

Real Facts News

The Uncensored News of Ideal, Oglethorpe, Marshallville, Montezuma—July 15, 2020

Superintendent's letter to parents about school opening

Editor's Note: The following is a letter concerning the reopening of schools in Macon County. School Superintendent Marc Maynor is sending the letter out to parents and guardians of students and the community.

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Conununity Members,

We know the past four to five months have been very trying and the cause of great anxiety for you as parents and community members. Your family's health and safety are oftop priority. As the superintendent of our schools, I want to assure you that your family's health and safety are my top priority as well. I know you

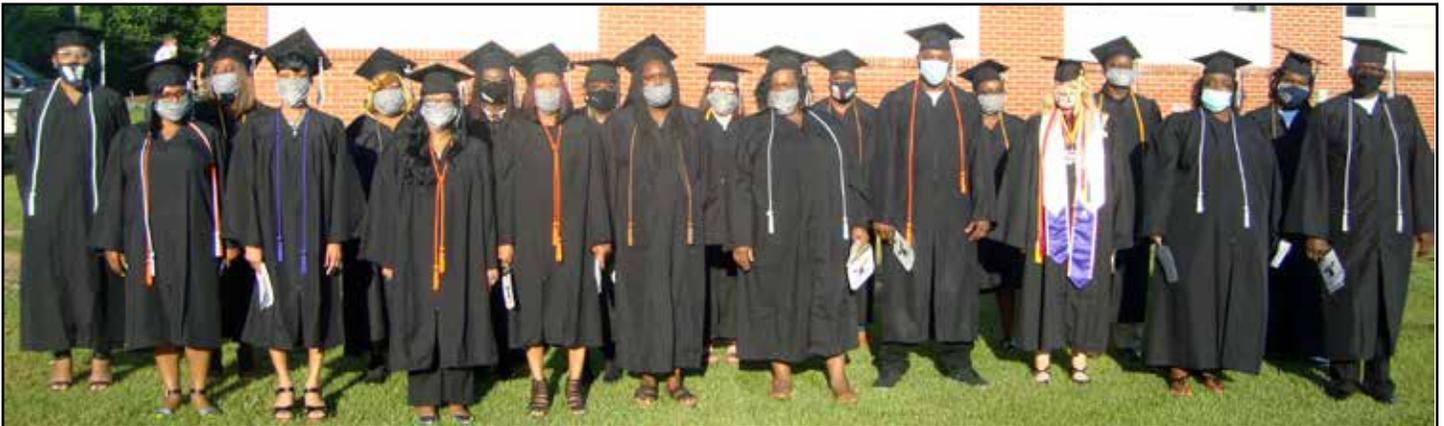


Marc Maynor

have been waiting with great concern to see how the new school year will look. My Leadership Team and I have met multiple times to discuss the best possible way to begin school and keep everyone as safe as humanly possible. I want you to know that I appreciate everyone who took the time to fill out the survey concerning school reopening. Your input is invaluable as we make our plans. We are all in this together.

We want to put a plan in place that will address the many different concerns for your child's education as well as the safety of all students. We understand that

See SCHOOL REOPENING, Page 8



Class of 2020 Chiefs' Diploma Program - graduates included Octevious D Baldwin, Grace RayeJean Faulkner, Corey Antonio Fulks, Carla Green, Grennena Natasha Greene, Shalanda Ann Griffin, Jessica Adele Griffin-Raines, Demetria Ann Griffin, Shatonya Shanae Harris, LaShannon Cyintezia Henry, Shaneisha Hill, Charlie Jamon Johnson, Ke'Shun Tarris Mann, Willie Joe Mathis, Brittany C. McDonald, Kenneth Mitchell, Brittney Marjorie Powell, Amber Cherie Smith, Kaneisha Ceria Smith, Kateisha Tiera Smith, Helen Snpes, Donnique McGhee Thorpe, Erica Denise Walker, and Shawndra Renae Whitehead.

Chief's Diploma Program graduates 24 students

By Roger Ann Davis

Twenty-four students received high school diplomas in the Macon County Chiefs' Diploma Program graduation ceremony Saturday, July 11. Total graduates in the 2020 Class are 26, but two did not participate in the ceremony.

