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Board association to lead superintendent search

By DEIDRE LEDFORD
Editor

The Johnson County Board of Education has approved the Georgia School Board Association to oversee the search for the next School Superintendent. During the October board meeting, Julia Brunet spoke to the board about the extensive process GSBA goes through to review potential candidates.

Board member Kevin Brantley advised Brunet that he and Donald Smith would be coming off the board in January 2026 and he thinks the new members coming on board should have a part in the selection process. Brunet explained that the interview process would probably not begin until the new members are in office. She thanked the board for allowing GSBA to help with the superintendent search.

Unanimous approval was given.

In other business, Superintendent Dr. Chris Watkins asked the board to approve the new Work-Based Learning Diploma. He also discussed a proposal from the Wrightsville Church of the Nazarene regarding a Blessings Box. He said they are not asking for assistance, only permission to place a box at the school. Both items were approved.

The board discussed purchasing 2.75 acres of commercial land that is adjacent to the current Board of Education building. Watkins explained they learned about the property being for sale on Zillow and realized it was between the BOE office and the 4-H office. The board approved to purchase the property for $18,556.

Watkins presented the state of the school district presentation. A few key points include:

The CCRPI System Demographics show a total of 1,041 students enrolled. Of this number, 40.8% are Black, 0.1% are Asian/Pacific Islander, 3.7% are Hispanic, 3.7% are Multiracial, 51.7% are White, and 15.8% are Students with Disabilities.

A total of 63 students graduated in 2026 with seven students listed as dropouts and eight students transferring. JoCo's graduation rate was 88%, which is just shy of the state rate of 88.5%.

Johnson County scored in top place over all of the counties in the RESA district (Putnam, Washington, Baldwin, Wilkinson, Hancock) in the following areas: 7th Grade Math, 8th Grade Math, 8th Grade Science, 8th Grade Social Studies and Highest Overall in Social Studies.

Watkins pointed out that JoCo is ranked first or second on most Milestones Testing for Core Content Areas.

The Elementary School recognitions include: John Hancock Banner and Ribbon of Distinction Re-

SUPER SEARCH
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49th Annual Johnson County Market Hog Show held

By KENT FOSKEY
Special to The Johnson Journal

The 49th Annual Johnson County Market Hog Show and Sale was held on November 3rd and the event was kicked off with a pork chop dinner served by the Johnson County Young Farmer Association. Mr. Clay Walker served as the evening's judge.

Showmanship participants included: 2nd-4th Grade – Daniel Attaway, Sidney Attaway, Shiloh Pool, Bailor Tanner, Sara Kate Tanner, and Gabriel Waller ; 5th-6th Grade- Bailee Brantley, Reagan Parker, Eli Peebles, Piper Tanner, and Maddie Waller; 7th-8th Grade- Sawyer Attaway, Emmalee Brantley, and Kardyn Kyzer; 10th-12th Grade- Bryston Claxton, Makalyn Claxton, Emma Lou Pool, Amy Smith, and Knox Tanner.

Showmanship winners were: 2nd-4th Grade- 1st place Shiloh Pool, 2nd place Bailor Tanner, and 3rd place Sidney Attaway. In 5th-6th grade- 1st place Reagan Parker, 2nd place Piper Tanner, and 3rd place Bailee Brantley. 7th-8th Grade- 1st place Emmalee Brantley, 2nd place Sawyer Attaway, and 3rd place Kardyn Kyzer. 10th-12th grade- 1st place Emma Lou Pool, 2nd place Makalyn Claxton, and 3rd place Bryston Claxton.

The weight class winners were as follows: Class 1 Barrows Emmalee Brantley, Class 2 Gilts Reagan Parker, Class 3 Gilts Bryston Claxton, and Class 4 Gilts Makalyn Claxton. After these 4 hogs came back for the final drive, the 2026 Grand Champion Market Hog was selected to be Reagan Parker with her 229 pound gilt. The 2026 Reserve Grand Champion was selected to be Emmalee Brantley with her 227 pound barrow.

We had 4 entries that qualified in the Home Grown (born and raised in Johnson County) championship drive with Sawyer Attaway, Weston Foskey, Mary Helen Lunzmann, and Eli Peebles all bringing excellent entries. Weston Foskey's 270 pound gilt was selected to win the Home Grown Champion.

The Average Daily Gain winner this year was Maddie Waller. Over the 75 days between weigh in and the show, Maddie's gilt gained an average of 1.85 pounds per day. This is an outstanding amount of gain on a hog. By winning the ADG award Maddie received a plaque and a $100 prize.

After selecting Grand and Reserve Champions we got to see our future hog showers in action as we had our pee-wee class. We were excited to see about a half-dozen young children get the chance to

HOG SHOW
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'This is the busiest year I've ever had'

Local chef filling nearly 300 orders for famous fruit cake



Each finished cake is regularly misted with bourbon. If stored properly they will last a year or longer/KYLE DOMINY



A slice of James Barwick's fruit cake. The local chef is making 270 cakes this season, the most he has ever prepared/ KYLE DOMINY

By KYLE DOMINY
GTLN

Fruit cake - it is the holiday dessert that some people look forward to while most people turn their nose up at.

That is until they try a slice of Chef James Barwick's famous confection.

The 66-year-old culinary artist is hard at work filling nearly 300 orders for his fruit cake - 270 to be exact, the most he has ever made in a holiday season. Last year he capped orders at 200. And these masterpieces will travel well beyond the boundaries of Laurens County, with some fruit cakes to be shipped to Oregon, California and Hawaii. Some will even cross the border into Canada.

Barwick's fruit cakes have become more than a treat for many customers but a Thanksgiving or Christmas tradition, with many orders placed a year or more in advance. If you don't ask early enough, you'll have to wait until next year.

"When they pick up at Christmas most people will go ahead and book for the next year," he said.

And business is strictly word of mouth.

No stranger to the kitchen, Barwick has crafted the perfect fruit cake recipe leaning on his 50 year career as a cook and chef and a recipe learned from his mother. He has tweaked the technique and made additions and subtractions over time to create a dish with the perfect flavor profile and texture.

These are not the mass-produced, sickeningly bright colored monstrosities seen in grocery stores during the holiday season. Barwick's hand-crafted fruit cakes are prepared in small batches that take at least three months to prepare, starting with candied cherries and pineapple soaking in bourbon.

"For no less than 90 days," the chef said.

Each cake weighs in at eight and a half pounds, made with three pounds of the whiskey drenched fruit, a pound each of walnuts and pecans with the rest made up of coconut, raisins and dates, not to mention the cake itself. Baking for two hours, Barwick can make six at a time and about 24 cakes a day.

While the cakes wait to be picked up they are misted with bourbon every two days. Once at home, Barwick recommends spraying the cake once a week. If properly stored and spritzed, the cake will last a year or more, if you can refrain from eating it for that long.

The fruit cakes are just the icing on the figurative cake for the in-demand

CAKES
Continued on page 6

Trojans tread past Tigers, on to second round

By RALPH JACKSON
Correspondent

Ground gains and defensive dominance moved the Johnson County Trojans past Greene County and into the second round of the state playoffs with a 48-0 win Friday night at the Blue Monster.

In the schools' first meeting on the football field, the Trojans rolled up 535 yards of total offense, including an impressive 514 yards rushing, while their defense held the Tigers to just 159 yards and kept them off the scoreboard.

Junior running back Jeremiah Scott led the ground attack with 330 yards and three touchdowns on just 12 carries. His performance was the highest single-game rushing total for a Johnson County player since the Trojans' 1979 state championship game.

The victory continued a season-long pattern of high-scoring performances by Johnson County, which entered the playoffs undefeated after completing its second consecutive 10–0 regular season.



Jeremiah Scott sets up some blocking behind D.J. Abrams during Friday's first-round win. Scott rushed for 330 yards and three touchdowns on just 12 carries as the Trojans defeated Greene County/RALPH JACKSON

The Trojans averaged 13.7 yards per offensive play and scored seven touchdowns despite running only 39 plays from scrimmage.

