

Look inside for your

2026

Voter Guide

County approves purchase of ventilators for EMS

By DEIDRE LEDFORD
Editor

Johnson County EMS will soon have some new and drastically needed equipment to better serve its citizens.

During the Sept. 14 meeting, the Board of Commissioners approved the purchase of three new ventilators for the ambulance service. EMS Director Andy Love explained that these devices are extremely vital in providing life saving measures during an emergency. Unfortunately, Johnson County EMS has never had these devices...until now.

Love said he chose a brand that he is familiar

with and presented a quote to the board. One ventilator with everything it needs to properly function costs \$3,600. He added that he is working on a trauma grant that will cover the costs of the equipment. He said the county could go ahead and purchase the equipment and then be reimbursed when the grant funds come in, or they could want for the grant to come in before purchasing. Love went on to explain how the devices work and how beneficial they are to the medics during a call. County Administrator Doug Redmond asked how many calls EMS has had this year in which

these devices would have helped a patient's outcome.

Love said they have at least three or four calls per month where they are needed. The board chose to go ahead and purchase three ventilators and get reimbursed when the grant is awarded.

In other business, the board discussed an agreement with Ingram and Associates to provide engineering support for future solar/energy projects. Redmond said they are anticipating an application being submitted under the solar farm ordinance and the county doesn't currently have the software or an engineer on

staff to handle that. He said they needed an engineer so they would be prepared to honor the ordinance if the need arises. He said this would not be a cost to taxpayers as the company that submits the application will be responsible for paying the engineering costs.

The board approved the agreement with Ingram and Associates.

The board approved the appointment of Wilbur Cannon to the Board of Health. They also approved the use of the courthouse grounds for the chamber of commerce's Wiggle and Twist Festival on Oct. 17 and for a Mainstreet event with live entertainment on November 7.

Redmond provided an update on several building projects that were completed over the summer.

He said the roof patching job at the jail was completed and they also leveled it to help with drainage. He added that there have been several good rains since the job was done and there have not been any leaks thus far. They also completed some plumbing upgrades inside the jail.

Renovations to the men's and women's restrooms at the Senior Center have been completed. They are still working on

some piping issues and are looking into replacing the floors. A hole in the roof was also fixed and he advised they will need to look into replacing the roof in the near future. He said they are trying to get things ready for the Center's 30th anniversary this month. Some patching was done on problem areas (water leaks) at the Health Department and security cameras were installed at the 911 Center, both interior and exterior.

Love presented the monthly EMS report. There were 135 calls for the month of August and \$35,295.74 in collections.



Employees of Stanley Funeral Home help lower the vault for burial/SPECIAL PHOTO

Time capsule buried at the courthouse

By DEIDRE LEDFORD
Editor

Johnson County celebrated America's 250th birthday by burying another time capsule on the Courthouse Square. The burial took place on Sept. 15 in the same location as the one unearthed in July.

Organizer Brian Har-

rison said there was such a good response that they were barely able to fit everything inside the vault. There was also a great turnout for the burial. The Capsule will be opened in 50 years, on July 4, 2076, when America will be celebrating its 300th birthday celebration.

JOCO SCHOOLS ANNOUNCE 2026 HOMECOMING COURT



The 2026 Johnson County High School Homecoming Court representatives have been selected. Representing the freshmen class will be Davia Wright and Kayla Moorman. T'zire Oliver and Malyah Jones are the sophomore representatives and Joley McCoy and Brandace Rawlings will represent the junior class. This year's senior representatives are Lydia Grant, Jaycee Grant, De'Kajah Strickland, Jaydah Brown, Zariyah Gilmore, Jameria Irwin, A'yari Wright and Za'Riyia Brown. The game will be held on Friday, Oct. 9 as the Trojans take on Twiggs County.



ELECTION 2026: STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 155

Powers takes grassroots approach to court district

By KYLE DOMINY
GTLN

Joe Powers knows how to hold a conversation.

With myriad experience in media and sales, talking is how the Dublin resident has earned a living for the better part of two decades. This year he has been making a different kind of sales pitch - courting himself to voters he hopes will propel him to the Georgia House District 155 seat.

"The thing I hear most often is, 'Nobody has ever done this before,'" Powers said in a recent interview of his practice of canvassing neighborhoods and knocking on doors. He said full days have been spent walking the streets of Dublin, sitting and talking with residents in their homes and yards.

His campaign against Republican incumbent Matt Hatchett has



Joe Powers

centered around social media posts and showing up at community events and public meetings. Powers caused quite the stir this summer when he publicized a rumored data center coming to Laurens County.

After discovering a grant application from the Altamaha Regional Commission highlighting the old Mohawk plant on Nathaniel Drive as a prime location for a large-scale data center, Powers encouraged residents to show up to county commission meetings to voice their opinion. And show up they did.

POWERS
Continued on page 8

Hatchett looking to use experience under Gold Dome to help counties

By PAYTON TOWNS III
GTLN

Matt Hatchett likes to help people.

The Republican incumbent for Georgia House of Representatives for District 155 has been doing this since he first took office as a state representative in 2011.

This is the first time since 2012, when he beat Democratic challenger Sheikh Rahman, that Hatchett has faced opposition. Earlier this year he beat Republican challenger Charles Cook 6,056 to 613 in the primary. Now he faces Democratic challenger Joe Powers, who did not have opposition in the primary, picking up 3,223 votes in May.

Hatchett has spent the last 26



Matt Hatchett

years serving the public in an elected capacity, with 16 underneath the Gold Dome in Atlanta. Before that, he spent 10 years as a councilman for Dublin City Council.

"I've learned a lot about how the government works and how the government does not work," Hatchett said. "I am in a pretty good position with my peers in the legislature in getting things done that are hopefully good for Laurens and Johnson counties and for the state in its entirety."

He has been focused on the

HATCHETT
Continued on page 8



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear JCREA Community,

The Johnson County Retired Educators’ Association (JCREA) is a positive force in Johnson County, Wrightsville, Georgia and its surrounding communities. JCREA’s mission is to unite retired educators in Georgia for fellowship, support, educational as well as community service and to improve benefits for all retired educators through cooperation with local, state and national organizations.” Our goal is to encourage volunteerism, improve health and safety and to support GREA’s 2026-2027 Humanitarian project with a donation to the American Diabetes Association of GA. We also strive to promote and support projects to help the local community and school system while providing support when and wherever needed.

The 2026–2027 theme is “Sound the Trumpet.” With your help, we will continue to provide a scholarship to a deserving student pursuing a college degree in education. We will also support Angels in Flight, Toys for Tots, the annual food drive, the Harlie Fulford Library, county 4-H programs, the Boys & Girls Club, Head Start, Senior Center and meals for athletic teams. In addition, we will honor current educators during Teacher Appreciation Week.

The Johnson County Retired Educators would like to thank the following business and community partners for their past support.

- Dr. Marvin J. Howard
 - Lessie Hicks Dixon c/o Curtis Dixon
 - Community Missionary Baptist Church
 - Historical St. Galilee Baptist Church
 - Detia Mae Wallace c/o Atlean Wilcher
 - Electro Mech Scoreboard
 - Stanley Funeral Home
 - Washington EMC
 - Gladys Cordy c/o David Montford
 - Fannie Cordy c/o Dianne Montford
 - Dr. Christopher Watkins
 - Community Bank of Johnson County
 - Joseph & Hattie Folsome c/o Janice Davis
 - Sumner Pharmacy
- We look forward to your continued support. Your partnership with JCREA helps to foster the many programs that benefit the children and some adults by addressing their needs within the community. Currently, we are asking you to renew your partnership and are seeking new partners as well. The cost is \$50 dollars annually. Please complete an application form or send a business card with your \$50 donation to JCREA, c/o The Factory, 8473 S Marcus St, Wrightsville, GA.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

Curtis Dixon, Membership Chairperson
Johnson County Retired Educators

COMMUNITY NEWS

Wrightsville Manor Health and Rehab has been named a Certified Center for Excellence for Wound Management. This is a special distinction that is given to top-notch healthcare facilities, such as skilled nursing centers, that meet strict patient outcomes and care standards. This certification is awarded to facilities that provide superior, specialized care for chronic skin wounds and ulcers. VOHRA Wound Physicians present this award to only about ten percent of its partner facilities. Out of 3,000 facilities, Wrightsville Manor was one of only 300 to receive this award.

Johnson County Commissioner Brian Lindsey (District 4) will be hosting a Town Hall meeting on October 14 at 6 p.m. at 110 Railroad Street in Kite. This session is designed to introduce the community to a prospective business interested in developing a large-scale solar farm within District 4. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about the proposed project and ask questions directly to the project’s leadership and engineering teams.

Samsonite suitcase

By GARY TOOLE

In the 1950s, Uncle Pick had a furniture store in Millen, Georgia, and he sold luggage too.

He gave mama and daddy this original Samsonite suitcase that you could throw off a ten story building and it would still be intact. It is now valued at around \$300. Every year mama and daddy went to Doraville to the Church of God camp meeting and I remember mama packing this suitcase. This meant we would be staying with the Claxtons right up the hill in an old house with no windows, wooden shutters that wouldn’t close at



night, and benches to eat on at the table.

