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Commission reviews election results, discuss sales tax

By DEIDRE LEDFORD
Editor

The Johnson County Commissioners reviewed the November election results, including the questions regarding the Solid Waste Convention Centers, during their meeting on November 9. County Administrator Doug Redmond stated that for County Commission District 1 Seat, Commissioner Felice Pullen received 458 votes, and she had no opposition. For District 5 Seat, Commissioner Mike Keene received 494 votes, and he had no opposition. He also reviewed the results of the local questions regarding the solid waste convenience centers. Question number one involving staffing, "do our citizens want them to be staffed". There were 1,974 Yes votes and 967 No votes. Question number two was "would citizens like to have access after the staffed hours ended". There were 2,128 Yes votes and 811 No votes. Question three asked the citizens if they were concerned about the cleanliness and safety of the centers. There were 2,348 Yes votes and 604 No votes. Question four regarded tying the funding of the solid waste department to insurance premium tax. There were 1,475 Yes votes and 1,378 No votes.

In other business, the Board discussed the Resolution for Regional TIA 3 Transportation SPLOST. Redmond said the Regional Commission sent this resolution to all counties in the Heart of Georgia Region. He states that the collections on the Transportation SPLOST had exceeded, which was projected when the tax was passed almost four years ago. He said this was due to inflation and the price of fuel being up. He explained that each time there is a SPLOST, it is capped at the amount that can be collected. The Regional Commission estimates that we will reach that cap around the fourth or fifth of the month next year. Redmond said it is time to see if the counties want to go back and place this on the ballot for next year to renew the transportation tax (this will be the third time it's been renewed). The Board approved the Resolution unanimously.

Redmond discussed the appointment of members to the Heart of Georgia Regional Commission, stating that this is a resolution they do every year to appoint a third member to the Commission from the county. Vice Chairman Mike Keene is the County's representative and the City of Wrightsville will need to appoint someone at their next meeting. Redmond is currently serving as the third member. The Board approved the reappointment of Redmond as the third member.

A vote to reappoint Dr. Margaret Hightower to serve on the Workforce Development Board for the Heart of Georgia Regional Commission was approved.

EMS Director Andy Love presented a proposed maintenance agreement with Hanners Tech. Love explained that the current contract with Hanners ends in December and he would like to renew the contract for two years. County Attorney Joseph Sumner advised the board could only do a one-year contract. The board approved to renew the one-year contract and for it to automatically roll over to the second year.

Several citizens took the opportunity to voice their comments and concerns during Public Comment time. A gentleman referenced the work being done on Folsom Road. He said citizens are coming down the other side and not using the gravel side of the road. He is concerned someone was going to have an accident. Redmond advised the board that the contractor went out there and started the project by paving and didn't get approval from the

COMMISSION
Continued on page 6

Senior Center celebrates re-opening

The community is invited to the grand re-opening of the Johnson County Senior Center on Dec. 2 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. Come by and see where joy, laughter and new adventures await Johnson County seniors.

The center is at 108 Hilton Holton St. in Wrightsville.



Johnson County Deputy Wesley Lewis, center, was recently honored for his enforcement of seatbelt and distracted driving violations/**DEIDRE LEDFORD**

JoCo Deputy honored

By DEIDRE LEDFORD
Editor

The Johnson County Sheriff's Office is proud to honor Deputy Wesley Lewis for being recognized as the leader of Seatbelt Enforcement and the leader in Distracted Driving Enforcement within the South Central Traffic Enforcement Network, through the Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety. Deputy Lewis received the awards at the SCTEN meeting in Telfair County last Friday night.

This recognition reflects Lewis' dedication to traffic enforcement, highway safety and protecting citizens and motorists traveling through Johnson County.

Main Street celebrate first 'Dinner with Friends'

By WHITNEY KYZER
Main Street Wrightsville



Main Street Wrightsville would like to thank all involved with bringing this vision to life. Twinkling lights overhead, the soft sounds of acoustic guitar, the crunch of autumn leaves underfoot and the crisp November air created the perfect setting for Main Street Wrightsville's first-ever Dinner with Friends on Saturday, Nov. 7.

Set against the beautiful backdrop of our historic courthouse, the evening celebrated everything that makes Wrightsville special: friendship, community, hometown pride, and the simple joy of gathering together. Friends and families brought their favorite meals, pulled up a chair and enjoyed an autumn harvest-inspired evening filled with good food, live music, and wonderful company.

With Jeff Johnson providing live acoustic guitar and vocals, the

DINNER
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'I was there when': Memorable comeback propels Trojans past Clinch Co., into state quarterfinals

By RALPH JACKSON
Correspondent



The Trojans had a fever, and the only prescription was... well, more than just cowbell. JoCo fans brought along rock-filled milk jugs and horns, in addition to the clanging percussion instruments, to fill The Blue Monster with noise for Friday's second-round playoff game with Clinch County/**RALPH JACKSON**

Mistakes and redemption were on full display in Friday's second-round game at The Blue Monster.

A comeback for the ages brought fans and players together as the Trojans advanced in the state playoffs, defeating Clinch County 27-24.

Before the game, Johnson County Coach Don Norton told his players that something would happen that night that people would remember for years to come. Something that would make them say, "I was there when..."

By the time the night was over, the Trojans had given their fans more than one such moment.

The victory was anything but easy for a Johnson County team that had rarely faced adversity during its undefeated season. Turnovers and missed opportunities allowed Clinch County to remain in contention despite being thoroughly outplayed.

The Trojans struck first when Jeremiah Scott returned a punt 48 yards for a touchdown. Grayson Jackson added the extra point for a 7-0 lead.

But Clinch answered with an interception return for a touchdown, tying the game before Scott scored again on a 10-yard run to put Johnson County ahead 14-7.

The Panthers added a field goal before halftime and then scored twice in the third quarter, including a touchdown following a Trojan fumble that gave Clinch the football deep in Johnson County territory.

Suddenly, the Trojans were facing a 24-14 deficit in a playoff elimination game.

"We made a few bonehead mistakes early, and we just kept on keeping on," Norton said.

Quarterback Chance Wombles said the players remained determined not to let their season end.

"One thing we kept saying tonight was we're not going home," he said.

Johnson County began its comeback late in the third quarter. Scott broke loose for a 17-yard gain, and Jacaden Webb followed with a 43-yard run that put the Trojans in scoring position.

Scott scored from seven yards out on the first play of the fourth quarter, cutting the deficit to 24-20.

The Trojan defense then forced Clinch to punt, setting the stage for one of the boldest decisions of the season.

Trailing by four points, Johnson County faced fourth-and-six from its own 36-yard line with just over six minutes remaining.

Rather than punt and hope to get the football back, Norton and his players decided to take their chances.

"We asked the kids what they wanted to do, and we were all on the same page," Norton said. "We were going for it.

"We were not playing to tie. We were not playing to lose, we were playing to win."

Wombles delivered, finding Daezon Devero for a 24-yard completion that moved the ball to the Clinch County 40-yard line and kept the drive alive.

