

Twiggs BOE reappoints interim superintendent for 2026-2027 school year

By CAROLINE WEATHERSBY
Staff Reporter

Twiggs County Interim Superintendent Tyrone Bacon will continue to serve as interim superintendent throughout the 2026-27 school year, Twiggs County Public Schools announced Thursday.

The Board of Education made the decision to reappoint Bacon to serve in his current role until the end of the school year in 2027, when he says he plans to retire.

Bacon addressed the board's decision on social media.

"I am grateful to the Twiggs County Board of Education for the confidence they have placed in me to continue serving as Interim Superintendent for the 2026-2027 school year," Bacon wrote. "This decision provides the stability and continuity our district needs as we address our financial challenges and continue building a stronger future for our students, employees, families, and community."

According to Bacon, his role as interim superintendent will come to an end at the completion of the school year.

"I...want to be transparent that I plan to retire at the conclusion of the 2026-2027 school year. Until then, my focus will remain on preparing this district and its people for the future," he wrote.

"Over the past 14 years, I have grown to deeply love and respect

TWIGGS BOE
Continued on page 8



Tyrone Bacon speaking at a board meeting in June /Photo courtesy of Twiggs County Public Schools



New Heart of Georgia United Way Director Elaina Powell, left, was recently hired while Denise Creel is set to retire on July 31. They preparing for a UGA football fundraiser that will be held on Aug. 20/PAYTON TOWNS III

Heart of Georgia United Way prepares for new leader, embraces new cancer initiative

By PAYTON TOWNS III
Georgia Trust For Local News

Changes are happening at the Heart of Georgia United Way with a new executive director and a new initiative with an Atlanta college to help those with prostate cancer.

Elaina Powell will be the next executive director for the program with Denise Creel retiring on July 31 after serving in that position for two years.

Powell previously worked at Easterseals Middle Georgia as its marketing coordinator and development officer. She gained extensive experience in fundraising and social media marketing.

"I put together new events for them, and will be doing much of the same stuff here," Powell said. "This will be taking that creativity and helping The United Way grow with their fundraising here. I want to be able to help more non-profits

in the community."

The partnering agencies for the Heart of Georgia United Way are American Red Cross, Dublin-Laurens Teen Court, Healthy Start, The Salvation Army, Stepping Stone, The Lighthouse Adult Day Care, TLC CASA and WINGS.

"These groups work with those from birth up to seniors," Powell said. "I love the fact that The United Way helps out the community in more ways than just one. They are very versatile. The money raised gets put into multiple places and for multiple causes."

Not too long ago, Clark University in Atlanta reached out to The Heart of Georgia United Way to partner with Healthy Start to begin an initiative to benefit prostate cancer patients.

"They wanted a rural community," Powell said. "That will be important. We'll be able to team up and get a lot done with that. There is a lot of help

out there, especially out of the Atlanta area. It's just connecting with the rural community. I'm excited about bringing knowledge from out-of-town."

The Heart of Georgia United Way has come a long way since Creel took the helm two years ago. At that time, the organization was re-establishing all of their contacts with the local businesses and industries. COVID put a damper on the organization for the counties it serves in Laurens, Johnson, Bleckley, Treutlen, Telfair and Dodge Counties.

"I think we have come a long way," Creel said. "We got things back on track so it is being run like it is supposed to be run. Our partnering agencies are getting money like they are supposed to be getting money. We are in the community like we are supposed to be in the community

UNITED WAY
Continued on page 8

Cochran man charged with multiple crimes following hit-and-run



Shawn Joseph Biron of Cochran was charged with Hit and Run, Failure to Render Aid and Failure to Stop at a Stop Sign, following a hit-and-run last Sunday/CAROLINE WEATHERSBY

By CAROLINE WEATHERSBY
Staff Reporter

A Cochran man has been charged with multiple crimes following a hit-and-run on July 19.

According to officials, deputies with the Bleckley County Sheriff's Office responded to a reported hit-and-run collision involving a limousine at the intersection of Ga. 87 and Ga. 257 around 10 p.m. Sunday night.

After conducting an investigation, the sheriff's office identified Shawn Joseph Biron of Cochran as the missing suspect and obtained warrants for his arrest.

On July 24, Biron, 56, was charged with Hit and Run, Failure to Render Aid and Failure to Stop at a Stop Sign.

Officials say that while attempting to serve the warrants, the sheriff's office learned that Biron was receiving treatment at a medical facility and could not be placed under arrest.

Biron is expected to be taken into custody following his release from the treatment center.

The victims were reportedly a mother and her three young children. The mother, Rachel Taylor, has since spoken about the situation on social media.

"You almost killed my three boys and I, in the hit and run," Taylor wrote. "You cannot hide forever."

The sheriff's office reminds the public that all individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Periodical — Mail Label

Macon woman killed in single-vehicle crash

By CAROLINE WEATHERSBY
Staff Reporter

A Macon woman was pronounced dead Monday evening following a single-vehicle car crash. Tara Sue Johnson, 50, was identified as the driver by officials.

According to a report by the Georgia State Patrol, Johnson was traveling north along Highway 18 at 6:12 p.m. when she left the roadway and struck a tree, causing her death. Officers arrived on scene minutes later.

Officers found that Johnson was reportedly traveling "too fast for the conditions of the road," according to the report, causing her to leave the roadway on the east shoulder and begin spinning out. At the time of the incident, Johnson was driving a white GMC Yukon XL.

Once the car left the roadway, the Yukon continued to rotate with Johnson inside of it, traveling 77 feet from the road where it ultimately made contact with a tree, stopping the car.

No other injuries were reported.



SNAPSHOTS:
CITY OF MCINTYRE
PLANT TREES AT
PUMP HOUSE

On behalf of the Mayor of McIntyre, Vicki Home, the employees, celebrated Arbor Day on June 15 by planting trees at the McIntyre City Hall Pump House /SPECIAL PHOTO

CORRECTION

A story published in the June 4 edition of the Times Journal Post regarding an arrest in the death of Tylan Horne incorrectly identifies the location of the incident. The story reported the shooting occurred in Horne's home. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation did not identify the residence as such. This case remains under investigation.

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BankSouth invests \$25,000 in Bleckley Memorial Hospital through the Georgia HEART Program

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES JOURNAL POST

BankSouth announced a \$25,000 contribution through the Georgia HEART Rural Hospital Tax Credit Program to support Bleckley Memorial Hospital and the Hospital Authority of Bleckley County. As a qualifying rural hospital, Bleckley Memorial benefits directly from this program, which allows individuals and businesses to direct a portion of their state income tax liability to support rural healthcare facilities.

State Bank of Cochran, a division of BankSouth, has enjoyed a long-standing relationship with Bleckley Memorial Hospital. This contribution will help Bleckley Memorial Hospital and the Hospital Authority continue investing in high-quality healthcare close to home. By building on State Bank of Cochran's legacy of community involvement, BankSouth remains committed to strengthening the communities it serves.

"We are incredibly proud to support Bleckley Memorial Hospital and the Hospital Authority of Bleckley County through the Georgia HEART Program," said John Phillips, Advisory Board Chair of State Bank of Cochran. "Our Cochran team has deep roots here, and our relationship with Bleckley Memorial Hospital spans many years."

"As a community bank, investing in organizations that strengthen our communities isn't just something we do; it's part of who we are," said Harold Reynolds, CEO of BankSouth. "When our local hospitals succeed, our communities are healthier, stronger, and better positioned for the future."

"Bleckley Memorial Hospital is incredibly fortunate to have a true community partner in BankSouth,

especially given the deep, lasting ties between our organizations," said John Roland, CEO of Bleckley Memorial Hospital. "This generous \$25,000 contribution through the Georgia HEART Program stays right here in our community, helping us upgrade equipment, support our staff, and keep top-tier medical care close to home."

Through the Georgia HEART Program, Georgia taxpayers can direct a portion of their state income tax liability to qualified rural hospitals in exchange for a 100% state income tax credit, subject to program limits. Businesses may also qualify for additional federal tax benefits. These contributions provide critical funding that helps rural hospitals expand services, invest in technology, and continue delivering exceptional care close to home.

For more information about the Georgia HEART Rural Hospital Tax Credit Program or to designate a contribution to Bleckley Memorial Hospital, visit www.georgiaheart.org.

About BankSouth

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Bleckley Memorial Hosptial Heart Program Donation 1: (From left to right) John Phillips, Jackie Bowen, Jed Evans, Angie Lewis, Harold Reynolds, Brian Arnold and Bryce McCuin/SPECIAL PHOTO



Bleckley Memorial Hosptial Heart Donation 2: Leadership Team (Department Directors) of Bleckley Memorial Hospital with representatives from State Bank of Cochran and BankSouth/SPECIAL PHOTO

Trump travels to Georgia to tout policies, promote GOP candidates

By TY TAGAMI
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — President Donald Trump visited Wheeler High School in Cobb County Wednesday to talk about the midterm elections, the impact of his policies on the economy and new tax-advantaged retirement accounts for children created under his administration.

He also talked about what he called the "skirmish" in Iran, saying the Iranian government was not yet ready to negotiate peace.

Prior to his arrival in Georgia, Trump had gone to Dover Air Force Base to salute the remains of four service members killed in the conflict.

Among them was Army 1st Lt. Tyler James Feeha, whose family is from the Marietta area. Trump gave them a ride home on Air Force One, and they attended his event at Wheeler High.

