

How would SPLOST money be divided in Wilkinson County?

By CHRISTIAN MCKEARNEY
Staff Reporter

SPLOST, the penny-on-the-dollar sales tax, will be on the ballot for voters in Wilkinson County next month. If approved, the new SPLOST would generate roughly \$8.5 million in revenue between April 1, 2026 through April 1, 2032.

SPLOST referendums in Georgia have been around since 1985, and every SPOST vote in Wilkinson County since that time has been approved by voters, with the exception of one. In 2021, a continuation of the "education SPLOST" or ESPLOST was shot down by a 53 percent to 47 percent margin.

Although Wilkinson County isn't exactly a retail hub, the money generated from sales tax is still relatively important to the eight local governments around here.

In the next round of SPLOST, the revenue would be divvied up eight uneven ways between the county government and the gov-

ernments of Wilkinson County's seven municipalities – Allentown, Danville, Gordon, Irwinton, Ivey, McIntyre and Toombsboro. For example, "countywide projects" would receive \$3.38 million of the money, while Danville would net \$17,000.

Under state law, local governments can only

spend SPLOST revenue on "capital outlay projects," such as new equipment, new buildings and new infrastructure. What SPLOST cannot be used for is "operations," items such as general maintenance, paying bills and paying employees.

The SPLOST intergovernmental agreement previously reached by the county

government and the seven city governments does not include any big-ticket items. Instead, the intergovernmental agreement uses general and overarching terms such as "roads and street," "solid waste" and "public safety."

SPLOST
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Labor chief: 'Strong local strategies key to labor market growth, stability'

By KYLE DOMINY
Managing Editor

Understanding local labor needs, now and in the future, and partnerships between civic and business leaders and the education system will be key to sustainable growth in the state's job market, Georgia's labor chief says.

"Communities need to have a detailed understanding of what their labor force looks like, what their economic profile looks like," said Barbara Rivera Holmes, the commissioner of the Georgia Department of Labor, during a recent conversation. "And not just today. What are the trends? What is the forecast? Where is it going? Develop a strategy and the tools to make those gains. [You have to] align education to the economy."

Rivera Holmes, an Albany resident, has helmed the department since April and has an extensive background in economic development, having served as the vice president of economic development for the Albany-Dougherty County Development Authority and CEO of the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce.

Georgia has been named the No. 1 state for business for 12 straight years by Area



Barbara Rivera Holmes

"When people see opportunities for themselves in their communities they will invest in the community and they will stay in the community."

— Barbara Rivera Holmes,
Commissioner
Ga. Department of Labor

Development magazine while the state's unemployment rate has remained under 4 percent, and the national unemployment rate, for a year or longer, and has seen rapid economic expansion, but much work can be done to ensure that the workforce in Georgia's rural areas see sustainable growth.

LABOR
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Jones sworn into state bar

Camryn Jones was sworn-in as the newest member of the state bar of Georgia and the Dublin Bar by Superior Court Judge Jud Green on Thursday, Oct. 9. Jones will be working for the local Public Defenders Office. Fellow attorneys, family and friends gathered in the first floor courthouse to watch Jones be sworn in. The Dublin Judicial Circuit includes Twiggs County/PAYTON TOWNS III



PSC hopeful criticizes rate hikes, touts energy reform in Macon stop

By CASEY CHOUNG
Staff Reporter

Early voting for two state Public Service Commission seats kicked off Oct. 14 in Bibb County — and one candidate recently appeared in Macon to rebuke an incumbent commissioner's record and tout his own plans.

Peter Hubbard, the Democratic candidate for the commission's District 3 seat, spoke about his plans for making power more affordable, bringing in new energy solutions, and data center growth and regulation.

A small crowd of community members, local Democratic officials — including state Rep. Miriam Paris and state Sen. David Lucas — and party members gathered in Carolyn Crayton Park around Hub-

bard as he made remarks and took questions from the audience.

Hubbard is facing off against Republican Fitz Johnson, who has held the seat since 2021. The Democratic nominee said Johnson and his commission colleagues are responsible for several rate hikes over the past two years. He added that the hikes added up to about \$600 for the average Georgian's electric bill.

Hubbard — who founded the Georgia Center for Energy Solutions, a nonprofit organization advocating for green energy — also said he wants to limit building expensive fossil fuel infrastructure and instead turn to clean energy sources.

"There's so much sun here in the state," he said. "Right now, the thumb is on



Pete Hubbard, democratic candidate for the Georgia Public Service Commission speaks with reporters at Carolyn Crayton Park Tuesday during a campaign stop/JASON VORHEES

the scale for fossil fuels, with respect to this data center build-out and all of that."

Twiggs County commissioners approved plans for a data center in the rural county in September, and officials in Jones County are discussing approving a center in that area.

Hubbard said the state utility regulator has set up a "sweetheart" energy deal for data centers.

"They could contribute and help

to lower our power bills by paying their fair share, but that's not what's happening," he said.

The other commission seat up for grabs in the November election — District 2 — is currently held by Republican Tim Echols. He has held the seat since 2011 and is being challenged by Democrat Alicia Johnson.

PSC
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Wilco Rec. Dept. kicking off the Halloween season

By CHRISTIAN MCKEARNEY
Staff Reporter

For kids in Wilkinson County, the candy-grabbing opportunities are about to be aplenty.

Leading off is the Wilkinson County Recreation Department on Ballpark Road in Gordon. The WCRD will host its first-ever Trunk or Treat this Saturday between 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

"There is no vendor fee for this event, just message us to reserve your spot," wrote the WCRD on its Facebook page.

Meanwhile, the city of McIntyre's Trunk or Treat event is set for 5 p.m. on Halloween. Contact City Hall at 478-956-2037.

Then, there's the godfather of them all — the Ghost and Goblins Tour in downtown Gordon. Pound for pound, very few towns in Georgia do Halloween bigger than Gordon. The event runs from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. There's no need for local businesses or organizations to show up ahead of time.

"Just sign up with your table and candy and find a spot," said Barbara Fordham with Main Street Gordon.



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SPLOST
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- Wilkinson County government (countywide projects):
 - 1.) Roads, Streets and Bridges (including Economic Development) - \$1,400,000
 - 2.) Public Buildings/Capital Equipment - \$1,500,000
 - 3.) Solid Waste - \$75,000
 - 4.) Fire Safety - \$304,360
 - 5.) Recreation - \$105,000
- Allentown is set aside \$97,920 for "public safety," "roads and streets," and "water and sewer."
- Danville is set aside \$17,000 for "public safety," "public safety," and "public works."

- Gordon**
- 1.) Recreation – \$50,000
 - 2.) Public Safety – \$75,000
 - 3.) Transportation – \$35,000
 - 4.) Industrial & Economic Development

- \$340,920
- 5.) Public Buildings – \$100,000
- 6.) Solid Waste – \$25,000
- 7.) Roads, Streets, and Bridges – \$240,200
- 8.) Water & Sewage – \$450,000
- 9.) Storm Water – \$50,000

- Irwinton**
- 1.) Water and Sewage – \$150,000
 - 2.) Public Safety - \$100,000
 - 3.) Roads, Streets, and Bridges - \$113,000
 - 4.) Industrial and Economic Development - \$35,000
 - 5.) Library and Recreation - \$8,640

- Ivey**
- 1.) Water and Sewage Projects - \$300,000
 - 2.) Roads and Streets - \$201,000
 - 3.) Public Safety - \$70,000
 - 4.) Equipment - \$105,000
 - 5.) Recreation - \$85,000
 - 6.) Industrial and Economic Development - \$33,240

- McIntyre**
- 1.) Water and Sewage - \$120,000
 - 2.) Roads, Streets, and Bridges - \$100,640
 - 3.) Public Safety - \$100,000
 - 4.) Recreation – \$45,000
 - 5.) Public Buildings - \$75,000

- Toombsboro**
- 1.) Recreation – \$38,180
 - 2.) Public Safety – \$59,360
 - 3.) Roads, Streets, and Bridges – \$65,000
 - 4.) Public Buildings – \$49,260
 - 5.) Water and Sewage – \$67,000
 - 6.) Equipment – \$14,280

Early voting will continue this week and next – Oct. 20-24, as well as Oct. 27-31. Early voting hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the courthouse. Oct. 25, meanwhile, is a "Saturday voting day."

Also, absentee ballot collections continue through election day, which is Nov. 4, when all county precincts will be open.

LABOR
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One such initiative is Georgia's High Demand Career List, which breaks down in-demand jobs statewide and by region. The lists, authorized by Georgia House Bill 982 and first released late last year, are broken down in the same data blocs used by the Department of Labor. The resource aims to help the state's technical college system, university system and economic development leaders meet labor demands through planned, coordinated education.

"We're encouraging our communities to review those lists and ensure they are positioned to best take advantage of where the high demand growth is for their region," Rivera Holmes said. "Tailor their education to the economy."

Health science jobs dominate the list for the Heart of Georgia region, which includes Bleckley County. In nearby Dublin - Oconee Fall Line Technical College and Middle Georgia State University have partnered with Fairview Park Hospital and the Carl Vinson VA Medical Center to create programs to quickly train the next generation of nurses and other healthcare professionals. Manufacturing is also in high demand, with large-scale employers,

like Korean auto part maker Hwashin beginning to staff its Dublin facility.

"When people see opportunities for themselves in their communities they will invest in the community and they will stay in the community," Rivera Holmes said.

The labor department is also keeping a close eye on the on-going government shutdown. Georgia is home to more than 110,000 federal workers according to the Georgia Budget and Policy Institute.

Rivera Holmes said the department is working to connect affected workers to available resources.

"The longer the federal shutdown lingers, the more unemployment claims that we'll see," she said. "Right now it's the furloughed workers, but when our federal workers start missing paychecks you will see those numbers grow at a faster clip."

Going into the fall Georgia reported an unemployment rate of 3.4 percent. The local rates were higher with 3.7 percent of Bleckley County workers; 5 percent of Twiggs workers; and 4.6 percent of Wilkinson workers unemployed in August, according to the latest department of labor data. Twiggs County has the smallest labor force of the three counties, with a workforce of about 2,600 strong.

PSC
Continued from page 1

Hubbard's press conference took place near the Elaine Lucas Senior Center at 132 Willie Smokie Glover Drive, one of three early voting locations in Bibb County. Registered voters can also complete early ballots at the board of elections office — 3661 Eisenhower Parkway, Suite MB101 — or at the Theron Ussery Park

Community Center at 815 North Macon Park Drive.

