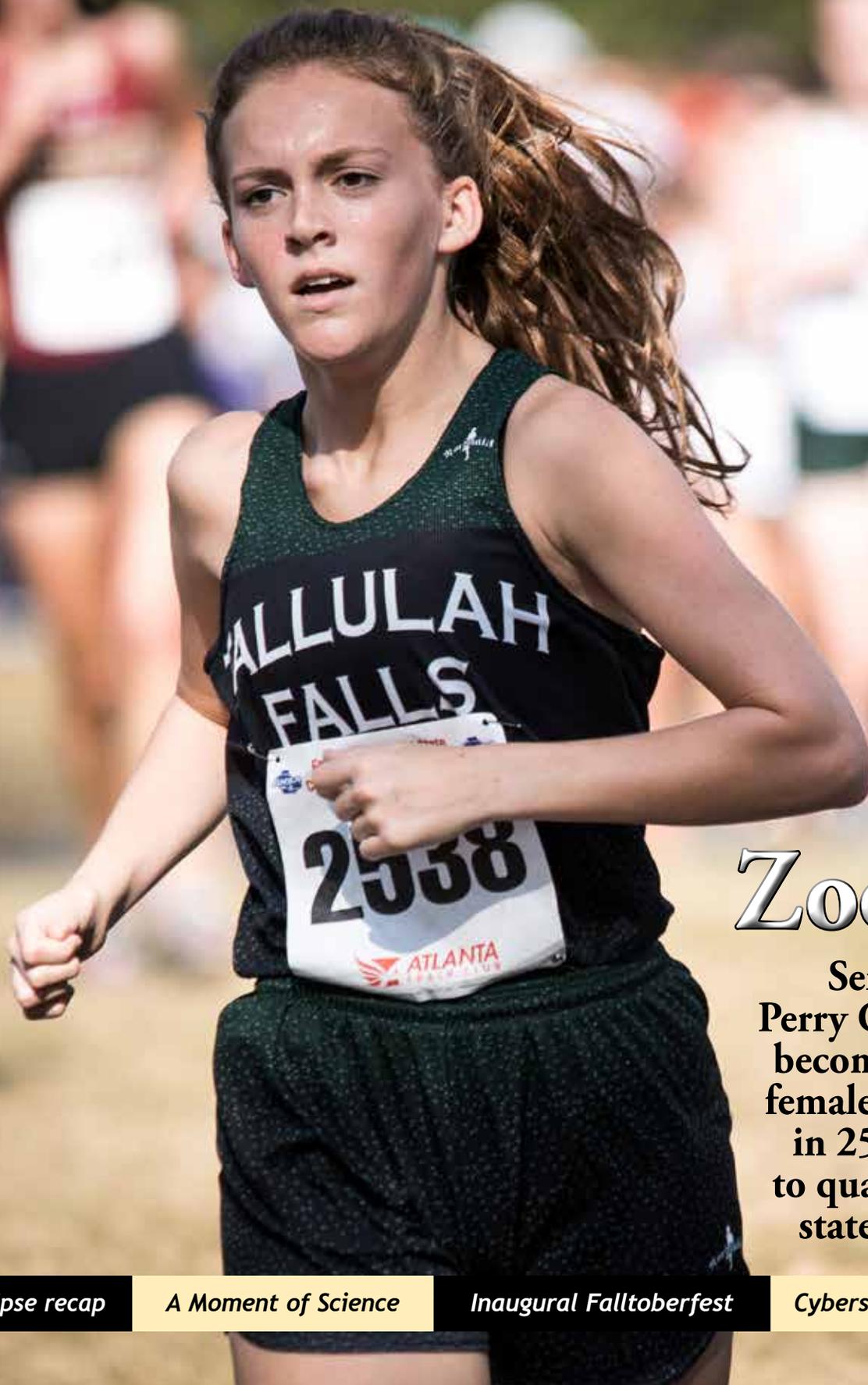


# TALLULAH FALLS SCHOOL

*Magazine*

FALL 2017



## Zoom!

Senior  
Perry Gresham  
becomes first  
female harrier  
in 25 years  
to qualify for  
state meet

Solar eclipse recap

A Moment of Science

Inaugural Falltoberfest

Cybersafety experts



**Live while you learn.**

Seniors test their mettle at the Highlands Aerial Park.



Fifth graders explore the summit of Stone Mountain.



Annual Deep Creek tubing trip in the Great Smokies.



Kayaking during the cross country team quadrathlon competition.



Sophomores enjoy the beach during the annual Charleston, SC trip.

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ON THE COVER: Senior Perry Gresham is shown competing in the state cross country meet in November. Gresham was the first female cross country runner to qualify for state in twenty-five years. Read more on page 24. Photo by E. Lane Gresham.

**PRESIDENT and HEAD of SCHOOL**  
Larry A. Peevy

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Colorful maple leaves litter the ground as another beautiful autumn settles in across the TFS campus.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

LARRY A. PEEVY

Culture is everything



Our school community is thriving. Every day I'm amazed at the enthusiasm I sense when I visit with students on campus. Our faculty and staff are creating a positive pathway for our students to follow that enriches the school culture. Over the past decade, I believe we've developed an educational experience like no other college preparatory school in the Southeast.

When our students sense the strong commitment of faculty and staff members, they gain confidence in rapid fashion. They see how much we care and by this example, they are motivated to support each other.

In my 45-year career in education, I've never experienced anything like this school community. When I hear a report from our academic deans about what is happening in the classroom, on the athletic field, in the dorm or even out in the community – I am simply amazed.

As you savor this latest collection of highlights, I encourage you to consider how every article connects to this high standard of care. The story list is overflowing with examples of the TFS experience – an intangible gift to our students that we nurture daily, including:

The first-ever Moment of Science night – a tremendous collaboration of parents and teachers to benefit our students.

Eclipse recap – a once-in-a-lifetime teaching opportunity brought many of our stakeholders to campus for a safe,

educational event.

A special cybersafety presentation delivered by friends of the school, Mountain Judicial Circuit District Attorney George Christian and Chief Superior Court Judge B. Chan Caudell, illustrates our commitment to bringing timely and relevant awareness to our students.

The equestrian program is bolstered by national recognition – again, our commitment to offering a broader array of extracurricular activities gives TFS students more choices.

Falltoberfest pictorial – our middle school is again on the move, establishing new traditions through the framework of the Tallulah 12.

Third annual Twin Rivers Challenge recap and sponsor recognition – this event set records for fundraising and community awareness of the TFS mission to support motivated students.

These stories add layers to our culture of care. I invite you to talk with our students to experience first-hand this appetite for learning.

These young people, through the lessons they absorb here at TFS, are charging forward, building their own personalities and developing the tools they will need to be successful adults.

They inspire me – and that inspiration is contagious.

Sincerely,

Larry A. Peevy  
President and Head of School

TFS President receives honorary Doctor of Education degree from Piedmont College

TFS President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy was recently honored as he received an honorary Doctor of Education degree from Piedmont College. The ceremony took place during the college's summer commencement ceremony. Peevy delivered the commencement address to the graduates.

According to a letter from Piedmont College President James F. Mellichamp, the college's board of trustees voted unanimously to award the degree earlier this year.

Georgia Court of Appeals Judge Brian M. Rickman, a member of the Piedmont College Board of Trustees, said "Larry Peevy is humble, honest, hard-working and a true community leader. He is precisely the type of person deserving of this special recognition."

For those readers who may not be aware, Peevy has served in a variety of senior administration posts in higher education, most recently as vice president for Enrollment and Retention Services at Georgia Military College in Milledgeville. Prior to that, he served at Georgia College and State University for 20



Shown, from left are, Piedmont College Board of Trustees Chairman Gus Arrendale, TFS President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy, Piedmont College Vice President for Academic Affairs Perry Rettig and Piedmont College President James F. Mellichamp. Photo: E. Lane Gresham.

years and was an Army Infantry and Transportation officer.

He is currently Chairman of the Habersham Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, serves on the Board of Trustees for the Georgia Independent School Association and was recently named the Habersham Countian of the Year in December 2016.

Tallulah Falls School • 2017-18 Board of Trustees



The Tallulah Falls School Board of Trustees was photographed during their September 2017 meeting on campus. Front row, from left: Carolyn Freidlander, Ellen Alderman, Gewene Womack, Lucy Willard, Cookie Noel, Gail Cantrell, Peggy Pruet, Dale Reddick, Karen Thomson. Standing, from left: Amy Atkinson (TFS Board Chair), Rev. James R. Turpen, Sr., Suzanne Ratliff, Elizabeth Wells, Donald Wells, Jim Weidner, Judy Forbes, Judy Taylor, Greg Brown, Mark Rasmussen (TFS Vice President), Larry A. Peevy (TFS President and Head of School). Not present: Elizabeth Chadwick, Donna Foland, Terry Rogers, Doris Alexander, Ida Dorvee, Sandy Ahearn.

Enrollment milestone: 500+

When Tallulah Falls School opened its doors on August 7, it wasn't just business as usual. For the first time in its 108-year history, TFS enrollment has reached, and surpassed, 500 students. Officially, 214 students began the year in the middle school (grades 5-8) and 295 were enrolled in the upper school, making the official opening figure an impressive 509 students.

