

# TALLULAH FALLS SCHOOL

## Magazine

WINTER 2019



**Nyah Williams:**  
Excels on the  
court and in  
the classroom

Hall of Honor induction

TFS to host GISA conference

Precision rifle range

Lady Indians Sweet 16



# MIDDLE SCHOOL Madrigal Magic

because middle schoolers love a good party



**I**n late November the TFS Student Activity Center was magically transformed into a scene straight from the medieval period as middle school students donned Renaissance dress and hosted its first-ever Madrigal for students, faculty and parents. Whereas the term “Madrigal” once referred to English or Italian songs of the late 16th and early 17th centuries, today it more often is the term used to describe a colorful festival, dinner, concert or play. TFS middle school faculty and staff carefully crafted the entertaining Renaissance event with a light-hearted fun play that was enveloped by period music, dance, jousting, acrobatics and sword-play. There was even a dragon sighting at the event. The guests and participants also enjoyed light hors d’oeuvres, wassail and gingerbread treats for the assembled guests.



photos by E. Lane Gresham

2	President’s letter - Preparing leaders
3	TFS to host GISA conference in Fall 2019
4	Athletic Legends/Hall of Honor inductees
8	2019 STAR Student and STAR Teacher
9	Foxglove Cotillion teaches social skills
10	Gray recognized for 25 years of service
11	International Day and MLK, Jr. Day
12	Sixth grader wins for patriotic essay
13	<i>Stranger Things</i> for TFS eighth grader
14	Honor chorus selections
16	Middle school talent show
17	Spelling bee and geography bee winners
18	Lockdown drill helps refine campus security
20	TFS winter sports recap
24	Wendy’s High School Heisman nominees
27	Precision rifle opens new facility on campus
29	Tallulah Fund 2019

TALLULAH FALLS SCHOOL  
 PRESIDENT and HEAD of SCHOOL  
 Dr. Larry A. Peevy

TFS ADVANCEMENT TEAM:  
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR ADVANCEMENT  
 Sonya M. Smith

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS  
 Brian A. Boyd

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS  
 E. Lane Gresham

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS  
 Brian A. Boyd  
 T. J. Cox  
 E. Lane Gresham  
 Sydney Spivey

PRIMARY PHOTOGRAPHY  
 Brian A. Boyd  
 E. Lane Gresham

EDITOR • DESIGN • LAYOUT  
 Brian A. Boyd

PRINTING  
 Happy Jack Graphics  
 Clayton, GA.

CONTACT INFORMATION  
 P.O. Box 10  
 Tallulah Falls, Georgia 30573

WEBSITE  
 www.tallulahfalls.org  
 706.754.0400

*Tallulah Falls School Magazine is published by the TFS Office of Advancement*

### ON THE COVER:

ALL-TIME SCORING LEADER



PENN-BOUND

**N**yah Williams of Cornelia completes her senior year of girls basketball as the all-time leading scorer in school history with more than 1,850 points. Nyah also has the school record for most points scored in a game (40). She has earned 8-A All-Region honors for the past three seasons, received the Scholar-Athlete Award, Most Valuable Player Award, Offensive Player of the Year Award and the U.S. Army Reserve National Scholar Athlete Award.

Nyah’s accomplishments go far beyond the hard court. She has been a member of the National Honor Society for three years, including one year serving as vice president. She has served as a TFS Ambassador for two years and a Habersham Chamber of Commerce Junior Board member. She has received awards as the outstanding English student, outstanding science student, a three-year Presidential Scholar and a semifinalist for the Governor’s Honors Program.

As a fitting end to her TFS career Nyah has been selected as a QuestBridge Scholar and recently received a full academic scholarship to the University of Pennsylvania (College of Arts and Sciences) where she plans to major in biology. Congratulations Nyah - TFS is proud of you!

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

DR. LARRY A. PEEVY

### Preparing leaders

**A** strong history can help prepare leaders for a successful future. As one of the oldest college-preparatory schools in the state, Tallulah Falls School continues to build on a solid foundation established in 1909.

Then, TFS served area students eager to earn the key to unlock the door to a bright future. Today, 530 students from surrounding counties, eight states and representing 17 countries, live, learn and play together at the school founded more than 110 years ago on the slopes of Cherokee Mountain.

As an educational institution, there are systems in place for assessment. To prepare for the upcoming SAIS/AdvancED accreditation visit in March, we were called to reflect. Every five years, this process provides an opportunity for our senior leadership team to examine our methodology, gathering input from all of our stakeholder groups to refine a plan for the future. With the SAIS visit, we are really talking about who we are, how we got here and where we are going. Reflecting on the past and considering the present provides data, certainly, but more than that, it allows us to note the accomplishments showcased in so many individual student success stories.

In this edition, we celebrate senior Xing Fan, named the system STAR Student. Fan honored math teacher James Van Hooser, naming him STAR Teacher. Fan, along with the other members of the Class of 2019, is considering offers of acceptance to several top-quality colleges and universities.

You will read about the inaugural class of TFS Athletic Legends|Hall of Honor with five inductees. This new annual recognition program provides a way to note not just outstanding performances but the positive character traits embedded in the athletic experience at TFS. The five individuals who contributed during their time at TFS truly



represent the best of who we are as a school community.

Building on that legacy of athletic prowess, our varsity Lady Indians reached the Sweet 16 bracket of the GHSA Class A-Private Girls State Basketball Championship after coming away victorious in Round No. 1 in a home contest against Savannah Country Day School. This is the first time a Lady Indians team has reached the Sweet 16 and we are very proud of this historic achievement.

You will also enjoy reading more about our outstanding international students who represented their countries so well during our International Day celebrations.

Also in this edition, you'll read about someone who represents the best of TFS in several areas – registrar Irene Gray plans to retire at the end of the academic year. Mrs. Gray, a TFS graduate returned to campus to serve more than 25 years as a beloved employee. She has also invested many years as a key member of the alumni committee. Join me in offering thanks for her dedicated service to our school community.

Looking ahead to where we are going, in November we will roll out the welcome mat to more than 500 professional educators when we host the Georgia Independent School Association Central/North Georgia Fall Conference. Being selected as a host site is a special tribute to our quality college preparatory program and facilities on our campus. It will be our honor and privilege to host outstanding faculty, staff and administrators from the independent school community.

Throughout these pages, we invite you to learn more about our school community by reading the stories curated for you – since 1909, we've come so far and we can only imagine how far we'll go.

Thank you for your continued support.

Warmest regards,

Larry A. Peevy  
President and Head of School



All roads lead to ... Tallulah Falls School

## TFS selected to host GISA north conference for educators in November 2019

**T**he Georgia Independent School Association (GISA) recently announced Tallulah Falls School has been selected as one of two sites for the 2019 GISA Annual Conference. The north conference will take place Nov. 4 at Tallulah Falls School and the south conference will take place Nov. 11 at Valwood School in Hahira.

According to Tallulah Falls School President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy, the annual conference has historically been held in Atlanta and TFS is the first school to host the conference in the new format.

"We are truly honored GISA has selected Tallulah Falls School to host the north conference for 2019," Peevy said. "We are expecting as many as 500 attendees on campus in November. We are very excited to host this conference and to be able to showcase our school to so many professional educators from across the region."

GISA-members schools send faculty and staff to the day-long conference each year, with TFS traditionally scheduling a teacher workday to allow for full participation. High-profile speakers provide inspiration and motivation as part of the conference. Workshops and vendors round out the part of the day's continuing education focus.

Keynote speakers for the 2019 conference are Janice Crampton, CEO of Association of Independent School Admission Professions and Debra Wilson, National Association of Independent Schools General Council.

The school will send buses to Atlanta to shuttle attendees who don't want to drive to campus, Peevy added.



"We are truly honored GISA has selected Tallulah Falls School to host the north conference for 2019. We are expecting as many as 500 attendees on campus in November. We are very excited to host this conference and to be able to showcase our school to so many professional educators from across the region."

- Larry A. Peevy  
President and Head of School



**GISA 2019 Annual Conference**  
**North conference - November 4, 2019**  
**Tallulah Falls School • Tallulah Falls, GA**

**South conference - November 11, 2019**  
**Valwood School • Hahira, GA**

# Athletic Legends/Hall of Honor

Five charter members inducted into newly established organization



Top left: Mike Dale gives his acceptance speech. Bottom left: Paul and David Amick accept on behalf of their late father, Hervey. Center, from left: Paul Amick, David Amick, Mike Dale, Destinee Johnson, Daniel Lampl and Mariam Abdullah. Top right: Inductees Destinee Johnson and Mariam Abdullah swap stories following the induction ceremony.

