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Four arrested following Prairie Summit melee

Christian McKearney
Times Journal Post

The Prairie Summit apartments in Gordon, relatively quiet in recent months, was abuzz Dec. 12 as two separate fights led to four different arrests.

Three people were booked at the county jail in Irwinton and charge with one count of fighting/affray, while Ke'unjae Jai Tauri Jackson was arrested on more serious charges – aggravated assault, pointing a pistol at another, fighting/affray, possession of a firearm during the commission of a crime and third-degree child cruelty. The child cruelty charge, a misdemeanor, stems from Jackson committing the more serious criminal acts in the presence of children.

Following his role in one of the fights, Jackson, 20, is accused of brandishing a handgun and chasing another man around the apartment complex with it, according to Gordon Police Chief Mike Hall. No shots were fired during the melee, the chief added.

The GPD initially received a 911 call and responded to Prairie Summit, "but nobody would tell us anything or act like they knew anything." That eventually led the GPD to review security cameras from the apartment complex, which "basically showed the whole thing," said Hall. Jackson was arrested in short order, while the other three suspects were later booked.

Prairie Summit, a 72-unit complex built more than 50 years ago, has emerged as the most crime-plagued address in Gordon. The GPD has responded to dozens of calls from the property in recent years. Included since 2020 have been a murder, a kidnapping, an accidental shooting death and a drive-by shooting.

Back in April, five women were arrested following a relatively large fight in the front parking lot. That same month, a 16-year-old boy was fatally shot in the back while sitting in the front seat of a car. The shooting was ruled "accidental," although one of the boy's friends was charged with involuntary manslaughter, nevertheless.

Since that time, however, Prairie Summit "has been much more quiet," according to Hall, who attributed this to GPD staffing levels returning to normal and increased patrols around Prairie Summit.

New Center for Middle Ga. Studies addresses regional problems

Mary Helene Hall
Times Journal Post

The recently established Center for Middle Georgia Studies at Middle Georgia State University (MGA) is positioning itself as a hub for collaborative problem-solving for its home region. When the center launched in September, it hit the ground running under the leadership of executive director Kristie Roberts-Lewis, and she has plans to increase the center's influence.

The Center for Middle Georgia Studies hosted and assisted with a variety of campus and community events during their first semester in existence. Some of those events include the campus library's Constitution Day, a voter registration guide, lunch-and-learn lectures about the rural-urban divide in Georgia and a financial literacy workshop.

Roberts-Lewis sees the center as a multi-tool for the community, conducting research, data analysis, professional development training and partnering with organizations to develop grants.

"Our long-term vision is for us to be a regionally and nationally recognized research hub and institute — a place where innovation exists," she said.

Currently, the center is small but mighty with Roberts-Lewis, a grad assistant, a faculty fellow and a scholar in residence, Charles Hayslett, who is a regular political columnist for the Georgia Trust for Local News based on his blog, Trouble in God's Country. They are in the process of trying to secure a work-study student worker as well.

"What we want to do is invite students who have an interest in working on projects and research around issues that are pressing in the Middle Georgia region," Roberts-Lewis said. "As they are developing that research, it is my goal to be able to partner them with the organizations throughout Middle Georgia who are working or advocating on behalf of that particular problem."

Courtesy Middle Georgia State University
Michael L. Thurmond (left) is interviewed by Center for Middle Georgia Studies director Kristie Roberts-Lewis during a talk about his book, "James Oglethorpe: Father of Georgia," earlier this year.

Those problems, she said, range from food and medical deserts in rural Georgia to poverty and homelessness. Challenges that systematically developed over several decades won't be fixed overnight by MGA, but their goal is to further those conversations in small but meaningful ways.

Roberts-Lewis' background is in academia and public policy, and her Georgia roots give her the passion necessary to assume her role at the center. She was a professor and department chair for nearly 23 years before she joined the United Negro College Fund.

"Then, I saw this role and decided, since my husband and I moved to the Middle Georgia region, that this would be a good fit with my background in public policy and working with nonprofit organizations," she said.

