



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2026

THE JOHNSON JOURNAL

A newspaper that cares about Johnson County

Volume 28 Number 52

\$1.00

JoCo Sheriff's Office receives highway safety grant

SPECIAL TO
THE JOHNSON JOURNAL

The Johnson County Sheriff's Office is pleased to announce it has received an \$40,150.50 High Visibility Enforcement (HVE) grant from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS).

Funding for this grant is provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and is awarded based upon the partnership with The Governor's Office of Highway Safety in helping to reduce crashes, injuries, and fatalities across the

State of Georgia.

High Visibility Enforcement combines highly visible and proactive law enforcement to target a specific traffic safety issue designed to change unlawful and dangerous driving behaviors that contribute

to most of the fatal and serious-injury traffic crashes on our roads. Law enforcement efforts are combined with visibility elements and public notification on the enforcement campaign to educate the public on traffic safety and promote vol-

untary compliance with the law.

"Using data to identify where and when traffic crashes are happening in local communities helps local law enforcement agencies determine when and where to patrol roads and

highways in hopes of being able to save lives and reduce crashes through the enforcement of all traffic laws," said Allen Poole, Director of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety.

GRANT
Continued on page 6

County launches new communication system

SPECIAL TO
THE JOHNSON JOURNAL

Johnson County has a new mass communication system. Regroup has replaced the former system, CodeRed, which is no longer in service. Signing up for Regroup ensures that you receive timely, reliable alerts directly from the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency. Whether it's an emergency, weather update, or important safety announcement, Regroup keeps you informed and safe.

By subscribing, you can receive notifications via text, email, and voice to ensure you never miss critical information. This service is free of charge. You can sign up by visiting the Johnson County Commissioner's website, johnsonco.org, or by visiting https://embeds.regroucloud.com/orgs/johnsoncoema/signup_embed. Note: Community members who received CodeRed alerts in the past do not need to sign up. Those subscriptions are being transferred to the new Regroup system.

Reese named to student advisory council



Congratulations to Johnson County High School student Reagan Reese for being selected to serve on State School Superintendent Richard Woods' 2026-2027 Student Advisory Council. The council represents students from across Georgia's Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA) regions, bringing perspectives from rural, suburban, and urban communities. Members are selected based on the strength of their application responses and the goal of ensuring representation from across the state.

Wright crowned homecoming queen



Congratulations to Johnson County High School Senior A'Yari Wright for being crowned the 2026 Homecoming Queen! A'Yari was presented her crown during halftime of the football game on Oct. 9.

Wrightsville Junction celebrates ribbon cutting

By DEIDRE LEDFORD
Editor

The Wrightsville-Johnson County Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting on Oct. 7 for the Wrightsville Junction. Owner Ron Bray developed an idea of bringing several shops together under one roof, and when he was able to purchase the former Classy Cuts building several months ago, he was able to bring that idea to fruition. There are currently five businesses open and operating inside the Junction and they are ready to serve you.

Trojan Nutrition, owned by April Mimbs Claxton, offers loaded teas made to order. Her teas have a variety of benefits including collagen aloe, h3o, protein and energy. Business hours are Tuesday through Friday from 7 a.m. until 2 p.m. and Saturday from 9-12 p.m. She may be contacted on Facebook as Trojan Nutrition or by calling 478-279-4728.



The Wrightsville-Johnson County Chamber recently celebrated the ribbon cutting for the Wrightsville Junction. The multi-use space currently houses five local businesses/SPECIAL PHOTO

Papa's Pretties, owned by Kathy Oliver, offers small antiques, vintage glassware and unique gift items for men, women and children. She also welcomes the opportunity to help you find

any special treasure you may be looking for. She is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Follow Papa's Pretties on Facebook to learn about Saturday

hours. She may be contacted at 478-697-7071.

Alternatives Therapeutic Massage and Body Works is owned by Adrienne B. Jordan. Jordan is a nationally and state certified Massage

Therapist that specializes in Neuromuscular/Pain Management, Relaxation/Spa Services, Lymphatic

JUNCTION
Continued on page 6



OBITUARIES



Nancy "Darling" Powell Winfrey

Funeral services for Nancy “Darling” Powell Winfrey, 83, were held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 1, 2026, at Kite First Baptist Church with burial to follow in Kite City Cemetery.

Mrs. Winfrey was born on April 14, 1943, in Wrightsville, Georgia. She was a retired supervisor with Easter Seals. She was a member of Kite First Baptist Church, where she served as secretary, and was a member of the Kite Homemakers Club. Her greatest love was her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, John Ezra Powell and Frances Logue Powell; siblings, Wilson Powell, William Powell, J.B. Powell, Russell Powell, W.S. Powell and Sally Pullen. Mrs. Winfrey passed away on Monday, September 28, 2026, at Fairview Park Hospital.

She is survived by her loving husband of 65 years, Harry Winfrey of Wrightsville; daughter, Wendy Powell (Rex) of Wrightsville; son, Jeff Winfrey (Cheryl) of Wrightsville; four grandchildren, Mandy Berry (Sean) of Brooklet, Krystal Tanner (Toby), Brandi Rowland (John Allen) and Jason Winfrey (Samantha) all of Wrightsville; six great grandchildren, Knox Tanner, Piper Tanner, Brooklyn Taylor, Rhett Rowland,

Blakelee Rowland and Waylon Thompson; and a special nephew, Burnon Powell.

Pallbearers will be Jason Winfrey, John Allen Rowland, Toby Tanner, Sean Berry, Keith Powell, Ken Powell and Dale Powell.

The family received friends from 10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. on Thursday at the church.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Kite First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 31 Kite, GA 31049.

Stanley Funeral Homes and Crematory/Wrightsville Chapel has charge of the funeral arrangements. To sign the Online Register Book please visit www.stanleyfuneral-home.com.



Wendell Jerome McTier

Mr. Wendell Jerome McTier, 71, passed away Sunday, Oct. 11, 2026, at Fairview Park Hospital.

Mr. McTier was born Nov. 30, 1954, in Orlando, Florida. He was the son of the late Fredrick W. McTier and Gladys Pope McTier. He was a self-employed carpenter. He was of the Baptist Faith.