MARIAM ABDULLAH • HERVEY "HERB" AMICK • MIKE DALE • DESTINEE JOHNSON • DANIEL LAMPL

*The Hall of Honor was created to honor former TFS athletes and coaches who left an impactful legacy for others to follow and emulate.*

Tallulah Falls School inducted five charter members into its newly established Athletic Legends/Hall of Honor in a ceremony held on Friday, Dec. 14. The pioneering members of the Hall of Honor are Mariam Abdullah, Herb Amick, Mike Dale, Destinee Johnson and Daniel Lampl.

According to TFS Athletic Director Scott Neal, the Athletic Legends/Hall of Honor was created to honor former TFS athletes and coaches who left an impactful legacy for others to follow and emulate.

"We have had this project on the back burner for some time now, but varsity boys basketball coach Jim Van Hooser had some great ideas and was the impetus for the timing," said Neal. "His leadership and support, as with as all of his endeavors, was superb."

"We are so proud of our 2018 inaugural inductees and want their light to continue to shine brightly from the mountains of TFS," Neal continued. "It is a privilege for TFS to remember and recognize our Legends who have developed excellence with GREAT character in their performances, teams, the athletic program, school and community."

## MARIAM ABDULLAH - MULTI-SPORT CHAMPION

Mariam Abdullah, a graduate of the Class of 2008, is undoubtedly one of the most accomplished athletes to ever don a TFS uniform. Abdullah's athletic achievements include four-time TFS track & field Most Valuable Performer, three-time region long-jump champion, three-time region triple-jump champion, three-time Indian of the Year and holder of 14 school records. She held numerous TFS state track & field records as well. She was an accomplished multi-sport athlete and participated in volleyball and basketball during her TFS tenure.

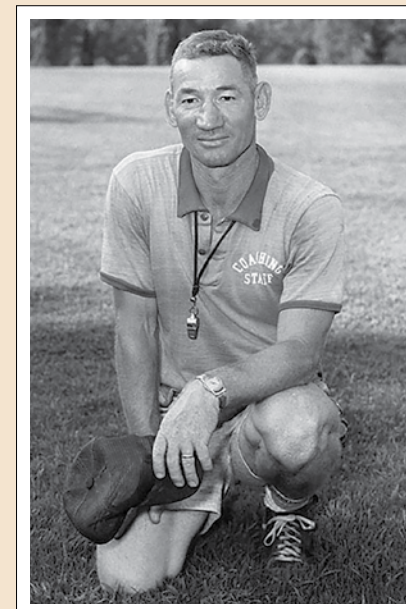
Abdullah earned numerous accolades for her academic prowess and contributions to the TFS community. She was selected as a TFS Student Ambassador, received Boarding Student of the Year honors, was a member of the Tri-M Music Honor Society and was elected as president of her junior and senior class.

Following graduation, Abdullah attended Winthrop University where she earned a bachelor's degree in business administration (Entrepreneurship). She also competed collegiately in track & field at Winthrop University for four years. Following college, Abdullah was employed with Playworks Colorado as a regional trainer and is the founder of Culture Energized. She was recognized as Playworks' Rookie Coach of the Year and served as the head coordinator for a White House 'Bring Your Kid to Work' event. The TFS Alumni Association recognized Abdullah in 2015 with the Outstanding Former Student Award.



*Mariam Abdullah*

*Abdullah is a four-time TFS track & field MVP, three-time region long-jump champion, three-time region triple-jump champion, three-time Indian of the Year and held 14 school records. She competed in track & field collegiately at Winthrop University and is now a successful entrepreneur.*



## HERVEY AMICK - ATHLETIC FOUNDING FATHER

Hervey "Herb" Amick is a pioneering athletic figure at TFS. Amick arrived at TFS in 1953 and his influence was immediately felt across the campus as he served in a variety of capacities. Amick was the school's first athletic director, first full-time coach and started interscholastic football, basketball and track & field programs.

Amick came to TFS at a time when athletic facilities were virtually non-existent. The Navy WWII veteran supervised construction of the football field, and under his direction the fledgling football program became competitive and enjoyed several winning seasons.

Amick's former players have described him as a "father figure," "a guiding light," "an exceptional coach," "dedicated," and a "great influence."

Amick's TFS tenure ended in 1957 when he accepted a position at Stephens County High School. He went on to earn Coach of the Year honors in 1958 and 1959. His 1958 team won the state championship (12-0 record) and his 1959 team also went to the state finals. Amick enjoyed a successful career in academic administration and served as principal at Forest Park High School. Coach Amick passed away in 2014 and Tallulah Falls School honored him the very next year by naming the upper athletic field in his honor.

*Amick served as Tallulah Falls School's first athletic director, first full-time coach and started the interscholastic football, basketball and track & field programs at the school.*

*Herb Amick*

## COACH MIKE DALE - DEFYING THE ODDS

The next inductee to be honored is Mike Dale, who enjoyed a 38-year career at TFS. Dale began his TFS adventure in 1978 and over his long and successful tenure served as dorm counselor, dean of students, director of boarding, director of giving, director of information services, athletic director and manager of Tallulah Gallery.

Dale is credited with resurrecting the cross country and track & field programs in the mid-1980s. In 1990 his cross country team won the region cross country championship and he was subsequently named the Region 8-A cross country coach of the year.

During his acceptance remarks, Dale commented on the early days of the school's relatively small athletic program.

"Our athletes and our teams were always the underdogs," Dale said. "We were always outnumbered. These obstacles became tremendous motivators. I challenged each athlete to be the best he or she could be, not just in athletics but in the classroom and in life."



Mike Dale

Dale reestablished the TFS cross country and track & field programs in the mid-1980s. In 1990 his cross country team won the region championship and he was named the Region 8-A cross country coach of the year.

## DESTINEE JOHNSON - MULTI-SPORTS EXCELLENCE



Destinee Johnson

Destinee Johnson, Class of 2010, attended Tallulah Falls School from seventh through 12th grade. Johnson was a four-year participant in volleyball, basketball and track & field. Her many TFS accolades include both the Coach's Award and the Heart Award in basketball, Coach's Award in track & field, Outstanding Strength & Conditioning Award and Indian of the Year for the 2009-10 academic year. She went on to earn her bachelor's degree from Emmanuel College in sports management in 2015.

During her collegiate career at Emmanuel College, Johnson competed in track and field, basketball and lacrosse, earning a varsity letter and receiving the Coach's Award in lacrosse. She earned All-Academic Team honors and ended her collegiate lacrosse career at Emmanuel as the #2 in ground balls in lacrosse. Johnson also served on the Emmanuel College student-athlete advisory committee.

After college Johnson served as an assistant coach for the University of Alabama - Huntsville lacrosse team for two years before being named the head women's lacrosse coach at the University of Dallas, where she is currently in her third year with the program. She lists among her goals to continue to grow the sport of lacrosse, to continue to mentor young athletes, to eventually coach at the Division One level and to start lacrosse at TFS.

Johnson was a four-year participant at TFS in volleyball, basketball and track & field. She garnered many awards throughout her TFS career and currently serves as the head coach of women's lacrosse at the University of Dallas.



## DANIEL LAMPL - BASKETBALL STANDOUT

2007 TFS graduate Daniel Lampl is the final of three athletes inducted into the Athletic Legends/Hall of Honor this year. Lampl was a basketball standout during his TFS tenure and his teams earned state qualifier status for two years while he was a member.

The 2005-06 squad fought their way to a outstanding 26-4 record and region runner-up honors. The 2006-07 team was also region runner-up and progressed into the Sweet 16 of the state playoffs before bowing out, a first for TFS. Lampl was named the Most Valuable Player his senior season.

Following graduation, Lampl continued his basketball career at Piedmont College where he played for four years. Lampl earned all-freshman team honors as well as all-academic team honors for all four years of his collegiate career.

Following the 2010-11 season, Lampl was one of four Piedmont men's basketball players to be named to the National Association of Basketball Coaches Honors Court. Lampl was also named the team's Most Valuable Player his senior season.

Lampl graduated magna cum laude from Piedmont with a Bachelor of Science degree in general business and summa cum laude with a Master's of Business Administration. While earning his MBA, he served as an assistant coach on the Piedmont women's basketball team. Lampl founded DL Impact, a youth basketball skill development and life lessons program, and has worked with Mansfield Oil and Waste Management, Inc.

Lampl was a prominent member of several highly successful TFS basketball teams that set the bar for future teams to emulate. Lampl went on to excel in college basketball and founded DL Impact, an organization that continues to influence young players today.