The game did not begin with the offensive fireworks that would eventually define it.

TROJANS
Continued on page 6

LOCAL VETS HONORED ON VETERANS DAY



Above: The Kite Homemaker's Club honored local Veterans with a special program and delicious meal on Tuesday evening at the Kite Church of God Social Hall/DEIDRE LEDFORD



Right: Johnson County veterans were honored with a program and delicious breakfast on Veterans Day morning at The Factory. The Trojan Marching Band also conducted a very special performance. Each military branch was honored and recognized for their years of service to our Country/DEIDRE LEDFORD

OBITUARIES



Ronnie Dean Farrow

Funeral services for Ronnie Dean Farrow, 76, were held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2026, in the Richard N. Stanley Jr. Memorial Chapel of Stanley Funeral Homes and Crematory with burial to follow in Kite City Cemetery. Rev. Butch Taylor will officiate.

Mr. Farrow was born on Jan. 7, 1950, in Swainsboro, Georgia. He retired from W.F. Jackson Construction Co. and worked for the Johnson County Road Department. He was of the Baptist faith. He was preceded in death by his parents, Freeman and Sarah Johnson Farrow; and his wife, Linda Kight Farrow. Mr. Farrow passed away on Saturday, Nov. 7, 2026, at his residence.

He is survived by his son, Ron Farrow; daughter, Lori Sumner; sister, Annette Rogers; son-in-law, Jim Sumner; and his grandson and best buddy, Eli Sumner.

Pallbearers will be Wendy Farrow, Jim Sumner, David Hall, Chip Evans, Davy Kight and Perry Rogers. Honorary pallbearers will be employees of the Johnson County Road Department.

The family will receive friends from 12 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2026, at the funeral home.

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



Marion Winifred Townsend

Marion Winifred Townsend, lovingly known as "Winnie" entered into eternal rest on Nov. 8, 2026 at the age of 90.

Born June 10, 1936 in Sandersville, Georgia, Winnie grew up surrounded by familiar people and places that shaped her early years. Her roots in Washington County would always be a special part of her story. It was at the Kaolin Festival where she met Mershon Townsend, beginning a love story that would lead to marriage and a lifetime together. The two made Kite, Georgia their home where they built a life and raised their family.

Winnie attended Kite First Baptist Church faithfully until the beginning of her sickness. Her faith was an important part of her life, and she felt comfort reading her Bible daily. She retired from Johnson County School System where she worked in the school cafeteria and also helped with the family business when they owned and operated Gilleys in Wrightsville. Winnie was said to be the secret behind the famous Gilley's hamburger, a favorite that so many came to enjoy.

Winnie will also be remembered for being a wonderful cook. Her Brunswick stew, cornbread dressing, fried chicken, and warm banana pudding were among family favorites. Her kitchen was a place where good food and treasured memories came together, and those who gathered around her table will forever remember the love she put into every meal.

In her quieter moments, Winnie enjoyed embroidery, crossword puzzles and putting together jigsaw puzzles. There was rarely a puzzle she couldn't solve. She was a true Bulldog fan and loved cheering them on. Her family will fondly remember these simple joys and most importantly the life she shared with those around her.

Above all, Winnie was a loving mother and a devoted Nanny. Her grandchildren were among her greatest joys, and she was their biggest supporter. She loved hearing about their many accomplishments, adventures, and special moments that filled their lives. She took great pride in each of them and treasured every opportunity to share in their happiness. Her great-grandchildren also brought her tremendous joy, and the memories made with their Nanny will be treasured always.

Winnie was preceded in death by her husband, Mershon Townsend; her parents, Marion Thomas and Louise Cox; and her two brothers, Claude and Cecil Cox.

She leaves behind a loving family who will forever cherish her memory: her children, Cindy (Steve) Jarrard of Kite, Marcia (Andy) Robinson of Wrightsville, and Charles (Nina) Townsend of Statesboro; her grandchildren, Charlsie (Ben) Butler of Watkinsville, Anna Kate Robinson of Athens, and Charlie and Emma-Charles Townsend of Statesboro; her great-grandchildren, Benjamin, Isabel, and Hubbell Butler; and her sisters-in-law, Jackie Cox of Ocilla, Florida, and Doris Townsend Batts of Macon, Georgia.

Winnie leaves behind a legacy of family, love, and cherished memories. She will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made to the Lighthouse, formerly Kite First United Methodist Church where Winnie attended with her young children.

A graveside service was held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2026 in the Minton Chapel Cemetery in Kite, Georgia. Mr. John Wilder Page will officiate.

The family received friends from 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Wednesday, at the cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Charles Townsend, Charlie Townsend, Andy Robinson, Steve Jarrard, Ben Butler and Todd Hutchinson.

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

STANLEY Funeral Homes & Crematory

How to create and keep conflict stirring

DAN KING SR
RFD South

You may be one of those people who just naturally drips with strife. You may not need tutoring. You have written the curriculum. You are an accomplished teacher in creating conflict and keeping it stirring. But if you want to raise the level of conflict you are creating, read on.

One way to stir strife is to communicate to others that you think you are better than they are. You don't have to actually be better than anyone else. Just be sure they understand that you think you are. Step on their opinions with your superior opinions. Criticize them—their looks, their clothes, their background and their intelligence.

Look down on others. If you can't see them when you look down, put them down so you can see them when you look in that direction. If those other persons already have low self-esteem, that makes your job easier. Take advantage of their weakness and drive your point home. They are worth little, and you are worth much! Don't let them forget that.

Another way to create conflict and keep it stirring is in direct confrontation. Pick out someone and be as contentious with that person as you can possibly be. Do not ever agree with them even if you think their suggestions might be good ones. Challenge them in the presence of others. Give them every reason to feel badly toward you and themselves.

Do not compliment other people. Rake them with insults! Insults are tools (or weapons) of your trade. Keep a heaping supply of insults with you, and share them generously. Replacing the insults you use will come easily. Be sure your tone of voice and volume support your choice of words when insulting others. Remember, direct confrontation, especially in a group setting, goes a long way to create and stir conflict.

These are just two ways to get strife started and to keep the momentum going. If you find that these things appeal to you, do a bit of self-evaluation. Have you ever been the target of the kind of behavior I just described for you to act out toward others? Then you know how it feels. Now, your goal is to help others feel how you felt when others were unkind toward you. Think of it this way: Do unto others as others did unto you. That's what the Golden Rule is like when you bend it to return some of the inner pain you feel from some of your life experiences.

Readers who know the Lord Jesus Christ through confessing and turning away from sin as a way of life have entirely different instructions for living. Some of those instructions show up in the New Testament book of Ephesians, chapter 4, verses 31-32. A first century church leader named Paul said, " Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor [perpetual animosity, resentment, strife, fault-finding] and slander be put away from you, along with every kind of malice [all spitefulness, verbal abuse, malevolence]. Be kind and helpful to one another, tender-hearted [compassionate, understanding], forgiving one another [readily and freely], just as God in Christ also forgave you."*

I readily concede to the writer, Paul, in his instructions for finding and perpetuating peaceful living.

*Ephesians 4:31-32, Amplified, www.biblegateway.com

From Days Gone By

Historian Donald Smith



November 17, 1932.

Armistice Day in Wrightsville was observed by the American Legion and was largely attended. Gen. H. D. Russell of Macon spoke on behalf of Macon Mayor Key who was sick. Mrs. J. H. Rowland represented the Gold Star mothers, who lost a son on Flanders Field. Chaplain Lotis McAfee offered the invocation. Then the roll call of the late veterans, Red Cross nurses, Mary Lovett and Estelle Clarke, placed a flower in a wreath for each of the 26. Poppies were sold on the street for the benefit of the disabled veterans and families.

A party of hunters went to the Ogeechee River to shoot deer, quail, turkeys, squirrels, etc. They were L. A., T. L. and G. P. Lovett, C. H. Lovett, A. F. Flanders, Herbert Johnson, C. D. Prescott, Grady Hatcher, George East, Dick Summerlin, Ashley Jackson and E. B. Keel. They stayed at Lovett's Camp near Savannah.

