JANUARY 30, 2025 $1

TIMES JOURNAL POST

THE TWIGGS TIMES NEW ERA Vol. 25, No. 5 | THE COCHRAN JOURNAL Vol. 118, No. 5 | THE WILKINSON COUNTY POST Vol. 25, No. 5

Hank Ohme/Georgia Wildlife Federation
A white-tailed buck in Gwinnett County is among the 1 million of its deer species roaming Georgia's woodlands, farmlands and urban areas.

Ga. DNR officials outline plan intended to contain spread of 'zombie deer disease'

Ross Williams
Georgia Recorder

Starting next deer season, hunters in south Georgia will have the option to drop off the heads of deer they take to be tested for a fatal and infectious brain-eating disease sometimes called "zombie deer disease."

"We're going to set up self-serve freezer drop-off locations, where a hunter, someone like me and you that wants to process their own deer, when we leave our lease or our property, we can stop at this freezer location, cut that head off or take the skull cap off, put your information on a card, you put in your freezer and our staff will come by and pick those up and get them tested," said Tina Johansson, assistant chief of game management at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Johansson was briefing state House members on Chronic Wasting Disease Monday morning at a hearing of the state House Game, Fish and Parks Committee. The department announced last week that a deer harvested in south Georgia tested positive for the disease, the first time it has been found in the state. She said DNR's goal will be to keep the prevalence of the disease at below 5%, but unlike in some other states, Georgia does not plan to require hunters to have their deer tested.

"We don't anticipate setting up mandatory check stations," Johansson said. "We will, of course, have our self-service locations down there, and we will be putting staff out on busy weekends to help out and just interface with hunters and explain what's going on down there. We don't anticipate any — we're certainly not proposing any sort of ban on baiting within those counties."

Baiting deer is a controversial practice that some consider unsportsmanlike. Environmentalists say spreading out deer corn can be bad for wildlife – and that encouraging deer to gather in one place can help spread diseases like CWD.

"Other states with CWD outbreaks have suspended deer baiting in the area," said Mark Woodall, Georgia legislative chair for the Sierra Club. "DNR's failure to limit deer baiting appears to be playing politics instead of following the science. I guess they don't want to offend some landowners and feed mills. This is regulatory malpractice and it's disgraceful."

For now, the DNR's chronic wasting disease management area only includes Lanier and Berrien counties, but it is expected to encompass more of the state as the disease is likely to spread.

Chronic Wasting is a neurological disease that affects members of the deer family including elk and moose. It's caused not by a bacteria or virus but by prions, a type of abnormally folded protein that can cause other proteins in the brain to misfold. When enough of these build up, the animal will start to show symptoms, which can include listlessness, lack of coordination and weight loss.

The disease is 100% fatal for the animals. It's bad news for deer, but not necessarily for deer hunters, said Department of Natural Resources Deputy Commissioner Trevor Santos.

"I want to first and foremost assure you and our hunters that deer hunting will continue to thrive in this state," Santos told lawmakers Monday. "This is not the end of deer hunting as we know it, despite this discovery that we made a week before last. Our plan is to work together with all of the members of the General Assembly, all hunters, as well as all Georgians. This gets outside of just those of us that wear camouflage on their day off to manage this disease and maintain a healthy deer herd.

According to the DNR, hunting in Georgia generates about $1.6 billion and supports over 150,000 jobs. Georgia's deer hunting season for firearms generally runs from about mid October to mid January.

"You're not going to hear a lot of positive from the rest of the presentation, but I want you to know that everything is fine as far as our deer herd goes in this state," Santos added.

The misshapen prions can build up in the infected animals' brain over the course of 18 to 30 months before they

See DEER, page 5

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Amid financial woes, Gordon mayor defends travel expenses

Christian McKearney
Times Journal Post

Concerned about its ability to make payroll, the Gordon City Council on Monday voted to transfer $100,000 from its Georgia Fund 1 investment account into its general fund bank account.

From a financial obligations standpoint, however, Gordon still isn't out of the woods yet. Property tax bills, typically mailed out in October, will not be mailed out until mid-February, at the earliest. Like all municipalities in Georgia, the City of Gordon relies heavily on property tax collection to fill out its general fund. The city's monthly payroll typically

via City of Gordon Facebook
Gordon Mayor Aprill Smith was among those in attendance at last weekend's Cities United Summit in Atlanta.

See GORDON, page 3

Twiggs school district says homestead exemption opt-out necessary for financial stability

Mary Helene Hall
Times Journal Post

The Twiggs County School District held the first of three mandatory meetings in order to opt out of the recently-passed floating homestead exemption law.

The law, which passed in November with over 60% of the vote across the state, establishes a "floating homestead exemption." This limits the yearly increase in homestead property tax assessments to the rate of inflation of the previous year.

Local governing bodies, however, are given a one-time chance to opt out of the exemption, meaning the new legislation may not apply to many people across the state. In this case, nothing would change for residents of these areas.

Across the Middle Georgia area, governmental bodies have stated their intent to opt out. Some of these entities include the Bibb, Dublin and Houston school districts, as well as the Cochran city council.

Twiggs Board of Education argues to opt out

Of all these debates on whether or not to opt out, the Twiggs County Board of Education has a particularly heated battle on its hands. The board announced its intent to opt out Jan. 2.

That announcement included no explanation of why the board intended to opt out, but a recent release from the school goes into

See TWIGGS, page 2

Cochran Rotary Club Student of the Month

Nate Knox was recognized as the Cochran Rotary Club Student of the Month. Nate is a graduating senior from Bleckley County High School and is ranked in the top 5 in his class. He chose Madison Smith as his Teacher of the Month.

Pictured L-R are Principal BCHS Brad Knox, Laura Knox, Nate Knox, Madison Smith and Trey Belflower.

- Cochran Rotary Club

Irwinton's Blue Goose sizzles in first-ever rib cook off

Contributed photos

Christian McKearney
Times Journal Post

For many, few things are more awe-inspiring than a hot, glistening rack of ribs straight off the grill.

With this in mind, The Blue Goose on Main recently hosted its first-ever Backyard Rib Cook Off in Irwinton. The Blue Goose, which touts itself as a combination hostel/vintage general store/bakery, also hosts the State Banana Pudding Festival of Georgia each spring.

"It was a great day despite the rain," said Donna Asbell, event coordinator and Blue Goose owner. "I had no real expectations for this first event, but I learned a lot about the competitive side of grilling. These contestants were in it to win it."

The event was fairly serious business, complete with a professional judge and prize money. Jared Rickerson, a local guy, took home the first-place trophy and $400 in cash.

Speaking of local, event organizers made sure to source the meat locally.

"Grillers cooked ribs purchased locally from C&B Meats," Asbell said. "The quality of the meat was very good, and the grillers were the first to compliment the quality of the meat. Each contestant picked up their ribs at 8 a.m. and turn-in to the judges was 1 p.m."

Also coming up with the custom-made trophies was Casslake Offroad Powersport from Gordon.

Upcoming Events

Connection Students Kick Off
Sunday, Feb. 2
6 to 8 p.m.
144 E. Main St. in Irwinton
Connection Church Wilco is not only changing its worship location on Sundays but they are also changing youth groups up. Connection Students will now meet on Sunday evenings. Only 6th through 12th grade students allowed to attend. Kids 5th grade and under are invited to attend Konnection Kids on Sundays at 10 a.m.

Fish Fry for Rescue
Saturday, Feb. 8
3 to 5 p.m.
2271 Hamlin Floyd Road
A celebration of the community and rescue working together to make things better, hosted by Dysfunction Junction Rescue. All donations will go toward the care and feeding of animals. Tickets $18 for adults and $10 for children up to 10 years old. Fried fish, sides, dessert and drinks included. Supervised dog interaction encouraged. Crafts and games available for kids. Opportunities for adoption on site.

Paint Me Irish Paint Party
Saturday, Feb. 8
10 a.m.
216 East Dykes St.
A morning of painting and crafting at The Hen House. Create a door hanger, and all supplies will be provided. The event will be around two hours. $40 for the event including the door hanger.

Public Hearing on Proposed Property Tax Increase
Monday, Feb. 10
10 a.m.
11471 Ga. Hwy. 57
The Wilkinson County Board of Education has tentatively adopted a 2024 millage rate that requires a 9.14% increase in property tax. All concerned citizens are invited to attend this public hearing to discuss the proposed increase.

Allentown City Council Meeting
Monday, Feb. 10
6 p.m.
Allentown Municipal Complex
The Allentown City Council is governed by a Mayor and five council members, elected at-large. The City Council is responsible for enacting ordinances and setting policies and procedures designed to ensure the delivery of quality services to its residents.

Galentine's Charcuterie Board Class
Tuesday, Feb. 11
5 to 7 p.m.
128 E. Main St. in Irwinton
Create your own charcuterie board and take home some delicious charcuterie from the Blue Goose on Main. This is a pop-up artist led class featuring Macon's very own 567 Studio Artist Malissa Kelsey, of MADE by MK. $75 registration fee.

Have an event you want to see in our events calendar? Email details to news@timesjournalpost.com

Twiggs, from 1:

more detail.

"While the exemption offers tax relief to homeowners, it also results in reduced tax revenue from residential properties," an advertisement published by the school district in the Times Journal Post earlier this month said. "Local governments, including school systems, must explore options to offset this loss, such as increasing millage rates."

The school wrote in this ad that their intentions align with 62.8% of school districts across Georgia that have decided to opt out due to financial concerns.

The district must hold three public hearings before they are allowed to pass a resolution to opt out. After that, there are not currently any opportunities to opt back in. If an opportunity arose, it would require a county-wide referendum, the school board said.

The first meeting was scheduled to take place Jan. 10, but it was rescheduled to Jan. 24 due to weather. The next meetings will be Jan. 31 at 9 a.m. and Feb. 7 at 6 p.m. The board must make a decision before March 1.

