

City of Cochran holds its annual Lite-A-Lite event

By CAROLINE WEATHERSBY
Staff Reporter

On Dec. 12, Cochran held its annual Lite-a-Lite tree lighting ceremony and parade in downtown.

The event is hosted every year by the Pilot Club of Cochran dating back to 1977. The Lite-a-Lite project, which coincides with the annual lighting of the town Christmas tree, encourages members of the public to donate \$1 to claim a light in honor of a loved one. Funds are collected and directed towards local scholarships for Bleckley County High School students.

During the event, Mayor Billy Yeomans gave a quick speech in front of the city auditorium, encouraging everyone to, as the tree is lit, remember the people who give those lights meaning.

"Every light on that tree represents some person. It's not just a light, it's a person, so think about that," he said.

Yeomans then turned the crowd over to the Bleckley County Elementary School Chorus, who sang four songs for attendees including "Deck the Halls," "Silent Night," "O Christmas Tree" and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

Then, after an enthusiastic countdown, the tree was lit.

Following the tree-lighting was the parade. City and county officials, local businesses, churches, and first responders participated by driving around town in various cars, trucks, floats and even a plane - decked out in all the best Christmas lights and decor Cochran has to offer.



After the parade, the City of Cochran presented awards to three parade goers for their craftsmanship and presentation:

Most Festive - La Cabaña
Judges' Choice - Citizens Bank of Cochran
Best Overall - Cochran Airport

After the event, a city representative took to social media, writing, "The City of Cochran would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in and attended our Christmas Parade. Your creativity, holiday spirit, and community pride truly made the evening special!"

Between the tree lighting and parade events, the community band performed in front of the county courthouse.



The BCES Chorus sang four songs before the Christmas tree was lit, including popular tunes like "Deck the Halls," "Silent Night," "O Christmas Tree," and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." The community band performed in front of the county courthouse, between the tree lighting event and the parade. The City of Cochran crowned three winners at its annual Christmas parade. La Cabana won Most Festive, Judges' Choice was Citizens Bank of Cochran, and the Best Overall was awarded to the Cochran Airport/Photos by Caroline Weathersby, Special Photos contributed by the City of Cochran



Capturing the perfect canine Christmas photo complicated

By CHRISTIAN MCKEARNEY
Staff Reporter

Some needed a little coaxing, while others were naturals in front of the camera.

Indeed, it was quite the adventure at The Blue Goose on Main, as the business in Irwinton held its first-ever Christmas Dog Photo Fun event.

Blue Goose owner Donna Asbell and her crew broke out the props and set up holiday-themed backdrops.

"We are a very dog-friendly business, and we have dogs in and out of here all the time. So, we thought this even made sense."

Ollie the Bulldog was a natural, stepping right up

to the bow-themed backdrop and sticking his head through the hole. Ollie made sure the photographer got all of his best angles.

Ollie would've been perfectly happy standing there all day posing for pics. Some of the other dogs, however, had better things to do and they weren't exactly feeling it.

Several of the chihuahuas, for example, needed coaxing and coercing. In defense of the chihuahuas, it wasn't completely their fault, as their legs were too short and they needed help being propped up.

"We can't wait to do more," Asbell said. "We're already planning more dog events for 2026."

Cochran-Bleckley Chamber of Commerce sold more than \$40,000 in Bleckley Bucks

By CAROLINE WEATHERSBY
Staff Reporter

The Cochran-Bleckley Chamber of Commerce has sold over \$40,000 in Bleckley Bucks during the month of December, Chamber President Melissa Barker announced at a county commissioner meeting last week.

Bleckley Bucks is a shop local program designed to boost Cochran businesses and "keep money in the community," said Barker.

This program allows consumers to buy Bleckley Bucks in the form of a check in increments of

\$10 and \$25, which can then be spent at more than one hundred participating businesses throughout the Bleckley area. The Bleckley Buck is a direct 1-to-1 conversion of the U.S. dollar.

"When you can spend [Bleckley Bucks] at over a hundred businesses and keep money in Cochran, we are literally feeding our community," said Barker.

Interested residents purchase the currency at the Chamber of Commerce and can use it at a number of participating shops, restaurants, and more throughout the county. Some of these business-

es include Middle Georgia State University, Scott's BBQ, the Mule Barn, Dykes Pharmacy, At Home Senior Living, Curry Heating & Air, KMAD Academy, ASAP Septic, Cochran Motor Speedway, Orchard Vet Clinic and Greene Acres Farm.

A full list of participating businesses can be found on the official Cochran-Bleckley Chamber of Commerce webpage.

Though they're sold year-round, Bleckley Bucks are often given as gifts during the holiday season.

This year, the chamber will gift \$100 in Bleckley

Bucks to the winner of the Chandler the Chamber Elf drawing.

Chandler, the chamber's mischievous Elf on the Shelf that appears every year during the Christmas season, visited over a dozen businesses throughout the month of December. Residents who found and took photos with Chandler were encouraged to post to social media tagging both the chamber and the business where Chandler was found, and they would be entered into the drawing.

The drawing was held Monday, Dec. 22.



OFTC students put teaching skills into practice

SPECIAL TO TIMES JOURNAL POST

Early Childhood Care & Education students at Oconee Fall Line Technical College (OFTC) recently showcased hands-on learning activities they designed for preschool-aged children as part of their program coursework.

The students created interactive bulletin boards, sensory learning centers, literacy and math stations,

and social-emotional development activities—mirroring the types of experiences early childhood educators provide in real classrooms. These projects allow OFTC students to practice planning lessons, creating age-appropriate materials, and leading group activities while gaining a deeper understanding of how young children learn through play and exploration.

OFTC's Early Childhood Care & Education program prepares graduates to work in preschools, child care centers, Head Start programs, and other early learning environments. Through hands-on assignments like these, students build the confidence and skills needed to support children's growth across cognitive, social-emotional, language, and physical development.



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Georgia Unveils 2026 Travel Guide ahead of FIFA World Cup

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES JOURNAL POST

Governor Brian P. Kemp and the Georgia Department of Economic Development's tourism division – Explore Georgia – today announced the release of the 2026 Georgia Travel Guide, a free resource for travelers to plan their visits to the Peach State. The 130-page guide is packed full of beautiful imagery and immersive storytelling designed to inspire exploration across all regions of Georgia as travelers and communities across the state plan for the FIFA World Cup 2026. Travelers can request a free mailed copy of the travel guide online or pick up a copy at one of the state's nine Visitor Information Centers.