They drew water from the well for us to take a birthday suit bath in a number two wash tub. We stayed up one night all night for

him to cook off a barn of tobacco. At night we sat on the long big porch and the old women told ghost stories. Mister Claxton went to bed with the chickens. He would open the wood shutter with no window and slept with his head near the window. He slept in his long johns and there were no bad people back then out in the country around Cedar Crossing. That is not true now.

The devil has taken over. When we came in 1952 daddy called it God’s country and it is everything but that now. Dope heads, drunks, thugs and thieves and you name it. So each year the poor folks at the church gave daddy \$15 which was like \$50 now. Gas was 29

cents per gallon and mama and daddy stayed in the camp meeting huts at \$20 per week and mama packed up stuff to eat, stuff she had canned, etc. So Uncle Pick sent daddy \$50 which was is like \$200 or \$300 now. Mama would pack some frocks and a suit and two ties in the suit case (it had a place for ties).

Back then they respected God’s house by being well dressed. He had one suit. He would ask mama if she wanted him to wear his new suit, his blue suit or the suit he wore last Sunday. He had one and was thankful. So they left on Monday and came back on Saturday and that way he never missed preaching at the church.

Can you say amen?



The Lady Trojans Softball team are still on a winning streak after a recent away game in Milledgeville. The Trojans took down the Lady Bulldogs, who are second in the region, with a score of 4-2. This is the second time they have defeated the GMC team this year. The girls are 7-0 in the region and maintain their winning streak of 8-0/SPECIAL PHOTO

Johnson County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

Johnson County Farm Bureau will hold its Annual Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 22, 2026, at The Depot, 6745 East College Street, Wrightsville, GA 31096.

Birthdays

Marci Mulkey.....	September 29
Cori Fields.....	September 29
Kaley Sheffield.....	September 29
Ivey Rowland.....	September 29
Stacey Bennett.....	September 29
Steven Johnson.....	September 30
Eddie Braswell.....	September 30
John Richard.....	September 30
Arthur McKay.....	September 30
Ruby Mayo.....	September 30
Ricky Fincher.....	September 30
Wade Braswell.....	September 30
Clip Claxton.....	October 1
Kennedy Brooks.....	October 1
Willie Lemon.....	October 1
Lamar Cullens.....	October 1
Cory Boulineau.....	October 1
Nolen Johnson.....	October 2
Becky Frost.....	October 2
Nathan Meeks.....	October 2
Annie Woods.....	October 2
Billy Parker.....	October 3
Roland Thomas.....	October 3
James E. Claxton.....	October 3
Pam Lord.....	October 3
Santana Wilson.....	October 4
Christian McAfee.....	October 4
Joey Shurling.....	October 4
Julie Stephens.....	October 5
Vinnie Walden.....	October 5
Stephanie McAfee.....	October 5
Shecoria Smith.....	October 5
Bobo Hester, Jr.....	October 5
Alicia Davis.....	October 5
Iona Cephus.....	October 5

Anniversaries

Jim & Lori SumnerOctober 4

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DID YOU KNOW...?

Did one of the lead actors in the 1980 comedy 'Airplane!' initially refuse to be in the movie?

By JACK BAGLEY
GTLN

Now that the nonsense about my birthday is over, let's get ready for something really special. I won't get into it here.

Just be sure you're back with the column one week from today. It's big. It's huge.

It's something I have been working to achieve for a very, very long time. So don't miss it.

Be here.

In the meantime, I hope you have a great time with the silly stuff that follows. Enjoy, as always!

Did you know ...

... a European country existed for only 24 hours? On March 15, 1939, a tiny portion of eastern Europe declared itself the independent Republic of Carpatho-Ukraine. And they were ready. The people of the new nation had already elected a president, Rev. Augustin Voloshyn (1874-1945); designed a flag; and even wrote a national anthem. However, their time in the Sun was destined to be brief. The very next day, March 16, the Hungarian army invaded and annexed the country to Hungary. The Republic of Carpatho-Ukraine existed for one day. (But they made the best of it, it seems.)

... you can find a National Leprechaun Museum in Ireland? Located in Dublin, the museum is not just about the wee folk; it includes exhibits encompassing all kinds of Irish mythology and folklore. (Of course it's located in Dublin. Where else would it be?)

... the first woman to own a professional baseball team did so in 1911? Helene Britton (1879-1950) assumed ownership of the St. Louis Cardinals that year. She sold the team in 1917. (I wouldn't touch that with a baseball bat with cardinals sitting on it.)

... a dead jellyfish can still sting? (They just don't realize they're doing it.)

... an inventor built a huge mansion, spent one night in it, and nobody has lived in it since? In 1894, a man named William Wyckoff (1835-1895), who designed a new kind of typewriter for the Remington Arms Company, commissioned the construction of a house on Carleton Island on the St. Lawrence River in upstate New York. When the mansion was completed, Wyckoff moved in, spent one night, then died of a heart attack. The family lost its fortune in the Depression and had to sell the mansion, having never lived in it. Planned uses for the mansion and property never panned out, and it's been vacant since 1895 – and for sale since 2012. (A bargain at any price.)

... one of the actors in the classic 1980 comedy film Airplane! initially rejected being in the movie? Peter Graves (1926-2010), a serious dramatic actor, was at first repulsed by the script for the spoof, calling it “the worst taste” and “the most disgusting piece of trash I ever read in my life.” He gave a hard pass to playing the role of Captain Clarence Oveur, but following a meeting with producers Jerry Zucker (born 1950), Jim Abrahams (1944-2024) and David Zucker (born 1947), Graves reconsidered and (somewhat reluctantly) accepted the role. Later, Graves said, “They say you're supposed to stretch as an actor,” as a reason for playing the part. It must have worked; Graves reprised the ridiculous role two years later in Airplane II: The Sequel. Additional trivia note: Graves' change of heart may have also been helped by the reaction of another classic dramatic actor in the film, Robert Stack (1919-2003). Stack, whose last comedy role had been in 1942, finally realized that “we are the joke,” meaning serious actors like himself being parodied in the film. (And don't call me Shirley.)

... a supermarket chain's name came about because its founder did not like credit? The Safeway chain of grocery stores was founded in 1915 by Marion Barton Skaggs (1888-1976), a businessman and preacher who thought credit purchases were evil. The name of the store came about because Skaggs felt a cash-only store was the “safe way” to shop. Shoppers only bought what they could pay for with cash on hand, and that kept the company from sinking during the Great Depression of 1929-1935. (Wonder what he'd think of a “cashless society”?)

... the people who make major league baseballs are very poorly paid? A worker in Costa Rica who makes baseballs earns about \$2,750 a year. Looking at modern MLB player salaries, that means the pitcher who throws the ball probably earns more per pitch than the maker of the ball earns annually. (Which is troublesome on many levels, if you ask me.)

... on average, men marry women who are three years younger than themselves? That's a world-wide average. In the United States, it goes a bit further. Men who remarry in the U.S. choose a wife about five years younger; those going for a third time down the aisle generally choose a wife eight years younger. (I have a line here, but it would close the show.)

... you should be careful about burying your pet in the back yard? You could have an experience like the one had by a family in Modesto, California. When the pet owner dug a hole to bury a beloved pet in 2018, the man discovered something had already been buried there – a person, in an advanced state of decomposition. (How would you like to read that police report?)

... a Japanese rail station had a stationmaster that was not human? From 2007 to 2015, the Kishi rail station in Japan's Wakayama prefecture was run by Tama, a calico cat. Tama (1999-2015) was the actual stationmaster, too, wearing a special cap and greeting visitors at the gate. (And he worked for a low salary, too.)

Now ... you know!

Decoration maxxng: Changing a stance on an old belief

Money is getting a little tight out there.

Diesel fuel is at an all-time high - just in time for cotton and peanut season - not to mention gas and energy prices as a whole; groceries are more expensive; and every statement that comes in the mail, from taxes to the wifi bill, is creeping up. Despite all of that, people are still willing to throw some cash around as the spooky season approaches.

The National Retail Federation is predicting Halloween spending to also reach an all-time high this year, about \$13.5 billion, this season. That's a lot of people buying decorations, costumes and candy. And not to continuously drive this point home, but cocoa and candy are also extremely expensive now.

But this is not a rant about how costly life is becoming or how people spend their hard-earned money. If buying costumes for your dog brings you joy, by all means dress your pet up for every occasion. What I'm interested in is the in-



By KYLE DOMINY

fringement of holidays and notable seasons to other parts of the calendar.

The internet calls it maxxng - taking a habit or hobby, whether for good or ill, and pushing it to the extreme. I see a lot of decoration maxxers out there.

In the past, I've taken a strict approach on when it is appropriate to decorate for various holidays, notably Christmas. I've publicly declared that no Christmas tree should be trimmed before Thanksgiving or a giant skeleton installed before Labor Day.

And you know what? I was wrong.

Along the route of my daily commute I pass a home that, as far as I know, has had a towering skeleton figure in the front yard for months if not all year long. Wrapped around the boney neck of its lanky frame is what appears to be a red, white and blue necktie, still unchanged from the summer holidays like July Fourth.

Another house fully crowds a corner of the yard of skeletons, spiders

and other spooky decor in early September. Last year the skeletons remained by the road until New Year's, wearing pilgrim hats in November and Santa Claus hoods through Christmas.

