

Twiggs County Schools: \$274K of deficit pinpointed to FY23 Superintendent "cannot rule out" staffing cuts as remedy to financial strain

By CAROLINE WEATHERSBY
Staff Reporter

Following an audit, \$274,000 of Twiggs County Schools' deficit has been attributed to FY2023. Interim Superintendent Tyrone Bacon said he "cannot rule out" additional staffing cuts to remedy some of the financial strain.

Bacon spoke during a public meeting at the board of education on Tuesday to provide an update on the district's Financial Corrective Action Plan. The plan was put into place earlier this year after the district learned of a \$1.1 million negative fund balance that

he said was incurred after "years and years" of overspending.

The district subsequently borrowed a \$1.5 million tax anticipation note to bridge the cash flow gap in the meantime.

Part of the financial plan, he explained, involves the district getting caught up on audits. Earlier this year, Bacon announced that they were multiple years behind and had received extra time from the state to complete them.

According to Bacon, the district's finance team completed the FY2023 audit on May 3, which revealed a negative fund balance of \$274,000, though he did not

specify where the money went.

As of right now, the district is still three years behind on audits.

Following the FY2023 conversation, Bacon also revealed the timeline put in place for the remaining audits. According to Bacon, the FY2024 audit started on June 17 and is expected to be completed by the end of September. The FY2025 audit is scheduled for February-May 2027.

He also told the board that as the district catches up on overdue audits, he hopes that

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Twiggs Co. Interim Superintendent Tyrone Bacon announced a negative fund balance of \$274,000 was found during FY2023 audit. In continuing the district's efforts to cut costs, Bacon said he "cannot rule out" additional staffing cuts/Photo courtesy of Twiggs County Public Schools



July 4th is this weekend, and the Cochran-Bleckley Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Development Authority are partnering for a day-long festival in downtown Cochran /CAROLINE WEATHERSBY

Stars, Stripes and Summer Nights The Cochran-Bleckley Chamber of Commerce and Development Authority to host Fourth of July event

By CAROLINE WEATHERSBY
Staff Reporter

Cochran is hosting a free Fourth of July event this Saturday with festivities to begin at 5 p.m.

The Cochran-Bleckley Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Development Authority are collaborating to bring "Stars, Stripes and Summer Nights" to downtown Cochran this weekend.

"Bring your family, your friends and your patriotic spirit," one flyer read.

According to Chamber President Melissa Barker, the Fourth of July is more than just another holiday.

"Fourth of July is at the core and the basis of...our country and how we get to live our lives," Barker said. "I just think it's important we remember... our history, our folks who came before us, where they came from and just embrace that."

Barker told the TJP she's mostly looking forward to "seeing kids having a good time and not having to pay for any of it."

Thanks to sponsorships, the event is almost entirely free with no entry fee into the festival and most of its events. Some sponsors of the event, Baker said, include the City of Cochran, Bleckley County, Ryland Environmental,

Daniels Law LLC, Security First Asset Management and the State Bank of Cochran.

Some of the events planned for the evening include a grill-off, a peach cobbler bake-off, an ice cream making competition for 5th-8th graders, separate bicycle and golf cart parades, a live firework show and a spur-of-the-moment watermelon eating contest.

The only paid events, according to Barker, are the Liberty Runs at \$20 per entrance.

There will also be several kinds of vendors and live music performing throughout the evening,

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TCSO deputies honored for DUI enforcement at statewide banquet



Ahead of July 4th weekend, Twiggs County Sheriff's Office deputies were recognized for taking drunk drivers off the road/LOU CROUCH

By CAROLINE WEATHERSBY
Staff Reporter

Twiggs County deputies recognized at annual law enforcement awards, urge residents to drive sober over the holiday weekend

Two Twiggs County sheriff's deputies and a leadership team were recognized at an annual law enforcement banquet last week.

Deputies Lexi Marks and Bobby Black received special awards for their work in taking drunk drivers off the road.

Officials say Marks made 56 DUI arrests in 2025, earning her a Silver Pin and special recognition at the ceremony. Black, who made 25 DUI arrests in 2025, was also honored with a Bronze Pin.

Captain Lee Smith and Sgt. Tracy Golden were also named Traffic Enforcement Network of the Year, for their work as coor-

dinators of the Middle Georgia Traffic Enforcement Network leadership team with the Governor's Office of Highway Safety.

The banquet itself, the Annual Golden Shield Awards hosted by MADD, is a yearly ceremony where law enforcement, DUI prosecutors and community advocates are recognized for their efforts to keep Georgia safe from impaired drivers. This was their 22nd year.

"For the past 22 years, the Governor's Office of Highway Safety has partnered with MADD Georgia to recognize the individuals who work tirelessly to keep our highways and communities safe," MADD's webpage reads. "These are the men and women who respond to the crash scenes, investigate

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Periodical — Mail Label

Twiggs County Public Schools announces new leadership

By CAROLINE WEATHERSBY
Staff Reporter

Twiggs County Middle High School is welcoming new leadership ahead of the 2026-27 school year.

Antonio Ingram, Zackery Harris and Jemessyn Foster will serve as school principal, assistant principal and counselor respectively, Interim Superintendent Tyrone Bacon announced.

"We have heard the concerns that have been raised. We recognize that the community expects more from Twiggs County Middle High School, and we agree," Bacon wrote.



This August, Antonio Ingram, Zackery Harris and Jemessyn Foster will take on the roles of principal, assistant principal and school counselor respectively at Twiggs County Middle High School/Twiggs County Public Schools

Parents and community members have previously voiced their concerns about the earlier administration at board meetings.

"As part of this larger effort, we are making a decisive leadership

change at Twiggs County Middle High School," Bacon continued. "This leadership reset is not symbolic. It is a real step toward accountability, improvement and renewed focus."

Ingram, who will serve as school principal, is a Baldwin County native and has worked in education

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“things will get better,” but that “they may not.”

As of right now, Twiggs County schools are labeled a Tier 2 school district by the state, meaning they are “at moderate risk.” Bacon said that throughout the duration of the plan, he hopes to stay at Tier 2. The further down they go in the tiering system, he told the board, the state will implement more corrective action on them.

At the end of his presentation, Bacon opened up the floor to questions, prompting board member Teresa Blackshear to ask about the most feared cost reduction.

“[With] the debt reduction plan, are there going to be any future staffing cuts anticipated?” She asked.

“I cannot rule that out,” he responded. “There are a lot of things that happened... We’re hoping no, but as we go on, we need to see what it is that we owe.”

According to Bacon, even with cuts made at the central office, he can’t be sure they’ll be enough to sustain the district because of unstable expenses. He cited issues with increasing costs to employee

health benefits and the Teachers Retirement System. He also said they’re receiving surprise bills in the mail that the board didn’t even know existed.

What they believed they would save, they would spend the moment another bill came in the mail, he explained.

