

ANGEL

■ Continued from 1C

Rock Goodbye Angel's founder Angela Ewers estimated the nonprofit served more than 100 families last year through its various events and counseling.

"It's not really somber, but it's reflective. We're there as survivors of pregnancy and infant loss, and we're there just to acknowledge the International Day of Remembrance," Ewers said.

Ashlie Hogan encouraged other women and families to reach out for support when they feel comfortable enough to discuss it. Grief is "sneaky," she said, one where a single thought, sight or sound can send you into tears.

Early on, Derrick Hogan said he felt like he was delaying his own personal grieving process.

"I felt like initially I had to kind of compartmentalize stuff and try to be strong for her, be strong for my other kids so that we could keep the family going," he said.

What people might say

and how they might react were some of the reasons why Ashlie Hogan was apprehensive to share her experience.

"I felt that if someone were to say something negative like, 'Well, it wasn't really a baby because he didn't live here on Earth,' I knew that was going to make me upset," she said.

Another response she expected was a focus on her five other children.

"I did have a couple people say things like that, and I think they are well-meaning people who were trying to comfort me. But at the same time, each child is different," Ashlie Hogan said.

The Hogans told their children shortly after the miscarriage of their little brother in heaven.

Samuel was buried under a weeping willow tree in the front yard, where his brothers and sisters have drawn pictures and released balloons.

"They needed to know that yes, he was real. Yes, he was a person, but he wasn't going to be their brother here on Earth," Ashlie Hogan said.

If you ask the Hogans' children about their brothers and sisters, they always count Samuel in the family.

The Hogans decided to call their son Samuel because of a story in the book of the same name in the Bible, where Hannah prays to God to give her a child.

"If God gives the child to her, then she will give the child back to God in service," Ashlie Hogan said.

Ashlie Hogan said she has learned to be more honest with God and express her true emotions.

"God is not scared of our anger, is what I've learned through that. God wants us to share our feelings with him, and if we're angry about something, then he wants us to tell him about that," she said.

Through Samuel, the Hogans have helped other families not feel so alone in one of their toughest moments.

"Hearing women say, 'You know what, you sharing your story makes me feel better about sharing my story,' means that Samuel had a purpose," Ashlie Hogan said.



The lambs will be given out to Rock Goodbye Angel to women who have lost children to miscarriage.

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10-19

26th Annual Marketplace

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November 2 – 4

Gainesville Civic Center

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6:30 – 9:30 p.m. (\$50 tickets)

General Admission:

Nov. 3, 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Nov. 4, 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Chaired by:

Maggie Griffin, Caroline Nix,
Leslie Miller



To purchase tickets for Preview Party visit nghs.com/marketplace or for more information, call 770-219-1830.

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Georgia coach Smart extols value of Boys & Girls Clubs

BY NICK WATSON
nwatson@gainesvilletimes.com

The last time Georgia football coach Kirby Smart was in Gainesville on a regular basis, he was recruiting Gainesville High grad Blake Sims to join his Alabama squad.

"I've got a lot of respect for the people in this community, because I think the first way you measure a community is when you have an event like this and everybody turns out for it," Smart said Monday night

at the 15th annual Futures for Kids Gala benefiting the Boys & Girls Clubs of Lanier.

After hearing the speeches and testimonials of the clubs' participants, Smart said it showed Gainesville has "people of quality character, and you've got people with passion about such a meaningful cause."

Smart addressed a full ballroom at the Gainesville Civic Center for the clubs' annual fundraiser.

Although there wasn't a Boys & Girls Club in his native Bainbridge,

Smart said he's often found quality recruits coming out of these organizations across the region.

"A lot of great kids that I've been able to recruit, bring to places and see grow up — they matured in the Boys & Girls Club," he said.

Self-confidence and better study habits are a few of the qualities Smart said he has seen in former members of the organization. Georgia junior cornerback Deandre Baker is one

■ Please see **SMART, 6A**



University of Georgia football coach Kirby Smart takes in the program Monday night at the Gainesville Civic Center during the 15th annual Boys & Girls Clubs of Lanier Futures For Kids Gala. Smart was the program's keynote speaker.

SCOTT ROGERS
The Times

example. Baker had to do his schoolwork at the Gwen Cherry Park organization in Miami before he could play football.

