Leeds High School Basketball has been a major part of my life. Although we were a young team this year, we still accomplished more than people expected of us,” said Mark Buckner, a graduating senior. Buckner has two basketball scholarship offers from Southern Union in Wadley, AL and Northwest Shoals in Muscle Shoals, AL. Buckner is still undecided but plans to make an announcement within the coming weeks. Buckner was part of last year’s state championship team and led this year’s team to the Regional Tournament.

Buckner plans to major in physical education in college and share his abilities with young players in the role of a basketball coach.

Buckner thanks Coaches Turner and Allen for his amazing sports opportunities.

Bryant Collins wins place in Spirit of Atlanta Drum & Bugle Corps

Bryant Collins, a member of the LHS Marching Band, has been accepted as a member of the prestigious Drum Corps International’s "Spirit of Atlanta Drum and Bugle Corp". Spirit chooses the most elite performers to compete each summer against corps from around the world. Band Director Chip Wise said “The Drum Corps International is music and marching’s ‘major league’ and Bryant is very deserving of this distinguished honor because of his hard work and dedication.”

From modest beginnings more than three decades ago, Drum Corps International (DCI) has developed into a powerful, nonprofit, global youth activity with far-reaching artistic, educational and organizational influence. Through the annual DCI Tour and more than 35 World Championships in 17 North American cities, Drum Corps International provides entertainment to millions through live performances and nationally-televised events. Congratulations to Collins for representing LHS with his outstanding audition.

Mr and Miss Leeder 2010
Caleb Busby & Bianca Prinslool

“Leeds High School Basketball has been a major part of my life. Although we were a young team this year, we still accomplished more than people expected of us,” said Mark Buckner, a graduating senior. Buckner has two basketball scholarship offers from Southern Union in Wadley, AL and Northwest Shoals in Muscle Shoals, AL. Buckner is still undecided but plans to make an announcement within the coming weeks.

Buckner thanks Coaches Turner and Allen for his amazing sports opportunities.

LHS students of Shannon’s English classes and members of the Quill & Scroll International Honor Society for High School Journalists attended the March 9th Board of Education meeting to report for The Leeds Herald. (left to right) Joe Looney, Cortney Tyler, Morgyne Campbell, Skylar Bowen, and Charles Lyon. Their reports were featured in The Leeds Herald.
A Message in a Bottle

by Marie Cromer

I appreciate your faculty sponsor and advisor of your student newspaper, Maggie Shannon, inviting me to write an opinion piece for your newspaper. I will begin by saying to all members of the Quill & Scroll Society and to the staff of The GreenWave News how very proud all of us are of your writing skills, talents, hard work and accomplishment in publishing your newspaper on the Internet.

I will now take this opportunity to direct my comments to the seniors who will be graduating in a few months. I don't know you and you don't know me. But that is not important. The entire community will take great pride in your accomplishment when you are awarded your diploma and will be there in spirit and support as you are recognized for this important milestone in your life. You will always have the distinction of being the first class to graduate from your classy new high school.

Some of you will be attending a college or university; following a roadmap you have carefully drawn to achieve success in a career of your choosing. Others will have jobs waiting for them, or perhaps a stint in the military, or plans to get married and establish a home and family of their own. However, there will be others who will wake up the morning following graduation with the feeling of being cast adrift. Gone is the orderly structure of your life for the past 12 years, along with daily contact with your classmates and friends. This could have you asking, “Now what? What am I going to do with the rest of my life?”

Arriving at a pivotal point in your young lives are some words of wisdom from the ancient past. It’s as if someone put a message in a bottle, addressed it to you personally but allowed it to float on the seas of time until it was washed ashore at a this time of your transition into adulthood.

They are words that offer important lessons from a man who was endowed with the greatest wisdom ever bestowed on a human being by his Creator. It was an answer to a young king’s prayer request — that he be granted wisdom to rule over his people. Because his request was a humble one, he was also given great wealth, power and fame. Becoming the wisest, wealthiest, and most famous and powerful man in the world is pretty heady stuff for a young man to deal with, but Solomon ruled his people wisely and his fame grew greatly in all the known world at that point in history.