Mr. McTier is survived by his brother, Ronald McTier; a sister, Susan Page (Jamie); four nieces, Christina Saunders (Dave); Shannon Dixon (Kyle), Stephanie Page and Sierra Page; and

a host of great-nephews and great nieces.

The family received friends Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2026, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the funeral home. Mr. McTier will be memorialized through cremation.

Stanley Funeral Homes and Crematory/Wrightsville Chapel has charge of funeral arrangements.



Jenelle Hudson

Funeral services for Ms. Jenelle Hudson, of Wrightsville, were held on Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026, at 1 p.m. at the C.D. Dudley Memorial Chapel in the Dudley Funeral Home, 617 East Jackson Street in Dublin. Interment will follow in the Buckeye Baptist Church Cemetery, 2076 New Buckeye Road in East Dublin.

Ms. Jenelle Hudson was born April 22, 1953. She was preceded in death by her parents, Willie Bell and Willie Clifford Hudson. He was also preceded in death by a brother, Bruce Hudson. She graduated from Johnson County High School in 1974.

Ms. Hudson is survived by her children, Shenice Arline, Ostelle Arline; sisters, Mary Hudson; brothers, Willie Lee Hudson, Leroy Hudson, Willie (Pauline) Hufson Jr., Michael Hudson, Donald Hudson all of Wrightsville; grandchildren, Shakeedriah Arline, Keshawn Arline, Zariya Arline, Zakiya Arline; great grandchildren, Layvia Gilbert; aunts, Betty Wright, Shelly (Phillip) Cuyler, Clyde Taylor, Charles (Julie Pearl) Robinson; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Old people's tip for stress management

Dan King Sr
R.F.D. South

Why do old people need to know how to manage stress? What do they get stressed about? Haven't they already lived through the stressful life stages? They have retired from stressful jobs. Their stress-producing children have moved out. Can't old people just love on their pets and meet some of their fellow old people for an occasional breakfast? What's so stressful about that kind of lifestyle?

A major challenge for old people in managing stress is in managing their health care scheduling. Health concerns increase with aging. This can mean more visits to the doctor. That means listing more appointments on the calendar and then remembering to check the calendar.

Let's look at managing health care schedules while keeping in mind how doing so might help to manage our stress. Let's also keep in mind how health care schedule management might apply to schedule management in general.

First, I want to say it would suit me just fine if I never hear the word, "hurry," again. If you have not already erased that word

from your vocabulary, hurry and do it right now! It is not necessary for us to have to hurry to doctors' appointments to keep from being late. No, I am not suggesting it is okay to be late. I am suggesting it is okay to plan our schedules so that we neither have to hurry nor be late!

How long does it take to get to the doctor's office without hurrying? So, what time does that mean you need to leave home? What do you need to do to get ready to leave home? How long does that take? What time do you need to begin getting ready so you can leave at the time you need to leave?

The Lady and I were scheduled for an appointment with a doctor more than 50 miles away. We left home 10 minutes later than we needed to leave in order to arrive on time. Then we had an unexpected highway construction wait of 10 minutes. So, at best we were going to be 20 minutes late even if there were no further stops.

When we were with-

in about 15 minutes of our destination, we called ahead to alert the folks at the doctor's office about our schedule. They told us that if we were going to be more than five minutes late, we would need to reschedule. So, within 15 minutes of the doctor's office, we turned around and took a tour through the countryside to process our feelings of being victimized by the health care system!

Sometimes I explain that I am late in arriving at my destination because I was late in leaving my point of departure. No one has ever challenged my conclusion about the matter. But no one has ever complimented my intelligence about it either. It's just plain old common sense. No one is going to believe I had to change a baby diaper before leaving home anyway!

Is there a principle in this week's column that might be helpful in managing health care travel stress? If you agree that preventing is a part of managing, maybe so.

Allow the time you need to complete the tasks required. And remember to add a cushion for the unexpected.

BIBLE TRIVIA

- 1.) Is the book of 3 John (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
- 2.) From 2 Samuel, who proclaimed, "How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished"? Saul, Simeon, David, Peter
- 3.) Who said, "I have heard many such things; miserable comforters are ye all"? Samson, Goliath, The devil, Job
- 4.) From the Beatitudes, who shall be called the sons of God? Hungry, Peacemakers, Merciful, Lonely
- 5.) What Jewish lady became queen of Persia? Abigail, Sarah, Esther, Ruth
- 6.) Whose biblical name means "God is my judge"? Titus, Festus, David, Daniel

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- 6) Daniel
- 5) Esther
- 4) Peacemakers
- 3) Job
- 2) David
- 1) New

ANSWERS



The Lighthouse
Adult Day Care Center
274-0003

I grew up a poor Alabama farm boy. I'm presently a Christian missionary in Japan, having lived in Japan since 1973. Please listen to my Radio Sermons Audio on my website: Christ-is-all.us Sermon Number 2024-1 is especially touching. Richard Yerby c/o Christ Is All, PO Box 490, Vernon, AL 35592-0490



Children who witness or experience domestic violence in their homes are more likely as adults to enter into abusive relationships as abusers or as victims of abuse.

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Birthdays

Vicki Hein October 21
Tyler Webb.....October 22
Jabori Graddy.....October 23
Laverne McDaniel.....October 23
Sheree Rogers October 23
Taylor Stephens.....October 23
Beth Decker.....October 23
Sharon Rozier.....October 23
Jimmy Bailey.....October 24
Keri Holt.....October 24
Christopher Wood October 24
Zachary Bright October 24
Abby Stephens.....October 24
Tony Linder October 25
Marleigha Brooks October 25
Pam Mathis.....October 26
Lucas Johnson October 26
Brantley Martin.....October 26

Anniversaries

Ty and Debra Powell October 20
Barney and Trisha Holland.....October 23

Compliments of
The Johnson Journal

DID YOU KNOW...?

Did the world almost come to an end in 1989?

By JACK BAGLEY
GTLN

Well, since we now know who said what (check last week's column if you don't know what I'm talking about), it's time to get back to the real business here - sharing incredible trivia.

Also, be on the lookout for some classic Halloween costume ideas. I might actually go to a party this year. Imagine that, me getting out and partying.

On second thought, don't imagine it. The picture is too unsettling.

Here's what we should be doing ... sharing the trivia. Enjoy, friends!

Did you know ...

