a 21st century LMS, compared to Vista, which is a 20th century LMS," he said.

The decision to change the learning system from Georgia View Vista to D2L was made in 2011 by a task force commissioned by the University System of Georgia, which consisted of faculty and students. "After holding town hall meetings across the state and providing an opportunity for stu-

dents and faculty to try out the five finalists, in 2011 the task force announced the number one choice – Pearson D2L," Grist said.

Students are unsure about the change from Vista to D2L. Courtney Barton of the Floyd campus said, "Vista is simple and easy. Why change it?"

At the beginning of this semester, three University System of Georgia (USG) schools started using D2L successfully. Grist said, "There have been no reports of any problems from students at the three USG colleges who began using D2L in August."

By 2013, more than 30 USG schools will be using the new program, including Georgia Highlands.

"D2L does everything Vista does because many features are common across all learning management systems. D2L also does some things differently and offers considerably more features than Vista," said Grist.

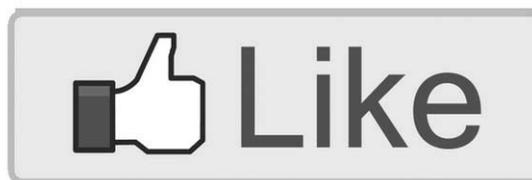
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Jones rolls up his sleeves to help students

By Virginia Robinson
Staff Writer

Some may say that college decisions are tough. Wouldn't it be great if students had someone to help them navigate the trouble spots?

On each campus there is a dean that helps with students' issues and enrollment. Also they are an advocate for the campus which they represent.

The Floyd Campus dean is Todd Jones. He serves as GHC's interim associate vice president as well. "I am very passionate about helping students and serving others," Jones said.

Jones began his journey at a then two-year school, Young Harris College. Jones was offered a job opportunity as a resident as-

sistant for Young Harris; this got him started on the path of student affairs.

Jones did not know he was destined to be a dean at a college until he won a raffle. Jones won a chance to play a tennis match against the dean at Berry College.

This raffle also included a nice dinner and a conversation with the dean after the match that steered Jones into the path of student affairs.

During GHC's beginning-of-semester mad dash to meet the deadline for tuition bills and financial aid, Jones was right beside the Financial Office answering phone calls and helping students one-on-one.

Jones said, "It is easier to find a solution for the problems that students have by staying in touch

with the student. You have to stay in touch to solve issues."

Jones also said his favorite part of GHC is that he loves the family-atmosphere, the ability of everyone to work well together and the passionate faculty who want to help students succeed.

Jones would like to remind students that on the GHC website there is a customer service page.

This page lets the students provide ideas and allows them to recognize people with outstanding work.

Jones is committed to being a hard-working campus dean for students and faculty members.

"It's an honor to serve in this role and I look forward to working with students any way I can," said Jones.



Photo by Ryan Jones

Todd Jones is not afraid to get in the trenches to help aid students.

Withdrawal hits the wallet

By Randi Parker
Staff Writer

Financial aid is essential for many college students. It is equally important to understand the requirements of the financial aid process when withdrawing from school, because withdrawing may mean a student will owe money back to the college.

When a student withdraws and has not completed at least 60 percent of his or her classes in the semester, the student must pay back the balance of financial aid. That balance is due within 180 days. This balance due is calculated by a formula called Return to Title IV. Funds normally do not have to be paid back if the student withdraws from the school completely after completing 60 percent of his or her classes.

GHC Director of Accounting Jamie Petty says, "The funds that must be paid back to the federal or state government are returned

by Georgia Highlands. The student then owes Georgia Highlands for the funds returned on the student's behalf." Part of the college's revenue is used to pay back the federal government.

Georgia Highlands Bursar, Megan Davidson, explains that "when revenue is reserved (to cover financial aid repayments) it is no longer available to be spent on anything, including computers for classrooms, facility improvements, etc."

As soon as a withdrawal has been completed, the Business Office puts a hold on the student's account until the debt is completely paid. This hold prevents the student from registering for any classes and also prevents the student from receiving transcripts or grades.

After this 180-day period, if the debt is still not paid back, Petty says Georgia Highlands must turn the student over to a collection agency.

"It is very important to pay this within the 180

days," says Petty, "because if you don't, you will then owe the fee for the collection agency also."

A student will most likely not be required to repay any financial aid funds if he or she are still enrolled in at least one class.

Another important factor to consider when dropping classes is how the withdrawal will affect Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). Director of Financial Aid Megan Simpson says, "Dropping classes will affect your SAP, which can affect your eligibility for financial aid." A student must complete a minimum of 67 percent of all classes attempted in order to continue receiving financial aid.

Davidson, Simpson and Petty each stress that it is very important for students to speak to both an academic adviser and a financial aid counselor before withdrawing from the college completely in order to understand any financial obligations he or she may have.

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Obama retains office by beating Romney

By Gene Harmon
Asst. Online Editor

It was a long night at campaign headquarters in Chicago and Boston, but President Barack Obama succeeded in his bid for re-election in a tight campaign against Governor Mitt Romney of Massachusetts.

With 270 electoral votes required to clinch the presidency, Obama claimed 303 to Romney's 206. The popular vote was much closer and though votes are still being counted, as of Nov. 13, Obama led by 3,377,365 votes.

