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County News

Wednesday, November 27, 2013 ~ Volume 8, Number 142



**LaGrange Academy's
Native American Masks
& Drum Circle
See Page 3.**

SPORTS

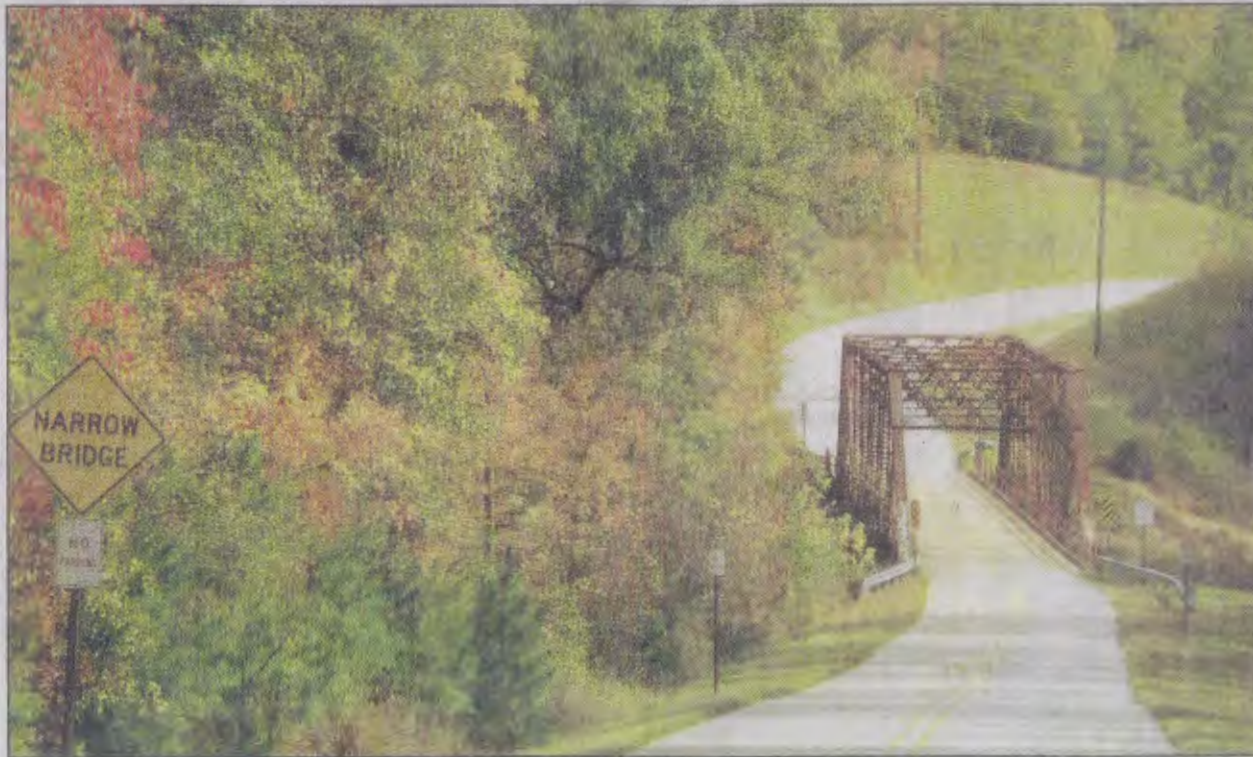
**LaGrange College Basketball
Teams Post Three Wins in
Weekend Action**

Old Salem Road Bridge: Oldest Bridge in Troup County

*Chris Cleaveland
Board Member
Troup County Historical
Society*

The Old Salem Road Bridge is a steel truss bridge built in 1929. This old beauty will soon be taken down, a victim of age and restricted usage.

After the Minneapolis Bridge fell into the Mississippi River in 2007 and 13 people died in the unexpected tragedy, the Feds ordered all bridges with similar construction to be re-inspected. The inspectors reassessed the Salem Road Bridge and lowered the load limit from 11 tons to only five tons. The lower weight limit means that no emergency vehicles or school buses should use it, greatly restricting its' value and usefulness.



The Old Salem Road Bridge is a highly sentimental part of our past and when County Commissioners announced it had to be replaced, citizens from all walks of life objected. Multiple plans have been put

forward and public meetings have taken place and the commissioners have decided to replace it with a new steel truss bridge that would be certified to carry loads up to 50-60 tons. The new steel truss bridge will be as similar in design to the old bridge as possible in response to comments taken at public meetings. No state or federal funds are available for this project.

The final decision on what is to become of the old bridge has also been controversial. The old bridge could be reassembled at another location and several parks in LaGrange and Troup County have been considered as possible new homes for the bridge, but many citizens of southern Troup County want it to stay in

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Teenager Struck and

TCN's Turkey's on Parade



West Georgia Physician's Clinic Receives Gift from West Point Senior Center

Members of the West Point Senior Center recently took the time and effort to create a quilt in honor of West Georgia Physician's new clinic on Highway 29.

The quilt, designed and created by the center's quilters and guided by quilter Syble Spears, will be hung inside the clinic, alongside puzzles also put together and framed for the clinic by center members. The center members and quilters joined together to visit with clinic physician Dr. James Parker, who was at the center to accept the quilt.

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Old Salem Road Bridge: Oldest Bridge in Troup County

Continued from Front Page.

their area. Due to the age and load limit capacity, the bridge would only be used in another location as a

pedestrian bridge. If no cost effective plan can be agreed on in the next few months, the bridge may be disassembled and stored until such a plan can be approved.

Salem Road Bridge be removed and restored as a pedestrian bridge somewhere in Troup County so our children and grandchildren can experience a fast disappearing part of our history. Other towns have successfully transitioned historic buildings or structures to a new purpose. Newnan has taken an old cotton mill and made loft apartments. Other towns have taken

an old train depot and repurposed it, too. Too often, we have discarded our historic structures in the name of "progress". Congrats to the Callaway Foundation for stepping up to the plate and renovating the Broad Street Apartments and of course, the Del'Avant project on Main Street, two great examples of what can be done with historic structures.

Swaroop N. Nyshadham, M.D.

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