... the pilot of the bomber which dropped the first atomic bomb used in wartime had no regrets about the mission? Colonel Paul Tibbets (1915-2007) was at the controls of the *Enola Gay*, a B-29 Superfortress, which dropped the atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima, Japan, on August 6, 1945. To the end of his life, Tibbets said he had no regrets and never lost a single night's sleep about the mission. Additional trivia note: Tibbets was concerned about his gravesite or headstone being a focus for anti-war or anti-nuclear protesters following his death. So he was cremated, and his ashes were spread across the English Channel.

... swimming trunks for men did not appear until the 1930s? Prior to that decade, men wore swimsuits that had a top as well as a bottom. In 1932, the first "detachable" top for a men's swimsuit, the "Topper," was introduced. Under the law at the time, however, men who chose to remove the top were often charged with indecent exposure. The laws were relaxed during the latter part of that decade, and swim trunks without a top began to be offered. (And today many men swim with a t-shirt. Go figure.)

... one gallon of used motor oil can ruin one million gallons of fresh water? (Among other things.)

... the Pentagon has twice the number of bathrooms it needs? Headquarters of the United States Department of Defense in Arlington, Virginia, the Pentagon was constructed in 1941 and opened in 1943. At that time, the state of Virginia still enforced segregation laws, and whites and blacks were required to use separate restroom facilities. So the building was designed and built with twice the number of bathrooms it needed. Additional trivia note: Due to those ridiculous, discriminatory laws, the Pentagon also has twice the number of water fountains it should have.

... the world almost ended in 1989? On March 22 of that year, an asteroid named Asclepius crossed the orbit of the Earth, undetected by science. In fact, Asclepius wasn't even discovered until nine days later, after it had passed by. The big mountain-sized rock came within 500,000 miles of Earth, and if it had hit our world the consequences would have been catastrophic. Asclepius is several times larger than the meteor that wiped out the dinosaurs. The most amazing part of the whole thing is ... Earth had occupied the spot where Asclepius crossed its orbit only eight hours earlier. Even if we had known about it, there would have been nothing we could have done. (I am glad we didn't know about that in advance, myself.)

... a species of shrimp has evolved aluminum armor to protect itself? Found in the Marianas Trench in the Pacific Ocean, the deepest place on Earth, the species *Hirondella gigas* has evolved a protection from the crushing pressure of seven miles of water above it -- an exoskeleton made primarily of aluminum. The little crustacean has evolved a way to draw the metal from the sediment of the ocean floor and cover itself with it, keeping the incredible weight of the ocean from crushing it out of existence. (Wonder how they taste?)

... "foreign accent syndrome" is a real disorder? The disorder is found in some patients of recent brain trauma. It causes a change in the patient's speech so that it sounds as if they are speaking with a foreign accent, much different than their natural speech pattern from before the trauma. Oddly, in most cases, the sufferer does not speak another language fluently enough to trigger the accent. The good news is, in most cases the effect is not permanent. (Und zen vhat?)

... one of Jupiter's moons has more water than all of Earth's oceans combined? Europa, discovered in 1610 by Galileo Galilei (1564-1642), is a small moon orbiting Jupiter. It is slightly smaller than Earth's Moon and covered in ice. Beneath that ice, scientists say, lies an immense ocean with more water than all of our oceans combined. We have no idea how deep the water goes, and even less of an idea if anything lives in it. But Europa is considered the best place in the Solar System to look if we're trying to find extraterrestrial life. (E.T., phone Europa.)

... a dog in Colombia has figured out the monetary system? Bear with me a moment. A dog named Blackie, who lives at the Diversified Technical Education Institute of Monterrey Casarne, observed the habits of students using money to buy food. One day the dog decided to try it for himself -- he brought a leaf into the store and sat wagging his tail. Store staff figured out what Blackie was doing, and gave him a cookie in exchange for the leaf. This happened in 2018, and the dog has been coming into the store almost every day since with a leaf to get his cookie. The staff of the store limits the dog's purchases to one or two a day, to prevent the leaf's value from being hit by inflation (and to protect Blackie's waistline from another kind of inflation). (Good boy. Very good boy.)

Now ... you know!

Georgia sasquatch sightings and walking at night

In the early morning hours of Aug. 25 2024, a motorist traveling along old Highway 96 in Peach County saw something he just couldn't believe.

C.B., a 51-year-old of Butler, was headed toward an auto parts store in Fort Valley when a bipedal creature, with long outstretched arms darted across the rural stretch of the two-lane road. The Georgia native had spent his whole life in the woods -- he worked in the great outdoors, clearing land for a living -- had never seen anything like it.

Standing at 6 feet tall and tipping the scales at 200 lbs., C.B. knows big when he sees it, and whatever cut across in front of him was big ... and fast.

"There is no way a human could have the speed this thing had," C.B. reported. "When I got to where it was I slowed to almost a stop, but it was out of sight. I immediately called my wife to tell her what I saw ... After that I drove back by there four times looking for it, but I saw nothing."

This incident is now a recognized sasquatch encounter, recognized by The Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization at least. It had to be a bigfoot, the group concluded, because it wasn't the first sighting in Middle Georgia. The creature must have a thing for peaches because in 2010, a work detail clearing brush near the same highway in nearby Crawford County, discovered large footprints, and heard noises of a large animal trampling through the thick scrub and reported feel-



THE NEW SOUTHERN DAD

By KYLE DOMINY

ings of being watched while they performed their duties.

Bigfoot researchers have compiled over 100 reported sasquatch sightings in this state. Most of them are in the North Georgia mountains. Mythical creatures do tend to stick to higher elevations, and they like to aggravate mountain folk. However, he, or even she, I suppose, has been spotted as far south as Toombsboro. The hills of Wilkinson County can fool anyone I guess.

There have been no confirmed bigfoot sightings in my neck of the woods, though I'm not too far removed from the Wilco line. That's all well and good because I've taken up the habit of taking nighttime walks.

I don't think humans are sup-

posed to exist with as much light as we have grown accustomed to. Inside and out, we like to live fully illuminated, and while it is said that bad things happen in the dark, it's hard to do anything good or nefarious if you can't see your hand in front of your face.

While total darkness is hard to achieve since even the stars provide enough visibility to go for a walk, there is something mystical about shutting off all artificial light and going outside. If you live near the woods, or behind the cover of anything that can shield nocturnal light sources, you might even experience true darkness.