There were 11 battleground states viewed as being major players with a significant impact on the outcome of the election.

The states were Wisconsin, Iowa, Michigan, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Colorado, Ohio, Virginia, and Florida. Of these states, only the last four turned out to have a deciding effect. Though the early projection of Ohio in Obama's favor fell under scrutiny and debate on Fox News, this decision proved

to be correct.

With the unemployment rate being the highest for any incumbent president in 76 years, this obstacle was surmounted as Frank-

ceived 53 percent of the vote but had obtained 55 percent in 1940. Obama garnered 53 percent in 2008, but only 50 percent of votes cast in the current election.

vided as our politics suggests. We're not as cynical as the pundits believe. We are greater than the sum of our individual ambitions, and we remain more than a

in his victory. Romney said, "The nation, as you know, is at a critical point. At a time like this, we can't risk partisan bickering and political posturing. Our leaders have to reach across the aisle to do the people's work."

He went on to say, "I believe in America. I believe in the people of America. And I ran for office because I'm concerned about America. This election is over, but our principles endure. I believe that the principles upon which this nation was founded are the only sure guide to a resurgent economy and to renewed greatness."

With the election over, President Obama is now faced with many issues which concern the people of the United States: Congressional gridlock, a struggling economy, foreign policy, national health coverage, energy sources and immigration, to name a few.

Regardless of who the voters' choice was in this election, people can make their voices heard at the polls and by communicating to national, state and local governmental representatives.



Courtesy of barackobama.com

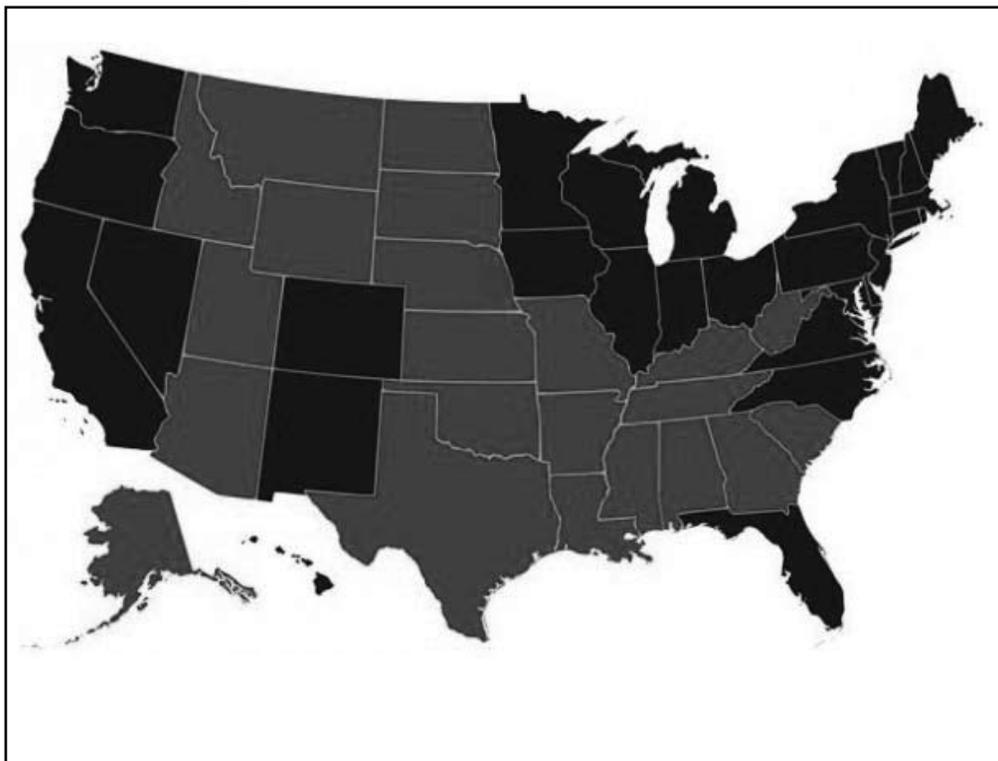
Obama shares an embrace with his family after his victory in the presidential election of 2012.

lin Delano Roosevelt did in 1936. Obama's victory was also marked by being the first since 1944 that re-election was won with a lower percentage of votes than the president's previous term. In that year, according to unconstitution.net, FDR re-

In the president's re-election speech, Obama acknowledges there is much work that remains to be done but promises, "The best is yet to come." He continued, "I believe we can seize this future together because we are not as di-

collection of red states and blue states. We are and forever will be the United States of America."

Romney conceded the race to Obama in the early hours of the morning, stating he had called the president and congratulated him



**Electoral college
map results:**

**Darker states-
Obama**

**Lighter states-
Romney**

Graphic courtesy of
Wikimedia Commons

**Six Mile Post
Online Poll Results**

**Who won the third
presidential
debate?**

**Obama-63%
Romney-37%**

Hague Scholarship fundraisers underway

Scholarship created in memory of Hague to be awarded to Cartersville students in fall

By Josh Fisher
Staff Writer

The Nancy Hague Scholarship is being created to honor the memory of Hague, who was an associate professor of psychology at Georgia Highlands College's Cartersville campus. She passed away last spring from ovarian cancer.