"We don't have the luxury of time," Assistant Superintendent James Austin said at the first hearing on Jan. 24. "The state has provided strict limitations. We could not advertise anything until after January 1."

Resident dissent

Shortly after the Twiggs Board of Education announced their intent, citizens of the county began discussing frustrations on social media and rallying others to attend the hearings to voice their concerns. In Twiggs County, over 70% of voters were in favor of the statewide ballot measure.

At the first hearing, several citizens took to the podium to inform the board of their stance on opting out of the floating homestead exemption.

"How do y'all as four elected officials go back and pull that power away from the people, whether it's a good bill or a bad bill. That's not the point here," resident Hugh Faulk said. "The point is, what makes our country great and a free country is that, when we vote, our decisions should be upheld."

Attendees also expressed frustration with their tax dollars not being spent appropriately to improve the county. One speaker said the school needs to improve their academic performance with the money they already have.

"We have no young people and young families moving in here, and that's why the (county's population) is getting less and less and less. We're dying out," the resident said. "We're not bringing new people into the county, and they're not going to come here until the school ratings for this public school system go up … The money is not the problem. We've got money. The school system has money. It's not the problem."

Other public officials' opinions

Twiggs Tax Commissioner Buddy Nesmith attended the hearing and shared his take on the law before the public portion of the meeting. He said he was in favor of opting out at first, but after reviewing the bill, he changed his mind.

"I don't like a floating homestead exemption. I love homestead exemptions for homeowners. Don't get me wrong. I'm a proponent of that," Nesmith said. "Floating homestead (exemptions) I don't like because … it does change year-to-year. But that's not a bad thing."

He realized after evaluating the exemption that he couldn't argue to opt out of the exemption when it was clearly what the people of the county wanted.

"The people in Twiggs County voted for this exemption," he said. "Now, there's a lot of things in the exemption that James read out, but that's not what they saw. What they saw was that this is a homestead exemption, they wanted it, they voted for it."

Twiggs Commission Chairman Ken Fowler also spoke briefly at the meeting in favor of the exemption.

Twiggs' status as 'high wealth'

There are state and federal grants that exist to support smaller, less wealthy counties, but because of the way they were set up when established, Twiggs does not benefit from them.

For example, equalization grants exist in order to help counties with a smaller tax base provide a quality public education. But due to the state formula, Twiggs County is considered a "high wealth" county. Conversely, Houston County is considered "low wealth." Superintendent Mack Bullard explained that, because of Twiggs County's wealth status as determined by the formula, the county is required to pay a portion of property tax revenue to the state in order to support low wealth districts.

"They don't care that we only bring in 32% (in property tax revenue). They charge us the full 40%. So we don't really pay five, we pay six mills," Bullard said. The money Twiggs pays out, he said, is around $1.5 million.

He encouraged attendees to write to the state legislature to change the systems.

The full recording of the meeting is available on the Twiggs County Public Schools Facebook page. The next hearing will be Jan. 31 at 9 a.m. in the Board of Education Board Room located at 952 Main St.

Twiggs County Public Schools
A screencap of the public hearing that took place Jan. 24 at the school board meeting.

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NOTICE

The **(Wilkinson County Board of Education)** does hereby announce that the millage rate will be set at a meeting to be held at the **(Wilkinson County Board of Education Board Room)** on **(February 11, 2025)** at **(6:00 PM)** and pursuant to the requirements of O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32 does hereby publish the following presentation of the current year's tax digest and levy, along with the history of the tax digest and levy for the past five years.

CURRENT 2024 PROPERTY TAX DIGEST AND 5 YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY

BOARD OF EDUCATION		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
VALUE	Real & Personal	374,255,165	398,961,047	405,440,662	429,836,242	453,109,470	560,153,605
	Motor Vehicles	9,315,520	7,654,240	6,238,620	5,870,360	5,670,540	5,415,810
	Mobile Homes	3,141,356	3,382,342	3,827,602	4,446,092	4,446,092	5,453,934
	Timber - 100%	6,311,529	7,084,880	6,617,871	3,327,919	7,980,733	3,151,429
	Heavy Duty Equipment	897,240	484,485	642,360	496,960	0	618,439
	Gross Digest	393,920,810	417,566,994	422,767,115	443,977,573	471,206,835	574,793,217
	Less Exemptions	62,693,143	62,295,442	61,617,187	60,139,437	53,866,499	97,657,831
	NET DIGEST VALUE	331,227,667	355,271,552	361,149,928	383,838,136	417,340,336	477,135,386
RATE	**MILLAGE RATE (Maintenance & Operation)**	20.0000	20.0000	19.9800	19.6920	19.6810	18.7500
TAX	**TOTAL M&O TAXES LEVIED**	$6,624,553	$7,105,431	$7,215,776	$7,558,541	$8,213,675	$ 8,946,288.49
	Net Tax $ Increase	($3,145)	$480,878	$110,345	$342,765	$655,134	$ 732,613.33
	Net Tax % Increase	-0.05%	7.26%	1.55%	4.75%	8.67%	8.92%

Ga. Chief Justice pitches judicial pay raises

Dave Williams
Capitol Beat

ATLANTA – Georgia Chief Justice Michael Boggs used his annual State of the Judiciary address to members of the General Assembly Tuesday to plug two bills raising the salaries of superior court and statewide judges.

"An independent judiciary must be able to attract and retain qualified jurists," Boggs told a joint session of the Georgia House and Senate.

House Bill 85 and House Bill 86, which contain the proposed pay hikes, were due to get their first airing Tuesday afternoon in the House Judiciary Committee.

Boggs also praised lawmakers for passing a Senate bill last year aimed at improving security for judges by shielding their personal information such as addresses and phone numbers from the public. He cited a recent increase in threats to Georgia judges, including bomb threats last month that forced the closure and evacuation of the Muscogee County Courthouse.

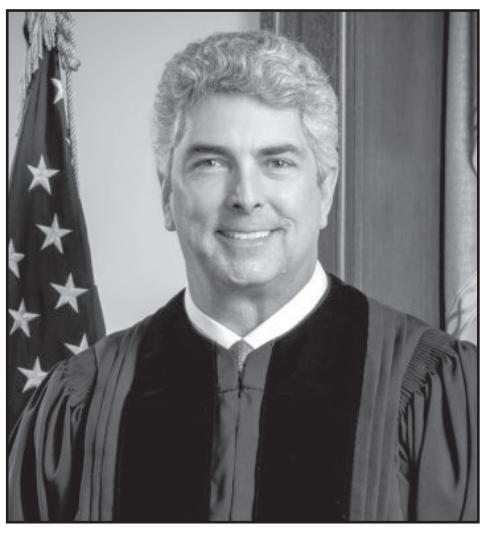
"It is crucial that our courtrooms are secure and those who work within them can perform their duties without fear," Boggs said. "This means not only upgrading our physical security measures but also implementing comprehensive training so that security situations can be handled effectively, or better yet, prevented altogether."

Boggs gave a shout-out to Justice Shawn Ellen LaGrua, who is chairing a committee that developed training sessions last year to help both judges and lawmakers understand how to better protect themselves and their families from security threats.

The chief justice also updated legislators on efforts to gauge the impact of artificial intelligence technology on the state's legal system, allow trial judges to address a shortage of court reporters by using a digital recording system, and encourage more lawyers to practice in rural counties where legal help is scarce.

Boggs singled out Cobb County's Veterans Accountability and Treatment Court program launched in 2014 to improve outcomes for veterans in Georgia's criminal justice system.

And he asked lawmakers to support legislation to end partisan judicial elections in the few remaining probate and magistrate courts across the state that haven't switched to nonpartisan elections.



Michael Boggs

"The moment judges stop interpreting and applying the law as it is written and start making decisions based on their own policy preferences – or when the public starts believing that's what judges are doing or should be doing – our democratic system of government becomes irreparably damaged," he said.

"Simply put, an independent judiciary with respect for the rule of law keeps us from becoming a society in which the guy with the biggest stick is in charge."

Georgia Board of Education updates school safety rule

Dave Williams
Capitol Beat

ATLANTA – The Georgia Board of Education has adopted a requirement aimed at ensuring cooperation between local school systems and public safety experts in the design of school safety policies and infrastructure.

Under an amended rule the state board approved, local boards of education must consult with their municipal or county law enforcement officials, or with emergency management agencies when designing new facilities to house public school students.

"The safety of our students is our highest priority," State School Superintendent Richard Woods said Friday. "By setting the expectation that all local school systems collaborate with law enforcement and emergency management professionals, we are taking an essential step toward ensuring that our schools are designed with safety in mind from the ground up."

The amended rule is expected to allow local school systems to incorporate such security measures as secure entry points, effective surveillance systems, and safe school evacuation routes.

Gov. Brian Kemp is asking the General Assembly to provide an additional $50 million in state grants to improve security in Georgia schools. The added funding would bring the total for the current fiscal year to $158 million.

School security has taken on a greater sense of urgency in Georgia since last September's mass shooting at Apalachee High School near Winder killed two students and two teachers. A 14-year-old student at the school, Colt Gray, was arrested at the scene and charged in the murders.

Gordon, from 1:

comes in between $88,000 to $100,000, depending on overtime accumulated by city employees, excluding water and sewer department employees, who are paid through a different fund.

Mayor Aprill Smith returned home in time to attend the council meeting after spending Saturday, Sunday and part of Monday at the Cities United Summit at the Omni Hotel in Atlanta. This was not lost on Councilwoman Dawn Beck, who made a motion to amend the meeting agenda to include a resolution "to suspend any travel expenses unless it's mandatory, until we're better off financially."

Ultimately, however, the resolution was never brought up for a vote after failing to garner the necessary support from other City Council members.

"If it's travel, I'm gonna tell you, I'm going," Smith said.

"What if we ain't got no money? Are you still going?" asked Beck.

"It's in the budget," the mayor replied. "I literally just left the (state) capital today, trying to fight for this city. And if it means traveling, I'm gonna do it."

