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TIMES JOURNAL POST

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Bleckley Coroner raises lifevest awareness after child drowns

By CAROLINE WEATHERSBY
Staff Reporter

A 3-year-old boy drowned in a pool last week after his life-vest submerged him underwater for several minutes. Bleckley County Coroner Michael Francis said that he hopes this situation brings attention to life-vest safety.

"Together, we can possibly save more lives through this tragic event," said Francis. James Joseph Farland, Jr. was playing in a residential pool with his foster sister when the situation unfolded.

On paper, it looked like whoever was in charge of looking after Farland did everything right. He was wearing a U.S. Coast Guard approved safety vest, and it was fastened properly.

According to Francis, Farland's chest was 22 inches in diameter, and the life vest was only slightly larger at 24 inches.

The problem, said Francis, occurred when the vest began riding up Farland's body. The vest, though it was a coast guard approved vest in an appropriate size, didn't have a fastener at the bottom that would prevent it from riding up a small body. At some point, the vest rose higher than Farland's nose and mouth, and he began to drown.

Francis said that the length from Farland's heel to eye was 34 inches. The pool was 36 inches deep.

Eventually someone called 911, and within two minutes of being paged, first responders were on the scene doing chest compressions. Once EMS arrived, he was transported to Bleckley Memorial Hospital where he later was pronounced dead.

"I can promise you the hospital and us, we tried everything to make this little boy live," he said.

Francis spoke about the occurrence at a Bleckley County Commissioner meeting last Thursday, where he said he wanted to correct some misconceptions spread about his death online.

"The little boy did have a life vest on," Francis said. "It was secured properly. It did not have the strap to keep the vest from riding up."

He continued, sharing new information about the case not previously released, including the individuals looking after Farland at the time of his drowning.

At the time of his death, Farland was living with a foster family with

LIFEVEST AWARENESS
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James Joseph Farland Jr. passed away on June 14 after drowning in his foster family's pool. Bleckley County Coroner Michael Francis told attendees of a county commissioner meeting he hoped to raise awareness of lifevest safety /Photo courtesy of Frazier & Son Funeral Home



SNAPSHOTS: COCHRAN CELEBRATES JUNETEETH

Cochran held a Juneteenth celebration and gospel concert on Saturday. Performers included The Anderson Family, Men of Unity, The New Generation, The Moon Globes Gospel Singers, Anointed Divine Fellowship Ministry, New Beginning Ministries Choir and Cassandra Wilmore. Katina Cabiness served as mistress of the ceremony /CAROLINE WEATHERSBY

Missing woman found deceased in pond by home

By CAROLINE WEATHERSBY
Staff Reporter



Vickie Miskimen

A woman missing from Twiggs County has been found dead, officials said.

Vickie Miskimen, 73, went missing around 9 p.m. last Wednesday on Long Street Road in Cochran. When family tried to visit Miskimen at her home the following morning, she was nowhere to be found.

According to officials, Miskimen suffered from dementia.

The Twiggs County Sheriff's Office began a search, putting out her missing poster on social media and sending teams to search the area.

Several local law enforcement agencies assisted in the search of the area both on foot and with drones, including the Georgia State Patrol, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Gray Police Department, Bleckley County Sheriff's Office, and the Department of Natural Resources.

In addition to police, Chief Deputy Buddy Long said that at least 75 members of the public including Miskimen's family helped to comb the area.

The search continued for a day until investigators ultimately made the discovery. Miskimen was found in a pond near her home Friday morning.

Officials share they're unsure why Miskimen decided to leave her home and travel to the pond, but said she might have been out looking for her dog.

The sheriff's office made the announcement shortly after in a post on social media. In the post, they offered their condolences and thanked the partnering agencies, volunteers and community members for their support throughout the search.

Periodical — Mail Label

Nothing runs like a Deere? Twiggs County switches tractor brands

By CAROLINE WEATHERSBY
Staff Reporter

Twiggs County Commissioners voted to buy a new tractor last week following ongoing issues with the John Deere brand.

The topic arose during a discussion about grass-cutting.

Commissioner Keith Washington said he received some complaints about a park on Sgoda Road not looking presentable. As a result, he hired someone to perform an emergency grass-cutting service and subsequently requested the board hire a full-time employee for the task in the future.

Contracting a lawnmower service for the park would cost about $1,000 a month and would come out of the county's recreation fund, according to County Administrator Wilmarie Liz.

According to Washington, the $12,000 a year price tag would be worth it because the park generates money for the county.

"It's paying for itself," he said.

Commissioners discussed the issue with the county lawnmower, rendering them in need of a permanent grass-cutter. According to several county officials, the lawnmower they have is old and constantly broken down.

Commissioners eventually voted to approve the grass-cutter for mowing the park on Sgoda Road, but the discussion led to Commissioner Steve Birdsong to request adding an extra item to the agenda - the purchase of a new tractor.

According to Birdsong, commissioners were in talks to buy a new gravel truck for the county, but now the need has shifted to purchasing a new tractor instead.

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Twiggs Co. Commissioners approved the purchase of a new tractor and grass-cutting services for a Sgoda Road park at last week's commissioner meeting/CAROLINE WEATHERSBY

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DID YOU KNOW...?

Did a popular fast food chain once sell an item called a "Hula Burger?"

By JACK BAGLEY
Georgia Trust For Local News

Sunday was Father's Day, and it got me to thinking about my dad, who left us in 2007. Dad was a pretty good fellow, all things considered. Like all fathers, he made a few mistakes while we kids grew up, but he made sure of one thing: my brother and I grew up to be gentlemen. And my sister grew up to be a lady. That was a non-negotiable part of our childhood; learning to do the right thing even when nobody was watching. I have to admit I fall short on that, as we all do, but Dad did his best. Happy Father's Day, Dad, wherever you are.

Did you know ...

... the oldest known work of art is on an Indonesian island? On the island of Sulawesi can be found a human-created work that dates back more than 44,000 years. The work is made up of handprints and figurative depictions of the hunting of pigs. (I didn't say it was worthy of being shown in the Louvre or anything.)

... the habit of driving on the left side of the road, as practiced in the United Kingdom, dates back to the 1700s? Yes, I know they didn't have cars back then. What they did have, however, was a practice by which travelers would keep passers-by on their right, in case they were bandits. That meant the sword hand (usually the right hand) would be ready at the draw if needed. This evolved into driving horses, and later cars, on the left side of the road. (Over here in the states, we had someone riding shotgun across from the driver.)

... a popular restaurant chain once sold a "Hula burger?" In 1963, McDonald's offered the Hula burger, which had no beef – it was rather a thick slice of grilled pineapple, topped with cheese, on a bun. The sandwich was created by company owner Ray Kroc (1902-1984) as an alternative menu item for Catholic customers who traditionally did not eat meat on Fridays. Since the Hula burger tasted pretty much the way you would expect grilled pineapple, cheese and bread to taste, it was not a big seller, and the other sandwich created for the same reason – the Filet-O-Fish – became the sales champion. Additional trivia note: The Filet-O-Fish was created in 1962 by Lou Groen (1917-2011), a Cincinnati McDonald's franchisee. Many reports indicate Kroc, who initially hated the idea of a fish sandwich, carried a grudge against Groen for the rest of his life because of the failure of the Hula burger.

... people once ate arsenic to improve their skin? According to reports, in the late 19th Century people would eat arsenic to get rid of freckles, pimples and blackheads. (It did, too. They went away when the person died from the poison.)

... a British monarch was also an auto mechanic? Queen Elizabeth II (1926-2023) joined the British Labour Exchange when she was 16 and learned the basics of truck repair. The education came in handy, too, as she performed such duties during World War II.

... a popular entertainer long thought to have been a spokesman for a particular million-dollar giveaway actually wasn't? For decades, people have thought that they remembered Tonight Show sidekick and game show host Ed McMahon (1923-2009) as the spokesman for Publishers' Clearing House, which used to (and maybe still does) send out blind mailings to millions of people offering them the chance to win millions of dollars, while at the same time providing cut-rate magazine subscriptions. They will swear that McMahon was in Publishers' Clearing House commercials and his face was on the envelopes. Only ... he wasn't. Yes, McMahon did lend his talents to such a giveaway, but it was with American Family Publishers, not Publishers' Clearing House. This is cited as a classic example of the Mandela Effect.

... a popular shopping center's floor plan isn't as random as you might think? Costco has hundreds of huge membership stores around the country and, if you go into one, it may seem to be laid out in a rather haphazard manner. But it's a carefully planned strategy – Costco relocates important items to various parts of the store so the customer has to search for them again. This maximizes business and leads customers to new areas of the store. (And the longer you stay there, the more you spend. Think about it.)

Now... you know!

Fatherhood reflections: Change in season

THE NEW SOUTHERN DAD



By KYLE DOMINY

I gently knocked on the door and waited in the hallway for an invitation to enter. When the voice inside said to come in, I turned the knob, pushed the door and stepped over the threshold. What I saw was a shock to my system.

I was standing in my son's room, and I could not believe what I was looking at.

No, it wasn't a mess, with clothes, books and other items strewn across the floor. The space was actually quite tidy, especially compared to his sister's room across the hall. I don't know why boys get a bad rap for being dirty and careless with their belongings. In my experience, a little girl is far filthier. My precious girl child will only wash her hands and pick up her toys under threat.

If my house was the United Nations, she'd be Iran.

What stopped me in my tracks was that my little boy was gone. I had walked through that same door countless times over the years to talk to my first-born child. Each time I entered I was greeted by a child, usually doing child's work or engaged in some sort of child's play.

That day I was greeted with the makings of a full-grown man, listening to a vinyl copy of a hip hop record the artist I could not name despite having probably been told hundreds of times and bought the record for him myself.

The boy, if I can use the term loosely, now stands taller than me. He weighs more than I do. If he puts his mind to it, he is probably stronger than me; with a black belt in taekwondo, he could be a walking weapon. He's smarter than me, though a lot of folks would argue that that doesn't take much. He has a good head for numbers and hates writing, so there's a good chance that he will make better career decisions than his old man.

I realized that day I'm entering a different stage of fatherhood, and I don't know if I'm ready for the task. New challenges, different adventures await. There are times I still feel like a child myself, even though gray strands are starting to appear on my head and my back hurts for no reason.