Trump said Iran cannot be allowed to obtain nuclear weapons.

Trump has endorsed U.S. Rep. Mike Collins for U.S. Senate, with the hope of unseating Democratic U.S. Sen. Jon Ossoff.

Collins skipped Trump's event, saying in a social media post that he had important votes to cast in Washington. Trump concurred from the stage, saying he ordered Collins to remain at the Capitol to vote on farming and military bills.

Trump used his visit to make it clear that other candidates for state office in Georgia had his "complete and total endorsement," including state Rep. Tim Fleming, R-Covington, who is running for secretary of state, and two state senators — Brian Strickland, R-McDonough, for attorney general, and Greg Dolezal, R-Cumming, for lieutenant

governor.

Trump had endorsed the current lieutenant governor, Burt Jones, during Jones' primary campaign for governor. But after Jones' loss last month to political newcomer Rick Jackson, Trump switched to the winning candidate.

Trump invited Jackson onto the stage with him to talk about the retirement accounts for children, which are being called "Trump accounts."

They are available to any American under age 18, but babies born during Trump's current term will get a \$1,000 contribution from the federal government.

Jackson said that if he wins against Democrat Keisha Lance Bottoms, he will urge the General Assembly to match that \$1,000. The wealthy entrepreneur pledged to fund the matching contributions out of his own pocket if the Legislature refused.

Before Trump's arrival, those other candidates took the stage to tout the tax-advantaged savings accounts,

which were established by the One Big Beautiful Bill Act last year and took effect on July 4.

Also praising the new Trump accounts as transformational investments were U.S. Small Business Administration Administrator Kelly Loeffler, Education Secretary Linda McMahon and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent.

Trump said the accounts would grow with the stock market, expanding to hundreds of thousands of dollars in value by the time newborns become adults.

But before his arrival, Bessent gave the crowd a slightly different estimate.

"Millions of American youth are now able to watch their investment accounts compound in real time from a couple thousand dollars in kindergarten to an estimated half a million dollars by retirement age," he said.

Whether that will help the GOP in November, amid widespread frustration with the high costs for gasoline, groceries and other daily staples, is an open question.

Democrats see affordability as a clear line of attack.

Liz Pancotti, a vice president of the left-leaning Groundwork Collaborative in Washington, D.C., said in an interview Tuesday that the accounts would do little to address financial pressures on households in the near term.

Trump also touted the tax cuts he signed into law last year, but Pancotti said many of the president's other policies, including the

war in Iran and related fuel prices, had wiped out the benefits from tax cuts and refunds for most working people.

Trump's trip to Cobb was in many ways a standard pre-election campaign event, she said. "The problem, of course, is that he has mostly delivered higher prices and a lot of economic pain for American families."

During his time on the stage, Strickland, the candidate for attorney general, said that despite "all the

noise" from those protesters, the Trump accounts were a "real investment" in American families.

"And I'm proud to put my name behind this kind of work," he said.

After Strickland spoke, U.S. Treasurer Brandon Beach, a former Georgia state senator, noted the significance of Trump for GOP candidates.

"President Trump may not be on the ballot," Beach said, "but his policies are."

Attorney
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DID YOU KNOW...?

Is a popular Australian phrase misremembered by people?



By JACK BAGLEY
Georgia Trust For Local News

Did you ever have the feeling you were being watched? I have. I get it every week, right around the time you are reading this silly column. You're watching me, trying to figure out if what I'm saying is accurate and true ... and knowing that it is, since this isn't the first of April. I've gotten used to all the eyes of the world (or whatever portion thereof is reading this) upon me.

And if you like to write, you can contact me at didyouknowcolumn@gmail.com and I always answer, usually quickly! Now, on to the stuff you came to stare at!

Did you know...

... raw kidney beans can poison you? Raw kidney beans contain a chemical called phytohaem-agglutinin (no, I do not know how to pronounce it). This chemical can cause vomiting and headaches after just a small handful of raw beans have been ingested. Cooking the beans removes the chemical from them. (You won't even have time to learn how to pronounce it.)

... a popular breed of dog was bred to protect tax collectors? The Doberman pinscher was a breed developed in Germany in the 19th Century. They were bred to be guard dogs to protect tax collectors, who carried large sums of cash as they traveled through the countryside. They're very good with children and even with cats, as their fierce reputation is more public relations than actual fact. (They don't have to be scary if they look scary.)

... you are literally not the same person you were seven years ago? During a period of seven years, human beings replace every cell in their bodies. The cells you were made of seven years ago have been totally replaced. (And you never even noticed.)

... a popular Australian phrase is misremembered by most people? You may have heard the phrase, "I'll throw another shrimp on the barbie," spoken by Australian actor Paul Hogan (born 1939) in a series of tourism television commercials. Countless people working on an Australian accent quote the phrase ... but the thing is, Hogan never said it. What he did say was, "I'll slip an extra shrimp on the barbie for you." This is another example of the Mandela effect – remembering things as fact that didn't actually happen. (Never mind all that, I'd like my shrimp, please, Paul.)

... a park exists which is dedicated to snack treats? In the town of Collegedale, Tennessee, one can find the Little Debbie Park. This facility has play structures that are shaped like the snacks put out by the Little Debbie snack company – Nutty Buddy Bars, Oatmeal Creme Pies, etc. The land on which the park sits was donated by McKee Foods, owners of the Little Debbie snack brand. (Great place for dessert after the shrimp from the barbie!)

... an American general shut down a German general who complained about protocol at the end of World War II? On May 7, 1945, German Generaloberst Alfred Jodl (1890-1946), who had been sent by the German High Command to sign the surrender that would end the war in Europe, sneered because the Supreme Commander of Allied Forces, General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890-1969), was not there. According to reports, Jodl growled, "Eisenhower didn't even bother to show up." That brought a reply from the Allied officer there to accept the surrender, General Walter Bedell Smith (1895-1961). Smith, known as "Beetle" to the Allied command, replied to Jodl, "General Eisenhower outranks you." Smith was correct: Eisenhower's rank as a five-star general was equivalent to the German grade of field marshal, one rank higher than Jodl at the end of the war. (Rank hath its privileges.)

... Dorothy was originally blonde in The Wizard of Oz? The character of Dorothy Gale had been written as a blonde in the original books by L. Frank Baum (1856-1919), and when costumes were being designed for the classic 1939 movie based on the books, actress Judy Garland (1922-1969) was fitted with a blonde wig in order to keep with the book. However, the director of the movie, George Cukor (1899-1983), nixed the idea because he didn't like the way Garland looked with a blonde wig. He felt the wig made Garland look too "sophisticated" to be a Kansas farm girl. (Toto, on the other hand, liked it.)

... white is not a color? To be pedantic, white is the total absence of all color. Black, on the other hand, is the presence of all colors together.

... earlobes have no biological purpose? Scientists who study such things say that the earlobe, which has millions of nerve endings and may play a role in social bonding, actually have no biological purpose for existing. (They do, of course, make a convenient place to hang a pair of eyeglasses.)

Now... you know!

Thoughts on schoolwork and hoarding

Another summer, as far as the school calendar goes, is coming to an end. That means my home will soon be littered with textbooks, worksheets and various scraps of paper. It seems like only yesterday I was hauling a trunk load of recycling to the dump.

It does my heart good to throw things away, even if my children scribbled or doodled on it. That may sound a little hard-hearted, but if I kept every piece of parchment colored or written on by my offspring, I'd soon be overrun with litter. I'd be forced to traverse my home along treacherous pig trails between towers of loose paper. One wrong move or wayward sneeze would leave me buried alive beneath colorful depictions of cartoon characters and hastily calculated long division.

Teachers always want you to show your work, as if calculators don't exist and every cell phone didn't come pre-installed with one. To think of all the moments of my youth squandered, paper and pencil wasted trying to figure out math problems. But then again, how would my life have turned out if I was good with figures? I could be living the face-paced, sexy life of a corporate accountant.

My son has a good head for numbers, so much so that, to his teachers' disdain, he can do a lot of math in his head. He's like some kind of savant. I tried getting him into a casino one time with the ol' two kids in a trench coat trick, but apparently the security guard watched a lot of cartoons.

THE NEW SOUTHERN DAD



By KYLE DOMINY

But back to the accumulation of things ... I do keep a scrapbook of cherished drawings or written things for sentimental purposes, but the rest goes right into the trash. I don't want to end up on that TV show where psychiatrists and cleaning specialists mock help someone so the people at home can feel better about their cluttered homes.

Not too long ago, while helping my parents clean out their attic I came upon a hoard of schoolwork from my childhood. My mother seemingly was incapable of throwing out the things I now so easily toss into the wastebasket. She asked if I wanted to save any of it. You can guess the answer. In the end we did what should have been done decades before - got rid of a ton of paper. My knees hurt for weeks after multiple trips up and down the stairs laden with boxes.

Similarly, my wife's parents saved a lot of her things in large containers that eventually made their way to my garage where they have sat undisturbed for years. I'm dying to haul these bulky, heavy boxes away, but I'm patiently waiting for permission. OK, maybe impatiently. I could just do it and hope it goes unnoticed. It's a victimless crime, and I'd have a corner of my garage back.

That's the problem with saving things. Precious memories from one moment become a chore down the road, or for someone else all together.

So this school year I'm going to do my kids, and future self a favor. I'm going to keep throwing things away.