At a regular meeting earlier this month, Smith informed the council that the city's general fund was down to roughly $40,000. The city's monthly payroll typically comes in between $88,000 to $100,000, depending on overtime accrued by city employees, excluding water and sewer department employees, who are paid through a different fund.

The county commission is scheduled to approve its millage rate at its regular meeting early next week, while the School Board is expected to follow suit on Feb. 10. Property tax collection won't immediately begin rolling in, however, as property owners have 60 days to pay their bill before accruing any penalties or interest.

Have photos, news or events you want to share?

Go to our website, email news@timesjournal-post.com or message the Times Journal Post on Facebook to submit content. You may spot it in the next edition of the TJP!

NOTICE TO QUALIFY FOR MAYOR AND COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF IVEY

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Ivey City Hall
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THE QUALIFYING FEE FOR MAYOR IS $108.00 THE QUALIFYING FEE FOR COUNCIL IS $72.00 (GA CODE § 21-2-131)

ELECTION DATE IS NOVEMBER 4, 2025

Housing Authority of the City of Cochran

Public Notice
Notice is hereby given, that quarterly meetings of the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the City of Cochran will be held on the following dates for calendar year 2025:

January 27, 2025
April 28, 2025
July 28, 2025
September 22, 2025

All meetings will be held at the Housing Authority's office located at 172 Limestone Rd, Cochran GA 31014 at 7:00 pm.

Cynthia Hutchison
Executive Director
Housing Authority of the City of Cochran

Equal Housing Opportunity

Obituaries

David Lee Middleton

DANVILLE, GA – David Lee "Dave" Middleton, 74, of Cool Springs Rd. passed away Saturday January 25, 2025 at his residence.

Visitation will be held Thursday Jan. 30, 2025, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. in historic Old Richland Baptist Church. Services will immediately follow the visitation. Burial will be Friday January 31, 2025 at 2:00PM in Carolina Memorial Gardens in North Charleston, South Carolina. Rev. Brad East, Pastor Matt Green, and Pastor Jeff Barron will officiate.

Mr. Middleton was born in Pittsfield, Illinois, the son of the late William Earl Middleton and Virginia Reel Middleton. He was preceded in death by his wife Gretta Sullivan Middleton, and his sister and brother-in-law, Cheryl and Charles Rheynard.

Dave proudly served his country in the United States Navy as an ordinance mechanic aboard the USS Sam Houston. His career at McDonnell Douglas/Boeing spanned 31 years (1978-2009) supporting the US Air Force as the Technical Order Publications manager for the F-4 and F-15 aircraft support equipment. Dave later served the USAF (2009-2015) as the CV-22 Flight Manual manager.

After retirement, Mr. Middleton remained active in his county, serving as President of the Richland Restoration League, as an Executive member of the Twiggs County GOP and volunteering as a tutor for the Jeffersonville Elementary School reading program.

Mr. Middleton was an active member of Dudley Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife Elaine Fowler Johnson Middleton, his sons, Benjamin (Sarah) Middleton and Robert (Meghan) Middleton, his Step-Daughters, Jeri(Terry) Johnson Fountain, Janice LaDonna Johnson, and Kenna Elaine Johnson Moceri, his Brother, Gregg (Regina) Middleton and seven grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the American Cancer Society or charity of your choice.

Visit www.reecefuneralhomeinc.com to express tributes.

Reece Funeral Home in Jeffersonville has charge of the arrangements.

NEW SOUTHERN DAD

Snake boots'll do: An experience with snow

Kyle Dominy

The snow started falling early Tuesday afternoon. Though the weather reports had forewarned that such a meteorological event could occur, I stared out of the window in a state of wonder and disbelief. I can count on one hand the number of times I've seen little flecks of frozen water softly drifting from the atmosphere.

Not that I'm not well traveled. I've been to New York at Christmastime, when snow is common but is quickly pushed to the side by plows or trampled by the endless parade of people and becomes a gray sludge piled in gutters and the corners of busy sidewalks. I've been in the deserts out west, where even in the late spring the temperature drops well below freezing as the sun sets. You wake up to a dusting of snow and ice but quickly shed your coat and scarf as the sun peeks above the horizon and quickly heats things up.

They say it's a dry heat, but so is my oven. One hundred degrees is 100 degrees.

But this kind of snowfall is a rare experience. I was still at the window, slack jawed, pondering if I could believe what I was seeing, while my family was already donning jackets and hats. If seeing isn't believing, feeling certainly does the trick. I snapped from my stupor and followed them outside.

To a child unaccustomed to winter precipitation, snow is nothing short of a miracle. It's something only seen in movies or TV shows, hyped up to have magical effects on the environment. My two kids certainly didn't waste time enjoying this phenomenon. Like prisoners escaped from the darkest dungeon, they ran around wildly, arms outstretched, faces turned up catching the cold specks on their cheeks and tongues.

We watched the snow until our noses turned red and fingers ached from the cold. An hour or so later, warmed and rejuvenated, we ventured back out. A second miracle had happened: the snow was beginning to accumulate. There was now enough to make snowballs, which I was pelted with. Another first for me I believe. The weather revealed no sign of weakness, no hint of giving up and we took full advantage, even scraping up enough for a little snowman. More of a snow blob really. We called it Monticello.

I learned that snake boots double well as snowshoes. A #10 scoop makes a great snow shovel and further proves itself as the most versatile piece of equipment in my shop.

As day gave way to night, the snow continued to pile up. There was as much as three inches in some places, based on the imprint of my snake boot. Standing alone in the darkness, I took advantage of the quiet, lifting my face towards the sky to feel the still falling snow.

Lily, Trevor and I (our dog Zelda snuck into the pic) show off our snowblob, Monticello.

I'm writing this early Wednesday morning. It's about 5:30 a.m. and it's dark and quiet. All work must be done quickly, because when the dawn breaks we're going to have another first for my house – a snow day.

You can reach Kyle Dominy at k.l.dominy@gmail.com or write to 115 S. Jefferson Street Dublin, Ga. 31021.

JUST JERRI

Are you going the wrong way?

Jerri Tuck

The Philadelphia Eagles are headed to Super Bowl LIX. Sunday's 55-23 win over the Washington Commanders are a big reason why. They will be playing the Kansas City Chiefs who, in a nail-biting win, beat the Buffalo Bills 32-29.

We've been football fans for many years. When our kids were in high school, we never missed a game. Not only was my husband the Bleckley Band Booster President, but we had three children in the band. Linda was a flag girl; Sandy a rifle girl, and our son Jeff played the trumpet.

Those were fun years for us as a family. There's just something about small town athletic events that can give you excitement that no other type of entertainment can.

There were several times that we got tickled as football players got confused in the excitement of it all and started running in the wrong direction but quickly realized their mistake and turned around.

Running the football in the wrong direction is nothing new. Back in the sixties a player by the name of Jim Marshall had one of life's most embarrassing moments when, on October 25, 1964, in a game against the San Francisco 49ers, he recovered a fumble and ran sixty-six yards the wrong way into his own end zone.

Another "wrong way" football player preceded Marshall by nearly 40 years and did his gaffe before the world at the 1929 Rose Bowl in Pasadena, CA. The run, considered by many to be the worst blunder in the history of college football, happened midway through the second quarter of the game.

Playing for the University of California against Georgia Tech, Roy Riegels played center. It was January 1 and the stands were packed. Riegels picked up a fumble, much like Marshall did. He was thirty yards from Tech's end zone.

Somehow Riegels got turned around and ran sixty-nine yards in the wrong direction. People in the stands went wild. Fans on both sides were screaming and Riegels kept running. One of his teammates finally caught up with him at California's 3-yard line. He was tackled back to the 1-yard line. Georgia Tech then had a 2-0 lead and ultimately won the game 8-7.

Wrong ways are not limited to football players. Probably the most infamous wrong-way person we've ever heard about was Douglas Corrigan, an American aviator who flew from Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn, NY to Ireland in 1938.

Corrigan's flight plan was supposed to land him in Long Beach, CA, but his arrival was definitely off the planned path. Corrigan always claimed it was a navigational error caused by heavy cloud cover; however, he gained the distinction of being known throughout history as Wrong-Way Corrigan.

The New York Post ran their headlines in backward print, "Wrong-Way Corrigan." I doubt Corrigan was amused by the headlines.

We read the reports of these past events and have to laugh at the scenes and feel bad for the humiliation they must have endured. Riegels never wanted to play football again and certainly not in the same game in which he ran the wrong way.

Later, motivational speakers would use all of these incidences to encourage their listeners to get back in the game. Come on. You can do it. Try it again, don't give up.

Real life however is not a game. One day life is over and we're in the end zone. It makes no difference that we were sincere. If we are sincerely wrong, we will find no Heaven, but only eternal separation from God forever.

We won't be able to blame the clouds or the weather. We won't be able to claim our intentions were good. The only thing that will matter is what direction we were going.

Shut out the noises of the grandstand. This is your run. This is your flight. You will have to live with your choice of direction for eternity.

Jesus Christ said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh unto the Father but by me" (John 14:6). Either He was telling the truth or He was the biggest liar that ever lived. What do you say?

Jerri Tuck is a regular columnist for the TJP. In each column, Jerri seeks to bring Biblical truths to light with the prayer that each article will bring "inspiration, information and illumination." Her books are available on Amazon in print and on Kindle.

TIMES JOURNAL POST

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No setback will set us back.

DETERMINATION

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THE FOUNDATION FOR A BETTER LIFE
www.forbetterlife.org

INTENT TO OPT OUT OF HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

The Twiggs County Board of Education intends to opt out of the statewide adjusted base year ad valorem homestead exemption for Twiggs County School District. All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearing on this matter to be held at **the Board Room, 952 Main Street, Jeffersonville, GA 31044**, on **February 7th, 2025 at 6PM**.

This hearing will provide information about HB 581, explain the opt- out process, and gather community feedback.

