

False bomb threat at BCCHS leads to campus-wide lockdown



By CAROLINE WEATHERSBY
Staff Reporter

A bomb threat was reported at Bleckley County High School Monday morning, causing a campus-wide lockdown. The Bleckley County Sheriff's Office say they cleared the area, confirming that reports of a bomb were not true and there were no threats to students on campus.

Students at Bleckley County High School arrived at school on Monday morning only to have to evacuate when the school received reports of a bomb present at the school.

The Bleckley County Sheriff's Office arrived at the high school

shortly after hoping to clear the area using explosive detection K-9 teams. During that time, students were led safely out of the school, and the campus was put on lockdown, with deputies stationed outside all campus entrances and exits as a precautionary measure.

After an extensive search with multiple emergency services and bomb-detection personnel involved, police were unable to locate the device, leading them to believe it was a false report.

In a release posted to social media around 10 a.m., Bleckley County Sheriff Daniel Cape discussed the high-alert situation, saying:

"As many of you are likely aware, deputies and emergency personnel are currently on scene at Bleckley County High School in response to a reported bomb threat.

"Our immediate priority is always the safety of students, faculty, and staff, as well as responding appropriately to the situation. While we understand the desire for rapid updates, our focus must first remain on addressing the incident and coordinating with our school system and partner agencies before issuing public statements."

He continued, sharing that police believe the threat was what

they refer to as a "swatting call," a type of false report to emergency services in order to provoke a large response by police. He further explained that preliminary information of the investigation pointed towards that being the case, saying that swatting reports "unfortunately occur across the country on a regular basis."

Cape also confirmed that all students and staff were accounted for.

At around 11 a.m., the school officially received an all clear, confirming the threat was a false report. Shortly after, students re-

BOMB THREAT
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Survival story ...

Woman tells story of being advocate for her children

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Georgia Trust For Local News

There was once a time when those looking at Dely Jamerson might think she had it all together. Looks, though, were deceiving.

Truthfully, she was handling the horror that a predator was abusing her children.

Jamerson, who lives in Laurens County, was the keynote speaker during the annual Stepping Stone Child Abuse Prevention Luncheon held at the Colemoor Estate on April 21.

In 2013, Jamerson and her husband at the time moved from California to Georgia with their four children. She left her family, friends and everything she knew because she believed they would build a better future for them.

"For a while, we felt like we were doing just that," Jamerson said. "In 2017, we bought our first home and land in a small community. It felt safe. I felt like we had built something beautiful. But the life I thought I had built came crashing down when I discovered something unimaginable."

With a pause, Jamerson continued.

"I am the mother of two sexual abuse survivors," Jamerson said. "Their predator was my husband for



Dely Jamerson (center) was the keynote speaker for last week's annual Stepping Stone Child Abuse Prevention Luncheon/PAYTON TOWNS III

nearly two decades. When people hear stories like this, their focus rightfully goes to the victims. But what people rarely talk about is the impact this kind of trauma has on the caregiver. I was trying to hold everything together when the entire world feels like it is collapsing. It often felt like I had been thrown into the middle of the ocean without know-

ing how to swim and without a life jacket. We were just trying to survive."

Jamerson said there were days when the pain was so much that she thought about ending her life.

"But when you are a mother, giving up is not an option," she said. "My children deserved justice. They deserved healing. They deserved peace. So,

I kept fighting. I became their advocate."

She stayed connected with her faith and God. Jamerson tried to show them what resilience and strength looks like and what it meant to keep going no matter what happened.

"This journey has not been easy," Jamerson said. "I knew I was standing in the aisle of a life-al-

tering, traumatic event. I struggled deeply. What I came to understand through this process is things can be messy and complicated. Sometimes it feels like you are walking through a storm without an umbrella."

Some resources in the community were good while others were not.

"There were people who fought for my family

when I felt like there was nothing left to give," Jamerson said. "There were individuals who reminded me that I was not alone."

There was time it felt like it took forever for help to come. When it did, Jamerson reached out for it. There were agencies that worked tirelessly to get her children back into her care.

"And yet, other agencies placed my son into the custody and grasp of the very predator I was trying to protect him from," Jamerson said. "There were moments where my children's predator would show up at my house and even relocated two minutes from my home. It's difficult to protect yourself from a predator when you are unable to obtain a restraining order because the abuse you endured was not considered physical."

Jamerson said the abuse was psychological and emotional. She said it was devastating. She felt alone. Over time, she has learned how to deal with them, though they have not completely disappear.

"I have made it my mission to stay in the light," Jamerson said. "When you stay in the light, it grows. I stopped focusing on the storm and started learning how to dance in the rain. I learn how to advocate for my children and myself."

She hopes her story can impact other victims and encourage them to find their voice and speak their truth. Despite the obstacles, they are still survivors.

"There are resources in the form of people, advocacy groups and communities that want to help you rebuild and grow them to be the very best version of yourself," Jamerson said. "It is my hope that my story will help people reclaim their power and their voice."

She hopes to one day complete a book on her experience.

"No one deserves to be preyed upon," Jamerson said. "No child should ever have to suffer in silence. My experience has taught me the power of never giving up."

Organizations like Stepping

SURVIVOR
Continued on page 2

Death penalty sought in 2016 murder of Eastman officer

By CAROLINE WEATHERSBY
Staff Reporter

Trial has begun for 34-year-old Royheem Deeds, who was charged with the murder of Eastman police officer Tim Smith back in 2016. Though the murder occurred in Dodge County, the trial was moved to Bleckley so that Deeds could receive a fair trial, free from bias that could come from officials who knew Smith.

Prosecutors at the District Attorney's office report they are seeking the death penalty. His defense attorneys argue there isn't sufficient evidence to prove Deeds is the person who killed Smith.

A release from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation from 2016 revealed Smith was shot and killed after responding to a call made late at night on Aug. 13.

At around 9:30 p.m., a report came in to 911 of a "suspicious person" blocking traffic at the intersection of Smith and Main Street in Eastman. Officer Smith with the Eastman Police Department responded, arriving at the intersection moments later.

Smith reportedly made contact with the individual and exited his patrol car in order to investigate. This was when the individual pulled out a firearm and shot Smith. According to the GBI, Smith responded by returning gunfire, and the shooter fled. Smith was transported to a nearby hospital where he was pronounced dead. Smith was 31 years old.

The GBI later identified Deeds, 24, as the individual who shot Smith based on footage from Smith's vehicle, and a warrant was issued for his

arrest. The search for Deeds continued throughout the night and into the next day.

Deeds was captured two days later in Nassau County, Florida, during a traffic stop when he was found in the trunk of his sister's car. He was arrested and extradited back to Georgia where he remained in jail for nearly a decade.

Also arrested in Nassau County were Franshawn Deeds, Deeds's sister, and Jamil Marquis Mitchell, who were charged for helping Deeds avoid capture.

Deeds is being transported to the Bleckley County Courthouse for the trial's duration. He is being tried under the Oconee Judicial Circuit which includes both Dodge and Bleckley Counties. The presiding judge is Chief Judge Sarah Wall.

Opening statements began last

Monday after a jury was selected. Closing arguments and deliberation are set to begin this week. It's possible we could see a verdict by the end of the week.

Deeds previously accepted a plea deal for his involvement in a Telfair County shooting in 2015. According to reports, Deed shot at a man and children and was arrested on several charges including aggravated assault, child cruelty and attempt to commit a felony. As a condition of the deal, Deeds pleaded guilty to one county of aggravated assault, and the other charges were dropped. He was sentenced to 5 years probation.

In 2019, he received a five year prison sentence for violating the terms of probation.

The Bleckley County Sheriff's Office is assisting Dodge with the ongoing trial.



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BOMB THREAT
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turned to the campus and continued with regular class schedules.

There were also reports of a similar situation at a Houston County school that same morning.

Officials reported that at 8:39 a.m., the Houston County Sheriff's Office received a call from the Centerville Police Department alerting them that somebody had called Centerville PD threatening Northside High School.

Sheriff Matt Moulton shared that after a lengthy assessment, "no active threat was identified to the school or its occupants." Northside students returned to class shortly after.

The Bleckley County Sheriff's Office reported multiple other law enforcement agencies in the area assisted with their investigation into the threat, including the Bibb and Twiggs County Sheriff's Offices, the Georgia Department of Corrections, Middle Georgia State University and

the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The BCSO further commented on their own post, sharing the Cochran Police Department did not assist with the investigation as they were needed in the city in case another emergency arose. Cochran PD was left as the only emergency agency in the city, and "potentially in the county" available to assist had another 911 call been made.

According to Cape, in addition to the heavy BCSO presence on the scene, many of their deputies were also busy assisting with a murder trial at the Bleckley County Courthouse that began last week.

The sheriff's office have not yet released information about whether or not a suspect has been identified or if any arrests have been made. Officials were unavailable for comment due to the aforementioned trial.

Cape shared in the post that he will provide additional updates as soon as appropriate.

STEPPING STONE
Continued from page 1

Stone played a big part to Jamerson and her family. She reached out to the agency for help more than once.

"Not one single time was I turned away," Jamerson said. "I was not judged. They connected my family with therapy, resources and guidances that became critical to our whole journey. Stepping Stone became the light for one of the darkest chapters of our lives. They also helped me realize something important. I am not just a caregiver, I am a survivor too. I made a decision that I was going to spend the rest of my advocating for sexual assault survivors and their families."

She knows how lonely it can be going through this alone. She used to believe her story was about bumps.

"Today, my story is about survival," Jamerson said. "It's about a mother who refused to give up. It's about the power of people and organizations who stands beside families when they need it most. My children are survivors and today I stand here as a survivor too. Not just for my family, but for every survivor and caregiver who are still fighting their way back to the light. Healing is possible. Justice is worth fighting for and none of us should have to walk this journey alone."

NOW HERE'S A TIP!

* It's better to be a butterfly. Did you know, the more social you are, the better your health, researchers say.