She assumed her role as executive director in May.

The center is currently working with organizations such as the Middle Georgia Community Food Bank, United Way and the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce, each in unique ways. For the food bank, they're developing policies and providing training for their board. With United Way, the center is analyzing their county data with a local focus. They're creating

See MGA, page 3

Congrats, Coach!

Bleckley County Middle and High School cross country Coach Shelly Cranford received recognition from the Georgia High School Association for being the Girls Cross Country Coach of the Year.

Photo via Bleckley County Schools

$1.3 million residential property for sale in Wilco

Photos via Zillow
The grand home, built in 1958, according to Zillow, is on a 127.16 acre lot full of deer, turkey and other wildlife. There's also a two-acre pond stocked with several species of fish.

Christian McKearney
Times Journal Post

Million-dollar residential properties are relatively common in different parts of metro Atlanta.

In Wilkinson County, however, they are extremely rare. That's why it was notable when the property at 407 JR Sims Road hit the market earlier this year. Located roughly 1.5 miles south of Wilkinson County High School, the property currently is listed for $1.285 million.

The centerpiece is a 4,800-square-foot, ranch-style house that overlooks a swimming pool and pond. Each of the four bedrooms "has its own washer and dryer combo that will stay with the home," according to the listing. Also coming with the property is a 48-foot by 48-foot barn, one that has a finished upstairs, complete with two bedrooms and two bathrooms.

Obviously, though, a big part of the selling price is the land, all 127 acres of it. The two-acre pond is "stocked with Blue Gill, Bass, and Shell Cracker," while the listing also makes reference to "all the deer, turkey, and wildlife you could see in a day's time."

The listing agent is April Smith with Fickling Lake Country, LLC.

Upcoming Events

Twiggs County Commission Meeting
Thursday, Dec. 19
6 p.m.
Twiggs County Courthouse

10th Annual Winter Wonderland Express
Saturday, Dec. 20 and
Sunday, Dec. 21
7 to 9 p.m.
256 Lucas Road
Enjoy lights, music and characters at the annual Winter Wonderland Express, presented by Heartland EMS. It is rumored that Santa will be making appearances! Free admission.

Christmas Party at Swift Creek Methodist Church
Saturday, Dec. 21
2 p.m.
4721 Jeffersonville Road in Macon

Candlelight Service
Sunday, Dec. 22
6 p.m.
147 High Hill St. in Irwinton
All community members are invited to attend Irwinton Baptist Church 1858's Christmas Candlelight Service.

Holiday Celebration at the Library
Monday, Dec. 23
10 a.m.
103 N. 3rd St. in Cochran
Join the folks at the Tessie W. Norris Bleckley County Library for a joyous holiday celebration filled with laughter, good cheer and festive fun.

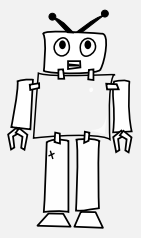
Sober New Year's Eve Bash
Tuesday, Dec. 31
7:30 p.m. till midnight
893 New Haven Rd. in Gordon
A free, sober, kid-friendly way to celebrate New Year's Eve at Celebrate Recovery New Haven Baptist Church. Visit the church's Facebook to learn more.

High Risk Unified Commander Training
Thursday, Jan. 9 to
Saturday, Jan. 11
146 E. Peacock St. in Cochran
Eight-hour command training designed to improve integration between law enforcement, fire and EMS responders during critical events. Training conducted by Central GA Regional Trauma Advisory Committee at Heartland EMS. Visit the trauma advisory committee on Facebook to learn how to register.

Cybersecurity Workshop for Small Businesses
Wednesday, Jan. 15
5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
MGA Macon Campus
Enrollment is limited to the first 12 individuals on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact Randy Thompson, director of campus and community engagement at MGA at randy.thompson@mga.edu or 478-308-9028. Participants will be assisting in the development of the program through feedback after the workshop.