TROJANS
Continued on page 6

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OBITUARIES



Patricia Gayle Parrish

Mrs. Patricia Gayle Parrish, 67, of Wrightsville was embraced in the arms of Jesus on Friday, Nov. 13, 2026. She was born on Sept. 10, 1959, in Swainsboro to the late Woodrow Jackson Williams and Doris Lee Tapley Barrow.

Gayle was preceded in death by her parents.

She served the Lord faithfully and embodied the love and compassion of Christ to everyone she came into contact with. She worked alongside the love of her life, Floyd or "Ol' Man" as she affectionately called him, for 52 years to nurture a Christian home for her three girls. She loved spending time with her grandkids and great grands. She would light up anytime she FaceTimed "her Lylah." Her time was spent praying for others and helping meet the needs of everyone around her. Unless it was Friday night, at which time she would be found in her recliner, watching "Her Boys" play some football and telling the referees how to call the plays.

When she wasn't spoiling her grandkids, she enjoyed sharing and making memories with her sisters and daughters. She would not hesitate to pray with them or for them at a moment's notice, any time, day or night. She will be remembered as one of the most beautiful souls by an endless number of family, friends and loved ones.

Survivors include her husband of 52 years, Floyd Parrish of Wrightsville; daughters, Angela Connell (Anthony), Lisa Burns (Mitch), Crystal Lee (Bryan) all of Wrightsville; grandchildren, Buster Connell (Danielle), Matthew Connell, Albert Connell, Larissa Thompson (Matthew), Becky Dougherty (Travis), Lizzie Burns, Cleant Ryan, Nathan Ryan, Ayden Hall, Ian Ryan, Kynley Hall; great-grandchildren, Lylah Thompson, Sierra Connell, Lane Connell, Ginnie Connell, Charlie Connell, Oaklie Connell, Cassidy Connell; sisters, Kathy Hadden, Ginny Renfroe (Ricky); several nieces, nephews and many friends.

Funeral service was 2 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2026, at Kite Church of God with Rev. Tom Akins and Rev. Jamey Toler officiating. The family will receive friends from 12:00 p.m. until time of service.

Interment followed in Rehoboth Baptist Church Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Matthew Connell, Albert Connell, Nathan Ryan, Cleant Ryan, Todd Douberly, and Johnny Colston.

Condolences may be expressed at www.chapmanfhofswainsboro.com.

Chapman Funeral Home is in charge of all arrangements for Mrs. Patricia Gayle Parrish, 67, of Wrightsville.



Cecil Cleo Chalker

Graveside services for Cecil Cleo Chalker, 76, were held at 11 a.m. Monday, Nov. 16, 2026, in the Mt. Olive Church of the Nazarene Cemetery. Rev. Dwayne Clements will officiate.

Mr. Chalker was born on March 8, 1950, in Johnson County, Georgia. He worked for Rockwell Automation in the maintenance department. He was preceded in death by his parents, Cleo and Ida Mae Fulford Chalker; sister, Helen Henderson; sister-in-law, Nancy Smith; father -in- law and mother-in-law, Bud Mimbs and Mary Mimbs; brothers-in-law, Robert Mimbs, James Henderson and Lester Dickerson; and nephew, Bryon Mimbs. Mr. Chalker passed away on Saturday, Nov. 14, 2026, at Wrightsville Manor Nursing Home after a brief illness.

He is survived by his wife, Debbie Mimbs Chalker; daughter, Christy (Emory) Stubbs; sister, Rosalyn Dickerson; and a granddaughter, Kaitlynn Stubbs.

Pallbearers will be Van Savage, Benny Bridges, Earl Sapp, Jack Bell, Ben Knight and Ray Cannon. Honorary pallbearer will be Ronnie Shoemaker.

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

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



Dorothy Nell Josey Jordan

Funeral services for Dorothy Nell Josey Jordan, 90 were held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2026, at Union Hill Baptist Church, with interment to follow at Westview Cemetery. Rev. Chad Drew will officiate.

Mrs. Jordan was born Aug. 29, 1936, in Kite, Georgia. She was the daughter of the late Milo Josey and Missouri Powell Josey. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Ed Jordan Jr. She was a member of Union Hill Baptist Church where she was a member of the WMU. She was a homemaker. Mrs. Jordan passed away Saturday, Nov. 14, 2026, at her residence.

Mrs. Jordan is survived by her three sons Eddie Jordan (Melonie) of Swainsboro, Gregg Jordan (Lori) of Wrightsville, and Bryan Jordan (Adrianne) of Wrightsville; a daughter, Beverly Jordan Rogers (Jeff) of Lilburn; 10 grandchildren, Jennifer Jordan Brinkley (Stephen), Kimberly Jordan Moore (Cole), Cody Rogers (Jessie), Natalie Jordan Webb (Tyler), Kara Jordan Cowart (Cody), Morgan Jordan Fortson (Matthew), Kadie Rogers, Josey Rogers Williams (Justus), Erica Tanner, Kaleigh Jordan; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers will be Cody Rogers, Cole Moore, Tyler Webb, Cody Cowart, Matthew Fortson and Justus Williams.

The family received friends from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 16, 2026 at the funeral home.

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

Mission of mercy for Ceedra and 'Ol Blue

Dan King

R.F.D. South

A gentle shaking of Ceedra's shoulders by Miss Almarie got the jump on the alarm clock next to Ceedra's bunk. It took a moment for Ceedra to get her bearings. Miss Almarie was usually busy with breakfast at this time of the morning. Why was she in the bunkroom with her hand on Ceedra's shoulder?

"Ceedra, I need you to get up just a bit early this morning." Ms. Almarie's voice was hardly above a whisper. "We have a special job for you and 'Ol Blue. I know it's Sunday, but this is different. We need you to take some medicine from the drug store in town to Ms. Rose. She is having trouble again with her breathing. She needs the medicine soon."

Ms. Rose was Roper's grandmother. Roper was one of the best ranch hands Rusty Finnegan ever hired. The other cowboys nicknamed him because of his rope skills. Everyone at the ranch knew that young steers might as well just give it up and kneel for Roper's rope. There was no use trying to outrun Roper and his horse and rope. Roper lived in the bunkhouse across the ranch house yard. His grandmother was still able to take care of herself and she insisted on living alone.

"Roper will be going with you. He's at the table. I let him go ahead and start. I think he's already buried the two biggest biscuits on the platter. I told him to leave you a couple. It poured rain last night. Mr. Rusty and I don't want you and 'Ol Blue on those slushy dirt roads by yourselves. And you know you have at least two streams to cross that will be flooded. Roper will be good help if you need someone, and he can have a short visit with his grandmother.

Ceedra did not let Ms. Almarie see how it made her feel inside that Roper would be with her. She wished for a little more time to fix herself up, but she did not want to keep Ms. Rose waiting for her medicine. With Ms. Almarie's permission, she skipped the sit-down breakfast, slipping bacon slices into one of the big biscuits and grabbing a thermos of coffee. Roper thanked Ms. Almarie for the tasty breakfast. Then he and Ceedra mounted 'Ol Blue, her stripped-down, souped-up pulpwood truck from Johnson County, Georgia. They headed for town to pick up the medicine.

