



## Wilkinson County man arrested in fatal hit-and-run

By CAROLINE WEATHERSBY  
Staff Reporter

A Wilkinson County man has been arrested after a hit-and-run in Twiggs County Tuesday night left a pedestrian dead.

James Artchie Veal of Wilkinson County is being charged with one count of hit-and-run resulting in serious injury or death and homicide by vehicle in the first degree, says Twiggs County Sheriff Darren Mitchum.

The Twiggs County Sheriff's Office says that on Feb. 10 at approximately 6:35 p.m., they received a report of a person lying on the ground beside the road on Highway 96 East, near Gallimore Mill Road. Deputies

responded to the report, arriving on the scene moments later and located the individual who they found deceased.

The individual was identified as 52-year-old Andrea Anderson of Twiggs County, a mother and grandmother known to walk along GA Hwy 96. Law enforcement determined the death as a result of a hit-and-run and requested Georgia State Patrol to assist with the investigation.

According to a preliminary report by the GSP, the initial investigation showed that the unknown vehicle was traveling west on 96 when it

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The Twiggs County Sheriff's Office says James Artchie Veal of Wilkinson County turned himself in following a two-day manhunt for the driver responsible for striking and killing 52-year-old Andrea Anderson, and fleeing the scene.

Veal has been charged with two felony counts and is being held at the Twiggs County Detention Center in Jeffersonville /SPECIAL PHOTO, Twiggs County Sheriff's Office

## Suspect reported to have a violent criminal history

By CHRISTIAN MCKEARNEY  
Staff Reporter

The McIntyre man arrested last week in connection to a fatal hit-and-run in Twiggs County is no stranger to the judicial system.

James Artchie Veal, 75, spent most of the 1980s in state prison. Veal was arrested in 1982 and charged with murder. The incident occurred during a house party at a mobile home on Asbury Road. Veal "did shoot James Nesbitt at the place of question after an argument over a gambling debt," according to the original warrant. "(Nesbitt) was shot with a shotgun in

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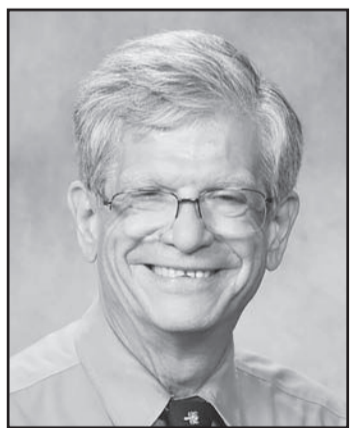
### SNAPSHOTS: COCHRAN MAYOR DECLARES FEBRUARY TO BE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

In her first proclamation as mayor, Cochran Mayor Carla Coley declared February as Black History Month. At a city council meeting on Feb. 10, she presented Bleckley County NAACP Chapter President Gary Warner with the proclamation. "Black History Month honors the profound, often overlooked contributions of African Americans to U.S. history and culture, challenging systemic racism, and ensuring a more inclusive, accurate national narrative. I am thankful for the awareness this month brings, and I am thankful for the reminder"/CAROLINE WEATHERSBY

## Newbern to resign from Cochran city manager position on March 13

By CAROLINE WEATHERSBY  
Staff Reporter

Richard Newbern will be stepping down as Cochran city manager on March 13. The city of Cochran announced Newbern's resignation last Friday on social media.



**Richard Newbern**

Newbern shared that he recently accepted a position as city manager in Barnesville, and moving there would place him closer to his children. He said that it felt like the right time.

"My family and I have enjoyed the 11 years and three months that we have lived in Cochran," he wrote in his resignation. "Since December 15, 2014, I have served with Council members, department heads and employees whose only mission is making a positive difference in the quality of life for Cochran citizens.

"I have led the effort to achieve financial stability

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## Valentine's Day celebrated by the Twiggs Co. Senior Center

On Feb. 13, the Twiggs Co. Senior Center in Jeffersonville celebrated Valentine's Day with a special holiday edition of BINGO. Food, candy and rocking dance moves were served. Members of senior centers from across the Middle Georgia region attended including Macon-Bibb County, Wilkinson County and Crawford County/CAROLINE WEATHERSBY

## Annual festival held in Wilkinson County now one of the largest in the Middle Georgia region

By CHRISTIAN MCKEARNEY  
Staff Reporter

Peanut butter and jelly. Peas and carrots.

Banana pudding and tractors?

That last combination, even though it only makes sense in Wilkinson County, has turned out to be a winning one. An estimated 6,500 people attended last spring's State Banana Pudding Festival and Skippin' & Poppin' Antique Car & Tractor Show, and now event organizers are going even bigger.

This year's event is all set for Saturday, March 28 at Council Farms on Council-McCranie Road. Previously held in downtown Irwinton, 2025 marked the first time that the festival and tractor show were held at Council Farms, and it turned out to be a wise move.

"It just gives us so much more space," said Donna Asbell, event co-organizer. "It's allowed us to continue to grow."

Roughly 100 vendors were on hand last year, and this year's goal is to top that. Also making its debut this year will be a mechanical bull. Organizers are also leaning more heavily into tractors, and "we'll have tractor games all day long, and we have added new categories," according to Asbell.

However, the headliner will always be banana pudding, because who doesn't love banana pudding? The Puddin' Path, which allows festival-goers to sample eight different banana puddings, begins at 10 a.m. and ends "when the pudding runs

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**HIT-AND-RUN**

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struck and killed Anderson, who had been "walking in the center of the road." The driver fled the scene, continuing west on 96 towards Jeffersonville.

The Twiggs County Sheriff's Office turned to the public to help identify the suspect, posting to social media asking for anyone with information to contact the sheriff's office.

At the scene, Georgia State Patrol's reconstruction team collected remnants of the vehicle the driver left behind. Through their investigation, GSP identified broken pieces of a car headlight as belonging to a silver Dodge vehicle. After speaking with employees at a local Dodge dealership, GSP further identified the suspect vehicle as a Dodge Ram, "more than likely" from its 1500 series.

Several law enforcement agencies in Middle Georgia worked to locate the vehicle, with the sheriff's office announcing the make and model to the public and going door-to-door hoping to find it.

After a two day manhunt, Sheriff Darren Mitchum announced the suspect had been located and arrested.

James Archie Veal, 75, was taken into custody on Wednesday night at approximately 10:30 p.m. after contacting the Wilkinson County Sheriff's Office.

According to Mitchum, Veal called the WCSO after hearing about a hit-and-run investigation in Twiggs County. The WCSO along with the McIntyre Police Department arrived at his residence shortly after. Veal was detained until deputies of the Twiggs County Sheriff's Office arrived

and placed him into custody.

Veal's truck, a 2018 silver Dodge Ram with front-end damage, aligned with law enforcement's description of the suspect vehicle. The Dodge was impounded by Twiggs deputies and is being held for further investigation.

According to Mitchum, someone reported previously running into Veal and asking him why the front end of his truck was damaged. Reportedly, Veal responded by saying he hit a deer. Later, after being detained, he told Wilkinson County Sheriff Richard Chatman he thought he hit a bear.

Veal was charged with one count of hit-and-run resulting in serious injury or death and homicide by vehicle in the first degree. He was taken to the Twiggs County jail where he remains in custody.

"I'm very glad that we can get this done and bring some closure to Ms. Anderson's family - at least that... the person responsible for it has been caught and charged as a result," said Sheriff Mitchum. "Our thoughts and prayers are with her family."

Mitchum says that as of Feb. 12, authorities are uncertain what led to the crash that killed Anderson.

He relays that not much is known about Veal, but that he does have priors.

During the press conference, Mitchum thanked his staff, the citizens of Twiggs and nearby counties and assisting law enforcement agencies for their help in the investigation.

Authorities ask that anyone with further information about the crash to contact the Twiggs County Sheriff's Office at 478-945-3357.

# Bill limiting data center costs for residents clears Georgia house

By MARK NIESSE  
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — The Georgia House approved a bill Tuesday that aims to protect residential and retail customers from bearing the costs of data centers, but critics said the legislation won't do enough.

The proposal is the first of several pending data center bills to pass either the House or Senate during this year's legislative session.

The measure, House Bill 1063, requires electric utilities and new data centers to agree on contract terms that shield other power customers from costs of data center construction and operation.

"This bill is to ensure no family in the state should ever have to choose between keeping their lights on and keeping food on the table because someone else didn't pay their fair share," said state Rep. Brad Thomas, R-Holly Springs. "Data centers will pay their own way, period."

The Public Service Commission, which regulates Georgia Power and other electricity providers, adopted similar rules last year, and Thomas said HB 1063 would make those requirements permanent.

State Rep. Stacey Evans, D-Atlanta, said the bill falls short because it still allows the Public Service Commission to raise electricity rates in response to rising demand from data centers.

"It adds no additional protections for consumers and no cost cutting mechanisms," said state Rep. Ruwa Romman, D-Duluth. "I want every Georgian to know that this bill will not help with the concerns they brought to us. It simply codifies the status quo."

The House passed HB 1063 with a 159-5 vote, and it now goes to the state Senate, which is considering its own customer protection proposal. Senate Bill 34 would prohibit costs from data center fuel generation and transmission from being included in residential electricity rates.

## WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Brooke Phillips and Hayes Willis married on Dec. 13 in Hartsfield

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES JOURNAL POST

Brooke Phillips and Hayes Willis were married Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025, at Gin Creek in Hartsfield, Georgia with the Revered Charles Clance officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Weldon and Brenda Phillips of Macon. She is a graduate of Covenant Academy and Central Georgia Technical College, where she earned an Associate of Science in Nursing.

The groom is the son of Tracy and Lisa Willis of Albany. He is a graduate of Lee County High School and Albany Technical College. He is employed as a Radiology Technologist with Atrium Health.

The Matron of Honor was Amanda O'Gorman, sister of the bride. Bridesmaids were Amanda Blair, Ashley Wood, Riley Warren, and Brooklyn Griffin, friends of the bride. Flower girls were Madelyn and Marianna Davis, friends of the bride. Dog of Honor was Bella Addie, the beloved dog of the bride.

The Best Man was Ryan Head, friend of the groom. Groomsmen were Griffin Dennison, Ragan Head, McClane Newsome, Carson Fields, friends of the groom. Ring bearers were Matthew O'Gorman-Maurer and Grayson Gossett, friends of the bride.

After a honeymoon in St. Lucia, the couple is now living in Macon.

