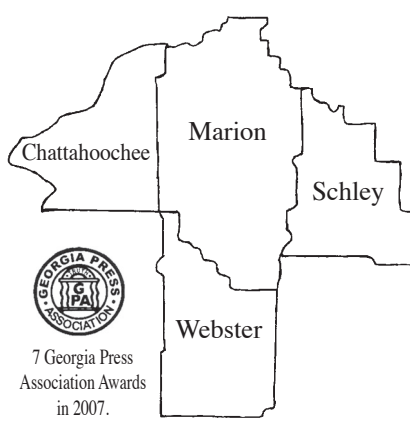




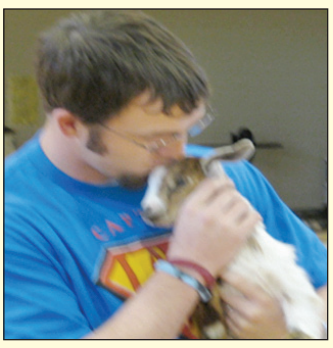
Pep Rally 'Rocks' Marion: Page 5

The Tri-County Journal & Chattahoochee Chronicle



'Kiss-A-Pig' raises money for Webster County Schools

Dr. Stevens was the "winner" in the Kiss-A-Pig Contest held this week at Webster County Schools. He was a great sport and gave the piglet a big smooch much to the delight of the students gathered to watch. Mr. McCullough (Coach Mac, as he is called by the students) was the second runner up in the contest and won the honor of kissing a baby goat. The Reading Fest Committee would like to thank everyone for supporting this fundraiser. Special thanks to Mr. Cameron Barley for bringing the animals for the event.



Cusseta to host public meeting about growth related to Fort Benning

A public meeting to discuss the Fort Benning Regional Growth Management Plan (RGMP) and BRAC-related growth in Cusseta-Chattahoochee County is scheduled for Tuesday, February 24, 6:30 p.m. at the Chattahoochee County Courthouse. During the past year, the RGMP team of planning professionals and local experts has studied current conditions, identified areas of concern and is now presenting initial findings and draft

recommendations for each of the 10 counties in Alabama and Georgia participating in the RGMP. The meeting will be led by team planning partners SAIC, EDAW, RKG and Market Street Services, each with extensive experience in assisting local communities plan and prepare for quality growth. The Regional Growth Management Plan includes plans for transportation, education, utilities and infrastructure, land use planning, housing, fiscal impact, public safety and

emergency services, health care, quality of life, and social services. Sponsored by the Valley Partnership Joint Development Authority (VPJDA), the RGMP is the second of two major planning efforts undertaken by the region and is funded in large part by grants awarded by the Department of Defense, Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA), the agency charged with helping BRAC-affected communities adjust to the impacts of mission changes at military installations.

The Valley Partnership is a bi-state multi-governmental entity with the mission to enhance the development and promotion of commerce, trade, industry and employment opportunities for the public good and general welfare of the Chattahoochee Valley Region. For more information, please contact Donna Kay Brown at dkbrown@thevalleypartnership.com or at 706-649-3945. More information can be found at the RGMP website www.fortbenningandthevalley.com.

Deep in the Marion County woods, 'KindleWood Retreat' offers much

Pastor Andy Greene has a vision for the community. But it's not for a new development or strip mall. It's a vision of love. Situated on 102 acres in Marion County, a humble dream is taking shape in the form of KindleWood Church and Retreat Center. Slowly, men and women from all walks of life are finding peace and forgiveness in the simplicity of the Gospel and the friendship of a loving community. Greene's little church in the woods has a mission: to share the Gospel and bring Christ's command to "love thy neighbor" to life.



Youth pose during a recent paintball event.

"I make the early disciples look like Ivy Leaguers. But I know that God loves me and I'm supposed to share that love, especially in these times of economic confusion and general despair, a little love goes a long way."