I had interrupted the music listening session to ask my son if he wanted to go for a walk. He's not into team sports, much like his father, but he'll walk all day long. He's more of a talker than I ever was when I was that age, so I ask a lot of questions and try to listen as much as I can. He has strong opinions, especially on video games and music, and too many useless facts in his brain.

He once gave me the scientific explanation for why a chicken has dark and white meat. I'll let you look that up for yourself.

Thirteen years ago this summer, a nurse handed my first child. And, to be honest, back then I had no idea what to do. Day after day, I learned a little more and must have done a few things right, because he made it this far.

And that's how it will remain. We'll learn as we go, one day, and one walk, at a time.

COUCH THEATER



Eric Andre, left, and John Cena star in "Little Brother"/**Photo courtesy of Netflix**

By DEMI TAVERAS
King Features

Little Brother (R)

Guess we've lived long enough to see John Cena ("Heads of State") go from playing the funny guy in a buddy comedy to playing the serious one! (What range, am I right?) In this film premiering June 26, Cena plays Rudd, a type-A real estate agent who lives an orderly life with his wife (Michelle Monaghan) and sons. When he receives sudden news that his estranged "brother," Marcus (Eric Andre), was in a car accident, the incident leads them to reconnect. The thing is... Marcus isn't really Rudd's brother; they met as kids through a "Big Brother, Little Brother" program. So, when Marcus starts causing havoc in Rudd's perfect life, Rudd wonders if having a brotherly bond is worth all this trouble. Ego Nwodim ("Saturday Night Live") and Christopher Meloni ("IF") co-star. (Netflix)

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO INTRODUCE LOCAL LEGISLATION FOR TWIGGS COUNTY

Notice is given that there will be introduced at the 2026 special session of the General Assembly of Georgia a bill to provide a homestead exemption from Twiggs County ad valorem taxes for county purposes; and for other purposes.

Recycle!


Attorney Brian Arnold

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LIFEVEST AWARENESS

Continued from page 1

multiple other children. While in the pool, his teenage foster sister was in charge of watching him.

According to Francis, the young girl noticed Farland bobbing in the water as he drowned, but didn't react because she thought he was only playing in the water. He further explained that the teenager, like other children in the home, was special needs. Francis said that even though the girl was 14-years-old, she had the mental capacity of a seven or eight year old.

After his death, Farland's biological mother Tina Farland took to social media, publicly calling out the Division of Child Support Services and calling for the foster parents to face criminal charges.

"This was not [an] accident at all," Tina Farland wrote on Facebook.

She later posted, "Justice will be served for my son."

Officials with the Bleckley County Sheriff's Office confirmed that an investigation into Farland's death is still ongoing, but for now, it's still being treated as an accident.

According to Francis, Bleckley County has about 150-200 deaths per year, with 50-60 being coroner deaths.

He recalled another drowning from a few years prior, where a Dodge County man drowned after becoming entangled in fishing line inside of a capsized boat. First responders searched for him for several minutes before locating him, but it was too late.

Francis said that modern technology like underwater sonars "help out tremendously" in locating victims during precious moments, but ultimately first responders have a very small window to locate and save people before they will drown. They only have about an hour, Francis called it the "golden hour."

Over the past week, Farland's death has garnered a lot of attention online. According to Francis, in the midst of all the chaos, he hopes to spotlight water and life-vest safety.

The U.S. Coast Guard recommends wearing only coast guard approved life jackets and buoyancy aids when out on the water. They recommend checking labels to ensure vests match in user weight and chest sizes.

According to the U.S. Coast Guard's boating and life jacket safety webpage, "the best lifejacket or buoyancy aid is the one you will wear."

The page also states that, when worn correctly, life jackets should fit snugly and not rise above the wearer's chin or ears. Jackets should be tested regularly for buoyancy at least once a year.

The coast guard also recommends swimmers to always wear life-vests while water skiing, sailboarding, white water boating and while performing other towed activities.

TRACTOR

Continued from page 1

"We've got five machine tractors to cut grass with. We've got one machine running," Birdsong said. "The grass is growing every day."

Birdsong explained that the truck they were looking to purchase would cost the county roughly $200,000, but if they hold off and use the funds to purchase a new tractor, they could save the county a considerable amount of money.

"You can contract someone to haul a load of gravel a whole lot cheaper than you can contract somebody to cut [grass]," he told commissioners.

The proposed tractor would cost $135,280. Birdsong emphasized the need for a new tractor, turning the floor over to Road Superintendent Lee Stringer.

According to Stringer, it has become increasingly difficult to cut grass with the current set of tractors the county has available because of continual issues involving the tractors' software, software provided by the tractor's manufacturer John Deere.

"We can't keep up," he said. "When the codes come up, it starts shutting the machine down. We've had multiple times the machine shuts down on the road."

He continued, "We're lucky enough to get it up. Sometimes it's running enough to get out of the road. Sometimes we have to tow it out the road."

Stringer explained that the issue with John Deere tractors stem from an error that needs to be reset, and repurchased, every 4,000 hours or the tractor will not work.

Purchasing a kit that would allow them to delete the erroneous software would cost the county $3,500 every time. Then, due to copyrights owned only by John Deere, they would have to spend an additional several thousands of dollars to have them reinstall it.

Stringer brought up a case in Eastman where a farmer is stuck in the vicious cycle. According to Stringer, the farmer purchased a new system from John Deere that worked fine - until he hit the 4,000 hour mark. Then, he had to pay to have the program deleted, and again to have it reinstalled.

"John Deere has this country on lockdown," said Springer.

Due to copyright laws, only John Deere is legally allowed to install the system onto their tractors. Without the system, the tractor won't run.

Georgia does not currently have a "Right To Repair" law protecting consumers from companies with similar predatory copyrights.

On top of the cost of the software, labor costs can also run into the hundreds of dollars.

"You're talking $8,000 you can run through right quick trying to delete the machine, and it'll only last 4,000 hours," said Stringer. "Our tractors, one of them has 5,000 hours and the other has 4,000."

Because of this, Birdsong told commissioners, he wants to go ahead with the purchase of a new tractor from a different brand that would hopefully not come with the same issues.

Stringer said he looked into Massey Ferguson tractors at the recommendation of several other counties in the area who have also had issues with John Deere. According to the people he spoke with, counties who swapped over have considerable fewer issues now.

The tractor Birdsong proposed comes with a 3-year-warranty and could be in Twiggs County in a matter of days.

In the end, commissioners voted to move forward with the purchase of the tractor.

Trump administration backs from immigration detention facility

By TY TAGAMI
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — The federal government has halted plans to convert a warehouse into a massive immigration detention center that would have overwhelmed services in the tiny town of Social Circle.

The city of about 5,500 east of Atlanta announced the decision by the Department of Homeland Security on Thursday evening, attributing the information to multiple agency sources and to U.S. Rep. Mike Collins, a Republican who represents the area.

Collins' office did not immediately respond to queries seeking confirmation. But U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) media representatives offered an indirect response to an email query by Capitol Beat, saying Homeland Security "is moving swiftly to utilize EXISTING detention space with our state and county partners."

ICE is under new leadership after Todd Lyons stepped down in May as acting director.

The agency, now led by David Venturella, said in its response that "heinous criminals, once arrested, should be removed at lightning speed, not housed on American soil at the taxpayer's expense."

Collins is running for U.S. Senate, aiming to unseat Democratic U.S. Sen. Jon Ossoff in November. Collins is endorsed by President Donald Trump, who made immigration enforcement a cornerstone of his policy — a policy that Collins supports.

Both Ossoff and fellow Democratic U.S. Sen. Raphael Warnock heralded the policy reversal in Social Circle, attributing it to their own efforts as part of a public pressure campaign.

"Officials in the Trump administration got nervous because the people stood up and began to speak out," Warnock said in a call with reporters on Friday.

The 1 million-square-foot facility would have held as many as 10,000 detainees, tripling the population of Social Circle.

That would have overwhelmed local water and sewer systems, according to an engineering analysis for the city. The analysis estimated that an infrastructure expansion capable of serving the facility would have cost $44 million and taken more than two years to build.

In the meantime, the federal government planned to truck in water and haul out the byproducts of wastewater treatment, according to a March 24 letter that Warnock and Ossoff sent to the leaders of Homeland Security and ICE. This would have increased local traffic and damaged the roads, the senators wrote.

Their letter also raised safety concerns for the city with 15 patrol officers. The ICE warehouse is less than 1,000 feet from a subdivision and within a mile of an elementary school.

The federal government bought the warehouse for more than $128.5 million, The Covington News reported in February.

Warnock said the amount was twice the market value, labeling the purchase "waste, fraud and abuse."

ICE said the agency paid fair market value after preparing an appraisal that it said was independently reviewed.

Social Circle said in its announcement that it was unclear whether the government would sell the property or transfer it to a different agency.

The federal government does not pay property taxes, so the purchase was a blow to Social Circle's finances.

"The City is hopeful that the property will ultimately return to the local tax base and once again contribute to the economic vitality and long-term success of the Social Circle community," the city's announcement said.

ICE did not answer Capitol Beat's question about that issue.

Social Circle thanked Collins, Ossoff and Warnock in its announcement, crediting them for intervening with the Trump administration.

NOW HERE'S A TIP!

By JOANN DERSON
King Features

* Having a yard sale? Here's a great way to put out extra signs when you don't have a way to stake them into the ground: "Write your sign advertising your yard sale on the sides of a big box. Place it where you want it, and add a large rock to the inside, then tape shut. We did this when we had no poles to tape signs to or any other way to get them to stand up. It worked really well!"

* Avoid calling the pediatrician's office on Monday mornings for routine business. Wait until the afternoon. All the parents with mildly sick children over the weekend will be calling to consult with the doctor and nurses first thing when the office opens.

* If you drop an egg, sprinkle with salt before you attempt to clean it up. The salt binds the whites, which will not spread, making pickup easier!

* "My kids had kind of an obsession with colorful duct tape in the past year, and we made some "beach bags" to keep our electronics safe at the pool, lake and beach. We carefully covered a variety of sizes of zip-top self-sealing bags with the tape, creating tough, colorful pouches in which we can store cellphones, etc., to keep them safe from water damage."

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
FOR CONDITIONAL USE

The Twiggs County Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing on July 2, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. The purpose of the public hearing is to consider Conditional Use for Kaolin Mining. The property is currently owned by Bloodworth HB Residual Trust Bank of America NA as Trustee for 9 Trusts U/W Ollie Bloodworth C/O Cushman and Wakefie and located at Hwy 57, Gordon, Ga 31031 (T075 019).