Very soon, probably before we experience any real change in the weather, some people will begin decking the halls, hanging garland and setting up Nativity scenes. And now I'm all for it.

It's been another strange year. Whether from political strife at home, wars overseas, the never-ending debate over data centers and artificial intelligence and not to mention expensive living, we're all frazzled and a little over stimulated. Some twinkling lights, whether orange and purple or silver and gold, may do us some good.

So decorate away good people. Put up your inflatable Frankenstein's monsters and have Santa Claus on deck. If it makes you happy and brings a little peace to the world, I won't complain anymore.

September 29, 1932.

Plans for increasing business in the county and appointment of a committee to promote interest in the November election were the subjects of the American Legion meeting this week. Businesses were asked to sponsor a "Dollar Day" sale on various items for one day, during which real bargains would be offered to the public. B. B. Hayes was declared winner of the medal offered by the United Daughters of the Confederacy for the ex-service man most useful to the Post during the past year.

Mr. J. M. Blizzard won the Wrightsville Headlight's watermelon contest with a 49 pounder. The city council recognized the depressed business conditions and ordered a revision of special licenses reducing them. A fire originating from a defective stove flue totally destroyed the home of Mitchell Harris, colored. He did manage to save some furniture. The Wrightsville & Tennille discontinued all but one train per day between Tennille and Hawkinsville. A decrease in patronage made this necessary. The school bells tolled for the school sys-

From Days Gone By
Historian Donald Smith



tem. It will operate as long as funds are available. Officials do not anticipate at present more than a 4 month term.

Mr. & Mrs. Kelley Powell had a son, Hollis Ray, on September 18th. Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Renfroe of Otter Creek, Florida, had a daughter, Marjorie Anne. Renfroe is a son of Mrs. J. F. Renfroe of Wrightsville.

Johnson County's application for government cloth through the Red Cross was decreased to 4,800 yards on account of the limited supply of raw cotton donated by the government. The county applied for 44,692 yards. This means the only ones in the county that will get cloth are those strictly on charity.

James Hodges Price, 4 year old son of C. E. Price,

died at home after a 2 week illness. Survived by father and siblings, Mrs. Mildred McCord, Mary & Annie Myrtle Price and Elmer Price. He was buried in Westview. W. T. Harrison, Sr., highly respected farmer, died at his home near Beulah and was buried there. He was 65.

Rev. James Edward Page, 23 year old minister of Harrison, died at his parents, Mr. & Mrs. J. O. Page. He had been ill about 6 weeks with typhoid he caught while holding a revival at Cedar Grove. Born in Washington County and ordained a minister just 2 years ago. He graduated from Brewton-Parker in 1931 and was attending Mercer. He served Pleasant Grove, Pleasant Plains and one in Wilkenson County. He was buried in

Harrison cemetery.

The county agent makes the following statement which is still true today. "All the world loves an honest man. All the world despises a liar. Every one in town lays his heart at the feet of the young man who starts out in life proposing to be himself and nobody else; depending on God and himself and nobody else; refusing to take advantage of any accident of name or position; a young man who prizes his character above all things; a hearty hater of shame and pretense, who had rather die than to climb to highest pinnacle of fame and fortune under false colors. On the other hand, there never lived anyone who did not despise a hypocrite, a deceiver. And yet there are young men who start out in life deliberately undertaking to make their way through the world pretending to be something they are not. What is it that causes a man to deliberately choose a life of greed and dishonesty? An inordinate desire for anything may lead either to violence or deceit. Violence is risky and sometimes costly. Any coward can be a deceiver. Be honest! Be yourself."

COUCH THEATER

By DEMI TAVERAS
King Features

"Tony" (R)

Dominic Sessa, who had his breakthrough role in the comedy-drama film "The Holdovers" (2023), leads this biographical coming-of-age film directed by Matt Johnson ("Nirvana the Band the Show the Movie"). Sessa plays the titular character Tony, aka Anthony Bourdain, but well before Bourdain ever became the celebrity chef many would come to know and love. Taking place in 1975, the film follows a 19-year-old Tony, who's a student in Vassar College with aspirations of being a writer. Life doesn't go exactly as planned, though, and he lands a job at a seafood restaurant in Provincetown, Massachusetts. Once there, however, Tony finds himself drawn to the atmosphere of the restaurant and starts working his way up, catching the attention of the head chef Jose (Antonio Banderas). "Tony" is out now to rent or purchase! (Amazon Prime Video)

"The 2026 MTV Video Music Awards" (TV-14)

As MTV has become less of a staple in music lovers' lives, their VMA award show has admittedly lost its touch. Still, MTV always aims to recapture the magic of past award shows, and this time, they're doing so by bringing Madonna back to the VMAs after 23 years! Not only is she the opening performer, but she also leads the pack with

13 nominations for her recent album "Confessions II." Naturally, Taylor Swift follows her with 11 nominations for "The Life of a Showgirl," and Sabrina Carpenter trails Swift with nine nominations for her hit album "Man's Best Friend." Additionally, Nirvana will be honored with the legendary Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award. If you missed the live event, it's available to stream now! (Paramount+)

"Saturday Night Live: Season 52" (TV-MA)

It's crazy to think that it's already been two years since "SNL 50," but here we are, welcoming in the 52nd season of Lorne Michaels' late-night sketch-comedy show. Two new cast members have been announced since Chloe Fineman's ("Love Language") departure from the show after seven seasons -- the first being Saidah Bel-Osagie and Grace Reiter

("Run Amok"). Reiter is the first SNL cast member to be born in the 2000s. This season will feature hosts like New York Knicks MVP Jalen Brunson, "Obsession" star Inde Navarrette, and comedian Shane Gillis ("Madden"). Meanwhile, upcoming musical guests include girl group Katseye, Spanish singer and actress Rosalia ("Euphoria"), and pop star Gracie Abrams. The first episode is out now to stream! (Peacock)

PUBLIC NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR REZONING

The Mayor and Council of the City of Wrightsville have been requested to rezone the following described property from a CU District to a R-3 District:

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the City of Wrightsville, 1201st G. M. District of Johnson County, Georgia, containing 2.74 acres, more or less and being shown on the attached zoning request map of said property prepared by Roger E. Price, Price Engineering, LLC, which map, dated September 8, 2026, and attached hereto and made a part hereof, is incorporated into this description by reference thereto.

All persons are hereby notified that a public hearing will be held to consider the application for rezoning the above described property at the City Hall in Wrightsville, Georgia at 6:00 o'clock P.M. on the 19th day of October, 2026. Objections may be filed on the date of said hearing or at any time prior thereto with the City Clerk.

This 11th day of October, 2026.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WRIGHTSVILLE, GEORGIA
BY: *Aprie Brynna*
CITY CLERK

Amy Gibson

The west end of the lunch counter at ADD Drug in the Five Points section of Athens was occupied all last week, but not with anxious diners, which is usually the case. Instead, there were flowers, cards of sympathy, and a somber atmosphere, which was brought about by the death of the queen of the food operation, Amy Gibson.

Amy was a hard worker, a pretty brunette with a touch of gray that gave her a classic look. Most of all she had an evergreen smile that made this well-known spot in the Classic City the place for good food, unparalleled service, ambient atmosphere, and a broadside of love and laughter if you were a regular. If you weren't a regular, you could join Amy's club by showing a smiling face and not your backside.

Students, faculty, and local folk hang out there. When students settle across the state and become dotting alumni, many of them, when they return to Athens, order a meal at ADD Drug,



LORAN SMITH

which began operations in 1961 by the Horton family. ADD is an acronym for Athens Discount Drugs.

When Kevin Florence took over the ADD Drug, he said he knew nothing about the lunch business, but he quickly knew what to do. "I simply asked Amy what I should do. She took over and supervised the entire operation. We never had a problem, and we had the smoothest transition imaginable. She made many friends for us, and we will always be indebted to her for making our

customers feel good all the time." Vanessa Owings worked with Amy for over five years and was on the verge of tears when she said, "She was more than a co-worker; she was my friend and became a part of my family. We all miss her so much."

Amy knew who the generous tippers were but did not bad mouth the cheapskates. "That's their problem," she would say of those who had resources but were miserly when it came to tipping the working class.

I have been an ADD Drug patron since it opened in 1961 and have hosted guests there, who were taken by the downhome atmosphere that prevails—to say nothing about the food, service from a smiling staff, and the collegial ambience.

That includes Verne and Nancy Lundquist, and Craig Silver, CBS; Holly Rowe and Todd Blackledge, ESPN; John Underwood, Sports Illustrated; and in the spring, Annika Sörenstam, the greatest of women's golfers whose daughter wanted to tour the UGA campus, was pleased to have lunch with Amy.

She thought that was "neat," but she reserved just as much affection for friends like Mike and Runell Cheek, Mac and Jennifer Coile, Ted and Sandy Dieter, Ricky Chastain, and a host of others. And while we are namedropping, let's not overlook the fact that ADD Drug is patronized by Marianne Rogers who grew up on Bloomfield Street in walking distance of the establishment.

Amy arranged photos on the wall from coaches who have had a tasty sandwich over the years, including Kirby Smart, Jack Bauerle, Joni Taylor (who now is at Texas A&M), Mark Richt, and others.