As of Oct. 15, 558 residents have voted.

Lucas, a Democrat who has represented Macon in the state Senate since 2013, said members of his party will mitigate rate hikes, and locals need to vote and exercise their "precious right."

"I don't care if you're laying in bed — put on some overalls and go vote," he said.

Jeffersonville Church to celebrate 100th anniversary on Sunday, Nov. 2

SPECIAL TO THE
TIMES JOURNAL POST

It is an experience within itself to worship at the Jeffersonville Church, formerly The Jeffersonville Methodist Church. As one enters the building, the magnificent stained-glass windows generate an atmosphere of reverence that truly penetrates the soul. The beauty of the edifice is definitely a rare structure to behold.

After 100 years of ministry, worship, and community service, The Church at Jeffersonville invites all current and former members and friends to join its 100th anniversary celebration on Sunday, Nov. 2. The theme for the celebration, "A Legacy of Faith Carried Forward and will be

reflected throughout the day's special events, which begin with a worship service at 11 a.m. at the church located at 242 N. Church Street.

The celebration will honor the rich history and deep roots the church has planted in the Jeffersonville, Twiggs County area. Following the special service, with live music provided by Tony and Renee McCoy, a reception and luncheon will be held in the Fellowship Hall, giving an opportunity for fellowship and reflection.

"As we look back over the past 100 years, we must give thanks to the Lord who has blessed us with His presence year in and year out," said Pastor Gary Walker. This anniversary is not just a milestone for

our congregation, but a testament to the faithfulness of generations of members who have sustained this ministry through both good times and challenges. The celebration is a time for all to gather and reflect on how God has worked through the church's ministry.

Jeffersonville Church's commemoration will also serve as an opportunity for ministry in the future. "We honor our past, but we are more interested in using this anniversary as a steppingstone into our next 100 years," said Pastor Walker. "We look forward to all that God has for us in the future as we continue to seek His guidance." For more information, feel free to contact Rev. Gary Walker at (478) 335-8472.

Foundation ranks state of Georgia near the bottom for Medicare performance

By TY TAGAMI
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Georgia ranked near the bottom of a first-ever analysis of Medicare performance by a foundation that promotes access to quality health care.

The new rankings by The Commonwealth Fund put Georgia in 42nd place out of 50 states and Washington, D.C. — behind Alaska and ahead of New Mexico.

Georgia scored poorly for several reasons. It had a relatively high rate of beneficiaries who took a drug that the elderly should avoid. Its rate for pressure sores among residents of long-stay nursing homes was above the national average.

And people aged 65 and older rated their health as fair or poor more frequently than the norm in surveys. They also reported more difficulty dressing or walking and more often reported loneliness and food insecurity.

Fund staffers involved in the analysis said they

included measures such as loneliness and food insecurity because plans in Medicare Advantage — a privately managed alternative to original Medicare — sometimes offer programs to address those issues. State policy also can influence food insecurity, they said.

The Georgia agency that serves Medicare beneficiaries and caregivers had no comment about the findings. The Georgia Department of Human Services merely aids and informs through its State Health Insurance Assistance Program, a spokeswoman said. The federal government administers Medicare.

States with lower health care costs tended to do better in the rankings because recipients shoulder a portion of the expense and are more likely to seek care when they can afford it.


Outcomes on many

of the 31 Medicare performance measures, which used data from the last several years, were likely driven by bigger factors than Medicare itself.

States that scored better tended to have health care systems that perform well for everyone, not just those 65 and older who qualify for Medicare.


Jeffersonville Church

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A ghost story

Philadelphia Alley is a long brick-paved corridor connecting Church and State streets in Charleston’s French Quarter. The path-way appears on maps in the Holy City as far back as the 18th Century. A lot of feet have walked along the slight serpentine trail, that is now fern and shade-loving plant lined and protected by moss-covered walls. The place has become a popular tourist spot.

Legend has it that the passage was originally called Cow Alley because people used it to move and keep their livestock. Yes, even city folks needed a cow or a goat or two. It wasn’t

until the 1800s that that the stretch of bricks was dubbed Philadelphia Alley for the City of Brotherly Love after some aid was rendered in the wake of a massive fire that left Charleston charred and smoldering.

Renaming the place you keep your cows doesn’t seem like much of an honor to me, but what do I know?

To the locals though, the area is known as Duelers Alley and was the scene to at least a dozen or more duels. Though we now look at the practice as barbaric, dueling was a popular way for gentlemen, if you can call them that, to settle their differences and defend them-

selves when their honor was at stake. The art was prominent up until the Civil War. Even Abraham Lincoln was challenged to duel by one of his critics, allegedly to be settled “bare chested with broadswords in a pit.” I guess they didn’t have alleys in Illinois.

Maybe we should reintroduce dueling. People are always kinder if there’s a chance of getting punched in the jaw or shot at 50 paces.

How many people died on the bricks of Philadelphia Alley has been lost to time. But some say, at least the city’s robust tourist industry, that the blood-soaked soil is haunted by at least one ghost. The stories of Charleston’s duels are public domain and can be found all over the inter-

net, so I won’t bore you. I usually don’t put much weight into ghost stories, but I’ve spent a lot of time in Charleston over the years and on almost every trip I walk through Philadelphia Alley.

I like to walk through in the dead of night, after the tourists and the tour groups have passed through, but before the bars let out, so there is nothing, but silence and solitude and the darkness is only broken by the pale-yellow beams of the staggered security lights. Usually I’m armed with a camera, cellphone or otherwise, to snap a few pictures.

One night more than a decade ago I was walking along the alley with some friends. As usual I was stopping intermittently to take photos of the shadows cast



By KYLE DOMINY

on the brick when a chill ran down my spine. For several moments I was frozen in time, unable to move. When I regained control of my faculties I was overcome with a sense of uneasy fear. I looked at my friends and said: “Let’s get out of here.”

I don’t put much weight in ghost stories, but I believe in ghosts enough to know I don’t want to mess with them. I never looked at the pictures I took that night and I haven’t been to Duelers Alley since.

DID YOU KNOW...?

Was a rocket test why the Soviet Union would put the first man into space?

By JACK BAGLEY
For Georgia Trust For Local News

Did you know ...

... a popular candy was originally manufactured with war machines? Smarties™, the cute little sweet-and-sour pill-like candy that comes in wrapped rolls, were created in 1949 by Edward Dee (1924-2019) at his Ce De Candy Company in Bloomfield, New Jersey. Dee purchased surplus pellet machines, which were used to create gunpowder pellets for the Army in World War II, and re-purposed them to make a pill-like tablet candy. Additional trivia note: Smarties are peanut-free, gluten-free, fat-free and dairy-free, and are vegan. In Canada they are called Rockets, to avoid confusion with a British chocolate candy sold there called already Smarties (which are more like M&Ms). (Thanks to Ed for the tip!)

... great white sharks fear one creature in the water? The only thing that strikes terror into a great white shark’s heart is a killer whale, or orca. In a 2019 study published in Nature, scientists said the great white is so afraid of the orca that the sharks will avoid an entire area of the ocean for up to a year if the shark encounters an orca, even just passing by. (Good to know even sharks have enemies.)

... only one European nation is larger than the state of Texas? The Lone Star State is bigger than every European nation except Russia. (Well, everything’s big in Texas.)

... only one ATM in the world conducts its transactions in Latin? The Automatic Teller Machine at the Vatican Bank in Vatican City uses Latin for its transactions. (So Latin isn’t dead after all!)

... had it not been for an additional rocket test, an American would have been the first man in space? On Jan. 31, 1961, NASA sent a chimpanzee named Ham (1957-1983) up atop a Redstone rocket in a suborbital test of the Mercury spacecraft. The rocket did not perform optimally, as they say in the space agency, and the capsule splashed down off target and too hard. Ham survived, but wasn’t too happy about the flight, and neither were NASA brass. Director Dr. Wernher von Braun (1912-1977) insisted on another test flight of the Redstone. The test, called MRBD (Mercury-Redstone Booster Development), was conducted March 24, 1961, and was flawless – so much so that Alan Shepard (1923-1998), the astronaut selected to be first in space for the U.S., was very upset, as he felt that should have

been his flight. It would take about a month to put his Redstone rocket onto the launch pad, and during that time the Soviet Union sent Yuri Gagarin (1934-1968) into orbit and achieved the first human space-flight. Shepard’s suborbital Mercury flight took place a month after Gagarin’s. (You can’t blame Shepard for feeling that way. And thanks to Amy at The Vintage Space for providing the tip!)

... a popular character on a television series was never referred to by his name? During the run of That ’70s Show on Fox, from 1998 to 2006, the popular character of Fes was played by actor Wilmer Valderrama (born 1980). But “Fes” was not the character’s name. The other characters called him that from his status – Foreign Exchange Student. The character’s real name was never used and was said to be unpronounceable. One of the show’s longest-running gags was Fes’ coun-

try of origin – it was never explained, always handled in funny roundabout ways. (I always wondered about that.)

... the Explorers Club still meets in New York? Founded in 1904, the Explorers Club was created by some of the world’s most distinguished polar explorers such as Roald Amundsen (1872-1928), the first man to reach the South Pole; Robert E. Peary (1856-1920), first man to reach the North Pole; and Sir Ernest Shackleton (1874-1922), one of the pre-eminent Antarctic explorers of the day. The club meets in a Jacobean mansion known as the Lowell Thomas Building, and it contains many artifacts from various expeditions. The mansion is also open to the public. (Gotta visit that one day.)

... one of India’s most popular tourist attractions was supposed to have been torn down? The Taj Mahal, built between 1632 and 1653 in Agra, India, was

constructed as a tomb for Mumtaz Mahal (1593-1631), the young wife of Shah Jahan (1592-1666), ruler of the Mughal Empire. Today people come from all over the world to view the beautiful building and its grounds, but in the late 1800s, after decades of neglect, some officials voiced support for tearing down the structure. It was saved by a decision of the British Viceroy in India, Lord Curzon (1859-1925),

who ordered a sweeping restoration of the entire area. The restoration was not completed until 1908. (Thank goodness!)

... music tempo in a shopping mall affects how you shop? Check it out for yourself: if the background music in a store or mall is bright and peppy, people tend to shop faster. Slower-tempo music, however, causes people to walk through more slowly and

take their time purchasing.