**NEWBERN**

Continued from page 1

for the city, and have implemented grant-funded and other projects for the citizens. Cochran now has a federally funded housing repair program for eligible homeowners that is second to none in the state of Georgia. I have kept the city compliant with state and federal requirements, and I have worked to increase wages and benefits for city employees...

"I am thankful for the opportunity to serve as city manager for the people of Cochran. I'll return to Cochran on occasion to visit our many friends here. I wish the city well."

Newbern held the position of city manager for 11 years during which he played a pivotal role in many city programs. Recently, he oversaw the construction and grand-opening of the Cochran city park that opened late last year.

"He was everything for Cochran," said Public Works Director Willie Farrow, who worked extensively with Newbern over the years. He spotlights Newbern as the key figure in the establishment of the city's housing and demolition programs focusing on low-income zones. "He's a great leader, a great mentor, just a great guy."

"I will never be able to thank Richard enough for the opportunity he gave me and the knowledge he has shared with me. He is a fair, thoughtful boss and the City of Barnesville is fortunate to be the new home of the Newbern family," Lisa Eisele, who serves as

**VEAL**

Continued from page 1

the stomach."

Veal claimed self-defense, and the case went to trial later that year, where a jury found Veal guilty. He was sentenced to "life" but was granted parole in 1989.

Veal then was arrested in 2005 and charged with three counts of aggravated assault/family violence. According to the warrant, Veal "shot his wife, son and daughter in law with a 12 gauge shotgun." Following a guilty plea, Nesbitt was shipped off to prison in December 2005 and released in May 2011.

**WILCO FESTIVAL**

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out." Tickets to get into the Puddin' Path are \$10, and one ticket adds up to roughly one pound of pudding. The Puddin' Path ticket money goes towards non-profit organizations around Wilkinson County.

"It's all about showcasing Wilkinson County's southern hospitality, but it's also about showcasing our non-profits," Asbell

said. "We are so proud of those partnerships. Last year we were able to raise about \$5,000, total."

Bananapuddingfestival.com is a one-stop shop for all of the numerous happenings. The website includes links to register for the tractor show, the 5K and 1-mile fun run, the 50-mile Puddin' Pedal bicycle challenge, as well as the banana pudding side of things.

Administrative Assistant to the City Manager, told the Times Journal Post.

Mayor Carla Coley wrote, "Mr. Newbern has served the City of Cochran well for the past 11 years, and he and his family became an integral part of our community. You don't just 'replace' that kind of knowledge or those types of relationships easily. We wish

him well as he begins his next chapter with the City of Barnesville, understanding that his ending symbolizes a new beginning for our City's future. I think we can look forward to what is in store for the City of Cochran and all that the future holds!"

City officials said that an interim city manager will be appointed soon.



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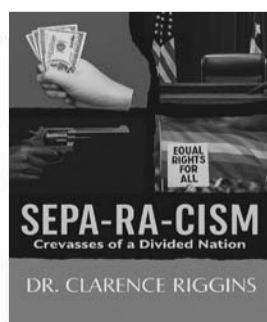
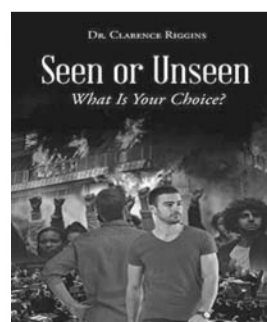
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# Georgia Senate Republicans approve lower income taxes

By TY TAGAMI  
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — The Republican-led state Senate adopted an historic income tax cut plan Thursday that Democrats decried as an election year ploy that would undermine the state budget.

There was no official estimate of the cost of Senate Bill 476, which calls for no income tax on the first \$50,000 in annual earnings by an individual and \$100,000 for a married couple.

The absence of an official analysis of the impact to the more than \$40 billion budget led Democrats to assert the plan would cost \$9 billion while Republicans touted it as a boon for working people.

"It would represent the largest tax cut in state history," Lt. Gov. Burt Jones, a Republican, said after the

measure passed 32-18, with all Republicans in favor and nearly all Democrats opposed.

Sen. Blake Tillery, R-Vidalia, the lead co-sponsor of the legislation, said it would help firefighters, teachers, restaurant employees and middle-class workers in general, ridiculing Democrats' arguments against it.

"The mental gymnastics you have to jump through to vote against this bill are astounding," he said.

Democrats said the wealthy would benefit more, since the bill would also reduce the base income tax rate to 4.99% from the current 5.19%. They said it would result in budget shortfalls in the long run, forcing budget cuts and sales tax increases that would drive up prices for groceries, child care and other expenses that are making life difficult for

many Georgians.

They called the measure a trick to mislead voters.

Several Senate Republicans are running for higher office, including Jones, who wants to succeed Brian Kemp in the governor's office, and Tillery, who hopes to follow Jones as lieutenant governor.

Sen. Kim Jackson, D-Stone Mountain, called the bill "a scam." Sen. Derek Mallow, D-Savannah, said it was "robbing Peter to pay Paul."

Sen. Nikki Merritt, D-Grayson, said it would "devastate" the economy. "It's not a plan for working families," she said. "It's a plan working families will pay for."

Kemp's own budget proposal would reduce the income tax rate to 4.99%, but it does not include increases in the standard deduction for income.

That led Sen. Josh Mc-

Laurin, D-Sandy Springs, also running for lieutenant governor, to say SB 476 was a "senseless tax cut that Brian Kemp's going to veto on sight ... this is election year stuff."

McLaurin said reducing the base rate to 4.99% would cost \$3 billion a year while deducting the first \$50,000 thousand in income per tax filer (and \$100,000 per couple) would cost \$6 billion.

Tillery had a much lower estimate, less than \$3 billion for the package, which he said would be balanced by cuts to tax credits and exemptions that collectively cost the state treasury about \$30 billion.

SB 476 would eliminate them initially for a variety of recipients, including business headquarters, banks, medical manufacturers, telecommunications facilities, boat repairers, crab fishermen and for low- and zero-emission vehicles and

electric vehicle chargers.

It would end new exemptions for the manufacture of machinery to reduce or eliminate air or water pollution and for high-technology companies. There would also be no new exemptions for data centers.

Then, all tax credits and exemptions would end in 2032.

The plan had Republicans gloating that they had seized the issue of affordability from Democrats.

"There's a reason, y'all, why the Republican Party is becoming the party of the working class," said Sen. Greg Dolezal, R-Cumming, who is running for lieutenant governor. Sen. Bill Cowser, R-Athens, who wants to be Georgia's next attorney general, said Democrats used to be the party of the working class while Republicans represented the wealthy.

The Republican-led Senate also passed a back-up plan in Senate Bill 477, which Tillery acknowledged was not as beneficial for the middle class. It would also reduce the base income tax rate to 4.99%, then continue dropping it until it reached 3.99% in 2028. It would increase tax deductions by a much smaller amount, raising the untaxed portion of income by a third, to \$16,000 for individuals and to \$32,000 for married couples. The state tax on corporate income would drop to 4.99% but no further.

Both bills would need consent from the House to become law. So, the Senate extended what Tillery described as an "olive branch" to that chamber by gutting two House bills and replacing them with the language in the two Senate bills, so the House could claim credit.

# Advocates ask regulators to reconsider some of the Georgia Power expansion

SPECIAL TO THE  
TIMES JOURNAL POST

ATLANTA — Environmental groups are asking state regulators to reconsider some of the Georgia Power expansion they approved late last year. The Georgia Public Service Commission added the request to its agenda for next week.

Georgia Power is predicting an enormous influx of energy demand in the next five years, mostly from data centers. To meet it, the commission in December approved nearly 10 gigawatts of natural gas turbines, storage batteries, and other energy. Consumer and environmental advocates have raised concerns that ordinary customers could end up paying for that infrastructure despite controls designed to ensure data centers pay the costs.

These groups also have criticized the plan for relying heavily on natural gas, which produces climate-warming greenhouse gases. Now, a coalition of environmental groups is asking the commission to cancel some of the expansion.

Many analysts have argued the utility's forecast is too high. But a petition before the commission argues that even accepting Georgia Power's predictions, the expansion approved in December is too large. If the company builds everything that was approved, analysts say, the utility will be mak-

ing even more energy than the forecast calls for.

Georgia Interfaith Power and Light, the Southface Institute, the Sierra Club and the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy argue that the proposal violates legal standards the commission operates under.

"To certify 100% of the resources, which is what the commission has done, the commission must find that by 2031, Georgia Power retail customers will need 100% of the resources requested by Georgia Power," Jennifer Whitfield of the Southern Environmental Law Center, which represents the petitioners, said in Thursday's meeting. "The commission's order did not make this finding."

Georgia Power interprets the standard differently, arguing there does not need to be a precise match between the amount of power demand and the utility's capacity.

"That has never been the standard, ever, nor is that the reasonable interpretation of the law," Brandon Marzo, a lawyer for Georgia Power, said in the hearing.

In addition to a broader reconsideration of December's decision, the petitioners are specifically asking the commission to cancel a new gas-powered turbine at Plant McIntosh in southeast Georgia. They argue the turbine goes beyond what the utility will need and will be expensive.

Georgia Power main-

tains the McIntosh expansion is critical for reliability because that turbine will be able to deliver energy when other resources like batteries aren't necessarily available. Without it, the utility "would be short in the winter of 2031," Marzo said.

All of these issues, Marzo argued, were covered last fall before the commission voted, in the months-long process of hearings, expert testimony, and legal filings. He said the petitioners want to "re-argue everything that was litigated in this case."

The environmental groups denied that claim.

There has been a key change since the commission's December vote: Two Democratic commissioners are now serving after unseating the Republican incumbents by wide margins in November. Some of the same groups now petitioning for reconsideration pushed unsuccessfully for the commission to delay last year's decision in light of the election results.

In Thursday's meeting, one of the new commissioners, Alicia Johnson, urged her colleagues to give the current petition due consideration.

"Reconsideration is not delay for delay's sake," she said. "I think it is responsible governance, and it reflects our obligation to balance growth with stewardship."

The commission added the petition to its agenda for Wednesday. In that meet-

ing, the commissioners could vote to deny or grant it. If they grant the motion, they would then need to decide how to proceed with it.

