

Walker County Messenger

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FOUNDED IN 1877 — WALKER COUNTY'S OLDEST CONTINUOUS BUSINESS

Three sections ♦ 75 cents

Time running out to early vote

By Dee D. Decker
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With three days left in early voting and Election Day on Tuesday, Nov. 6, this midterm election is nearing history. And Walker County voters are making history with the commissioner referendum, regardless of which way they vote.

With the Republican, Democratic,

and Tea parties all united behind the change from sole commissioner to a board of commissions, the referendum is expected to pass, with some political pundits saying by as much as 60% or better. But the ballot box may tell another tale.

The Georgia gubernatorial race is different, however, with most polls and pundits calling it a dead heat between Democrat Stacy Abrams

and Republican Brian Kemp (the current secretary of state).

With these popular and hot issues on the ballot, local election officials have already seen near-record early voting and expect that pace to continue through Election Day. These issues make voting in this midterm extremely important.

Secretary of State Kemp has announced that Georgia has shut-

tered the all-time voter registration record with more than 7 million active and inactive voters on the rolls. "Despite what you hear or read, the numbers are clear. While outside agitators disparage this office and falsely attack us, we have kept our heads down and remained focused on ensuring secure, accessible, and fair

SEE VOTE, A10



To report news or for home delivery, call 638-1859

Heritage wins first state fastpitch title, Gordon Lee captures ninth

Sports, B1

Cutting the ribbon on Walker Launch

Walker County Schools, GNTC partner to turn out an educated workforce

By Dee D. Decker
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Walker County Schools and Georgia Northwestern Technical College saw the full support of its community Tuesday, Oct. 23, as the new academy, "Walker Launch," held a ribbon-cutting. Several dozen administrators and instructors from both educational outlets, as well as business and community leaders from across Walker County were on hand for the ceremony.

GNTC President Pete McDonald praised the Launch concept, saying "How fantastic this program is. ... Demand and salary for skilled workers are phenomenal, and our mission is workforce development and preparation."

He noted that through a HOPE career grant students' total tuition is paid by HOPE.

Walker County Schools Superintendent Damon Raines added, "Walker Launch is an exciting, promising program about teaching the future of Walker County to live smarter; to avoid a lifestyle which forces so many families to live paycheck-to-paycheck."

More than two dozen students from both LaFayette and Ridgeland high schools in Walker County are enrolled in the pilot year of Walker Launch. The students began attending dual-enrollment high school and college courses on the Walker County campus of GNTC in August.

Students can choose career pathways in machine tool technology, automotive technology, air-conditioning technology, welding and joint technology, logistics and supply chain, networking specialist, health information technology, web site design/development, accounting, and drafting technology.

In addition to the technical instruction, students spend one day a week on employment skills training such as communication, time management,

SEE LAUNCH, A10



Susan Wells, recipient of the 2018 Walker County Citizen of the Year award, stands with her husband David Wells, daughter Elizabeth Wells and mother Jean McCoy. / Contributed

GOOD NEIGHBOR

Susan Wells named Walker County's Citizen of the Year

By Dee D. Decker
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Susan Wells received the Citizen of the Year award Saturday, Oct. 20, from the Walker County Chamber of Commerce.

The honor was presented during the Chamber's annual fall Gala, a black-tie event held at the Fairyland Club on Lookout Mountain.

Wells is a lifelong educator, family and children's advocate and volun-

teer. She is a native of Rossville, the daughter of Bob and Jean McCoy, and a Rossville High School graduate. She received a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Georgia, her master's degree in education from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, and her education specialist degree from Jacksonville State University.

She has worked as a teacher and coach at Osburn Elementary and Rossville High School. She later

became vice principal at Chattanooga Valley Elementary and then moved to become principal of Fortune Grammar School in LaFayette, then of Rossville Elementary, and finally of Chattanooga Valley Elementary. She concluded her career in education as the director of student services for the Catoosa County school system. After her "retirement," she ran for the Walker County school

SEE CITIZEN, A3

Veterans Night reservations due Nov. 7

Special release

Nov. 11 each year is a day designated to remind us to thank veterans we know and love, and to remember those who have died.

In a special way we acknowledge that each veteran gave his/her time, energy, and life no matter what his duty stations or duties in the armed forces of the United States. Most left home and family, the familiarity of life, to serve at the beck and call of the national leaders.

Those people who did not serve but who were related to this group also "served" during that tour of duty because of the loss of their loved one's presence, touch,



Veterans Night 2017 guests listen to the speaker of the evening. / Contributed

words, laughter, tears, and all the activities of daily life. People who stayed home certainly served in a dif-

ferent way. All of us enjoy our freedoms of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, because of the gifts

our armed forces gave us as a nation. Our gratitude hardly seems adequate as we remember on Nov. 11 each year.

In Walker County, the county's Republican Party hosting the event. "We are expressing our appreciation to area veterans with a special Veterans Night. For the third consecutive year, members of the Republican Party choose to honor our veterans by treating each to a delicious free meal, which will be served this year at the Walker County Civic Center on Thursday, Nov. 15, from 6-8 p.m. approximately. Also invited, at \$15 each, are the relatives and

SEE VETS, A3

Walker County Messenger

Check out CatoosaWalkerNews' Facebook page. It's a great place for you to post items of interest (such as upcoming events), discuss what's happening in our community and in the news, or just send us a message. And don't forget to "Like" us!



Gordon Lee takes three of four region cross country first-place trophies

Sports, B2

Auction

Selling for the Caring Trust of Michael H. Caldwell and Peggy L. Caldwell By Order of the Trustees

Saturday, November 3, 10:00 A.M. CDT
Cloudland Community, Cherokee County, AL

18± Acres on the East Brow of Lookout Mountain

MASSIVE 9,000± Sq. Ft. Barn with Living Quarters
To be Offered in Tracts or as a Whole

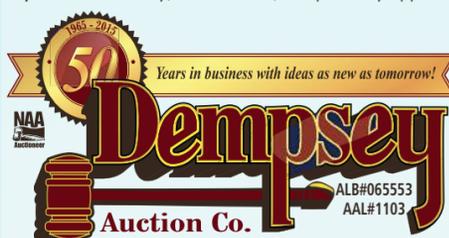
2.9± Acre Brow Lot in Laurawood (Lot 13)

PERSONAL PROPERTY TO SELL @ ABSOLUTE AUCTION

Property Location

10522 County Road 103, Cherokee County, AL

Open House: Friday, November 2, 1-4 pm or by appointment. Contact our office for your personal tour.



In conjunction with
Hardy Realty of Rome
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or becky@hardyrealty.com

FOR PLATS, VIDEOS OR FURTHER SALES INFORMATION ON THIS AUCTION

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