

## Wreck on I-16 leaves one dead and several others injured



The scene of a fatal wreck that happened last Friday on I-16 East in Twiggs County /LANA DOMINY

By CAROLINE WEATHERSBY  
Staff Reporter

One person is dead and multiple others are injured following a multi-truck collision on I-16.

The Twiggs County Sheriff's Office says that around 8:45 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 23, a large dump truck carrying gravel struck the rear end of another vehicle, causing a domino effect of other crashes to follow.

A couple of accidents on the interstate that morning starting in Dublin led to slowed traffic before the incident.

According to a report from the Georgia State Patrol, the dump truck was following too

closely and failed to stop, causing the collision. As a result of the impact, the struck vehicle - a semi truck carrying fruit trees - flipped over.

The flipped vehicle then struck a third vehicle, a yellow box truck hauling appliances, causing the box truck to strike a fourth vehicle hauling a dual-axle trailer.

As a result of the collision, the report says, the cab of the dump truck became detached, and the driver was later pronounced deceased at Atrium Health Navicent.

The driver of the semi truck, as a result of the vehicle being flipped on its side, became

trapped in his truck. Emergency services arrived shortly after and were able to break through the windshield, allowing the driver to climb through and out of the flipped vehicle.

Officials say all parties were transported to the hospital for treatment.

Multiple emergency services agencies across Twiggs and Bleckley Counties responded to the scene as well as the Georgia State Patrol.

Because of the debris and active investigation, parts of I-16 East between mile markers 32 and 27, were closed off into the afternoon as debris was cleared.

## Different dynamics emerge at Gordon council meeting

By CHRISTIAN MCKEARNEY  
Staff Reporter

The first full meeting of the new-look Gordon City Council was tense at times, with Mayor April Adside-Smith ultimately banging her gavel and calling the meeting to order.

The disagreement began when Kyle Swicord, sworn in earlier this month, made a motion to add an item to the agenda, one that revolved around going into executive session for a personnel issue.

"That's the one I told you to call me with clarity on it. But we can go into executive session about it. We can," Adside-Smith said. "I told you to call me personally. That's the thing - communication. I don't know why you all (new City Council members)... coming in, you all are not communicating with me."

**GORDON CITY COUNCIL**  
Continued on page 2

## Bleckley Co. BOE approves elected member positions

By CAROLINE WEATHERSBY  
Staff Reporter

The Bleckley County Board of Education voted to re-elect Chair Shanna Evans and Vice-Chair Brandon Keel at a board meeting on Thursday, Jan. 15.

In addition to re-electing board officers, the board also elected board member Phillip Lester to serve as the legislative liaison, after being nominated by Chair Evans. The position was previously held by board member David Rojas.

All nominees were approved unanimously.

Where nominated, Evans and Lester abstained from voting respectively. Keel was not present for the meeting.

Following the position approvals, the meeting continued with a brief financial report.

According to Superintendent Dr. Trey Belflower, ESPLOST collections for December 2025 were up roughly \$35,000 from December 2024, and up \$17,000 from November 2025.

During a presentation, Belflower also revealed that even though the school year is a little over 50% of the way through, only about 47% of the budget had been expended.

The board also approved three personnel recommendations from Superintendent Belflower including adding Elizabeth "Libby" DeLoach to the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) program's after school workers list, Callie Smith to the substitute teachers list and Jadyn Tarpley to the after school workers list.

## Ice storm dodged, but cold weather remains persistent

By CHRISTIAN MCKEARNEY  
Staff Reporter

There was plenty of rain on Sunday.

The Cooperative Extension Office in Jeffersonville actually recorded 1.3 inches, which was the second-highest rainfall total in the last six months.

For the most part though, the frozen stuff stayed away, and this part of Georgia didn't suffer the same fate as northern parts of the state, where the roads were touch-and-go, as were the power grids.

Nevertheless, the cold persisted. The low temperature at the Jeffersonville station on Monday was 25.7 degrees. The forecast originally called for the low temperature to be closer to the teens, although that didn't end up happening. Only six times in the last five has the station in Jeffersonville recorded a low temperature in the teens.



Twiggs County representatives say Michelle Rene Capece passed away suddenly on Tuesday, Jan. 6. Fifth graders at Jeffersonville Elementary School honored Capece by wearing red that Thursday, and the following Sunday, the school held a celebration of life ceremony for her at the JES gymnasium/Photos courtesy of Jeffersonville Elementary School

## Jeffersonville Elementary School mourns loss of beloved Twiggs Co. school teacher

By CAROLINE WEATHERSBY  
Staff Reporter

Twiggs County is mourning the loss of beloved school teacher, Ms. Michelle Rene Capece, after she passed away earlier this month.

Representatives say she passed away suddenly on Tuesday, Jan. 6.

Capece worked for the Twiggs County public school system for 24 years. She was a well-loved science teacher at Jeffersonville Elementary School, a BETA club advisor, a regular attendee of school athletic events and a treasured mentor.

Capece was recently awarded Jeffersonville Elementary's Teacher of the Year for the 2025-2026 school year.

A celebration of life service was held for Capece on Jan. 11 at the JES gymnasium with speeches from friends and family and performances from the school chorus and drumline.

Capece was born on Oct. 25, 1965 in Augsburg, Germany to Jonathan B. Capece and Judy G. Capece. Born to a military family, the Capeces moved around, eventually finding their way to Millen, Georgia, where she grew up.

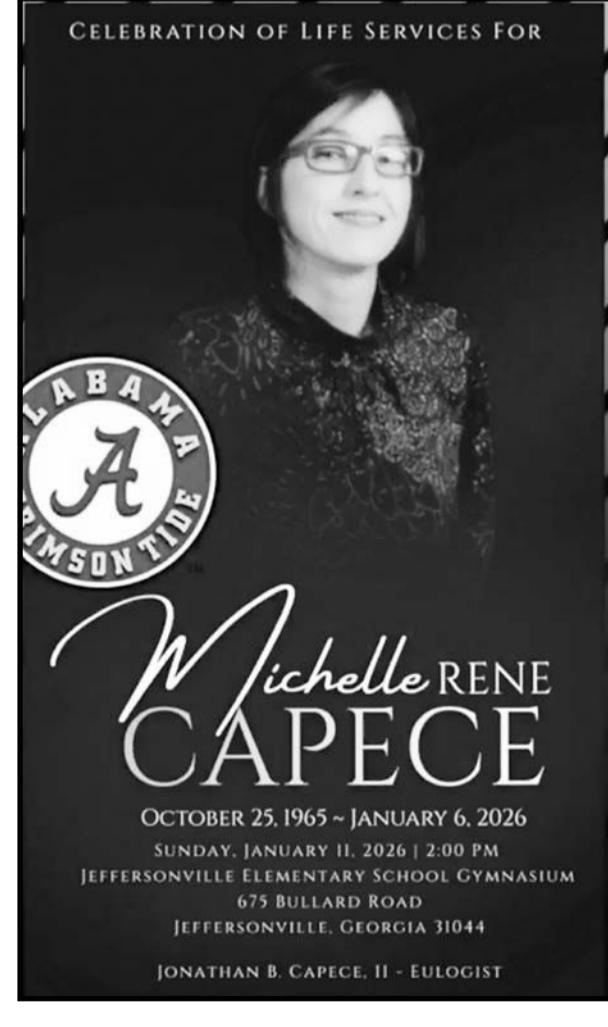
Capece graduated from Jenkins County High School.