All the area sasquatch sightings seem to be during the day, so I don't have anything to worry about.

From Days Gone By Historian Donald Smith



October 20, 1932

Wrightsville High School pep is reaching toward the boiling point this week because the local football boys go over to do battle against their greatest gridiron rivals at Dublin. Coach McDonald's boys have had little opposition thus far, having scored a total of 42 points to nothing by their two opposing teams. Swainsboro was not able to make a first down against our boys, Wrens did not threaten our goal, but were able to make four first downs, all by passing. Dublin has not been defeated but only beat Swainsboro by one touchdown. Wrightsville and Dublin are the only undefeated teams in the sixth district.

With a total valuation of its resources given at \$49,899.18 on September 30th, the Bank of Adrian failed to open its doors last Saturday morning. Hon. Morris T. Riner, President, and the Directors are seeking aid from the R. F. C., hoping to get affairs fixed and reopen the bank. The banks bills payable was only \$7,034.05. The bank had about \$15,000 on demand and on time deposit, with a surplus of \$1,000. Loans amounted to \$32,380.79 at that time. The bank owns \$12,000 in property and about \$6,000 in cash and cotton, mostly cash. The closing of the bank created much interest in the Adrian community. This leaves the

two banks in Wrightsville which are going strong.

The State Highway placed its last marker in Richmond County on the Jeff Davis Memorial Highway at Belair, ten miles from Augusta. Services were sponsored by the U. D. C. The fire alarm sounded there was an impending blaze on the John R. Grice property up on the hill near the water tank. Of course it was immediately extinguished by the city fire laddies. State Game & Fish Commissioner Peter S. Twitty issued a commission to J. Cannie Sumner of Spann as District Game Warden. He would cover Emanuel, Jenkins, Treutlen and Johnson. He was a son of Judge W. D. Sumner, a former representative of the county.

Miss Bertie Price of Kite and J. L. Fuller of Atlanta married. She was a daughter of the late Bishop Price and granddaughter of Bud Townsend of Kite. Mr. Fuller was a successful businessman in Atlanta. Miss Nora Smith and J. D. Ivey wed October 16th. She is

daughter of Mr. & Mrs. W. R. Smith near Scott, groom is nephew of Rev. John G. Ivey of Wrightsville.

On October 14th, Miss Evie Smith became the bride of Dr. Phillip B. Bedingfield, performed by Rev. Jesse E. Hall. She was a daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Smith, former residence here but moved to Laurens County. Dr. Bedingfield is a leading practicing physician of this county. He is President of the Exchange Bank and lives about 5 miles out Pringle road.

In Little Cedar swamp two and a half miles east of Wrightsville, officers Vernon Raines and Jim Tapley made a raid on a whiskey outfit and captured a couple of men on the spot. The copper still, a square 25 gallon can, set on its moorings already for business which had been going on some time. Just before the visit of the officers, a couple barrels of beer were destroyed by them but no whiskey was found. Massie Jones and Eph Davis, two colored men, were arrested and brought to jail.

COUCH THEATER

By DEMI TAVERAS
King Features

"The Death of Robin Hood" (R)

Don't be misled by the name of this thriller film and sit the kids down to watch this one; this definitely isn't Disney's version of Robin Hood's story. Based on the 17th century ballad "Robin Hood's Death," this film is led by none other than Hugh Jackman ("The Sheep Detectives") with a supporting cast that includes Jodie Comer ("28 Years Later") and horror aficionado Bill Skarsgard ("Dead Man's Wire"). Jackman portrays the aged outlaw Robin, who is widely known as a folk hero across 1247 England but remains tormented by the crimes he's committed. After a few more treacherous duels leave him delirious, Robin finds himself on a remote island at the Priory of St. Clement, left only with the reminder of his sins as Sister Brigid (Comer) nurses him back to health. Out now. (HBO Max)

"Crystal Lake" (TV-MA)

Calling all slasher lovers! (Because I fear I am not one.) This new series starring Linda Cardellini ("DTF St. Louis") serves as a prequel to the 1980 film "Friday the 13th." Cardellini takes on

the role of Pamela Voorhees (originally played by Betsy Palmer in the 1980 and 1981 films in the franchise), who has a young son with physical differences named Jason. (Hint, hint.) While Pamela's working as a lunch lady at Camp Crystal Lake, where her son's also a camper, Jason mysteriously drowns in the lake when the camp counselors aren't looking. Traumatized by grief, Pamela attempts to go back to work at the camp a year later but is unable to move on. Simultaneously, dead bodies begin appearing around town. All eight episodes are available to stream now! (Peacock)

"Phony" (TV-MA)

Sam Nivola follows up his brother-loving role in season three of "The White Lotus" with a mother-loving role in this comedy-mystery series, co-starring Connie Britton ("Rooster"). Nivola plays teenage boy Sonny, who lives with his mom, Ellen (Britton), and has a great relationship with her. After a wild car accident places Sonny in the hospital, he awakens to his mom in the hospital with him -- or so he first thinks. Upon further investigation, Sonny gets the feeling that his mom has been replaced with an impostor. Although his

friends deny that this is possible, Ellen appears different than before the accident and doesn't remember their secret hand signals, leaving Sonny's mind completely scrambled. The first two episodes of the eight-episode series premiere on Oct. 20. (Hulu)

"Lorne" (R)

As the title suggests, this documentary film focuses on the career of film and television producer Lorne Michaels ("Saturday Night Live"). Beginning with his work on Canadian television, the doc walks viewers through the moments in Michaels' life that led him to create the legendary sketch-comedy show. It also touches on his five-year departure from the show from 1980 to 1985 and how he eventually returned to serve as the executive producer. The list of celebrity appearances in this doc is enormous, but a notable few include Tina Fey, Jimmy Fallon, Alec Baldwin, Bill Hader, Steve Martin and Chris Rock. Additionally, behind-the-scenes footage of "SNL" episodes is featured! Check it out now. (Netflix)

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Trout are back

Editor’s Note: This column was originally published in the Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2025 issue of The Johnson Journal.

HELEN –This mountain town, in an earlier day, was an enclave for bountiful logging opportunity – but then went into decline and now depends on tourism to survive economically.