* Plastic grocery bags always come in handy. Try storing them in empty tissue boxes for the car or bathroom, or use an empty 12-pack soda box for more under your kitchen sink or in the garage.

* "For foot cramps at bedtime, eat a banana in the evening. I think it is the potassium in the bananas, but it has had a good effect for me. And it can't hurt to get another serving of fruit per day, right?"

* "Another great use for baby powder (or corn starch): If you have a deck of cards that are stuck together, simply place them in a baggie and add a tablespoon of powder. Seal and shake, getting the dust in between the cards. When you remove the cards, shuffle them over a kitchen towel and they will be like brand new."

Recent proposed cuts to Georgia Medicaid payments could potentially affect children in need of therapy

By TY TAGAMI
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Therapists who help children with disabilities learn how to hold a crayon, walk and talk say their services to low-income families could be sharply reduced by proposed Medicaid rate cuts.

The government is not directly reducing payments. But two of the three contractors who manage Medicaid for Georgia sent letters to therapists recently to alert them to pending 20% reductions.

Providers say they can either absorb the cuts or leave the Medicaid managed care organization networks of those two companies.

The cuts would reduce rates to what therapists were being paid a decade ago, said Ben Braxley, president of the Georgia chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association.

"I don't know any business who could roll the clock back that far and feel that they will be in a sustainable situation," he said.

CareSource, one of the managed care companies, sent letters in late March that said it was cutting reimbursements to 80% of the Medicaid fee schedule effective May 11.

The cut is "part of our broader effort to support sustainable program operations that ensure continued access to medically necessary services" by Medicaid recipients, said one letter reviewed by Capitol Beat.

A second company, Peach State Health Plan, sent letters in April with the same rate cut effective May 15.

Both companies said in responses to queries from Capitol Beat that their moves were intended to contain rising costs.

"These updates align with actions being taken by Medicaid programs nationwide to responsibly manage public resources as demand for these services grows," a statement from CareSource said.

Peach State said it was responsible for ensuring recipients get care "in an affordable way" and that the company was negotiating with providers.

"These conversations are ongoing and we are committed to ensuring uninterrupted access to care for our members," the company said.

The cuts follow news about inflated billing in other states.

The Wall Street Journal published several recent articles about excessive billing for autism therapy. In 2023, a provider in Indiana was charging \$1,600 an hour and getting paid \$640, according to the Journal. Federal investigators documented cases where therapy purportedly was performed while patients were napping or watching videos, such as the 2013 film "The Smurfs 2," the publication reported.

Reported rates of autism in young children have risen rapidly over the past two decades, increasing pressure on Medicaid.

But the cutbacks contemplated by CareSource and Peach State would affect thousands of children who do not have autism but still require therapy to move, manage pain and perform daily tasks, such as getting dressed. The cuts would also affect children who need help learning to speak.

Only those with severe chronic conditions, such as cerebral palsy, Down syndrome and spina bifida are unaffected. The state manages their care directly. Two years ago, state lawmakers increased reimbursement

rates for providers who treat those children.

That was a nod to rising costs, said Kimberly Oviedo, who provides therapy services in Acworth.

Her staff of 25 at Beyond Limits Pediatric Therapy Center serves about 500 children a week, she said. More than half are on Medicaid, so if she opts out of those companies' networks, many might have to find another provider.

"My heart doesn't want these kids to not have services, but I also have a business to run," Oviedo said.

If she accepts the rate cuts, she said, it could bankrupt her clinic, affecting her patients who are not on Medicaid.

The vast majority of Shalli Lewis' patients are on Medicaid. Her Word of Mouth Therapy clinic in Statesboro sees about 900 children enrolled with one of Georgia's three managed care organizations. She has 16 therapists, and their advanced degrees cost money to obtain. She faces a tough decision: if she leaves the networks, it could crush her business. But if she stays, the rate cuts would probably drive her younger therapists to employers that do not rely on Medicaid. They still have student loans to pay.

"We can't continue to take a cut on what was already bottom of the barrel rates when inflation is higher than what it's ever been,"

Lewis said. She said her clinic is one of two within 50 miles. Their patients effectively have nowhere else to go.

If these therapists leave the networks, the Medicaid managed care contractors are still obliged to serve the children on their rosters. Their contracts with the state require it. Further, Medicaid requires that patients have access to providers within a certain time and distance.

If too many providers leave the networks, the companies could wind up paying even more for out-of-network rates.

"I think it's a poor gamble," Braxley said, "but I do think it's a gamble that they think that providers and businesses will accept."

Roland Behm, a health policy advocate, said the Medicaid management companies won't necessarily be in a tough spot even if many of their partnering practitioners head for the exits.

It basically falls on patients to enforce their rights to service, he said, and that can be difficult for someone who is unfamiliar with the system. There are rights to appeal, but people must know how to do it, and they must adhere to strict deadlines, said Behm, co-founder of the Georgia Mental Health Policy Partnership.

Behm said the state agency that contracts with the Medicaid management

companies does not aggressively enforce so-called "network adequacy." He illustrated that with a description of the directories given to patients who need to find an in-network provider.

"If you would just start going through that and calling them, you would find that many of them, sometimes over half, are not in network," he said. "They're not taking new patients. They're not taking that insurance. They've retired. They've died."

A spokesperson for the responsible state agency, the Department of Community Health, said by email that the state was not involved with the decision by CareSource and Peach State to negotiate down rates with their providers.

"That being said, DCH is responsible for oversight of our managed care contracts and ensuring the adequacy of the provider networks each CMO develops," the statement said.

The agency will increase

the frequency of monitoring provider networks "to ensure the plans meet network adequacy and each network supports Medicaid members' access to services," the statement said. "Should any CMO fail to meet network adequacy standards established in its contract, appropriate actions will be taken."

Beyond that, it's unclear what, if anything, the state might do.

"I don't think this is the last we've heard of this, and I know that a lot of legislators are getting calls about it," state Rep. Matthew Gambill, R-Cartersville, said last week.

Oviedo is one of his constituents, and she had called him for help.

Gambill said CareSource told him they were reacting to an increase in demand for pediatric therapy.

"I think it's just kind of overwhelmed the system," he said. "So they're looking at ways to try to manage that and unfortunately it's manifested in the way that it has."

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All of the things I used to worry about as a child

I like to think that I am a calm, relaxed person. No matter what life throws my way, I want to believe that, and I certainly do try, I can roll with the punches, as they say, and not let anything get me down.

Well, I have been lying to myself. While sometimes I handle the stress and uncertainty of life with the composure of a well-practiced monk or the most stoic of philosophers, clinging to the words of the old hymn, "I Know Who Holds Tomorrow," most of the time I am worried about something. In fact, you can call me a worrywart.

Even as a kid I could always find something to fret about, and like most worries, they never came to pass. I shudder to think of the hours wasted, staring into space or lying awake at night on time wasted thinking about things that really did not matter.

Now, as an adult facing the real struggles of life, like the rising cost of living; making sure my own

children are taken care of; and trying to figure out the source of that new strange noise my car is making, it's fun to remember the things that worried younger me.

Here are some of them: Quicksand: The world was allegedly full of this natural boobytrap, and there wasn't a children's book, cartoon or video game that didn't have the protagonist struggling to pull themselves free from a patch of quicksand. If you didn't act fast, a body could be sucked into the earth and never seen again, leaving only a hat comically floating on the surface.

Quicksand can occur in the United States, but typically only on beaches and coastal wetlands. While I've been stuck in the mud, walking or driving too close to a body of water, I've never seen or heard a credible account of quicksand.

Mad cow disease: In the early 1990s you could not turn on the news or pick up a newspaper without seeing something this strange

ailment killing cows. As it turns out, if you feed a cow food made from other cows, which used to be a common practice, it could develop bovine spongiform encephalopathy, a deadly degenerative infection of the central nervous system.

The BSE crisis was mostly a European problem, but the effects were felt worldwide as people became afraid of eating possibly tainted beef. This, and the undercover reports on unsanitary conditions of meat processing and packing plants that were popular at the time, forced my parents to convince me that every hamburger set before me was fully cooked and safe for consumption. I wasn't the only person with that fear though. Remember when the Texas beef industry sued Oprah?

The hole in the ozone: Another fear established by sensational reports and children's programming. We should all be fried to a crisp by now thanks to Styrofoam coolers and hairspray re-

leasing chemicals into the atmosphere that eat away at the Earth's natural barrier, the ozone layer, against the sun's harmful rays.

Captain Planet had me convinced that we were all doomed, but the ozone is on the mend and now the World Meteorological Organization predicts the ozone will be whole again in 40 years. As long as people don't go back to 80s hairstyles.

THE NEW SOUTHERN DAD



By KYLE DOMINY

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

PART I. GENERAL

1.1 COMPETITIVE COST SEALED BIDS

Sealed bids for construction of the **Exit 24 - Water System Extension** project will be received until May 15th, 2026 at 1:30 PM at the Twiggs County Courthouse, 425 Railroad Street, Jeffersonville, Georgia 31044, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Any bid received after said time and date will not be considered by the Owner. No bid may be withdrawn after the closing time for the receipt of bids for a period of sixty (60) days except as specifically may be provided in the Instructions to Bidders and/or by State law.

1.2 SCOPE OF WORK

Work to be done shall include furnishing all products and equipment and performing all labor necessary to construct the following: installation of +/- 3,000 L.F. of 12" PVC Water Main, +/- 20 L.F. of 6" Ductile Iron Hydrant Lead, 18" Jack and Bore Steel Casing in GDOT Right-of-Way, installation of new fire hydrants, valves, fittings, water main terminations, grassing, erosion control items, and all other appurtenances necessary to complete the project in accordance with the Technical Specifications and Construction Drawings. This project will be awarded in one (1) Contract. Project must be completed by October 31, 2026.

Time allotted for completion of work is **100 consecutive calendar days**. All Work shall be completed in accordance with the plans and specifications. The Work will be awarded in **one (1) Contract**.

