



# FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS WEEK 2

Loganville and LCA look for 2-0 starts. SCHS also at home. Monroe Area, George Walton Academy on road. Get full coverage in SportsExtra, INSIDE.

COVERING WALTON COUNTY LIKE THE SUNSHINE SINCE 1900

# The Walton Tribune

**WEEKEND** August 27-28 // Still only \$1 [www.WaltonTribune.com](http://www.WaltonTribune.com) 4 sections, 38 pages, plus inserts

## His Word

"If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

— 2 Corinthians 5:17

## DEATHS A7

Virginia Picker Jones  
Monroe

Candy F. McElveen  
Monroe



## Saturday in the park

Walnut Grove's market has a little something for everyone who attends. Read Cheyenne Tolleson's story inside today's edition. - A6

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*'Unraveling of history we're not really comfortable talking about...'*

**'Great American and Community Champion'**

## Documentary examines race relations in Monroe

Stephen Milligan  
THE WALTON TRIBUNE

Stephanie Calabrese was enjoying the success of her photography exhibit, showing off her photos of Monroe and surrounding environs, when a reporter from *The New York Times*, covering her documentary show, asked her a question that left her reeling.

"One of the questions the journalist asked me was, 'Is Monroe still segregated today?'" Calabrese said. "I struggled with that question."

Her initial instinct was to reply no, but the more she thought about it, the more she wondered what the right answer actually was.

Now, in 2022, she has a more nuanced answer in the form of a full, feature length documentary film, "UNSPOKEN," which examines the history of race relations in the Monroe community.

The film particularly fo-



cuses on the history surrounding the historic tragedy of the 1947 Moore's Ford lynching, in which four black sharecroppers were murdered by a mob of white men at the Moore's Ford bridge at the border of Walton and Oconee counties.

Despite none of the men wearing masks, no one was ever prosecuted for the murders and the crime is officially unsolved to this day.

See **Documentary** » Page A8



Stephanie Calabrese's documentary film "UNSPOKEN" is receiving positive reviews.

Stephen Milligan | The Walton Tribune

## Well-respected Post 233 leader Boss passes at 91

Chris Bridges

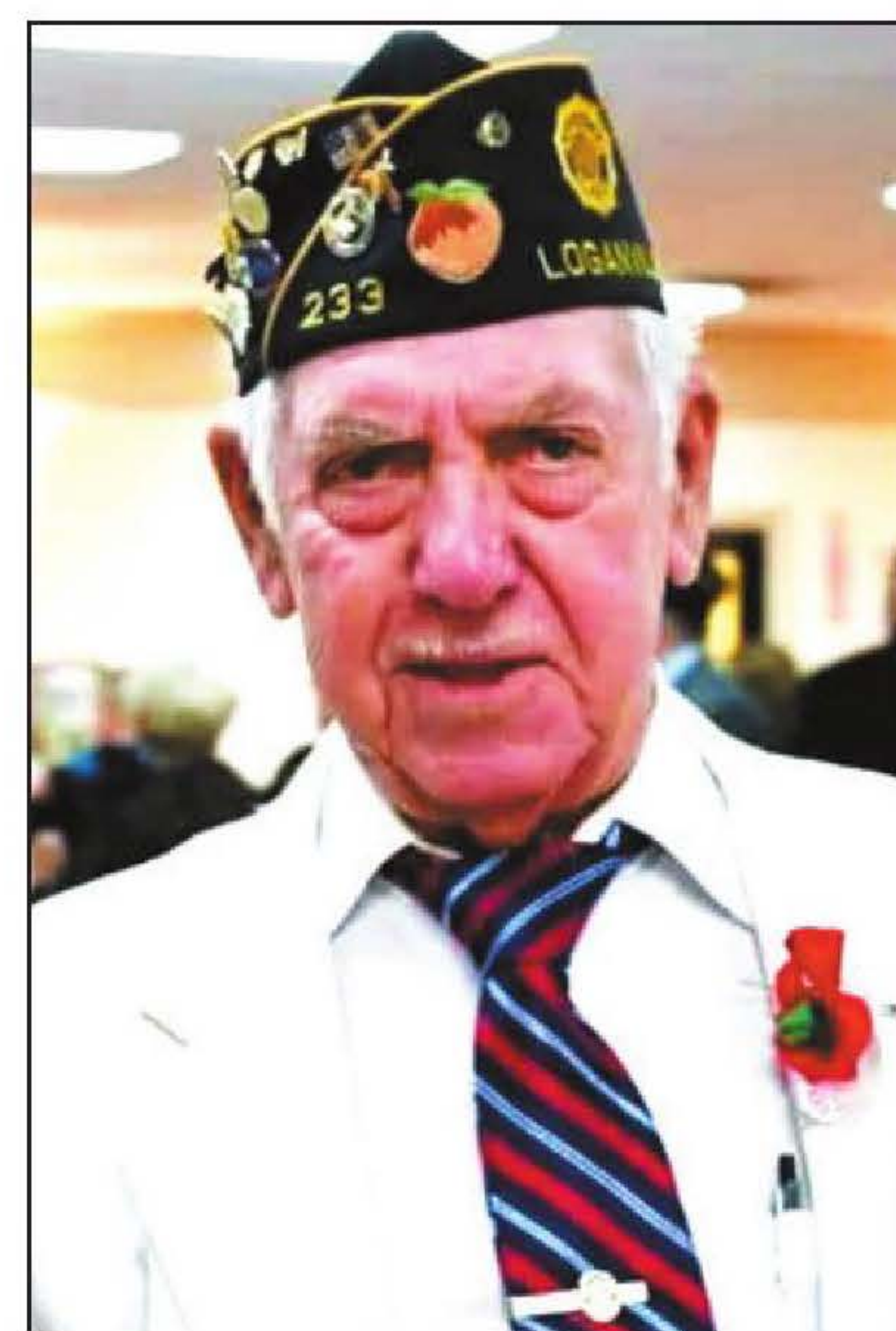
THE WALTON TRIBUNE

The profile for Bobby Boss was very long and very accomplished.