... Scandinavian nations publish everyone’s tax returns? In Sweden, Finland, and Norway, the tax returns of all citizens are published each year, meaning you can find out what anybody earns and pays in taxes. The tradition is called jantelag, which roughly translates as, “nobody is better than anybody else.” (Well, they aren’t.)

Now... you know!

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PUBLIC NOTICE						
CITY of COCHRAN						
The City of Cochran does hereby announce that the millage rate for 2025 will be discussed at a Public Hearing to be held at the Cochran City Auditorium in the Municipal Bldg. at 102 N. Second Street on Thursday, November 6, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. After the public hearing, the Council will be in a position to approve a millage rate at the same meeting on Thursday, November 6, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Auditorium. This is pursuant to the requirements of O.C.G.A. Section 48-5-32. The City does hereby publish the following presentation of the current year's tax digest and levy, along with the history of the tax digest and levy for the past five years.						
FIVE YEAR RECORD OF PROPERTY TAX LEVY City of Cochran						
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Real & Personal	\$84,371,804	\$87,491,963	\$101,756,688	\$118,294,410	\$124,186,517	\$137,218,313
Motor Vehicles	\$1,347,780	\$1,159,040	\$1,075,450	\$1,081,980	\$1,015,620	\$940,360
Mobile Homes	\$676,171	\$747,890.0	\$819,499.0	\$979,308.0	\$898,854	\$893,989
Timber - 100%	0	0	0	0	\$24,468	\$0
Gross Digest	\$86,395,755	\$89,398,893	\$103,651,637	\$120,355,698	\$126,125,459	\$139,052,662
Less M&O Exemptions	\$1,653,024	\$1,875,289	\$2,029,410	\$2,726,668	\$3,559,440	\$10,166,956
Net M & O Digest	\$84,742,731	\$87,523,604	\$101,622,227	\$117,629,030	\$122,566,019	\$128,885,706
Adjusted Net M&O Digest	\$84,742,731	\$87,523,604	\$101,622,227	\$117,629,030	\$122,566,019	\$128,885,706
Gross M&O Millage	16.014	16.286	17.786	17.598	17.452	16.915
Less Rollbacks	5.631	5.903	6.019	6.667	6.577	6.188
Net M&O Millage	10.383	10.383	11.767	10.931	10.875	10.727
Total Taxes Levied	\$879,884	\$908,758	\$1,195,789	\$1,285,803	\$1,332,905	\$1,382,557
Net Taxes \$ Increase	\$40,334	\$28,874	\$287,031	\$90,014	\$47,102	\$49,652
Net Taxes % Increase	4.8%	3.3%	31.6%	7.5%	3.7%	3.7%

Helen: Trout are back

HELEN – This mountain town, in an earlier day, was an enclave for bountiful logging opportunity—but then went into decline and now depends on tourism to survive economically.

An Atlanta artist, John Kollock, suggested years ago that to become a tourist attraction the city needed a makeover to take on the appearance of an Old World Bavarian village. The community has succeeded, but there are blights that some of us could do without – namely the proliferation of tattoo parlors, motorcycles backfiring as they gather undisciplined in the village, and intoxicated tubers polluting the Chattahoochee.

Those who knew Peter Hodgkinson III, who was something of a Renaissance man who brought hot air

ballooning to Helen, believe that if he had lived, no telling what this Bavarian village lookalike might have become. Tragically, he died at 41 when his hot air balloon collided with a power line near Toccoa, 36 miles away.

Downstream, the river offers the best in flyfishing. My favorite spot is the Nora Mill Dam, a mile and a half south of town. It is a log dam, built in 1824. Standing knee deep in the galvanizing Chattahoochee, with the spirited waters rushing over the dam, is as emotionally satisfying as anywhere in our state.

To be at the dam with a flyrod in your hand is as fulfilling of an experience in the great outdoors as you could find. The sights and sounds of nature will for-



LORAN SMITH

ever leave its patrons with awe-inspiring gratefulness and the urge to return as soon as possible.

Any Georgian can enjoy a love affair with the Chattahoochee from any geographic location: from Tybee Light to Rabun Gap, from Tallapoosa to Attapulgus. I came here in the early sixties and realized how satisfying trips into the North Georgia mountains can be.

The winding roads, meadows with a solitary milk cow grazing contentedly, corn patches, little white churches, neatly stacked firewood, and pickup trucks with a pace that is 20 miles per hour under the speed limit.

Development has come to the Georgia mountains, but there remain space and locales where time stands still. A lot of colorful characters have left their stamp on the landscape – like Arthur Woody, a wildlife ranger who was a conservationist, outdoor aficionado, and humanitarian. He was from Suches, which is where you will find a modern-day version of the ranger in Scott Woerner, who loves the North Georgia mountains as much as Woody did. The Hall of Famer, who thrilled sold-out crowds at Georgia’s Sanford Stadium, has hunted and fished most all his life – until his aching body caused him to swap his bow

and arrow for a camera.

In addition to countless photos filed away in his camera and his mind’s eye, he simply enjoys wandering about the Chattahoochee environs and communing with nature.

His garden is a horn of plenty, and he is particularly expert at making pickles. If you are lucky, he might share a jar with you. In the days when he harvested deer for his freezer, he was as expert with venison on the grill as he was returning punts for a touchdown in his heyday as a Bulldog.

I always look forward to finding my way to these hills in late summer to enjoy locating silver queen corn at a roadside stand. Silver queen corn with extra helpings of butter, accompanied by a green salad, potatoes and beans, brings about a filling and nutritious meal.

It is a good news time for outdoorsmen in these

parts. With cooler weather, the trout are beginning to return to the Chattahoochee. They tend to hide during the summer months as temperatures rise, causing them stressful conditions as the oxygen content drops and their metabolic rates increase.

Late October, as the temperatures fall and the leaves are turning, will be the most enjoyable time of autumn in North Georgia.

“Out of the hills of Habersham, down the valleys of Hall, I hurry amain to reach the plain, run the rapids and leap the fall.”

Sydney Lanier’s “Song of the Chattahoochee” makes me wish for a cabin on Georgia’s most romantic river, a flyrod and a three-pound trout who doesn’t know that he will soon be released. In the meantime, he fights like hell not to be subdued and makes my day.

How to weigh a vote for a SPLOST

While some of the ink in this space has already been spilled on the 2026 elections, I’ve been remiss in giving a nod to the 2025 items Georgians have on the ballot right now. Early voting is already underway to decide two races for the Public Service Commission, races put on hold from a prior cycle by a judge.

We also have some local races and ballot measures in various parts of the state, one of which as a new resident of Savannah has piqued my interest. Voters in Chatham county and quite a few others around the state are voting to enact or renew Special Purpose Option Local Sales Taxes, or SPLOSTs.

I’m going to focus on those today as they often don’t get the attention they deserve. One often used criticism is that these measures often appear at random times when voters aren’t paying attention. At least those on this ballot get some billing with a statewide race

and some local elections to help boost turnout.

I’ll also use the Chatham SPLOST renewal as a guide for how I decide to support or oppose these kinds of measures as someone who is generally a right of center conservative, but also tries to be more pragmatic than idealistic. Idealism is best suited for national races where party identification will decide the tone and tenor of who sets an agenda. The pendulum should swing a bit more to pragmatism where filibusters aren’t an option and problems actually have to be solved.

The first is understanding that a SPLOST has those first two letters for a reason. The “special purpose” means voters have the opportunity to decide on infrastructure projects of some type that are above and beyond the usual operating budget of a local district.

Sometimes they are even more specialized, as they can be transportation or education specific. The one

proposed for Chatham is a general purpose tax that will fund various types of projects, from transportation, drainage and flood mitigation, public safety, and beach re-nourishment among other projects.

Therein lies my first test. In looking at the projects voters are asked to fund, I would count the vast majority of them as “needs” instead of “wants”. I’ve lived in places where it was clear leaders looked at the timeframe for a SPLOST, calculated how much revenue could be generated by “just a penny”, and then filled it with their whims of the moment.

At a recent press conference promoting Chatham’s SPLOST, a reporter asked what was different about this measure, in that some prior divisiveness seemed quelled this time around. As a newcomer not knowing the history, I leaned in to hear the answer.

In the past, the project list was usually decided by



CHARLIE HARPER
GEORGIA POLITICS

the Mayor of Savannah and the Chairman of the County Commission. From both a political and geographic perspective, that tended to make the project list Savannah-centric.

This time, the Mayors and Commissioners and their staff went to the same meeting. Elected officials worked in one group, their administrative staff worked in another. The product was a list that addresses needs county wide, from the islands to the western suburbs.

One criticism of these ballot measures is that once passed, they never go away.

That is largely and unfortunately true. That said, the “T” in SPLOST doesn’t stand for temporary. If at any time a majority of voters believe that they’re not getting a return on this infrastructure investment, they can and should vote no.

On the upside, the vote in Chatham won’t actually raise my taxes. It will continue the current sales tax rate I’m now paying, which is in line with most other counties in the state.

What am I getting for that money? More than twice the amount I’m investing in new infrastructure. A selling point for me is that more than 40% of the sales taxes paid in Chatham are from tourists who live more than 50 miles away. Add in the sales taxes paid by commuters in neighboring counties and my fellow residents are only paying about half.

Then we get to leverage that money for more money. Both the state and federal governments have matching funds available for many of the projects on the list. The local penny I

pay is matched by a penny paid by a non-local resident. Those dollars are then matched against state and federal tax dollars I’ve already paid, bringing them back home.

This benefits us again as those dollars are infrastructure, meaning all that money creates jobs back here at home as the projects are completed. Those workers become part of our economy and, somewhat ironically, also end up helping pay these taxes.

In summary, the proposed Chatham SPLOST is a way to fund projects we would almost certainly have to fund out of other taxes if SPLOST were not an option. This mechanism allows us to draw in dollars from non-residents while speeding up the timeline of needed upgrades.

I’m voting yes. If you have a SPLOST on your ballot, hopefully this thought process can help you decide if you also want to support a local sales tax, or if you need to ask your leaders to wait until their list matches real needs in your communities.

How public education continues the fight to help save democracy

Welcome to my new column, “Fine Print.”

My ambition is simple: to take national discussions about democracy and the rise of authoritarianism and translate them into Georgia realities. As someone who has been privileged to represent Georgia on local, national and international stages, I feel compelled to go beyond the headlines and help us understand what’s actually at stake.

