MY HEART BELONGS TO SPARTA

The Sparta Ishmaelite

Wednesday November 25, 2026

Wishing all of our readers a very Happy Thanksgiving!



OFTC's Paula Dixon 'Takes the Wheel' on a New Chapter

Emily G. Raley
Director of Marketing & PR

The trucking industry was nothing new to Paula Dixon and her family.

Her husband made a living behind the wheel, giving Dixon and her daughter a firsthand understanding of the industry and the role truck drivers play.

When her daughter Chanerica expressed an interest in obtaining her Commercial Driver's License (CDL), Dixon decided to join her.

They both enrolled in Oconee Fall Line Technical College's (OFTC) eight-week Commercial Truck Driving (CTD) program.

"OFTC offered the hands-on training, knowledgeable instructors and supportive learning environment I was looking for," Dixon said. "It gave me the opportunity to earn my CDL through a respected program while balancing my other responsibilities."

For Dixon, earning her CDL was about more than starting a career. She hoped to eventually use her skills to team drive with her husband, but she also wanted to prove that it's never too late to pursue something new.

"I believe learning should never stop," she said. "I wanted to continue investing in myself, increase my opportunities and demon-

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Changing the World

By Karen West,
News Reporter

Folks from little bitty Sparta, Ga. are changing the world! Scan C.Johnson, formerly known as Scandalous, the Rapper is making a big difference in the lives of children in Africa.

Come meet her and purchase a signed copy of her children's book at Our Sparta FRESH Farmers Market on December 11. All profits go to expanding her amazing mission.

Our Sparta FRESH Farmers Market is so much more! At Shoots & Spores Mushroom Factory on the corner of Elm Street and Powelton where it crosses over Hamilton in historic Downtown Sparta, Ga. Fridays 1-5 pm or while supplies last. Come join the fun!

SCAN News Network reports OUR YOUTH. OUR FUTURE. OUR ACTION

The future of our communities is being shaped by the young people willing to step forward and make a difference.

SCAN NEWS NETWORK
COMMUNITY • YOUTH • EDUCATION • HEALTH • DEVELOPMENT
LIBERIA NEWS

SCAN Youth in Action Continues to Empower Young People Through Community Service

MONROVIA, LIBERIA — Saving Children Across Nations (SCAN), through its youth-led initiative, SCAN Youth in Action, continues to demonstrate the power of young people coming together to make a positive difference in their communities.

The initiative recently brought together enthusiastic youth volunteers for a community-focused program centered on health, wellness, personal hygiene, and youth engagement.

The program was designed to promote healthy habits, encourage personal responsibility, and provide young people with opportunities to learn, participate, and connect with their peers.

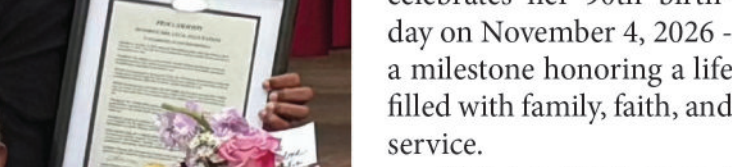
Beyond the activities, the event represented something greater: young people taking an active role in serving their communities while developing leadership, teamwork, and organizational skills.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
- Health & Wellness Education
- Personal Hygiene Awareness
- Youth Engagement & Leadership
- Community Service & Teamwork

ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

SCAN Youth in Action provides a platform for emerging youth leaders to gain hands-on experience in community service, event coordination, public engagement, and social responsibility.



We are proud of our SCAN Youths In Actions team in Liberia** for their continued dedication to leadership, community service, and youth empowerment. Through our recent Health & Wellness initiative, these

Continued to page 4..

Celebrate

By Karen West,
News Reporter

Reaching the age of 90 years old is a feat only a few are able to acieve. Less than 40% of women and 30% of men reach that milestone even with today's modern medicines capable of lengthening a person's life. When someone reaches an impressive age like 90, it definitely deserves celebration.Recently just sich a celebration was held for Mrs. Lillie Julia Watkins.

Her cousin, County Chairman Adrick Ingram presented her with a proclamation at a banquet in her honor. Mrs. Lillie Julia Watkins is the proud matriarch of a large and growing family - 8 children, 13



grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren, and 2 great great grandchildren!

Honoring
Mrs. Lillie Julia Watkins
90 Years of Life, Love, and Legacy

Born on November 4, 1936, Mrs. Lillie Julia Watkins of Hancock County celebrates her 90th birthday on November 4, 2026 - a milestone honoring a life filled with family, faith, and service.

With ten brothers and sisters, Mrs. Watkins's story is rooted in the bonds of family.

She is the proud mother of eight children, grandmother of thirteen, great-grandmother of ten, and great-great-grandmother of two. Her legacy

Continued to page 4....