Contributed by Jill Williams to Georgia Recorder

A doe and two fawns at Red Top Mountain State Park. The state is responding to a positive case of chronic wasting disease in a deer harvested in south Georgia

Deer, from 1:

show any symptoms, but they can spread the disease before they appear ill, Johansson said.

"It will look perfectly healthy until the last few weeks or months of the disease course, and that's when you'll see that wasting that gives it its title," she said. "At some point, it starts to shed these infectious prions. Those are shed in saliva, they're shed in urine, they're shed in feces. They're exposing other deer to these prions long before they show any symptoms. They're also contaminating their environment."

Deer can spread the disease simply by rubbing noses, and waste and carcasses can spread it onto the landscape, where it can linger far longer than the average virus.

"The prions, what's their life span outside on the ground?" Asked committee Chairman Trey Rhodes, a Greensboro Republican.

"Indefinite," Johansson said. "Proteins, as you know, are the building block of the physical body, and so these prions are difficult to destroy. Their infectivity is really unknown once it's out on the landscape. We know it varies, but it's not something that you can cook out of the meat or put in the freezer first and then it's safer to eat. It's something that is going to stay out there for a long time."

According to the Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there have been no known cases of CWD in humans, but the CDC strongly recommends having deer or elk tested and not eating any meat from an animal that tests positive.

A similar disease, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, also known as mad cow disease, can lead to illness and death in humans.

In addition to offering testing, the DNR will increase its monitoring efforts, which involve working with meat processors and taxidermists to monitor the deer population. Participating processors will send samples to a lab at the University of Georgia's College of Veterinary Medicine. The testing process typically takes about two weeks, and hunters will be notified of their results.

The process will not prevent hunters from keeping the deers' antlers.

Georgia is not likely to ever eradicate the disease entirely, but Johansson said the state is in a better position because it has had time to draw up plans and learn from other states. She said DNR has been monitoring for CWD for about 20 years and is the 36th state to detect the disease.

"CWD is likely here to stay, unless we're one of the very, very fortunate few who have found it very, very, very early," she said. "We will have to continually do surveillance and we will have to do adaptive management, and by that, I mean we will continue to learn from other states, we'll learn from ourselves and we'll adapt our plans moving forward."

Letters to the Editor

The 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act , also known as Trump's tax plan, gave away to powerful corporations and the ultra wealthy $1 trillion. This time around Trump's tax proposals would save the top 1% over $36,000 in annual taxes while the bottom 85% would see tax increases of between $790 and $1790. The cost would be $4 trillion.

Tell your Congressman to vote against Trump's disastrous tax cuts and to support new taxes on the super rich and corporations, including wealth taxes.

- John Ricks

To submit a letter to the editor, email news@timesjournalpost.com with your letter of no more than 200 words. Name, address, and contact info required. Content may be edited for clarity or length.

Notice of Public Hearing

The Twiggs County Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing on Thursday, February 20, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. The property is owned by Stroud and Company and is located at Highway 96 West, (T0103-002) Jeffersonville, Ga 31044. It is 31.27 acres. The property is currently zoned as Agriculture (A) and requests a rezoning to General Commercial (GC) Zoning District.

The meeting will be conducted in the Twiggs County Courtroom located in the Courthouse, 425 Railroad Street North, Jeffersonville, Georgia.
The public are invited to attend. Should you desire any information concerning this rezoning request, please contact the Twiggs County Planning and Zoning Office at (478) 945-3629 Option 1.

Monte Bloodworth, Administrator
Twiggs County Planning and Zoning

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: WILKINSON COUNTY SCHOOLS HB581 OPT OUT

Wilkinson County Schools would like to announce its intent to opt out of the homestead exemption offered by House Bill 581.

HB 581, passed by the Georgia General Assembly in 2024, introduces a floating statewide homestead exemption that limits tax increases in taxable home values to the prior year's inflation rate.

The law allows local governing authorities to opt out of the homestead exemption following three public hearings. Wilkinson County Schools will hold the first hearing on February 10, 2025, at 9:30 A.M. at the Wilkinson County Schools Auditorium, 11471 Ga. Hwy. 57, Irwinton, GA 31042. The two remaining hearings will be held February 10, 2025, at 5:30 P.M. and February 17, 2025, at 6:00 P.M. at the Wilkinson County Schools Auditorium, 11471 Ga. Hwy. 57, Irwinton, GA 31042.

Following the public hearings, the Wilkinson County Board of Education will vote on the resolution to opt out of HB 581 before the March 1, 2025 deadline, during a called meeting on February 18, 2025, at 10:00 A.M. in the Wilkinson County Board of Education Board Room, located at 197 W Main Street, Irwinton, GA 31042.

NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The Wilkinson County Board of Education has tentatively adopted a 2024 millage rate which will require an increase in property tax by **9.14** percent.

All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearing on the tax increase to be held at the Wilkinson County Schools Auditorium, 11471 Ga. Hwy. 57, Irwinton, GA 31042, on January 31, 2025, at 10:00 A.M.

Times and places of additional public hearings on this tax increase are at the Wilkinson County Schools Auditorium, 11471 Ga. Hwy. 57, Irwinton, GA 31042, on February 10, 2025, at 10:00 A.M and 6:00 P.M.

This tentative increase will result in a millage rate of **18.750** mills, a decrease of **0.931** mills from the current millage rate of **19.681** mills and an increase of **1.571** mills above the proposed rollback rate of **17.179**. Without this tentative increase, the millage rate will be no more than **17.179** mills. The proposed tax increase for a home with a fair market value of **$125,000** is approximately **$78.55** per year and the proposed tax increase for non-homestead property with a fair market value of **$100,000** is approximately **$62.84** per year.

INTENT TO OPT OUT OF HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

The Wilkinson County Board of Education intends to opt out of the statewide adjusted base year ad valorem homestead exemption for the Wilkinson County School District.

All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearing on this matter to be held at the Wilkinson County Schools Auditorium, 11471 Ga. Hwy. 57, Irwinton, GA 31042, on February 10, 2025, at 9:30 A.M.

Times and places of additional public hearings on this matter will be held at the Wilkinson County Schools Auditorium, 11471 Ga. Hwy. 57, Irwinton, GA 31042, on February 10, 2025, at 5:30 P.M., and February 17, 2025, at 6:00 P.M.

PRESS RELEASE ANNOUNCING A PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The Wilkinson County Board of Education today announces its intentions to increase the 2024 property taxes it will levy this year by 9.14 percent over the rollback millage rate.

When the total digest of taxable property is prepared, Georgia law requires a rollback millage rate be computed that will produce the same total revenue on the current year's digest that last year's millage rate would have produced had no reassessment occurred.

All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearings on this tax increase to be held at the Wilkinson County Schools Auditorium, 11471 Ga. Hwy. 57, Irwinton, GA 31042, on January 31, 2025, at 10:00 A.M. and February 10, 2025, at 10:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M.

WEEKLY RECIPE

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES JOURNAL POST

Breakfast has long been touted as the most important meal of the day. After individuals spend several hours sleeping, breakfast refuels their bodies and prepares them to tackle the day ahead.

People on the go may not have a lot of time to enjoy breakfast, which means they may grab something quick and not always so healthy. But a filling, hot breakfast provides enough sustenance and nutrients to last until lunch. Such is the case with "Green Chile Breakfast Burritos" from "Taste of Home Healthy Cooking Cookbook" (RDA Enthusiast Brands, LLC) by the Taste of Home Kitchens.

Green Chile Breakfast Burritos
Makes 6 servings

Ingredients
6 eggs
3 egg whites
1 jalapeño pepper (minced)
dash of cayenne pepper
4 turkey sausage links
3/4 cup Mexican cheese shred
4 oz chopped, drained green chiles
6 tortillas (8 inches), warmed
6 tablespoons salsa

Instructions

1.) In a small bowl, whisk the eggs, egg whites, jalapeño and cayenne; set aside.

2.) Crumble sausage into a large skillet; cook over medium heat until no longer pink. Drain. Push sausage to the sides of pan. Pour egg mixture into center of pan. Cook and stir until set. Sprinkle with cheese and chiles. Remove from the heat, cover and let stand until cheese is melted.

3.) Place 1/3 cup mixture off center on each tortilla. Fold sides and end over filling; roll up. Top with salsa.

