

**POP WARNER
YOUTH FOOTBALL
and CHEER**

REGISTRATION
Will be held at the
Washington-Wilkes
Parks & Recreation Center
Lobby
from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
For further information call (706) 678-1454

SIGN UP DATES
**February
7th & 9th**
FOR AGES:
8U, 10U, 12U

wwwparksandrec20@gmail.com

Karamihalis and Nash named to UNG's Dean's List

Washington students Nikolas Karamihalis, of Tignall, and Melinda Nash, of Washington, have been named to the University of North Georgia's Dean's List for the fall semester. Dean's List recognition is achieved by having at least a 3.5 grade point average, carrying 12 or more credit hours in one semester, and having no grade lower than B. Positioned in the fastest-growing region of the state, the University of North Georgia comprises five campuses, is a University System of Georgia leadership institution, and is The Military College of Georgia. With almost 19,000 students, the University of North Georgia is one of the state's largest public universities. The university offers more than 100 programs of study ranging from certificate and associate degrees to doctoral programs.



Grant recipient Kendall Xides (center) with DNR's Anna Yellin and Linda May

DNR awards conservation teacher of the year grant

An Atlanta teacher's proposal to restore a community nature trail has earned her school a \$1,000 grant from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Kendall Xides, STEM teacher at Oak Grove Elementary in DeKalb County, received DNR's 2021-22 Conservation Teacher of the Year grant, the agency announced today. The annual award goes to a third- through fifth-grade public or private school teacher in Georgia who demonstrates exceptional energy and innovation in teaching life sciences. Funding is provided by The Environmental Resources Network, or TERN, friends group of the DNR Wildlife Conservation Section. Xides was selected for her Birdsong Nature Trail 30th Anniversary proposal, said Linda May, outreach coordinator with the Wildlife Conservation Section. "Solid learning objectives, cross-curricular creativity, community partners and a passion for empowering students to conserve wildlife habitat made Kendall Xides' proposal rise to the top," May said. The funds will be used to replace disintegrating landscape timbers that define the 30-year-old trail and to buy native plants, signage and plant identification markers, and bird nesting boxes. Habitat restoration also will include community-wide workdays to remove invasive non-native plants such as English ivy, privet and nandina. Removing these invasive exotics will allow the natural ecosystem to bounce back more readily. Xides said she is excited for the resources "needed to restore the Birdsong Nature Trail to a space that is beneficial to our students, community and native wildlife." "We hope that during the project, our students, staff and community members gain a better understanding of the importance of conservation and that the Birdsong Nature Trail once again becomes a

place where nature and education connect." Although third- through fifth-graders are working on the project, the restored nature trail will benefit all students at Oak Grove Elementary as well as community members who use the outdoor space for recreation. "Nature provides a wonderful context for learning all subjects, not just science," May said. "Research shows that spending time outside yields other benefits for students, too, such as reduced stress levels, lower rates of depression and improved focus and problem-solving skills." The grant is coordinated and proposals are reviewed by DNR Wildlife Conservation Section staff and a member of TERN. The primary mission of TERN, a nonprofit formed in 1992, is to aid in the financial support of the Wildlife Conservation Section and its conservation projects. Through education, research and management, the Wildlife Conservation Section works to safeguard and restore the diversity of native animals not legally fished for or hunted, rare plants and natural habitats, while also striving to increase public enjoyment of the outdoors. The agency's work is funded largely by grants, direct donations and fundraisers, such as sales and renewals of Georgia's bald eagle and monarch butterfly license plates (georgiawildlife.com/licenseplates). Learn More

- Conservation Teacher of the Year grant: georgiawildlife.com/TeachingConservationGrant
- DNR Wildlife Conservation Section: georgiawildlife.com/about/what-we-do
- TERN: tern.homestead.com
- Oak Grove Elementary Birdsong Nature Trail project: oges-tem.com/nature-trail-project
- DNR license plates: georgiawildlife.com/licenseplates

Independence United Methodist Church

Invites Everyone to Attend

Sunday Worship Service 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

247 Independence Street
Tignall, Georgia

Pastor: Michael Poplin
706-474-2718 (text please)
mpoplin59@gmail.com



**Washington-Wilkes
Little League 2022
REGISTRATION FEES**
T-BALL \$35 / Child
Baseball / Softball \$55 / Child

Online registration available from January 5th thru February 17th

<https://clubs.bluesombrero.com/washwilkesll>

If you need assistance or do not have internet we will help!

If we can get enough local kids for each division we will play here only, no traveling. We will consider co-ed teams through coach pitch age to make enough teams.

Leagues open for signup to all ages 4 – 16 based on their age as of dates below: Baseball, Coaches Pitch and T-Ball Age as of September 1, 2022
Softball Age as of January 1, 2022

If you have questions or need assistance, contact the following individuals

Dann Standard, President
dstandard@gmail.com
706-836-0442

Meghan Fortson, Vice-President
mea020989@gmail.com
706-318-6607



The Wilkes County Sunday School Union will convene at Reeves Chapel Baptist Church January 29-30. The session will begin Saturday morning at 10 a.m. All Sunday Schools will receive a letter from the secretary.

Jackson Chapel and Blackrock has a new phone number which is 1-617-793-8272. Additionally, the worship service time has been changed to 11:00. Worship service is now held in the church as well as virtually.

Cherry Grove Missionary Baptist Church is celebrating their Annual Usher Board Program January 23 at 3:00 p.m. Rev. Patrick Burgess Pastor of New Tate Grove, Elberton Ga. and Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Crawford, Ga., will be the guest speaker.

The Don't Forget column deadline is 5 p.m. Mondays. Please check with your organization for any scheduling changes.

Send notifications of community events for this column and for the W-W Chamber of Commerce calendar of events to online@news-reporter.com and washington-wilkesevents@gmail.com. or drop them off at *The News-Reporter* office, 23 W. Robert Toombs Ave. in Washington. The Pope Center, contact

the City of Washington at 706-678-3277 or visit City Hall located at 102 E. Liberty Street.

Are you about to turn 65? Need help with Medicare? The Wilkes County Senior Center offers free help through the Georgia Cares State Health Insurance Assistance Program every first Wednesday from 10 a.m.-noon. The next session will be held at the Senior Center on Wednesday, January 5. For additional Medicare counseling services, call 866-552-4464 and select option 4.

The V.F.W. Post 5899 now has a community recycling cage. Please take all aluminum cans behind the V.F.W. (240 Andrew Drive in Washington) and drop them into the cage for recycling purposes.

Services at the Episcopal Church of the Mediator are now being conducted by Rev. John Keeler of the Elberton Church thru March. Everyone is invited to coffee at 10:30 a.m. in the Parish House prior to church services that begin in the sanctuary at 11:15 a.m. The Mediator is located at 212 E Robert Toombs Ave and messages may be left at 706-678-7226. Look for the red door.

The Roy L. Burns Senior Citizen Center schedule: January 5-Exercise at 10 a.m. January 6-Bingo at 10 a.m.

Yard Sale at Roy C. Burns Senior Center, 108 Marshall Rd Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

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