

Hillary Lindsey had Nashville dreams but Washington's never left her heart

Grammy award-winning songwriter Hillary Lindsey grew up in Washington-Wilkes with a passion for music that began at an early age. Her talent, determination, and hard work led her to Nashville where she has written chart-topping hits, performed at the Ryman Auditorium, and earned prestigious awards including a Grammy for Best Country Song this year. She has realized many of her dreams but she's never forgotten the hometown she loves. For quite some time, she has wanted to give something back, something sustainable, to the family, friends, and community that gave her encouragement from the beginning.

That dream too, will come true on Saturday, April 28, when she performs a benefit concert, the proceeds of which will provide musical instruments for students in the Washington-Wilkes school band program. Through the Washington-Wilkes Art Foundation, a fund is being established by Hillary to insure that all students with a real interest in music, regardless of their economic situation, will have the opportunity to develop their talent.

Instruments will be available to students beginning in the fifth grade for their use until graduation provided they remain active in the middle school and high school band

programs. At graduation, the instruments will go back into the pool to be recycled to the next generation of talented students.

Additionally, a new CD of Hillary's best songs is now on sale for \$16 each and is available at the Parts Department of Washington Ford Mercury on East Robert Toombs Avenue.

The April 28 concert will be held at the Washington-Wilkes Country Club with gates opening to ticket holders at 6 p.m. At 6:30 p.m., a "Southern Pig Pickin'" barbecue will be served in the Country Club dining room. Tickets for the meal are \$12 and are available at Kermit's Salon Tuesdays through Saturday mornings at 304 Spring Street in Washington. To make arrangements by phone, call Kermit Hocutt at 706-401-3262.

There will also be other vendors selling food, snacks, and beverages on the Country Club grounds. However, no coolers or food may be taken in by any ticket holder, patron, or sponsor.

A limited number of stage-front patron tables under the tent is still available at \$500 each for eight seats per table. Individual seats under the tent are priced at \$20 and admission for those "who wish to bring their own chair and sit around the tent"

is set at \$6 per person. Advanced ticket purchases are preferred and are available at the W-W Chamber of Commerce on The Square. Parking at the event will be limited and organizers are encouraging carpooling.

"Everyone is encouraged to attend and enjoy this wonderful benefit that will provide many years of opportunity for Wilkes County students to participate in the band programs," said event coordinator Debbie Wells of the Washington-Wilkes Arts Foundation. "Don't miss the opportunity to be entertained by a Grammy award-winning songwriter and singer, Washington-Wilkes' very own Hillary Lindsey."

Wells also expressed special thanks to Dycorn, the Farmers & Merchants Bank, the Fitzpatrick Hotel, Washington Cellular, and the Mike Reese family for sponsoring the event.

City council votes to change insurance carriers...

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issue was reviewed at the February 12, 2001 city council meeting.

The legal question for the city attorney, Fleming said, was whether the council could properly take that action at a hearing rather than a regular council meeting. His answer was, he said, "I would advise not to, but they were legal in doing so."

Saying that his review of state law showed no clear prohibition against the action, Fleming said, "You can, but you probably shouldn't."

Avery brought up concerns that his constituents had over the recent open house for the Southwest Washington Redevelopment Plan. "People want to know exactly how this will impact them, and what happens if they choose not to participate," he said. The meeting was designed to survey the opinions of the residents of the area about the need for redevelopment, he said, but people want to know.

The Mayor said that he was very pleased at the turnout of citizens at the open house, but that the RDC's Christian Lentz "missed an opportunity to talk to everybody and tell them what was going on."

Burns stressed that the decisions on what actions would be taken in the redevelopment would be made at the council table.

"Plans are being developed, but



No one hurt in equipment fire

Washington firefighters Kevin Tucker, David Wilson, Gregg Scott, and Jeff Hackney use AFFF firefighting foam to fight this equipment fire at Fernacres Farms Tuesday afternoon. Felicia Echols said she was operating a front-end loader moving wood chips when the loader caught fire. "I got off really quick," she said. "Everybody was hollering at me to jump." Eric Thornton, whose family owns Fernacres Farms, said he was impressed at the fire department's quick response. "And I'm glad nobody was hurt."



The toll free Dial-A-Prayer number is 1-877-337-7785.