Twelve of the 24 graduates already have applied for college and been accepted.

The ceremony was held in the park outside the Oglethorpe Police Department, with almost everyone wearing masks and

See CHIEF'S DIPLOMAS, Page 3



Each graduate came forward to receive a diploma. Here Charlie Johnson receives his diploma from Dr. An-nise Mabry.

At Left, Chief Eric Finch and Chief Pat Barber receive the 2020 Chiefs' Legacy Awards from Chief Rachael Hart.

South GA Tech Medical Assisting program 4th best in state of Georgia

The South Georgia Technical College Medical Assisting program was highlighted recently as the fourth best program in Georgia by Medical Assistant Advice. A total of 1,241 schools currently offer medical assisting education in the nation and the rankings are based on academic quality, graduation rate, student to faculty ratio, net price, and student ratings and reviews. To learn more about the rankings visit their website, www.medicalassistantadvice.com.

The ranking for the 4th best Medical Assisting program in Georgia comes on the heels of South Georgia Technical College earning the top spot as the Best Community College in Georgia for 2020. That ranking was received by Niche.

“South Georgia Technical College has a tremendous reputation for providing an outstanding two-year education that prepares students for the workforce,” said South Georgia Technical College President Dr. John Watford. “This new ranking by Medical Assistant Advice provides external validation about the quality and excellence in technical education that we provide.”

The starting hourly medical assistant salary across the county is an average of \$12.36 or roughly \$2,140 per month. This is higher than the national average starting salary across all professions. The majority of medical assistant’s work in physicians’ offices, hospitals, offices of other health practitioners, outpatient care centers, continuing care retirement communities and assisted living facilities for the elderly, fourth year colleges and universities and dentist’s offices. In Georgia, the demand for qualified medical assistants is expected to grow by 29% through 2026.

South Georgia Technical College offers Medical Assisting programs at its campuses in Americus and Cordele. Earning a diploma in medical assisting from South Georgia Technical College prepares students with the theoretical and practical knowledge that not only kick starts your career, but also provide a base for higher education. The program is open to high school graduates who are above the age of 17.

The curriculum is designed to give students a well-rounded education and includes courses in computer literacy, structure and function of the human body, laws and ethics, pharmacology, medical insurance management, medical office administration, and back-office clinical functions. The 54-credit curriculum ends with an externship and a seminar that is mainly centered on the application of professional knowledge, review of the certification exam and job preparation.

Financial aid is available to students entering the medical assisting program including the HOPE Grant, HOPE Career Grant, PELL Grant, and scholarships and grants through the South Georgia Technical College Foundation office.

Jeana Yawn and Sheri Bass are the medical assisting instructors on the SGTC Americus campus and Carol Cowan is the instructor on the Crisp County Center campus. For more information about the program contact: Jeana Yawn at jeana.yawn@southgatech.edu or 229-931-5188; Sheri Bass at sheri.bass@southgatech.edu or 229-931-2560; or Carol Cowan in Cordele at ccowan@southgatech.edu or 229-271-5188.

South Georgia Technical College is currently accepting students for Fall Semester which begins August 17th. The college is waiving the testing requirements for Fall Semester so students may apply online at www.southgatech.edu. Registration and orientation for fall semester will be held on-campus on July 21st, 22nd, and 23rd, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on both the Americus and Crisp County Center campus.



Correction

Kirk Peaster of Perry, right, was incorrectly identified in the cut line of a picture of this team playing in the Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament. The International Paper team won second place. The team included Doug Decker of Bonaire, left, Justin Speedy of Perry, and Kirk Peaster of Perry. The mistake was printed in the July 8 publication.

Real Facts News regrets the error.

Real Facts News

A news service for Macon County, Oglethorpe, Ideal, Marshallville and Montezuma.

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Butler Police Chief Kain Cobb, and Butler Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn receives the 2020 Community Legacy Award from Chief Rachael Hart.