A excerpt from her obituary read: "Education was not just a profession for Michelle; it was a calling. With a passion for teaching and an unwavering commitment to students, she dedicated her life to shaping young minds, encouraging curiosity, and instilling confidence. Whether in the classroom, mentoring one-on-one, or advocating for educational excellence, Michelle believed that every student has potential worth nurturing."

Beyond education, Michelle was known for a warm spirit, thoughtful conversation, and a genuine love for people. She carried the world with her stories, wisdom, and compassion.

Michelle leaves behind cherished memories with family, friends, colleagues, and countless students whose lives were changed because she cared enough to teach, guide and believe."

On Jan. 8, fifth graders at Jeffersonville Elementary School wore red in Capece's memory. JES representatives shared the photos on social media.



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## GORDON CITY COUNCIL

Continued from page 1

Adside-Smith then added that "only two members" of the council are responding to her emails.

"Nobody but two are responding back to me. There's no communication. I mean, when are we gonna cut this?" the mayor said.

Councilman Cliff Worthy then "seconded" Swicord's motion.

"I'm speaking," Adside-Smith said.

"You can hold that thought."

Adside-Smith eventually banged her gavel, saying "I've never had to do this."

Responded Worthy: "Feel better now?"

The Gordon City Council certainly has a different dynamic now. Swicord and George Wynn, each sworn in earlier this month, didn't support Adside-Smith in last year's mayoral race. Two other council members – Cliff Worthy and Dawn Beck – have been on the council for the last two years and haven't always seen eye-to-eye with the mayor. This only leaves Adside-Smith with two council members who are more accommodating – Tony Powell and Harold Whipple.

This was highlighted when Powell made a motion to appoint Whipple as mayor pro tem. Powell and Whipple are the two African-American council members. That vote failed, however,

and the council then voted to appoint Wynn as the mayor pro tem by a 4-2 count. The mayor pro tem's primary duty is to fill in for the mayor when the mayor is unavailable.

Also during the meeting, the following committee appointments were approved unanimously:

- MainStreet Gordon - Worthy
- Public Safety and Fire Department – Wynn
- Sanitation - Beck
- Streets - Whipple
- Finance - Powell
- Water and Sewer – Whipple
- Capital Projects – Swicord

## The et cetera chronicles - vol. 123: Twiggs Co.

A WILD HIGH SCHOOL REUNION - There are often high school reunions far, far from home. They come to weddings, funerals, and meetings. When Sgt. Howard H. Hill, Sgt. Edward C. Maddox, Corp. John S. Baggett, and PFC Earl F. Sims met on the 4th of July 1948; they were astonished. The four graduates of Danville, Georgia High School met far, far away at Yokota Air Force Base, some fifty miles away from Tokyo, Japan. Atlanta Journal, July 5, 1948.

HE IS A HUMAN BEING - In Middle Georgia during the early decades of the 20th Century, a newspaper reader would not normally read stories like this one. When it came to stories of black and white people, they were stories of lynching, killing, and other unspeakable acts. This story is an exception to the rule and, more importantly, more common than one might think.

The story begins on Big Sandy Creek near Danville, Georgia. On May 9, 1933, a black farm worker fell into a swollen stream. One, twice, and then three times the drowning man went down into the freshet. On the banks of the creek stood State Representative Allen W. Daughtry.

Daughtry knew the victim and was not just going to stand by and watch the impending tragedy. Rep. Daughtry dove into the rushing waters. The third time, as they say, "was the

charm." Daughtry brought the man up. Daughtry's farm foreman, Ben F. Holton, aided the rescuer and rescuee to the creek bank. Atlanta Constitution, May 10, 1933.

A NOBLE LIEUTENANT - Lt. George J. Nobles, Jr. was a member of the ubiquitous Nobles family of Danville, Ga., and Twiggs County, Ga. During World War II in Italy, Lt. Nobles found himself in a brutal combat battle. Nobles led his men through an intense barrage as they crawled toward a bridge to cross a river. Several men were wounded. The lieutenant came to the aid of as many of his men as he could. Nobles continued to push his command across an icy bridge in the face of intense machine gun fire. During the battle, Lt. Nobles was seriously wounded and taken from the battlefield. For his distinguished and conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in action against an enemy of the United States was awarded the Silver Star, the nation's third-highest medal for heroism. Atlanta Constitution, January 19, 1949.

THE QUEEN OF QUILT - Jeffersonville's "Aunt" Mary Liza Hand loved quilting more than freezing sleeper loves quilts. Mrs. Hand started at a young age. In 1919, Mary Liza lost more than 150 homemade and

### PIECES OF OUR PAST

By SCOTT B. THOMPSON SR.

hand-pierced quilts when her home burned. With only fifteen quilts, stored in a bedroom, in Christmas of 1938, Mrs. Hand had built her inventory back to the 150 level. Oh, by the way, "Aunt" Mary Liza Hand was seventy years old and not ready to stop. The Atlanta Constitution, January 19, 1949.

COOKIE TO THE RESCUE - The battle of Anzio, Italy, was no easy wade into the shorelines of Italy. One Jeffersonville man, Armour Floyd, Cook Second Class, United States Navy, jumped into action. When fires started aboard Floyd's ship, the U.S.S. Plunkett, it was Floyd who abandoned his post in the galley and ran through the blazing infernos caused by intense enemy fire. Floyd's gallantry was cited by the Navy in the face of grave peril, and his tenacious devotion to duty was in keeping with the highest

traditions of the Naval Service. In addition to being a kitchen cook, Floyd's commendation was a somewhat rare commendation for an African - American naval cook during World War II. Macon Telegraph, July 18, 1944.

THE FOUR COUNTY BANK - On the 16th of September 1941, a new bank opened in Allentown, named the Four County Bank. The new bank was designed to serve four counties: Laurens, Wilkes, Twiggs, and Bleckley. At the time, there was no bank between Dudley and Macon. A.W. Daughtry was the first president, aided by vice-president, T.E. Lee. The Board of Directors was composed of Hembree Carroll, Assistant Cashier, Homer Chance, director, Grady Toney, director, and A.T. Land, director. Macon Telegraph, Sept. 16, 1941.

## OFTC Practical Nursing Program achieves 100 percent NCLEX pass rate

## SPECIAL TO THE TIMES JOURNAL POST

OFTC – Oconee Fall Line Technical College's (OFTC) Practical Nursing (PN) program recently garnered a 100% first-time pass rate for OFTC PN graduates who tested during the 2025 calendar year.

This perfect pass rate means all graduates are now eligible for licensure as Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs), a major milestone on their journey into healthcare.

"We are extremely proud to celebrate the outstanding success of our 2025 Practical

ication, commitment, and hard work of both our students and faculty."

Throughout the program, OFTC nursing instructors provide students with the tools and support needed to succeed—in incorporating NCLEX-style practice exams, Assess-

ment Technologies Institute (ATI) resources, and hands-on training to prepare them to be successful on the licensure exam.

With the NCLEX-PN behind them, many graduates are now stepping into roles as LPNs across the region and preparing to further their education through OFTC's Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) Bridge Program—a pathway to becoming Registered Nurses.

To learn more about OFTC's nursing programs, visit [OFTC.edu](http://OFTC.edu).