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## NOTICE OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 625.201 AND SECTION 625.202 OF THE TWIGGS COUNTY CODE REGARDING THE REQUIREMENTS AND CONDITIONS AS TO THE INSTALLATION OF DRIVEWAY PIPES/CULVERTS ON, ACROSS, OR THROUGH A COUNTY RIGHT OF WAY, TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY, TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE, AND FOR OTHER LAWFUL PURPOSES

Notice is given that at the March 5, 2026 regularly scheduled Board of Commission Meeting for Twiggs County Georgia (the "Meeting"), a proposed ordinance will be considered to amend Section 625.201 and Section 625.202 of the Twiggs County Code regarding the requirements and conditions as to the installation of driveway pipes/culverts on, across, or through a County right of way.

The Meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the Board of Commissioners Meeting Room located on the first floor of the Twiggs County Courthouse located at 425 Railroad Street N, Jeffersonville, Georgia 31044.

Copies of the proposed ordinance to be considered are on file in the Office of the Clerk of the Twiggs County Commission for the purpose of examination and inspection by the public. The Clerk of either Office shall furnish anyone, upon written request, with a copy of the proposed ordinance.

## A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MCINTYRE FOR THE INSTALLATION OF TWO SPEED BUMPS ON ASBELL ROAD

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of McIntyre is charged with promoting the public health, safety, and welfare of its residents; and

WHEREAS, excessive vehicle speeds have been identified on Asbell Road as a concern for pedestrian safety, neighborhood livability, and traffic calming; and

WHEREAS, the installation of speed bumps is a recognized traffic-calming measure intended to reduce vehicle speeds and enhance public safety; and

WHEREAS, the City of McIntyre will comply with the required procedures pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 36-39-3, including but not limited to, publishing notice of this Resolution in the Wilkinson County Post for three (3) consecutive weeks and allotting fifteen (15) days after the last date of publication for community protest.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of McIntyre that:

1. This Resolution shall be published in the Wilkinson County Post for three (3) consecutive weeks and then fifteen (15) days shall be allotted for a written community protest of this Resolution to be filed with the City Clerk.
2. Assuming no community protest is filed, the installation of permanent speed bumps is hereby approved for Asbell Road, specifically 2278 Asbell Road and 2167 Asbell Road.
3. The Public Works Department is directed to prepare and implement the necessary engineering plans for the design and installation, ensuring all federal, state, and local guidelines are met.
4. The necessary funds for the design and installation (or the resident cost-share, if applicable) are hereby allocated/will be collected, and the project shall be prioritized for the current fiscal year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall become effective upon its approval by the City Council of the City of McIntyre.

PASSED AND RESOLVED this 05 day of January 2026.

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MCINTYRE

By:   
Vicki Home, Mayor

Attest:   
Davonia Riddle, City Clerk



## ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners will be accepting Sealed Bids pertaining to the following project:

1. Gordon-McIntyre Road Convenience Center Ramp Rehabilitation

Closing date for Sealed Bids responding to Request for Proposals, **Convenience Center Ramp Rehabilitation**, shall be **March 19, 2026 @ 2:00 PM**. Bids will be opened in public and read aloud at this time at the Wilkinson County Courthouse, Board of Commissioners.

**Deadline:** Proposals received after the time and date set or receipt of bids WILL NOT be accepted and will be returned unopened to the bidder. It is the bidder's responsibility to ensure timely delivery of their bid. Telephone, email, or facsimile bids will not be accepted.

There will be no required pre-bid meetings for this project. The last day for questions guaranteeing an answer will be close of business **March 12, 2026**. All questions must be submitted via email to [mhoffmann@tpointeng.com](mailto:mhoffmann@tpointeng.com).

The complete RFP package will be available by contacting, Morgan Hoffmann at [mhoffmann@tpointeng.com](mailto:mhoffmann@tpointeng.com).

Wilkinson County reserves the right to reject all bids, to waive informalities, to re-advertise and/or to award any bid that is in the best interest of Wilkinson County.

Mail or deliver Sealed Bids to:  
Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners  
ATTN: Tracy D Strange, Convenience Center Ramp Rehabilitation RFP  
100 Bacon Street  
PO Box 161  
Irwin, Georgia 31042

# Ginkgo Tree

The tree of the month for February is the ginkgo biloba, which is about the oldest plant species on the earth. Although it has consistently taken a beating from mankind, it has always come back for more.

Granted, what I know about ginkgo trees is based on the offerings of the internet and certain published sources. The conclusion is that I don't really know a lot but enjoy what I have learned.

I remember hearing about the ginkgo when I arrived in Athens and that there were several on north campus. At that time, I had no idea how to spell ginkgo but the more I learned about "the oldest tree on earth," the more intrigued I became.

The ginkgo, known for

its extensive and fibrous network of roots, according to my cursory research, "can develop a deep taproot initially, which transitions to a widespread network of lateral roots as they mature."

This was the reason that some of the ginkgos in downtown Athens had to be removed. Sidewalks and ginkgo trees are not compatible.

There is another negative regarding the ginkgo and that has to do with the female ginkgo. The female tree produces a plum-shaped compound, butyric acid, which gives off a foul and pungent smell. The male trees do not produce those seeds.

If you have an interest in adding a ginkgo to your landscaping, you first need to determine its gender.



LORAN SMITH

Otherwise, you might be the scourge of your neighborhood.

I don't know that I have ever entered the sphere of a female ginkgo, but those who have say that it is not a pleasant experience. They also say that if that should ever come about, I would likely lose my affection for this beautiful tree, the ultimate survivor.

Our neighbors down the street, Rob and Carol Winthrop, have what might be the biggest ginkgo in Athens. When its leaves turn in the fall, it offers the most attractive yellow hues you will find. This plant life masterpiece gets my vote as the prettiest ginkgo in the Classic City. Its expansive, overflowing limbs provide an umbrella like canopy of enormous shade much of the year. And then when the leaves turn in October, it becomes downright magnificent.

The ginkgo is, perhaps, the only tree that has its own biography. It was written by Peter Crane, dean of the Yale School of the Environment.

Some facts gleaned from my research make you appreciate the resilience and longevity of this tree, which is native to China. The ginkgo co-existed with the di-

nosaurus. If you think about that you aren't so startled when you learn that researchers say that the ginkgo first appeared over 290 million years ago.

There are a couple of national disasters in Japan involving the ginkgo tree that underscore its stunning resilience. Roughly 80 years ago when the atomic bomb drop took place at Hiroshima, there were 170 ginkgo trees that survived the blast.

That small group of trees became a symbol of peace and goodwill.

Visitors to the city are attracted to these historic trees, and the city has, over the years, sent ginkgo' to many places as a reminder of peace and its universal importance.

They are still standing today, and the city hosts international visitors who marvel at the ginkgo's remarkable resilience. The

other epoch-making event, which was almost as shocking as the atomic bomb, was the Great Kantō Earthquake. In 1923, this catastrophic earthquake hit just south of Tokyo, killing at least 105,000 people although some estimates set the figure at over 150,000.

Again, the hearty ginkgo trees in the area survived and ultimately flourished. Locals noticed that while all the other trees died, the ginkgos began to grow again. Researchers said that the bark and outer rings of the trees were scorched, "but the living cells within had clung to life."

Ginkgos are found in several parts of Georgia, and there are many in Athens. When the leaves turn this fall, go find some of the most prominent ones and enjoy one of the most beautiful scenes we experience each year.

# Does using forever chemicals mean having forever liability?

While most of the commentary coming from actions of the Georgia General Assembly this session centers on taxes – the Senate with a plan to phase out the income tax; the House trying to remove property taxes for homeowners – there's a lot more going on under the gold dome. Part-time citizen legislators have to become experts on a variety of topics, some of which have long term consequences for our own health and that of the state.

One such issue is that of PFAS, more commonly known as "forever chemicals." This is a somewhat broad category of chemicals that were widely used since the 1950's, are now quite common in our ground water and food supply, and have become an entire industry for trial lawyers seeking billions in judgments, and any company who had PFAS in their supply chain.

House Bill 211 seeks to address potential liabilities for those who used PFAS chemicals in their manufacturing processes within established guidelines set by the US Environmental Protection Agency and Georgia's Environmental Protection Division. It's sponsored by Representative Kasey Carpenter of Dalton, with co-signers including Representatives Jason Ridley of Chatsworth, Matt Barton of Calhoun, Mike Cameron of Rossville, and Steve Tarvin of Chickamauga.

The common thread of the districts represented by these sponsors is that the largest employer for the region is the carpet industry. Inputs used in the manufacture of carpet, including stain repellent commonly known as Scotchgard, used PFAS chemicals – PFOA and PFOS – that were added to the EPA's list of dangerous and hazardous substances in 2002 and 2015, respectively, and thus have been phased out of use in carpet production. Now we're deciding who has liability for the mess left behind.

Representative Tarvin has been using his social media channels quite effectively to discuss what the legislation does - and equally importantly – does

not do. That is the role of a legislator in representative government. He has to cut through the hysteria and doubt, inform his constituents, and ultimately do what is best for his constituents. In the balance lies the health of local residents and the economic health of Georgia's second seventh largest manufacturers by employee count, Shaw Industries and Mohawk Industries.

Tarvin has posted twelve numbered posts regarding PFAS on his Facebook page since January, though this effort started with two separate "placeholder" bills last year.

Deference has been paid to ensuring the legislature get this balance correct rather than a speedy, knee-jerk response to the Biden Administration's retroactive regulation.

While the details of his posts are deep, including a timeline for PFAS issues dating back to the 1940's creation of the compounds, the intent is to get to the root of what response from Georgia is needed. Summarizing and paraphrasing



CHARLIE HARPER  
GEORGIA POLITICS

Representative Tarvin's posts on his behalf, it comes down to whether or not a company using but not manufacturing a legal ingredient correctly that was already regulated should be held liable for its use.

Some would call this a question of fairness. This involves both politics and big money, however. Thus, to quote my late father's most frequent admonition, "nothing in this world is fair."

In the current climate, populists on the right believe big business is the enemy and should be punished

for existing. The left wants anyone with deep pockets to "pay their fair share" by any means necessary as part of income and wealth redistribution. Trial lawyers are lucky that both sides can appear on any given jury.

Despite how the bill is being framed by Atlanta media, the bill in its current form does not offer anyone blanket immunity. It instead seeks a balance for future claims. Of note, the burden of proof that manufacturers who used PFAS chemicals in their own production knew about potential damages would fall on plaintiffs and/or prosecutors, rather than them having to prove they were innocent.

In short, the bill seeks to distinguish between a "mistled commercial receiver" and someone who knowingly contributed to environmental problems and/or tried to cover it up. That latter category will still provide a lot of groundwater for trial lawyers to drill down upon.