An Atlanta artist, John Kollock, suggest-ed years ago that to become a tourist attraction the city needed a makeover to take on the appearance of an Old World Bavarian village. The community has succeeded, but there are blights that some of us could do without - namely the proliferation of tattoo parlors, motorcycles backfiring as they gather

undisciplined in the village, and intoxicated tubers polluting the Chattahoochee.

Those who knew Peter Hodgkinson III, who was something of a Renaissance man who brought hot air ballooning to Helen, believe that if he had lived, no telling what this Bavarian village lookalike might have become. Tragically, he died at 41 when his hot air balloon collided with a power line near Toccoa, 36 miles away.

Downstream, the river offers the best in flyfishing. My favorite spot is the Nora Mill Dam, a mile and a half south of town. It is a log dam, built in 1824. Standing knee deep in the galvanizing Chattahoochee, with the spirited waters rushing over the dam, is as emotionally satisfying as anywhere in



LORAN SMITH

our state.

To be at the dam with a flyrod in your hand is as fulfilling of an experience in the great outdoors as you could find. The sights and sounds of nature will forever leave its patrons with aweinspiring gratefulness and the urge to return as soon as possible.

Any Georgian can enjoy a love affair with the Chattahoochee from any

geographic location: from Tybee Light to Rabun Gap, from Tallapoosa to Attapul-gus. I came here in the early sixties and realized how sat-isfying trips into the North Georgia mountains can be. The winding roads, mead-ows with a solitary milk cow grazing contentedly, corn patches, little white church-es, neatly stacked firewood, and pickup trucks with a pace that is 20 miles per hour under the speed limit.

Development has come to the Georgia mountains, but there remains space and locals where time stands still. A lot of colorful charac-ters have left their stamp on the landscape - like Arthur Woody, a wildlife ranger who was a conservationist, outdoor aficionado, and humanitarian. He was from Suches, which is where you will find a modern day ver-sion of the ranger in Scott Woerner, who loves the

North Georgia mountains as much as Woody did. The Hall of Famer, who thrilled soldout crowds at Georgia’s Sanford Stadium, has hunt-ed and fished most all his life - until his aching body caused him to swap his bow and ar-row for a camera.

In addition to count-less photos filed away in his camera and his mind’s eye, he simply enjoys wandering about the Chattahoochee en-vironments and communing with nature.

His garden is a horn of plenty, and he is particular-ly expert at making pickles. If you are lucky, he might share a jar with you. In the days when he harvested deer for his freezer, he was as ex-pert with venison on the grill as he was returning punts for a touchdown in his hey-day as a Bulldog.

I always look forward to finding my way to these hills in late summer to enjoy lo-

cating silver queen corn at a roadside stand. Silver queen corn with extra helpings of butter, accompanied by a green salad, potatoes, and beans, brings about a filling and nutritious meal.

It is a good news time for outdoorsmen in these parts. With cooler weather, the trout are beginning to return to the Chattahoochee. They tend to hide during the sum-mer months as temperatures rise, causing them stressful conditions as the oxygen content drops and their met-abolic rates increase.

Late October, as the tem-peratures fall and the leaves are turning, will be the most enjoyable time of autumn in North Georgia.

“Out of the hills of Haber-sham, down the val-leys of Hall, I hurry amain to reach the plain, run the rap-ids and leap the fall.”

A long look at our short term thinking

Secretary of State Mar-co Rubio was in Greece last week. He took a long look around.

He looked backward. He looked forward. He looked around at our European Partners. He simultaneous-ly took a long look at us. The speech was designed to make us look inward.

The remarks were word-smithed to the finest detail. The optics set the Acropo-lis squarely in focus in the background to punctuate the historical line drawn straight to the present. Choices for direction and ultimately our future were placed in the balance.

One could question the timing of both this speech and dedicating to it a col-umn that is mostly focused on State of Georgia politics just weeks before pivotal midterm elections. Some will note it was Rubio’s soft launch of a campaign for 2028. It may be, but that is another topic for another time.

We do have choic-es to make over the next

few weeks. The choices do matter. Elections have consequences.

The Acropolis was con-structed about 2,500 years ago. The roots of modern democracy and our western world were planted and cul-tivated there. They’ve ma-tured and endured through-out two and a half millennia bringing us to today.

We, a relatively short sighted people, are too of-ten stuck in the present. We take our history and the sac-rifices made to get us here for granted, not unlike third generation trust fund kids separated from the hard work, motivations, and ne-cessity that fueled the initial wealth creation.

We have also largely sepa-rated ourselves from future consequences of poor pres-ent choices. A broad social safety net, bailouts, victim-hood, or a lack of personal accountability or shame are all acceptable off ramps from personal or financial failure.

We’re living in a time of unimaginable personal wealth and standards of liv-

ing to even our forefathers a century ago, much less to those of the ancient Greeks. Too many look around at all we have, what have avail-able to us individually and collectively, and only see the problems. They neither see the history nor work it took to get here, nor the systems that have withstood for cen-turies that have allowed us to stay here – at least, for now.

Our politics have grown short sighted and narrow-ly focused on ourselves. We want what we have and more. We don’t wish to sac-rifice to keep it.

America has endured various wars in the last quarter century that most of the country at least tacitly agreed were important. We fought them with all volun-teer armed forces. The gen-eral public hasn’t been asked to sacrifice anything.

As a result, we’ve grown more and more distant from our military and the conse-quences of military action, as well as allowing festering inaction around America’s major active adversary of the



CHARLIE HARPER
GEORGIA POLITICS

last half century. We’re now flailing about with mixed messages to both our allies and enemies as to what our goals are in Iran and the middle east, as well as Rus-sia and Ukraine.

China, for now, has cho-sen to be eerily silent on Tai-wan. The saying “data is the new oil” was meant for Wall Street, as it was primarily used to fuel appetites to fi-nance the tech boom. Tai-wan produces about 90% of the world’s advanced semi-conductors, which are now part of our everyday life

and also critical to our de-fense apparatus. Those who wanted us to keep out of the middle east over oil should be taking a long and critical look at our current reliance on Taiwan.

These are not easy topics. They have weight because the implications and conse-quences are heavy.