### Wilkinson County School Board

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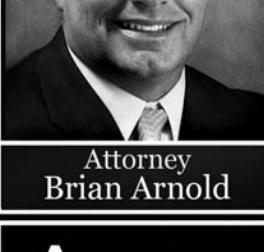
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These fees were approved by the Wilkinson County School Board on January 13, 2026.

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## Georgia First Bank named Newsweek's America's Best Regional Banks of 2026

## SPECIAL TO THE TIMES JOURNAL POST

Georgia First Bank has been named one of Newsweek's America's Best Regional Banks of 2026, an honor recognizing the bank's impact and commitment to financial strength, community investment, and reliable access to everyday banking services.

Georgia First Bank is a locally owned community bank serving Middle Georgia, committed to strong capital, responsible lending, and long-term relationships with the individuals, families, and businesses in the communities it has served for generations.

The recognition, presented by Newsweek in partnership with Plant-A Insights Group, highlights financial institutions that are powering local economies by supporting small businesses, financing community projects, and providing dependable banking services.

"This recognition reflects the strength of our foundation and the consistency of our commitment to the communities we serve," said Maury Beasley, President and CEO of Georgia First Bank. "We believe responsible banking, healthy capital, and local decision-making are essential to long-term success for our customers and for the communities that depend on us."

"We hope this list helps people find the most trusted financial institutions in their area – whether they're planning their next business venture or taking the next step toward financial security," said Jennifer H. Cunningham, Editor-in-Chief of Newsweek.

## About Georgia First Bank

Georgia First Bank is a locally owned community bank serving Middle Georgia through branches in Soperton, Vidalia, and Dublin. Built on more than a century of service, the bank is committed to strong financial stewardship, local decision-making, and long-term relationships with the customers and communities it serves. Guided by a family-oriented culture, Georgia First Bank combines personal service with innovative technology to make banking easier, more accessible, and more responsive, while creating a meaningful and lasting impact in the communities it calls home.

For more information, visit [www.georgiafirst.bank](http://www.georgiafirst.bank), or contact the Dublin branch at (478) 410-7515, the Soperton branch at 912-529-4431, or the Vidalia branch at 912-403-3019.

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## DID YOU KNOW...?



## Did you know being a hoarder could potentially be fatal?

By JACK BAGLEY  
Georgia Trust For Local News

*Did you know...*

... a popular children's poet wrote a big hit song? Shel Silverstein (1930-1999), famous for children's poetry and books such as *Where the Sidewalk Ends*, wrote the classic country-western song "A Boy Named Sue," which became a hit for singer Johnny Cash (1932-2003). Cash first heard the song when Silverstein sang it for him at a party at Cash's home in Hendersonville, Tennessee, in 1969.

... raw kidney beans can poison you? Raw kidney beans contain a chemical called phytohaemagglutinin (no, I do not know how to pronounce it). This chemical can cause vomiting and headaches after just a small handful of raw beans have been ingested. Cooking the beans removes the chemical from them. (Thankfully.)

... hoarding can be fatal? Just ask the brothers Homer (1881-1947) and Langley Collyer (1885-1947). The Collyer brothers were rather odd residents of New York City, and following the death of their mother they lived in seclusion in their family home. The two men obsessively collected books, furniture, musical instruments, and just about anything else. The collection became an obsession, and soon their three-story home was crammed from floors to ceilings with junk. Passages were carved through the stuff to enable the men to move around, and fearing someone would break in and steal their possessions – the two created elaborate booby traps in the junk. After Homer went blind and became paralyzed, Langley dedicated himself to taking care of his older sibling. In late March of 1947, though, neighbors called Police to investigate a foul smell coming from the home. After finally breaking in through an upstairs window, Police found the body of Homer Collyer. He had died of starvation. But that wasn't the source of the smell; further digging through the incredibly crammed interior of the house finally led to the origin of the aroma – the discovery of Langley Collyer's body, about 10 feet from where Homer had been discovered a few weeks before. Langley had been crushed by one of the booby traps set in the junk about three weeks before Homer died. He was unable to bring the paralyzed Homer any food, and Homer starved.

... tennis players are not allowed to swear if they're playing at Wimbledon? The fact that many players come from countries where English is not the primary language isn't an issue, either – line judges have to learn curse words in all of the languages spoken by the participants, so nobody can get away with breaking that rule. (Well, darn.)

... a Star Wars actor accepted his role only after an odd request was granted? Samuel L. Jackson (born 1948) accepted the role of Jedi master Mace Windu in *The Phantom Menace* only after he was allowed to wield a purple lightsaber. Producer George Lucas (born 1944) agreed after Jackson said he wanted to be able to find himself in large battle scenes, and having a purple lightsaber would make that easier. (A noble request, if you ask me.)

... fourteen punctuation marks are used in English? They are, in no particular order: the period, comma, colon, semi-colon, dash, hyphen, apostrophe, question mark, exclamation point, quotation marks, brackets, parenthesis, brace, and ellipsis. None of them were routinely used in writing or printing before the 15th Century. (Which makes reading from that time difficult.)

... a huge festival dedicated to beer is held each year in the United States? The Great American Beer Festival is held annually in Denver, Colorado, in September. It offers the largest collection of U.S. beer ever served. (That might be fun to watch!)

... on Mars, sunsets are blue? Light from the Sun is scattered in a planet's atmosphere based on what's floating around in that atmosphere. On Earth, the many different molecules of dust cause the sunset to appear red. But on Mars, the dust is primarily made of iron oxide, and that causes the sunset to appear blue.

... former President Jimmy Carter (1924-2024) was a speed reader? Carter could read at a rate of 2000 words per minute, and retained most of what he read. (That's fast!)

*Now... you know!*

## Can I get a hand, please?

I lost my wedding ring several years ago.

I blame the pandemic.

Back in the days of shutdowns and social distancing, I was sitting in the driver's seat of my beautiful car when, having just interacted with someone outside my family circle, I reached for the heavily recommended hand sanitizer. At the time a bottle of this clear, often scented goop was like money in the bank. Everyone desired it, but only a few could find it on store shelves.

To properly clean my hands, I removed my wedding band and set it aside. After rubbing alcohol into my skin, I reached for the symbol of wedding vows. My still damp fingers failed to grasp the tungsten carbide; thus it slipped and fell into the recesses between the seats.

And there it remains to this day.

I'm beginning to think there is a black hole to the darkest depths of the universe on my Honda's floorboards, because several things have been lost down there over the years, and no expedition or treasure

hunt has ever been able to recover anything of value.

I have found half-eaten crackers and broken crayons aplenty, but never my lost jewelry. A bounty still stands on the lost item. I told my children that whoever recovers and returns the ring will be entitled to a \$20 bill.

Still nothing.

The problem is that there are so many dark crevices along the seats that no amount of light can shine in every corner, and even if it could, the human hand is not dexterous enough to reach in every hole. My ring, most likely, will go to whomever I sell my car to whenever I decide to finally upgrade. We can just keep that between us. I have started wearing cheap rubber wedding bands, so it's no big deal if I make a habit of dropping things.