Hague had taught at Georgia Highlands College since 2003.

Teresa Hutchins, associate professor of political science and friend of Hague, along with Sharryse Henderson, associate professor of biology, are spearheading the efforts to set up this scholarship and to organize a fundraising effort for it.

Hutchins said "Dr. Hague was very dedicated to her students."

Because of this, Hutchins and Henderson decided it



File Photo

Nancy Hague

would be best to start a scholarship.

The scholarship is planned to start with \$250 per semester and be awarded in the fall semester of 2013. It is intended to be for psychology majors at the Cartersville campus who have a 3.0 GPA or higher.

Hutchins said the reason that the scholarship is set up for psychology majors on

the Cartersville campus is to keep the memory of Hague alive on the campus.

Students who are eligible for the scholarship will be able to apply by writing an "essay about how cancer has affected them or their family," said Hutchins.

After the first fundraiser, which will be held on Nov. 26 at 3 p.m., there are plans to have another one in the spring semester.

They are planning a 5k walk for the spring semester and want to have two fundraisers per year, hoping to build up to a scholarship endowment fund of \$40,000 that will pay for full tuition.

Hutchins also said they hope to have informational items about ovarian cancer at their fundraisers, since it is such a dangerous disease and important issue.

The Nancy Hague Scholarship will be awarded the

same way as all other scholarships.

It will be given at the beginning of the semester, and then at the end of the year the recipient will attend the scholarship banquet, where he or she will meet the benefactors of the scholarship, which for the Nancy Hague scholarship are Henderson and Hutchins and also Hague's

sister.

John Erickson, a student at GHC, who is the vice president of fundraising for Alpha Psi Omicron, the Georgia Highlands branch of the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) started by Hague, said that in addition to the two fundraisers already planned, PTK will be holding a yard sale to raise money for the scholarship.

To make a monetary donation or to donate items to be sold at the yard sale contact John Erickson at jericks1@student.highlands.edu, Teresa Hutchins at thutchin@highlands.edu or Sharryse Henderson at shenders@highlands.edu.

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Photo by Kaitlyn Hyde

GHC Chargers (from left) Dezon Dozier, Matt Welch and Matt Catanzano go on the offensive in the first ever GHC home opener against Wallace State.

Chargers play Wallace State in historic inaugural game

By Andrew West
Editor-in-chief

Georgia Highlands College's men's and women's basketball teams kicked off their seasons in November. Their first home games were both on Nov. 4 against Wallace State.

Renva Watterson, GHC's interim president who was in attendance, said of the atmosphere at the games, "I thought it was wonderful. I loved the look of the gym and the professional atmosphere the press table provided."

For the home opener,

GHC's athletic department had special events planned.

At halftime of the men's game, entertainment was provided by The Smooth Steppers, the step team from Rome's Boys and Girls Club. They performed for about ten minutes and kept the crowd engaged through the lull of halftime.

Additionally at halftime, GHC alumnus Scotty Hancock was honored for his accomplishments as Floyd County's emergency management director. The alumni spotlight featured a listing of his achievements after graduating from GHC,

as well as some quotes from him about his time at GHC, and everything the institution has done for him.

The cheerleaders also helped to keep the crowd involved at the games, enthusiastically cheering on both the men's and women's teams as they strove for success on the court. They are coached by Megan Davidson, the bursar at GHC, and Stephanie Loveless, senior accountant.

GHC's pep band, "The Highlanders" also made their debut at the home opener, playing such favorites as "Smoke on the Wa-

ter" and "Stand By Me." Led by Sam Baltzer, professor of music, the band also served to keep the crowd occupied during delays in the action, such as timeouts and breaks between periods.

Commenting on the pep band, Watterson said, "I thought they were great. They were a spirit booster, and they showed real musicianship."

Students will have more chances to show their school spirit in support of the Chargers and Lady Chargers. The teams have 12 more home games left over the course of the season.

Basketball is here



Photo by Kaitlyn Hyde

Lady Chargers' number 21, Manon Cherubini, is injured with a twisted ankle, but she shortly returns to the game.



Photo by Ryan Jones

Shay Holston attempts a 3-pointer.



Photo by Ryan Jones

Players from GHC and Wallace State shake hands in a traditional show of sportsmanship after the game.

A call for bipartisanship in Washington

There's something about the election season. When it's time for the American public to elect a president, there seems to be a different feeling in the air.

We all decide whether or not we want to play the game. Make no mistake about it, the election is a competition, and just like Monday Night Football, we like to make a spectacle out of it.

From debates and polls to early voting and the choosing of running mates, if a citizen decides that he or she will vote, that person plays the game just like the rest of us, but is either side really winning?

For years, Democrats

and Republicans have been battling it out. They wage war on each other in order to gain power in the Senate, the House, the courts and the White House, the most coveted position of either party. Why, though, is the presidency such a big deal?

We all know there is a balance of power in Washington. Without a majority in Congress, it doesn't matter which party has control of the executive branch. There still has to be cooperation.

Yet, we somehow think that if a member of either party is elected, he or she will be able to deliver on all of those grand promises made during his or her campaign. We play

the game.