Even with the \$1.5 million TAN and six months of increased oversight, the board continues to find new bills that Bacon reports are eating away at their savings. One bill reportedly totaled \$100,000.

“We plan X, and our plan is great. Then you say ‘go,’ and the plan changes,” he told the board.

Due to increasing costs and the schools’ revenue not matching them, future staffing cuts are “a possibility.”

Over the past several months, the district has looked to cut costs at the main office through attrition to avoid their debt problems hitting the classrooms, Bacon told the public at a past board meeting.

“What I want to keep the possibility to is it doesn’t affect the classroom, it doesn’t affect our students... or impede their success in post-secondary,” he said. “That’s what we have to protect.”

“We’re working very diligently

[to ensure cuts are] through attrition, that’s through other means before we get to people in the buildings,” he continued. “There will be some changes, but we are putting our students first.”

Bacon also detailed other efforts the district was making to soothe the ongoing financial stress. He said the school board has been in “full-gear” working to regain control over the negative fund balance.

One of those efforts was getting the district caught up on all past-due payments. Bacon announced that, as of right now, the district is up-to-date on all vendor payments, having paid \$460,000 to vendors according to his presentation.

Another one of those efforts was to make financial information more readily available to the public.

As the school district continues to deal with money problems, Bacon said he’s committed to accountability and transparency between the district and the public, sharing he hopes overtime to rebuild trust between the two.

“This is not about hiding. This is about fixing,” he said. “We’ve got to have a dialogue about what

has happened.”

According to Bacon, the board holds weekly meetings to discuss finances and he’s working with them to ensure that when members of the public inquire about financial information, that those items are made available to them.

He also spoke about the budget directly, sharing that “a lot of late nights and a lot of document readings” went into the proposed budget for the 2026-27 school year.

“We believe we passed a balanced budget, not just on paper, but a budget that we can use honestly and stick to,” he told the board. “Changes had to be made. Things had to forgo so that the budget can be balanced for this upcoming year.”

According to his presentation, planning for the FY2027 began with a review of the schools’ revenue. From there, advisors such as himself and Assistant Superintendent Miriam Rearden looked over the payroll and employee benefits. From there, they moved on to operations and then the department requests. Then they reviewed.

Bacon told the board and audience that he personally, along with Rearden, reviews every single purchase order, travel reimburse-

ment, and other payments made by the school.

Other cost-cutting measures include teaching his staff how to say “no.”

“Everybody likes ‘yes.’ ‘Yes’ means you care. ‘Yes’ means you agree. ‘No’ means you don’t like me. ‘No’ means you don’t understand me. But ‘no’ doesn’t mean that,” he said. “‘No’ could mean ‘no, I’m looking out for tomorrow.’ ‘No, that’s not appropriate for us today.’ ‘No, we got to have something that’s left for tomorrow.’ So ‘no’ could mean just as good things as a ‘yes,’ but we’re so used to ‘yes’ that ‘no’ hurts.”

Bacon finished his presentation by telling the board that he’s proud of the progress made since the beginning of his term.

“I am very proud of where we are. Now that doesn’t mean that we have money to throw around, and that doesn’t mean that everything is rosy,” he said. “It doesn’t mean that we won’t have additional cuts...It means that we are struggling through. We have the discipline, we have a plan, and we’ve done that together as a team.”

FOURTH OF JULY

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including local band Sons of Midnight.

Though the event officially starts at 5 with the beginning of three different food-based competitions, some will need to arrive beforehand to register or submit items for events they plan to participate in later in the evening.

Officials recommend pre-registering for the food competitions.

Full Timeline for July Fourth Festivities:

Ice Cream Making Competition | 5 p.m.

The Ice Cream Making Competition asks kids to “Bring their coolest, creamiest, and most patriotic frozen creation” to “compete for fun, prizes, and bragging rights,” according to a flyer. Competitors must be students entering the 5th through 8th grade in the coming school year. Bonus points will be given for Georgia Grown Fruits including peaches, apples, strawberries and blueberries. Winning categories include Most Patriotic Flavor, Crowd Favorite, Best Pre-

sentation and Judges’ Choice. According to the rules, ice cream must be homemade, and contestants should be prepared to provide samples for multiple judges. Individuals and team contestants are accepted.

Peach Cobbler Bake-Off | 5 p.m.

The Peach Cobbler Bake-Off asks contestants to “show off their sweet side.” Winning categories include Best Crust, Most Adventurous, Best Flavor and Judges’ Choice. According to the rules, contestants may only submit home-made peach cobbler prepared on the day of the event and must submit their cobbler by 4:30. Officials recommend reaching out to the Cochran-Bleckley Chamber of Commerce to pre-register before July 4.

Grill Off Competition | 5 p.m.

The Grill Off Competition asks contestants to “fire up the flavor,” according to its flyer. Winning categories are Best Ribs, Best Pork, Best Beef, Most Adventurous, Most Patriotic and Non-Meat. According to the rules, individuals, families and groups are open to compete, but all foods must be

prepared on-site. Officials are asking contestants to bring their own grill, tools and ingredients. Entries should be submitted by 4:30.

Bicycle Parade | 6 p.m.

The Bicycle Parade asks contestants to “ride, decorate, and celebrate.” The route will take contestants all throughout Downtown Cochran. Winning categories are Most Patriotic, Most Creative, Funniest, Best Group or Family and Judges’ Choice. Line-up begins at 5:30. Officials strongly advise helmets. According to the rules, walkers and bikers of all ages are welcome but motorized vehicles are not.

Liberty Run 1 Mile Fun Run | 7 p.m.

The Liberty Run 1 Mile Fun Run is open to all ages. The fee to enter the race is \$20, and participants can expect to receive participation awards at the end of the event. Registration opens at 6:30.

Golf Cart Parade | 7 p.m.

The Golf Cart Parade asks participants to “ride, decorate, and celebrate,” on its flyer. During the parade, golf-carters will

travel throughout Downtown Cochran in their carts, but walkers are also welcome. Winning categories include Most Patriotic, Most Creative, Funniest, Best Group or Family and Judges’ Choice. Besides golf carts, no other motorized vehicles are allowed. Officials “strongly encourage” helmets. Line-up begins at 6:30.

Liberty Run 5K | 7:30 p.m.

The Liberty Run 5K is open to all age groups. The fee to enter the race is \$20. Overall winning categories include the top three male finishers and the top three female finishers overall. Awards will also be given to the top three male and top three female finishers of each age division.

A “Fly-In” with the Cochran Municipal Airport was also originally scheduled for the evening but was canceled this past weekend.

On the day of the event, a tent will be propped in downtown for anyone with questions.

For more information about Cochran’s July 4th celebration, chamber officials ask to contact them at (478) 934-2965.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

**AUGUST 12, 2026
4:00-8:00 PM
N. HOUSTON SPORTS COMPLEX**

WARNER ROBINS

TCSO

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the cases, testify in courtrooms, and stand in the gap for victims and their families.”

