

Pre-K

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and for transportation. But Cagle acknowledged the extra funding would not be enough to cover all the costs.

The state also is looking to eliminate 112 counselors who help pre-K students transition to kindergarten.

At a hearing Friday at the Capitol, pre-K supporters turned out in force urging lawmakers not to balance the budget at the expense of the state's youngest students.

Emily Cunningham, who teaches in Snellville, choked back tears as she told legislators she wouldn't be able to continue teaching if she made less money because of the shorter day.

"There are many teachers already investigating other employment," she said.

Atlanta teacher Ginger James said she would be willing to accept two more students in her class to keep the program intact.

"If you do hurt pre-K, you may not need to worry about HOPE in the future," James said, referring to the scholarship program.

Lawmakers seemed to hold open the possibility of larger class sizes but noted that the only money they can work with is from the lottery. That constraint has others, including Rep. Stephanie Stuckey Benfield, calling for the state to find extra money for pre-K.

Benfield, D-Atlanta, said the state is going backward because children need a full day to be prepared for kindergarten.

"This is not going to help working parents and it is not going to work for providers," said Benfield, whose 5-year-old daughter attends a state pre-K program.

Some school districts might end their pre-K programs altogether because it's so difficult to find teachers willing to work part-time. That could be especially problematic in rural areas.

Steve Barnett, a co-director of the National Institute for Early Education Research at Rutgers University, said the cuts were a big step back in Georgia. About 40 states offer pre-K programs, and most of those with programs as large as Georgia's give parents the option of full- and part-time.

RICHMOND COUNTY LOOKS AT OPTIONS

Richmond County school administrators have begun discussions about what impact the proposed pre-K cuts would have on the county.

Deputy Superintendent James Whitson said it would cost \$1.4 million for the county to continue a full-day pre-K while receiving funding for only a half-day program from the state.

That money would go toward sustaining the operations and the full-time salaries for roughly 58 pre-K teachers and instructors.

Whether the county decides to shift to a half-day program or pay for the extra cost of maintaining a full day would require a vote from the school board.

If the county moves to a half-day program, teachers would receive part-time pay, and it would cost the county in transportation services.

In a half-day system, pre-K students would not be able to ride the bus home with kindergarten or first-grade students at the end of the school day. The county would have to create a new route to take pre-K students home around noon, adding about \$750,000 in transportation costs, Whitson said.

"It would force us to give drivers overtime, plus the cost of wear and tear on the buses," Whitson said.

Whitson said working parents would have to pay for day care for the remainder of their workday. He also said cutting pre-K services would slow the educational process and set children back developmentally.

"If you have students that are behind entering into the first grade, if I have to catch up, I'm having to catch up from the very beginning. That's not something we want," he said.

Before making any changes to the county's pre-K program, Whitson said, administrators will wait to see what comes out in the legislation. After that, school board members "will have to make a decision," he said.

- From staff reports

83RD ACADEMY AWARDS

Hometown still cheers Lindsey

By Susan McCord
Staff Writer



Hillary Lindsey, of Washington, Ga., was nominated for Best Original Song for *Coming Home* from the film *Country Strong*. *We Belong Together* from *Toy Story 3* won.

Hillary Lindsey didn't win an Oscar on Sunday for original song, but she is still a winner in her hometown of Washington, Ga.

"Our town is celebrating that she is one of five nominees of over 100 movies that were submitted for this category, so she is a winner in our eyes," said Lindsey's mother, Kathy.

Hillary Lindsey co-wrote the song *Coming Home*, which is sung by actress Gwyneth Paltrow's character in the film *Country Strong*. It was nominated along with *We Belong Together* from *Toy Story 3*, *I See the Light* from *Tangled*, and *If I Rise* from *127 Hours*. Songwriter Randy Newman won the Oscar for *We Belong Together*.

Washington-Wilkes Country Club was abuzz Sunday night with friends and family watching the Academy Awards. Hillary Lindsey helped raise \$20,000 for local band students who couldn't afford instruments, said Debbie Wells, the president of the Washington-Wilkes Arts Foundation.

Whether she won or lost, Lindsey is a winner in their eyes, Wells said Sunday night before

MORE ONLINE

GALLERIES: View photos from the red carpet and at the ceremony at augustachronicle.com.

CATCH UP: Read how Hillary Lindsey of Washington, Ga., got started at augustachronicle.com.

LIST OF WINNERS: For a list of Oscar winners from the 83rd annual Academy Awards, go to augustachronicle.com.

the winner was announced. "Lindsey sent a video thanking 'the whole town for loving her, and saying how much she loved us,'" Wells said.

MAJOR ACADEMY AWARD WINNERS

BEST PICTURE



The King's Speech took home top honors Sunday, winning four Oscars for best picture, actor, director and original screenplay.

BEST DIRECTOR



Tom Hooper won for *King's Speech*. The Englishman who began making short films at 13 gave credit to his mother in his acceptance speech.

BEST ACTOR



Colin Firth won for his role as King George VI in *The King's Speech*. It was his first Oscar win. Firth won a Golden Globe earlier in the year for his role in the film.

BEST ACTRESS



Natalie Portman won for her role in *Black Swan*. It was the first Oscar for the 29-year-old mother-to-be who played a prima ballerina descending into madness.

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS



Melissa Leo won for her role in *The Fighter*. She was so overcome by her win that she used an expletive during her acceptance speech. She apologized backstage.

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR



Christian Bale won for his role in *The Fighter*. It marked the first win and nomination for the Welsh actor, who lost 30 pounds to play the role of Dicky Eklund.

OTHER WINNERS: *Inception* won four Oscars in technical categories. *The Social Network* won three.

- From wire reports

Farm

Continued from 1A

"The soap is tan, so it needs a colorful cover to dress it up. She fits the personality of the soap."

The soap is made into about a dozen different fragrances, which vary with the seasons. About 56 bars are made twice a week, and they are sold at Hair It Is in Augusta, LMN Pharmacy in Thomson, Etc. of Harlem, at area festivals and online.

Besides soap, the family's goat milk products include lotions, beauty products and lip balm.

Valerie said they receive a regular order from several physicians' offices in Augusta "because the nurses have to wash their hands a lot."

While the soap is curing, life on the farm stays busy. Older brother Daniel, 18, works the farm and has his own farrier business, which includes looking after the family's seven horses. Carolyn also takes piano and cake-decorating lessons.

"With all the kids, we have lots of birthdays," she said. "So, they get to pick what they want on their cake, and I make it."

Joseph recently became the proud owner of two sheep and is in the process of learning to

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shear them. Carolyn and Grace, 7, are learning how to spin the wool into thread, and Valerie is researching how to make sheep milk soap.

Younger brothers Thomas and Nathaniel, 4, are nicknamed Frank and Jessie James "because they get into so much together," their dad said. They stay busy playing practical jokes on anyone who's close by. They also like to carve treasures from the scraps of soap bars.

Julieann, 2, and Anna Rose, 14 months, stay close to their mama in the house and enjoy attention from their older siblings throughout the day.

All these activities take place around daily school lessons.

One room of the 4,500-square-foot house has been transformed into a school room, with a desk for each child - plus their maternal teacher - bulletin boards and chalkboards, bookshelves and a computer.

In the spring, the whole family works a vegetable and fruit garden. This year, they plan to try growing blueberries, which could inspire a new soap scent.

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