

“There’s no better time than right now to be a George County Rebel.”

# THE STUDENT PRESS



Vol. 32 No. 3

February 2018

## Strange, Taylor win Yearbook Competitions



photos/ Alyssa Dean and Camron Stegall

“Wear your crown and stand tall”- Junior Shelby Strange received the title of Most Beautiful. First alternate was awarded to senior Mikayla Cochran, second alternate was awarded to senior Madalyn Havard, third alternate was awarded to sophomore Brooke Welford and fourth alternate was awarded to freshman Kamdyn Fairley. Senior Naomi Taylor received Most Talented. The band, On the Move, received second place in the talent competitions.

Chloe Russell  
Sports Editor

On Feb. 2, the journalism department hosted its annual Yearbook Competitions. Students competed in categories of Campus Beauty and Most Talented.

The title of Most Beautiful was awarded to junior Shelby Strange. Strange was also awarded with Most Photogenic.

“It was very exciting, and I felt so honored,” Strange said.

The first alternate was senior Mikayla Cochran, and senior Madalyn Havard was selected as second alternate. Third alternate was sophomore Brooke Welford, and fourth alternate was freshman Kamdyn Fairley.

Seniors Paige Fairley and Haven Atkinson were both awarded with the audience choice awards.

Before the beauty portion of the competition, five students competed in the Most Talented contest with hopes of walking away with the title of Most Talented.

Judges selected senior Naomi Taylor as the “Most Talented” student for her performance of “The Way You Make Me Feel” by Michael Jackson.

“I chose ‘The Way You Make Me Feel’ by Michael Jackson as my song because I love Michael

Jackson, and every time I play that song I just want to dance,” Taylor said. “It’s a very fun song, and it makes me happy.”

This is Taylor’s second year of winning “Most Talented.”

There were many emotions that were flooding through Taylor’s mind when the emcee announced that she had won.

“It [winning first place] was a very proud moment,” Taylor said. “It was very encouraging to see all the hard work paying off.”

Second place was awarded to the band, On the Move. The band members are juniors Kody McCraney, Colton Curry, along with seniors Daniel Stringfellow and Dustin Grant. On the Move performed the country hit “Tennessee Whiskey.”

The audience choice award was awarded to junior Isaac Burns. Burns performed “Easter Medley” by Anthem Lights.

All proceeds from the Yearbook Competition went to the journalism department to publish the 2018 Reflections Yearbook.

Journalism adviser Leona O’Neal looks forward to the yearbook competitions every year.

“It is a lot of work, but it’s nice to see everyone dress up and have fun,” O’Neal said. “We really wish more students would participate.”

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## 2018-2019 class scheduling begins

Alyssa Dean  
News Editor

With the spring semester comes the scheduling of next year’s classes.

“We are going to do things a little different this year,” Assistant Principal Jennifer Mathis said. “Students will be called out in small groups to the computer labs. The counselors will be in each computer lab to help them do a credit check, explain the schedule and give them the scheduling information. We think that in small groups the counselors will be able to help students with questions they have.”

Students will be given a packet of information regarding credit checks and their transcript. According to Jennifer, it is important that students pay attention to the graduation requirements.

“Make sure to check the requirements you need, the classes that

you need, and think long time what is it that you want to do outside of high school,” Jennifer said. “Choose the classes that will help better prepare you for your future.”

To graduate students need to take four English, mathematics, science and history classes. Students are also required to have a half credit for health, a half credit for PE, one computer technology credit, one fine art credit and two elective credits. A total of 28 credits are needed to graduate.

Along with 28 credits, students also need to pass the following state tests: English 2, Biology 1, Algebra 1 and U.S. History.

On March 1 the school will be hosting a career academy night for freshmen. Freshmen are required to select a career academy to base their schedule around. On the career academy night, CTE teachers and directors will explain what

each career academy is to the students and parents and will walk them through the process.

According to CTE Director Jeff Mathis, the career academies are important to guide students through courses that will align with their chosen future career.

“Academies can help a student decide if their career is right for them before they begin their college career,” Jeff said. “This will help save money and time for the students.”

Students can choose from one of three academies. These academies include CAAB (Culinary Agriculture, Arts, and Business), HHS (Humanities and Human Services) and STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics).

Freshmen and their parents are encouraged to attend the career academy night to learn more information about the academies.

## Upcoming Events

- Feb. 16- Skills USA Competition
- Feb. 17- Raider Meet
- Feb. 19-20/22-23 - Student Credit Checks
- Feb. 23- Blood Drive
- Feb. 27- ACT
- Feb. 28- ASVAB
- Feb. 28- Prom Review
- March 1- Career Academy Night
- March 2- FFA District Competition

## Rebel Battalion trains for spring semester competitions

Anna Persons  
Staff Reporter

The Rebel Battalion continues to work second semester through their more physical training based season for the cadets. Competitions, projects, and practices keep them all in constant motion.

“Cadets really enjoy raider competitions,” Sergeant First Class James Williams said, “They are all very self-motivated students, and they put forth a lot effort.”

JROTC holds its first competition, “Swamp Stomp,” Feb. 17 at George County High School. At this event, there will be a series of different events, such as tug-of-war and a course that tests teamwork, for other schools to compete in. The battalion will also be featuring their new obstacle course.

Their physical training team competes in its first competition March 3 at Petal High School, and their next competition is March 10 at d'Iberville High School.

“We have a very slim chance but still a chance to compete in Washington this summer,” junior cadet CPT John Mills said.