Daniel Lampl

## Congratulations to the Athletic Legends/Hall of Honor charter class



Athletic Director Scott Neal (left) poses with the Amick family between games in the TFS Student Activity Center.



Inductee Mariam Abdullah with Athletic Director Scott Neal and President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy.



Inductee Daniel Lampl (center left) is show with wife Katie and parents Brenda and Mike Lampl.

MARIAM ABDULLAH • HERVEY "HERB" AMICK • MIKE DALE • DESTINEE JOHNSON • DANIEL LAMPL



STAR STUDENT 2019

## Xing Fan named 2019

### TFS STAR Student

### Jim Van Hooser

### STAR Teacher

**T**F S senior Xing Fan of China has been named STAR Student for the 2018-19 academic year. Fan selected math teacher Jim Van Hooser as his 2019 STAR Teacher. Fan and Van Hooser were honored at a Feb. 7 Rotary Club of Habersham County meeting. Fan was also named the Habersham County system winner at the luncheon and will go on to compete at the state level.

The STAR Student is chosen based on SAT scores and grade point average. The program was started by the Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE). In order to qualify for the program a student must have earned the highest SAT score in one sitting during their senior year as well as having a GPA in the top 10 percent of their graduating class.

Fan is originally from China and in addition to being an outstanding student he has been a member of the school basketball team for four years and has run cross country for three years. He is also a member of the National Honor Society, Tri-M Music Honor Society, Math Club, Key Club and International Club.

In an interview for *The Northeast Georgian*, Fan said, "It was a surprise. I just tried to do my best."

Fan's modesty is refreshing as he actually scored a perfect 800 on the math portion of his SAT.

Fan said he chose Van Hooser as his STAR Teacher because he not only coaches him in basketball, but teaches the international student how to be successful in life.

**“I am thrilled and really proud of Fan. The things he’s done and accomplished here at the school make me proud to be a part of his life.”**

**- Jim Van Hooser, 2019 STAR Teacher**

"Whenever we have a bad game, he always teaches us something," Fan said. "He once said, 'common people just wait for things to happen; a warrior makes it happen.'"

Van Hooser has been teaching for more than 30 years, the last six as a math teacher at Tallulah Falls School.

"I feel honored and unworthy," Van Hooser said to Chamian Cruz of *The Northeast Georgian*. "I am excited and honored that he chose me out of all the good, quality people here ... I was not expecting it at all."

Fan is looking at a number of colleges to attend after he graduates including Georgia Tech, Emory, the University of Virginia, Purdue University and New York University. Fan is exploring engineering or business as a possible college major.

**The STAR (Student-Teacher Achievement Recognition) program honors Georgia's highest performing high school seniors as well as the teachers they feel have been most impactful in their academic development.**

**“Whenever we have a bad game, he (coach Jim Van Hooser) always teaches us something. He once said, 'common people just wait for things to happen; a warrior makes it happen.'”**

**- Xing Fan, 2019 STAR Student**

## Developing a cultured culture

### Interactive after-school class teaches critical soft skills

**M**iddle school students today learn digital communication skills such as email, Skype, texting, Facebook and Instagram among a host of others. While these skills are necessary to survive in today's electronic age there can be a tendency to miss out on the critical interpersonal skills which are today labeled as "soft skills."

Foxglove Cotillion has partnered with Tallulah Falls School to address this need. According to Page Rhoad, president of Foxglove, students who take the after-school classes learn a myriad of such skills as eye contact, posture, handshakes, introductions, how to engage in a conversation, the importance of listening during conversations, dressing appropriately, tying ties, courtesy and respectful responses in uncomfortable settings, formal dining skills and courtesies in entering through doors, among others.

"These are soft skills that are expected in an interview process," Rhoad said. "We also cover the basic dance skills including how to ask someone to dance, saying 'yes' politely and saying 'no' politely. We also teach foxtrot, swing, a variety of line dances and basic waltz and cha-cha when time permits."

Foxglove Cotillion classes are taught in an interactive environment. Each class has a focus which is followed by acting out the new skills. Subsequent classes require students to use their newfound skills.

"We work hard to make each class fun," Rhoad continued. "We present potentially awkward situations and give the students the opportunity to determine the best behaviors and responses. Learning these skills builds confidence as students attend high school and college dances."

Many of the skills class participants learn will become even more important as they transition from childhood to adults. Learning to properly handle situations such as introductions and wardrobe choices are critical through the college and job interviewing process.

"We have had so many students come back to us and thank us for the skills covered in class," Rhoad said. "Over and over they mention the self-confidence they feel when introducing themselves in a new environment."

Rhoad admits that most of the students are there because a parent or guardian made them attend, so she works very hard to make the class fun. For example, Rhoad uses wigs and props in the class covering introductions and the response is enthusiastic volunteers. Teaching middle school students to dance also creates a few challenges.

The seven-week course is taught on Thursdays after school and concludes with a formal dinner and semi-formal dance which provides students with the opportunity to practice and perfect their newfound skills.

Learn more online about the program at: [www.foxglovecotillion.com](http://www.foxglovecotillion.com).



*"Teaching Social Skills for the Social Media Generation"*

**“Good manners will open doors that the best education cannot.”**

**-Clarence Thomas  
Associate Justice  
The U.S. Supreme Court**



From left: Seventh-graders Georgianna Shanks, Jackson Shadburn, Anna Siebert and Ethan Simmons display Foxtrot and Swing dance trophies from the semi-formal dance.



Below: Foxglove Cotillion president Page Rhoad (top of photo) leads a class on proper dining etiquette.

**A quarter century of distinguished service**



*Pictured, from left: Upper School Academic Dean Kim Popham, Irene Gray and President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy.*

Irene Gray, registrar at Tallulah Falls School, was recognized recently for 25 years of service to the school. Gray, who is also a TFS alum, returned to her alma mater in 1994. She worked in the admissions department before moving to the upper school in 1995. Gray served as the academic office assistant from 1995-2016. She is also an active member of the TFS Alumni Committee.

“Irene has served the TFS community and been very helpful to all who enter our doors,” said Upper School Academic Dean Kim Popham. “As my administrative assistant, she made sure to keep me on schedule, not missing any important events or details. As our registrar she continues to help new teachers with our software and our seniors become alums.”

TFS President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy presented a Distinguished Service Award from the Georgia Independent School Association to Gray on Nov. 13.

**All In focus: Community**

**International Day 2019**

January's *All In focus* is community and this year, upper school faculty and staff combined the school's traditional International Day with community service events to coincide with the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday observance and the MLK Day of Service.



**OUTSTANDING STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF**

A surprised select group of students, faculty and staff were recognized as the 2018 outstanding members of the campus community during a Dec. 20 assembly on the last day of classes before Christmas break.

“These individuals live out the mission of the school every day. I am proud of the leadership they represent,” said President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy. “I offer my congratulations to these deserving honorees for their dedication to our TFS community.”

This year's award-winners were: eighth-grader Yixuan “Linda” Wang of China, outstanding middle school student of the year; music teacher Memrie Cox, outstanding middle school faculty member of the year; senior Isabeau Keene of Demorest, outstanding upper school student of the year; science teacher Beth Huebner, outstanding upper school faculty member of the year; dorm counselor Eric Hollifield, outstanding staff member of the year and Upper School Academic Dean Kim Popham, Light in the Mountains honoree [outstanding senior staff member of the year].



*From left: Memrie Cox, Eric Hollifield, Yixuan “Linda” Wang, Larry A. Peevy, Isabeau Keene, Beth Huebner, Kim Popham.*

**2018's Best-of-the-best**

Students gathered in the morning for cultural classroom presentations and international stage performances. Later they enjoyed the first of five culture-specific culinary menus for lunch. That afternoon, more than 200 students spent several hours both on and off campus volunteering for community service projects. These included sprucing up around campus, trail maintenance and clean up at Tallulah Gorge State Park and the popular Panther Creek Recreation Area and trail, planting bushes at the historic Old Clarkesville Cemetery and helping at a local food bank and nonprofit thrift store.

“THIS DAY WAS A GREAT SUCCESS FOR OUR LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS GIVING BACK TO THEIR SHARED COMMUNITY.”

- KIM POPHAM, UPPER SCHOOL ACADEMIC DEAN



Visit the Tallulah Falls School website at [www.tallulahfalls.org](http://www.tallulahfalls.org) and click on News and Announcements to see All In Students of the Month.

## TFS sixth grader recognized for writing winning patriotic essay



T.J. is all smiles at the VFW banquet in December. Photo submitted.