Mrs. J. G. Brantley arranged some beautiful paintings in the show window of Brantley's Drugs, which were drawn by Mrs. Forest Jackson of Donovan. Wrightsville continued its streak of wins defeating Thompson 26 to 0.

In the November Term of City Court, with Judge W. C. Brinson, convened. A man named Sheppard was freed by the jury, trying him on supposed theft of a flashlight and hat, both valued about a couple of dollars. Six were tried for distilling whiskey and two for possessing it. Several plead out guilty in their cases. A lot of bonds were forfeited.

Miss Frances Fulford wed Mr. Mildredge Snipes at the home of Nat Bray. On October 29th in Alabama, Miss Thelma Joyner of Americus and Mr. Clayton Manry were wed. She was a daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Edd Joyner who resided here some years back.

Mr. Loring R. Clayton died November 15th. Beside him was his family and physician Dr. J. G. Brantley. He was 81. He had been a newspaperman and printer all his life. Born in Macon, February 12, 1851, spent his early childhood in Americus. He planned to join the Confederate Army but was prevented by his mothers, "little red cow-hide". At the outbreak of the Spanish-American War he enlisted in a Georgia Division and served in Cuba with honor. He was connected with newspapers in Americus, Eastman, Louisville, Sandersville and Wrightsville. He "got out" the first paper published in Wrightsville and was connected to the Headlight for 48 years. He was twice elected Coroner of Johnson County and was serving at the time of his death. Survivors were neices, Mrs. Wallace Zachary, Mrs. W. L. Burns; great nephews, Douglas and William Matthews. He was a Baptist and was buried in old Sandersville cemetery beside his sister, Mrs. John Huff.

COMMUNITY NEWS

-The Wrightsville-Johnson County Chamber of Commerce has announced plans to host a Christmas Festival on Thursday, Dec. 10 on the Courthouse Square from 5-8 p.m. There will be Christmas Lights, Craft Vendors, Food Booths, Music and a special visit from Santa! Weather permitting, Santa will arrive between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. Vendors are welcome with no booth fee. Individuals, groups, churches, etc. are welcome to play or sing their favorite Christmas music. For more information, contact Judy at 478-278-6191.

-Jordan Grove COGIC will host a Pre-Christmas Gospel Gala on Dec. 12 at 4 p.m. This event is sponsored by Pastor Rickey Stanley, Evangelist Sharon King and Mitchell Grove Baptist Church. Performers will include: Pastor Ted and First Lady Cathy Stephens "MC", P&P And The Country Boyz, Mitchell Grove Adult Choir, The Gospel Explorers, Men Of Faith, Brothers of Praise, and The Christian Bells. Admission is Free.

-The Wrightsville-Johnson County Chamber of Commerce will host its annual Fall BBQ fundraiser on Wednesday, Nov. 18 from 10:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. Plates are $10 and include pulled pork bbq, potato salad, green beans, bread and cake. Orders can be placed by calling 478-864-7200 or by contacting any Chamber Board member. Plates can be picked up at the Depot, 6745 East College Street.

Birthdays

Aariah Linder	November 17
Reginald Linder	November 17
Johnnie Salter	November 17
Matenlee Lanier	November 17
Dakota Wright	November 18
Alvin Darrisaw	November 18
Teresa Howell	November 19
Emily Norris	November 19
Margaret Roberts	November 19
Ruthie Logue	November 19
Brandon Wright	November 20
Tricia Holland	November 20
Susan Powell	November 20
Tiara Blount	November 20
Tecia McKay	November 20
Janice Graddy	November 21
Nicki Fisher	November 21
Corey Green	November 21
Marcy Cherryhomes	November 21
Natalie Linder	November 22
Mary Taylor	November 22
Nancy Colston	November 22
Andy Logue	November 22
Amanda Winfrey	November 23
Ivey Caneega	November 23

Anniversaries

Anthony and Becky Frost	November 21
Scott and Glenda Price	November 22
Curt and Christy Mayo	November 23
Isaac and Latha Williams	November 23

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DID YOU KNOW...?

Does a baseball player, retired since 2001, still get a salary check for over $1 million each year from the New York Mets?

By JACK BAGLEY
GTLN

In this column's home newspapers, one week from today is Thanksgiving.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very happy and safe holiday, and I hope you get to share the love and camaraderie of family as you enjoy your repast.

For dessert, I could suggest many things, but at the top of the list would be these little tidbits of trivia, designed to be served with or without whipped topping.

Happy Thanksgiving, my friends. See you again next week - delivered after the holiday, I would imagine.

Did you know ...

... you may have seen a drey? In fact, there's a very strong chance you have. A drey is another name for the nest of a squirrel. *Additional trivia note:* Dray (note changed spelling) is also the word used for a group of squirrels; it's a nod to the name for their nests. (Sounds squirrelly, I know, but go with it.)

... the first modern skyscraper was constructed in 1885? The ten-story Home Insurance Building was located in Chicago. Designed by William LeBaron Jenney (1832-1907), the building was the first the use a structural steel frame to support its weight. (Chicago. Of course.)

... one of the most dangerous movies ever made was produced in 1981? That year, *Roar* hit theaters. Produced by Noel Marshall (1931-2010), the film featured more than 130 live, wild animals. Among the roster were lions, tigers, and an elephant. Many members of the cast and crew suffered injuries related to the animals on set. Star Tippi Hedren (born 1930) was bitten by a lion on her head. She also fractured her ankle, and after an elephant picked her up with its trunk developed gangrene. Hedren's daughter and co-star, Melanie Griffith (born 1957), was mauled by a lioness. (Roar, indeed.)

... onions are a remedy for a blocked nose? The sulfur content in the average onion is thought to be enough to draw mucus out of the body. (Try it and let me know if it works.)

... the bridal bouquet can trace its roots to early Rome? During the period of the Roman Republic, which existed from 510 BC to 27 BC, brides carried bundles of herbs such as garlic and rosemary under their veils. The herbs were used to symbolize fertility and to ward off evil. The herb bundles survive today in the form of the modern bridal bouquet of flowers. (Now the bouquet wards off other suitors.)

... a retired baseball player still makes over one million dollars a year in salary? When Bobby Bonilla (born 1963) left the New York Mets in 1999, the team decided to defer the remaining $5.9 million on his contract instead of paying him off all at once. The contract added 8% interest, with the payments scheduled to begin in 2011. Bonilla retired in 2001, and ten years later, the cash flow began. He will be getting checks for $1,193,248.20 every July 1 until 2035. *Additional trivia note:* The reason for the deferment was the investment plan that the Mets made with Bernie Madoff (1938-2021), which they didn't know was part of Madoff's Ponzi scheme that cost his investors an estimated $65 billion. Because of the money they lost to Madoff, the Mets simply could not afford to pay Bonilla off all at once. And Bonilla is a double-dipper – he also has a second deferred contract with the Mets and Baltimore Orioles, paying him $250,000 a year for 25 years. Those payments began in 2004. (Smart cookie, that Bobby Bonilla.)

... the first talking motion picture ever made in England was directed by Alfred Hitchcock? The famous director (1899-1980) made *Blackmail* in 1929 – the first sound-on-film motion picture made in the United Kingdom. Originally planned as a silent movie, the producers gave Hitchcock the green light to make some parts of it with the new novelty of sound – but Hitchcock thought that idea was absurd and made the entire picture with sound. (Hitchcock was something of a visionary, it seems.)

... during World War II, very few new automobiles were made? In 1941, before the United States joined the war, more than three million cars were manufactured in this country. During the following four years, only 139 more new cars for consumer use were manufactured, after the government practically froze the sale of new such vehicles. All of the major auto manufacturers turned their plants into war production. (Wonder who got to buy those 139 new cars?)

... a Japanese man holds the record for the number of patents held by one person? Shunpei Yamazaki (born 1942) holds more than 1800 patents in his name – about 1100 more than Thomas Edison (1847-1931). Yamazaki was president of the Semiconductor Energy Laboratory Co., Ltd. (Everybody has to be known for something, right?)