The solution to my problem, though, is currently being developed by a team of scientists in Sweden. Researchers are developing a robotic hand that will surpass the functionality of a biological one. What's the problem

## THE NEW SOUTHERN DAD



By KYLE DOMINY

with hands? A real one can only pick up one or two things at a time. This machine one, however, can maneuver and grasp multiple items at one time, with each finger operating semi-independently of others and bending in all kinds of ways our meat-and-bone phalanges cannot.

Furthermore, the hand is detachable from the host and can crawl around, much like the Thing in the *Addams Family* franchise. The implications of such a device are phenomenal.

Besides benefitting the injured or handicapped, the robot hand could be the perfect tool for working in tight and/or dangerous spaces. From retrieving a dropped screw in ductwork to repairing industrial machines, this thing could make life easier for a whole lot of people.

All I want to know is, can I borrow one for a little while? I want it to root around under the seats of my car and see if it can find my wedding ring.

There's \$20 in it if it can.

## COUCH THEATER



Dave Bautista, left, and Jason Momoa star in "The Wrecking Crew" / Photo courtesy of MovieStillsDB

By DEMI TAVERAS  
King Features

**"Die, My Love" (R)**

Whether you're a fan of twisty psychological films or not, this film is just a treat for millennials and Gen-Zers who grew up watching Robert Pattinson in the "Twilight" films and Jennifer Lawrence in "The Hunger Games" films. Playing love interests opposite each other, Pattinson and Lawrence respectively portray young couple Jason and Grace right after they move to Montana from New York. The audience soon learns that Grace is pregnant with their first child, but after Grace gives birth, the film is told from Grace's fragmented and distorted point of view as she slowly descends into madness due to the stress of becoming a mother. It is chock-full of tough-to-watch, unforgettable emotional moments that remind us why Lawrence is one of the greatest of her generation. Out now. (MUBI)

**"His & Hers" (TV-MA)**

Netflix has got the formula down on how to crank out series after series that still leave viewers on the edge of

their seats. This new mystery-thriller series starring Jon Bernthal ("The Amateur") and Tessa Thompson ("Hedda") is only six episodes long, but with its two talented leads and a small-town setting, it's already become popular on the streaming service. Thompson plays reporter Anna Andrews, who returns to her old hometown of Dahlonega, Georgia, to investigate a murder. While there, she bumps into her estranged husband, Detective Jack Harper (Bernthal), who has been assigned to the case himself. (What a coincidence!) No doubt that the spouses' suspicions of each other will escalate the tension to another level! Out now. (Netflix)

**"The Wrecking Crew" (R)**

Any movie that is led by both Jason Momoa ("A Minecraft Movie") and Dave Bautista ("Trap House") is sure to be a testosterone-filled action flick with goofy moments in between to keep audiences shouting at their screens for more. Momoa and Bautista play two half-brothers: Jonny (Momoa), a "loose cannon cop," and James (Bautista), a "disciplined Navy SEAL." After their

father is murdered in a suspicious hit-and-run in Hawaii, the brothers team up to figure out the root of the murder and keep the rest of their family from also being threatened. "The Wrecking Crew" premieres on Jan. 28. (Amazon Prime Video)

**"Chestnut" (NR)**

This drama film features Natalia Dyer in a much different tone than how we are used to seeing her as Nancy Wheeler in "Stranger Things." She plays Annie, a shy aspiring writer who is stuck in Philadelphia after graduating from college; however, at the end of the summer, a move to Los Angeles awaits her. In the weeks up until then, Annie meets a pair of best friends -- wild child Tyler (Rachel Keller) and the mysteriously sweet Danny (Danny Ramirez) -- and begins spending all her nights with the charming duo. When she suddenly finds herself with confusing feelings for both Tyler and Danny, Annie wonders whether she's subtly being told by the universe to stay in Philly or to run as fast as she can to L.A. Out now. (Plex)

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## TRIVIA TEST

By FIFI RODRIGUEZ  
King Features

- When did the Easter Rising rebellion take place in Ireland?
- What is the capital of India?
- What is a common name for lateral epicondylitis?
- The "Back to the Future II" characters travel forward in time to which year?
- What color is the badge of courage in Stephen Crane's novel about the Civil War?
- How many points is the center red bullseye on a dartboard worth?
- What is a group of floating otters called?
- Which car company used the slogan "Drive your dreams"?
- What is husband Darrin's profession in the "Bewitched" sitcom?
- What part of the brain controls hunger?

10. Hypothalamic executive  
9. Advertising executive  
8. Toyota  
7. A gift  
6. Red  
5. 2015  
4. Tennis elbow  
3. New Delhi  
2. 1916  
1. India

## Foreward

Over the years, I have been fortunate enough to travel from my humble beginnings on a farm in middle Georgia to far-away places like Italy and France – and I maintain that it is virtually impossible to have a bad meal at either locale.

A village in France that has no stop light or stop sign will certainly have a restaurant that will offer a tasty meal paired with an inviting local wine – modest, perhaps, but certainly uplifting to the palate and the stomach. If you find yourself at a family restaurant in Italy, you may get the family's own unlabeled wine from their backyard vineyard to go with the best pasta you ever tasted.

In the U.S., regional influences have long prevailed. It only makes sense that with Vermont's signature maple syrup that there would be a public boast from some restaurant that it makes the "World's Greatest Pancakes."

And it seems that the truism "necessity is the mother of invention" can most aptly be applied to the unlikely combination known as shrimp and grits. The impoverished people of our coastal communities gave us that glorious dish. Shrimp from the sea didn't cost anything, and it was easy to obtain cornmeal, which was dirt cheap. As a result, we have a meal that in the big city costs an upscale diner more than the poor families made in a week.

Then there is that thing called barbecue not the grill, but the meat the grill creates. No food has more regional influences than this popular mealtime item, which can be pork or beef or, if you are in Montana, mountain oysters. Rest easy I'll leave it at that.

Those who cook barbecue usually experiment, and some never stop.

The sauces and the rubs make a difference with many BBQ aficionados.

Some recipes are handed down, and some purveyors listen to the suggestions of

friends, neighbors, and customers. The taste test usually dictates the ratings of a "BBQ joint."

There is an art to cooking barbecue, and no one has the market cornered – yet there are many who swear by those who cook barbecue for a living. You could have two BBQ joints side by side, both with different menus, and half the people will swear by one while never darkening the door of the other.

Our neighbors Bree and Richard Hayes have just written a book about dining establishments that have received their blessing as the best barbecue places in and around Athens, the home of the University of Georgia and the tailgatin' Bulldogs. They agreed that they would only research and write about the best barbecue restaurants within 30 minutes of their home on Milledge Circle in the Five Points section of Athens.

Their research is very good, but would you expect anything less from two college professors with PhDs?



LORAN SMITH

Many pros like to eat and to experiment with food – include this couple in that category. Bree grew up in Maryland, near Washington, learning to cook from Southern family members.

Richard, whose birthplace was Boston, acquired a taste for Southern cuisine, with BBQ often trumping all other dishes. He's now a bona fide expert, with his favorite savory recipes dancing around in his head alongside his psychology counseling expertise that has brought him academic acclaim.

When Richard and Bree

settled in Athens, lunch was often a matter of convenience. For Richard, grabbing a pulled-pork sandwich at Springhouse on Broad Street resulted in him becoming a connoisseur. Now he is a "Damn Good Dawg" who can make a "damn good plate" of barbecue, which he often does for family and friends, resulting in nothing but rave reviews.