MADD, which stands for Mothers Against Drunk Driving, organizes the banquet every year. According to its official webpage, MADD’s mission is to end impaired driving, support victims of impaired driving and prevent minors from drinking and using illicit substances.

“Every impaired driver removed from our roadways represents lives protected and tragedies potentially prevented,” a Twiggs County sheriff’s office official wrote.

Chief Deputy Buddy Long called the recognition “very special.” He also commended the deputies for their efforts at keeping Twiggs roads safe on top of their other duties. In

addition to manning the roads, sheriff’s deputies are also responsible for domestic calls, animals on the loose, and other emergencies, he said.

According to Long, DUI arrests are vital in keeping the roads safe from dangerous, potentially fatal accidents.

“It’s amazing to see the DUIs they pull off the interstate,” he said. “I’ve seen people they got that were so drunk they couldn’t hardly stand up, and they’re driving 70, 80 miles an hour down the interstate.”

According to a study done by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, the average risk of severe injury to a pedestrian when struck by a car is at 75% when the car is traveling at 39 miles per hour. At 46 miles per hour, the risk of severe injury jumps to 90%. The risk of death in a struck pedestrian climbs to 90% at only 58 miles per hour.

Drunk driving kills 32 Americans every day. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 11,904 people were killed in 2024 as a result of alcohol-impaired driving.

With the Fourth of July coming up this Saturday, Long warns residents against drunk driving, urging them to plan ahead and set up a designated driver.

If you can’t find a designated driver, he said, tell someone. By calmly explaining your situation, someone will likely find a way to get you home.

“Somebody will get you home safely,” he said.

If you can’t find another safe way home, contact the sheriff’s office.

“If you’re in the county and [call the sheriff’s office], we’ll come take you home,” he said. “Just don’t get under the steering wheel and take the risk of killing someone.”



Twiggs County Sheriff’s Office deputies were recognized for taking drunk drivers off the road. Officials warn against impaired driving over the holiday weekend/SPECIAL PHOTO

SCHOOL HIRES

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for 30 years. According to Bacon, Ingram graduated at the top of his class at Baldwin High School in 1993 before earning a bachelor in History and Secondary Education and two master’s degrees from Georgia College & State University.

Previously a social studies teacher at Baldwin High School, Ingram served as an assistant principal at Oak Hill Middle School before moving on to take on the role of principal at a middle and high school in Macon. He was principal at Midway Hills Academy for eight years before becoming Director at a Baldwin County alternative school.

According to Bacon, Ingram’s primary goal for Twiggs Middle High School is to help students harness their potential and accomplish their goals.

“As Principal, I believe in max-

imizing the potential of students and staff. I also believe in maintaining a positive attitude and being a role model for students to help them achieve their goals and be successful,” he wrote.

Harris will serve as assistant principal at the joint middle-high school.

According to Bacon, Harris has worked in education and, specifically, educational leadership for over 24 years.

Harris is a graduate from Clark Atlanta University where he earned a Education Specialist degree. Most recently Harris worked at Hancock Center Middle School in Sparta where he served as school principal for six years.

Harris has also worked in Twiggs County schools before. Prior to becoming principal at Hancock Center, he served in several roles in Twiggs including teacher, coach, athletic director and assistant principal.

“As he returns to Twiggs Coun-

ty, Mr. Harris looks forward to building upon the district’s successes, strengthening community partnerships, and continuing to provide students with opportunities to achieve at the highest levels,” Bacon wrote.

Foster will serve as school counselor, and according to Bacon, she has worked in public education for 22 years.

“Throughout her career, Dr. Foster has served in a wide range of educational leadership and student support roles, including Pre-K through 12th grade counselor, Assistant Principal, Principal, Federal Programs leader, and Superintendent for six and a half years,” Bacon said.

Previously, Foster served as Academic Coach and 6th-12th grade counselor at the school.

“Her familiarity with the Twiggs County school community gives her a strong foundation for supporting students, families, and staff during this important transi-

tion,” he added.

Foster currently works as a Social Services Program Consultant in the Office of Reentry Services at the Georgia Department of Corrections.

Twiggs County Public Schools have made several changes to leadership since December. After former superintendent Mack Bulard retired in December, Interim Superintendent Bacon took his place - though it’s not a permanent position. Since his installment, Bacon has tried to reel in school spending after the board learned of a \$1.1 million deficit incurred over several years by previous administrators.

Bacon previously announced cost cutting efforts through attrition at the main office and pushing retirements when eligible.

Director of Federal Programs Miriam Rearden was recently promoted to Assistant Superintendent, and according to Bacon, she’s assisting with oversight and

changes to the current budget.

Earlier this month, Twiggs Public Schools announced “expanded leadership” for HR Director/Executive Assistant to the Superintendent Stephanie Collins and Executive Director of Technology/Data Management/Accountability Travontae Basley, by consolidating multiple positions.

According to Twiggs County Public Schools’ Facebook page, they’re also hiring for several positions including a full time English Language Arts teacher, a part time English Language Arts teacher and a kindergarten teacher.

“There is important work ahead, but we are confident that this new leadership team brings the experience, commitment, and focus needed to help move Twiggs County Middle High School forward,” Bacon wrote. “We will continue to support the school, monitor progress, and make the decisions necessary to put students first.”

New state senator fills vacancy, restores Senate to capacity

By TY TAGAMI
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — The Georgia Senate is back to full capacity after Adrienne White Carden was sworn in to represent the 7th District in Gwinnett County, the state Senate announced Monday.

The Democrat won the special election to succeed Nabilah Parkes, also a Democrat, on June 16. Parkes resigned during the legislative session to run for lieutenant governor, but lost the June 16 runoff to her former colleague, Sen. Josh McLaurin, D-Sandy Springs.

McLaurin had criticized Parkes for quitting ahead of the special session that ended last week, saying Democrats would need all the votes they could muster to counter any redistricting efforts by Republicans and that that she risked a Republican succeeding her.

Parkes pushed back,

saying she had endorsed Carden, identified as Adrienne White on the ballot, and was confident she would win the special election to complete Parkes’ term.

Carden did win, but barely, taking just over 51% of the vote against Republican Aizaz Shahbaz Shaikh.

Shaikh remains the Republican nominee for the Nov. 3 general election, when voters will choose the person to occupy the District 7 seat for a full two years starting in January.

Shaikh will face Rep. Ruwa Romman, D-Duluth, who won the Democratic nomination in the June 16 runoff.

Although, as Parkes had predicted, Carden won the special election, she did not swear her oath of office until Friday, three days after the special session ended.

It turns out that the timing did not matter for redistricting. Just before the ses-

sion began two weeks ago, Republicans announced they would not seek to change election boundaries during the special session.

Redistricting had been one reason Gov. Brian Kemp called lawmakers back to the Capitol, but the issue proved too controversial.

Sen. Carden, D-Duluth, will represent District 7 for the next six months.