But the speech given by Secretary of State Rubio wasn’t one of despair urging us to manage malaise with a stiff upper lip, nor was it one of gleeful platitudes that tell us to cheer up and ignore the pressing challenges we currently face. It was, in-stead, an appeal to return to greatness.

In noting that “decline is a choice”, he instead urged us to choose greatness.

“Too often, these days, we build downwards. We de-sign our standards to ensure that no one will lose. We pre-occupy ourselves more with the comfort of the worst than the potential of the best. We hold the most exceptional things among us hostage to the average.”

Part of the problem with a never ending campaign cycle is that it is difficult to step back and see the big

picture. We have instant on-line reactions to every event. We have deep partisans and foreign influence operations reacting immediately to any headline of consequence to divide or distract us.

For some, there is big money in being a divisive in-fluencer. For others, there is a long game in destabilizing the world’s most successful experiment in freedom to date.

Secretary Rubio gave us the big picture, visually and rhetorically. We – Amer-icans, Europeans, The West, and all who yearn to live freely – have more in com-mon to unite us than what divides us.

We need to take a long look around over the next few weeks before casting our ballots. We must not take what we have for granted. We must instead look for those who will work together to build upwards.

We owe it to 2,500 years of those who built the foun-dation from which we stand. More importantly, we owe it to the generations who will inherit this from us when it is our time to pass the torch.

No debate on who is the best candidate in upcoming election

I hope you saw the de-bates on Gray Media this past week between guber-natorial candidates Repub-lican businessman Rick Jackson and the Democrati-c nominee, former Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bot-toms. I don’t think either one helped or hurt their campaign. Pretty much boilerplate stuff, except when Jackson talked about going to the “gas store.” That caused a wince or two. I can see why he isn’t go-ing to do any more debates. He’s not good at it. Bottoms came across much more polished but then you have to remember she was an in-over-her-head, one-term mayor. She’s the best Dem-ocrats could come up with?

were a little more spirited. Incumbent Democrat Jon Ossoff called Republican Cong. Mike Collins a bigot with “ties to white national-ists.” Collins said Ossoff was an extremist who voted for men in girls sports,” and “a trust fund kid who’s never had a job in his life.”

Ossoff, who is Jewish, didn’t back away from his stance opposing U.S. weap-ons sales to Israel, saying Is-raeli forces violated interna-tional humanitarian law in the war in Gaza. “I also care about innocent Palestinian life and make no apology for my votes,” he said.

At a time when many Republican candidates are treating Donald Trump like the weird uncle who talks too loud and belches too



DICK YARBROUGH

much at family reunions, Mike Collins made no bones about his support for the president, from the war with Iran to his tariff decisions. He is all-in on Trump.

The man behind making the debates possible and then serving as moderator

was WANF news anchor Rick Folbaum. He did an outstanding job of keeping things on track, even stop-ping candidates politely but firmly when they tried to go over their allotted time.

Chris Wallace, with whom Folbaum had worked at Fox News, told him if the headlines the next day were about the moderator, then you had done something wrong. They were not, but his performance is worthy of mention here.

Of course, I can’t help but feel some bitter irony here. I could have been on that stage with Jackson and Bot-toms or Ossoff and Collins had I started my campaign as a write-in candidate ear-lier. I had been thinking about running for governor, but no doubt I would make a good senator, too. It really doesn’t matter to me. A job is a job.

This is not to say I won’t be a formidable candidate come Nov. 3. The ground-swell of support has been humbling. From the time I broached the subject of running as a write-in candi-date until today, confirmed commitments of support among Georgia voters has soared from 3 to 41. That, my friends, is a 1,226.67 percent increase. That’s the good news. The not-so-good news is that to get the additional 2,111,467 votes I would need in order to be elected would require a 5,148,680.49 percent increase. That could be a problem.

Since, due to factors

beyond my control, I was unable to speak directly to those 2,111,467 of you who are undecided, let me share with you why I think I am the best candidate for gov-ernor/senator (pick one) this November.

First, if elected I will (in-hale) Lower taxes. Reduce crime. Shrink the size of government. Create jobs. Stand up to powerful special interest groups. Fight bu-reaucracy. Secure our bor-ders. Take care of our veter-ans. Improve education and fix Medicare. (exhale.)

Second, I don’t have an embarrassing idiot of a son-in-law who is a misogynistic racist to deal with. Actual-ly, my son-in-law is pretty smart. After all, he married my daughter. That was pret-ty smart.

Third, I was never may-or of Atlanta. Had I been, I would not have bailed

on the city in its time of need and gone to Washing-ton and gotten a made-up nothing job in the Biden Administration.

Fourth, I promise that if I am running low on fuel, I won’t roll down the window and ask where the nearest gas store is.

Finally, if any politician or bureaucrat so much as thinks about drilling in our Okefenokee for titanium dioxide so that the world never runs out of toothpaste whitener, I will slather them in barbecue sauce and toss them in the middle of the swamp at supper time. That’s sure to get the alliga-tor vote.

I’m not sure what else the 2,111,467 of you out there need to know. It is obvious that I would make a great governor/senator (pick one.). Of that, there is no debate.



THE JOHNSON JOURNAL

Published every Tuesday
by the Georgia Trust for Local News

Cynthia DuBose, Executive Director
Danyale Starley, Deputy Executive Director
Donnell Suggs, Publisher
DuBose Porter, Publisher Emeritus
Deidre Ledford, Editor
Courtney Vessell, Circulation Manager

Subscription Rates:
One Year in County \$31 | Senior in County \$29
Out of County \$37 | Out of State \$41

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Legals

Legals

J26-046
**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF JOHN-
SON COUNTY**
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF WILLIAM DALLAS
PRICE, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. PR2026-046

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 November
2, 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: Patricia Claxton
Clerk of the Probate Court
P.O. Box 264
Wrightsville, GA 31096
478-864-3316