NOW HERE'S A TIP

By JOANN DERSON
King Features

* When I needed a new tire for my truck because I ran over a nail, the shop guy suggested I purchase a slightly used tire that was closer to the age and wear of the others. I spent less

on the tire, and the tires will wear evenly.

* When baby's teething, try this trick from a grandma: Wet a washcloth and put it in a zip-top baggie in the freezer. When frozen, let the baby chew on it. Its texture and temperature are soothing to little gums, and

it can be rinsed and refrozen easily.

* Dusting shelves with lots of knickknacks can be a real chore. Try slipping a knee-high stocking over the hose of your vacuum wand. You can get very close to the items on the shelf without sucking anything up but

dust. If something did get sucked up, the stocking will catch it for you. This also works for toolboxes.

* Over-the-door shoe racks are perfect for holding a variety of cleaning products and small canisters of wipes. I even store batteries in various sizes there."

TRIVIA TEST

By FIFI RODRIGUEZ
King Features

- 1.) GAMES: What is the goal space in the board game Candy Land?
- 2.) GEOGRAPHY: How many countries and territories border Spain?
- 3.) TELEVISION: What are Captain Picard's two favorite catchphrases in "Star Trek: The Next Generation"?
- 4.) FOOD & DRINK: What is brioche?
- 5.) CHEMISTRY: Which metal has the highest melting point?
- 6.) LITERATURE: Who is credited as the author of "The Odyssey"?
- 7.) U.S. STATES: Which state is home to Acadia National Park?
- 8.) MOVIES: What is the name of Dottie's team in "A League of Their Own"?
- 9.) COMICS: Who is the archenemy of the Fantastic Four?
- 10.) SCIENCE: What is the thickest layer of Earth?

Answers
1.) King Kandy's Castle.
2.) Five – Portugal, France, Andorra, Morocco and the British territory of Gibraltar.
3.) "Make it so" and "Engage."
4.) A rich French bread.
5.) Tungsten.
6.) The poet Homer.
7.) Maine.
8.) The Rockford Peaches.
9.) Doctor Doom.
10.) The mantle.
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2026 Fall Minimester registration is August 19. Classes begin Oct. 12.

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Osage Farms

RABUN GAP – This unincorporated community is a popular place for many reasons. One is that, while it can be blazing hot in the valley, it is pleasantly cool at higher elevations when you retire for the evening.

There are lakes where many residents in the state, particularly in Atlanta, retreat for extended stays in the summer and the warm weather months, these same spots renewing their widespread appeal when the leaves turn into autumnal splendor.

Fall is when trout fishing is something spectacular—exhilarating and one of the best outdoor experiences that one can enjoy in the great state of Georgia.

Rabun County was formed in 1819. The land lottery of 1820 saw land being sold for \$1.00 an acre, but there is a sad hangover for those times in that available land



LORAN SMITH

came when the Indians, primarily Creek and Cherokee, were banished to Oklahoma via the Trail of Tears.

It was the railroad and the building of lakes Burton, Rabun, and Seed that gave this area its greatest appeal and a boost to the economy. Farming has always been an economic staple of the past and still is today.

Although I haven’t done it lately, I have driven an hour and a half from my driveway in Athens to Osage Farms’s fruit and vegetable stand, located at 5030 U. S. Highway 441, for fresh vegetables that make my weekend.

This well-known produce haven is such a remarkable place where you find the best looking and the best tasting fruits and vegetables. Osage is best known for its strawberries, sweet corn, and heirloom tomatoes.

With a modicum of research, I learned that Osage is operated by 5th and 6th generation farmers Clint and Ricky James. I called for information and was fortunate to connect with Ricky’s wife, Melinda, who was very considerate of her time to answer questions from a farm-boy-turned-city-dweller who loves a vegetable plate as passionately as anyone.

When you are taking the farm’s best offerings at Osage, you have unlimited options – everything

from silver queen corn to beans to peas to butterbeans to peppers to spring onions to cabbage—to most anything you can think of.

In the fall when pumpkin season comes in, you can’t find a better pumpkin anywhere than at Osage’s. When there is nothing to harvest, and Christmas season is coming, that’s when Osage patrons can “choose and cut” your own Fraser fir for the holiday season.

The family history dates to early years on Scaly Mountain, which is 14 miles up into North Carolina. In 1972, the family started Osage’s, which has been a centerpiece of that stretch of Highway 441 from Clayton into North Carolina for decades. With their farming success, the family sells considerable produce to grocery chains Piggly Wiggly and Ingles.

Atlanta-based doctors, bankers, and businessmen and their families can’t wait to shop at Osage’s and then enjoy a vegetable dinner, which is a highlight of the

weekend.

The local folk make up the preponderance of their customer clientele, including local restaurants, but they have a link to local celebrities. Both sides of Gunner Stockton’s family come their way and so does Sharon Smart, the mother of a well-known college football coach in Athens. Nick Saban, former Alabama icon, has been known to stop by, along with former Georgia quarterback, Fran Tarkenton.

Doesn’t matter who you are, if you want to eat healthily and live longer, Osage’s farm-fresh produce will fulfill your wishes. This is their philosophy: “When it comes to your health, there is no comparison to freshly picked, high-quality vegetables. We take pride in providing the freshest produce to people throughout the Northeast Georgia area.”

If you do something well for 40 years, you should know what you are doing. That is certainly obvious with the Ricky James family.

Written words: We have yet another side of the literacy problem

The basic template for these weekly columns is that I try to identify a problem and offer solutions and/or roadblocks to achieving them. I also have a few usually unwritten rules and understandings of how politics works. High on that list is that the public will forgive almost anything but hypocrisy.

Combining those two sentences we arrive at a bit of a confession to start this week. I hate to read.

To be more specific, I hate to read books. Always have.

In elementary school I was a “good” reader. I really did think being in an advanced reading group in sixth grade would propel me to great things.

As children’s books turned to novels and dry textbooks, however, I looked elsewhere. I think I honed my sarcasm skills from magazines like Car & Driver and Motor Trend. By the time I was in high school I was a subscriber to Business Week, Newsweek, and Fortune.

I’ve always read to consume information. Twitter and other social media outlets have now become the way I am informed.

I hate the video formats. Give me printed words so that I can parse the meaning. I can go back and re-read as many times as necessary. There’s no need to rewind. No questioning if I heard things correctly or if the person misspoke or was clipped out of context.

Words – written words – are frozen in time. They have currency.

Well before I finished high school I determined I had better uses of my time than to read full books. I read the minimum necessary to complete assignments. I even found Cliff’s Notes tedious and unhelpful.

Many a paper was written on “theme” or “imagery” after first getting one of my older sisters to tell me the basic plot line and characters in an assigned book. It’s a good thing for me that they both loved to read and had an encyclopedic memo-

ry.

I was smart enough to mostly pull this off with acceptable grades. In reality, I was just outsmarting myself. I’m at least fortunate enough to have had some really great teachers who pushed me to at least understand the skill sets I was supposed to be building, even if I found some creative short cuts along the way.

All of that is a confession that I am part of today’s problem. We’re a country that is fast becoming one unable or unwilling to read.

“Literacy” is now a critical issue in states across the country. There is a truism in education, that a child learns to read until the third grade. After that point, the child must be able to read to learn.

The Covid shutdowns accelerated an already troublesome trend. Too many kids are passing third grade without basic literacy skills. The kids in early elementary school during the shutdown are now middle schoolers, and their performance is

proving the axiom.

We have a perhaps even bigger problem in our high schools and our colleges. Too many can no longer read long passages for comprehension. Inference is a skill that seems to be disappearing from standardized tests.

The SAT was revised a couple of years ago, and the reading passages in the verbal portion of the test saw huge changes. Instead of 500-750 word passages with multiple questions following, the test now provides 25-150 words with one question following.

The new format acknowledges the lack of attention span among high school students. It also limits the test’s ability to score for deep inferences.

Once in college, these same students, now well aware they are the “customer” – i.e., revenue source - on campuses, are flat refusing to read entire books assigned by their professors. Many profs are capitulating, and institutionalizing the short cuts I took in



CHARLIE HARPER
GEORGIA POLITICS

high school as a manner to teach the underlying material without burdening the students with reading.

Literacy gets a lot of attention as it should for early childhood education. We’re going to have to figure out the problems of “post-literacy” for adults who learned how to read words, but soon let these skills atrophy into a fully digital world.

I don’t yet have a solution, as to avoid my hypocrisy rule I have to instead admit I was a trailblazer for the problem. I have to first

fix it for myself.

I dug out a box and unpacked books this weekend. Many have moved house to house over the years without their spine ever being flexed. New friends have joined them from Amazon deliveries meant with good intention. A new one will arrive today.

The first four are on my coffee table and nightstand. The first chapters are completed. I learned a few things from the book, as well as that reading glasses are no longer a suggestion.

I hate going to the gym. I’ve done a workout every day for over seven years now because I realized letting muscles atrophy at this age doesn’t bode well for future me.

I’m not yet willing to commit to this same sort of dramatic change in reading, at least not yet. But I can’t very well encourage others to read if I don’t have something I’ve read recently to recommend, either. I won’t ask anyone to forgive that hypocrisy.

Putting God and this tiny little rock called Earth into perspective

Sometimes I start these conversations not knowing where they are going to end. This is one of those times. The subject today concerns current events, the universe and religion. Now, you can see why I don’t know where this is headed. Any one of the topics is complex enough in its own right without mixing them all together.

