

Real Facts News

The Uncensored News of Ideal, Oglethorpe, Marshallville, Montezuma—April 25, 2014

5K Walk & Run draws 200 participants

By Roger Ann Davis

Participants said the Andersonville 5K Run and Walk was enjoyable despite a slight drizzle and cool temperatures. Some 200 turned out to run and walk.

Organizers deemed this first annual walk and run a success. Macon County Commissioners, the Andersonville Historic Site and Friends of Andersonville coordinated the event.

Brad Bennett, superintendent of the Andersonville National Historic Site, where the run and walk were held, said, “We were pleased to see so many runners and walkers of all ages enjoying Andersonville National Historic Site to celebrate National Park Week.

“I was especially gratified to hear that some Macon County residents and other area citizens were experiencing their local national park for the first time. After discovering or re-connecting with Andersonville, we hope to see the 5K participants back in the park for other special events, such as one of our ‘First Saturday’ programs during the 150th anniversary commemoration,” he said.

Jim Covington, president of Friends of Andersonville, said he was very “pleased despite the weather. This is just a wonderful turnout.”



Runners and walkers head for the 5K starting line on the day of the race; about 200 people braved the drizzle and the coolness to participate. Photo by Jimmy Davis

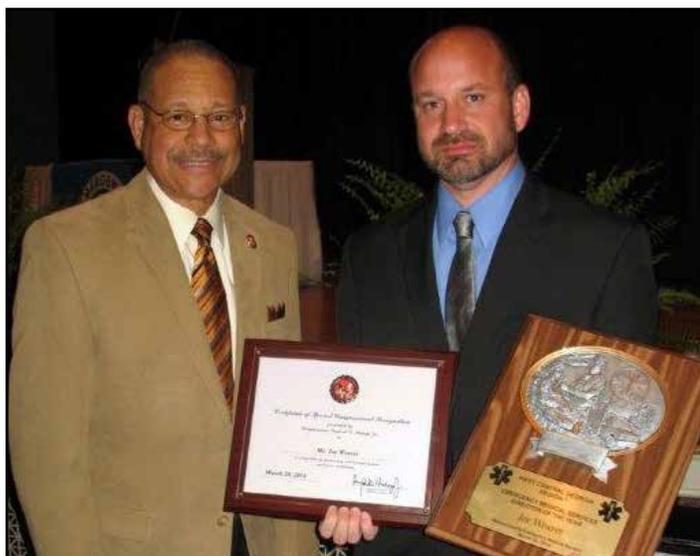
He complimented Macon County Manager Regina McDuffie and county workers who took care of the details of the race. “I want to give all the credit to Regina and her crowd. They have done a superlative job.”

“My overall take is it was a great success,” McDuffie said. “Everything went off very well. Attendance was great considering the weather,” she said.

Various county departments handled aspects of the event. The County Commission office staff did registration and other prepara-

See 5K, Page 3

E.M.S. Director Joe Weaver named Director of the Year



Director Joe Weaver, right, with his awards standing with U.S. Rep. Sanford Bishop. Photo by ©2014 G. Mack Bentley

At the annual awards banquet held recently for the West Central Georgia Region 7 Emergency Medical Services, the honor of E.M.S. Director Of The Year was bestowed upon Macon County E.M.S. Director Joe Weaver.

This honor is awarded annually by the West Central Georgia Region 7 E.M.S. Awards Committee.

The criteria from which the selection was made was based on the following:

- Participation in Region wide E.M.S. activities. (For example, E.M.S. Council, E.M.S. for Children, special events, committees, sending personnel to training courses, etc.)
- Participation in State E.M.S. activities. (For example, the E.M.S. Association, E.M.S. Day at the Capitol, E.M.S. Legislative Breakfast, state committees, etc.)
- Attitude toward patients and families. (For example, professional appearance, rapport with employees, standards set for personnel and operations, continuous quality improvement program, data collection and analysis, etc.)

See AWARD, Page 4

Public invited to forum April 29 on hiring of school superintendent

A community forum to discuss the hiring of the new school superintendent for the Macon County School System will be held on Tuesday, April 29.