He had dreams of building lasting monuments — the grandest temple in the world and a king’s palace that would become the envy of surrounding monarchs. He devoted his life to his work, ruling his subjects in wisdom, building grandiose buildings, improving his city and expanding his kingdom. In all the world there was not another to compare to the accomplishments of King Solomon.

And he was very successful in acquiring many foreign wives and concubines. He enjoyed all the fruits of his labor during his times of leisure, but as he drew near the end of his days, he began to reflect on his life and write extensively as “the teacher” in the Books of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and the Song of Solomon that would find their way into the Book of Wisdom we know as the Bible. All the things he had strived for all his life had turned to sawdust, it seemed, and he pronounced them all as “vanity of vanities” and his efforts as “chasing the wind.”

Why would someone who had accomplished so much end up feeling empty inside? How could he end up feeling that all he had accomplished in his brief years didn't really matter that much? Unless he believed they failed to measure up to what was really expected of him and what he expected of himself.

Pursue your dreams, students. Work hard to achieve them. But never neglect the peace of mind and happiness that comes when you respond to that inner urging to do all things for the right motives and for the benefit of others.

Resolve to make a positive impact in the lives of everyone you come in contact with during your life’s journey. Follow you inner compass and above all, “To thine own self be true.”

By Maggie Shannon

Mrs. Marie Cromer, a name synonymous with superb writing, was the 2005 impetus for the reinstatement of the high school newspaper — after a publication absence of nearly 50 years. Mrs. Cromer volunteered hours upon hours at LHS and shared her expertise with journalism students and staff. Her natural talent for writing has served her, the City of Leeds, and the states of Alabama, Tennessee, Louisiana, and Mississippi. She has served as president of area chapters of national media organizations and is a published author of non-fiction. Mrs. Cromer founded the Leeds Historical Society in 1998 and continues active involvement in addition to numerous other volunteer activities. The efforts of Marie Cromer are appreciated by all who have had the opportunity of working with her. Her love for the Leeds community is evident through her printed words which will serve as a portion of her lasting legacy of achievement. Her writing history is reprinted on Page 10 of this edition of The GreenWave News.
Local supporters join Bryan Swift in planning stages of Outdoor Classroom

By Bianca Prinsloo
LHS Science Department Chair and teacher Bryan Swift is moving forward with exciting plans for the Outdoor Classroom at Leeds High School. Swift submitted a grant proposal to the Alabama Wildlife Federation with hopes of additional funding for the construction and future expansion of the LHS Outdoor Classroom. The proposed project will be landscaped that is environmentally friendly, provide a natural habitat of animals, and serve as a resource of study for teachers and students.

By Emily Thomas
Community leaders, politicians, and LHS teachers and students listen as Roald Hazelhoff, Director of Southern Environmental Center of Birmingham Southern explains the advantages of an Outdoor Classroom known as Ecoscape during a tour of the campus on February 19.

The mission of Leeds City Schools is to develop confident, productive young people and enable them to become independent lifelong learners. We will accomplish this through a dedicated professional staff committed to continued learning. A relevant curriculum will be taught based on thinking and reasoning skills. This will take place in a positive environment recognizing the individual differences in children.

LHS Chapter of FCCLA tops goal for “Souper Bowl of Caring” 2010 campaign

Article compiled by FCCLA Members
Mrs. Turner’s FCCLA chapter joined the “Souper Bowl of Caring” 2010 campaign and collected more than 600 cans of food and non-perishable food items. “Souper Bowl of Caring” is a national youth-led movement of schools, congregations, community organizations and compassionate individuals joining together to fight hunger and poverty in local communities by transforming football into its largest weekend of giving and serving. 100% of the more than $60 million raised since the inception of the program in 1990 has gone directly to community food banks, soup kitchens, or other charities selected by each local group. The high school’s goal was 500 canned and/or non-perishable items, but the grand total of 600 items surpassed the club’s expectations.
Amazing young writers of Leeds High School

By Morgyne Campbell
My Own Philosophy

The bottom of an empty bottle,
Coming closer than it’s ever been,
Measuring nights from tip to eraser,
Losing yourself in the movie screen.

