

NEWS ROUNDUP

OARC helps those in need in Oconee

BY MICHAEL PROCHASKA
Oconee Area Resource Council has transitioned its school-year food distribution program to its Summer Food for Kids program. “This is a 10-week program designed to assist families during the summer by supplementing their food with a box of nutritious food, including fruits and vegetables from local farmers,” according to the OARC website. “Children who are registered in the Oconee Food for Kids program usually receive free and reduced lunch during the school year and a bag of kid friendly food for the weekend. Summer Food for Kids was created to fill the food gap for these children during the summer months.”

Volunteers fill the boxes in partnership with the Oconee Farmers Market. The UGA Oconee County

Cooperative Extension Service provides cards with healthy recipes and information about proper food handling and storage.

During the school year, OARC was able to provide almost 12,000 individual food bags, as well as family care bags, birthday mugs, and hygiene items.

The Pilot Club of Oconee County supports the Food for Kids project during the school year as well as summer. Recently, members completed the packing and delivery of almost 12,000 food and specialty bags and provided a \$500 donation.

For more information, visit oconeeconnection.org.



Pilot Club of Oconee County President-Elect Vickie Hammond presented a \$500 check to the Oconee Area Resource Council for their Summer Food for Kids. From left, OARC Director Amanda Clark Davis, Hammond and Food for Kids Coordinator Michaelyn Rozar. [Submitted photo]



Steven Skaggs and his parents, Trey and Renee, celebrate the scholarship. Steven will be commissioned as an ensign in the Navy upon college graduation. [Submitted photo]

2025 PACS graduate awarded Naval Reserve scholarship to Georgia Tech

BY STAFF REPORTS
Prince Avenue Christian School senior Stephen Skaggs was awarded a full, four-year Naval Reserve Officer Training (NROTC) scholarship and will attend the Georgia Institute of Technology in the fall of 2025, where he will major in computer science. Four-year NROTC scholarships have an average selection rate of only 7%. The scholarship includes 100% tuition and required fees, plus a generous stipend for books and a monthly stipend of \$250-\$300 while the student is enrolled in college. Scholarship recipients are referred to as “midshipmen” and wear a NROTC uniform when attending NROTC classes and participate in four to six weeks of active duty training each summer. Midshipmen who successfully complete all academic and military requirements at the end of four years are commissioned as ensigns in the Navy and immediately placed in leadership positions. In other PACS news, two faculty members are retiring after many years of service to Prince. Lower school paraprofessional Nicole Henderson is retiring after a nine-year tenure. Having earned paraprofessional certifications from both the Association of Christian Schools International and the State of Georgia, Henderson has served in positions ranging from PreK classroom teacher to lower school paraprofessional. With a strong belief in Christian education, Henderson and her husband, Dale, have three graduates of Prince: Lilly (’19), Lucy (’21), and James (’25). Henderson shared that working in an environment surrounded by Christ believers has been an amazing blessing. “There is no better place to work and raise a family than Prince,” she said. Middle school Spanish teacher Betsy Phillips is retiring after teaching at Prince for five years. In addition to foreign language, she has also taught computer and history classes. Before coming to Prince, Phillips spent 30 years with her family on the mission field, mostly in Latin America. During those years, Phillips filled various leadership, teaching, and service roles in local churches, a seminary and an international Christian school.



Lower school paraprofessional Nicole Henderson, left, and Middle school Spanish teacher Betsy Phillips, right, are retiring. [Submitted photo]

Free books available

BY MICHAEL PROCHASKA
The Oconee Enterprise has launched a book exchange in front of the office at 26 S. Barnett Shoals Road. A newspaper box has been repurposed as a mini library. Some of the books in the box are from local authors like Gail Karwoski. Oconee Therapeutic Riding, located at 1391 Jerusalem Road, also has a new Free Little Library. “We have lots of great horse titles to start with,” according to the hippotherapy nonprofit. In other news, there will be a

Movie in the Park Friday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Wire Park. Go to the Wire Park Facebook page for more information about the film that will be screened. On Saturday, the Oconee Farmers Market will meet from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Wire Park. More information on vendors, special activities and music can be found at oconeefarmersmarket.net. The Bishop Farmers Market meets Thursdays from 4-7 p.m. at the Bishop Baptist Church field, located at 1110 Old Bishop Road.



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FUNDS RAISED FROM THE EVENT WILL SUPPORT GRANT PROGRAMS FOR THE STUDENTS IN OCONEE COUNTY SCHOOLS

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