Carden, an executive at SouthState Bank who is married to Gwinnett County Commissioner Kirkland Carden, said she was ready to work with the Legislature “to support progressive policies and achieve affordability for all Georgians.” She said she looks “forward to continuing to collaborate throughout the legislative interim.”

Her swearing-in restores the state Senate to a full complement of 56 members.

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

The Expat

The Five Points neighborhood in Athens has an allure that makes it extraordinarily special and becoming. There is an intoxicating buzz year-round in this traditional section of Athenstown, where old homes blend with latent upscale construction, which is taking place everywhere you look.

Five Points is a neat neighborhood. It has the feel of a laidback village in Europe. "That," says Rick Johnson who has spent multiple summers in Cortona, Italy, with the UGA Art Department, "is because there is such a great blend of town and gown. I love the restaurants and places like the bakery where you see a bevy of students and faculty, and a lawyer in coat and tie."

Five Points is where you can choose a classic bottle of wine, ride your bike, and buy the best burger at the best pub in town. There's

healthy grocery shopping at Earth Fare, you can enjoy great pizza options, and there's plentiful seafood, as tasty as you would find if a shrimp boat found its way up the Oconee River and docked behind Sanford Stadium.

For many of us, the signature address is The Expat, located at a former home that dates back to World War II—when Frank Sinkwich and Charley Trippi were the talk of the town.

Located at 1680 South Lumpkin, it fits into the neighborhood like it did a half century ago—except that the chef then was the madam of the house who cooked for her family.

Now Jerry Slater and his staff can accommodate 75 or more. For those who have a bent for al fresco dining, the porch at the Expat is as charming as they come.

You seldom see The Expat empty, even in summer when many of the UGA student body and faculty have sojourned elsewhere. The "regular" clientele keeps things a humming along

with visitors who show up for various reasons.

The ambient atmosphere complements the core values of the establishment—the menu which specializes in Italian and seafood cuisine, and experienced chefs with the right stuff.

Inside everything is relaxed and cozy. But I can't stop there. It's equally a vibrant, lively, and magnetic place. Neighborly and encompassing.

Diners from Atlanta make the trip over to enjoy an evening at The Expat, and if you want a reservation on a football weekend in the fall, you may be too late.

The owners are a husband-wife team; Jerry and Krista Slater are spirits columnists for the Atlanta Journal and Constitution. Jerry is widely recognized for his hospitality and spirits expertise with stops at Charlie Trotter's in Chicago, The Oak Room at the Seelbach Hilton Hotel in Louisville, Ky., and Atlanta's One Flew South, named for one of the world's best airport



LORAN SMITH

restaurants.

Krista is a visual artist turned certified sommelier who likes ice-cold martinis and intentional spaces. She has worked for nearly 20 years in the world of wine retail, bars, and fine dining. The Slaters own, in addition to The Expat, The Lark wine bar and shop, The Night-hawks Lounge, and the recently opened Dovetail Market, with partner Fritz Gibson.

Many students come to work for them as freshmen and continue through UGA graduation. An incentive to

work with the Slaters is that employees are entitled to health insurance.

Until recently I often took respite at the bar for a glass of pinot noir and my favorite Expat pasta plate, tagliatelle. I enjoyed conversation with Trent Parker, the General Manager, and Romie Ingram, the sprightly and charming bartender who is as efficient as you can find. Unfortunately for Expat regulars, which include Kirby and Mary Beth Smart, they both have moved on, owing to opportunity. They both were upbeat (opportunity) and downcast (leaving The Expat clientele.)

Included in the lore of The Expat's history is that its most devoted supporter, John Parker, showed up in his golf cart on the day they opened, wearing his trademark shorts and flipflops. He yelled, "When does this place open?" Jerry yelled back, "Five minutes ago." Parker became the first customer, and when he is town, you usually find him there.

Another "regular" couple is Joe and Anne Frierson who were dining at Slater's one night; one of Anne's favorite side dishes is lemongarlic artichoke. It was not on Slater's menu. A call went out to Trent at The Expat and he answered Anne's request, hoofing less than a hundred yards away post haste. That was an extraordinarily special delivery, but something you expect from the proprietors and staff.

Add to all that this frequent scene: Mark and Mindy Horne, who live on Milledge Circle, would call Trent for another special delivery request. Mindy would meet Trent with a big dish and her credit card, handing all over the fence between the restaurant and the Hornes' backyard. When the tiramisu is baked, the over-the-fence exchange takes place again.

That would never happen in a metropolitan city. It only happens in the Classic City when restaurateurs like the Slaters hang out one of their many shingles.

The United States of America, it's still beautiful after all these years

Like many of you, I've spent the last few weeks enjoying the impressions of visitors from all over the world, converging on America for a soccer tournament. It's been a great reminder for many of us of how much we take for granted.

They've demonstrated their love for Waffle House, Buc ee's, SUV's, and even air conditioning. They've also reminded us that despite what we read online and see in our news every day, America – on the verge of turning 250 – is an awesome place to live.

Rather than write a piece recounting their trips, however, I'm going to take the rest of this week off and recycle some of my observations, from a column I wrote when I returned from a coast to coast all-American road trip in the late spring of 2019.

That trip helped me fall in love with America again. I hope you're able to celebrate freedom and indepen-

dence this week, and if necessary, reconsider what this union of states means to us, and to the rest of the world.

I spent the last few weeks checking off a bucket list item. There's just too much of this country I had not yet seen, and by playing aggressive defense on my calendar I was able to piece together the time for an extended road trip. 22 states and 8,027 rental car miles later, I'm back at the home office in Georgia.

The goal was to see the northwest quadrant of the country. I've also wanted to drive up the Pacific Coast Highway since I first saw a small stretch of it almost thirty years ago. To get there involved a route through Nashville and up to St. Louis, west over to Monterrey, north up the coast to Seattle, and returning east back to Wisconsin to make the southern turn home.

For those who haven't yet experienced it, this is a beautiful country. The cliffs



CHARLIE HARPER
GEORGIA POLITICS

and beaches of central California do look a bit different than those in Oregon, but both are breathtakingly stunning. There's still snow on Pike's Peak in Colorado despite unseasonably warm temperatures throughout the western U.S.

The "big sky" in Montana meets beautiful rivers at the base of rolling hills and mountains. Lake Tahoe juxtaposes alpine views with summer shore-

lines. The great Salt Lake is a well-known, but the sandy swamp along the freeway leading west to the Bonneville Salt Flats in Western Utah is a natural wonder unto itself.

Madison Wisconsin combines the college-town charm of Athens with the architectural beauty of Washington, D.C. The weather in Silicon Valley helps me understand why people pay what it costs to live there. Even though the tourist experiences of St. Louis' Gateway Arch and Seattle's Space Needle may be a bit hokey (and pricey), both provide views that frame their parts of the country magnificently.