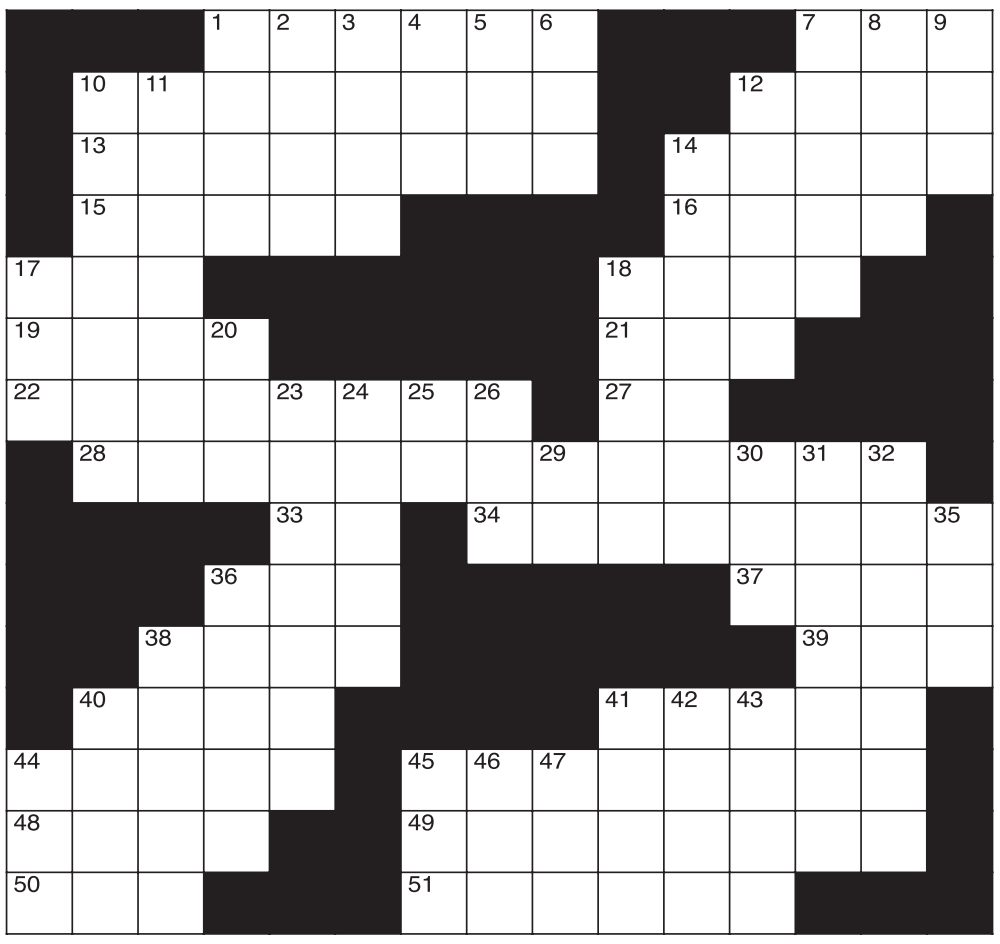
SLOW COOKING WORD SEARCH

M	H	A	N	B	H	S	H	E	K	N	E	N	B	N	K	H	H	Z	H
G	M	G	H	U	U	R	S	N	K	Z	H	A	E	M	E	I	R	H	L
N	L	O	L	G	E	U	D	O	E	O	R	D	O	T	K	P	M	C	E
C	W	B	N	P	A	O	I	A	M	B	M	L	O	A	S	K	G	Z	O
Z	D	T	H	I	U	H	O	U	E	N	H	S	B	G	Z	A	I	M	T
H	I	W	E	N	A	I	E	C	E	O	G	T	G	N	U	L	B	S	U
A	W	Z	P	M	E	R	U	R	E	M	M	I	S	I	E	N	N	T	W
A	W	O	G	P	P	E	U	L	M	I	K	N	W	M	O	A	N	E	L
I	P	N	L	G	D	E	H	C	N	A	L	B	A	I	A	Z	C	W	E
L	T	L	R	S	H	E	R	B	K	T	N	R	N	T	R	H	I	I	R
U	R	I	N	E	H	R	C	A	T	C	A	G	S	H	B	N	G	K	I
N	C	Z	I	N	D	E	A	U	T	C	E	P	I	C	E	R	Z	R	G
L	L	O	T	S	B	N	E	Z	D	U	P	U	L	B	L	L	K	M	U
G	B	M	O	M	T	S	E	H	Z	E	R	N	U	M	R	B	O	D	D
B	W	L	S	K	Z	M	N	T	T	L	R	E	E	R	O	A	B	H	A
T	E	D	I	E	I	B	S	G	D	D	G	A	L	U	R	I	I	T	P
L	K	B	I	L	N	N	G	E	B	D	L	C	R	O	A	S	T	S	P
W	O	K	A	M	A	H	G	R	A	S	R	I	H	E	O	C	N	P	E
Z	E	W	E	R	A	P	E	R	P	R	Z	Z	E	H	C	R	S	U	K
A	M	H	L	W	H	O	O	K	I	C	E	C	N	E	I	T	A	P	P

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

BARBECUE
BASTE
BLANCH
BRAISE
CARAMELIZE
COOKING
HOURS
LOW
MEALS
PATIENCE
PREPARE
RECIPE
REDUCE
ROAST
SEAR
SIMMER
SLOW
SMOKE
STEW
TEMPERATURE
TENDER
TIMING



CLUES ACROSS

1. Where entertainers perform
7. Miller beer variety
10. Ageless
12. River in SE Europe
13. Able to be repaired
14. Type of wrap
15. Atomic #54
16. Type of tent
17. U.S. Treasury position
18. Opposed to
19. Protective covering
21. Bridge building degree
22. Clouding of the lens
27. Priestess of Hera loved by Zeus
28. Unacceptable
33. Mr. T's "The A-Team" character
34. American national park
36. One point south of due east
37. Assist in a crime
38. Greek mythological personification of Earth
39. A major division of geological time
40. German courtesy title
41. English family dating back to Norman times
44. Discounts
45. South American nation
48. Former Milwaukee Buck Michael
49. Hostile
50. Passports and drivers licenses are two
51. Discourages from doing

CLUES DOWN

1. Supreme god of ancient Egyptians
2. Nevada city
3. Energy, style and enthusiasm
4. Bird's beak
5. Language
6. Midway between south and southeast
7. Punjab village
8. Small biting flies
9. Sportscaster Patrick
10. A way to get around
11. Repeat
12. A way to cook with fat
14. Temporary loss of consciousness
17. Reciprocal of a sine
18. Fir tree genus
20. "Transformers" director Michael
23. Criminals who steal
24. Genus of leaf-footed bug
25. Music product
26. "Talk to you"
29. Santa says it three times
30. Doctors' group
31. African nation
32. Ageless
35. When you hope to get somewhere
36. Worn
38. Deprives of vigor
40. Used to have (Scottish)
41. Where you live
42. Muslim ruler title
43. Basics
44. Type of drug (abbr.)
45. Spanish soldier
46. It precedes two
47. Illuminated

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to slow cooking.

M S R M E I

Answer: Simmer

GUESS WHO?

I am a performer born in Indiana on January 29, 1982. I got my start doing local theater while in school. Eventually, I moved to Los Angeles to pursue a musical career. I was an "American Idol" runner-up, and released an album in 2009.

Answer: Adam Lambert

CRYPTO FUN

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Solve the code to discover words related to slow cooking.
Each number corresponds to slow cooking.
(Hint: 22 = E)

A. 24 26 11 9 26 20
Clue: Not quickly

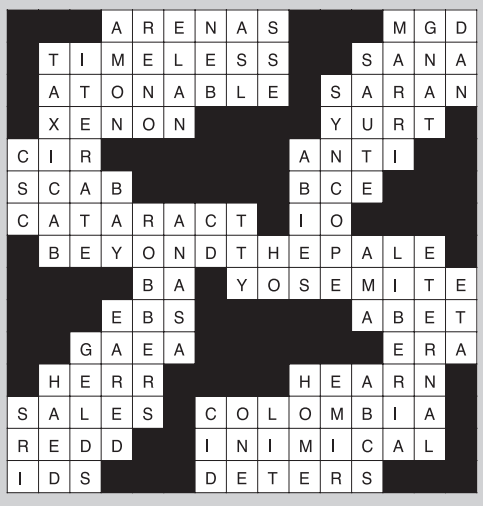
B. 14 10 11 14 6
Clue: Ceramic vessel

C. 15 18 17 10 22 23 15 22 18 16 24
Clue: Parts of a recipe

D. 14 11 5 22 10 22 23
Clue: With the top on

Answers: A. slowly B. crock C. ingredients D. covered

CROSSWORD ANSWERS



Legals

Bleckley Co. Legals

C25-008
NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF BLECKLEY

In Re: Estate Of: Bonnijean Daniels Bollinger, deceased; Estate No.: 2024P90
All creditors of the Estate of Bonnijean Daniels Bollinger, deceased, late of Bleckley County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment of me.

NAME: ALISA BOLLINGER,
Executrix of the Estate of
Bonnijean Daniels Bollinger, Deceased
ADDRESS: 320 Bishop Circle,
St. Mary's, Georgia 31558

ATTORNEY:
Sarah Riedel
Banks and Riedel, P.C.
970 Walnut St.
Macon, Georgia 31201
Phone No.: (478) 254-3230
Facsimile: (478) 254-3883
banksnriedel@gmail.com
January 23, 30, February 6, 13, 2025

C25-004
This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER GEORGIA, BLECKLEY COUNTY
Under and by virtue of Power of Sale contained in Deed to Secure Debt from **Frank Blackshear, as Trustee of the Blackshear Living Trust, UA,** to Irish Real Estate Guy, LLC, dated February 6, 2024, filed for record February 6, 2024, recorded at Deed Book 477, Page 282, **Bleckley** County, Georgia Records, in the original principal amount of $50,500.00. Said Security Deed being given to secure the obligations of Grantor to Lender as set forth in a Promissory Note ("Note") of even date as amended, modified, or revised from time to time with interest at the rate specified therein, there will be sold, by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, before the Courthouse Door at BLECKLEY County, Georgia, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in February 2025, the following described property:
The Land referred to herein below is situated in the County of Bleckley, State of Georgia, and is described as follows:
That tract of land with dwelling house located thereon which has the address of 239 Ash Street, Cochran, Georgia 31014 (Tax ID A16 128), in the City of Cochran in Land Lot 142 of the 21st Land District of Bleckley County, Georgia, as shown by plat of survey made by John W. Dye, Registered land Surveyor, dated February 8, 1977, recorded in Plat Book 4, Page 395, in the Office of the Clerk of Bleckley County Superior Court at Cochran, Georgia, particularly described as follows: BEGIN AT A POINT marked by a stake on the northwest right of way line of Ash Street at its intersection with the southwest line of a fifteen foot alley or lane and from said point of beginning run north 43 degrees 40 minutes west 210 feet along the southwest line of said alley to a corner point; thence run south 45 degrees west 105 feet to a corner point marked by a stake; thence run south 43 degrees 40 minutes east 210 feet along the northeast line of lands now or formerly of Patricia A. Brown and Randy Levan Brown to a corner point marked by a stake on the northwest right of way line of Ash Street; and thence run north 45 degrees east 105 feet along the northwest right of way line of Ash Street to the point of beginning. The foregoing described tract of land is the same as that tract of land conveyed from FRANKL. BLACKSHEAR AS TRUSTEE OF 348 WEST 122nd STREET TRUST to FRANK BLACKSHEAR, AS TRUSTEE OF THE BLACKSHEAR LIVING TRUST, U/A dated July 22, 2021 by Warranty Deed dated December 29, 2023, recorded in Deed Book 476, Pages 534-535, Bleckley County Records.
Said legal description is controlling however, the property is commonly known as 239 Ash Street, Cochran, Georgia 31014. PARCEL # A16 128
The indebtedness secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of default under the terms of said Security Deed and Note, including, but not limited to, the nonpayment of the indebtedness as and when due. The indebtedness remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same, all expenses of the sale, including attorneys' fees and other payments provided for under the terms of the Security Deed and Note.
Said property will be sold subject to the following items which may affect the title to said property: all zoning ordinances; matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or by inspection of the property; any outstanding taxes, including but not limited to, ad valorem taxes, which constitute liens upon said property; special assessments; and all outstanding bills for public utilities which constitute liens upon said property; To the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the property of Frank Blackshear, as Trustee of the Blackshear Living Trust, UA, and / or tenant(s).
The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the United States Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed. Irish Real Estate Guy, LLC and its counsel are acting as debt collectors. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
21ST MORTGAGE CORPORATION as Attorney-in-Fact for Frank Blackshear, as Trustee of the Blackshear Living Trust, UA
Contact: Jason Godwin
Godwin Law Group
3985 Steve Reynolds Blvd, Bldg D
Norcross, GA 30093
Phone: 470-427-2683
Email: jgodwin@godwinlawgroup.com
January 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025

