

# Around AROUNDWORTH

AN AROUNDABOUT LOCAL MEDIA PUBLICATION

JANUARY 2022

New Year  
New Look

*Jéa Salon + Spa*

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*Resolve to Save  
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# School News

## Bohannon Ties Big South Record

Kennesaw State University shined from start to finish in the opening round of the Football Championship Subdivision playoffs, with a commanding 48-21 win over the Davidson Wildcats on Nov. 27. Head coach Brian Bohannon recorded his 63rd career victory, tying the Big South Conference career wins record. The win also marked Bohannon's fifth career playoff victory and set the conference record for most playoff wins by a head coach.



Danny Verpaele

## KSU's Verpaele Named to 35 Under 35 List

After leading the top defense in the Big South Conference this season, Kennesaw State University (KSU) football team's defensive coordinator Danny Verpaele was selected to the American Football Coaches Association's 35 Under 35 list. The list highlights the accomplishments of young coaches and identifies future leaders in the football coaching profession. This year's selections were chosen from more than 150 candidates.

Verpaele and the KSU defense led the Football Championship Subdivision in red zone defense at 57.6%, and finished in the top 20 in rushing defense, scoring defense and total defense. Verpaele had three players receive all-conference recognitions, including senior linebacker Evan Thompson who set the KSU record for most tackles in a single season (118).

"I am very grateful for the efforts of our outstanding players on the field, and coaches and staff who helped our defense succeed this season," Verpaele said. "I look forward to seeing how we attack this offseason and continue to build our defense and program to be the best in the nation."

This is Verpaele's second season as the Owls' defensive coordinator. He previously served as the safeties coach at KSU for the 2019 season and was the defensive coordinator/linebackers' coach at Valdosta State, 2016-18.



The MPCs competition cheer team won its 10th straight state championship.

## Mount Paran Cheer Team Wins State

The Mount Paran Christian Eagle competition cheer squad won its 10th consecutive Georgia High School Association (GHSA) Cheerleading State Championship title.

The Mount Paran squad is the only cheer team in the state, across any regional class, to have claimed 10-straight titles. The Eagles have been GHSA Class A-Private state titleholders since the 2012-13 season, the inaugural year for Class A-Private.

Improving on last year's winning score of 93.5 points, the Eagles earned 105 points, two points shy of a perfect score. The squad outscored the second-place team by nearly 12 points.

## Cobb Athletes Shine in Next-Level Commitments

In honor of National Signing Day (Dec. 15), Cobb high schools, including North Cobb and Allatoona, held events and celebrations for their National Letter of Intent signees.

FOX5 and WSBTV were in attendance for the announcements at North Cobb High School for six of its highly recruited football players. De'Nylon Morrisette committed to the University of Georgia. Reggie Givhan signed to the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Andre Stewart is headed to the University of Kentucky, and Josh Josephs accepted an offer from the University of Tennessee. Wide receiver Sam Mbake' revealed his intention to play at Arkansas with a dramatic shirt change, and after a difficult decision between Southeastern Conference offers, Marquis Groves-Killebrew signed with Texas A&M.

Allatoona had one National Signing Day commitment. Bennett Christian will be leaving the ranks of the Buccaneers and heading north to Big Ten powerhouse Ohio State.



Allatoona High's Bennett Christian commits to Ohio State.

## Foundation Launches All In Campaign to Help Students

The Cobb Schools Foundation recently launched the All In Campaign to encourage the community to go all in and provide financial support to help reduce barriers, reward student success and support teachers and their future growth. Thanks to community support, the foundation provides additional resources for students throughout the district.

The All In Campaign is designed to support family stabilization, learning interventions and scholarships. Last year, more than 600 students were provided after-school scholarships, devices, hotspots, utility support or housing assistance. This program will provide additional equipment, classroom resources and more.

To learn how you can go all in and donate to the Cobb Schools Foundation, visit [www.cobbschoolsfoundation.org/allin](http://www.cobbschoolsfoundation.org/allin).

## Life University Recognized for Top Online Programs

Two of Life University's (Life U's) online programs are among Intelligent.com's Top Ranked Online Programs for 2022.

Life U's online master's in psychology program ranked No. 3 and earned the Best for International Students status. Additionally, Intelligent.com ranked Life U's online bachelor's in biology program No. 6, and it was named Best Value by Intelligent.com. This honor comes a month after the program was ranked fourth on the 2021 list and named in the top 10 for the second year in a row by BestColleges.com.

## CITA Hosts Construction Skills Challenge

The Cobb Innovation and Technology Academy (CITA) hosted metro Atlanta's first Construction Skills Challenge competition. Students from nine schools, including CITA, Allatoona High School and North Cobb High School, demonstrated their skills in fine furniture building, masonry, carpentry, electrical, welding, blueprint reading and heating, ventilation and air conditioning. Local companies attended the event as students demonstrated their skills, the same students they may one day hire as employees.

## MPCS Students Sign NLI and Earn DAR Scholarship

Three Mount Paran Christian School student-athletes signed National Letters of Intent to compete at the collegiate level. Kara Dunn committed to play basketball at Georgia Tech. Emma Norton plans to swim for the University of Georgia, and Katelyn Dunning signed with the University of West Georgia women's basketball team.

Senior Sarah McCune recently won the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Good Citizens Award and Scholarship Contest from the Andrew Houser Chapter. She also will be the recipient of the Claudia Cameron/Susan Cameron Polesnak Award and will move on to the state DAR competition. The hallmarks of this award are dependability, service, leadership and patriotism.

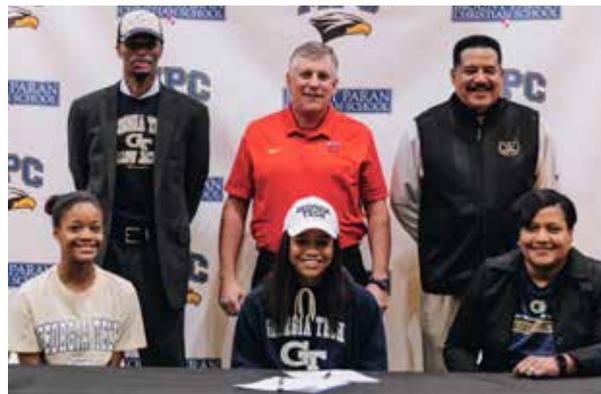
McCune's essay was crafted under a timed situation with a 550-word limit, and was judged on clarity of expression, originality and historical accuracy. In addition to her essay, she was judged based on her resume, personal statement, two letters of recommendation and her academic transcript.



*Sarah McCune*



*Emma Norton commits to the University of Georgia.*



*Kara Dunn commits to Georgia Tech.*



*Katelyn Dunning commits to the University of West Georgia.*