



THE PILOT

GARDNER-WEBB UNIVERSITY



October 23, 2008

Volume 12 No. 4

Serving the Gardner-Webb University community for more than 60 years

This Edition

— In campus news —

There's a new art school in town and it's a dream come true. See page 2.

Octoberfest holds some new and old activities. See page 2.

Annika Slade uses her German language ability to help other students. See page 2.

— Opinion/editorial —

Lauren Taylor shares a lesson learned from Dr. Phil. See page 3.

Cassie Gold now joins Diana Palka in debating who won the final presidential debate. See page 3.

A Letter to the Editor suggests that Obama would turn the U.S. into a communist land. See page 3.

— In sports —

The football team gave Presbyterian College a whupping. See page 5.

Find out what former GWU football player Brian Johnston is up to in the NFL. See page 5.

The swim teams are set to enter a new season. See page 3.

The men's golf team and Ryan Bell place identically in 2 tournaments. See page 4.

Weather

Thursday Oct. 23 Mostly sunny High 64 Low 43
Friday Oct. 24 Rain High 56 Low 55

Source: The Weather Channel

Index

News.....page 2
Community.....page 2
Op/Ed.....page 3
Photo page.....page 6
Sports.....page 3, 4, 5



Midnight Madness strikes tonight

Fun times in LYCC start hoops season

By Blake DuDonis
Pilot sports writer

Calling all college basketball fans: This one is for you.

Gardner-Webb holds its annual Midnight Madness festivities tonight in the LYCC, with things being done a bit differently this year.

In addition to meeting the players on GWU's men and woman basketball squads, there will be an exhibition game that pits GWU faculty, staff and students against the Harlem Wizards.

The Harlem Wizards is a trick basketball team that looks

to not just to play good basketball, but to thrill the fans.

The first half of the game will be more of an entertaining one, where tricks and alley-oops will come en masse.

The second half will look to be a bit more competitive.

Although the GWU faculty/staff team has not been firmed up, some of those lacing up their shoes for the first half of the game will be Tracy Jessup and Neal Payne from campus ministries, along with professors Eddie Stepp and Jim Johnson.

Also on the team will be former Crest High School great and current GWU golf coach Tee Burton. Burton is second all-time in Crest history for points

scored in a career, and looks to find his old touch again.

Once the teams take the court for the second half, the student team will take the floor and look to upset the undefeated Wizards.

"I've taken it as my personal calling to beat the Washington Wizards," said Brian Arnold, assistant director of student activities and organizer of Midnight Madness.

Representing the students will be Kam Durr, Cam Neisler, Jon Logan, Greg Humphrey, Tony Crudup, David Overstreet, Ricky Rhodes and Marcus Polite.

The event is free to everyone, and the school is looking to get the community involved this year.

The Harlem Wizards traveled to local area elementary schools with some members of the Bulldog basketball team and encourage the kids to come out with their parents.

Everyone is encouraged to bring a canned food item to the event to help the less fortunate in the community.

The first 500 students who arrive to the event will receive a free T-shirt, and everyone in attendance will have a chance to win a free autographed jersey from the men's and women's basketball teams.

Harlem Wizard apparel will also be given out.

The doors open at 6 p.m. and the event will run from 7 p.m. to around 10 p.m.

Homecoming livens campus with weekend of activities

By Michelle Alwerdt
Pilot staff writer

This weekend, Gardner-Webb will be a busy campus as the festivities that make up Homecoming erupt.

The biggest event during Homecoming is the football game against Virginia Military Institute.

During halftime this year's king, queen, prince and female class representatives will be crowned.

The marching band has prepared a halftime show in memory of Sid Haton, the band director who died in September. The show will consist of five of Haton's favorite songs.

Member Kenneth Collins offered another reason for the marching band to be excited about the performance.

"Homecoming is really exciting because it is a much bigger crowd that we get to perform in front of," he said.

The planning committee hoped to have a bonfire Friday, a long-standing tradition that has been canceled the past few years due to rain.

This year, according to Karrison Weir, who is in charge of Student Activities, the forecast for rain has again forced the cancellation of the bonfire.

The annual parade on Saturday at 12:30 p.m. will go down Main Street.

It will include floats and appearances by many Gardner-Webb clubs, seven sponsors, class floats, the band, alumni, Homecoming representatives,



Jennifer Cheek



Amy Elliot



Beth Long



Rachel Redding

and the Boiling Springs Fire Department.

Other students are excited about Homecoming as well.

"I'm looking forward to it, I think it's going to be a really fun weekend," freshman Amanda Jefferies said.