History - Her Story



By Karen West,
News Reporter

PART I

2024 is definitely the year of diversity - we have many "Firsts" this election, most of them involving women. Here in Georgia, we have our first black Governor, first female Governor, and first black female Governor all in one person - Keisha Lance Bottoms a fifth generation Georgian.

Keisha's great great grandparents are from nearby Crawfordville, and like so many people in our community, have an interesting history. Sheppard and Betsy Peek were born into slavery. Sheppard never learned to read or write - a skill forbidden by law to the enslaved population- and always signed his name with his "mark" - a single "X". But lack of literacy did not deter his success in business and politics after Emancipation.

The day before the recent election, Keisha visited her ancestral home town and walked the streets that Sheppard and Betsy had walked with lo-

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Another Successful Market Year!



By Karen West,
News Reporter

Our Sparta FRESH Farmers Market has become a Friday afternoon destination for vendors and customers alike in its six years of operation. A project of DREAM Streets Sparta (the all volunteer program of Sparta Hancock County Historic Preservation Commission), the Market is FREE to local vendors who sell a wide variety of homegrown, homemade, handmade items. From locally grown, in-season produce, vegetables, fruits, and nuts to handknit gift items, locally grown beef to woodworking bowls, kitchen utensils, and home decor, gourmet mushrooms grown right on the premises to hand quilted pillows and blankets, all kinds of made from scratch baked goodies, artwork, photography, jewelry, birdhouses, feeders, and birdbaths, and even SLIME on occassions! Every week is a different mix of vendors keeping the treasure hunt fun and ever changing!

Local authors have book signings at Market - everything from children's books to "who done its",



graphic novels, true crime, fiction, and history. And history is always on display at Our Sparta FRESH Farmers Market with its home in the old cotton warehouse built in the 1880's during one of Sparta's major building periods. The old cotton warehouse featured a state of the art (for the time) fire supression system and a "roll in" for the railroad cars to load the big 500lb bales of cotton, both are still intact. The beautiful brick building has served our community in many capacities- as Sparta Furniture Manufacturing Company making chair and table legs used all over the world, then, after being purchased by

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CHURCH NEWS

Tabernacle Baptist Church Pastor Terry Boone
New St. Sparta, Ga. 706-833-8747

Shivers Grove Community Church
347 Shivers Grove Road Sparta, Ga. 31087

Services every 3rd Sunday Sunday School starts @ 11:00 AM
Church Worship @ 12:00 Noon
Reverend Marion Hargrove, Pastor Sister Mary Leslie, Secretary

THE HANCOCK/BALDWIN COMMUNITY CHOIR

"Two Counties, One Sound"
Edna R. Hough, Founder/Directress
COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT
The Hancock/Baldwin Community Choir will present its Annual Christmas/Gospel Celebration on Sunday, December 13, 2026 at 4:00 P.M at The Flagg Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, 300 West Franklin Street, Milledgeville, Georgia.
The special guest will be Musician Extraordinaire Randy Cooper of Eastman, Georgia, Charles Strowbridge and The Spears Grove Baptist Church Gospel Choir of Wadley, Georgia, Minister Allen Banks and The Anointed Sounds of Praise of Macon, Georgia and The Brothers Children of Milledgeville, Georgia. Come and enjoy this ministry of music. All are invited to attend.
Frank T. Edwards (706)-444-3286 Twin922@yahoo.com

Hickory Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Inc
4933 Hickory Grove Church Road/Post Office Box 402 Sparta, Georgia 31087
www.hickorygrovembc.org Reverend Michael Curry, Pastor

ZEBULON COMMUNITY CHURCH
7266 BROWN CHAPEL RD. 31087
PASTOR BRO. BILLY CARROLL PHONE 706-829-4403
SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY 11:00--------SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00

A HEART OF THANKSGIVING

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever."------(Psalm 107;1)------GIVE THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES FOR THIS IS GOD'S WILLFOR YOU IN CHRIST JESUS." (1 THESSAIONIANS 5;18)

THANKSGIVING IS MORE THAN A HOLIDAY FILLED WITH FOOD, FAMILY GATHERING, AND TRADIATIONS, IT IS A REMINDER THAT GOD DESIRES HIS PEOPLE TO LIVE WITH A THANKFUL HEARTS EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR.

It is easy to be thankful when life is going well. We thank God for health, family, blessing, and answered prayers. But sometimes life brings hardship, disappointment, loss, or uncertainty. During those moments, thanksgiving can become difficult. Let the bible tells us to "give thanks in all circumstances.