As I was originally told as a young man and have relearned the hard way many times as I have aged, beauty is only skin deep. The beauty of America has never really been about our amber waves of grain or our fruited plains. It's in our people. Luckily, I was able to spend

enough time outside of the rental car to experience that, too.

There was beauty in the synchronized service of the five waitresses at the breakfast diner in Council Bluffs Iowa, who managed to attend to the "usuals" in a room full of well-known patrons while making an obvious tourist feel welcome (and full) simultaneously. There was equal beauty in the night manager of a Cheyenne Wyoming hotel who wanted each of her guests, even for just one night, to feel "at home" and a part of her community.

There is beauty in the optimism of a fellow restaurant patron in Rapid City South Dakota who had just changed career fields for a better opportunity. There was more from the mother in Omaha Nebraska that was proud of the scholarship offers for her graduating son, but who was equally concerned as to how much advice she should be

giving him as he prepares to chart his own future.

There is beauty in the quiet dignity of 95-year-old Tuskegee Airman Franklin Macon, who as part of the Greatest Generation has yet to fully retire as an aviation mechanic. Even more beautiful is that he spends most of his current time and energy trying to teach the youngest generation life lessons in getting over obstacles life will put in their way.

Helping me to see this beauty was a complete avoidance of social media and the flat refusal to discuss politics with those along the way. It's easier to see what unites us when side stepping things that divide us.

America is truly a beautiful country, and you too should make a point to see it. In red states, blue states, and in our purple mountain majesties, the beauty goes well beyond our vistas. It is, and remains, in our people.

Dick Yarbrough: Remembering a big brother and his big influence

This is going to be a bit up-close-and personal. For the first time in my life, I am without my big brother. Robert Earl Yarbrough, Jr. passed away and it feels surreal. He has always been there. Had he not, I probably wouldn't be here today. He was not my big brother by size. He was big by his influence in my life. He was like an extra parent.

Bob was a generation older, which tells you my arrival was likely not a planned event. When I started grammar school, he was finishing high school. When I graduated high school, he had already graduated college, was married and had a child. What could we possibly have in common other than the same last name? The answer is complicated. He was a role model that I spent years trying to emulate. It wasn't always easy and I didn't do it well at times.

There was no question in anyone's mind that Bob was going to be successful. He was buttoned down from the start. Quiet. Disciplined. I was the bratty little brother who once hid in the backseat when he took his squeeze to the drive-in. He wasn't happy. He was even less happy when I pulled the same stunt as he headed off to Florida with his buddies.

However, he was forgiv-



DICK YARBROUGH

ing enough that when I got written reprimands from teachers that my parents were supposed to see and sign, I could talk him into signing because his handwriting was identical to our mother's. It required a lecture that I not do it again. We both knew that wasn't going to happen. Just sign the note, please.

It was a bit of a surprise when Bob announced he was going to college. Our parents, growing up in the rural South never got beyond the 7th grade. Our cousins on both sides of the family, with one exception, did not go to college. Some never even finished high school.

It was a turning point in my life, as well. As I mentioned, he was my role model. Anything he did I was going to do. Graduating from the University of Georgia is one of the seminal events in

my life, but it never would have happened had he not graduated from there himself. Had he chosen to become a mechanic, I would have been changing points and plugs in Ford Fairlanes as soon as I was out of high school.

Bob joined the magazine publishing business in the mailroom while in high school and –no surprise – worked his way up to executive vice president of the company. In the meantime, I spent a few years in broadcasting before joining Southern Bell, determined to work my own way up the corporate ladder. It became a competition, at least on my part, and brought with it some tension.

As spokesman for the company, my name and face were in the media frequent-

ly. That was not always a good thing. Sometimes, I was trying to explain a corporate gaffe. But, nonetheless, his little brother was high profile, and I think he got tired of hearing about it.

Bob moved to Chicago and became president of a trade magazine company there. I went off to Washington as a public affairs director for AT&T and later became an officer of Bell-South.

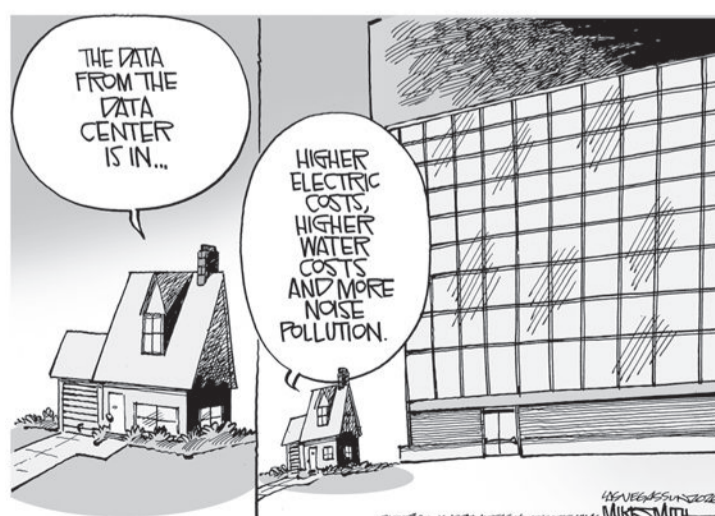
He retired and moved to Gainesville to be close to his two daughters and their families. He became a hospital chaplain and was involved in a ministry that taught financial principles. I moved on to the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games and then to churning out these opinions weekly. We stayed in touch

nominally, but each in his own orbit.

And then things changed. After Bob lost his soulmate of 69 years, Bebe, and I lost The Beloved Woman Who Shared My Name, we began an occasional phone call to check on each other. That soon turned into a regular Sunday night at 6 PM ritual. We called it the No News call because all we talked about were our aches and pains, our families and how

much we hated technology. We dropped all the barriers we had built up over the years. The competition was gone, replaced by brotherly love and mutual respect. A memory I will treasure.

I will miss Bob, but I am glad I got to tell him what an enormous influence he had on my life. I am here because he was there. Thank you, big brother. Rest in peace.



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Fireworks season is here: A public service announcement

During last year's Fourth of July celebrations more than 13,000 Americans reported to emergency rooms across the country due to fireworks-related injuries. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, that number was down from over 14,700 in 2024.

How many people lost fingers, or worse, in backyard explosions is unknown. I don't think there is a commission that keeps up with that. At least not publicly. You can assume around 1,700, if my math is correct.

With the United States' 250th birthday approaching, it's a safe bet that more people will be enjoying amateur pyrotechnics this year than in a long time. And why not? Few things cel-

brate freedom quite like turning your backyard into southern Lebanon with colorful blasts of gunpowder.

That's a topical geopolitical joke. Try to keep up.

I can remember when fireworks were illegal in Georgia. To get your hands on a Roman candle or a string of firecrackers you had to sneak them back from a family vacation or have a shady uncle who frequently visited the state line and came back with what were essentially little sticks of dynamite.

Now you can get them anywhere. I was buying a gallon of milk the other day and right next to the check-out line, adjacent to the candy, chewing gum and other impulse buys, was a display case full of colorfully pack-



By **KYLE DOMINY**

aged explosives.

