

# THE GAFFNEY LEDGER

GAFFNEY, SOUTH CAROLINA

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50 CENTS

## There won't be a Gaffney vs. Blacksburg basketball rematch

By LARRY HILLIARD  
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Earlier this month, the Gaffney High boys varsity basketball team beat Blacksburg High School 101-31 in the first regular season matchup between the local high schools in more than two decades.

It apparently will be the last. The schools were scheduled to close out the regular season at Gaffney on Friday, Feb. 8, but Blacksburg High Principal Jim Touchberry said

the game has been canceled. "It is not in the best interest of either school to play the second game," Touchberry said.

The decision to cancel the game was initiated by both schools' varsity basketball coaches, according to Touchberry.

The Blacksburg High principal declined to elaborate on the reason for the cancellation, but sources said some Blacksburg High officials were upset that Gaffney High basketball coach Mark Huff didn't do enough to hold down the score. Huff did call off his

**"Last spring when we made our schedules, we made a commitment to play home and home. I would like to see that through. However, Blacksburg doesn't want to play us here in Gaffney and we will have to live with that."**

— MARK HUFF

GHS head basketball coach



full-court press early in the third quarter.

Huff said he's disappointed the game won't be played.

"Last spring when we made

our schedules, we made a commitment to play home and home," Huff said. "I would like to see that through.

However, Blacksburg doesn't

want to play us here in Gaffney and we will have to live with that."

Gaffney officials had planned to honor the team's seniors during the Blacksburg-Gaffney game. Those ceremonies will be moved to Friday, Feb. 1 when the Indians host Mauldin.

The Jan. 12 game was a mismatch after the first quarter when the Indians went on a 23-4 run to lead 46-17 at the half.

Things went from bad to worse for the Wildcats in the third quarter when they failed to score a point.

The teams have met twice

recently in the Substation II Invitational. Touchberry said no decision has been made regarding whether the Wildcats will continue to play in the holiday tournament.

The game will be counted as a no contest rather than a forfeit since it's a non-region matchup, according to Dru Nix, associate commissioner of the South Carolina High School League.

Nix said it's unusual to cancel a game because of the reason cited by Blacksburg officials.

"It hasn't happened in recent years," she said.



Ledge photo / SCOTT POWELL

**LUNCHEON PERFORMANCE** — The Limestone College Show Choir performs an African spiritual song a cappella Monday morning at a Martin Luther King Jr. luncheon at Stephenson Dining Hall.

## Injured clerk out of coma; takes steps

By TIM GULLA  
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Ann Robinson saw her daughter walk on Monday.

Her daughter didn't do it alone. She supported herself by gripping safety bars while two people steadied her from the front and behind at a Charlotte rehabilitation center.

Yet the steps Cheryl Green took marked a drastic improvement from just two weeks ago, when she still was in a coma.

"It was fantastic," Robinson said of her daughter's steps.

But while Green's steps were encouraging, they represent just a small distance traveled on a very long road to recovery.

Green, a mother of three young children from Grover, suffered a traumatic head injury on Christmas morning when she was thrown from the hood of a vehicle while trying to stop two alleged shoplifters from leaving the Wilco Travel Plaza in Blacksburg. Green was a clerk at the roadside business.

She had been comatose until earlier this month.

There's a chance Green might be released from the hospital in about three weeks, her doctors informed family. A planned meeting with her health care providers later this week should answer many questions and shore up details, Robinson said.

If she's coming home, Robinson said the family will need to make many preparations at the house so they can care for her. Plus, doctors have informed the family that Green will need 24-hour care for the

immediate future.

Green also still has difficulties with her memory, Robinson said.

"She certainly knew her father and myself without any problem," she said. "I think the question now is exactly what time frame she's in."

Green sometimes thinks it's 1999, the year her oldest child was born. At other times she thinks it's the year her second child was born. Memories of her three children have wavered.