I think it began with the Artemis 2 lunar flyby of the far side of the moon last April, a total distance of about 695,000 miles and more than 230,000 miles from Earth. Staggering numbers almost beyond human comprehension.

That led me to a series called "How the Universe Works" that had originally aired on the Discovery Channel back in 2011. I found it on HBO Max last month. When you look at the size and scope of the universe, the Artemis 2 trek was like an inch to a million miles or more. This is a big and very complex universe. And this planet we call Earth amounts to one grain of sand on the beaches of St. Simons.

And that gets me to current events. As I write this, we are at war with Iran. Iran is at war with us and our allies. Israel is at war with Islamic terrorists. Russia and the Ukraine have been at war going on five years. There are civil wars in Sudan and Myanmar. Yemen and Haiti. According to data from the International Committee of the Red Cross, there are currently anywhere from 65 to 130 active armed conflicts globally. Peace on Earth? Forget about it. And we think that

Earth is all there is? Forget that, too.

Our planet, which we seem hellbent on destroying, resides in a solar system that includes the Sun, eight planets, five dwarf planets, hundreds of moons, and thousands of asteroids and comets. Our Solar System is located in a galaxy known as the Milky Way. In addition to the Solar System, the Milky Way is estimated to contain another 100 billion to 400 billion stars and at least that number of planets.

There’s more. Scientists think there are at least two trillion galaxies from what they have been able to observe and the feeling is that there are even more yet to be seen. Several trillion galaxies with each contain-



DICK YARBROUGH

ing hundreds of billions of stars? Maybe you can get your head around those numbers. I can’t. I can say that comparing our planet to a grain of sand on the beaches of St. Simons may be a gross understatement. What is not an understatement

is that we are one tiny insignificant rock in a universe vast beyond our comprehension. And that brings me to religion.

I believe in God. If anything, the more I learn about the vastness of the universe, the more convinced I am of God’s presence. It’s called faith. I have it and I don’t need to justify it to anyone. God is not a he or a she or an it, something we can define in human terms. In the Bible, God says, “I Am Who I Am.” That pretty much sums it up for me. God is God.

For all my life, I have thought of God only in terms of this Earth. Heaven and Hell. Adam and Eve. The Garden of Eden. Was that the work of God? Did God pick out Earth from all

the untold multi-trillions of planets to create a walking and talking man? (And woman.) Or did life on this Earth form some 3.5 billion years ago through abiogenesis, a process in which life was created from non-living matter, as scientists maintain, and then evolved into who and what we are today? The scientists interviewed on "How the Universe Works" surmised that there well could be other forms of life somewhere in our galaxy or beyond. They just haven’t found them yet. If so, did God put

them there? Or was God a one-planet God? If so, why us? A bunch of fractious people who can’t get along with each other?

I don’t know the answers, but I am anxious to explore the questions. A small group of us with diverse backgrounds, including clergy, are planning to meet regularly and talk about all of this. I am convinced God approves of the discussions and is not threatened by our musings. God is I Am Who I Am and that’s not going to change. We are the ones who need to change.



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Legals

Bleckley Co. Legals

C26-076

Notice to Debtors and Creditors
 All creditors of the estate of ROYAL PHIL-LIPS late of Bleckley County, deceased, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.
 This 21st day of July, 2026
 Name: Martha Daniel
 Title: Executor
 Address: 7393 Hodgson Memorial Drive
 Suite 202 Savannah GA 31406
 July 23, 30, August 6, 13, 2026

C26-077

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF BLECKLEY COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA

IN THE INTEREST OF:

J.K.M., Sex: F, DOB: 11/24/2015

TPR Case No. 012-2026J-0026

D.L.D., Sex: M, DOB: 09/02/2011

TPR Case No. 012-2026J-0027

C.B.M., Sex: F, DOB: 03/31/2014

TPR Case No. 012-2026J-0025

Minor Children

FOR PETITION TO TERMINATE PA-RENTAL RIGHTS

TO: JOSHUA MCCOY, WARREN PITTMAN, AND ANY UNKNOWN UNNAMED PUTATIVE FATHERS, and OTHERS CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE MINOR CHILDREN NAMED ABOVE BORN TO BETH MCCOY ON THE DATE ABOVE.

By Order for Service by Publication dated July 10, 2026, you are required to appear before the Juvenile Court of Bleckley County, Georgia to answer the allegations of a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights filed by the Bleckley County Department of Family and Children Services. You may obtain a free copy of the petition directly or by mail from the clerk of said court. The general nature of the allegations is that the children are dependent children and the dependent state is likely to continue and cause serious physical, mental, emotional, or moral harm to the child unless the rights of the parents are terminated. **The court hearing of your case has been scheduled for September 29, 2026, at 1:30 p.m., at the Bleckley County Courthouse in Cochran, Georgia.**

The court at trial can enter a judgment ending your rights to the children if you fail to appear and show cause why your parental rights should not be terminated. A biological father may lose all rights to the children and not be entitled to object to the termination of their rights unless, within 30 days of receipt of this notice, he files: (1) a petition to legitimate the child; and (2) a notice of the filing of the petition to legitimate with the Juvenile Court of Bleckley County, Georgia.

A party has the right to an attorney in this proceeding. If you are unable to hire an attorney, the Court will appoint one for you if you are an indigent person.

If you have any questions concerning this notice of summons, contact the clerk's office.

WITNESS the Honorable Stephanie D. Burton, Judge of said court, this the 13th day of July, 2026. CHRISTINA MCCALL (Deputy) Clerk, Juvenile Court
 Bleckley County, Georgia

July 23, 30, 6, 13, 2026

C26-068

IN THE PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF BLECKLEY

STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF JEREMIAH DOUGLAS NESMITH, DECEASED

ESTATE NO. 2026P28

PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

NOTICE

TO: WHOM IT MAY CONCERN
 Jerry McNair has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the Estate of JEREMIAH DOUGLAS NESMITH, deceased, of Bleckley County. (The Petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, and/ or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested parties 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 August 10, 2026.

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

Jonathan R. Fordham, Judge Court
 By:
 Clerk of the Probate Court
 Bleckley County Probate Court
 112 North Second Street
 Cochran, GA 31014
 478-934-3200 Ext. 4

July 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

C26-072

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

All creditors of the Estate of MADONNA CAMERA, late of Bleckley County, Georgia, deceased, 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.
 Dated June 30, 2026
 MADALINA MAYNARD
 c/o PO BOX 4939
 Eastman, GA 31023
 Executrix, Estate of MADONNA CAMERA
 DANIELS LAW LLC
 Attorney for said Executor/Estate
 P. O. Box 4939
 Eastman, GA 31023
 Phone: 478-227-7331

July 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

C26-071

IN THE PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF BLECKLEY

STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF STEVEN L. LITTLE, DECEASED

ESTATE NO. 2026P29

PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

NOTICE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:
 Cody Len Little has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the Estate of STEVEN L. LITTLE, deceased, of Bleckley County. (The Petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested parties 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 August 10, 2026.

BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections.

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

Jonathan R. Fordham
 Judge of the Probate Court
 By
 Clerk of the Probate Court
 Bleckley County Probate Court
 112 North Second Street
 Cochran, GA 31014
 478-934-3200 Ext. 4

July 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

C26-074

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF BLECKLEY COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA

IN THE INTEREST OF:

O.B.G., SEX: F, DOB: 03/12/2026

TPR CASE # 012-2026J-0036

Child Under 18 Years of Age

FOR PETITION TO TERMINATE PARENTAL RIGHTS

TO: TRACY SPIRES-GIBBS, JEREMY GIBBS, AND ANY UNKNOWN UNNAMED PUTATIVE FATHERS, and OTHERS CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE MINOR CHILD NAMED ABOVE BORN TO TRACY SPIRES-GIBBS ON THE DATE ABOVE.

By Order for Service by Publication dated June 24, 2026, you are required to appear before the Juvenile Court of Bleckley County, Georgia to answer the allegations of a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights filed by the Bleckley County Department of Family and Children Services. You may obtain a free copy of the petition directly or by mail from the clerk of said court. The general nature of the allegations is that the child is a dependent child and the dependent state is likely to continue and cause serious physical, mental, emotional, or moral harm to the child unless the rights of the parents are terminated. **The court hearing of your case has been scheduled for September 29, 2026, at 1:30 p.m., at the Bleckley County Courthouse in Cochran, Georgia.**

The court at trial can enter a judgment ending your rights to the child if you fail to appear and show cause why your parental rights should not be terminated. A biological father may lose all rights to the child and not be entitled to object to the termination of their rights unless, within 30 days of receipt of this notice, he files: (1) a petition to legitimate the child; and (2) a notice of the filing of the petition to legitimate with the Juvenile Court of Bleckley County, Georgia.

A party has the right to an attorney in this proceeding. If you are unable to hire an attorney, the Court will appoint one for you if you are an indigent person.

If you have any questions concerning this notice of summons, contact the clerk's office.

WITNESS the Honorable Stephanie D. Burton, Judge of said court, this the 8th day of July, 2026.

CHRISTINA MCCALL (Deputy)
 Clerk, Juvenile Court
 Bleckley County, Georgia

July 16, 23, 30, August 6, 2026

Twiggs Co. Legals

T26-046

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF TWIGGS COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA

TYDARRIUS RENFROE, Petitioner, v.