Nobody loved working and satisfying customers more than Amy, who was always displaying a sign that reflected the proper attitude when you took a seat at the counter.

For over 12 years, Amy built a reputation that made her the doyenne of ADD Drugs.

She enjoyed telling her customers the latest joke that she had heard and was eager to collect one from you, if you had one to make her day. Just about a

week before she died, I told her a true story about the Florida land boom and bust in the mid 1920s.

Two guys from South Georgia went down to Miami looking for work, but the bust had brought ruin to the boom. Flat broke, they walked by a restaurant advertising steaks and strawberry shortcake and went inside. They were seated, commenced to order, and enjoyed steak and dessert to the fullest.

When they finished, they walked up to the cashier, who was also the proprietor, and asked him what he would do if two drifters came into the restaurant, ordered steaks and dessert, and did not have the money to pay?

The owner replied, "Why I would kick them square in the rear." With that one of the diners bent over and said, "Well, in that case take out for two."

That made Amy laugh with verve and satisfaction. So, the last memory I will have of Amy will always be making this bundle of goodwill, elite hospitality, and eternal selflessness, laugh.

Georgia Politics: ‘Affordability’ meets the cost of state government

We're less than a month out from statewide elections that will determine Georgia's leadership for the next four years. Regardless which party wins, there will be new people sworn in as Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General. Those positions alone are enough to change the tone, tenor, and trajectory of the state before you factor in changes that will occur in the composition of the state legislature.

Candidates are mostly emphasizing what they will change. It's equally important to understand where they will be starting from.

Campaigns are fueled by vibes. Actual decisions made once winners are sworn in are rooted in data.

While the Tea Party has morphed into MAGA, the general sentiment of the right is that voters are Taxed Enough Already. The left, meanwhile, likes to promise unlimited spending for virtually any and every cause, if only "the billionaires" would pay for it.

The reality is that most of the tax burden at the state level falls to the broadest section of the



CHARLIE HARPER
GEORGIA POLITICS

middle class. There are pledges to cut taxes. Both income and property taxes are frequently mentioned. Both present real expenses to everyday Georgians.

"Affordability" is the new buzzword to discuss inflation, that was off limits from most major news sources as an issue during the 2024 campaign cycle. Now it's among the top issues.

Republicans want to point out that the rate of inflation was higher under President Biden. Democrats want voters to blame tariff policies and war with Iran as the reasons items cost more. There's evidence to

support both side's claims.

These are macroeconomic issues that bring voter angst into state elections. State leaders can't fix the national and international economic issues nor monetary climate. They are responsible, however, for setting state policies that maximize the local economy's potential, protect the quality of life, provide for a quality education, and provide for common infrastructure.

All of these responsibilities which fall to state and local leaders cost money. They too have "affordability" issues. Inflation causes the cost of government to go up too. The goods government must buy – from construction materials to build roads, equipment for offices, cars for the State Patrol, and generally all other items the state buys costs a lot more than it did a decade ago. Likewise, the salaries of those who work on behalf of us in government roles also increases with inflation to keep wages competitive.

Voters noticing that a pound of ground beef can cost \$9 or more are in no mood to be told the cost of government is also going

up. They want tax cuts. That's natural.

It's also natural to be told that you're taxed too much. Even the party that wants to increase taxes won't tell their voters they want to tax THEM more. They just say someone else will pay.

That's the rhetoric. The Urban Institute gives us a place to start a real discussion with some facts.

They compare all fifty states. They then combine all local and state government spending, and divide that by the state's population. The result is the amount each state pays per capita for government services. Their most current data is compiled through 2023's data.

In a prior report 2 years ago, Georgia was the state with the lowest cost of state and local government. The most current report shows spending increasing slightly faster than others, but Georgia still coming in with the 4th lowest cost per person, at \$9,960.

The three states that beat Georgia are Tennessee (\$9,221), Idaho (9,422), and Nevada (\$9,514). For comparison, other neighboring states in order of spending

are Florida (\$10,484), Alabama (\$10,947), North Carolina (\$10,955), and South Carolina (11,121).

A state many wish Georgia could emulate on tax policy, Texas, spends \$10,777 per person. They fund this with oil extraction revenues Georgia doesn't have, and roughly double the property taxes that Georgia's local governments have, but the state does not.

Two states often the deserved targets for fiscal derision rank 48th for California (\$17,527) and 49th for New York (\$18,450). The highest is somewhat of a structural anomaly, with Alaska having a very low population base over a very widely dispersed geography spending \$20,472, with much of their burden also offset by oil extraction fees rather than personally paid taxes.

So Georgia is almost as lean as any other state, and a lot more efficient than the worst. But again, notice this is state AND local spending. The state has actually been actively rolling back income tax rates. State gas taxes no longer rise with the price of gas-

oline. The state no longer collects property taxes.

Quite a few Georgians are noticing local governments advertising hearings on increasing property taxes. Many of these entities are promoting millage rate rollbacks, despite the fact that increased tax assessments are increasing revenues to local governments.

Much of what the state collects flows directly back to local governments. Education Funds are chief among them, but many other programs have dedicated local government funding components.

Legislators have grown tired of getting beaten up for the increasing cost of government, then watching local governments take their payouts and turn around and increase taxes through local assessments.

The takeaway here today is likely going to be friction in January. Georgia remains lean, but the costs relative to other states is going up. Legislators will assert the blame lies with local commissions, councils, and school boards.

Niece searching for uncle missing in action in Vietnam finds him elsewhere

You have read my accounts of my fraternity brother at UGA, Pat Boggs, a Marine Corps pilot who went missing in action during the Vietnam War. One of my columns wondering what had happened to him made it to Monterey, California, where his brother-in-law, Ron Breuch, filled me in on the details. Maj. Boggs had been killed on a bombing mission in North Vietnam when his plane hit a karst, a limestone formation prominent on the coast. Total devastation. Nothing found but harnesses and a pistol.

Pat's niece, Aileen Wetzel, who never got to meet her uncle, recently went to Vietnam and visited the site where his plane had crashed. She shared her mystical and spiritual experience with me. I feel compelled to share it with you. It is about being lost and found. Here is her story:

"In my early 20s, a business trip took me to Washington, D.C. My mother asked me to visit the Vietnam Wall and bring home a pencil rubbing of her brother's name.

"As I started to walk the length of the black granite wall, my gaze lifted from the flowers and mementos left on the ground and the



DICK YARBROUGH

first name I read was Major Paschal G. Boggs, my Uncle Pat. I still can't explain it. It felt like a tap on the shoulder. A reminder: I'm here.

"When I decided to go to Vietnam in August, I carried that experience with me. I believed that if I had felt him at the Wall, then surely I would feel him here.

"Eventually, I found myself on Ha Long Bay, a two-hour drive from Hanoi and a mere 8 kilometers from the crash site.

"As I stood on the boat, the water was calm beneath us, interrupted by those extraordinary limestone karsts rising almost impossibly from the sea – immense, ancient shapes. Some stood alone. Others appeared one behind another through the haze, fading into shades of gray until it was difficult to

tell where the stone ended and the sky began.

"It was breathtaking. Somewhere above this water, Pat had flown. On his last mission, he would have looked down upon this same landscape. The thought stopped me.

"Nearly sixty years separated us, and yet for a moment we occupied the same geography – the same sea, the same impossible limestone formations, perhaps even the same horizon.

"I tried to imagine what he had seen from the cockpit. Had he noticed the beauty beneath him? Had the karsts looked small from the air, scattered across the water like stones? Was the bay clear that night, or hid-

den beneath clouds? Did he know these would be among the last mountains, the last water, the last pieces of earth he would ever see?

"I watched the limestone cliffs pass slowly beside me. And I waited. I waited for what had happened before. For the coincidence. For the sudden certainty that something had shifted. For that familiar tap on my shoulder. I'm here.

"But nothing came. There was only the water, the mountains, the sky. And silence. What overwhelmed me on Ha Long Bay was not Pat's presence. It was his absence. He wasn't there.

"And there it was. An epiphany that nearly knocked me to my knees.



Maybe the dead do not stay where they die. Maybe they stay where they are loved.

"I thought about the Wall. I thought about Pat's name carved into the black granite. I thought about the hands that have touched those names. The flowers left beneath them. The photographs. The letters. The people who stand silently before more than fifty-eight thousand names searching for a loved one.

"And perhaps that is why I could feel Pat at the Wall but could not feel him in Ha Long Bay. Vietnam could show me the water he flew over. It could show me the mountains he saw. But it could not tell me where he

went. Perhaps there was nothing of Pat left for me to find in Vietnam because he had not been left behind.

"As our boat moved quietly through Ha Long Bay, another limestone karst emerged through the haze. I looked up and a hawk, a Black Kite to be specific, was gliding effortlessly through the air. Mom passed away years ago, but she frequently comes to me in the form of a hawk. She was there. And maybe that was the tap on the shoulder I had traveled so far to find."

Maj. Pat Boggs is not in Vietnam. Once lost. He has been found. His spirit is here. He is at home, where he belongs. Well done, good and faithful servant.

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Georgia still tops for business

By TY TAGAMI
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — It might not be a lucky number, but Georgia’s political leaders are celebrating the state’s ranking as the top location for corporate expansions for the 13th year in a row. The designation was based on a survey of 50 corporate site selection consultants nationwide.

