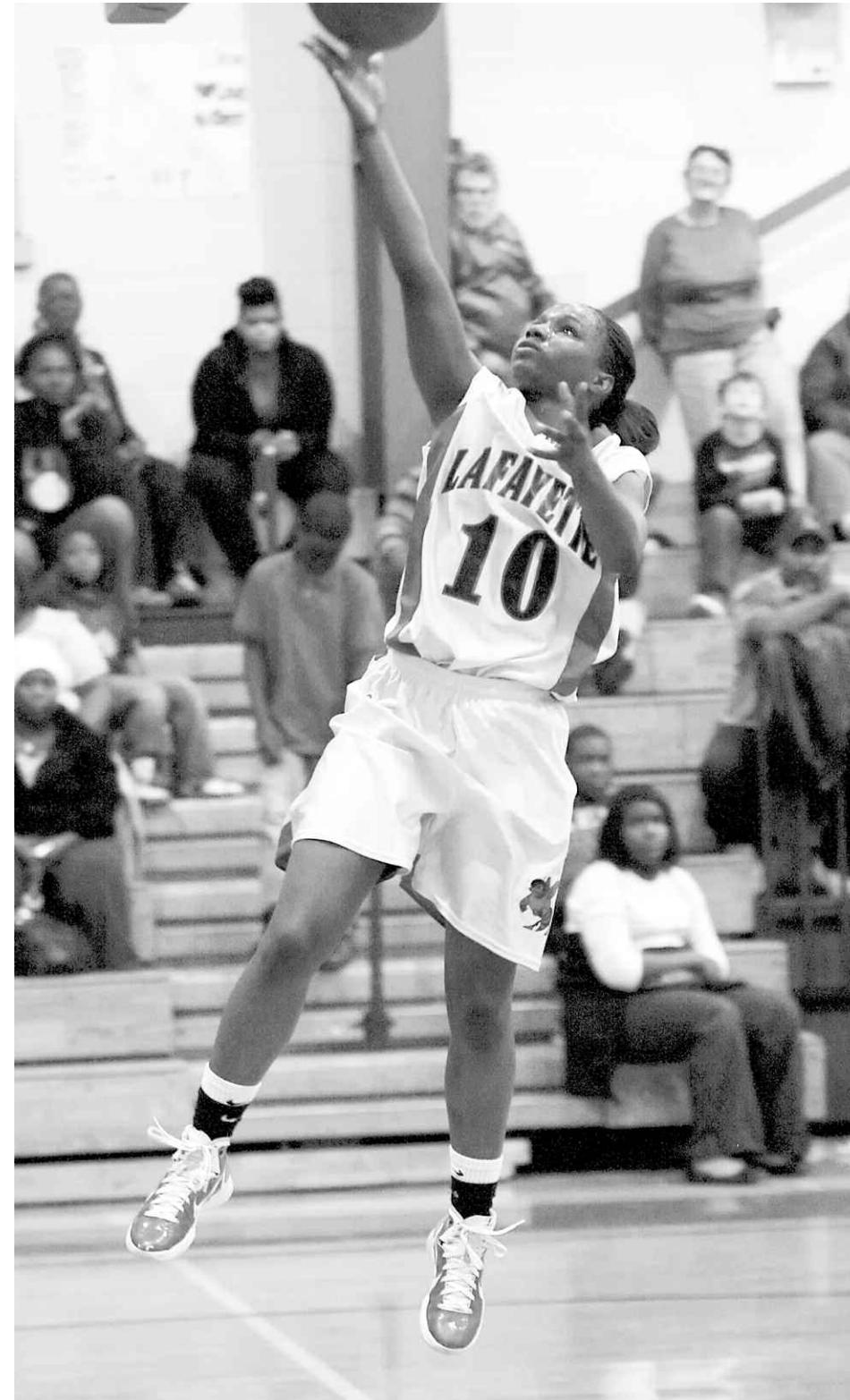




Lafayette guard Cartaesha Macklin in action. - Photo: Paul Buchanan (SuwanneeSports.com)



Cartaesha Macklin, nothing but net. - Photo: Paul Buchanan (SuwanneeSports.com)

Lyons honored by FFA at national convention

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ture – as part of 7,429 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988 in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education.

Without the efforts of highly dedicated individuals, thousands of young people would not be able to achieve success that, in turn, contributes directly to the overall well being of the nation. The Honorary American FFA Degree is an opportunity to recognize those who have gone beyond the valuable daily contributions to make an extraordinary

long-term difference in the lives of students, inspiring confidence in a new generation of agriculturists.

The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. The National FFA Organization operates under a Federal Charter granted by the 81st United States Congress, and it is an integral part of public instruction in agriculture. The U.S. Department of Education provides leadership and helps set direction for FFA as a service to state and local agricultural education programs. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

NFCC's Grosskopf speaks at Rotary

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istrict...we are well represented with our community college and what it's doing for our community and our kids."