... the shopping cart was invented in 1937? Sylvan Goldman (1898-1984), the owner of the Humpty Dumpty Stores and Standard Food Markets in Oklahoma, designed the device so that customers would be able to easily move more groceries. The first cart was based on a wooden folding chair with a basket on the seat and wheels on the legs. Goldman then asked one of his employees, a mechanic, to create the cart out of metal. The first cart was a metal frame with two wire baskets, and he introduced them to his stores on June 4, 1937. (See, that's the kind of invention we all need.)

... a rodent's teeth never stop growing? The rodent wears them down by gnawing on bark, leaves, and other vegetable matter, and if they don't do that, their teeth became so long that they are unable to eat. (That explains it.)

Now ... you know!

Dog fennel and its uses: Another tale from the land

THE NEW SOUTHERN DAD



By KYLE DOMINY

The first frost should be coming soon. Maybe as early as next week if you believe what the dog fennels have to say.

This native perennial started blooming in my neck of the woods and the old wives' tale indicates that the initial cold snap will come about six weeks after. The problem comes when determining which plant to believe. I noticed some dog fennel patches in other parts of the area put out their blossoms later than mine did. In that case it could be cold by Thanksgiving.

Eupatorium capillifolium, if you prefer the scientific name, is a species specific to the southern and eastern United States. It is also found in Cuba. It spreads aggressively on over-foraged or unimproved lands. I have a piece of soil that is very much in need of some improvement.

Dog fennel isn't suitable for eating, though it is named after and resembles various kitchen herbs. Cows will eat away at it, you know, because it grows on over-forage fields, even though it contains a toxin that causes dehydration, so many folks consider it a nuisance weed.

When mowed down the plumes emit a strong, sickly sour scent. It's a very distinct odor, that, during my increasing time on planet earth, I've been unable to find a match to. When you hit a clump of dog fennel with a bush hog, you know it. So does anyone nearby.

A good portion of a recent Saturday afternoon was spent with pungent aroma following me through the air as I caught up on some land clearing I've been putting off. I suppose I could have waited for the frost but I can be very impatient. I've encountered worse smells in the woods - not to be gross, but skunk and a rotting deer carcass comes to mind.

There are certain smells that you just know what they are.

Dog fennel served many purposes for the people native to this patch of the planet we call home. Native Americans crafted dog fennel into medicine and used it as an insect repellant. That sickly sour scent has a use, and now that you mention it, I don't recall being stung or bitten by any pests while working that portion of the land. I did, however, stir up a snake, but that's a story for a different day.

There's even a bug, the scarlet bodied wasp moth that lives in coastal areas, that gorges on the plant to make itself, its mate and later its eggs predator proof. Who said romance is dead?

Every year I mow down this patch of dog fennel. Every year it grows back, seemingly thicker and more vibrant than before. Every year, I'm reminded of the smell. Maybe next year I'll burn it, see if I can finally get rid of it.

Or I can just wait for the frost to knock it down for me.

COUCH THEATRE



Andrew Garfield, left, and Claire Foy star in "The Magic Faraway Tree"/**SPECIAL PHOTO, Courtesy of MovieStillsDB**

By DEMI TAVERAS
King Features

"The Odyssey" (R)

Four months after its theatrical release that led to a whopping $1.803 billion in the box office, the incredible epic fantasy film from Christopher Nolan ("Oppenheimer") will be available to rent starting Nov. 17. For anyone who had to read Homer's epic poem or watch the 1997 miniseries in their English classes, this film feels like an immersive experience that brings viewers directly alongside Odysseus as he faces a plethora of obstacles to get home to Ithaca. Matt Damon ("The Rip") gives arguably the best performance of his career, as he gives his all to the film's intense physical and emotional scenes. Anne Hathaway ("Verity") is absolutely breathtaking as Penelope, Odysseus' wife, and the rest of the star-studded cast each have their own captivating moments that make this film one of Nolan's best creations yet. (Fandango at Home)

"Sense and Sensibility" (PG)

Another film that's available to rent now following its recent theatrical release is this period romantic drama starring Daisy Edgar-Jones ("Twisters"). And this one's definitely for the yearners out there! Based on the novel by Jane Austen, the film follows the three Dashwood sisters and their mother who lose their estate to the sisters' half-brother John (Frank Dillane). As they deal with their economical circumstances and move into a cottage, the sisters deal with their fair share of romantic troubles as well. The oldest girls each find themselves head over heels for a man who is bound to another by honor or has other commitments. Will the Dashwood girls get their happy endings? Austen's readers surely know! (Amazon Prime Video)

"Heart of the Beast" (PG-13)

Brad Pitt ("F1") is keeping it chill this year, with only two major releases that feature him in a starring role. He's set to reprise his role as Cliff Booth in a Netflix film directed by David Fincher ("The Killer") and written by Quentin Tarantino ("Once Upon a Time in Hollywood"), but first up is this survival thriller film where Pitt plays retired Special Forces veteran James Belmont. James and his combat German Shepherd, Odin, crash-land in the Alaskan wilderness and face an arduous 58-mile trek to safety. Pitt still fills seats just fine on his own, earning this film $188.8 million in box-office grosses against an $82 million budget. And who could resist a film that features a dog as a supporting actor! Out now to rent. (YouTube)

"The Magic Faraway Tree" (PG)

This family-friendly fantasy film might've gone under the radar in the United States, but it's already been greenlit for two sequels, with production starting next year. Andrew Garfield ("The Uprising") and Claire Foy ("The Crown") play a married couple who decide to move their family to the countryside in an effort to get their technology-obsessed children to touch some grass. But one should be very careful what they wish for! As their children explore their new home, the youngest daughter finds an invitation to have tea at a "Magic Faraway Tree" in the woods. Once there, she's whisked away to a magical world where she's able to connect with her imagination like never before. Available to rent now. (Apple TV)

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Georgia: Purple state, at least for now



CHARLIE HARPER
GEORGIA POLITICS

There is no need to sugar coat it. Republicans got their tail kicked last week.

The Democrats will have firm control of Georgia's executive branch and the day to day power that comes with it. Congratulations to Governor-elect Bottoms. I encourage all to pray for her wisdom and discernment.

Whether you voted for her or not, much of the state's immediate future is in the hands of her and her team. We ultimately need her to succeed.

Governor Bottoms' power will go beyond the Governor's mansion. With Democrats also securing the Lieutenant Governor's position, all statewide partisan offices, and the Speaker's gavel, their power extends to the appointment of boards, commissions, agencies, and when vacancies arise, judges.

As bad as Republicans' numbers look here in Georgia, when viewed with what happened nationally and with the differential on statewide contests, the GOP's position here is in relative decent shape. Republicans managed to hold the thinnest majority in the State Senate with a 29-27 partisan split. The Speaker's gavel will transfer to the Democrats with a thin majority, the exact number still to be determined due to one runoff in SW Georgia.

The margins were decisive in statewide races. They were incredibly impressive from the Democrats' perspective, and equally demoralizing and, frankly, embarrassing for Republicans.

The voters clearly sent a message. The clarity of what they said is always a Rorschach test.

There are many Republicans out there explaining. I've seen many takes I agree with, a few... not so much. 2028 nor 2030 will not be decided by who wins the immediate blame game in this scorching failure's aftermath. Many Republicans will find they have a lot of extra time on their hands in January to contemplate these matters.

Today, we have bigger and more immediate priorities. Most importantly, we have to govern. It will require both parties working together.

I've lived in Georgia my entire life. I'm a proud American. This is our system. Our voters are the shareholders, and they have spoken – loudly. I want what is best for my state and my country.

Most of us just want reasonable approaches to solving problems. We want leaders who understand that, and do their best to make it happen.

I was a relatively young volunteer operative when Republicans took the Governor's mansion and Senate in 2022. It took two more years to get the other chamber and within a decade the GOP held a supermajority in both chambers and all statewide offices. It took 12 years to be back where we started.