By the numbers:

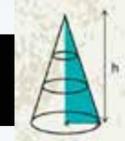
376 Day students

133 boarding students

12 countries

10 states

18 counties in Georgia



# a moment of



21	44.956	53	126.90		7	14.007	58	140.12
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Scandium		Iodine			Nitrogen		Cerium	

by E. Lane Gresham

## Eighth graders host the school's first-ever science showcase



From left: Chloe Kahwach and Skyler Voss.



From left: Addie Higbie and Sarah Jennings.

The first-ever science showcase at Tallulah Falls School was a huge hit, eclipsing all expectations. The event, A Moment of Science: A Total Eclipse of the Heart, was hosted by the Class of 2022 [this year's eighth grade class] and the middle school science department, chaired by teacher Zac Roland. Roland worked with parent volunteers to launch the initiative, which drew a large early evening crowd to the middle school lobby on October 10.

"Students of all grades worked very hard to put together their exhibits. Each group went through two rounds of presentations with peers, parents and teachers," Roland said. "They received valuable feedback going through the process of making revisions in hopes of being selected for the showcase."

Members of the community served as judges for the finalists. Judges included: James Irving, engineer with Foot-hills Land Design; Dr. Crista Royal, biology professor, Piedmont College; Akin Akisanya, TFS senior; Dayne Gray, TFS alum and retired electrician, Georgia Power Company; Irene Gray, TFS alum and TFS registrar.

Eighth grade presenters were: "Arachnifilter" by Mar-edith Anderson, Jason Sang, Karis Tatum, and Katelin Zhang; "Guano-X: by Luke Atwood, Caroline Ball, Trevor Bramlett, and Lilly Johnson; "Backfeed" by Ming Cai, Bryson Halbrook, Gabe Keene, and Tyler Popham; "Desalination" by Maggie Peacock, Jesse Reames, Shrek Wang, and Barrett Whitener.

Seventh grade presenters: "Black Hole Bakery" by Faith Ann Ferguson, Hanna Ferrier, Emma Jackson, and Kate Trotter; "Moments in Space" by Ellesen Eubank, Cassidy Hayes, Sarah Jennings, and Maddie Mullis; "Space on Earth" by Nasha Dembele, Chloe Kahwach, and Skyler Voss; "The Great Space" by Keelie Parks, Hannah Lundy, and Sammy Hartman.

Sixth Grade presenters included: "Train and Hula Hoop" by Brooke Hayes, Audrey Dillard, Jana Shanks, and Austin Ball; "Red Square" by Maddie LeBlanc, Joseph McGahee, CJ Augustine, and Anna Siebert.; "Biggest Yoga Ball" by Julianne Shirley, Ethan Simmons, Blaire Moore, and Jaylan Garrison.



Eighth grader Maggie Peacock.

Fifth grade presenters: "Milky Way" by the third period class; "Aurora Borealis" by the fourth period; "Mars Rover" by the fifth period.

"A Moment of Science was a great event for the science department and the middle school," said Middle School Academic Dean David Chester. "It provided the opportunity for our students to be super creative and to showcase their finished products to judges, friends and family members. We were excited to have such a large crowd in attendance and to have incredible parent support in order to make such a magical night possible. It is a testament to our middle school motto, 'Culture is Everything.'"

President and Head of School Larry A. Peivy said the event was a tremendous effort made possible by the collaboration among faculty, staff, students and parents.

"This was a great academic showcase for our community," Peivy said. "I was quite impressed with the investment of time and talents to benefit our students."



Even the refreshments were science-themed.

21	44.956	53	126.90		7	14.007	58	140.12
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### Winners by grade level: Eighth grade

"Guano-X" by Luke Atwood, Caroline Ball, Trevor Bramlett and Lilly Johnson.

### Seventh grade

"The Great Space" by Sammy Hartman, Hannah Lundy and Keelie Parks.

### Sixth grade

"Train and Hula-Hoop" by Austin Ball, Audrey Dillard, Brooke Hayes, and Jana Shanks.

### Fifth grade

Each class had an exhibit in the showcase that included "The Milky Way," "The Aurora Borealis" and "Mars Rover."



## August 21st total solar eclipse lives up to its billing as the TFS community experiences one of nature's rarest spectacles

For just over two minutes, more than 400 spectators gathered on the TFS campus on Aug. 21 witnessed one of nature's rarest and most spectacular shows - a total solar eclipse. Although a total solar eclipse only occurs on average once every 375 years in any particular spot on the earth, 2017 was northeast Georgia's lucky year as the 70-mile wide path of totality fell squarely across Tallulah Falls.

Billed as "The Great American Eclipse" the event drew hundreds of thousands of visitors into the northeast corner of Georgia. The U.S. 441 corridor and the town of Tallulah Falls were inundated with thousands of eclipse-seekers by mid-morning, all seeking to stake out a good vantage point for the 2:35 p.m. climax.

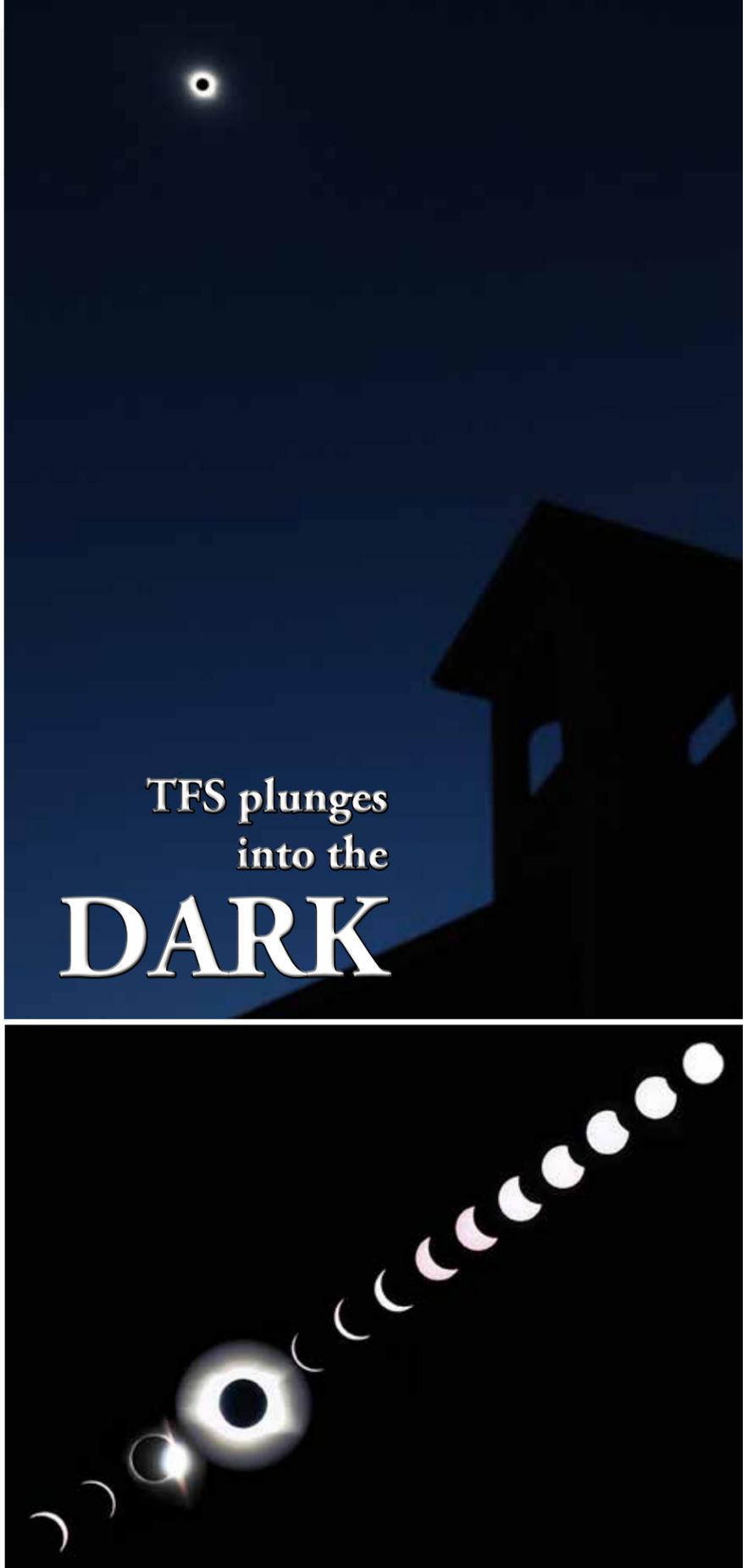
While TFS classes were canceled due to safety concerns regarding traffic, there were plenty of students, staff and visitors who made their way to campus. Boarding students were joined by faculty and staff, invited guests, and other members of the school community for an informative program on the baseball field. Programming related to the eclipse was led by Dr. Stuart Jefferies of Georgia State University, an expert in the field.

Attendees could learn more about solar eclipses and view the progression of the eclipse on special instruments during the highly anticipated build up to totality.