These complications and frustrations,
Closer to careening over the edge.
Notes and lyrics lose their meaning.
And we’re inching closer to the edge.

A fine line between here and not.
There’s a way there, but none such back.
But doesn’t life come full circle?
Aren’t we to fight our way back?

There’s the red pill, and the blue,
But what if it takes you nowhere?
No higher place, no better state.
But what if it takes you nowhere?

Always assuming it will come.
Expecting some divine reason,
Always waiting, taking up time.
This place we start is all that’s here.

By Joshua Nash
Young Black Male

Young black male...what does it really mean?
Is it easy money, flashy cars, a lot of chains, and baggy jeans?
Is it Jena 6, Michael Vick, or the Kobe Bryant trials,
Or is it brown-nosing Uncle Tom’s that are still in denial?

Is it baby daddies, child support, and “you are not the father”?
Is it using slang around your boys but around white folks talking proper?
Is it Morehouse, Clark, Atlanta, and Tuskegee,
Or is it dope slanging, gang bangin’, and testifying with graffiti?

Is it moving’ up to that deluxe in the sky?
Is it havin’ trials and tribulations but still singin’ “good times”?
Is it havin’ a chip on your shoulder and thinkin’ every man unlike you is a racist,
Or is it makin’ it past The Amistad but still bein’ slaves on higher wages?

By Skylar Bowen
Just a Boy

I’m just a boy
who has seen and felt as much as a man.
I’ve had much sweat upon my brow
and many blisters on my hands.

I’m just a boy,
or so I’m told, but all of my stories
make me feel old.
I wear my story, a collection of scars,
you can read my flesh,
as the Maker reads His stars,
that is if there is a Maker.

I find it hard to believe that
a man who cared enough to create
would allow this to happen to me.
I’m just a boy
who’s been beaten inside and out.
The worst was the lamp cord,
I couldn’t breathe to shout.

forced to watch my baby brother
be struck by his own mother.
Mother is god in the eyes of a child
but gods are too often fickle.
I was just a boy,
but I had myself taken away from me
at seventeen,
and that replaced all youth that remained in me
with a corrosive wound that will never heal.

Six fake fathers,
if only I knew my real one,
perhaps he could illuminate
the corridors of my past
and rid my nights of such foul dreams.
I was only a boy.

By Clitasha Keon Henderson
I Cry Before I Smile

I cry before...I smile...
because my faith is limitless.
My tears overcome my happiness
and that’s what makes one’s love
so mean.

My smile hides my last tears
but I’ll cry before tonight...
My smile is fiction, but my tears...
yet so real.
My smile lacks happiness
and my sadness brings tears
as my heart takes the painful labor
of many hateful feelings.

But better yet, my love is sorrow...
my smile helps me
get through tomorrow,
but my tears help me
get through tonight
just because...
I cry before I smile.

By Clitasha Keon Henderson
Path of Darkness

I walk in the path of darkness
where my faith takes me to hell...
and where my smiles
put a spell on my heart...
I walk in the path of darkness
knowing my world is falling apart...
I walk in the path of darkness
where life shoots me down...
My mistakes make the best of me...
and these nothing males
get the rest of me.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS
Sunday, March 14th

By Morgyne Campbell

Sitting in class today, I read a really stupid poster, but it made me think a lot. And it wasn’t one of those thinking moments where it doesn’t make sense and is all jumbled up like my thinking moments usually are. This one was probably actually worth thinking about.

“30 years from now, it won’t matter what shoes you wore, how your hair looked, what jeans you bought. What will matter is what you learned and how you used it.”