The incoming Democrats will largely be a lot like we were a quarter century ago. Most will have limited experience with state government, have a deep distrust if not intolerance of the current majority party, and want everyone out the door as soon as possible.

Some will quickly learn that beneath the level of elected and appointed partisans, there are quite a few people who show up at work every day trying to make lives better for the people of the state. Many of them have institutional knowledge that is not quickly replaceable.

Some will remember the rhetoric and/treatment received by less congenial members of the outgoing majority party and will wield their newfound powers with the full backing of the Old Testament's eye for an eye. That is entirely their right. They won.

The reality is some will work to solve problems. Some will use the problems to work to expand the power and scope of their positions on the way to their next higher title. This is a time honored bipartisan bifurcation of those participating in majority rule.

The hazard for Democrats now charged with governing is that their base sees the results and margins as an unequivocal mandate. The 2024 and 2026 elections had polar opposite results because the fringe of each party convinced their leaders a voter rebuke of the last guys meant they must enact the craziest stuff imaginable.

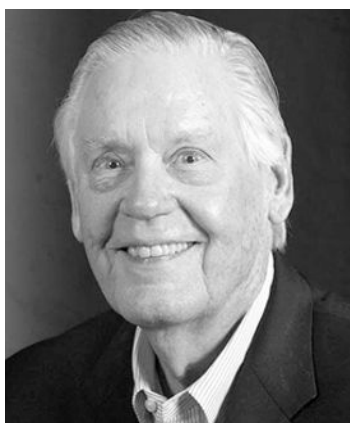
Governor Kemp will leave office with a roughly 70% approval rate not because he scratched every itch that the MAGA wing of his party had, but because he often said "no, Georgians don't want that" and then took a more centrist route. Governor Bottoms will hear similar demands from her base to lurch Georgia far leftward.

Republicans, meanwhile, do have control of the Senate. While they lost the House, there were about a dozen races decided in that chamber by less than 1,000 votes. Republicans won 7 of them, but lost a couple by less than 100 votes. The rematch in 2 years will be extreme and expensive on both sides.

With razor thin legislative margins in both chambers, the legislature should serve to temper the excessive demands of both partisan bases. What hopefully can result will not be a red state nor a blue state, but people from different parties and backgrounds, working together for solutions for all of Georgia.

That's always been our secret sauce. When the needs of Georgia's citizens and the businesses who employ them are put at the forefront and our leaders commit to solving their problems, we don't have time to notice the red or blue fingerprints while we're all counting in green.

Democratic election results should be wakeup call for Republicans



DICK YARBROUGH

Democrat Keisha Lance Bottoms, who may have been the worst mayor in Atlanta history, is now governor-elect of Georgia. Not only that, but every down-ballot post in the state from lieutenant governor to attorney general to labor commissioner to school superintendent to public service commissioner in last week's election went to Democrats and the margins of victory were not even close. Democrats also won control of the Georgia House of Representatives for the first time in 22 years, defeating at least 12 incumbent Republicans across the state. It was political roadkill. For that, you can thank the Georgia Republicans. They never figured out who the enemy is.

While Democrats were planning their blue tsunami, Republicans were up to their usual infighting. As I have stated numerous times, Republicans would rather be ideologically pure than elected. Democrats would rather be elected. The Georgia Republican Assembly, not to be confused with Georgia Republican Party, was trying to tell us who could run for office as a Republican and who could not. In other words, they would make the decision for the voters. (That's us.) Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger being one they considered ideologically impure, he ran for governor in the Republican primary anyway and lost. The voters (that's us) made that decision.

Overhanging all of this, of course, was the Republicans' continuing obsession with Donald Trump's defeat in 2020 and his claim the election was rigged. Personally, I found Trump's actions unpatriotic. Unlike Samuel Tilden and Richard Nixon and Al Gore, all of whom had legitimate – and better – reasons for questioning the outcome of their elections, Trump put his ego ahead of that of his country.

Nixon told journalist Earl Mazo, who had written a series of articles about voter fraud after the 1960 election, that "our country cannot afford the agony of a constitutional crisis." Mazo stopped at Nixon's request.

Gore said. "(T)onight, for the sake of our unity as a people and the strength of our democracy, I offer my concession."

Trump? He spent an hour haranguing Secretary of State Raffensperger to find him 11,780 votes, turned loose a gang of thugs who ransacked the nation's Capital in hopes of preventing a joint session of Congress from counting the Electoral College votes to formalize the victory of president-elect Joe Biden. Fortunately, the attack was unsuccessful, and the election results were certified.

That didn't stop the RITNOs (Republicans in Trump's Name Only) from doing everything they could to overturn the results. Alternative electors. Unfounded accusations against Fulton County election workers that cost their accuser, Rudy Giuliani, a cool $148 million. A so-called documentary,"2,000 Mules," which alleged a widespread conspiracy that turned out to be false. Blathering "experts" questioning the integrity of our voting system but proving nothing. All of their smoking guns turned out to be cap pistols.

Nationally, Democrats took both Houses of Congress by huge margins and elected senators from states that had been Republican for decades. In the case of Kansas, a Democrat had not been elected to the Senate in almost a century. Georgia voters kept our congressional delegation split along party lines, nine Republicans and five Democrats.

Trump says had he been on the ballot, the elections would have turned out differently. Poppycock. His performance was on the ballot. His "four-to-five week" war. Higher fuel prices. His on-again-off-again-on-again tariff decisions. His preoccupation with his personal surroundings. Jeffery Epstein. Punishing those who dared disagree with him. Tiresome stuff.

In Georgia, the best Republicans could do was to run ads saying Jon Ossoff uses makeup (?) while ignoring Mike Collins' son-in-law's misogynistic and racist remarks. Greg Dolezal promised if elected lieutenant governor he would rid the state of jihadists. Yeah, right. Gazillionaire Rick Jackson poured $220 million into his gubernatorial campaign and lost by 10 points. Give me $220 million and I could get elected pope.

Do I take pleasure in the outcome? Except for shutting the yap traps of the RITNO election deniers permanently (I hope), none at all. In my opinion, this was more a vote against an arrogant and unpopular administration rather than an endorsement of Democratic policies. Frankly, the Democratic Socialists of America are gaining influence across the country and that scares the heebie-jeebies out of me.

As for the political wipeout in Georgia last week, I defer to my friend, the Sage of the Okefenokee, Pogo the Possum, who said, "We have met the enemy and it is us." Whether Republicans got that message remains to be seen. Stay tuned.

You can reach Dick Yarbrough at dick@dickyarbrough.com or at P.O. Box 725373, Atlanta, Georgia 31139.

TO THE EDITOR ...

Dear Editor,

The 2026 Johnson County Trojans are having a great year. They are undefeated and are one of the best JoCo teams in many years.

Coach Don Norton is one of the most decorated head coaches in Class A in the State of Georgia but our assistant coaches are highly qualified as well and they deserve recognition. Our Assistants make up one of the most stable and successful coaching staffs in the State of Georgia.

Interesting facts about our Assistant Coaches include: None of our Assistant Coaches have ever played or have ever coached a losing season; all are Johnson County graduates, all are on the JoCo Wall of Fame as players and all were All State Players at JoCo; and most importantly, all are excellent teachers in our school.

Their accomplishments include:

Devin Cannon

High School: 2004 All-State DB and Team MVP, 2004 State Leader INT (All Classifications), 2005 Class A State Track Team Runner Up & Track School Record 4x100m Relay Team

College, 2009 Gulf South Conference Honorable Mention Defensive Back, 24 Career Starts at Defensive Back

Coach: 20-25 6 Straight Playoff Appearances, 2022 Semi-Finals Appearance, 2022 #1 Offense in Class A-II PPG, 2022 #1 Defense in Class A-II PPG, 2022 Highest Scoring Offense School Record, 2022, 2024, 2025 Assistant of the Year, 2025 Defensive Coordination #1 Defense in Class A PPG, 2025 GACA Defense Coordination of Year

Willie Taylor

Player: 1997 All State Honorable Mention Linebacker, 2010 & 2025 Assistant Coach of the Year

2010 – Receivers Coach to All State Receiver – Zach Walker, 1999 – 2020 Linebacker and Special Teams MVP – Albany State University

Coach: 4 time Region Champion, Linebacker Coach with two All State Players, Linebacker 2010 and 2025 Assistant Coach of the Year, 2022 – Highest Scoring Offense, 2025 – Number 1 Defense in the State of Georgia, Middle School Baseball Region Champs 2017, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 – Head Coach, 2025 High School Baseball Region Champ Assistant Coach

Father to 3 Great Joco Players: William, Josh and Jeremiah.