The meeting will be conducted in the Twiggs County Courtroom located inside the Courthouse, 425 Railroad Street North, Jeffersonville, Georgia. The public is invited to attend. Should you desire any information concerning this conditional use, please contact the Twiggs County Planning and Zoning Office by letter or you may call us at (478) 945-3629 Option 1.

Monte Bloodworth, Director
Twiggs County Planning and Zoning

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INVITATION TO BID
2026 LOCAL ROAD ASSISTANCE GRANT (LRA)
CITY OF COCHRAN, GEORGIA

The City of Cochran is accepting sealed bids for furnishing all labor, material, equipment and services to patch, level, resurface and re-stripe approximately 1.02 miles OR 5,382 linear feet of various road segments. This project will be funded primarily by LRA state funds and matched with local SPLOST funds. If interested in submitting a bid please call (478) 934-6346 and request a copy of specifications, or a prospective bidder can visit City Hall at 112 West Dykes Street during normal business hours. Bids will be accepted until 2:00 p.m. on Friday, July 10, 2026, at the City Hall address, at which time bids will be opened and read aloud. All bids should be sealed and labeled "sealed bid" along with the Contractor E-Verify Number on the outside of the envelope. Sealed bids should be mailed or submitted to City Hall at 112 West Dykes Street, Cochran, Georgia 31014. E-mailed or Faxed bids will not be recognized. The City of Cochran reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and to waive technicalities.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION AND QUALIFICATION OF CANDIDATES:
CITY OF TOOMSBORO, GA

SPECIAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 3, 2026, TO ELECT:
ONE COUNCIL MEMBER

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 21-2-132, notice is hereby given that a Special Election for the City of Toomsboro, Georgia will be held, Tuesday, November 3, 2026, to elect one council member. All candidates will run at large with the candidate with the highest number of votes being declared the winner. Qualifying will begin Monday, July 13, 2026, and end Thursday, July 16, 2026. Hours: 8:30am-4:30pm each day. The qualifying fee for council members is $35.00. Information may be obtained from the city clerk regarding qualifying requirements.

Only those residents of Toomsboro who are registered city voters are eligible to vote in this election. The election will be held at the Toomsboro Resource Event Center. The poll will be open from 7:00am until 7:00pm on election day.

For more information about the election contact Toomsboro City Hall at 478-933-5257 or the Wilkinson County Board of Elections and Registrations office at 478-946-2188.

Sherri Connell
Toomsboro City Clerk

Political mud slinging



LORAN SMITH

You may be amused as most seem to be about the attack ads in the recent gubernatorial race in Georgia, but if you delve back into political history, you realize that the axiom that there is nothing new under the sun holds true.

Perhaps, there never has been a campaign as intensely bitter as the race for governor in 1906 between Hoke Smith, publisher of the Atlanta Journal, and Clark Howell, editor of the Atlanta Constitution.

Believe it or not, the candidates advocated the disenfranchisement of Blacks in their campaigns. Each campaigned intensely to disallow Blacks the right to vote.

I can remember the fifties and sixties when the issue had to do with school integration. Those certainly were not memorable times for our state.

As bad as it was, Georgia ultimately seemed to fare better than other Southern states.

There were some exceptions, however. Because Carl Sanders had played quarterback for the University of Georgia, I got to know him when he was a state senator from Augusta, his hometown.

After he lost to Jimmy Carter in 1970 to return to head of the state, he spent the rest of his professional life heading up a law firm and investing in business, becoming ultra successful.

His office was located at the corner of North Avenue and Peachtree Street, and I often stopped by to see him. He was always eager to talk about Georgia football and other interesting subjects.

He was proud of several initiatives that took place when he was governor, the main one being that during his term of office 40 cents of every tax dollar was spent on education.

Something else he was also very proud of was helping smaller towns across the state to build airports. Many out of state corporations that considered bringing business to the state objected to flying into Atlanta and then drive 2-3 hours to where their business was located.

Of course, he reminisced about the political scene, which I enjoyed very much. He recalled a scene involving his opponent in the 1962 election—Marvin Griffin and how political opponents can maintain civility.

It was the first statewide race following the Supreme Court decision in 1963 to strike down the County Unit System of voting. The best example of how unfair the statue came when James V. Carmichael won the statewide popular vote but lost the 1946 election to Gene Talmadge. Carmichael received 313, 389 (45.3%) popular votes to 297,245 (43 %) to Talmadge. 'Ol Gene became governor, thanks to the county unit vote.

Sanders was the first statewide winner following the Supreme Court decision. Griffin was a colorful character who noted following his loss that a lot of people ate his barbecue but voted for somebody else.

Sanders, in one of our conversations, recalled a scene at the upscale Cloister at Sea Island on the eve of a Georgia-Florida game. The place was packed. Sandrers, as Georgia's chief executive, was hosting some VIP guests whom he was cultivating to do business with the state.

As the evening moved forward, he saw that Marvin Griffin, former governor, and his wife showed up and obviously asked for a table. He saw the the hostess vigorously shaking her head negatively. Sanders knew she was telling the former governor that they could not seat anymore diners.

Saners got up, went over and invited the Griffins to join his table. In a matter of minutes, Griffin, one of the great raconteurs in history of our state, had the governor's guests in stitches.

It was a laugh, a minute storytelling, prompting Sanders' guests to later ask this question. "How in the world did you defeat a fellow like that?" Which prompts a question that a lot of us have, why does negative campaigning hold sway?

Mark Twain once said, "Why waste your money looking up your family tree? Just go into politics and your opponent will do it for you."

Georgia Republican Party looks for unity, but on whose terms is it on?



CHARLIE HARPER
GEORGIA POLITICS

Georgia's primary elections are now mercifully over. There are probably few people happier than your local mail carriers, who will get a bit of respite before the printing presses crank up again.

While the nominees have quickly turned to branding their partisan opponents as what's wrong for Georgia, the real game for the next couple of months is "uniting the base." Democrats have had their top two candidates for a month, showing a slight advantage in having a ticket focused on flipping the state. Republicans have...a bit of work to do.

It's arguable to call Rick Jackson's runoff victory an upset, given that spending by and on behalf of his campaign dwarfed that from the rest of the field combined. Yet the reality is that the MAGA establishment was solidly behind the candidacy of Lieutenant Governor Burt Jones.

This backing included the endorsement of President Donald Trump, and an only slightly veiled endorsement from the Georgia Republican Party. In February, GA GOP Chairman Josh McKoon signed a letter with Georgia's two other Republican National Committee members waiving a rule which would have barred the RNC from engaging in the contested primary. McKoon told Politico at the time the letter was "to remove any barriers" the RNC to work with President Trump's candidate.

The letter sparked quite a bit of backlash from party activists who saw their own voices and activities diminished behind the will of a Washington based establishment. Where state party leaders had seen a beachhead, many of their own saw an undrained swamp.

Jackson, for his part, went out of his way not only not to offend MAGA voters, but to welcome them as part of his coalition. His message is, after all, one that resonates with those who consider themselves outsiders and who vote against "the establishment".

Lost on too many of the party's current leaders is that they, now, are the establishment. Many of the same folks who used anti-establishment rhetoric and actions along the way to their current positions of importance are now shocked to learn that "the base" still doesn't like the establishment, especially when they do establishment things.

This is a fundamental paradox of the modern Republican Party. With majorities come responsibilities. Those elected to govern must actually make the hard choices of governing. A party that fails to do so will be replaced by one that will.

Yet many within the Republican base have internalized the old line from Grover Norquist that he wants a government small enough so that it can fit in a bathtub...so he can drown it. Norquist was speaking of the Federal Government, but many within the GOP see government at all levels as disposable, while somehow still demanding the menu of services they deem important.

The GA GOP is now led mostly by the former anti-establishment crowd. They've won.

The message of those who still attend the party functions is still too often aimed at "holding elected officials accountable" instead of winning elections. Several prominent Georgia Republican Party officials ran for their current seats after losing contests at the ballot box. Only in an insular club would those rejected by voters claim it is their job to hold those who received the majority of both Republicans and general election voters accountable.

For those unaware of how one becomes an officer in the Georgia GOP, it requires going through a convention process which consumes four Saturdays of in-person attendance at county, district, and state meetings. Activists have long figured out that reducing the number of attendees is the path to victory, and make these events as unpleasant and drawn out as possible.

Most voters neither have the time nor willingness to put up with these games, nor the shenanigans of those participating in them. The result over the past three decades has been smaller and smaller crowds at these events.

Candidates grouse privately that party meetings take up a huge amount of time where most attendees are other candidates and few voters, with those attending mostly having already made up their minds. None wish to alienate the vocal groups, yet understand they need to reach far outside these circles to reach the voters who will actually elect them.

Which brings us to a rodeo held as a unity event by the Georgia GOP in Perry this past weekend. It was, in fact, their first rodeo, and it showed.

Advance staffers know one of the first rules when choosing a venue is that it needs to be slightly smaller than the anticipated crowd. The pictures coming out of the event, with more candidates on stage than standing before it or in the seats within frame, were best described by one GOP insider as "brutal".

In addition to the missing activists was the GOP's nominee for Governor. Rick Jackson did not feel the need to kiss the rings of those who played king maker for someone else.

There's also some November calculus in play here. Unlike the current leadership of the Georgia GOP, actual Republican voters have been known to split with President Trump and MAGA from time to time, especially when the issues are state or local.

"Unity" is a nice buzzword. It doesn't always solve the calculus needed to get 50% plus one vote from a fractured and disparate electorate.

Looking back at the Primary results and ahead to November elections



DICK YARBROUGH

The primaries are over and it's time to analyze the results. Before I begin, it is important you know that Donald Trump has not commented on this column or its author. That is because he doesn't know either exists. For that, let us give thanks.

Billionaire healthcare executive Rick Jackson handily dispatched Lt. Gov. Burt Jones in a mud-slinging contest called the Republican primary runoff for governor. Jackson spent more than $100 million of his own money in the campaign. That will buy you a lot of mud. Jones spent some $30 million. All of this for a job that pays $180,000.

