

Cochran City Council votes to restrict vape shops within city limits



Cochran passed a resolution to limit the number of vape shops within the city limits at a Dec. 9 council meeting/SPECIAL PHOTO

By CAROLINE WEATHERSBY
Staff Reporter

At a Dec. 9 meeting, Cochran City Council unanimously passed a resolution to restrict the number of vape shops. The resolution also limits the hours of operation for vape shops within city limits.

Vape shops, according to the ordinance, are defined as deriving 25% or more gross revenue stemming from e-cigarette sales. Councilman Shane Savant proposed a restriction on these

shops at the recent meeting, after growing concerned for the number of shops popping up around town. In the past several years, the amount of vape shops in America has skyrocketed, and many are worried e-cigarette companies may be intentionally targeting the youth.

"It is a growing concern for teens and young people in the area... They're [built] near schools. If you look where we have one right now, it's almost directly across the street from a school. It gives teens a false

sense of being able to vape and not have any consequences," Savant warned.

The councilman expressed a concern over recent studies dealing with teens and young adults who vape, citing the addictive nature of nicotine as a major source for concern.

"We still want the adult population to be able to benefit if they see the need to, but I think with a small town like this, we need to

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Assistant Superintendent James F. Austin III asked the board to approve a contract renewal with the Centegix security system for Jeffersonville Elementary School /SPECIAL PHOTO

Twiggs BOE approve contract renewal for school security system

By CAROLINE WEATHERSBY
Staff Reporter

At a recent board meeting, the Twiggs County Board of Education approved a renewal for a contract between Jeffersonville Elementary School and Centegix, an school-wide emergency alert system.

Assistant Superintendent James F. Austin III asked the board to approve the contract renewal with Centegix to protect school students and personnel during circumstances where there may be a threat on campus. The Centegix system, as it has in the past, would allow communication between staff during any emergency situation so that staff are aware of a threat and can react in a timely manner, potentially saving lives.

Austin last approached the board to renew the expiring contract with the security system back in November, but due to improper labeling, the item name was swapped and action was pushed to the following meeting.

An emergency alert system is required for all public schools in Georgia, Austin noted last month, and the contract would need to be renewed before school starts back in January.

The contract with Centegix would cost JES about \$41,000 over the span of five years, \$8,200 to be paid annually. As proposed last month, a local security grant secured by JES totaling \$64,905 would cover the complete costs of the contract renewal with

SECURITY SYSTEM
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Yeomans honored at final city council meeting by City of Cochran members



The council honored exiting mayor Billy Yeomans with a plaque for his eight years of service at his final council meeting. From left to right are City Manager Richard Newbern; Council members Gary Ates, Shane Savant and Diane Lester; Deputy City Clerk Tiffany Lampp; Mayor Billy Yeomans; and Councilpeople Lonnie Tedders, Carla Coley and Trecia Gardner/SPECIAL PHOTO, courtesy of The City of Cochran

By CAROLINE WEATHERSBY
Staff Reporter

At a Dec. 9 council meeting, on behalf of City Hall and Council, Deputy City Clerk Tiffany Lampp presented exiting Mayor Billy Yeomans with a plaque of recognition for his eight years of service. This will be Yeomans final council meeting as mayor before retiring at the end of the year.

"I thank the city for this. Money's not everything, but satisfaction means a lot," he said.

Yeomans later gave a farewell address to his constituents and council, turning the podium to face the crowd:

"I'd like to say thank you to the citizens of Cochran for allowing and giving me the honor and privilege to serve as your mayor these past eight years. Many good things have happened to the city during these eight years, and



Council members past and present from District 1 including Ates and Gardner honored Yeomans with a specialty keepsake on Dec. 12 /SPECIAL PHOTO, courtesy of The City of Cochran

YEOMANS
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Man charged with cruelty to animals, obstruction of officer after shooting neighbor's dog with a pellet rifle

By CHRISTIAN MCKEARNEY
Staff Reporter

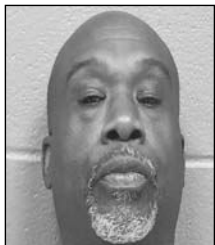
An 11 year-old boy recently was feeding his dogs "when he heard a shot" coming from a nearby window. One of the dogs immediately began to "yelp and ran into his dog house." The boy turned around and saw a neighbor standing in front of a window, pellet rifle in hand.