1.3 PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

Complete digital specifications and contract documents are available at www.cartersloope.com/outforbid. Bidders may view the digital plan documents for free by creating a Quest account and entering the Quest project number **10154942** on the website's project search page. Bidders can download the digital documents for a fee of **\$250.00** for PDF file payable through the website. Please contact QuestCDN customer support at 952-233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance in membership registration, downloading and working with digital project information. All other questions may be directed to the issuing office, Carter & Sloope, Inc., 6310 Peake Road, Phone: 478-477-3923.

1.4 CONTRACTOR LICENSE

The Scope of Work as described herein is defined as "utility contracting" in accordance with O.C.G.A. 43-14-2(17) so the Contractor performing the work must provide proof of a valid license by the State of Georgia as a "Utility Contractor" and must also employ a "Utility Manager" certification holder who will have oversight of all utility work. See Instruction to Bidders for additional bidding requirements.

1.5 BONDS

Bids shall be accompanied by a bid bond or certified cashier's check in an amount not less than **10%** of the base bid. All bonds shall be by a surety company licensed in Georgia with an "A" minimum rating of performance and a financial strength of at least five (5) times the contract price as listed in the most current publication of "Best's Key Rating Guide Property Liability". Performance and Payment Bonds, each in an amount equal to 100% of the contract price shall be required of the successful bidder if contract is awarded. Each Bond shall be accompanied by a "Power of Attorney" authorizing the attorney-in-fact to bind the surety and certified to include the date of the bond.

1.6 PERMITS

The status of Federal, State, and /or Local permits for this project are as follows:

PERMITS/AGENCIES	STATUS
A. Georgia Department of Transportation	In Progress
B. Railroad - Norfolk Southern	N/A
C. Land Disturbance Permit	N/A
D. GA Environmental Protection Division	Approved
E. Stormwater (GAR100001)	N/A

1.7 EASEMENTS & RIGHTS-OF-WAY

All easements and rights-of-way for permanent installations have been obtained or will be obtained by the Owner prior to issuing the Notice to Proceed.

1.8 GEORGIA SECURITY AND IMMIGRATION COMPLIANCE ACT AFFIDAVIT

All qualifying Contractors and Subcontractors performing work with the **Twiggs County Board of Commissioners** must register and participate in the federal work authorization program commonly known as E-Verify, or any subsequent replacement program, to verify the work eligibility information of new employees. In order for a Bid to be considered, it is mandatory that the Bidder's Affidavit of Compliance with O.C.G.A. §13-10-91 be completed and submitted with the Bid.

1.9 FUNDING SOURCES

This project will be funded in whole or in part with American Rescue Plan funds administered by the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) State Fiscal Recovery Fund (SFRF) grant program and/or funds from the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority's (GEFA) Georgia Fund Program. This project will be required to comply with all applicable Federal requirements, including those outlined in Appendix II of 2 CFR 200, as well as existing State public works construction requirements. Applicable Federal Requirements are included in the Contract Documents.

1.10 RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, including without limitation, the rights to reject any or all nonconforming, nonresponsive, unbalanced or conditional Bids and to reject the Bid of any Bidder if Owner believes that it would not be in the best interest of the Project to make an award to that Bidder, whether because the Bid is not responsive or the Bidder is unqualified or of doubtful financial ability or fails to meet any other pertinent standard or criteria established by the Owner.

**TWIGGS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
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DID YOU KNOW...?

Was the execution of a celebrated criminal botched, but carried out anyway?



Guy Fawkes (1570 - 1606) /SPECIAL PHOTO

By JACK BAGLEY
Georgia Trust For Local News

May day! May day! No, I'm not signaling distress. I'm simply noting that this week we move on to the fifth month of the year, and the first day is - you guessed it - May day. Later in the month we get Cinco de Mayo (May 5), Mother's Day (May 10), and Memorial Day (May 25). Busy month, eh?

Of course, every week there's this silly trivia column thing that you find in the newspaper, so if the upcoming holiday events aren't exactly causing you to have tingles of excitement, perhaps the trivia will. I kind of hope so, anyway. Enjoy!

Did you know...

... the star of a classic monster movie had to be lied to in order for her to accept the role? While pre-production of 1933's iconic King Kong was underway, director Merian Cooper (1893-1973) convinced actress Fay Wray (1907-2004) to star in the film by promising her "the tallest, darkest leading man in Hollywood." Wray was convinced she'd be paired with someone like Cary Grant (1904-1986) but when she arrived on the set, Cooper pointed to the giant ape and said it was the "tallest, darkest leading man in Hollywood." (Well, he wasn't exactly wrong, you know.)

... a popular children's literature character debuted under a different name in the United Kingdom? When the first book in the Curious George series by H.A. Rey (1898-1977) came out in the U.K. in 1941, the mischievous monkey was renamed Zozo. Why? Because it was felt there was a level of disrespect with the monkey sharing the name of the country's King, George VI (1895-1952). (I doubt His Majesty really would have minded.)

... the Viking Age lasted a bit over 275 years? Historians say the Viking Age - the period of time during which Scandinavian seafarers roamed the coastlines of Europe, plundering and conquering - began about 790 AD. It came to an end in 1066, when William I (1028-1087), Duke of Normandy, was crowned King of England. (I'm not sure why a French nobleman taking over England ended the Viking age, but there you are.)

... a liquid exists which can be breathed? Called perfluorohexane, animals submerged in the liquid are able to survive without drowning. The liquid has sufficient

oxygen in it for respiration to continue, but research is still going on concerning its use with humans beyond temporary "partial liquid ventilation." The liquid is used to treat burn victims, whose lungs can be filled with perfluorohexane while burned lung tissue heals. Pulmonary edema has been shown to be suppressed by the liquid, scientists say. (I think I saw that in a movie.)

... one of England's most celebrated bad men had his execution botched - but they went ahead with it anyway? Guy Fawkes (1570-1606) was sentenced to death for his role in the Gunpowder Plot, an attempt to blow up Parliament and assassinate King James I (1566-1625). Fawkes was, in fact, sentenced to be hung, drawn and quartered - a particularly painful and messy way to die. But Fawkes got the last word, escaping from the guards and jumping from the gallows. He managed to break his neck on landing, but the executioners decided to do their jobs anyway. They couldn't do the hanging, of course, but they did do the drawing and quartering, cutting Fawkes' corpse into four pieces and sending them to the four corners of the kingdom as a warning not to do stuff like he did. (I guess it worked - it hasn't happened since.)

... alcohol was available by prescription during Prohibition? During the period from 1920-1933, the manufacture, sale or consumption of alcohol was forbidden under the terms of the 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. But the U.S. Department of the Treasury authorized physicians to write prescriptions for "medicinal" alcohol. While Prohibition was the law of the land, doctors would advise their patients to take doses of booze to stave off a number of ailments, including cancer, indigestion, and depression. (Clever. Very, very clever.)

... a woman once claimed that her chicken laid eggs prophesying the end of the world? In 1806, Mary Bateman (1768-1809) of Yorkshire, England, who was a con artist of the first order, said her chicken laid eggs with words written on them telling of the coming apocalypse. She charged people a penny to see the three eggs, but when the hen was taken away, no more message-laden eggs were laid. Turns out the hen laid normal eggs, Bateman would write the messages on the shells, and then stuff them back into the bird to be laid once again. Bateman would meet her end after being convicted of poisoning several people and being hanged. (Ugh.)

Paul Cramer

* *Editor's Note: This column was originally published in the May 1, 2025 edition of the Times Journal Post.*

Paul Cramer, a native of Clifton Park, N.Y., arrived in Athens in 1995, to finish building The Classic Center and start a convention hub and theater business from scratch.

It wasn't long before he realized that what he and his family were experiencing in Athens was an amazing community for visitors and residence alike. However, he did get an offer back in his home state which turned his head — at least initially.

When he discussed the opportunity with his wife, Stacey, she was very plain-spoken and informed Paul that he could return to the Empire State but she was staying in the Empire State of the South. It turned out that Stacey's influence became an inspiration for him and the family.

"We had never lived in a college town, and we realized just how much Athens-Clarke had to offer. There were big time sports at the University of Georgia which had a glowing academic reputation, there were two great hospitals, there was an art, music, and cultural influence, and a prestigious country club with a layout designed by the famous architect Donald Ross.



LORAN SMITH

Athens' location was spectacular, less than an hour to the North Georgia Mountains, and an hour and a half to the largest international airport in the world, and only a short ride to the coast.

One of the first passionate advocates of Athens to welcome him to town was the late E.H. Culpeper, a "Damn Good Dawg," and lawyer who appreciated, early on, Paul's creative vision for the community. The two of them established a rapport and friendship right away. "E.H. saw what Athens meant not only to Northeast Georgia but also to the entire state," Paul says.

When he arrived, the first phase of The Classic Center was getting underway, making Paul realize that big things could happen for the city and region. Focused on fulfilling the mission of serving the region as a civic, cultural and

social center while maximizing the economic impact of tourism, Paul and The Classic Center Authority Board expanded The Classic Center four different times, each time bringing new and larger groups to Athens.

The board challenged Paul and his staff to maximize the impact which led to a study about the arena. In addition to conventions and concerts, the arena would bring in various sporting competitions. Paul wanted to complement the Athens sports scene—not compete with the UGA teams—and sensed that ice hockey would be appealing to the community.

He had learned the game in his hometown with pickup games on the Mohawk River when it froze over in winter and knew that an upscale arena would not only enhance the sport but would provide conference and convention opportunity for the city.

The "Ice Dawgs" were a hit, but Paul had greater plans in mind.

Simply fast forward and you have the Athens Rock Lobsters competing in Akins Ford Arena which seats 5,500 with a max capacity of 8,500. The arena was designed to host a variety of events from concerts to sports tournaments to trade shows. It is spanking new, clean, kempt and refreshing. It provides a wholesome atmosphere and environment for families.

Paul is a man who is always thinking about how to improve

downtown Athens and remains open to ideas. He has always sought to connect with the right support groups and people. Casual conversation with Brad Akins of Akins Ford in nearby Winder evolved into a partnership that has "look beyond the horizon" implications.