Okay, so maybe that is supposed to tell me that I should do my work and not really care what’s going on around me, but it didn’t say that for me. What was really spoken to me (yes, by a poster) was the fact that everyone is so caught up in what they look like that no one is going to ever truly make a difference if they don’t get out of that mindset. It kills me how society is the first to jump and base someone solely on their appearance.
2010 Leeder Pageant Photos by Susan Stovall
2010 Leeder Pageant Winners

**Senior Awards**
Miss Leeder: Bianca Prinsloo  
Mr. Leeder: Caleb Busby  
Miss Senior Class: Kayla Pool  
Mr. Senior Class: Cody Ashley  
Senior Favorite: Laura Adkins  
Senior Favorite: Harley Hamer  
Senior Favorite: Alyssa O'Steen  
Miss Congeniality: Alyssa O'Steen  
Mr. Congeniality: Roosevelt Morgan  
Senior Beauty: Brittany McDonald  
Senior Beau: Roosevelt Morgan  
Miss Photogenic: Bianca Prinsloo  
Mr. Photogenic: Cody Ashley

**Junior Awards**
Miss Junior Class: Carmen Smith  
Junior Favorite: Stephani Payne  
Junior Favorite: Carsyn Whitehead  
Junior Favorite: Erica Cowan  
Miss Congeniality: Erica Cowan  
Junior Beauty: Mary Joubran  
Miss Photogenic: Holly White

**Sophomore Awards**
Miss Sophomore Class: Danyelle Everson  
Sophomore Favorite: Casey Collins  
Sophomore: Victoria Lyon  
Miss Congeniality: Tomi Kate O'Neal  
Sophomore Beauty: Chasity Carr  
Miss Photogenic: Chasity Carr

**Freshman Awards**
Miss Freshmen Class: Brianna Rose  
Freshman Favorite: Abbie Ellison  
Freshman Favorite: Taylor Anderson  
Miss Congeniality: Abbie Ellison  
Freshman Beauty: Tiambra Clark  
Miss Photogenic: Tiambra Clark

The annual Leeder Pageant is the major fund-raising event for the yearbook publication and this year's pageant set new records in the LHS Auditorium. Yearbook Sponsor and Pageant Coordinator, John Windham, expressed his appreciation to all who participated and to all who attended this year's event. Pageant Committee members assisting were Mandy Beason, Emily Thomas, Christy McGehee, and Maggie Shannon with the help of auditors Stephanie Freeman and Angela Walker. As always, LHS faculty and staff contributed to the production with additional support from Principal Andrew Briskey, Assistant Principal Stephen Hall, Susan Stovall, Sandra McGuire, Sharon Bailey of Kay's Flowers, and Bob and Nancy Moore of Bob Moore Photography, Jonathan Wright, Sydney Pearsall, and Mistress of Ceremonies, Miss Jamie Brooks, Miss Leeds Area.
Leeds High School’s 2010 Prom is shaping up to be one of the best ever. The event will be held at Workplay Theater on Friday night, March 26th, from 8 PM until Midnight. Tickets are on sale now in the library!

There has been some confusion on this year’s ticket price change, but the following information should, hopefully, clear up any questions:

**Seniors:** For any Senior who attended with a $50 ticket last year, the admission is free. If a Senior is taking a Senior who did not attend last year, that date must have a $25 ticket. If a Senior is taking a Junior date, the Junior must have a $50 ticket. If a Senior is taking a 9th or 10th grade date or a date from another school, a $10 ticket will be also required for the date’s entrance.

**Juniors:** A $50 ticket will be required for each LHS Junior. If a Junior is taking another Junior as a date, the total ticket price will be $100. If a Junior is taking a 9th or 10th grade student as a date or a date from another school, an additional $10 ticket will be required — for a total of $60 for two tickets.

**Dates:** Students from other schools are welcome as dates of LHS students; however, the name of the “outside” date must be listed at the time of the ticket purchase. Students will not be allowed to substitute last minute at-the-door date changes. Only those students and dates on record will be allowed to attend Viva Las Vegas.