The cadets also have the military ball March 3, a formal dining event for all JROTC programs in

the area. The battalion and its seniors will be recognized at this formal dining event.

The battalion is also active in the 100-Mile Challenge where the cadets try to run or walk 100 miles in a certain amount of time.

JROTC also went to the middle school to recruit for new cadets.

“We are actively recruiting for new quality cadets that are physically fit and also in good academic and disciplinary standing for the program,” said Williams.

Whether it be competitions or just being physically active, JROTC does not stop.



photo courtesy GCHS JROTC

## Riser receives STAR Student award

Makayla Steede  
Opinions Editor

Senior Ashley Riser has been awarded the title of Student Teacher Achievement Recognition known as the STAR award.

Riser earned this award by working tirelessly to make a 35 on her ACT and having the highest weighted GPA in the senior class.

Even though Riser held the highest ACT score for many months, whether or not she would receive STAR student was thrown into question when another senior made a 35 on her ACT.

“I had been called into Mrs. West’s office,” Riser said. “When I went in there [West’s office], she told me I had gotten STAR student, but I told her that another student had made a 35. The school had not received that score yet, so she told me that she would call me back later after they looked into that.”

After realizing the two students had the same score, West compared the students’ weighted GPA. When Riser’s proved to be higher, she was awarded STAR student.

“It was a surprise because after I found out that someone else had a 35, I did not know what would

happen,” Riser said.

Making a 35 on the ACT required a lot of work from Riser.

“I had ACT prep during Rebel Time, I took practice tests in Mrs. Robert’s class, I also did practice tests in calculus and then I went home and did practice tests,” Riser said.

As a part of being STAR student, Riser was allowed to pick a STAR teacher. In the end, Riser picked biology teacher Justin Evans.

Evans has been teaching for 27 years, and this is his first time being selected for STAR teacher.

Riser is planning on attending Mississippi State for organic chemistry.

## Automotive class passes recent inspection

Olivia Wachsman  
Staff Reporter

The automotive department recently passed an inspection by the National Automotive Technician Education Foundation. They were evaluated on their instructor, tools and equipment, as well as the program as a whole.

The department has been working towards this for over a year. New lifts and equipment were bought to get ready for this inspection.

“It feels like we’ve taken a large step towards being a professional learning environment,” senior Payne Boyd said. “We now have a shop of the same quality as our instructor.”

Students from all three classes

worked toward meeting this goal.

“We had to paint the floor, mark the safety equipment and have all the equipment bolted to the floor,” Boyd said.

This kind of inspection influences the automotive department’s ranking at the school.

“Having NATEF under my belt is God-sent,” Automotive teacher Lisa Tripowski said.

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## Trump completes first year; parties continue division

### Staff Editorial

For over a year now, President Donald Trump has been running the United States of America from the keypad of his Twitter account.

The day Trump set foot in the Oval Office, he defied and challenged what it meant to be President of the United States.

Since becoming the Commander in Chief, Trump has waged war on the press, battled with foreign leaders on Twitter, faced claims of sexual assault, brought Americans closer to nuclear war, rewritten the rules of presidency and raged against the investigation about his possible collusion with Russia.

Abandoning the old ways of diplomacy and discretion, Trump has shocked the world with his blunt and tactless ways of communicating.

Early into his presidency, Trump pulled out of several international deals.

This disregard of foreign affairs not only has caused global tension,

but it is also interfering with our reputation as a world leader.

By pulling out of global affairs, we are giving up the right to be a part of the decision-making process, while also damaging the authority and respect that we receive from other countries.

However, the stock market is skyrocketing, and the unemployment rate is below average.

As president, Trump looked to reform taxes and create a new tax plan that offered tax breaks to corporate America while also offering tax-cuts to individuals.

Trump is not the first president to attempt this policy of “trickle down economics” that has, historically, never succeeded.

No matter where they fall on the political spectrum, most Americans hope Trump will step away from his Twitter accounts and focus on his leadership skills.

Whether Americans agree with him or not, Trump is president, and they should hope he succeeds because if he fails, America fails.



How do you think Trump did his first year in office?



“Trump did great; he gave Americans their money back.”  
-Kamdyn Fairley, 9



“He’s progressive, but he’s done a lot of bad and is not presidential.”  
-Fransico Mills, 11



“In my opinion, he’s very childish and insulting.”  
-Justin Bridges, 10

## Staff Speaks

### Holiday sends mixed signals

Ashton Williams  
Staff Reporter

Candy hearts are coated with trademark slogans reading: “Be Mine,” “Sweetheart” and phrases meant to entice the receiver.

Chocolates are purchased with the intent of being consumed by significant others.

Roses are delivered to a multitude of doorsteps in efforts to surprise the ones we adore.

We spend countless hours preparing for a holiday that parades around a four letter word that is

damaging to many—love.

From an adolescent age, children are told to purchase Valentine’s Day cards and candies in an effort to celebrate this so-called “holiday.”

Subconsciously, these toddlers sort through a multitude of cards picking out the most fitting phrases for the ones they favor the most.

The idea of “love” is beginning to intoxicate the minds of children.

Through these taught habits, we also begin to flood children’s minds with the idea that they should discover love sooner versus later.

Young love is heavily harped on

throughout the month of February; the stains of this tainted love should be eliminated.

To battle against the idea of finding love at a young age, children should be encouraged to love themselves more and, above all, pushed to pursue an education.

As a society, we should shift our focus to more important areas.