Jefferies, with colleagues Dr. Gary Bamford and Dr. Amanda Bamford, of Manchester University, England, were quite enthusiastic about sharing their knowledge. Jefferies has more than 30 years of experience in solar research and has built several instruments to study the sun.

"The excitement of our presenters was quite contagious. We couldn't be more pleased with how the day unfolded," said TFS President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy.

eclipse photos by Brian A. Boyd  
program photos by E. Lane Gresham



Top: The moment of totality as witnessed from the TFS upper school bell tower.  
Below: Compilation of the eclipse from photos taken by Brian A. Boyd.

"While we followed public safety recommendations to cancel classes, we still had a good attendance with our boarding students, faculty and staff and many of our day student families."

To prepare the school community for the eclipse, Jefferies visited the school in the spring to introduce students to the science behind the solar event. Additionally, the school hosted an assembly on Aug. 19 to further enhance the experience for students.

"[TFS] sets the gold standard for hospitality," Jefferies said.

Adding to the day was a performance by a chorus of orphans from Haiti visiting the area to sing for various churches and organizations. The group, *Love Him, Love Them*, captured the hearts of the audience with a robust version of the national anthem, among other song selections.



Several telescopes were on hand to enhance the eclipse viewing experience.



Crescents filter through tree leaves just before totality.



The solar corona as visible during totality.



Senior Anna Davis enjoying the show.



The diamond-ring effect.



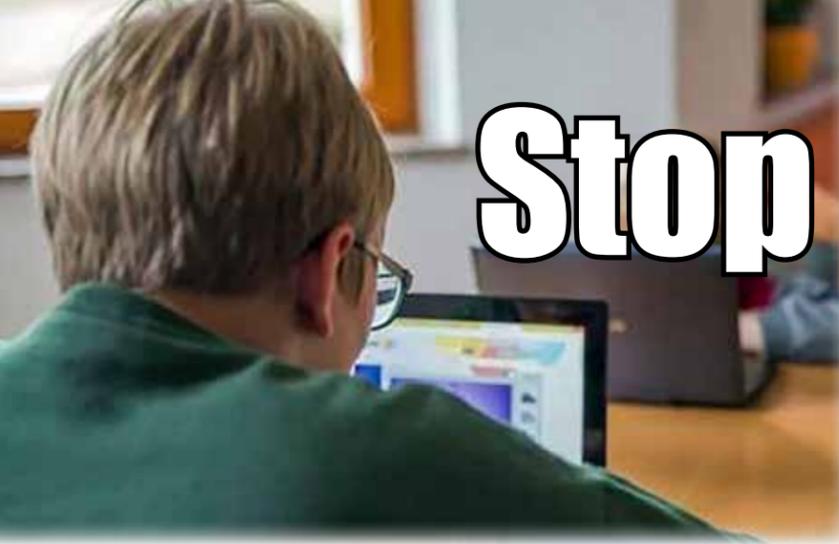
Members of Love Him, Love Them Choir.



Dr. Stuart Jefferies of Georgia State University.



Images from the  
**Great American Eclipse**



# Stop

and

# Think

Cybersafety

District Attorney George Christian and Chief Superior Court Judge B. Chan Caudell stress importance of cybersafety to TFS students

Published with permission  
by *The Clayton Tribune*  
By Chris Stiles/Staff Writer

Tallulah Falls School students were lectured on the importance of cybersafety in a presentation by Mountain Judicial Circuit District Attorney George Christian and Chief Superior Court Judge B. Chan Caudell on Sept. 27 at the school.

The presentation, which was given to both middle and high school students, focused on the unintended consequences of online decisions made by students. Topics covered included cyberbullying, sexting, social media and online predators.

“Cyber exposure is so much greater now,” said TFS President and Head of School Larry Peevy. “The kids know how to access it much better than adults, but sometimes they don’t realize the consequences, and some are not always positive. And what we try to do is not preach to them about it but educate them, through professionals like George and Chan, to the realities of their actions.”

Students were also told how both colleges and potential employers browse the social media accounts of applicants as part of the hiring process.

“[I realized that] in the moment of something you have to really think about how that action is going to affect your future, because it does really affect you getting a career and getting into the college you really want to,” said TFS student Abby Hulsey of Cleveland. “So it has long-term effects you don’t really think about.”

Christian reminded students that once something is posted to the internet, it never goes away, and that not everything on the internet can be trusted at face value.

“Young people generally are naive about the evils of the world,” Christian said. “They don’t have life experience by which they can judge what’s going on. They don’t fully appreciate the consequences of their conduct, and it’s only through those life experiences that they learn that, and hopefully by exposing them to ‘what ifs’ and ‘this is the reality of the world’ you’ll at least have some impact on their thought process.”

The topic was important for all students who attended the event, as 42 percent of teens with access to the internet report cyberbullying each year.

“This thing has more power than the first computers that sent men to the moon,” Caudell said, pulling his phone from his pocket. “And that power can change your life.”

*“This thing has more power than the first computers that sent men to the moon, and that power can change your life.”*

Chief Superior Court  
Judge B. Chan Caudell,  
holding a cell phone in his hand.



Mountain Judicial Circuit District Attorney George Christian speaks to students on cybersafety in a presentation at Tallulah Falls School on Sept. 27. Chris Stiles/The Clayton Tribune



# CHAMPIONS

TFS equestrian program enhanced by director’s national championship run

The credentials for the Tallulah Falls School equestrian program keep getting stronger and stronger. Dinah Peevy, director of the equestrian program and wife of President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy, enjoyed great success at a high profile competition. In late July, the pair traveled to St. Louis to compete in the American Shetland Pony Club/American Show Pony Congress at the National Equestrian Center.

Mrs. Peevy brought two horses to the show, Majestic Farms Singing the Blues and Dunhaven’s Excellence, and personally won two national championships and two reserve amateur national championships while competing against some of the best horses



Dinah Peevy competes with Majestic Farm’s Singing the Blues.



Equestrian Club director Peevy (far right) poses with a portion of the school’s equestrian club during a recent session at the TFS farm.

in the United States and Canada. Two very experienced trainers, Ricky Wardlaw and Mike Rosauer, assisted in showing her horses in specialty classes that resulted in winning three Grand National Championships and three additional national championships.

President Peevy got in on the awards as well. “Dinah talked me into showing in the halter class this year,” Peevy said. “I competed in one amateur halter class at nationals and won my class - a National Congress Championship. What a wonderful surprise.”

The awards and acclaim only strengthen the school’s growing equestrian program. Dinah Peevy founded the equestrian club in 2011, bringing to TFS the chance for students to experience what it’s like to be around horses, care for them, and learn to ride. The school offers the program as a four-day-per-week after-school extracurricular program to students in middle school and high school in the fall and spring.



Fifth grader Jackson Robertson of Clarkesville enjoys a riding session on the back of Cody.

Top of page: An impressive collection of ribbons and trophies won by Dinah and Larry A. Peevy at this summer’s competition.

# FALLTOBERFEST

Building camaraderie through friendly, spirited competition

Members of the TFS middle school community are innovators at heart. This year, the middle school took the traditional TFS field day concept and infused it with a massive dose of creativity and enthusiasm. The result is Falltoberfest, a multifaceted event which pits each of the four middle school “houses” against each other in a series of friendly and fun competitions involving body, mind and spirit. The inaugural Falltoberfest was held October 12 just prior to the school’s traditional Fall break.

Falltoberfest opened in style as students from each of the four houses - the Wolves, Owls, Hornets and Ravens - marched into the gym to the tune of their chosen theme music, in formation, each behind their official house shield. An official opening ceremony was followed by a cluster of competitive team events over the next two hours.

Fun events like the triathlon challenged students to kayak, bike and run over a course at Tallulah Gorge State Park. Each house competed with two teams consisting of three students, one girls team and one boys team. A variety of other contests provided a fun opportunity for everyone to compete while having a great time.

“Falltoberfest was a great event for the middle school,” Middle School Academic Dean David Chester said. “It gave our houses an opportunity to build camaraderie among themselves, while at the same time creating a spirit of healthy competition between each other. We were trying to carry on the tradition of field day as well as adding new events to give it a different flavor. We wanted a balance between athletic events, smaller specialty skill games, arts and crafts, and events such as the Escape Room. We even added a Piñata Challenge that included faculty participation.”

The house competition reached its zenith with the always popular tug-of-war competition which involved all students from each house. The final competition, the “House Faculty Challenge” pit the middle school faculty from each house in a series of competitions involving breaking piñatas.

And just in case you’re keeping score, this year’s winning house: the Green Hornets!



The “Crafty Ravens Challenge” included craft-related contests such as building a scarecrow, navigating a maze, creating themed piñatas or carving a pumpkin.

“Events like Falltoberfest help to build a sense of pride for students towards their houses; they also help to strengthen the overall culture that we are trying to create on daily basis.”