"Brad's business is certainly regional and his business footprint is expanding," Paul says. "He is community oriented with an emphasis on good relationships in business with an underscoring of seeing his communities prosper. He is a great partner for us."

The arena and the convention center improved an area which was the site of the old rail center and abandoned warehouses which made it a busy business hub in its day. Now the site hosts over 700 events a year and drives \$90 million in economic impact. Drive by the convention center and the Akins Ford Arena and you will likely flash a thumbs up. It makes you proud to see how The Classic Center Authority has transformed this old rail yard into a vibrant place for the community to enjoy.

The Classic Center Authority in 2014 formulated the plan for development of the building and got underway with a \$34 million grant from SPLOST. Bond funding was needed as growth was experienced. Savvy marketing by The Classic Center team has enabled the authority to meet all due bills, making continued solvency a

high priority.

There is a study committee evaluating future development, working to bring about a connection between Akins Ford Arena and the convention center with the attractive greenway in the area and the Oconee River.

"It can be like what the battery has become with the Atlanta Braves being its centerpiece. There will be shops, restaurants, and game attractions — a retail and sports entertainment core, all connected to the river," Paul says.

With smooth and laid-back sales and promotional style, Paul Cramer can get more done over a meal and hockey game than some executives can get done in half dozen hard driving caucuses.

His team suggested that the new hockey ownership should solicit community input to obtain a name for the new hockey team. Spinning from Athens' rich music history, the name Rock Lobsters was suggested, and when the B-52's endorsed it, the name took off. It soon had over 9,000 votes from the community which confirmed that Paul and the Rock Lobster Hockey team had hit the jackpot.

From the moment he became entrenched into the daily function of the Classic City, Paul Cramer sought to make the Classic City a destination for tourism and entertainment and give downtown Athens an uptown image and reputation. I'd say he has succeeded.

About the election: An undecided voter is not an uninformed voter

Early voting for Georgia's partisan primaries and judicial elections has begun. The polls that ask "If the election were held today"

is being held most days in person and each day by mail between now and May 19th. Many of the polls we've seen thus far show "undecided" is either winning or showing a strong placement in the top contests. Tens of millions have already been spent, and a lot of voters thus far are just shrugging.

Consultants will tell those who asked these may be "low propensity voters" who may not even show up at the ballot box. They will also suggest they'll break mostly in line with those who already have formed an opinion. What they will never say is that these voters haven't seen a message that engages them where they are, how they live, and that addresses the problems

they actually face in their daily lives.

Every credible campaign has a plan, and a message. They then devote their resources to amplifying that message. In primaries, that message is crafted to reach "the base". Those who consider themselves in that prized voter group know their value, and treat it somewhat like a negotiating position, and somewhat like a hostage situation.

During each election, "the base" has more and more demands of those who seek their votes. The result is that the hardcore members of each party move the goal posts further and further from the middle.

"Undecided" shouldn't be interpreted as "uninformed", as the hard core partisans usually dismiss them as being. A voter who mistakenly tells an activist that they're undecided will usually get a bit of a con-



CHARLIE HARPER
GEORGIA POLITICS

descending lecture on their candidate's talking points, as if the undecided voter just arrived here from Mars yesterday.

There's almost never a question prior to that such as "what do you know about the candidate or their positions?" They give no thought to ask "what concerns do you have about this race that would help you

make up your mind?"

The folks who move the goal posts are so invested in the game that they've forgotten that the "normies" who eschew cable news and/or social media and just want to live their lives might have unaddressed concerns of their own. In addition they may actually be turned off by much of the red meat rhetoric being served by the campaigns and their surrogates.

Undecided voters are often looking for something to vote FOR. This is complicated by today's default position of negative campaigning. One need to look no further than the Republican side of the Governor's race, where the top two contenders have spent tens of millions to tell us what a horrible person the other is.

Candidates need to be reminded that the public already has a low opinion of the political profession be-

fore the mudslinging even starts. A constant negative drumbeat that "the other guy is bad" just drags down the image for all, rather than elevating the accuser above the fray.

Then there's the "I'm going to change the way Washington (or Atlanta) works pitch. The Governor, as head of an executive branch, can actually do that. Washington, however, is filled with Senators and Congressmen who promised to go up there and fix things. Literally no one who thinks this promise through believes someone with 1 of 100 votes or 1 of 435 votes is going to change the way Washington works as a freshman member. By the time they have enough seniority to do that, they'll more likely be part of the system than a conduit to changing it.

The "undecideds" have seen and heard all of this before. Meanwhile, the is-

issues of the campaigns have become more focused on partisan fever dreams and their promises have become hyperbolic if not farcical. The premise that an undecided voter isn't paying attention needs to be turned on its head.

Many of my professional, working adjacent to politics friends are undecided on several of the major races. They're not undecided because they aren't paying attention. They're undecided because they are, and do not like what they see.

Many members of "the base" of each party will vote early. The race between now and May 19th is to convince and convert undecided voters. I suggest candidates and campaigns start listening to the citizens who aren't yet in their camps, rather than pretending another few million spent on what they're already doing will convince them.

Don't look now, but the political silly season is currently upon us

Welcome to Silly Season when our intrepid public servants, as well as those who would wish to be, dominate our TVs with their ads, clutter our street corners with their yard signs, show up to press the flesh while we are trying to eat breakfast at our favorite diner, flood our mailboxes with flyers and go online to hit us up for dough.

As your modest-yet-much-beloved servant, I am duty bound to cut through all the noise for you by analyzing all the campaign promises being made by all the candidates for all the offices in both parties. Have pen and paper ready.

Without exception, all of them will: Lower our taxes. Reduce crime. Shrink the size of government. Create jobs. Stand up to powerful special interest groups. Fight bureaucracy. Secure our borders. Take care of our veterans. Improve education. Fix Medicare. Write it down.

As they seek our vote, in no way will they stoop to attack ads against their opponents during Silly Season unless forced to do so by their opponents who are using attacks ads against them. So, golly, they have no choice.



DICK YARBROUGH

I ran all of this by Junior E. Lee, general manager of the Yarbrough Worldwide Media and Pest Control Company located in Greater Garfield, Georgia, to get his opinion.

Junior is not only one of the most respect media analysts in the business, he is also a pest control professional, something that neither the snoots at Fox News nor the New York Times can claim. If you don't believe me, call Sean Hanniety at Fox or David Brooks at the Times and ask them how to treat Rhipicephalus sanguineus. (Hint: That's a dog tick and topical options containing permethrin seem to be effective.) Now, you see why Junior E. Lee is

in a league of his own.

Politics is a blood sport and can get mean but I don't think I've seen one quite as mean as the race between businessman Rick Jackson and Lt. Gov. Burt Jones vying for the Republican nomination for governor. It has gone way beyond up-close-and-personal. Junior says the two remind him of the time a couple of bulls got loose over at Arveen Ridley's place and tore up the pasture butting each other to see which one would be dominant. They were trying to impress all the cows who were watching. I assume Jackson and Jones are trying to impress us. I think there is a better way to do it.

Nothing quite says Silly Season quite like an ad from State Sen. Greg Dolezal, R-Cumming, who is one of a hoard running for the Republican nomination for lieutenant governor replacing Jones. In the ad, Dolezal is standing near a hijab-wearing cut-out strapped with explosives and warns they "steal our elections, hate our way of life and want Sharia law, not law and order" and asks, "You want jihad against America?" He then urges us to "blow up the system because you save America

by saving Georgia." I am going out on a limb here, but I don't think that's a job for the lieutenant governor of Georgia. That role belongs to the federal government, senator. And tell your consultants not to insult our intelligence.

Perhaps the corniest ad I have seen to date this Silly Season comes from another state senator running for lieutenant governor. Sen. Steve Gooch, R-Dawsonville, says he is not just going to cut taxes. He is going to throw them in the ol' woodchipper whereby he proceeds to toss in a bunch of logs. He also asks if you can "chip in" for his campaign. Groan.

Gooch decries "weak-kneed bureaucrats" who are responsible for spending our tax dollars. Let me remind those of you who have followed the efforts to prevent mining our Okefenokee for toothpaste whitener that Gooch said legislative action wasn't necessary. "Those are decisions that shouldn't be made by political entities. We have to let our regulatory agencies do their jobs." Does anyone see the irony here? May his woodchipper sink in the black waters of the Okefenokee and get eaten by an

alligator.

The good news is that this Silly Season will be over in November. The bad news is there is another just around the corner in 2028. Junior E. Lee reminded me

and told me to tell you that it goes with democracy and as irritating as it can be, it beats having to deal with barn flies. I guess he is right but sometimes I wonder.

