



# Wrestling Fundraiser A Success

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# The Lanier County News

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Serving Our Community with Honesty and Integrity for 104 Years

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Lakeland, Ga.



"And the lucky broom stayed with us through all the tournaments and through state. The girls would touch it every time they went on the field and took turns sweeping the dugout. We acquired the broom at a tournament we won. It was a rainy day and we used it to sweep water." - Coach Chris Newsome  
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## Lanier County 10U Girls make history! 2017 GRPA 10U Machine Class C State Championship

By Steven F. Meders

The Little Lady Dawgs showed out last week, winning the first ever State Championship for Lanier County in girls in the Georgia Recreation and Park Association (GRPA).

Even though it is machine-pitch, it is considered fast-pitch. That makes things look good for the future of the Lanier County Softball program. They

won the District 3 Championship over in Adel a couple of weeks ago. After a couple of weeks of preparation, they headed up to Madison, Georgia/ Morgan County. Lanier Girls had one close call, but they walked through the 2017 State Tournament UNDEFEATED. That, my friend, is a big deal!

Lanier faced off with Alma-

Bacon County in the first game on Tuesday. Lanier won 13-4, not even close. Next up on Wednesday, Screven County. Well...Lanier 20-3.

Coach Chris Newsome was concerned a little about the next opponent, but he had confidence in his girls. They played Appling County in the undefeated game. The winner would be in the championship game. It

was a hard fought game, but Lanier pulled it out 7-6.

Coach Newsome said, "Our team and Appling were pretty well matched. It went back and forth. We were tied going into the sixth; we scored one run in the top of sixth and were able to shut down Appling to win 7-6."

That win put Lanier in the championship. With their lucky broom looking for the sweep.

And SWEEP they did, Lanier won the 2017 GRPA Machine 10U Championship with a 17-1 win over Alma-Bacon County. They dominated.

The Lanier Girls said they felt like celebrities as they were coming into town, with all the signs and banners. I have watched these girls mature on the softball field myself and I am proud of them. They are fun

to watch. They say there is going to be a parade. They deserve it.....Boys baseball won the state back in the 1970's, I understand. So show these girls some love.

Champion: Lanier County; 2nd: Alma-Bacon; 3rd: Appling County; 4th: Berrien County; 5th: Glennville; 5th: Screven County; 7th: Forfeit; 7th: Host-Morgan County



Southside VBS Pre-K participants performing on family night

## Exciting family night at Southside Baptist Vacation Bible School

By Carol A. Moore

Kids from all over Lanier County attended one of the largest Vacation Bible School (VBS) events in Southside Baptist Church's history.

Galactic Starveyors was

Southside VBS's theme. In the week of activities, kids focused their telescopes on the marvels painted in the sky by the Creator as they discovered the wonder among all wonders – that the God who created every-

thing there is – the knowable and the unknowable, the visible and the invisible – wants a personal relationship with them! Kids attending the VBS were

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## Police continue search for shooting suspect

Officers are continuing to search for the suspect in a recent shooting, according to the Lakeland Police Department.

At about 4:47 a.m. Saturday, July 8, an officer received a call through dispatch in reference to a man claiming that he had been shot at an East Main Street address and several people were chasing him in four vehicles, a report states.

Police responded to Jet Food Store, spoke with the man, and found that he was possibly on drugs and was hallucinating, Chief Michael Slusher said in a previous statement. The 32-year-old offender was cited for

disorderly conduct.

At about 5 p.m. July 8, police responded to the hospital ER, where a 13-year-old juvenile male had been taken. He was treated for a bullet wound in the buttocks.

Officers discovered that earlier, the offender while under the influence of drugs had fired off his pistol on Davis Avenue, Chief Slusher said. The bullet went through the door of a home and struck the juvenile male. A witness heard the gunshot but thought it was a firecracker. The offender told the witness that he was sorry and didn't mean to shoot his gun.

Adults in the residence thought that the victim had only suffered an accidental scrape and put a gauze bandage on the injury. In the afternoon, the boy's mother arrived and took the victim to the ER, where the injury was determined to be a gunshot wound.

The victim was recovering from the wound. He underwent surgery, and the bullet has been recovered.

Arrest warrants have been issued for the offender, who faces charges of disorderly conduct with violence, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, and aggravated assault.

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Mural by Ralph Waldrop

## Police: Three 'dangerous offenders taken off the streets'

By Charles Shiver

Three suspects sought by Lakeland Police after a July 10 shooting on West Bostick Street were arrested July 12 during a traffic stop in Valdosta, said Lakeland Police Chief Michael Slusher.

Lakeland Police Capt. David Warren identified the offenders as Aliza Dejun Dickey, 19, Ronald Welsch, 18, and DeCorius Sirmans, 19, all of Valdosta. Each defendant was charged with aggravated assault and armed robbery. Dickey faces an additional charge of possession of a firearm during the commission of a crime.

In the shooting incident, at about 1:40 a.m. Monday, July 10, officers received a call

through dispatch in reference to a man who had been shot and was walking down the street.

The victim told police that he was walking down West Bostick Avenue in front of Milltown Apartments when three offenders beat and robbed him.

The victim suffered a gunshot wound and was taken by ambulance to the hospital ER. He underwent reconstructive surgery. At last report, he was still hospitalized.

The Valdosta Police Department gave the following account of the three offenders' apprehension:

On July 12, 2017, at approximately noon, Valdosta Police Officers received a tip



Aliza Dejun Dickey

from a citizen stating that they had seen Aliza Dejun Dickey in Albany. Dickey had been wanted since July 7, 2017, for shooting a subject

in the Azalea Woods apartment complex at 811 West Mary Street in Valdosta.

That shooting occurred near the campus of Valdosta State University. The scene is just off campus near VSU's Athletic Field House. The incident appeared to have resulted from an isolated dispute between the shooter and a victim, according to the Valdosta Police Department. The dispute reportedly began outside of an apartment and continued inside, where the victim was shot. The shooting victim was taken to a local hospital in stable condition. The shooting suspect fled the scene on foot.

A citizen advised that he believed Dickey was en route

to Valdosta. The citizen's tip included the vehicle description, to include a license plate number. The citizen that provided the tip additionally followed the vehicle and continued updating police officers as to the direction of travel. Meanwhile, detectives were also receiving information that Dickey was riding with another wanted subject, Ronald Welsch. Both Dickey and Welsch had outstanding felony warrants for their arrests.

Patrol Officers and Detectives set up in marked and unmarked vehicles near the I-75 exits. At approximately 1:15 p.m. July 12, the vehicle exited I-75 at exit 22, North

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