Co-sponsors Stephanie Freeman and Mrs. Thomas remind students to adhere to policies to avoid any embarrassment.

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2010 Leeder Pageant Beauties

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Photo by Susan Stovall

Our own Viva Las Vegas Librarian, Emily Thomas, is planning an awesome Prom that you won’t want to miss.
More Creative Student Writings

By Kieran G. Nash

The Successor

The successor...the man of the hour...Kieran G. Nash...the name will shower...where? over the world? Why? Because I’m here to give you something worthwhile...as Kieran G. Nash...a young man who has walked into many of life’s mistakes...has had people portray themselves as friends but, in the end, they were found to be fakes...crazy, you say? From my goofy actions and the words I often use...I wouldn’t have any sense...but I have more sense at the age of 17 than most will ever gain in a lifetime. There are many assets to life...communication is one. Communication is what has made the world’s living and dying history...communication is what the world lives on. I am communication. If you look the word up, you wouldn’t see my name as the definition, but I do know I have the right to say that I’m a likely candidate to be a synonym. In disbelief? You just can’t see how the deep thoughts you read are produced from me. Well, a lot you’ve have learned because from this reading you only learned my name...Kieran G. Nash...the successor, but I’m not finished. I’m about to give you a realistic image...the young dud I truly am. I’m leaving marks of greatness everywhere I go. These last couple of years I’ve been holding back from the potential, but I guess every legend has their making point in life. I’m at mine. I could sit and call out every perpetrator, but that’s not necessary. I could sit and call out every accomplishment in my life, but that’s not necessary! The journey I’m on leads to success...success driven...I speak of it so much that I should be named success. I keep this mindset so I’ll never fall off track. For those who gave me the smile and laughter in my face, but turned and talked as if we knew not of each other...I feel nothing but love because without all of what you all took me through I wouldn’t be as stable-minded as I am! So thank you!! I’m out...I’m gone! You’ve been dismissed! My hands are washed! Success!

By Charles Lyon

Poem of Life

Life as I know it
Is hard to explain.
The twists and turns that
Have been good and bad,
Have shown me things I could
Never find on my own.

Life as I know it
Is full of strange
And wondrous things.
It leaves trails of bread crumbs
Showing me the way
To my future
Even though I have yet to find
The trail.

Life as I know it
Is still undefined.
My future is not set in stone.
If I were but to stray
It would be lost forever.
Slow and steady seems to be the
Key to open the door
To my life.

By Rodney Dates

My Life and
Your Understanding

My life is filled with joy and sorrow.
I’m always looking for a better tomorrow.
You laugh, you joke, you call me gay
but I guarantee, I’m not that way.
I’m 100% straight, I can say.
Girls are my passion even though I love fashion.
I’m pretty tall, not small at all,
and not so much into football,
but gymnastics is me.
It’s what comes from inside.
My goals are approaching, soon, fast, in a hurry,
but my trust in God tells me not to worry.
I’ve been adopted since I was ten
since my mom and dad didn’t win.
I’ve lived in many places

By Justin Watkins

Accept the past,
without denying it or discarding it

Whatever you have done in the past has happened — plain and simple. You can either decide to live up to your past and your mistakes and accept what has happened in the past or you can completely forget that anything has happened and lie to yourself and everyone else about it. No matter what you do, until you accept what has happened is done and over with, your past will always haunt you.

Personally, I say to accept your past as something irreversible and constant. I like to learn from my past mistakes and mishaps. That way I can accept what has happened and live up to my mistakes no matter what the situation. The past will always be there — there’s no way to deny it. Live for the present and the future.

By Drew Hicks

Life Lessons

“As long as we can love each other, and remember the feeling of love we had, we can die without ever really going away. All the love you created is still there. All the memories are still there. You live on — in the hearts of everyone you have touched and nurtured while you were here.” This quote explains how we can live on even after death.

I believe that the more love you give out, the more you will be remembered. Even after you die, a person will remember a way in which your love affected them.