In turn, English should be adorned with enriched vocabulary.

Novels should be purchased with the intent of exposing young minds to ideas; children should understand the world around them.

### Beauty standards harm teens

Anna Persons  
Staff Reporter

When little girls and boys tell any person what they want to be when they grow up, the first word from their lips should not be “thinner.” With societal standards and opinions, we push these unrealistic expectations of what people should look like everyday.

If someone is naturally thinner, often times they are told to gain weight. People with severe acne are given endless facial scrubs. Society tells short people to wear heels and it tells tall people to never dare to wear anything with a heel.

People are applauded for doing such unnatural things to their bodies that they have health issues of all types as a goal for today’s so-

ciety. Children are learning they need to be on an unhealthy end of the spectrum of bodies just to be accepted in the ever-changing world surrounding them.

Groups of people are missing from magazine covers and front-page news stories. In the past, a small amount of campaigns like the Dove campaign have been made trying to represent as many body types as they can, but the truth is not every single body type can be properly shown in just one campaign. Representation does not just happen with one or two somewhat known campaigns.

Instead of teaching a new generation to fear the numbers on a scale or flinch at their reflection in a dressing room mirror we should give them proper portrayal in the

media. People should feel comfortable to walk confidently knowing that society recognizes that every person is physically different.

From a young age, people are taught everyone is not the same and that people are special because of this. Society should follow through with their standards that it broadcasts. Being different from suffocating standards should be the norm instead of creating outcasts out of beautiful people.

Men and women alike experience difficulties trying to mold themselves to impossible norms instilled from a young age. Self acceptance will never truly happen if we keep the same backwards mind-set from years of conditioning. Cookie cutters are made for cookies and not for people; it is time to accept that.

### Men feel societal pressures, struggle with insecurities

Chloe Russell  
Sports Editor

There is a rare theory circulating the internet that many have not addressed. Men have feelings, too.

According to the BC Medical Journal, 76 percent of suicides are committed by men and suicide is the leading cause of death for men under 50. There are many factors that contribute to this rate, but one overall factor is the fact that men have been taught to tune out their feelings and emotions since adolescence. They are limited to which emotions they are allowed to express and none of which even resemble sadness or insecurity.

“Man up, toughen up,” is a common phrase told to boys since the time they are able to walk. Instead of being taught to express themselves, they are taught to bundle it all up. Not only do they bundle up their emotions but they also bundle up all the insecurities they have.

It is emasculating for men, when people think they actually have feelings. Men having feelings is an unspoken secret that everyone knows, but no one acknowledges, and if anyone dares to mention their insecurities, they are bombarded with slurs. They are dubbed “too feminine” if they breathe a

word about emotions. For many the word emotion is not even in their usual vocabulary.

Society needs to normalize men expressing their feelings and insecurities and maybe then the staggering suicide rate could drop.

Just like there are unrealistic expectations and standards for women, there are for men also.

Men see models in magazines and trainers, and expect to be just like them, just like when women look in “Vogue.” Guys see themselves as too skinny and undesirable, or they see themselves as too big and not a real man. The perfect man is supposed to be over six feet tall and have a six-pack of sculpted abs.

They must have bulging muscles and beautiful blue eyes and tan skin. All of these traits are unrealistic and are only seen in famous actors, athletes and public figures.

The feeling of vulnerability is deep rooted in men but often pushed aside. It is O.K. to feel vulnerable, it is O.K. to be depressed, it is O.K. to cry. Remember, real men express themselves. Men have feelings, too.

All stories on this page are opinion in nature and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Student Press newspaper staff, the adviser or school officials of George County High School or the George County School District.

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# Shopping trips teach students skills



photo courtesy Stephanie Long

**Gifts from the heart-** Long embraces Dickerson after receiving her groceries and thank you letter.

Haley Berry  
Features Editor

"Dear Mrs. Long, thank you for letting me buy your spoons, bottle of water and bananas. I learned why to buy green bananas."

This is an excerpt from a letter sent to teacher Stephanie Long from student Emily Dickerson, thanking Long for the contribution she has made in helping further her education.

The Strategies for Successful Living class has recently begun a new way of learning as well as helping others.

This class works to teach special needs students basic skills and preparing them for daily living in the real world.

The student's advisors send out an email to all teachers the second and last week of every month with a Google sheet attached; this offers them the opportunity to have their groceries picked up for them.

Teachers, Elizabeth Cobb, Megan Williams and Ella Silas arrange the shopping trip for the students.

Teachers interested in participating, give the advisors the amount for the cost of their groceries.

The students then go into the library and make picture sheets on Google Slides which serve as a visual grocery list.

"My favorite part is looking at the aisle, [and] trying to figure out what's on the aisle by looking at the pictures," student Brianna Jordan said.

Once the students return to school, they write thank you letters for the teachers who participated in the grocery shopping experience.

"We thank the teachers for letting us buy their groceries and we tell them what we learn in our letters," Jordan said.

Long tells of her gratitude when she received the thank-you letter from Dickerson.

"The thank-you letter was my favorite part," Long said. "It was the most precious thing."

Cobb explains just a few of the skills that students gain by going out and experiencing the real-world.

"This exposes them to grocery list making, buying skills, social skills and a lot of daily skills," Cobb said.

During this process, the students are responsible for figuring up the cost of the items as well as paying for them.

"This benefits everyone, while helping the students get hands-on experience," Cobb said.

This act of service not only benefits the students learning from the process but also the teachers who are getting to play a part in his or her education.