The only challenge to 'Ol Blue was a flooded stream near the entrance to Ms. Rose's property. But the truck seemed to understand that it was on a mercy mission. Ceedra shifted the floor stick into double-low. 'Ol Blue's all-terrain tires gripped the stream bed and ground its way up the low bank to the slushy road. Rose Alvarez was waiting for the medicine. She took the package from her grandson and went inside for the first puff from the little device.

Ceedra and Roper saw immediate relief for the elderly lady. They felt relief also. They grabbed each other in a hug of celebration. Ceedra was glad she did not take time for a sit-down breakfast. Ms. Rose's well-being was more important. On the way home, they talked about 'Ol Blue's part in their mission of mercy.

Wolf in sheep's clothing

We went on our second spiritual road trip over the entire state of Georgia since March 2020. We put out over one million of my anointed spiritual Christian pamphlets in over 10,000 places with only about one percent turning us down.

We got to Waycross and this so-called preacher would not let us put them in according to his manager, and it was so shocking I had to say, "With the world in a mess, I can't believe a preacher would turn us down," And by the way, it was a white preacher. All the black preachers welcomed us with open arms. It's no wonder we have the mess we have when wolves in sheep's clothing are that low. Lord help us, is all I can say.

I told him that I was ashamed of him and I would certainly pray that he gets saved. What is that saying to the unsaved, unchurched world? The sinners made fun of church folks that cowered out during the virus. They mocked and said, "Where is the faith you are supposed to have?"

Now the churches are splitting because they want sin in the church but folks, there ain't no sin in Heaven. The Bible says in Isaiah 5:14 that hell is enlarging itself daily, not heaven, even though it is large. There will be plenty of room for the remaining God's few in Heaven. So watch yourself!

God's vengeance will extend to you too preacher! If that is what you are. When you cross God and He turns his hand on you, then look out. We have been doing these papers and placing them in all kinds of places for 19 years now, and that has never happened with others wanting to put their stuff in.

Can you say Amen?



Birthdays

Gannon Carter ..... November 24
Luke Colston ..... November 25
Jerry Howell ..... November 25
Cathy Moore ..... November 26
Cody Tharpe ..... November 26
Christian McBride ..... November 26
Jimmie Price ..... November 26
Tony Johnson ..... November 26
Jonathan Hall ..... November 27
Wayne Beasley ..... November 27
Emily Boulineau ..... November 28
Cynthia Simpson ..... November 28
Jeanette Hightower ..... November 29
Charole Ivey ..... November 29
Marie Hodges ..... November 29
Walt Bryan ..... November 30
Mitch Burns ..... November 30
Olivia Akridge ..... November 30
Natasha Davis ..... November 30
Jimmy Johnson ..... November 30
Melany Braswell ..... November 30

Anniversaries

Todd and Ashley May ..... November 24

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The Johnson Journal



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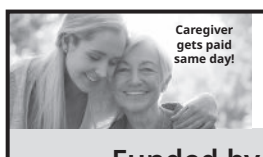
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DID YOU KNOW...?

Was the voice of a beloved Disney animated character provided by a U.S. Marine Corps Drill Instructor?

By JACK BAGLEY
GTLN

Today is Thanksgiving.

Well, today is actually Thursday as listed on the front page, but knowing the newspaper business as I do, I also know you probably are getting your newspaper the day after Thanksgiving.

So how was the meal? I hope you had a very happy time with family and friends and lots of love and great food.

May I offer some dessert? This trivia is great, and very low in calories, too. Enjoy!

Did you know ...

... you can tell if a Nazi eagle is political or governmental by looking at it? Most people assume that the *Reichsadler*, the "national eagle" of Nazi Germany, was the same everywhere. It wasn't. If the eagle clutching the swastika was looking over its right shoulder, it was a governmental emblem. However, if the eagle is looking over its left shoulder, it was symbolic of the Nazi party. (Nowadays, the Nazi eagle looks ... dead.)

... plastic grocery bags were originally meant to be used repeatedly? Created by Sten Gustaf Thulin (1914-2006), a Swedish engineer, they were meant to be a reusable, eco-friendly alternative to paper grocery bags. Thulin felt that the production of the paper bags contributed to deforestation. However, our "throwaway" society has basically reduced the bags to one-use, just like the paper bags had been. (The best-laid plans of mice and men ...)

... how much the most expensive edible fungus in the world costs? Known as *Tuber magnatum pico*, the pungent white truffle can sell for as much as $3,000 per kilogram. (For that price, they can come up with a better name than "pungent white truffle." I'm just saying.)

... the voice of a beloved Disney animated character belonged to a decorated Marine drill instructor? The 1942 classic animated film *Bambi* featured the voice of Donnie Dunagan (1934-2026) as the title character. Dunagan was a child actor who had played the *son of Baron Frankenstein* in 1939's Son of Frankenstein. When he turned 18, Dunagan joined the U.S. Marine Corps and, after serving as the youngest drill instructor in the history of the Corps, he rose to the rank of major and earned the Bronze Star and Purple Heart in Vietnam. No one in the Corps knew that he had been the voice of the beloved movie character. *Additional trivia note:* Dunagan came out of an 80-year retirement from movies for a role in the 2026 film *Sub Rosa*. (Imagine Bambi calling you to attention. Just imagine it.)

... a river in Minnesota was at one time believed to drain into nothingness? Minnesota's Judge C.R. Magney State Park, located near Lake Superior, has within it the Brule River, half the water of which flows into the lake and the other half tumbles over Devil's Kettle Falls ... and apparently vanishes. For decades, scientists tried to figure out where the water went, using everything from ping pong balls to GPS trackers. Finally, in 2017, hydrologists with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources said they had solved the mystery. Measuring the water flow above and below the falls and finding it identical, they concluded that the "missing" water actually emerges directly into the river downstream, rather than flowing into Lake Superior as the other half of the river's water does. (I always wondered about that.)

... a kind of cactus grows very large, but takes its time to do so? The Saguaro cactus, found in the U.S. southwest, can grow to be more than forty feet tall. Impressive, right? What's even more impressive is that it can take up to a decade to grow a mere one inch in height. (So it takes its time. So what?)

... a Major League Baseball game gave the appearance of a team playing itself? On June 12, 1977, the Kansas City Royals and the Milwaukee Brewers took the field at County Stadium in Milwaukee, but if you were there, you would have thought it was the Brewers playing themselves. The night before, someone broke into the visitors' clubhouse at the ballpark and stole the Royals' gloves, equipment - and uniforms. To play the game, the Brewers gave the Royals' players their road uniforms, so it looked as if the Brewers were playing the Brewers. The Royals lost the game as well, 4-0. *Additional trivia note:* the only Royal in the starting lineup who got to wear his own uniform was Hall of Fame third baseman George Brett (born 1953). The uniform thieves missed his number 5 jersey. (And that's the one that would be worth the most!)