Jones was endorsed early and often by Trump but lost anyway. In a pivot worthy of a flamenco dancer, the president now appears to be taking credit for Jackson's win against the guy he had endorsed. On Truth Social, Trump said, "Congratulations to Rick Jackson, who very successfully campaigned on being 'TRUMP,' and won. He will be your next Governor of Georgia," In a later post, he added: "Rick Jackson ran a great TRUMP Campaign. Very smart." One thing you can say about billionaires, they do stick together.

Usually after a hard-fought campaign, the loser will graciously accept defeat and pledge fealty to the winning opponent. I can't wait to see how this one turns out. Jackson and Jones were up-close-and-very-personal in their attacks on each other. Kissing and making up will require some major doing.

Republican Rick Jackson will now face Democrat Keisha Lance Bottoms in November. I quit making political predictions after I publicly declared that an obscure Republican state senator from Bonaire would never beat an incumbent Democratic governor. And we all know how that turned out. But Keisha Lance Bottoms? That's the best the Democrats can offer?

It is certainly not because of her record as mayor of Atlanta, which was lousy. Her mishandling of the riots in the city in 2020 brought her scorn from both sides. So, after one term in office she bailed out and joined the Biden Administration as national director of nothing worth mentioning. And now she is back and wants us to believe she can govern the Great State of Georgia.

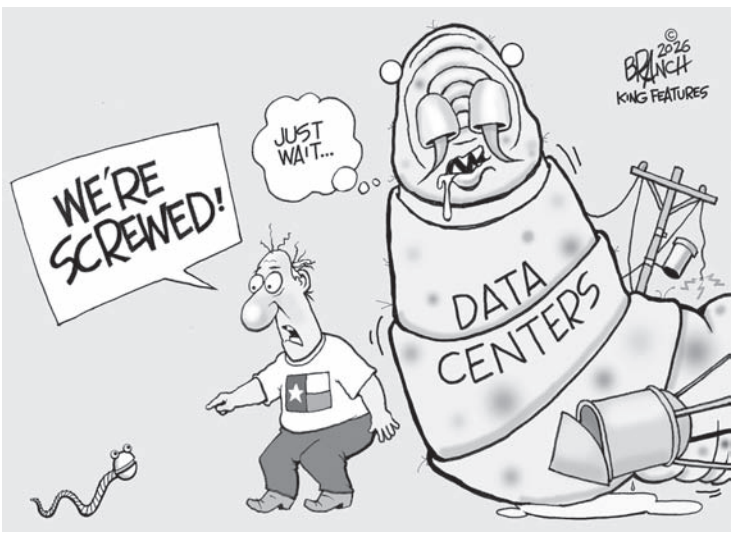
For most of the millions he spent on advertising, Jackson appeared like a glowering grump whose rare smiles came across as sneers. Not a guy you would want to hang out with. Then somebody got the idea to humanize him with his grandkids telling Grandad to lighten up, shed the power suit and get a pickup truck and a dog. All of which he does and looks awkward doing it. But it works. Whoever thought of that idea deserves a raise.

In the race for lieutenant governor, state Sen. Greg Dolezal defeated state Sen. John Kennedy, who ran a lackluster campaign in the Republican primary runoff and will now face Democratic state Sen. Josh McLaurin in November. Dolezal's campaign produced the most bizarre ad of them all, depicting Muslims terrorizing Georgians and declaring he would "keep Georgia sharia free." What a crock. All a lieutenant governor in Georgia does is make committee assignments and preside over debates in the senate and be prepared to step in if the governor conks out. He has as much to do with sharia law as I do with Chinese aviation.

Brian Kemp found out being the state's most popular political figure goes only so far. The governor's support of his boyhood buddy, Derek Dooley, son of legendary UGA football coach Vince Dooley, instead of U.S. Rep. Mike Collins for the Republican nomination to oppose incumbent Democrat U. S. Sen. Jon Ossoff, as well as his last-minute endorsement of Jones made no difference. Republican voters rejected them both. It didn't help that Dooley admitted he didn't vote in 2016 or 2020.

I don't know Mike Collins, but I knew his dad, Mac, a member of Congress who I worked with in the runup to the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games. He was a good man. I'm not so sure about Junior. He is currently under investigation by the House Ethics Committee and the Office of Congressional Conduct for misuse of taxpayer funds. He also had to fire a crude and arrogant staff aide that he should never have hired in the first place for some very inappropriate remarks.

Well, there you have it, boys and girls. The primaries are over and now it is on to November. Cue the mud machines, crank up the hyperbole and let the games begin.



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GOP plan blocked to swap property tax cuts for sales tax increases

By TY TAGAMI
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — For a second time this year, Democrats in the Georgia House rejected a Republican plan to reduce homeowner property tax bills.

The Democrats' argument was unchanged from their refusal to support a similar GOP tax plan earlier this year: a sales tax to subsidize homeowner property tax bills would have raised prices on everyone for everyday necessities, from baby formula to school supplies.

"The no-vote today is a vote for no new taxes," said Rep. Tanya Miller, D-Atlanta, on Saturday, the third day of a special session. She called the Republican proposal, which would have let 67 communities put a 1% sales tax on the ballot, a "bait and switch."

Republicans contended that fast-rising property tax bills have become unaffordable and that their approach would have helped.

A penny-on-the-dollar sales tax would have saved homeowners in Gwinnett County $250 million and homeowners in Forsyth County at least $60 million, said Rep. Shaw Blackmon, R-Bonaire, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.

It is "the kind of relief that could have helped some residents stay in the homes they own," he said.

Blackmon was in charge of crafting the chamber's approach to affordability during an election year when the issue is a top concern.

During the regular session, he had proposed House Resolution 1114, which would have put a constitutional amendment on the ballot statewide asking voters if they wanted to pay more in sales tax so homeowners could pay less in property tax.

Republicans have a majority in the House and Senate, but constitutional amendments require a two-thirds majority. Democrats rejected HR 1114.

Then, in the waning hours of that regular session, the Senate devised Senate Bill 33, which splintered the same idea into local votes by each community. The bill passed because it did not require a two-thirds majority, and Gov. Brian Kemp signed it into law in May.

Kemp then called lawmakers back to the Capitol to deal with lingering election issues and added the local sales tax question to their agenda.

The catch: although SB 33 did not require a two-thirds majority, each local bill it authorized did. Democrats remained opposed on Saturday when local legislative delegations brought their measures to a vote as a package in the House.

There were only three such measures in the Senate, and Democrats there denied each one a two-thirds majority, as well.

The sales taxes would have driven up costs for shoppers, Senate Minority Whip Kim Jackson, D-Stone Mountain, said after the vote. "Whereas only those who are lucky enough to afford a house will see any relief," she said.

Republicans had pointed out that tourists pay sales taxes too. They did not point out, however, that the revenue would have subsidized only the local government portion of the tax bill and not the school portion, which is typically the largest share.

The disagreement promises to be a potent election year issue.

Democrats will argue that the scheme was illegal from the start.

Miller, one of the Democrats who spoke against the measure in the House, is her party's nominee for state attorney general. She argued after the vote that as a product of the Senate, SB 33 was unconstitutional because tax legislation must originate in the House.

But Republicans contended that Kemp signed it, so it's legal. And Rep. Scott Hilton, R-Peachtree Corners, said the Democratic Party "deep down knows" the sales taxes would have been popular among voters if the measures had appeared on their ballots.

"But voters are being denied that chance right now. Denied the chance to have a more affordable life, to be able to afford their home, to stay in their homes," he said. "Today, Democrats have denied that chance."

Legislature kills sales tax in favor of property tax swap

By TY TAGAMI
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Democrats in the Legislature on Monday closed the door on Republican proposals to implement new local sales taxes to offset homeowner property tax bills.

On the fourth day of their special session, Republicans got a redo of a vote Saturday that nixed the tax swap.

Republicans have a majority in the House and Senate, but the sales tax legislation required a two-thirds majority for passage, which would have put the question to voters in local referendums.

The House handled scores of local bills together in one vote. The Senate voted on several similar bills of its own with the same result.

House Speaker Jon Burns, R-Newington, said the failure to pass the bills on a motion to reconsider meant the legislation would not be brought up again and was dead for this session.

Gov. Brian Kemp called lawmakers to the Capitol to address the sales tax issue and to consider redistricting, ratification of a previous gas tax suspension and resolution of a pending deadline that will make Georgia's current voting machines illegal effective July 1.

Republican lawmakers said as the special session was starting last week that they would not be redistricting. The latter two issues — the gas tax and the voting machines — remained unresolved as of Monday evening.

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF ELECTION AND QUALIFICATION OF CANDIDATES
CITY OF GORDON, GEORGIA

SPECIAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 3, 2026
ONE COUNCIL MEMBER

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 21-2-132 (c)(30(A), notice is hereby given that a Special Election for the City of Gordon, Georgia will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026 for one city council member. All Candidates will run at large and the candidate receiving the highest number of votes will be deemed for City Council.

Qualifying will begin Monday, July 13, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. and will end on Friday, July 17, 2026 4:30 p.m. at the Gordon City Hall. The qualifying fee has been set by the city at $108.00 for council members. Information may be obtained from the City Clerk regarding qualifying requirements.

Only residents of Gordon who are registered city voters are eligible to vote in this election. Voter registration applications are available at the Gordon City Hall and the county elections office. The election will be held at the Ramah voting precinct at 108 Elam Street. The poll will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on election day.

For more information about the election, contact Heather Hawver, Gordon City Hall at 478-628-2222 or the Wilkinson County Board of Elections and Registrations at 478-946-2188.

Heather Hawver
City Clerk

Atlanta Gas Light

atlantagaslight.com/safety

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¿Hay olor a gas? ¡Actué rápido! El gas natural es un combustible incoloro e inodoro. Por razones de seguridad, se le agrega un aromatizante químico llamado mercaptano para que se pueda detectar fácilmente. Este aromatizante tiene un olor característico a "huevo podrido."