C25-009
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF BLECKLEY COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF
JORDYN KELLIE CHAMBERS, MINOR
JUSTIN CORDERO CHAMBERS, JR, MINOR
ESTATE NO. 2024P77 & 2024P78
NOTICE
TO: QUATESIA JOCQUELL DAVIS
You are hereby notified that James and Jeanette Chambers has filed Petitions seeking to be appointed temporary guardians of the above-named minors. All objections to the Petition to the appointment of a temporary guardian or the appointment of the Petitioner(s) as temporary guardian(s),
must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and be filed with this Court no later than fourteen (14) days after this notice is mailed, or ten (10) days after this notice is personally served upon you, or ten (10) days after the second publication of this notice if you are served by publication. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or Georgia 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.
NOTE: If a natural guardian files a timely objection to the creation of the temporary guardianship, the Petition will be dismissed. If a natural guardian files an objection to the appointment of the Petitioner(s) as guardian(s), or if a parent who is not a natural guardian files an objection to the Petition, a hearing on the matter shall be (scheduled at a later date). If no objection is filed, the Petition may be granted without a hearing.
Jonathan R. Fordham
Judge of the Probate Court
Bleckley County
112 North 2nd Street
Cochran, Ga 31014
January 23, 30, 2025

C25-007
NOTICE OF INCORPORATION
Notice is hereby given that articles of incorporation that will incorporate NEWJUS LTD. have been delivered to the Secretary of State for filing in accordance with the Georgia Business Corporation Code. The initial registered office of the corporation is located at 119 Jessup Street, Cochran, GA 31014 and its initial registered agent at such address is Marcus Newson.
January 23, 30, 2025

C25-005
Take notice that:
The right to redeem the following described property, to wit:
ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 154, 21ST DISTRICT, BLECKLEY COUNTY, GEORGIA, CONTAINING 0.96 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, BEING PARCEL 1, AND IS SHOWN ON A PLAT SURVEY RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 146, PAGE 53. SAID PLAT BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE THERETO. THIS IS THE SAME PROPERTY THAT IS MORE SPECIFICALLY DESCRIBED IN A DEED OF RECORD IN DEED BOOK 420, PAGE 398, BLECKLEY COUNTY, GEORGIA PUBLIC RECORDS.
Current Map and Parcel No. B370 79 A
will expire and be forever foreclosed and barred on and after the 3rd day of February 2025.
The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated the 7th day of November 2023 and is recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Bleckley County, Georgia, in Deed Book 476 at page 27.
The property may be redeemed at any time before the 3rd day of February 2025 by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address:
Daniels Law LLC
212 Main Street
PO BOX 4939
Eastman, Georgia 31023
Be governed accordingly.
/s/ Ronald Edward Daniels
January 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025

C25-006
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
RE: ESTATE OF GARY LEE ABNEY, DECEASED
All creditors of the Estate of Gary Lee Abney, deceased, late of Bleckley County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to Executor.
This 6th day of January, 2025.
Betty Abney King, Executor
413 Durham Street
Hamlet, North Carolina 28345
January 16, 23, 30, February 6, 2025

C25-011
PROBATE COURT OF BLECKLEY COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
In Re: ESTATE OF
MARY MAGDALENE CHEEK POWELL, Deceased
Estate No. 2025P2
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE
TO: All interested persons: Billy W. Powell has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the Estate of **Mary Magdalene Cheek Powell,** deceased, of said County. The Petitioner have also applied for waiver of bond, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. Section 53-12-264. All interested parties 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 February 26, 2025. All pleadings/objections must be signed before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your pleadings/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.
/s/ Jonathan R. Fordham, Probate Judge

Joseph I. Marchant, LLC
Attorney at Law
Post Office Box 4218
Eastman, GA 31023
478/374-1505
January 30, February 6, 13, 20, 2025

C25-010

ABSOLUTE ESTATE AUCTION
To Settle The Frank Wall, Jr. Estate
AUCTION 1 - 80± GUNS
SAT., February. 1ST @ 10:30 A.M.
SALE SITE: Jones County Lions Club Building
401 Highway 18 East, Gray
Benelli, Beretta, Browning (26), Franchi (2), Remington (8), Winchester (24) and others....
Inspection: Fri, January 31st from 10:00 - 5:00 P.M.
AUCTION 2 - EQUIPMENT
SAT., February. 8TH @ 10:30 A.M.
SALE SITE: 1975 Bell Wood Road, Irwinton, GA
Contruction Equipment, Trucks, Farm Equipment, Forklifts, 80± Van Trailers/Flatbeds, Miscellaneous and more....
Inspection: Sun., Feb. 2nd from 1:00 - 5:00 P.M. and Fri., Feb. 7th from 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
For A Complete List of ALL tems Being Offered Visit Our Website
HUDSON & MARSHALL AUCTION MARKETING
800-841-9400
HudsonMarshall.com
GAL 274

C25-003
This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER GEORGIA, BLECKLEY COUNTY
Under and by virtue of Power of Sale contained in Security Deed from **David Jermaine Walker and Candice Slappy Walker** to 21st Mortgage Corporation, dated October 24, 2019, filed for record October 28, 2019, recorded at Deed Book 436, Page 530, Bleckley County, Georgia Records, in the original principal amount of $124,613.50., aforesaid records to secure the obligations of Grantor to Lender as set forth in a Promissory Note ("Note") of even date as amended, modified, or revised from time to time, with interest at the rate specified therein, there will be sold, by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, before the Courthouse Door at **BLECKLEY COUNTY**, Georgia, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in **February 2025**, the following described property:
All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Land Lot 185 of the 21st
Land District, Bleckley County, Georgia, and being known and designated as Parcel "I", comprising 3.000 acres, as is more particularly shown on a plat of survey prepared by Terry M. Scarborough, G.R.L.S. No. 2223, dated September 16, 2005, and recorded in Plat Cabinet B, Slide 89□4, Clerks Office, Bleckley Superior Court. Said Plat and the recorded copy thereof are hereby made a part of this description by reference thereto for all purposes.
Said legal description is controlling however, the property is commonly known as 132 Crane Road, Cochran, Georgia 31014.
Map and Parcel B37-013.
The indebtedness secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of default under the terms of said Security Deed and Note, including, but not limited to, the nonpayment of the indebtedness as and when due. The indebtedness remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same, all expenses of the sale, including attorneys' fees and other payments provided for under the terms of the Security Deed and Note.
Said property will be sold subject to the following items which may affect the title to said property: all zoning ordinances; matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or by inspection of the property; any outstanding taxes, including but not limited to, ad valorem taxes, which constitute liens upon said property; special assessments; and all outstanding bills for public utilities which constitute liens upon said property; To the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the property is **David Jermaine Walker and Candice Slappy Walker** and /or tenant(s).
The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the United States Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed. 21ST Mortgage Corporation, and its counsel are acting as debt collectors. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
21ST MORTGAGE CORPORATION, as Attorney-in-Fact for David Jermaine Walker and Candice Slappy Walker.
Contact: Jason Godwin
Godwin Law Group
3985 Steve Reynolds Blvd, Bldg D
Norcross, GA 30093
Phone: 470-427-2683
Email: jgodwin@godwinlawgroup.com
January 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025

Twiggs Co. Legals

T25-002
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF BLECKLEY COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF SUE ELLEN BUSH, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 2025P1
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE
TO: whom it may concern:
LAURA SUZANNE WRIGHT has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of SUE ELLEN BUSH deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of statements, waiver of reports, 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 March 3, 2025.
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.
Jonathan R. Fordham
Judge of the Probate Court
112 Second Street
Cochran, GA 31014
478-934-3200 Ext. 4
January 30, February 6, 13, 20, 2025

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF TWIGGS COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF RALPH QUINCY PINNELL, SR, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. P-24-083
NOTICE PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATOR
TO: WHOM IT MAY CONCERN
Ralph Quincy "Quinn" Pinnell, Jr. has petitioned to be appointed successor administrator of the estate of **Ralph Quincy Pinnell, Sr.** 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 February 3, 2025.
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.
Gary Nobles, Jr.
Judge of the Probate Court
By: Diane H. Robinson
Clerk of the Probate Court
Twiggs County Probate Court
425 Railroad St. N. PO Box 186
Jeffersonville, GA 31044
478-945-3390
Jan 16, 23, 30, Feb 6, 2025