The idea is expanding after just a month of establishment. There have been as many as eighteen teachers to participate in one week.

Long also shares the impact of the trip and how the things they are taught will not be in vain.

"This is helping the students with real life application because no matter what they do after high school, they need to be able to go in a store, make a purchase and make sure they're getting the correct change," Long said.

## Slim Chance set to release album

Isaac Burns  
Staff Reporter

"We call ourselves the Slim Chance Band because we got a slim chance of making it anywhere," junior Kody McCraney said.

While in Benndale, Miss. on a Friday night or at a local music festival; one might hear "good ole country music" in their ears. This music is probably coming from Kody McCraney and the Slim Chance Band.

What is different about this band is that it consists of a few familiar faces. Junior Kody McCraney and senior Daniel Stringfellow are on guitar,

GCHS alumnus Micah McKenzie on drum set, and Benndale resident Richard McLeod on fiddle.

The band got its start about six years ago at McCraney's father's restaurant Boondocks in the Benndale community. In the beginning, the band had about five members when McCraney asked if he could play with the band after just learning to play the acoustic guitar.

The band said yes, and the spark grew from there. McCraney started by playing behind the scenes until he got offers to sing a solo for some songs. As time progressed, so did McCraney's talent.

One night the band found a song

called "Slim Chance," and they claimed that the song was special just for McCraney.

"They told me that was my song," McCraney said.

Time has passed, the band has lost members and gained some. Now, the band is prospering more than ever.

They plan to release their first album in March. The album will be available physically and digitally. The album consists of one original song and seven covers.

Also, the group will be playing at the Mason Jar Festival in Benndale on March 28.

The band plays at Boondocks two to three times a month on Friday nights.



photo/ Robyn Moss

**'They're country'**- The Slim Chance Band is made up of GCHS students and alumni. They are creating their first album.

To some this is just a band, but McCraney said, "It's like another family."

Stringfellow, after only being in the band for about a year, feels as if the band has become more than just playing music with a couple guys.

"They all welcomed me with open

arms," Stringfellow said. "They're definitely a family to me, and I've learned so much from them musically. I can honestly say they're some of the best guys I've ever had the privilege to meet and play with."

McCraney said that playing with his "brothers" is never a chore; it is fun.



Valerie Pierce, Math

## Pierce expresses her passion for educating

Alyssa Dean  
News Editor

Valentine's Day, a time where people cherish love they have for a significant other. Math teacher Valerie Pierce focuses on her love for teaching.

"I love teaching," Pierce said. "My favorite part about teaching is the kids. With every child you have in your room, you have the opportunity to say or do something that could change their lives. Everyday I try to make a positive influence on every child I see."

One of the reasons Pierce became a teacher was because of a teacher she had in ninth grade.

"I remember the day in her class where she was talking about European history," Pierce said. "She talked about how the Greeks believed in a well-rounded person. These qualities included an educated, but polite and civil person. It also included someone who is physically active, socially involved and politically involved. I remember I thought that's the kind of person I wanted to be when I grow up. She herself had a lot of personal

charisma and was a real positive influence. She was very good about pushing students. She was good to all of her students and treated them all the same way."

Pierce is committed to ensuring that her students reach the standards that they need to meet and making sure they reach their full potential.

"I want them [the students] to like me, but at the same time I am not willing to give up the standards they need to reach to do that," Pierce said. "Doing what is right for them is not what they always want to do. I want to be someone

who is doing the right thing for the kids, whether they are happy about it or not."

When it comes to career choice, Pierce eventually found the job that she loved after working at State Farm for 18 years as a claims adjuster. She never settled for less.

"Be the best you, you can be," Pierce said. "So many people settle for mediocre and never reach their full potential. In every area of their life they never rise to what they could be. For the longest time when I worked at State Farm, I was not happy with the job, but I stayed because they paid well. I knew the whole time that I was not satisfied with what I was doing. When my grandfather died, it really caused me to take assessment of my life. I realized I was not happy so I started making changes, which finally resulted in me being a teacher."

Pierce eventually found her passion. She discovered that she loved to teach and she does not regret making that decision.



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# Via experiences childhood heart condition

Anna Persons  
Staff Reporter

"We went in for a routine check up, and they sent us to a cardiologist," freshman Jadyn Via said, "That is when we became aware that I had a 98 percent blockage of blood to my heart, and we immediately planned the surgery, and I was only five."

For a lot of people, February is the month of love because of Valentine's Day, but many others see this time of year as a more literal kind of "heart month."

February was deemed American Heart Month in 1964 by President Lyndon B. Johnson to promote awareness for the threat of cardiovascular diseases.

According to the American Heart Association, cardiovascular disease, such as cardiomyopathy and high blood pressure, is still the leading global cause of death with more than 17.3 million deaths every year. This statistic is expected to rise to more than 23.6 million by 2030.

Approximately every forty seconds, an American has a heart attack, and heart disease accounts for every 1 in 7 deaths in the United States as of 2017.

Among these statistics, students here at George County High School have experience dealing with issues involving heart diseases from a young age and even later in life.

"Never underestimate the power and seriousness behind these dis-

eases," said Via, "I was on the verge of dying from my condition without even knowing it happened."

As well as routing checkups with ones doctor, there are even quick, measures that can be taken to restart the heart and in many cases save a patients life or at the least their heart.

"Everyone needs to properly learn how to perform Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation [CPR]," Law and Public Safety teacher John Glass said.