Tommie Jones of Marshallville, center, received the Honorary Graduate Diploma from Marshallville Chief Pat Barber, left, and Marshallville Mayor Valery Davis.

Chiefs' Diploma - Continued from Page 1

dignitaries, parents and graduates spaced out to meet social distancing guidelines.

Applications are pouring in to this program which sets young people on the path to more education and good jobs. There is now a waiting list.

Forty-four diplomas have been issued through the program since its inception in November 2018. The students are those who did not complete their education through the local school system. They apply through the local police departments and chiefs recommend the candidates.

The computer program was created by Dr. Annise Mabry, president and chief academic officer of the Tiers Free Academy. She is also the person who works directly with the students encouraging and pushing them to complete their studies.

The City of Oglethorpe has provided her with an office and study area in the Business Center, and she has become a beacon of hope for students and law officers in the Macon County Community.

The program has expanded into other counties as well and is now the Southwest Georgia Chiefs' Diploma Program.

In her keynote speech at the graduation ceremony, Dr. Mabry said, "You can't build a strong community when your literacy chain is broken," but rebuilding that chain takes leadership. "It is critical to have a community champion." She identified the community champion in Macon County as Oglethorpe Police Chief Rachael

Hart. "My first conversation with Chief Hart could be described as rocky at best. But I soon realized that just as a mother fights to save her children, this woman, was a police chief fighting to save her community."

For three years, she said she had "begged other chiefs and sheriffs for an opportunity to pilot this program in their jails and their communities." They all said no, but she found a welcome in Macon County.

The Chiefs Diploma Program is no longer a pilot program and has "morphed into rural, south Georgia communities that I didn't even know existed," she said. The "tiny pilot program has now is-



Buena Vista Mayor Kevin Brown, left, accepts the 2020 Law Enforcement Community Innovation Award for Police Chief Sharon Williams. Oglethorpe Police Sgt. Anthony Taylor made the presentation.

See CHIEF'S DIPLOMAS, Page 4



Parents watch and take pictures as their graduates receive the long awaited diplomas.

Chiefs' Diploma Continued from Page 3

sued 44 diplomas in less than 24 months.”

“What we were able to accomplish here in Macon County has been nothing short of amazing,” she said.

Mabry praised this graduating class for their persistence despite the COVID-19 Pandemic. “The Class of 2020 is the first class where every graduate has decided to attend college. This class didn’t let a pandemic stop them. Forty-six percent of our 2020 graduating class have applied to college at the height of the COVID-19 crisis. When the rest of the world shut down, our graduates kept moving.”

She told the graduates: “You have achieved things you never dreamed possible. You earned this diploma. You earned the right to be here.

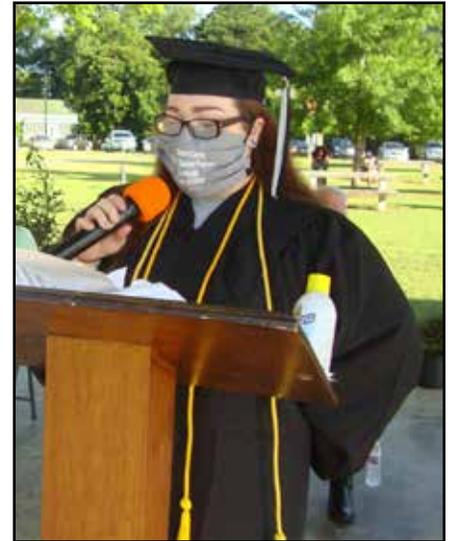
“Nobody lowered the bar for you -- in fact, I raised the bar because I saw in you beyond where you saw yourself.”

Sometimes on the journey you are going to find yourself alone and sometimes you are going to be scared, for example walking into an interview in a corporate board room. “Show up scared. Sometimes those closest to you will doubt you. Trust yourself. ... Everything that you need is inside of you,” she



Graduate Katiesha Tiera Smith reflects on her work in the diploma program.

said.



Brittney Marjorie Powell reflects on her work in the diploma program.