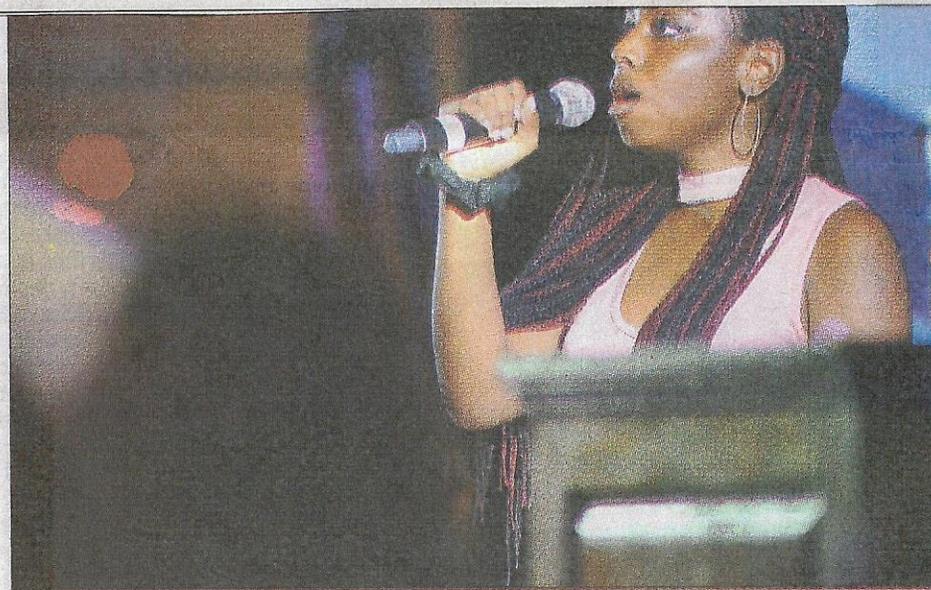
"He said, 'It's the only reason I'm here today.' He said, 'People gave their time,'" Smart said.

The clubs serve more than 5,100 young people annually.

During the gala, the clubs honored their inaugural alumni Hall of Fame class, which includes: Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle, David Chester, Jasmine Jenkins, Phillip Sartain, Philip Wilheit Sr. and Gainesville Fire Chief Jerome Yarbrough.

Sartain was also the first recipient of the award now named for him, the Phillip Sartain Helping Hands Award.

"The award is being renamed in recognition of Mr. Sartain's long history of passionate dedication and support for the kids served by the club," according to the organization.



SCOTT ROGERS | The Times

Gainesville High School's Trinity Seegars belts out the national anthem Monday night at the Gainesville Civic Center kicking off the 15th annual Boys & Girls Clubs of Lanier Futures For Kids Gala.

After telling the audience of the obstacles overcome by a pair of alumni, CEO Steven Mickens said the group's purpose is "providing hope

and opportunity to those that need us most."

"What they don't realize is that we get inspired to see them ignite their passion and

rise up and do some things that no one ever thought they can do and they overcame every obstacle that life has thrown at them," he said.

Scare up some fun

Goblins in the Gainesville Garden

Children can make Halloween crafts, ride ponies or trains and show off their costumes on the Goblin Runway.

When: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 22

Where: Atlanta Botanical Garden - Gainesville, 1911 Sweetbay Drive, Gainesville

How much: \$8 for adults; \$5 for children ages 3 to 12; free for children under 3

More info: atlantabg.org

Where: Midtown Greenway, 682 Grove St., Gainesville

How much: Free

More info: www.gainesville.org/special-events

Mother Son Halloween Dance Party

Mothers and their sons can enjoy a catered dinner and dance. There will also be costume contests and raffle prizes.

When: 6-8:30 p.m. Oct. 24

Where: Gainesville Civic Center Ballroom, 830 Green St. NE, Gainesville

How much: City residents \$50 per couple, nonresidents \$60 per couple; sibling discounts: city residents \$17.50 plus one, nonresidents \$21 plus one

More info: www.gainesville.org/special-events

Adult Halloween

This big party for the grown-ups includes music, dancing, costume contests and drinks.

When: 7 p.m. to midnight Oct. 27

Where: Downtown Drafts, 115 Bradford St., Gainesville

How much: Free admission

Ghost Walk on the Square

Tours start every 20 minutes and travel around downtown with stories from Gainesville's past and stops for food and drinks.

When: 7-9 p.m. Oct. 27-28

Where: Gainesville square

How much: \$10; \$8 for members of the Northeast Georgia History Center

More info: www.negahc.org

Trick or Treat on the Trail

Children can visit booths to show off their costumes and collect candy from area businesses, including The Times. There's a petting zoo and bounce house.

When: 3-5 p.m. Oct. 28

10/19/14

Gainesville
Parks & Recreation

TRICK OR TREAT

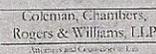
On the Trail

3pm-5pm

Saturday, October 28, 2017

Located at Midtown Greenway
on Grove Street directly behind the Public Safety and Fire Complex

Don't forget to bring a canned
food item for the Georgia
Mountain Food Bank!



FREE!