George County High School even offers classes that educate students about heart health and diseases similar to the ones Via has, such as Law and Public Safety and nursing program offered. In these classes, they encourage and educate their students about proper care of one's heart within their curriculum as

well as ways to prevent heart disease with simple changes or more drastic measures in some cases.

"People need to be educated," said health science teacher Tabitha Vice, "They also need to watch their diet and condition of their heart for thirty minutes, four to five times a week, every single week."

Having a heart with a cardiovascular disease can be difficult not only physically but also mentally and emotionally for some patients experiencing this form of illness.

"It is ten years later, and I am still having issues with my heart," Via said, "It his had a major impact on my life."

On Feb. 3, everyone was encouraged to wear the color red in support of heart health awareness in women. This and several dona-



Jadyn Via

tions have been made in the past for research of diseases that affect the state of the heart.

During February, people are urged to be aware of the condition of their heart at all times for a healthier life. This may increase the possibility of escaping becoming just another statistic in those that die.

# Modern technology replaces exchange of love-letters

Haven Atkinson  
Staff Reporter

As a young boy quickly passes a note before the teacher turns around, the note finds its way to a girl. She opens it to see a question and the words "check yes or no."

The girl checks her answer and gives it back to her admirer. Years later, both the girl and guy are so entranced with sending messages that are filled with heart emojis through Snapchat and Facebook, they are completely unaware that they are in speaking distance.

For most couples in this century,

a love letter is a message that is barely five words. It has not always been like that until recently.

Before phones became the top fad, lovebirds would write endless letters to each other to see how their day was going.

In elementary school, love is walking hand in hand during recess. It is gossiping to the other girls about how the boy gives her a piece of his candy.

Elementary love is the couple passing notes to one another during class, lunch and recess.

Junior Carlee Crawford and senior Joby Miller have been dating for three years. Crawford admits that

her and Miller do not write notes.

"We occasionally write notes to each other," Crawford said. "When we do, it is as a pick me up. Also, we will write notes for occasions like anniversaries and Valentine's day."

Freshman Amber Fairley writes notes for any reason, but when she delivers the notes it is not in person.

"When I write notes, I put them in people's mailboxes," Fairley said. "Sure, you can hand them the notes in person, but it takes out the surprise getting a letter in the mail."

Each person in the relationship has their own idea of what is more personal for them whether it be messaging, writing letters or con-

versaing in person.

Junior Hayes Temple believes that conversing in person is more personal, though Fairley disagrees.

"Letters are more personal," Fairley said. "Technology has ruined the notes because of the emojis now. You cannot put emojis in a letter. It is short cutting the love. I used to put stickers in the letters. It made the notes more personalize."

The ways of how love is shown has changed because of technology, it is now all emojis, Snapchat, Instagram and Facebook.

Today, some couples are all about status. It is about whether their Facebook profile says "in a

relationship" or "single."

The idea of love is not about status. It is raw and unconditional.

Crawford and Miller are one of those couples that both share the same idea of love.

"Love is being able to go through struggles with someone and in the end making us stronger," Crawford said. "Love is when he buys you fries after you stole his when you said you weren't hungry."

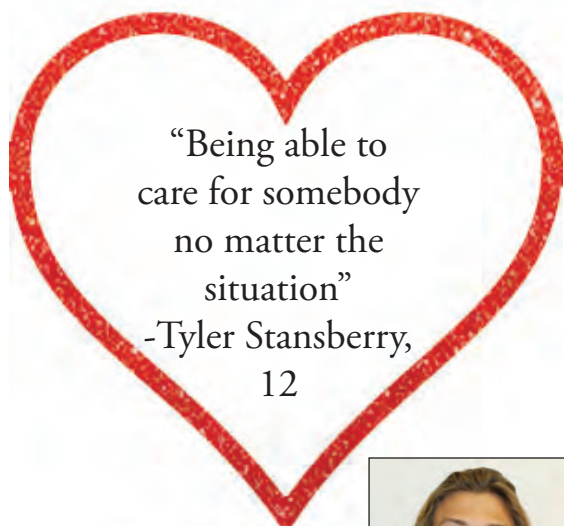
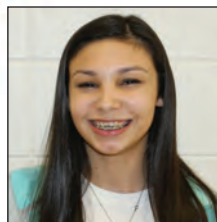
Temple can not think of one term for what love means to him.

"Love, for example, it can be someone you truly care about." Temple said. "Love is love. There is no other way to explain it."

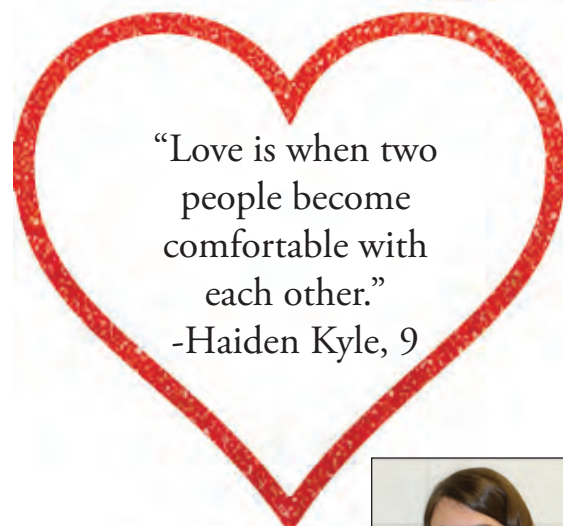
## What is your definition of love?