The memories you make will also help you live on. Every time you meet a person, you should make an impression on them that they will reflect on and remember what a loving person you were — memories live on forever.

“Writing eases my suffering... writing is my way of reaffirming my own existence.”
Gao Xingjian,
Chinese novelist
Calendar for Leeds City Schools

Revised and approved: 03/09/10

2010-2011

July
1    Independence Day holiday, offices closed
12 - 16  AHSGE week
August
4    Contract Variance Day, In-Service
5    In-Service
6    Institute/In-Service
9    Students’ first day
Sept.
6    Labor Day; schools, offices closed
20-24  AHSGE week
Oct
15    Parents’ Day; no students
18    Fall break; schools, offices closed
Nov
11    Veterans’ Day; schools, offices closed
24-26  Thanksgiving Holidays; schools, offices closed
Dec
6-10  AHSGE week
17    End first semester
Jan
3    Contract variance/in-service
4    Students return
17    King Holiday; schools, offices closed
Feb
21***  Parents’ Day; no students
2/28 — 3/4  AHSGE week
Mar
14 — 18  Spring Break; schools, offices closed
Apr
22    Inclement weather day; schools, offices closed
25    Inclement weather day; schools, offices closed
May
25    Students’ last day Revised and approved 03/09/10
26    In-service
26    Graduation
30    Memorial Day; schools, offices closed

First Semester:  88 student days  92 teacher days
Second Semester:  92 student days  95 teacher days

Spring “Clocks” Forward
Saturday Night

Life to Life

By Clitasha Keon Henderson

Angry, furious
Shadowed by all my mistakes
Love, lust
Terrible wastes
Materialistic things
Stress and hurt
The boys to men
The girls to women
The pain and suffering from...
no attention
The blood...
The sorrow from yet another day
Just knowing my happiness
Has somehow faded away...
From a crawl, to a walk...
The fear of being a teen
And every day you wonder...
Why people are just so mean...
The danger of the streets
The toughness of one’s love...
The cherish and praise to our God
The One so high above
The feeling of happiness
The killing of tomorrow
The fear from tonight
That’s why many call it...
Life to Life

Let Us Pray

Fake is born to be...
Love is the one who sees...
Playing games, writing notes
The people say their little jokes
Only God can judge me...
Only God knows words can kill...
The inner deep but it feels so real
The looks
The thoughts
but Oh so real...
The smiles so fake
So false day by day...
May God be with them...
Now, let us pray.

Path of Darkness

By Clitasha Keon Henderson

I walk in the path of darkness...
where my faith takes me to hell...
and where my smiles put
a spell upon my heart...
I walk in the path of darkness...
knowing my world is falling apart
I walk in the path of darkness...
where life shoots me down...
My mistakes take the best of me
and these nothing males
get the rest of me

Jonathan Wright...writes

Excitement, solitude, joy — all feelings that cannot be matched. More than anything though is
the feeling of being content. That is the one word I can honestly use to sum up the feeling when
I am on the water — be it the lake, beach, river, or even a pond. The feelings that flow through
me are so invigorating that it is almost indescribable. The crystal clear water of the lake, the
mouth-watering seafood that comes from the ocean, the classic boats gliding along the river.
These are just a few of the reason I love the water.

It is a Friday in June. I get off work, my bags are packed, the truck is full of gas, and my mind
is already racing ahead of me even though I haven’t left the parking lot. The trip begins, my
windows are down and the music is blasting. I am only one hour away from my destination. As
I exit the interstate, I stop at Jack’s, gobble a juicy hamburger, and guzzle a Coke. I hit the road
again. My foot feels heavy; I cannot keep it out of the gas pedal. I am so anxious to get there, it
is overwhelming me.