Cordele Johnson

2002, 2003, 2004 Quarterback for the State Playoffs Team, 2005 - Quarterback for the team who played in the Semi Final in Georgia Dome. Threw for thousand yards this year along with 14 TD passes, All State as QB, Heart of Georgia player of the year, Received Golden Helmet Award, 4TH Winningest QB all time at Johnson County

Baseball: All State Baseball Shortstop

Coaching Career: 2018, 2020, 2021 Assistant Coach - Middle School Champions for Baseball

2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, FB coach for Thousand yards Rusher, "Germivy Tucker", QB Coach for all time winningest QB at Johnson County 2025, Head Baseball Coach for JoCo, Region Champs 2025

Landry Thompson

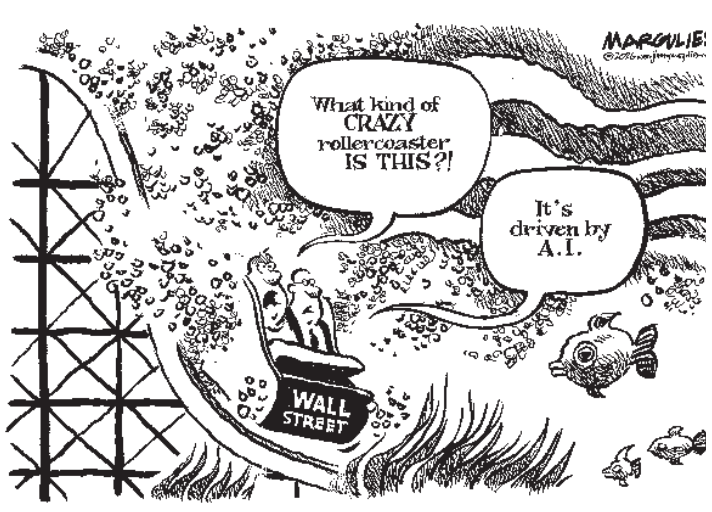
Player: Academic All State 2020, Two seasons blocking for 1000 yard rusher

2x First Team All Region O Line

Coach: 2022 2x All State Players, 2022 Semi Finals, 2022 Assistant Coach of the Year, 2025 All State Player, 2025 Assistant Coach of the Year, 2x First Team All Region O Line,

College: Georgia Southern University – 2023 and 2024 Student Assistant Coach – Defensive Backs

Sincerely,
Marty Thompson



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Johnson County Elementary School 1st 9 Weeks Honor Roll, Merit List and Perfect Attendance

Pre-k Perfect Attendance: Gunnar Brantley, Joseph Fenton, Thomas Hightower, Jennalee McCoy, Fletcher Moon, Shalay Rawlings, Charlie Stagner, Makala Taylor

Kindergarten Perfect Attendance: Bobbie Covey, Ari Duckworth, Mariya Franklin, Johnny Garren, Jack Glover, Chanze Jackson, Makaylen Osborne, Kiaan Patel, Cobi Rozier, Paizlei Rozier, Nasir Thomas, Dakota Turner, Westin Turner, Beau Waller, Walter White

First Grade Honor Roll: Ella Bryant, Grace Coogle, Gabriel Darrisaw, Mason Dixon, Taylor Dixon, Warren Farmer, Savannah Garnto, Caleb Graddy, Lauren Guzman Lopez, Joshua Hammitt, Hayes Harper, Kaydian Johnson, Emberlie Lamb, Henley Martin, Kenzleigh Murray, Asher Pace, Journey Prosser, Skylin Robinson, Kylan Rosiclair, Blakelee Rowland, Terrie Rowland, Sanaa Rozier, Christian Simmons, Seth Walker, Isla White, Khi White

First Grade Merit List: Branson Blackwood, Izabella Brewer, Luke Cherry, Teagan Davis, Harmony Green, Cooper Hightower, Tayler Shine, Da'Niya Tucker

First Grade Perfect Attendance: Branson Blackwood, Tyerion Carey, Luke Cherry, Bradlee Crabb, Gabriel Darrisaw, Taylor Dixon, Isaac Gilley, Avah Hayward, Aidan Martin, Macario Miller, Asher Pace, Journey Prosser, Kylan Rosiclair, Seth Walker, Jamari Wilcox

Second Grade Honor Roll: Jewel Blackshear, Amelia Brint, Crew Carter, Khloe Cason, Kaylee Demmons, Hayden Edmond, Ana Fountain, Whit Gatliff, Paisleigh Harter, Madeline Ivey, Kelvin James, Evie Lee, Addy Layne Lewis, Riley McElhenney, Rutledge Moon, Italy Snell, Eli Taylor, Gabe Waller, Teal Wheeler, Rylie Wilds, London Young

Second Grade Merit List: Gracelynn Bailey, Saige Brantley, Amelia Brint, Scarlett Claxton, Summer Ellison, Jakailyn Ervin, Harley, Gregory, Lincoln Hobbs, D'Nahvi Hudson, Jadyn Hudson, Kayson Kight, Alia Lopez, Travyn Martin, Rylie Wilds, Tristian Wright

Second Grade Perfect Attendance: Saige Brantley, Crew Carter, Khloe Cason, Kaiden Coney, Parker Covey, Kaylee Demmons, Jakailyn Ervin, Whit Gatliff, Colton Green, Paisleigh Harter, Lincoln Hobbs, D'Nahvi Hudson, Jadyn Hudson, Carsten Johnson, Ayce' Josey, Kayson Kight, Evie Lee, Khali Martin, Travyn Martin, Rutledge Moon, Chanan Pace, Trevor Pierce, Addilyn Poole, Kanan Rosiclair, Brycen Rozier, Jace Scott, Dylen Smith, Zora Smith, Italy Snell, Kyle Taylor, Maycen Taylor, Rylie Wilds, Aubree Wright, London Young

Third Grade Honor Roll: Daniel Attaway, Louella Boatright, Alex Fulghum, Hadley Hall, Caroline Lunzmann, Hatcher Ragan, Dylin Roberts, Savannah Rowland

Third Grade Merit List: Khloe Bell, Harper Brantley, RT Brantley, Hollie Butler, Gemma Cooney, Rhett Rowland, Bree Scarborough, Ace Snell, Hannah Soles, Amari Tillman

Third Grade Perfect Attendance: Daniel Attaway, Louella Boatright, Harper Brantley, Madi Buxton, King Devero, Zola Devero, Kyron Dudley, Addyson Green, Hadley Hall, Juliana Harry, Rakeem Hilson, Kyle Johnson, Caroline Lunzmann, Tobias McCoy, Tommie Norris, Tyrez Norris, Hatcher Ragan, Dylin Roberts, Rhett Rowland, Tinley Rowland, Bree Scarborough, Ace Snell, Jen Stanley, Jaydon Taylor, Tylan Thomas, Adalyn Webb, Kingston Wright, Tommika Wright

Fourth Grade Honor Roll: Jaybren Albert, Sydney Attaway, Lexleigh Crabb, Hayden Ellison, Emma Gatliff, Shiloh Pool, Tahlor Pullen, Ahdi Smith, Paisley, Waters

Fourth Grade Merit List: Karlie Brown, Mackenzie Calton, Paris Cason, Zane Copeland, Westin Farmer, Allie Harrison, Jimmy Hilson, Sunni Ann Ivey, Jordyn King, Zayne Thomas, Paisley Watkins, Lailani Williams