"Giving someone the last piece of your food"  
-Kayla Sistrunk, 10



"Being able to care for somebody no matter the situation"  
-Tyler Stansberry, 12



"Love is when two people become comfortable with each other."  
-Haiden Kyle, 9



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# 'The Death Cure' disappoints Stegall

Camron Stegall  
Staff Reporter

"The Maze Runner: The Death Cure" is the final installment of the The Maze Runner movie series. The Death Cure is apart of a 5 book series by James Dashner and is a No.1 New York Times bestselling book. The movie is directed by Wes Ball and continues the end of the movie "The Scorch Trials". Thomas, portrayed by Dylan O'Brien, and the Gladers rush to take control of a WCKD train.

Minho, who is portrayed by Ki Hong Lee, is captured by WCKD and is transported on the train that Thomas and The Gladers are trying to obtain. WCKD reinforcements arrive while the Gladers are trying to obtain a piece of the cargo by using a stolen WCKD aircraft. After obtaining the cargo, the Gladers realize that Minho was not on the train. Throughout the movie they are trying to rescue Minho.

With Thomas and the team of Gladers heading back to their base, Thomas regroups with Newt who is played by Thomas Brodie-Sang-

ster. Sangster plays a really big and stressful role throughout the movie by helping Thomas lead the Gladers to help find Minho and also find out what is going on in The Last City. Newt is also hiding a very big secret from the group.

Referring back to the book the setting of the story is very different. In the book the setting is an isolated, lone and arid desert. The movie setting was more mountains and grassy areas. Ball stated that he wanted to make the movie futuristic. Ball also wanted to change the main focus on all the male char-

acters instead of the strong female characters who had little spotlight.

As the movie goes on, it gets more intense and progresses rapidly, more conflict arises, and deadlier missions happen. The cast did a good job portraying teenagers trying to survive and find out the truth, but when it came to emotional scenes, they were not the best. The ending, while interesting, was irritating to watch.

Despite the movie's high points, it lacked all of the book's finesse and quality. Overall, the movie was overly dramatic and tiring.



photo/www.cinemogogue.wikia.com



photo/www.electric969.com

## Timberlake releases 'Man of the Woods'

Morgan Wade  
Staff Reporter

In his new music album, Justin Timberlake travels through the woods back to his roots in Tennessee.

This is his first album since his album "The 20/20 Experience."

Although many believed that his new album would have a country twang to it, the songs are teeming

with pop and electronic sounds.

The album, "Man Of The Woods" has songs with titles such as: "Man of the Woods," "Wave," "Morning Light," "Flannel," "Breeze Off The Pond" and "Livin' Off The Land."

While his song "Breeze off the Pond" is more retro pop, "Filthy" has electronic chainsaw sounds mixed with vintage style slap base.

This makes the song different from anything on the radio.

On Feb. 4, Timberlake performed "Filthy" along with songs from his previous albums, in the 2018 Super Bowl halftime show.

The song "Flannel" is the only song that has a totally different sound than the others.

"Flannel" is more of an Indie folk swoon, while most of the other songs have electronic hip hop sounds and guitars.


In the collaboration with Chris Sta-

pleton, the song "Say Something" has an upbeat tune that will make anyone want to get up and dance.

Timberlake also collaborated with pop singer Alicia Keys in the song "Morning Light." Although a few of his new songs are more catchy than others, most of these songs are complementary to each other.

The songs may be similar to each other in many ways, but this album is definitely worth listening to.

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*Misty Luis*

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### Attention Seniors

Ads can still be purchased for the 2018 yearbook~ Senior Ads, Baby Photo Ads, Graduation DVDs, etc.



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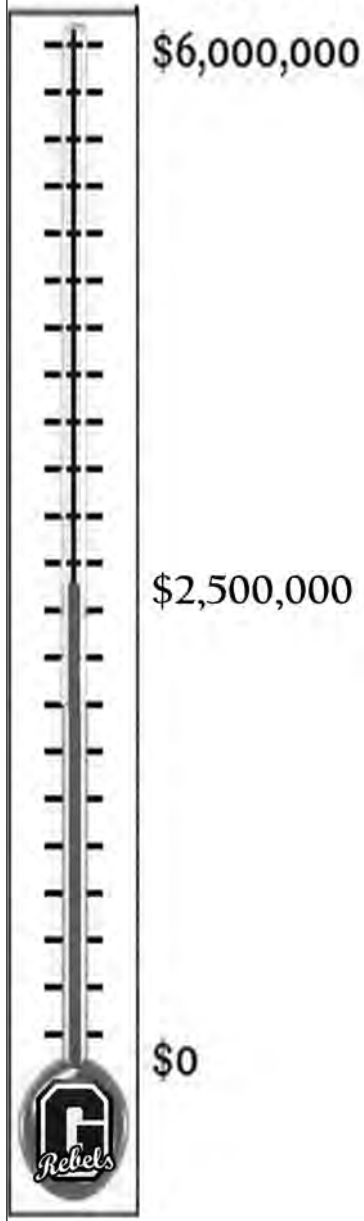
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## Scholarship Goal



# Clubs begin second semester activities

**Garrett Charlton & Spencer Pierce**  
Staff Reporters

### SADD Club

SADD club is gearing up for two campaigns: Pennies for Patients and Prom Promise. SADD club will pair with the Law and Public Safety class to simulate a drunk driving accident closer to prom.

Pennies for Patients is a fundraiser for cancer patients; the entire high school will raise money for those in need. See Angie Ring in Tech Lab 2 for further details.