As of this writing HB 211 has moved to the House Judiciary Committee. Plenty of career lawyers who also

serve as Representatives will have their say on liability limitations there. If the bill is to make it to the Governor's desk for signature, it will have to pass both House Judiciary and Rules Committees and receive a floor vote by March 6th to be considered in the Senate. A lot hangs in the balance.

I'll a personal note about Representative Steve Tarvin. I met him in 2009 when he was running for Congress at the height of the Tea Party movement. I can't remember the words he used to introduce himself but it was along the lines of "an independent old cuss". He was, and is. That's a high complement in my book.

He's taking the details of this debate directly to his constituents - Not bumper sticker slogans, but enough detail on which I could base this column. He wants the facts out there, good and bad. He knows he, and his voters, will have to live with the results, whatever the legislature decides.

# The monks' Walk for Peace brings out the best in each of us

I'm trying to figure out why all the talk about Making America Great Again? America has been great since I've been here and I suspect it will be great when I'm gone. That is because it is made up of good people who do good things.

No one comes close to Americans in charitable giving. In 2024, U.S. charitable giving reached \$592.5 billion. The Charities Aid Foundation and Johns Hopkins report that Americans give about \$1,700 per person each year – more than three times the rate of other wealthy nations and up to 10 times the levels in France, Germany and Italy. That's great.

A report from Volunteer FDIP, a leading volunteer organization, showed that 77.34 million Americans volunteered in 2023, or 42 percent of the population. That's more than any other country. And that's great, too.

I bring this up because yelling at each other, name-calling, demeaning those with whom we disagree and being unwilling to listen to another point of view does not make America great. It divides us and there is nothing great about that. And that is not us. Or at least most of us. Yet sometimes, that seems to be all we see or read about ourselves.

While the ICE raids in Minneapolis were garner-



DICK YARBROUGH

ing all the media attention – to Fox News, it was the greatest thing to happen since the discovery of fire; and to MSNBC, or whatever it calls itself these days, it was the end of civilization as we know it – a very simple event was taking place that focused on the good in us. A group of Buddhist monks set out single file in December on a 2,300-mile, 108-day pilgrimage from their temple in Fort Worth, Texas, to Washington, D.C. It was called a Walk for Peace and was intended to raise "awareness of peace, loving kindness and compassion" to a nation and a world badly in need of all of the above.

Their walk took them through 10 states, including Georgia. They walked through the heat, the freezing cold and even endured one of the monks having to go through a leg amputation after a driver crashed into the group in Texas. Still,

they walked as thousands lined their route to cheer them on.

My daughter had her own personal experience during the monk's walk through Coweta County. She had just had foot surgery and was wearing a walking boot. As they passed her, the monk leading the group, without breaking stride, simply said, "May your foot heal quickly." She later told me, "I immediately felt his peace and his presence." So did a lot of other Americans.

One reporter described the reaction this way: "Construction workers silenced their power tools as they kept watch from the second-story office building across the street. I bowed my head and held my palms in prayer, along with the construction workers above me, the family with three kids beside me, and the old-

er women wrapped in blankets. A police officer lowered his gaze."

A key figure in the Walk for Peace was Aloka, the "Peace Dog," a stray dog from India, who had been a part of an earlier peace walk in India and later became part of the U.S. pilgrimage. He had to undergo ligament surgery in South Carolina and was treated free of charge by a local veterinary clinic. The surgery was successful and Aloka rejoined the group in Charlotte. You just can't keep a good peace dog down.

The monks' Walk for Peace also brought out the bigots – self-described Christians – to demonstrate against them and to rail about them on Facebook. Christians are about love, as in love thy neighbor. These people couldn't spell love if you spotted them the "o"

and "v," let alone demonstrate it.

I would suggest the Bible-thumpers read Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Hint: It's the fifth, sixth and seventh Chapters of the Gospel of Matthew.) As I recall, He is the Prince of Peace and would not be happy to have his name evoked in condemnation of a group marching for peace. No wonder church attendance is down.

Was the march worth the effort? Yes and no. The pilgrimage drew huge crowds and – minus the bigots who, thankfully, were a minority – a tremendously positive response from Americans who think our country is great and just wish it could be kinder and gentler. Then we turn on the evening news and realize that we still have a long, long way to go.



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## DID YOU KNOW ... When was the cash register created? And who invented it?

By JACK BAGLEY  
Georgia Trust For Local News

*Did you know...*

... the first person to receive two Nobel Prizes was a French scientist? Marie Curie (1867-1934) received the Nobel Physics Prize in 1903 for her discovery of radioactivity. Her second Physics Prize award came in 1911, when she was recognized for discovering the elements polonium and radium. (An energizing scientist, she was.)

... between 1948 and 2015, it was against the law in Japan to dance after 1 a.m.? (I can't imagine why... Can you?)

... a dead cow was once used to spark a political protest? In 1960, a U.S. satellite was returning to Earth, and it broke into several pieces as it fell. One of those pieces hit a farm on the island nation of Cuba, killing a cow. Because tensions between Cuba and the United States were high at the time, and as a poke at the U. S., a live cow was paraded through the streets with a sign on it saying, "Eisenhower, you murdered one of my sisters!" President Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890-1969) was said to have been amused by the protest. (Or a-moo-sed. Cuba had a real beef with the U.S. about that.)

... a river in Peru will cook any creature that falls into it? Its name is the Shanay-timpishka, which translates into the "Boiling River." The temperature of the water is close to 200 degrees, and any creature that falls into it will be boiled alive. The headwaters of the river are marked with a boulder that looks like a giant snake's head. Like any such river or other body of hot water, it is located near an active volcano or lava "hot spot" under the Earth's crust. (That's nothing. There's a lake in Yellowstone National Park that will dissolve you if you fall in.)

...the cash register was invented in 1879? James J. Ritty (1836-1918) was the owner of a tavern in Dayton, Ohio, in the 1870s when he noticed some of his employees were taking the customers' money and pocketing it, rather than depositing the cash where it should be. On a trip to Europe in 1878, Ritty became intrigued with the idea of a mechanism that counted how many times the ship's propeller turned around, thinking such a machine could be developed to keep track of how much money came into the bar. To that end, he developed – after much trial and error – the "Ritty Dial," which had keys to press depending on how much money was taken in. He patented it as "Ritty's Incorruptible Cashier" and began making them for other businesses. Overwhelmed with running the bar and selling cash registers, he decided to sell the cash register business – and the rest is history. (Ka-ching!)

... actor Bela Lugosi was buried in his most famous costume? Lugosi (born Bela Blasko, 1882-1956) was one of the biggest stars in the Golden Era of horror movies, the 1930s. His portrayal of Count Dracula in Dracula is deemed the standard against which other vampire portrayals are compared. When Lugosi died, he was buried in his Dracula costume, complete with cape. It is said that at his viewing, a woman brought her terrified son up to Lugosi's open casket to prove to the child that "Dracula was dead and was not going to get him." (I can understand the child's concern; vampires are undead, of course.)

... a stretch of road plays music? If you are driving along a section of Route 66 in New Mexico at a steady 45 miles per hour, the road's rumble strips play "America the Beautiful" as you go over them. (How patriotic!)

... a 140-minute movie was filmed in a single take? The 2014 independent German film Victoria was filmed continuously in one take, with no stopping the camera, no reshooting of scenes, and absolutely no cuts. The movie follows a woman named Victoria who is traveling in Berlin. One evening, she meets some new friends but as the evening progresses, things go from bad to worse, ending up in a bank robbery. To accomplish the almost-impossible task of shooting the entire movie in one non-stop take, the actors spent two months rehearsing, and were not confined to a specific script or certain lines. The movie follows 138 minutes in Victoria's life and was shot from 4:30 a.m. to 7 a.m. on April 27, 2014. Sadly, Victoria was not deemed eligible for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language film because much of the dialog was done in English. The movie was attempted three times, each in one take; the third attempt was the one that was released.

... wallpaper was invented in 1739? Plunket Fleeson (1712-1791) stamped designs on paper with wood blocks, then painted in the designs by hand. He sold this as paper hangings for the wall. Fleeson, of Philadelphia, advertised in the Pennsylvania Gazette that year for his paper hangings, along with the sale of bed ticking and choice live goose feathers. (The goose wasn't included in the deal.)

... New Jersey has the nation's highest concentration of shopping malls? (Well, what else is there to do in New Jersey?)

... ladybugs aren't always very ladylike? Seemingly harmless, a ladybug can inflict unprovoked bites on human skin, releasing a defensive secretion that causes a stinging sensation. (You don't really have to annoy a ladybug to get one to bite you.)

*Now... you know!*

## Another great American romance story

I'm not the person you want to come to when seeking advice on relationships. I have been in a relationship with the same woman since I was 17 years old. I'm 40 now and we have been married for nearly 19 of those years, so you do the math. If I was good with figures I would not be doing this for a living.

My late grandmother always told me to play the field, but I did the exact opposite. There are a lot of fish in the sea and I latched onto the first one I was able to reel in. Though I must be a rather good angler, because she swallowed the hook, line and sinker. A couple kids, several moves across the state and countless pets and we're still going strong. As strong as we can anyway. My wife hasn't left me or tried to kill me in my sleep, though I am sure my parents would take her side in either scenario, so I must be doing something right.

In honor of St. Valentine's Day, the feast day honoring the patron saint of beekeepers and epilepsy, among other things, turned commercial holiday endorsed by chocolate and greeting card companies, allow me to tell the story of how I met my better half.

In high school I was an active member of the

### THE NEW SOUTHERN DAD



By KYLE DOMINY

National FFA organization (they dropped Future Farmers of America years ago, because very few of their members took to the agrarian lifestyle). Each term I took every available FFA class because A) it beat math, and B) after the work was complete the instructor would let us play cards. One semester the only such class offered was floral design. Yes, there is a high school class that teaches kids how to make flower arrangements.

Given the content of such a course, my usual gang of card-playing friends did not enroll. In fact, only the names of two young men,

including yours truly, were among a roster of young ladies. I almost dropped the class. I was afraid of being ridiculed, but my counterpart persuaded me to stay.

"Look at all the girls in here," he said. "You've got to stick around."

Wiser counsel has never been given.

Soon I found myself making new card-playing buddies, ones that were much easier on the eyes and didn't know all of my jokes, but one particular one caught my attention.

Attempts to draw her interest seemed to go nowhere though, or so I thought.

One afternoon the class

was tasked with dismantling an old greenhouse. While the girls busied themselves removing broken pots and dead plants, the two boys were in charge of discarding bits of machinery and debris: dented vent fans, seized motors and filters. The filters particularly caught our eyes and, boys will be boys, we soon found creative ways to dispose of them.