The boy's father called 911, and two Gordon Police Department law enforcement officers made contact with Willie Oscar Benjamin, 65. Benjamin initially denied shooting the dog, telling the officers "whatever you heard was a lie." The officers attempted to detain Benjamin, but Benjamin "attempted to snatch away." A struggle ensued, and Ben-

jamin eventually was handcuffed on the porch.

Benjamin was booked at the county jail in Irwinton and charged with one count of cruelty to animals and two counts of misdemeanor obstruction of an officer.

"(Benjamin) basically got tired of the barking and decided to shoot one of the dogs. It left a pretty good mark," said Chief Mike Hall, who sustained a laceration to his hand while attempting to detain Benjamin. "The poor dog hollered and ran in the dog house."



Benjamin

Twiggs Co. will hold first ever Jingle Bell Bash and parade this upcoming Saturday, Dec. 20



Godwin shared a flyer with the Times Journal Post of Twiggs Co.'s Jingle Bell Bash/SPECIAL PHOTO

By CAROLINE WEATHERSBY
Staff Reporter

A Christmas festival is nearly underway in Twiggs County. On Dec. 20, the first ever Jingle Bell Bash will be held in front of the county courthouse on Railroad Street from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with a parade to start at 1 p.m.

Twiggs resident Sharon Godwin said she and others in the community really wanted one for quite some time, so she decided to make that happen.

"For two years, people have been asking, 'How come we don't have a Christmas parade?' So finally, I said I'm

going to take it on this year, and see how well it does," said Godwin. "I'm doing it for the community."

Godwin says planning for the event started back in August.

"I wasn't sure if it was going to be a hit or not, and now I've got a lot of people happy this is going to happen."

If everything goes well, Godwin plans to make the Jingle Bell Bash an annual celebration in Twiggs. This year, she shared, she's expecting about 7 to 9 vendors total featuring food, arts & crafts, games and more.

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VAPE SHOPS

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reign things in.”

Savant said he conferred with City Attorney Jim Elliott, who put together a working ordinance, that, after amended by the council, was later passed, limiting the number of vape shops in Cochran to two shops.

There are currently three vape shops in Cochran, Savant noted. As proposed, all three shops will be grandfathered in, however if one closes, another will not be allowed to open in its place. If two close, only one shop will be allowed to open in its place.

The ordinance also limits the hours of operation for vape stores within city limits from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week. The council cited similar ordinances the city currently has in place for liquor stores.

Savant said he was inspired by a Dublin ordinance passed earlier this year preventing the opening of new vape shops within the city. In May, Dublin City Council voted 5-1 to limit stores containing vape products, after months of concerns regarding public health.

The ordinance will go into effect after it is signed at the next council meeting.

SECURITY SYSTEM

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\$23,905 to spare, making additional fund-scouting unnecessary.

At the Dec. 9 board meeting, Austin said he would direct the remaining funds of the security grant towards a weapons detection device for JES.

The board approved the contract renewal unanimously.

Austin told the board that the contract with Centegix for the middle and high schools would be up for renewal in Oct. 2026, and that conversation will be needed at a later date.

YEOMANS

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I give all the credit to Jesus Christ, the city employees, and the citizens of Cochran. I thank the many friends that stood by me in the hard times and prayed for me and my family. I wish God’s blessings on all of you. The new friends that I made are truly a blessing, and if I had not been mayor, I wouldn’t have met or known them. To those friends that I lost during my tenure as mayor, I wish you success and happiness. We had a good run.”

The mayor recognized City Manager Richard Newbern during the address, adding that it was a privilege to work with him over the years; the council, asking that they do only what’s best for the city of Cochran; and Mayor Elect Carla Coley, wishing her well during her term.

“Bring the city where it needs to be,” he told them. “Always remember that Jesus loves you, and I do too.”

JINGLE BELL BASH

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Other offerings of the event include face painting, temporary tattoos, dog petting, music and shopping. Godwin shared that a DJ will appear, and one church volunteered to sing Christmas carols.

One collaborator on the event is Dysfunction Junction Ranch, an animal rescue that will hold dog petting and adoption services. According to a flyer shared on social media, the rescue will provide free chipping for dogs on leashes and cats in carriers.

Anyone wishing to get in contact with Godwin ahead of the festival should reach out to her via her cell at (478)-365-5554.

Georgia Farm Bureau (GFB) elects organization's 2026 Board of Directors at annual convention

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES JOURNAL POST

MACON — Georgia Farm Bureau (GFB) voting delegates elected the organization’s 2026 board of directors Dec. 9 during the 88th Annual GFB Convention held on Jekyll Island.