We turn a blind eye to the fact that not as many people show up to vote for congressional positions when there is not a presidency at stake as well. We ignore certain social views of our party's candidate in order to stay loyal to that party. If we don't ignore those views, we're more than happy to rationalize them away, explaining why that particular view should be overlooked.

Yes, there is a competitive feel to the presidential election every four years. That's because it is a competition in which the American voter becomes engrossed, but somewhere deep down, we all know

that it will take more than empty promises to run the nation effectively.

We all know that as long as Congress stubbornly votes down party lines, we are at the mercy of the two-party system, and the corporations that determine the goals of those two parties.

So, what will it take to fix the quagmire that is Washington? When will we have another debt crisis looming overhead on which the two parties wait until the last minute to come together, threatening to worsen our current economic woes?

Perhaps we should ask a different question. When will the concerns of the American people be-

come the concerns of the Democrats and Republicans in Washington?

We, as a nation, have to make our voice heard, and that voice should be an educated one. If politicians can't see past party lines, we will have to do it for them. We need to know the issues and vote our own consciences.

Of one thing we can be certain: as long as the average citizen does not understand and become actively involved in the American political system, politicians in Washington will continue to pursue the interests of their parties, not the interests of the American citizen. We must hold them accountable.

Preparing for the next step

The wide variety of paths which can be taken by a transfer student often leads to a larger-scale, much less intimate school. This also depends on the student's ambition to pursue either his or her dreams or a more secure career which is hard to come by in these difficult times.

There is something to be said about a classroom setting that offers the distinct possibility of students learning one another's names and interacting with a diverse group of like-minded individuals. Highlands offers the student the ability to ease into his or her collegiate career in a personal and casual fashion.

The step following the acquisition of an associate degree from Highlands can be a tricky, sometimes daunting but very necessary one to complete. This point in a student's education is a time to gain knowledge about oneself; to build accomplishments both academically and socially through studies and



Editor's Box

J.P. Erickson
Asst. Print Editor

a veritable plethora of clubs. It is also a time to prepare for the faster paced and impersonal nature of many four-year schools.

Many prime examples come to mind which distinguish Highlands from other schools, such as being recognized by a faculty member who is very willing to greet students, sometimes by name and even converse with them shortly on their way to their next class. There is a sense of community on our campuses that dissipates as a student progresses through the education system.

The experience of getting to know the people who walk these hallowed halls daily can be invaluable to a student's future. There may be a time where one conversation with a professor whose

class the student enjoys or a classmate whose major is one he or she is also considering determines the direction that leads him or her out of general studies purgatory.

Students who take a step back and look around can recognize and appreciate the method of fostering learning that launches the minds of both the young and old, the privileged and less fortunate or any demographic to which one might belong into a stratosphere where the possibilities are limitless.

This is a starting point that can either make or break each student as he or she leaves the talk behind and begins to take action in pursuit of making a life for him or herself that is rewarding in every sense of the word.

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The "Six Mile Post," a designated public forum named after the old railroad station and trading post that was once located near where the college was founded in Floyd County, publishes seven print and online issues a year and is funded through student activity fees and ad revenue. Letters to the Editor may be brought to the SMP office, emailed to 6mpost@student.highlands.edu, or mailed to Editor, "Six Mile Post," 3175 Cedartown Highway Rome, GA 30161.

Overcoming obstacles

I started college spring 1995, putting me 17 years into the 20-year-plan. There've been plenty of breaks in between with marriage, children, financial ruin, deaths, divorce and life! Currently, I'm a single mother of four.

Three of my children have autism, and I'm eight hours away from my associate degree at Georgia Highlands.

For me, academics have always come very easily. Although, having said that, this is the first time in my academic history that I've finished a single class in a fall semester.

I've struggled for many years with a horrible fear of failure, though historically

I'm disciplined. I've always believed that if I work hard enough I can do anything. It's quite the paradox.

But life has a funny way of throwing curveballs, distorting perception.

I struggle with isolation coupled with guilt from always falling short as a parent. As human beings, we're designed to work interdependently, supporting one another. Ideally, family fills those gaps. In our case, nobody does.

Other struggles have come from feeling helpless in the day-to-day dealings with autism and the discouragement of re-starting school so many times from things beyond my control, combined with struggling to

balance school and home.

I never learned how to separate what I should be responsible for and what I needed to just accept and be gentle with myself over. I lost perspective.

This past spring, yet another personal crisis hit, and it affected my academics. I almost quit school for good, but I didn't. I finished the semester poorly, dropped one class and took two low grades, tanking my previous 4.0 GPA. It took everything I had to finish with the voice of defeat shouting loudly.

While my circumstances are what they are and I will have setbacks, it isn't grounds for quitting on myself, nor a reason to believe I'm anything less than what



Path to Highlands

Jenny Van Fossen
General Studies Major

I am: intelligent, capable and willing to fight for whatever I want to accomplish. If perception is reality, then I must diligently focus on maintaining that perception as one of optimism, holding that belief close, protecting and nurturing it until it can stand on its own again.

Circumstances beyond my control are just exactly that: beyond my control. But I can control my reaction to those setbacks by how I choose to define myself in spite of everything.

There's a saying that

goes, "What would you attempt to do if you knew you could not fail?" That's perspective.