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Legals

Bleckley Co. Legals

C26-036
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
 RE: ESTATE OF WALTER JACK JOHNSON, DECEASED
 All creditors of the Estate of Walter Jack Johnson, 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 9th day of April, 2026.
 Lesa J. Bergh, Executor
 281 Mac Thompson Road
 Cochran, GA 31014
 April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 2026

C26-041
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
 RE: ESTATE OF MARY LOIS BRYANT BROOKS, DECEASED
 All creditors of the Estate of Mary L. Brooks, 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 20 day of April, 2026.
 Mark Andrew Francis, Executor
 1 18 Anchor Point
 Cochran, GA 31014
 April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2026

C26-042
 STATE OF GEORGIA
 COUNTY OF BLECKLEY
 IN RE: ESTATE OF CURTIS JAMES DAVIS, DECEASED.
 All creditors of the estate of Curtis James Davis, deceased, late of Bleckley County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me.
 This 22 day of April, 2026.
 JAMES HUGHLON DAVIS
 Executor of the Estate of Curtis James Davis, Deceased 414 Goldsboro Rebie Rd
 Chester, GA 31012
 April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2026

C26-037
 STATE OF GEORGIA
 COUNTY OF BLECKLEY
 IN RE: ESTATE OF JIMMY ALLAN BEVERLY, DECEASED.
 All creditors of the estate of JIMMY ALLAN BEVERLY, deceased, late of Bleckley County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.
 This 13TH day of APRIL, 2026.
 MICHELLE PONEGALEK Executor of the Estate of JIMMY ALLAN BEVERLY 204 DILLARD CARY RD
 COCHRAN, GA 31014
 April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 2026

C26-034
 Notice of Sale Under Power. State of Georgia, County of BLECKLEY. Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Deed to Secure Debt given by LESLIE T HOWARD to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. ("MERS") AS NOMINEE FOR COLE MORTGAGE & INVESTMENT, dated 06/05/2001, and Recorded on 06/08/2001 as Book No. 220 and Page No. 68 80, BLECKLEY County, Georgia records, as last assigned to NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING (the Secured Creditor), by assignment, conveying the after described property to secure a Note of even date in the original principal amount of \$62,225.00, with interest at the rate specified therein, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash at the BLECKLEY County Courthouse within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in May, 2026, the following described property: ALL THAT TRACT OF LAND WITH DWELLING HOUSE THEREON IN THE CITY OF COCHRAN IN LAND LOT 144 OF THE 21ST LAND DISTRICT OF BLECKLEY COUNTY, GEORGIA, DESIGNATED AS LOT 1 OF BLOCK "M" OF MCVAY HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION FRONTING 114 FEET ON THE NORTHEAST LINE OF EIGHTH STREET AND EXTENDING NORTHEASTERLY IN EQUAL WIDTH 175 FEET ALONG THE SOUTHEAST LINE OF PETER STREET, ACCORDING TO A PLAT OF SURVEY MADE BY JAKE D. HARRELL, SURVEYOR, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 233, IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF BLECKLEY COUNTY, GEORGIA, AT COCHRAN, GEORGIA. SAID PROPERTY IS RESIDENTIAL IN NATURE AND IS SUBJECT TO THE RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS RECORDED IN DEED BOOK D 27, PAGE 44, BLECKLEY COUNTY RECORDS. SAID PROPERTY IS THE IDENTICAL LANDS DESCRIBED IN A WARRANTY DEED FROM FRANK L. MCVAY TO ROY M. BRYANT AND LOIS M. BRYANT DATED JUNE 23, 1961, RECORDED IN DEED BOOK D 28, PAGE 555, BLECKLEY COUNTY RECORDS. The debt secured by said Deed to Secure Debt 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 Deed to Secure Debt. 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 Deed to Secure Debt and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given), NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING holds the duly endorsed Note and is the current assignee of the Security Deed to the property. NEWREZ LLC d/b/a SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING, acting on behalf of and, as necessary, in consultation with FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION, A/K/A FANNIE MAE (the current investor on the loan), 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, NEWREZ LLC d/b/a SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING may be contacted at: NEWREZ LLC d/b/a SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING, 601 OFFICE CENTER DRIVE, SUITE 100, FORT WASHINGTON, PA 19034, 866 825 2174. 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 204 E. PETER STREET, COCHRAN, GEORGIA 31014 is/are: LESLIE T HOWARD 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 Deed to Secure Debt 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. Section 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. NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING as Attorney in Fact for LESLIE T HOWARD. THIS LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 00000010762045 BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER TURNER & ENGEL, LLP 4004 Belt Line Road, Suite 100 Addison, Texas 75001 Telephone: (972) 341 5398.
 April 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

C26-032
 IN THE PROBATE COURT OF BLECKLEY COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA
 IN RE: ESTATE OF MARGUERITE BROWN, DECEASED
 ESTATE NO. 2026P11
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE
 TO: whom it may concern: CHERYL LYNN TUNSTALL has petitioned for CHERYL LYNN TUNSTALL to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of MARGUERITE BROWN, 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 MAY 11, 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.
 Jonathan R. Fordham
 Judge of the Probate Court
 April 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

C26-038
 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
 RE: ESTATE OF DANIEL G. GUERRANT
 All creditors of the Estate of DANIEL G. GUERRANT, deceased, late of Bleckley County Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demand to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned.
 This 16TH day APRIL, 2026.
 AMBER GUERRANT YEATTS
 1811 GREENBRIER CIR. BLACKSBURG, VA 24060 540-239-7709
 April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 2026

C26-040
 IN THE PROBATE COURT OF BLECKLEY COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA
 IN RE: ESTATE OF BRIAN WAYNE MAXWELL DECEASED
 ESTATE NO. 2026P15
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE
 TO: whom it may concern: DARCI MAXWELL has petitioned for DARCI MAXWELL to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of BRIAN WAYNE MAXWELL 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 May 26, 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 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.
 Jonathan R. Fordham
 Judge of the Probate Court
 April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 2026

C26-033
 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF BLECKLEY COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA
 In Re: Cailee Brianna Harp
Civil Action File No. 2026V-00525FW
NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
 GEORGIA, Bleckley County
 Notice is hereby given that Cailee B. Harp, the undersigned, filed his petition to the Superior Court of Bleckley County, Georgia on the 25th day of March, 2026, praying for a change in the name of petitioner from Cailee Brianna Harp to Cailee Brianna Moore. Notice is hereby given pursuant to law to any interested or affected party to appear in said Court to file objections to such name change. Objections must be filed with said Court within 30 days of the filing of said petition.
 This 25th day of March, 2026.
 /s/ Cailee Harp
 April 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

Twiggs Co. Legals

T26-030
 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
 IN RE: ESTATE OF DONALD CONNER
 All creditors of the estate of Donald Conner, late of Twiggs County, deceased, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment this 15th day of April 2026 to Ronald Conner c/o Attorney: Tim J. Thompson, 1900B Northside Crossing, Macon, GA 31210, 478-471-9900.
 April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 2026

T26-025
 NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER
 GEORGIA, TWIGGS COUNTY
 Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by Jason R Garcia, Amanda L Garcia to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Taylor, Bean & Whitaker Mortgage Corp., its successors and assigns dated December 26, 2007, recorded in Deed Book 8F, Page 460, Twiggs County, Georgia Records, as last transferred to Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc. by assignment recorded

in Deed Book 11D, Page 464, Twiggs County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of TWO HUNDRED SIXTY-SEVEN THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND 0/100 DOLLARS (\$267,700.00), with interest thereon as set forth therein, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the courthouse door of Twiggs County, Georgia, or at such place as may be lawfully designated as an alternative, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in May, 2026, the following described property:
 SEE EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF
 The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note and Security Deed. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Security Deed and by law, including attorney's fees (notice pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 13-1-11 having been given).

Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (2) the right of redemption of any taxing authority, (3) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, and (4) any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above. Said sale will be conducted subject to the following: (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. The name, address, and telephone number of the individual or entity who has full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the mortgage is as follows:
 Selene Finance LP
 3501 Olympus Boulevard, 5th Floor,
 Suite 500
 Dallas, TX 75019
 877-768-3759
 Note that pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2, the above individual or entity is not required by law to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the mortgage.
 THIS LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
 U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF 2 ACQUISITION TRUST,
 as Attorney-in-Fact for
 DANYELLE NEWTON AND BARBARA SIMETON
 Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC
 13010 Morris Rd., Suite 450
 Alpharetta, GA 30004
 Phone: 470-321-7112
 Firm File No. 25-319354
 April 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

T26-026
 IN THE PROBATE COURT OF TWIGGS COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA
 IN RE: DORIS HAMM GILDER
 ESTATE NO. P-25-024
NOTICE OF PETITION TO FILE FOR YEAR'S SUPPORT
 The petition of **Thomas R. Gilder**, for a Year's Support from the estate of **Doris Hamm Gilder**, 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 **May 1, 2026**, why said petition should not be granted.
 This Notice specifically acknowledges heirs Tanya Scarpelli, Brandi Harle, and the Estate of Charity Self Robinson whose heirs are unknown. The location/last address of these heirs is unknown and this advertisement specifically identifies the named heirs in order to give the notice in the only way possible since a diligent search has not produced their whereabouts.
 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
 April 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

T26-027
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
 IN RE: ESTATE OF BOBBY LEE ANDERSON.
 All creditors of the estate of Bobby Lee Anderson, late of Twiggs County, deceased, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment this 9th day of April 2026 to Thaddus L. Anderson, c/o Attorney: Tim J. Thompson, 1900B Northside Crossing, Macon, GA 31210, 478-471-9900.
 April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 2026

T26-024
 STATE OF GEORGIA
 COUNTY OF TWIGGS
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER
 Pursuant to the power of sale contained in the Security Deed executed by DANYELLE NEWTON AND BARBARA SIMETON to WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. in the original principal amount of \$108,000.00 dated March 9, 2007, and recorded in Deed Book 7Z, Page 429, Twiggs County records, said Security Deed being last transferred to U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF 2 ACQUISITION TRUST in Deed Book 11D, Page 198, Twiggs County records, the undersigned will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, before the Courthouse door in said County, or at such other place as lawfully designated, within the legal hours of sale, on 5/5/2026, the property in said Security Deed and described as follows:
 ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN THE CITY OF JEFFERSONVILLE AND THE 26TH LAND DISTRICT AND THE 325TH G. M. D. OF TWIGGS COUNTY, GEORGIA, WHICH IS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AND DELINEATED AS LOT 1, D'MARIUS COURT SUBDIVISION ACCORDING TO A PLAT OF SURVEY PREPARED FOR D. JOHNSON ENTERPRISES, INC. BY T. JERRY PEACOCK, GEORGIA REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR NO. 2132, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 10, PAGE 670, CLERK'S OFFICE, TWIGGS SUPERIOR COURT; SAID PLAT AND THE RECORDED COPY THEREOF BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE

AS A PART OF THIS DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE THERETO IS HEREBY MADE FOR A METES AND BOUNDS DESCRIPTION OF SAID PROPERTY.
 PARCEL ID: JV08C 146
 Said property being known as: **257 RAILROAD EAST ST, JEFFERSONVILLE, GA 31044**
 To the best of the undersigned's knowledge, the party or parties in possession of said property is/are DANYELLE NEWTON AND BARBARA SIMETON or tenant(s).
 The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due and payable because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as provided for in the Note and said Security Deed. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of sale, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).
 Said property will be sold subject to the following: (1) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, whether or not yet due and payable); (2) the right of redemption of any taxing authority; (3) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property; and (4) any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.
 Said sale will be conducted subject to the following: (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.
 The name, address, and telephone number of the individual or entity who has full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the mortgage is as follows:
 Selene Finance LP
 3501 Olympus Boulevard, 5th Floor,
 Suite 500
 Dallas, TX 75019
 877-768-3759
 Note that pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2, the above individual or entity is not required by law to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the mortgage.
 THIS LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
 U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF 2 ACQUISITION TRUST,
 as Attorney-in-Fact for
 DANYELLE NEWTON AND BARBARA SIMETON
 Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC
 13010 Morris Rd., Suite 450
 Alpharetta, GA 30004
 Phone: 470-321-7112
 Firm File No. 25-319354
 April 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

T26-029
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF TWIGGS COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF KIMBERLY A. LANE, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. P-26-026
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE
TO: WHOM IT MAY CONCERN
Robert Wesley Jones has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of **Kimberly A. Lane**, 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 **May 11, 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.
Gary Nobles, Jr.
Judge of the Probate Court
By: Diane H. Robinson
Clerk of the Probate Court
425 Railroad Street PO Box 186
Jeffersonville, Georgia 31044
478-945-3390
 April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 2026

T26-032
 GEORGIA, TWIGGS COUNTY
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
 IN RE: SANDRA JEWEL HATCHER ESTATE
 All creditors of the Estate of Sandra Jewel Hatcher, deceased, late of Marion County, Arkansas, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.
 This 24th day of April, 2026.
 Nichole Leigh Abshire
 802 Jefferson City Rd.
 Horseshoe Bend, AR 72512-3055
 J. Steven Bloodworth
 BLOODWORTH, CROWLEY & LEVERETT
 561 D.T. Walton, Sr. Way
 Macon, GA 31201
 (478) 745-7461
 April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2026

T26-033
 STATE OF GEORGIA
 COUNTY OF BLECKLEY
 IN RE: ESTATE OF JIMMY ALLAN BEVERLY, DECEASED.
 All creditors of the estate of JIMMY ALLAN BEVERLY, deceased, late of Bleckley County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me.
 This 22 day of April, 2026.
 JAMES HUGHLON DAVIS
 Executor of the Estate of Curtis James Davis, Deceased 414 Goldsboro Rebie Rd
 Chester, GA 31012
 April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2026

T26-034
 STATE OF GEORGIA
 COUNTY OF BLECKLEY
 IN RE: ESTATE OF JIMMY ALLAN BEVERLY, DECEASED.
 All creditors of the estate of JIMMY ALLAN BEVERLY, deceased, late of Bleckley County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me.
 This 22 day of April, 2026.
 JAMES HUGHLON DAVIS
 Executor of the Estate of Curtis James Davis, Deceased 414 Goldsboro Rebie Rd
 Chester, GA 31012
 April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2026

T26-035
 STATE OF GEORGIA
 COUNTY OF BLECKLEY
 IN RE: ESTATE OF JIMMY ALLAN BEVERLY, DECEASED.
 All creditors of the estate of JIMMY ALLAN BEVERLY, deceased, late of Bleckley County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me.
 This 22 day of April, 2026.
 JAMES HUGHLON DAVIS
 Executor of the Estate of Curtis James Davis, Deceased 414 Goldsboro Rebie Rd
 Chester, GA 31012
 April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2026

T26-036
 STATE OF GEORGIA
 COUNTY OF BLECKLEY
 IN RE: ESTATE OF JIMMY ALLAN BEVERLY, DECEASED.
 All creditors of the estate of JIMMY ALLAN BEVERLY, deceased, late of Bleckley County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me.
 This 22 day of April, 2026.
 JAMES HUGHLON DAVIS
 Executor of the Estate of Curtis James Davis, Deceased 414 Goldsboro Rebie Rd
 Chester, GA 31012
 April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2026

T26-037
 STATE OF GEORGIA
 COUNTY OF BLECKLEY
 IN RE: ESTATE OF JIMMY ALLAN BEVERLY, DECEASED.
 All creditors of the estate of JIMMY ALLAN BEVERLY, deceased, late of Bleckley County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me.
 This 22 day of April, 2026.
 JAMES HUGHLON DAVIS
 Executor of the Estate of Curtis James Davis, Deceased 414 Goldsboro Rebie Rd
 Chester, GA 31012
 April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2026

T26-038
 STATE OF GEORGIA
 COUNTY OF BLECKLEY
 IN RE: ESTATE OF JIMMY ALLAN BEVERLY, DECEASED.
 All creditors of the estate of JIMMY ALLAN BEVERLY, deceased, late of Bleckley County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me.
 This 22 day of April, 2026.
 JAMES HUGHLON DAVIS
 Executor of the Estate of Curtis James Davis, Deceased 414 Goldsboro Rebie Rd
 Chester, GA 31012
 April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2026

T26-039
 STATE OF GEORGIA
 COUNTY OF BLECKLEY
 IN RE: ESTATE OF JIMMY ALLAN BEVERLY, DECEASED.
 All creditors of the estate of JIMMY ALLAN BEVERLY, deceased, late of Bleckley County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me.
 This 22 day of April, 2026.
 JAMES HUGHLON DAVIS
 Executor of the Estate of Curtis James Davis, Deceased 414 Goldsboro Rebie Rd
 Chester, GA 31012
 April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2026

T26-040
 STATE OF GEORGIA
 COUNTY OF BLECKLEY
 IN RE: ESTATE OF JIMMY ALLAN BEVERLY, DECEASED.
 All creditors of the estate of JIMMY ALLAN BEVERLY, deceased, late of Bleckley County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me.
 This 22 day of April, 2026.
 JAMES HUGHLON DAVIS
 Executor of the Estate of Curtis James Davis, Deceased 414 Goldsboro Rebie Rd
 Chester, GA 31012
 April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2026

All debtors/creditors of the Estate of Beulah Lou Sauls Smith, 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 9th day of April 2026.
 Patricia Smith, Executor
 20672 Hwy 80
 Danville, GA 31217
 Kindall E. Browning-Rickle
 P. O. Box 4939
 Eastman, GA 31023
 (478) 227-7331
 April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 2026

T26-029
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF TWIGGS COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF KIMBERLY A. LANE, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. P-26-026
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE
TO: WHOM IT MAY CONCERN
Robert Wesley Jones has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of **Kimberly A. Lane**, 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 **May 11, 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.
Gary Nobles, Jr.
Judge of the Probate Court
By: Diane H. Robinson
Clerk of the Probate Court
425 Railroad Street PO Box 186
Jeffersonville, Georgia 31044
478-945-3390
 April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 2026

T26-032
 GEORGIA, TWIGGS COUNTY
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
 IN RE: SANDRA JEWEL HATCHER ESTATE
 All creditors of the Estate of Sandra Jewel Hatcher, deceased, late of Marion County, Arkansas, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.
 This 24th day of April, 2026.
 Nichole Leigh Abshire
 802 Jefferson City Rd.
 Horseshoe Bend, AR 72512-3055
 J. Steven Bloodworth
 BLOODWORTH, CROWLEY & LEVERETT
 561 D.T. Walton, Sr. Way
 Macon, GA 31201
 (478) 745-7461
 April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2026

T26-033
 STATE OF GEORGIA
 COUNTY OF BLECKLEY
 IN RE: ESTATE OF JIMMY ALLAN BEVERLY, DECEASED.
 All creditors of the estate of JIMMY ALLAN BEVERLY, deceased, late of Bleckley County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me.
 This 22 day of April, 2026.
 JAMES HUGHLON DAVIS
 Executor of the Estate of Curtis James Davis, Deceased 414 Goldsboro Rebie Rd
 Chester, GA 31012
 April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2026

T26-034
 STATE OF GEORGIA
 COUNTY OF BLECKLEY
 IN RE: ESTATE OF JIMMY ALLAN BEVERLY, DECEASED.
 All creditors of the estate of JIMMY ALLAN BEVERLY, deceased, late of Bleckley County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me.
 This 22 day of April, 2026.
 JAMES HUGHLON DAVIS
 Executor of the Estate of Curtis James Davis, Deceased 414 Goldsboro Rebie Rd
 Chester, GA 31012
 April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2026

T26-035
 STATE OF GEORGIA
 COUNTY OF BLECKLEY
 IN RE: ESTATE OF JIMMY ALLAN BEVERLY, DECEASED.
 All creditors of the estate of JIMMY ALLAN BEVERLY, deceased, late of Bleckley County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me.
 This 22 day of April, 2026.
 JAMES HUGHLON DAVIS
 Executor of the Estate of Curtis James Davis, Deceased 414 Goldsboro Rebie Rd
 Chester, GA 31012
 April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2026

T26-036
 STATE OF GEORGIA
 COUNTY OF BLECKLEY
 IN RE: ESTATE OF JIMMY ALLAN BEVERLY, DECEASED.
 All creditors of the estate of JIMMY ALLAN BEVERLY, deceased, late of Bleckley County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me.
 This 22 day of April, 2026.
 JAMES HUGHLON DAVIS
 Executor of the Estate of Curtis James Davis, Deceased 414 Goldsboro Rebie Rd
 Chester, GA 31012
 April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2026

T26-037
 STATE OF GEORGIA
 COUNTY OF BLECKLEY
 IN RE: ESTATE OF JIMMY ALLAN BEVERLY, DECEASED.
 All creditors of the estate of JIMMY ALLAN BEVERLY, deceased, late of Bleckley County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me.
 This 22 day of April, 2026.

