



JAMES PASCHAL AND ALISON (ALI) LINDSEY

## Paschal ~ Lindsey

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Barrentine of Nashville, Georgia, and Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Paschal of Lakeland, Georgia, are happy to announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their children, Alison (Ali) Lindsey and James Paschal.

Ali is a 2012 graduate of Berrien County High School and is presently employed with Farmers and Merchants Bank of Lakeland. James graduated from Lanier County High School in 2013 and is currently employed with S&S Electrical Contractors of Tifton, Georgia.

Ali and James are planning their wedding for Saturday, November 4, 2017, 5 p.m., at the farm of Ronnie Gaskins on Highway 168 in Nashville. No invitations are being sent, but all friends and relatives are invited to attend and enjoy this happy occasion with Ali, James, and Alden.

## Local producers may be eligible for Emergency Conservation Assistance

Hurricane Irma has caused severe damage in Clinch, Echols, Lanier and Lowndes Counties. Farms and ranches suffering severe damage may be eligible for assistance under the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) administered by the Lowndes Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Office if the damage:

- will be so costly to rehabilitate that Federal assistance is or will be needed to return the land to productive agricultural use
- is unusual and is not the type that would recur frequently in the same area
- affect the productive capacity of the farmland
- will impair or endanger the land.

cost-share levels not to exceed 75 percent of the eligible cost of restoration measures. No producer is eligible for more than \$200,000 cost sharing per natural disaster occurrence. The following types of measures may be eligible:

- removing debris from farmland
- grading, shaping, or releveling severely damaged farmland
- restoring permanent fences
- restoring conservation structures and other similar installations.

Producers who have suffered a loss from a natural disaster may contact the local FSA County Office and request assistance from October 10, 2017 through No-

See PRODUCERS, Page 8



Lowndes County Sheriff Ashley Paulk and SGMC CEO Ross Berry discuss the vital role of first responders to community safety.

## SGMC shows appreciation for first responders

South Georgia Medical Center hosted a First Responders Appreciation Lunch on Monday, Oct. 2, to show support and acknowledge the vital role of first responders to the community. Nearly 200 police officers, fire fighters, paramedics and other emergency personnel enjoyed a complimentary lunch and fellowship with SGMC leaders.

# Two local Mediacom employees earn awards and recognition

Two local Mediacom employees earned top customer service awards during a ceremony held Monday at Mediacom's Regional Operations Center in Valdosta.

William Mortimer, a resident of Lakeland, earned the national bronze level award for excellence for his work in technical support. Mortimer has been employed with Mediacom for 10 years.

Amanda Rentz, a resident of Stockton, was recognized with the 'People's Choice Award' for her exemplary work as a broadband specialist and has been employed with Mediacom for seven years.

Mediacom employs 4,600 people companywide. The company's owner and senior management team personally present annual awards to employees who earn the highest performance rankings and demon-



L-R: Darryl Chaney, Director; Amanda Rentz; John Pascarelli, Executive VP; Tapan Dandnaik, Senior VP

strate outstanding service.

About Mediacom Communications

Mediacom Communications Corporation is the 5th largest cable operator in the U.S. serving almost 1.4 million customers in smaller markets primarily in the Midwest and Southeast. Media-

com offers a wide array of information, communications and entertainment services to households and businesses, including video, high-speed data, phone, and home security and automation. Through Mediacom Business, the company provides innovative broad-

band solutions to commercial and public sector customers of all sizes, and sells advertising and production services under the OnMedia brand. More information about Mediacom is available at [www.mediacomcable.com](http://www.mediacomcable.com).

# Big addition for big turtle year

By Georgia DNR

George Heinrich will go to great lengths, and depths, to draw attention to North America's native turtles.

Even into an over-your-head blackwater bend in the Apalaha River.

Not that herp scientists like Heinrich apparently need much coaxing to explore the lair of any species they're seeking. In late September, he and Georgia naturalist Dirk J. Stevenson tread tea-colored water in a deep slough of the south Georgia river, testing the sluggish current, temporarily avoiding the swarms of mosquitoes and probably toe-checking any available river bottom for a jagged shell that might reveal their targeted turtle: *Macrochelys suwanniensis*, the Suwannee alligator snapper.

