

# Wills Memorial audit shows \$450,000 gain

With its annual audit complete, Wills Memorial Hospital got a good shot in the arm when the accounting firm reported favorably last week on the year ending April 30, 2006.

Representatives from the public accounting firm of Draffin and Tucker were present at the Wilkes County Hospital Authority meeting on Tuesday, August 15, to present the findings of their audit of the Hospital's fiscal year. Douglas Faircloth, of the audit firm, reported that the hospital enjoyed a good year financially, recording a net gain for the year of \$450,000.

Faircloth went on to say that small rural hospitals all across the state are facing many challenges and it is in-

creasingly difficult for facilities like Wills Memorial to generate positive margins. He commended the hospital's staff for maintaining its revenues while holding operating expenses in check. Faircloth also noted that the audit was a "clean" audit with no major findings or recommendations to make to the Wills Memorial management or to the Hospital Authority.

Hospital CEO Marvin Goldman thanked Chief Financial Officer Cliff Cooper and his staff for their excellent work in maintaining the hospital's financial and accounting records. Hospital Authority Chairman Lawrence Burton extended the appreciation of the entire Authority to the hospital staff for a good year.



**The Word Bible Study Class will have its tenth annual Outreach Tent Service on Saturday, August 26, at 415 Lexington Avenue, beginning at 11 a.m. The theme will be "How Much Time Are You Spending With Jesus?" All preachers and evangelists are asked to give a 5, 10, or 15 minute mini-sermon. All churches and choirs are invited to participate. Call 706-678-7636 for more information.**

**The Athens Area Albany State Alumni Chapter will meet the third Sunday in each month at 5 p.m. at Hill Chapel Baptist Church, Athens. For further information, call Robin Booker at 678-4219.**

**Gibson Grove Baptist Church, Thomson Road, Washington, will celebrate the fifth anniversary of the pastor, Rev. Joseph B. Williams, on Sunday, September 3, at 11:30 a.m. Pastor L.V. Turman and Faith Christian Center Church will be in charge of the service.**

**Twin Oak Baptist church will have homecoming Sunday, August 27, 11:45 a.m. Dinner will be served.**

**The next meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Washington will be held Monday, August 28, 6 p.m., in the restaurant of the Fitzpatrick Hotel, the location the group has met for the last two years and the permanent meeting location. CWRT member Johnny Spratlin will be guest speaker. His topic is "Lee, Longstreet, and the Lost Cause Writings."**

**The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, 279 Springfield Rd., Crawfordville, will celebrate its 43rd anniversary Sunday, August 27, 2:30 p.m. Bishop Grier of Warrenton will be the speaker.**

**The Sherrer family reunion will be held Sunday, August 27, 1 p.m., at the home of Warren and Ann Newsome. Dinner will be covered dishes. Bring swimwear. Call 706-678-7785 for more information.**

**There will be a country cooking supper at Fishing Creek Baptist Church Saturday, September 9, 6-8:30 p.m. Cost is \$6.00 per plate for all you can eat. Proceeds will go to Jim and Diane Bolen to help cover expenses toward treatment for a serious illness.**

**Pole Branch Missionary Baptist Church will have homecoming on Sunday, August 27, 11:15 a.m. Revival services will be held August 28 through September 1 at 7:30 p.m. Rev. Richard Davis will be the minister for revival services.**

**Mulberry Baptist Church will have revival services August 21-25, 7:30 p.m. each evening. The speaker will be Rev. Willie J. White of Newberry Baptist Church in Lincoln. The church van will be going nightly so anyone who needs a ride should contact Albert Rucker at 706-678-2466.**

## Civil War Round Table returns to Fitzpatrick Hotel Monday

The Civil War Round Table of Washington will be returning to its permanent meeting location in the restaurant of the Fitzpatrick Hotel for the Monday, August 28, meeting.

Johnny Spratlin, this month's guest speaker, is a member of the CWRT, and the subject of his talk will be "Lee, Longstreet and the Lost Cause Writings."

Spratlin is from Lincoln and was graduated from Lincoln County High School and received a degree in Civil Engineering from Georgia Tech in 1973.

He joined his father in the construction business in 1976 and now owns and manages a commercial construction business based out of Lincoln, primarily doing work in northeast Georgia.

For 30 years he has enjoyed collecting Civil War books, especially about the Virginia theatre.

He and wife Laura, also a CWRT member, have a son and daughter who are both married.

The August meeting begins the third year for the Round Table formed locally by Jim Roberts and Mark Waters. Membership dues will be collected at this meeting and new officers will be voted on, so all existing members and anyone interested in joining are encouraged to attend.

Annual dues are \$25 for individuals, \$35 for family (two or more), and \$15 for students.

The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. with a buffet dinner for \$10 per person. No reservation is required.