Sixth grader T.J. Cox of Cornelia penned the winning essay selected from 620 entries in the Patriot's Pen essay competition. His essay was submitted to the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post No. 7720 in Cornelia. Cox's essay also placed second at the district level. Cox attended an awards banquet in December with his parents, Anthony and Jennifer Cox, where he received a cash prize for his essay.

Cox's English teacher Travis Mullis describes the sixth-grader as a student of history and said he is exceedingly well-read for his age.

According to Mullis, Cox's classmates voted his essay the best and it was subsequently selected as the best overall by retired Georgia history teacher Killeen Jensen.

"How appropriate it is, I think, that T.J. has now been recognized by the VFW," he said. "As his teacher, it gives me great pride to hear of his recognition, not only because he is very bright and skilled, but because he is a person of wonderful character, full of humility, work ethic and consideration for his classmates and teachers."

The Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen essay competition is open to students in grades nine-12 and six-eight, respectively. Last year, more than 132,000 students competed in the Patriot's Pen competition.

## Why I Honor the American Flag

Since the American flag was adopted in 1777, it has symbolized the blood, sweat and tears that our ancestors put forth to make this country. Our forefathers fought and died bravely for this nation and its ideals. They toiled for what we have today. Just like the great heroes of the past, people are still fighting and dying for this flag. I honor the American flag because of its noble history and all of the ideals for which it stands.

I found great respect for the American flag when I visited the National Museum of American History. I saw the flag that flew over Fort McHenry. When you entered the hall there were plaques showing the battle and the fort. They described how Francis Scott Key was inspired by the giant flag that flew over Fort McHenry. That same tattered flag inspired awe inside of me. I was astonished by how this flag stayed together, though tattered and brittle. It stays together like our country has stuck together since it was formed.

I also honor the flag for the ideals for which it stands. The colors represent ideals like courage, purity, justice, and perseverance. The founders of our country

*envisioned a nation where people have the liberty to act, talk, and worship as they want.*

*Our soldiers continue to fight for those freedoms today. Our veterans fought for our freedom too. That's why we should thank them whenever we see them. Justice is correct treatment of all people. We should, as a country, treat all people, of all races and colors, justly. Courage is the ability to do something that scares you. I'm sure a lot of colonials were scared of breaking away from the British, but they did it anyway. All of these ideals inspired me to give respect by volunteering at school to hoist the flag, making sure it didn't touch the ground, and folding it correctly when it was brought down. My family shows respect by displaying it outside our home.*

*Honoring the flag is important to me because of its noble history and ideals. The flag stands for courage, perseverance, justice, and purity, all of which are things I support. Its history is awe inspiring to behold. It inspired me to have respect, and it inspired Francis Scott Key to write an inspiring poem about it. All of those things are reasons I honor the flag.*

T. J. Cox  
Tallulah Falls School sixth grader



By Stephanie Hill | White County News  
Republished with permission from the White County News



Ben Rosenthal on set. Photo submitted.

## the secret - perfect LOCKS

After his mother, Cyndi Rosenthal, discovered a casting call for the hit Netflix series *Stranger Things* on Facebook, TFS eighth grader Ben Rosenthal decided it might be a fun thing to do. In the end it was Ben's perfect locks that helped secure a part in the show as a background extra.

Kids often have tales of summer adventures, but a Cleveland youth spent his summer in Hawkins, Indiana, where *Stranger Things* have happened.

Hawkins is the fictional town featured in the Netflix series *Stranger Things*, and Ben Rosenthal, 13, recently worked on the show as an extra.

Rosenthal became involved with the show after his mom, Cyndi Rosenthal, found a casting call on Facebook. He decided to try out because he thought it would be a fun experience. The audition process was a little different, though.

"We just had to submit hair pictures because they wanted long hair," said Ben, an eighth-grade student at Tallulah Falls School. This was his first acting gig, but he said he had seen the show beforehand. Ben's favorite thing about being on the show has been meeting the characters.

"It's gotta be Max (played by Sadie Sink)," he said of his favorite character to meet. "She's into it, she gets in with the crowd."

Filming actually takes place in Atlanta, and Ben said sometimes he'll go down once a month, usually for a day. His dad Michael also appears as an extra in the show and his mom accompanies him to set. Because the show takes place in the 1980s, she said it was different seeing her son in that time period.

"While Ben danced, I quietly sat behind a curtain chaperoning my son at a fictional school dance set in the years when I grew up," Cyndi Rosenthal said. "The feeling was odd ... like being transported back in time to my school days. I was reminded of big hair and terrible fashion choices. Looking around the curtain, I see my son away from his gaming system enjoying the simple entertainment of peers."

As for going to school and acting, Ben said it is hard sometimes balancing the two. But his friends are excited for him and think it's awesome.

So far, Rosenthal has only been a background person and hasn't had to memorize any lines. He can be seen, in the Season 3 trailer with his dad in the mall scene on the second level.

He said he would like to do some more acting and has been an extra in the movie *Life Size 2*. He would like to be a zombie in *The Walking Dead*.

Thanks to the money he's made from *Stranger Things*, Ben has been able to purchase a computer.

When he grows up, however, he would like to be a meteorologist.

"It's a high-paying job, and it's got a lot of benefits," he said. "I've always wanted to be a storm chaser."



### Four named to GMEA Honor Chorus



Nancy Fisher



Madeline McClurg



Kaylee Taylor



Megan Zimmerman

Four TFS students were honored as they participated in the District 14 Georgia Music Educators Association (GMEA) Honor Chorus held last November at Brenau University. TFS was represented by senior Madeline McClurg of Clarkesville, sophomore Megan Zimmerman of Cornelia, freshman Kaylee Taylor of Clarkesville and freshman Nancy Fisher of Clarkesville.

Taylor and Fisher sang in the Senior Women's Chorus. Zimmerman participated in the Intermediate Mixed Chorus. McClurg contributed to the Senior Mixed Chorus. McClurg was also awarded the solo in *Take My Hand, Precious Lord*.

According to Curt Frederick, TFS upper school music teacher, McClurg presented her offering "with grace, poise and beauty." Frederick added that the Honor Chorus students practice together for approximately 11 hours in order to create their "beautiful, indescribable and powerful sound."

### GISA All-Select Middle School Honor Chorus

Three talented middle school choral students participated in the elite Georgia Independent School Association (GISA) All-Select Middle School Honor Chorus held Feb. 1-2 at Oglethorpe University in Atlanta. The clinician for the event was Dr. Craig Denison, Assistant Professor of Music Education, Choral Studies at Indiana University at Pennsylvania.

Memrie Cox, TFS middle school music teacher, was quite proud of her young vocalists - Talan Adams, Justin Graham and Emma Wanner.

"Their total commitment to giving their best in every way to add to the quality of the choir was evident in their exceptional behavior, willingness to follow the conductor in every instruction and in their great attitudes. The concert was beautiful."



From left: Justin Graham, Talan Adams, Memrie Cox, Emma Wanner, Dr. Craig Denison, chorus clinician and Dr. Brent Runnels, music director at Oglethorpe University.

### Musicians add energy to campus events



The TFS Pep Band includes: Joe Griswold, Ziyu Han, Junyi He, Mengfan Huang, Jungyi Sang, Zhiyang Shu, Minxing Si, Junho So, Mikhail Vallecorse, Emily Wonders and Zhiyuan Zhou.

Select TFS events have featured the energetic sounds of a newly formed Pep Band. According to TFS music director Curt Frederick, the band first began to practice because of a request to play for a middle school pep rally.

"We rehearsed together after school to perform the National Anthem as well as driving 60s and 70s rock music," Frederick said. "We've played at a number of basketball games. It was exciting and fun to see a group of our students moving and dancing together to *Old Time Rock & Roll*."

The band also performed for special events such as the TFS Christmas assembly and TFS Christmas concert. Individual instrumentalists from the group performed for the Town of Tallulah Falls Founder's Day and TFS Fall Concert.

TFS PEP BAND



### These seniors have it covered

Two Tallulah Falls School seniors were featured on the cover of local EMC magazines recently. Madeline McClurg of Clarkesville and Caleb Griffis of Martin were featured on the cover of the January 2019 editions of the electrical cooperatives publications.

McClurg was featured on the cover of the Habersham EMC edition while Griffis was featured on the cover of the Hart EMC magazine. McClurg and Griffis were both selected to participate in last summer's 2018 Washington Youth Tour.

The tour is Georgia's oldest leadership program for teens and is sponsored nationally by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and statewide by the Georgia Electric Membership Corporation (GEMC).



reproduced with the permission of Georgia Magazine

The Washington Youth Tour brings together more than 1,800 outstanding high school students from across the U.S. for a week of leadership and team building in Washington, D.C.

### NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY Making Christmas BRIGHTER

By: Sydney Spivey, NHS Publisher/Historian

In the spirit of the season, members of the Tallulah Falls School Chapter of the National Honor Society adopted a family in need. According to advisor Terri Bogan, each year NHS provides Christmas gifts for an area family. This year, the club adopted a single-parent family of six from Rabun County.

"Club members made sure that every single person in this family had a happy Christmas," Bogan said. "The process of preparing this family's Christmas included a club trip to Walmart where club members personalized gifts based on each family member. The chapter conducted a wrapping party where every member of the club took part in wrapping the gifts. The members wrapped and labeled the gifts to be sent to the family."

During the wrapping party, some club members wrote inspirational messages to be delivered to residents of assisted living homes in Rabun County.

Additional funds were allocated to Paws4Life, a no-kill animal shelter located in Rabun County. The club purchased food, cleaning supplies and toys for the four-legged residents.



"Everybody needs to feel the love during Christmas. With this effort, the NHS exhibits the reality of its motto: To the world, you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world."

Terri Bogan  
NHS faculty advisor

**BRAVO!**

## Talent showcase **WOWS** middle school

TFS students possess an incredible array of talents. During one of the weekly assemblies, the *House of Owls* hosted a student talent show in order to showcase their talents for their middle school classmates. Six talented students (plus the faculty chorale) took advantage of the opportunity as they entertained the entire student body with a program of highly entertaining performances.



**THEY'VE GOT IT...**



- 1- Sixth grader Caroline Smith performs *Classical Mozart - Symphony #40*.
- 2- Sixth grader Lily Turpin sings *Want it Now*.
- 3- Several members of the 7th and 8th grade choir singing *Down in the River to Pray and Pass Through the Waters*.
- 4- Sixth grader Jake Owensby demonstrates that there is more than one way to play. He is pictured performing *Amazing Grace* on the piano upside down.
- 5- Sixth grader Timothy Beck sings a rousing rendition of *Country Roads/Rock Me*.
- 6- Seventh grader Jace Ibemere sings *All of Me*.
- 7 - The TFS Faculty Chorale sings *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band/With a Little Help from My Friends*.



## **GISA** Spelling Bee

In January 19 brave middle school students began the challenging quest to represent TFS in the annual Georgia Independent School Association (GISA) Spelling Bee. According to Hannah Gibson, TFS eighth grade English teacher and spelling bee coordinator, the students had their work cut out for them.

"The students gave their best at spelling and defining 39 bizarre, perplexing words such as 'felicitous' and 'jefe.' I am so proud of every student who participated."

At the conclusion of the competition eighth grader Trey Greene of Clarkesville and seventh grader Andrew Whittle of Tiger emerged as the winners. Sixth graders Jack Wiese of Alto and Madeline Martin of Cornelia were the runners-up.

Greene and Whittle attended Round One which was hosted by McGinnis Wood Country Day School on Feb. 7. While the pair did not advance to Round Two, Gibson was still justifiably proud of her students and the effort they gave.

"By giving their best at both bee competitions they attended, Trey and Andrew displayed courage and a willingness to take risks," Gibson said. "At the same time, they acted as true gentlemen. I hope they and their peers continue living out these qualities as new opportunities come their way!"



**Trey Greene**



**Andrew Whittle**



**Madeline Martin**



**Jack Wiese**

## MAKING A BEE-LINE TO THE HEAD OF THE CLASS

January also saw a group of curious, map-savvy middle school students compete in the National Geographic Geography Bee. Grade-level teachers quizzed students and the top performers from each grade then competed in the middle school-wide geography bee.

School-level winners were sixth grader Jedd Thomas of Cleveland, first place; fifth grader Isabella McClain of Toccoa, second place; and seventh grader Gabe Smith of Sautee Nacoochee who earned a third place finish.

"Map reading skills are becoming a thing of the past. It is exciting to see our students develop a passion in this area to expand their global knowledge," said Middle School Academic Dean David Chester. "I look forward to our younger students continuing to represent TFS in the Geography Bee."

Grade level representatives were as follows:

- Fifth grade - Caden Kipps and Isabella McClain
- Sixth grade - Madeline Martin and Jedd Thomas
- Seventh grade - Gabe Smith, Andrew Whittle, Henry Rickman
- Eighth grade - Tyler Farmer and Tommy Crawford

## National Geography Bee



Pictured from left: Fifth grader Isabella McClain of Toccoa, sixth grader Jedd Thomas of Cleveland and seventh grader Gabe Smith of Sautee Nacoochee.



From left: Tallulah Falls Police Chief Tonya Elrod, President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy, Director of Security Dustin Rogers and IT Director Bryan Freeman prior to a lockdown drill staged on Jan. 31.

## STRENGTHENING campus security



There is no higher priority for Tallulah Falls School than maintaining a safe and secure campus for the school's students, faculty and staff. A lock down drill held Jan. 31 provided an opportunity for the campus community to practice and refine its carefully crafted security protocols.

Director of Security Dustin Rogers plays a key role in evaluating the effectiveness of campus security policies and procedures and was pleased with the lock down drill.

"The drill went well," Rogers said. "Communication went out to parents in a timely manner and faculty, staff and students did a great job moving to assigned safe spaces."

One of the improvements implemented this year is drone coverage.

"If there is someone on campus, we have the ability to monitor them from a safe distance with our drone," Rogers added.

President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy was at the upper school to observe the process. Also on hand was new Tallulah Falls Police Chief Tonya Elrod.

"It is vital for our area law enforcement personnel to be familiar with our campus," Peevy said. "Reviewing every detail is important when it comes to the safety of our students and school employees. We appreciate the partnership we have with the town of Tallulah Falls and other agencies."

"The school has 24/7 security coverage and these drills are part of the master security plan," Peevy added.

**Eye-in-the-sky**  
Tallulah Falls School has added drone surveillance as the latest addition to a regularly updated campus security plan

## Hitting the slopes!

For the first time in several years the weather cooperated and both the middle school and the upper school were able to enjoy a day of skiing at North Carolina's Cataloochee Ranch. The middle school enjoyed a day on the slopes on January 22 and the upper school was able to make the trip about a week later.



## TFS hosts reception for Tallulah Falls new chief

Tallulah Falls School hosted a reception and ceremonial swearing-in ceremony for Tonya Elrod, Tallulah Falls newly appointed chief of police on Feb. 5. More than 100 people attended the event including family, friends, town, school and other government officials including a strong showing by the local public safety community. Representatives from the local business community including Georgia Power and Tallulah Falls State Park were also in attendance.

Tallulah Falls Mayor Terri Dobbs introduced Elrod before inviting Mountain Judicial Circuit Superior Court Judge B. Chan Caudell (pictured at right) to administer the ceremonial oath to Elrod.

Elrod, who was sworn-in officially on the day after being appointed several weeks earlier, made a few remarks to the group emphasizing her desire to continue to build on established relationships.



**TFS ALUMNI HOMECOMING**

**4.27.19**



The middle school sports scene at Tallulah Falls School is thriving! This 'next wave' of future varsity athletes is working hard to hone their skills with an irresistible mix of energy, enthusiasm, sportsmanship and a passion for the game.



Will Seaman



Hutson Eller Bryan Cope



Mason Dawe



Nelson Wilkinson



Haygen James



Maggie Shelton



Ellie Southards



Molly Mitchell



MS Girls  
2018-19  
Tri-State  
Conference  
Runner-Up

MS Boys  
2018-19  
Tri-State  
Conference  
Runner-Up



Middle school boys 'A' team



Middle school boys 'B' team



Middle school girls team



Middle school cheering team

Front row (seated), from left: Tori Tilley (manager), Hutson Eller, Tommy Crawford, Lincoln Hall, Mason Dawe, Tyler Farmer, Dan Griswold, Dallas Loonubon, Jake Wehrstein (manager). Back row (standing), from left: Lauren Brown (athletic trainer), Wyatt York (manager), Will Seaman, Nelson Wilkinson, Bryan Cope, Colton Hicks, Benjamin Okoronkwo, Tatum Myers (manager), Tom Tilley (head coach).

Front row (seated), from left: Tanner Davis, Wyatt Franks, Monil Patel, KC Respress, TJ Cox, Clay Kafsky. Back row (standing), from left: Lauren Brown (athletic trainer), Jake Wehrstein (manager), Zach Freeman, Jackson Carlan, Zac Carringer, Teryk Tilley, Sam Ketch, Tatum Myers (manager). Not pictured: Jake Owensby, Chase Pollock, Wyatt York (manager), Tori Tilley (manager).