... the largest flying insect ever had a wingspan of more than two feet? Living in the Carboniferous period about 300 million years ago, *Meganeura* was a giant dragonfly that had a wingspan between 26 and 28 inches. Fossils of the giant dragonfly were found in 1880 in France. The existence of such a big insect was impressive, considering it probably fed on other insects, but despite its massive wingspan, *Meganeura* was not very heavy. It probably weighed less than a pound, scientists estimate. (I still don't want it dive-bombing me.)

... an Oscar™-winning actor attended college on a baseball scholarship? Robert Redford (1936-2025) attended the University of Colorado on a baseball scholarship. The schooling paid off for him when he made the baseball-themed 1984 movie *The Natural*, based on a novel by Bernard Malamud (1914-1986). Redford was nominated for four Academy Awards™ and won the Best Director in 1980 for *Ordinary People*. *Additional trivia note:* The Natural had a different ending in the book than in the movie, a more depressing ending, and Malamud was never consulted about the change. He was not upset by it, however, according to all reports.

Now ... you know!

Sick days: Confessions of a recovering germaphobe

THE NEW SOUTHERN DAD



By KYLE DOMINY

Howard Hughes was an eccentric man to say the least.

One of the most famous wealthy figures in American history, Hughes was just as known for his odd behavior as he was his business dealings. He made movies and was a savvy investor on top of building and flying airplanes. Accidents and near death experiences while testing some of his flying machines are credited with worsening his obsessive compulsive behavior. Trauma does have a way of bringing out the worst in people.

But even before his life took its bizarre, tragic turn, Hughes was widely known as a germaphobe. He went through great lengths to avoid getting sick, going as far as burning his suits if he suspected he had encountered some sort of contaminate or, shudder at the thought, an ill person.

That proves the old adage, you can't hide money. With most suits being dry clean only, you can count on most people wearing dirty suits. I did, however, keep a suit tucked away in the corner of my closet for about a decade after a funeral turned into an illness spreading event. It was a miserable ride home from the cemetery, but I'll spare you the gross details.

I finally tossed the garment away with the trash recently. It's a shame, it was a nice suit. A black three piece with a faint blue pinstripe. Fit like a glove too.

But I digress.

As Hughes' mental state deteriorated over the years, so did his mysophobia. He became more and more irrational. He isolated himself for weeks on end, allegedly wearing tissue boxes on his feet to avoid contact with any surface. His hair and fingernails grew long. He avoided bathing and performing basic hygiene tasks. - a counter-intuitive measure that somehow played into his delusion.

When he died he was a mere shell of the former dapper business tycoon. His body was so unrecognizable that the FBI had to be called in to analyze his finger prints.

It is a good thing that he didn't have kids.

This is being written on a sick day, pulling double duty as many parents must during cold and flu season, squeezing in a little work as a sick child rests in the other room. This is after spending the morning in the urgent care waiting room with other people exhibiting symptoms that make you want to burn your clothes. I was recently in an elementary school, visiting to read a story to a class of second graders and the halls echoed with a seemingly non-stop chorus of coughs and sniffles.

My grandmother always said that you can't run from being sick. You don't catch it as much as it catches you.

Admittedly, I'm a recovering germaphobe. There was a time in my life when I would have avoided crowds during flu season. A time when my hands couldn't possibly be cleaner but I'd wash them again.

Having children changed that. Kids are natural dirty bombs, innocently spreading whatever contaminates picked up throughout the day. Besides, getting a little sick every now and then is good for you. It helps the immune system fight off worse conditions.

But if you see me wearing Kleenex boxes on my feet, just know I need a little help.

COUCH THEATRE



Anthony Mackie stars in "12 12 12"/SPECIAL PHOTO, Apple TV

By DEMI TAVERAS
King Features

"The Social Reckoning" (R)

The sequel to "The Social Network" (2010), which put Oscar nominee Jesse Eisenberg ("A Real Pain") on the map, is officially available to rent starting Nov. 24! This sequel jumps from the original events of the first film that took place in 2003-2004 to 2019, with Jeremy Strong ("Succession") replacing Eisenberg as Meta Platforms CEO Mark Zuckerberg. "The Social Reckoning" touches on the 2021 Facebook leak and the overall threat against user safety that the social media platform presented at the time. Oscar winner Mikey Madison ("Anora") portrays Frances Haugen, the whistleblower who leaked the company's internal documents, while "The Bear's" Jeremy Allen White takes on the role of Wall Street Journal reporter Jeff Horwitz, who was heavily involved in breaking the news to the public. With mixed reviews from critics, the film unfortunately bombed at the box office, only earning $18.1 million against a budget of $42 million. (Amazon Prime Video)

"The Altruists" (TV-MA)

This series out now to binge is led by Julia Garner ("Weapons"), who looks almost unrecognizable without her signature blonde hair, and Anthony Boyle ("House of Guiness"). In just eight episodes, the series delves into the cryptocurrency exchange FTX, as well as its founders Sam Bankman-Fried (Boyle) and Caroline Ellison (Garner), emphasizing the fact that Bankman-Fried and Ellison were incredibly intelligent and hopeful with their company. But going "all in" on their dream results in a $36 billion fraudulent scheme that quickly turns their lives into a nightmare. Look out for comedian Matt Rife, who seems to be doing well after his recent controversies, Hudson Williams from "Heated Rivalry," and Jennifer Grey from "Dirty Dancing." (Netflix)

"12 12 12" (TV-MA)

Anthony Mackie ("Desert Warrior") trades his Captain America suit for an FBI badge in this heist series that costars Jamie Dornan ("The Tourist"). The series' title nods to its storytelling format, which is broken up into three stages: the 12 months of planning leading up to a huge banking heist in Zurich, the 12 hours executing the heist itself, and the 12 days following the heist. Paul (Dornan), the criminal mastermind behind the heist, obviously has his motivations for planning it, but what Paul doesn't know is that the FBI agent tasked with finding him also has personal reasons of his own. The first three episodes are out now, with subsequent episodes premiering every Friday. (Apple TV)

"Runner" (PG-13)

This action-comedy film features Alan Ritchson ("War Machine") and Owen Wilson ("Focker-in-Law") in roles that aren't much different from anything else we've ever seen them in. Wilson plays a medical courier named Ben, who enlists the help of a runner/smuggler named Hank (Ritchson) to transport an organ for a little girl in a hospital. The problem? The organ donor has an extremely rare blood type, and the leader of a Colombian cartel also needs this specific organ for his dying mother. Luckily, Ben enlists the right person to help him complete his mission, because Hank's past as a soldier turns out to be quite useful to kick cartel butt! Premieres Nov. 27. (Hulu)

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Pheasant Hunting



LORAN SMITH

This is the time of the year that I have traveled to South Dakota for pheasant hunting, a wonderful experience that I miss very much. Although I am getting long in the tooth, I still believe I could knock down a cock pheasant or two if I had the opportunity to return to the "Mt. Rushmore State."

However, I am now pretty much confined to reminiscing.

Several years ago, an executive with Coca-Cola called with the news that his friend, George Mickleson, governor of South Dakota, was a big golf fan.