Then there are Bree's side dishes: Brunswick stew, cole slaw, collards, and mac and cheese. And if you want dessert, then she has a banana cake that would bowl over Paula Deen. If that doesn't make the Hayeses as Southern as Lewis Grizzard or John T. Edge, then take note of Richard padding around the house in his bare feet.

"Food has the greatest social connection," says Richard Lewis, who with his partner Susan DeRose owns Bones Restaurant, a famous steak house in Atlanta. "Food keeps people connected, which is important for society."

That is why barbecue

and country music is a near-perfect pairing.

John Currence, chef-owner of the popular City Grocery in Oxford, Mississippi, and winner of the James Beard Award in 2009 for the category "Best Chef, South," says this: "Barbecue is, like football, religion in the South. For every region there is a variety of its own, and the people of that region stand proudly behind their 'Q' because in their minds, nothing else measures up. Simply put, it is a study in ethnocentrism. Barbecue is a way of life for us."

John T. Edge, host of the popular network TV show "TrueSouth" and perhaps the best-known food expert with a firsthand knowledge of food, and especially barbecue, says that "Barbecue is a vestige of our rural and agricultural past, still blowing smoke in the present."

Travel the BBQ trail blazed by Richard and Bree Hayes in their excellent book, and you will likely conclude that you have been not just filled but fulfilled.

## In politics, process is now power

A former Georgia House Majority Leader once told his caucus "Never confuse what you do when campaigning with what you (have to) do when governing." There is some wisdom in this statement. What voters demand they be told in order for candidates to be elected and re-elected is often very different from the hard choices that must be made when governing.

This is not to feed a trope that says "politicians always say one thing and do another."

It's instead to demonstrate that slogans and actions now live in almost parallel universes, where campaigns are centered on feelings. It's the job of those elected to channel these vibes into actual policies.

Campaigns are designed to show you, the voters, how you will be winners. The missing details would show tradeoffs – what must be given up in order to get something. In campaigns these details become lines of attack for the opposition. Good policy can often die

due to a bad campaign.

The Georgia General Assembly is now officially in the process of governing. The one constitutional requirement is that they deliver a balanced budget to the governor at the end of their session. Anything else they choose to tackle is up to them.

The process of campaigns is also ongoing. Many of the state's top positions are without incumbents. Qualifying officially occurs the first week of March, inside the Capitol.

The first week of March also contains "Crossover Day," the deadline for a bill to pass either chamber for it to be considered by the other this year. As such, the politics of campaigning now marches side by side with the politics of governing. Broad and purposely vague slogans will meet those details that not only will determine spending and policy for this year, but will set up the base spending scenarios for those soon to be elected.

Despite campaign influences, the governing pro-

cess remains the same. In the middle of this mix, the power subtly shifts.

Governor Brian Kemp holds line-item veto power, lest any legislator get the idea that he's irrelevant in this process. And yet, the final accountability for the finished product will lay at the feet of those who remain in office next year.

Lieutenant Governor Burt Jones hopes to hold that veto pen next year, while presiding over the Senate chamber this year. Central to his campaign is a plan to eliminate the state's income tax over time, with the first step to exempt each individual's first \$50,000 of income from taxation. A lot of the details of where the spending would be cut or what other revenues would be raised and from whom would presumably come once Jones has the Governor's mansion – and the power of the veto pen.

House Speaker Jon Burns, meanwhile, wants to eliminate property taxes for Georgia's homeowners. This comes from growing



CHARLIE HARPER  
GEORGIA POLITICS

frustrations with local governments who both collect and spend property tax revenues, and have allowed rising real estate prices to grow their tax collections and local spending.

The details for either plan will eventually have to come out in the state's budget. Each Appropriations Chairman will work with his committees to arrive not only at a budget for this year, but with eyes looking through to next year's challenges and changes, and beyond.

The Senate Budget Chairman responsible for reconciling these pledges into details is Blake Tillery

of Vidalia. He, too, is running for a different office. By anecdotal accounts and the sparse public polling available, he seems to be doing well in the crowded field to replace Jones as the Lieutenant Governor. He also chaired the LG's committee on how to eliminate the state income tax.

There is no policy daylight between the lieutenant governor who would be governor and the Appropriations Chairman who would replace him on the issue of phasing out the income tax. Both are charting their political futures on it, with the power of their current office part of the institutional process to help get them there.

There is always risk in future elections of who holds power now versus who might in the future. The other side of this risk coin is the House Appropriations Chairman, Matt Hatchett of Dublin. Given the high likelihood that Republicans will retain control of the legislature after the elections, he's the most certain of those in the budget process to be in the same seat – and to wield the same power.

Those campaigning for statewide office will get the

most headlines, and they should.

Within the Capitol, however, stability and certainty are currency. Both Appropriations chairmen hold an outsized amount of power and influence over the entire legislative process that extends well beyond the budget.

Chairman Tillery has a decent chance to direct not just the budget but the entire senate next year. In the Capitol's power players, that gives him currency now with an upside option for the future.

When it comes to landing the plane with details this year and next, however, don't sleep on Matt Hatchett. He's the one who must internalize that this year's details will become next year's problems or opportunities.

His peers know he'll be acting today for the starting point they will begin with this time next year, under new leadership with new goals and agendas. They understand and value this stability in a season of change. That directly equates to even more political power.

## There is not much peaceful about the Nobel Peace Prize right now

Well, one thing you can say for sure, I am in good company. It looks like I'm not the only one that got hosed by the Nobel Committee. It seems the president of the U.S. of A. was also passed over for the Nobel Peace Prize even though he said he had stopped eight wars. (It might have been nine, but as of this writing, Minnesota has not surrendered.)

The Nobelians gave the 2025 Peace Prize to Venezuelan opposition leader María Corina Machado, who turned around and gave it to Donald Trump. I was hoping the guy in Hungary with the unpronounceable name who got my much-deserved Nobel Prize for Literature would get the hint and give me his, but that hasn't happened. I guess when you are Leader of the Free World, you can expect this kind of thing. Not me. I guess I will just have to settle for continuing to be a modest yet much-beloved columnist who bears a striking resemblance to a young Brad Pitt. Life can be unfair.

The Nobel Committee said Machado could give it to Clarabell the Clown for all they cared. She was and always would be listed as having won the Peace Prize, not Trump. I don't think that sat well with the president.

He had already told the Nobel Committee he de-

served the Peace Prize. He should have talked to me first. That is not the way to get it. That will sull up folks real quick. In my corporate life, if someone told you they were going to be president of the company one day, the rest of us who knew we wouldn't be would make sure he wouldn't be, either. I have the feeling the committee felt the same way.

In fairness to His Eminence, Barack Obama got the thing after having been in office less than eight months and for no good reason. He hadn't stopped eight wars. He hadn't even found the White House dining room. The Nobel Committee said he had made "extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples." Oh, please. He should have been embarrassed and told them to give it to somebody more worthy – like Clarabell the Clown.

In what I would deem a rather unpeaceful gesture, Trump ripped into Norway's Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Stoere because his country "decided not to give me the Nobel Peace Prize for having stopped 8 Wars PLUS." (The PLUS is a new development I wasn't aware of. Maybe Minnesota has surrendered.)