The forum will be in the Macon County Middle School Cafeteria at 6:30 p.m. Macon County residents are encouraged to attend.

People in the community will have the opportunity to speak at this event and give opinions concerning the hiring of the superintendent.

School Board members will be present to hear the thoughts of the community. However, the meeting will be coordinated and facilitated by a representative of the Georgia School Board Association.

The School Board is seeking a replacement for Dr. Carolyn Medlock, who is retiring June 30.

The position is currently being advertised on the Georgia School Board Association website. People interested in the position have until April 25 to apply for the job. Citizens who desire to do so can go to the website and read the advertisement. It is listed under Member Services in the Superintendent Search Service section.

If you cannot attend the forum, a survey for community participation is available on the school website. You can go to any of the schools' websites and find the survey under District News. That information will be collected and compiled by the Georgia School Board Association representative and presented to the local Board of Education.

Board of Education members include Chairman Eugene Felton, Vice Chairman Gail Spikes, and James Byrom, Wayne Bellew and Roger Ann Davis.

Start Your Own Business Class May 8

A Start Your Own Business Class, entitled "Macon County Entrepreneurs", will be held from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, May 8, at the Pope Technology Center, 900 South Georgia Tech Parkway, Americus. To register, call the Macon County Chamber of Commerce at 472-2391.

Celebrate Recovery ministry for addicts

Celebrate Recovery meets on Tuesday nights at 7 p.m. at the old chapel of Still Water Chapel, 3550 Georgia Highway 240, Ideal. It ministers to people with addiction to drugs, alcohol, and especially to their families.

Other life-changing problems are also covered in the 12-step Bible-based program. For more information contact Roy and Jennie Peterson at 478-949-5842.

AA meetings

The Flint River Group AA meets Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 6 to 7 p.m. at the old junior high school in Oglethorpe. For directions, or other information, call 478-286-9751 or 478-235-5704.

The group that was meeting in Ellaville is no longer meeting. If you are seeking help with alcohol or drugs, please call 229-815-3001.

AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) is a support group for alcoholics and drug addicts and is open to anyone seeking help.

NAACP Political Forum May 8

The Macon County Branch NAACP Political Forum is planned for Thursday, May 8. All candidates, elected officials, appointed officials, board members and other community leaders and citizens are invited to attend.

The event will be held at 6 p.m. at the Preston Williams Recreation Complex in Montezuma.

Be sure to vote May 20 or in early voting

The Primary Election will be held May 20, and two local posts have opposition in this election.

School Board incumbent Wayne Bellew is challenged by election newcomer Monika Clay. He currently holds School Board Post 2, which represents the Oglethorpe area.

Macon County Commissioner Bob Melvin, who represents Post 5 in the Montezuma area, also has opposition, Darrel Rye.

All of these candidates are registered as Democrats and to vote for one of these people, you must request a Democratic ballot.

Running unopposed for School Board posts are Gail Spikes, representing Post 4 in the Montezuma area, and Roger Ann Davis, representing Post 1 in the Ideal and Andersonville areas.

County commissioners running unopposed are Gordon Sutton, representing Post 1 in the Ideal and Andersonville areas, and Richmond Felton, representing Post 3 in the Marshallville area. Their names will be on the ballot and you have the choice of casting a vote for them.

Also on this Democratic ballot will be Gerald Beckum, former mayor of Oglethorpe, who is running for Secretary of State. To vote for him you must request a Democratic ballot.

Also on the ballot will be a county wide referendum for Sunday alcohol sales. A majority yes vote will give the governing authority of Macon County the authority to permit and regulate package sales by retailer of malt beverages, wine and distilled spirits on Sundays from 12:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the unincorporated areas of the county. tilled spirits on Sunday afternoons. You have the option of voting yes to allow the sales or no to not allow the sales.

Real Facts News

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

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and advertising,**

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**Roger Ann Davis
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Candidates for Macon County School Board

H. Wayne Bellew

Candidate for School Board District 2 - Oglethorpe area

H. Wayne Bellew, 59, of 722 Stagecoach Road, Oglethorpe, is running for re-election to the Macon County School Board, Oglethorpe District 2.