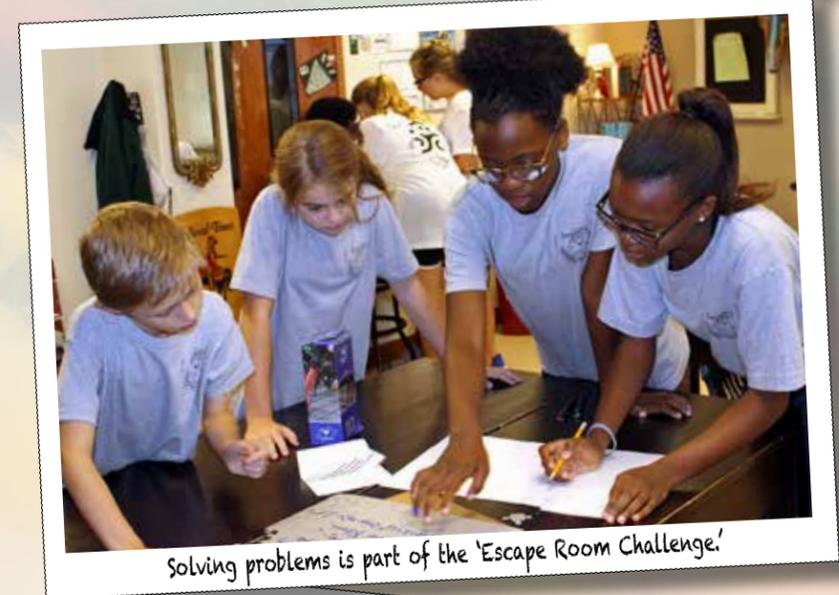
David Chester  
Middle School Academic Dean



The infamous ‘caterpillar crawl’ requires precise teamwork.



Pumpkin-carving competition

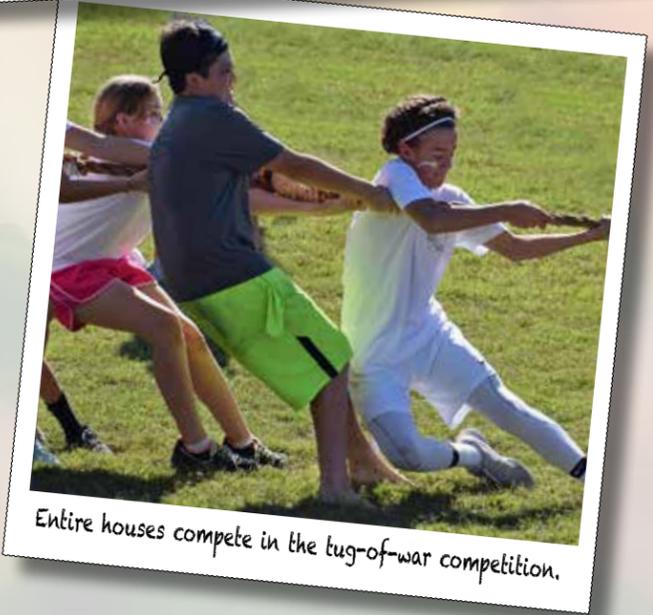


Solving problems is part of the ‘Escape Room Challenge.’

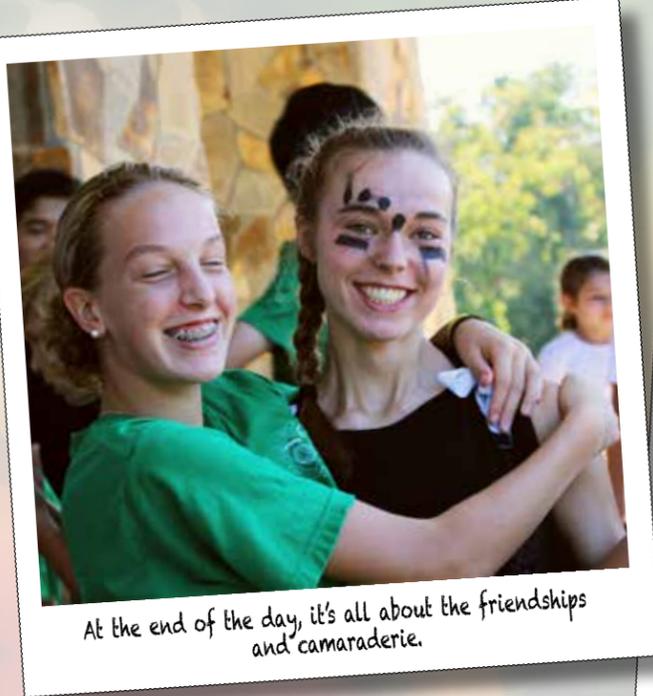
## FALLTOBERFEST 2017



Teachers get in on the action as they try to break the piñata.



Entire houses compete in the tug-of-war competition.



At the end of the day, it’s all about the friendships and camaraderie.



Kayaking on beautiful Lake Tallulah, part of the Falltoberfest triathlon.

submitted photos

*Recognizing outstanding achievement*  
*Recognizing outstanding achievement*



## National Honor Society

Thirty-one new members recited the National Honor Society oath of membership as they were inducted into the Tallulah Falls School chapter of the prestigious academic organization. The inductees joined 33 returning members to form the largest NHS membership in the school's history. The induction ceremony took place on Sept. 1 in the Gertrude Long Theater before a combined audience of TFS upper school students, faculty, staff and parents. The TFS chapter of the NHS is sponsored by faculty members Terri Bogan and Kelli Bly.

The National Honor Society is the nation's premier organization recognizing outstanding high school students who demonstrate excellence in key areas, known as pillars: scholarship, leadership, service and character.

The inductees for the 2017-18 year are (alphabetically): Sophie Alexander, Juyeong An, Clarke Bailey, Reagan Bates, Ara Belk, Alia Bly, Sophie Burke, Sidney Butikofer, Seung Hee (Kelly) Choi, Reeves Cody, Lily Cranford, Ashley Crosby, Damali Danavall, Briana Docsol, Samuel Dunlap, Sarah Edwards, Xing Fan, Whit Fordham, Jihee Han, Sebastian Herrera, Chengxuan (Jonathan) Huang, Mengfan Huang, Faith Kellar, Sixuan Li, Xianwei (Tony) Liu, Clara Madigan, Jade Mitchell, Randy Shi, Sydney Spivey and Hunter Weyrich, Mei Lin Wu.



Returning members pose with new inductees. Returning members (alphabetically): Akinloluwa Akisanya, Morgan Alexander, Madison Ball, Logan Bramlett, Grace Brewer, Laura Brothers, Meredith Church, Sutherland Cope, Anna Davis, Sarah Catherine Fordham, Jennings Gallagher, Jacob Gambrell, Katharine Gilmer, Perry Gresham, Caleb Griffis, Norah Griswold, Virginia Griswold, Abby Hulse, Will Jackson, Shanna Lewallen, Madeline McClurg, Ajani McIntosh, Deneeka Nelson, Clara Pence, Kayley Pugh, Mackenzie Rainwater, Max Teems, Michelle Thevenin, Cynthia Trusty, Jiayi Wang, Nyah Williams, Emily Wonders and Zhihao Zhong.



## National Art Honor Society



Front row, from left: Caitlin Geiger, Madison Ball, Ara Belk, Stephen Bowman, Laura Brothers, Seung Hee (Kelly) Choi, Liv Clancey, Maria Chuiz Escobar, Faith Kellar. Middle row, from left: Alia Bly, Maggie Eavenson, Jiayi Wang, Mackenzie Rainwater, Sophia Kahwach, Alexandra Rothwell, Sydney Metcalf, Emily Wonders, Lily Cranford. Back row, from left: Shanna Lewallen, Morgan Jones, Clara Madigan, Sophie Burke, Wanning Zhao, Xiaotong Shen, Clara Pence, Bobby Oklapek, Zhihao Zhong, Rebecca Foor, Reid Kafsky, Rachel Whitehouse, Max Teems. Not pictured: Mei Lin Wu.



## International Thespian Society

Seven new members were recently inducted into the TFS chapter of the International Thespian Society (ITS).

ITS membership provides an opportunity for drama and theater students to network with other students from around the state and country. The membership also provides TFS theater students with the opportunity to earn scholarships through the organization.

The International Thespian Society promotes excellence in theater education and has troupes across the country in both public and private schools. Membership qualifications include working the equivalent of 100 hours in school, community, and/or professional theater both on and behind the stage.



Pictured from left: Laura Brothers (president and returning member), Ara Belk, Sidney Butikofer, Liv Clancy, Haley Dowdy, Whit Fordham, Shea Hayes, Morgan Jones, Carrie Elrod Layer (TFS drama teacher and ITS troupe sponsor).

## Tri-M Music Honor Society

The Tallulah Falls School chapter of the Tri-M Music Honor Society inducted ten new members in a ceremony on Sept. 1 in the school's Gertrude Long Harris Theater. Tri-M is the international music honor society for middle and high school students.

The new inductees are (alphabetically): XueWei (Melody) An, Xing Fan, Kate Gilmer, Jihee Han, Xi He, Mangfan (Frank) Huang, Sixuan Li, Zonglu (Randy) Shi, and Zhiyang (Yang) Shu, Mikhail Tiachen Vallecorse.