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Si detecta este olor en el aire, por mínimo que sea:

- Do not try to identify the source or stop the leak yourself.
  No intente identificar la fuente ni detener la fuga usted mismo.
- Leave the area immediately, and move a safe distance away from the potential leak, while avoiding any action that may cause sparks.
  Abandone la zona de inmediato y aléjese a una distancia segura de la posible fuga, evitando cualquier acción que pueda generar chispas.
- Avoid using any sources of ignition, such as cell phones, cigarettes, matches, flashlights, electronic devices, motorized vehicles, light switches or landlines, as natural gas can ignite from a spark or open flame, possibly causing a fire or explosion. While natural gas is non-toxic, in confined spaces it can displace oxygen, potentially leading to asphyxiation.
  Evite utilizar cualquier fuente de ignición, tales como teléfonos celulares, cigarrillos, cerillas, linternas, dispositivos electrónicos, vehículos motorizados, interruptores de luz o teléfonos fijos, ya que el gas natural puede encenderse a partir de una chispa o una llama abierta, provocando posiblemente un incendio o una explosión. Si bien el gas natural no es tóxico, en espacios confinados puede desplazar el oxígeno, lo que podría derivar en asfixia.
- Call Atlanta Gas Light at **877.427.4321** or **911** once you are out of the area and in a safe place.
  Llame a Atlanta Gas Light at **877.427.4321** *o al* **911** *una vez que esté fuera del área y en un lugar seguro.*

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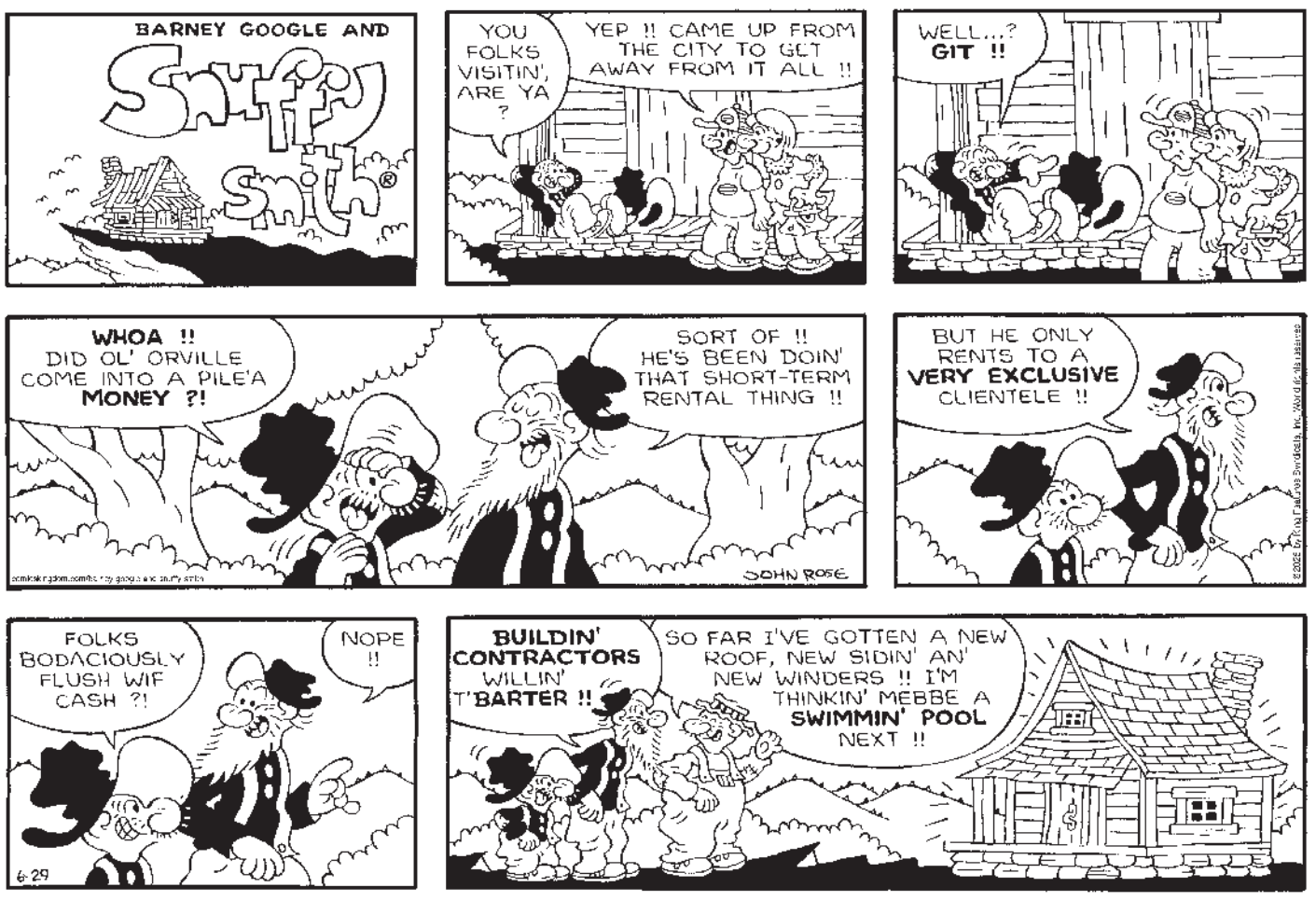


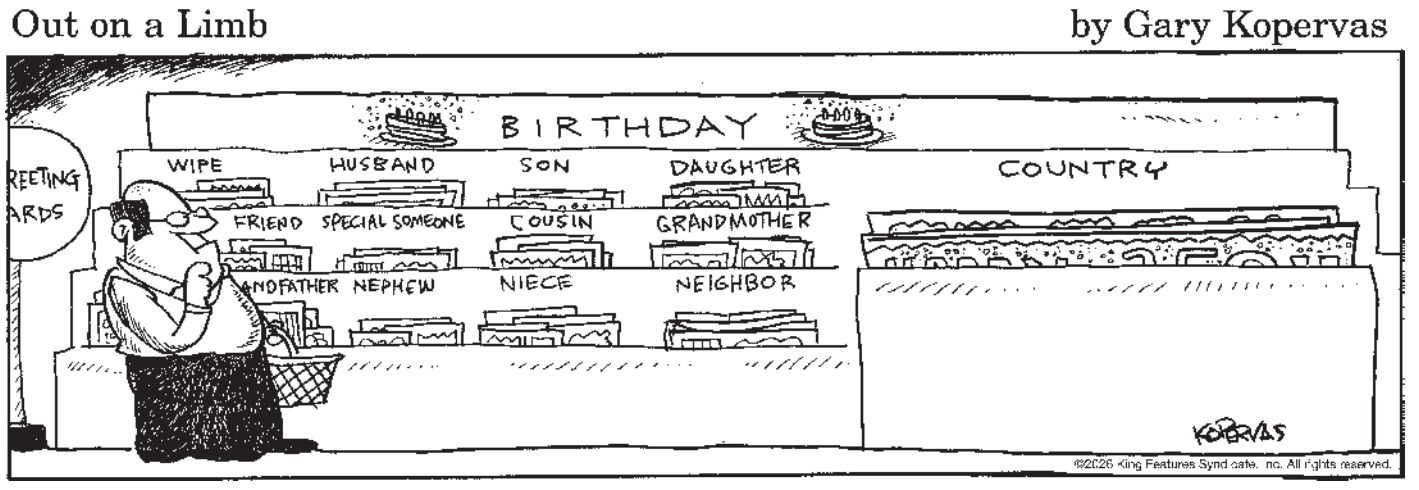
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



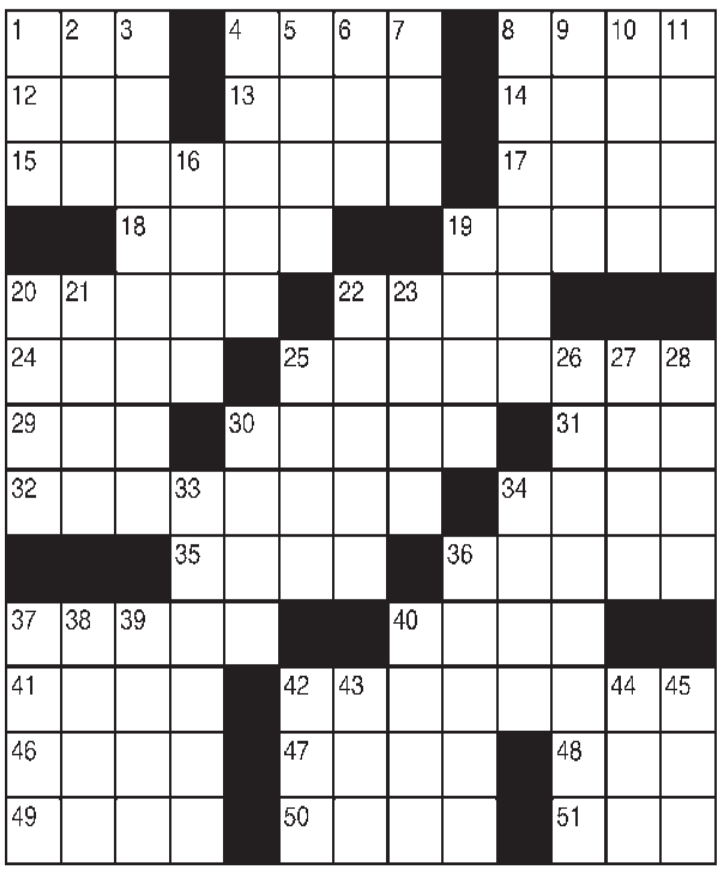
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas





King Crossword



ACROSS

1 "Caught ya!"
4 Spring melt-down
8 Baby's bed
12 Barbecue seasoning
13 Meditative exercise
14 Verdi heroine
15 Muffin-like treats
17 General — Chicken
18 Couturier Christian
19 Bracelet site
20 Liniment targets
22 "Arrivederci —"
24 One-named supermodel
25 Castle features
29 Unruly group
30 Ram
31 Solidify
32 Short extracts
34 Taj Mahal site
35 TV host Kelly
36 Analyze
37 Poultry choice
40 Humdrum
41 Honker
42 Marching band section
46 Scrambled wd.
47 Gumbo need
48 Language akin to Thai
49 Sleep phenomena
50 Whig rival
51 Bagel topper

DOWN

1 Curved line
2 "Ben- —"
3 Middle Eastern capital
4 Printing errors
5 Farmer, at times
6 Literary rep
7 Existed
8 40 winks
9 Jeopardize
10 Teen fave
11 Pyramid part
16 Carriage
19 You love (Lat.)
20 Goals
21 "Let's go!"
22 Indian yogurt dish
23 Unrefined metals
25 Get ready, briefly
26 Paint finish
27 Prefix with byte
28 Do in
30 Neat as —
33 Plug parts
34 Now, on a memo
36 Makeup brand
37 Scorch
38 Highly rated
39 Baby carriage
40 Duelist Aaron
42 Youngster
43 MGM rival
44 Eastern path
45 Boston team, for short

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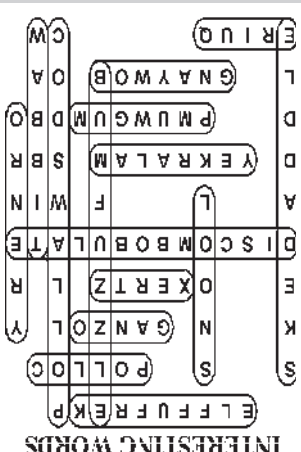
CROSSWORD ANSWERS

— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 26 mins.