Do the robot!

The Robotics Team at Wilkinson County Elementary shined recently shined at the regional meet in Macon. The local kids took home the prestigious Best Robot Design award. This year's team members are Wesley Zanger, Ashton Whipple, Emmie Jones, Colton Clements, Finley Coldwell, JR Roberson and Logan Repzynski. Jadrius Scott is the club's teacher/sponsor.



Photos via WCSD .

- Christian McKearney

Getting excited for Santa...

Christmas is right around the corner, with this Friday serving as the last day before the holiday break. The kids at Wilkinson County Primary most definitely are beginning to feel it. The school's "Candy Cane Lane Day" recently served as a preview.

Photos via WCSD.

- Christian McKearney

Claudia Kemp named to Dean's List at UNG

University of North Georgia

DAHLONEGA — Claudia Kemp of Jeffersonville made the fall 2024 Dean's List at the University of North Georgia (UNG) for achieving at least a 3.5 grade-point average, carrying 12 or more credit hours in one semester and having no grade lower than B.

Positioned in the fastest-growing region of the state, the University of North Georgia comprises five campuses united by a single mission focused on academic excellence and academic and co-curricular programs that develop students into leaders for a diverse and global society. The University of North Georgia is a University System of Georgia leadership institution and is The Military College of Georgia. With more than 19,000 students, the University of North Georgia is one of the state's largest public universities. The university offers more than 100 programs of study ranging from certificate and associate degrees to doctoral programs.

Obituary

Elaine B. Allgood

JEFFERSONVILLE – Elaine Barron Allgood, 83, of Allgood Rd. passed away December 6, 2024 in Dublin.

Graveside services will be held Monday December 9, 2024 at 2:00PM at New Providence Baptist Church Cemetery. Rev. Gary Walker, Harold Reece, Jr., and Rev. Steve Hamrick will officiate.

Mrs. Allgood was born in Jeffersonville, GA the daughter of the late Wilson Barron and Doris Little Barron. She was the widow of the late Lewis Dean Allgood and was preceded in death by her son Jody Allgood and her daughter Susan A. Baggarly. Elaine was the former owner, along with her husband Dean, of Gordon (Ford) Motor Co., Allgood Memorial Chapel Funeral Home and Allgood Auto & Truck Parts. She was a member of New Providence Baptist Church.

Survivors include her brother Gerald (Julie) Barron. Two grandchildren, Celeste Orr and Jodi "Dee" Brynteson. Six great grandchildren.

Visit www.reecefuneralhomeinc.com to express tributes.

Reece Funeral Home in Jeffersonville has charge of arrangements.

Delivering holiday cheer

Twiggs senior citizens spent a morning this week delivering Christmas gifts and caroling at Jeffersonville Nursing Home and Brittany Place.

Twiggs County Senior Center:
Surinder Brown — Site Manager
Laura Gallemore — Secretary, Event Coordinator

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What's behind the Wilco public school enrollment decline?

Christian McKearney
Times Journal Post

Thirty years ago, there were 182 ninth graders at Wilkinson County High, according to the Georgia Department of Education's annual "October headcount."

This year, that number was 70.

Indeed, the Wilkinson County School District's enrollment numbers have been on the decline in recent decades. There are 16 percent fewer students this school year compared to five years ago (1,036 vs. 1,235), 33 percent fewer students this year compared to 10 years ago (1,036 vs. 1,537) and 48 percent fewer students this year compared to 30 years ago (1,036 vs. 1,993), according to the DOE's October headcount.

Here is the breakdown by school, with the first number representing the 2024 October headcount and the second number representing the 1994 October headcount:

- Wilkinson County Primary – (280 students vs. 525 students)
- Wilkinson County Elementary – (203 students vs. 494 students)
- Wilkinson County Middle – (225 students vs. 441 students)
- Wilkinson County High – (328 students vs. 533 students)

The WCSD's enrollment numbers would be even lower if not for a relative influx of Hispanic students, as defined by the Georgia DOE. During the 1994 October headcount, there was one Hispanic student enrolled in the WCSD. Most recently, that number was 69.