Let’s lay the ground rules: I believe in America’s democracy, and according to all the signs, we are in the middle of an autocratic regime – an erosion of democracy that is affecting all of us: urban, suburban and rural parts. There are 10 steps to autocracy and authoritarianism, but there are also 10 steps to freedom and power. One of the most pernicious is when democracy fails to deliver under Step 4 – when the government is gutted.

I was reminded of this step on a trip to Montezuma a few months ago. At a town hall meeting, a visibly frustrated resident bemoaned the lack of good job opportunities finding their way to Macon County. He rightly and vigorously outlined the host of consequences that come with stagnant growth. Young people move away. Housing stock deteriorates. Hope dwindles but never disappears entirely.

That spark of possibility brought out nearly 100 residents to the conversation hosted by a group of Democratic state legislators



on their statewide listening tour. I joined them as a former member of the Georgia House of Representatives and a constant cheerleader for investment south of the Gnat Line. He didn’t need me to explain why things felt stuck. He and his neighbors live it every day – and so do the local leaders working to change it.

The gathered crowd soon agreed that education was at the center of the issue. Georgia uses a failed public education finance system that relies on property taxes, which inherently harms rural communities. Unlike cities and suburbs, the bulk of the land in rural Georgia is exempt from contributing. On their own, some of the policies might seem reasonable, but the consequences are dire.

Over the past two decades, state leaders have steadily chipped away at Georgia’s investment in education, even as the costs – and the burdens on rural school systems – have grown. Transportation, technology and teacher retention all get harder to fund, not easier. But then the Republican megabill passed Congress and DOGE

came to town, slashing 50% of the U.S. Department of Education, freezing education funding, gutting food security for children and making it harder to serve rural kids.

The education department has never been about indoctrination. When President Jimmy Carter created it in 1979, his goal was to make education a national priority, especially for communities too often overlooked. He recognized that “rural” often meant higher poverty, fewer teachers and greater barriers for students with learning differences, language challenges or limited opportunities. That shouldn’t be the case, but it still is.

The math doesn’t lie. The federal budget plan cuts \$12 billion from education. That’s less than what schools receive today. And if Georgia’s leaders have spent the last 20 years failing to equitably deploy the resources it has, why would anyone believe it will do more with even less?

President Trump and his regime have consistently taken steps to decimate education funding in Macon County and in dozens

of other Georgia school districts. Here’s why: it breaks the promise of public education – through federal cuts or state-sponsored vouchers that divert millions of public dollars to private schools. Public education is the bedrock of a functioning democracy, and authoritarianism is much easier when the people no longer believe that there’s no point.

We also have to connect the dots to the cuts to Medicaid and SNAP, the food assistance program that guarantees meals for kids at school and helps out at home. In rural Georgia, these aren’t bloated programs full of waste – they’re lifelines. They help keep children in class because they can see a doctor through PeachCare for Kids.

We already know how few health care professionals currently cover rural Georgia: 63 of our counties have no pediatricians. Cut Medicaid – which includes PeachCare for Kids – and that number will certainly rise, further weakening our health care system. (I’ll save the full breakdown of our refusal to expand Medicaid for another column.)

Then there’s SNAP – one of the few successful tools we have to respond to Georgia’s unacceptably high rates of child hunger. One of every five kids sitting in a classroom is likely facing inconsistent access to enough food. It is a moral failure, and it’s a barrier to learning, growing and thriving – another way to weaken trust in government and to

undermine who is prepared to demand more.

If we want Georgia’s children to succeed – no matter their zip code – we have to invest in the foundations that make learning possible. That means compelling Georgia legislators to finally update how we fund our schools. It means holding our congressional leaders responsible for protecting programs like Medicaid and SNAP that keep kids healthy and fed rather

than voting to slash benefits and blaming the families for being poor. It requires us to demand that the government do its job for all of us. Democracy demands public education, and so must we.

Stacey Abrams is a best-selling author, entrepreneur and host of the podcast “Assembly Required.” She previously served as minority leader in the Georgia House of Representatives.

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2025 Georgia farm dog announced at Sunbelt Ag Expo

STAFF REPORTS

MOULTRIE – The Sunbelt Ag Expo has honored outstanding farmers from participating Southeastern states for 35 years. Realizing the special role farm dogs play in helping their farmers, Georgia Farm Bureau held its second annual Georgia Farm Dog of the Year contest earlier this year to honor the canine workers who help with chores and offer unconditional love on their farms.

Rooster, a red merle Australian Shepherd who lives in Putnam County with his owners, Shawn and Nikkole Raff, was named the 2025 Georgia Farm Bureau Farm Dog of the Year during the Willie B. Withers Sunbelt Expo luncheon on Tuesday. As the winner, Rooster and the Ruffs received a \$500 gift card. Rooster was chosen from nearly 100 canine entries by a panel of judges with knowledge of farm dogs.

Rooster, who turns eight in November, stands 21 inches tall and weighs about 45 pounds. Shawn, his main person, says Rooster's favorite treat is duck jerky.

"Rooster is our family dog, but he has picked Shawn as his person," Nikkole Raff said. "They are two peas in a pod, and Rooster

follows Shawn everywhere. Rooster is Shawn's right-hand man. Shawn doesn't have to watch to see if Rooster is there; he's always within two feet of Shawn no matter where he's at."

The Ruffs own a beef cattle farm where Rooster helps Shawn work about 150 head of Brahman, Simmental and crossbred cattle. Rooster also accompanies Shawn to his job at Sunrise Dairy, near Eatonton, where the inseparable pair work a large herd of milking cows and replacement heifers.

"Rooster is used for just about any job you can think of involving the livestock on both farms," Shawn Raff said. "He sorts cattle, drives and fetches cows, moves cows up the alleyway into the chute, moves cattle during grazing rotations, and works alongside my horse to bring cattle into catch pens for vaccinations or other reasons."

When Rooster, named for the John Wayne film "Rooster Cogburn," isn't working or competing, he loves to go for rides in the truck to check cows or to get a pup cup at the local coffee shop with the Ruffs' daughter, Dalaney. Rooster also loves to cuddle and watch television to unwind after a long day of work. The Ruffs' son, Kaleb, just enlisted in



Rooster, a red merle Australian Shepherd who lives in Putnam County with his owner, Shawn Raff, was named the 2025 Georgia Farm Bureau Farm Dog of the Year at the Sunbelt Ag Expo/Photo Courtesy of Georgia Farm Bureau

the Army.

"This award is not only about recognizing a dog's ability to help around the farm, it's also about honoring a loyal friend who is with its farmer and farm family daily and is a symbol of unwavering dedication on the family farm," Georgia Farm Bureau President

Tom McCall said. "The bond between a farmer and their dog is deep, built on trust and countless hours of shared labor around the farm, "Rooster, this year's recipient of this prestigious award, embodies the essence of what it means to be a farm dog: devotion beyond measure, intelligence

The et cetera chronicles - vol. 119

THEY WERE WRONG - It has been said for many, many years that lightning does not strike in the same place twice. Well, they were wrong. The Toombsboro High School was struck by lightning near the end of World War II. The revered building burned to the ground. The community immediately rebuilt the school as a symbol of the resiliency of the town. In January 1947, another bolt of lightning hit the school, which suffered substantial damage, much to the joy of several apathetic students. Middleton, NJ, Times, Jan. 16, 1947.

AH! THAT'S BETTER! - Messers Hiram Larnsey and Mr. Friese were figuring out how to move a large hollowed-out log on the outskirts of Irwinton. They attached chains to the old, dead tree and a team of mules on the other end. The hennies pulled the chains taught. Larnsey and Friese popped the whip to encourage their mules to pull. Well, the mules pulled, and they pulled. The log did not budge. The two unhooked the chains to make a closer investigation. Inside the puzzled duo found eleven snakes, which were summarily executed. Once the void was opened and the mules hooked up, the mission was easily accomplished. The Daily Republican, Anthony, Kansas, April 18, 1889.

HONEY I'M HOME - W.C. Horn served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War, which was called "The Late Great Unpleasantness" by the grand, socially prominent ladies of the South." Horn joined the Carswell Guards, Third Georgia Infantry Regiment, a company based out of Wilkinson County, in the spring of 1861. During the horrific Battle of Gettysburg in the first three days of July 1863, word was sent out that Horn was killed in action. The 3rd Georgia was heavily engaged late on the afternoon of July 2nd, when

a few Confederate brigades breached the strong point in the center of the Union line at the "Angle" on Cemetery Ridge. Horn's family was shocked and went into mourning. Turns out that during the retreat to the southwest after the battle, Horn argued with his captain. Horn had had enough of the slaughter and bugged out of the column and returned to Gettysburg to turn himself in. Horn became a vagabond wandering around the country. In the Indian Territory, Horn was told that his wife was still alive and asking about him. The stranger told Horn that his daughter was grown and married to J.S. Brady. Months later, Horn, heavily bearded and stooped over, walked into his home in Toombsboro and surprised his wife, who thought she had seen a ghost and collapsed on the floor. Coincidentally, the story was published in newspapers around the country the day before General Lee surrendered to General Grant in Appomattox Court House, Virginia, the next day. Kansas Critic, April 8, 1865.

SNAKE IN A BOTTLE - B.H. Freeman, a resident of Toombsboro, Georgia, fell into an unbridled curiosity. Freeman encountered your average fanged, man-killing water moccasin during the peak of "Dog Days." He



By SCOTT B. THOMPSON SR.

thought about what might happen if he took the reptile and placed it in a suitably sized bottle and left it there. For two years, the serpent was squeezed in a cylindrical glass tomb with no food or drink. Much to his Freeman's astonishment, the snake was still alive and in fact had gained weight. Yazoo City Herald, Aug. 30, 1895.

THE YANKEES IN ATLANTA STOLE OUR SODA FOUNTAIN - The World of Coca-Cola in Atlanta has a grand, ancient soda fountain. Somehow, the soft drink king acquired their magnificent 19th-century soda fountain from the drug store in Toombsboro, Georgia. Port Charlotte, FL Sun, May, 20, 2007.

IS THAT ALL YOU GOT? - Mr. L.T. Mercer, of

Irwinton, Georgia, was right proud of his dog. One day, the dog was out playing in Mercer's field. The hound discovered a snake, which he took to be a new playmate. The curious pup barked and barked until he grew tired of the snake, which was in no mood to have fun. As soon as the dog retreated, the venomous reptile sprang forward and speared the dog between the eyes. The dog squalled and wailed until he alerted Mercer, who came running with his gun. When Mr. Mercer saw his friend's predicament, he shot the attacker with full and deadly force. The master scooped up his pet and ran to the house, where he doused the injured creature with alum water, which appeared to rid the rascally dog of the poison almost instantly. Parsons, Kansas Daily Sun, Nov. 18, 1893.

that aids in daily tasks, and a heart that lives for his next assignment."