MAGIC MAZE ANSWERS



MAGIC MAZE • INTERESTING WORDS

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

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

Bowyang	Discombobulate	Mugwump	Snool
Bumfuzzle	Ganzo	Ornery	Wabbit
Codswallop	Kerfuffle	Quire	Xertz
Collop	Malarkey	Skedaddle	

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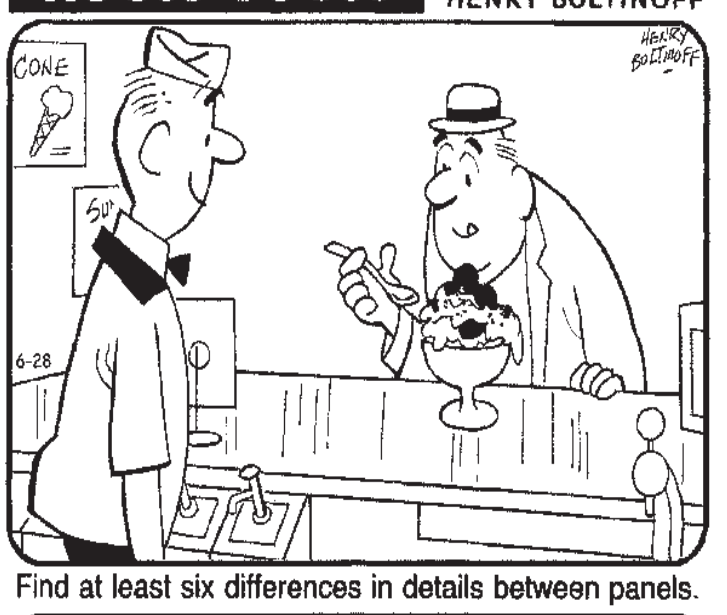
Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

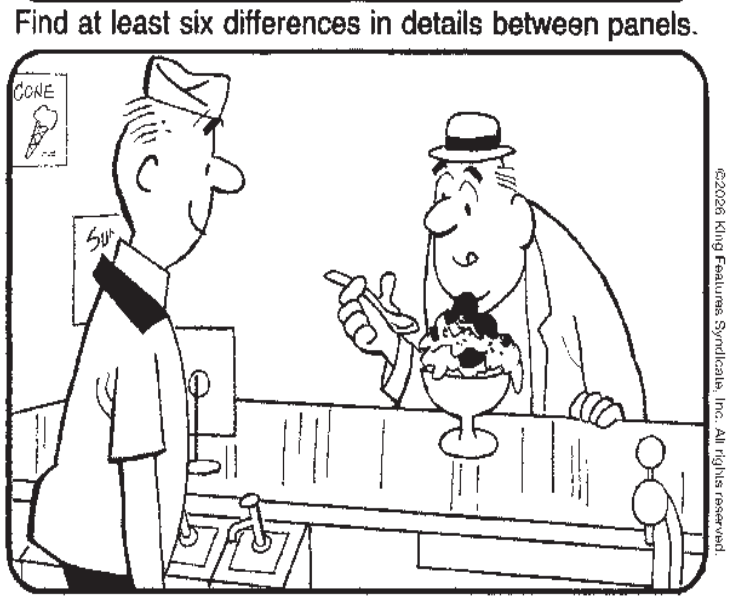


HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Lapel is different. 2. Bow tie is missing. 3. Sign is smaller. 4. Napkin holder is missing. 5. Bar is smaller. 6. Sleeve is shorter.

It pays to advertise in your local paper!

Legals

Bleckley Co. Legals

C26-052
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF BLECKLEY
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER
Because of a default under the terms of the Security Deed executed by Bruce Hardy to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Homestar Financial Corp. dated October 30, 2020, and recorded in Deed Book 447, Page 459, as last modified in Deed Book 480, Page 436, Bleckley County Records, said Security Deed having been last sold, assigned, transferred and conveyed to Newrez, LLC D/B/A Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, securing a Note in the original principal amount of $95,959.00, the holder thereof pursuant to said Deed and Note thereby secured has declared the entire amount of said indebtedness due and payable and, pursuant to the power of sale contained in said Deed, will on the first Tuesday, July 7, 2026, during the legal hours of sale, before the Courthouse door in said County, sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, the property described in said Deed, to-wit: **That tract of land with dwelling house and other improvements located thereon which has the address of 256 Crest Drive, Cochran, Georgia 31014 (Tax ID B38B 112) in the City of Cochran in Land Lot 127 of the 21st Land District of Bleckley County, Georgia, designated as Subdivision Lot 33 of Block "A" of Lake Tynez Subdivision as shown by plat of survey made by David M. Hammock, Surveyor, dated March 14, 1979, recorded in Plat Book 5, Page 52, in the Office of the Clerk of Bleckley County Superior Court at Cochran, Georgia, bounded now or formerly as follows: Northwest 110.11 feet by the southeast right of way line of Crest Drive; northeast 196.20 feet by Subdivision Lot 32 owned now or formerly by Richard L. Hypes and Sherry R. Hypes; Southeast 109.99 feet by lands now or formerly John R. Phillips and Leo L. Phillips; and Southwest 192.23 feet by the line of lands now or formerly of Cheryl Aschenbrenner et al Trustee of various trusts, Cheryl Aschenbrenner, David T. Yargbrough, Carol Aschenbrenner, and Ann K. Johnson. The foregoing described tract of land is the same as that conveyed from Matthew David Kline and Mikki Leigh Kline Trustees of the Kline Living Trust dated May 15, 2017 to Hillary E. Southerland by Trustee's Deed dated August 17, 2018, recorded in Deed Book 434, Pages 630-631, Bleckley County Records.**
Said property is known as **256 Crest Drive, Cochran, GA 31014**, together with all fixtures and personal property attached to and constituting a part of said property, if any.
Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, whether or not now due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.
The proceeds of said sale will be applied to the payment of said indebtedness and all expenses of said sale as provided in said Deed, and the balance, if any, will be distributed as provided by law.
The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the secured creditor.
The property is or may be in the possession of **Bruce Hardy, successor in interest or tenant(s).**
NewRez LLC as Attorney-in-Fact for Bruce Hardy
File no. 26-084243
LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP*
Attorneys and Counselors at Law
1050 Crown Pointe Parkway, Suite 500
Atlanta, GA 30338
(770) 220-2535
https://www.logs.com/
*THE LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
May 28, June 4, 11, 18, 25, July 2, 2026

C26-064
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
RE: ESTATE OF GLYNN P. WYNNE, DECEASED
All creditors of the Estate of Glynn P. Wynne, 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 15 day of June,2026.
Sam Wynne, Executor
855 Rebie Road
Chester, GA 31012
June 25, July 2, 9, 16, 2026

C26-063
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF BLECKLEY COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
In re the name change of: Gabrielle Gilliland
Civil Action File No. 2026V-00830MJ
NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
GEORGIA, Bleckley County
Notice is hereby given that Gabrielle Gilliland, the undersigned, filed this petition to the Superior Court of Bleckley County, Georgia on the 4 day of June, 2026, praying for a change in the name of the petitioner from Gabrielle Elise Gilliland to Gabriel Elias Gilliland. Notice is hereby given pursuant to law to any interested or affected party to appear in said Court and to file objections to such name change. Objections must be filed with said Court within 30 days of the filing of said petition.
This 4 day of June, 2026
Gabrielle Gilliland
Petitioner
June 25, July 2, 9, 16, 2026

C26-060
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF BLECKLEY COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
NAME OF PETITIONER:
ROSIE SOLIS MULLIS
A.K.A. MARIA ROSA SOLIS,
A.K.A. MARY ROSE SOLIS
A.K.A. MARIA ROSA MULLIS
CIVIL ACTION, FILE#
PETITION FOR NAME CHANGE
NOTICE OF NAME CHANGE
Notice is given that on the 10th day of June, 2026, a Petition to Change the name of MARIA ROSA SOLIS/MARY ROSE SOLIS/MARIA ROSA MULLIS was filed in the Superior Court of Bleckley County. The Petitioner's name is being changed from MARIA ROSA SOLIS/MARY ROSE SOLIS/MARIA ROSA MULLIS TO ROSIE SOLIS MULLIS.
Notice is hereby given pursuant to law for any interested or affected party to appear in said Court and to file objections to such name change. Objections must be filed with said Court by the 10th day of July, 2026.
LEE CANNON
ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER
STATE BAR NO. 108070
POST OFFICE Box 55270
MCRAE-HELENA, GEORGIA 31055
(229) 868-6065 - PHONE
(229) 868-6063 - FACSIMILE
June 18, 25, July 2, 9, 2026