### Student Council

Student Council is selling Match

Maker cards at lunch and delivering roses during class. They are also preparing for the next blood drive on Feb. 23.

### Interact

The Interact Club will be holding a teacher luncheon today. They are also planning for the annual Interact Field Day, which has been scheduled for March 23. The Interact Field Day allows children from the local elementary schools to come and enjoy a day full of fun activities provided by the Interact Club members.

### Key Club

The Key Club will be going to the Sparrow Hills Nursing home

on Feb. 17. The club will also be participating in a Walk-A-Thon later in March.

### Spanish Club

The Spanish Club is organizing a trip to watch Latin dancers and Spanish musicians.

### Prom Update

The 2018 junior/senior Prom will be held on April 7 at the Battle House Renaissance Hotel in Mobile. The dress code policy from last year will be in place this year, as well with new guidelines in place concerning the facial masks. The theme is masquerade, and the colors are metallic silver and gold. It will start at 7:30, and will continue

until 11:30. Prom Review will be on Feb. 28 during Rebel Time.

### Scholarship Update

Currently, the senior class has received \$2,500,000 in scholarships. The goal that was set for them this year is \$6,000,000. Counselor Debbie West-Terry is strongly urging that seniors check their school emails, as she is regularly updating the students' emails with scholarship updates. When a senior receives a scholarship, he or she should turn it in to West-Terry. She will make a copy of the information, and seniors will be able to keep the original document. Local scholarships will be announced as they are received.

# Distinguished Young Women set for March 10

**Haley Berry**  
Features Reporter

On March 10, eight juniors will participate in George County's 2019 Distinguished Young Women Program for a chance to earn scholarship dollars and represent George County.

The program will be held at the George County Middle School Activ-

ities Building. This program is sponsored by the Lucedale Fine Arts Club.

The theme for this year's DYW program is "The Jazz Age."

Participants for this year's program include Ollia Boykin, Savannah Morgan, Mia Parker, Georgie Phelps, Shelby Strange, Kylan Welford, Courtney Wilkerson and Ashton Williams.

There are six additional awards to win other than the title of George

County's Distinguished Young Woman. Participants will also be competing in the following categories: Jackie Valentine Memorial Interview, Scholastic, Self Expression, Talent, Fitness and the Be Your Best Self Essay.

"I am preparing by reading the news, working on a talent routine and conditioning for fitness," Welford said.

Twenty-one "Little Sisters" will be accompanying the eight participants

and George County 2018 DYW Mary Hulbert. In the weeks leading up to the program the participants' Little Sisters will provide encouragement and gifts to their "Big Sisters."

For many, DYW is an encouraging experience and opportunity to further their education and social abilities.

"It's a great opportunity for girls to make new friends and develop skills they'll need for the rest of their lives," Boykin said.

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# Rebels prepare for district tournament



photo/ Isaac Burns

**'Shoot for the stars'**- Sophomore Moe Smith attempts to make a basket after dodging the blocks of the Perry Central bulldogs. The girls won the game with a score of 57-49.

Isaac Burns  
Staff Reporter

Basketball season is coming to an end, and the only thing between them winning the playoffs is the district tournament.

The boys' basketball team has an overall record of 11-13 and a district record of 0-5. The leading scorer is senior Cameron Hartfield with 16.5 points per game behind him is senior Ja'Quan Hawkins with 12.8 points per game.

Leading in rebounds is Hawkins with an average of 5.6 rebounds per game and junior Dylan Lawrence has an average of 5.1 rebounds per game.

Senior Jamar Jackson leads in assists with an average of 2.2 assists a game while Hartfield has on average 1.5 assists per game.

The district tournament will be

held at Oak Grove this year.

"If we play hard, play smart and play together we can accomplish exactly what we came to do," senior Reagan Husband said.

Husband looks forward to the district tournament this season.

The girls' basketball team has an overall record of 2-13 and a district record of 0-5. The leading scorer is Husband with 12 points a game. Husband also has the highest assists with an average of 4 per game.

Senior Shelby Jones leads her team with 6 rebounds per game.

"Everybody starts over when you make it to district tournament, so anybody can make the playoffs coming out of the tournament," boys' coach Ron Renfroe said.

The results from Monday and Tuesday nights' tournament games were unavailable at press time, and the teams will finish the district tournament on Friday night.

## Upcoming Events

### Baseball

2/17 Jamboree  
@ Greene County

### Fast-Pitch Softball

2/17 Jamboree  
@ Wayne County

### Outdoor Track&Field

3/3 Prince  
Jones Relays  
@Gulfport

## Sports Briefs

Anna Persons & Paige Fairley  
Staff Reporters

### Golf

The first tournament for the boys' team will be Feb. 26. The boys' team three returning starters are sophomore Cy Smith, junior Noah Maskew and senior River Maskew.

The first tournament for the girls team will be Feb. 28. Junior Morgan Broadus is the girls team's only returning starter.

### Softball

The Lady Rebels begin their season with a game Feb 17. The team has six returning varsity starters that includes sophomores Tori Havens and Susie LeBert, junior Raegan Havard and seniors Brooklyn King, Kaitlyn Passeur and Hannah Rasberry.

### Powerlifting

The girls had their last meet on Jan. 27. Their returning starters were juniors Raegan Havard and Kamryn Havard.

The boys had their last meet Feb. 10 and their returning starters were junior Timothy Moran and sophomore McKinnley Jackson. Coach Kenneth Burns believes that each athlete can advance individually.