“Georgia’s 13th consecutive year as Area Development’s No. 1 Top State for Doing Business is an extraordinary achievement and reflects a level of consistency that few states have been able to match,” Dennis Shea, president and publisher of Area Development, said in a statement. The quarterly magazine, founded in 1965, covers corporate site selection and

relocation. States were scored on more than a dozen factors. Georgia took the top spot in several, including access to workers with manufacturing skills, government cooperation and responsiveness, and help in expediting the development process. “That consistency is exactly what has allowed Georgia to sustain its position as Area Development’s

top state for doing business,” Shea said. Gov. Brian Kemp said in a statement Wednesday that the ranking showed Georgia was core to “the American comeback story across a wide range of industries, including manufacturing.” Fellow Republican, Lt. Gov. Burt Jones, credited tax cuts and efforts to develop the workforce. House Speaker Jon Burns, R-New-

ington, echoed those sentiments and noted the Legislature’s investments in early literacy. This year, Kemp signed House Bill 1193 into law, giving schools \$70 million a year to put about 1,300 literacy coaches into classrooms. Kemp’s office credited \$28 million in funding to help rural communities prepare industrial sites. Earlier this week, Pirelli, a global tire producer based in Italy, announced a \$1.2 billion expansion of

its U.S. operations base in northwest Georgia, adding as many as 1,000 jobs at its Rome facility over seven years. Last month, German industrial giant Siemens announced plans to create 1,400 jobs in northeast Georgia. Siemens Group USA already employs more than 1,700 people at two plants and six offices across Georgia. The company said it planned to invest \$185 million to establish a half-million-square-foot facility near Pendergrass.

New study: people in Georgia struggle more to pay for food and healthcare

By TY TAGAMI
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — New research from a Georgetown University policy organization reports that people in Georgia are struggling more than the nation as a whole to pay for food and healthcare. The new Family Economic Well-Being Index, out Thursday, reports that more than a third of Georgians are burdened or severely burdened by food costs and nearly half are similarly struggling to pay for healthcare. Their hardship is not captured by traditional poverty statistics, said Lelaine Bigelow, executive director of the Georgetown Center on Poverty and Inequality. “While families in poverty face the greatest difficulty affording the basics, this

struggle reaches well into the middle class,” Bigelow said in a statement. “Millions of people are working hard and still can’t get ahead of these costs.” The center, based at the Georgetown University Law Center, used the federal government’s 2023 American Community Survey and other data to classify people in four categories based on their ability to cover four essential needs: childcare, food, healthcare and housing. Those who were best off were categorized as meeting needs or getting by. Those who were struggling were sorted into burdened or severely burdened. Georgia was on par with the U.S. as a whole for housing, with about a third either burdened or severely

burdened. But 36% of Georgians struggled with food costs versus 32% nationwide. With healthcare, 48% of Georgians were burdened or severely burdened, compared to 41% nationally. One bright spot, sort of: the cost of childcare for children under 6. The percentage of Georgia households that were burdened or severely burdened paying for it was 8 percentage points below the national percentage. But it was still more than half of Georgia parents, at 53%. The numbers underscore the salience of affordability as an issue with just weeks to go before the Nov. 3 election. “Affordability is the defining economic issue of the moment,” Bigelow said.

Alamo City Council begins application for ICE Grant

By LOGAN REYNOLDS
Staff Reporter

The Alamo City Council considered pursuing a grant offered by the federal Immigration Customs Enforcement for the Alamo Police Department during their monthly meeting on Sept. 21 in the Alamo City Hall. The grant, made available through ICE and the Department of Justice, provides a \$3 billion dollar fund to be divided between successful applicant law enforcement agencies. Under the grant, Alamo police officers would undergo ICE training and receive limited ICE authority, according to City Attorney Perry Avery. “Those officers would remain city employees, and the city retains control of their regular police duties, but when exercising delegated immigration authority, they would be under the direction of ICE at that point for specific tasks that they may come in to do,” said Avery. According to Alamo Police Chief Roy Adams, local police officers would be federally obligated to assist in local ICE operations regardless, so the grant would allow the city to receive funds from the process. “If ICE comes in here with some warrants and stuff, we[re] going to do that anyway without the grant,” said Adams. “We’ve got to help them, so why not get paid to do it?” The funds could be used to hire or rehire police personnel, fund training and maintaining and acquiring equipment. If the council opted to pursue the grant, they would enter into the third and final round of applications, as the first two rounds have already closed. The city would be required to produce “basically a proposal for what you’re going to do with these funds,” according to Avery. “There’s a lot that would go into this,” said Avery. According to Adams, the Wheeler County Sheriff’s Department is also pursuing funds and training from the grant. Council Member Don-

drea Geter offered a motion to apply for the grant, which passed unanimously. During the meeting, Council Member Laura Brownley drew the names of four residents in a raffle, giving away security cameras to the winners. The camera giveaway serves as part of the city’s push for more cameras in the Alamo area, coinciding with the police department’s desire to install more Flock Security cameras. In addition to raffling away the cameras, Brownley said the winners could receive Police Chief Adam’s assistance in installing the cameras at their homes. “Any help for them helps me out too,” said Adams. City Manager Jeffery Floyd presented the council with quotes for the purchase of a new pump for the city’s wastewater treatment facilities. These pumps remain submerged in what Floyd described as “sludge” around the clock. The council had previously voted to have the pump rebuilt in July after a lightning strike damaged the unit. However, when the pump was removed by Southeastern Environmental employees, it was deemed unsalvageable. Instead, Southeastern provided the city with “three different prices for three different pumps,” depending on the warranties added. The city also received quotes for rental pumps from a different company, though Floyd was not interested in those quotes. The council selected a pump with a five year warranty for \$22,897, which Floyd believed would last longer than five years. Council Member Steve Jones offered a motion to purchase the pump, which passed unanimously. Floyd also presented a quote for the replacement of the scaling system on two city wells. The original system, which allows for level control in the wells, was installed in 2014 when a new well tank was built. According to Floyd, the company which submitted the \$22,480 quote, J.K. Duren, is “basically the only

company in the state of Georgia that does this.” “I’ve talked to six or seven cities in the local area, and J.K. Duren is the one that does them,” said Floyd. Council Member Brownley offered a motion to purchase the new system, which passed unanimously. Floyd confirmed the remodeling process for the old city hall would begin within the upcoming weeks, though could not provide a specific date from the contractors. “As soon as I get a date, I’ll let everybody know,” said Floyd. Upon the completion of the renovations, the council voted to use the building for a “test drive” of a new farmers market, following a motion from Council Member Brownley. The motion also included explorations of guidelines and other necessities needed to run a farmer’s market. Council Member Patricia Woodard offered a motion to set the city’s official trunk-or-treat event on Oct. 29 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the local walking track, which passed unanimously. She also offered a motion to raise the spending limit for the mayor from \$500 per year, which passed unanimously. Council Member Geoffrey Villegas offered a motion to approve a revised contract with Alpha Animal Control Shelter, which passed unanimously. Floyd also presented the council with a second quote for the city’s flower garden from Civil Irrigation for \$16,321.47, alongside a previous quote from Paul’s Landscaping for \$18,365. The project would involve the companies planting flowers and installing an irrigation system, with Floyd describing the offerings from both companies as “the same identical things.” “It’s something we talked about, just trying to make the downtown area look better,” said Floyd. However, Floyd and the council expressed concerns with installing plants during the fall, instead deciding to wait and reapproach the bidding companies in the spring. The council also approved a letter of support for a new nonprofit founded by Cameron Wooten to support local small businesses.

In Georgia's race for governor, focus shifts to farms

By TY TAGAMI
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Pledging to fight for farmers, Republican Rick Jackson unveiled his plan to support Georgia’s agricultural industry as the sector gets squeezed by rising prices for diesel, fertilizer and other essentials. “I want our farmers to know that as governor I will be in the fight to help them in any way I can,” the healthcare executive said at a small gathering of supporters and media at Cagle’s Farm in Canton, a tourist destination. Democrat Keisha Lance Bottoms fired back, with her campaign saying that she had already met with farmers and unveiled her own plan. The former Atlanta mayor also pointed to Jackson’s alliance with President Donald Trump, noting that the rising prices for diesel and fertilizer that were hurting farmers had occurred during Trump’s watch. “Slick Rick Jackson has proven he is too afraid to stand up to Trump and fight for Georgia’s farmers,” TaNisha Cameron, the Bottoms campaign spokesperson, said in a statement. Jackson’s plan would preserve an agricultural

tax exemption and suspend the state tax on diesel fuel during price spikes. It also would connect family farms with “cost-effective capital,” recruit fertilizer makers, oppose cheap imports from countries with weak regulatory requirements, and establish an emergency water reserve of 250 million gallons a day. Jackson said he also would foster co-op meat and produce processing centers to bring down costs. Bottoms and Jackson align on that idea. Her plan encourages cooperatives allowing farmers to pool resources while sharing equipment and processing capacity. Like Jackson, Bottoms also would target taxes, in her case by supporting property tax relief for heirs. She also would push for more agricultural education — in schools and through free pathways to technical college. And she would help farmers fill out paperwork for federal programs. Bottoms’ campaign said she would oppose Trump’s tariffs, yet she slammed Trump for announcing temporary relief from certain beef tariffs. State Agriculture Commissioner Tyler Harper, a

Republican, pushed back on that Trump policy last month, warning on social media that it could harm cattle producers. “Increasing our reliance on imported food is not a long-term solution to Americans’ affordability concerns,” Harper posted. “We can lower costs for consumers while supporting the farmers and ranchers who produce our food here at home.” Neither Bottoms nor Jackson offered many details about how they would execute their plans. On restricting agricultural imports from countries with lax regulations, for instance, Jackson basically said to trust him. “I don’t know all of the ways,” he said, “but if there’s any way to do it, I’ll get it done.” Bottoms and Jackson will have a chance to attack the other’s platform at 8 p.m. on Oct. 6, during a town hall hosted by Atlanta News First. So far, it is their only scheduled debate before early voting starts Oct. 13. Bottoms and nearly every other statewide candidate except Jackson have confirmed attendance at the Atlanta Press Club debates at Georgia Public Broadcasting on Oct. 12 and 13.

