

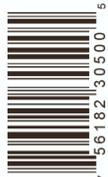
The Catoosa County News

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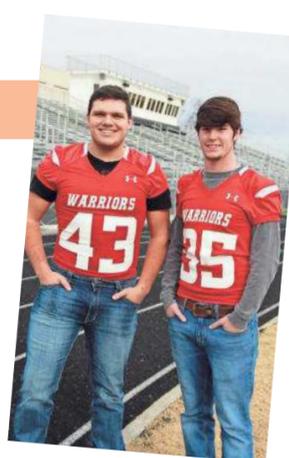
Ringgold police officer donates flag to city

Community, page C1



The 2018 Catoosa-Walker County Football Dream Team Defense

Sports, page B1



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Public invited to see new school

Graysville Elementary School will hold dedication, tours of new wing on Jan. 10

Superintendent Denia Reese and the Catoosa County Board of Education will dedicate Graysville Elementary School to the community on Thursday, Jan. 10.

Changes at the school were aimed at improving instruction space and safety for students.

The old part of the school, which was nearly 70 years old, had pod classrooms that didn't facilitate instruction very well.

That part of the school was removed and a new wing added.

The school also has a new entrance designed with security in mind.

Superintendent Reese said, "The new construction for Graysville Elementary School accomplishes the board's commitment to provide safe and equitable facilities for our students. This project was funded with ESPLOST V pennies.

"We are so grateful for our citizens support for ESPLOST to provide excellent schools for our children, and we will dedicate the new building to the community and provide tours on Jan. 10, 2019."

The dedication ceremony will begin at 6 p.m. in the gymnasium, with a reception following. For community members who cannot attend the dedication ceremony, there will be student-led tours of the new building from 6:30 p.m. until 7 p.m.

Mrs. Reese said, "The GES faculty and students are so proud of their new school, and they are very excited for their families, friends, and the community to visit on Jan. 10."

"The board of education is committed to facility equitability," says Superintendent Denia Reese, "because they understand that parents want the school their child is zoned to attend to be equitable with all the other schools in the county. The new design for Graysville will improve safety and academic achievement while providing facility equitability."



Denia Reese



Amy Jackson, pictured with her husband Greg, was chosen as the new president and CEO of the Catoosa County Chamber of Commerce, effective Jan. 1, 2019. / Contributed

Meet Amy Jackson, new Chamber CEO

By Tamara Wolk
Correspondent

Amy Jackson is not new to the Catoosa County Chamber of Commerce, but she is the new president and CEO of the group that represents 375 businesses in Catoosa County and neighboring parts of Chattanooga.

"I appreciate the support and confidence from the Chamber board in selecting me and the recommendations and support of Catoosa County, Fort Oglethorpe and Ringgold city

officials, as well as the overwhelming support of Chamber membership on my selection," says Jackson. "This has been a very humbling experience."

Jackson is replacing former Chamber president and CEO Martha Eaker, who retired last year.

We asked Jackson to share a little of her life and experiences with us. Here's what she had to say.

Please share your history with the Chamber.

I became a Chamber ambassa-

dor in 1999 when my family and I moved back to the area after living in Savannah and Nashville for 10 years. I served as an ambassador through 2002. I personally experienced how the Chamber can help individuals build business and personal relationships to increase sales and become more involved in the community while I was working as the business sales manager for T-Mobile in Chattanooga.

SEE JACKSON, A6

Cabela's: Classes in fishing, shooting, archery, more

By Tamara Wolk
Correspondent

Before talking about what Cabela's offers, it would be useful to talk about exactly where the store is. The address is Ringgold — 350 Cobb Parkway, 30736. That's what you use for GPS (if you want to go there) or USPS (if you want to mail them a letter).

But when you walk inside the store, high on a wall, in huge letters, you see "Welcome to Cabela's Fort Oglethorpe." That's because Cabela's is in Fort Oglethorpe.

To make matters more confusing, if you go to the Cabela's main website and wish to click on your local Cabela's, it's listed as the Fort Oglethorpe store — in Ringgold.

The US postal service assigns homes and businesses to whichever local



Fort Oglethorpe Cabela's employees Erica Brewer, Sarah Trew and Kristen Cordell all agree that they work at a great place. / Tamara Wolk

post office it deems preferable. So blame the federal government for the confusion.

Cabela's is in Fort O, but GPS isn't about to defy Uncle Sam, so if you want to find it, try the Ringgold address — you'll get there.

Now that we have that cleared up, there are a few things you might find interesting about Cabela's.

First, according to several employees, it's a great place to work. On a scale of 1-10, Cabela's elf impersonator Sarah Trew rates the store

as a 20 as far as employers go. "It's a great atmosphere," says Trew. "And I learn something new every day. It's the best place I've ever worked."

Erica Brewer agrees. "I've been here since April 2018. The management team is great. They do a lot for the employees. If you win Star Performer, they take you out to eat. They feed all the employees each month and do giveaways for us. They really care about us. It's worth making a career here."

Kristen Cordell has been with the store since it opened three years ago. "I started as a seasonal," she says. "I like the discount they give employees and all the activities they have for customers. I also like the deli — a lot of us eat here for lunch."

SEE CABELA'S, A3

Social media and the new year

By Tamara Wolk
Correspondent

What did people do before social media? If you're under 30, you may have no idea, but even many people well over that age have a hard time recalling pre-social media socializing.

According to Pew Research (an early 2018 study), 68 percent of U.S. adults use Facebook, 35 percent use Instagram, 27 percent Snapchat and 24 percent Twitter.

The younger you are, the more likely you're attached to social media. Eighty percent of the under-50 crowd uses Facebook. 78 percent of the under-25 crowd uses Snapchat, while only 7 percent of

those over 50 use it. While 55 percent of people over the age of 50 use Facebook, says the Pew study, only 16 percent of them use Instagram and 15 percent use Twitter.

Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat users tend to use other social media sources at high rates, while Facebook users more often stick to just one platform. For instance, 91 percent of Instagram users also use Facebook, but only 47 percent of Facebook users use Instagram.

What does all this social media use mean for society? Studies abound and the debate rages.

SEE SOCIAL MEDIA, A3



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The Catoosa County News



Ringgold and Fort Oglethorpe eye Local Maintenance Improvement Grants for road projects and create lists of priorities. Story on page A6.

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Ringgold's Festival of Flags Committee receives a \$500 donation from the Tennessee Valley Veterans Benefit. Story on page A5.