"Georgia is excited to welcome a historic number of visitors from around the world this year as we host the FIFA World Cup 2026 and celebrate America's 250th birthday," said Governor Brian Kemp. "As a record number of travelers choose to spend time in Georgia, this travel guide will provide them a glimpse into the people and places that make this state so great. Whether the Peach State is their destination or they are just passing through, we hope this resource inspires our visitors to keep Georgia on their mind as

they learn about everything we have to offer."

The guide's four-tab cover showcases the diverse landscapes and experiences drawing travelers to Georgia, from immersing in the vibrant energy of a FIFA World Cup 2026 Host City to experiencing the small town that shaped a president, and exploring Colonial history along the coast to picturesque golfing in the mountains. Images featured on the layered cover include Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, Plains Train Depot in Plains, Fort Frederica National Monument on St. Simons Island, and Cloudland at McLemore Resort's Highlands Course in Rising Fawn.

"With the global spotlight on Georgia in 2026, this moment gives us a unique opportunity to bring visitors from nearby and around the globe into cities and towns across Georgia and invite them to 'Make Yourself at Home.' Hospitality, natural beauty, and a welcoming atmosphere define every corner of our state, and our new travel guide will convey that message to all of our guests," said Georgia Department of Economic Development Commissioner Pat Wilson. "That's because every visit to Georgia counts, supporting our hospitality workforce and sustain-

ing the businesses that power our local communities."

Throughout the guide, travelers will find trip-planning tools and tips, including a wide range of itineraries, a foldout state map, transportation and accessibility information, and spotlights on locally grown and made products that visitors can take home as a gift or memento of their time in Georgia. Featured articles include:

"Love Sports? Come to the Peach State," spotlighting Georgia's electrifying sports scene, from global events like the FIFA World Cup 2026 to professional teams and college powerhouses.

"Best Trips of 2026," showcasing destinations with new offerings and special reasons to visit, from the state's first overnight safari conservation park to exploring Georgia's role in the American Revolution during the nation's 250th anniversary year.

"One Big Family, One Big Atlanta Adventure," highlighting the capital city's culture, history, food, and fun for the whole family.

"Only in Georgia," featuring natural marvels and cultural standouts that can only be found in the Peach State.

"Always in Season," illustrating Georgia's year-round appeal with must-do activities in spring, sum-

mer, fall, and winter.

"Four Real-Life Towns for Film Fans to Visit," inviting travelers on a cinematic journey through the settings of iconic movies and beloved TV shows.

"10 Georgia Dishes Worth the Trip," serving up dining recommendations from local chefs, from coastal seafood and farm-fresh flavors to restaurants with MICHelin stars.

"In the Footsteps of Giants: The U.S. Civil Rights Trail in Georgia," guiding visitors through the state's pivotal role in shaping a movement central to American history.

"Embrace the Joy of Missing Out," revealing some of the best escapes to slow down and unwind, from rustic retreats to luxury getaways.

"Next Exit: Worthy Georgia Detours," encouraging road trippers to make an extra stop off the beaten path to discover hidden gems near popular destinations.

"Georgia is home to incredible natural wonders, charming small towns, major cities with rich cultural offerings, iconic filming locations, and vibrant arts scenes – everything today's travelers are looking for – and this guide delivers a roadmap to experience it all," said Georgia Department of Eco-

nomic Development Deputy Commissioner of Tourism Jay Markwalter. "Thanks to the leadership of Governor Kemp and our General Assembly, as well as the effectiveness of our statewide tourism industry and visitor-driven marketing strategies like this travel guide, Georgia's visitor economy is stronger than ever. This guide will further our mission to inspire visitation and spending across all regions of Georgia."

Following three straight years of record-breaking tourism, this inspirational planner aims to continue Georgia's upward momentum. In 2024, the state welcomed a new high of 174.2 million visitors, resulting in a record \$45.2 billion in visitor spending. Those tourism dollars generated \$82 billion in statewide economic impact and supported 470,570 jobs.

To request a free copy of the 2026 Georgia Travel Guide, complete the online mailing form or call 1-800-VISIT-GA. Copies of the guide are also available at Georgia's Visitor Information Centers and through a statewide network of tourism locations, including city and county welcome centers, attractions, and Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites.

For more travel inspiration, visit ExploreGeorgia.org.

Fulton DA Fani Willis testified to Georgia Senate committee

By TY TAGAMI Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — After more than a year of rebuffing Republican attempts to compel her testimony before the Georgia Senate, Fani Willis went to the state Capitol Wednesday to give three hours of often combative testimony to a special committee that she deemed to be a political farce.

Senate Republicans created the committee to investigate "alleged and admitted" misconduct by Willis, whom they have been pursuing since her decision to indict Donald Trump and 18 alleged co-conspirators in the wake of the 2020 election.

The hearing featured questions about her use of public funds as Fulton County district attorney, whether she had coordinated with the administration of President Joe Biden, her handling of open records requests and her payment to a subscription service she used to track the value of the media coverage of her and her office.

It also featured Georgia's last Democratic governor, Roy Barnes, as her attorney, who frequently interrupted to advise her not to answer questions.

Sen. Greg Dolezal, R-Cumming, led the committee in the place of Sen. Bill Cowser, R-Athens, whom Dolezal said was re-

cuperating from surgery.

When Barnes cut Dolezal off after dismissing the relevance of some of his questions, Dolezal said they were about the investigation while Barnes said they were merely to infer wrongdoing.

Willis then added, "also to divide the country."

Each side accused the other of political grandstanding. Dolezal asked about a \$10,000 a year subscription service that reported media coverage worth tens of millions of dollars, according to a projected slide of an email to Willis from her media relations staffer.

Dolezal also offered documents that indicated the same staffer had worked as

a Democratic political consultant and that Willis had contributed to the political campaign of Charlie Bailey, now chairman of the state Democratic party, when he ran for lieutenant governor in 2022. (She pointed out that the money was for his primary campaign against another Democrat.)

Willis, in turn, had handed out photocopies of social media posts that showed both Dolezal, who is running for lieutenant governor, and Cowser, who hopes to be attorney general, using the investigation for political messaging.

She repeatedly insulted Dolezal, telling him at one point that he had asked "a really ignorant question"

about whether she had considered investigating Trump before his infamous phone call to Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger.