As a hobby, Rooster and Shawn compete in herd trials and belong to the Rocky Branch Working Australian Shepherd Club in Forsyth. Shawn Raff is the club's president. Rooster has received training from Jessica Saura with Pawsitive K9 Connections in Metter and from Devona Pierce for herd trialing. Rooster came from Pincie Creek Australian Shepherds owned by Roger Stevens.

"Rooster would not be the herding dog he is today if it wasn't for Devona's help, and Roger Stevens was instrumental as well," Shawn said. "Billie Richardson and Kellie Hunter were a very big help in developing Rooster and my herding trial skills, too."

Georgia Farm Bureau is known for its love of dogs as Lucky, also an Australian Shepherd, has served as the GFB mascot since 2021. Visit <https://gfb.ag/25farmdogcontest> to learn more about the contest.

NOTICE OF ELECTION
TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF WILKINSON COUNTY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the 4th day of November 2025, an election will be held in all of the precincts of Wilkinson County, Georgia (the "County") at which time there will be submitted to the qualified voters of the County, for their determination the question of whether a one percent (1%) sales and use tax (the "SPLOST") shall be imposed on all sales and uses in the special district created in the County, for a period of time of twenty-four consecutive quarters, commencing April 1, 2026, following the expiration of the SPLOST presently in effect, to raise an estimated amount of \$8,500,000 for the purpose of providing funds to pay the costs of the hereinafter described capital outlay projects pursuant to an Intergovernmental Agreement, dated August 19, 2025, between the County, the City of Allentown, the City of Danville, the City of Gordon, the City of Irwinton, the City of Ivey, the City of McIntyre, and the City of Toombsboro:

(a) Projects to be owned or operated by both the County (the "County Public Safety Projects") at an estimated total cost of \$1,700,000:
(1) Public Safety Facilities and related equipment and economic development, which may include the purchase of land - \$1,700,000.

(b) Projects to be owned or operated or both by the County (the "County Projects") at an estimated total cost of \$3,384,360:
(1) Roads, Streets, and Bridges (including Economic Development) - \$1,400,000
(2) Public Buildings/Capital Equipment - \$1,500,000
(3) Solid Waste - \$75,000
(4) Fire Safety - \$304,360
(5) Recreation - \$105,000

(c) Projects to be owned or operated or both by the City of Allentown (the "Allentown Projects") at an estimated total cost of \$97,920:
(1) Public Safety -
(2) Roads and Streets -
(3) Water and Sewer -

(d) Projects to be owned or operated or both by the City of Danville (the "Danville Projects") at an estimated total cost of \$17,000:
(1) Public Safety (Fire & EMS)-
(2) Public Works -

(e) Projects to be owned or operated or both by the City of Gordon (the "Gordon Projects") at an estimated total cost of \$1,366,120:
(1) Recreation - \$50,000
(2) Public Safety - \$75,000
(3) Transportation - \$35,000
(4) Industrial & Economic Development - \$340,920
(5) Public Buildings - \$100,000
(6) Solid Waste - \$25,000
(7) Roads, Streets, and Bridges - \$240,200
(8) Water & Sewage - \$450,000
(9) Storm Water - \$50,000

(f) Projects to be owned or operated or both by the City of Irwinton (the "Irwinton Projects") at an estimated total cost of \$406,640:
(1) Water and Sewage - \$150,000
(2) Public Safety - \$100,000
(3) Roads, Streets, and Bridges - \$113,000
(4) Industrial and Economic Development - \$35,000
(5) Library and Recreation - \$8,640

(g) Projects to be owned or operated or both by the City of Ivey (the "Ivey Projects") at an estimated total cost of \$794,240:
(1) Water and Sewage Projects - \$300,000
(2) Roads and Streets - \$201,000
(3) Public Safety - \$70,000
(4) Equipment - \$105,000
(5) Recreation - \$85,000
(6) Industrial and Economic Development - \$33,240

(h) Projects to be owned or operated or both by the City of McIntyre (the "McIntyre Projects") at an estimated total cost of \$440,640:
(1) Water and Sewage - \$120,000
(2) Roads, Streets, and Bridges - \$100,640
(3) Public Safety - \$100,000
(4) Recreation - \$45,000
(5) Public Buildings - \$75,000

(i) Projects to be owned or operated or both by the City of Toombsboro (the "Toombsboro Projects") at an estimated total cost of \$293,080:
(1) Recreation - \$38,180
(2) Public Safety - \$59,360
(3) Roads, Streets, and Bridges - \$65,000
(4) Public Buildings - \$49,260
(5) Water and Sewage - \$67,000
(6) Equipment - \$14,280

The County Public Safety Projects, the County Projects, the Allentown Projects, the Danville Projects, the Gordon Projects, the Irwinton Projects, the Ivey Projects, the McIntyre Projects, and the Toombsboro Projects are collectively referred to herein as the "Projects".

If the imposition of such tax is approved by the voters, such vote shall also constitute approval of the issuance of general obligation bonds of the County secured by a portion of the SPLOST in the maximum aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$8,500,000 (the "Bonds"). The proceeds of the Bonds, if issued, shall be used to pay all or any portion of the costs of the Projects described above, capitalized interest on the Bonds and the costs of issuing the Bonds.

Such Bonds, if authorized, shall be dated their date of delivery or from such other date as may be designated by the County, shall bear interest at a rate or rates not to exceed five percent (5%) per annum, and shall provide for interest to be payable semiannually on May 1 and November 1 of each year, and for the principal to mature on May 1 of each year in the following amounts:

Date	Amount
2027	\$1,310,000
2028	\$1,380,000
2029	\$1,405,000
2030	\$1,435,000
2031	\$1,470,000
2032	\$1,500,000

The Bonds may be issued in one or more series with each series having a different issuance date as determined by the County; provided that the aggregate principal amount of such Bonds shall not exceed \$8,500,000.

Voters desiring to vote for the imposition of said SPLOST for the purposes set forth above and issuance of the Bonds shall do so by voting "Yes" and voters desiring to vote against the imposition of said SPLOST for such purposes and the issuance of said bonds shall do so by voting "No" as to the question propounded, to wit:

YES ()

Shall a special one percent sales and use tax be imposed in the special district of Wilkinson County for a period of time of twenty-four calendar quarters (6 years), commencing April 1, 2026, and for the raising of an estimated amount of \$8,500,000 for the following purposes, pursuant to an Intergovernmental Contract, dated August 5, 2025, between Wilkinson County, Georgia, the City of Allentown, the City of Danville, the City of Gordon, the City of Irwinton, the City of Ivey, the City of McIntyre, and the City of Toombsboro, which qualified municipalities comprise more than 50% of the municipal population of the special district: (A) funding the following capital outlay projects for Wilkinson County: (1) Public Safety Facilities and related equipment and economic development, which may include the purchase of land; (2) Roads, Streets, and Bridges/including Economic Development; (3) Public Buildings; (4) Solid Waste; (5) Fire Safety; and (6) Recreation; (B) funding the following capital outlay projects for the City of Allentown: (1) Public Safety; (2) Road and Streets; and (3) Water and Sewage; (C) funding the following capital outlay projects for the City of Danville: (1) Public Safety (Fire and EMS); and (2) Public Works; (D) funding the following capital outlay projects for the City of Gordon: (1) Recreation; (2) Public Safety; (3) Transportation; (4) Industrial and Economic Development; (5) Public Buildings; (6) Solid Waste; (7) Roads, Streets, and Bridges; (8) Water and Sewage; and (9) Storm Water; (E) funding the following capital outlay projects for the City of Irwinton: (1) Water and Sewage Projects; (2) Public Safety; (3) Road, Streets, and Bridges; (4) Industrial and Economic Development; and (5) Library and Recreation projects; (F) funding then following capital outlay projects of the City of Ivey: (1) Water and Sewage Projects; (2) Roads and Streets; (3) Public Safety; (4) Equipment; (5) Recreation; (6) Industrial and Economic Development; (G) funding the following capital outlay projects for the City of McIntyre: (1) Water and Sewage Projects; (2) Roads, Streets, and Bridges; (3) Public Safety; (4) Recreation; and (5) Public Buildings; and (H) funding the following capital outlay projects for the City of Toombsboro: (1) Recreation; (2) Public Safety; (3) Roads, Streets, and Bridges; (4) Public Buildings; (5) Water and Sewage Projects; and (6) Equipment (collectively, the "Projects")?

NO ()

If the imposition of the tax is approved by the voter, such vote shall also constitute approval of the issuance of general obligation bonds of Wilkinson County in the principal amount not to exceed \$8,500,000 for all or any portion of the Projects specified above.

The several places for holding the election shall be in the regular and established precincts of the County, and the polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the date fixed for the election. Those qualified to vote in the election shall be determined in all respects in accordance and in conformity with the Constitution and statutes of the United States of America and the State of Georgia.

The last day to register to vote in this special election is October 6, 2025 through 5:00 p.m.

Any brochures, listings, or other advertisements issued by the County or by any other person, firm, corporation, or association with the knowledge and consent of the County, shall be deemed to be a statement of intention of the County concerning the use of the proceeds of the Bonds; and such statement of intention shall be binding on the County in the expenditure of any such proceeds or interest received from such funds which have been invested.

Those residents of the County qualified to vote in said election shall be determined in all respects in accordance with the election laws of the State of Georgia.

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Surviving Spouse, having been duly filed, all interested persons are hereby notified to show cause, if any they have, on or before November 3, 2025, why said petition should not be granted.

All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed on or before the time stated in the preceding sentence. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed the petition may be granted without a hearing.