He wanted to know if I could get someone to host the governor and his party for dinner while they were in Augusta during Masters week. That was an easy assignment. I eagerly signed up for the opportunity.

At dinner the night before his party returned home to South Dakota, the governor expressed thanks for the hospitality and then asked. "Is there anything we can do for you?"

"Well," I said, "I've always wanted to go pheasant hunting in South Dakota." He responded with a generous laugh and then grinned, "Why didn't you ask for something difficult!"

That was the beginning of many years of the most delightful fall pilgrimages where the hunting was spectacular, the people as remarkable as the landscape, and warm hospitality enraptured you from the time you disembarked at the Pierre Regional Airport in the capital city of the state until you returned home.

Gov. Mickelson and his state treasurer, Homer Harding, were delightful hosts, who offered encouragement to bring friends for a few days of hunting pheasant and Canada geese. I never had a more enriching experience, which was followed by encore after encore.

I began taking friends who were all overwhelmed by the South Dakota pheasant hunting experience. The landscape is different but pleasantly appealing with the grain fields, prairie dunes, and the Missouri River dominating.

One morning, I killed a rooster while hunting near that great body of water and suddenly the scene brought pause to my day. I stood in awe of the river when I realized that Lewis and Clark and Sacagawea once came near where we were hunting.

If you don't get an emotional high with the ringneck pheasant experience, then there is something wrong with your system. South Dakota maintains an average population of 7.4 million ringnecks annually. Hunters are allowed to kill only three pheasants per day.

Pheasant hunting is not only fun for hunters but also an economic driver for the state of South Dakota. It is worth 500 to 700 million dollars to the state's economy annually. I am happy to have contributed to the South Dakota economy in the past and recommend that, assuming you enjoy such outdoor exercise, you do the same. You won't regret making a modest contribution.

Much of the fun of the hunt comes from stalking pheasants in the grain and corn fields. A cock pheasant can really accelerate on foot, but when you close in on them, they rise like a helicopter straight up, cackling as they take flight, and before you know it, you have missed an opportunity. The good news is that after that first trip, I can't remember not getting my limit.

You walk the fields, enjoy the hunt and the environment, and relax by a fire in the hotel lobby. Next, you find a nice steak restaurant for dinner—there seems to be one on every corner—and you are as fulfilled as you could be.

There is more good news. You get to do it again the next day and the next. As your trip comes to an end, you are filled with regret that you didn't stay longer.

For years, I had pheasants smoked in Pierre and shipped to my home address. I shared smoked pheasant with my friends, which was always a nice holiday treat for them.

During the Christmas season, I would enjoy smoked pheasant by a fire with a glass of red wine and raise a toast to pheasant hunting in South Dakota, one of the most emotionally rewarding experiences possible.

Georgia is in a time of transition



CHARLIE HARPER
GEORGIA POLITICS

The reality and totality of the election results are still sinking in for many. It is the most dramatic change in power during one election for the state in a quarter century. It's only the second time since Reconstruction that the moving trucks at the Governor's mansion will represent different parties.

Thus, there are few precedents for what our state is about to undertake. Those of us who were around the last time this happened can somewhat recall some of the personal and personnel reactions to the changing of the guard, but that merely serves as a framework. The times, the parties, and this state are much different now.

For Republicans, it's a descent from a peak of power a dozen years ago with a supermajority in both legislative chambers and all statewide offices to holding only the slimmest of majorities possible in the State Senate. One could say the party here is in crisis.

The slimmest of comforts can be taken that a popular saying is that the Chinese write the word crisis by combining the symbols for danger and opportunity. The party is in danger of losing the Senate if current trends were to continue costing them two more seats. The opportunity is to rebound and in a couple of years retake a few of the House races lost by less than 1,000 votes, building towards rematches in statewide races four years from now.

The problem with this saying is that it isn't quite correct. The context for the "opportunity" symbol has a more literal interpretation of "crucial moment" or "turning point".

Republicans are where Democrats were 24 years ago. They're at the end of a steady declining trend in power and are barely holding on to one chamber. The next two years will clearly represent a crucial moment. Will there also be a turning point?

A turning point means there will be a conscious change in direction. For this to happen, there would have to be an honest discussion after thoughtful reflection on what went wrong.

There will be... let's be honest, there already are a lot of people pointing fingers. Those first out of the gate after political losses often do so to set a narrative in an effort to avoid blame. The blame game, however, isn't about what went wrong. It's about preserving the viability of an individual or organization and their proximity to power. This almost never leads to a turning point at a crucial moment.

Donald Trump wasn't on the ballot this year and won't be ever again, but he did tell voters to act like he was. A strong case can be made that they did.

Republicans' path back to majorities will begin with the Trump Administration having two years left on the meter. Candidates for office in 2028 will have to figure out how to rebuild a coalition of voters who previously supported the GOP without the President on the ballot but with him controlling partisan messages by action and by tweet.

Can or will the President discipline himself to act and message in such a way to demonstrate he and Republicans best understand the issues that matter most to voters and will act on them? Consider that his "closing argument" for this election was to muse that he might want to rename the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool after himself, and that his first remarks to reporters after the GOP drubbing was an unscheduled tour of the progress with the White House ballroom.

Meanwhile, the Democrats in Georgia's statewide offices will now begin to implement policies within the discretion given to the administrative branch and executive agencies. They will also have the Speaker's gavel in the House with which to pass legislation favoring changes they would like to make.

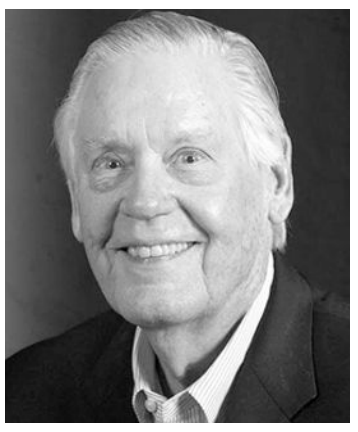
Both chambers have the opportunity to pass bills to appease their partisan bases. The slim majorities in each chamber will likely keep a bit of a check on some of the most extreme measures.

The partisan split between control of each chamber will likely limit many controversial bills from ever reaching Governor Bottoms' desk. It remains to be seen what topics will be chosen to find bipartisan consensus. The only actual requirement for this legislature is to pass a balanced budget. Anything else they choose to pass is up to the discretion of the majorities in both chambers.

Republicans will likely have a difficult time realizing how little power they maintain – and how to use that for their advantage. Democrats, meanwhile, will have two years to prove they can govern a state that has moved left, yet is still mostly centrist. They will have the same issues with the fringes of their base who won't understand why they can't get everything they want, immediately, now that their party won.

Both parties will have a couple of years to enjoy or "enjoy" the shoes they wore last year being on the other foot. They – and we – have yet to fully grasp what that ultimately is going to look like.

Some random thoughts on some random subjects



DICK YARBROUGH

According to the television commercials, it's Christmastime. Not sure what happened to Thanksgiving, which, according to my calendar, has yet to arrive. I'll have more to say about Thanksgiving next week, but this week, I give thanks that all the political ads are history. . . .