She also insulted the premise of the panel itself, calling it a "QAnon committee." She said white senators were pursuing her because she is Black and she had indicted white and influential people. She said repeatedly that they wanted to be "daddy."

After the hearing, Sen. Harold Jones II, D-Augusta, the Senate minority leader and a member of the committee, questioned the purpose, as well. He said Dolezal, who by committee rules was the only one besides Jones who got to

ask questions, had simply rehashed old information about billing while raising "esoteric" questions about Willis' handling of open records requests.

He said none of the questions got to the core issue of why Willis chose to indict. He said that was because the defendants had tried to overturn the election and she had done the right thing.

Although four defendants took plea deals, the rest avoided trial. Last month, Peter Skandalakis, executive director of the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia, asked a judge to dismiss the case and the judge agreed.

OFTC announces Owen Stokes as 2026 GOAL winner

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES JOURNAL POST

OFTC – Owen Stokes, a Radiologic Technology student at Oconee Fall Line Technical College (OFTC) was recently announced as the college's 2026 Georgia Occupational Award of Leadership (GOAL) winner during a college awards luncheon, Thursday, December 11.

Stokes is a resident of Baldwin County.

GOAL is a statewide program within the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) that honors excellence in academics and leadership among the state's technical college students.

Five OFTC students were nominated by instructors for this year's competition

and competed in a series of interviews and evaluations by a selection committee made up of representatives from local businesses and industries, and judged on qualities like academic achievement, personal character, leadership ability and enthusiasm for technical education.

This year's competing nominees were Alexandria Bryant (Laurens), Associate Degree in Nursing Bridge; Angelique Carlyle (Washington), Business Technology; Mallory Hodges (Washington), Radiologic

Technology; Lacey Kilgore (Laurens), Associate of Science in Nursing; and Owen Stokes (Baldwin), Radiologic Technology.

Stokes was nominated by

Radiologic Technology instructor, Sierra Smith, and this year's selection committee consisted of representatives from the Dublin Rotary Club.

All five nominees were honored during the awards luncheon where Stokes was announced as the winner. Other college awards were also announced, including the 2025 Alumni of the Year Award, the college's 2026 Rick Perkins Award for Excellence in Technical Instruction

Instructor of the Year, the 2026 Exceptional Adult Georgian in Literacy Education winner, and the 2026 Adult Education Teacher of the Year.

As the college's 2026 GOAL winner, Stokes will

compete in regional judging against winners from other TCSG colleges in February and will represent OFTC at the state-level in Atlanta in April when one student will be named the statewide 2026 Goal winner by the TCSG.

OFTC's Rick Perkins Award & Instructor of the Year winner, Kelley Braxton, was also announced. Braxton is a Respiratory Care Instructor at OFTC.

For more info on OFTC's 130+ programs or the GOAL program, visit the College's website, OFTC.edu.



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Merry Christmas to those who make Christmas happen

My mother used to torture my brother and I on Christmas morning.

We'd wake up early in the morning, no matter what time the excitement of Christmas Eve had faded and we had finally fallen asleep. We didn't fall asleep, really, but passed out. My parents forbade us from entering the living room on Christmas morning until permission was granted.

Long before the sun rose, I'd shout across the house until my parents were awake, not that hard of a task, because I grew up in a doublewide trailer. Even after they were up, I was not to set foot close to the loot left under the tree by Santa until a fire was burning in the fireplace, a fresh pot of coffee was brewed and most importantly, the camera was loaded with film.

After what seemed like an eternity, I was beckoned to the living

room. There were cheers and yells of joy and the triumphant brandishing of long-wished-for gifts, all captured for eternity by an Olympus point and shoot. When the flurry of excitement died down, my father would relinquish the camera and arm himself with pocket knife, screwdrivers and an assortment of batteries (all conveniently stashed arm's length from his favorite chair) and assist with opening packaging and boxes.

Then my parents took a nap, while new toys and games were broken in. By midmorning, it was off to my grandparents for a Christmas feast, followed by the exchange of more gifts.

The most wonderful time of the year comes with a lot of work; there's the decorating, the shopping, the wrapping and, ever-increasing in importance as I get older, the meal prep and cooking. A merry Christmas doesn't just

fall out of the sky, it comes with a lot of stress and pressure on families, even if you like to keep things simple and in tune with the true reason of the season.

It's something I didn't really appreciate until I had a family of my own and a proper share of Christmastime chores, and I'm happy to admit that the adult side of Christmas is just as enjoyable as the kid side.

So, let's forget about Santa, the jolly fat man who gets more credit than he deserves, and here's to the ones that make Christmas happen: To the mothers who set a picture-perfect scene, even if they did it in October; to the grandmothers who host giant families and make sure everyone has their favorite meal; to the dads who stay up late putting bicycles and dollhouses together and install batteries in gadgets (and set up new phones, gaming systems and other elec-

THE NEW SOUTHERN DAD



By KYLE DOMINY

tronic devices for the older kids);

and let's not forget the grandpas just along for the ride and enjoying their second childhoods. Everyone has their place and an im-

portant job to do.

However, you pass the festive days ahead, may it be with those you love and cherish and who help make Christmas happen.

DID YOU KNOW...?

Why was British money so confusing to the rest of the world before 1971?

By JACK BAGLEY
For Georgia Trust For Local News

When you see this column, it will be time to begin waving goodbye to 2025. I hope your Christmas was a wonderful one, and that you are planning a happy (but very safe) celebration for the incoming new year. Me? I'm going to bed early. I'm too old for all that celebrating stuff.

Next time we meet, the calendar will say it's 2026... for all of us, though, it's always trivia time. Here's the last column of the year, and I hope you like it! Happy New Year, everybody!

Did you know...

... the phrase "Waterloo Ivory" has a very dark history? After the battle of Waterloo in 1815 in Belgium, looters descended on the corpses of the fallen soldiers and began removing their teeth. The stolen teeth were later sold to dentists, who marketed them as denture sets called "Waterloo Ivory." The name was later used to refer to dentures made from the teeth of soldiers who died in the U.S. Civil War as well. (Ewwwww.)

... you may know someone who practices xylography? Don't worry, it's not one of the mystic arts or anything – though it is an art. Xylography is the art of engraving wood, and the term is also used to describe early printing processes which involved text engraved on wooden blocks. (Remember those old woodburning kits you could get for kids? Try finding one of those now.)