The DOE's full-time equivalent (FTE) student headcount is conducted twice a year, once in October and once in March, and it's used as part of the state's larger funding formula.

Declining enrollment is far from a WCSD phenomenon. Similar trends are occurring in rural school districts across Georgia. Due west in Twiggs County, enrollment has declined by a whopping 62.5% in the last 30 years (726 students in the 2024 October headcount vs. 1,992 students in the 1994 October headcount). In Johnson County, meanwhile, there are roughly one-third fewer public school students today than 30 years ago.

So, where did all of the students go? In Wilco, at least, most of it goes hand-in-hand with Wilkinson County's general population trends. Basically, Wilco is getting older. In 1997, for example, there were 2,864 children (17 and under) living in the county, according to Census data. Fast forward to 2022, and that number was 1,899. In other words, the number of children living in Wilkinson County decreased by one-third in a span of 25 years. Women simply aren't having as many children nowadays. Between 1997 and 2002, for example, there was an average of 151 Wilkinson County babies born per year. Compare that to 2017-2022, when that number was 95, according to state data.

There's also the fact that Wilkinson County's total population is declining. The Census Bureau placed Wilco's population at 8,877 in 2020, which compares to 10,220 back in 2000. That represents a loss of 13.1%.

Also, there are theories that are way more difficult to quantify or prove. For example, are fewer parents choosing to raise children in Wilkinson County nowadays? That's the type of question that can't be backed up by quantifiable data, even though it may be a factor, at least to some extent.

Have photos, news or events you want to share?

We want to share what matters most to folks in our community. Schools, churches, youth organizations, clubs and more are encouraged to reach out to brag about what they're up to. Email news@timesjournalpost.com with your news!

MGA, from 1:

a workforce asset map and holding community conversations with the chamber of commerce to understand workforce trends.

Those are just a few examples, but the folks at the center keep plenty busy. They've submitted applications for over $2 million in grants with MGA faculty and nonprofit organizations. Recently, they learned they received a grant to conduct financial literacy workshops in collaboration with the school of business.

"At the end of the day, all of the pressing problems that exist in Middle Georgia impact us all in some way or another," Roberts-Lewis said. "I feel extremely fortunate to be able to sit at the intersection of these problems, not to just view them, but to be able to roll up my sleeves and partner with other organizations and individuals."

Those who want to attend programming or get involved don't necessarily have to be students. To learn more, contact Roberts-Lewis directly at kristie.robertslewis@mga.edu or visit the Center for Middle Georgia Studies' page on the MGA website.

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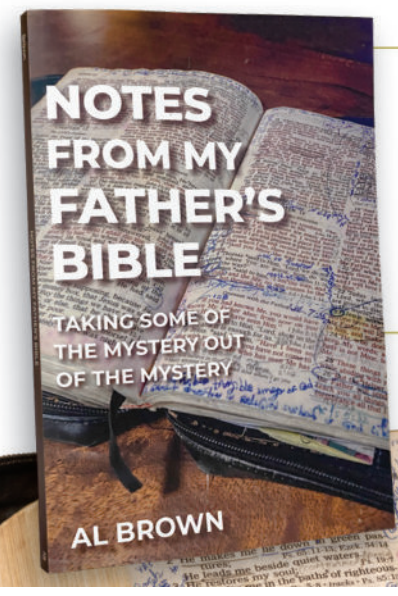

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CITY OF WARNER ROBINS

Holiday Events

TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY
December 05

Thursday, 5:00pm - 8:00pm
Perkins Field, 105 Mulberry St.

CHRISTMAS PARADE
December 07

Saturday, 10:00am
Davis Dr & Watson to N. Houston Rd.