GFB President Tom McCall begins the second year of his third, two-year term. He was first elected in 2020. McCall and his family grow a variety of grain crops, sweet corn, hay and straw along with beef cattle, hogs and sheep on their farm in Fortsonia in Elbert County. He and his wife, Jane, have two adult living children: Al (daughter-in-law Rachel) and Katie M. Archer (son-in-law Bristol), two grandsons and one granddaughter. Their oldest son, Bud, died in 2000. The McCalls are of the Methodist faith.

McCall has been a Farm Bureau member since 1978. His first leadership role with Farm Bureau was serving as chairman of the Elbert County Farm Bureau (ECFB) Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R) Committee. He represented GFB’s 2nd District on the GFB YF&R Committee in 1981-82 and chaired the state committee in 1982. McCall represented GFB’s 2nd District on the GFB Board of Directors from 1984-1996. He also served as ECFB president for several years.

McCall served in the Georgia House of Representatives for 26 years from Jan. 9, 1995, when he was sworn into office, until he retired from the legislature at the end of his 2020 term. As a state representative, McCall represented Georgia’s House Dist. 33, which at the time included Elbert and Lincoln counties and portions of Madison, Wilkes and Columbia counties. McCall chaired the Georgia House Agriculture & Consumer Affairs Committee from January 2005-2020. He currently serves on the UGA Research Foundation Board of Directors. He earned an associate degree in agriculture from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and a bachelor’s degree in agronomy from the UGA College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences.

GFB members in the or-

ganization’s south region reelected Daniel Johnson of Pierce County to a fourth, three-year term representing their 53-county region as GFB South Georgia vice president. The region runs from Alabama to the Georgia coast in the southern third of the state.

All GFB voting delegates designated Johnson to serve as GFB 1st vice president from among the organization’s three regional vice presidents, a position he has held since 2021. The GFB first vice president would step in to lead the organization should the president be unable to serve.

Johnson, who grows tobacco, corn, cotton and peanuts, previously represented the organization’s 10th District on the GFB Board of Directors from 2006-2016. He is vice president of Pierce County Farm Bureau and previously served as PCFB president for 25 years. Johnson chairs the Georgia Agricultural Commodity Commission for Tobacco. He and his wife, Patricia, have four children and five grandchildren.

Ralph Caldwell of Heard County begins the second year of his second, three-year term as GFB Middle Georgia vice president, which members in the organization’s Middle Georgia Region first elected him to in 2021 and re-elected him in 2024. The GFB Middle Georgia Region includes 56 county Farm Bureaus in the middle third of Georgia stretching from the Alabama line to the South Carolina line.

Caldwell and his wife, Kim, raise poultry and cattle while growing corn and soybeans. The couple’s son, Colton, who is married to Delayna, helps on the farm when he isn’t at his law practice. The Caldwells have one granddaughter, Callie, and one grandson, Callum. Caldwell, a preacher for more than 30 years, is currently serving as interim pastor at New Canaan Baptist Church in Tallapoosa.

Caldwell began serving as a Heard County Farm Bureau director in 1990 and has served as the HCFB president since 2002. He served on the GFB Young Farmers & Ranchers Com-

mittee from 1992-1994.

Bernard Sims of Catoo- sa County begins the third year of his sixth, three-year term as the GFB North Georgia vice president. Sims was first elected to the position in 2008. The GFB North Georgia Region includes 49 county Farm Bureaus in the upper third of Georgia running from the Alabama to the South Carolina state lines.

Sims serves as the Catoo- sa County Farm Bureau president, a position he has held since 1979. Sims and his wife, Janet, grow turf grass, small grains and hay and raise cattle. The Sims have two surviving adult children and eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. They are members of Burning Bush Baptist Church.

GFB members in the organization’s 8th District reelected Scotty Raines of Turner County to a two-year term on the GFB Board of Directors to represent their 17 counties that includes Clay, Crisp, Dooly, Houston, Lee, Macon, Marion, Pulaski, Quitman, Randolph, Schley, Stewart, Sumter, Terrell, Turner, Webster and Wilcox counties. Raines was first elected in 2012.

Raines and his wife, Melanie, grow cotton, peanuts, grains and watermelon, and raise beef cattle. The Raines have received numerous awards for their farming operation including the 2022 Sunbelt Expo Georgia Farmer of the Year, 2002 Georgia Farm Bureau Young Farmer Achievement Award, the Turner County Chamber of Commerce Farmer of the Year and the Georgia Young Farmers Farm Family of the Year.