In his reply to Trump, Stoere explained that an independent committee, not

the government of Norway, awards the prize. Meaning don't blame him anymore than he would blame the United States for not giving Norway's Kristofer Hivju an Academy Award for his role as Connor Rhodes in "The Fate of the Furious," not to mention a groundbreaking performance as Tormund Giantsbane in "Game of Thrones."

In the same message to the Norwegian prime minister, Trump insisted the US needed "Complete and Total Control of Greenland." I'm not sure what Herr Stoere's response was, but I expect it was "Go for it, kompis. That's Denmark's problem, not mine. Just keep your henders off Austvågøya, Vestvågøya, Moskenesøya and our other 238,997 islands."

I'm not sure what good

will give you Vermont – but you'll have to take Bernie Sanders, too. On second thought, that could be a deal breaker.

I will leave the heavy lifting to Mr. Trump on this one. As for me, maybe I need to threaten the guy in

Hungary with the unpronounceable name who got my much-deserved Nobel Prize for literature. Either I get what is rightfully mine or I will give it to Clarabell the Clown. It's all a circus, anyway.

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## Legals

## Bleckley Co. Legals

## C26-004

STATE OF GEORGIA  
COUNTY OF BLECKLEY  
IN RE: ESTATE OF YVONNE C. DAVIS,  
DECEASED.

All creditors of the estate of YVONNE C. DAVIS, 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. This 15TH day of JANUARY, 2026.

Daphne Gores  
DAPHNE D. JONES Executor of the  
Estate of  
YVONNE C. DAVIS  
142 WOOD OAK CIRCLE  
COCHRAN, GA 31014  
January 22, 2026, February 5, 12, 2026

## C26-002

## NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

RE: ESTATE OF RHONDA D. GIBBENS,  
DECEASED

All creditors of the estate of Rhonda D. Gibbens, 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.

Gloria D. McNease, Executor  
234 Ninth Street  
Cochran, GA 31014

January 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

## C26-005

## NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER

STATE OF GEORGIA  
BLECKLEY COUNTY

WHEREAS, Jerry E. Hightower, a married man joined herein by Debbie Hightower, as borrower(s), executed a SECURITY DEED to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Colonial Bank N.A., Lender which was dated 8/22/2007, and recorded on 8/29/2007, in Instrument No.: Deed Book 333, Page 35, securing the payment of a Note in the amount of \$73,790.00 in Bleckley County, Georgia Register of Deeds.

NOW, THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that the entire indebtedness has been declared due and payable as provided in said Security Deed by the Holder, and by virtue of the power of sale and authority vested in it, will on 4/7/2026 sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash During the legal hours of sale before the door of the courthouse of Bleckley County, Georgia, of Bleckley, the following described property situated in Bleckley County, Georgia, to wit: ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 119 OF THE 20TH LAND DISTRICT OF BLECKLEY COUNTY, GEORGIA, CONTAINING 3.01 ACRES, AND BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS LOT 18, ACCORDING TO PLAT OF SURVEY DATED MAY 10, 1999, AND RECORDED IN PLAT CABINET B, SLIDE 34-7, CLERK'S OFFICE, BLECKLEY COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT. SAID PLAT IS HEREBY INCORPORATED HEREIN FOR A MORE COMPLETE AND ACCURATE DESCRIPTION OF SAID LOT 18.

ALSO CONVEYED IS A MANUFACTURED HOME PERMANENTLY AFFIXED TO SAID PROPERTY, BEING A 2007 CAVALIER ENGLEWOOD, MODEL # 08E5357SE, 28 X 64 4FR 2B, SERIAL #BL07GA138082BA.

THERE ARE IMPROVEMENTS LOCATED THEREON KNOWN UNDER THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF NUMBERING AS 129 JAMES ENGLISH ROAD, COCHRAN, GEORGIA.

DEED REFERENCE: DEED BOOK 197,

PAGE 55, CLERK'S OFFICE, BLECKLEY SUPERIOR COURT.

Tax Parcel ID: B33 020/M070-44

Being real property commonly known as 129 JAMES ENGLISH RD COCHRAN, GA 31014

The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the debt and all expenses of this sale including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).

Said sale will be made subject to the following items which may affect the title to said property: All restrictive covenants, easements and rights-of-way appearing of record, if any; all zoning ordinances; matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or by an inspection of the property; all outstanding or unpaid bills and assessments for street improvements, curbing, garbage, water, sewage and public utilities which may be liens upon said property; and any outstanding taxes, assessments and other liens superior to the security debt being foreclosed hereby. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the above-described property is in the possession of the borrower and/or other persons with the consent and acquiescence of the borrower.

Except to the extent that the Holder may bind and obligate Mortgagors to warrant title to the Property under the terms of the Security Deed, conveyance of the Property shall be made without any representations or warranties whatsoever, express or implied. All sales are "as is", "where is".

The entire purchase price is due and payable at the conclusion of the auction in the form of certified funds. Insufficient funds will not be accepted. Amounts received in excess of the winning bid will be refunded to the successful purchaser. This property is being sold with express reservation that the sale is subject to confirmation by lender or Substitute Trustee.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2, the name, address and telephone number of the person or entity who shall have full authority to negotiate, amend, or modify all terms of the above-described mortgage is as follows:

Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, 500 N. State College Blvd., Suites 1300 Orange, CA 92868, Telephone No.: 800-561-4567

The foregoing notwithstanding, nothing in O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2 shall be construed to require Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the Security Deed described herein.

Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC as Attorney in Fact for Jerry E. Hightower and Debbie Hightower

Attorney Contact:  
Miller, George & Suggs, PLLC  
3000 Langford Road, Building 100  
Peachtree Corners, GA 30071  
Phone: 404-738-1447

Fax: 404-738-1447

TS # 25-38056

THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

January 29, 2026, February 5, 12, 19,

26, 2026, March 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026, April

2, 2026

C26-003

## NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA  
COUNTY OF BLECKLEY

## IN RE: MANDY NESMITH SCOTT, DECEASED

All debtors/creditors of the Estate of Mandy Nesmith Scott, 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 8th day of January 2025.

Michael Scott, Jr.  
c/o Kindall Browning-Rickle, Esq.  
P.O. Box 4939  
Eastman, Georgia 31023

January 15, 22, 29, 2026, February 5,

2026

## C26-001

## NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER

GEORGIA, BLECKLEY COUNTY

Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by

James M Cumbie, Suzanne M Cumbie to

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems,

Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Freedom

Mortgage Corporation, its successors

and assigns dated February 10, 2021,

recorded in Deed Book 450, Page 407,

Bleckley County, Georgia Records, as

last transferred to Freedom Mortgage

Corporation by assignment recorded

in Deed Book 493, Page 441, Bleckley

County, Georgia Records, conveying the

after-described property to secure a Note

in the original principal amount of ONE

HUNDRED EIGHTY-THREE THOUSAND

EIGHT HUNDRED EIGHTY-TWO AND

0/100 DOLLARS (\$183,882.00), with

interest thereon as set forth therein, there

will be sold at public outcry to the highest

bidding for cash before the courthouse door

of Bleckley County, Georgia, or at such

place as may be lawfully designated as an

alternative, within the legal hours of sale

on the first Tuesday in February, 2026, the

following described property:

SEE EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED HERETO  
AND MADE A PART HEREOF

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 pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 13-1-1 having been given).

Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet 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 any matters of record including, but not limited to, those superior to the Security Deed first set out above. Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned.