WINTER BAZAAR
December 07

Saturday, 12:00pm - 4:00pm
Perkins Field, 105 Mulberry St.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT
December 11

Wednesday, 4:00pm - 8:00pm
North Houston Sports Complex

PET PICTURES WITH SANTA
December 14

Saturday, 10:00am - 2:00pm
Animal Control, 208 Stalnaker Ave

SANTA AT TED WRIGHT
December 20

Friday, 1:00pm - 5:00pm
Ted Wright Park, 2841 Moody Rd

SANTA AND SNOW
December 21

Saturday, 12:00pm - 4:00pm
Perkins Field, 105 Mulberry St.

JUST JERRI

The magic of Christmas and memories

Remember when you last heard one of your elders reminiscing, "I used to walk five miles to school in the snow, hanging onto a barbed wire fence?" Or how about, "I can remember when bread was ten cents a loaf?" Or better yet, "You kids ought to be grateful. I remember when times were so tough, we had to share the water in an old wash tub for our Saturday night baths!"

Ah yes, the good old days! Times have sure changed.

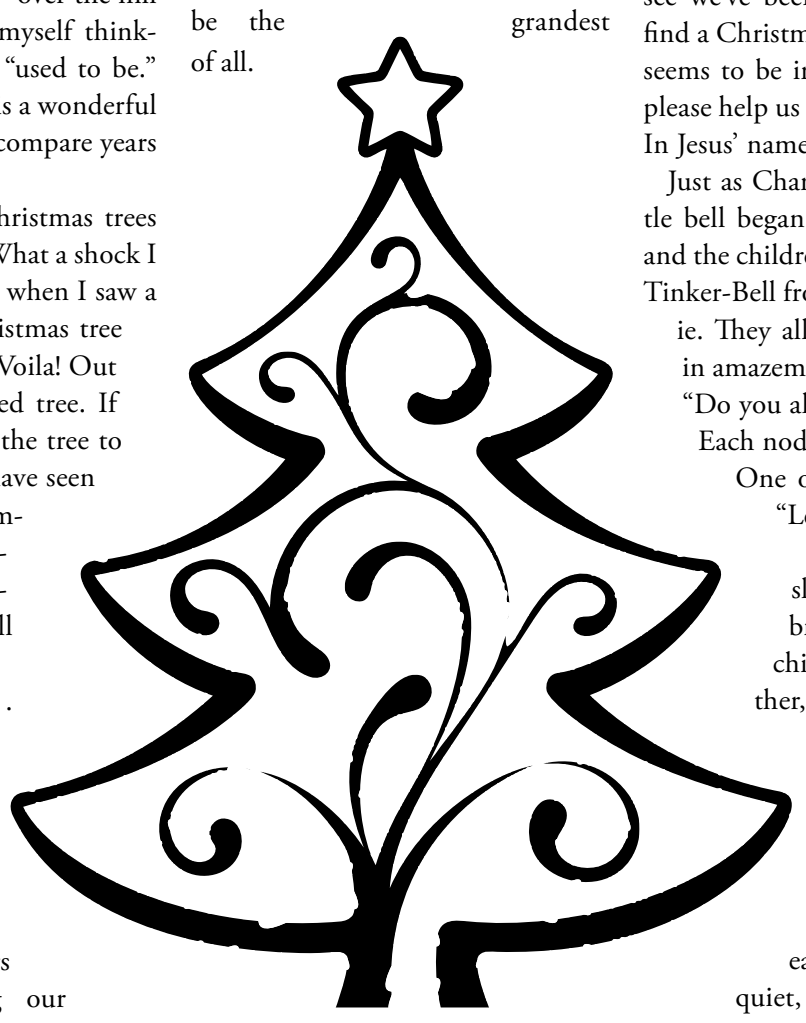
I'm beginning to think I've become a member of the "over the hill gang" because I find myself thinking about how things "used to be." The Christmas season is a wonderful time to reflect on and compare years gone by.

The perfectly cut Christmas trees are just one example. What a shock I got one day at K-Mart when I saw a vendor sticking a Christmas tree in a buzz saw of sorts. Voila! Out came a perfectly shaped tree. If I could have followed the tree to its new home, I may have seen even more grand symmetry; matching ornaments, lovely cranberry-colored bows, and all white lights.