... the first department store Santa Claus donned the red and black outfit in 1890? James Edgar (1843 - 1909), a department store owner in Brockton, Massachusetts, is believed to be the first person to dress up as Jolly Old St. Nick for a store. Edgar's Santa was based on the illustrations of Thomas Nast (1840-



British money was very confusing to the rest of the world until 1971/SPECIAL PHOTO

1902), who drew Santa in the guise we now know and love for Harper's Weekly in 1862. Edgar performed as Santa in his store annually and over the years, children from all over New England came by train to tell him what they wanted for Christmas. Today's modern department-store Santa can trace his lineage directly back to Edgar. (Ho, ho, ho, James Edgar!)

... native Hawaiian women use flowers to signal their romantic availability? If a woman native to Hawaii places a flower on her right ear, it means she's available. (If it's a big flower, it means she's not all that particular.)

... an Ecuadorian politician was elected president of the country five times? That's not the special part, however. José María Velasco Ibarra (1893-1979) was overthrown by the country's military forces four times. After the first two overthrows, when the military allowed democracy to return to Ecuador, Velasco Ibarra was elected president

again. He only served out his complete term after his third election in 1952, and was overthrown after his fourth and fifth elections. (Somebody wasn't getting the message, it seems.)

... British money was very confusing until 1971? That year, the British currency was decimalized – made to work in factors of ten. The pound was still the main unit, and it was divided in 100 pence. But prior to 1971, British currency was, to other nations, most confusing, because it was based in factors of 12. The pound was the main unit, but it was divided into (in order of value, smallest to largest): the farthing, the half penny or ha'penny, the penny, threepence, sixpence, the shilling, the florin, the half-crown, and the crown. The farthing was worth 1/4 penny, the half penny you can guess, same for threepence and sixpence, the shilling was worth 12 pence, the florin worth two shillings, a half crown was worth two shillings and sixpence, a

crown was worth five shillings, or 1/4 of a pound, and a pound was worth 240 pence. A pound could be in the form of a paper bill, called a note, or a gold coin, called a sovereign. If that isn't confusing enough to you, as a non-British subject, try these slang terms: a quid or a nicker, which were terms for a pound; bob, for a shilling; and a guinea, a gold coin worth 21 shillings. Guineas were more "gentlemanly" than shillings. (Makes sense to me!)

... a popular character on Sesame Street used to be a different color? Oscar the Grouch, the grumpy Muppet who lives in a trash can, is green. But at the beginning of the show, back in 1969, he was orange. There was no particular reason for Muppet creator Jim Henson (1936-1990) to change the character's fur color, but he did for the show's second season. On the show, Oscar explained the color change by saying he'd gone on vacation to the Swamp Mushy Muddy, and his color

changed overnight. (Right.)

... one should always be careful of what one offers?

Take, for example, the case of King Konrad III (1093-1154) of Franconia, a province of what is now Germany. When forces led by Konrad defeated the Saxons at Weibertreu Castle in 1140, Konrad granted the women of the castle free departure, allowing them to take whatever they could carry on their backs. The women of the castle chose to carry the men of the castle on their backs, and Konrad – admiring the ingenuity of the idea – kept his word. The men were supposed to have been either slaughtered or imprisoned, but they went

free because Konrad was an honorable man.

... one of the most offbeat portraits of Queen Elizabeth II was created with tea bags? English artist Andy Brown (born 1980) created a portrait of Her Majesty (1926-2022) out of 1,000 used (and unused) tea bags stitched together on burlap for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. The Queen was said to have been " bemused" by the offbeat portrait. Brown has also visited 90 baseball parks in nine countries to create paintings which capture the baseball experience. (Gives "tea time" a new meaning, eh?)

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HERE'S A TIP!

By JOANN DERSON
King Features

* Cookies are so fun to make (and to eat). To save some of your favorites for the new year, simply place dough balls on a cookie sheet and freeze. Pop into a freezer-safe bag, and you can have freshly baked cookies pretty much anytime!

* Many people have heard of using applesauce in place of oil or fats, but here's one from T.L. in Georgia about a sugar replacement: "You can use pureed grapes in place of white sugar in some quick bread or

muffin recipes. It's pretty easy to make in the blender, and all you need to do is adjust the dry ingredients a little bit so that your muffins are not too moist."

* Wine. Nobody I know is wasting it. But if you're done before the bottle is, you can pour the leftover wine into ice cube trays to save it. You can use it later in recipes, or (my favorite) to chill a glass of wine!"

* If you have a lot of overnight guests, here is a good trick so that everybody can hang up his or her towel: Grab some S

hooks from the shop and hang them off the towel bar. Now everyone can have a towel hook.

* I have two carafes that I use for my breakfast bar. In one I keep coffee and the other holds milk or cream. On holiday nights, I prep the cream carafe and put it in the fridge. In the morning, while the first pot of coffee is brewing, I fill the coffee carafe with hot water and let it sit. It keeps the coffee hot longer. Then guests may serve themselves some coffee while the next pot is brewing.

TOWN OF TOOMSBORO GEORGIA

FISCAL YEAR 2025 (FY25) BUDGET

PRESENTATION TO COUNCIL, PUBLIC HEARING, REVIEW, AND ADOPTION

PUBLIC HEARING ON FY25 BUDGET: A public hearing on the FY25 General Fund budget is scheduled for Friday, January 2, 2026 in the City Hall located at 159 Main Street, Toombsboro, GA 31090. At this meeting, the Mayor and Council will receive both written and oral comments about the budget for the Town of Toombsboro, Georgia. Persons with special needs related to handicapped accessibility or foreign language shall contact Sherri Connell, City Clerk, at (478) 933-5257, by January 1, 2026.

MAYOR'S RECOMMENDED BUDGET AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW: The FY25 Mayor's Recommended General Fund budget will be available for public inspection during normal office hours on weekdays at Toombsboro City Hall at 159 Main Street, Toombsboro, GA 31090 from December 22, 2025, until January 1, 2026.

BUDGET PRESENTATION: The Mayor and Council of the Town of Toombsboro are scheduled to review the FY25 Recommended Budget on the following date:

Friday, January 2, 2026 at the Toombsboro City Hall at 1:00 p.m.

BUDGET ADOPTION: The Mayor and Council of the Town of Toombsboro are scheduled to adopt the FY25 budget at a Regular council meeting on January 13, 2026. The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Toombsboro City Hall.

Do unto others ...