Bellew is completing his first four-year term on the Board this year. He is seeking re-election “to continue trying to improve our school system so our students and their families will stay in Macon County,” he said.

A Macon County High School graduate and a lifelong resident of Macon County, he works for Windstream in Montezuma and

has been a customer service technician for 24 years.

Bellew said he “would like to see our current board continue working together so we can complete our goals of building a new high school and selecting a new school superintendent. We have a good working relationship, we have made good progress and we are headed in the right direction.”

He said he enjoys serving on the board and would like to continue serving the people in Oglethorpe District 2.

He has been a member of Whitewater Baptist Church for 42 years and is a Senior Deacon of Travelers Rest Masonic Lodge #65.

His hobbies include fishing, riding motorcycles and spending time with his family.

He and his wife, Cindy, have three children: Michael Bellew, Andy Oliver and Brad Oliver. He also has three grandchildren: Remington Bellew, Caitlyn Bellew and Audrey Duncan.

Bellew encourages everyone in District 2 to please vote and appreciates your support.

Monika Clay

Candidate for School Board District 2 - Oglethorpe area

Monika Clay, 49, is making her first foray in politics, seeking the District 2 seat on the Macon County School Board.

She is retired from Cooper Tire in Albany, where she worked in production.

She graduated from Americus High School in 1983 and studied nursing at Albany State and Georgia Southwestern College.

She is a member of Word Power Christian Church in Americus and president of the Macon County High School PTO.

“I am running for the Board of Education because there is no limit to the things we can accomplish if we work together to improve our children’s education in the Macon County School System. I know the needs and concerns of our children.”

She believed parental involvement is the key to a better education for children. “I have two daughters in the Macon County School System. Parents need to become their children’s largest advocate from pre-k through graduation,” she said.

Specifically, she wants “to see the Macon County School System be prepared and ready for the STEM pathway. I also want to be part of the improvement process for all students in the educational system of Macon County.”

“It takes a village to raise a child. Remember that the children of Macon County are the future of Macon County. It is our job as a community to give them the best opportunity (education) possible,” she said.



5-K

Continued from Page 1

tion for the race, the Recreation Department provided and placed tables and chairs, the Road Department placed barrels and cones to mark the track, the Sheriff’s Department assisted with parking and patrolled the area, the Emergency Management Department provided water coolers, and the local Ham Radio association also assisted. The Emergency Medical Service had an ambulance on site, and volunteer county firefighters assisted. Dot Barker of the Chamber of Commerce also helped with preparation for the race.

She said she was especially pleased because “it was a successful community event. We hope to engage the cities and other areas in it as well. It brought attention to the Andersonville Historic Site and showed people some of the things Macon County has to offer.”

At the race, she publicly thanked the major Double Platinum sponsor, Bamboo Road Farm, and Platinum Sponsors Barrington Dairies and Weyerhaeuser.

The one Silver Sponsor was Verizon, which provided a tent donation and the grand prize. Bronze Sponsors were Georgia Power, Country Financial, Modern Woodmen of America and Yancey

See 5K, Page 8

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PAUL'S AUTOMOTIVE READY TO TAKE CARE OF MACON COUNTY AUTOMOTIVE NEEDS

Director Continued from Page 1

- Performance of duties as an EMS Director. (For example, professional appearance, rapport with employees, standards set for personnel and operations, continuous quality improvement program, data collection and analysis, etc.)

- “Extra-curricular” activities in the community. (For example, a member of civic, church, and youth organizations, participation in community events, parades, etc.)

County manager Regina M. McDuffie said, “Joe is an outstanding employee that has always directed himself in a caring and professional manner. Joe has worked for Macon County for more

than 12 years.

“He came up through the ranks from the level of EMT to Paramedic to Director and has always garnered respect and admiration from his co-workers for his unselfish service to the people that he encounters.”