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE, LYING, AND BEING IN LAND LOT NO. 85, 26TH LAND DISTRICT OF TWIGGS COUNTY CONTAINING 1.00 ACRE AS SHOWN IN PLAT BOOK 9, PAGE 233, AND KNOWN AS MAP AND PARCEL NO. T114 016,

AND GREGORY GLOVER, AND ALL PERSONS UNKNOWN WHO CLAIM OR MIGHT CLAIM ADVERSELY TO PETITIONER'S TITLE IN THE ABOVE REFERENCED PROPERTY, Respondents

Case No.: 2026-V0117

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

TO: Gregory Glover and any person known or unknown who might claim adversely to Petitioner's title in the afore described property.

Any interest of all persons known or unknown who claim or might claim adversely to Petitioner's title in the Property.

By Order for Service by Publication dated May 22, 2026, you are hereby notified on February 6, 2026, the Petitioner herein filed a Petition to Quiet Title to Land requesting, among other relief, an order establishing Petitioner's title to the above-referenced property. You are required to file with the Clerk of the Superior Court of Twiggs County, Georgia, and to serve upon the Petitioner's counsel, Ronald Edward Daniels at PO Box 4939, Eastman, Georgia 31023, any objections to said Petition within 30 days of the date of the Order for Service by Publication.

Witness the Honorable William D. Taylor, III, Judge of this Court This 30th day of June, 2026.

/s/ WILLIAM D. TAYLOR, III
 WILLIAM D. TAYLOR, III
 Judge, Twiggs County
 Superior Court

July 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

T26-048

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF Twiggs COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA

Xsprita Amey, Plaintiff

V.

Joseph Chappell, Defendant

Civil Action File No. 2026-V-075

ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

Plaintiff having moved the Court for an order directing service to be made upon defendant Joseph Chappell in the above-styled action by publication of summons, and it appearing to the Court from the verified Complaint and Affidavit in support of such motion that defendant is a nonresident and that the action is an action in which a defendant may be served by publication pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 9-10-71, it is ORDERED, that service upon Defendant be made by publication as provided by law.

This 2nd day of July, 2026
 Jon F. Helton, Chief Judge
 JUDGE, Superior Courts
 Dublin Judicial Circuit

Presented by:
 Plaintiff pro se
 Xsprita Amey

July 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

T26-047

STATE OF GEORGIA

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

COUNTY OF TWIGGS

IN RE: MICHAEL BLAKE MARTIN, DECEASED

All debtors/creditors of the Estate of Michael Blake Martin, deceased, of Twiggs County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This 29th day of June 2026.

Kindall E. Browning-Rickle Attorney for The Estate Administrator:

P. O. Box 4939
 Eastman, Georgia 31023
 Blake Christopher Martin (Administrator)
 112 Berryhill Coody Road
 Cochran, GA 31014

July 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

T26-050

TWIGGS COUNTY AUGUST 4, 2026, TAX SALE

SHERIFF'S SALE

E. WALTON NESMITH

EX-OFFICIO SHERIFF

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF TWIGGS

Under and by virtue of certain tax Fi. Fa.'s issued by the Tax Commissioner of Twiggs County, Georgia, in favor of the State of Georgia and County of Twiggs against the following named persons and the property as described immediately below their respective name(s).

There will be sold for cash or certified funds at public outcry, before the Courthouse door in Jeffersonville, Twiggs County, Georgia, between the legal hours of sale, on the first Tuesday in August, the same being August 4, 2026.

The below listed and described properties, or as much thereof as will satisfy the State and County tax execution on the respective individual and property will be sold between the legal hours of sale, 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM. The properties hereinafter described have been levied on as the property of the persons whose names immediately precede the property description. Each of the respective parcels of property are located in Twiggs County, State of Georgia. The years for which said Fi.Fa.'s are issued and levied are stated below the name of the owner in each case.

This is a buyer beware sale and all property will be sold as is. The Tax Commissioner makes no warranty, neither expressed nor implied, as to title, and all properties are subject to all recorded covenants, easements, and right of way. Properties are sold under the power of a tax sale deed with specific rights of redemption.

Each defendant and tenant in possession, if applicable, has been notified of levy time and place of sale. The purchaser shall pay for title, all transfer cost, all taxes, advertising cost and recording fees. Pursuant to Georgia Law, payment will be required within one (1) hour of the completion of the tax sale. In the event a bid is not properly paid, the property may be re-offered at 2:00 PM on the day of the sale, or the following day, that being August 5, 2026.

ID: 1

Map/Parcel Number: T105 033B

Defendant in Fi.Fa.: ABELARDO KERNANDEZ, IN REM, ALL HEIRS KNOWN AND UNKNOWN

Current Property Owner: Same as Above

Property Description: All and only that parcel of land designated as Tax Parcel T105 033B, Land Lot 45, 24th Land District, Twiggs County, Georgia, being 4.99 acres, more or less, being Tract 17, shown in Plat Book 10, Page 582, described in Deed Book 11D, Page 933, known as 339 Honey Drive.

Reference Deed: 11D/933

Tax Years Due: All Years Delinquent

ID: 3

Map/Parcel Number: T081 B 008

Defendant in Fi.Fa.: BASLEY BERTHA MAE ESTATE, IN REM, ALL HEIRS KNOWN AND UNKNOWN

Current Property Owner: Same as Above

Property Description: All and only that parcel of land designated as Tax Parcel T081 B 008, 325th GM District, Twiggs County, Georgia, being 0.5 acre, more or less, described in Deed Book 6U, Page 14, located on Highway 80.

Reference Deed: 6U/14

Tax Years Due: All Years Delinquent

ID: 5

Map/Parcel Number: T099 021

Defendant in Fi.Fa.: BASLEY WILLIE J & BERTHA ESTATE, IN REM, ALL HEIRS KNOWN AND UNKNOWN

Current Property Owner: Same as Above

Property Description: All and only that parcel of land designated as Tax Parcel T099 021, 325th GM District, Twiggs County, Georgia, being 4 acres, more or less, being a portion of 5 acres, more or less, shown in Plat Book 7, Page 85, described in Deed Book ZZ, Page 148, known as 10356 Highway 80.

Reference Deed: ZZ/148

Tax Years Due: All Years Delinquent

ID: 7

Map/Parcel Number: T117 007

Defendant in Fi.Fa.: BENNETT JAMES NEIL, IN REM, ALL HEIRS KNOWN AND UNKNOWN

Current Property Owner: Same as Above

Property Description: All and only that parcel of land designated as Tax Parcel T117 007, Land Lot 85, 23rd Land District, Twiggs County, Georgia, being 28.3 acres, more or less, shown in Plat Book 5, Page 79, described in Deed Book 4X, Page 480, located on Highway 80.

Reference Deed: 4X/480

Tax Years Due: All Years Delinquent

ID: 10

Map/Parcel Number: T062 011A

Defendant in Fi. Fa.: BRANHAM DOUGLAS W ESTATE, IN REM, ALL HEIRS KNOWN AND UNKNOWN

Current Property Owner: Same as Above

Property Description: All and only that parcel of land designated as Tax Parcel T062 011A, Land Lots 50, 51, 54, and 55, 324th GM District, 25th Land District, Twiggs County, Georgia, being 3.89 acres, more or less, Lot 12, Phase I, Ridgeview Estates Subdivision, shown in Plat Book 10, Page 343, described in Deed Book 8W, Page 547, located on White Springs Church Road.

Reference Deed: 8W/547

Tax Years Due: All Years Delinquent

ID: 14

Map/Parcel Number: T056 C 024

Defendant in Fi.Fa.: CORDA L OLIVIA DANIELS, IN REM, ALL HEIRS KNOWN AND UNKNOWN

Current Property Owner: Same as Above

Property Description: All and only that parcel of land designated as Tax Parcel T056 C 024, Land Lot 38, 27th Land District, Twiggs County, Georgia, being 2.87 acres, more or less, Lot 10, Country Dale Subdivision shown in Plat Book 7, Page 220, described in Deed Book 100, Page 282, known as 310 Country Dale Lane.

Reference Deed: 100/282

Tax Years Due: All Years Delinquent

ID: 18

Map/Parcel Number: DV03 C 044

Defendant in Fi.Fa.: EAT RIGHT CARIBBEAN, RESTAURANT LLC, IN REM, ALL HEIRS KNOWN AND UNKNOWN

Current Property Owner: Same as Above

Property Description: All and only that parcel of land designated as Tax Parcel DV03 C 044, Land Lot 95, 23rd Land District, Twiggs County, Georgia, being 0.44 acres, more or less, shown in Plat Book 28, Page 2023, described in Deed Book 11G, Page 428, known as 305 Second Street.

Reference Deed: 11G/428

Tax Years Due: All Years Delinquent

ID: 19

Map/Parcel Number: DV03 C 055

Defendant in Fi.Fa.: EAT RIGHT CARRIBEAN, RESTAURANT LLC, IN REM, ALL HEIRS KNOWN AND UNKNOWN

Current Property Owner: Same as Above

Property Description: All and only that parcel of land designated as Tax Parcel DV03 C 055, Land Lot 95, 23rd Land District, Twiggs County, Georgia, being 1.12 acres, more or less, shown in Plat Book 2023, Page 28, described in Deed Book 11G, Page 428, known as 22393 Highway 80.