At the end of the ceremony, she surprised the graduates with a special award. Two people, who have heard her talk about the diploma program, Dr. Andrea Trinklein and Tonya Gibson, made a \$2,200 donation to the Macon County program. They told her they wanted “to reward the graduates who were present” at the ceremony. Each graduate present for the ceremony received a \$100 cash

See CHIEF’S DIPLOMAS, Page 5



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Chiefs' Diploma Continued from Page 4

scholarship.

She emphasized that the award shows how important it is to show up. “You had to be in the seat to get this reward. This is what happens when you show up. Do what people tell you even when you don’t understand. Follow the plan.”

Two graduates spoke about their educational experiences. Brittney Powell said school was never for her, and her mother started home schooling here in eighth grade, but that did not work either. She married at 17 and tried to get a GED, “but found there again I couldn’t grasp the way they rushed through each class and again I gave up and shut the door on it.”

She said she thought she would never “really finish school or wear a cap and gown.” But that changed when she met Dr. Mabry, who treated her “like I mattered.” She also had the support of her mother and her husband in her quest for a high school diploma. To Dr. Mabry, she said, “You took a dream of a small town girl and made it a reality. You have been the pillar that holds the walls from crumbling for us all. You have given up your life for all of us .. I can’t pay your worth in gold.”

Katiesha Smith, in her remarks, said “We all worked hard to get to this day and our work did not go to waste. A high school diploma is not just a wonderful tool in this world, it is also a key that opens many doors of opportunity. I know it’s a key to opportunity because I went for years without a high school diploma, and I watched door after door close in my face.” She also praised Mabry and Hart for providing the program, but she gave special credit to her mother, Mamie Hudson. “Because of your guidance and hard work, I am now graduating from high school,” she said.

Non-profit partners and foundation sponsors which help with the program are 4Sarah Inc., Atlanta Pride Committee, Atlanta Redemption Ink, Crown Cultivation Media, Dr. Elijah Nicholas Foundation, Dr. Lakara Foster, She Speaks Inc., DayJream Studios, Flint Energies, Garrett-Martin Foundation, GeeWay Media, International Paper, HIP Inc., Jennifer and Freddie Villacci, LaSal-



Dr. Annise Mabry leads the parade of 2020 graduates into the ceremony area outside the Oglethorpe Police Department.

le Green Associates, Lnke Technology, Macon County Chamber of Commerce, Macon County Board of Education, Town Square Olive Oil, Newton County Homeschool Cooperative, State Farm, Tegan and Sara Foundation, Dr. Andrea Trinklein and Tonya Gibson.

International Paper in Oglethorpe was issued a Certificate of Appreciation for its support of the Community Policing Program.



Dignitaries walk in graduation ceremony -Chief Eric Finch, third from right, Chief Pat Barber, Mayor Kevin Brown and Mayor Valery Davis, foreground.

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REAL FACTS NEWS OPINION

Backing Our Blue & Liberty

Real Facts News has been real proud of Macon County in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and rampant destruction and death in our nation in what was supposed to be a protest for justice. As I attend meetings, protests, banquets and other events here, I see some of the best of us.

The protest march in Montezuma, led by Tarshea Fudge-Riley and Jonathan Hillman, was peaceful and filled with worthwhile information. It was led by the men in blue, with Montezuma Chief Eric Finch leading the march in his patrol car and Sheriff Leonard Johnson walking near the forefront of the marchers. Everyone was polite, everyone behaved. It was indeed a march of love.



Roger Ann Davis

And I absolutely loved Chief Finch's defense of the men and women in blue in the story about the Montezuma Methodists praying for the police department. He should be on TV. He said he appreciated the prayers for the local police officers. "On average, throughout our nation, police officers have 10,000 to 15,000 contacts daily with citizens. They aren't killing these people," Finch said. "We have bad cops and those incidents get all the attention. You have bad cops, and it's our job as administration to get them out of the field."

He was spot on as he talked about officers and their work here. "We know how we try to police and help our community," he said ... For the most part, we are good cops. In Macon County, our agency and the others do a lot of good."