In addition to farming, Scotty is a partial owner of the Hat Creek Peanut Company in Sycamore and serves as secretary of the company’s board of directors. He is also a shareholder in Tifton Quality Peanuts, a farmer-owned peanut shelling plant. The Raines are active members of the Turner County Farm Bureau (TCFB) for which Scotty serves as a director.

The Raines have two daughters, Celie and Christian (Justin Pate),



Pictured from left, Georgia Farm Bureau President Tom McCall, GFB 1st Vice President & South Georgia Vice President Daniel Johnson, North Georgia Vice President Bernard Sims and Middle Georgia Vice President Ralph Caldwell will lead the state’s largest general farm organization in 2026/Photo courtesy of Georgia Farm Bureau

and a grandson, Jordan Dent Pate. Scotty and Melanie and are active members of First Baptist Church in Tifton.

The following were reelected without opposition to serve two-year terms on the Georgia Farm Bureau Board of Directors: Bill Bryan of Chattooga County, 1st District; Gilbert Barrett of Habersham County, 2nd District; Brad Marks of Newton County, 3rd District; Russ Wilburn of Barrow County, 4th District; Leighton Cooley of Crawford County, 5th District; James Malone of Laurens County, 6th District; Gary Bell of Evans County, 7th District; Paul Shirah of Mitchell County, 9th District and David Lee of Bacon County, 10th District.

GFB directors beginning the second year of the two-year terms they were elected to in 2024 are: Wesley Hall of Forsyth County, 1st District; Russ Moon of Madison County, 2nd District; Chad Carlton of Polk County, 3rd District; Skeetter McCorkle of McDuffie County, 4th District; Matt Bottoms of Pike County, 5th District;

James Emory Tate of Jeff Davis County, 6th District; Ben Boyd of Screven County, 7th District; Don Wood of Wilcox County, 8th District; Lucius Adkins of Baker County, 9th District; and Lamar Vickers of Berrien County, 10th District.

Garrett Hurley of Chattooga County was named chairman of the GFB Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee. Romy Strickland of Spalding County was selected to chair the GFB Women’s Leadership Committee. Each will serve a one-year term as committee chairmen and will sit on the GFB Board of Directors.

Appointed officers of the GFB Board of Directors include General Counsel Duke Groover, Chief Financial Officer & Corporate Treasurer Rachel Moseley, Chief Administrative Officer Jeffrey Harvey, and Corporate Secretary and Senior Counsel Jeanna Fennell.

Delegates also voted on policy that will direct the organization’s stance on legislative issues pertaining to agriculture in the coming year.



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New York

The Christmas tree at Rockefeller Center came to life in New York last week, an image that was brought to life in dens and family rooms across the country – one of the highlights of the holiday season.

As great as it is to experience this extraordinary event through the magic of television, there’s nothing like seeing it live in New York. To be in Manhattan during this time of the year is an adventure that is as emotionally satisfying as one can experience during the Christmas season.

I made my first trip to New York in the mid-fifties. Following intermittent trips in the sixties, I began finding my way there frequently.

Then in the mid-seventies, I began making an annual trip in December and in many years as much as a half dozen sojourns to one of the most exciting cities in the world.

London, Rome, and Paris are great, as are the other capitals of Europe. Then you experience Istanbul, Brussels, Vienna, Berlin, Lisbon, Athens, Amsterdam, Lisbon, Prague, and others – but there’s nothing like New York.

When the Yankees win a home game, the club rewards the departing attendees with the smooth, resonant voice of Frank Sinatra, singing “New York, New York.” That is one of the all-time great songs, sung by a sensational talent who could charm and delight us without vulgar, loud, and nonsensical verbiage that has often become a staple of



LORAN SMITH

today’s music.

Not sure how Sinatra, himself, ranked that song among his list of hits, but it had to be special to him in that he grew up in Hoboken, N.J., which is right across the Hudson River from the city. Growing up, he probably took the ferry over to New York, a place where he could walk down the street

and not cause a stir as it did when he became an everlasting icon in show business.

Despite the traffic jams, honking horns, and harried citizens, New York seems to always be upbeat. The cacophony and rushed atmosphere are just part of the fabric of this awe-inspiring metropolis.

The museums are terrific and the dining options unmatched – from a hamburger at (now defunct) “Burger Heaven” to “The Grill,” one of the top five rated restaurants in New York.