W26-045
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF WILKINSON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF Alton Carswell, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 343
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: Ruby L. Carswell and to whom it may concern:
Ruby L. Carswell has petitioned for **Ruby L. Carswell** to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of **Alton Carswell** 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 **May 25, 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 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
 April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2026

All debtors and creditors of the Estate of Ann Muriel Jackson, deceased, late of Wilkinson County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands and payments to the Personal Representative(s) of the estate, according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the Personal Representative(s).
 Glenda Jackson
 60 5th Street
 Danville, GA 31017
 This 30th day of March, 2026.
 April 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

W26-043
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF WILKINSON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF Willie Mae Jackson, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 342
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: Shadonna Jackson, Jordy Jackson, Andrea Coats, Kiara Chambers, Lula Mae Whipple and to whom it may concern: **Lula Mae Whipple** has petitioned for **Lula Mae Whipple** to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of **Willie Mae 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 **May 11, 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 the Court
 By: Carol Hodnett
 Clerk of the Probate Court
 Wilkinson County Probate Court
 100 Bacon St
 Irwinton, GA 31042

478-946-2222
 April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 2026

W26-040
 STATE OF GEORGIA,
 COUNTY OF WILKINSON
 All debtors or creditors of the Estate of James Ricky Flury, late of Wilkinson County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are to make immediate payment to me.
 This 6th day of April, 2026.
 Erin Lee Flury
 Executor of the Estate of James Ricky Flury, deceased
 c/o Susan S. Shook
 P.O. Box 1040
 Vidalia, GA 30475
 April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 2026

W26-039
NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS
 STATE OF GEORGIA,
 COUNTY OF WILKINSON
 All creditors of the estate of **Willie Mae Burke Jackson**, deceased, as of late **June 3, 2015**, 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 02 day of April, 2026
 Donald Lewis Roberts, Attorney
 April 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

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 Shannon Drive. The Work shall begin at the intersection of Shannon Drive and Highway 96 and shall continue for approximately .4 miles along Shannon Drive, ending at the intersection of Shannon Drive and Highway 80.

All bids must be received by 5 p.m. on **Tuesday, May 5, 2026**. Proposals/Bids must be signed; late Proposals/Bids will not be considered. **A Bid Bond in the amount of five percent (5%) of the total bid amount is required.** Proposals/Bids without a Bid Bond shall not be considered. Proposals/Bids for the Project will be sealed and not opened until **Thursday, May 7, 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) if necessary, clipping in preparation for new pavement is mandatory; (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:

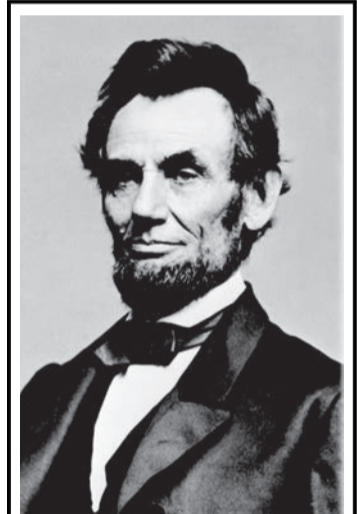
Offerors submitting proposals may be afforded an opportunity for discussion, negotiation, and revision of proposals. Discussions, negotiations, and revisions may be permitted after submission of proposals and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining best and final offers.

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.

Please note that Georgia's law as to the bonding requirements for a county road are applicable to this Project and must be followed, including but not limited to, a performance and payment bond, that must be paid for as part of and included in the contract price awarded to the Contractor selected by Twiggs County.

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.



Failed,
 failed, failed.
 And then...

PERSISTENCE
 Pass It On.
 THE FOUNDATION FOR A BETTER LIFE
 www.forkettlife.org

Notice

The City of Irwinton is currently hiring for a full-time water clerk. This position is for 36 hours per week. Applications are available at Irwinton City Hall Mon, Tues, Thurs, and Friday from 9am – 5pm and Wednesday 9am -1pm. The application deadline is Tuesday May 5th at 5:00 p.m.

For more information please call Irwinton City Hall at (478)946-7144.

Attention:

The Town of Danville will be accepting bids on the sale of property parcel # D01 103 located on Fifth St in Danville, GA and with the bids please include the plans for the property.

The sealed bids and plan for the property can be submitted by mail PO BOX 1157 Danville, GA 31017, hand delivered or Drop box @ Danville City Hall 169 Second Street Danville, GA 31017 during Office hours Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday from 10:00 am to 2:00pm no later than May 1st. The successful bidder will be notified at the City Council Meeting on May 4, 2026 @ 7:30 pm to award Project.

Town of Danville
 Jimmy Smith, Mayor

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners is currently accepting applications for the following position:

CODE ENFORCEMENT/BUILDING PERMIT OFFICER

This is a part-time position, 20 to 24 hours per week. A successful applicant should possess a valid Georgia drivers' license, at least 5 years of experience in code enforcement and building inspections, and possess certifications needed for legal building inspections and permitting. Applicant will be responsible for enforcing county ordinances by spending time out in the county and issuing building permits for residential and commercial buildings which includes overseeing payment for said permits. Applications are available in the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners office located at 100 Bacon Street, Irwinton, GA 31042 and on the county website at <https://wilkinsoncounty.net>. Applications must be completed and returned to the office by close of business Friday May 15, 2026. Anyone with questions may call 478-946-2236.

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

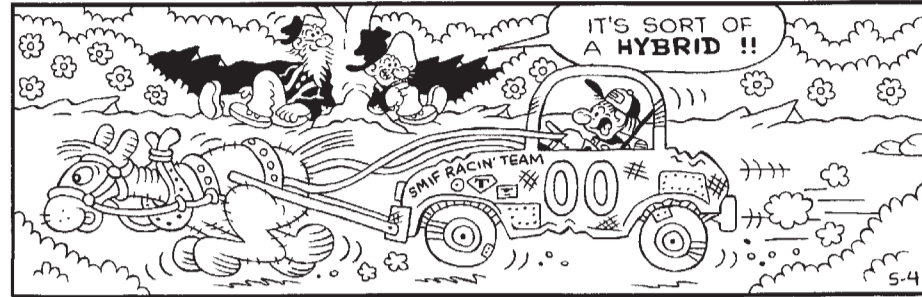
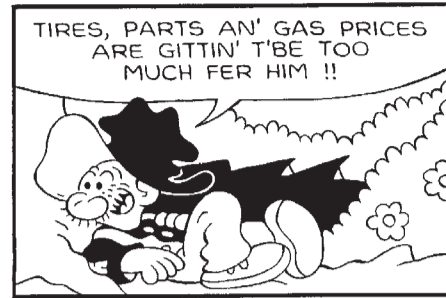
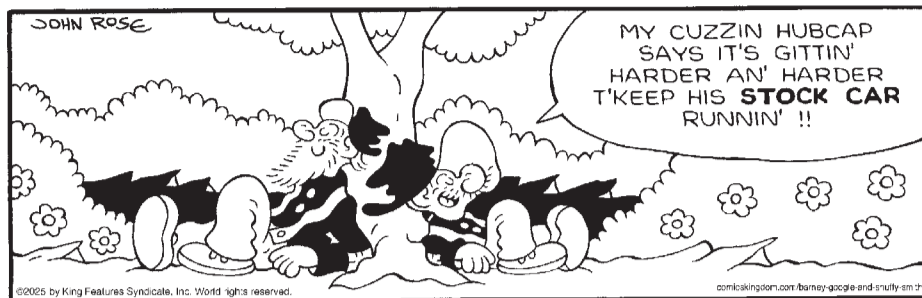
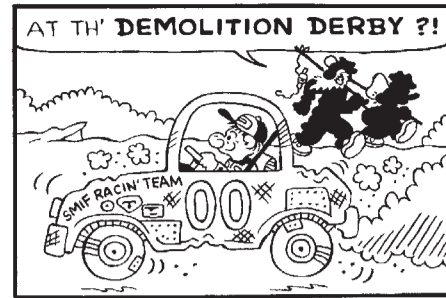
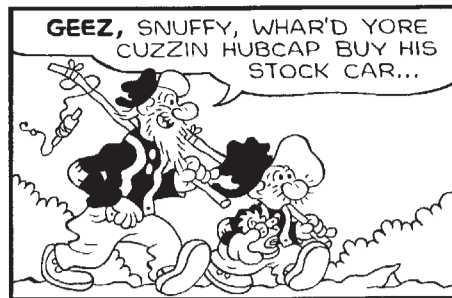
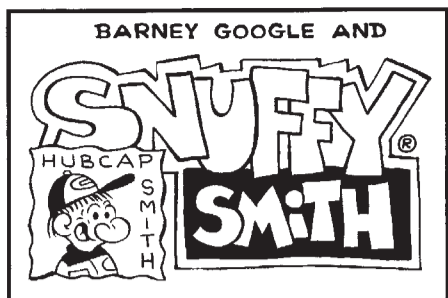
Notice is given that at the May 7, 2026 regularly scheduled Board of Commission Meeting for Twiggs County, Georgia (the "Meeting"), a proposed ordinance will be considered to amend Section 625.201 and Section 625.202 of the Twiggs County Code regarding the requirements and conditions as to the installation 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 shall furnish anyone, upon written request, with a copy of the proposed ordinance.