Front row (seated), from left: Millie Holcomb, Karagan Branson, Keygan Antosiak, Molly Mitchell, Maggie Shelton, Chesney Tanksley, Kyndal Anderson. Back row (standing), from left: Lauren Brown (athletic trainer), Maebree Holcomb, Ellie Southards, Addy McCoy, Chloe Kahwach, Haygen James, Sharea Long (head coach).

Front row, from left: Avery Hulsey (kneeling), Isabella Jones, Cassidy Hayes, Anna Grant, Angelina Kim (kneeling). Back row (standing), from left: Brooklyn Reed, Tessa Foor, Abigail Hunter, Piper Allen, Lizzy Wanner, Linda Wang, Jace Ibemere, Julianna Shirley, Landry Carnes, Keeley Sorrells, Sassy Hayes (head coach), Lily Desta.



**Katy Corbett**  
Region 8A - 2nd team

# An historic season LADY INDIANS

- TFS best 18-11 overall record
- First-ever appearance in the GHSA state tournament
- First-ever victory in the state tournament 56-53 vs. Savannah Country Day
- First appearance in Sweet Sixteen bracket (Class A-private)

**Coach Brandy Corbett's team was "All In" as they rewrote the record book for girls basketball at TFS**



**Lillie Free**  
Region 8-A Honorable Mention



**Brandy Corbett**  
head coach

The TFS Lady Indians recently concluded the most successful season in program history as they fought their way to an 18-11 record and a first-time appearance in the state tournament. First year TFS coach Brandy Corbett's team played hard the entire season as they rewrote the ladies' basketball record book at TFS.

Corbett's team was led by Region 8-A first team senior Nyah Williams (pictured on the cover) who holds the all-time scoring mark at TFS with more than 1,850 points. Sophomore Katy Corbett averaged 9.6 points, 7.4 rebounds, 2.2 assists and two steals per game. Coach Corbett praised her for her tremendous improvement this year while becoming one of the most well-rounded players on the court. Junior Lillie Free was also a key contributor with more than eight points, 3.6 rebounds, 2.9 assists and two steals per game while serving as the team's point guard.

Visit the TFS website for a more detailed look at the Lady Indians historic basketball season. Scroll down to 'news and announcements' to read the latest releases on the season. Additional information will also be available in the spring *TFS Magazine*.



**Nyah Williams**  
Region 8A - 1st team



**senior Mali Danavall**



**Winston Davis**

- Jake Carver** - Most Valuable All-Region Honorable Mention
- Matthew Weidner** - Best Offensive Player
- Gabe Keene** - Most Improved

# VARSITY BOYS

"RAISE THE STANDARD"

The varsity boys basketball team had a season filled with high and lows as the young squad experienced growing pains throughout the season. The team motto "Raise the Standard" was a call for the young players to continue working hard and buying into the culture of excellence that has seen coach Jim Van Hooser's charges enjoy the best four-year period in program history.

According to Van Hooser, several memories stand out from this season.



**Matthew Weidner**



**2018-19 Varsity Indians**  
Front row (seated), from left: Maddie Miller (manager), Winston Davis, Reeves Cody, Hayden Johnson, Simeon Respress, Kat Williams (manager). Back row (standing) from left: David Wood, Matthew Weidner, Gabe Keene, Sebastian Herrera, Xing Fan, Clarke Bailey, Jake Carver. Not pictured: Ty Tilley (manager).

"The first is senior Jake Carver hitting a 3-point basket from near mid-court to defeat King's Ridge Presbyterian 64-63 as time expired," Van Hooser said. "The second is scoring 90 points at Towns County to earn a big region win."

Other highlights included junior Matthew Weidner who averaged 17.7 points per game this season and Jake Carver becoming the winningest player in program history with 61 wins. Van Hooser also singled out freshman Gabe Keene who came on strong near the end of the season to become a key player.



**Jim Van Hooser**  
head coach

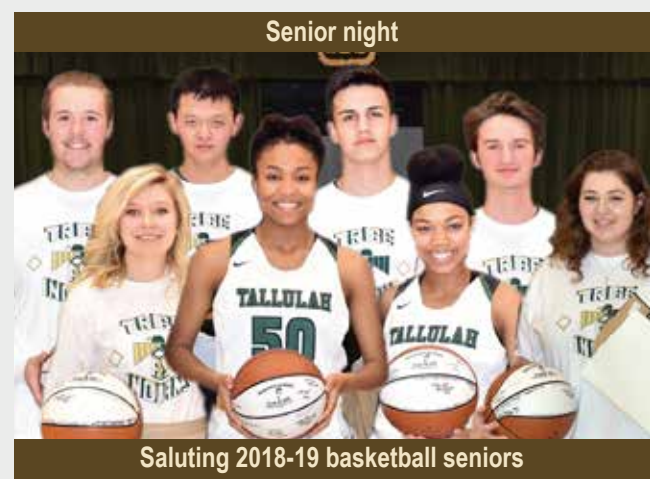


**Reeves Cody**



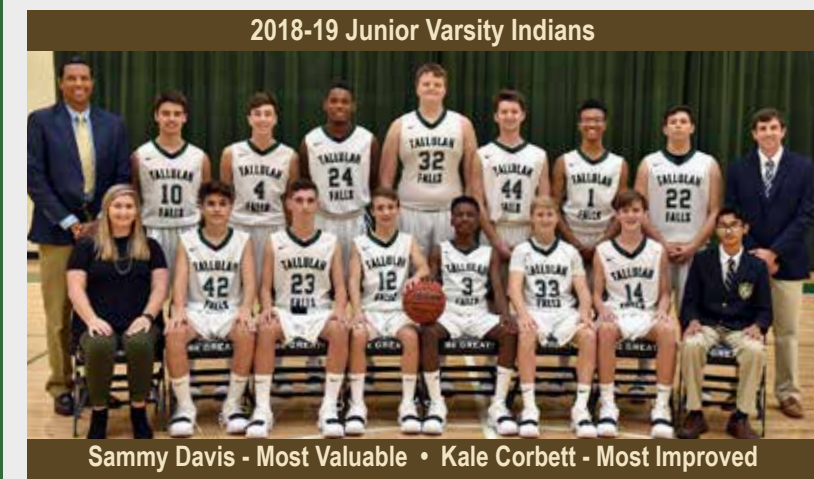
**2018-19 Varsity Lady Indians**

Front row (seated), from left: Taylor Bramlett (manager), Sophie Alexander, Brinson Hall, Nyah Williams, Macy Murdock, Lady Nassah, Lucy Alexander, Lauren Brown (athletic trainer). Back row (standing), from left: Whitney Branson (assistant coach), Abby Carlan, Lillie Free, Santy Dembele, Mali Danavall, Katy Corbett, Barrett Whitener, Brandy Corbett (head coach).



**Saluting 2018-19 basketball seniors**

TFS basketball seniors were recognized on Friday, Jan. 25 at the final home game of the year. Front row, from left: Taylor Bramlett (manager), Mali Danavall, Nyah Williams, Daycee Smith (manager). Back row, from left: Clarke Bailey, Xing Fan, Sebastian Herrera, Jake Carver.



**2018-19 Junior Varsity Indians**  
Sammy Davis - Most Valuable • Kale Corbett - Most Improved

Front row (seated), from left: Lauren Brown (athletic trainer), Alvaro Fernandez Urzay, Beltran Portugues Huertas, Tyler Popham, Zoeta Zigbuo, Kale Corbett, Charlie Cody, Nafis Rahman (manager). Back row (standing), from left: Lowell Hamilton (head coach), Javier Briongos Martin, Diego Rueda Alvarez, Sammy Davis, Tim Beahan, David Rodriguez Moreno, Julian Gober, Juan Bachiller Mateo, Cody Coleman (asst. coach).



**2018-19 Varsity Cheering squad**  
Huiyi "Alice" Peng - Most Spirited • Caroline Ball - Coach's Award  
Shelby Brightwell - Most Improved

Front row, (kneeling) from left: Ava Wehrstein, Mai Miyashita, Shelby Brightwell, Caroline Ball. Back row, (standing) from left: Alice Peng, Grace Kim, Mia Kwarteng, Amanda Rogers (head coach), Alycia Morales, Allie Kate Campbell, Morgan Webb.



### Gallagher and McIntosh named TFS recipients

TFS seniors Jenni Gallagher of Clarkesville and Ajani McIntosh of Sylva, NC have been selected as the Tallulah Falls School recipients for the 2018-19 Wendy's High School Heisman Award. TFS Athletic Director Scott Neal expressed his sentiments toward the accomplished pair of athletes.