"I bet I can punch through one of these things," I said to my comrade.

Is there a better way of impressing a woman than showing off your physical strength? I think not. So I called out to the girl I was trying to impress.

"Hey, watch this!" I shouted as I let loose a flying fist that would have made Bruce Lee proud.

What I did not know at the time is that greenhouse filters are made with glass fibers. As my fist shredded the filter, beautifully I might say, the filter shredded my fist. My feat of prowess was damped by a row of bloody knuckles. The girl I was trying to impress, didn't laugh or walk away. She brought the first aid kit and cleaned up my hand.

The rest, as they say, is history, because I knew then and there that I would never find anyone better.

## COUCH THEATER



Dove Cameron, left, and Avan Jogia star in "56 Days"/Photo courtesy of MovieStillsDB

By DEMI TAVERAS  
King Features

### "56 Days" (TV-MA)

Between the thrills and the steaminess that this new series brings, binge-watchers might not be able to resist it! An adaptation of Catherine Ryan Howard's 2021 novel of the same name, "56 Days" stars two actors who got their start on Disney and Nickelodeon, respectively -- Dove Cameron ("Liv and Maddie") and Avan Jogia ("Victorious"). The steamy duo play couple Oliver and Ciara, who commenced their passionate love affair after a chance meeting at a supermarket. (What a dream!) Fifty-six days after the chance meeting, a body is found in Oliver's apartment, which leads detectives to probe deeper into Oliver's life and his relationship with Ciara. All eight episodes premiere on Feb. 18. (Amazon Prime Video)

### "The 'Burbs" (TV-MA)

You might remember a 1989 film called "The 'Burbs" starring Tom Hanks, Bruce Dern and Carrie Fisher. Well, this new television series is a re-

imagining of that very film, with Keke Palmer ("Nope") and Jack Whitehall ("Malice") as the main stars. Palmer plays Samira, who takes a chance on moving to a quiet cul-de-sac that used to be her husband Rob's (Whitehall) childhood neighborhood. As the couple settles into suburban life, Samira notices oddities surrounding an old home, which lead her to think that it's haunted. With the help of bored neighbors who have nothing else to do, Samira decides to probe deeper into the old house, but she might not like where the road takes her. All eight episodes are out now to stream. (Peacock)

### "Urchin" (R)

Harris Dickinson ("Babygirl"), who will be playing John Lennon in the 2028 biopic film about the Beatles, decided to make his directorial debut before donning Lennon's signature glasses. This drama film premiered at the most recent Cannes Film Festival and stars Frank Dillane ("Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince") as a homeless young man named Mike. Struggling with addiction and poverty, Mike attempts to get off the streets and find a

reliable way to make a living. But with life continuing to put obstacles in the road, the immense pressure that Mike feels is enough to make even an urchin like him lose his mind. Premieres Feb. 17. (Hulu)

### "Can You Keep a Secret?" (TV-14)

This sitcom features a handful of movie and television stars from across the pond, including Dawn French ("French and Saunders"), Mark Heap ("Piglets"), and Craig Roberts ("22 Jump Street"). Loosely based on the real-life disappearance of John Darwin, the six-episode series follows retired couple Debbie (French) and William (Heap), who capitalize on an opportunity to claim life insurance after William is mistakenly pronounced dead. Although their son, Harry (Roberts), tries to persuade them to give the money back because this is, indeed, a criminal activity, he somehow gets sucked into the charade as well. The first episode is out now, with subsequent episodes premiering every Thursday. (Paramount+)

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Legals

Bleckley Co. Legals

**C26-007**  
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER STATE OF GEORGIA, COUNTY OF BLECKLEY  
By virtue of a Power of Sale contained in that certain Security Deed from Chad E. Smith to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS NOMINEE FOR TAYLOR, BEAN AND WHITAKER MORTGAGE CORP., dated June 23, 2006 and recorded on June 23, 2006 in Deed Book 316, Page 574, in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Bleckley County, Georgia, said Security Deed having been given to secure a Note of even date, in the original principal amount of One Hundred Sixty-Eight Thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$168,000.00) with interest thereon as provided therein, as last transferred to Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc., recorded in Deed Book 495, Page 473, aforesaid records, will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the courthouse door of Bleckley County, Georgia, or at such place as has or may be lawfully designated as an alternative location, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in March, 2026, all property described in said Security Deed including but not limited to the following described property:

THAT 1.71 ACRE TRACT OF LAND WITH DWELLING HOUSE LOCATED THEREON IN LAND LOT 33 OF THE 21ST LAND DISTRICT OF BLECKLEY COUNTY, GEORGIA, AS SHOWN BY PLAT OF SURVEY MADE BY T. JERRY PEACOCK, SR., SURVEYOR, DATED OCTOBER 3, 2005, RECORDED IN PLAT CABINET B, SLIDE 88-5 IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF BLECKLEY SUPERIOR COURT AT COCHRAN, GEORGIA, SAID PLAT OF SURVEY AND THE RECORDED COPY THEREOF BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE FOR A MORE COMPLETE DESCRIPTION, THE FOREGOING DESCRIBED TRACT OF LAND IS THE SAME AS THAT CONVEYED FROM GERALD SMITH AND DIANNE E. SMITH TO CHAD E. SMITH BY WARRANT DEED DATED OCTOBER 12, 2005, RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 307, PAGE 73-74, BLECKLEY COUNTY RECORDS. THIS PROPERTY IS SUBJECT TO AN UNPAVED DRIVE ALONG THE NORTHEAST SIDE OF SAID PROPERTY AS SHOWN ON SAID PLAT OF SURVEY.

Said property may more commonly be known as **1125 HWY 126, Cochran, GA 31014**. The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, non-payment of the monthly installments on said loan. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).

The individual or entity that has full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of the loan is Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc., Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc., 3217 S. Decker Lake Drive, Salt Lake City, Utah 84119-3284, 888-349-8955. Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. The sale will also be subject to the following items which may affect the title: a) zoning ordinances; b) matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or by an inspection of the property; c) any outstanding ad valorem taxes, including taxes, which constitute liens upon said property whether or not now due and payable; d) special assessments; e) the right of redemption of any taxing authority; f) all outstanding bills for public utilities which constitute liens upon said property; g) all restrictive covenants, easements, rights-of-way and any other matters of record superior to said Security Deed. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the owner and party in possession of the property is Chad E. Smith and/or tenant(s). The sale will be conducted subject to 1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy code and 2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed.

Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc. as Attorney-in-Fact for Chad E. Smith. Contact: Padgett Law Group: 6267 Old Water Oak Road, Suite 203, Tallahassee, FL 32312; (850) 422-2520  
February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026

**C26-016**  
NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION 2nd Amended Civil Complaint  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a 2nd Amended Civil Complaint has been filed in the Sixth Judicial District Court, Grant County, New Mexico. The general object of the Second Amended Civil Complaint is to assert claims against you arising out

of the matters alleged therein and to seek relief as requested in the pleading. The claims against you arise from your alleged neglect in inspecting 9 Mahogany Drive, Silver City, NM 88061. The claims against you concern negligence and negligent misrepresentation.

You are hereby directed to serve a written response, pleading, or motion in response to the Second Amended Civil Complaint within twenty (20) days after service of this Notice of Pendency Second Amended Civil Complaint, as required by the applicable rules of civil procedure. Failure to timely respond may result in a default judgment if a response is not filed.

The name and address of the attorney for the Plaintiffs is:  
Theodore R. Markowski  
Markowski Ruvalcaba Law Firm, LLC  
125 W. Cruces Ave.  
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88001  
575-523-9052  
The name and address of the Court in which the case is filed is:  
Grant County Courthouse  
201 N. Cooper St.  
Silver City, NM 88061  
575-538-3250  
February 19, 2026

**C26-013**  
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS  
RE: ESTATE OF KEITH RENE FLOYD, DECEASED

All creditors of the Estate of Keith Rene Floyd, 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 26th day of January, 2026.  
Lorena W. Floyd, Executor  
418 Floyd NeSmith Road  
Cochran, GA 31014  
February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026

**C26-009**  
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER, BLECKLEY COUNTY Pursuant to the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by Kimberly Burns to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Ameris Bank, its successors and assigns dated 5/3/2022 and recorded in Deed Book 462 Page 719 Bleckley County, Georgia records; as last transferred to or acquired by Planet Home Lending, LLC, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of \$152,192.00, with interest at the rate specified therein, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the Courthouse door of Bleckley County, Georgia (or such other area as designated by Order of the Superior Court of said county), within the legal hours of sale on March 3, 2026 (being the first Tuesday of said month unless said date falls on a Federal Holiday, in which case being the first Wednesday of said month), the following described property: That tract of land with dwelling house located thereon which has the address now or formerly, of **129 McVay Drive, Cochran, Georgia 31014** (Tax ID A21/077) in the City of Cochran in Land Lot 143 of the 21st Land District of Bleckley County, Georgia, designated as Subdivision Lot 8 of Section 2 of McVay Heights Subdivision as shown on a Plat of Survey made by John W. Dye, Surveyor, on May 19, 1969, recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 173, in the Office of the Clerk of Bleckley Superior Court at Cochran, Georgia, particularly described as follows: BEGIN at a point marked by metal stake on the Northwest right of way line of McVay Drive (at the east corner of subdivision Lot No. 8 herein conveyed) a distance of 560 feet Southwest from its intersection with the Southwest right of way line of Southeast Ninth Street (formerly known as Tenth Street or School Street) and from said point of beginning run in a Westerly direction along the curved line of McVay Drive a distance of 200 feet to a corner point marked by a metal stake at the