Fourth Grade Perfect Attendance: Sydney Attaway, Laney Brantley, Karlie Brown, Tyson Butler, Nakayla Elbert, Tyanna Green, Lily Hawkins, Jasiah Hunter, CJ Johnson, Jordyn King, Ian Marcus, Serenity Martinez, Briley Price, Ramon Riley, Caleb Robinson, Sevin Rozier, Imani Scott, Mykeila Scott, Zayne Thomas, James Wilcox

Fifth Grade Honor Roll: Ruby Allman, Kylei Bell, Mary Elle Lee, Jaxton McNeal, Tykia Pullen, Komora Smith, Maxon Taylor, Carrie Wilds, Brandon Wood

Fifth Grade Merit List: Sidney Boulineau, Ava Brint, Karstyn Guyton, Mason Harper, Jenna Kate Johnson, Julie McCoy, Gavin Peeler, Kathryn Soles, Kristen Strickland

Fifth Grade Perfect Attendance: Ruby Allman, Harmani Baker, Sidney Boulineau, Diego Bravo, Ava Brint, Gavin Brown, Jett Carter, Asher Claxton, Amiriya Darrisaw, Tony Duarte, Matthew Duffee, Kohen Farmer, Elijah Gilley, Karstyn Guyton, Chancellor Hicks, Addelyn Hudson, Joseph Hudson, Jenna Kate Johnson, Nova Jones, Tyson Lewis, Ila Matthews, Jaxton McNeal, Melodi Murray, Gavin Peeler, Tykia Pullen, Mi'Keing Roberson, Kristen Strickland, Maxon Taylor, Kyle Thomas, Ar'Nila Tucker, Carrie Wilds, Bryson Wright, Landon Young



SNAPSHOTS: BINGO FUNDRAISER AT KITE GYM

A large crowd enjoyed a full night of friends, food and bingo on Saturday at the Kite Gym. The Gym Committee hosted the event to help raise money for the upkeep and improvements to the gymnasium. Guests enjoyed great food and desserts while playing 45 rounds of bingo. Prizes included delicious homemade cakes and pies, gift cards and many other prizes with the winner of the final round taking home the grand prize of $100/
DEIDRE LEDFORD

Pecan Trees and a Harvest Update from UGA

By ROCKY TANNER
Washington/Johnson County UGA ANR agent

When we think of agriculture in our area many times some sectors are forgotten. Severe weather in the past few years has certainly taken its toll on pecan orchards. Pecan production is an option for our area. I will add that pecan production without irrigation can be extremely difficult. I also think it's worth noting that disease pressure in pecans is higher than in many crops we grow in our area. The most common disease is a fungal infection called "Pecan Scab". We use variety selection, pruning, hedging, plant spacing, and fungicide applications to control many diseases. The following is an excerpt from the UGA Extension newsletter sent out by our own area pecan agent. Andrew Sawyer is our area pecan specialist, and he visits Johnson and Washington Counties quite often. Several of our growers have had Andrew at their farms to help with issues in the past. I thought this piece had timely and interesting information.

By: Andrew Sawyer (SE District Pecan Agent)

Growers in East Georgia are shaking and harvesting pecans for 2026. We are early and have a ways to go. Overall, we had good conditions for pollination in April and May. Less frequent rain in East Georgia has allowed 'Pawnee' to overall remain clean. Even 'Byrd' has come through the season with limited scab our upper region. The timing of rain in September has helped finish this crop. On October 22nd 'Sumner's near the research farm are halfway open. The crop has moved slightly faster this year. I am hearing of a few early harvest issues, nonetheless. There are calls of shuck decline on 'Lakota' and 'Excel' along with embryo rot. There are two parts to this issue. First, environmental conditionals through kernel development stress this process. Remember this time last year when lack of rainfall through all of September reduced our crop quality? We had some timely rain events in September this year, but that rain mostly went through the middle of our district. Lack of rain and high temperatures forces the tree to send water to the kernel in an effort to protect the embryo. Our irrigation cannot compensate for this extra demand. The second part is crop load. Shuck decline, embryo rot and related issues generally occur when the trees have a heavy crop load. Heavier crop load reports is corresponding with this issue. nd We have a number of pecan coming into production this year. There are some reports of high moisture content also. This means we are picking these up a little early. From In A Nutshell: The Pecan Podcast - Episode 12, we discussed shaking once you see the shucks turning dark and drying out. This will usually be about 80% open. For 'Stuart', 'Schley' and 'Money Maker', shaking them only once is a good option.

Legals

Legals

J26-052
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF JOHNSON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF GWENDOLYN JO MILLER, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. PR2026-52
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE

TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern:
JOSHUA BRENT PEEBLES has petitioned for JOSHUA BRENT PEEBLES to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of GWENDOLYN JO MILLER 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 November 30,2026.
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

November 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026

J26-049
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF JOHNSON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF GROVER WALKER DECEASED
ESTATE NO. PR2026-49
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern:
has petitioned for MARUNDA WADLEY to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of GROVER WALKER 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 Nov. 23rd, 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 27, November 3, 10, 17, 2026

J26-050
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF JOHNSON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF RANDY JASON BRETT, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. PR2026-53
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES and to whom it may concern:
HOLLY WILLIAMSON BRETT has petitioned for HOLLY WILLIAMSON BRETT to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of RANDY JASON BRETT 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 Nov. 30, 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
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

November 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026

J26-055
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF JOHNSON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF WENDELL J. MCTIER, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. PR2026-54
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 12/14, 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

November 17, 24, December 1, 8, 2026

J26-053
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF JOHNSON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA
NOAH M. ROY, Plaintiff
v.
Destiny Johnson, Defendant
Civil Action File No. 2026-CV-142
ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

Plaintiff having moved the Court for an order directing service to be made upon defendant Destiny Johnson in the above-styled action by publication of summons, and it appearing to the Court from the verified Complaint and Affidavit in support of such motion that defendant is a nonresident and that the action is an action in which a defendant may be served by publication pursuant to O.C.G.A 9-10-71, it is
ORDERED, that service upon Destiny Johnson be made by publication as provided by law.
This 2 day of Oct., 2026.
William Taylor
JUDGE, Superior Courts
Dublin Judicial Circuit

November 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026

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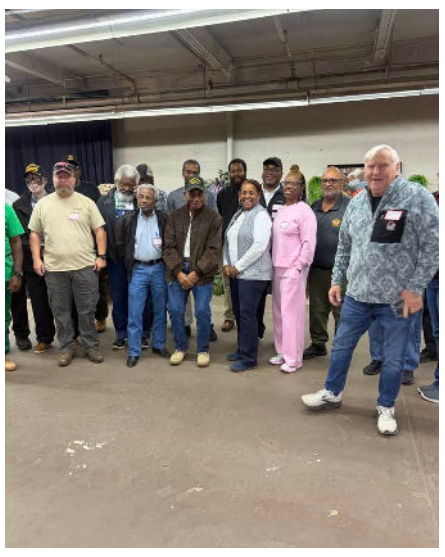
SNAPSHOTS: SOCKTOBER SUCCESS!



The Johnson County High School Beta Club showed up in a big way! Members collected and delivered 730 pairs of socks to the Children's Hospital in Macon as part of their October Socktober service project. Something as simple as a pair of socks can make a difference, and local Beta members stepped up to spread a little warmth, comfort and kindness to children in need/**SPECIAL PHOTO**

SNAPSHOTS: MORE FROM VETERANS DAY CELEBRATIONS









Wombles visits JoCo middle school science class

SPECIAL TO THE JOHNSON JOURNAL

Science came to life in a pretty incredible way.

Johnson County Middle School's Science Class was honored to welcome Mr. Chad Wombles to their classroom as a special guest speaker. As the students recently wrapped up a unit on the body systems and how they work together to keep us functioning each day, Mr. Chad gave them a real-life look at just how amazing the human body truly is.

He shared his personal story of having his hand reattached and explained the incredible healing process that followed, including how his nerves and blood vessels reconnected and how the bone fused back together, allowing him to regain function in his hand.

It's one thing to read about the human body's systems in a textbook, but it's something entirely different to hear firsthand from someone who has experienced just how remarkable those systems can be!

