



THE BOARD OF EDUCATION made several presentations Monday night to various people. Receiving awards were State Wrestling Champ Howard Jordan, STAR Student Thad Jobe, Teachers of the Year Julie Cristello and Jane Tanner (not pictured Peggy Applewhite and Carmen Giddens) and STAR Teacher Dennis Kendrick. Also pictured, School Superintendent Ray Jordan, BoE members Phillip Crawford, Danny Godwin, Chris Brown and Chairman Sam Brown. Not pictured Mary Frances Office. Mrs. Office was not at the meeting.



TURNER COUNTY students at Moultrie Tech who are 2008 GOAL finalists are: Front row, third from the left, Brandalyn McKinney; Front row, fourth from the left, Stephanie Pickett; Back row, second from the left, Shanina High; Back row, third from the left, Angelica Wooten; Back row, second from the right, Ben Roberts

MTC announces nominees and finalists for GOAL

Moultrie Technical College announced its 37 student nominees and four finalists for the 2008 Georgia Occupational Award of Leadership [GOAL] on February 28, according to Lisa Newton, MTC's GOAL coordinator.

Moultrie Tech's finalists are Radiologic Technology student Cindy Clark, Electrical Construction and Maintenance student Simmie Hall, and Practical Nursing student Barbara Hayes of the college's Moultrie campus and Industrial Systems Technology student Jamie Dillard of the Tifton campus.

All 37 of Georgia's technical colleges statewide, including those with technical divisions in the university system, present these awards. Local winners serve as ambassadors to their communities on behalf of their colleges. Moultrie

Tech's winner will represent the college in its four-county service area of Colquitt, Tift, Turner and Worth.

The objective of the GOAL program, says Newton, is to recognize and reward excellence among the nearly 160,000 students studying full-time at Georgia's technical colleges. GOAL was the first statewide program in the nation to honor outstanding technical education students.

Members of the Moultrie-Colquitt County Chamber of Commerce Workforce Development committee will select Moultrie Tech's winner through a series of interviews and speeches given by the four finalists on March 6.

"The screening and selection process is fairly involved and time consuming," added Newton. "But our job is to find the very best candidate to rep-

resent Moultrie Tech. When the evaluations are complete, we hope to have found the school's most outstanding student."

The announcement will be made at a luncheon scheduled

for March 17 in the MTC Conference Center on the Moultrie Veterans Parkway campus. The Chamber will present the winner with a cash award of \$200 and each runner-up with a \$100 prize.



ASHBURN HELATHPLUS hosted its monthly support group on March 3 and the topic was "March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month" presented by Bunny Hawkins, RN, Oncology Department with Tift Regional Medical Center. Mrs. Hawkins discussed what colon cancer is, who is at risk, and reducing your risk. She also talked about the facts, symptoms and risk factors associated with colon cancer. In addition, she discussed tests available to determine colon cancer and what different treatment options are available. A question and answer period was held immediately following the presentation. In addition, each member of the support group received a free at home ColoCARE Kit. The HealthPlus Support Group meets on the first Monday of the month at the HealthPlus Clinic in Ashburn. Each session is free and open to the public. For more information, call Kristy Walters at 353-6323.

Commissioners pleased with beaver trapper

by Ben Baker
Editor

With more than 400 beavers caught, professional trapper Kirk DeKalb said this year was an off year for him. Next year he expects to catch at least 400 more beavers in Turner County, nearly all of which have come off private property.



Dekalb

The County Commission is paying \$40 per beaver for Mr. DeKalb's service, a price County Manager Charles Kinney and Road Superintendent J.B. Newell says is cheap compared to what the County has to spend on repairing roads damaged by beavers.

Mr. DeKalb presented a report to the Commissioners at the March meeting. He said until he started making a list, he was not aware of exactly how many places he's been to here. He did know his catch numbers were down.

"I did not catch as many as I thought I would. I ended up catching over 400 in your county," he said.

Nearly 30 came from the Nelson property off Hobby School Road. There, beavers have dammed up the little creek in several places.

"That was an abnormally high amount," he said. Water from the dammed creek, "is literally threatening a house there."

He then listed a number of other roads where he trapped more than one beaver.

One area off Sylvia Drive is pretty much trapped out, he said. The standing water is still there because the dams are still in place. Mr. DeKalb said he will go in and tear out the dams, which will let the water drain away.

"Sylvia. Ain't that the City (Of Ashburn)? Let the City pay for it," said Commissioner Greg Hudgins.

Commissioner Mike Geoghagan said the property is in the City and part of it is County property.

Mr. DeKalb said he's not yet trapped around Ashburn's sewer plant, but knows there are beavers there.

He has trapped around Westwood, but there too the dams are still in place.

"I've got to tear the dams out. I'll go in and open them up," he said. "I'll go in after the beavers have had their young. The water goes out, they'll leave."

"We've had problems down there. It has cost us a fortune," Mr. Geoghagan.

PRIVATE PROPERTY?

Commission Chairman Daryl Hall asked why Mr. DeKalb was going on private

Every place I've been, it is a dramatic change in the roadway.

Kirk DeKalb
professional trapper

property.

"I have to. You have to go in where they are to catch them," he said.

"He's got to catch them there. Otherwise they tear up the road," Commissioner Geoghagan said. "We've had a battle with Freeman Road for years. I don't know how much money we have spent, but it was a ton. They (beavers) even tunneled under our backhoe and toppled it."

Beavers will build dams well off a road on private property, but will come out to a road and undermine it by digging tunnels through it. They will also plug pipes to stop running water.

"Every place I've been it is a dramatic change in the roadway. A couple of locations JB really wanted me to go, I was not able to go because I could not get in touch with the landowners," Mr. DeKalb said.

He plans to write letters to those property owners asking permission to trap beavers there.

He also praised the Road Department for their help. He said the Road Department now knows how to work to help draw the beavers out so they can be caught.

"I think you're doing a good job. Keep it up," said Commissioner Deral Dukes.

"You are making a huge impact on the population of our beavers," Chairman Hall said.

"I have seen a difference on the roads," Mr. Geoghagan said.

MO MONEY

"400 beavers. That's \$16,000. This never came before the Commission," said Commissioner Hudgins.

"Yes sir. It was in the budget. We did discuss it several times," said County Manager Charles Kinney.

The beaver trapping program and the expense has been discussed at past Commission meeting. Newspaper articles announcing the program were also published.

"We did? I met him once, just like that," Mr. Hudgins said.

Mr. DeKalb said the expense the County has for trapping is far less than what the County has to spend repairing beaver damage.

Mr. Newell said the County typically spends more than \$50,000 a year trying to keep up with beavers. The Commission this year budgeted \$20,000 for beaver trapping.

Mr. DeKalb said he has a permission form for property owners to sign allowing him access. He also has a \$2 million insurance policy covering his work.



Hudgins

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