Soperton City Council acquires 'skeeter sprayer' and new cameras

By LOGAN REYNOLDS
Staff Reporter

The Soperton City Council approved the purchase of new security cameras and a mosquito sprayer during their monthly meeting on Sept. 21 in the Soperton City Hall, adding both items to their agenda following work session discussion. First, the council considered two options for the purchase of a “skeeter sprayer, for lack of a better, more politically correct term,” said Council Member Andrew Simons who led the meeting in the mayor’s absence. The two options were presented by Antwon McClendon of the city’s public works department. The two machines differed primarily in size, with one requiring a truck to transport and operate, while the other would fit on the department’s golf cart. The size difference was also reflected in the price, with the smaller sprayer costing \$10,000 less than the larger alternative. “[McClendon’s] recommendation was to save this city \$10,000 by going with the smaller unit that mounts to the golf cart that we recently approved the purchase of,” said Simons. Otherwise, the two machines were identical in terms of operation. According to Simons, the remote controlled operation would allow for

sprays to be a “one-man operation,” with McClendon specifying the driver would spray in the city in two 2-hour sessions each week. The council did express concerns about the lack of a warranty mentioned by the vendor, London Foggers. However, they opted to move forward with the purchase pending more information on a warranty. Council Member Misty Brantley offered a motion to approve the purchase of the smaller sprayer, which passed unanimously. The council also considered the purchase of six cameras for the recreation complex on Ball Park Road. The \$7,352 quote for the cameras was offered by Wise Computer Systems, who have previously installed cameras for the city in the city hall and Soperton Police Department. “I think the camera system is just kind of indicative of the world that we’re living in right now,” said Simons. “I think we have to have this to protect this city and this body. If the type of activities we’re getting reports of are taking place out there at that new rec facility, I think this will be a good hedge of protection around the city and around us as a council.” Simons made a motion to purchase the camera system from Wise Computer Systems, which

passed unanimously. In other action items, the council considered contractors for the pavements of sections of Hyman Avenue, Bell Avenue and Troop Street using LMIG and LRA funds. The project will be the first for the city under a new contract with engineering consultant firm Hofstadter and Associates. In the four bids the city received for the project, there was a \$56,000 range in costs between them, with each reviewed by Hofstadter and Associates. The firm recommended the city select a \$122,639.09 bid from East Coast Asphalt. Council Member Kendra Madison-Harswell offered a motion to select East Coast Asphalt’s bid, which passed unanimously. The council also approved four appointments to the local Board of Housing Authority, including two reappointments and two new members. Council Member Madison-Harswell offered a motion to approve the appointments, which passed unanimously. Council Member Brantly offered a motion to approve two appointments to the local recreation authority, which passed unanimously. She also offered a motion to adopt a resolution regarding a new joint comprehensive plan with Treutlen County, which passed unanimously.

Don't settle for less than safe water

By JAMES TANNER
UGA Extension

The availability of safe drinking water is indeed one of the absolute most important issues we can experience. Even with its importance, many times the issue is overlooked or taken for granted. UGA Extension offers answers through education, testing, and consultations. I am the UGA ANR extension agent for both Washington and Johnson counties. Prior to working with UGA, I worked for 15 years with public health out of the Dublin Health District. Johnson and Washington counties are very rural. They are made up of a few small towns and mostly rural county living. Based on some recent census data from these two counties, approximately 65 % of the population lives outside the city limits. This means that well over half of the population uses private wells as their primary drinking source. Private wells are considered non-public drinking water. This means that the water is not routinely sampled for safety purposes by any municipality like water from a public source like the city of Sandersville. A few private well companies, public health, and UGA Extension are some of the very limited choices that these people have for help with monitoring and ensuring safe drinking water on private wells. Over the past few years water testing has become a little more routine. I actually believe that some people tend to be more conscious of their health and personal safety. Another reason would be home sales in rural areas often require the drinking source to be proven safe before a purchase loan can close. Additionally, tests may be initiated by proposed foster care homes, personal care homes, and even food service establishments that are on non-public water sources. Recent increases in water testing needs bring emphasis on the importance of UGA Extensions availability in this field. In the past 12 months our office has processed and coordinated about 90 water samples. Out of the 90 about half of those are testing for bacteria levels in the water. It is not necessarily uncommon for an initial water sample to fail the bacteria portion of testing. But unsatisfactory water samples can pose some health risks. Bacteria levels in water can be a bigger issue for people that are extremely young or people that are extremely old, and anyone that may have a compromised immune system. Water samples that are unsatisfactory can also mean added cost and delays in the lending and mortgage process that many purchasers face. Wells that fail a bacteria test should be chlorinated and retested to determine safe levels. You can contact the Washington County Health Dept. (478)-552-3210 or the Extension office (478) 552-2011 for information about water testing. Bacteria samples through the health department are \$80. Extension offers dozens of various tests ranging in price from around \$20for a basic mineral analysis up to several hundred dollars depending on the exact test you need. Samples sent through the extension office will incur additional costs for shipping as well. I can also answer many questions through email at james.tanner@uga.edu

Quentin's Place ribbon cutting a reminder of hope center brings to community

By PAYTON TOWNS III
GTLN

The crowd cheered Wednesday as the green ribbon was cut on Quentin's Place, a new center where people in a health crisis can look for hope. The behavioral health crisis center held a ribbon cutting ceremony at its new location at 326 Johnson Drive. The building, named after the late Dr. Quentin Price, was packed with community leaders, law enforcement officers, Community Service Board of Middle Georgia representatives and other members of the community. "I remember gathering here May (2025) for a groundbreaking, and there was a plan, vision and commitment for stronger support services in this area," said Commissioner Kevin Tanner with Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. "Today, that becomes a reality. This facility is going to give people hope. It is open 24 hours a day, and people will be able to receive care and services." Denise Forbes, chief clinical officer at CSBMG, called Quentin's Place a 24-hour service center with 21-hour access, which includes a 16-bed temporary observation unit and a crisis stabilization unit with 24 beds. She recalled how they gathered on April 12, 2005 to dedicate a different facility to Price, posthumously. He had been a family physician for more than 33 years, and after retirement, worked as a part-time physician with the CSBMG, until passing away at 76. "For those who had the privilege of knowing and working with Dr. Price, it was easy to see the passion he brought to his work, especially with those dealing with substance use problems," Forbes said. "He worked tirelessly to ensure that individuals served received the best possible care. He never grew tired of learning and continued to keep up with new techniques and practices in the field of addiction for as long as he worked." Twenty-one years later, Forbes noted how they were once again dedicating a new building for Price. "Though our team held discussions about naming the facility, it was an easy decision that this building would be known as the Quentin Price, MD, Behavioral Health Crisis Center, still affectionately known as Quentin's Place," she said. "I've often thought of Dr. Price and his time spent with our agency. I know he would be extremely pleased to see the outgrowth of the seeds he sowed in helping those most in need. Through his efforts with public health and mental health initiatives, Dr. Price helped strengthen and expand crisis stabilization services and addiction treatment as important service options for citizens in our rural area." Price's family attended the event. State Rep. Matt Hatchett, of District 155, called on Quentin's son, Jim, to speak. "This is a great honor," Jim said. "This is really, really something." Dr. Price worked as a family practitioner from 1960 until he retired. He then went on to work part-time in the prison system and later to mental health. "To get a place named after you for only working part-time is pretty good," his son said. "I'd like to thank Matt, Kevin and so many people who worked so