Perhaps the best illustration of good police work was the Chiefs' Diploma Program graduation ceremony Saturday as families, police chiefs and Dr. Annise Mabry gathered to honor the graduates. The program is intended to help young school dropouts and others obtain a high school diploma. Mabry said she had "begged" other chiefs and sheriffs to accept her program for three years, and they all refused. Until she reached Macon County. Here, law enforcement led by Oglethorpe Chief Rachael Hart gave a resounding yes. So far, 44 have graduated from the program.

Thank you, Macon County, for Backing Our Blue and for rising above the petty and destructive things going on across our nation.

Perhaps our nation could take a page from an old judge's book. This information is just bits from a story I covered long ago.

The old judge looked down on the four young men standing in front of him. They were charged mainly with property damage. They had raided some farms for eggs and then gone out in a field and drove their trucks around in a circle lobbing eggs at each other, splashing eggs all over the vehicles. I do not recall all the details, but I remember the judge's words.

"If I could sentence you the way I would like, I would have you clean out every chicken house in this county," he said. This incident occurred in the 1970s when chicken houses were chicken houses and not the manufacturing facilities they are today.

I kind of liked his idea. What I would like to see today is New

Freedom Is A Habit

By Carl Sandburg

**Freedom is a habit
and a coat worn
some born to wear it
some never to know it.
Freedom is cheap
or again as a garment
is so costly
men pay their lives
rather than not have it.
Freedom is baffling:
men having it often
know not they have it
till it is gone and
they no longer have it.
What does this mean?
Is it a riddle?**

**Yes, it is first of all
in the primers of riddles.
To be free is so-so:
you can and you can't:
walkers can have freedom
only by never walking
away their freedom:
runners too have freedom
unless they overrun:
eaters have often out-eaten
their freedom to eat
and drinkers overdrank
their fine drinking freedom.**

York Mayor Bill de Blasio on his knees cleaning paint from the public sidewalk in front of Trump Towers. It was wrong to paint a public sidewalk, no matter the building that stood there. The mayor should have been arrested.

It is wrong to shoot people, to kill children because you are trying to show how big and important you are. It is wrong to burn buildings, to destroy businesses and to stomp statues. I have not noticed any major organized protests about the deaths of the officers and children and adults who have been killed -- not by police but by the Change-America freaks.

We live in a wonderful country. We have tremendous freedoms. But we can lose our freedom, and it is a precious commodity.

In one news report Lt. General William Gerald "Jerry" Boykin, said this: "What you see on our streets is a Marxist takeover of our country ... We have the right to assemble peacefully. Looting, shooting, killing police officers is not allowed. These kind of protests in our streets are supported by the Chinese and the Soviets." I believe he knows what he's talking about. He is now retired but served as the United States Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence under President George W. Bush from 2002 to 2007.

In another news report I heard a young black man speak out. He was incensed over the change of the Redskins' name. (Sorry I did not get his name). He said this: "We have to celebrate our differences and love each other. We cannot be so sensitive that we are constantly pointing fingers ... Sports should bring us together, and politics should not be part of it." He is absolutely right. I always thought of the Redskins name as a tribute to native Americans.

Like the judge said, I think the people who caused the destruction should have to physically work and repair it. They owe it to that black man I saw in one news report from Seattle, Washington. Tears streamed down his face as he stood in front of his destroyed business.

He said: "You spend your whole life building a business, and now it's gone."



**Macon County Elementary School
is currently accepting
applications for Pre-K!**

**Please come by the school
between 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. to
register your child for Pre-K.**

**For more any information, please
contact Mrs. King at
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| Flint River Wood | South GA Technical College |
| Furst McNess | Southern Pecan Orchards |
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| PaPa's Pizza To Go | Montezuma Welding & Radiator |
| Joy's Downtown | |

12 Teams participated: Ag Georgia, Cole Agency, Easterlin Pecan Co. (2), Flint Energies, Flint River Hospital, Georgia Power Co., International Paper Co. (3), Piggly Wiggly, Windstream