C26-058
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER
GEORGIA, BLECKLEY COUNTY
Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by John D Taylor and Brandy M Cotherman to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Countrywide Home Loans, Inc., its successors and assigns dated August 10, 2007, recorded in Deed Book 332, Page 292, Bleckley County, Georgia Records, as last transferred to M&T Bank by assignment recorded in Deed Book 385, Page 162, Bleckley County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of ONE HUNDRED FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($105,500.00), 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 Bleckley County, Georgia, or at such place as may be lawfully designated as an alternative, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in July, 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 and payable because of default having been made of the terms of the Note and Security Deed. The terms remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the total debt, including all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Security Deed and by law which includes, but is not limited to, 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), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and any matters of record including, but not limited to, those superior to the Security Deed first set out above. Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. Prospective bidders must perform their own due diligence.
M&T BANK is the holder of the Security Deed to the property in accordance with OCGA § 44-14-162.2.
The entity that has full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the mortgage with the debtor is: M&T Bank, One Fountain Plaza, Buffalo, NY 14203, 800-724-1633.
Note, however, that such entity is not required by law to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the loan.
Upon information and belief, said property is more commonly known as **932 Highway 87 South, Cochran, GA 31014**. Should a conflict arise between the property address and the legal description, the legal description shall control.
ATTENTION ALL PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS: On March 1, 2026, the data collection and reporting requirements under the U.S. Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) new Anti-Money Laundering Rule (the "Rule"), found at 89 FR 70258, went into effect. The Rule applies to certain residential real estate sale transactions (including some that go beyond the typical one-to-four family residence) where the transfer is to a legal entity or trust, and which includes cash purchases, private financing or financing provided by an institution not subject to a federal Anti-Money Laundering or Suspicion Activity Report requirement. If applicable, as part of this Rule, buyers and sellers are required to provide additional information and documentation about themselves, their legal entities, and/or the source of funds used in the reportable transaction. The collection of this information and documentation is required to comply with the Rule's federal reporting requirements, if applicable.* This notice is provided for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. You are encouraged to consult with your own independent legal counsel if you have questions about how the FinCEN Anti-Money Laundering Rule affects your transaction and whether your transaction is reportable.
*The Rule is the subject of ongoing litigation in several jurisdictions. We suggest that you seek your own legal counsel if you have questions about the status of the Rule and its applicability to your sale, if any.
The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed, and (3) to confirmation that the successful bidder has timely provided all information required for reporting under the Rule, 89 FR 70258, if applicable.
M&T BANK
as Attorney in Fact for
John D Taylor and Brandy M Cotherman
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP
1544 Old Alabama Rd
Roswell, GA 30076
www.foreclosurehotline.net
EXHIBIT "A"
That tract of land containing 1.81 acres with dwelling house and other improvements located thereon in Land Lot 151 of the 21st Land District of Bleckley County, Georgia, as shown by plat of survey made by T. Jerry Peacock, Sr., Surveyor, dated August 11, 2003, recorded in Plat Cabinet B, Slide 69-6A, in the Office of the Clerk of Bleckley County Superior Court at Cochran, Georgia, particularly described as follows: BEGIN a point marked by a highway department right of way nail at the intersection of the southwest right of way line of U.S. Highway 23 (Georgia Highway 87) with southeast lot line of said land lot separating Bleckley County and Dodge County and from said point of beginning run south 45 degrees 33 minutes 04 seconds west 165.13 feet along the southeast lot line of said land lot separating Bleckley County and Dodge County to a corner point marked by an iron pipe; thence run north 40 degrees 38 minutes 12 seconds west 426.23 feet along the northeast line of lands now or formerly of James L. Marlett, III and Anita B. Marlett to a corner point marked by an iron pipe on the southeast right of way line of Georgia Highway 257; thence run north 45 degrees 51 minutes 00 seconds east 153.85 feet along the southeast right of way line of Georgia Highway 257 to a corner point marked by a highway department right of way nail; thence run south 73 degrees 35 minutes 41 seconds east 99.08 feet along the southerly right of way line of U.S. Highway 23/Georgia Highway 87/Georgia Highway 257 to a corner point marked by a highway department right of way nail; and thence run south 33 degrees 30 minutes 40 seconds east 344.20 feet along the southwest right of way line of said highways to the point of beginning. The foregoing described tract of land is the same as that conveyed from Shirley C. Berryhill to Arlene M. Patten by Warranty Deed dated August 25, 2003, recorded in Deed Book 273, Page 226, Bleckley County Records.
JD July 7, 2026
Our file no. 5373112
5373112
June 11, 18, 25, July 2, 2026

C26-053
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF Bleckley COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
Lucy Renee Hartman
Plaintiff,
v.
Brandon Charles Hartman,
Defendant
Civil Action File No. 2026V-0069SFW
NOTICE OF SUMMONS-SERVICE BY PUBLICATION
TO: Brandon Charles Hartman, Defendant Named Above: You are hereby notified that the above-styled action seeking Petition of Divorce was filed against you in said court on May 12,, 2026, and that by reason of an order for service of summons by publication entered by the court on May 12, 2026, you are hereby commanded and required to file with the clerk of said court and serve upon the Lucy Hartman, Plaintiff, whose address is 491 Frank Cook Road, Cochran, GA 31014, an answer to the complaint within sixty (60) days of the date of the order for service by publication. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.
Witness the Honorable, Sarah F. Wall, Judge of said Court.
This the 14th day of May, 2026.
Carol Evans
CLERK of Superior Court
Bleckley County
June 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

C26-065
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF BLECKLEY
IN RE: BRIAN WAYNE MAXWELL, DECEASED
All debtors/creditors of the Estate of Brian Wayne Maxwell, deceased, of Bleckley County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment of the undersigned.
This 17th day of June 2026.
Darci Maxwell
c/o Kindall Browning-Rickle, Esq.
P.O. Box 4939
Eastman, Georgia 31023
June 25, July 2, 9, 16, 2026

C26-061
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF RIGHT OF REDEMPTION
STATE OF GEORGIA/COUNTY OF BLECKLEY
TO: 1) Kenny Williams, 2) Unknown Heirs and Assigns of Kenny Williams, 3) Mayetta Williams, 4) Unknown Heirs and Assigns of Mayetta Williams, 5) City of Cochran, Georgia, 6) Bleckley County Tax Commissioner, 7) all Tenants/Residents/Occupants, 8) All Persons Known or Unknown who may claim an interest in property known as 119 Wilmore St., Cochran, Georgia 31014
TAKE NOTICE THAT:
The right to redeem **119 Wilmore St., Cochran, Georgia 31014**
(Tax Parcel A16 005), as follows, to wit:
Map and Parce #A160 5
ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 159, 21ST DISTRICT, CITY OF COCHRAN, BLECKLEY COUNTY, GEORGIA, BEING CORNER LOT 11 IN BLOCK F OF WHAT IS KNOWN AS THE AUSTIN LANFAIR ESTATE ACCORDNG TO THE H.P. COWAN SURVEY MADE ON NOVEMBER 22 AND 23, 1911, RECORDED IN PULASKI COUNTY DEED RECORDS, AND BEING THE SAME PROPERTY THAT WAS CONVEYED IN A DEED OF RECORD DEED BOOK 177, PAGE 291, AFORESAID RECORDS.
Will expire and be forever foreclosed and barred on and after the 21st day of August, 2026, or 30 days from service of notice.
The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated the 7th day of November, 2023 and is recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Bleckley County, Georgia, in Deed Book 476, Page 29.
The property may be redeemed at any time before the 21st day of August, 2026,
or 30 days from service of notice, by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address: Basil Law Group, LLC, 301 Bradley Street, Suite B-7, Carrollton, Georgia, 30117.
Please be governed accordingly.
June 18, 25, July 2, 9, 2026

C26-066
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF BLECKLEY COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
In Re: Evelyn Francine Ryberg
Civil Action File No. 2026V-0084HCK
NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
GEORGIA, Bleckley County
Notice is hereby given that Evelyn Francine Ryberg, the undersigned, filed his petition to the Superior Court of Bleckley County, Georgia on the 4 day of June, 2026, praying for a change in the name of petitioner from Evelyn Francine Ryberg to Evelyn Francine Costa. 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 the time prescribed by law.
This 4 day of June, 2026.
Evelyn Francine Ryberg
Petitioner
June 25, July 2, 9, 16, 2026

C26-059
GEORGIA, BLECKLEY COUNTY
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
All creditors of the Estate of **JAMES EMMETT WHITE**, deceased, of Bleckley 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.
This 9th day of June 2026.
Pamela Leddy and Emily Whaley, Co-Administrators
3460 N Riverside Drive
Indialantic, FL 32903
June 18, 25, July 2, 9, 2026

Twiggs Co. Legals

T26-043
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF TWIGGS
IN RE: CARLOS DELMONT DAVISON, DECEASED
All debtors/creditors of the Estate of **Carlos Delmont Davison**, 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 27th day of May 2026.
Doyle E. Mullis, III Attorney for The Estate
Administrator:
Shandrina L. Davison (Administrator)
Anderson, Walker & Reichert, LLP.
P. O. Box 6497
Macon, Georgia 31208
June 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

T26-044
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF TWIGGS COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA.
NEW AMERICAN FUNDING, LLC, Plaintiff,
v. CRYSTAL M. KENNEDY, Defendant.
Civil Action No. 2026-V-026.
NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
TO DEFENDANT CRYSTAL M. KENNEDY:
Per the Order for Service by Publication entered on the 3rd day of June 2026, you are hereby notified that New American Funding, LLC, filed suit against you on the 27th day of February 2026, seeking judicial foreclosure of a security deed.

Invitation 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 Black Bottom Road. The Work shall begin at the intersection of Old Gordon Road and Black Bottom Road and shall continue along Black Bottom Road for approximately .7 miles.

All bids must be received by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 30, 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, July 2, 2026 at the 9:00 a.m. Twiggs County Board of Commissioners Meeting at the Twiggs County Court House located at 425 N Railroad Street, Jeffersonville, Georgia 31044.

The terms and conditions for the Proposals/Bids and specifications for the Project are: (1) a minimum application of 1.5" asphalt for resurfacing; (2) a 2-foot apron at all driveways and intersections to ensure a smooth transition; (3) work must be completed within 45 calendar days from the notice to proceed; (4) clipping in preparation for new pavement as needed; (5) Contractor agrees it shall remove all debris from the project site upon completion of the Work; and (6) mobilization, bonding, and insurance are 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.

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

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

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS FOR THE WEEK 6/21/26

CELLULAR

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

HEALTH CARE

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
ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. Call 1-877-553-1109

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

HOME IMPROVEMENT

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

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: 1-877-652-0640

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: 1-877-625-0433. Have zip code of service location ready when you call!

ELECTRICAL SERVICES: Reliable & experienced. Competitive rates. From simple household problems to installing a brand new electrical system, we can take care of it all! Call now and have the zip code of the service location when you call! 1-877-917-6746

NEED NEW FLOORING? Call today schedule a FREE in-home estimate on Carpeting & Flooring. Call Today! 1-877-914-0502

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! 1-877-236-3738. Have zip code of property ready when calling!