I finally arrive at the lake. The sun is just starting to set creating beautiful colors in the sky.
The air is clean, the water clear. I have just enough time to dive in for an evening swim. I feel
the water rushing past my face, soothing me after a long day. As the sun dips below the horizon,
I float lazily back to shore. I am thinking about fishing for a few hours, because dawn will break
early in the morning when I get up a 0600 hours as our Coast Guard Patrol begins.
### Scholarship Deadlines

- **Kids’ Chance**—May 1st
- **American Association of Blacks in Energy**—March 19
- **Virginia Cobb**—April 1st
- **Mercedes-Benz U.S. International**—March 15th
- **Jefferson State Singers**—Auditions March 22–April 2
- **Herb Hanes**—May 14
- **National Panhellenic Council**—April 26th
- **Alabama Chapter of the American Concrete Institute**—April 1st
- **L.C. McDonald Foundation**—April 16th
- **American Association of University Women (AAUW Memorial Fund)**—June 30th

**Application Information** on these scholarships and other opportunities are available in the Scholarship File Drawer near Mrs. Hudson’s office. Take advantage of these opportunities!

### Why Should You Go To College?

People from all backgrounds attend college. Men and women of all income levels, race and ethnicities, age groups, family types, educational backgrounds, political parties, and religious affiliations enroll and graduate from college every year. In fact, most American colleges and universities strive to create opportunities and programs to attract and retain a diverse student body. These days, a higher education is accessible to just about anyone.

There are many different reasons why people choose to go to college:

- To pursue academic studies in an intellectual environment beyond the high school level
- To pursue a career or employment opportunity that requires college-level training and skill development
- To increase earning potential
- To achieve a higher quality of life for themselves and their families
- To meet new people, have new experiences, and explore new interests
- To achieve self-discovery and figure out what their calling is
- To acquire the social and/or career status and mobility often associated with a college education

### MARIE CROMER

“...the greatest pleasure of writing is not what it’s about, but the inner music the words make.”

Truman Capote

Marie Cromer spent most of her adult life involved in newspaper work in several states. She began her career in journalism at Leeds High School as editor of the student newspaper, the Green Wave (1948–49), and President of the high school’s Chapter of the International Quill & Scroll Society for high school journalists. She worked as a student contributor of high school news for the Leeds News her senior year under publisher Edmund Blair.

Cromer worked part time in the advertising layout department at the Gadsden Times while attending Jacksonville State University and served as front page editor of the college’s newspaper.

Cromer did freelance writing for newspapers in Knoxville, Tenn., Gulfport, Miss. and New Orleans, La., and after moving back to Alabama, served as Lifestyle Editor at the St. Clair Aegis in Pell City and as Education Editor at the Daily Home, Talladega. She worked as a news correspondent for the Birmingham-Post Herald and later for The Birmingham News covering St. Clair and Talladega Counties until she retired in 1992. Many of her articles were published in state magazines and newsletters and reprinted by the Associated Press. She won numerous awards during her long newspaper career.

Following her retirement, Cromer worked as a part-time staff writer for the Leeds News and then assisted editor/publisher David Hogan in starting his Leeds Internet Magazine.

Cromer also served two terms as President of Alabama Media Women, now Alabama Media Professionals, a state chapter of the National Federation of Press Women comprised of members from all mediums of mass communications in the state.

Marie Cromer was the author of a non-fiction book, Modern Indians of Alabama: Remnants of the Removal” published by Southern University Press (Birmingham Publishing and Printing Co., 1984), a project that took seven years to research, document and write. The book traces the tribal roots of the state’s then seven state-recognized tribes, groups and bands in the state and the organization of the Alabama Indian Affairs Commission. Her book won a national book award in the non-fiction category from the National Federation of Press Women. The book became a teaching resource for Indian Education classes in several counties in the state and has been cited in numerous bibliographies in succeeding books and publications on Alabama’s Indian tribes.

In 2005, she worked as a volunteer advisor to Leeds High School English teacher Maggie Shannon to re-activate the school’s charter membership in the Quill & Scroll International Honorary Society for High School Journalists and the publication of the high school newspaper, The Green Wave News, after an absence of the student newspaper for over 50 years.