Montezuma Police Report

June 26, 2020 - July 3, 2020

Arrests: 2

1. COURTNEY MANN (31) 305 OVERLOOK DR MONTEZUMA GA :: FIREARMS:POSSESSION DURING A CRIME :: UNLAWFUL MANUFACTURE, DELIVERY, DISTRIBUTION POSSESSION
2. CHARNARRA LADD (35) 10044 HWY 26E MONTEZUMA GA :: UNLAWFUL MANUFACTURE, DELIVERY, DISTRIBUTION, POSSESSION

**School Reopening
Continued from Page 1**

the students will leave our schools and return home where there are family members who are potentially at greater risk. All of these concerns are being discussed. We are also working with our local health department as well as monitoring the CDC website in order to stay informed as to the latest developments in this health crisis.

As educators, we want the best possible educational solutions for our students. Therefore, it is important to offer choices in how the students receive instruction. We will offer virtual learning for the students who are not comfortable in returning to the school setting at this time. The district curriculum and instruction team is working with the school leaders and teachers to put a plan in place so that we may serve these students and continue to ensure that learning is taking place. We will also offer face-to-face learning for the students who are comfortable in coming back to school in August. We can ensure social distancing more adequately with an AIB schedule. **This schedule will be set up according to townships. Students living near Marshallville and Oglethorpe will come to school on Monday and Tuesday. Students living near Ideal and Montezuma will come to school on Thursday and Friday. Wednesday will be a day for virtual learning for all students. On the days that the students do not physically come to school, the students will participate in virtual learning.** Our goal is to continue to provide quality instruction for all students.

A great deal of planning is involved in beginning the school year in a unique and unprecedented manner. Therefore, we are pushing the first day of school for students to August 24 1h. If you have not already done so, please notify your child's school as to which option your child will use to return to school: virtual or face-to-face. Once you have made your choice, you will not be able to change until after the first semester. We will post more information about the start-up of school in the upcoming days.

We will keep you informed as our plans continue to evolve. We will post more specific details of how we intend to keep the students as safe as possible both in the classrooms and on the school buses. These are uncertain times and we will continue to modify our schedules as needed to meet our students' and community's needs. Thank you for your patience as we work through all of the aspects of the re-opening of school. I would like to ask all of you to please keep our community and our students in your thoughts and prayers as we begin another great school year in Macon County.

Sincerely,
Marc F. Maynor
Superintendent, Macon County School System

Trinity Gospel Trio to sing at Mt. Carmel

Trinity Gospel Trio of Reynolds will sing at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, 687 GA Hwy 30, Buena Vista, on Saturday, July 18, beginning at 6 p.m.

Everyone is invited to attend.

Christmas in July

Ride

**Cost:
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July 18, 2020

**Registration: 9:00—10:00 am
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Due to the Covid 19 virus we may or may not be able to have an actual ride. But we don't want these boys to miss out on the love of the community with the donations that we've received in the past from this annual event. We will have a booth to collect donations or you can mail a check to:

HSMM

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Reynolds, GA 31076



All proceeds will go to the Georgia Industrial Children's Home

For more info contact: Scotty 478-214-0435 OR Lee 478-841-0012



MACON COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

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Macon County School System admits students of any race to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities in the school. We will not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, or national origin in our admission policies, in our treatment of the students or in our personnel practices, scholarship and loan programs and athletic and other school administered programs.

Pam's Sweet Treats an old fashioned ice cream parlor perfect for everyone

By Roger Ann Davis

Pam's Sweet Treats on Cherry Street is a place for kids of all ages from 1 to 92.

It's an old fashioned ice cream parlor. The inside looks like a child's play house, with rainbow curtains, pictures of cones and sundaes and a stand-up Cat in the Hat. There are also the drawings of young customers, who are allowed to take a pen to the wall if they like. "It looks like somewhere children can come in and have fun," the owner said of the decor.

Pamelia Perkins opened the business about a year ago. "The ones who haven't tried it should come in. It's a pleasant atmosphere. I am the only business in town that lets you try it before you buy it," she said.

You can come inside or be served at the curb. There's also a bench just outside to sit and eat and enjoy the atmosphere of downtown Montezuma.

