

# DREW IN BASEBALL PLAYOFFS, 8A

Titans make school history by clinching spot in state tournament

# Clayton News

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Storytellers and guides rehearse their parts for the upcoming Georgia Folklore by Moonlight event at Stately Oaks. (Staff Photos: Heather Middleton)

# Moonlit history

## Stately Oaks to host evening Georgia folklore tours

BY HEATHER MIDDLETON  
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JONESBORO — Historical Jonesboro/Clayton County is hosting a Georgia Folklore by Moonlight tour next month at Stately Oaks.

The event will take groups on a 30-minute tour throughout the historic home's grounds, entertaining visitors with stories about the Revolutionary War, Native American folk tales and ghost stories. Tour guides and storytellers will be dressed in period costumes. Two stories will take guests inside the antebellum home where guests will hear ghostly movements and see the sudden appearance of a little boy holding a lantern.

Guides will provide background story information as well as answer questions from the audience.

In addition to stories, visitors will be treated to cookies and lemonade and entertained with live music.

Event organizer Mary Anne Brannon said the evening is an opportunity for people to come out, visit the grounds and hear stories collected from Georgia's history.

"We really hope people will enjoy themselves and have a little fun," Brannon said.

Tours will be hosted two nights, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. May 4-5 at Stately Oaks, 100 Carriage Lane in Jonesboro.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 5 to 12 and children 5 and under get in free. Tickets can be purchased at Juddy's Country Store at Stately Oaks. Those who would like to reserve a tour time can call 770-473-0197.

For more information about Stately Oaks, visit [www.historicaljonesboro.org](http://www.historicaljonesboro.org).



William Shiflett, 13, rehearses his role for the upcoming Georgia Folklore by Moonlight event at Stately Oaks.

# Teen found not guilty of park murder

## Williams convicted of other related charges

BY CHELSEA PRINCE  
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JONESBORO — Jakeem Williams was at times guarded and sometimes goading when he took the stand Thursday during his trial for the murder of 18-year-old Cherish Williams.

The teenager was accused of running with a criminal gang that terrorized Independence Park in west Clayton County. Prosecutors attempted to establish a timeline for Williams on the night of Dec. 31, 2016, when Cherish was shot in the back seat of a Cadillac while listening to music with her friends in the park.

The shooting was the result of an armed robbery gone bad.

Jurors were asked to consider whether Jakeem Williams, 18, was a burgeoning gangbanger or a misguided kid who fronted



Jakeem Williams

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# Man to face arson charges in stable fire

BY CHELSEA PRINCE  
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RIVERDALE — The Noah's Ark Road stable fire that killed two dozen horses was intentionally set, fire officials have announced.

The man believed to be responsible for the fire is now in police custody. Jonathan Espinoza-Vasquez, 23, of Stockbridge was arrested April 12. Because he has pending charges in Henry County, he is currently being held in the Henry County Jail and is



Jonathan Espinoza-Vasquez

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Jim Wood, pictured on left with wife, Martha, was the founder and first publisher of the Clayton News. Wood died on April 18 at the age of 91. (Special Photo)



# Clayton News founder dies at 91

BY HEATHER MIDDLETON  
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JONESBORO — Founder and former publisher of the Clayton News Jim Wood died on April 18 at the age of 91.

The Clayton News is a sister paper of the Henry Herald.

Wood graduated from the University of Alabama with a journalism degree in 1948. Soon after graduation, he was drafted into the

Army, where he served in the Army of Occupation in Germany during World War II.

Following his military service, Wood continued his pursuit of journalism, writing for the Chattahoochee Valley Times in Alabama and several papers in Georgia.

In 1963, he purchased the Fayette County News after the paper had fallen into bankruptcy. After success in Fayette County, Wood's son, Chris Wood, said he

was approached by Clayton County leaders to start a newspaper in the county.

Wood made the move to Clayton. He purchased the Forest Park Free Press and Clayton County Journal and merged the two papers, creating the Clayton News Daily. The new paper printed its first edition in 1971. He sold the Clayton News Daily in 1982, but remained part

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