Editor's note: This column originally ran in the December 25, 2024 edition of the Tri-County Connector.

The pace picks up considerably from Thanksgiving to Christmas to New Years. There is much scurrying about amid the beckoning of the commercial savants who aspire to turn a generous profit during the holidays.

Shopping reaches a peak during this time of the year. Parents shop for kids. Kids shop for parents. Executives purchase gifts for employees, and pupils shop for their teachers.

At this time of the year, the greatest gifts are those which find their way to those less fortunate. All al-

truistic charities should be given the highest marks for trying to make the holidays memorable for those who need a lift materially and in spirit.

Then there are special programs such as drives to collect coats for those without. More than likely, you have a couple of coats collecting dust in your closet. You could make someone smile by cleaning them up and putting them into a charity bin to be distributed to people who could stay warm from your charitable sensitivity.

For most of us, it is difficult to think that there are those who don't have a meal confirmed for Christmas Day. Sadly, that sometimes is the case with many families.



LORAN SMITH

The local food bank works diligently to see that the needs of so many families are covered during the holidays. This organization works to make sure children don't go hungry—especially during the holiday season.

Grocery chains do their part in supporting various charities. Then there are in-

dividuals who make annual contributions. If you don't have a favorite charity, there are plenty to choose from.

Churches are sensitive to the needs of a community. They do their part to make sure that many families enjoy a "Merry Christmas." With inflation and other challenges to contend with, it is getting harder for these organizations to meet their goals.

Nonetheless they soldier on and redouble their efforts to serve the most pressing need in our communities—full stomachs and happy holidays for needy families. Especially those who have young kids who know what it is like to go to bed hungry at night.

Almost every Christmas, I recall the first day of school after the holidays. The teacher thought it would be interesting to let all the kids tell their classmates what

they got for Christmas. Naturally, the affluent kids had the most impressive list to recite, which always brought about frustration. Fortunately, I was in the middle. I had a couple of items to boast about but it was always painful when the kids whose Christmas was limited always underscored that they got "lots and lots of fruit."

The banker's daughter had the most impressive list and so did the kids of the leading businessmen in town. Why did the teachers not have the foresight to have each kid identify the one special gift they received from Santa?

"Toys for Tots" has been great for the kids of our communities through the years. The Salvation Army has worked to fill so many voids. As you make plans

for the holidays, give your family priority and remember to provide an assist for the churches and organizations that reach out to the many in need.

At Christmas, I always appreciate that old poem which you hear from time to time:

Christmas is coming,
The geese are getting fat,
Please put a penny in my old
felt hat,
If you don't have a penny,
a half-penny will do,
If you don't have a half-penny,
God bless you.

Be a cheerful giver this holiday season. Smile as you move about and make somebody else smile during the forthcoming holiday season by extending a helping hand.



Stacey Abrams: Georgia showed us Medicaid work requirements don't work

For years, Republican lawmakers have pointed to Georgia's Medicaid work requirement experiment as proof that their approach "works."

If you wanted to see what "reform" looked like, they said, look at Georgia. Now we know the dangers because the results are unmistakable: the purported solution was deeply inefficient and expensive and makes it harder—not easier—for people to get necessary care.

A new nonpartisan Government Accountability Office report found that Georgia's Medicaid expansion work requirement program spent nearly twice as much on administrative costs as it spent on covering health care costs—with "over \$54 million on bureaucracy versus \$26 million on actual care costs," according to the report.

Vendors made money, but desperate residents saw little in return.

This Republican disaster has not only been a waste of money—it has also generated massive administrative barriers and red tape that have resulted in fewer than 10,000 enrollees out of almost 250,000 Georgians who qualify. Among those affected are the thousands of Georgia veterans, particularly in South Georgia, who do not qualify for TRICARE or VA health care but still deserve access to affordable medical treatment.

Nearly 70,000 veterans

FINE PRINT STACEY ABRAMS



in Georgia are uninsured—about 7.1% of the state's veteran population—which puts us in the Top 10 of states with uninsured vets. Kemp's Pathways program has proved to be an abject failure for those Georgians who served our country.

From our veterans to working families, the barriers were predictable and illogical: confusing digital systems, understaffed agencies and endless documentation requirements that became a second job for many trying to comply. Georgia built a program so complex that the bureaucratic process became yet another obstacle, adding insult to injury.

The program was designed to limit enrollment and neglect our communities—it has done just that, pulling necessary treatments away from our neighbors.

Yet, despite Georgia's proven failure to meet minimum viable standards, Republican leaders in Washington, D.C., are preparing to make this model national. Instead of learning from

Georgia's mistakes, they're doubling down on them. When the government breaks its promises and then breaks its own systems, the people pay the price.

This national push to force people off of Medicaid through administrative burden comes at the worst possible moment. Key Affordable Care Act tax credits—subsidies that keep health care premiums affordable for millions—are set to expire if Congress fails to act. In states that expanded Medicaid, some people losing subsidies still have a safety net. As we well know, though, Georgia's Republican leaders have rejected Medicaid expansion for a decade—which means there's no backup plan.

Families will face premium hikes with nowhere to turn, pushing more people to forgo critical care and face medical debt and financial crisis. This is not to mention the likely closure of more rural hospitals and urban safety net facilities. Among the highest risk closures are Flint River Community Hospital in Montezuma

ma, Irwin County Hospital in Oella and Washington County Regional Medical Center in Sandersville.

In other words: Georgia already refused the lifeline of Medicaid expansion, built a failed work requirement scheme that cost more and covered less, squandered millions on enriching vendors who constructed a broken system, and now sits at the center of a national health care crisis it helped create.

This is not accidental mismanagement. It's an intentional design. When government systems are built to fail, people understandably lose faith that democracy can deliver at all. That erosion of trust is part of the strategy—because when voters become disengaged, the same leaders who broke the system stay in power.

But the truth is simple: this can still be fixed. To start, Congress must renew the ACA tax credits, and every member of Congress that represents these areas should hear from you. This isn't about partisanship. It's about whether farmers can afford an accident or veterans will face health crises without help.

Closer to home, leaders in Georgia must make Medicaid expansion their priority and demand actual efficiency versus the waste of money and abuse of power shown by the Pathways program. Across Georgia and the South, we must re-

ject a nationalized health care punishment scheme that has already proven to be a boondoggle and an ineffective, bureaucratic maze—forcing working people to beg for scraps of respect.