Returning Tri-M members are: Clarke Bailey, Qianyu (Katherine) Chen, Seung Hee (Kelly) Choi (president), Anna Davis, Sarah Catherine Fordham, Chengxuan (Jonathan) Huang, Madeline McClurg, Chuqi (Christina) Ou (secretary), Kayley Pugh, Jiayi (Jenny) Wang (photojournalist), Emily Wonders, and MeiLin (Garbo) Wu (vice president).

The name "Tri-M" is in reference to



New inductees join the established Tri-M membership for a photo at the Sept. 1 induction ceremony. At far right is upper school music teacher and Tri-M sponsor Curt Frederick.



"Modern Music Masters." The organization recognizes students for their academic and musical achievements and rewards them for their accomplishments and service activities. Tri-M, with over 5,500 chartered chapters, encourages appreciation and awareness of music and promotes wider opportunities for sharing joy through music.

## A Growing Community

### New additions to faculty greatly enhance TFS learning experience

**T**welve highly qualified educators joined the Tallulah Falls School family for the 2017-18 academic year. These new TFS team members bring an outstanding combination of experience and passion with them, making the TFS community stronger than ever.

Jeff Brothers joins TFS as the ninth-grade History I/History I Honors teacher. His goals are to build on the lessons imparted in History I and connect students to the past and present. Brothers also strives to help students develop good character.

Lauren Brown comes to TFS in the newly created position of athletic trainer. Brown's goals are to organize and develop the athletic training program to reach its full potential while keeping athletes safe and healthy. She will also strive to build a GREAT relationship with all TFS faculty and staff members. (For more about Lauren and the athletic training program, see page 21.)

Tim Corbett is the new middle school Athletic Director and also teaches middle school physical education. Corbett is joined by his wife, Brandy, as well as their two children, both freshmen. Corbett hopes to make a smooth transition for his family academically, socially and professionally. "As a couple, Brandy and I may have a significant, positive impact on the students of TFS we encounter during the school day and after hours with athletics," he said.

Corbett's wife, Dr. Brandy Corbett, is the new Assistant Academic Dean at the TFS middle school. She is also the head varsity volleyball coach and assistant varsity girls basketball coach. Corbett's primary goal as an educator centers on the development of every individual team member. "I believe that when a culture is willing to prioritize the gifts and talents of each person within the organization, a synergy is created which can take a school and its constituents to the next level," she said.

Tamara Griffis joins the TFS faculty as the fifth-grade science and history teacher. Griffis wants to strengthen her technology skills to better prepare students for the ever-changing world of technology. She also desires to make a personal connection not only with her students but also other students throughout the middle school and to inspire students to learn from hands-on, real-world experiences that surround them every day. Griffis will also coach middle school volleyball.



*Pictured, from left: Jeff Brothers, Matt Heyl, Michael McIntosh, Travis Mullis, Gayle Payne, Jordan West, Tamara Griffis, Maggie Van Cantfort, Brandy Corbett, Tim Corbett. Not pictured: Lauren Brown and Seth Heringer.*

Seth Heringer teaches upper school Latin. Heringer, working through Toccoa Falls College, intends to become familiar with the many aspects of TFS while getting students excited about Latin.

Matt Heyl returns to TFS for a second time as an upper school mathematics teacher. Matt previously taught at TFS from 2009-13 and continued as a community coach from 2013-16. "I want each student to know that I care about them as a person," Heyl said. "I want to gain the trust of each student that I teach and also develop trust among all my colleagues."

Michael McIntosh joins the TFS team as an upper school science teacher. McIntosh aspires to improve each year as a teacher while inspiring his students to achieve their goals. He also enjoys collaborating with fellow faculty members.

Travis Mullis comes to TFS as a fifth-grade English and history teacher. Mullis' goals are to help students make great strides in all types of writing, to support student understanding of the depth of great literature, and to help students develop and gain confidence in their voice, whether through one-on-one conversation, group discussion or presentation.

Gayle Payne teaches science at the TFS upper school. Payne's goal is to get students interested and excited about chemistry. The periodic table is one of her favorite things. "I feel like it is a wonderfully logical piece of art," she said.

Maggie Van Cantfort joins the middle school faculty as a sixth-grade science and world geography teacher. Her goals include using the outdoor classroom at least once per week, inviting parents and community members to be guest educators in class to share expertise in the field, and to involve science students in collecting data to contribute to a citizen science effort, such as monitoring water quality or annual bird counts.

Jordan West is the newest member of the TFS boarding staff. West's goals include acclimating to her new responsibilities, helping students develop into well-rounded young adults, and assisting in the creation of content for the TFS newsletter.

### Day earns advanced certification as yearbook/journalism instructor

**S**helby Day, TFS Upper School Media Specialist and yearbook adviser, recently earned Certified Journalism Educator certification from the Journalism Education Association. The certification is bestowed on teachers who demonstrate knowledge in the areas of writing, editing, graphic design and legal and ethical considerations in the field of scholastic journalism.

The certification brings Day full circle, as she was involved in her own high school yearbook, serving as editor her senior year. Day's senior yearbook received a top national award from the National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA).

After high school, Day earned a bachelor's degree in Journalism from the Henry W. Grady School of Journalism at the University of Georgia. Upon graduation she worked in corporate America doing intercompany relations, public relations, charity campaigns and graphic design before deciding to pursue a career as a teacher.

Day took over as journalism teacher and yearbook adviser duties last year. She and her yearbook staff immediately rebranded the publication by changing the name to The Legend. She was also instrumental in adding 64 pages in order to include more events and activities.

She also made sure that all yearbook staff members received



*Shelby Day goes over the yearbook spread with sophomore Maggie Eavenson.*

the full journalism experience by teaching writing techniques, editing, design and photography. Day approaches her yearbook class much like a coach does a team sport. She teaches basic skills, then pulls back to offer guidance and encourage student growth and creativity.

Senior Grace Brewer of Clarkesville serves as the editor of The Legend, and is a four-year journalism/yearbook student and is on the NSPA student journalistic honor roll.

"Every day when I walk in class, Mrs. Day brightens my day," Brewer said. "She can always make me laugh when I am stressed out about meeting a deadline or finalizing a spread. She has inspired me to pursue journalism and photography and been an amazing mentor along the way."

"She has set a new bar for what the yearbook should look like and I am so excited to see what we will accomplish for the year."

### Service milestones and retirements

#### 17 faculty and staff recognized for loyal and conscientious service



*President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy shares a laugh with Wallace Dodd as he is recognized during a post-planning gathering in May.*



Wallace Dodd  
retired



Jimmy Franklin  
35 years



Patsy Baker  
30 years



Terri Bogan  
25 years

At the end of each academic year the faculty and staff of Tallulah Falls School gather together and recognize employees that have reached milestone anniversaries. This year 17 employees were recognized.

Three employees were recognized for achieving 25 years or more of service to the school: Dean of Students and Director of Boarding Jimmy Franklin - 35 years; upper school nurse Patsy Baker - 30 years; upper school English teacher Terri Bogan - 25 years.

Observing 15 years were: Jon Benson, Eric Hollifield and Bill Coldren. Ten years of service: Wanda Dunn, Bobby Hammond, Cindy Laymon, President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy and Dinah Peevy. Five years of service: Janice Barden, Dallas Barron, Anita Barron, Dwight Dyer, Kerri Pugh and Burma Ramey.

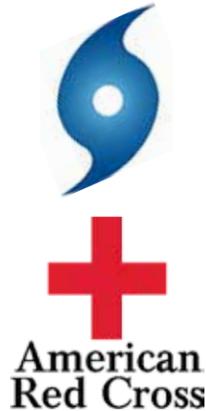
On a bittersweet note, 23-year veteran Director of Plant Service Wallace Dodd retired in late July. Dodd will be deeply missed and his meaningful contributions to the smooth operation of the maintenance department are greatly appreciated.

## NHS raises funds for hurricane relief



NHS members Ashley Crosby, Abby Hulsey, Mackenzie Rainwater, Alia Bly and Sebastian Herrera.

The Southeastern United States was hit hard by destructive hurricanes this fall. The Tallulah Falls School chapter of the National Honor Society did their part to help in the recovery in the wakes of Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma by raising nearly \$850 toward hurricane relief. The club placed a collection jar in the lobby and solicited donations. Students, faculty, staff and even some parents responded and the money raised went to the disaster relief fund of the American Red Cross.



## Interact hosts successful blood drive



Sophomore Reeves Cody of Cornelia submitted photo

The TFS Interact Club hosted a blood drive along with the American Red Cross on Sept. 29. Interact Club volunteers ran the check-in table and dispensed snacks and juice to donors. According to Interact Club sponsor Dallas Barron, this year's drive was unique in that there were more first-time donors than ever.

"It was nice to see so many students sign up to donate blood and participate in this life-giving process," Barron said. "We collected 23 units total making this one of the most successful blood drives we've ever had, and we hope to follow it up in January with another drive."

TFS students participate in dozens of community service projects as individuals and members of clubs and teams. Here are just a few of their recent efforts.

## Middle school athletes labor to benefit parks, local organizations

The middle school soccer team visited Habitat for Humanity's ReStore where they spent several hours mowing and providing general cleanup around the property. ReStore director Mary Wilson provided the direction for coach Travis Mullis and his group of willing athletes.