Gary Nobles, Jr.
Judge of the Probate Court
By: Diane H. Robinson
Clerk of the Probate Court
425 Railroad Street North P. O. Box 186
Jeffersonville, Georgia 31044
478-945-3390

October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025

T25-065
GEORGIA, TWIGGS COUNTY
TRADE NAME REGISTRATION

Personally appeared before me,
Edwin Thomas Brown III
Who on oath deposes and says that
Brown's Wrecker Service, 554 Patricia
Dr, Jeffersonville, GA 31044
Doing business in Twiggs County,
Georgia at:
554 Patricia Dr, Jeffersonville, GA 31044
Under the name and style of:
DBA Brown's Wrecker Service
The business to be carried on is:
Towing
/s/ Edwin Thomas Brown III

October 23, 30, 2025

T25-056
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF TWIGGS
COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA
WALTER WILLIAM ASHBY DECEASED
ESTATE NO. P-25-056
NOTICE OF PETITION TO FILE FOR
YEAR'S SUPPORT

The pettion of Helga Ashby, for a Year's Support from the estate of Walter William Ashby deceased, for decedent's surviving spouse, having been duly filed, all interested persons are hereby notified to show cause, if any they have, on or before October 27, 2025, why said petition should not be granted.

All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed on or before the time stated in the preceding sentence. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed the petition may be granted without a hearing.

Gary Nobles, Jr.
Judge of the Probate Court
By: Diane H. Robinson
Clerk of the Probate Court
425 Railroad Street North P. O. Box 186
Jeffersonville, Georgia 31044
478-945-3390

October 2, 9, 16 & 23, 2025

T25-059
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF TWIGGS
COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: DAVID LEE MIDDLETON,
DECEASED
ESTATE NO. P-25-048
NOTICE OF PETITION TO FILE FOR
YEAR'S SUPPORT

The petition of Elaine Middleton, for a Year's Support from the estate of David Lee Middleton, deceased, for decedent's Surviving Spouse, having been duly filed, all interested persons are hereby notified to show cause, if any they have, on or before November 3, 2025, why said petition should not be granted.

All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed on or before the time stated in the preceding sentence. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed the petition may be granted without a hearing.

Gary Nobles Jr.
Judge of the Probate Court
By: Diane H. Robinson
Clerk of the Probate Court
425 Railroad St N, PO Box 186
Jeffersonville, GA 31044
478-945-3390

October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025

Wilkinson Co. Legals

W25-089
Sheriff's Sale
IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF
WILKINSON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

CIVIL ACTION NUMBER 25-057CS
Bradley & Soustan Lego
-VS-
Wesley Chase Veal

Pursuant to a writ of Fieri Facias entered by said court on April 29, 2025, in favor of Bradley & Soustan Lego vs. Wesley Chase Veal, the below described property will be sold at public auction and knocked off to the highest bidder, at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, November 4, 2025.

2008 Chevrolet Silverado K-250 Truck
VIN: 1GCHK23608F150840

Place of sale will be on the steps of the Wilkinson County Courthouse
100 Bacon Street, Irwinton, Georgia.

Richard Chatman, Sheriff
Wilkinson County, Georgia
October 9, 14, 23, 30, 2025

W25-086
Notice of Sale Under Power
State of Georgia, County of Baldwin

Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by Marilyn A. Knowles to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for American Bank (the Secured Creditor), dated January 15, 2009, and Recorded on February 3, 2009 as Book No. 968 and Page No. 525, Baldwin County, Georgia records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note of even date in the original principal amount of \$168,192.00, with interest at the rate specified therein, as last assigned to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC by assignment that is or to be recorded in the Baldwin County, Georgia Records, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash at the Baldwin County Courthouse within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in NOVEMBER, 2025, the following described property:

Parcel One:

All that composite tract of land together with all improvements attached thereto situate, lying and being in Land Lot 176, 5th Land District, 322th GMD, Baldwin County, Georgia containing 2.42 acres, more or less, being composed of Tract "A," Tract "B," and Tract "C" all as shown on a plat of survey for Billy J. and Bettie J. Chambers prepared by Byron L. Farmer, GRLS No. 1679, dated January 22, 1993 and recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Baldwin County, Georgia in Deed Book 325, page 410. Said plat of survey and record thereof are by this reference made a part hereof for a more complete and accurate description of said property.

Parcel Two:
All that tract or parcel of land together with all improvements attached thereto lying and being partly in Wilkinson County, Georgia and partly in Land Lot 176, 5th Land District, 322th GMD, Baldwin County, Georgia, described as 2.21 acres, more or less, according to that certain plat of survey for Billy J & Bettie J. Chambers, surveyed on June 12, 1993 and plated on June 16, 1993, prepared by Byron L. Farmer, GRLS No. 1679, recorded in Deed Book 335, Page 101, Baldwin County Land Records. Said plat of survey and record thereof are by reference made a part hereof for a more accurate description of said property.
Subject To:
1) Easements in favor of Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation recorded in Deed Book 261, Page 251, Deed Book 263, Page 348, and Deed Book 274, Page 313, said records.
2) Matters as shown on the above referenced plats of survey and other surveys of record, if any, said records.
3) General Utility Easement, Restrictive Covenants, limitations and restrictions of record, if any, said records.

Tax ID: 043 002C

The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note and Security Deed. Because the debt remains in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Security Deed and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given). Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC holds the duly endorsed Note and is the current assignee of the Security Deed to the property. Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC is the entity with the full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the loan.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §44-14-162.2, Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC may be contacted at: 1-800-790-9502 or by writing to 1600 South Douglass Road, Suite 200-A, Anaheim, CA 92806.

Please note that, pursuant to O.C.G.A. §44-14-162.2, the secured creditor is not required to amend or modify the terms of the loan.

To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party/parties in possession of the subject property known as **364 MOUNT PLEASANT CHURCH ROAD, GORDON, GA 31031** is/are: Marilyn A. Knowles or tenant/tenants. Said property will be sold subject to (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, and (c) all matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above, including, but not limited to, assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, easements, restrictions, covenants, etc.

The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the security deed.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §9-13-172.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and nonjudicial sales in the State of Georgia, the Deed Under Power and other foreclosure documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided in the preceding paragraph.

Funds used at sale shall be in certified funds and payable to "Bell Carrington Price & Gregg, LLC".

Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC as Attorney in Fact for Marilyn A. Knowles.

Any information obtained on this matter may be used by the debt collector to collect the debt. Bell Carrington Price & Gregg, LLC, 339 Heyward Street, 2nd Floor, Columbia, SC 29201 (803)-509-5078. File: 23-55601

October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025

W25-084
Notice to Debtors and Creditors
All creditors of the estate of Lemuel Baylis Carnes, III, late of Wilkinson County, deceased, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.
This 30th day of September, 2025
Name: Evercore Trust Company, N.A.
Title: Executor
Address: c/o 647 Mimosa Blvd., Roswell, Georgia 30075

October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025

W25-088
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF WILKINSON
COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF Herschal Thomas
Brown Jr., DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 303
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE

TO: Amy Michelle Moore
and to whom it may concern:
Amy Michelle Moore has petitioned for Amy Michelle Moore to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of Herschal Thomas Brown Jr. deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before November 3, 2025. BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.
Sanah A Holder
Judge of the Probate Court

By: Bradasia A Mims
Clerk of the Probate Court
Wilkinson County Probate Court
100 Bacon St
Irwinton, GA 31042
478-946-2222

October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025

W25-091
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF WILKINSON
COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
CASE NO. 2025-CV-0113
NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE
NAME OF MINOR

Notice is hereby given that Melissa Harvey, the parent of Kayden Jayce Segers, has filed a petition in the Superior Court of Wilkinson County, Georgia, on September 3, 2025 on behalf of said minor, to change the child's name to Kayden Jayce Harvey. Any interested or affected party who objects to the name change must file an objection with the court within the time prescribed by law.

Dated: October 13, 2025
Melissa Harvey
Petitioner / Parent

October 23, 30, November 6, 13, 2025

W25-092
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF WILKINSON
COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF
Jovani Asaiah Holt, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 306
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE

TO: Tyteunna Murquial Jackson and to whom it may concern:
Tyteunna Murquial Jackson has petitioned for Tyteunna Murquial Jackson to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of **Jovani Asaiah Holt** deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before **November 17, 2025**. **BE NOTIFIED FURTHER:** All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.
Bradasia A. Mims
Judge of the Probate Court
By: Brittany Jones
Clerk of the Probate Court
Wilkinson County Probate Court
100 Bacon St
Irwinton, GA 31042
478-946-2222

October 23, 30, November 6, 13, 2025

W25-079
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

All creditors of the estate of WILLIAM BEN-NIE PRICE JR., late of Wilkinson County, Georgia, deceased, are hereby notified to render their demand to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.

This 22nd day of September, 2025.
Rodney Gordon Price, Executor
171 Dedrick Road
McIntyre, Georgia 31054
By: W. Ryan Frier, Esq.
FRIER & OULSNAM, P.C.

W25-087
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF WILKINSON
COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF Rufus Charles
Mixon, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 304
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE

TO: Leonad Brian Mixon
and to whom it may concern:
Leonad Brian Mixon has petitioned for Leonad Brian Mixon to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of Rufus Charles Mixon deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before November 3, 2025. BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.
Sarah A Holder
Judge of the Probate Court
By: Bradasia A. Mims
Clerk of the Probate Court
Wilkinson County Probate Court
100 Bacon St
Irwinton, GA 31042
478-946-2222

October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025

W25-085
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

All creditors of the estate of BONNIE SNOW, late of Wilkinson County, Georgia, deceased, are hereby notified to render their demand to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.

This 30th day of September, 2025.
Robert Snow, Executor
571 Jm McCullough Road
Gordon, Georgia 31031
By: W. Ryan Frier, Esq.
FRIER & OULSNAM, P.C.

October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025

W25-090
Notice is given that articles of incorporation that will incorporate Ty Carruthers Harlem Division Incorporated have been delivered to the Secretary of State for filing in accordance with the Georgia Business Nonprofit Corporation Code. The initial registered office of the corporation is located at 100 May Ln, McIntyre, GA 31054 and its initial registered agent at such address is Natalia Underwood.

October 16, 23, 2025

W25-093
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF WILKINSON
COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF
Harold William Dupree Jr., DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 307
NOTICE OF PETITION TO FILE FOR
YEAR'S SUPPORT

The petition of Brenda Faye Dupree, for a year's support from the estate of Harold William Dupree Jr., deceased, for decedent's (surviving spouse) (and) (minor child(ren)), having been duly filed, all interested persons are hereby notified to show cause, if any they have, on or before NOVEMBER 17, 2025, why said petition should not be granted.

All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed on or before the time stated in the preceding sentence. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed the petition may be granted without a hearing.