We can thank the ancient Chinese for the invention of fireworks. Dating back to the Song Dynasty, firework technicians would pack gunpowder into bamboo tubes. It was not long before

they discovered that adding powdered chemicals would produce colorful blasts of light.

These pyrotechnicians of old were highly revered members of society. Their wares were sought-after

commodities used in festivals and religious ceremonies. Now we've got Geech and Skeeter, not a full hand of digits or complete set of teeth between 'em, all rockets red glare at all hours of the night for any ol' excuse.

Don't get me wrong, I love fireworks and I think our Founding Fathers would want us to have access to them. Besides, fireworks were a part of the very first Independence Day celebration in 1777, one year after the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence. But like many things, excess has taken the magic out of fireworks.

Few large tourist attractions do not include a nightly fireworks display; most major sporting events have celebratory explo-

sions. They are a common sighting from small towns to mega metropolitan areas. Fireworks displays are much like parades, if you have seen one, you've seen them all.

We don't shoot off many fireworks in my family these days. We have too many dogs, and most dogs come pre-installed with PTSD. Loud noises make them cower or act rashly, like they are having flashbacks from Nam.

If you're going to celebrate this Fourth of July with a personal fireworks extravaganza, please do so safely. Secure your pets, stop at a reasonable hour and keep some ice handy.

You know, for when you blow your finger off.

DID YOU KNOW...?

Was the lead role in a popular 1960s sitcom originally held by someone else?

By **JACK BAGLEY**

Georgia Trust For Local News

This Saturday is the Fourth of July, which in itself is a wonderful day. But this year, it's extra-special. You see, this year's Independence Day is the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the symbolic thumbing of the nose to King George III of Great Britain by the American colonists. A pretty nasty war followed that, but once the war was over, these 13 formerly British colonies became a new nation, the one in which you and I live. (Unless you live somewhere else.) So Happy 250th birthday, America, and let's get on with the trivia!

Did you know...

... about 0.5% of the entire world's male population is believed to be descended from a single man? The man was Genghis Khan (1162-1227), who is believed to have fathered between

1,000 and 3,000 children during his time leading conquests for the Mongol Empire. Those children's male descendants make up the single largest group whose lineage could be traced to one person in the world today. (Talk about someone who got around! I'll bet the child support payments were astronomical.)

... an airline lost one of its jets for 13 years, only to find it was under their nose all the time? In 2012, an Air India Boeing 737 jet was decommissioned and removed from the airline's records. The plane itself, however, was left in a parking area at Kolkata airport, and airport officials dutifully sent the airline bills for parking fees. The airline disputed the bills, saying they didn't have a plane there – until 2025, when an official of the airline arrived at the airport to discuss the situation and a worker pointed to the jet, effectively saying, "There it

is." The airline sheepishly admitted it was indeed their jet, arranged for its removal, and most importantly paid the thirteen years of back parking fees. (No wonder it costs so much to fly.)

... armadillos are practically bullet-proof? (If you choose to test that, remember, I have nothing to do with it.)

... ancient Olympic athletes competed naked? It was believed that being nude while performing athletic events brought the athlete closer to the gods. (Can you imagine the ratings if the modern Olympics were conducted that way?)

... the iconic star of a 1960s sitcom was not the first person in the role? From 1967 to 1970, Sally Field (born 1946) starred in *The Flying Nun*, a situation comedy on ABC. Field had initially been offered the role after the cancellation of her earlier series *Gidget*, but she thought

the premise of the show – a novice nun who could fly due to high winds and a starched corset – was silly. She passed on the role, and the producers began filming the pilot with their second choice, actress Ronne Troup (born 1945). But after Field had a rather serious conversation with her stepfather Jock Mahoney (1919-1989), she changed her mind, putting Troup out of a job and causing all of the scenes she had filmed to be re-shot. Additional trivia note: Field reportedly hated the role and the concept of the series, and following its cancellation she was concerned about being typecast. Fortunately, she was able to work in several serious movies in the years following *The Flying Nun*, and her career did not suf-

fer for her having played the role. (I guess wanting to eat and live indoors causes a lot of actors to take roles they don't really want to play.)

... a popular brand of tortilla chips has a different name in Sweden? Doritos ranch flavor chips are called "American flavor" in that Scandinavian country, because Swedish people are totally unfamiliar with ranch flavor. (So, ranch flavor is what America tastes like?)

... a president's wife is believed (in some circles) to have killed him? When President Warren G. Harding (1865-1923) died in San Francisco, rumors circulated that he had been poisoned by his wife, Florence (1860-1924), as retaliation for his numerous extra-marital affairs. The

fact that Mrs. Harding refused to allow an autopsy to be performed fed those rumors. Historians, however, believe Harding died of a heart attack, and Florence was not involved in his death. (Sure.)

... you can see stars up to 4,000 light-years away with the naked eye? With one colossal exception – the Andromeda galaxy is visible to the naked eye, and it's 2.5 million light-years away from Earth. (Andromeda ... now that's a heavenly body.)

... identical twins are not totally identical? While they may look alike, sound alike, and even have the same basic DNA, there is one major difference – they have unique fingerprints. (If you want to get technical about it.)

Now... you know!

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS FOR SERVICE LINE INVENTORY FOR THE CITY OF GORDON, GEORGIA

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Gordon, Georgia at Gordon City Hall, 115 College Street, Gordon, Georgia 31031 until 10:00 a.m. local time, Thursday, July 30, 2026 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read. No submitted bid may be withdrawn after the scheduled closing time for receipt of bids for a period of sixty (60) days.

A Utility Contractors License is not required for bidding.

The work to be done consists of furnishing all materials, equipment and labor necessary to determine service line material on all water services 2 inches in diameter and smaller.

Time allotted for contract is 60 consecutive calendar days for substantial completion.

Proposals for the complete work in one general contract shall be made on the proposal form provided and shall contain prices in words and figures for the work bid on.

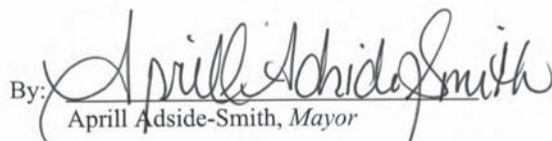
The project is proposed to be funded with a State Revolving Fund loan. All SRF requirements apply. Special attention is directed to page GEFA-7 of the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority Supplemental Conditions.

Specifications are open to public inspection at the office of the City of Gordon, Georgia and at the offices of Turnipseed Engineers in Augusta and Atlanta, Georgia.

Plans and specifications must be obtained at <https://turnipseed.com/current-projects/out-for-bid/>. A digital copy of the plans and specifications as well as one (1) printed copy of the specifications will be provided upon receipt of \$100.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive informalities.

CITY OF GORDON, GEORGIA

By: 
April Adside-Smith, Mayor

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.