On the same day, middle school cross country coach Scott Neal took his team to Tallulah Gorge State Park where they continued the Bark at the Park Mulch Madness project, providing trail maintenance for the enjoyment of park visitors.

"The park is so gracious to allow us access to the beach, pavilion and park trails," said Neal. "We are thrilled to be able to give back by sweating and spreading mulch."



An enthusiastic group of TFS volunteers perform community service at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Clarkesville.

## What did YOU do last summer?

Several TFS students spent their summer breaks on mission trips where they participated in projects to help other deserving members of various communities.

Go to [www.tallulahfalls.org](http://www.tallulahfalls.org) and follow the drop-down menus to "About" then down to "News and Announcements." Scroll down to the news items posted in late June, early July and early August for an insightful look at where several TFS students spent portions of their summer break.



## TFS student musicians entertain at fall concert

The music program at Tallulah Falls School hit yet another high note as upper school musicians performed their annual fall concert on Oct. 24 before an appreciative crowd of parents, faculty, staff and students. Variety was the name of the game as upper school music teacher Curt Frederick's students wowed the audience with choral, handbell, guitar, piano and saxophone performances.

Piano solos were performed by Mikhail Tianchen Vallecorse and Xing Fan. Yishu (Betty) Lu performed a solo guitar number, and

Jonathan Huang on piano and Mengfan Huang on alto sax teamed up for a soulful rendition from Disney Pixar's *Up*.

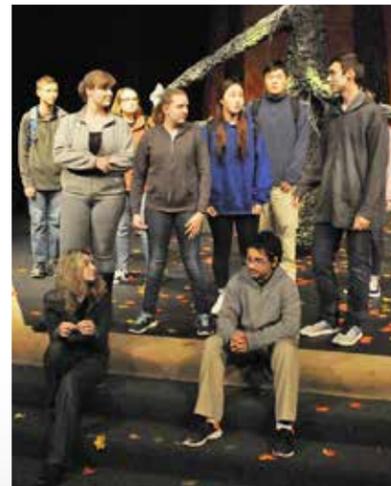
The TFS Ringers performed seven individual numbers, including *Trampin'* and *Londonderry Air*, while the TFS Ninth Grade Music Group teamed up with the TFS Singers for *Like the Beat of a Drum* and the *Tallulah Falls School Song*.

The TFS Singers closed the show with beautiful melodic versions of *A Welsh Blessing*, *Love in Any Language* and *River in Judea*.



The TFS Singers: Madeline McClurg, Sarah Catherine Fordham, Brenda Cochran and Clarke Bailey.

Join us for a future drama or music performance. Check our website [www.tallulahfalls.org](http://www.tallulahfalls.org) for future performance dates.



Above: Jialu Sheng showing a contemplative pose. Left: the entire cast gathers during a scene.

## TFS Players present "The Tree"

Five teenagers on a hiking trip discover a blackened, strange tree deep in the forest. They think little of it until night begins to fall and they come across it yet again...and again...and again. Is the tree following them? Or, are they following the tree? And, who are the mysterious hikers they encounter along the way?

*The Tree*, the latest production by the Tallulah Falls School Players was written by Bradley Walton and produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc. Under the direction of Carrie Layer, TFS drama teacher, *The Tree* was performed on Nov. 3 and 4 in the Gertrude Long Harris Theater. The play provided an opportunity for a relatively small cast to get up close and intimate with the audience.

The cast featured (alphabetically): Juyeong An, Gabe Basso, Laura Brothers, Liv Clancy, Cassidy Elliott, A.J. Hayes, Seth Johnson, Yishu (Betty) Lu, Jialu Sheng and Morgan Webb. The crew included: Sagia Banford, Laura Brothers, Liv Clancy, Eli Cloutre, Whit Fordham, Shea Hayes and William Shanks.

"I was really proud of the kids," said Layer. "They really supported one another to create something special. There were five distinct characters that the students could develop into their own. Everyone loves to laugh so to be able to come to work and laugh every day is pretty great!"



From left: Cassidy Elliott, Juyeong An and Yishu (Betty) Lu



## TFS students are the big winners as third annual cycling event raises record funds for student scholarships

October 28 was a record setting day as the third annual Twin Rivers Challenge surpassed goals in both funds raised and the number of preregistered riders. More than 110 companies, organizations and individuals donated either cash or in-kind goods bringing the fundraising total to more than \$50,000.

The registered rider count was 160, and despite less than ideal weather conditions nearly 70 riders took the challenge on ride day. An army of cheerful volunteers greeted cyclists who filled the TFS parking lots to experience one of three scenic routes - 37K, 72K or 100K.

"We've had a tremendous leap this year in terms of the amount of money raised for our students and in the number of riders eager to experience the breathtaking fall scenery here in Northeast Georgia," said President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy. "We were proud to have the support of so many community partners. The riders and volunteers made the best of the damp conditions with a few adjustments in the logistics for the day."

"Response was overwhelmingly positive; we added many new sponsors and many of our existing supporters increased their commitment to the scholarship fund," said Executive Director for Advancement Sonya Smith. "Beneficiaries of this initiative are students from the surrounding areas - these

families are our neighbors whose children are able to attend TFS because of this key fund raiser and the school's generous financial aid framework."

TFS alum Chris Pic returned to campus for the second year. Pic, a former professional cyclist, promoted the ride this year through his network of cycling contacts. Pic and his wife, Tina Pic, who is currently active as a professional cyclist, led the ride in 2016.

"The Twin Rivers Challenge is one of most scenic and well-organized rides I have ever participated in. Not to mention the special TFS hospitality and the school's ability to support the future education for so many students," said Chris Pic. "I look forward to being able to help even more in the future."

Representatives from both the presenting sponsor, Ron Cantrell Construction, Inc., and the meal sponsor, Springer Mountain Farms®, were on campus for the event.

"We were delighted to be a part of this very worthy event. The fact that all proceeds go directly to scholarships for students who may not have otherwise been able to benefit from the TFS experience is very dear to our hearts," said Ron Cantrell, president of RCCI. "As parents and grandparents of TFS past, present and future students, we see firsthand the impact of this school on the lives of those who attend."



TFS sophomore Laurel Smith is all smiles after completing her ride.



Sandy Martin, a TFS bus driver, created this fantastic cake for riders to enjoy as part of their post-ride meal.

Join us on October 27, 2018 for the 4th Annual Twin Rivers Challenge bike ride

A wonderful post-ride meal, sponsored by Springer Mountain Farms, was waiting for bikers as they completed their rides. Post-ride music was provided by the Tallulah Falls Opry.



Finish line reactions varied, but most riders shared a sense of both accomplishment and exaltation.



RON CANTRELL CONSTRUCTION, INC.  
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presenting sponsor



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Special thanks to our promotional sponsors: The Clayton Tribune, Happy Jack Graphics, Kevin & Taylor in the Morning, The Northeast Georgian and WCON 99.3 FM

## TFS Club spotlight



### Small fry are welcome addition to growing TFS Bass Fishing Club

The TFS Bass Fishing Club is not only alive and well, it is also growing and expanding. Six TFS student-anglers from TFS traveled to Lake Allatoona on Oct. 14 to participate in the second of eight Georgia Bass Nation high school tournaments.

This year TFS has added a junior division team - sixth grader Molly Mitchell and brother Jacob, a fifth grader. The brother-sister combo competed in the tournament and finished second with their five fish limit which included spotted and largemouth bass.

The catch qualified the two for the state tournament, according to Jeff Mitchell, team captain and proud father.

In addition to the junior division team, the high school team is also growing. Junior Will Jackson of Clarkesville and sophomore Thomas Harris of Clarkesville competed in their first tournament of the year. Original club members junior Marshall Harrelson of Clarkesville and sophomore Marshall Williams of Homer were there competing in their second tournament of the season. The Allatoona tournament was proof of the soaring popularity of the sport drawing 143 high school and 20 junior division teams.

According to Mitchell, after a practice day on the lake the TFS anglers collaborated and developed a game plan for the tournament day with each student-angler bringing new information to the other teams.

"It was a great team atmosphere," Mitchell said. Each team discussed patterns, locations and even provided other teams with the baits they had caught fish with so everyone could use them. All the teams helped each other prepare and organize the boats for tournament day."

The high school team of Harrelson and Williams caught their limit of five bass, but they were smaller than the pair were hoping for, Mitchell said.



Jacob and Molly Mitchell - charter members of the TFS Bass Fishing Club, Junior Division.

According to Mitchell, Jackson and Harris had the same problem as the bigger fish just didn't cooperate on tournament day. "At Allatoona, that's not uncommon," he said. "Nearly 30 percent of the tournament field came up empty."

One member of the junior division team was fishing with an injury, but it didn't slow her down, Mitchell said.

"Molly fractured a bone in her foot trying out for the TFS middle school basketball team earlier in the week, but the boot she was wearing didn't seem to affect her ability to fish," he said.

President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy, an avid supporter of the bass fishing club since its launch last year, was thrilled with the younger angler's success.