"I'm sure she's got to be terrified. She has no idea, really, what happened to her and what's going on," Robinson said.

The Robinson and Green families had initially put Christmas on hold in the hopes they could celebrate it when Green recovered from her injuries. Robinson said they eventually celebrated Christmas with her daughter's children, believing they couldn't put it off any longer.

However, the family may celebrate a little bit of Christmas again when Green returns home. The Robinsons kept their Christmas tree up just for that reason.

A lifelong friend of Green's, Crystal Oughton-Skidmore, has been traveling back and forth from Kentucky to help care for Green's children. Skidmore set up a charitable foundation for Green at www.supportcherylgreen.com.

Skidmore also is organizing a motorcycle benefit ride, details of which will be announced soon.



CHERYL GREEN

## Trustees will ask county rec department to repair school at Academy Street site

By SCOTT POWELL  
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School trustees will ask the Cherokee County Recreation Department to repair the Blacksburg Academy Street school.

The county recreation department is leasing the property

through October of 2010, using it primarily as a sports fields and recreation center site. The property has fallen into disrepair since the district stopped using it for storage in the late 1980s, prompting school trustees to demand it get more attention.

Under the terms of the lease, superintendent Dr. Bill James said, the recreation department is

required to keep the Blacksburg Academy Street property in good condition.

"The ball field is in good shape," James said. "The rest of the property has been allowed to fall into disrepair over the years. We are real concerned somebody might get hurt on the property."

Blacksburg Academy Street

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## She has 10,000 numbers on speed dial

By SCOTT POWELL  
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Page McCraw recorded a brief message last Thursday at 5:45 a.m. about schools being closed due to snow.

The district administrator hit a button on her home computer and watched 10,000 calls get sent to the homes of Cherokee County students.

It took just 21 minutes to spread the news that classes were canceled for the day.

The calls were the first real test of Alert Now, the district's new rapid calling and emergency notification phone system. The school district spent \$13,000 earlier last spring to activate the automated dialing program.

Parents will now receive phone calls about snow days, school closings or any other schools-

related emergencies.

"Alert Now is a really good way for us to communicate with the parents and guardians of students," McCraw said. "This gives us a quick way to notify parents when a school is closed for inclement weather or a message needs to be sent throughout the school district."

While the first call took 21 minutes, McCraw said she got additional messages out Thursday

evening and Friday morning on the Alert Now system within about five minutes.

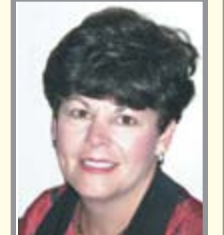
One call let students participating in the Martin Luther King Jr. parade know the event was rescheduled for this weekend. A second call let district employees know a health fair would still be held at Friday's staff development day.

Alert Now makes calls to

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**"This gives us a quick way to notify parents when a school is closed for inclement weather or a message needs to be sent throughout the school district."**

— PAGE MCCRAW



### SC EDUCATION LOTTERY

**Pick 3** Tuesday Midday: 1-9-3  
Tuesday Evening: 7-0-2

**Pick 4** Tuesday Midday: 3-4-7-8  
Tuesday Evening: 3-5-9-5

**Cash 5** MONDAY:  
1-3-12-25-35 X2

### OBITUARIES

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- Dimsdale, Gene, 70, of Boiling Springs, N.C.
- Phillips, M.J., 63, of Gaffney
- Sanders, Charles, 85, of Midwest City, Okla.
- Tate, Julite, 79, of Gaffney

### SPORTS

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Now that the opening for a new head football coach has been posted online, Blacksburg officials apparently won't have to wait long for the applications to arrive.

Blacksburg High Principal Jim Touchberry said the school already has received several letters of interest from coaches around the state.

### WEATHER

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Cold tonight with increasing clouds.

Partly cloudy and cold Thursday and Friday.



Tonight's Low: 30  
Thursday's High: 44  
Friday's High: 40