I was surprised at the amount of mail I received last week agreeing that the recent Democratic blowout was not so much an endorsement of Democrats as it was a repudiation of Donald Trump. We are in a Forever War with Iran that was supposed to last four or five weeks, gas prices and diesel fuel prices have skyrocketed along with groceries, and he is worrying about his ballroom and his arch and getting his name added to the Kennedy Center. Methinks Trump is out of touch with mainstream America. Me also thinks the election results should have convinced him of that. But I doubt it. . . .

As for the Democrats, if they believe We the Unwashed are ready to go back to open borders, tearing down statues, pushing socialist policies and encouraging boys to become girls in order to gain an unfair advantage in athletic competition, we'll send them to the sidelines in 2028 just like we did the Republicans this year. Just saying. . . .

A nod to Colin Kapperdoodle or whatever his name is. You remember the multi-millionaire NFL football player who made a big show of sitting and kneeling during the national anthem, and wearing socks comparing police to pigs, all with the acquiescence of team owners? Well, you should see the NFL today. They are so wrapped up in patriotism and the flag and saluting members of the military that you have to wonder if there wasn't a public backlash from his antics. It seems the NFL got the message that more of us love our country than care about what this guy thinks of it. . . .

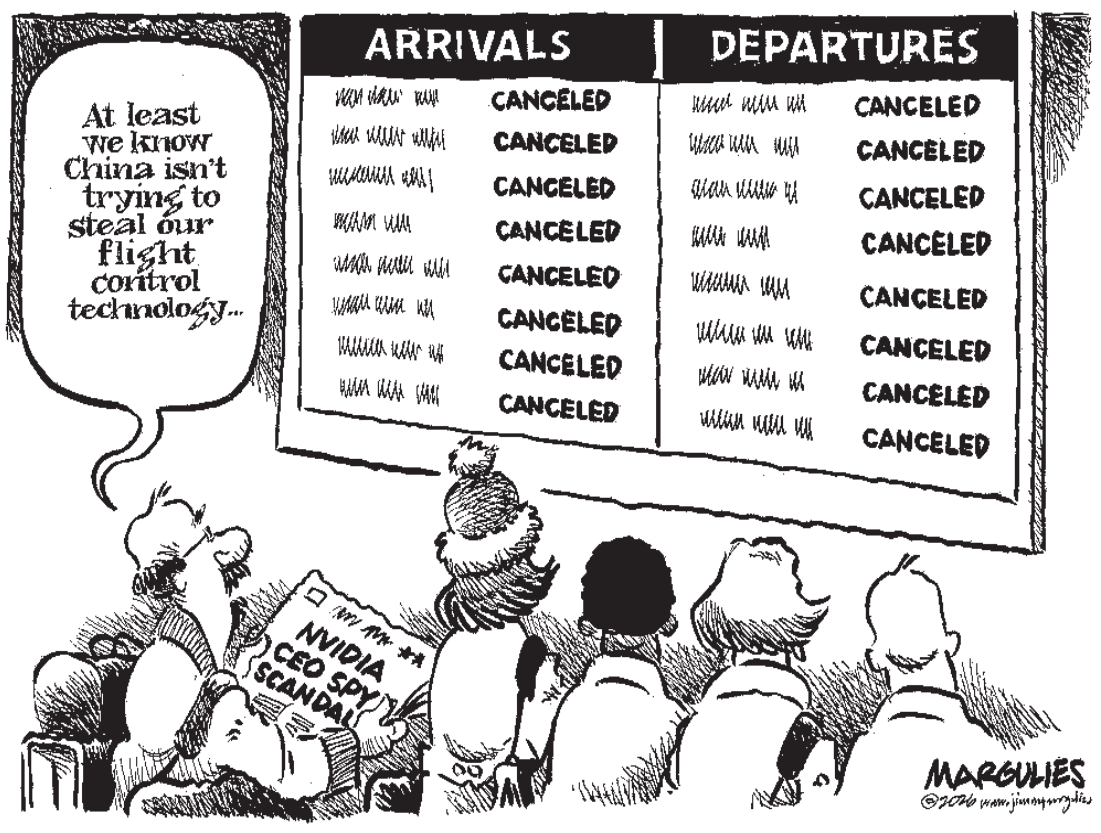
It took Gov. Brian Kemp's personal intervention to get the field at Sanford Stadium rightfully named for the late legendary Hall of Fame football coach Vince Dooley. Now it is time to put Dooley's name on the field itself, as is the case with many other football fields I see on television, including the Southeastern Conference. Time is of the essence. Somehow, I don't think this will be a priority with our incoming governor. . . .

Speaking of our new governor, it will be interesting to see where Keisha Lance Bottoms comes down on the issue of mining our Okefenokee Wildlife Refuge for titanium dioxide in order that the world never runs out of toothpaste whitener. Despite the Conservation Fund's acquisition of nearly 8,000 acres of land and the designation of the Okefenokee as a World Heritage Site, the threat of mining still looms. The local timber barons and the chemical companies are not about to give up their efforts to mine the area. It is going to take legislation and a permanent ban on mining. Will it happen? Stay tuned. . .

Congratulations to Wesley Christiansen, of Jefferson, Georgia, and Nayela Vilton, from Lithonia. Both are enrolled in the Wellstar School of Nursing at Kennesaw State University, and both are recipients of the Jane J. Yarbrough Endowed Nursing Scholarships awarded to second-career nursing students. My family and I established the scholarships in memory of The Beloved Woman Who Shared My Name and who was herself a second-career student at KSU, if you count raising two kids as a career while her husband focused all his time on scrambling up the corporate ladder. She became an RN at the age of 46 and enjoyed a satisfying career as an occupational nurse at Delta Air Lines before we lost her. I have no role in selecting the recipients, but I will remind them that they are representing a very special person. . . .

Finally, being a modest-yet-much-beloved columnist is not as easy as it looks, thanks to readers who don't cut me a lot of slack. I recently talked – actually whined a lot – about mangling my toe which required surgery and pins to put it back together and a longer than expected hospital stay. If I was expecting an outpouring of sympathy, I should have known better. Several wrote and asked me if I had called for a toe truck. A toe truck? Ouch.

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



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TO THE EDITOR ...

Of character and hope ···

While there seems to be broad agreement now about the discontent that drove the midterm election – the cost of living, a seemingly pointless war with grave consequences, corruption in high places, ICE overreach – less attention has been given to the kind of candidates and the kind of politics people voted for. Young people for instance, disappointed with government insensitivity to the world they're inheriting, turned out in force this time for particular candidates. They were looking for hope and seemed to find it. The candidates in this election mattered. Many of them won, not because they were beating a partisan drum but because of their authenticity. They listened and made a real connection with their constituents. And a number of those elected are folks whose faith strongly informs their political vision and approach. The new Congress will include five more ordained clergy, plus three others who are seminary trained. Perhaps no one illustrates this new brand of politics and the hope it's inspiring better than Senator-elect James Talarico of Texas. Here are excerpts from his victory speech, all of which is worth listening to:

... this win is for every underdog who's been counted out and left behind. This win is for every teacher and every nurse, for every farmer and every rancher, for every young person who's trying to put food on the table. This win, this win if for every Texan who's ever wondered if anyone is listening. I heard you. We need you ... To the Texans who supported this movement, I am humbled by your trust and I will work every day to be worthy of it. And to the Texans who didn't vote for me, I will be your senator, too. I will always serve you. I will always fight for you. This win is not about the Democratic Party or the Republican Party. It's much bigger than that.