"With the growth of the bass fishing club, we know this pair will continue to excel in this exciting sport," Peevy said. "I'm especially proud, too, of our original student-angler pair, Marshall Harrelson and Marshall Williams, for providing leadership to the new club members."



### MS golf team omission

The summer issue of the TFS magazine highlighted three middle school teams that earned Tri-State Conference championships in spring sports. Regrettably, we overlooked a fourth squad that brought a title home to TFS - middle school golf. Coach Cyndy Campbell's squad earned a Tri-State title as well. Pictured: front row, from left: Maggie Jackson, Charis Anderson, Selah Anderson, Brinson Hall, Coach Cyndy Campbell. Back row, from left: Trevor Bramlett, Chaz Mullis, Henry Bowman. Not pictured: Ty Tilley.



### Golf Tri-State Champs

## TFS Athletics spotlight

### A higher level of caring

#### TFS adds certified athletic trainer to staff



Athletic Director Scott Neal

The mission of Tallulah Falls School athletics is to develop GREAT character, competence, and competitiveness, to host GREAT events and to create a Season of Significance," said Athletic Director Scott Neal. "The athletic theme for 2017-18 is 'Excellence.' To strengthen the process of excellence and enhance our athletic mission, we are partnering with the Habersham County Medical Center to provide a certified athletic trainer (ATC) for practices and home contests.

Lauren Brown, ATC, has joined the TFS family as a certified athletic trainer for the 2017-18 academic year. Brown is that "all-in" professional who displays genuine care for our student athletes and certainly perpetuates the GREAT character we seek to develop, said Neal.

The certified athletic trainer [ATC] is a medically-certified health care professional who will provide qualified preventive, examination, diagnostic, treatment and rehabilitation of emergent, acute or chronic injuries and medical conditions for TFS athletes.

"This offers a higher level of caring," said TFS President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy.

TFS has also invested more than \$10,000 in the new athletic training program, including renovating a training room and office, purchasing specialized medical equipment such as e-stim, hydroculators and therapeutic ultrasound and providing supplies and equipment associated with medical athletic care.

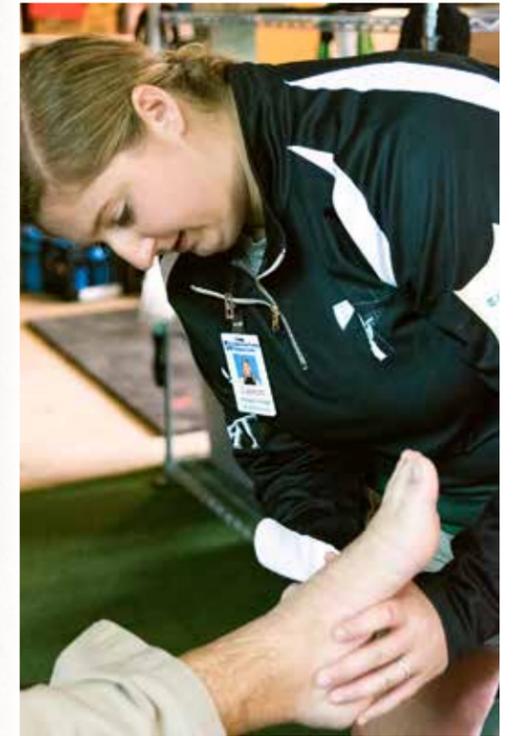
"Having a facility and necessary equipment is a commitment to our student-athletes, but finding the right person to show the higher level of care is even more important," Neal said.

Brown is a recent graduate of Western Carolina University with a Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training. She lives in nearby Tiger with her husband Clay. She expresses a passion to elevate that higher level of care in a myriad of ways, Neal said.

"Having Lauren Brown as our certified athletic trainer helps to fulfill our mission to our athletes. Whether through prevention, hydration and nutrition, treatment, or rehabbing, Lauren's personal interaction, skill set and professionalism helps to reduce injury numbers or severity and helps those injured to return sooner to practices and competitions," Neal said. "Lauren also helps us to host GREAT events with excellence. She certainly can have a direct effect on our athletes to have what we call a season of significance."

"What had been hoped for, and is already starting, is for student inquiry concerning the sports medicine field. Students are asking to shadow and to learn techniques and procedures related to athletic training," he said. "President Peevy emphasized before the school year started that we should encourage and promote three primary principles: do right, help others and lead. We see the future where some of our students from the TFS Sports Medicine program will have a head start into the medical profession and that these experiences will help them in furthering their passion while doing right, helping others and leading."

"Athletic training is much more to me than taping ankles and making ice bags," Brown said. "It's the smile on an athlete's face when they complete a new phase of rehab, it's the thankful hug I receive when an athlete can return to play the sport they love and above all else it's the impact that I can make in young people's lives daily. I truly have the best job in the world."



Lauren Brown, ATC, has joined the TFS athletics staff for 2017-18.



# Senior Six



*Six Super Seniors (from left): Shanna Lewallen, Kayley Pugh, Grace Brewer, Anna Davis, Meredith Church and Chloe Turpin.*

**Seniors provide stability and leadership for another successful campaign**



**ashley CROSBY**  
Second Team All-Area

Led by a seasoned group of six experienced seniors, TFS volleyball enjoyed another successful season of 20+ wins and a trip to the state tournament. Brandy Corbett, Assistant Academic Dean at the TFS Middle School, assumed the head coach position and credited her excellent support staff for the success of the team.

“Overall, I am proud of our progress and all that we have accomplished over the course of this season,” Corbett said. “I am very thankful that in my first year at Tallulah Falls, I was blessed to work alongside a phenomenal coaching staff. Coach Jaclyn Campbell was a standout volleyball player at Habersham Central and also was a member of the Piedmont College Volleyball program. Junior varsity coach Matt Heyl played indoor college club volleyball and was a semi-pro beach player.”

“Area 8A is one of the most challenging areas in the state; therefore, we were very pleased we were able to finish in the top four of our area, make it to the first round of the state playoffs and finish with a season record of 24-12.”

“It has been an honor to be able to coach six seniors who have contributed to this program since they were in the sixth grade - Grace Brewer, Meredith Church, Anna Davis, Shanna Lewallen, Kayley Pugh and Chloe Turpin.”

*continued on next page*



**anna DAVIS**  
First Team All-Area



**chloe TURPIN**  
Honorable Mention All-Area



*This year's group of seniors helped to produce the most successful four-year span in the volleyball program's history. (Hopefully they won't get a big head.)*



**Award of Excellence - Anna Davis**  
**Most Improved - Damali Danavall**

*continued from previous page*

“Though the seniors will be missed next season, the team returns two current juniors, Jade Mitchell and Mali Danavall, and two exceptional sophomores, Ashley Crosby and Kate Blackburn.”

“The junior varsity volleyball team went 24-2 this past season,” Corbett added, “so we will be depending on several of those players to step in and see some significant court action at the varsity level next year. The TFS Middle School Volleyball Team also had a successful year, finishing 15-5 on the season. They were the runner-up for the Gainesville Area Middle School Volleyball (GAMSV) league.”

“Our entire volleyball staff feels our program is moving in the right direction, and my family is grateful for the opportunity to join this wonderful school, volleyball program, and the TFS community.”

## Recognized as a FANTastic Contributor

In addition to the player awards presented at this year's fall sports banquet at the Dillard House, TFS middle school teacher Kerri Pugh was given the FANTastic Contributor Award by TFS Athletics Director Scott Neal.

“Kerri is representative of the many parents and folks who help a team or the athletic program in so many ways,” Neal said. “She's been extremely helpful to the volleyball program, contributing countless hours helping with video projects.”



**FANTastic Contributor Award**  
**Kerri Pugh**

## JV volleyball earns Area Runner-Up honors

The future of the TFS volleyball program is bright indeed. The junior varsity squad, under the direction of coach Matt Heyl, completed the season with an impressive 24-2 record. The team earned Area Runner-Up honors by defeating Hebron Academy in the semi-final match Sept. 30 before falling to Lakeview in the Area finals. 2017 JV team: Abby Carlan, Faith Kellar, Lillie Free, Rebekah Jennings, Maggie Jackson, Katy Corbett, Anna Barrett, Mia Kwarteng, Caroline Turpin, Eva Wiggins, Sydney Coffee (manager), JiHee Han (manager), Sixuan Lee (manager).



**Coach's Award - Katy Corbett**  
**Most Improved - Lillie Free**

## Middle school volleyball places second

The TFS middle school program placed second at the Gainesville Middle School Volleyball League championships. The Lady Indians played their way into the championship match but lost to Lumpkin County in the title game.

2017 middle school team: Bailey Aderholt, Bralen Allen, Maredith Anderson, Caroline Ball (manager), Emma Barrett, Andrea Caudell, Emily Church, Evette Corwin, Brinna Docsol, Nancy Fisher, Sarah Jennings, Chloe Kahwach, Claire Kelley, Macy Murdock, Lady Nassah, Keelie Parks (manager), Carmen Sotunde, Barrett Whitener, assistant coach Rebekah Kanipe, head coach Tamara Griffis.