HOME BREAK-INS take less than 60 SECONDS. Don't wait! Protect your family, your home, your assets NOW for as little as 70¢ a day! Call 1-877-606-2120

MISCELLANEOUS

YMT Vacations. Over 50 guided tours available. Affordable, social and stress-free travel designed for mature travelers. Our tours include accommodations, transportation, baggage handling, sightseeing, entrance fees, a professional Tour Director and select meals. For a limited time SAVE $250 on all tours. Call YMT today. 1-855-548-2623

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BEHIND ON YOUR MORTGAGE PAYMENTS? Threatened with foreclosure? Denied a loan modification? Let us help! Call the Homeowner Relief Line to speak with a mortgage specialist. 844-797-7162

Wesley Financial Group LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts Over $50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 866-411-5215

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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.

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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

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WANTED

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TOP CA$H PAID FOR OLD GUITARS! 1920-1980 Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild, Mosrite, Rickenbacker, Prairie State, D'Angelico, Stromberg. And Gibson Mandolins / Banjos. 1-877-515-0329

Within sixty (60) days of the entry of the above-referenced Order, you are required to file an Answer with the Clerk of this Superior Court and to serve said Answer upon the plaintiff's attorney: Padgett Law Group, 3490 Piedmont Road Northeast, Suite 1475, Atlanta, Georgia 30305.
Witness the Honorable Jon F. Helton, Judge of this Superior Court, on this the 4th day of June 2026.
Kelly Harris, Deputy Clerk of the Twiggs County Superior Court.

June 11, 18, 25, July 2, 2026

Wilkinson Co. Legals

W26-055
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF WILKINSON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF IRWIN LARRY HATFIELD, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 351
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE

TO: whom it may concern:
Beth B,. Hatfield and Tara Crooms has petitioned for Beth B. Hatfield and Tara Crooms to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of IRWIN LARRY HATFIELD 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 July 9, 2026.
BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.
Sarah A. Holder
Judge of the Probate Court
By: Bradasia A. Mims
Clerk of the Probate Court
100 Bacon Street
Irwinton, GA 31042
(478)-946-2222

June 18, 25, July 2, 9, 2026

W26-052
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF WILKINSON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF Paul Thomas Rozier, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 286
NOTICE OF PETITION TO FILE FOR YEAR'S SUPPORT

The petition of **Sandra Wynelle Rozier**, for a year's support from the estate of **Paul Thomas Rozier**, 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 **June 29, 2026** why said petition should not be granted.
All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed on or before the time stated in the preceding sentence. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed the petition may be granted without a hearing.
Bradasia A. Mims
Judge of the Probate Court
By: Carol Hodnett
Clerk of the Probate Court
Wilkinson County Probate Court
100 Bacon St
Irwinton, GA 31042
478-946-2222

June 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

W26-051
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER
GEORGIA, WILKINSON COUNTY

Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by John L Stanford to Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc. dated May 31, 2002, recorded in Deed Book 269, Page 612, Wilkinson County, Georgia Records, as last transferred to NewRez LLC dba Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing by assignment recorded in Deed Book 428, Page 911, Wilkinson County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of EIGHTY-SIX THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($86,000.00), 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 Wilkinson 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 July, 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 and payable because of default having been made of the terms of the Note and Security Deed. The terms remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the total debt, including all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Security Deed and by law which includes, but is not limited to, 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), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and any matters of record including, but not limited to, those superior to the Security Deed first set out above. Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. Prospective bidders must perform their own due diligence.

NewRez LLC dba Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing is the holder of the Security Deed to the property in accordance with OCGA § 44-14-162.2.

The entity that has full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the mortgage with the debtor is: NewRez, LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, 75 Beattie Place, Suite 300, Greenville, SC 29601, (800) 365-7107.

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

Upon information and belief, said property is more commonly known as **1170 Club Drive, Toomsboro, GA 31090.** Should a conflict arise between the property address and the legal description, the legal description shall control.

ATTENTION ALL PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS: On March 1, 2026, the data collection and reporting requirements under the U.S. Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) new Anti-Money Laundering Rule (the "Rule"), found at 89 FR 70258, went into effect. The Rule applies to certain residential real estate sale transactions (including some that go beyond the typical one-to-four family residence) where the transfer is to a legal entity or trust, and which includes cash purchases, private financing or financing provided by an institution not subject to a federal Anti-Money Laundering or Suspicion Activity Report requirement. If applicable, as part of this Rule, buyers and sellers are required to provide additional information and documentation about themselves, their legal entities, and/or the source of funds used in the reportable transaction. The collection of this information and documentation is required to comply with the Rule's federal reporting requirements, if applicable.* This notice is provided for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. You are encouraged to consult with your own independent legal counsel if you have questions about how the FinCEN Anti-Money Laundering Rule affects your transaction and whether your transaction is reportable.

*The Rule is the subject of ongoing litigation in several jurisdictions. We suggest that you seek your own legal counsel if you have questions about the status of the Rule and its applicability to your sale, if any.

The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed, and (3) to confirmation that the successful bidder has timely provided all information required for reporting under the Rule, 89 FR 70258, if applicable.

NewRez LLC dba Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing
as Attorney in Fact for
John L Stanford
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP
1544 Old Alabama Rd
Roswell, GA 30076
www.foreclosurehotline.net
EXHIBIT "A"
All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in Land Lot 162 of the 3rd Land District of Wilkinson County, Georgia, containing 2.00 acres, and being more particularly shown and described according to a plat of survey prepared by W. C. Howell, Land Surveyor, dated June 1, 2002, and recorded in plat Book 17, page 137, Wilkinson County Records. The courses and distances of said plat are incorporated into and made a part of this description by reference.
JD July 7, 2026
Our file no. 26-22819GA
26-22819GA

June 11, 18, 25, July 2, 2026

W26-053
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE UNDER POWER
WILKINSON COUNTY, GEORGIA
THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by Daphne Ann Minter to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Planters First Bank dated October 22, 2018 and recorded on October 23, 2018 in Deed Book 381, Page 732, Wilkinson County, Georgia Records, and later assigned to Rocket Mortgage, LLC by Assignment of Security Deed recorded on December 9, 2024 in Deed Book 420, Page 459, Wilkinson County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of Seventy-Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty-Seven And 00/100 Dollars ($78,787.00), 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 Wilkinson County, Georgia, within the legal hours of sale on July 7, 2026 the following described property:
All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the City of Gordon, Wilkinson County, Georgia, described as Lot Nineteen (19), Block B of J.L. Hardie Subdivision, more particularly described by that certain plat of survey entitled "Plat of the J.L. Hardie Subdivision", dated May 14, 1956, recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 94, Wilkinson County Land Records. Said plat of survey and record thereof are by reference made a part hereof for a more accurate description of said property.
This is the same property conveyed by limited warranty deed from Kathi Lynn Coleman Dixon and James Craig Coleman to Troy Lee Helms, Jr., dated October 7, 2016, recorded in Deed Book 370, Page 303, said records. Further, this is the same property conveyed by Troy Lee Helms, Jr.. as duly appointed Administrator of the Mary Jane Coleman Estate to Kathi Lynn Coleman Dixon and James Craig Coleman, dated October 7, 2017, recorded in Deed Book 370, Page 301, said records. Further, this is the same property conveyed by deed from James Craig Coleman and Kathi Coleman Dixon to Mary Jane Coleman, dated May 1985, recorded in Deed Book 172, Pages 219, said records.
SUBJECT TO: all easements, rights-of-way, surveys, protective covenants, limitations and restrictions affecting said property of record, said records.
Tax ID #: G07 071
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 Security Deed and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).
Your mortgage servicer, Rocket Mortgage, LLC s/b/m Nationstar Mortgage LLC, as servicer for Rocket Mortgage, LLC, can be contacted at 877-888-4606 or by writing to 8950 Cypress Waters Boulevard, Coppell, TX 75019, to discuss possible alternatives to avoid foreclosure.
Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.
To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the parties in possession of the property are Daphne Ann Minter or tenant(s); and said property is more commonly known as **119 Hardie Street, Gordon, GA 31031.**
The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the security deed.
Rocket Mortgage, LLC as Attorney in Fact for Daphne Ann Minter
McMichael Taylor Gray, LLC
3550 Engineering Drive, Suite 260
Peachtree Corners, GA 30092
404-474-7149
MTG File No.: GA2025-00962

June 11, 18, 25, July 2, 2026

W26-056
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

All creditors of the estate of Donna Ford Schneider, late of Wilkinson County, Georgia, deceased, 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.
This 12th day of June, 2026.
Derek S. Grimes, Administrator
c/o Donald R. Oulsnam
Frier & Oulsnam, P.C.
110 South Jefferson Street
Milledgeville, Georgia 31061
(478)454-5444

June 18, 25, July 2, 9, 2026

W26-054
NOTICE TO Debtors and Creditors
GEORGIA, WILKINSON COUNTY
IN RE: Estate of Brenda B. Leverette
All Creditors of the Estate of Brenda B. Leverette deceased, 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 required to make payment to me.
This 9th day of June, 2026
Billy Ross Bentley, Jr.
Executor of the Estate of Brenda M. Leverette
c/o Bert King
Attorney at Law
P. O. Box 1707
Gray, GA 31032
(478) 986-6000
www.BertKing.com

June 18, 25, July 2, 9, 2026

State of Georgia to participate in Great American State Fair

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES JOURNAL POST

ATLANTA – Governor Brian P. Kemp today announced the State of Georgia's participation in the Great American State Fair in Washington, D.C., as part of the nationwide celebration of America's 250th Birthday. Georgia's activation will include exhibits highlighting key industries in the state, as well as special items from well-known Georgia-based companies like Waffle House and Chick-fil-A. The pavilion will officially open on June 25.

"Georgia is proud to join in the nationwide celebration of America's 250th birthday by participating in the Great American State Fair," said Gov. Brian Kemp. "From information about famous Georgia-grown goods to exclusive products from major Georgia-based brands, visitors from around the world who experience our showcase will have plenty of reasons to keep us on their minds."

The Great American State Fair will be held on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., from June 25 through July 10 and is one of many Freedom 250 events in honor of the nation's semiquincentennial. The State of Georgia activation will be hosted by the Office of the Governor and the Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) and is sponsored by the Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD), Bland Farms, Emerald Carpets, Wayne-Sanderson Farms, the Georgia Poultry Association, and Jaemor Farms.

Entrance is free, but advance registration is recommended for the Great American State Fair. The pavilion will be open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday through Wednesday, and from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Thursday through Saturday.