"Jenni and Ajani both exhibit GREAT character," Neal said. "They lead and influence others in a positive manner, meaningfully contribute to the life of the school and their teams and consistently demonstrate the values and qualities associated with this honor."

Wendy's High School Heisman nominations come



Jenni Gallagher



Ajani McIntosh

from approximately 1.4 million high school athletes among the approximate 29,000 high schools across the nation. To be eligible for selection the senior must have a 3.0 or better GPA, participate in one or more of the 47 school-sponsored sports currently recognized by the International Olympic Committee or the National Federation of High Schools, be a leader in school and in the community and be a role model for underclassmen.

The committee selects one senior female and one senior male winner from each school. Those nominations are then culled for state and national awards and scholarships.

### Griswold to swim at Smith College

Senior Virginia Griswold of Clarkesville has committed to compete as a swimmer for the Smith College Pioneers in Northampton, Massachusetts. Smith College is a member of the NEWMAC Conference (NCAA Division III).

Griswold qualified for the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) state high school swimming championships all four years of her varsity career. This year she competed in six different individual events and three relays. Griswold is in the top two of the TFS Legacy List in 10 different individual events with three school individual records.

TFS swim coach Annette Cochran describes the senior student-athlete as a "rock for the team."

"Virginia is dependable and hardworking. The younger swimmers look up to her and aspire to be like her," Cochran said. "She is always willing to work with those who need her. Virginia spends hours in the pool and works hard to perfect her technique while building her endurance and speed. She is like a well-oiled machine with her timing, strokes and kicking all working together to help her succeed."

Smith College swim coach Zack Kundel said the team is excited to welcome Griswold to the Smith College swimming and diving program.

"Virginia has shown a lot of enthusiasm and positive energy which will make her an excellent addition to our program," Kundel said.

"Welcome to 'The Wild Bunch,' Virginia!"



From left: Norah Griswold, Virginia Griswold, and mom Kimberly Griswold.

*"The entire Tallulah Falls School community is proud of Virginia and her choice to balance her next educational pursuits with the rigors of intercollegiate athletics! She is a role model of training consistency, positive outlook and poised determination."*

- TFS Athletic Director Scott Neal.

## Swim and dive excels at state championships

The 2018-19 TFS swim and dive team benefited from the largest number of participants since the team's inception - a total of 76 swimmers, managers and one diver. Months of hard work paid off in the form of faster times and higher scores at each meet. The middle school team returned for a second year to the GISA State Championships with 16 competitive swimmers. Each qualified for at least one individual event and participated in a relay. The swimmers recorded many personal records and represented TFS well with nearly 70 percent of TFS swimmers finishing in the top 20 of their events.

The middle school boys had podium finishes for both the 200 medley relay (1st) and 200 freestyle relay (3rd). Nelson Wilkinson impressed with a gold finish in his 100 individual medley (IM), as well as 2nd place finish in the 50 freestyle and 50 butterfly. The TFS boys ruled the podium in the 50 breaststroke with Matt Cochran finishing 1st and Daniel Shin a close 2nd.

Sammie Hartman led the middle school ladies in top finishes of 4th place in the 50 breaststroke and 50 freestyle, as well as a 5th place finish in 50 butterfly. The ladies came in 6th place and the boys brought home the 2nd place trophy.

At the GHSA Division 1A - 3A State Swim Championships in February, TFS varsity swim and dive team fielded their largest team to date. Isabeau Keene made history as the first diver from TFS to compete at state, finishing 3rd overall in the division. Six athletes qualified to compete in individual events and eleven swimmers qualified in relay events allowing TFS to compete in all three boys' relays and all three girls' relays. Notably, Hunter Weyrich set a new school record in the 200 yard IM and Virginia Griswold set a new school record in the 100 yard backstroke.

**Varsity highlights**  
**GHSA state meet results:**  
 TFS boys - 9th place (Class 1A-3A)  
 TFS girls - 11th place (Class 1A-3A)  
 Isabeau Keene - 3rd place diving (Class 1A-5A)



Annette Cochran head coach



*"Our team's achievements at state are a direct reflection of the hard work the entire team has put in at practice and meets all season."*

- Head coach Annette Cochran



**Middle School highlights**  
**GISA state meet results**  
 TFS boys - 2nd place  
 TFS girls - 6th place  
 Nelson Wilkinson - 1st place 100 individual medley  
 Matt Cochran - 1st place 50 breaststroke



Middle school swim team

Front row, from left: Chris Kafsky (asst. coach), Stephanie Nicholson (asst. coach), Wyatt Nicholson (asst. coach). Second row, from left: Annette Cochran (head coach), Xan Stallings, Sammi Hartman, Layne Kafsky, Madeline Martin, Zach Woodward, Kim Griswold (asst. coach). Third row, from left: Landon Miller, Britt Shaw, Carter Miller, Jedd Thomas, Brooke Hayes, Brynn Leach, Emma Jackson, Emma Trotter. Fourth row, from left: Ben Rosenthal, Henry Rickman, Nelson Wilkerson, Trey Greene, Andrew Woodward, Matt Cochran, Daniel Shin, Jack Zhong, Nana Amankwah.



Varsity swim team

Front row, from left: Annette Cochran (head coach), Emily Smith, Taylor Huling, Karis Tatum, Sarah Edwards, Stephanie Nicholson (asst. coach), Wyatt Nicholson (asst. coach). Second row, from left: Chris Kafsky (asst. coach), Sydney Murdock (mgr.), Emily Wolfe, Maggie Peacock, Hannah Hickox, Shelby Cochran, Kim Griswold (asst. coach). Third row, from left: Logan Huling, Norah Griswold, Virginia Griswold, Kristian Williams, Julia James, Reid Kafsky. Fourth row, from left: Nathan Moseley, Halle Weyrich, Clara Madigan, Abby Peacock (mgr.), Cynthia Jackson, Brenda Cochran, Camden Hughes. Fifth row, from left: Jiachen Li, Gianna Diaz, Marvin Thiennukul, Hunter Weyrich, Caden Griffis, Stephen Bowman, Tate Shaw. Back row, from left: Chris Geiger, Maggie Jackson, John Nichols, Gabe Illuma, Riley Barron.

**Girls team: Virginia Griswold - Most Valuable • Sarah Edwards - Coach's Award • Emily Wolf - Most Improved**  
**Boys team: John Nichols - Most Valuable • Chris Geiger - Coach's Award • Logan Huling - Most Improved**

a brand new

# Home on the Range

Precision rifle team aims for excellence in newly created range made possible by sweat equity from TFS parents.

**T**here's no place like home. For members of the Tallulah Falls School precision rifle team, this means practicing on campus in their own newly constructed rifle range. Thanks to team coaches Tim and Kerry Stamey, a dramatic transformation is now complete.

The hard-working pair was instrumental in launching the program last year when their daughter Samantha "Sam" Stamey arrived at TFS as a high school freshman. The space features an eight-lane regulation range, laser sighting practice lane, secure storage, a locker room area, timer and spectator seating.

Tim Stamey coordinated with TFS Plant Services personnel to repurpose a storage area located on the first floor of Federation Hall, according to Plant Services Director Michael Rogers.

"By contributing their labor and expertise to this project, they saved the school thousands of dollars," Rogers said.

Tim Stamey said the team is starting competition season with eight shooters and he is eager to begin practicing in the space.

"We now have an air rifle range that rivals anything in the state. The athletes, especially returning ones from last year, are so appreciative for a professional area to practice," he said. "I believe the rewards of this will be students who will meet their goals and dreams of shooting in college and perhaps making the Olympic team. We are so thankful for the climate-controlled area that President Peevy and TFS provided for our labor of love."

Sophomore Samantha Stamey said the new range gives the team a strong hope for the future.

"To be able to have the facility on campus and be able to leave our equipment out allows us more time to train for even better scores – scores that could take us to national championships," Samantha Stamey said. "This range is an extension of my home. My dad put his whole soul in it, worked long hours for months and to be able to have such an outcome is incredible. I'm a sophomore and to leave in two years knowing what my family built and that my younger teammates have the best range possible is a wonderful feeling that could not be replaced."

"We are grateful to the Stamey family for their investment in this growing sport," said President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy. "The facility is incredible; it will be a fabulous practice and competition venue as well as a showcase for visiting teams."