Bradasia A Mims
Judge of the Probate Court
By: Brittany Jones
Clerk of the Probate Court
Wilkinson County Probate Court
100 Bacon St
Irwinton, GA 31042
478-946-2222

October 23, 30, November 6, 13, 2025

W25-080
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER,
WILKINSON COUNTY

Pursuant to the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by Latoria M. Rountree and Bennie Rountree, Jr. to Option One Mortgage Corporation, a California Corporation dated 10/21/2005 and recorded in Deed Book 301 Page 676 Wilkinson County, Georgia re04) 994-7400. 1017-7606A
THIS LAW FIRM MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 1017-7606A
cords; as last transferred to or acquired by The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, National Association fka The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A. as successor to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Trustee for Residential Asset Mortgage Products, Inc., Mortgage Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates Series 2006-RP3, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of \$70,800.00, with interest at the rate specified therein, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the Courthouse door of Wilkinson County, Georgia (or such other area as designated by Order of the Superior Court of said county), within the legal hours of sale on November 4, 2025 (being the first Tuesday of said month unless said date falls on a Federal Holiday, in which case being the first Wednesday of said month), the following described property:
All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in Land Lot 262, 3rd Land District, GMD 330, in the Town of Toombsboro, Wilkinson County, Georgia, being shown at that 2.00 acre tract, more or less, on the Survey of Property for Herman Ray Orr and Agnes Orr Lord, recorded in Plat Book 19 Page 393A, Clerk's Office, Wilkinson County Superior Court. Said plat is incorporated herein for the purpose of a more complete and accurate description of the metes, bounds and dimensions of said property. This is the same property as described in a conveyance to Herman Ray Orr and Agness Orr Lord, dated October 6, 2004, recorded in Deed Book 292 Page 392 Wilkinson County Superior Court. The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note and Security Deed. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Security Deed and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given). Said property is commonly known as **239 Irwinton Rd., Toombsboro, GA 31090-2005** together with all fixtures and personal property attached to and constituting a part of said property, if any.
To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party (or parties) in possession of the subject property is (are): Latoria M. Rountree and Bennie Rountree, Jr. or tenant or tenants. PHH Mortgage Corporation is the entity or individual designated, who shall have full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of the mortgage.
PHH Mortgage Corporation
1661 Worthington Rd
Suite 100
West Palm Beach, FL 33409
(800) 750-2518
Note, however, that such entity or individual is not required by law to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the loan. Said property will be sold subject to: (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) unpaid water or sewage bills that constitute a lien against the property whether due and payable or not yet due and payable and which may not be of record, (c) the right of redemption of any taxing authority, (d) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, and (e) any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.

The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 9-13-172.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and non-judicial sales in the State of Georgia, the Deed Under Power and other foreclosure documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided immediately above. The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, National Association fka The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A. as successor to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Trustee for Residential Asset Mortgage Products, Inc., Mortgage Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates Series 2006-RP3 as agent and Attorney in Fact for Latoria M. Rountree and Bennie Rountree, Jr.
Aldridge Pite, LLP, Six Piedmont Center, 3525 Piedmont Road, N.E., Suite 700, Atlanta, Georgia 30305, (404) 094-7400.
1017-7606A
THIS LAW FIRM MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 1017-7606A

October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025

W25-081
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER
STATE OF GEORGIA, COUNTY OF WILKINSON
By virtue of a Power of Sale contained in that certain Security Deed from Martha Curry to Group Financial Southeast, dated April 25, 1997 and recorded on May 5, 1997

in Deed Book 231, Page 293, in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Wilkinson County, Georgia, said Security Deed having been given to secure a Note of even date, in the original principal amount of Seventy-Nine Thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$79,000.00) with interest thereon as provided therein, as last transferred to MCLP Asset Company, Inc., recorded in Deed Book 425, Page 33, aforesaid records, will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the courthouse door of Wilkinson County, Georgia, or at such place as has or may be lawfully designated as an alternative location, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in November, 2025, all property described in said Security Deed including but not limited to the following described property:
ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN THE CITY OF GORDON, AND IN LAND LOT 202 OF THE 27TH LAND DISTRICT, AND IN THE 331ST G. M. DISTRICT OF WILKINSON COUNTY, GEORGIA, CONSISTING OF 1.00 ACRE, AND BEING KNOWN AS LOT 3, BLOCK "E", OF THE J.B. STEVENS, JR. SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO THAT CERTAIN PLAT OF SURVEY PREPARED BY DONALD D. BROOKS, GEORGIA REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR NO. 2418, DATED DECEMBER 21, 1993, AND RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 16, PAGE 29, CLERK'S OFFICE, WILKINSON COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT. SAID LOT 3 IS SUBJECT TO SUCH SIZE, SHAPE, METES, BOUNDS AND DIMENSIONS AS SHOWN ON SAID PLAT, WHICH PLAT IS BY THIS REFERENCE MADE A PART HEREOF. THIS BEING A PORTION OF THAT IDENTICAL PROPERTY CONVEYED TO DENNIS R. SMITH AND TINA C. SMITH IN THAT CERTAIN WARRANTY DEED FROM WILLIAM E. HUBBARD, II, DATED AUGUST 12, 1996, AND RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 226, PAGE 386, AFORESAID RECORDS.

THE GRANTOR BORROWER REPRESENTS, COVENANTS, WARRANTS, AND AGREES THE MANUFACTURED HOME LOCATED ON THE LAND 1997 DESTINY, MODEL # 804-12, SERIAL # OW56286 A/B WAS FORMERLY PERSONALTY BUT IS NOW AND FOREVER TO REMAIN ON THE LAND AND HAS BEEN PERMANENTLY AFFIXED TO THE LAND DESCRIBED HEREIN SO AS TO BECOME PART OF THE LAND; AND ALL ASSOCIATED ADDITIONS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO WELLS, SEPTIC TANKS, DECKS, DRIVEWAY, WALKWAYS, PATIOS, CARPORTS, AND GARAGES, ARE INTENDED TO BE PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS TO SAID REAL ESTATE AND ARE TO BE GOVERNED BY ALL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS SECURITY DEED, WITH ALL RIGHTS THERETO APPERTAINING. THE MANUFACTURED HOME ON THE DAY OF EXECUTION OF THE SECURITY DEED HAS BEEN PERMANENTLY AFFIXED TO THE REALTY AND IS INTENDED BY THE GRANTOR TO BE A FIXTURE AND A PART OF THE REAL ESTATE.

THE GRANTOR SHALL APPLY FOR HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION AND HAVE THE PROPERTY TAXED AS REAL PROPERTY AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE. ANY FAILURE TO MAKE SUCH APPLICATION SHALL CONSTITUTE A DEFAULT HEREUNDER BY GRANTOR BORROWER.

Said property may more commonly be known as 108 DC Hardie Road, Gordon, GA 31031.

The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, non-payment of the monthly installments on said loan. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).

The individual or entity that has full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of the loan is MCLP Asset Company, Inc., 75 Beattie Place, Greenville, SC 29601, 1-800-365-7107.

Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. The sale will also be subject to the following items which may affect the title: a) zoning ordinances; b) matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or by an inspection of the property; c) any outstanding ad valorem taxes, including taxes, which constitute liens upon said property whether or not now due and payable; d) special assessments; e) the right of redemption of any taxing authority; f) all outstanding bills for public utilities which constitute liens upon said property; g) all restrictive covenants, easements, rights-of-way and any other matters of record superior to said Security Deed. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the owners and party in possession of the property are Martha Curry and or tenant(s). The sale will be conducted subject to 1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy code and 2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed.

MCLP Asset Company, Inc. as Attorney-in-Fact for Martha Curry
Contact:

Padgett Law Group: 6267 Old Water Oak Road, Suite 203, Tallahassee, FL 32312; (850) 422-2520 25-009234

Ad Run Dates: 10/09/2025 ,10/16/2025 ,10/23/2025 ,10/30/2025 ;

October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025

Loving Our Community Coalition (LOCC) meets

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES JOURNAL POST

The Loving Our Community Coalition (LOCC) meeting on October 15th brought together community partners, agencies, and advocates from Laurens, Johnson, and Emanuel Counties to share resources, discuss current initiatives, and strengthen collaboration in addressing behavioral health and community wellness.