## December artists marketplace puts out call for artists to show

In an effort to promote Washington as an emerging art community, a call is going out for artists to exhibit here in December.

"We're issuing a call for artists to apply for participation in the December Artists Market," said Debbie Wells, president of the Court Street Livery Gallery and Events.

The artists market is planned for the same weekend - December 8 and 9 - as Washington's Christmas Tour of Homes to encourage regional recognition of Washington as an emerging art community and to help promote local artists.

"We are so pleased to be hosting the Champagne Reception for Tour ticket holders this year in our venue. Jane Bundy and her committee are working hard to make this a spectacular weekend," she said. "We want to show our visitors that we're an emerging destination for art. James and Wanda Trimm, with their Purple Palette Gallery, have established our area as a resource for art, and this should be a great addition to that."

Wells said she has already had inquiries from artists who participated in the spring show. "We're looking forward to seeing old friends and welcoming new ones," she said. "Just like our name implies, to have artists showcasing their talent and having a reception take place at the same time, this is what we hoped would take place as we established The Court Street Livery Gallery and Events."

Non-profit groups may apply for a free space to sell snacks, drinks, or other items for fund raising. One or two organizations will be selected for each market in order to help worthy groups with their fund raising. For information and artist application, please contact Debbie Wells, 706-318-8190 or email debbiwell@yahoo.com.



**Pompey's Chapel Baptist Church will have homecoming Sunday, August 27, 11:30 a.m. Dinner will be served.**

**Heard's Chapel Baptist Church will celebrate the pastor's anniversary September 3, 12:00 p.m.**

**Transforming Life Ministries will celebrate its 13th anniversary and the birthday and pastoral celebration of founder and convener, Amethyst D. Wynn, on September 3, 4:30 p.m., at the Third Shiloh Center, 219 McLendon Drive, Washington. The guest speaker will be Bishop Jonathan Greer II and his congregation from the Cathedral of Divine Love Church in Atlanta will be the guest church and choir along with the Springfield Community Choir, Washington.**



## Private collection of Georgia pottery on display

A new display of Georgia pottery has opened at the Washington Historical Museum. "This never-before-publicly-shown, private collection of Georgia pottery is one of the best and most complete collections around," said curator Stephanie Machhia. "With pottery ranging from 1818 to the present, you will not want to miss this exhibit. Included in the collection are pieces from Washington, Crawford, Wilkes, and Hall Counties, Mossey Creek in White County, and the Atlanta area including Howell's Mill. Also included the Meaders Family and of course the ever popular Ugly Jugs." Museum hours are 10 - 5 Tuesday through Saturday, and 12:30 to 3:30 Sunday. The museum is closed Mondays and holidays.

## Three doctors on staff at specialty center...

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Lewis holds a urology clinic and performs surgical procedures at WMH the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.

Patrick E. Sizemore, M.D. is Assistant Professor of the GI Surgery Department at the Medical College of Georgia. Dr. Sizemore received his M.D. from Medical College of Georgia in 1995. He completed an internship in 1996, and his residency in 2002, both at the Medical College of Georgia. Dr. Sizemore is board certified by the American Board of Surgery.

He is a member of several scientific and professional societies. He received an Award for Excellence in

teaching by the Medical College of Georgia School of Medicine Class of 2000. Dr. Sizemore has held many administrative positions over the past several years including Chief of Surgery, Springs Memorial Hospital in Lancaster, South Carolina. His surgical passion has led him to additional training in laparoscopic colectomy and endosurgery.

Sizemore holds a general surgery clinic at WMH the first and third Tuesdays of each month and performs surgical procedures each Tuesday.

Prospective patients for the Specialty Center may make their own appointment, or may be referred by their primary care physician. To

schedule an appointment at the Wills Memorial Hospital Specialty Center, phone 706-678-3247, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

The community is encouraged to attend the Wills Memorial Hospital Specialty Center open house, Thursday, August 31, from 4-6 p.m. Parking is available in the rear parking lot of the hospital, facing the corner of Spring Street and Hospital Drive. Local contractor, Lanna Construction, was hired to construct the new outside entrance to the Center.

The administration of Wills Memorial is grateful for the opportunity to continue to find further ways to offer "quality hometown healthcare to our community."

## Georgia's pecan harvest to be smallest in years; last year's good crop, dry weather are blamed

By BRAD HAIRE  
University of Georgia

Georgia's pecan harvest this year could be the smallest it has been in more than a decade, says a University of Georgia specialist.

"This year will certainly be an off year for pecans. There just aren't many nuts on trees right now," said Lenny Wells, the UGA Cooperative Extension state pecan specialist. "But the quality of what is harvested should be good, provided we have adequate soil moisture in September."