Democracy is supposed to deliver for people—helping bridge gaps created by systems that we can't cross alone.

When it doesn't, we have to demand better—and

vote accordingly. Georgia is both the warning and the opportunity. What happens next depends on all of us.

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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Legals

Bleckley Co. Legals

C25-135
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF BLECKLEY COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF JIMMIE LEE BLACKSHEAR.
DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 2025819
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE

TO: NICOLE HORNEDENT and to whom it may concern:

VICTORIA BLACKSHEAR FREENEY has petitioned for

VICTORIA BLACKSHEAR FREENEY to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of JIMMIE LEE BLACKSHEAR 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 January 9, 2026.

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 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.

Judge of the Probate Court
December 11, 18, 25, 2025, January 1, 2026

C25-137
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

RE: ESTATE OF SYLVESTER BLACKSHEAR, DECEASED

All creditors of the Estate of Sarah Blackshear, deceased, late of Bleckley County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to Executor.

This 11 day of December, 2025
Sarah Blackshear, Executor
157 Ash Street
Cochran, GA 31014
December 18, 25, 2025 January 1, 8, 2026

C25-138
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

RE: ESTATE OF TONY WAYNE SMITH, DECEASED

All creditors of the Estate of Tony Wayne Smith, deceased, late of Bleckley County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to Administrator.

This 11 day of December, 2025
Judy C. Grantham, Administrator
1171 Jones Road
Cochran, GA 31014
December 18, 25, 2025 January 1, 8, 2026

C25-139
The Courier Herald
115 S Jefferson Street
Dublin, Georgia 31021
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF BLECKLEY
IN RE: DENNIS MARION ELLIS, DECEASED

All debtors/creditors of the Estate of Dennis Marion Ellis, deceased, of Bleckley County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment of the undersigned.

This 18th day of December 2025
Christopher Ellis
c/o Kindall Browning-Rickle, Esq.
P.O. Box 4939
Eastman, Georgia 31023
December 25, 2025, January 1, 8, 15, 2026

C25-140
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF BLECKLEY COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

In Re: Teshanna Kathleen Stephens
Civil Action File No 2025W-01419PW
NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

GEORGIA, Bleckley County
Notice is hereby given that Teshanna K. Stephens the undersigned, filed his petition to the Superior Court of Bleckley County, Georgia on the 01 day of July, 2025, praying for a change in the name of petitioner from Teshanna Kathleen Stephens to Dimka K. Stephens. Notice is hereby given pursuant to law to any interested or affected party to appear in said Court and to file objections to such name change. Objections must be filed with said Court within 30 days of the filing of said petition.

This 01 day of July, 2025
Teshanna Kathleen Stephens
Petitioner
December 4, 11, 18, 25, 2025

C25-140
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

GEORGIA, BLECKLEY COUNTY

All creditors in the ESTATE OF HOWARD G. BRIGGS, deceased, late of Bleckley County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands to Joseph C. Spurlin, attorney for said estate, at P.O. Box 7566, Tifton, Georgia 31793, in accordance with Georgia law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to said attorney.

This 18th day of December 2025.

/s/Joseph C. Spurlin

Joseph C. Spurlin
December 25, 2025, January 1, 8, 15, 2026

C25-143

The Cochran Journal
Attn: Legal Advertisement Dept. Cochran, Georgia 31014

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF BLECKLEY
IN RE: ESTATE OF TERRY JOE WILLIAMS, DECEASED

All creditors of the estate of Terry Joe Williams deceased, late of Bleckley County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me.

This 10th day of December, 2025.

Jessica Dianne Lander
Administrator of the Estate of Terry Joe Williams
275 Greenville Ter.

Macon, Ga. 31220
December 18, 25, 2025 January 1, 8, 2026

C25-141
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF BLECKLEY
IN RE: ESTATE OF LUCILE ARRINGTON ALLGOOD, DECEASED.
All creditors of the estate of Lucile Arrington Allgood, deceased, late of Bleckley County, are hereby notified to render their demands to Richard M. McNeely, attorney for Mary Frances Allgood McNure, Administrator of the Lucile Arrington Allgood Estate, at P. O. Box 767, Swainsboro, Georgia 30401, according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment of any indebtedness due the estate.

This 18th day of December, 2025.
RICHARD M. MCNEELY,
Attorney for Mary Frances Allgood
McNure

Administrator of the
Estate of Lucile Arrington Allgood
Richard M. McNeely, P.C.
P. O. Box 767
Swainsboro, Georgia 30401
(478) 237-4225
December 25, 2025, January 1, 8, 15, 2026

Twiggs Co. Legals

T25-080
Twiggs Times New Era 425 Railroad Street
North P. O. Box 800
Jeffersonville, GA 31044
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF TWIGGS
IN RE: ERNEST GENE JOHNSON, DECEASED

All debtors/creditors of the Estate of Ernest Gene Johnson, deceased, of Twiggs County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This 11th day of December 2025.
Heather Brantley
1109 GA Hwy 112
Cochran, Georgia 31014
December 18, 25, 2025 January 1, 8, 2026

C25-137
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

RE: ESTATE OF TONY WAYNE SMITH, DECEASED

All creditors of the Estate of Tony Wayne Smith, deceased, late of Bleckley County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This 11 day of December, 2025.
Judy C. Grantham, Administrator
1171 Jones Road
Cochran, GA 31014
December 18, 25, 2025 January 1, 8, 2026

C25-138
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

RE: ESTATE OF SYLVESTER BLACKSHEAR, DECEASED

All creditors of the Estate of Sarah Blackshear, deceased, late of Bleckley County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to Executor.

This 11 day of December, 2025
Sarah Blackshear, Executor
157 Ash Street
Cochran, GA 31014
December 18, 25, 2025 January 1, 8, 2026

C25-139
The Courier Herald
115 S Jefferson Street
Dublin, Georgia 31021
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF BLECKLEY
IN RE: DENNIS MARION ELLIS, DECEASED

All debtors/creditors of the Estate of Dennis Marion Ellis, deceased, of Bleckley County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment of the undersigned.