I remember when . . .

The kids were so young. Linda, the oldest, was just thirteen, while the other four trailed behind her down to four years of age. Surrounding our house were acres and acres of pines. Surely the "perfect" Christmas tree was somewhere out there, just waiting for a daddy and his brood of five to discover it.

Times were hard back then. We had scraped together everything we could lay hold of just to get to Georgia. Our older three were living in California, and Charlie and I were doing everything we could to keep body and soul together. It wasn't going to be much of a Christmas, but we would have a tree . . . and it was going to be the grandest of all.



As Charlie and the children went traipsing through the woods, it seemed they just couldn't find the right one. "No. That one's too spindly. Not enough branches. Yuck, that one's weird looking." Nearly an hour had gone by, and the searching band of tree hunters was becoming weary.

"I've got an idea," declared Charlie. "Let's pray!"

"Yeah," said Jeff. "That'll work."

Holding hands in a small circle, the hunters bowed their heads. "Dear Lord," began Charlie. "You see we've been trying very hard to find a Christmas tree, but our search seems to be in vain. Lord, will you please help us find a really good tree? In Jesus' name, Amen."

Just as Charlie said "Amen," a little bell began to tinkle. To Charlie and the children, it sounded just like Tinker-Bell from the Peter Pan movie. They all looked at each other in amazement and Charlie asked, "Do you all hear what I hear?"

Each nodded yes.

One of the kids whispered, "Let's follow the sound."

Quietly, as if the slightest noise would break the spell; the children led by their father, began to follow the tinkling sound of the bell. Ducking under low hanging branches, fingers to their mouths to remind each other to be oh, so quiet, they began walking.

Jerri Tuck

Then as suddenly as it began, the sound of the bell ceased. Looking up they were all astonished as, you guessed it, the most beautiful Christmas tree in all the world was directly in front of them.

Charlie and Jeff started sawing, while the girls in the Tuck tribe hugged and danced around the tree. Before long, the prayed-for tree, some 12 feet in height, was gracing our living room. Strings of popcorn and cranberries were carefully placed on it, along with handmade and lots and lots of silver tinsel.

That night, after tucking five weary tree hunters and decorators to bed, Charlie and I looked at the prize before us. Sitting on the couch, with all the lights out except the multi-colored ones adorning the tree, I leaned my head on Charlie's shoulder. "You know," I observed admiringly, "It really is beautiful, isn't it?"

Charlie, always much more analytical and discerning than I, remarked, "Well, actually Honey, it's somewhat crooked and a little sparse over there on the right and . . ."

"Shh," I scolded. "It's the most beautiful tree in the world. It's the tree that an angel led you all to."

"Hmm," Charlie agreed smilingly, "You're right. It does look like a perfect tree, doesn't it?" We both grinned with satisfaction, thankful that a Savior who was humble enough to leave heaven and be born in a stable, would also listen to the earnest prayers of five weary children, looking for that perfect Christmas tree.

And that night, with visions of sugar plums (and perfect Christmas trees), five sleepy little heads would certainly have agreed with our observation. It would also be a Christmas they would never forget. I can hear them now as they reminisce to their children, "When we were kids, we really had it rough. One Christmas, Grandma and Grandpa couldn't even afford to buy a Christmas tree, so Grandpa took us into the woods, and while we were looking . . ."