October 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026

J26-045
SUMMARIES OF PROPOSED CONSTITU-
TIONAL AMENDMENTS
Pursuant to requirements of the Georgia
Constitution, Attorney General Christopher
Carr, Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger,
and Legislative Counsel Betsy Howerton
hereby provide the summaries of the pro-
posed constitutional amendments that will
appear on the November 3, 2026, general
election ballot for consideration by the peo-
ple of Georgia (short captions are those
adopted by the Constitutional Amendments
Publication Board):
-1 -
Increases the maximum qualifying acreage
for assessment and taxation as bona fide
conservation use property.
House Resolution No. 32
Ga. L. 2025, p. 1081
() YES
() NO
Shall the Constitution of Georgia, for the
purpose of protecting family farmland, be
amended so as to increase the maximum
acreage to qualify for assessment and
taxation as a bona fide conservation use
property from 2,000 acres to 4,000 acres?
Summary
This proposal increases the maximum acre-
age to qualify for assessment and taxation
as a bona fide conservation use property
from 2,000 acres to 4,000 acres. It amends
Article VII, Section I, Paragraph III of the
Georgia Constitution, relating to uniformity,
classification of property, assessment of
agricultural land, and utilities, by revising
subparagraph (e)(1).
A copy of this entire proposed constitutional
amendment is on file in the office of the
judge of the probate court and is available
for public inspection.
- 2 -
Provides for the nonpartisan election of all
probate court judges.
House Resolution No. 251
Ga. L. 2026, p. 1110
() YES
() NO
Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amend-
ed so as to require that all probate court
judges be elected in nonpartisan elections?
Summary
This proposal provides that all probate judg-
es shall be elected in nonpartisan elections.
It amends Article VI, Section VII, Paragraph
I of the Georgia Constitution, relating to
selection and term of office of judges, by
revising subparagraph (a).
A copy of this entire proposed constitutional
amendment is on file in the office of the
judge of the probate court and is available
for public inspection.
- 3 -
Authorizes creation of Georgia Next Genera-
tion 9-1-1 Fund for 9-1-1 systems expan-
sion, maintenance, and operation.
House Resolution No. 1243
Ga. L. 2026, p. 1109
() YES
() NO
Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amend-
ed so as to authorize the General Assembly
to dedicate certain existing revenues,
including revenues reallocated by law, to a
nonlapsing fund to be used exclusively for
the expansion, maintenance, and operation
of emergency 9-1-1 systems in this state?
Summary
This proposal authorizes the General As-
sembly to provide by general law for the
creation of the Georgia Next Generation
9-1-1 Fund. It amends Article III, Section
IX, Paragraph VI of the Georgia Constitution,
relating to appropriations to be for specific
sums, by adding a new subparagraph (s).
A copy of this entire proposed constitutional
amendment is on file in the office of the
judge of the probate court and is available
for public inspection.

October 13, 20, 27, 2026

J26-048
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 November
16, 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

October 20, 27, November 3, 10, 2026

LADY TROJAN HEAD TO THE SWEET 16



The Johnson County Lady Trojans are headed to the Sweet Sixteen! The girls hosted the Seminole County Indians in a double header on October 12 for the first round of playoffs and took the 'W' for both games! They will kick off the Sweet 16 against the GMC Bulldogs this week (date and time to be announced).



Deidre Ledford and Ariel Holland speak to the children about EMS

LOCAL STUDENTS
LEARN ABOUT
FIRE SAFETY

Each year, Johnson County stu-
dents in grades Pre-K through 2nd
grade celebrate Fire Prevention
Week with visits from several
special guests. The children learned the
importance of how to Stop, Drop,
and Roll in the event of a fire emer-
gency. They were shown the dif-
ferent pieces of equipment on the
firetruck and ambulance. They got
to learn about what the big bulldoz-
ers are used for during a fire and
even got to squirt water from a real



Wrightsville Firefighter Tyler Powell shows students the different pieces of equipment on the firetruck

fire hose! They also had two very
special guests, Smokey the Bear and
Sparky the Fire Dog. Special thanks
to the Wrightsville Fire Department,
Johnson County EMS, Johnson
County Fire/Rescue, and Georgia
Forestry for making this event a fun
way to learn about fire safety.

WOMBLES RECOGNIZED BY
HISTORIC SOCIETY



The General Richard Montgomery Chapter of The National Society Daughters of American Colonists were pleased to present the National Medal of Award to Mr. Willis Wombles last week in recognition of his patriotism and community service for Wrightsville and Johnson County. Wombles was an original committee member of the Johnson County Bicentennial Celebration in 1976 and has been a driving force behind the celebration for the past 50 years. Mr. Wombles is shown receiving the award from Tommie Brown Powell and Sarah Williams.



HOMEMAKER'S CLUB HONORS SAFETY PERSONNEL

Each year, the Kite Homemaker's Club honors Johnson County's public safety personnel with a supper to thank them for their service to the community. This year's event was held on Monday, October 5 at the Kite Church of God. Guests were treated to a delicious barbecue supper.

Georgia

LOCAL MATTERS

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MISCELLANEOUS

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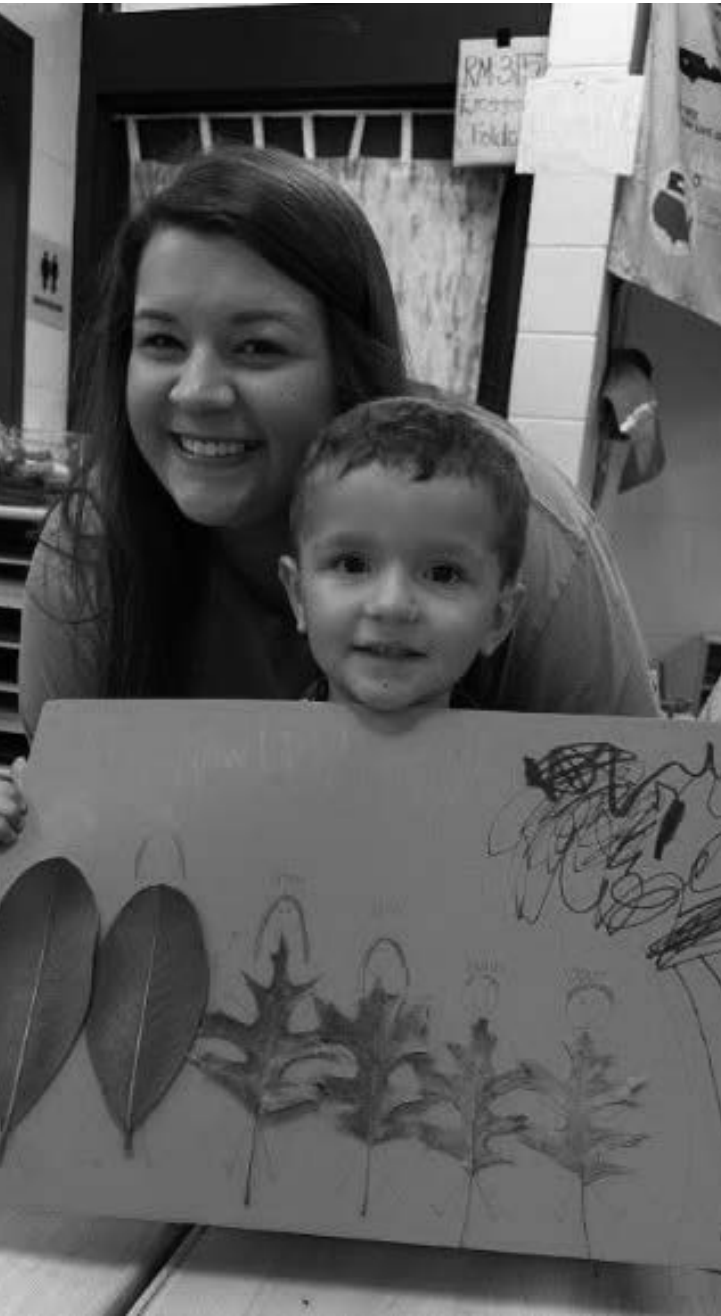
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GAL 3512