Andy Greene, pastor of KindleWood Church & Retreat Center

are not here to take people from other churches and I want people to know that we're not here in spite of you - we're here in addition to you. We certainly don't think our little fellowship is better than any other. As long as there are people that aren't in church, but know they need God, there's room for another

fellowship of believers. And if you're a pastor or church leader who would like to come over to pray with us and connect - I would love to meet you. And Pastor Greene is serious. He's given up an early retirement to follow his Savior. The church and its ministry are supplemented by an unlikely

source, Sledgehammer Paintball, and Greene himself takes no salary. In his church's adjoining acreage, every weekend you'll hear the "pop-pop-pop" of discharged Co2 cartridges as paintball fans from around the state play war games in the many cleverly constructed fields. Many of the field's scenarios were actually put together with the input of military strategists from Ft. Benning. The small but regular income brought in by the business allows Greene to spend

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Schley County High is AP Honor School

State Superintendent of Schools Kathy Cox named more than 80 Advanced Placement (AP) Honor Schools recently. Among them was Schley County High School. SCHS was recognized as an "AP Challenge School," a special designation for schools with fewer than 900 students that are offering AP classes in all four academic areas. "Georgia is making tremendous strides with Advanced Placement - not only in the number of students taking the courses, but in the number of students having success," Superintendent Cox said. "Much of that progress comes from the dedication to rigor and excellence at each of our AP Honor Schools." Advanced Placement (AP) classes and exams are

administered by the College Board, which also administers the SAT. AP classes offer rigorous college-level learning options to students in high school. Students who receive a 3, 4 or 5 on AP exams may receive college credit. The 2009 AP Honor Schools are named in three categories, based on the results of 2007-2008 AP classes and exams. On February 4, the College Board released the AP Report to the Nation, which showed that Georgia ranked 15th nationally in the percentage of 2008 high school seniors that had at least one AP exam with a score of 3 or more. For more about the AP Report to the Nation visit, go to: http://www.gadoe.org/pea_communications.aspx?ViewMode=1&obj=1746.



Part of Oakcrest Lumber's new facility in Newport, Tennessee

One of Marion's largest employers has expanded into Tennessee

Oakcrest Lumber adds drying yard, plans to expand with flooring plant

For the last two decades Oakcrest Lumber has been one of the largest employers in Marion County. The company recently expanded by adding a facility in Tennessee, which it plans to develop in the future to be similar in size to the operation in Buena Vista. The Buena Vista plant employs around 200 people and produces about 16 million feet of lumber and more than 13.7 million square feet of hardwood flooring per year. The new facility in Newport, Tennessee is a drying yard for hardwood lumber that was opened in 2007. It currently employs 11 workers, but is projected to employ as many as 120 in the future. "This project is presently in operation with future plans of having a flooring plant there to manufacture solid hardwood



Lumber stacked at the company's Tennessee facility

flooring," said Wesley Weaver, founder of the company. "This facility will be similar to what is in Buena Vista; however, due to the downturn in the housing industry it was necessary to postpone the flooring plant construction temporarily." Mr. Weaver, 67, is no stranger to the industry. He has 39 years of related experience in manufacturing, originally with C&W, the Buena Vista company that he sold in 1989, which then became Baby's Dream. He started Oakcrest Lumber the same year. "For several years we have been looking for the right area in

the Appalachian timber region to locate another flooring manufacturing facility," added Weaver. "There were several factors to consider when looking for a location, such as available workforce, the local tax rates, local regulations, and general attitude of the local officials toward a manufacturing facility, and Newport, Tennessee was a good fit. When the housing market emerges, we plan to go ahead with the flooring manufacturing facility. We plan to employ about 65 people and at full capacity about 120."

Schley Commission discusses phone system, repairs, consolidation possibility

By LINDA ADAMS Chairman Greg Barineau began the Commissioners meeting in Schley County by welcoming those of the community who were in attendance. He first told of changing the county's phone system from Southern Link to Verizon to save \$300 to \$400 a month. Clyde Grimsley was directed to get contractor prices on repairing the courthouse windowsills and a leak in the Post Office building. He is also to get prices on a replacement gate with a manual lock for the existing automated gate that required an

expensive repair. Grimsley was charged with pricing a tractor and mowers prior to the mowing season. An additional pickup will also be sought for the Water System employees. Calvin Welch of the Water System Department suggested raising the reconnect rate from \$50 to \$75 to cover the cost of the service. The suggestion was voted in. Holloway Road, which runs from Andersonville Road down to US Highway 19, will be closed while the work on the highway is being done. Many people take that road as a shortcut and will

not be able to until the work is completed. Kathy Tondee and Mary Storey were appointed to the DFACS Board to fill the seat for Imogene McLendon who is retiring from the board and the late Cora Dell Black. Janice Folds was reappointed to the Board of Assessors. Barineau presented a resolution from David Theiss, Mayor of City of Ellaville, to consider forming a committee to evaluate consolidation of the county and city governments. He said that the resolution did not lock the

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