

BRAVES BURST

Atlanta drops third game in a row to Boston. **SPORTS, 1B**

get out: your entertainment guide

Farmers markets off to bustling start throughout Northeast Georgia. **INSIDE**



The Times

THURSDAY
MAY 29, 2014

Your news. Your Times. gainesvilletimes.com

50 CENTS
GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA

E. WYCLIFFE "WYC" ORR SR. | 1946-2014

Ex-state lawmaker dies at 67

Orr was longtime civil law attorney, advocate for public defender system

BY EMMA WITMAN
ewitman@gainesvilletimes.com

Former state Rep. E. Wycliffe "Wyc" Orr Sr. died at age 67 on Wednesday.

The outspoken Gainesville attorney practiced civil law for more than four decades, but his greatest impact may have been felt in the criminal legal realm.

"I don't know of anybody who has spent more time volunteering his services to improving the legal system, and in particular all the work he did on behalf of creating the

public defender system and fighting to make sure it was adequately funded," said Hammond Law, a Gainesville municipal judge. "He didn't get any money for that, or any real praise for that at the time.

"He was not afraid to fight for unpopular causes."

Orr was one of the leaders in the statewide push to create a system of public defense offices, administered by the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council, of which he was a charter member. Previously, private attorneys handled all cases.

And Orr didn't stop fighting for the system after its 2003 creation, Law said.

"One of the biggest fears people had when they went to the statewide public defender system is that it would not be adequately funded and it would not have been as well funded as it is if not for Wyc's non-stop effort to ensure that it would be

a strong system," Law said.

Orr received the 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Southern Center for Human Rights on May 13 for those efforts and others at the organization's annual Justice Taking Root benefit reception at the Jimmy Carter Center in Atlanta.

Gainesville attorney Julius Hulsey said he counted Orr as a "dear friend" and a man who wasn't afraid to articulate hard truths.

"Wyc's heart was always in the right place," he said. "His ethics were superb, and oftentimes he

might tell you things that maybe you didn't want to hear, but you knew deep down he was right on some social issues."

Chief Public Defender Brad Morris, another of Orr's close friends and legal colleagues, said he was an idealist.

"He was a man who was driven by his ideals," Morris said. "He would give himself the time to help people who are less fortunate."

Orr drew praise for more than mere advocacy; he was a sharp



Orr

■ Please see **LAWMAKER, 5A**

RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT TIME



Photos by **NAT GURLEY** | The Times

Nancy Linto, left, and Mary Lynn O'Reilly work across the aisle from each other at Northeast Georgia Health System as clinical informatics analysts. Many years have passed since each was an active nurse. Other coincidences collided on Monday to put them in position to help save a man from drowning, they said.

Registered nurses' quick actions save man from drowning

BY CARLY SHAREC
csharec@gainesvilletimes.com

Mary Lynn O'Reilly was running late Monday morning.

"I put my kayak on top of my car," she said, beginning to laugh. "I had a not-so-bright moment ... I ran into the garage trying to back out and knocked the kayak off my car."

After that, she was determined to get on the water, knowing her friend and co-worker Nancy Linto was waiting.

While both are registered nurses, they now work as clinical informatics analysts with Northeast Georgia Medical Center. Linto got a kayak as a Mother's Day present, and the women planned to spend the holiday enjoying some time on the water.



Linto and O'Reilly turn serious about what could have happened Monday instead of saving a man's life.

■ Please see **NURSES, 5A**

MAYA ANGELOU | 1928-2014

American icon, poet dies at 86

Area residents will miss her inspiration, writings

BY JOSHUA SILAVENT
jsilavent@gainesvilletimes.com

Maya Angelou, a modern Renaissance woman who survived the harshest of childhoods to become a force on stage, screen, the printed page and the inaugural dais, died Wednesday. She was 86.

Angelou's son, Guy B. Johnson, said the writer died at her home in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, where she had been a professor of American studies at Wake Forest University since 1982.

The loss of Angelou, whose status as an Ameri-

can icon was unquestioned, resonated deeply with many Hall County residents.

"Maya Angelou's writings and acts of courage have and continue to inspire me, thereby allowing me to inspire future generations to dream and have the courage to implement their dreams in spite of the many obstacles that are certain to confront them," said Pamela Stokes, a board member of the Newtown Florist Club in Gainesville.

Tall and regal, with a deep, majestic voice,



Angelou

■ Please see **POET, 5A**

Choice programs grow as students thrive in setting

BY CARLY SHAREC
csharec@gainesvilletimes.com

When it comes to education, more students and parents are asking for choices. Nearly 1,500 students in the Hall County School District will participate in the Programs of Choice at either the high or middle school levels next year.

"Offering Programs of Choice is one important way we are doing more for our students," said Sally Krisel, director of innovative and advanced programs for the Hall system.

There are nine programs

at the high school level, and two at both the middle school and elementary levels.

Programs of Choice are separate from the district's charter schools, though on the surface they seem similar. Charter schools are open to all students living in the school's zoned district. Then enrollment is opened to those outside the attendance zone. If there aren't enough seats to satisfy demand, a lottery system is used to select students.

Students in Programs of Choice are selected

■ Please see **CHOICE, 6A**



INSIDE

Advice	4C	Get Out	Inside
Bridge	4C	Lottery	2A
Business	6C	Opinion	4A
Calendar	2A	Our Region	1C
Classified	1D	Sports	1B
Comics	5C	TV/puzzles	4C

WEATHER 2A

High 82 Low 66

Lake Lanier level: **1,071.07 feet**
Down 0.03 feet in 24 hours

DEATHS 2C

Melba Lynn Case, 66	Eston Wycliffe Orr Sr., 67
Pauline Cara Lawrence, 92	Johnny Ted Rogers, 78
Adelyne Mays, 85	Randall Lee Smith, 76
George W. McCollum Jr., 66	Annie Jo Turner, 70

Asset Checking • Age 50+

- \$100 minimum to open • No minimum balance required • No monthly maintenance fee • No ATM fees at our location or other bank ATMs
- Free bank-style checks and small Safe Deposit Box • Tiered interest!

INDEPENDENCE BANK OF GEORGIA

311 Green Street NW • Suite 100
Gainesville, GA 30501
678.928.5350
www.ibankga.com

Committed to Community. Dedicated to Service.