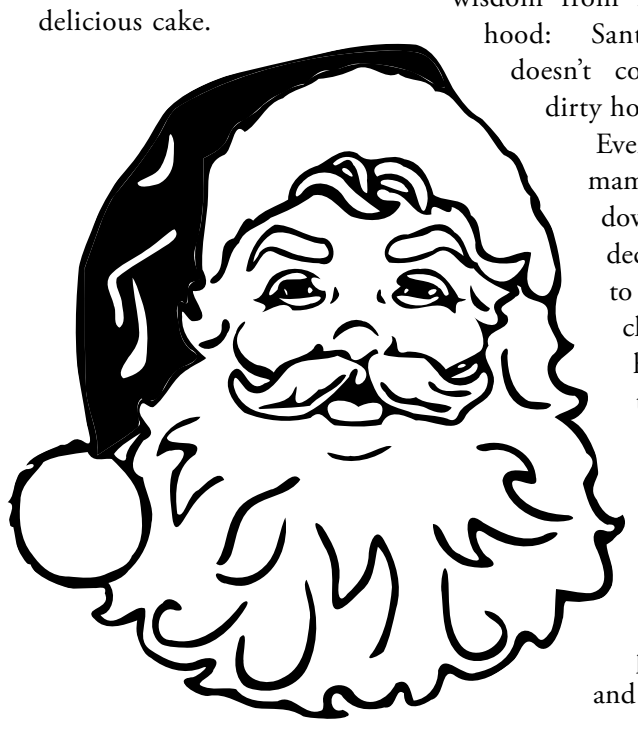
"Remember the former things of old. For I am God, and there is no other. I am God, and there is none like me. And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, and received up into glory." Isaiah 46:9; I Timothy 3:16

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.

NEW SOUTHERN DAD

Santa doesn't come to dirty houses (and other myths)

Christmas break is a magical time of year when you're a kid. There's nothing like an extended break from the classroom and getting the chance to forget about your education, even if only momentarily. The excitement of Christmas is just icing on an already invitingly delicious cake.



Parents, on the other hand, have to keep their little angels occupied for two weeks while preparing for the holidays. A merry Christmas doesn't just fall out of thin air. It takes a lot of work; it takes a lot of money; and there's a lot of stress.

And that, I think, is the origin of this bit of parental wisdom from my childhood: Santa Claus doesn't come to a dirty house.

Every year my mama handed down this declaration to entice children to help with the chores leading up to all the family gatherings, parties and pageantry of the season. It was easy persuasion for kids looking for a good haul of presents under the tree on Dec. 25.

Kyle Dominy

Now, as a parent with children of my own, I see no harm in the little white lie added to the legend of Santa Claus. I mean, we've perpetuated the story of a generous fat guy who keeps tabs on children all year and breaks into their house one night a year. If I can get a clean house out of it, no foul, right?

Santa can be a tricky subject. I don't want to live in a world where there's no magic and fantasy, but it can be hard to explain why some kids get expensive gifts, while others are seemingly forgotten about. I love my kids, but I'm not about to go max out my credit card or take out a second mortgage to put on a show for social media.

Unlike Rudolph and his flying friends, compound interest is very much real.

Also, why should Santa get all the credit for Christmas? You can't just work one day a year and be the hero.

Another dictate, though: If you don't believe, you don't receive.

I've been told that and have passed the adage around myself. Even if you've moved on from belief in Santa, there's no sense in being a stick in the mud and ruining it for someone else. It's a little tongue in cheek, yes, but it's never your place to burst someone else's bubble. Some myths, like Santa, the Easter Bunny and a perfect credit score, are just meant to be left alone.

But don't let Santa overshadow the real reason for the season. At the end of the day, the jolly fat man is just a blip in the memory. Santa can never outshine the friends and family, who really make the holidays magical. He may live forever in the minds of children around the world, but as for me, I'll never forget helping my mother clean the house on Christmas Eve.

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

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.

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Inside the Georgia orchard trying to bring back the South's lost apples

Drew Kann
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Ben Gray for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center's hilltop orchard near Blairsville features 138 varieties of heritage apples.

BLAIRSVILLE — With the fall foliage of the North Georgia Mountains showing off on a late October Friday, Josh Fuder and Ray Covington were busy sinking their teeth into apples, enjoying the literal fruits of their labor.

With names like Swiss Limbertwig, Terry Winter and Yates, the heirloom varieties they tasted were once common across the Southeast, part of a vibrant, regional apple industry that existed in the early 20th century. Today, these cultivars and many others are scarcely found anywhere but on this hillside at the Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center.