I'm one semester away from my associate's degree. I've had poetry and photographs published and won three awards for my work in the past three semesters in addition to the David B. McCorkle Scholarship.

I am the literary editor of the Old Red Kimono, a provisional member of Phi Theta Kappa, still a mom of four and even more determined than ever to finish.

LGBT* students face different challenges

Transgender student speaks out

Being a student entails a lot of things.

Students fill out their FAFSA, apply for HOPE, register for classes, stress over essays, projects, midterms and finals, all in hopes of doing well.

This, of course, is before taking on any extracurricular activities, whether that may be writing for the school paper, being a member or an officer of a club or any other assortment of different activities.

Is there room for any more stress on top of all of this?

Of course, sometimes it doesn't matter if there's room, the stress will come, whether it is wanted or not.

Many lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT*) students find themselves having to hide who they are, to wear a mask, especially in new situations.

College may not be a professional environment, but



Soap Box

Josh Fisher
Staff Writer

it is a place where a student will forge relationships and make influences that could affect the recommendations, the jobs, the careers and the lives they have.

So an LGBT* student faces a new decision in every new situation.

When meeting a new club adviser or president, when meeting with the editors or advisers for the newspaper, when meeting with Student Life Coordinators or the Student Government Association, does a student come out, or does the student remain "in the closet"?

Often one may ask, "What does it matter?"

It matters because if students, if people, have to carry a fear, a burden, each and every day, regardless of what that fear or that burden is, then it hinders who they are, and who they can be as a person and as a student.

It is absolutely important that all people be given an equal opportunity, not only to be successful, but to be who they are and be allowed to work towards not only what they can be, but what they want to be.

I am a Transgender student at Georgia Highlands College. One could never tell this just by looking at me

because I have grown up in fear of accepting myself.

It is because of this fear, because of the people who choose not to believe me, because of the stress and the pressure of trying to be successful in a cisgender (people who identify as the gender they are assigned at birth) and heterosexual society, that I sign the name given to me at birth on all of my school assignments.

When and if a professor asks me what my preferred name is I say that I have no preference for I am too afraid of admitting my preference.

Most people are cisgender, as most people are heterosexual.

What is needed now is a society that accepts everyone regardless of gender identity or sexual identity or orientation.

We need a school that encourages safety and openness for everyone.

Tell us your
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www.
sixmilepost.
com



Students weigh in on GHC's new additions

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

The new weight room at the Cartersville campus is a great new asset. A weight room for student access is a gigantic step towards taking over the overwhelming obesity rate in America.

The new equipment in the room is also showing that the campus cares enough about the students attending Georgia Highlands to give them state of the art equipment to use for free. Between the easy access and new equipment, the weight room is a great way for students to get involved and take control of their health.

Celeste Bramonte
Floyd Campus

Dear Editor,

I want to begin by thanking you for taking the time to read my letter. The Cartersville campus just recently finished their new student center and gymnasium. I recently visited the Cartersville campus and found that they have a game room.

I am writing to you to discuss a proposition of having a new game room with music, video games, etc. I believe if we have this new installment, Georgia Highlands Floyd campus would have an increase in students and income, even though all GHC campuses share the same account.