There is something broken in America. Our economic system is broken. Our political system is broken. Even our relationships with each other feel broken. That's because the most powerful people in the world want it that way. My granddad was a Baptist preacher in South Texas, and when I was little, he told me that we follow a barefoot rabbi who gave us two commandments, love God and love neighbor, because there is no love of God without love of neighbor. Every single person bears the image of the sacred. Every single person is holy, not just my neighbor who looks like me, not just my neighbor who votes like me. I am called to love all of my neighbors the way I love myself.

... The election was about chasing a vision of what this state can be. Texas public schools that are the envy of the nation, a Texas economy that is second to none, and Texas families that are stronger and healthier than they've every been before. It won't happen overnight but a giant state deserves giant dreams. And we know how to get there. We must get big money out of our politics, so no billionaire or trillionaire can buy our elections. We must unrig this economic system that only benefits the top 1%. We must pass universal healthcare, so no one goes bankrupt just because they get sick. We must invest in our teachers and our students, so every underdog has a fighting chance. We must end those corrupt forever wars that are driving up prices and killing our great men and women in uniform. And we must heal the deep spiritual corruption at the root of all of these crises. We must bridge the divides between us and repair the ties that bind us. We forged a new kind of politics here in the Lone Star State, an answer to this decade of division ...

Other newly elected hope-inspiring candidates include Adam Hamilton of Kansas (11/6 PBS interview) and Sarah Trone Garriott of Iowa (7/31 Winner, Winner interview). We can be encouraged to have voices like these heading for Congress.

Steve Bullington
Adrian, Georgia

American Pickers to film in Georgia, across Southeast

SPECIAL TO THE JOHNSON JOURNAL

The American Pickers are excited to visit Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama.

They plan to film episodes of The History Channel hit television series throughout the area in January 2027.

American Pickers is a documentary series that explores the fascinating world of antique "picking" on The History Channel. The hit show follows skilled pickers in the business, as they hunt for America's most valuable antiques. They are always excited to find historically significant or rare items, in addition to unforgettable characters and their collections.

As they hit the back roads from coast to coast, the Pickers are on a mission to recycle and rescue forgotten relics. Along the way, they want to meet characters with amazing stories and fun items. They hope to give historically significant objects a new lease on life while learning a thing or two about America's past along the way. The Pickers have seen a lot of rusty gold over the years and are always looking to discover something they've never seen before. They are ready to find extraordinary items and hear fascinating tales about them.

The American Pickers TV Show is looking for leads and would love to explore your hidden treasure. If you or someone you know has a unique item, story to tell and is ready to sell...we would love to hear from you! Please note, the Pickers do not pick stores, flea markets, malls, auction businesses, museums or anything open to the public. If interested, please send us your name, phone number, location, and description of the collection with photos to: americanpickers@cineflix.com or call (646) 493-2184

Farm Bureau seeks entries for 2027 middle and high school art contests

Are you a middle school or high school student who likes to create art? If so, then enter the 2027 Georgia Farm Bureau Middle School Bookmark or High School Art Contests for the chance to win some great prizes! To enter either contest, teachers or students should contact their county Farm Bureau for an official entry form and complete contest rules.

The Georgia Farm Bureau (GFB) Middle School Bookmark Contest is open to all public, private and homeschooled 6th, 7th and 8th-grade students statewide. The 10 GFB district winners of the bookmark contest will receive $100 each and compete for the additional state prize of $150.

The GFB High School Art Contest is open to all public, private and homeschooled students in 9th through 12th grades. The 10 GFB district art contest winners will receive a cash prize of $100. The 10 GFB district art contest winners will compete for the additional state prize of $250 cash.

Middle school students will be given a blank bookmark from their county Farm Bureau office and asked to draw a picture that depicts some aspect of Georgia agriculture. Students may use crayons, markers or colored pencils to create their bookmark that illustrates agriculture.

High schoolers entering the art contest should draw a scene depicting Georgia agriculture. Artwork submitted in the high school art contest must be on 8.5 x 11-inch white paper. Art may be created in color or in black/white or using a variety of media including graphite, charcoal, pastel, chalk, colored pencils, pen-and-ink, ballpoint pen or mixed media appropriate for printing. Art must be hand-drawn. Digital art is not accepted.

Artwork entered in both contests will be judged on 1) how well the artwork represents modern agriculture found in the artist's county or Georgia and 2) artistic merit.

Students may enter either contest in the county in which they live or attend school but not both counties. Multiple entries will be disqualified. Previous state winners are not eligible for either contest.

Interested students or teachers should contact the Johnson County Farm Bureau for an official entry form and contest rules at 478-864-2236. All entries must be received at the Johnson County Farm Bureau office by February 19, 2027. All entries must be officially submitted by the Johnson County Farm Bureau to the Georgia Farm Bureau contest.

All artwork submitted in both contests must be original and becomes the property of Georgia Farm Bureau (GFB) once submitted. GFB may use artwork from both contests on various products distributed or sold by the organization to promote agriculture.

Between the crops Georgia farmers grow and the jobs agriculture creates to harvest, process and transport these crops, agriculture contributed $100.4 billion to Georgia's economy in 2024, according to the UGA Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development (CAED). Agriculture and its related industries also created more than 370,400 jobs in Georgia in 2024, the latest year for which data is available. According to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Georgia has 39,264 farms producing food and fiber on an estimated 9.953 million acres.

For more information about the contests contact your county Farm Bureau office at 478-864-2236.

Students and teachers may visit https://gfb.ag/video to view a video about Georgia agriculture, https://www.gfb.org/connect/farm-markets to find a farm near you, or https://gfb.ag/26caesagimpactreport to access info about Georgia agriculture.

Legals

Legals

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

J26-050
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

J26-052
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

J26-053
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

J26-056
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

Georgia, Johnson County.
All creditors of the Estate of Carther Cason, Jr., deceased, late of Johnson County, are hereby notified to render in writing their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said Estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned. This 12th day of November, 2026.
Ricky Cason,
Administrator of the Estate of
Carther Cason, Jr., deceased
c/o J. Jackson Dixon
Smith Dixon Law Group, LLC
205 N. Franklin Street
Dublin, GA 31021
November 24, December 1, 8, 15, 2026

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STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS FOR THE WEEK 11/22/26

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MISCELLANEOUS

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COMMISSION

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county engineer. He said when the contractor started paving, it was too wet, and when the engineer found out they had started, he made them stop the work. They are going to have to extract what they've done and re-lay it. Redmond said he had an upcoming meeting with the engineering firm and he would address the safety hazard issue.