Reference Deed: 11G/428

Tax Years Due: All Years Delinquent

ID: 26

Map/Parcel Number: T113 009

Defendant in Fi.Fa.: GLOVER VONARICA, IN REM, ALL HEIRS KNOWN AND UNKNOWN

Current Property Owner: Same as Above

Property Description: All and only that parcel of land designated as Tax Parcel T113 009, Land Lot 85, 26th Land District, Twiggs County, Georgia, being 1 acre, more or less, being Lot 22, as more particularly shown and described in Deed Book 10T, Page 244, located on Balls Church Road.

Reference Deed: 10T/244

Tax Years Due: All Years Delinquent

ID: 27

Map/Parcel Number: T099 021B

Defendant in Fi.Fa.: HALL DORIAN EMANUEL, IN REM, ALL HEIRS KNOWN AND UNKNOWN

Current Property Owner: Same as Above

Property Description: All and only that parcel of land designated as Tax Parcel T099 021B, Land Lot 22, 26th Land District, Twiggs County, Georgia, being 1 acre, more or less, shown in Plat Book 10, Page 592, described in Deed Book 8Z, Page 810, known as 10420 Highway 80.

Reference Deed: 8Z/810

Tax Years Due: All Years Delinquent

ID: 36

Map/Parcel Number: T021 D 014

Defendant in Fi.Fa.: JOHNSON RUSSELL B, IN REM, ALL HEIRS KNOWN AND UNKNOWN

Current Property Owner: Same as Above

Property Description: All and only that parcel of land designated as Tax Parcel T021 D 014, Land Lot 116, 28th Land District, Twiggs County, Georgia, being 2.9 acres, more or less, Lot 10, Block C, Sgoda Farms Subdivision, shown in Plat Book 5, Page 68, described in Deed Book 80, Page 186, known as 159 North Sgoda Circle.

Reference Deed: 80/186

Tax Years Due: All Years Delinquent

ID: 44

Map/Parcel Number: T103 019

Defendant in Fi.Fa.: MIMS DECARTLTON, IN REM, ALL HEIRS KNOWN AND UNKNOWN

Current Property Owner: Same as Above

Property Description: All and only that parcel of land designated as Tax Parcel T103 019, Land Lot 15, 24th Land District, Twiggs County, Georgia, being 3.91 acres, more or less, being Tract B, as more particularly shown and described in Deed Book 7U, Page 680, known as 5610 Highway 96 West.

Reference Deed: 7U/680

Tax Years Due: All Years Delinquent

ID: 47

Map/Parcel Number: T118 C 065

Defendant in Fi.Fa.: Q TAN LLC, IN REM, ALL HEIRS KNOWN AND UNKNOWN

Current Property Owner: Same as Above

ID: 64

Map/Parcel Number: JV08 C 144

Property Description: All and only that parcel of land designated as Tax Parcel T118 C 065, Twiggs County, Georgia, being 1.69 acres, more or less, being Lot 56, Indian Ridge Estate, Phase II, as more particularly shown and described in Deed Book 9E, Page 31, located on Hamlin Floyd Road.

Reference Deed: 9E/31

Tax Years Due: All Years Delinquent

ID: 48

Map/Parcel Number: T117 031

Defendant in Fi.Fa.: RIGGIN JUNE B &, BENNETT JAMES N, IN REM, ALL HEIRS KNOWN AND UNKNOWN

Current Property Owner: Same as Above

Property Description: All and only that parcel of land designated as Tax Parcel T117 031, Land Lot 85, 23rd Land District, Twiggs County, Georgia, being 5.69 acres, more or less, shown in Plat Book 5, Page 79, described in Deed Book 5A, Page 472, located on Highway 80.

Reference Deed: 5A/472

Tax Years Due: All Years Delinquent

ID: 49

Map/Parcel Number: T117 008

Defendant in Fi.Fa.: RIGGIN JUNE BENNETT, IN REM, ALL HEIRS KNOWN AND UNKNOWN

Current Property Owner: Same as Above

Property Description: All and only that parcel of land designated as Tax Parcel T117 008, Land Lot 85, 23rd Land District, Twiggs County, Georgia, being 28.33 acres, more or less, shown in Plat Book 5, Page 79, described in Deed Book 4X, Page 482, located on Highway 80.

Reference Deed: 4X/482

Tax Years Due: All Years Delinquent

ID: 53

Map/Parcel Number: T037 C 034

Defendant in Fi.Fa.: SAPP THOMAS, IN REM, ALL HEIRS KNOWN AND UNKNOWN

Current Property Owner: Same as Above

Property Description: All and only that parcel of land designated as Tax Parcel T037 C 034, Twiggs County, Georgia, being 1.6 acres, more or less, shown in Plat Book 10, Page 811, described in Deed Book 11L, Page 475, known as 1785 Riggins Mill Road.

Reference Deed: 11L/475

Tax Years Due: All Years Delinquent

ID: 58

Map/Parcel Number: JV05 A 106

Defendant in Fi.Fa.: STEELE QUINTON & TIA STEELE, IN REM, ALL HEIRS KNOWN AND UNKNOWN

Current Property Owner: Same as Above

Property Description: All and only that parcel of land designated as Tax Parcel JV05 A 106, Land Lot 36, 26th Land District, Twiggs County, Georgia, being 0.48 acre, more or less, described in Deed Book 6B, Page 133, known as 192 Main Street.

Reference Deed: 6B/133

Tax Years Due: All Years Delinquent

ID: 61

Map/Parcel Number: T024 B 037A

Defendant in Fi.Fa.: THOMPSON EMANUEL V, IN REM, ALL HEIRS KNOWN AND UNKNOWN

Current Property Owner: Same as Above

Property Description: All and only that parcel of land designated as Tax Parcel T024 B 037A, Land Lot 155, 28th Land District, Twiggs County, Georgia, being 1 acre, more or less, Parcel 2, shown in Plat Book 10, Page 1062, described in Deed Book 9U, Page 65, known as 125 Huston Circle.

Reference Deed: 9U/65

Tax Years Due: All Years Delinquent

ID: 64

Map/Parcel Number: JV08 C 144

Defendant in Fi.Fa.: US BANK NA AS TRUSTEE FOR LEHM, IN REM

Current Property Owner: Same as Above

Property Description: All and only that parcel of land designated as Tax Parcel JV08 C 144, Land Lot 40, 26th Land District, in the City of Jeffersonville, Twiggs County, Georgia, being 0.7 acre, more or less, shown in Plat Book 8, Page 17, described in Deed Book 10Z, Page 779, known as 588 Solomon Drive.

Reference Deed: 10Z/779

Tax Years Due: All Years Delinquent

ID: 74

Map/Parcel Number: T025 B 003

Defendant in Fi.Fa.: WILLIAMS ROSA ESTATE, IN REM, ALL HEIRS KNOWN AND UNKNOWN

Current Property Owner: Same as Above

Property Description: All and only that parcel of land designated as Tax Parcel T025 B 003, Land Lot 182, 28th Land District, Twiggs County, Georgia, being 1 acre, more or less, being Lot 2, as more particularly shown and described in Deed Book 8P, Page 122, known as 84 Williams Drive.

Reference Deed: 8P/122

Tax Years Due: All Years Delinquent

ID: 78

Map/Parcel Number: T035 D 084

Defendant in Fi.Fa.: WRIGHT JOCELYN ETAL, IN REM, ALL HEIRS KNOWN AND UNKNOWN

Current Property Owner: Same as Above

Property Description: All and only that parcel of land designated as Tax Parcel T035 D 084, Land Lot 35, Twiggs County, Georgia, being 1 acre, more or less, Lot 4, Block A, Twiggs Estates Subdivision, shown in Plat Book 4, Page 212, described in Deed Book 5V, Page 667, located on Forestwood Drive.

Reference Deed: 5V/667

Tax Years Due: All Years Delinquent

July 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

T26-049

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF TWIGGS

IN RE: JOANNE THOMAS, DECEASED

All debtors/creditors of the Estate of Joanne Thomas, deceased, of Twiggs County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This 2nd day of July 2026.
 Janice Thomas, Administrator
 300 Wynn Place Apt. C 307
 Warner Robins, GA 31088

July 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

Wilkinson Co. Legals

W26-064

ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE PETITION ADVERTISEMENT

Vehicle Make: Chevrolet

Year: 2017

Model: Malibu

Vehicle ID#: 1G1ZB5TXHF1079022

Vehicle License #: State

Present location of vehicle: 125 Mount Carmel Road

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF WILKIN-
SON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF Michael Wayne Lang-
ford Jr., DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 354
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINIS-
TRATION NOTICE

TO: Michael Wayne Langford Sr. and to whom it may concern:
Michael Wayne Langford Sr. has petitioned for **Michael Wayne Langford Sr.** to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of **Michael Wayne Langford Jr.** deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before **August 3, 2026**.
BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.
 Sarah A Holder
 Judge of the Probate Court
 By: Bradasia A. Mims
 Clerk of the Probate Court
 Wilkinson County Probate Court
 100 Bacon St
 Irwinton, GA 31042
 478-946-2222

July 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

W26-066
CITY OF GORDON, GEORGIA
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
APPLICATION NO. 10

Notice is hereby given that the Gordon Planning and Zoning Commission will conduct a public hearing regarding **Application No. 10**, a request for a zoning map amendment.
 The subject property is identified as **Parcel No. G14 034**, containing approximately **0.31 acres**, and is owned by **JDM Development LLC**.
 The property is currently zoned **R-1 (Single-Family Residential)**. The applicant is requesting that the property be rezoned to **C-1 (Commercial)**.
 The public hearing will be held on **Tuesday, August 11, at 5:30 p.m. at: Gordon City Hall**
 115 College Street
 Gordon, Georgia 31031
 All interested persons are invited to attend the public hearing and will be given an opportunity to be heard regarding the proposed zoning map amendment.
 This notice is published in accordance with the requirements of the City of Gordon Zoning Ordinance and applicable laws of the State of Georgia.