"Enter His gates with thanksgiving-and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name."---(Psalm 100;4))---Thanksgiving Day reminds us to pause and reflex the goodness of God , In the busyness of life, it is easy to focus on what we lack, what went wrong or what we are still praying for, but a heart of thanksgiving sees beyond temporary circumstances and remembers Gods constant faithfulness.

Gratitude is more than saying "thank you" once a year. It is a daily portion of the heart . When we choose thanksgiving, we open our hearts to peace, . joy and deeper trust in God. Even in difficult seasons, we can thank Him because He never leaves us and His love never fails. Jesus Himself demonstrated thanksgiving. Before performing miracles, before breaking bread and even before facing the cross. He gave thanks, His example teachers us that gratitude is powerful. It changes our perspective and strengthens our faith.

Today take time to remember the blessings God has given;
The gift of life----------Strength through trials
Family and friends----------Grace and salivation
Daily processions
A thankful heart honors God and encourages those around us. When gratitude fills our hearts, praise naturally flows from our lips.
PRAYER; Heavenly Father, thank you for Your goodness, mercy, and unfailing love. Help me to have a heart of thanksgiving in every season of life. Teach me to focus on Your blessing rather than my burdens. Fill my heart with gratitude

Explaining The Memory Verse

"David Anointed as King"
Lesson Text: 1 Samuel 16:1–13 Background Scripture: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE
"The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7).
Some people might care about when others look pretty or handsome, but God doesn't care about that at all. In this lesson, God reminds us that He created us for more important things than that. We should care about loving others the way God loves us more than anything else!
TELLING HOW TO LIVE
People might treat us unfairly because of the way we look, but God never will. He will never care about the way we look on the outside. He does want us to take care of ourselves, but what He really cares about is our hearts and the way we treat ourselves and others. As long as our hearts are beautiful, we will be blessed!
PRAYER
Dear God, our heavenly Father, please help us not to care so much about what we want or what other people look like. Remind us to always care about what makes You happy! In Jesus' name we pray, Amen!

References: Minister Minnie Harmon-Boone(DDiv, ECE,AH) HB: NIV, ESV
Jesus Is All Ministries Golden Universal Outreach Ministries
Email and Phone Number goldenenterprises59@gmail. com
706-833-8747

DID YOU KNOW?

Having one of the most unusual newspaper names around, people often question where the name "Ishmaelite" came from.

The Sparta Ishmaelite gets its name from a common practice in the 1800's (when the newspaper was established) to use biblical monikers to reflect a newspaper's independent voice. Historically an "Ishmaelite" referred to an independent loner. Also the Hebrew word "ISHMAEL" literally means "God hears". The name originally referred to "an antiestablishment crusader" according to the originators of the newspaper which is the second oldest continuously published newspaper in the state of Georgia. When Sherman marched across Georgia near the end of the Civil War many newspapers were forced to close down operations, but the Sparta Ishmaelite continued publication and keeping the community informed.

People often remark on the uniqueness of our community's paper's name and wonder at its backstory, but rarely forget its name.

The Sparta Ishmaelite continues to operate as a weekly community voice thanks to the Georgia Trust for Local News which keeps a total of 22 historic local newspapers operating and serving their communities.

So the next time someone asks you where the unusual name of our historic newspaper came from, you'll know the answer!

NOW YOU KNOW!

Future of data centers



Karen West,
News Reporter

Recently, I asked AI a question " what will data centets look like in 2036". Yes, I totally appreciate the irony of asking an artifical intelligence to tell its own future, but what it replied is extremely interesting - and telling.

One thing it listed was that size will be greatly streamlined into smaller more compact facilities. Much like computers went from being room size, to covering a desk top, to fitting compactly into our phones. This poses a very large question - what will happen to the extremely massive eyesores that we are building right now to house these centers? Does anyone recall the MASSIVE malls of the 1980's and what cumbersome eyesores and money drains they are now to the communities that have them sitting empty?

Another statement that was made by the AI describing its own future was this -

"Human presence inside the core computing zones will be incredibly rare".

Then it went on to predict -

"Operations will be fully automatic".

So what happens to the much promised "employment opporunities" that Data Centers use to entice economically challenged communities with when trying to get new centers built?

Simple, as the facilities being built right now become obsolete, the "employment opportunities" will completely dry up and cease to exist.

When the Data Center boom first started, "they" (the data center developers) promised hundreds and hundreds of job opportunities, settling on the "safe" number of an average of 200 - enough to make an economic impact but not enough to unfavorably impact a regular local school system- a well thought out marketing ploy to get a community's approval.

We later found out that MOST of those supposed "job opportunities" were in construction of the centers and even that was inflated as the data center developers primarily use their own specialized construction crews moving site to site.