Assistant Director of Macon County E.M.S., G. Mack Bentley commented, “Joe Weaver is well deserving of this honor. He truly loves this community and has totally dedicated his life to see that the best EMS care in the state is provided right here in Macon County.”

When the awards committee announced Joe Weaver as the winner of Director of the Year, the attendees jumped to their feet with a standing ovation, with many wiping tears of joy from their eyes.

After composing himself, Weaver stepped up to the podium and said, “I just want to thank Dr. Richard Chase for serving as our E.M.S. Medical Director and supporting us all the way. And most of all, I want to thank our crew of EMT’s and Paramedics that serve along with me at Macon County E.M.S. You are the best!”

In addition to being named Director of the Year, Weaver was also presented a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition by U.S. Congressman Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. in recognition of outstanding achievement, service and public distinction.

In addition to his duties as E.M.S. Director, Weaver also serves as Deputy Director of Emergency Management, is a volunteer firefighter for Macon County Fire & Rescue and is the medical assistant for the Macon County High School football team.

The closing of the Emergency Department of Flint River Hospital recently forced all emergencies to be transported out of the county. Under Weaver’s leadership, the E.M.S. department had to quickly expand the staff to handle these needs and that was not an easy task.

The Macon County E.M.S. asks that all citizens in our area join with them in congratulating Joe Weaver for this outstanding achievement.

VOTE

Darrel Rye

THE RIGHT MAN FOR THE JOB

**County Commissioner
District 5**



Resident of Macon County since 1986

Resided in District 5 since 1995

Owner of Badcock Furniture for 26 years

GIVE ME A CHANCE!

Candidates for Macon County Commission

Bob Eric Melvin

**Candidate for Macon County Commission
District 5 - Montezuma area**

Bob Eric Melvin, 43, of 1114 Flint River School Road, Montezuma, is a candidate seeking re-election for County Commissioner in District 5.

He is married to Sandy Washington Melvin and they have two daughters, Haley and Morgan Melvin.

He is employed with Weyerhaeuser Pulp and Paper in Oglethorpe.

He is a graduate of Macon County High School and holds a degree in electronics.

He is a 2005 graduate of Leadership Macon County, a Certified County Commissioner through the University of Georgia and the Association County Commissioners Georgia, and a graduate of the Georgia Academy for Economic Development 2012.

Melvin is very active in his church and the community. He is a member of the Flint River Farm School Preservation Society, Inc.

See **BOB MELVIN**, Page 7



Darrel Rye

**Candidate for Macon County Commission
District 5 - Montezuma area**

Darrel Rye, 55, who resides in the Five Points area near Montezuma, is seeking election to the District 5 Macon County Commission post.

Rye, owner and operator of Badcock Home Furniture in Montezuma and Griffin, has lived in Macon County since 1986.

Rye, who was reared in Oklahoma, is a graduate of Westfield High School in Westfield, Oklahoma. He studied for two years at Northeastern Oklahoma University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma and also studied air conditioning and heating at a vocational school for two years.

He moved to Georgia in 1980 to work as an appliance repairman in Bainbridge, then went to work for the Badcock organization, working in another store for two years before coming to Montezuma. He also worked for the Montezuma store for two years and then purchased it.

He is a member of Cedar Valley Baptist church, where he now serves as a deacon and has been chairman of the deacon board. He also sings in the choir. He is a Gideon, a part of the Americus camp.

Asked why he was running for the Commission post, he said, "Part of it was what recently happened with the hiring of the Recreation Department director. I feel like Macon Countians need to hire local people. We don't need to hire people from other places. How can you be involved in the community if you live in Byron?"

"Through the years a lot of good qualified people have been overlooked by the county," he said.

See **DARRELL RYE**, Page 7

RE-ELECT WAYNE BELLEW

**MACON COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
DISTRICT 2**



Primary Election Day: May 20

Early Voting at Courthouse Begins April 28

**You must vote
Democrat for this
election only.**

C.N.A Needed

Selected qualified applicants will be offered employment and CNA training at The Oaks Nursing Home. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older, have no criminal record, pass a drug test, and have a valid driver's license.