## Senior harriers lead the way in stellar 2017 campaign *by Coach Scott Neal*

Stride for XCellence was the cross country theme this season, seeking excellence in end results, but, more importantly, in the daily journey via training, serving, relationships and personal growth. From a performance perspective, at the season-culminating Area Championships, besides Senior Captain Perry Gresham's state qualifying fifth place, Sophie Alexander, Maria Whitson, Sarah Catherine Fordham and Catherine Chen combined to lead the Lady Indians to fifth place. This was our best finish in the last 25 years at the Area 2-A Championships, only one place and 11 points away from qualifying for the state meet. Team total time and average time per runner were significantly faster than 2016.

The TFS boys ran nearly two total minutes faster than last season with an average that was 20 seconds faster and a better #1-5 differential (52 seconds faster than '16) while placing sixth of 11 schools. Top boy's scoring performers were Chris Geiger (16th) and Aaron Hughes (22nd), followed by Zac Smith, Caleb Griffis, and Grey Bourlet.

This year's home-themed meets, a tradition within the cross country program, were led by Chris Geiger, Perry Gresham, Will

## Gresham becomes first female harrier to qualify for state in 25 years



Congratulations to TFS senior captain Perry Gresham. Perry set a new TFS girls cross country record as she completed the 5K race at the Mountain Invite in Helen in a time of 20:59.1. At the Region 8-A meet at Athens Christian, Gresham finished fifth, qualifying for the state meet in Carrollton. She was the first female runner from TFS to qualify for state in 25 years. At the state meet on Nov. 3 in Carrollton Gresham finished 25th of 113 Class-A Private racers. She has been the #1 TFS harrier for four straight years.



**Seniors: Deneeka Nelson, Sarah Catherine Fordham, Max Teems, Ben Griswold, Perry Gresham and Sophie Burke.**

Jackson and Sophie Alexander. They reflect upon TFS as truly "The Light in the Mountains." Will Jackson and Caleb Griffis coordinated our annual campout.

Our goal is always to 'Be GREAT' in performance, hosting and interacting with others. This team set new performance standards, created indelible memories and displayed the type of leadership and excellence we seek to create as we enjoy the thrill of the journey.

This was senior Perry Gresham's cross country team. As captain she led by example in training, performance, communication, spirit and GREAT character. Her peers know she deeply cares for them and they know she will do what is right, whatever the cost. Her leadership was truly exceptional. She has left a legacy of impact in so many ways.



**Cross Country awards (from left):  
Coach's Award (JV) - Collin Kelly  
Top Performer - Chris Geiger  
Finish Strong Award - Ben Griswold  
GREAT Leadership Award - Perry Gresham  
Coach's Award - Sophie Alexander**



**Soccer awards (from left):  
Green Boot award - Jun Kwon  
Most Valuable Player - Lucas Yi  
Most Improved award - Marvin Thiennukul**



Seven outstanding seniors were recognized during halftime of the Oct. 25 contest with Swain County. Shown from left: Jun Kwon, Lucas Yi, Noah Metcalf, Ian Carroll, Julian Murayama, Seth Johnson and Rylee Hunter.



## Soccer improves by playing traditionally strong programs

*by Coach Jonathan Roberts*

Tallulah Falls School can be very proud of the 2017 varsity soccer team, and the growing tradition of excellence and gritty play on Amick Field. I had very high expectations for this year's squad with another experienced group of returning seniors (six) along with eight other veteran players. Tryouts were as competitive as ever with over 30 skilled young men vying for 22 roster spots. Assistant coach Eddie Bogle and I added ten new faces to the team, five of them freshman and upperclassmen with great quality who were joining the team for the first time. Balance in class representation is important so that we don't have any dips in talents, strength, experience, or field leadership.

We continue to challenge ourselves by scheduling well-established, talented programs as new opponents. We can learn much about ourselves and the game by facing teams from tougher conferences with historically competitive resumes. For instance, this year we added Georgia Cumberland Academy and re-connected with Franklin, two schools with very strong soccer programs. At the same time our regular yearly competition continues to improve. It is great to see the level of soccer around us continue to get better and better.

Six senior returning players Jun Kwon, Lucas Yi, Seth Johnson, Julian Murayama, Noah Metcalf and Rylee Hunter led the way for our 2017 season. I have known most of these guys since they were in middle school, and challenged them with what I believe is the most demanding schedule in school history. While our numerical record this year does not appear to be the most successful, this group of seniors has changed the standard of soccer on our campus and the perception of Tallulah Falls Soccer in our community and region. What they have been part to has been a tremendous accomplishment and a lasting legacy.

Junior Ajani McIntosh led the scoring with ten goals - which lands him in the historical lists for "Goals in a Season" and "Career Goals." His hard work was followed by contributions from nine other players. We had nine sophomores on this squad, so I expect, that along with the leadership of next year's very experienced seniors, to have a thick roster with loads of talent to be shaped and explored.

# Middle School Athletics

## Fall Sports

### Tri-State Champs Boys and Girls Cross Country



Coach Scott Neal's middle school cross country team peaked at just the right time as every member of the team set personal 3K farm course records at the Tri-State Conference championships. Several runners earned their way onto the esteemed middle school cross country Legacy List or moved up in the rankings of elite TFS runners over the last six years.

Both the boys and girls teams brought home the Tri State championship banner and many memories were forged along the way including: quadrathlon, Mulch Madness, Cookies 'n Quotes, Crows Lake forest, the hill in Dillard, the roots in Cashiers, chess, FitCore circuits, intervals, hills, stairs, heat, biking, gorge rim, Wildlife Management Areas, rowing, the squid, watermelon, Goats on the Roof, humidity, Shortline Trail, legs in the river and daily interactions that forge lasting relationships.

### MS tennis excels in inaugural Fall season



The TFS middle school tennis teams enjoyed a season of success as both the girls and boys squads dominated their opponents in their first season of Fall play in the Northeast Georgia Mountain tennis league. The girls finished with an undefeated 8-0 record while the boys were only slightly less impressive finishing 7-1. The girls team closed out the season with an exciting 3-2 win over Rabun County Middle School.

"This has been a very exciting season and I am so proud of these kids," said head coach Lisa Wilcox, who is assisted by her husband, Mark. The season culminated with a community service project in support of Breast Cancer Awareness. The team and supporters held a Saturday car wash in Baldwin that raised nearly \$700 that was donated to cancer awareness and research.



### MS soccer Growing through challenges

It was a season of learning and growth for head coach Travis Mullis and his young soccer team. Players who had practiced at one position often had to play in another because of injuries. Hurricane Irma forced a nine-day intermission in the season - no practice and no games. Still, the team played on. As the final whistle blew in the final match against Swain County, the fifteen players who tried out in August remained, and although the outcome on the scoreboard wasn't favorable, the team found success in something deeper, more valuable, according to Mullis. They had persevered, and given it their all. For that, Mullis said, they had become a GREAT team.



### TFS hosts workshop on family violence awareness and response

Tallulah Falls School is proud to offer school facilities for use each year to a variety of clubs and organizations. One of these, a workshop focused on family violence awareness, prevention and advocacy, took place at the school on Oct. 24-25.

More than 90 law enforcement officers, probation officers, prosecutors, judges and domestic violence advocates were on campus for the continuing education sessions.

Hosted by the Mountain Judicial Circuit Family Violence Task Force and the Georgia Commission on Family Violence, sessions included mandated family violence response, physical aggressor identification, family violence dynamics and local victim services.

"The school was honored to host this task force that provides an excellent service to the Mountain Judicial Circuit," said President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy.

"We very much appreciate the service these individuals provide to our community," Peevy said.



Shown, from left, are Jo Descher, criminal court advocate with Circle of Hope, Mike Mertz, family violence training consultant, Larry A. Peevy and George Christian, Mountain Judicial Circuit District Attorney.



### Welcome to Tallulah Falls School - recent guests



Circle for Children



Stone Mountain Woman's Club

If you have a group and would like to come for a visit and tour the beautiful Tallulah Falls School campus, please contact Melody Henderson at [melody.henderson@tallulahfalls.org](mailto:melody.henderson@tallulahfalls.org) or call (706) 839-2000.



Leadership Habersham



Dunwoody Woman's Club



# THANK YOU!

from the students, faculty and staff  
of Tallulah Falls School

# Our sincere appreciation to all who supported the mission of Tallulah Falls School through a contribution during the 2016-17 fiscal year.\*

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## Follow TFS on **Twitter**



Now there's yet one more way to follow all the great things going on at Tallulah Falls School.

For the 2017-18 academic year students, parents and friends of the school can now request to follow regular updates on Twitter.

In addition to the TFS Advancement team which manages the school's social media postings, four faculty members have been authorized to post news as it happens. Science teacher Zac Roland at the middle school, and media specialist/yearbook advisor Shelby Day at the upper school will share regular updates from their respective areas. Additionally, Athletic Director Scott Neal and middle school Athletic Director Tim Corbett will post updates throughout the athletic seasons.

Twitter joins Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn and the official TFS website, [www.tallulahfalls.org](http://www.tallulahfalls.org), as your source for all the latest TFS news.

**To join us on Twitter,  
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