Trick or Treating
Petting Zoo
Bounce Houses
Games
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Lots of Fun!!
Ages: 12 and under

For More Information call 770.531.2680 or visit www.gainesville.org/recreation

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10122117

Spirit, history set in granite

Gainesville High's iconic painted rock gets 50th commemoration gathering

BY JOSHUA SILAVENT
jsilavent@gainesvilletimes.com

The big granite rock ripping through the earth along Pearl Nix Parkway between Wilshire Trails Park and Longwood Park near Gainesville High School is often painted to show school spirit and commemorate student events.

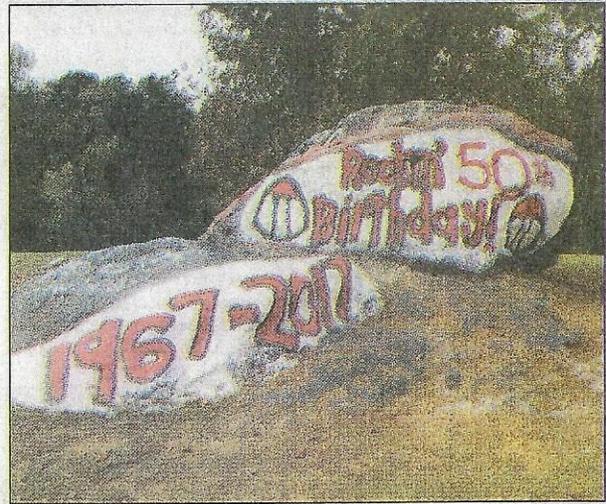
But it's also become an emblem for the wider Gainesville community to cherish, celebrate and memorialize life's special moments. And it all began 50 years ago.

The Gainesville City School System will host a Rockin' 50th Paint Party beginning at 4:30 p.m. today to honor the iconic symbol.

"It's been a wonderful thing over the years to celebrate and mark all kinds of occasions," said Merrienne Dyer, former Gainesville schools superintendent and a GHS graduate. "It's been a unique tribute to whatever's going on."

Dyer was in high school when the rock was first given a proclamation during a student assembly. The class of 1968 was the first senior group to establish the painting tradition.

■ Please see **ROCK**, 4A



JOSH SILAVENT | The Times

Gainesville High School fans today will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its painted rock at the school's entrance.

Rockin' 50th Paint Party

What: Celebrating the history and legacy of Gainesville High School's painted rock

When: 4:30 p.m. today. Free shuttle service will be provided from the Gainesville High School parking lot

Where: The painted rock is between Wilshire Trails Park and Longwood Park (and adjacent to GHS) off Pearl Nix Parkway

ROCK

■ Continued from 1A

In a 1988 story from The Times, then-Police Commissioner Harold Black recalled how the rock was unearthed during a road-building project.

"They tried to move it with the bulldozers, and it wouldn't budge. They'd just sit there and spin," he said in the article. "So they just kept digging out around it and it became a huge rock. ... The next thing we knew, the Gainesville High students had gone down there and painted that rock."

Throughout the years, the rock has been defiled by rival schools, which brings to mind one of Dyer's favorite memories.

A few years ago, prior to a football game against North Hall High, students from Gainesville High asked for Dyer's permission to camp out and spend the night at the rock to protect it from potential vandals.

"I took that proclamation seriously myself," Dyer said.

Dyer agreed to grant the students their wish, but said she woke up in the middle of the night and drove to the rock to check on them.

"That's my funniest recollection," she said.

According to a sign posted at the site, "any person defacing the 'rock' or entering its legal boundaries without proper permission is subject to six months in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine."

The rock often is painted with birthday

'They tried to move it with the bulldozers, and it wouldn't budge. They'd just sit there and spin. So they just kept digging out around it and it became a huge rock ... The next thing we knew, the Gainesville High students had gone down there and painted that rock.'

Harold Black, Former Gainesville Police Commissioner

wishes and graduation celebrations. It has also recognized Gainesville's connection to the 1996 Olympics.

"It's a tradition that brings back memories," Gainesville school board member Willie Mitchell said. "It's a point of pride for the citizens of Gainesville."

Indeed, it's a landmark for the entire community.

Mitchell said other schools now have rocks unearthed that are also painted.

"It all started with the one at Gainesville High," he added.

10/22/17

Mothers, sons get plenty of treats at annual Halloween dance, dinner



Photos by **DAVID BARNES** | The Times

Emily Talley and her son Tate Talley-Jones, dressed as firefighters, dance Wednesday during the 14th annual Mother-Son Halloween Dinner and Dance Party in Gainesville.

10/25/17

Boone Emerson, dressed as the guitarist Slash, from the band Guns N' Roses, reacts after winning best Halloween costume during the dance party.



Alex Prince, dressed as Elvis Presley, break dances as other children watch.

10/25/17

Gainesville
Parks & Recreation

TRICK OR TREAT

On the Trail

3pm-5pm

Saturday, October 28, 2017

Located at Midtown Greenway

on Grove Street directly behind the Public Safety and Fire Complex

Don't forget to bring a canned
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