Gibson Grove Baptist Church will have a Pastor Support Ministry Anniversary program on Sunday, April 15, 3 p.m. Pastor Samuel Duggan and the Greater Level Hill Baptist Church will be in charge of the service.

Self-guided audio tours of Washington's historic Resthaven Cemetery are available at the Washington Historical Museum on East Robert Toombs Avenue. The price for the 30-minute tour is \$5.00 per person with special group rates available. It is offered from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, and Sunday from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The New Sutton Temple Baptist Church will have its first Youth Choir Anniversary April 22, 3 p.m. and invites area churches and choirs to attend.

Mulberry Baptist Church will have a women and Men's Day program Sunday, April 22, 3 p.m., with Rev. Michael Gresham and the Reeves Chapel Baptist Church in charge.

The New Sutton Temple Baptist Church will have spring revival services April 25-27, 7:30

p.m. Speaker will be Bishop William Hollis of Full Gospel Church of God, Lumber City.

The Regions Bank Relay for Life Team will be having a cook-out and bake sale Friday, April 13, 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.

The Methodist Men of the First United Methodist Church will have chicken barbecue for sale on Saturday, April 21, in the fellowship hall. Plates will be \$6.00 each and will be available for take-out or eat-in. Tickets are available from church members.

Transforming Life Ministries invites the public to join them for a special Spring Street Worship Service at Dusty's on April 22, 8:30 a.m. For participation and further information contact Amethyst Wynn at 706-678-5492; or contact Emanuel Acree and Manuel Johnson.

Hilliard Station Baptist Church will celebrate the pastor's anniversary Sunday, April 15, 3:30 p.m. Rev. Chris Wimberly from First Hunter Hill Baptist Church, Atlanta, will bring the message. Dinner will be served.

Transforming Life Ministries will have a Resurrection Prayer Breakfast at the Third Shiloh Center Saturday, April 14, 9 a.m. The breakfast is free and the public is invited to attend. Call 706-678-5492 for reservations and further information.

TechSmart polls Wilkes leaders...

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business, civic, and government enterprises are using IT in their operations, and capture information about their operational issues, needs, opportunities, and plans. This identifies where you are today."

Georgia Tech then identifies the talent, teamwork, and technologies that will move Wilkes County, Laudeman said, "from where you are, to where you want to go, con-

you council members will make all the decisions on how to implement it," Eskew said.

The council passed two resolutions Monday night. It approved Eskew's recommendation to include HUD in the affordable communities program, and authorized the sending of the city's joint solid waste management update plan to the state.

Citizen Norris Ware rose to report a problem with city crews working at East Street, saying the crew removed a culvert, but put up no cones, had no supervisor on site, and were working near a gas line.

Washington-Wilkes Tourism Director Ashley Barnett started the meeting with a report on the increase in spring tourism. Thanks to "a media blitz" in Augusta on TV and in the newspaper during Masters week, nearly every room was filled in hotels, motels, and bed and breakfast inns, and restaurants saw extra business every night from returning Masters attendees.

Barnett also set up a booth at the I-20 Georgia State Visitors Center Friday to point visitors toward Washington.

In addition to other items, Barnett announced that Mayfest was slated for May 12, and anyone wanting to be a vendor should contact M.V. Booker.

Payroll Development Authority

trolling costs, increasing revenue, and creating new income along the way. During a third roadmapping session we help community leaders choose the best routes and vehicles for your community."

Last March, Governor Sonny Perdue and members of the OneGeorgia Authority board approved regulations for a new financing program that will bring high-speed broadband connectivity to rural Georgia. Perdue called for the OneGeorgia Authority to establish a grant program to support rural broadband access.

The BRIDGE fund will provide grants for publicly owned infrastructure based on the number of rural counties receiving new or enhanced high speed broadband services. The BRIDGE fund will grant \$200,000 for single-county projects and \$400,000 for projects impacting two counties. Perdue's FY07 budget proposal includes \$5 million as initial funding for the BRIDGE program.