hard to get this done." Hatchett remembers seeing the budget three or four years ago and saw a new behavioral crisis center to be built in Dublin. It needed the support of Tanner and Kemp. It also needed the support of the leaders of the CSBMG. Hatchett also thanked former Georgia Speaker of the House David Ralston. "Without him being passionate about helping mental health become recognized as just health, we would not be here," Hatchett said. "We have put billions of dollars into mental health and without him, we would not be here." Tanner thanked Hatchett, saying the new facility would not be where it was without him. Tanner also gave kudos to Gov. Brian Kemp. "Since 2019, Georgia has invested well over a billion dollars in increased funding in mental health," Tanner said. "That would not have been possible without Gov. Kemp." O.J. Hall, chairman of the Dublin-Laurens Chamber of Commerce board of directors and CSBMG board member, thanked the employees for the work they have done. Hall, who is also the Laurens County Schools superintendent, informed the public that when the CSBMG is helping a child or student in crisis, they are also helping their family. Lisa Montford, chief executive officer, said Quentin's Place is the result of a vision that people experiencing a behavioral health crisis deserve a safe, welcoming and dignified place to receive the help and care that is required. She thanked architectural firm Hussey Gay Bell, and Akins, the general contractor. Cindy Levi, former CEO of Avita Community Partners, was thanked for her technical assistance, experience, encouragement and willingness to answer many emails and phone calls. Montford also thanked Renee Moore, Quentin's Place program manager, and Nurse Manager Sheree Skipper for working behind the scenes. "They have spent countless hours ... working through the many details that most people will never see – but that are so important to creating a safe environment for individuals in crisis," Montford said. "Thank you for caring enough to sweat the small stuff, because in a place like this, the small stuff can make a very big difference. Your dedication, your expertise and your commitment to the people we serve are reflected throughout this building." Montford also spotlighted the employees at Quentin's Place. "You are the heart of this organization," she said. "You are the people who will sit with someone when they are hurting. You will listen when they feel no one else will. You will offer reassurance when they are afraid. And sometimes, you may simply be the person who helps someone believe that tomorrow can be better than today." Which is the real purpose of the building. "Someone will walk through these doors on what may be the worst day of their life," Montford said. "And because of Quentin's Place, they will have somewhere to go. They will have someone to talk to. They will have an opportunity to stabilize, to heal, and to find a path forward. And perhaps most importantly, they will have hope."

Legals

J26-043 NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

GEORGIA, JOHNSON COUNTY
All creditors of the estate of William Arthur Herrington, Jr., decedent, late of Johnson County, are hereby notified to render in their demands to Morgan M. Boulineau, Attorney, Cadle & Boulineau, P.C., P.O. Box 68, Swainsboro, GA 30401 according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.

This 15th day of September, 2026.
Matthew Herrington, Executor of the Estate of William Arthur Herrington, Jr., decedent
Cadle & Boulineau, P.C.
P.O. Box 68
Swainsboro, GA 30401
September 22, 29, October 6, 13, 2026

J26-040 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF JOHNSON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA In Re: Tavarian Robinson and Skylin Robinson Civil Action File No.2026-CV-112 NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

GEORGIA, JOHNSON COUNTY
Notice is hereby given that Tavarus Norris, the undersigned, filed his petition to the Superior Court of Johnson County, Georgia on the 26th day of August, 2026, praying for a change in the name of minor child(ren) from Tavarian Robinson to Tavarian Robinson, and from Skylin Robinson to Skylin Norris. 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 26th day of August, 2026.
Tavarus Norris
Petitioner pro se
September 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

J26-041 IN THE PROBATE COURT OF JOHNSON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF MARK WILLIAM CLARK, DECEASED ESTATE NO. PR2026-24 NOTICE

IN RE: The Petition to Probate Will (and Codicil(s)) in Solemn Form in the above-referenced estate having been duly filed.
TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
This is to notify you to file objection, if there is any, to the petition to probate will in solemn form, in this Court on or before October 05, 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.

Jennifer Morris
Judge of the Probate Court
By: Labreka McCloud.
Clerk of the Probate Court
P.O. Box 264
Wrightsville, GA 31096
478-864-3316
September 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

J26-035
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE UNDER POWER
JOHNSON COUNTY, GEORGIA
Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by Walter Radford and Brenda L Radford to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Village Capital & Investment LLC., dated October 11, 2024, and recorded in Deed Book 00468, Page 0023-0039, Johnson County, Georgia Records, subsequently modified by a Loan Modification Agreement recorded January 22, 2026 in Book 00484, Page 0012 in the amount of Two Hundred Eleven Thousand Seven Hundred and 86/100 (\$211,700.86) Johnson County, Georgia Records, as last transferred to Village Capital & Investment LLC by assignment recorded on August 7, 2026 in Book 00492 Page 0062 in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Johnson County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of One Hundred Ninety-Eight Thousand Eighty-Eight and 0/100 dollars (\$198,088.00), 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 Johnson County, Georgia, within the legal hours of sale on October 6, 2026, the following described property:
All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the 1746th District, g.M. Johnson county, Georgia, containing 3.137 acres, more or less, and being more particularly described as follows: said property is bounded, now or formerly, on the North by u.S. Highway 80; on the east by property belonging to j. R. Youmans; on the south by property of Grady Screws; and on the west by Beasley street. Said property being shown on of same by Billy Flanders and associates dated January 23, 1987, recorded in plat book 11, page 38, Johnson county public land records, said plat is referred to for descriptive and all other legal purposes. 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).
The entity having full authority to negotiate, amend or modify all terms of the loan (although not required by law to do so) is: Village Capital & Investment LLC they can be contacted at (801) 206-4170 for Loss Mitigation Dept. or by writing to 2460 Paseo Verde Parkway, Suite 110, Henderson, Nevada 89074, 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 party in possession of the property is Walter Radford and Brenda L Radford or tenant(s); and said property is more commonly known as 98 E Main St, Adrian, GA 31002.
The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the security deed and (3) any right of redemption or other lien not extinguished by foreclosure.
Village Capital & Investment LLC as Attorney in Fact for Walter Radford and Brenda L Radford.
Brock & Scott, PLLC
4360 Chamblee Dunwoody Road
Suite 310
Atlanta, GA 30341
404-789-2661
B&S file no.: 26-22047
September 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

J26-042 IN THE PROBATE COURT OF JOHNSON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA IN RE: ESTATE OF CARTHER CASON JR., DECEASED ESTATE NO. PR2026-42 PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern:
RICKY CASON has petitioned for RICKY CASON to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of **CARTHER CASON 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 October 19, 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.
Jennifer Morris
Judge of the Probate Court
By: Labreka McCloud
Clerk of the Probate Court
P.O. Box 264
Wrightsville, GA 31096
478-864-3316
September 22, 29, October 6, 13, 2026

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POWERS
Continued from page 1

A standing room-only crowd attended the July 21 commission meeting, mostly demanding the county take action to prevent such a facility from coming.

The grant application, which was denied, was for Environmental Protection Agency funds to check for brownfields, or contaminated industrial land. It listed the Mohawk plant site as a possible use for the funds. Its owner, a Pakistani textile entrepreneur, has the property for sale, marketed for use as a manufacturing facility or a data center.

Commissioners told the audience that there were no plans to build a data center in Laurens County, and have so far, to the ire of residents who still appear at meetings to voice their opposition, have taken no action to limit or regulate the construction of one.

In hindsight, Powers admits he didn't intend to cause a sensation, however, he achieved his goal of getting people in the community talking.

"I really could have been proactive in my communication to [commissioners] on what I identified," Powers said. "It was a misstep of a young man trying to do something right, in the honest effort to try to make people aware of these things."

Powers said he wasn't necessarily against data centers, but a priority, if elected, would be seeking ways to better plan for and regulate the construction of such centers.

"We are one of the most unregulated states when it comes to data centers," he said. "How do we protect ourselves from being steamrolled like what's happened in other places across the state and the country? A data center, unregulated with no community guidelines, do we need that? No. We need to put plans and guardrails in

place to protect ourselves."

Creating public conversation is the center of Powers' campaign. He says his opponent, a veteran lawmaker who chairs the powerful house appropriations committee, has lost focus on local issues, and is galvanizing action across the district.

Powers said that he sees the house seat as a local leader, helping funnel state resources to the district while mobilizing and encouraging residents to be engaged in public affairs.

"The focus has been on Atlanta and it has been for too long," Powers said. "It should be my job to care about other people's well being and concerns. Let people know they are being heard. If you let people know they have a voice and it's being heard, things line up and happen."

Powers lists the Dublin City School System's financial crisis as the "catalyst" encouraging his house run. He points to years of mismanagement and lack of state intervention as evidence of current leadership being out of touch with local needs.

"The business people in our community had been aware of potential lack of direction with spending and resources, and the community at large was aware that we seemed to be out of balance with other school systems in our area and similar sized systems," he said. "It goes back to the whole things of 'where's the attention and where's the focus?'"

Powers has been a visible presence at local school board meetings as well as both state hearings regarding the school system's finances.

While state lawmakers have implemented stricter controls and oversight of school system finances, Powers said enough isn't being done to support families and promote parental and civic group engagement in schools.

Another priority for Powers, if elected, is the ex-

pansion of Medicaid. Georgia remains one of only 10 states that have not fully expanded the federal program under the Affordable Care Act.

Powers has also criticized Hatchett's campaign funders. According to financial records filed with the state ethics commission, Hatchett's campaign has spent more than \$490,000 and raised more than \$600,000. While Hatchett's war chest has been fueled by dozens of local residents and businesses, Powers questions the dollars coming from out-of-state entities, particularly super PACs with ties to data centers.

"When there are a lot of people spending a lot of money you have to ask why," he said. "The people of house district 155 come in all different classes and varieties. My job is to listen to them and help them, not listen to whoever sent four mailers on my behalf in a primary."