July 30, August 6, 2026

W26-059
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF WILKIN-
SON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF Doris L. Phillips, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 355
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINIS-
TRATION NOTICE

TO: Joseph L. Phillips and to whom it may concern:
Joseph L. Phillips has petitioned for **Joseph L. Phillips** to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of **Doris L. Phillips** 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 **August 3, 2026**.
BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted a hearing.
 Sarah A. Holder
 Judge of the Probate Court
 By: Bradasia A. Mims
 Clerk of the Probate Court
 Wilkinson County Probate Court
 100 Bacon St
 Irwinton, GA 31042
 478-946-2222

July 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

W26-060
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF WILKIN-
SON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF Gladys B. Willis, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 360
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINIS-
TRATION NOTICE

TO: **Dwan J Carswell** and to whom it may concern:
Dwan J Carswell has petitioned for **Dwan J Carswell** to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of **Gladys B. Willis** 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 **August 10, 2026**.
BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.
 Sarah A. Holder
 Judge of the Probate Court
 By: Bradasia A. Mims
 Clerk of the Probate Court
 Wilkinson County Probate Court
 100 Bacon St
 Irwinton, GA 31042
 478-946-2222

July 16, 23, 30, August 6, 2026

W26-067
NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS
STATE OF GEORGIA,
COUNTY OF WILKINSON

All creditors of the estate of Vernita Belcher, deceased, as of late September 24, 2006 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 July, 2026
 Donald Lewis Roberts, Attorney
 July 30, August 6, 13, 20, 2026

W26-068
Name: Jay Kesari Nandan d/b/a Lakeside Mart
Address: 142 GA Hwy 243
Ivey, GA 31031
Phone: 931-644-1184
478-628-2218
Name of Business: Jay Kesari Nandan d/b/a Lakeside Mart
Residential or Commercial: Commercial
Type of Business: Convenience Store
If renewal, are there any changes from last year: Selling Sunday Beer
Does this business requires storage or removal of hazardous waste: No
Hour of operation: 6AM to 10:00PM
 July 30, August 6, 2026

W26-062
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF WILKIN-
SON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF Virgil Reynolds, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 357
NOTICE OF PETITION TO FILE FOR
YEAR'S SUPPORT

The petition of **Cheryl Laynette Moss Reynolds**, for a year's support from the estate of **Virgil Reynolds**, deceased, for decedent's surviving spouse, having been duly filed, all interested persons are hereby notified to show cause, if any they have, on or before **August 10, 2026**, why said petition should not be granted.
 All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed on or before the time stated in the preceding sentence. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed the petition may be granted without a hearing.
 Sarah A. Holder
 Judge of the Probate Court
 By: Bradasia A. Mims
 Clerk of the Probate Court
 Wilkinson County Probate Court
 100 Bacon St
 Irwinton, GA 31042
 478-946-2222

July 16, 23, 30, August 6, 2026

W26-063
Wilkinson County SUPERIOR COURT
TRADE NAME REGISTRATION
PERSONNALLY APPEARED THE UNDERSIGNED WHO ON OATH DEPOSES AND SAYS THAT:
 Happy Hollow Christian Academy
 156 East Main St. Irwinton, GA 31042
 I/S/ARE DOING BUSINESS IN Wilkinson COUNTY, GA., UNDER THE NAME OF:
 TRADE NAME: Cross Christian Academy
 ADDRESS: 156 East Main St. Irwinton, GA 31042
 AND THAT THE NATURE OF THE BUSINESS TO BE CARRIED ON AT SUCH ADDRESS IS:
 SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME THIS 2nd DAY OF July, 2026.
 Sarah Amanda Holder
 NOTARY PUBLIC

July 23, 30, 2026

W26-061
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF WILKIN-
SON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF Ethel B. Glover, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 361
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINIS-
TRATION NOTICE

TO: Ronald Bernard Glover and to whom it may concern:
Ronald Bernard Glover has petitioned for **Ronald Bernard Glover** to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of **Ethel B. Glover** 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 **August 10, 2026**.
BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.
 Sarah A. Holder
 Judge of the Probate Court
 By: Bradasia A. Mims
 Clerk of the Probate Court
 Wilkinson County Probate Court
 100 Bacon St
 Irwinton, GA 31042
 478-946-2222

July 16, 23, 30, August 6, 2026

IT *only*
TAKES A
SPARK.

Please

ONLY YOU CAN
PREVENT WILDFIRES.

smokebear.com

OpenAI to build massive energy-consuming data center near Savannah-area industrial site

By TY TAGAMI
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — A data center that is expected to consume as much energy as a whole Georgia power plant can produce is to be built for OpenAI at a Savannah-area industrial site, the company announced this week.

The tech company says the community and the state will benefit from hundreds of millions of dollars in tax revenue and other contributions to local causes.

It also says it will mitigate its environmental impact by using a closed-loop water system to cool the computers at the core of the project. And it says it will not burden taxpayers with the cost of building the infrastructure necessary to power such a facility.

"OpenAI will pay the full cost of the infrastructure and electric-service costs required to serve it," the company said in its announcement this week about what it is calling Project Camellia.

Georgia Power says it is prepared to deliver the 3,200 megawatts OpenAI will require.

That is nearly as much power as Plant Bowen in Bartow County can

produce with its four coal-fired units.

Georgia Power added that the tech company has agreed to use as much as 1,000 megawatts less during peak demand periods.

Ratepayer advocates like that flexibility agreement because it can reduce the overall capacity required from Georgia Power, potentially leading to less construction of power plants, power lines and other infrastructure.

But the advocates also say there is too little information available to assess the actual impact.

"My reaction is tempered right now because there are no details," said Bob Sherrier, a lawyer with the Atlanta-based Southern Environmental Law Center.

The Public Service Commission, which regulates Georgia Power, has implemented a rule requiring data centers to pay their own way. But Sherrier said the industry opposed legislation during this year's legislative session that would have written such a requirement into law.

"We promise but don't make it enforceable," was their position, he said.

The White House this week announced that over 200 "organiza-

Gov. Brian Kemp weighs in on data centers, calls artificial intelligence scary but essential

By TY TAGAMI
Capitol Beat News Service

Gov. Brian Kemp weighed in on the rush to develop artificial intelligence, calling the technology "scary" while also welcoming data centers to Georgia and criticizing others who would pause their development.

"I'm not saying we need a data center in every community that's out there, but to have a moratorium just like the governor of New York did and what Keisha Lance Bottoms is proposing — to me, is irresponsible," Kemp said in a video interview with POLITICO Energy published Monday.

The Georgia governor, who is nearing the end of his final term, may have been referring to a video interview given by Bottoms in April to the Columbus Ledger-Inquirer.

At the time, the former Atlanta mayor was competing in a crowded primary to win the Democratic nomination for governor, which she subsequently won in May.

"If I have the privilege of being elected governor, I am going to ask for a pause in construction on data

centers throughout the state," Bottoms said. "Give us an opportunity to understand exactly where we are. Are we on the right track or do we need to scale back?"

Kemp said data centers can generate local tax revenue and other benefits and that communities rather than the state should decide where they are built.

"We don't need to try to push these things where people don't want them," he said in the interview conducted last week, "but to say that we're just going to have a blanket moratorium — to me, is indeed insane."

Kemp said he was concerned about the effect of AI on children and on security.

"Some of the things that are very scary when you think about national defense, cybersecurity issues, and other things," he said. "But I'm more concerned about China winning this race and using all those things against us economically, militarily."

Kemp said some data centers had been announced or even started working "in the dead of the night."

That is not the case with the \$20

tions and stakeholders" had committed to President Donald Trump's Ratepayer Protection Pledge. It asks data centers to pay the full cost of the energy and infrastructure they use.

Gov. Brian Kemp praised the pledge in a video on X, saying he signed it. He also said the public should embrace data centers. As their electricity demand rises, electricity bills for everyone go down, he said.

The Southern Environmental Law Center says Georgia Power has raised rates nearly \$40 since 2023.

OpenAI held an open house Thursday in Effingham County.

A few hundred people protested outside but far more went inside to learn about the project, said Beth Remmes, a local coordinator with the advocacy group Georgia Interfaith Power & Light.

People were concerned about things like water use, and noise and light pollution, she said, adding that company representatives said the facility would use diesel generators as backup power for only a portion of the system.

"But what is a small part?" Remmes said. "I think people still left with more questions than answers."

billion data center that OpenAI announced for an industrial site in Effingham County near Savannah last week, he said, adding that the company had met with local officials and utilities in advance.

The public learned of the company's plans Wednesday, when residents were given a one-day notice that the company would be holding an open house about its planned facility.

Beth Remmes, with the environmental group Georgia Interfaith Power & Light, attended the event. It featured information tables with company representatives who gave sometimes vague information, she said.

Remmes said she and others were concerned about the use of noisy and polluting diesel-fueled generators for backup power.