Thanks again,
Robert Williams
Floyd Campus

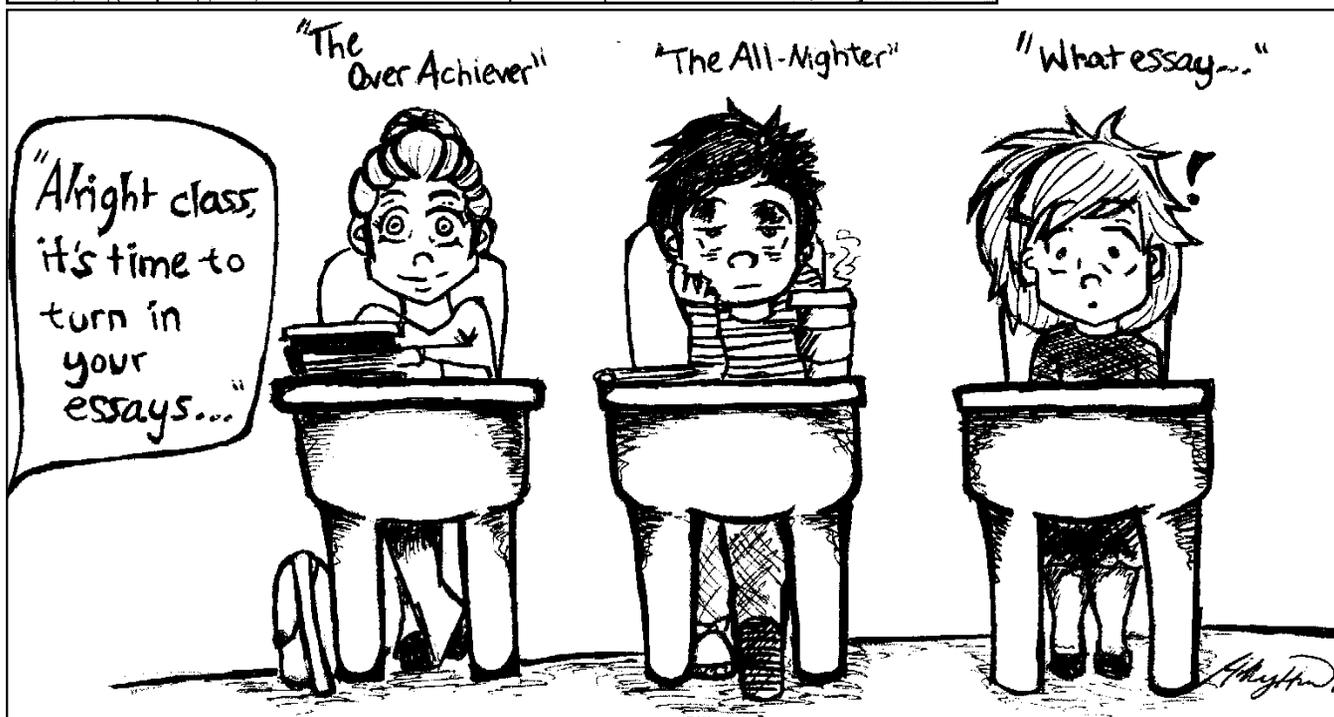
Dear Editor,

I would just like to speak for the entire Georgia Highlands student body when I say we are proud to have basketball and baseball at GHC. With basketball, our school will have a chance to show its pride along with other schools in our conference.

Many students will take these teams for granted and ignore their existence; however, I would hope that everyone would come out and cheer on the Chargers as they take the court or the field. By showing our school spirit we will be forever bonded as not only a school but as a community.

Along with the addition of these athletic programs, GHC has added many intramural sports. This new feature will allow those who are not on these teams to get some playing time. I, for one, feel that it is very important to remain active. With intramural sports being open to the public this will allow the student body to do just this. I would like to thank all those who made these additions possible and I look forward to all the games. Go Chargers!

Sincerely,
Damon Bishop
Floyd Campus



Submit your letter to the editor to 6mpost@student.highlands.edu.

'Argo' captivates audience with story of hostages

By J.P. Erickson
Asst. Print Editor

When a United States embassy in Iran falls into the hands of militant Iranian protesters, a hostage situation ensues, and six Americans flee to take refuge in the neighboring Canadian Ambassador's house. It will obviously take some serious outside-of-the-box thinking to solve this conundrum.

Set in the 1979 backdrop of the Iranian revolution, "Argo" is the true pulse-pounding story of a brave, covert operation, the details of which weren't released until nearly two decades later.

The film is directed by Academy Award Winner Ben Affleck (Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay



"Good Will Hunting") who stars alongside John Goodman, Alan Arkin and Bryan Cranston.

CIA operative Tony Mendez (Affleck) comes up with the "best bad idea" to extract the cornered six Americans. His plan is for them to take

cover as a Canadian film crew researching an exotic location for a science-fiction movie, titled "Argo".

The story unfolds as Mendez struggles with being away from his son after separating from his wife. During a long-distance phone call with his boy, Mendez's plan is inspired by the sci-fi movie that his child is watching.

Alan Arkin plays Lester Siegel, a producer who soon explains the complexity of selling this project to the Iranian people and security, let alone Hollywood.

This fake movie needs a fake script, storyboards and posters. It also requires the conspirators to give the six petrified Americans enough training in two days to make them knowledgeable enough to pass as a film crew.

This includes giving them full pseudonyms and background stories in order to prepare for the distinct possibility of being interrogated.

Mendez first takes the pitch to John Chambers, a respected make-up and costume aficionado, played by John Goodman, who, alongside Arkin, injects some

Affleck, through the capable hands of his cinematographer, directs seamless scenes. If the viewer stays through the credits, a side-by-side comparison reveals the replicated pictures from the real stock footage of the protests. The cast uncannily resembles the individuals who were truly involved.

"Argo" delivers a well-paced blend of tension, humor, heart and historic acts of courage which build to a beautifully executed crescendo.

Whether or not the audience is already aware of the outcome of the enthralling climax is irrelevant.

Movie-goers shouldn't miss seeing this film and should be shocked if it doesn't receive recognition in the form of nominations by the Academy.

Movie review

much needed levity into the rather serious subject matter.

Chambers poses the question, "So you wanna come to Hollywood and act like a big shot without actually doing anything?" After Mendez nods, Chambers adds, "You'll fit right in."

Discovering a shifter's identity in 'Mistwood'

Cypess astonishes and inspires with suspenseful fantasy novel

By Jennifer Grubb
Staff Writer

In Leah Cypess' novel "Mistwood" the Shifter is a being of legend, wild, powerful, and able to take on any shape it chooses.

Its purpose is to protect Samornian royalty, but for years now the Shifter has been gone, vanished into the wilds of Mistwood and some have begun to believe it was indeed only a creature of myth.

That is, until the Samornian prince Rokan brings her back with him to the castle. Isabel has few memories of anything before the here and now, but she knows that, as the Shifter, it is her duty to guard Rokan from attack.

He's hiding something from her though, and the more Isabel unravels of the truth, the more she begins to wonder if she should be protecting him at all. On top

of it all, Isabel has to come to terms with who she was and who she is now.