Heinrich, of St. Petersburg, Fla., had driven to the Apalaha in hopes of finding the Suwannee gator snapper, one of the world's largest freshwater turtles, plus an eastern mud and a chicken turtle.

It's all part of the Florida Turtle Conservation Trust's Big Turtle Year. Modeled after birthing big years, Heinrich and Tim Walsh of Connecticut's Bruce Museum are trying to see as many of the United States' 59 turtle species (per a 2014 listing) as possible in 2017.

While about 58 percent of the world's turtles are imperiled, attention is often focused on species not native to this continent. "The goal is to raise awareness about our U.S. species," Heinrich said. For the rare and common, he added: "things like

bog turtles and red-bellied cooters."

The initiative has ranged from New Jersey to California and racked up 45 species as of early October. But two weeks ago, Heinrich needed a Suwannee snapper.

Georgia is home to both species of alligator snapping turtles: the Suwannee in the Suwannee River drainage and *Macrochelys temminckii* in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint basin. (In following the Turtle Taxonomy Working Group's 2014 species list, the Big Turtle Year is also pursuing what was proposed then as a third species, the Apalachicola alligator snapper, *Macrochelys apalachicola*. The group dismissed that turtle as a separate species this year.)

Alligator snappers look prehistoric, growing upward of 200 pounds and sporting ridge-creased shells, chunky heads and jaws that can snap a broomstick. Still recovering from commercial trapping that ravaged their populations before being outlawed in 1992, the protected species are a conservation priority in Georgia's State Wildlife Action Plan. The plan is a comprehensive, partnership-powered strategy focused on conserving the state's native wildlife and the natural habitats they need before these animals, plants and places become rarer and more costly to conserve or restore.

On the Apalaha, Stevenson and Heinrich, helped by DNR senior wildlife biologist John Jensen, wildlife technician Andy Day and Orienne



George Heinrich with a Suwannee snapper (Dirk J. Stevenson)

Society's Ben Stegenga and Jonathon Bolton, checked large hoop traps baited with sardines and catfish filets and sunk into deep holes in the river.

The first day yielded the catch-and-release of a log-gerhead musk turtle, yellow-bellied sliders and a hefty Florida softshell. A few gopher tortoises were spotted along dirt roads.

The next day, however, Stevenson and Heinrich hit pay dirt. One of the live traps bobbed with a 44-pound female gator snapper.

It wasn't the Apalaha's largest by far. But it was Heinrich's first Suwannee snapper, and another notch in the year-long effort to turn public attention toward conserving America's turtles.

**Enter the Miss Adelyly Pageant November 11th**

REGISTER AT MICHELLE'S FORMAL WEAR - 896-2748.

**November 11, 2017 • 7 P.M.**

Winners appear on WALB-TV and at the 2018 Adel Daylily Festival

**AGE DIVISIONS**

Baby Miss: 0-23 months, Toddler Miss: 2-4 years,  
 Tiny Miss: 5-7 years, Little Miss: 8-11 years,  
 Junior Miss: 12-15 years, Miss: 16-18 years,  
 Ms. 19-Up (married or single)

**Miss Adelyly Pageant**  
 Carolyn Harris Performing Arts Center • Adel, GA  
 Entry form at [www.adelcookchamber.org](http://www.adelcookchamber.org) | Adel-Cook Chamber • 229-896-2281

**Block Party**

**LAMP'S 2017 BLOCK PARTY**

NOVEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2017  
 STARTING AT 11:00 AM

For over 3 decades, Valdosta has continuously supported LAMP, Inc. and New Horizons. This has allowed us to provide services to thousands of homeless individuals in our community. Now, it is our time to thank you! We are looking for local organizations to hold booths at our annual Block Party to highlight the services you provide. The booths will be free of cost. Additionally, we are searching for groups or individuals that can showcase their talent. If you would like to sign up for a spot, please contact Kendyl Anderson at 229-245-7157 or by email at [KendylAnderson@lampinc.org](mailto:KendylAnderson@lampinc.org). Again, Thank you for your endless support. We hope to see you there.

**We will have:**

- Live Entertainment (free slots available)
- Local Vendors
- Food Stands
- Job Fair
- Fun and Games
- Door Prizes

**LAMP, INC.**  
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