Or you might want to book a reservation at “Pat’s Italian Restaurant” at 256 West 56 th Street, which was Sinatra’s preferred restaurant in New York. If you want to try Eli Manning’s favorite restaurant, “4 Charles Prime Rib,” good luck.

Broadway still is a grand experience, although the cost of a theatre ticket is overwhelming. Then again, everything is costly everywhere these days, but it borders on the outrageous in New York.

I can remember learning to find my way about New York on the subways. When I had a tour of duty with the Coast Guard and spent time in Groton, Conn., I could take a train into New York and book a room at the old Century Hotel as a member of the Armed Forces for the military rate of \$20. Subway tokens cost 15 cents. Then there was that cheap hamburger at Burger Heaven.

There weren’t many Broadway opportunities, even at \$14 a ticket, but I learned that if you waited until the show started, you could get in for five dollars.

And that is how my infatuation with Broadway began with deep and abiding affection.

Just walking the streets of New York was an excursion to appreciate in the 1950s and 1960s. In the 1980s, it cost \$10 to rent ice skates at Rockefeller Center; today it is almost \$50. Getting the hang of ice skating at this iconic address while listening to Bing Crosby sing “White Christmas” and Mel Torme’s rendition of “The Christmas Song,” was always a signature moment.

With the inexperienced and controversial Zohran Mamdani becoming mayor of the city, traditionalists hope that he will embrace the lyrics of New York’s unofficial anthem, so comfortably sung by Sinatra, and keep the Big Apple everyone’s favorite city that never sleeps.

The mass shooting at Bondi Beach, Australia brings Hanukkah to all of us

In a couple of weeks, we’ll begin to ring in the new year across the globe. Often our first pictures of the celebration as we’re preparing for our new year’s eve plans are glimpses of the Sydney Opera House with revelers and fireworks a half day ahead of us.

The first night of Hanukkah began for all of us on nearby Bondi Beach. Jews gathered to celebrate the next 8 nights were met by two gunmen in a country that has mostly banned guns.

There are at least 15 dead including a Holocaust survivor and two rabbis. Dozens of others are injured and in hospitals.

Jews are once again reminded that there are people who don’t want them to exist anywhere. The continued media framing that these attacks are protests “against Israel” is as laughable as it is unfunny.

Sydney and Israel are roughly 9,000 miles apart. There is no construct that credibly allows for two men opening fire on beachgoing worshipers to be protesting Benjamin Netanyahu.

That’s not what is going on, nor has it been since Oct. 7, 2023. “Globalize the intifada” wasn’t just a cool slogan for progressive trust fund kids on ivy league campuses. It is a well-funded active campaign, complete with entire news organizations aiding, abetting, and even misdirecting activities.

Bondi Beach was just the latest example. The attacks on groups large and small, even against individual homes who have the temerity to put a menorah in their window, are growing too numerous to mention individually.

The Jewish people have endured literal thousands of years protecting themselves against those who would wipe them from the

maps. The Hanukkah story itself is part of that history. It’s time non-Jews learned what Hanukkah is, what it stands for, and why it must be celebrated.

It’s not just “Jewish Christmas” as many of us from rural areas without many Jewish folks around were taught. There’s a real meaning here, quite applicable to modern times and events.

A couple hundred years before our first Christmas, ancient Greeks had occupied much of Jewish land and had taken over and desecrated the temple in Jerusalem. A small army of the Macabees, led by a priest and his sons, fought to regain the temple.

Once successfully re-occupying the temple, they found only enough oil to re-light the sacred menorah for one day. The miracle of Hannukah was that the oil lasted for eight days, proving enough time to provide

sion additional supplies.

Hanukkah is now celebrated for asserting religious freedom as well as bringing light into darkness. It’s also a triumph of a smaller and outnumbered people who remain dedicated to their most core beliefs against an ever threatening, secular world.

Many of our news reports these days are dark. Conflict seems to be growing, and divisions among our own people or even among westerners in general seem to be escalating.

For Jews, specifically, there seems no safe haven. Public gatherings are being targeted.

Private homes are being shot at. Individuals are being singled out for harassment in public if they “look Jewish.”

This is not OK. This is not normal. There is no historical context that need be explained, no understanding of Israel’s government,



CHARLIE HARPER
GEORGIA POLITICS

nor that of their relations with neighboring countries or factions that make any of these events justifiable. Not in America, not in Australia, nor anywhere else in the “civilized” world.