Georgia growers are expected to harvest about 35 million to 40 million pounds, he said, only 40 percent of last year's 90 million pounds.

This year's crop could be the low-

est since 1992, when the state produced only 30 million pounds. The state's largest crop was the following year, producing 150 million pounds in 1993, according to the Georgia Agricultural Statistics Service.

Georgia had a good pecan crop last year. But that good crop and several periods of dry weather are why this year's crop will be low.

This year was already going to be an "off" year, Wells said. Pecan, hickory and walnut trees normally produce a strong crop every other year. Statewide weather conditions such as cloudy or sunny summers put most orchards on the same on-and-off cycle.

But even on an off year, he said, Georgia usually musters around 50

million pounds statewide. Though Georgia has had drought conditions this summer, a dry spell last August through September is contributing to the low production expected this year, Wells said.

"The crop for the following year will be determined at this time," he said. "Stressed trees such as in a drought will create chemical signals that stimulate the cells to grow more vegetation, and less goes to production."

Last year's crop was good, but it still fell a little short of expectations. And the 2004 crop was an off year with about 45 million pounds. Because of this, there are few pecans in storage, he said. Prices to farmers should be good this year.

For a while last year, growers got as much as \$2 per pound, a good price. Wells expects farmers to receive good prices again this year because Texas, which usually vies against Georgia for top-producing state, is having an off year, too, and is plagued by drought conditions.

Georgia growers harvest pecans from late October through November.

(Brad Haire is a news editor with the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.)



## Housing Authority directors meet in Washington

Area Housing Authority Executive Directors and office personnel from around the region met in Washington Thursday for a Georgia Association mini-management session. Meeting were (front, l-r) Linder Randall and Yvonne Albea, Washington; Jenna Charles, Toccoa; Mary Ann Smith, Executive Director, Elberton Housing Authority; and Angie Cothran, Royston Housing Authority; (rear, l-r) H.L. Brantley, Northeast Ga. Housing Authority Executive Director; Vivian W. Walker, Washington-Wilkes Housing Authority Executive Director; and Boyce Norris, Jr., Director, Office of Public Housing in Atlanta.

There is a need in Wilkes County for adult volunteers for leadership in the Girl Scout program.

"Not all volunteer positions require working directly with the girls; there is a lot of flexibility in the amount of time, time of day, and day of the week or month that is put into volunteering," says Terri Bear, membership specialist with the Girls Scouts of Northeast Georgia of which Wilkes County is a part.

"We're not just cookies and camp," Bear continued, "we're a whole lot more. Adults can be involved in Girl Scouts. If they want to spend some time guiding others and maybe even finding themselves, I encourage them to volunteer today."

Girl Scouting is for girls between the ages of five and 17, or in Kindergarten through the 12th grade. Girl Scouting is the oldest and largest all-girl organization in the world, offering programs in just about anything a girl wants to try, such as Whitewater rafting, basketball, archery, arts, drama, science, fashion, health, canoeing, horseback riding, volleyball, skiing, animal care, botany, scholarships, travel, and more.

Adults who think they may be interested in doing volunteer Girl Scouting are encouraged to call Bear at 1-800-300-4475; or 706-548-7297 for more information.

## Community Calendar

- Aug. 24-25 Mulberry Baptist revival, 7:30 p.m.
- August 25 Tigers-Elbert Jamboree, here, 7:30 p.m.
- August 26 The Word Outreach Tent Service, 11 a.m.
- August 27 Pompey's Chapel homecoming, 11:30 a.m. Twin Oak homecoming, 11:45 a.m. Pole Branch homecoming, 11:15 a.m.
- August 28 Civil War Roundtable, 6 p.m., Fitzpatrick
- Sept. 1 Tigers beat Warren Co., here, 7:30 p.m.
- Sept. 3 Heard's Chapel pastor's anniversary, 12 p.m. TLM anniversary, 4:30 p.m., Third Shiloh Gibson Grove pastor anniversary, 11:30 a.m. Flint Hill anniversary, 11:45 a.m.
- Sept. 4 Labor Day
- Sept. 8 Tigers beat Thomson, here, 7:30 p.m.
- Sept. 9 Country Cooking Supper, Fishing Creek Baptist, 6-8:30 p.m.
- Sept. 11 Washington City Council, 7:30 p.m., Pope Center
- Sept. 14 County Commissioners, 7 p.m.
- Sept. 15 Tigers beat Lincoln, there, 7:30 p.m.
- Sept. 18 Board of Education, 7:30 p.m.
- Sept. 19 W-WHSA general meeting, 6 p.m., MW Library
- Sept. 22 Tigers beat Dawson County, Homecoming, 7:30 p.m.
- Sept. 29 School holiday
- Dec. 8-9 Christmas Tour of Homes and Dinner