### Tennis

The first match is to be held on Feb. 23. The tennis team returning players are seniors Andrew Hokanson, Kaleb LITtefield, Jacob Scott, Jaden Scott and Naomi Taylor, junior Grant Eubanks and sophomore Catlin McKissick.

"We have a lot of have seniors this year, and are very excited for the new district." Coach Stephen Pater said. "We also are hoping to go to state [this season]."

### Dance

The dance team will be traveling to Disney World to compete in the Contest of Champions March 1-5. Tryouts will be held March 19-22.

### Track

Track has seniors Tyler Stansberry, Samantha Burkett and Zoe Olson and junior Dylan Lawrence

and sophomore Kaya Ludgood as their returning athletes. The first meet is March. 3.

### Baseball

The returning starters are senior Cameron Cotten and juniors Colby Cochran, Ethan Coleman, Trevor McDonald and Logan Tanner.

"[Because of] having returning starters we have a lot of optimism, but facing a new district we need to be much improved," head coach Brandon Davis said.

The team's first game is Feb. 23.

## Soccer wraps up season

Chloe Russell  
Sports Editor

The Rebels and Lady Rebels soccer team ended their season on Feb. 5 after advancing to the first round of state playoffs.

The overall record for the girls is 15-6-1 and the boys finished with a record of 12-9-1

Despite losing in the first round of playoffs, senior Kaley Smith has a positive attitude on the season.

"It went great," Smith said. "I wouldn't change anything. The season went as I hoped. Even though we didn't accomplish our goal to win state, we accomplished our

goal to become a family."

Throughout the season, players have progressed greatly and have learned all aspects of soccer such as dedication and the feeling of working hard, according to senior Ethan Crawford.

"I learned dedication on and off the field," Crawford said. "I also learned that if someone outworks their opponent they can be the best. Coach Tyler has taught me that in the past three years."

Not only did the players gain more knowledge and experience through the season, they also gained emotional connections.

"I really grew as a person and I made lifetime friendships that will

never go away," senior goalkeeper Skyler Steede said.

As the seniors say their goodbyes to their team, they encourage the remaining players to always work hard and help others.

"Work hard, Help others get better and always keep a positive attitude," Steede said.

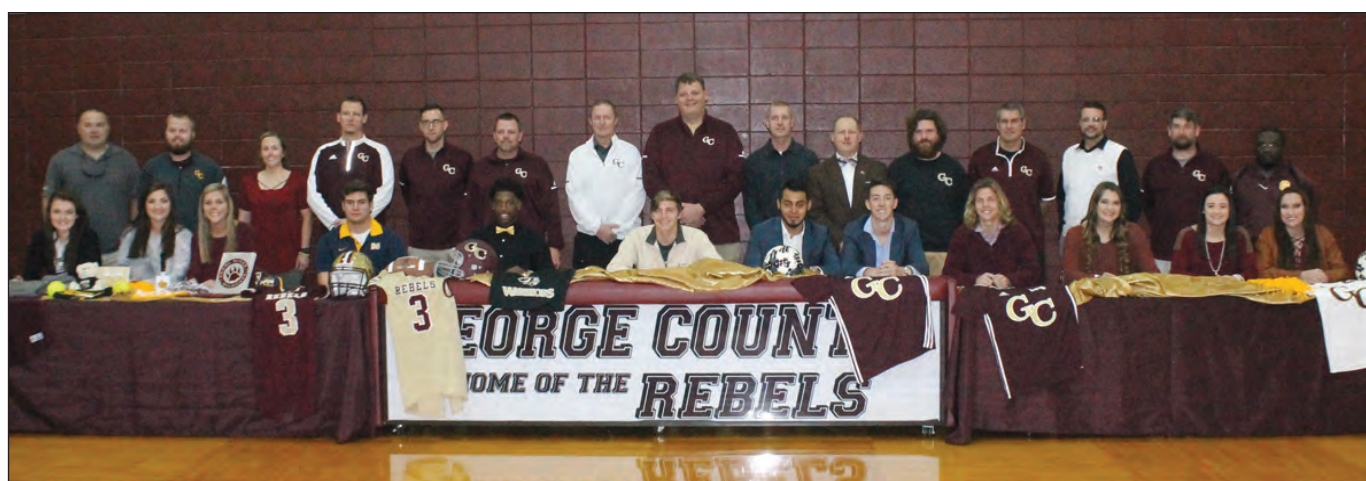
Feb. 7 was National Signing Day and four boys and three girls signed to community and junior colleges to play soccer. Meridian community college signee Crawford describes the feeling as an honor to be able to sign.

"It felt great," Crawford said. "It shows that everything that Coach has put us through has paid off."



photo/ Ashton Williams

**'Our goal is to stop yours'**- Junior Rashun Ludgood attempts to steal the ball away from the Petal opponent. The Rebels lost to the Petal Panthers by a score of 0-1 after going into overtime.



## Rebel Spotlight National Signing Day

Left to Right: Softball- Brooklyn King (East Central Community College), Kaitlyn Passeur (University of Southern Mississippi), Hannah Rasberry (Pearl River Community College), Football- Austin Walker (Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College), Jamar Jackson (East Central Community College), Soccer- Jordan Cochran (Jones County Junior College), Jonathan Lorenzo (Jones County Junior College), Ethan Crawford (Meridian Community College), Tyler Stansberry (Meridian Community College) Skyler Steede (Jones County Junior College), Kaley Smith (Pearl River Community College), Olivia Simpson (Jones County Junior College)