No phone interviews will be accepted. Apply in person between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday at the following address:

***The Oaks Nursing Home
777 Nursing Home Road
Marshallville, GA 31057***

RE-ELECT BOB MELVIN COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 5



ONE PART OF A WINNING TEAM

I would like to take this time to thank the citizens of Macon County and the residents of District 5 for allowing me to serve as your Commissioner for the last four years. I am asking each of you for your vote and support this year as we continue to move Macon County forward. As your Commissioner, I have served with an open door policy, a listening ear to every concern, and a quick response to the citizens I represented on issues that matter to them. I have served the citizens of Macon County with integrity, honesty, hard work, and a team concept of working together for the betterment of Macon County citizens at-large. I am One Part of a Winning Team that is seeking your vote and support for the next four years. I hope you will support me by reelecting me on May 20, 2014.

Over the last four years, I spearheaded discussion on:

- Increasing Freeport Exemption to 100%
- Purchasing Land for Macon County Industrial Park
- Opening up discussion for a New Health Department
- Working closely with the Rural Development Council on Redistricting Maps
- Requesting that the county should bid out certain services



Leadership

- Certified county Commissioner through the University of GA and ACCG
- Completed Region 8 Economic & Leadership Training
- Served as vice-Chairman of the Board of Commissioners (2013)
- Good working relationship with Board of Commissioners members
- Good working relationship with Department Heads
- Ensure that all decisions are based on facts to protect Citizens and County

BOARD ACCOMPLISHMENTS OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS

- Hired new County Manager
- Have not raised milage rate
- Implemented a County Fire Department
- Lowered ISO rating in certain areas of the County
- Commissioned pay scale and job description for County employees
- Implemented several new ordinances
- Implemented short term work program
- Completed several road projects throughout the County
- Purchased new equipment with SPLOST funds for several departments

As you can see, there have been many accomplishments over the past 4 years. This is why I am asking for your support and vote on May 20, 2014 so that I can continue to be *One Part of a Winning Team* that is moving Macon County forward.

**ELECTION
DAY
MAY 20, 2014**

**LEADERSHIP, HONESTY, INTEGRITY
ONE PART OF A WINNING TEAM**

Darrell Rye Continued from Page 5

He also feels that the Commission needs to run a tighter ship money-wise. “They spend a little more money than they make. It’s like a business, you can’t spend more than you make,” he said.

He also is concerned about economic development. “I’m not sure the commissioners are involved enough in getting business back in Macon County, in getting jobs,” he said.

Bob Melvin Continued from Page 5

Executive Board, a member of the Macon County Art Alliance, a past member of the Macon County Chamber of Commerce and Development Authority of Macon County, and former president of the Macon County Chapter New Horizon Habitat for Humanity.

“I am seeking re-election to the District 5 post to continue to be one part of a winning team that has moved Macon County forward over the last three and a half years by implementing policies and procedures to help our county to become business friendly and address the needs of the citizens of Macon County,” he said.

“Because of my honesty, integrity, leadership skills, and a willingness to work well with others, I am asking for your support so we can continue to make Macon County a great place to live and do business,” he said.

Another example of poor economics in the county is gas prices, he said. “Macon County has always been gouged on gas prices. How many people leave town and get gas? And that costs us 4 cents (in local option sales tax) per dollar. Everybody does that because it’s 20 cents cheaper (elsewhere). That has cost this county no telling how many thousands of dollars. Through the years that’s a fortune. It costs us about \$2 in sales tax every time someone fills up outside the county,” he said. One way of dealing with that is not to renew the gas companies’ license, he said.

“When you run for commissioner, you run against incumbent commissioners and they (the voters) just keep voting for them. I’m asking that you just give me a chance. If you are not pleased with what I do, you can throw me back out in four years,” he said..

“Macon County is our home and this is where we want to live. We could have lived anywhere we wanted, but we want to be here. I like the agricultural area, but we need enough jobs to support the tax base,” he said.

He and his wife, Leslie, have two children, Brandon Rye of Moultrie and Rachel Garrett of Athens.