Freedom Mortgage Corporation is the holder of the Security Deed to the property in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2.

The entity that has full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the mortgage with the debtor is: Freedom Mortgage Corporation, 11988 Exit 5 Pkwy Bldg 4, Fishers, IN 46037, 855-690-5900.

Note, however, that such entity is not required by law to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the loan.

To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the property is James M Cumbie and Suzanne M Cumbie or a tenant or tenants and said property is more commonly known as 163 Jones Rd, Cochran, GA 31014. Should a conflict arise between the property address and the legal description the legal description will control.

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 holder of the security deed.

Freedom Mortgage Corporation

as Attorney in Fact for

James M Cumbie, Suzanne M Cumbie

McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP

154 Old Alabama Rd

Roswell, GA 30076

www.foreclosurehotline.net

EXHIBIT "A"

All that tract or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in Land Lot 85 of the 21st Land District, Bleckley County, Georgia, containing 24.57 acres and consisting of a 23.70 acre tract and a 0.87 acre tract, both as shown on a plat of survey recorded in Plat Book 6, Page 126, Clerk's Office, Bleckley Superior Court. Said plat and the recorded copy thereof are incorporated by reference for all purposes.

Being the same property as conveyed from Joseph T. Pitcher and Mary Jo Pitcher to James M Cumbie and Suzanne M Cumbie, as joint tenants with survivorship and not as tenants in common, for and during their joint lives, and upon the death of either of them, then to the survivor of them, as set forth in Deed Book 388, page 28, dated 10/01/2013, recorded 10/04/2013, BLECKLEY COUNTY, GEORGIA.

Tax Parcel ID: B51 084

MR / JD February 3, 2026

Our file no. 25-19895GA-FT17

25-19895GA

January 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

## C26-006

## LEGAL NOTICE

## NOTICE OF SALE AT CROSSROADS

Storage

Self-Storage Facility Operator's Sale for

non-payment of storage charges pursuant

to the power of sale contained in the

**Georgia Self-Service Storage Facility**

**Act of 2013; Code of Georgia, Title 10,**

**Chapter 4, Article 5.** The following property

will be sold at PUBLIC AUCTION at

**5:00 PM on Monday, February 9, 2026,**

on the premises of Crossroads Storage,

261 Hwy 87 North Bypass (Macon Hwy),

Cochran, GA 31014. All used household

goods that may contain furniture, boxes,

books, tools, clothes, electronics, etc. held

for the account of:

John Dale Hinson Port J

Conditions: This unit will be sold to the

highest bidder. Bids taken only for the unit

in its entirety. Payment due immediately

upon acceptance of bid. Unit availability

subject to prior settlement of account.

Crossroads Storage Center reserves the

following rights:

To bid at the public auction

To refuse any and all bids

To cancel the auction at any time for any

reason

Crossroads Storage

261 Hwy 87 North Bypass (Macon Hwy)

Cochran, GA 31014. All used household

goods that may contain furniture, boxes,

books, tools, clothes, electronics, etc. held

for the account of:

GEORGIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Mitch Attaway, Executive Director  
4310 Lexington Road  
Athens, GA 30605

January 29, 2026

**W26-011**  
**Wilkinson CO, GA SUPERIOR COURT**  
**TRADE NAME REGISTRATION**  
PERSONALLY APPEARED THE UNDER-SIGNED WHO ON OATH DEPOSES AND SAYS THAT:  
Lesley Michael Wainwright  
3902 Wiley Rd, Toombsboro, GA 31090  
IS/ARE DOING BUSINESS IN Wilkinson COUNTY, GEORGIA UNDER THE NAME OF:  
Blind Bull Handyman Services  
and that the nature of the business to be carried on at such address is Handyman Services.  
Lesley Michael Wainwright  
SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME THIS 23rd DAY OF January, 2026.  
BRADASIA A MIMS  
NOTARY PUBLIC OR DEPUTY CLERK  
January 29, 2026, February 5, 2026

**W26-007**  
**ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE PETITION**  
ADVERTISING  
Vehicle Make: Dodge  
Year: 2017  
Model: Journey  
Vehicle ID #: 3C4PDCGG6HT70741  
Vehicle License #: State

Present location of vehicle: 125 Mount Carmel Road, McIntyre, GA 31054  
You are hereby notified that a petition was filed in the Magistrate Court of Wilkinson County to foreclose a lien for all amounts owed. If the lien is foreclosed, a court shall order the sale of the vehicle to satisfy the debt.  
Anyone with an ownership interest in this vehicle may file an answer to this petition on or before: Feb. 16, 2026 Answer forms may be found in the Magistrate Court Clerk's office located at: 100 Bacon Street Irwinton, GA 31042

January 22, 29, 2026

**W26-001**  
TS # 2024-10926-GA  
Notice Of Sale Under Power

Georgia, Wilkinson County Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in that certain Security Deed given by Larry S Bennett, a married person to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Grantor, as nominee for Freedom Mortgage Corporation, its successors and assigns, dated 6/12/2014, and recorded on 6/13/2014, in Instrument No.: --, Deed Book 357, Page 849, Wilkinson County, Georgia records, along with Scrivener's Affidavit recorded 12/16/2024 in Deed Book 00420 and Page 00521, and again Scrivener's Affidavit recorded 09/25/2025 in Deed Book 00426 and Page 0135, as last assigned to Freedom Mortgage Corporation by assignment recorded on 8/15/2024 in Instrument No.: -- Deed Book 00418, Page 00105, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of \$88,369.00, with interest thereon as provided for therein, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the Courthouse door of Wilkinson County, Georgia, within the legal hours of sale on 2/3/2026, the following described property: All Those Tracts Or Parcels Of Land Situate Lying And Being In The 331st (Ramah) G.M. District And In The 5th Land District Of Wilkinson County, Georgia, Being Shown As Lot Number WF-29 And Lot Number WF-30, Section Twenty-Five, Tract "C", In The Subdivision In And At Ivey, Georgia, Known As Holiday Hills Lake Tchukolako Development, According To A Plat Of Survey Recorded In Plat Book 7, Page 106 In The Office Of The Clerk Of Superior Court Of Wilkinson County, Georgia, Said Lots Have Such Size, Shape And Dimensions As Shown On Said Plat, Which By Reference Thereto Is Made A Part Hereof. Less And Except All That Tract Or Parcel Of Land Lying And Being In Land Lot 46 Of The 27th Land District And/Or 331 Georgia Militia District Of Wilkinson County, Georgia, Being More Particularly Described As Follows: Beginning At A Point 39.53 Feet Right Of And Opposite Station 12+200.777 On The Construction Centerline Of Fall Line Freeway On Georgia Highway Project No. FLF-540 (19); Running Thence Northeasterly 154.174 Feet Along The Arc Of A Curve (Said Curve Having A Radius Of 1959.859 Feet And A Chord A Distance Of 154.135 Feet On A Bearing Of N 27° 15' 18.3" E) To The Point 57.84 Feet Right Of And Opposite Station 12+246.514 On Said Construction Centerline Laid Out For Fall Line; Thence S 43° 53' 30.8" E A Distance Of 36.52 Feet To A Point 90.29 Feet Right Of And Opposite Station 12+241.511 On Said Construction