So, once the smoke cleared from the pyrotechnics of the initial grand presentations to get approval, the REAL number of jobs settled around 10-30. Easy to count by the number of employee parking spaces on the plans for the average data cemter - they usually are at around 20. Twenty parking spaces for an employee team that was previously promised to top over 200.They must expect a great deal of carpooling from their employees - or they inflated the opportunities greatly

Next concerning point on AI predictions for the DC in 2036 was that the data cenyets would be providing their own power sources. How?

"With SMALL NUCLEUR REACTORS (SMR), GEOTHERMAL hubs, or 'massive' solar/ wind

storage arrays". Granted, Georgia's nuclear reactor, Vogtle has a good safety record and is strictly monitored, with only two minor incidents or alerts registered to date; however, will nightmares of Love Canal and Chernobyl haunt us when rapid buildouts of the predicted nucleur reactors start?

Also, AI predicted that 90% of the new upgrades to Georgia Power's power production would be "reserved for data center use". It should be noted also, that Georgia Power is owned by the Southern Company and NOT by the state of Georgia as many people mistakenly believe.

Although Georgia Power steadfastly claims that residential customers are not funding the growth necessary to accommedate the massive amounts of power required by all of Georgia's new data centers, rates have increased approximately 20% in the last 3 years and over 27% in the last 5 years. This after MULTIPLE rate hikes approved by the Georgia Public Service Commission - an elected agency that is supposed to look out for consumers, setting rates, and overseeing services.

With just these two aspects of data center growth being taken into account (and many more that negatively impact communities), how can their continued unchecked growth continue in Georgia? And befote you say that thos does not impact Hancock County, take a look at just how many data centets are neing built and have been built within a 30 mile radius. The predators are circling, do we habe yhe laws and ordinances in place to keep them from destroying vast amounts of land, power, and water?

Now is the time to protect our community.

LOCAL MATTERS

HANCOCK COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

H26-056
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF HANCOCK
IN RE: ESTATE OF Kathy Lynn Mobley, DECEASED
All creditors of the Estate of Kathy Lynn Mobley, DECEASED late of Hancock County, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all person indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me.
Rebecca E. Fisher
Executor of Kathy Lynn Mobley, deceased
215 Lakeview Circle, Sparta, GA 31087
O.C.G.A § 53-7-41 states: "...Every personal representative shall, within 60 days from the date of qualification, publish a notice directed generally to all of the creditors of the estate to render an account of their demands. The notice shall be published once a week for four weeks in the official newspaper of the county in which the personal representative qualified..."
November 11, 18, 25, December 2, 2026

PETITION TO BE APPOINTED

H26-054
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF HANCOCK COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF CALVIN CHATMAN, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. E-26-066

NOTICE
To Whom It May Concern:
DEANTA S. CHATMAN have petitioned to be appointed Administrator(s) of the estate of CALVIN CHATMAN deceased, of said County. All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said Petition should not be granted by filing an objection.
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. In addition, all objections must be sworn to before a notary public or before a Probate Court Clerk. Filing fees must be tendered with your objection 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.
Sabrina M. Lamar
Judge of the Probate Court
Jasmine J. Stokes
Deputy Clerk of the Probate Court
12630 Broad Street, Sparta, GA 31087
706-444-5343
November 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

H26-057
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF HANCOCK COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF CLAUDE HARPER, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. E-26-069

NOTICE
To Whom It May Concern:
CATHERINE HARPER has petitioned to be appointed Administrator(s) of the estate of CLAUDE HARPER deceased, of said County. All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said Petition should not be granted by filing an objection.
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 DECEMBER 7, 2026. In addition, all objections must be sworn to before a notary public or before a Probate Court Clerk. Filing fees must be tendered with your objection 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.
Sabrina M. Lamar
Judge of the Probate Court
Jasmine J. Stokes
Deputy Clerk of the Probate Court
12630 Broad Street, Sparta, GA 31087
706-444-5343
November 11, 18, 25, December 2, 2026

H26-058
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF HANCOCK COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF DEVINCEY RAYSHUN HOLSEY, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. E-26-063
NOTICE
To Whom It May Concern:
LONNIE HOLSEY has petitioned to be appointed Administrator(s) of the estate of DEVINCEY R. HOLSEY deceased, of said County. All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said Petition should not be granted by filing an objection.
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 DECEMBER 7, 2026. In addition, all objections must be sworn to before a notary public or before a Probate Court Clerk. Filing fees must be tendered with your objection 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.
Sabrina M. Lamar
Judge of the Probate Court
Jasmine J. Stokes
Deputy Clerk of the Probate Court
12630 Broad Street, Sparta, GA 31087
706-444-5343
November 11, 18, 25, December 2, 2026