His own campaign pocketbook is much thinner, with only \$1,325 raised. He has yet to file the latest financial disclosures, and State Ethics Commission records lists his campaign with delinquent fees. Powers said he is aware of the charges noting a change in how campaign records are filed this year, and is working to submit the appropriate paperwork and payment to the state.

While not claiming any party affiliation, Powers is running under the democratic ticket, giving him until Nov. 3 to convince voters to send him to Atlanta.

And he plans to keep the conversation going.

"I got into this race because I wanted the conversation to be heard and questions to be asked all the way until November," he said. "I want people to see somebody that cares for them, that loves them regardless of party, socioeconomic background, regardless of any of those typical categorizing things."

HATCHETT
Continued from page 1

budget over the last four years, and admits that it sometimes takes two or three years to get a bill through.

"You have to do a lot of convincing, meet with the right people and get it across the finish line," Hatchett said. "Even then, you have to make sure the governor doesn't veto it. I bring that experience and knowledge of how the system works."

He has been the appropriations chairman for the last four years. In this role, Hatchett oversees the house budget-writing committee and the state spending legislation.

"You have to build the respect around you from leadership," Hatchett said. "The role became open and I let it be known that I was interested. I was fortunate to be asked to serve in that capacity."

Financial records from the state ethics commission show Hatchett has spent more than \$490,000 and raised more than \$600,000. It takes money to run a campaign, said Hatchett when asked about the amount his campaign finances

"People have supported me since the first time I ran," he said. "I was the lone Republican when I first ran so I had a lot of money that supported me then and I've had support since then. ... (campaign finance) is a necessary thing. We represent roughly 60,000 people in the House and you have to be able to get your message out to them one way or the other."

Plus, a political campaign is not cheap.

"When you get into the role like I am in, and you've been the chairman of the Republican caucus for nine years, you have people give you donations," Hatchett said.

Data centers and the situation with the Dublin City Schools have popped up during this year's election cycle. When it comes to data centers, Hatchett said it is

the local governments who should make that call.

"It's their decision whether to let that come to our community," Hatchett said. "It's the development authority, city councils and county commissioners. You entrust them with making the decisions that are best for the community. I've always been a believer of local control."

According to Hatchett, there are good and bad data centers. A lot of the earlier ones that were placed in communities throughout the country used a ton of water, electricity and other things that were not pleasant, Hatchett said.

"I'm not for one of those at all," he said.

When it comes to Dublin City Schools, Senator Larry Walker and Hatchett both asked for an audit to do a financial review of the Dublin City School System. Cognia, the accrediting agency for the state, also did its review and released its findings. This led to a state school board hearing on Aug. 12.

That board recommended Gov. Brian Kemp to suspend the seven Dublin City School Board members. Hatchett, Walker, former Dublin Mayor Phil Best, Edwin May and Matt Donaldson, state board of education member, were selected by Kemp as a nominating committee to select a new Dublin City Board of Education.

They interviewed candidates and selected seven new members, who held their first meeting on Sept. 14.

"They will have a job to do," Hatchett said. "One of the first things they'll have to do is set the millage rate. They've got to come in and evaluate the budget that has already been passed. They'll need to talk with the superintendent and the finance person. Either they move on with the budget they've got and set the millage rate or they get back in the nitty-gritty on the budget. They'll have to get to work quickly."

Hatchett said it is im-

portant to move forward and keep the Dublin City School System surviving. He is interested in the school system because he went to and graduated from Dublin City Schools.

"I want to see it be a great school system again," Hatchett said. "I want it to get back where they were and the community to heal. I'm not pointing fingers. We just need to move forward."

If he wins another two-year-term, Hatchett wants to continue to see improvements in infrastructure projects. He realizes these types of projects are not glitzy and glamorous, but they are needed.

"That stuff is not glitzy and glamorous, but you have to have it," he said.

Hatchett believes there are "great" leaders in the various governing groups in Laurens and Johnson Counties.

"We are fortunate," he said. "We've got some good leaders."

Hatchett does not like to talk. He listens.

"You work to gain the respect of those around you," he said. "Hopefully, when I do talk people will listen to what I have to say."

Hatchett takes his job "very seriously." He considers Laurens and Johnson County his home and enjoys working for everyone living there.

"I have communities that have some great people who serve it and communities who recognize how good their servants are and thank them," Hatchett said. "Our communities come together in our times of need."

Hatchett has been asked why he continues to serve as this area's state representative. When he receives a call from a constituent, there is usually a problem. But that is not how he looks at it.

"Whatever that issue or problem is, I know who to call and when I call something usually happens," Hatchett said. "Now, it may not be the answer they want but they will get a response. I love being able to help people get something solved."

Trojans overcome test in region opener

By RALPH JACKSON
Correspondent

Johnson County had spent much of the season making things look easy.

Friday night, the Panthers tested the top-ranked Trojans.

Johnson County fell behind twice in the first half before exploding for 48 of the game's final 54 points to pull away from Glascock County for a 61-22 win, and its first region victory of the season.

The final score looked familiar. The way the Trojans got there did not.

Jeremiah Scott opened the scoring with a 16-yard touchdown run at the 8:31 mark of the first quarter, and Grayson Jackson's extra point gave JOCO a 7-0 lead.

But Glascock answered. The Panthers scored with 4:22 remaining in the first and added the conversion to move in front 8-7.

For the first time this season, the Trojans trailed.

Jacaden Webb put Johnson County back in front when he broke a 68-yard touchdown run at 10:56 of the second quarter, giving JOCO a 13-8 advantage.

But the Panthers weren't finished.

Glascock answered again, scoring with 8:27 remaining before halftime to take a 16-13 lead.

It took the Panthers' second lead to finally get Johnson County's attention.

Scott answered with the Trojans' third touchdown, and Johnson County never trailed again.

JOCO scored the final 20 points of the half to take a 33-16 advantage into the locker room, then poured on 28 unanswered points in the



The Trojans enter the field for Friday's game at Glascock County, a big win to remain undefeated/RALPH JACKSON

third quarter.

Coach Don Norton thought his team had relaxed after its early success.

"I thought we came out flat and just kind of played like we practiced at first," Norton said. "It took us a little while to get going."

Norton said Johnson County's quick start may have contributed to the problem.

"We go down and score, and our kids immediately

took their foot off the pedal," he said. "Glascock didn't get the email that they were going to make it easy. They hustled and played, and we had some guys take a few plays off."

Junior Cedric Bridges said the Trojans realized they weren't playing to their ability.

"We started off slow. As a team, we came to an agreement that we underestimated our opponent," Bridges

said. "Then we started to click. We were there for our coaches and our teammates, and we came up with our first region win of the season."

Asked what helped turn things around, Bridges pointed to the Trojans settling down and doing their jobs.

"We realized that we were better than what we were playing like, and everyone started to lock in and do their assignment," he said.

Once they did, the game changed quickly.

After trailing 16-13, Johnson County outscored the Panthers 48-6 the rest of the way.

No Trojan did more damage than Scott.

The junior carried only nine times but rushed for 257 yards and four touchdowns, averaging 28.6 yards per carry. He also caught a pass for 30 yards and returned a kickoff 67 yards for another touchdown. Scott added 35 yards on two punt returns, giving him 389 yards rushing, receiving and returning kicks.

Norton was particularly impressed with Scott, who also had a long touchdown run erased by a penalty.

"He was really impressive tonight," Norton said.

Scott wasn't alone in a rushing attack that overwhelmed the Panthers.

Webb ran four times for 68 yards and two touchdowns, while Kelsey Waters gained 53 yards on two carries and scored once. Jamir Wadley added a 24-yard touchdown run. Jeremiah Taylor rushed for 36 yards, and Morgan Prosser added 32.

Norton again credited the work being done in front of the backs.

"I thought Kelsey Waters was good again," Norton said. "Jacaden Webb had a couple really good runs, touchdown runs. The offensive line played well at times."

Johnson County finished with 469 rushing yards on only 22 attempts, an average of 21.3 yards per carry. The Trojans added 45 yards through the air to finish with 514 yards of offense despite running only 25 offensive plays.

Glascock ran 62 plays and possessed the ball for 32:17, more than twice JOCO's 15:43. The Panthers finished with 261 yards of offense.

The difference was Johnson County's explosiveness. The Trojans averaged 20.6 yards every time they snapped the football and scored eight rushing touchdowns.

The performance wasn't without problems.

JOCO was penalized 13 times for 102 yards and lost two fumbles. Norton also saw work to be done on special teams.

"We've got to work on some special-teams stuff that I don't think we executed very well," Norton said.

Grayson Jackson converted five of six extra-point attempts, while Webb added a two-point conversion. Daezon Devero's only punt of the night traveled 44 yards.

For Norton, having the Trojans pushed early may prove more valuable than another start-to-finish rout.

"We kind of played like we practiced, which wasn't great," Norton said. "We had to turn it up. We had to be woken up. Maybe it was very good for us."

It also provided a reminder of what comes with Johnson County's No. 1 ranking.

"Every team is going to give us their best, and that's part of it when you're ranked No. 1," Norton said. "We have to realize we have to go out and play our best every time and play at our standard."

The Trojans now turn their attention to Wilkinson County.

"We'll continue to work and continue to try to get better," Norton said. "We've got a tough one this week in Wilkinson. They're very athletic and super fast and always play Johnson County tough. Always have."