"They said they do have diesel generators, but they are just backing up a small part of the system, but what is a small part of a \$20 billion system?" Remmes said. "That's what I would like to see written down and explained."

Okefenokee earns World Heritage site status, however mining concerns remain persistent

By TY TAGAMI
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Fresh off the world stage with the departure of FIFA World Cup fans, Georgia is back in the limelight with the listing of the Okefenokee Swamp as an international treasure.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization announced Saturday that it had decided to add the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge to its World Heritage Site List.

"Receiving World Heritage status affirms what those of us who know and love the Okefenokee have always believed: this place is special," Kim Bednarek, executive director of Okefenokee Swamp Park, said in a statement while attending the committee session.

Tracie Revis, a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, delivered a statement on behalf of Chief David W. Hill, in the languages of her two tribes, Muscogee and Yuchi. She said in a phone interview from Busan that she expressed excitement for both the natural wonder of the Okefenokee and for the lives of her ancestors who lived there before they were forcibly removed from the land.

The designation "gives us a larger platform to showcase not just the biological side of things, but the cultural side of it," Revis said.

Okefenokee advocates say the designation also will put South Georgia on the global map as a tourist destination, boosting the regional

economy.

A 2024 study said a World Heritage listing would draw 800,000 tourists a year, doubling visitation and creating about 750 long-term jobs and about \$60 million in annual economic impact.

U.S. Sen. Jon Ossoff said in a statement that the designation "will help protect this renowned natural treasure for generations to come, promote tourism, and support Southeast Georgia's economic growth."

The Okefenokee is the first U.S. natural World Heritage Site added in more than three decades and brings the number of World Heritage sites in the country to 27.

The swamp's mass of floating peat deposits makes an unstable surface for walking. It led to the swamp's name, often translated as "land of the trembling earth" from the Muscogee language.

It also played a role in UNESCO's decision, according to Bednarek's group, which said the World Heritage Committee recognized the swamp for its ecology, biodiversity and the scale of its subtropical freshwater peatland ecosystems.

A group called Georgia Rivers said it facilitated a study of carbon storage in the peat that established the "Outstanding Universal Value" required to support a World Heritage bid.

The swamp has the largest undisturbed peat deposit on the North American Coastal Plain. It is also home to more than 1,200 species of

animals and plants.

And it has mineral wealth that industry would like to tap.

For years, a threat loomed at the edge of the swamp, as a company called Twin Pines Minerals sought to mine titanium dioxide. Then, last year, that threat was neutralized when a group called The Conservation Fund assembled about \$60 million to purchase the nearly 8,000-acre property.

But other properties nearby could also host a mine.

Mining requires significant amounts of water. The mines would draw it from an aquifer deep below the swamp, under the assumption that an intervening layer of clay separates the swamp from the aquifer.

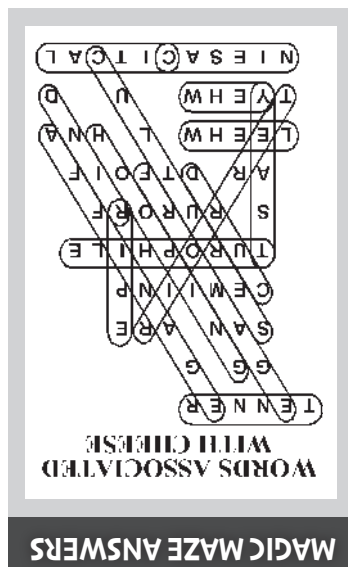
The UGA research found otherwise, tracing water isotopes and discovering that water from the swamp appeared to be draining into the aquifer. Their conclusion: mining would drain the swamp.

"This World Heritage Site recognition affirms what so many Georgians already know — the Okefenokee is a natural treasure," Jennette Gayer, the group's Georgia director, said in a statement. "We call on our leaders to ensure this special place, a wonder of the world, is protected from the threats of mining."

Revis predicted that placing the Okefenokee on a world stage will generate more support for protecting it, "which can sometimes add pressure if we need it down the road."



...A JAILBREAK!!



56 Male deer	7 Relaxes	33 Singer
57 Notes after "do"	8 Custodian	Knowles
58 Bird (Pref.)	9 Rocker	35 Highland hat
59 Harboring a grudge	Clapton	38 Pouch
60 "I'm a klutz!"	10 Sicilian volca- no	40 Actress Jamie Lee
61 Napkin's perch	11 Vanna's "Wheel of Fortune" col- league	43 PC shortcut 45 Japanese pond carp
DOWN	16 "— -hoo!"	46 Mama — Elliot
1 Cpl.'s subor- dinate	20 Crosses (out)	47 Golden Rule word
2 Wyo. neighbor	21 Title for Judi Dench	48 Den noise
3 Utensil made from a gourd shell	22 One	49 Black-and- white cookie
4 Sturdy fabric	23 Droop	53 Little rascal
5 Billboards	27 "Mazel —!"	54 Hollywood's Gardner
6 Euclidean subj.	29 Scripture- based	55 Sass
	30 Beige	
	31 Castle	

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IT'S A RIDDLE. MY WIFE IS MAD BECAUSE I
DON'T KNOW WHAT I DID TO UPSET HER. I CAN'T
JUST GUESS OR SHE'LL HAVE 5 MORE REASONS.

A black and white cartoon illustration featuring four anthropomorphic dogs. The dog on the left is speaking, with its mouth open and eyes wide. The dog in the center is looking at the speaker with a slightly skeptical or listening expression. The dog on the right is holding a small cup and looking towards the speaker. The dog at the bottom is also looking up at the speaker. The background is simple, with some vertical lines suggesting an indoor setting. The artist's signature 'P. J. R.' is visible in the bottom right corner.

Differences: 1. Dog's leg is moved. 2. Woman's leg is moved.
3. Bush is reversed. 4. Arms are higher. 5. Dog's ear is different.
6. Fence has more boards.

It pays to advertise in your local paper!

Continued from page 1

The United Way has re-established workforce campaigns and has scheduled upcoming fundraising events. The workforce campaigns are the backbone of how they raise money at The United Way. It allows officials to enter a business to talk and describe what they are all about and who their partnering agencies serve.

That is not the case. As little as \$1 can be taken out of a person's paycheck a week.

The United Way is holding a Georgia Bulldog raffle for \$20. Included in this basket are two tickets to a Bulldog game on Sept. 12 along with other UGA items. The raffle will be held on Aug. 21.

For more information about the raffle, people can call (478) 353-1811.

“Everything in the basket is donated,” Powell said. “It’s a big fundraiser and will help out with community events.”

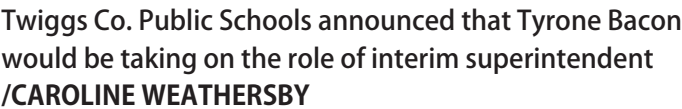
Continued from page 1

Bacon officially took on the role of interim superintendent earlier this year

Since it was announced he would be taking on the role, Bacon has heavily focused on tackling the district's financial problems, including a \$1.1 million deficit Bacon said incurred over several years.

As a result, he and board implemented two plans

According to Bacon, he will remain focused on reducing the district's financial problems throughout the remainder of his term, including eliminating debt and working to complete past-due audits.



Georgia Chamber of Commerce announces the launch of Georgia Digital Infrastructure Alliance

ATLANTA – The Georgia Chamber of Commerce has announced the launch of the Georgia Digital Infrastructure Alliance, a new initiative designed to bring together business leaders, infrastructure providers, utilities, community stakeholders, and key industries to support Georgia's continued leadership in the rapidly growing digital economy.

As demand for data, artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and connectivity continues to accelerate, digital infrastructure is becoming increasingly important to nearly every sector of Georgia's economy — from healthcare and agribusiness to manufacturing, logistics, education, construction, and financial services.

The Georgia Digital Infrastructure Alliance will serve as a collaborative platform focused on responsible growth, infrastructure readiness, workforce development, community engagement, and long-term economic competitiveness. The initiative is intended to complement and work alongside existing industry organizations and local stakeholders already contributing to Georgia's digital infrastructure ecosystem.

In conjunction with the Alliance



Above, Georgia Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Chris Clark/SPECIAL PHOTOS

launch, the Georgia Chamber also announced the creation of the Data Center Ready Community Designation, a new initiative aimed at helping Georgia communities proactively prepare for responsible digital infrastructure investment through planning, infrastructure coordination, and community readiness efforts.

“Virtually every sector of Georgia’s economy now depends on reliable digital infrastructure — from hospitals and family farms to manufacturers, small businesses, and

emerging technology companies,” Georgia Chamber President and CEO Chris Clark said. “As Georgia continues to grow, it is critical that we bring together the full ecosystem of stakeholders to ensure our state remains competitive, prepared, and positioned for long-term success. These initiatives are about thoughtful planning, strong partnerships, and helping Georgia communities fully participate in the opportunities created by the modern digital economy.”

The alliance will focus on key issues including infrastructure

planning, energy coordination, workforce and talent development, community engagement, sustainability best practices, and public education surrounding the role digital infrastructure plays in Georgia's economy and daily life.

Organizations interested in learning more about the Georgia Digital Infrastructure Alliance, the Data Center Ready Community designation, or opportunities to participate are encouraged to visit digitalinfrastructure.org for additional information.

**FAMILY
FUN NIGHT**

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

**WARNER
ROBINS**