This year's female representatives are freshman Whitney Stroup, sophomore Marcessa Pace, junior Megan Sipe, and seniors Jennifer Cheek, Amy Elliot, Beth Long and Rachel Redding.

"I'm very excited," said Redding. "I don't know what to expect. It's going to be a new experience."

"One of my favorite experiences at Gardner-Webb is the powder puff football game. It is so much fun, the girls are really competitive, and you get to make new friends."

Stroup is happy about her role in Homecoming.

"I'm very excited, it's an honor," she said.

It's going to be a busy weekend for Stroup who has to drive home to Morganton Friday to give the crown away at her high school's homecoming.

She must be back by Saturday to cheer at the football game and be ready to walk during halftime.

Unable to attend homecoming this year, Sophomore Kelsey Moore enjoyed Homecoming 2007, and is unhappy that she can't participate in some fun activities.

"I'm really sad. I wanted to go, especially to the powder puff game—that was one of the things I really wanted to participate in."

See page 2 for a schedule of Homecoming events.

Alumna brings operatic talent to Homecoming

By Molly Phipps
Pilot staff writer

World-class opera singer Samantha Sain Staton, a Gardner-Webb University graduate, will be performing here Friday as part of the Homecoming festivities.

Staton graduated from Gardner-Webb in 2003 with a bachelor's degree in sacred music. She studied here under master teacher Patricia Harelson.

She just finished a master of music degree in vocal performance/opera emphasis from the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, one of the best graduate opera programs in the world, according to information from the Fine Arts department.

Staton recently had her first professional performance with the Cincinnati Symphony, and is a rising star in the opera world.

"An exceptionally engaging performer with a world-class voice, Mrs. Staton is currently in great demand both on the concert and opera stage," said Dr. Patricia C. Sparti, department chair, in a press release.

Staton, a soprano, will be accompanied by Dr. Cindy Swicegood on the piano.

Her appearance is part of the Distinguished Artist/Distinguished Alumni Concert series presented by the Department of Fine Arts at GWU.

The recital is in Blanton Auditorium at 8 p.m. There will be a reception from 6:45 until 7:45 p.m. in the Gardner Recital Hall. Both events are free and open to everyone.

Exit project becomes children's book about service dogs

By Shauntel Greene
Pilot staff writer

At age 18, Gardner-Webb University freshmen Chelsea Usher has written and published a children's book, thanks to the senior exit project that is a requirement for all public high schools in North Carolina.

The project consists of two parts: writing a paper in the junior year and then do a presentation of the work senior year. Usher's paper was about military war dogs.

The theme expanded when Usher had the opportunity of doing an internship with a veterinary hospital in the past year.

Her mentor, Dr. Roy Ferguson, had a German shepherd named Cherokee, who had been raised for training as a leader dog for

a blind person. However, when Cherokee reported for training, he didn't pass his physical and was returned to Ferguson.

The veterinarian learned how to train Cherokee to be a rescue dog.

Usher decided that her senior project would be a children's book based on Cherokee's life as a rescue dog. She said that was allowed because the topic was related to military dogs, the topic of the paper she had written.

"Cherokee's Puppy Tales" tells of the everyday life of a German shepherd rescue dog. The story is told from Cherokee's perspective and it also explains the life and training of Emerson, a leader dog now living in Canada. Usher dedicated the book to Ferguson.

The book, which is filled with color photos, describes the in-depth process of becoming a leader dog. In addition to raising awareness about service dogs, Usher said her book "gives people different perspective on training dogs for the blind."

Usher published the work through MyPublisher.com. She sells copies of the book at cost.

This is an interesting and informative read for dog lovers and those who want to know more about the life of rescue and leader dogs.

Sadly, Usher said that Cherokee died about two weeks ago. He had pancreatic cancer.

Contact Usher at (828) 699-3977 for more information about purchasing a copy of "Cherokee's Puppy Tales."

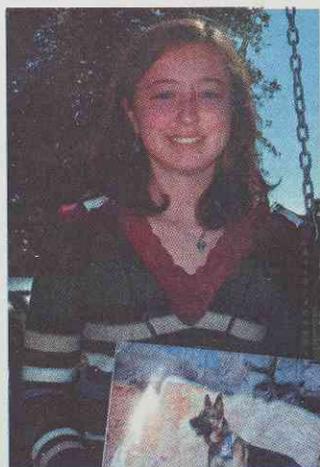


Photo by Bryan Cooper

Chelsea Usher holds a copy of her book, "Cherokee's Puppy Tales."