This 18th day of December 2025
Christopher Ellis
c/o Kindall Browning-Rickle, Esq.
P.O. Box 4939
Eastman, Georgia 31023
December 25, 2025, January 1, 8, 15, 2026

C25-140
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF BLECKLEY COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

In Re: Teshanna Kathleen Stephens
Civil Action File No 2025W-01419PW
NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

GEORGIA, Bleckley County
Notice is hereby given that Teshanna K. Stephens the undersigned, filed his petition to the Superior Court of Bleckley County, Georgia on the 01 day of July, 2025, praying for a change in the name of petitioner from Teshanna Kathleen Stephens to Dimka K. Stephens. Notice is hereby given pursuant to law to any interested or affected party to appear in said Court and to file objections to such name change. Objections must be filed with said Court within 30 days of the filing of said petition.

This 01 day of July, 2025
Teshanna Kathleen Stephens
Petitioner
December 4, 11, 18, 25, 2025

C25-141

The Cochran Journal
Attn: Legal Advertisement Dept. Cochran, Georgia 31014

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF BLECKLEY
IN RE: ESTATE OF TERRY JOE WILLIAMS, DECEASED

All creditors of the estate of Terry Joe Williams deceased, late of Bleckley County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me.

This 10th day of December, 2025.

Jessica Dianne Lander
Administrator of the Estate of Terry Joe Williams
275 Greenville Ter.

All that certain parcel of land situate in the 23rd Land District in the County of Twiggs, State of Georgia, being known and designated as shown by a plat of survey made by Jack C. Brantley, Surveyor, recorded in Plat Book 2, page 160, Twiggs County Records, bounded now or formerly as follows: northeast 208.71 feet by Fowler Road; southeast 417.42 feet by lands of Ernest Nicholson; southwest 208.71 feet by lands of Gary Nobles; and northwest 417.42 feet by lands of Gary Noble. The property herein conveyed is the same as that described in Warranty Deed from Cecil C. Slaughter and Betty Willis Slaughter to Jubie R. Sanders and Eunice L. Sanders as joint tenants with Right of Survivorship dated February 22, 1973, recorded in Deed Book W, page 559, Twiggs County Records, the said Eunice L. Sanders having died December 11, 1995.

Said property is conveyed subject to all easements for utility purposes and all covenants and restrictions of record.

Said property is known as 758 Fowler Rd, Danville, GA 31017, together with all fixtures and personal property attached to and constituting a part of said property, if any.

Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, whether or not now due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.

The proceeds of said sale will be applied to the payment of said indebtedness and all expenses of said sale as provided in said Deed, and the balance, if any, will be distributed as provided by law.

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

The property is or may be in the possession of William E. Williams, Jr. and Caroline B. Williams, successor in interest or tenant(s).

Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC as Attorney-in-Fact for William E. Williams, Jr. and Caroline B. Williams

File no. 23-081129
LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP*
Attorneys and Counselors at Law
211 Perimeter Center Parkway, N.E., Suite 130
Atlanta, GA 30346
(770) 220-2535
[https://www.logs.com/](http://www.logs.com/)
*THE LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

October 30, November 6, 13, 20, 27, December 4, 11, 18, 25, 2025, January 1, 2026

Wilkinson Co. Legals

W25-105
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF WILKINSON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
AMANDA PANTHER, in official capacity as TAX COMMISSIONER OF WILKINSON COUNTY, Petitioner.

EVERETT (AKA EVERETTE) CURTIS AND/OR HIS OR HER KNOWN OR UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW, GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, MORRIS BAN, ANY AND ALL PARTIES THAT MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST IN THE EXCESS FUNDS GENERATED FROM THE JUNE 5, 2018 TAX SALE FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 123 BAGGETT ST. (TAX PARCEL: G13 168), Respondents.

CIVIL ACTION
FILE NO. 2025CV0103
NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICA-
TION

To Respondents - Any And All Parties That May Claim An Interest In The Excess Funds Generated From The June 5, 2018 Tax Sale For Property Located At 123 Baggett St. (Tax Parcel: G13 168): Please take notice that Petitioner AMANDA PANTHER, in official capacity as TAX COMMISSIONER OF WILKINSON COUNTY ("Petitioner") has filed a Summons and Petition for Interpleader in the Superior Court of Wilkinson County, Georgia in the above-captioned case.

Respondents are hereby commanded to file their Answer to the Petition within 60 days of the date of the Order Directing Service by Publication, or by January 30, 2026, with the Clerk of Superior Court of Wilkinson County, P.O. Box 250, Irwinton, GA 31042, and serve a copy of their Answer on Petitioner's counsel Bradley A. Hutchins, at Weissman PC, One Alliance Center, 4th Floor, 3500 Lenox Road, NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30326. Witness, the Judge of Wilkinson County Superior Court.

4th day of December, 2025.
By: Star Grove
Deputy Clerk of Superior Court of Wilkinson County, Georgia

Prepared by:
D. Andrew Folkner
Georgia Bar No. 695599
Bradley A. Hutchins
GA Bar No. 380682

Counsel for Petitioner Amanda Panther, in official capacity as Tax Commissioner of Wilkinson County
Weissman PC
One Alliance Center, 4th Floor
3500 Lenox Road, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30326
(404) 926-4500 | F 4600

December 11, 18, 25, 2025, January 1, 2026

W25-066
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF TWIGGS

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER

Because of a default under the terms of the Security Deed executed by William E. Williams, Jr. and Caroline B. Williams to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Rocket Mortgage, LLC, FKA Quicken Loans, LLC dated August 11, 2022, and recorded in Deed Book 102, Page 105, Twiggs County Records, said Security Deed having been last sold, assigned, transferred and conveyed to Rocket Mortgage, LLC, FKA Quicken Loans, LLC, securing a Note in the original principal amount of \$154,660.00, the holder thereof pursuant to said Deed and Note thereby secured has declared the entire amount of said indebtedness due and payable and, pursuant to the power of sale contained in said Deed, will on the first Tuesday, January 6, 2026, during the legal hours of sale, before the Courthouse door in said County, sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, the property described in said Deed, to-wit:

Earlie Strickland
Executor of Annie Mae Strickland Estate, deceased
P.O. Box 20782
Macon, Ga. 31205
December 18, 25, 2025 January 1, 8, 2026