Another citizen spoke about the Northern portion of Tucker Grove Church Road that has recently been paved. He wanted an update on that project because he said it looks like it isn't completely finished. He said there is a lot of dirt debris left on the shoulders and the lines have not been put down yet. Redmond said that was simply leveling course on the road. He added that the road should be chip sealed but the contractor has had some issues getting back to finish. He will also be mentioning this during his meeting with the engineers. Redmond did share a concern about the chip sealing season because he thinks the DOT cutoff is 50 degrees. With temperatures forecast to be much lower for the next little while, he thinks this may be a problem. He added that this is the main reason he is meeting with the engineer.

Another citizen asked about the solar panel situation and any restrictions related to it. Keene said the board is still looking at the ordinance and they hope to have it fixed before the end of the year because that's when their moratorium ends. He said, once that is done, they will have an ordinance in place that they feel will take care of whatever the case may be. As far as the solar company, he said they have not submitted an application to the county and no permit has been filed with the county.

One man said the solar company was on his road today. Keene said that, from what he understands, they are out talking to property owners. One woman stated that she told them not to come onto her property several times but they did anyway. Keene advised her she would need to address that with the Sheriff's Office.

Several more citizens discussed their concerns with the solar panel project before the meeting was adjourned to go into executive session.

TROJANS

Continued from page 1

The Trojans overcame a penalty, with Jeremiah Taylor breaking a 25-yard run to move Johnson County deep into Panther territory.

Scott finished the drive with a 21-yard touchdown run. Jackson's extra point put Johnson County ahead 27-24 with 5:13 remaining.

Devero, whose fourth-down reception helped turn the game around, said the Trojans never lost faith in one another.

"We all lift each other up and we just tried to keep going until the game was over," Devero said.

He added that the players understood that overcoming the deficit would require an even greater effort.

"Every block was harder. Every run was harder and everything else we had to do harder."

But Johnson County was not finished making memorable plays.

Following the go-ahead touchdown, Jackson executed an onside kick that the Trojans recovered, giving Johnson County another possession with just over five minutes remaining.

The recovery was a gamble that paid off, but the Trojans still had work to do. Clinch County had already demonstrated that it had a capable field goal kicker, and a field goal was all the Panthers needed to tie the game. Johnson County needed first downs, not simply possession, to keep the ball out of Clinch County's hands.

Taylor converted a fourth-and-one with a four-yard run, extending the possession and keeping the clock moving.

Then came the play Norton had seemingly predicted before the game.

Facing third-and-eight, Taylor took the handoff and appeared to be stopped behind the line of scrimmage. Clinch County defenders surrounded him, and for a moment the play seemed finished.

But Taylor refused to go down.

He fought through the defenders, carrying several Panthers with him as he powered forward for a six-yard gain. A penalty against Clinch on the following fourth-down play gave Johnson County another first down.

It was a remarkable display of determination, and one Norton believes will be remembered long after the final score fades from memory.

"I don't understand how he did it, but his toughness and will to win was second to none," Norton said.

The coach recalled telling his players before the game that they would have an opportunity to create a moment people would always remember.

Taylor had delivered exactly that.

"Jeremiah put the weight of the community on his back and kept running," Norton said. "He refused to go down, refused to quit. He refused to lose."

The Trojans maintained possession until the clock expired, completing the comeback without giving Clinch County another opportunity to score.

The statistics illustrated just how unusual the contest had been. Johnson County outgained Clinch County 320 yards to 103, including 279 yards rushing, and recorded 16 first downs to the Panthers' six.

Scott led the Trojans with 157 yards on 23 carries and three rushing touchdowns. Combined with his 48-yard punt return, he accounted for four of Johnson County's touchdowns.

Webb added 57 rushing yards, while Taylor finished with 48. Wombles completed four passes for 41 yards, including the crucial fourth-down completion to Devero.

Despite the lopsided yardage, Clinch County had remained in contention by capitalizing on Johnson County's mistakes. But when the game was on the line, the Trojan offense kept the football and the defense never had to return to the field.

Norton described Taylor's run as a defining moment, not only for the player but for the values he believes characterize Johnson County and the Wrightsville community.

The coach also praised the atmosphere at the Blue Monster, saying the visiting Clinch County coaches told him it was the best environment and the hardest place they had ever played.

The stadium's redesigned configuration, first experienced last season, helped amplify the roar of the crowd. Fans brought noisemakers, while a local dentist supplied blue plastic horns that added to the noise throughout the stadium.

Norton credited the community's enthusiasm and the investment in the stadium, recognizing Superintendent Chris Watkins, Facilities Director Charlie Lindsey and the Johnson County Board of Education for their contributions to the facilities and game-night experience.

For Norton, the victory represented more than another step toward a state championship. It was a reflection of the people who had built the program, supported the players and filled the stadium on a night when the Trojans needed them most.

"Sum it up with that as a community win," Norton said.

The victory also carries historical significance for the program. For the first time since 2022, Johnson County will be practicing football during Thanksgiving week.

Norton said practicing during Thanksgiving is a goal of every high school football coach. He noted that this year's Trojans are only the ninth team in school history to reach that milestone.

Johnson County will host 11-1 Macon County on Friday night in Wrightsville, with a trip to the state semifinals on the line.

Johnson County had made mistakes, fallen behind and faced the possibility of seeing its undefeated season come to an end. But the Trojans redeemed those mistakes with determination, controlled the football when it mattered most and never allowed Clinch County another offensive possession after reclaiming the lead.

And somewhere among the fourth-down gamble, the onside kick recovery and Taylor's unforgettable run, the Trojans had given their community exactly what Norton had promised before the game: A night when they could say, "I was there when..."

DINNER

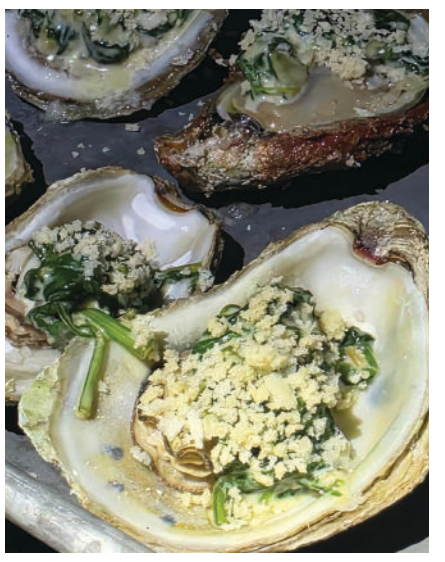
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courthouse square was transformed into a charming gathering place illuminated by the warmth of twinkling lights and the unmistakable spirit of a small-town community. Beyond a memorable evening, Dinner with Friends served a greater purpose. Proceeds directly support Main Street Wrightsville's ongoing efforts to beautify our downtown, preserve our historic character, enhance community spaces, improve lighting and signage and support meaningful initiatives such as Wreaths Across America.

Our first Dinner with Friends was about more than sharing a meal. It was about investing in the place we call home, creating opportunities to come together, and building a brighter future for Wrightsville. Good food. Good music. Good friends. A great little town with a whole lot of heart.









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