PRE-K WEEK AT JOHNSON SCHOOLS



Johnson County Elementary Schook kicked off Georgia Pre-K Week last week with some very special community visitors! Mayor Janibeth Outlaw stopped by to read to our Pre-K students and Mr. Caleb Soles brought his banjo and treated them to some music! Our youngest Trojans had a great time listening, singing along, and enjoying a little taste of what makes our community so special. Families worked together to create their families using leaves, made colorful masterpieces with finger paint, explored the Literacy/STEM BUS, and even made bird feeders to enjoy at home!

GRANT
Continued from page 1

“Traffic laws are to protect everyone traveling on the road and that obeying them helps to make sure you and everyone else make it home safely every day.”
“I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Governor’s Office of Highway Safety for this grant to sup-

port traffic safety in Johnson County,” said Sheriff Greg Rowland. “This amount represents an increase from last year’s funding, and we are deeply grateful for their continued investment in our community. We appreciate this partnership and their ongoing commitment to protecting the well-being of our citizens.”
As law enforcement

partners in the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over DUI and Click It or Ticket seatbelt campaigns, the Johnson County Sheriff’s Office will also conduct mobilizations throughout the year in coordination with GOHS’s year-round waves of high visibility patrols, multi-jurisdictional sobriety checkpoints.
The grant will contin-

ue through September of 2027.
For more information on the Johnson County Sheriff’s Office award, contact Chief Deputy Sammy Young, Chief Deputy, (478) 864-4003 or syoung@johnsonco.org. For more information on GOHS and its highway safety programs visit www.gahighwaysafety.org.

COMMUNITY NEWS

- The Factory will host an Alzheimer’s Awareness Day on Oct. 27 at 6 p.m. Join us in raising awareness about Alzheimer’s. A meal will be provided.
- The annual Light Up The Night Linder Memorial 5K will be held Thursday, Oct. 29 with race time starting at 5:30 p.m. \$25 entry fee. All proceeds will benefit the Light Up The Night Scholarship Fund in memory of Coach Linder and Bella.
- The JCHS Class of 1986 will be hosting its 40th Class Reunion on Saturday, Oct. 24. Contact a committee member through the JCHS Class of 1986 Facebook page for more information.

Altar calls

These modern day evangelists are powerful preachers. They can spit out words faster than a wood chipper can spit out chips, but I believe they are missing the mark by virtually eliminating the altar call.
I know some will say, “That’s just tradition and serves no real purpose. Altar calls are outdated.” How wrong they are! The song says, “That’s what that altar is for.” A place where folks come and repent. They pour their hearts out to God and pray through to victory at an altar of prayer. I know they could do that anywhere, but there’s still something special about an altar call.
While lining folks up and praying for them or calling them all down to stand and pray for them is wonderful and effective in touching lives, I still feel we are falling short in revivals when we don’t give altar calls. One lady said, “Oh, you’ll embarrass the sinner and run them off with those scary altar calls.”
I think we’ve become too apologetic, but who are we going to apologize to if they die and are lost without God? Everything of the past was not bad and needs to be outdated. Don’t throw the baby out with the bath water. Altar calls are still very effective in winning souls for Christ.



GARY TOOLE

In times past at revivals the evangelist preached with fire and fervor, not mincing words or sugar coating the word, but rather they preached, “Heaven is real and hell is hot.” They would beckon you to come before it was too late and would remind you that this could be your last opportunity to accept Christ as your savior. I remember they would flood the altar seeking God.
The prayer warriors (altar workers) would help pray the lost through to victory. Many were saved, sanctified and filled with the sweet Holy Ghost. They all prayed while the singers sang the old hymns like, “Oh victory in Jesus my Savior forever; He sought me and He bought me with His redeeming blood; He loved me ere I knew Him and all my love is due Him; He plunged me to victory beneath the cleansing flood.”
Can you say amen?

JUNCTION
Continued from page 1

Drainage, Belavi Facelift Massages and Pregnancy Massages. She hopes to soon offer permanent makeup, specializing in brows, lips and scar camouflage. She also offers body piercings. For appointments, call 478-575-0018.
MC Threads, owned by Sheryl W. Barnhill and her daughter, Claire, offers boutique clothes, homemade items (quilted and wood work), kids fidgets, candles, soaps, and accessories. She can be contacted through her Facebook

page, MC Threads, or by calling 478-484-3102.
GlamXHarley, owned by Harley Newsome, offers hair color, hair cuts, body waxing, spray tans, facials, scalp, shoulder and neck massages, deep conditioning treatments, and the list goes on. She is open Monday through Thursday from 9 am. until 5 p.m., Fridays from 8-3 and on Saturdays by appointment only. Walk-ins are welcome Monday through Friday.
Everyone is encouraged to stop by the Wrightsville Junction and support these small businesses.



Harley Newsome, owner of GlaxXHarley, is one of the local entrepreneurs in the Wrightsville Junction /SPECIAL PHOTO