T25-003
NOTICE OF REGISTRATION OF TRADE NAME
Notice is hereby given that the business operated at 159 Kaolin Heights Road, Dry Branch, Georgia 31020 is the trade name of Profit Plus is owned and carried on by Bandman Services, LLC, whose address is 159 Kaolin Heights Road, Dry Branch, GA 31020 and the statement relating thereto required by O.C.G.A. Section 10-1-490 et seq., has been filed with the Clerk of the Superior Court of Twiggs County, Georgia.
January 30, February 6, 2025

Wilkinson Co. Legals

W25-004
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF WILKINSON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF BRIAN KEITH SCARBROUGH, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 232
NOTICE OF PETITION TO FILE FOR YEAR'S SUPPORT
The petition of **Karen Vitek Scarbrough,** deceased, for decedent's surviving spouse, having been duly filed, all interested persons are hereby notified to show cause, if any they have, on or before February 3, 2025 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 on or before the time stated in the preceding sentence. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, a 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.
Sarah A. Holder
Judge of the Probate Court
By: Bradasia A Mims
Clerk of the Probate Court
Wilkinson County Probate Court
100 Bacon Street
Irwinton, GA 31042
478-946-2222
January 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025

W25-006
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF WILKINSON
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
RE: Estate of Sara Ann Mixon
All debtors and creditors of the Estate of Sara Ann Mixon, deceased, late of Wilkinson County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands and payments to the Personal Representative(s) of the estate, according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the Personal Representative(s).
Towana M. Brown
128 Jackson Street
Gordon, GA 31031
January 16, 23, 30, February 6, 2025

W25-002
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER, WILKINSON COUNTY
Pursuant to the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by Bradley T Blackmon to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Mortgage Research Center, LLC DBA Veterans United Home Loans, its successors and assigns dated 4/13/2012 and recorded in Deed Book 347 Page 296 and modified at Deed Book 383 Page 795 and further modified at Deed Book 398 Page 921 Wilkinson County, Georgia records; as last transferred to or acquired by Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of $116,729.00, with interest at the rate specified therein, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the Courthouse door of Wilkinson County, Georgia (or such other area as designated by Order of the Superior Court of said county), within the legal hours of sale on February 4, 2025 (being the first Tuesday of said month unless said date falls on a Federal Holiday, in which case being the first Wednesday of said month), the following described property:
ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN THE 331ST G.M. DISTRICT OF WILKINSON COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND BEING DESIGNATED AS LOTS 38 AND 39, PENNINGTON HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION, AS SHOWN ON A PLAT OF SAID SUBDIVISION, MADE BY JACK C. BRANTLE, DATED NOVEMBER 10, 1961 AND RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE 106, CLERK'S OFFICE, WILKINSON SUPERIOR COURT, WHICH PLAT BY THIS REFERENCE THERETO IS INCORPORATED HEREIN FOR A MORE PARTICULARE AND ACCURATE DESCRIPTION OF SAID PROPERTY.
DEED REFERENCE DEED BOOK 277, PAGE 549, AFORESAID RECORDS.
The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note and Security Deed. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Security Deed and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).
Said property is commonly known as 100 Sitton Avenue, Gordon, GA 31031 togeth er with all fixtures and personal property attached to and constituting a part of said property, if any. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party (or parties) in possession of the subject property is (are): Bradley T Blackmon or tenant or tenants.
Wells Fargo Bank, NA is the entity or individual designated, who shall have full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of the mortgage.
Wells Fargo Bank, NA Loss Mitigation 3476 Stateview Boulevard Fort Mill, SC 29715 1-800-678-7986

Note, however, that such entity or individual is not required by law to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the loan.
Said property will be sold subject to: (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) unpaid water or sewage bills that constitute a lien against the property whether due and payable or not yet due and payable and which may not be of record, (c) the right of redemption of any taxing authority, (d) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, and (e) any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.
The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 9-13-172.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and non-judicial sales in the State of Georgia, 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 immediately above.
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. as agent and Attorney in Fact for Bradley T Blackmon
Aldridge Pite, LLP, Six Piedmont Center, 3525 Piedmont Road, N.E., Suite 700, Atlanta, Georgia 30305, (404) 994-7400.
1000-20230A
THIS LAW FIRM MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 1000-20230A
January 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025

W25-007
Georgia, Wilkinson County
Notice to Debtors and Creditors
All creditors of the Estate of Evelyn Smith Whitaker, deceased, late of Wilkinson County, Georgia are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said Estate are required to make immediate payment.
This 8th day of January, 2025.

REGINA WHITAKER MANSFIELD AS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF EVELYN SMITH WHITAKER, DECEASED

JENNY MARTIN WALKER
ADAMS, HEMINGWAY, WILSON, & RUTLEDGE, LLC
544 Mulberry Street, Suite 1000
Post Office Box 1956
Macon, Georgia 31202-1956
January 16, 23, 30, February 6, 2025

W25-005
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF BIBB
Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in that certain deed to secure debt from Kory Solomon (the "Grantor") to Next Generation Lending II, LLC (the "Lender"), dated September 11, 2024, and
recorded in Deed Book 418, Page 598, Clerk's Office, Wilkinson County Superior

LOCAL MATTERS
Georgia STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS
Publish your classified ad in more than 60 Georgia newspapers for only $350.
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GNS AFFILIATE OF THE GEORGIA PRESS ASSOCIATION

We don't knowingly accept advertisements that discriminate, or intend to discriminate, on any illegal basis. Nor do we knowingly accept employment advertisements that are not bona-fide job offers. All real estate advertisements are subject to the fair housing act and we do not accept advertising that is in violation of the law. The law prohibits discrimination based on color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap or familial status.

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS FOR THE WEEK 1/12/25

CELLULAR

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HEALTH CARE

MEDICARE PLANS HAVE CHANGED!!! Make sure your plan will meets your needs in 2025. Our licensed agents can review the changes, address your needs and make sure you aren't overpaying! For a free quote, Call now! 1-866-307-5406

Don't let the stairs limit your mobility! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today! 1-877-871-3210

HEARING AIDS!! High-quality rechargeable, powerful Audien hearing aids priced 90% less than competitors. Tiny and NEARLY INVISIBLE! 45-day money back guarantee! 866-797-5642

ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. Call 1-844-592-3697

Stroke and Cardiovascular disease are leading causes of death, according to the American Heart Association. Screenings can provide peace of mind or early detection! Contact Life Line Screening to schedule your screening. Special offer – 5 screenings for just $149. Call 1-855-391-2065

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ELECTRICAL SERVICES: Reliable & experienced. Competitive rates. From simple household problems to installing a brand new electrical system, we can take care of it all! Call now and have the zip code of the service location when you call! 1-877-551-4766

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Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-877-735-0477.

Prepare for power outages with Briggs & Stratton PowerProtect(TM) standby generators - the most powerful home standby generators available. Industry-leading comprehensive warranty - 7 years ($849 value.) Proudly made in the U.S.A. Call Briggs & Stratton 1-855-883-2938.

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BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 1-844-592-3921

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and $1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-855-646-1303

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MISCELLANEOUS

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Court, (said deed to secure debt is hereinafter referred to as the "Security Deed), said Security Deed having been given to secure that certain promissory note dated September 11, 2024, executed by Grantor in favor of Next Generation Lending II, LLC, in the original principal amount of Eighty Thousand and 0/100 Dollars ($80,000.00), together with interest thereon as set forth therein and together with all extensions or renewals thereof and all other indebtedness or obligations of Grantor to Lender (the "Note"), there will be a sale at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the Courthouse door (as directed by the Superior Court of Wilkinson County) of Wilkinson County, Georgia, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday of February, 2025,(to-wit: February 4, 2025), the following described real property (the "Property"), together with all fixtures and improvements located thereon and all rights, members and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining:

Parcel 1:
All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in Land Lot 202 of the 27th Land District and the 331st GMD, Wilkinson County Georgia and being more particularly known and designated as Parcel B, containing 1.0 acre, more or less, which is shown upon a survey of the Gladys Spikes property, prepared by Jack C. Brantley, GRLS No. 541, a copy of which appears of record in Plat Book 7, Page 239, in the Clerk's Office of Wilkinson Superior Court. Said plat is referred to for the purpose of a more complete and accurate description and is incorporated herein by reference thereto.

Parcel 2:
All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in Lot 202 of the 27th Land District and the 331st GMD, Wilkinson County Georgia and being more particularly known and designated and Parcel C-2, consisting of 0.46 acre, more or less, according to a plat of record prepared for Evelyn D. Ashford by Donald D. Brooks, GRLS dated January 14, 1994, recorded in Plat Book 15, Page 286A, Clerk's Office of Wilkinson Superior Court, Said plat is referred to for the purpose of a more complete and accurate description and is incorporated herein by reference thereto.

Parcel 3:
All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in Land Lot 202 of the 27th Land District and the 331st GMD, Wilkinson County Georgia and being more particularly known and designated and Parcel C, consisting of 1.00 acre, more or less, which is shown upon a survey of the Gladys Spikes property, prepared by Jack C. Brantley, GRLS No. 541, a copy of which appears of record in Plat Book 7, Page 239, in the Clerk's Office of Wilkinson Superior Court. Said plat is referred to for the purpose of a more complete and accurate description and is incorporated herein by reference thereto. LESS AND EXCEPT a 30' Right of Way Easement in favor of Wilkinson County, recorded in Deed Book 120, Page 471, said Clerk's Office and also that parcel of land known as "Parcel C-2", consisting of 0.46 acres, more or less, which is referred to above.