The mystery surrounding Isabel's history is what makes the book so enthralling. Cypess keeps the reader guessing as Isabel gains piece after piece of a complicated puzzle. There are several revelations along the way, many of which one wouldn't see coming.

Book review

Though the book is chock-full of gripping intrigue and action-filled scenes, perhaps even more enjoyable is seeing the more personal side of the story as Isabel learns about who she truly is and what life she desires to lead.

At first she is cool, distanced, and cynical in a way

and then as the novel progresses, she begins to experience human emotions she doesn't understand.

Isabel is not the most sympathetic heroine from the start, but she wins readers over as she struggles with self-doubt and comes to better understand her abilities and limitations.

The best thing about the Shifter is that she is the novel. In a book about discovering the mysteries self-identity, Isabel is a perfect star.

She is insecure and struggling with the very literal question of who she is and what her purpose in life was supposed to be.

Watching her grow, get her answers and figure out what to do with them makes this book wonderful. It is a great balance of strong female lead with the insecurity that everyone feels.

In a tale of magic, past



wrongs, revenge and what it means to be human, this book gives readers something to think about when it comes to life and who we all are as humans.

It's a mystical, captivating and thoroughly enchanting read that left readers wanting more.

The text is lyrical yet powerful, diplomatic yet mystifying, and it leaves readers wanting more with every word.

'Taken 2' lives up to original film

By Hilary Williams
Staff Writer

"Taken 2" is the sequel to the original action film "Taken." In the film, a large group of Albanians want revenge on the main character Bryan Mills (Liam Neeson) for killing and torturing their relatives due to the kidnapping and forced prostitution of Mills' daughter in the first film.

Mills and his ex-wife, Lenore (Famke Janssen) are taken hostage by a gang of Albanians. The couple's daughter, Kim (Maggie Grace) avoids being captured and proves to be quite the hero in many instances of the film.

"Taken 2" doesn't have the same element of surprise as the original "Taken," but there is an ample amount of suspense and action to keep the audience captivated.



How to throw a smashing holiday party



By Sarah Lane
Asst. Print Editor

The holidays are a time of celebration, and one popular way to celebrate the holidays is by throwing a holiday party.

According to Erica Simpson, assistant professor of communication and Rome Area Council for the Arts event planner, there are five things to think about before starting to plan a holiday party.

The first thing to think about is the direction or theme of the party.

It can be a fancy event or

a tacky Christmas sweater party. The theme of the party is going to influence the rest of the planning.

The next thing to think about is who, when and how long.

When thinking about who to invite, one idea is to mix up guests. Simpson suggests inviting people who don't normally hang out with each other in order to form new relationships.

The date of the party is also an important factor. Parties during the week tend to be milder, whereas a weekend offers guests a chance to loosen up.

Also, the time of the party and how long the party will last can influence the party atmosphere.

An invitation to an afternoon party should have an end time so guests know when it is time to go home.

The third thing to consider when planning a party is the food.

Would the guests enjoy a full meal or simple hors d'oeuvres? The type of food can also be influenced by the time of day the party is held.

When a party is held during a meal time, guests expect to be fed a full meal.

Hors d'oeuvres are more acceptable during afternoon or late evening parties.

The next thing to consider goes hand in hand with the theme of the party, and that is how to dress for the party.

If the theme is tacky Christmas sweaters, it is important to make sure guests know to show up in a tacky Christmas sweater.

Otherwise, the host will be the only one in a tacky sweater and the guests might start to question his or her fashion choices.

The last thing to think about is entertainment for

the party.

Music is essential to any party, and a great thing to do is personalize a playlist for the party.

If guests have favorite songs, include them in the playlist.

Since it is a holiday party, gift exchanges are a fun way to enhance things.

Also, fun games like Dirty Santa give all the guests chances to get to know each other.

Whichever direction someone decides to go, throwing a party is a great way to celebrate the holidays.

What are your plans for the holidays?

Floyd campus students



Howard World

"Our holidays we spend at my mother's home with my wife, my three boys and two girls, my two sisters and my nephew. We do our usual cooking, enjoy our traditional movie night together and a wonderful outdoor walk."

"For Thanksgiving my mom, dad, eight sisters and four brothers and I are all going to our annual family reunion at Hilton Head, SC and for Christmas we're all going back to Disney World for a long overdue family vacation. This will be our first time all back together to Disney World since a long while."



Kelsea Murdock

"Our tradition is to go to Nanny's house for the Holidays, both Thanksgiving and Christmas. We open gifts with my family...but our favorite thing to do is to watch our cousins get excited about Santa. For Thanksgiving...we love our Nanny's fudge and peanut butter candy that she makes from scratch every holiday!"



Jacqueline Pack



Cartersville campus students



Marcie Johnson



Stacy Haynes



Amelia Bagwell

"I'm looking forward to relax and excited to be spending time with family, especially since my mother-in-law will be visiting from England."

"I'm really excited to be going skiing with my family for New Years and will be spending time with family during Thanksgiving and Christmas. Most of all, I'll be doing lots of studying!"

"Spending time with my family, grateful for every moment I can share with my loved ones and LOTS of cooking!"

Photos by Tatiana Smithson

Women's team lights the fuse against Bobcats

By Kaitlyn Hyde
Staff Writer

Georgia Highlands College's Floyd Campus gymnasium played host to the second home game for the Lady Chargers on Tuesday Nov. 6.