"We are your community college," Grosskopf told the group. "Our responsibility is to be what you need us to be, not what we think a college should be."

Grosskopf went on to explain a brief history of community colleges. NFCC, he said, was one of the original six schools created under a 1957 legislative measure that created the community college system. NFCC became a part of the system in 1958. He added there are currently three types of colleges; community colleges, colleges and state colleges.

"Currently, there are probably only five or six of us left that are community colleges. Our responsibility is to serve people who live within our six-county area," Grosskopf said. "We are the smallest community college in terms of size in the state, smallest of 28. However, we have the largest geographic district. We serve six counties. We have a big district."

Current enrollment at NFCC is about 2400 students. The typical student is female, 27 years old, 2.2 kids and works 20 to 30 hours a week, in addition to going to school, Grosskopf said.

"We are two-thirds female," he said. "So if you know a woman who's thinking about

going to college, you can say it's two-thirds female. You'll feel safe, you'll feel welcome. If you know of a guy who's thinking of going to school, you can say it's two-thirds female. You can't lose the way you market this," he added, which drew laughter from the audience.

NFCC had a 9.7 percent enrollment growth since last year and an 18.9 percent growth over two years. Lafayette County contributes about five-and-a-half percent of overall enrollment at NFCC, according to Grosskopf. Fifty-two percent of the students are working toward an AA degree and then going on to a state university.

This year 30 Lafayette County students earned 222 dual enrollment credit hours, which is a program where qualified students can take college courses while still in high school. Upon successful completion they get the college credit for it and it satisfies the high school graduation requirement. The dual enrollment program saved their families almost \$20,000 in tuition fees, he said.

"It doesn't cost the student anything. It's a fantastic deal," Grosskopf said.

One challenge facing community colleges, Grosskopf said, is that funding is declining while enrollment is climbing, so some cuts have been made, however, NFCC is dedicated to keeping those cuts invisible.

College readiness was another subject he spoke about, stressing that superintendents needed to assure that their high school students were prepared to enter college to avoid remedial courses and turning a two-year college program into a three-year program.

"Encourage the students to take the tough courses," he said.

Need-based financial aid and workforce readiness were two other areas of concern, he said, that affect rural students.

NFCC is one of America's top 50 colleges, according to Washington Monthly magazine's 2010 college rankings edition. The 2010 Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) states that NFCC scored well above average on every measure of good educational practices.

"Our mission is about providing opportunity in this district," Grosskopf said.

"Our mission is about providing opportunity in this district," Grosskopf said.

Macklin a Parade All-American

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assists per game.

"I feel like I have fulfilled everything and met all my expectations," Macklin said after signing her letter of intent with SIU. "Now it's time to experience that next level and do the same things now on the college level."

Macklin was quite excited about her selection to the team and left this on Facebook, "Gosh I'm blessed to be a part of the 2011 Parade All-American High School team in Sunday's magazine issue."

Lafayette coach Jimmy Blankenship said Macklin deserves it.

"What an honor, very proud of what she has accomplished," he said. "This shows what hard work, desire, determination does for you."

Her SIU coaches were also proud of her accomplishment as well and can't wait to get her on campus saying 'you're just awesome girl' and 'we're proud of you Cartaesha'.

A great person and a great program

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the best.

Second on my list, once again listed, is our drama dept. Over the last weekend, Cathy Palomino did it again with her fifth production, a play called HOT ROD. It is a musical celebration of the 50s, sort of in the mold of Grease and American Graffiti.

The ensemble cast did a tremendous job, and kudos again to all involved as it was a special production. I am consistently amazed with the quality of program that is turned out in a district our size with all the extra-curricular activities, and the drama program once again did a superlative job.

Go Hornets!!

FWC offering additional hog-hunting opportunities

Due to an abundance of wild hogs on portions of Aucilla and Blackwater wildlife management areas in Northwest Florida, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is encouraging hog hunters to take part in Small Game Area (SGA) hunts during the coming months in an effort to reduce number of hogs.

Five hog-dog hunts on the Aucilla SGA are set for May 13-15; June 10-12; July 8-10; Aug. 12-14; and Sept. 9-11. There will be 10 hunts on the Blackwater SGA: May 6-8; May 20-22; June 3-5; June 17-19; July 1-3; July 15-17; Aug. 5-7; Aug. 19-21; Sept. 2-4; and Sept. 16-18.

Quota permits will not be required for any of the hunts. Hunters need only a hunting license and a management area permit.

Both still hunting and dog hunting will be allowed during the day. Hog dogs will be legal to use during the night hunts.

There will be no size or bag limits on hogs. Live hogs may not be removed from the area.

Hog hunting has been allowed on both areas for several years during other hunting seasons. Because of the large population of wild hogs on both areas, the FWC has established these management hunts and given hunters more hog-hunting opportunity.