Lite-A-Lite

Community Christmas Tree Lighting



In honor of

Rarcinda Adams
Karla Alfaro-Lopez
Elizabeth Allen
Megan Allen
Brian Arnold
Wayne Arnold
Betty Baldwin
Charles, Jennifer, & Athena Baldwin
Chris Baldwin
Grant Baldwin
Patrick Baldwin
Breanna Barnett
Jennifer Barnett
Christa Bass
Carla Bowen
Kaitlin Bowen
Makaila Bowen
Brittany Brown
Kim Brown
Pastor Willie Brown
Tommy Brown
Ava Mae Bryan
Louise Bryan
Tommy & Andrew Bryan
Will & Nathan Bryan
Denise Bryant
Jennifer Burkhalter
Bill Cheek
Janice Cheek
Kelly Cheek
Patrick Cheek
Steven Cheek
Reyna Chewning
Anthony & Leah Collins
Ricky Cone
Harlie Corner
Jeremiah Cox
Allison Cranford
Lisa Culp
All of Vicki Curley's Grandchildren
Cooper Curtis
Dustin & Courtney Curtis
Kaleb & Kason Curtis
Jacob Daniel
Shayla Dean
Bertie Sue Dempsey
Katie Dopson
Patricia B. Dykes
In Honor of Our Grandchildren
Jessica Foskey
Michael Francis
Banner & Dallas Frost
Lauren & Will Frost
GCRR Followers
GCRR Fosters
GCRR Supporters
GCRR Volunteers
Margaret Giammetta
Brad & Stephanie Giddens
Campbell Giddens
Cooper Giddens
Hutch Giddens
Isaiah Giddens
Jeff & Ali Giddens
Lincoln Giddens
Nate Giddens
Sawyer Giddens
Shep Giddens
Silas Giddens
Steeve & Bianca Giddens
Capt. Jeremiah C. Giles, Infantry, TNAR
Don Giles
Frank R. Giles
Harper Lee Giles
Jeremy & Zada Giles
Maggie Giles & Saquib Sarker
Mike Giles & Carla Abshire
Susie Giles
Luann Gingras
Cynthia Gordon
Lorraine Grammatica
Dustin Green
Kayla Greer
Dr. Stewart Grizzard
Tesa Grizzard
Robin Hamsley
JR Haywood
Nicholas Holmes
Delaney Howell
Lilly Hulett
Mary Ann Jarrell
Michael Johnson
Annslee Joiner
Alex Jones
Kaylin Jones
Jeff C. Leverette
Treasure Lockhart
Karen (Bevins) Looney
Cassie Marchman
Barbara Massingill
Asa Mathis
Blake Mathis
Bo & Annsley Mathis
Cal & Stephanie Mathis
Hayes Mathis
Quinn Mathis
Zakhia Mathis
Cole Mays
John & Rachel McClure
Tim McElroy
Rhonda McHolan
Ricky McHolan
Beth, Jim, and Daniel Mitchell

In honor of

Cadaeza Montford	Heartland EMS
Keyaedra Montford	Heartland EMS
Monica Morris	Heartland EMS
Daniel Mullis	Heartland EMS
Wendell Mullis	Heartland EMS
Eli Mullis	Heartland EMS
Lois Nash	Heartland EMS
Quang Nguyen	Heartland EMS
Neta O'Berry	Don & Ramona Giles
Lacy Otto	Heartland EMS
Julie Payne	Heartland EMS
Deneice Peacock	Bonnie Sapp
Megan Peacock	Heartland EMS
Charlene (Bevins) Penland	Collin & Stacy Leverette
Delton Perdue	Heartland EMS
Andy & Dana Perkins	Danny & Ellen Mathis
Emma Kate Perkins	Danny & Ellen Mathis
Sawyer Perkins	Danny & Ellen Mathis
Bob Peterson	Collin & Stacy Leverette
Jessica Phillips	Heartland EMS
Noah, Darby, & Piper Phillips	Don & Ramona Giles
Pilot Club of Cochran	Patsy Washburn; Zandra Mullis; Jackie Wilson
Jehrico Pinkston	Heartland EMS
Lilla Lee Purser	Danny & Ellen Mathis; Don & Ramona Giles
Avery Raffield	Heartland EMS
Alexandria Russell	Heartland EMS
Rusty Russell	Heartland EMS
Cale Rycroft	Heartland EMS
Donald & Brenda Sanders	Bonnie Sapp
Jacob Sapp	Bonnie Sapp
Justin & Whitney Sapp	Bonnie Sapp
Lane Sapp	Bonnie Sapp
Lyla Sapp	Bonnie Sapp
Stevie Sapp	Bonnie Sapp
Scrappy	Heartland EMS
Thomas Scroggs	Heartland EMS
Caleb Senters	Heartland EMS
Levi Sheffield	Heartland EMS
Clay & Casey Smith	Don & Ramona Giles
Daryll & Paula Smith	Don & Ramona Giles
Dewann & Dena Smith	Don & Ramona Giles
Diane (Bevins) Smith	Collin & Stacy Leverette
Emmeline Smith	Don & Ramona Giles
Erik & CaraLee Smith	Don & Ramona Giles
Luke Smith	Don & Ramona Giles
Olivia, Penny, & Juliet Smith	Don & Ramona Giles
Samuel, Jordan, & Ruth Ann Smith	Don & Ramona Giles
Satra Kathryn Smith	Don & Ramona Giles
Ashley Spires	Heartland EMS
Jordan Stone	Heartland EMS
Maureen Stoy	Heartland EMS
Mike Stoy	Heartland EMS
Kevin Summerall	Heartland EMS
Tyler Swords	Heartland EMS
Hollie Thompson	Heartland EMS
Loran Thompson	Heartland EMS
Ross Thompson	Heartland EMS
Donna Thrasher	Heartland EMS
Peggy Thrasher	Randy & Dawne Bryan
Neil Tomlinson	Heartland EMS
Vickie Tomlinson	Heartland EMS
Annette Townsend	Don & Ramona Giles; Randy & Dawne Bryan
Jessica Troccoli	Heartland EMS
Jonathon Turner	Heartland EMS
Candi Vaughn	Heartland EMS
Austin Walker	Heartland EMS
Krista Walker	Heather Zaresky (GA Canine Rescue & Rehab)
Jeanette Smith Wallace	Don & Ramona Giles
Southern White	Heartland EMS
Betty Whitlow	Heather Zaresky (GA Canine Rescue & Rehab)
Kendra Whittington	Heartland EMS
Suzanne Wilkins	Heartland EMS
Emma Williams	Eric & Selina Zieg
Ellie, Nathaniel, & Mary Win Wooten	Bill & Kathy Baldwin
Reagan Wright	Eric & Selina Zieg
James "Jim" Zieg	Eric & Selina Zieg