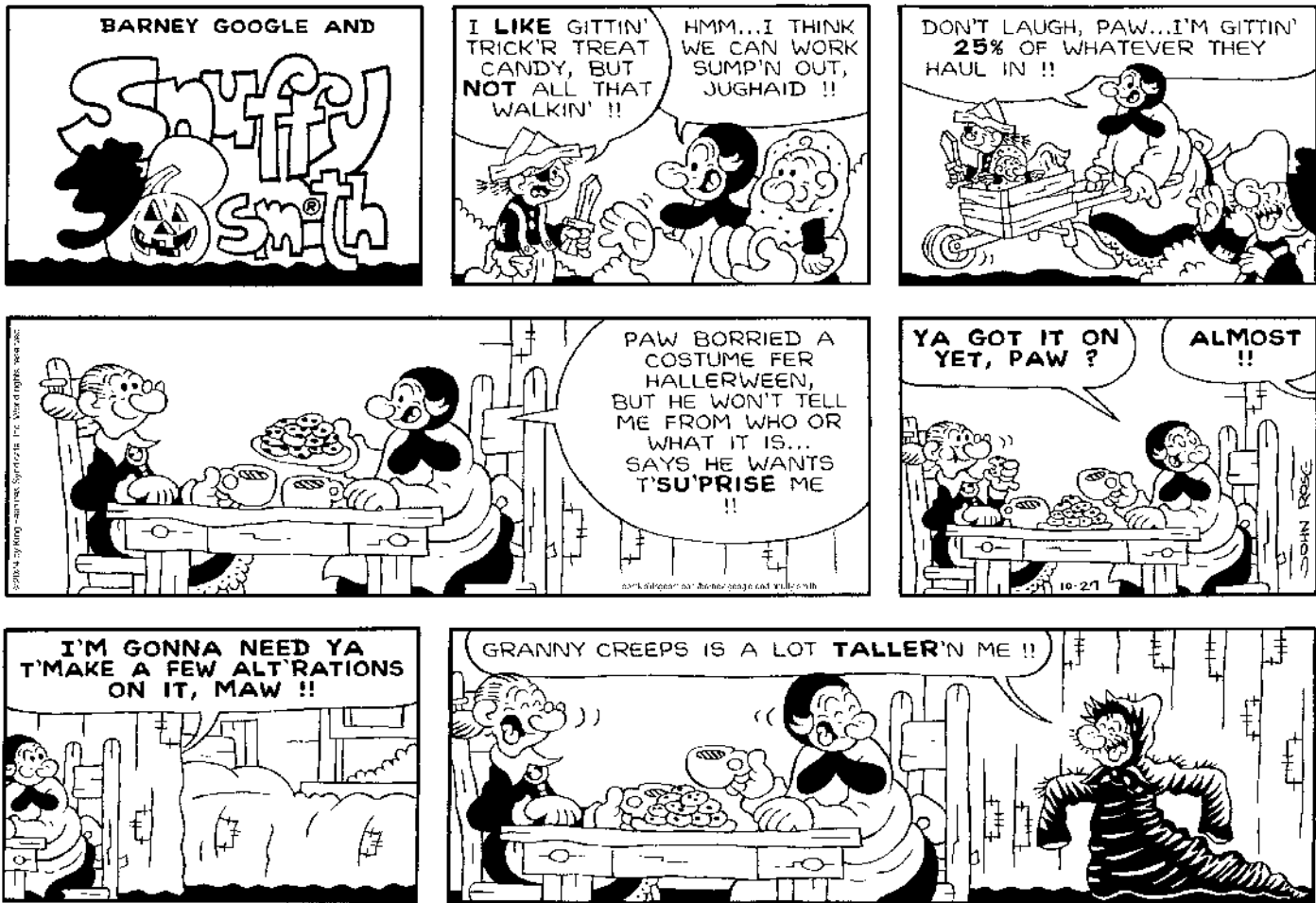
Guest Speakers

Telisha Allen – Georgia Department of Community Supervision (DCS). Telisha Allen, representing the Georgia Department of Community Supervision, provided an overview of DCS operations within the Oconee Judicial Circuit, which includes Bleckley, Dodge, Laurens, Montgomery, Pulaski, Telfair, Laurens and Wilcox counties. She explained that DCS plays a critical role in supervising individuals on probation and parole while promoting successful reintegration through community partnerships. Allen emphasized how collaboration with organizations such as CSBMG helps address needs related to behavioral health, recovery, employment, and housing. Her presentation reinforced the importance of coordinated community support in ensuring accountability, rehabilitation, and long-term success for individuals under supervision.

Megan Mercer – Georgia Southern University, Institute for Health Logistics & Analytics (IHLA). Megan Mercer, Community Relations and Event Coordinator with the Georgia Southern University Institute for Health Logistics & Analytics (IHLA), presented the Community Health Resource Project (CHRP)—a statewide initiative mapping the health and wellness assets of 18 rural Georgia counties, including Laurens County. As the Laurens County Team Lead, Mercer explained that CHRP's mission is to “revolutionize the health and well-being of our communities by applying evidence-based practices and integrating technology solutions.” Guided by the One Health approach—which recognizes the interconnection between people, animals, plants, and the environment—the project focuses on identifying community strengths such as healthcare providers, parks, educational centers and support services.

In Laurens County, the CHRP team has cataloged 85 community assets, including organizations such as the Community Service Board of Middle Georgia, RISE UP, SOAR Clubhouse, Oconee Fall Line Technical College, Carl Vinson VA Medical Center, and Dublin Farmer's Market. Mercer also shared several community insights, noting the area's vibrant downtown growth and numerous wellness spaces as strengths, while challenges such as affordable housing, transportation, and equitable resource distribution remain key areas for continued development. She encouraged attendees to engage with the Laurens County Asset Map and contribute feedback to support the ongoing mapping of health and recovery resources across rural Georgia.

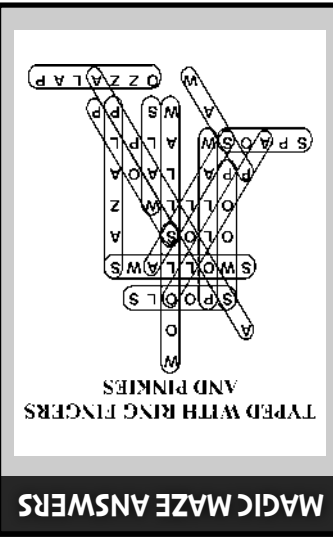
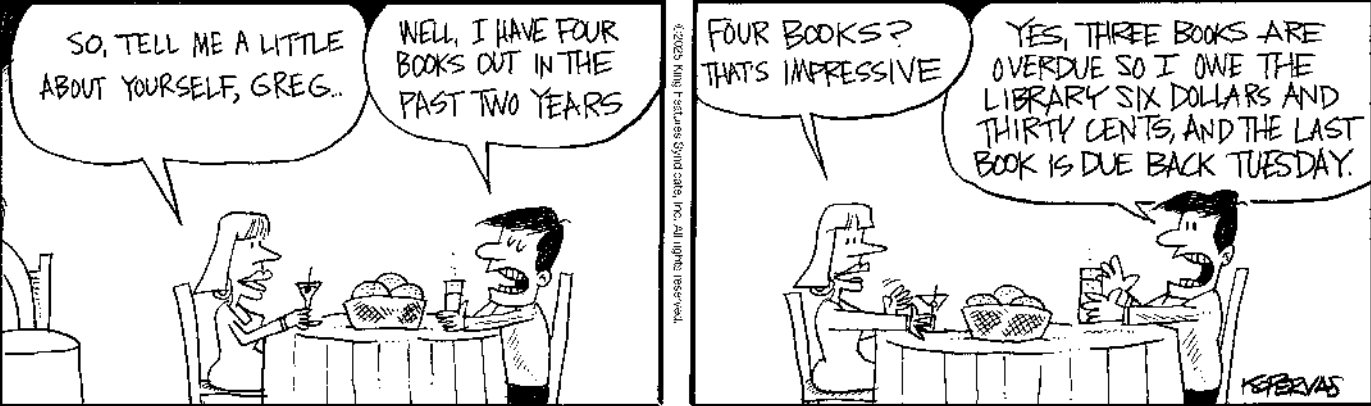
Robin Ammerman – Certified Positivity Practitioner & Trauma Bond Coach. Robin Ammerman, a Trauma Bond Coach and Certified Positivity Practitioner, delivered an inspiring message centered on hope and community engagement. Known as a “professional hope-finder,” Robin helps individuals move from pain to purpose through practical, faith-based principles. Drawing from her own experiences of loss and healing, she guided attendees through reflection on the theme “What is your little?” – encouraging everyone to identify small but meaningful ways they can contribute to their community's growth and healing. Her message underscored that transformation begins with compassion, purpose, and the willingness to take even the smallest action.



The Spats



Out on a Limb



MAGIC MAZE

TYPED WITH RING FINGERS AND PINKIES

G Z V S P L I E B Y V R O L I
F C Z W T Q N W K I F C Z W U
R P M A J H E O C Z X U S Q N
L J G E S P O O L S C Z X V T
R P N S W O L L A W S L J H E
C A Y W O L O S V T A R P N L
K I G E O L L L W C Z B Z X W
U S R P A P L A O A O M L J
S P A O S W I A L P L G E D B
A Y X S W A U W S T P P S Q P
O N O L K J W H O Z Z A L A P

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: A ROPE TO CATCH CATTLE

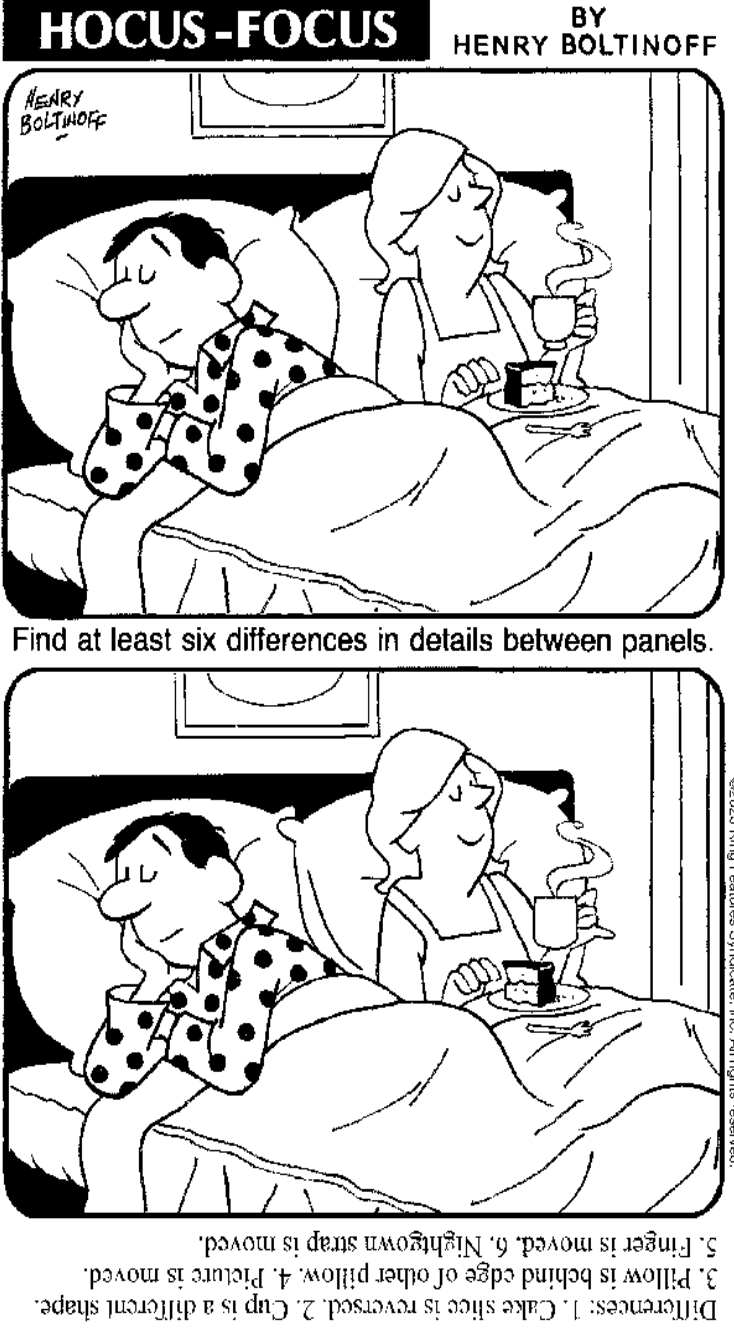
Apollo
Appaloosa
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Plazas

Plows
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Spools
Swallows
Swoop
Wallop

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Wasp
Wools

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