Georgia
LOCAL MATTERS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS
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Call Georgia Newspaper Service: 770-454-6776

<p>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.</p> <p>STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS FOR THE WEEK 4/26/26</p> <p>CELLULAR</p> <p>Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-833-446-1847</p> <p>HEALTH CARE</p> <p>Don't let the stairs limit your mobility! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today! 1-877-871-3210</p> <p>ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. Call 1-833-661-9339</p> <p>Stroke and Cardiovascular disease are leading causes of death, according to the American Heart Association. Screenings can provide peace of mind or early detection! Contact Life Line Screening to schedule your screening. Special offer - 5 screenings for just \$149. Call 1-855-391-2065</p>	<p>HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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!</p> <p>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</p> <p>NEED NEW FLOORING? Call today schedule a FREE in-home estimate on Carpeting & Flooring. Call Today! 1-833-641-6602</p> <p>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-</p>	<p>0231 Have zip code of property ready when calling!</p> <p>HOME BREAK-INS take less than 80 SECONDS. Don't wait! Protect your family, your home, your assets NOW for as little as 70¢ a day! Call 1-833-890-1269</p> <p>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</p> <p>MISCELLANEOUS</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p>	<p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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 May Qualify for Tax Deduction - Call (888) 515-3813.</p> <p>TV/INTERNET</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>WANTED</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p>
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The Spats

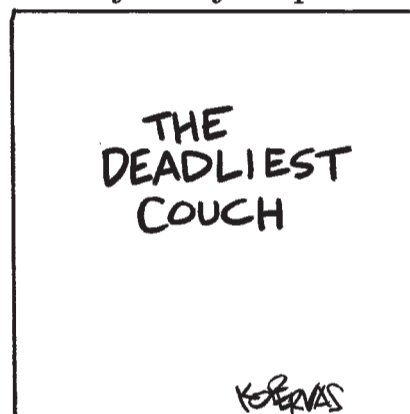


by Jeff Pickering

Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas



MAGIC MAZE • THINGS WE MELT

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: CHEDDAR —

- Butter
- Candles
- Chocolate
- Copper
- Glass
- Glue sticks
- Gold
- Hearts
- Ice
- Lead
- Margarine
- Silver
- Snow
- Solder
- Wax

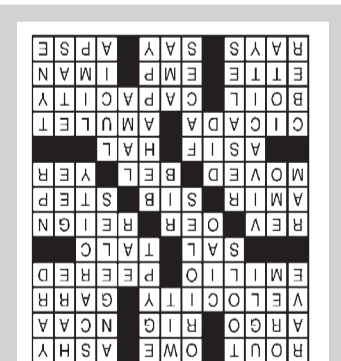
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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

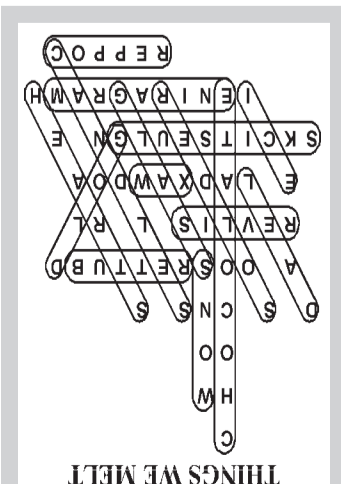


"I'm drowning in the mainstream media!"



Solution time: 24 mins.
 Answers
 King Crossword

CROSSWORD ANSWERS



MAGIC MAZE ANSWERS

King Crossword

ACROSS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15			16				17			
18						19	20			
21			22							
23	24	25	26	27	28			29	30	
31		32	33	34	35					
36			37	38	39		40			
41			42	43	44					
45	46			47			48	49	50	
51			52	53						
54			55				56			
57			58				59			

- 55 Hirohito's title (Abbr.)
- 56 One-named supermodel
- 57 Sun beams
- 58 Verbalize
- 59 Church section
- 60 "— outta here!"
- 61 "Dream on!"
- 62 Actor Holbrook
- 63 Locust
- 64 Talisman
- 65 Seethe
- 66 Maximum contents
- 67 Diminutive suffix
- 7 Pharaoh's land
- 8 The "A" of UCLA
- 9 Shortage
- 10 Fast runner
- 11 Lawn party site
- 16 Pisa farewell
- 20 Jug handle
- 23 Zodiac animal
- 24 Comic Philips
- 25 Liveliness
- 27 Tease
- 29 "My word!"
- 30 "Science Friday" network
- 32 Secondhand deals
- 34 "Cheer up!"
- 37 Carried out
- 39 Tibetan monk
- 42 Confronts
- 44 "— di Lammemoor"
- 45 Driver with a handle
- 46 Tiny bit
- 48 Walk unevenly
- 49 LAX guesses
- 50 Broadway actress Daly
- 53 Docs' org.

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Leg is moved. 2. Design on lampshade is different. 3. Club is shorter. 4. Curtain is shorter. 5. Doorway is wider. 6. Streaks on windowpane are reversed.

It pays to advertise in your local paper!

Republicans for governor in debate as voters head to the polls

By TY TAGAMI
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — The only major debate between Republican candidates for Georgia governor brimmed with personal attacks and appeals to President Donald Trump's followers and offered less to guide voters on policy directions.

The debate hosted by the Atlanta Press Club and aired by Georgia Public Broadcasting took place Monday as Georgians started heading to the polls for early voting ahead of the May 19 primary.

The two leading candidates, Lt. Gov. Burt Jones and businessman Rick Jackson, pummeled each other over their campaign fundraising and personal ethics. Other candidates piled on.

Jones and Jackson praised Trump, as did Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger.

That left Attorney General Chris Carr to cut a trail toward the moderate voters that he said were a growing factor in elections. He pledged to promote literacy and affordable housing and spoke of mental health as a "root cause" of poverty, saying he would address it with a regional approach.

Jackson styled himself a self-made wealthy entrepreneur raised in a broken

home, who went on to create a company worth billions that employs thousands. Jones introduced himself as a sixth generation Georgian and the only candidate on the sound set endorsed by Trump.

Raffensperger defended himself as several candidates raised concerns about the state's voting system, which he oversees. He responded by blaming the Legislature and with disciplined pivots to attacks against Keisha Lance Bottoms, as if he had already won the primary and were debating her.

Bottoms, the former Atlanta mayor, is a leading gubernatorial contender on the Democratic side.

Four other lesser-known candidates struggled for airtime.

Clark Dean introduced himself as a Harvard-trained biomedical engineer and the only Eagle Scout on the set. He said he would use artificial intelligence to streamline Georgia government.

Gregg Kirkpatrick said he invented two dozen medical devices that generated jobs and profits while reducing the cost of health care. He said his business leadership had prepared him to govern.

Tom Williams said he worked 35 years at Robbins

Air Force Base supporting the military with electronics and software.

And Ken Yasger said he enlisted in the Army Rangers, was deployed to Afghanistan, and was the only Republican gubernatorial candidate who had been shot at by the Taliban. Now a bartender on Tybee Island, he positioned himself as a man of the people, saying he chose to run for office after watching an elderly man with a walker come up short while trying to buy bread and a half dozen eggs.

Jones and Jackson have burned through millions of dollars lobbying attack advertisements at each other. Yasger asked Jones how he could possibly relate to normal people after spending that kind of money like that.

Jones responded that he would prefer not to have had to spend that money, saying he did not start the

fight. Late last year, a mysterious group paid for attack ads against Jones, before Jackson started firing off his own attacks.

When the moderator asked Jackson point blank if he had been behind the anonymous group, Jackson said "absolutely not."

Jones and Jackson would spend much of the debate firing volleys at each other over the source of their money. At one point, Jackson enlisted Carr, who said he would have launched an investigation into Jones' activities if he himself were not a candidate.

Jones attacked Jackson on immigration, trying to put distance between Jackson and Trump.

"You claim to be tough on illegal deportation, but you've got illegals working in your backyard as we speak right now," Jones

said. Jackson responded that he would deport "criminal illegals" as governor.

Jones pressed him: "You don't have any illegals working for you right now? Or in the past?"

Jackson's answer: "I don't know." He said he had hired thousands of people and had obeyed the law.

Jones closed by reminding viewers that Trump had endorsed him, saying it was because the president knew him and trusted him.

Earlier, Raffensperger had praised the president's strategy for "reshoring" jobs, saying that as governor he would help retrain the next generation for jobs in advanced manufacturing. He also took another jab at Bottoms, saying she had allowed crime to go unchecked in Atlanta.

Jackson said that he was too wealthy to be bought

by special interests, that he was a philanthropist and that he wanted to be governor so he could help people, like another wealthy man who won office.

"President Trump's business focus inspired me to run," Jackson said. "Georgia needs business leadership, focus on results, not politics. I'll be just like him, with a Southern tone."

Carr appealed to moderate voters by saying that Democrats are not the enemy. They are merely an opponent to be defeated in November.

"And let me tell you who's not going to win. It's not going to be the candidate that raises his or her hand and says, 'I got the most money or I got one endorsement,'" he said, adding that the winner will be the Republican who appeals "to the ever-growing independent voter in this state."

Wilkinson County Board of Education	
General Fund	
Proposed FY2027 Budget	
July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027	
Anticipated Revenues	
Local Taxes and/or Appropriations	\$8,400,000
State Sources-Quality Basic Education Funds	\$7,300,000
Federal Sources	\$1,618,357
Earnings and Investments	\$55,000
Total Revenues	\$17,373,357
Anticipated Expenditures	
Instruction	\$10,001,754
Support Services-Pupil Services	\$693,282
Support Services-Improvement of Instruction	\$724,135
Educational Media Services	\$329,309
General Administration Services	\$595,426
School Administration Services	\$1,420,516
Support Services-Business	\$275,744
Maintenance and Operations of Plant Services	\$2,156,832
Student Transportation Services	\$1,145,957
Other Support Services	\$30,402
Total Expenditures	\$17,373,357

Public Notice to the Citizens of Wilkinson County: In accordance with O.C.G.A. 20-2-167.1, the Wilkinson County Board of Education will hold two public hearings to discuss the FY2027 budget and provide opportunities for public input. The first meeting will be held Thursday, May 7, 2026, at 10:00 A.M. The second meeting will be held Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 5:30 P.M., in the same location. The final FY2027 Budget will be adopted at a called board meeting on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 6:00 P.M. in accordance with State Board Rule 160-5-2-.23. All meetings will be held at the Wilkinson County Board of Education Board Room, 197 W Main Street, Irwinton, GA 31042.





WRPD STRONG:

NIGHT OF BLUE LIGHTS

FOOD TRUCK ROUNDUP

LIVE MUSIC | KIDS ZONE | FOOD TRUCKS

Thursday, May 14 | 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Perkins Field, 105 Mulberry St.






THE WARNER ROBINS POLICE DEPARTMENT, ALONGSIDE NEIGHBORING PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCIES, WILL BE ON SITE WITH VEHICLES, OFFICERS, AND OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT WITH THE COMMUNITY.