Also conveyed as an improvement and irremovable fixture permanently attached to said property is a 1970 Fleetwood Manufactured home 24' x 48' VIN No. 5224M3DW2B1089. (SEE T-234 form recorded in Deed Book 363, Page 375, said Clerk's Office. Also conveyed is a manufactured home with no known serial numbers available which is permanently affixed to said property.
The debt secured by the Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, the failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, including attorney's fees.
The Property will be sold as the property of Kory Solomon, subject to all zoning ordinances; matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or by an inspection of the Property; any outstanding taxes, including but not limited to ad valorem taxes which constitute liens upon said Property; special assessments; all outstanding bills for public utilities which constitute liens upon said Property; and all matters of record superior to said Security Deed, including, but not limited to, any Federal tax liens.
This sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, (2) the provisions of O.C.G.A. Section 9-13-172.1 which permits the rescission of judicial and nonjudicial sales in the State of Georgia in limited circumstances, and (3) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loans with the holder of the Security Deed.
Notice has been given of intention to collect attorney's fees in accordance with the terms of the Note secured by said Security Deed.
Notice has also been given, in writing and by certified mail, return receipt requested, to Grantor, of the name, address, and telephone number of the individual or entity who shall have full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the Security Deed and the Note thereby secured in accordance with O.C.G.A. Section 44-14-162.2(a).
To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the parties in possession of the Property are Kory Solomon, or tenant or tenants, and the proceeds of said sale will be applied to the payment of said indebtedness and the expenses of said sale.
PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
Next Generation Lending II, LLC, as Attorney-in-Fact for Kory Solomon
T. Baron Gibson II
Martin Snow, LLP
4025 Vineville Ave.
Macon, Georgia 31210
(478) 749-1715
January 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025

W25-003
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF WILKINSON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OFGARY D. BATES, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 242
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE
TO: JEREMY DEAN BATES and to whom it may concern:
JEREMY DEAN BATES has petitioned To be appointed administrator of the estate of GARY D BATES 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 OCGA 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 FEBRUARY 3, 2025.
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.
Lisa V. Dykes
Judge of the Probate Court
By: Bradasia A. Mims
Clerk of the Probate Court
Wilkinson County Probate Court
100 Bacon Street
Irwinton, GA 31042
478-946-2222
January 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025

W25-008
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF WILKINSON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF WILLIE KNIGHT, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 246
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE
TO: Addie Ford Knight and to whom it may concern:
Addie Ford Knight has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of **Willie Knight** 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 February 10, 2025.
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.
Sarah A. Holder
Judge of the Probate Court
BY: Bradasia A. Mims
Clerk of the Probate Court
Wilkinson County Probate Court
100 Bacon Street
Irwinton, GA 31042
478-946-2222
January 16, 23, 30, February 6, 2025

W25-001
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF WILKINSON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF BRYAN KEITH CRAWFORD, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 240
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE
TO: SHERI CRAWFORD and to whom it may concern:
SHERI CRAWFORD has petitioned To be appointed administrator of the estate of BRYAN KEITH CRAWFORD 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 OCGA 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 January 27, 2025.
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.
Lisa V. Dykes
Judge of the Probate Court
By: Bradasia A. Mims
Clerk of the Probate Court
Wilkinson County Probate Court
100 Bacon Street
Irwinton, GA 31042
478-946-2222
January 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025

Student-founded nonprofit brings the world of coding, technology to Middle Ga. students

Sandra Hernandez
Houston Home Journal

WARNER ROBINS – A group of high schoolers started a nonprofit organization called NextGen Coders, helping youth with coding and technology.

CEO and Founder of NextGen Coders Michael Do is a junior at Houston County High School. He, along with a group of juniors and seniors, had a goal to empower youth in middle Georgia.

Do said they wanted to provide youth with the opportunity to learn coding for free. The group started offering classes in September 2024, the beginning of the school year.

At the beginning of every semester, students can register for classes on their website. The first semester starts in September and the second semester starts in late January or early February.

Do said they can register for one of two classes they offer, the first a beginner JavaScript based block code class. He said this class focuses on the main ideas in coding rather than the small details. Students aged 10 to 17 can sign up for this class.

Students can also sign up for their second intermediate course, an introduction to programming with Python. The class teaches students about Python, a coding language. Do said this coding language is used heavily in the computer science industry for artificial intelligence, machine learning and data science. Students aged 14 to 18 can sign up for this class.

The courses span 12-to-13-weeks. Students will meet up every Saturday at the Middle Georgia State University Warner Robins campus. Do said the beginner course is an hour and 30 minutes long and their intermediate course is two hours.

Do shared during the course NexGen Coders will teach various concepts that will allow students to develop algorithms, apps and the confidence needed to pursue a career in the technology field.

He also shared they have grown a lot since they started the organization. During their first semester, they started with 27 registered students, and they only offered their introductory JavaScript class.

Starting this semester, they offered their intermediate course in Python. Their first meeting on Feb. 1 will have 70 students for both classes combined.

Do also shared they have gained a lot of support from the community. At the beginning, they hosted their meetings at the Nola Brantley Memorial Library because they offer a free meeting room. Now, they have a partnership with MGA Warner Robins campus and hold their meetings at the computer lab.

Do said they have also partnered with the 21st Century Partnership, which has helped in guiding their organization by how to run it, how to improve engagement and how to reach out to a broader audience. They have also helped with funding since NextGen Coders is a nonprofit organization.

"Since we offer free coding classes, funding has been an issue but with these new partnerships they've been able to sponsor us and help us achieve greater goals," he said.

Do grew up in middle Georgia and since middle school, was interested in STEM, always wanting the chance to learn coding. Do and his friends would see games and inventions created through technology and they knew coding and programming was the backbone of creating the things they were interested in.

Do has loved coding since he was little and admitted to having trouble at first due to the topic's complexity. He also mentioned limited opportunities to learn.

From eighth to ninth grade, he started to teach himself and realized how hard coding was; He thought it would have been easier if he had a mentor or a program that would allow him to learn more. Providing the class was a chance for Do to become the mentor he wished he had.

"Me and my friends realized that offering this at a free price point would allow students of all backgrounds to have this opportunity to pursue a career in STEM," he said.

Do wants people to know that although coding seems scary, anyone can do it. He said with determination and hard work, anyone can become successful in the field.

He shared he has heard people say they don't want to do coding; they don't want to be involved in STEM and prefer to do another field. When they start learning more about it and use critical thinking and problem-solving skills, Do begins to see the shine in their eyes and knows they are enjoying coding. Do said he has seen people change career and life plans, switching to STEM based career goals and projects.

"Being able to see them realize, 'Oh, I can do this; I finally understand it,' that really means a lot to me as a teacher," he said.

He said they want to also spread awareness for coding and how important it is for people who are interested, especially with its growing job market.

"We want to show that it's not just all about sitting at a computer. It's about communicating, it's about how to solve problems and how it can actually just be a fun way to use your critical thinking skills," he said.

Aside from classes, NextGen Coders plans to hold coding competitions and summer camps. Do also hopes to host full-day boot camps, where students can dive into coding and computer science.

"This will give them the opportunity to really just discover the field," he said.

The organization's goal is to provide students interested in coding a STEM supporting community. Seeing other STEM driven students gives them the support they need to thrive, Do believes.

"It's really an opportunity for them to really grow as students and really learn together rather than separate, which is so important in not only coding, but everyday life, in any career that they wish to pursue," he said.

According to their website, the Introduction to Programming with Python class is available. To find out more about NextGen Coders and to register, visit their website, nextgencoderswr.com.

Courtesy Michael Do
NextGen Coders' weekly class for the youth of middle Georgia.

NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners has tentatively adopted a 2024 millage rate which will require an increase in property tax by 4.22 percent.

All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearing on the tax increase to be held at the Wilkinson County Courthouse in Courtroom A located at 100 Bacon Street, Irwinton, GA 31042 on February 6, 2025 at 9:00am and 6:00pm.

This tentative increase will result in a millage rate of 13.786 mills, an increase of .5585 mills. Without this tentative increase, the millage rate will be no more than 13.227 mills. The proposed tax increase for a home with a fair market value of $125,000.00 is approximately $24.59 and the proposed tax increase for non-homestead property with a fair market value of $100,000.00 is approximately $20.36.

NOTICE

The WILKINSON **County Board of Commissioners** does hereby announce that the millage rate will be set at a meeting to be held at the **(Wilkinson County Courthouse)** on **February 6, 2025** at **6:00pm** and pursuant to the requirements of O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32 does hereby publish the following presentation of the current year's tax digest and levy, along with the history of the tax digest and levy for the past five years.

CURRENT 2024 PROPERTY TAX DIGEST AND 5 YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY

	COUNTY WIDE		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
County wide Area	VALUE	Real & Personal	374,255,165	398,961,047	405,440,662	429,836,242	453,109,470	560,153,605
		Motor Vehicles	9,315,520	7,654,240	6,238,620	5,870,360	5,670,540	5,415,810
		Mobile Homes	3,141,356	3,382,342	3,827,602	4,446,092	4,446,092	5,453,934
		Timber - 100%	6,311,529	7,084,880	6,617,871	3,327,919	7,980,733	3,151,429
		avy Duty Equipment	897,240	484,485	642,360	496,960	0	618,439
		Gross Digest	393,920,810	417,566,994	422,767,115	443,977,573	471,206,835	574,793,217
		Less Exemptions	58,371,191	57,321,032	56,435,637	54,545,209	53,866,499	89,602,613
		NET DIGEST VALUE	335,549,619	360,245,962	366,331,478	389,432,364	417,340,336	485,190,604
	RATE	Gross Maintenance & Operation Millage	15.7580	15.6880	15.6740	15.8560	15.7880	15.1550
		Less Rollback (Local Option Sales Tax)	1.3180	1.2480	1.2480	1.5040	1.4440	1.3690
		M&O MILLAGE RATE	14.4400	14.4400	14.4260	14.3520	14.3440	13.7860
	TAX	**M&O TAXES LEVIED**	$4,845,336	$5,201,952	$5,284,698	$5,589,133	$5,986,330	$6,688,838
		Net Tax $ Increase		$356,615	$82,746	$304,435	$397,196	$702,508
		Net Tax % Increase		7.36%	1.59%	5.76%	7.11%	11.74%