NOTICE TO FORECLOSE RIGHT OF REDEMPTION

H26-055
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER STATE OF GEORGIA HANCOCK COUNTY Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by, Amos Chatman, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Bank of America, N.A., dated 4/26/2010, and recorded on 5/21/2010, in Book 400, Page 203, Hancock County, Georgia Records, as last assigned to as last assignment to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC by assignment recorded 9/1/2023 as Instrument No. in book 00600, Page 00033, conveying the after described property securing the payment of a Note in the amount of $116,415.00 with interest thereon as set forth therein. NOW, THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that the entire indebtedness has been declared due and payable as provided in said Security Deed by the Holder, and by virtue of the power of sale and authority vested in it, will on 2/2/2027 sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash: During the legal hours of sale before the door of the courthouse of Hancock County, Georgia., the following described property situated in Hancock County, Georgia, to wit: ALL THAT CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE 102ND DISTRICT, G.M. OF HANCOCK COUNTY, GEORGIA, CONTAINING 0.97 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, BEING SHOWN AND DESIGNATED AS LOT 30 OF SCHOOL ACRES SUBDIVISION AS SHOWN ON PLAT BY T. LARRY RACHELS, R.L.S, DATED FEBRUARY 12, 1998, OF RECORD IN PLAT BOOK 12, PAGES 60-61, HANCOCK COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT CLERK'S RECORDS. PARCEL ID#007-017Y Tax Parcel ID: 164C 030 Being real property commonly known as 271 SCHOOL HOUSE ACRES SPARTA, GA 31087 The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the debt and all expenses of this sale including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given). Said sale will be made subject to the following items which may affect the title to said property: All restrictive covenants, easements and rights-of-way appearing of record, if any; all zoning ordinances; matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or by an inspection of the property; all outstanding or unpaid bills and assessments for street improvements, curbing, garbage, water, sewage and public utilities which may be liens upon said property; and any outstanding taxes, assessments and other liens superior to the security deed being foreclosed hereby. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the above-described property is in the possession of the borrower and/or other persons with the consent and acquiescence of the borrower. Except to the extent that the Holder may bind and obligate Mortgagors to warrant title to the Property under the terms of the Security Deed, conveyance of the Property shall be made without any representations or warranties whatsoever, express or implied. All sales are "as is", "where is'. The entire purchase price is due and payable at the conclusion of the auction in the form of certified funds. Insufficient funds will not be accepted. Amounts received in excess of the winning bid will be refunded to the successful purchaser. This property is being sold with express reservation that the sale is subject to 1) confirmation and audit of the status of the loan by the holder of the security deed, 2) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, 3) procedures for rescission of sale under O.C.G.A. Section 9-13-172.1, whereby the Deed Under Power and other foreclosure documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided above. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2, the name, address and telephone number of the person or entity who shall have full authority to negotiate, amend, or modify all terms of the above-described mortgage is as follows: Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, 500 N. State College Blvd., Suites 1030, 1300 & 1400 Orange, CA 92868 , Telephone No.: 800-561-4567 The foregoing notwithstanding, nothing in O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2 shall be construed to require Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the Security Deed described herein. Please be advised that the trustee may require entity or trust bidders at this trustee's sale to provide information, documentation and/or certification of the vesting instructions and the data required to be reported pursuant to FinCEN regulations effective for transfers of residential real property to covered transferees on or after March 1, 2026. The required information must be provided to the trustee before a deed under power will be issued for covered transfers. The Buyer may be required to pay charges associated with the gathering and reporting of information to FinCEN. Additional information regarding these regulations and the required transferee information and certifications can be found at: https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/08/29/2024-19198/anti-money-laundering-regulations-for-residential-real-estate-transfers and https://www.fincen.gov/rre-faqs#D_5 Carrington Mortgage Services,LLC as Attorney in Fact for Amos Chatman For Foreclosure sale information please contact Vylla Solutions, LLC, P.O. Box 3309, Anaheim, California 92803, Phone:9888)-313-1969 TS #26-43284 THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTION ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
November 11,18,25, December 2,9,16,23,30,2026 January 6,13,20,27