West corner of Subdivision Lot No. 8 herein conveyed; thence run North 46 degrees 14 minutes East 120 feet along the Southeast line of Subdivision Lot No. 9 owned now or formerly by Dell D. Daniel to a corner point marked by a metal stake at the North corner of Subdivision Lot No. 8 herein conveyed thence run South 43 degrees 30 minutes East 135 feet along the Southwest line of Subdivision Lot No. 7 owned now or formerly by Betty L. Hatfield to the Point of Beginning. Subject to all easements, ordinances, covenants, conditions, restrictions, and rights-of-way of record, if any. The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note and Security Deed. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Security Deed and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given). Said property is commonly known as 129 McVay Dr, Cochran, GA 31014 together with all fixtures and personal property attached to and constituting a part of said property, if any. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party (or parties) in possession of the subject property is (are): Kimberly Burns and Teresa Thompson or tenant or tenants. Planet Home Lending, LLC is the entity or individual designated, who shall have full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of the mortgage. Planet Home Lending, LLC Loss Mitigation 321 Research Parkway Suite 303 Meriden, Connecticut 06450-8301 855-884-2250 Option #3 Note, however, that such entity or individual is not required by law to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the loan. Said property will be sold subject to: (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) unpaid water or sewage bills that constitute a lien against the property whether due and payable or not yet due and payable and which may not be of record, (c) the right of redemption of any taxing authority, (d) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, and (e) any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above. The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 9-13-172.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and non-judicial sales in the State of Georgia, the Deed Under Power and other foreclosure documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided immediately above. Planet Home Lending, LLC as agent and Attorney in Fact for Kimberly Burns Aldridge Pite, LLP, Six Piedmont Center, 3525 Piedmont Road, N.E., Suite 700, Atlanta, Georgia 30305, (404) 994-7400, 1714-242A THIS LAW FIRM MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.  
1714-242A  
February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026

**C26-017**  
The undersigned hereby certify that they are conducting a business at 145 E. Peacock St. in the City of Cochran, County of Bleckley, State of Georgia under the name of Adoration Home Health, and that the nature of the business is home health, and that said business is composed of the following partnership: LHCG CCXXVI, LLC, 805 N. Whittington Pkwy., Ste. 400, Louisville, KY 40222.  
February 19, 26, 2026

**C26-015**  
The following units located at 235 E. Dykes St., Cochran, GA 31014 will be sold at an online public auction to the highest bidder at [www.storage treasures.com](http://www.storage treasures.com). We reserve the right to withdraw any unit for sale and reject any and all bids.  
Sale date: March 5, 2026 at 9:00 AM EST.

Unit 38 - Jeff Mickle - Windows, household goods, boxes, chest of drawers  
February 19, 26, 2026

Unit 104 - Ellen Hogue - Dining room chairs, upholstered chairs, small chest of drawers, end table, headboard & footboard, table, totes  
February 19, 26, 2026

**C26-011**  
STATE BOARD MEMBER TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARING  
February 25, 2026  
Jason Downey to Host State Board of Education Eighth District Public Hearing  
The State Board of Education will hold a public hearing for citizens in the Eighth Congressional District on Wednesday, February 25, 2026. The meeting will be held from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Oak Hill Middle School, 356 Blandy Road, Milledgeville, GA 31061.

The purpose of the hearing is to hear comments from interested citizens and educators within the congressional district regarding the performance and problems of public education. People wishing to speak should sign in upon arrival. The Georgia Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its programs, services, or activities. Individuals who need assistance or auxiliary aids for participation in this public forum are invited to make their needs known to Geraldine Price at [grprice@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:grprice@doe.k12.ga.us) no later than 72 hours before the scheduled event.  
February 12, 19, 2026

**T26-006**  
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF TWIGGS COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA  
IN RE: ESTATE OF RITA BURNEY WILSON DECEASED  
ESTATE NO. P-26-006  
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE  
TO: TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.  
**Sheila Blessett** has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of **Rita Burney Wilson**, 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 **March 2, 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 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.  
Honorable Gary Nobles, Jr.  
Judge of Probate Court  
By: Diane H. Robinson  
Clerk of the Probate Court  
Twiggs County Probate Court  
425 Railroad St. N P. O. Box 186  
Jeffersonville, Georgia 31044  
478-945-3390  
February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026

**T26-008**  
STATE BOARD MEMBER TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARING  
February 25, 2026  
Jason Downey to Host State Board of Education Eighth District Public Hearing  
The State Board of Education will hold a public hearing for citizens in the Eighth Congressional District on Wednesday, February 25, 2026. The meeting will be held from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Oak Hill Middle School, 356 Blandy Road, Milledgeville, GA 31061.

The purpose of the hearing is to hear comments from interested citizens and educators within the congressional district regarding the performance and problems of public education. People wishing to speak should sign in upon arrival. The Georgia Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its programs, services, or activities. Individuals who need assistance or auxiliary aids for participation in this public forum are invited to make their needs known to Geraldine Price at [grprice@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:grprice@doe.k12.ga.us) no later than 72 hours before the scheduled event.  
February 12, 19, 2026

Twiggs Co. Legals

**T26-013**  
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned are engaged in the business of ornamental tree & scrub production at 22104 U.S. 80 Danville, GA 31017 in the county of Twiggs, in the state of Georgia, under the name of Let It Grow Trees and that the nature of the business is ornamental scrub & tree production and sales, and that the names

and addresses of the persons owning & carrying on said trade name are:  
William R. Seaton  
Bonnie K. Seaton  
22104 U.S. 80  
Danville, GA 31017  
February 19, 26, 2026

**T26-012**  
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF TWIGGS COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA  
IN RE: ESTATE OF ELAINA STEPHENS MINOR  
ESTATE NO. P-26-008  
NOTICE  
TO: **TRAVIS DERELLE DALLAS AND TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**  
You are hereby notified that **Renata L. Carswell** has filed a Petition seeking to be appointed temporary guardian(s) of the above-named Minor. All objections to the Petition to the appointment of a temporary guardian or the appointment of the petitioner(s) as temporary guardian(s), must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and be filed with this Court no later than fourteen (14) days after this notice is mailed, or ten (10) days after this notice is personally served upon you, or ten (10) days after the second publication of this notice if you are served by publication. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or Georgia 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. NOTE: If a natural guardian files a timely objection to the creation of the temporary guardianship, the Petition will be dismissed. If a natural guardian files an objection to the appointment of the Petitioner(s) as guardian(s), or if a parent who is not a natural guardian files an objection to the Petition,

February 12, 19, 2026

**T26-012**  
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF TWIGGS COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA  
IN RE: ESTATE OF ELAINA STEPHENS MINOR  
ESTATE NO. P-26-008  
NOTICE  
TO: **TRAVIS DERELLE DALLAS AND TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**  
You are hereby notified that **Renata L. Carswell** has filed a Petition seeking to be appointed temporary guardian(s) of the above-named Minor. All objections to the Petition to the appointment of a temporary guardian or the appointment of the petitioner(s) as temporary guardian(s), must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and be filed with this Court no later than fourteen (14) days after this notice is mailed, or ten (10) days after this notice is personally served upon you, or ten (10) days after the second publication of this notice if you are served by publication. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or Georgia 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. NOTE: If a natural guardian files a timely objection to the creation of the temporary guardianship, the Petition will be dismissed. If a natural guardian files an objection to the appointment of the Petitioner(s) as guardian(s), or if a parent who is not a natural guardian files an objection to the Petition,

February 12, 19, 2026

**T26-008**  
STATE BOARD MEMBER TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARING  
February 25, 2026  
Jason Downey to Host State Board of Education Eighth District Public Hearing  
The State Board of Education will hold a public hearing for citizens in the Eighth Congressional District on Wednesday, February 25, 2026. The meeting will be held from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Oak Hill Middle School, 356 Blandy Road, Milledgeville, GA 31061.

The purpose of the hearing is to hear comments from interested citizens and educators within the congressional district regarding the performance and problems of public education. People wishing to speak should sign in upon arrival. The Georgia Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its programs, services, or activities. Individuals who need assistance or auxiliary aids for participation in this public forum are invited to make their needs known to Geraldine Price at [grprice@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:grprice@doe.k12.ga.us) no later than 72 hours before the scheduled event.  
February 12, 19, 2026

**Job Opening**  
**City of Cochran**  
**Part-time Laborer – Public Works Department**

The City of Cochran is seeking a skilled laborer to join our Public Works team. The skilled laborer will operate a Zero-Turn or other mower in City rights-of-ways, public building, and the City cemetery. This position also involves operating vehicles, tractors, chain saws, cutters and pruning saws. A strong work ethic, and attention to detail and safety are essential.

Position is part-time averaging 28–31 hours per week. The position is supervised by the Public Works Department Street Supervisor.

Applicants can apply on-line or at City Hall at 112 West Dykes Street, Cochran, Ga. 31014. The City of Cochran's website is [www.cityofcochran.com](http://www.cityofcochran.com).  
Deadline to apply is Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 4:30PM.

The City of Cochran is an equal opportunity employer.

**Georgia**  
**LOCAL MATTERS**  
**STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS**  
Publish your classified ad in more than 60 Georgia newspapers for only \$350.  
**Call Georgia Newspaper Service: 770-454-6776**  
GNS  
ASSOCIATES OF THE GEORGIA PRESS ASSOCIATION

We don't knowingly accept advertisements that discriminate, or intend to discriminate, on any illegal basis. Nor do we knowingly accept employment advertisements that are not bona-fide job offers. All real estate advertisements are subject to the fair housing act and we do not accept advertising that is in violation of the law. The law prohibits discrimination based on color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap or familial status.

**HOME IMPROVEMENT**  
Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material - steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer – up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-866-939-2151

**BATH & SHOWER UPDATES** in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 1-833-781-0206

**WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP:** A small amount of water can lead to major damage to your home. Our trusted professionals dry out the wet area and do repairs to protect your family and your home's value! If you have water in your home that needs to be dried, call 24/7: 1-833-871-2090. Have zip code of service location ready when you call!