Call 478-662-7449 to place your order. Her business is doing



Pam's Sweet Treats at 119 Cherry Street, Montezuma

well, although it has slowed during the pandemic.

She offers ice cream cones -- sugar, cake, or waffle -- ice cream in cups, milk shakes, snow cones, shaved ice, and sherbert in all kinds of flavors. And toppings that you can drizzle, crinkle or chunk. She sells Blue Bell ice cream and can provide ice cream in bulk for parties.

She spent years working in a local restaurant and finds the ice cream shop more relaxing. "I like it because it's relaxing. I've worked really hard before."

She also works at Montezuma First Baptist Church, cooking for church events, and attends church there.

She is married to Milton Perkins and they have four children, Shawna Young of Montezuma, Regina Perkins of Buford, 2nd Lt. Milton Perkins, stationed with the U.S. Army in San Antonio, Texas, and Adrian Perkins of Montezuma.

The shop is closed on Sunday and open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 1:30-4:30 p.m. and Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 1 to 7 p.m.



Pam Perkins, left, serving Kenya Worth of Ideal.

Mama, I don't want a little brother!

In 1944 at the tender age of nine, I was a fifth grader at the Perry school. Someone knocked on the classroom door. Our teacher, Miss Dorothy Jones, greeted the visitor. It was my granddaddy, William Thomas Powell. He had come to pick me up. As we left the school grounds, granddaddy said, "Let's walk downtown."



Billy Powell

Straight to Houston Drug Company on Carroll Street we went. It was owned by Watt Boler and Joe Beddingfield. Granddaddy Powell bought me a chocolate milkshake. Then we walked across Carroll Street to J. W. Bloodworth's grocery store. There, Granddaddy talked with his good friend and store manager, Capers Wright. Soon, granddaddy said, "Billy, let's walk back home. So we headed down Ball Street, passing by the New Perry Hotel on the way to 800 Ball Street, at the end of the second block.

My parents and I lived with my grandparents—we had two rooms on one side of the house and my granddaddy and grandmother lived on the other side. I walked into our bedroom and saw mother in the bed holding a little baby. Mother said, "Billy, this is your little brother. His name is Dwayne." I immediately responded, "Mama, I don't want a little brother! Can't we give

him back?" Then I started crying and swinging on the bed post. Mama said, "Billy, what will it take to stop you from crying." I thought for a minute and said, "If you give me some money, I can go uptown to Crockett's 5 and 10 cent store and buy a gun and holster set." So, Mama gave me the money and I headed back to town. I returned home with a new gun and holster. Toy guns made during World War II were made from compressed sawdust and painted to resemble metal.

In a short time, I grew fonder of my little brother. When Dwayne was two, I taught him to shoot baskets on a miniature basketball goal I personally built. Dwayne starred on two state championship teams at Perry High School (1962 and 1963) under legendary Coach Eric Staples. He became the most prolific scorer in Perry history. In 1963, Dwayne was rated the 'number 1' player in Georgia by the "Atlanta Journal and Constitution." Pundits claimed Dwayne's shooting accuracy equaled that of the Boston Celtic's forward, Larry Byrd. Dwayne later starred at the University of Georgia.

Jesus had four step-brothers (James, Joseph, Judas and Simon) plus unnamed step-sisters—all through Joseph's earlier marriage. James became leader of the Jerusalem church and authored a New Testament epistle. The scripture stresses that everyone is our brother (or sister) and that "anyone who says he is in the light and hates his brother resides in darkness."

Obituaries

Lee Raine (San) Rice

Lee Raine (San) Rice of Marshallville died in the early morning hours of Friday, June 12, 2020.

Lee Raine (San) Rice was born October 6, 1961 in Marshallville, the daughter of Betty Cooper and the late Leroy Rice Jr. of Marshallville, Georgia.

She began her education at Lamson-Richardson Elementary School and is a graduate of Macon County High School.

She was a faithful member of Bethel Baptist Church in Marshallville, Georgia.

“San” as she was affectionally called, enjoyed shopping and spending her time with family. She was best known for her friendly disposition and wonderful personality, family members said.