NOTICE OF SUMMONS & EFFECT OF TERMINATION JUDGMENT

H26-059
IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF PUTNAM COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN THE INTEREST OF: N.-B. S. M. SEX: F AGE: 4M DOB: 06/19/2026
CASE#: 2026-JU-0076
Child Under 18 Years of Age.
NOTICE OF SUMMONS & EFFECT OF TERMINATION JUDGMENT
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN Sethanon Garrett Murphy, legal father of N.-B. S. M., minor child born to Nestoria Blanchard Murphy.
Georgia law provides that you can permanently lose your rights as a parent. A petition to terminate parental rights has been filed requesting the court to terminate your parental rights to your child. A court hearing for your case has been scheduled for the 8th day of February, 2027 at 8:30 a.m., at the Putnam County Courthouse, Eatonton, Georgia. A copy of the petition may be obtained by the parents from the Clerk of the Juvenile Court at Putnam County Courthouse, Eatonton, Georgia, during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 9:00 o'clock am until 5:00 o'clock p.m. exclusive of holidays. A free copy shall be available to the parent. Upon request, the copy will be mailed to the requester – parents or alleged parents only. The general nature of the allegations are abandonment and failure to comply with your reunification case plan.
If you fail to appear, the court can terminate your rights in your absence. If the court at the trial finds that the facts set out in the petition to terminate parental rights are true and that termination of your rights will serve the best interest of your child, the court can enter a judgment ending the rights to your child. If the judgment terminates your parental rights, you will no longer have any rights to your child. This means that you will not have the right to visit, contact, or have custody of your child or make any decisions affecting your child or your child's earnings of property. Your child will be legally freed to be adopted by someone else. Even if your parental rights are terminated: (1) You will still be responsible for providing financial support (child support payments) for your child's care unless and until your child is adopted; and (2) Your child can still inherit from you unless and until your child is adopted.
This is a very serious matter. You should contact an attorney immediately so that you can be prepared for the court hearing. You have the right to hire an attorney and have him or her represent you. If you cannot afford to hire and attorney, the court will appoint an attorney if the court finds that you are an indigent person. Whether or not you decide to hire an attorney, you have the right to attend the hearing in your case, to call witnesses on your behalf, and to question those witnesses brought against you.
If you have any questions concerning this notice, you may call the telephone of the clerk's office which is (706) 485-4501.
WITNESS THE HONORABLE KELLI C. RUTHERFORD, Judge of said Juvenile Court.
This 2nd day of November, 2026.
/s/ Jennifer Parmele
DEPUTY CLERK, JUVENILE COURT OF PUTNAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
Prepared by: Lee R. Moss
Special Assistant Attorney General
288 South Main Street
Madison, Georgia 30650
(706) 707-8500
November 11, 18, 25, December 2, 2026

PETITION FOR ORDER

Please take notice that the governing authority of Hancock County, Georgia has filed a Petition for an Order Authorizing the Immediate and Temporary Collection of Taxes as set forth below. A hearing has been scheduled on the matter for December 2, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. before the Honorable Judge Alison T. Burleson, at the Superior Court of Hancock County. COMES NOW, Hancock County, Georgia ("Han-

Continued to page 4...

OFTC's Paula Dixon 'Takes the Wheel' on a New Chapter

...continued from page 1

strate to my children, grandchildren and others in my community that education can change your future at any stage of life."

More Than a Classroom

When Dixon arrived at OFTC, what she found exceeded her expectations.

"I hoped to receive quality instruction and practical experience, but what I found was instructors who genuinely cared about our success, encouraged us every step of the way and created an environment where students could build confidence."

She especially appreciated the hands-on learning opportunities and the confidence they helped her build throughout the program.

"The CTD program challenged me to step outside my comfort zone while teaching me the knowledge, safety practices and hands-on skills needed to become a professional commercial driver," she said. "Every lesson helped build my confidence."

More Than a CDL

The experience gave Dixon more than a new skill. It gave her a renewed sense of what she is capable of accomplishing.

"Earning my CDL gave me a tremendous sense of accomplishment," Dixon said. "It showed me that with determination and the right support system, I can continue reaching new goals while inspiring others to do the same."

For Dixon, the CDL is another tool she can use to create opportunities while continuing her work as an advocate for senior citizens and underprivileged children.

But perhaps the biggest impact of her time at OFTC was the reminder that growth does not have an expiration date.

"OFTC reminded me that growth is always possible," Dixon said. "It increased my confidence, expanded my opportunities and reinforced my belief that it's never too late to pursue a new dream."

It is a lesson Dixon hopes to share with others.

"Don't allow fear, age or circumstances to stop you from pursuing your dreams," she said. "Believe in yourself, work hard, stay committed and never stop learning."

For Dixon, earning her CDL represents more than a license. It represents perseverance, lifelong learning, and the decision to keep moving forward.

"I hope my journey inspires others to take that first step toward achieving their own goals," she said.

To learn more about OFTC's Commercial Truck Driving program or explore more than 130+ programs of study, visit OFTC.edu.

History - Her Story

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cal historian Terry Howard. She first took them to what had been the retail center for the African American community in the mid 1800's. In Crawfordville, little remains of what was once the black owned retail section of town - Back Street. Back Street contained a barbershop, a grocery store, several ready made and custom clothing shops, restaurants, a Masonic lodge, and a funeral home, as well as several smaller establishments. Peek's Store sold, among other things, ice cream and old timers can remember stories of their grandparents going there and buying delicious ice cream for the unheard of price of 25 cents - an extravagance! Back Stteet is mostly empty now but hopefully there is a revitalization in its future.