This was the birth of what could be a heated rivalry between the Lady Chargers and the Lady Bobcats of Georgia Northwestern Technical College.

The home team overcame their opponent with a final score of 90-55.

Members of the men's team made an appearance to cheer on the Lady Chargers from the stands, along with students, professors, staff and family members.

The Lady Bobcats started off fired up and put up eight unanswered points before the Lady Chargers had a chance to know what hit them.

Both crowds roared with exclamations of excitement and boos.

However, things changed soon after that point. There were a total of four lead changes in the first half, and the Lady Chargers took over



Photo by Kaitlyn Hyde

Amber Curtis of the GHC Lady Chargers advances the ball on a fast break pursued by (from left), Lady Bobcats Odessa Person, Amber Johnson and Terika Mostella.

the game with a lead of seven points by the half.

Shakierya "Peach" Mc-

Clendon had the most first-half points for the Lady Chargers with 12. Shay Hol-

ston also had 10.

The Lady Chargers also took advantage of the Lady

Bobcats' inability to keep control of the ball with 12 points coming from turnovers.

The Lady Chargers also played well defensively with 25 defensive stops in the first half.

The second half started off with even more fire than the first. Players were often slung around on the ground in the battle for the ball. In the second half, the Lady Chargers held their ground and kept possession of the ball in addition to the game.

Holston stepped up in the second half and finished with a total of 35 points. McClen-don trailed her with a total of 22 points. Head coach Brandan Harrell commented on Holston's second half play, which helped lead the team to victory.

"We have other players that have that ability and they have to learn how to do that all of the time, and I think that was probably the most impressive thing about this was seeing her really take the game over," Harrell said.

Overall, the first chapter in the rivalry of these two NJCAA teams was one to be remembered.

Miranda Morgan won a \$20 prize for being an avid reader of the Six Mile Post and participating in our contest.



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Lady Chargers victorious in home opener

By Becky Crooks
Sports Editor

The Lady Chargers basketball team stepped into the Floyd campus gym on Nov. 4 for the inaugural home game of the season versus the Wallace State Lady Lions.

To begin the game, Georgia Highlands' Shanique Holston faced Wallace State's Jasmine Coleman for the tip off.

GHC quickly took the lead in the game, and the Lady Lions fought hard to keep up.

The game was fast-paced, and even during the downtimes, the pep band and audience kept the energy alive.

By halftime, the Lady Chargers led the Lady Lions 40-20.

At the beginning of the second half, GHC scored eight unanswered points before Wallace State began to catch up.

Though Wallace State outscored the Lady Chargers 41-35 in the second half, they could not make up the first-half deficit.

The Lady Chargers beat the Lady

Lions 75-61. Wallace State's Ashley Nance led the team with 16 points, and Amber Curtis led GHC with 14 points.

Both teams left the court with their heads held high, but the Lady Chargers left the court with their second win in a row. Their excitement could be seen in each of the players' faces.

Shakierya McClendon, a point guard for GHC, stated, "I liked the intensity; our teamwork is what really won it for us."

The players weren't the only ones enjoying the win. Brandan Harrell, the Lady Chargers head coach, was "extremely happy" with the way the women played the first half. The second half was a little rougher than he preferred, though.

Harrell said that the team is going to be "learning how to win instead of learning how not to lose" because that's how they played the last 10 minutes of the game. Harrell admitted that this was probably due to the pressure and distraction of it being the first home game.



Photo by Ryan Jones

Shan'Taja Latimore goes for a layup.

Wallace State Lions too much for Chargers in first home game



Photo by Kaitlyn Hyde

Forward Matt Welch grabs a rebound at the Chargers' home opener.

By Andrew West
Editor-in-chief

While the atmosphere at the home opener of GHC's basketball seasons was one of excitement and energy, it was not enough to help the men's team get its first win of the season.

The Chargers put up a good fight in the wake of the Lady Chargers victory over the Lady Lions. In the end, however, the Chargers struggled against the full-court press of Wallace State College, and had trouble getting the ball down the court, committing 24 turnovers over the course of the game, eventually losing 79-70.

When they were able to advance the ball down the court, they struggled to move the ball in the paint.

This problem led to some questionable perimeter shooting decisions, and as a result the Chargers were unable to draw very many fouls in order to stop the clock late in the game.

The game was close at the half, with the Chargers down by one point at 36-37.

At one point in the second half, the Chargers were able to get momentum on their side

as they built up a double-digit lead.

Eventually, Wallace State went on a run to take the lead back from the Chargers. They held on from there to come out on top with a road win.

It was their first victory of the season in their first game.

Wallace State finished last season strongly, snagging the Alabama Community College Conference/Region 22 state championship.

The kind of talent Wallace State brought to the table proved to be quite the challenge for GHC. However, the Chargers showed some promise by maintaining a lead for much of the second half.

Commenting on the results of the game, Chargers Coach Phillip Gaffney said, "Boy, if we could have beaten them, it would have sent shock waves through the Junior League around the country."

Guard Damon Mitchell was the Chargers high scorer with 19 points. He was perfect on free throws, going five for five. He also made two 3-pointers and was four for five on field goal attempts.