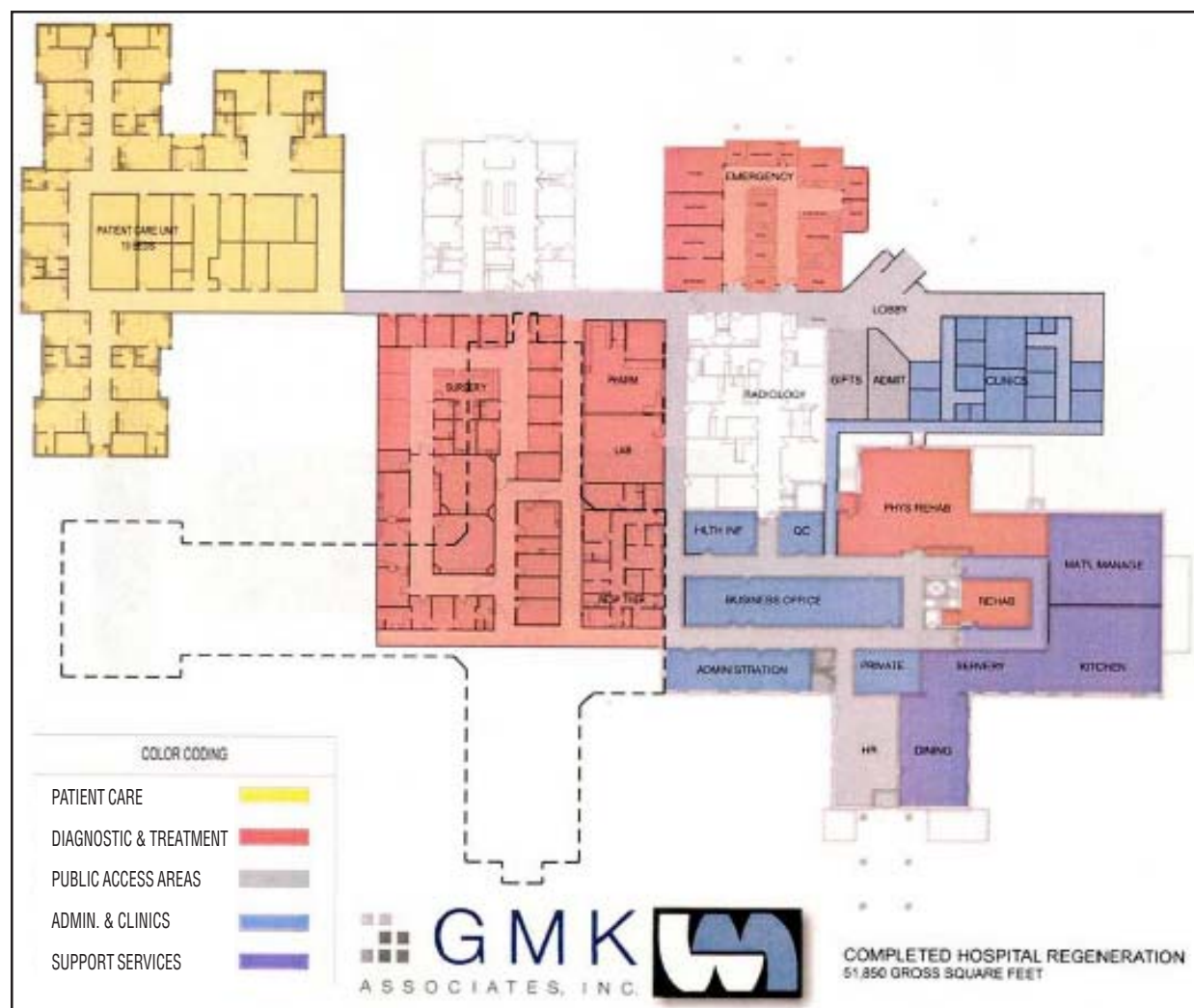
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Mt. Carmel Baptist Church Choir will present a musical extravaganza on April 15 at 3 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

The Christian Community Choir will present "Spread the News," a musical for Easter, at Raytown Baptist Church, April 15, 2 p.m. The musical is directed by Rev. Geri Lancaster and narrated by Rev. John Autry.

Jackson Chapel and Black Rock AME churches will have a pastor appreciation program on Sunday, April 22, 3 p.m. Patricia Wilder will be the speaker. Dinner will be served immediately after the service at the Third Shiloh Building.