Terry Venita Howard, the local historian who took Keisha's group on the personal heritage tour, is no stranger to Taliaferro County historic preservation. She is spearheading the restoration of the historic Springfield Log Cabin School that has gone from the brink of neglected demolition to a popular community center and work is still ongoing.

"History should be presented so that the next generation knows whose shoulders they stand on", said Terry Venita Howard.

PART II
December 2 Edition

Celebrate

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extends through four generations of descendants, each a treasured part of her life.

Her caring spirit extended beyond her home. Through her work sitting with older adults, she provided care, companionship, and comfort. A member of Hunts Chapel AME Church, she also served as an usher for more than fifteen years, welcoming others into the house of the Lord.

Among her greatest joys are spending time with family and helping raise her grandchildren. From everyday conversations to special family gatherings, her presence has helped create memories that generations will treasure. Her influence lives on in the children she raised, the grandchildren she helped guide, and the family bonds she helped strengthen.

As we celebrate her 90th birthday, we honor the hands that have cared for others, her years of faithful service, and the love she has shared throughout her life. Her legacy lives through four generations and in the lives she has touched along the way.

May this milestone surround her with joy, gratitude, and the love of all who are blessed to call her family.

"With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation." Psalm 91:16

Happy 90th Birthday, Mrs. Lillie Julia Watkins!

Four generations of love. Ninety years of greatness.