For the remaining nights of Hanukkah, I would recommend those who value our freedom to find some way to celebrate. These values are our values. The triumph of light over darkness

is our celebration.

It’s not an alternative way to celebrate Christmas, but instead, a pre-cursor to it. In many ways it’s also akin to Easter, when Christians celebrate the triumph of light over the darkness of the tomb.

We like our holidays to be festive times. Hanukkah is one that celebrates somber resolve, perseverance, and ultimately triumph.

We’ll soon be through our holidays and have hopefully happier pictures coming again from Sydney. With the New Year’s celebration comes resolutions.

Let us resolve to stand with our Jewish friends, partner with them and support them in their perseverance, and comfort and protect them as we can.

This is ultimately the only path to secure basic freedoms for all of us. This, together, is how we triumph.

Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr talks about running for governor

I sat down recently with Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr to talk about his decision to run for governor. Carr will face off against current Lt. Gov. Burt Jones and Secretary of State Brad Raffesperger and a couple of no-names in next May’s Republican primary seeking to succeed current Gov. Brian Kemp, who is term-limited and cannot seek a third term. The winner will face the Democrat’s candidate in the 2026 general election in November.

I have known Chris Carr since his days as chief of staff to the late U.S. senator from Georgia, Johnny Isakson, a statesman whose likes we aren’t apt to see anytime soon in today’s poisonous world of Washington politics. So, first question: Why give up the job as attorney general and throw his hat in the ring to become the state’s 84th governor?

“I want to see Georgia continue to grow,” he said. “And I feel called to run. I have a great job but having worked with Govs. Kemp and Nathan Deal, I see the impact a governor can have in jobs, education, public safety and quality of life. I know I can do the job. I just need to convince people I can win the race.”

Carr became Georgia’s attorney general in 2016 when Gov. Deal appointed him to the post to succeed Sam Olens, who had resigned to become president of Kennesaw State University. He won election in 2018 and again in 2022.

“When I became attorney general, our office was largely a civil practice,” Carr told me, “representing the



DICK YARBROUGH

various agencies, boards and authorities in state government. Working with Govs. Deal and Kemp and with the Legislature, we got the necessary approvals and now have a very effective criminal practice, focusing on human trafficking, gangs and retail crime cases.”

Carr says, “Our Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit has rescued over 200 children since 2019, young

girls between the ages of 14 and 17, and secured lengthy prison sentences for their traffickers.” Carr also created Georgia’s first statewide Gang Prosecution Unit in 2022 and says the unit has obtained more than 120 convictions across the state so far which has resulted in getting gang members off the street.

Prior to his appointment as the state’s chief legal officer, Chris Carr was commissioner of the Georgia Department of Economic Development. “I am very proud of the fact that Georgia has been the top state in the nation in which to do business for 12 years running. During my tenure there, we added some \$14 billion in investment and the creation of more than 84,000 jobs.”

Back to the governor’s race, Carr says, “Burt Jones has the support of the ‘Ever Trumpers’ and Raffensperger is supported by the ‘Never Trumpers’ and I’ve got everybody else.” He notes that the last time the three of them were on the ballot together was in the 2022 Republican primary where he got 75% of the vote (roughly 840,000), as did Gov. Brian Kemp. Raffensperger got 62% (610,000) and Jones received 50.2%, (550,000) narrowly avoiding a runoff.

Carr says that Raffensperger has high name recognition among Republicans but is viewed negatively by most of them. Jones, he says, is using the David Perdue failed 2022 playbook, “a rich guy dipping into his personal fortune” – Jones recently “loaned” himself \$10 million for his campaign – “and touting Donald Trump’s endorsement.”

“You have to be able to appeal to persuadable voters in Georgia who voted for Brian Kemp for governor

and Raphael Warnock for the Senate. That’s 60% of the voters,” he says.

How does he propose to do that? “We know there are about 750,000 Republicans who vote in the primary and some 2.5 million in November. That is a difference of some 1.8 million voters. Our task is to move as many of them as we can into voting in the primary and talking about issues that matter to them like jobs, safety, affordability and education. I believe that if you ask them, they will do it and that is

what we intend to do.”

In closing, I mentioned to the attorney general that four recent polls show him with between 7 to 19 percent of the vote, Raffensperger with 14 to 20 percent and Jones between 20 and 30 percent. His answer? “Brian Kemp, Nathan Deal and Sonny Perdue were all in third place in the early stages of their elections. Today, we call them ‘governor.’” Clearly, that’s what Chris Clark has in mind.



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