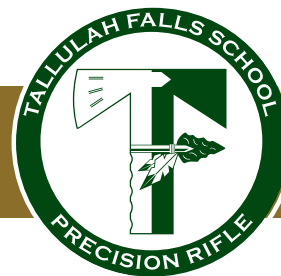


*"We now have an air rifle range that rivals anything in the state... I believe the rewards of this will be students who will meet their goals and dreams of shooting in college and perhaps making the Olympic team."*

**Tim Stamey**  
Precision Rifle head coach  
and TFS parent



From left: Kerry Stamey, President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy and Tim Stamey. The Stameys are pictured with a plaque given in gratitude of their work to make the new range a reality.



## Squad qualifies for South East Regional championship

In only its second season, members of the TFS precision rifle team shot a three-position South East Regional Qualification match hosted at home on Jan. 31.

According to head coach Tim Stamey, the region includes nine states. "This match is shot on targets that are sent to registered schools and clubs by the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP)," Stamey said. "The targets come printed with barcodes, the athlete's name and competitor number. The targets are scanned and sent back to the CMP for ranking. The CMP takes the top four scores for each team to set regional ranking."

Results, according to Stamey, determine what school/club qualifies for the regional tournament, set for April 4-6 in Anniston, AL. The regional tournament results are a qualifier for the National Championship held at Camp Perry, OH in July.

*"We are very proud of what they have accomplished in two months of training this season. Our athletes will continue to train hard with our sights focused on securing a spot to the national championship."*

The top four shooters for TFS were sophomores Anna May of Waycross (281), Sam Stamey of Clarkesville (281), Ben Fisher of Clayton (280) and freshman Andrew Erwin of Demorest (273).

"They shot a total match score of 1,115 which is a TFS record," Stamey said. "It exceeded our best match score last year by 13 points! We are very proud of what they have accomplished in two months of training this season. Our athletes will continue to train hard with our sights focused on securing a spot to the national championship."



The Precision Rifle Team competes in local, state, regional and national matches with USA Shooting Junior Olympics and the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP). These programs provide our athletes with the proper training to compete for NCAA Scholarships and possible USA Olympic dreams.



## 2019 PRECISION RIFLE TEAM

From left:  
Kerry Stamey  
(assistant coach),  
Reese English,  
Ben Fisher,  
Maddi Perdue,  
Anna May,  
Sam Stamey,  
Andrew Erwin,  
Aiden Gragg,  
Luke Ferguson,  
Tim Stamey  
(head coach).

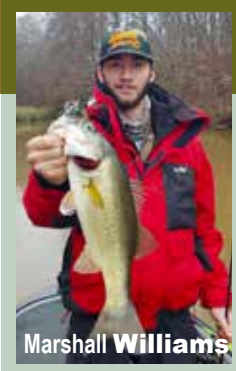


# BASS FISHING TEAM Mid-season UPDATE



Shown, front row, from left, are junior division student anglers: Jacob Mitchell, Koen Eller, Molly Mitchell and Haygen James; Back row, from left: captain Darrin Harrelson, captain Jeff Mitchell, Will Jackson, Thomas Harris, Marshall Harrelson, Marshall Williams, Luke Ferguson, George Ketch, captain Chris James and captain Russell Williams.

**Bass fishing teams angling for another weighty season**



Marshall Williams

*"All of our TFS student anglers make us proud as each and every one of them continues to compete with enthusiasm and determination to strive for their best."*  
- captain Russell Williams

Organized competitive bass fishing is growing rapidly across the country and the TFS teams are no exception. TFS now has two junior division and three high school division teams. Student anglers have represented the school well so far this season according to lead captain Russell Williams.

In the junior division, Team Mitchell – Jacob Mitchell and Koen Eller, and Team James – Haygen James and Molly Mitchell – have qualified to compete in the state championship. In the high school division, Team Harrelson – senior Will Jackson and junior Thomas Harris and Team Williams – senior Marshall Harrelson and junior Marshall Williams – have all punched their ticket for a berth in the state championship.

The third high school division team – Team Ward, consisting of freshman student-anglers George Ketch and Luke Ferguson, missed qualifying for state by approximately 1.5 pounds in the recent tournament, according to Williams. "But they continue to improve in each tournament," he added.

At the high school level, Team Williams holds the No. 12 state ranking according to the Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation Angler of the Year (AOY) points system. Team Harrelson is at No. 39 followed by Team Ward at No. 87 (of approximately 200 teams statewide).

On the junior level, Team Mitchell is ranked No. 4 in the state and Team James comes in at No. 7 from among the approximately 50 teams that compete.



Shown, from left are junior division student-anglers: Koen Eller, Molly Mitchell, Chris James (jr. team captain), Haygen James and Jacob Mitchell.

## Young Harris College hooks Harrelson with bass-fishing scholarship



Senior Marshall Harrelson shares a special moment with his dad, Darrin, and mom, Renee, as he signs with Young Harris College in January.

Senior Marshall Harrelson of Clarkesville had a catch he'll remember forever as he recently signed a National Letter of Intent to fish collegiately at Young Harris College. Harrelson is the first TFS student to earn a bass-fishing scholarship to college.

Harrelson was one of the original students in the school's bass fishing club. Harrelson, along with teammate junior Marshall Williams of Toccoa were charter members of the rapidly growing sport which now includes middle school anglers.

As recently as last year Young Harris College only had the sport at the club level, but shortly after his acceptance letter arrived Harrelson received a call informing him that he'd been awarded one of the first fishing scholarships given by the school.

The team now has varsity lettering criteria and is included in team recognition at school sports banquets.

Your gift will help their dreams come true.



More than \$3.5 million in scholarship and financial assistance awarded this year.



The investment we make today pays dividends - generations deep - far into the future.



70% of TFS students receive financial aid.



## A GIFT THAT LASTS A LIFETIME THE 2019 TALLULAH FUND

Tallulah Falls School has a rich history of investing in the success of young people. From its founding in 1909 with 21 students to today's vibrant, diverse group of more than 500 students in grades five-12, that focus remains steadfast.

The investment we make today pays dividends – generations deep – far into the future. We are *Meeting Student Aspirations* as no goal or dream is too ambitious for our students to realize. We are *Preparing Students to Thrive* as they grow and evolve from middle school through high school. We are *Developing Leaders* by offering opportunities for students to lead in multiple ways – clubs, athletics, dorms and in the classroom.

We are *Building Great Character* daily through the *Tallulah 12* and *All In* community building initiatives. We are *Focusing on Academics* with a strong college preparatory curriculum including 20 college classes offered on campus. We are *Sparking Creativity* with expanded offerings in fine arts – visual, performing, music and voice. We are *Cultivating Global Conversations* with international boarding students from 17 countries. We are *Enriching the Outdoor Experience* by taking students outside to learn, explore and commune with nature.

We invite you to make an investment in our school community with a gift to the Tallulah Fund so that we can continue our commitment to more than 70 percent of our students who receive financial assistance. Each one of these students can impact the world in a positive way as well prepared, global citizens.

Thank you from the students, faculty and staff of Tallulah Falls School for making a sound investment in these bright, motivated young people with your donation.

### CHECK. CREDIT CARD. ONLINE GIVING. THREE CONVENIENT WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

\$1,000  \$500  \$250  \$100  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed with my gift made payable to the Tallulah Fund.

Charge my Credit Card with my gift.  Visa  Discover  MasterCard  AmEx

CREDIT CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

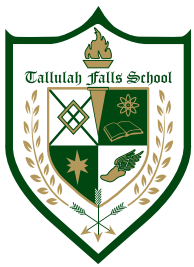
EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_ SEC. CODE \_\_\_\_\_ BILLING ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME ON CARD \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

You may make a gift online at [www.tallulahfalls.org](http://www.tallulahfalls.org). Make a gift by phone by calling 706.839.2021. Please send your gift by mail to Tallulah Falls School, Attn: Advancement Dept., P.O. Box 10, Tallulah Falls, GA 30573





TALLULAH FALLS SCHOOL  
P.O. Box 10  
Tallulah Falls, Georgia 30573

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT #47  
GAINESVILLE, GA

*Parents of alumni: If this issue is addressed to your child who no longer maintains a permanent address at your home, please notify the Executive Director for Advancement of the new mailing address at (706) 839-2021 or [sonya.smith@tallulahfalls.org](mailto:sonya.smith@tallulahfalls.org).*

**IT'S  
NEVER  
BEEN  
EASIER**

**FOLLOW US!**



@TallulahFallsSchool  
@TallulahFallsSchoolAthletics



@TFS1909  
@AthleticsTFS



@tallulah\_falls\_school



follow Tallulah Falls School on our social media accounts to keep up with

**SCHOOL AND SPORTS NEWS**

**[www.tallulahfalls.org](http://www.tallulahfalls.org)**