Special thanks to Mr. Chad for taking the time to visit with the students, share your story, and give them a lesson they won't soon forget. Thank you for reminding us that some of the best learning happens when real life meets the classroom.

SUPER SEARCH

Continued from page 1

Recipient; 2nd place in Oconee RESA Math Competition, multiple winners in the Oconee RESA Stem Fair, a third place winner in the RESA Art Competition, and three first place RESA Young Georgia Author Winners.

Middle School achievements include: Girls Basketball-region runners up, Baseball-region champions, Boys Track-region champions, Girls Track-region champions, and a 4-H student representative elected to the Southeast District Junior Board.

High School athletic achievements include: Football-region champions, Softball-region champions, Girls Basketball-state playoffs, Boys Basketball-state playoffs, Baseball-state playoffs, Girls Tennis-Region Champions-state quarterfinals, Boys Tennis-Region Champions and State Champions, Boys Track-region runners up, Girls Track-region champions and 4-H student representative elected Board member and President of the 2026-2027 school term.

Five year accomplishments include: new district motto/slogan, completed renovation of Elementary School, added four new tennis courts to the existing four tennis court complex, added a full-time director of student services, completed Middle School Softball and Baseball fields, resurfaced track for Track and Field events, Middle/High School Book Vending Machine as part of Literacy Initiative, added an additional School Resource Officer assigned at ES, awarded USDA RUS Grant of $589,179 for Distance Learning and Telemedicine Equipment, and adopted a new 2025-2030 GSBA Five-Year Strategic Plan.

More Five Year Key accomplishments include: securing the first district Bond for stadium renovations, completing football stadium renovation/upgrade $2.1 million dollar project, purchased and installed Centigix Security System throughout district, new school level Literacy Coordinators, added an additional School Nurse so there's one at each campus, combined Director of Student Services and Human Resources role, adopted new transportation plan for extracurricular activities, adopted new season passes initiative and returned supervision to school leadership, and purchased 2.75 acres of land adjacent to the BOE.

CAKES

Continued from page 1

chef. Barwick has pages for orders for his pies, cakes, dressing and other dishes from now to Christmas. For New Years he's booked to prepare the fare for a wedding rehearsal dinner.

"This is the busiest year I've ever had," Barwick said.

The Adrian native spent much of his career in New York, serving as a personal chef and even preparing meals for celebrity clientele. Now people come from miles around to pick up orders prepared in his kitchen, in a 1920s-era home in Lovett, getting a taste of world-class dining in one of Laurens County's most rural communities.

"I've always had a passion for food. It is a pleasure to see people get joy out of what I cook," Barwick said. "No matter your background or belief, food brings people together."

HOG SHOW

Continued from page 1

show a hog.

After the Grand Champion was selected the market hogs were auctioned off by Mr. John McAfee, Jr. As a special thanks to our buyer, each year we recognize returning buyers on five year increments. This year we were able to recognize two buyers: Southern Livestock for buying hogs for 40 years and Sammons Insurance for buying hogs for 5 years.

We would also like to say a special thank you to the ad buyers in our Ad Book for the show. These ad buyers are the ones who make it possible for us to be able to host and fund the show. When you visit any of these businesses please thank them for their willingness to help support our youth with their livestock projects and make this event happen.

Again, the Johnson County Young Farmers are proud to be able to sponsor this show to provide the opportunity for the youth of the county to participate in this event. We would not be able to host this event if it were not for the volunteers who helped, the businesses and individuals who purchased ads in the ad book, the supporters who come out to watch the event and most certainly if it were not for the buyers who step up, purchase the hogs and help the exhibitors cover the cost of their projects. We thank all for their support.



Reagan Parker's market hog was selected as the 2026 Grand Champion. She is pictured with the judge, Mr. Clay Walker and her mother/**SPECIAL PHOTO**



Emmalee Brantley's barrow was selected as the 2026 Reserve Grand Champion. She is pictured with the judge, Mr. Clay Walker/**SPECIAL PHOTO**



Weston Foskey's gilt was selected as the 2026 Home Grown Champion. He is pictured with the judge, Mr. Clay Walker/ **SPECIAL PHOTO**

TROJANS

Continued from page 1

Greene County held Johnson County scoreless in the first quarter and mounted a scoring threat of its own, advancing inside the Trojan 10-yard line.

But Johnson County's defense turned the Tigers away, preserving the scoreless tie and setting the stage for the offensive explosion that followed.

Head coach Don Norton said the defensive stand was one of the most satisfying moments of the night.

"Great teams are able to do that and have a goal-line stand," Norton said. "Like I've always said, we play defense here at Johnson County."

The Trojans broke through in the second quarter, scoring three touchdowns to take a 21–0 halftime lead.

Scott opened the scoring with a three-yard touchdown run, completing a 76-yard drive. Jacaden Webb followed with a six-yard touchdown run to finish a 77-yard possession.

Then Scott delivered one of the night's biggest plays, breaking loose for a 72-yard touchdown run that pushed the advantage to 21–0.

Johnson County continued its offensive assault in the third quarter, adding another 21 points.

Webb scored his second touchdown on a nine-yard run before Scott raced 73 yards for his third touchdown of the evening.

Quarterback Chance Wombles then connected with Kelsey Waters on a spectacular one-handed, 21-yard touchdown catch, extending the Trojans' lead to 42–0.

Morgan Prosser completed the scoring with a 13-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter.

The Trojans' seven touchdowns came from four different players, with Scott scoring three, Webb two and Waters and Prosser one each.

Wombles acknowledged that Johnson County had difficulty getting its offense started.

"We started off slow in the first quarter," he said, going on to explain that some of the plays the Trojans had prepared during the week did not work as expected, requiring adjustments before the offense found its rhythm.

Once it did, Greene County had few answers.

Scott's rushing performance was particularly remarkable. He averaged 27.5 yards per carry, with touchdown runs of three, 72 and 73 yards. He also had a 52-yard run that helped set up the third-quarter touchdown pass to Waters.

Despite his individual success, Scott was quick to credit his teammates.

"The line, like everybody did their assignment," Scott said when asked what made his performance possible.

Norton echoed that assessment, praising the offensive line for its work against a Greene County team that held a size advantage at nearly every position.

"Our kids were pretty quick and pretty tough and did a fantastic job tonight," Norton said.

While the offensive numbers were impressive, Johnson County's defense delivered a performance equally worthy of recognition.

The Tigers managed only 80 rushing yards on 30 attempts, an average of 2.7 yards per carry. Greene County completed eight of 19 passes for 79 yards, but failed to reach the end zone.

The Trojan defense also limited Greene County to one conversion in 10 third-down attempts and stopped all three fourth-down attempts.

Daezon Devero intercepted a Greene County pass in the third quarter and returned it 10 yards, setting up Scott's 73-yard touchdown run on the next play.

The shutout was particularly impressive coming in the opening round of the state playoffs.

"Our defense was phenomenal, as the expectation is," Norton said.

Grayson Jackson connected on six of seven extra-point attempts for the Trojans. Daezon Devero also handled the team's only punt, a 39-yard kick.

With the victory, Johnson County advances to the second round, where the Trojans will again play at home, this time against Clinch County.

The matchup carries some history for Johnson County, particularly for Scott, who was a freshman when Clinch County eliminated the Trojans from the 2024 playoffs with a 28–6 victory.

"We want to be prepared," he said. "We gotta get back after my freshman year. We lost 28–6."

Asked whether the upcoming matchup was about revenge, Scott made his feelings clear.

"This is a revenge game, all next week," he said.

Wombles also expects a challenge from Clinch County, particularly its defense. But he remains confident about the Trojans' postseason possibilities, describing their pursuit of a state championship as "like a little movie."

For Norton, the immediate reward is another opportunity to play in front of the home crowd.

"We get to play one more time here, right here in the Blue Monster, so that's pretty good," Norton said.

After another commanding victory, the undefeated Trojans are one step closer to their championship goal, with a familiar playoff opponent standing in their way.