Invitation for Bids/Request for Proposals by Twiggs County, Georgia

Twiggs County is seeking to purchase a new or used F-250, 4-door, 4 WD Truck in a new, or good to like-new condition. The Truck must be a 2020 or newer model, automatic, air conditioning, new or like-new tires, and in excellent condition. Seller to provide a Car Fax report on the Truck with the Bid/Request for Proposal ("Bid/RFP"). Salvage titles are not acceptable.

Twiggs County invites offerors to submit a Bid/RFP for the sale of a Truck meeting these conditions to Twiggs County.

All Bid/RFPs must be received by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, July 15, 2026. All Bid/RFPs must be signed; late Bid/RFPs will not be considered. Bid/RFPs for the Truck will be sealed and not opened until Thursday, July 16, 2026, at 9 a.m. at the Twiggs County Board of Commissioners Meeting at the Twiggs County Court House located at 425 N. Railroad Street, Jeffersonville, Georgia 31044.

As allowed by Georgia law, this Invitation for Bid/RFP expressly provides that:

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

In accordance with the Bid/RFP, all responsible offerors found by Twiggs County to have submitted a Bid/RFP 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 a Bid/RFP to competing offerors.

Twiggs County specifically reserves all of its rights under Georgia law as to the Bid/RFPs 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 Bid/RFPs, waive technicalities or informalities, and to accept any Bid/RFP that in its judgment best serves the interests of the County and/or is deemed to be best suited for its needs.

If there are any questions please submit such questions in writing to the Twiggs County Board of Commissioners' Office at the address provided above.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

TWIGGS COUNTY

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) - CV PROGRAM

Twiggs County has completed its FY 2021 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-CV) Project. The following activities have been completed:

- Renovation of the health department building.

Twiggs County will hold a public hearing on Thursday, July 9, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at the Twiggs County Board of Commissioners Office located at 25 N. Railroad St #102, Jeffersonville, GA. 31044 to discuss completed activities and to receive public comment. All members of the public are invited to attend this hearing.

Twiggs County is committed to providing all persons with equal access to its services, programs, activities, education, and employment regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, disability, or age. Persons with special needs relating to handicapped accessibility or foreign language may contact Wilmarie Liz, County Administrator, (478)-945-3629 Option (2) prior to July 2, 2026.

Persons with hearing disabilities may use the Georgia Relay Service at (TDD) 1-800-255-0056 or (Voice) 1-800-255-0135.



Legals

Bleckley Co. Legals

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, 2023, 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. Berrhill 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

C26-066
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

C26-063
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

C26-052
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 Tynex 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. Yarbrough, 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

C26-061
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 ACCORDING 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

C26-067
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
RE: ESTATE OF ERNESTINE D. EGAN, DECEASED
A11 creditors of the Estate of Ernestine D. Egan, 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 25th day of June, 2026
Bruce A. Belflower, Executor
470 Mac Thompson Road
Cochran, GA 31014
June 2, 9, 16, 23, 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 to Executor.
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

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

Twiggs Co. Legals

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.
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

T26-045
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
IN RE: ESTATE OF WILLIAM HENRY ADAMS.
June 11, 18, 25, July 2, 2026

All creditors of the estate of William Henry Adams, late of Twiggs County, deceased, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment this 26th day of June 2026 to:
Chelsea Lyman
c/o Attorney: Tim J. Thompson
1900B Northside Crossing
Macon, GA 31210
478-471-9900
July 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026

Wilkinson Co. Legals

W26-057
NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS
STATE OF GEORGIA,
COUNTY OF WILKINSON
All creditors of the estate of Michael Wayne Langford Jr., deceased, as of late May 7, 2026, Wilkinson County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned, according to law, and all persons indebted to said Estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned:
Wilkinson County Probate Court Clerk,
100 Bacon Street Irwinton, Georgia 31042
This is the 23 day of June, 2026.
Donald Lewis Roberts, Attorney
June 2, 9, 16, 23, 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, Toombsboro, 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

W26-054
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

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.


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).

Georgia

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<p>We don't knowingly accept advertisements that discriminate, or intend to discriminate, on any illegal basis. Nor do we knowingly accept employment advertisements that are not bona-fide job offers. All real estate advertisements are subject to the fair housing act and we do not accept advertising that is in violation of the law. The law prohibits discrimination based on color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap or familial status.</p> <p>Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-833-446-1847</p> <p>Don't let the stairs limit your mobility! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today! 1-877-871-3210</p> <p>ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. Call 1-877-553-1109</p> <p>Stroke and Cardiovascular disease are leading causes of death, according to the American Heart Association. Screenings can provide peace of mind or early detection! Contact Life Line Screening to schedule your screening. Special offer - 5 screenings for just \$149. Call 1-855-391-2065</p>	<p>HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material — steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer — up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-866-939-2151</p> <p>SunSetter. America's Number One Awning! Instant shade at the touch of a button. Transform your deck or patio into an outdoor oasis. Up to 10-year limited warranty. Call now and SAVE \$350 today! 1-877-740-0337</p> <p>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</p> <p>WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP: A small amount of water can lead to major damage to your home. Our trusted professionals dry out the wet area and do repairs to protect your family and your home's value! If you have water in your home that needs to be dried, call 24/7: 1-877-625-0433. Have zip code of service location ready when you call!</p> <p>ELECTRICAL SERVICES: Reliable & experienced. Competitive rates. From simple household problems to installing a brand new electrical system, we can take care of it all! Call now and have the zip code of the service location when you call! 1-877-917-6746</p> <p>NEED NEW FLOORING? Call today schedule a FREE in-home estimate on Carpeting & Flooring. Call Today! 1-877-914-0502</p>	<p>PEST CONTROL: PROTECT YOUR HOME from pests safely and affordably. Roaches, Bed Bugs, Rodent, Termite, Spiders and other pests. Locally owned and affordable. Call for service or an inspection today! 1-877-236-3738. Have zip code of property ready when calling!</p> <p>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</p> <p>MISCELLANEOUS</p> <p>YMT Vacations. Over 50 guided tours available. Affordable, social and stress-free travel designed for mature travelers. Our tours include accommodations, transportation, baggage handling, sightseeing, entrance fees, a professional Tour Director and select meals. For a limited time SAVE \$250 on all tours. Call YMT today. 1-855-548-2623</p> <p>BANKRUPTCY RELIEF! Help stop Creditor Harassment, Collection Calls, Repossession and Legal Actions! Speak to a Professional Attorney and Get the Help You NEED! Call NOW 855-968-5222</p> <p>BEHIND ON YOUR MORTGAGE PAYMENTS? Threatened with foreclosure? Denied a loan modification? Let us help! Call the Homeowner Relief Line to speak with a mortgage specialist. 844-797-7162</p> <p>Wesley Financial Group LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 866-411-5215</p>	<p>SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY BENEFITS. Unable to work? Denied benefits? We Can Help! Strong, recent work history needed. Call to start your application or appeal today! 877-627-2704</p> <p>Moving Out of State? Licensed and insured, full-service nationwide movers. Call now to get a free, instant price quote on your next move. 1-866-590-6443</p> <p>DONATE YOUR CAR TO KIDS. Your donation helps fund the search for missing children and preventing abduction. Accepting Cars, Trucks and Vans. Fast Free Pickup - Running or Not May Qualify for Tax Deduction - Call (888) 515-3813.</p> <p>TV/INTERNET</p> <p>Get Dish Satellite TV + Internet! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-866-369-1468</p> <p>COMPUTER ISSUES? FREE DIAGNOSIS by GEEKS ON SITE! Virus Removal, Data Recovery! 24/7 EMERGENCY \$20 OFF ANY SERVICE with coupon 42522! Restrictions apply. 844-739-4842</p> <p>WANTED</p> <p>We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-877-399-2113</p> <p>TOP CASH PAID FOR OLD GUITARS! 1920-1980 Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild, Mosrite, Rickencbacker, Prairie State, D'Angelico, Stromberg. And Gibson Mandolins / Banjos. 1-877-515-0329</p>
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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