HANCOCK COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES

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cock County"), a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 48-5-310(a)(1)(B), and on behalf of the Hancock County Board of Education, petitions this Court for an Order authorizing the immediate and temporary collection of taxes for the year 2026 showing the Court as follows: 1. Adrick Ingram, Jeremiah Hall, Steve Hill, Charles Jackson, and Randolph Clayton are duly elected members of the Board of Commissioners of Hancock County, Georgia. The Board of Commissioners of Hancock County is the governing authority of said County. 2. Hancock County is authorized under the Georgia Constitution to levy and collect ad valorem taxes upon all property located within its jurisdiction. See Ga. Const., Art. IX, Sec. IV, Par. I. The Hancock County Board of Assessors ("HCBOA"), whose creation is authorized by statute, and whose members are appointed by the Hancock County Board of Commissioners has assessed the value of all real and personal property located in Hancock County for ad valorem tax purposes. O.C.G.A. §§ 48-5-290 and 48-5-299(a). The HCBOA provides these assessed values and exemptions (the "Tax Digest") to the Hancock County Tax Commissioner ("Tax Commissioner") for submission to the Revenue Commissioner of the State of Georgia. ("Revenue Commissioner"). 3. The Tax Commissioner bills and collects taxes for Hancock County, Georgia, the State of Georgia, and the Hancock County Board of Education. See O.C.G.A. §48-5-400 et seq. 4. The HCBOA assesses the value of all real and personal property located in Hancock County for ad valorem purposes for Hancock County and the Hancock County Board of Education. The HCBOA compiles and provides these assessed values and exemptions to the Tax Commissioner. (Exhibit 1, Affidavit of Commissioner Fantasia Scott). The Tax Digest is submitted by the Tax Commissioner for ad valorem tax purposes to the Georgia Department of Revenue for approval. The Hancock County Board of Education depends on the Tax Digest submitted by the Tax Commissioner for ad valorem tax purposes. 5. When the Tax Digest meets certain criteria set by law, the Tax Commissioner submits the Tax Digest to the Revenue Commissioner for approval. The Revenue Commissioner's approval of the Tax Digest authorizes the Tax Commissioner to use the Tax Digest as the basis for billing and collecting ad valorem property taxes. 6. In a revaluation year, the Revenue Commissioner cannot approve a tax digest where 8% or more of the property by assessed value or number of parcels are in dispute and where 8% of the number of parcels are in arbitration or on appeal. See O.C.G.A. § 48-5-304(a). 7. As of November 12, 2026, approximately 10% of the parcels (1,506 of 10,536 parcels) are under appeal, and approximately 17% of the total digest ($138,153,222.00 of $780,761,443.00) is under appeal. Thus, as of the filing of this Petition, more than 8% of the property within Hancock County by assessed value or number of parcels is in dispute and more than 8% of the number of parcels are in arbitration or on appeal. 8. As a result, a temporary collection order is the only remedy available to address the exigency of the circumstances—to begin the billing and collection process so that Hancock County and the Hancock County Board of Education can realize tax revenue in 2026 and early 2027. 9. Unless the Court authorizes the immediate, temporary collection of the 2026 ad valorem taxes, the governing body of Hancock County will not be able to (a) pay the County's debts as they mature; (b) pay appropriate salaries of employees, other government officials, and other persons entitled to receive either compensation by or funds from the county as provided by law; (c) maintain an orderly and normal function of county business and governmental affairs; (d) maintain an adequate, proper, or desirable credit rating either to maintain or affect existing or future interest rates on bonded indebtedness or indebtedness on loans incurred or obligated by the county governing authority; or (e) avoid by practical means the suffering of immediate and irreparable injury, loss, damage, or any other significant matter. See Affidavit of Chairman Adrick Ingrams, attached hereto as Exhibit 2. 10. The immediate and temporary collection of taxes is authorized using any reasonable method which the Court determines will do substantial justice to the parties under the exigencies of all the circumstances. See O.C.G.A. § 48-5-310(f). The "methods, procedures, and conditions for temporary collection and enforcement of taxes for municipalities are under the same terms and conditions as provided for counties" under O.C.G.A. § 48-5-310. O.C.G.A. §48-5-310(j). 11. The Court may order the temporary collection of taxes, while simultaneously safeguarding the rights of taxpayers in that such order "shall not in any manner affect or limit anyone who pays the taxes from receiving and enjoying the full benefits of any adjustments, benefits, refunds, or additional assessments determined by the final disposition of the validity of the tax digest." O.C.G.A. § 48-5-310(g). 12. By and through its governing authority, Hancock County seeks an Order which will allow the immediate and temporary collection of 2026 ad valorem taxes based upon the proposed 2026 Tax Digest, at the to be established millage rate by the governing authority for the 2026 tax year; provided however, that any property which is on appeal shall be issued a tax bill in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 48-5-311(e)(6)(D)(iii), at the millage rate established by the governing authority for the 2026 tax year. Such authorization will allow for the immediate and temporary collection of 2026 ad valorem taxes based on the proposed 2026 Tax Digest, at the millage rate established by the governing authority recommending authority or other such body authorized to set such rates, for the 2026 tax year; provided however for any property which is on appeal, the tax bill shall be issued in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 48-5-311(e)(6)(D)(iii), at the millage rate established for the 2026 tax year. Such authority is sought whether such millage rate has been established at the time of hearing of this Petition or will be set at a later date. 13. A proposed Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Final Order Authorizing the Immediate and Temporary Collection of Taxes is attached hereto as Exhibit 3 for the Court's convenience. WHEREFORE, Petitioner Hancock County prays to the Court as follows: (1) that the Court enter an order authorizing, subject to the establishment of an applicable millage rate, the immediate and temporary collection of ad valorem taxes for the year 2026 by the governing authority of Hancock County, Georgia; (2) that the Court set a time and date, not less than ten (10) days from the date of filing of this Petition, as provided by O.C.G.A. § 48-5-310(c) for an expedited hearing on this matter; and (3) that the Court enter an order that allows the billing of property subject to O.C.G.A. § 48-5-311(e)(6)(D)(iii); and (4) that the Court grant such other and further relief as may be deemed just and proper. Respectfully submitted this 17th day of November, 2026 F. Adam Nelson Georgia Bar No. 845950 P Simon P. Williams Georgia Bar No. 414049 Counsel for Petitioner The Nelson Law Group 631 Ronald Reagan Dr., Suite 201 (706) 524-0220 anelson@nelson-lawga.com

Changing the World

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young leaders demonstrated what it means to turn compassion into action, bringing awareness to personal hygiene, healthy living, and the importance of caring for one another.

At **Saving Children Across Nations (SCAN)**, we believe leadership begins with opportunity. When young people are given the tools, guidance, and responsibility to lead, they become powerful agents of change.

We recognize and appreciate every youth volunteer, team member, and supporter who contributed to this initiative. We are raising a generation of leaders who understand that their actions today will shape the world tomorrow.**

The mission continues. The work continues. **SCAN Youth in Action continues!**

#SavingChildrenAcrossNations #SCANYouthInAction #SCANLiberia#YouthEmpowerment #YouthLeadership #SCANNewsNetwork

Another Successful Market Year!

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Robert and Susie Currey, it became a gourmet mushroom growing facility- supplying the best restaurants and farmers markets in the state.

Today it is home to the Shoots &Spores Mushroom Factory who partners with Our Sparta FRESH Farmers Market. It also serves as an event center on occassion, like for the recent Oconee Riverkeepers Photograph Exhibit, houses a Little REALLY Free Library, and the synthetic pine straw manufacturer - The Last Straw of Georgia- is right next door.

Every Friday - Spring through early Winter you will find Our Sparta FRESH Farmers Market on the big front porch of the Mushroom Factory. Don't miss Our Christmas Market on December 11 from 1-5 pm for an amazing array of gifts and goodies!