Centerline Laid Out For Fall Line; Thence S 18° 18' 47.5" W A Distance Of 73.40 Feet To A Point 92.26 Feet Right Of And Opposite Station 12+220.000 On Said Construction Centerline Laid Out For Fall Line; Thence S 19° 03' 41.0" E A Distance Of 132.83 Feet To A Point 22.84 Feet Left Of And Opposite Station 1+053.647 On Said Construction Centerline Laid Out For South Lakeview Dr.; Thence Northwesterly 52.600 Feet Along The Arc Of A Curve (Said Curve Having A Radius Of 403.107 Feet And A Chord Distance Of 52.563 Feet On A Bearing Of N 51° 36' 0.9" W) To The Point 19.71 Feet Left Of And Opposite Station 1+038.222 On Said Construction Centerline Laid Out For South Lakeview Dr.; Thence N 55° 20' 18.4" W A Distance Of 91.22 Feet Back To The Point Of Beginning, Containing 0.226 Acres, More Or Less. Map And Parcel

January 22, 29, 2026

Number: V05-001 (Lot 30) And V05-002 (Lot 29) Said Property Is Conveyed Subject To And With Notice Of The Following Matters: (A) Drainage Easements, Building Set Back Lines, And Other Matters Shown On The Aforesaid Subdivision Plat; (B) General Utility Easements And Road Right Of Way Grants And Easements, Including Those Of Record In Deed Book 318, Pages 47-51; Deed Book 227, Pages 38 And 41; And Deed Book 248, Page 502, Aforesaid Clerk's Office; And, (C) Restrictions Of Record In Deed Book 147, Page 365, Aforesaid Clerk's Office. Said property is commonly known as 103 Lakeview Dr S Ivey, GA 31031. The indebtedness 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 the sale, as provided in the Security Deed and by law, including attorneys' fees (notice of intent to collect attorneys' fees having been given). The entity having full authority to negotiate, amend or modify all terms of the loan (although not required by law to do so) is: Freedom Mortgage Corporation, Attention: Loss Mitigation Department, 11988 EXIT 5 PKWY BLDG 4 FISHERS IN 46037-7939.

Telephone No.: (855) 690-5900. Nothing in O.C.G.A. Section 44-14-162.2 shall be construed to require the secured creditor to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the security instrument. 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), any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and any other matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party(ies) in possession of the property is (are) Larry S Bennett, a married person or tenant(s) or other occupants. The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed, and (3) any right of redemption or other lien not extinguished by foreclosure. The sale is conducted on behalf of the secured creditor under the power of sale granted in the aforementioned security instrument, specifically being Freedom Mortgage Corporation as Attorney in Fact for Larry S Bennett, a married person. Nestor Solutions, LLC 214 5th Street, Suite 205, Huntington Beach, California 92648, (888) 403-4115, TS # 2024-10926-GA. For sale information, visit: <https://www.nestortrustee.com/sales-information.com> or call (888) 902-3989.

January 22, 29, 2026

**W26-003**  
**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF WILKINSON COUNTY**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
IN RE: ESTATE OF Louise Cummings, Deceased  
ESTATE NO. 316  
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: Felicia Cummings and to whom it may concern:

Deidra Patrice Howard has petitioned for Deidra Patrice Howard to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of

Cecil James Howard 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 **February 9, 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: Carol Hadnett  
Clerk of the Probate Court

Wilkinson County Probate Court  
100 Bacon St  
Irwinton, GA 31042

478-946-2222

January 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

**W26-005**  
**SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON COUNTY OF KITSAP JUVENILE COURT**

In re the Welfare of: Jarvis Nathaniel Webb

D.O.B. 09/02/2025

Case No.: 25-7-00185-18

January 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

**Felicia Cummings** has petitioned for **Felicia Cummings** to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of **Louise Cummings** 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 **February 9, 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.

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100 Bacon St  
Irwinton, GA 31042

478-946-2222

January 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

**W26-002**  
**Notice and Summons by Publication (Dependency)**

THE STATE OF WASHINGTON TO:

James Vander Murphy, Alleged Father

AND TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

A Dependency Petition was filed on October 16, 2025. A Fact Finding hearing will be held on this matter on: February 25, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. at Kitsap County Juvenile Department, 1338 SW Old Clinton Road, Port Orchard, WA 98367.

**You should be present at this hearing.**

You are expected to appear in person, but may, with extenuating circumstances, participate in this hearing by video or telephone as follows:

Video: <https://zoom.us/j/448406187>

Telephone: Call any of the following number and then enter the Zoom access number: (253) 215-8782; (346) 248-7799; (669) 900-9128; (312) 626-6799; (646) 558-8656 (301) 715-8592

Zoom Access Number: 448 406 187.

The hearing will determine if your child is dependent as defined in RCW 13.34.030(6). This begins a judicial process which could result in permanent loss of your parental rights. If you do not appear at the hearing, the court may enter a dependency order in your absence.

To request a copy of the Notice, Summons, and Dependency Petition, call DCYF at (360) 725-6700. To view information about your rights, including right to a lawyer, go to [www.atg.wa.gov/DPY.aspx](http://www.atg.wa.gov/DPY.aspx).

DATED THIS 23rd day of December, 2025,

by Kate Mullen, WSBA #63048 Assistant Attorney General

January 22, 29, 2026, February 5, 2026

**W26-002**  
**Notice of Sale Under Power. State of Georgia, County of WILKINSON.** Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Deed to Secure Debt given by EVA JO HERRIN to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. ("MERS") as NOMINEE FOR QUICKEN LOANS INC., dated 01/15/2020, and Recorded on 01/21/2020 as Book No. 00389 and Page No. 0541 0558, WILKINSON County, Georgia records, as last assigned to ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC (the Secured Creditor), by assignment, conveying the after described property to secure a Note of even date in the original principal amount of \$64,753.00, with interest at the rate specified therein, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash at the WILKINSON County Courthouse within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in February, 2026, the following described property: TAX ID NUMBER(S): G12 059

LAND SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF WILKINSON IN THE STATE OF GA BEING PARTS OF LOTS 10, 11 AND 12 IN BLOCK 'C' AS SHOWN ON A PLAT AND SURVEY OF THE A.G. LAMAR SALE, SAID PLAT BEING OF RECORD IN PLAT BOOK 5, PAGE 16 IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE WILKINSON COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT, WHICH PLAT IS INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE THERETO, AND EACH LOT FRONTING ON GEORGIA AVENUE A DISTANCE OF FIFTY (50') FEET, ALL LYING AND BEING IN ONE BODY, AND HAVING LOCATED THEREON A DWELLING HOUSE AND BEING NOW OR FORMERLY BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS: NORTH BY LANDS OF MR. AND/OR MRS. H.C. BLANKENSHIP, EAST BY ELAM STREET, WEST BY LANDS OF RALPH W. WATKINS; SOUTH BY GEORGIA AVENUE.

COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 125 ELAM ST, GORDON, GA 31031 2504

January 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

**W26-006**  
**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

IN RE: ESTATE OF TIMOTHY WILLIAMS.

All creditors of the estate of Timothy Williams, late of Wilkinson County, deceased, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment this 14th day of January 2026

Paul L. Williams, c/o Attorney: Tim J. Thompson, 1900B Northside Crossing, Macon, GA 31210, 478-471-9900.

January 22, 29, 2026, February 5, 2026

2026

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January 22, 29, 2026, February 5, 2026

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