W26-055
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

New laws alter penalties, programs, protections

By TY TAGAMI
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — New state laws take effect Wednesday, bringing new mandates that will change life for Georgians in both obvious and unseen ways.

The laws that were passed this year and signed by Gov. Brian Kemp will affect everything from health and housing to safety and schooling. There are new laws concerning religion, relationships and a child named Rio. Some were controversial and some were unifying. Here are highlights of laws that take effect on July 1.

Consumers

Pennies are only for thoughts, after the U.S. Mint decided copper was too valuable to forge into coins destined for the bottom of fountains. House Bill 1112, which passed the state Senate unanimously and the House nearly so, requires merchants to round cash transactions at the register to the nearest nickel when customers lack exact change.

Senate Bill 439 regulates referral agencies for senior services, requiring them to disclose potential conflicts of interest by revealing relationships they have with the assisted living communities or personal care homes that they are recommending. Covered relationships include payments, ownership shares and other arrangements that could bias referrals. Enforcement falls to the state attorney general.

Development

Senate Bill 447 seeks to reduce development costs by expediting local building inspections. It gives local governments two days to notify applicants of deficiencies in their permit applications and requires more clarity around reasons for denial. The law also sets a January 2028 deadline for certain localities to establish websites with real-time permit tracking.

Drugs

Patients who have a prescription for medical marijuana can now get stronger and fast-

er-acting doses. Senate Bill 220 lifts the state's limit on THC content in medical marijuana and lets patients vape for faster relief. Georgia had a low adoption rate among the 42 states with medical marijuana programs, with about 34,500 registered patients and 2,200 registered caregivers when the Legislature was in session in the spring.

Education

Senate Bill 556 establishes a state-funded college scholarship for Georgia students from low-income households. The DREAMS Scholarship will begin disbursing aid in the fall from \$325 million in state seed money. The program ends Georgia's distinction as one of only two states in the nation without a need-based college scholarship.

Lawmakers also expanded a nearly two-decade-old program that funnels taxpayer dollars to primary and secondary students attending a private school. House Bill 328 increases the annual total cap on tax credits for contributions to Georgia's student scholarship organizations to \$150 million. The organizations allocate a portion of their proceeds to students in payments that the state calls scholarships but that critics call vouchers.

The new law also relaxes eligibility for some, exempting military families and students with intellectual or developmental disabilities from the requirement that they first enroll in a low-performing public school. That is the general eligibility requirement for students entering the program after first grade.

Donors who give money for scholarships can get all of it back as a credit off their state taxes. The statewide cap was \$120 million, up from \$50 million when lawmakers created the scholarships in 2008.

Senate Bill 150 extends a program that helps public schools fill teacher shortages by paying retired teachers in high-demand areas to return to the classroom while collecting their pensions. The program was to expire Wednesday but will now continue another four years.

Senate Bill 552, the True Patriotism and Universal Student Access Act, honors slain conservative activist Charlie Kirk by using the same acronym as the organization he founded, Turning Point USA. It requires equal access to public school facilities for student meetings, prohibiting denial of access for political or ideological reasons.

Homeownership

Residents in neighborhoods governed by condominium and homeowner associations are getting new rights from Senate Bill 406. Most of the mandates for accountability and transparency in the levy of fees and fines — and

for limitations on foreclosures — will take effect in January. But a section regulating the associations' authority to extract attorney's fees from homeowners in payment disputes is now in effect, requiring review by judges in bench trials.

Religion

Imams, ministers, priests, rabbis and other clergy members now risk prison if they have sex with someone with whom they have a "pastoral counseling or spiritual authority relationship." Senate Bill 542 establishes penalties, from a misdemeanor to a felony punishable by up to 25 years in prison and a \$100,000 fine, with exceptions for married couples.

The concept is similar to existing laws that prohibit sexual relationships involving an authority figure when there is a power imbalance. For instance, sexual encounters between school employees and students are forbidden, as are such relationships between parole officers and their charges, hospital employees and patients, psychotherapists and their clients, police and those they arrest, and correctional officers and inmates with a disability.

Safety

Mason Sells was 20 when his heart stopped during an intramural soccer match at Mercer University two years ago. His death, which was caused by a soccer ball kicked to his chest, led to Senate Bill 399. The Mason Sells AED Coordination Act requires everyone with an automated external defibrillator to notify 911 of its location. It also gives 911 operators until the end of next year to get trained in how to coach callers to use the devices and to administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Senate Bill 433 establishes a specialty license plate for people with autism or a developmental disability. Rio's Law, named after a boy with autism, also requires training for police to avoid escalations during encounters with people who have those conditions.

Senate Bill 443 increases the financial exposure for protesters who block streets by enhancing the charge for the offense from a misdemeanor to a high and aggravated misdemeanor. Those convicted could still get up to a year in jail, but now they may also be fined up to \$5,000 and could be sued by motorists and others for damages, such as for lost wages or medical costs.

House Bill 1230 makes it a felony to fly a drone over a jail or prison for criminal purposes, authorizing law enforcement agencies and officers to jam, hack and seize the aircraft. The measure is a reaction to the increasing use of unmanned aircraft to deliver drugs, weapons and other contraband to inmates.

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
Irwin, GA 31042
(478)-946-2222

June 18, 25, July 2, 9, 2026

THE CITY OF WARNER ROBINS
INDEPENDENCE DAY
CELEBRATION
& Fireworks Extravaganza!

KOOL & the GANG

phillip PHILLIPS

SATURDAY, JULY 4

FREE SHOW | OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

GATES OPEN 6:00PM

MCCONNELL TALBERT STADIUM PARKING LOT

A J T H E D J

AMERICA 250 WR

WARNER ROBINS GEORGIA

GAM VANCE