She competed a number of years with the City of Marshallville’s Women’s Traveling Softball team.

She was preceded in death by her father, Leroy Rice, Jr. and her grandmother, Lula Mae Fuller; two aunts, Wilma Fuller Monfort and Virginia Cooper; and one uncle, Edward Cooper.

Survivors are her mother, Betty Cooper of Marshallville; six sisters, Edith Cooper of Atlanta, Rose Mary Cooper of Decatur, Vickie Cooper of Fort Valley, Katrena Cooper and Sabrina Taylor and husband, Malcolm, of Marshallville, Vivianne Harris and husband, Lance, of Montezuma; five brothers: Jimmy Smith of Marshallville, James Stinson of Utica, NY, Rodney Cooper of Barnesville, Arthur Cooper and wife, Lakesia, of Fort Valley, and Kalcey Cooper of Decatur; aunts, Fannie Mae Jones and husband, Willie, of Marshallville, Shirley Kendrick and husband, Oscar, of Perry, and Georgia Mae Johnson of Warner Robins; uncles, Richard Fuller, Robert Fuller, Alfred Fuller and Milton Fuller of Marshallville, Terry Monfort of Norcross, Lafayette Miller of Lake Charles, Louisiana, Julius Rice and wife, Nettie, Clarence Rice, Samuel Rice and wife, Lois, John Henry Rice and wife, Carolyn, of Marshallville, Charlie Rice and wife, Patricia, of Perry, Bennie Rice and wife, Eugenia, of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and J.D. Jessie of Warner Robins; and very special friends, Jackie Buckner and Lakeisha Leary of Marshallville, Ossie King of Rome, Carshanna Jones and Tonya Green of Perry, and Alice Buckner of Lizella.

C.J. Edwards Funeral Home in Fort Valley had charge of arrangements.



San Rice

Mary Ellen Hancock

Mary Ellen Hancock, 59 of Cordele, died Thursday, July 2, 2020 at Emory Hospital in Atlanta.

She was born in Crisp County and was the daughter of the late F.C. And Ruby Brannan.

A 1983 graduate of Mercer School of Pharmacy, she later earned a degree in Hospital Administration from Troy University. She was a devoted employee of Crisp Regional Hospital for over 28 years.

She was an active member of Cordele Church of Christ.

A quiet and unassuming person, Mary Ellen loved her work and enjoyed helping others by delivering the medication needed to help them recover and maintain healthy lives, and often brought that work home with her. She always had a sweet smile on her face and a kind word for all that she met, family members said. Her generosity touched the lives of more families than anyone will ever know.

Her spare time was occupied reading books and finding new recipes for Sunday lunch with a group of friends that she considered family, the Griffin/Burkes.

Survivors are her high school sweetheart and husband of 35 years, Sheriff Billy Hancock of Cordele; her sister and her husband, Betty Ann and David Dowdy of Sylvester; two brothers-in-law and their wives, Howard and Margaret Hancock of Pensacola, Florida and Harold and Beverly Hancock of Lufkin, Texas; and numerous other family, friends and others whose lives Mary Ellen touched. Also the Tennessee Gang, especially Aunt Alice Fanning, held a special place in her heart.

The family has chosen to hold a private service.

For those that wish to send memorial donations, the family asks that they consider Georgia Sheriffs’ Youth Homes Foundation, Mary Ellen Hancock Scholarship Fund, 3000 Highway 42 North, McDonough, GA 30253. On line donations may be given as follows: georgiasheriffsyouthfoundation.org and select “Make a Tribute” in memory of Mary Ellen Hancock. All donations in memory of Mary Ellen will be used exclusively for post secondary educational needs of abused, abandoned and neglected children in the care of the Georgia Sheriffs’ Youth Homes. For the past sixty years, sheriffs have provided a safe and wholesome home for Georgia’s deserving children in need. Or if you desire, donate to the Crisp Regional Hospital Foundation.

Rainey Family Funeral Services had charge of arrangements.



Mary Ellen Hancock

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in the green pastures; He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Psalm 23: 1-3