**ELECTRICAL SERVICES:** Reliable & experienced. Competitive rates. From simple household problems to installing a brand new electrical system, we can take care of it all! Call now and have the zip code of the service location when you call! 1-833-399-6566

**NEED NEW FLOORING?** Call today schedule a FREE in-home estimate on Carpeting & Flooring. Call Today! 1-833-641-6602

**PEST CONTROL: PROTECT YOUR HOME** from pests safely and affordably. Roaches, Bed Bugs, Rodent, Termite, Spiders and other pests. Locally owned and affordable. Call for service or an inspection today! 1-833-406-

0231 Have zip code of property ready when calling!  
HOME BREAK-INS take less than 60 SECONDS. Don't wait! Protect your family, your home, your assets NOW for as little as 70¢ a day! Call 1-833-890-1269  
SunSetter. America's Number One Awning! Instant shade at the touch of a button. Transform your deck or patio into an outdoor oasis. Up to 10-year limited warranty. Call now and SAVE \$350 today! 1-877-740-0337  
MISCELLANEOUS  
YMT Vacations. Over 50 guided tours available. Affordable, social and stress-free travel designed for mature travelers. Our tours include accommodations, transportation, baggage handling, sightseeing, entrance fees, a professional Tour Director and select meals. For a limited time SAVE \$250 on all tours. Call YMT today. 1-855-548-2623  
BANKRUPTCY RELIEF! Help stop Creditor Harassment, Collection Calls, Repossession and Legal Actions! Speak to a Professional Attorney and Get the Help You NEED! Call NOW 855-968-5222  
BEHIND ON YOUR MORTGAGE PAYMENTS? Threatened with foreclosure? Denied a loan modification? Let us help! Call the Homeowner Relief Line to speak with a mortgage specialist. 844-797-7162  
Wesley Financial Group LLC  
Timeshare Cancellation Experts Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 866-411-5215

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY BENEFITS. Unable to work? Denied benefits? We Can Help! Strong, recent work history needed. Call to start your application or appeal today! 877-627-2704  
Moving Out of State? Licensed and insured, full-service nationwide movers. Call now to get a free, instant price quote on your next move. 1-866-590-6443  
DONATE YOUR CAR TO KIDS. Your donation helps fund the search for missing children and preventing abduction. Accepting Cars, Trucks and Vans. Fast Free Pickup – Running or Not Maximum Tax Donation – Call (888) 515-3813  
TV/INTERNET  
Get DISH Satellite TV + Internet! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-866-369-1468  
COMPUTER ISSUES? FREE DIAGNOSIS by GEEKS ON SITE! Virus Removal, Data Recovery! 24/7 EMERGENCY \$20 OFF ANY SERVICE with coupon 42522! Restrictions apply. 844-739-4842  
WANTED  
We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process. Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-877-399-2113  
TOP CASH PAID FOR OLD GUITARS! 1920-1980 Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild, Mosrite, Rickenbacker, Prairie State, D'Angelico, Stromberg. And Gibson Mandolins / Banjos. 1-833-641-6792

**Ocmulgee EMC Announces The Following Job Opening**  
**Cashier**  
This is a Full Time Position  
Deadline to Apply is: **Friday, February 13th at 5:00 p.m.**  
For more information call **478-374-7001 ext. 107**.  
Job Applications may be obtained from:  
**Ocmulgee EMC**  
**5722 Eastman Street, Eastman, GA 31023**  
*Ocmulgee EMC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

**Invitations for Bid and Request for Proposals by Twiggs County, Georgia**

Twiggs County is accepting proposals from qualified Contractors for resurfacing and related road work (the "Work") on New Bullard Road. The Work shall begin at the intersection of New Bullard Road and Highway 129 and shall continue for approximately 2.61 miles along New Bullard Road, ending at the intersection of New Bullard Road and River Road.

All bids must be received by 5 p.m. on **Tuesday, March 3, 2026**. Proposals/Bids must be signed; late Proposals/Bids will not be considered. Bids/Proposals for the Project will be sealed and not opened until **Wednesday, March 4, 2026** at 12 p.m. at the Twiggs County Board of Commissioners Office. Bids/Proposals shall be considered on **Thursday, March 5, 2026** at the 9:00 A.M. Twiggs County Board of Commissioners Meeting at the Twiggs County Court House.

The terms and conditions for the Proposals/Bids, specifications for the Project are: (1) a minimum application of 1.5" asphalt for resurfacing; (2) centerline striping and fog line striping are required; (3) a 2-foot apron is required at all driveways and intersections to ensure a smooth transition; (4) work must be completed within 60 calendar days from the notice to proceed; (5) clipping in preparation for new pavement is mandatory as needed; (6) Contractor agrees it shall remove all debris from the project site upon completion of the Work; and (7) mobilization, bonding, and insurance is required.

As allowed by Georgia law, this Request for Proposal expressly provides that:

Offerors submitting proposals may be afforded an opportunity for discussion, negotiation, and revision of proposals. Discussions, negotiations, and revisions may be permitted after submission of proposals and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining best and final offers.

In accordance with the request for proposals, all responsible offerors found by Twiggs County to have submitted proposals reasonably susceptible of being selected for award shall be given an opportunity to participate in such discussions, negotiations, and revisions. During the process of discussion, negotiation, and revision, Twiggs County shall not disclose the contents of proposals to competing offerors.

Twiggs County specifically reserves all of its rights under Georgia law as to the proposals it receives pursuant to this Request, specifically including but not limited to, the right to waive any requirements and/or specifications included, to reject any or all proposals, waive technicalities or informalities, and to accept any proposal that in its judgment best serves the interests of the County and/or is deemed to be best suited for its needs.

If there are any questions please submit such questions in writing to the Twiggs County Board of Commissioners Office at 425 N Railroad Street, Jeffersonville, Georgia 31044.

a hearing on the matter shall be scheduled at a later date). If no objection is filed, the Petition may be granted without hearing. NOTE: If a natural guardian files a timely objection to the creation of the temporary guardianship, the Petition will be dismissed. If a natural guardian files an objection to the appointment of the Petitioner(s) as guardian(s), or if a parent who is not a natural guardian files an objection to the Petition, a hearing on the matter shall be scheduled at a later date. If no objection is filed, the Petition may be granted without a hearing.

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

February 19, 26, 2026

**T26-009**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**COUNTY OF TWIGGS**  
**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

IN RE: **BRUCE E. STILLE, DECEASED**  
All debtors/creditors of the Estate of **Bruce E. Stille**, 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 29th day of January 2026.  
Robert L. Harris  
Shelby J. Stille, Executor  
8403 Ga Highway 57 Macon, GA 31217  
Haygood, Lynch, Harris, Melton, & Watson, LLP  
87 North Lee Street  
PO Box 657  
Forsyth, GA 31029  
(478) 994-5171

February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026

**T26-010**  
**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF TWIGGS COUNTY**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**IN RE: WAYNE GLOVER**  
**ESTATE NO. P-25-005**  
**NOTICE OF PETITION TO FILE FOR YEAR'S SUPPORT**

The petition of **Judith M. Glover**, for a Year's Support from the estate of **Wayne Glover**, deceased, for decedent's Surviving Spouse, having been duly filed, all interested persons are hereby notified to show cause, if any they have, on or before **February 23, 2026**, why said petition should not be granted.

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

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

February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026

**T26-003**  
**Twiggs Times New Era**  
425 Railroad Street North P. O. Box 800 Jeffersonville, GA 31044  
**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**

**COUNTY OF TWIGGS**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
IN RE: **FANNIE L. FLOYD, DECEASED**  
All debtors/creditors of the Estate of **Fannie L. Floyd**, 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 22nd day of January 2026.  
Bonnie L. Deason  
124 Second Street  
Danville, Georgia 31017  
January 29, 2026, February 5, 12, 19, 2026

**Wilkinson Co. Legals**

**W26-020**  
**STATE BOARD MEMBER TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARING**  
**February 25, 2026**  
**Jason Downey to Host State Board of Education Eighth District Public Hearing**

The State Board of Education will hold a public hearing for citizens in the Eighth Congressional District on Wednesday, February 25, 2026. The meeting will be held from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Oak Hill Middle School, 356 Blandy Road, Milledgeville, GA 31061.

The purpose of the hearing is to hear comments from interested citizens and educators within the congressional district regarding the performance and problems of public education. People wishing to speak should sign in upon arrival. The Georgia Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operations of its programs, services, or activities. Individuals who need assistance or auxiliary aids for participation in this public forum are invited to make their needs known to Geraldine Price at gprice@doe.k12.ga.us no later than 72 hours before the scheduled event.

February 12, 19, 2026

**W26-022**  
**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF WILKINSON COUNTY**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**

IN RE: ESTATE OF **Ann Muriel Jackson, DECEASED**  
**ESTATE NO. 324**  
**PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE**

TO: **Tracy Jackson** and to whom it may concern:  
**Glenda Jackson** has petitioned for **Glenda Jackson and Tracy Jackson** to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of **Ann Muriel Jackson** 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 **March 2, 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 to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.

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

February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026

**W26-008**  
**NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA, COUNTY OF WILKINSON**

By virtue of a Power of Sale contained in that certain Security Deed from Dustin G. Wallace to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS NOMINEE FOR AMERISAVE MORTGAGE CORPORATION, dated March 12, 2024 and recorded on March 21, 2024 in Deed Book 414, Page 885, in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Wilkinson County, Georgia, said Security Deed having been given to secure a Note of even date, in the original principal amount of One Hundred Sixty-Four Thousand Four Hundred Twenty-Eight and 00/100 dollars (\$164,428.00) with interest thereon as provided therein, as last transferred to NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING, recorded in Deed Book 420, Page 114, aforesaid records will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the courthouse door of Wilkinson County, Georgia, or at such place as has or may be lawfully designated as an alternative location, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in March, 2026, all property described in said Security Deed including but not limited to the following described property:

All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Land Lot 57 of the 5th Land District of Wilkinson County, Georgia, in the Town of Ivey being known and distinguished as a tract labeled "Part of Block D Brooks Subdivision", being more particularly described according to plat of record in Plat Book 4, Page 205, Clerk's Office, Wilkinson Superior Court, which said plat is by this reference thereto incorporated herein for the purpose of a more particular and accurate description of said "Part of Block D Brooks Subdivision" hereby conveyed. ALSO HEREBY CONVEYED, is all that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Land Lot 57 of the 5th Land District of Wilkinson County, Georgia, in the Town of Ivey being known and distinguished as 0.19 acres in a property survey for Frank E. Massengale dated May 14, 1997 and recorded in Plat Book 17, Page 55, Clerk's Office, Wilkinson Superior Court, which said plat is by this Case #: 25-017524-1 reference thereto incorporated herein for the purpose of a more particular and accurate description of said 0.19 acres hereby conveyed.

THERE IS EXCEPTED HEREFROM AND NOT INCLUDED WITHIN THE DIMENSIONS OF THE PROPERTY HEREIN-ABOVE DESCRIBED AND CONVEYED, that portion thereof conveyed to the Georgia Department of Transportation by Right-of-Way Deed dated October 21, 2004 and recorded in Deed Book 293, Page 101, Clerk's Office, Wilkinson Superior Court. Said property may more commonly be known as **153 GA Highway 243, Ivey, GA 31031**. The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, non-payment of the monthly installments on said loan. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given). The individual or entity that has full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of the loan is NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, 75 Beattie Place, Greenville, SC 29601, 1- 800-365-7107.

Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. The sale will also be subject to the following items which may affect the title: a) zoning ordinances; b) matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or by an inspection of the property; c) any outstanding ad valorem taxes, including taxes, which constitute liens upon said property whether or not now due and payable; d) special assessments; e) the right of redemption of any taxing authority; f) all outstanding bills for public utilities which constitute liens upon said property; g) all restrictive covenants, easements, rights-of-way and any other matters of record superior to said Security Deed. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the owners and party in possession of the property are Dustin G. Wallace and or tenant(s). The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy code and Case #: 25-017524-1 2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed. NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing as Attorney-in-Fact for: Dustin G. Wallace  
Contact: Padgett Law Group: 6267 Old Water Oak Road, Suite 203 Tallahassee, FL 32312 (850) 422-2520  
January 29, 2026, February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026

**W26-017**  
**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF WILKINSON COUNTY**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**IN RE: ESTATE OF James Earl Hunter, DECEASED**  
**ESTATE NO. 318**  
**PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE**

TO: **Brandon Earl Hunter** and to whom it may concern:  
**Brandon Earl Hunter** has petitioned for **Brandon Earl Hunter** to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of **James Earl Hunter** 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 **MARCH 2, 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 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.

February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026

**W26-021**  
**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF WILKINSON COUNTY**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**IN RE: ESTATE OF Derek J. Johnson, DECEASED**  
**ESTATE NO. 321**  
**PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE**

TO: **Anika Johnson** and to whom it may concern:  
**Brandi M. Johnson** has petitioned for **Brandi M. Johnson** to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of **Derek J. Johnson** 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 **March 2, 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 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.

February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026

**W26-023**  
**WILKINSON COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT**

**TRADE NAME REGISTRATION PERSONALLY APPEARED THE UNDERSIGNED WHO ON OATH DEPOSES AND SAYS**  
**Judith Ann Geter**  
100 Pierce Avenue Gordon, GA 31031  
**IS/ARE DOING BUSINESS IN WILKINSON COUNTY, GEORGIA UNDER THE NAME OF:**  
**C and A Mobile Notary Services, LLC**  
**TRADENAME: DBA C & A Professional Education & Consulting Services**  
100 Pierce Avenue Gordon, GA 31031  
and that the nature of the business to be carried on at such address is **Notary Services and Educational Consulting**  
**Judith Ann Geter**  
**SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME THIS 12 day of February, 2026.**  
**Carol Little Hodnett**  
Notary Public or Deputy Clerk  
February 19, 26, 2026

**W26-010**  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA,**  
**COUNTY OF WILKINSON**

All creditors of the estate of **Walter Lee Knight**, deceased, as of late **September 7, 2025**, Wilkinson County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned, according to law, and all persons indebted to said Estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned:  
Wilkinson County Probate Court Clerk, 100 Bacon Street Irwinton, Georgia 31042 This is the 22 day of January, 2026  
**Donald Lewis Roberts, Attorney**  
January 31, 2026, February 7, 14, 21, 2026

**W26-019**  
**Notice of Sale Under Power**  
**State of Georgia, County of Baldwin**

Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by **Marilyn A. Knowles** to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for American Bank (the Secured Creditor), dated January 15, 2009, and Recorded on February 3, 2009 as Book No. 968 and Page No. 525, Baldwin County, Georgia records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note of even date in the original principal amount of \$168,192.00, with interest at the rate specified therein, as last assigned to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC by assignment that is or to be recorded in the Baldwin County, Georgia Records, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash at the Baldwin County Courthouse within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in MARCH, 2026, the following described property:

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

**Parcel Two:**  
All that tract or parcel of land together with all improvements attached thereto lying and being partly in Wilkinson County, Georgia and partly in Land Lot 176, 5th Land District, 322th GMD, Baldwin County, Georgia, described as 2.21 acres, more or less, according to that certain plat of survey for Billy J & Bettie J. Chambers, surveyed on June 12, 1993 and plated on June 16, 1993, prepared by Byron L. Farmer, GRLS No. 1679, recorded in Deed Book 335, Page 101, Baldwin County Land Records. Said plat of survey and record thereof are by reference made a part hereof for a more accurate description of said property.

Subject To:  
1) Easements in favor of Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation recorded in Deed Book 261, Page 251, Deed Book 263, Page 348, and Deed Book 274, Page 313, said records.  
2) Matters as shown on the above referenced plats of survey and other surveys of record, if any, said records.  
3) General Utility Easement, Restrictive Covenants, limitations and restrictions of record, if any, said records.  
Tax ID: 043 002C  
The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note and Security Deed. Because the debt remains in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Security Deed and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given). Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC holds the duly endorsed Note and is the current assignee of the Security Deed to the property. Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC is the entity with the full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the loan. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §44-14-162.2, Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC may be contacted at: 1-800-790-9502 or by writing to 1600 South Douglass Road, Suite 200-A, Anaheim, CA 92806.

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

To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party/parties in possession of the subject property known as **364 MOUNT PLEASANT CHURCH ROAD, GORDON, GA 31031** is/are: **Marilyn A. Knowles** or tenant/tenants. Said property will be sold subject to (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, and (c) all matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above, including, but not limited to, assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, easements, restrictions, covenants, etc. The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the security deed. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §9-13-172.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and nonjudicial sales in the State of Georgia, the Deed Under Power and other foreclosure documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided in the preceding paragraph. Funds used at sale shall be in certified funds and payable to "Bell Carrington Price & Gregg, LLC". Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC as Attorney in Fact for Marilyn A. Knowles. Any information obtained on this matter may be used by the debt collector to collect the debt. Bell Carrington Price & Gregg, LLC, 339 Heyward Street, 2nd Floor, Columbia, SC 29201 (803)-509-5078. File: 23-55601

February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026

**W26-018**  
**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF WILKINSON COUNTY**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**IN RE: ESTATE OF ELAINE C. WALL, DECEASED**  
**ESTATE NO. 320**  
**NOTICE**

IN RE: The Petition to Probate Will (and Codicil(s)) in Solemn Form in the above-referenced estate having been duly filed.  
TO: **BRITTANY AVENT**  
This is to notify you to file objection, if there is any, to the petition to probate will in solemn form, in this Court on or before **March 2, 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 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.

February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026

**W26-015**  
**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF WILKINSON COUNTY**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**IN RE: ESTATE OF Robert Earl Nesbitt, DECEASED**  
**ESTATE NO. 323**  
**PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE**

TO: **Catherine C. Nesbitt** and to whom it may concern:  
**Catherine C. Nesbitt** has petitioned for **Catherine C. Nesbitt** to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of **Robert Earl Nesbitt**, 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 **March 2, 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 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.

February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026

**W26-016**  
**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF WILKINSON COUNTY**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**IN RE: ESTATE OF Walter Lee Knight, DECEASED**  
**ESTATE NO. 322**  
**PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE**

TO: **Torrie Veal, Trevino Knight, Terrance Knight, Tamorris Knight, Jaquarie Carswell, Carlton Carswell, Arkino Carswell** and to whom it may concern:  
**Julia Yvette Driskell** has petitioned for **Julia Yvette Driskell** to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of **Walter Lee Knight**, 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 **March 2, 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 to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.

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

478-946-2222  
February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026

**W26-009**  
**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF WILKINSON COUNTY**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**

**HAISEAL TIMBER, INC.,**  
Petitioner,  
VS.  
**PARKER JACKSON, JOHNNIE J. SMITH, TEXIE J. JOHNSON, RUTH J. MARSHALL, RALPH P. JACKSON, WILLIAM D. MARSHALL and SARAH A. MARSHALL BAZEMORE,**  
INDIVIDUALLY and as GUARDIAN OF LARRY H. MARSHALL Respondents.

**NOTICE OF PUBLICATION**  
**All unknown persons having an interest in this cause.**

You are hereby notified that the above styled action for Declaratory Judgement against Respondents, Parker Jackson, Johnnie J. Smith, Texie J. Johnson, Ruth J. Marshall, Ralph P. Jackson, William D. Marshall and Sara A. Marshall, individually and as Guardian of Larry H. Marshall, regarding the below described property was filed on the 10th day of November, 2025, in the Superior Court of Wilkinson County, Georgia, Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit, and that by reason of Order for Service of Publication entered by said Court on the 21 day of January, 2026, you are hereby commanded, within 30 days of this Order for Service of Publication, to answer said Declaratory Judgement and file Pleadings before the Court. The property is described as follows:

**All that certain tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the 4<sup>th</sup> Land District of Wilkinson County, Georgia, being all of Land Lot 225 and a portion of Land Lot 222, containing 306.97 acres, and being more fully shown on that certain plat of survey prepared by C.E. Williams, Georgia Registered Land Surveyor No. 1565, dated December 29, 1980, and recorded in the office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Wilkinson County, Georgia in Plat Book 11, at page 46, specific reference to which is made a part of this description and which plat is incorporated herein by reference.**  
Witness the Honorable Stephen A. Bradley Judge of this Court.  
This 16th day of January, 2026.  
Star Grove, Dep Clerk Superior Court, Wilkinson County, Georgia  
January 22, 2026, February 5, 12, 19, 2026

**T26-011**  
**NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS**  
**TWIGGS COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
IN RE: Estate of **John Clayton Nobles**, deceased.

All creditors of the estate of **John Clayton Nobles**, deceased, late 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 me.

This 10th day of February, 2026.  
**Camille Isis Nobles Stearns and Mary Catharine Wheeler**, Executors  
Estate of **John Clayton Nobles**  
John D. Newberry  
Newberry & Newberry  
Attorneys at Law  
P.O. Box 844  
Gray, GA 31032  
(478) 986-5141  
February 19, 26, 2026, March 5, 12, 2026

**City of Gordon – Part-Time Job Opening**

The City of Gordon is accepting applications for a **Part-Time Administrative Assistant**.

**Duties include:**  
Customer service, answering phones, accepting payments, data entry, filing, and general office support.

**Minimum requirements:**  
High School Diploma or GED, basic computer and math skills, and a valid Georgia driver's license.

**Work location:**  
Gordon City Hall

**Application Deadline:**  
All applications must be submitted to **Gordon City Hall** by **4:00 PM on February 26, 2026**.

The City of Gordon is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**SIGN UP FOR FREE AMBER ALERTS ON YOUR CELL PHONE.** What could be worse than that feeling of dread when, for a few seconds, you lose sight of your child? Imagine if your child were actually taken. Go to wirelessamberalerts.org. Sign up today. Then when an AMBER Alert is issued in the areas you've chosen, you'll receive a free text message. If you spot the vehicle, the suspect or the child described in the Alert, call 911. If your phone is wireless, you're no longer helpless.

**NATIONAL MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN**

**Ad Council**

**Wireless Amber Alerts** A child is calling for help.