The long-time Loganville American Legion Post 233 commander was a former city council member, past Boy Scout Master, Jury Commissioner of Walton County, Past President of the Gwinnett Senior Citizens, a member of Legacy Lions Club and organizer of the Loganville Shrine Club. For decades he defined what it meant to be a community leader.

The Loganville community lost that leader as Boss passed away at the age of 91 on Aug. 23. His funeral service was held Friday at Loganville First United Methodist Church.

Boss joined the United States Navy at the age of 17 where he served honorably for four years. He enrolled at Southern Tech soon after being discharged from the



Bobby Boss

Navy, taking courses in Electrical Engineering. Mr. Boss retired from General Motors after 32 years of service.

While employed there, he won an Outstanding Excellence Award for Community, County and City Services, receiving an all-expenses paid trip to Detroit for his work.

See **Boss** » Page A7



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# Documentary: Film looks at Monroe's past

Continued from A1

It was all new to Calabrese.

"I moved to Monroe in 1996," Calabrese said. "I've lived here a long time. But I didn't know much about our history. I really didn't know anything about Moore's Ford."

Over three and a half years, Calabrese would learn a lot more about Moore's Ford and the history of the Civil Rights Movement in Monroe, interviewing 40 people on camera, most of them residents, the numbers split almost evenly between black and white respondents.

"I wanted to look into our history," Calabrese said. "I intended initially to make a short film about Moore's Ford. But it



Documentary film maker Stephanie Calabrese is shown at a Macon Film Festival.

Special to The Walton Tribune

became enmeshed with all these other stories. It was an unraveling of a history we're not really comfortable talking about."

Calabrese dove into the history, reading books about the lynching, examining newspaper archives, discovering the Moore's Ford Movement and its annual re-enactments, talking to residents who remembered growing up in the long shadow of the shameful massacre and how it affected Monroe's engagement with the growing Civil Rights Movement across the country.

She spoke with the family of one of the first black students to integrate Monroe Area High School; local historians who have written about these events; residents who grew up under the unofficial code of silence surrounding the lynching; and many others.

What she found was not necessarily shocking, but it was eye opening for Calabrese.

"Life in Monroe for our black community has been very different from life for our white community," Calabrese said. "There are two very different histories there, two different perspectives."

But as her film exposes those fault lines, she said she also seeks to reconcile them, too, and she was impressed with how the effort went on camera.

"A lot of people were very uncomfortable talking about this at first," Calabrese said. "It's scary to talk about these things. But we captured some very good conversations about these issues, and that makes me feel we can continue to have these complex discussions as a community and find healing together. I'm hopeful."

Calabrese debuted her 78-minute doc-

umentary last weekend at the Macon Film Festival, where she said she got a great reception, particularly from the large crowd of locals who came to support the movie.

"It was amazing," she said. "It was received very warmly. People seemed to be moved by it. I'm very grateful."

Calabrese will next screen "UNSPOKEN" at the fourth annual Morehouse College Human Rights Film Festival at 2 p.m. on Sept. 21, with further screenings planned at other film festivals as she seeks wider distribution.

She hopes more people will see it and absorb its lessons, particularly in Monroe where it represents a living history for all involved.

"This is the history of our town," Calabrese said. "It's the reality. To sweep it under the rug is to do a disservice to everyone here."

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## Student News

### Walton students recognized at UNG

#### From staff reports

For the summer 2022 semester, the University of North Georgia (UNG) awarded almost 530 degrees and more than 40 certificates to graduates. Almost 300 graduates participated in the summer 2022 commencement ceremony held Aug. 5 at the Convocation Center on UNG's Dahlonega Campus.

•Andre Davis Brown of Social Circle graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs with an Asian Concentration.

•Serena Deonarain of Social Circle graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing.

•Christian Ford of Loganville graduated with an Associate of Science in Criminal Justice Pathway.

•John Fortuna of Monroe graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology with a concentration in health and fitness.

•Victoria Kay of Loganville graduated with an Associate of Science in Early Childhood Education Pathway.

•Cindy Martinez of Monroe graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Management.

•Margaret Powers of Monroe graduated with an Associate of Arts in Business Ad-

ministration Pathway.

•Delaney Shaw of Monroe graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing.

•Caleb Skinner of Loganville graduated with a Master of Science in Kinesiology.

•William Smith of Loganville graduated with an Associate of Science in Engineering Pathway.

•Reese Stokes of Monroe graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology with a Concentration in Exercise Science.

•Katarina Wetzler of Loganville graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology.

•Lyndsey Williams of Loganville graduated with an Associate of Science in General Studies Pathway.

### Hice: A painful anniversary

Continued from A1

We were receiving almost in-the-moment reports of families being beaten, of Americans being dragged away, of people outside the airport gates desperate to get inside, and of Christians who were being hunted down by the Taliban.

Jody Hice represents Walton County in the 10th Congressional District. He has held office since 2015. He can be reached at Rep.JodyHice@mail.house.gov.



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