Authority has preliminary plans for hospital upgrade

The preliminary proposal for the "regeneration" of Wills Memorial Hospital shows the facility with a total of almost 52,000 square feet. In the illustration above, the existing structure to be demolished is indicated by the dashed line. The Patient Care wing (upper left); the surgery, pharmacy, and lab section (center); and the expanded clinics (upper right) would be new construction. Radiology and ICU would be retained with little or no change and the rest would be renovated to varying degrees. The Wills Memorial Hospital Authority is currently seeking the most suitable plan for financing the venture and is proposing that the county back a bond issue to cover the \$18 million project.

Disney's 'High School Musical' to be featured at drama camp

Registration for this year's Summer Drama Camp at the Washington Little Theater has already begun. Instead of the usual two-week camp, this year's camp will be three weeks. As always, all students completing kindergarten through the twelfth grade are invited to attend.

The camp will begin on May 21 and will end with four performances of Disney's "High School Musical" June 8-10.

Due to the complexity of this year's drama camp production, the schedule will be as follows:

During the week of May 21-25, grades K-4 will rehearse from 9 a.m. until noon and grades 5-12 will rehearse from 12:30-3:30 p.m. During the week of May 29-June 1 (nothing on Memorial Day, May 28) all students will rehearse from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. And during the week of

June 4-8, all students will rehearse from 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Performances of "High School Musical" are scheduled for Friday, June 8, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, June 9, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and on Sunday, June 10, at 2 p.m.

Before registering for Drama Camp, prospective participants are asked to please check the above dates and times to make sure that they are able to attend all three weeks of camp and all four performances.

This year's camp will accept up to 15 students who are completing kindergarten-fourth grade and up to 25 students who are completing grades 5-12. Registration forms are available online and at any Wilkes County School office.

Please contact Nora Dukes at 706-678-7272 for further information.

Community Calendar

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| April 12 | County Commissioners, 2 p.m. W-W Garden Club, 2 p.m., Tignall Library LWREA, 11 a.m., Pizza Hut Wilkes Board of Registrars, 10 a.m., Courthouse |
| April 13 | Regions Bank Relay for Life Bake Sale, Cookout, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Relay for Life Bargain & Bake Sale, J&J Cleaners, noon Hotdog cookout & Bake, 11 a.m., Regions Bank |
| April 14 | TLM Resurrection Prayer Breakfast, 9 a.m., Third Shiloh Little River Relay for Life Team barbecue, 12-2 p.m., Lions Club New Saints SNAP meeting, 10 a.m. True Light Church clothes closet open, 10 a.m. |
| April 15 | Gibson Grove Pastor Support program, 3 p.m. Hilliard Station pastor's anniversary, 3:30 p.m. New Saints stewards and trustees day, 2 p.m. Reeves Chapel Usher Board program, 11:45 a.m. Bethlehem Baptist pastor's anniversary, 11:30 a.m. Sandy Cross Baptist homecoming, 11 a.m. FUMC Choir Concert, 3 p.m. |
| April 16 | Board of Education, 7:30 p.m. |
| April 17 | DAR Field Trip, 9:30 a.m., First Baptist parking lot Ladies of the Club, 6:30 p.m., Country Club Relay for Life Hotcake Supper, 5-7, McDonald's |
| April 18 | WMH Lunch & Learn, 12 noon, Hospital library |
| April 19 | Tignall Homemakers, 2 p.m., Tignall Library Concerned Citizens meeting, 7 p.m., 3912 Thomson Rd. Housing Authority Board, 5 p.m. |
| April 21 | FUMC chicken barbecue, fellowship hall |
| April 22 | Jackson Chapel, Black Rock AME pastor appreciation, 3 p.m. Mulberry Baptist Women & Men's Day, 3 p.m. New Sutton Temple youth choir anniversary, 3 p.m. TLM Spring St. Worship, 8:30 a.m., Dusty's Relay for Life Spud 'n Salad Lunch, 12:30, Church of Mediator |
| April 23 | Civil War Roundtable, 6 p.m., Fitzpatrick |
| Apr. 25-27 | New Sutton Temple revival, 7:30 p.m. |
| April 27 | Wilkes Dept. of Health, 11 a.m., Health Department |
| May 4 | Wilsbary May Fest, 10 a.m., MW Library |
| May 4-5 | Relay for Life, 7 p.m.-7 a.m., W-WPRD Track |
| May 10 | Friends of the Library, 3 p.m., MW Library |
| May 18 | Last day of school W-WCHS Graduation, 8 p.m., Tiger Stadium |
| May 21-24 | Post-Planning for teachers |