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“Macon County Entrepreneurs”

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Thursday, May 8, 2014

5:30-8:30 PM

Pope Technology Center

900 South Georgia Tech Pkwy

Americus, Georgia

Call Macon County Chamber of Commerce to Register

478-472-2391



George Windham, and his father, Andy Windham of Oglethorpe ready to start the race.



Andersonville Park Superintendent Brad Bennett, left, with Friends of Andersonville President Jim Covington.



County Manager Regina McDuffie, center, announces winners; Deputy County Manager Roselyn Starling, left, and Deputy County Clerk Belinda Johnson, right, assist.



16 and Under winners in the Male Division: Carter Shelton, 15, left, first place, Daniel Joseph, 9, second, and Aiden Bolton, 10, third.

5K

Continued from Page 3

Brothers. Other sponsors were Flint Energies, Pepsi, Mutual Financial Group, Felton's Red & White, Harvey's, Piggly Wiggly, Papa's Pizza, Subway, Waste Industries, Ronnie Ward, Portraits by Jerry, Frito Lay, and State Farm (Americus).



The Overall Winners of the 5K Run and Walk were Bristol Shelton, 40, in the Female Division and Clint Watkins, 45, in the Male Division. He was the first runner to cross the finish line and she was the sixth runner and the first female to finish.

Listed below are winners by age category for the Female and Male Division. Winners are listed in order, first place, second place and third place. The Finish number is the place they crossed the finish line in the total race; for example, if the finish number is 18, that means the runner was the 18th person to cross the finish line.

Female Division:

16 and Under - Ramsay Miller, 14, Finished 18; Amelia Bilder, 14, Finished 20; Anna Moore, 15, Finished 35.

17-20 Years Old - Brianna Quinn, 19, Finish 27; Natolie Suckow, 19, Finish 74; Macy Nutt, 17, Finish 86.

21-30 Years Old - Jessica Childers, 28, Finish 12; Leigh McLendon, 22, Finish 19; Caroline Cripe, 30, Finish 54.

31-40 Years Old - Arlene Bolton, 33, Finish 33; Joanie Welch, 32, Finish 55; Amber Engle, 31, Finish 56.

41-50 Years Old - Venus Barton, 49, Finish 24; Rhonda Barrett,

42, Finish 26; Raven Stewart, 48, Finish 31.

51-60 Years Old - Betsy Moore, 57, Finish, 47; Jan Stone, 57, Finish 48; Darcy Sutton, 55, Finish 49.

61 and Over - Autumn Perry, 66, Finish 62; Joyce Dougherty, 64, Finish 108; Janet Smith, 66, Finish 118.

Male Division:

16 and Under - Carter Shelton, 15, Finish 2; Daniel Joseph, 9, Finish 8; Aiden Bolton, 10, Finish 28.

17-20 Years Old - Tony Martin, 18, Finish 4; Grant Shelton, 17, Finish 5; Jonathon McCafty, 19, Finish 109.

21-30 Years Old - Mark Chaffin, 24, Finish 7; Matt Brannen, 28, Finish 21; Lance Childers, 29, Finish 34.

31-40 Years Old - David Eckles, 38, Finish 11; Braden Miller, 40, Finish 17.

41-50 Years Old - Troy Willis, 44, Finish 3; Jeffery Haugabook, 45, Finish 9; Thomas Shelton, 49, Finish 10.

51-60 Years Old - Roger Keel, 60, Finish 13; John Harvard, 58, Finish 14; Donnie Chaffin, 53, Finish 15.

61 and Over - Johnny Hinman, 65, Finish 23; Jim Scarr, 62, Finish 37; Larry Horsting, 63, Finish 44.

The local organizing committee consisted of Brett Moore, Bob Melvin and Joyce Dougherty with Weyerhaeuser, Regina McDuffie, Belinda Johnson, David Parrot, and Olin Credle with Macon County Board of Commissioners, Brad Bennett, Eric Leonard, and Jim Covington with Andersonville National Historic Site, Jimmy Davis with the Development Authority and John Rosati, volunteer.