Covington, the center's superintendent, and Fuder, a University of Georgia extension agent, think this orchard can change that. Planted two days before the university shut down at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the UGA Heritage Apple Orchard in Blairsville aims to rediscover these forgotten apples and perhaps spark a Southern apple revival.

The orchard is now home to trees from 138 varieties — a "Noah's Ark" for apples, the researchers say, with two specimens of each.

The trees are still in their awkward preteen phase, with slender trunks and spindly branches. But this year, many produced their first fruit, a milestone for a project its collaborators hope will prove useful to growers big and small to make their crops more resilient, as they grapple with rising temperatures from climate change.

'Those are all gone'

Apples are usually regarded as a cold-loving, northern fruit — and for good reason. Washington is by far the nation's top apple-producing state, followed by Michigan, New York and Pennsylvania, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

That wasn't always the case.

In the early 1900s, as new railroads offered access to larger markets and growers discovered that North Georgia's climate suited the fruit, mountain counties like Habersham, Rabun and White enjoyed an apple heyday, said Stephen Mihm, a professor and associate dean at UGA's Franklin College of Arts and Sciences.

"Prior to this, every farm would have had an apple tree, but it was at this moment that there was a real, genuine effort — and a successful effort, for a time — to have a commercial apple crop in Georgia," he said.

But by the 1920s, the region's apple boom began to falter. There are many theories why, Fuder and Mihm said.

The start of Prohibition slashed demand for Georgia apples, largely grown for cider. The industry's center of gravity also shifted to Washington state, which was better situated for national distribution. Around the same time, successful marketing — and a push for predictable and efficient harvests — led growers to consolidate around a few brand-name varieties, like Red Delicious. Those that came to dominate were not southern ones.

Georgia still grows apples, but most orchards have shifted to agritourism, Mihm said.

Along the way, many of the state's apples vanished.

"We had a variety called Etowah that was described and found in Canton," Fuder said. "We had a variety called Chattahoochee that was named in Cobb County, of all places. But those are all gone."

Genetic keys for a hotter future

The researchers behind the Heritage Apple Orchard want to ensure other apples avoid a similar fate.

All of the trees here were once grown in Georgia or were staples of the region's fruit trade.

Some trees were sourced from the USDA's apple bank in Geneva, New York, and the personal orchards of Fuder and Mihm. The pair's affinity for apples led them to one another, and their partnership — along with Covington, who tends to the trees' day-to-day needs — is the driving force behind the project.

The others have been found in nooks and crannies across the South: behind family homes, near power lines and in Georgia's few remaining nurseries, the last bastions for many varieties.

Some of the orchard's cultivars are already well-documented.

Hewe's Crab, a small reddish-yellow variety, was once popular with cider makers and a favorite of former President Thomas Jefferson, who grew the apples at his Monticello estate in Virginia. Then, there are others like Bentley's Guest House — which was found near a guesthouse, hence the name — that could be a documented heirloom or another kind completely foreign to today's growers.

Already, some of the orchard's apples have drawn attention from cider makers and the researchers believe others could have commercial appeal.

"A lot of these have that nice balance of sweet and acidity … sometimes even tannins, if we're talking about cider production," Fuder said. "Most modern apples just don't have that."

It's also possible traits helpful to growers in an era of climate change could be lurking inside some varieties.

As human activity heats up the planet, no season is warming faster than winter in the continental U.S. But like other fruit, apples still need a certain amount of time in the cold — known as a chilling requirement — to set healthy buds and fruit. With chill hours expected to become more scarce, Mihm said it's possible Southern lineages harbor genetic keys that could help growers adapt.

"Apples that were bred to thrive in warm, humid conditions likely contain disease-resistance and other capabilities that may be worthy of crossbreeding back into existing stock," Mihm said.

'There has to be a reason'

The project is also about uncovering history, the researchers said, and each apple has its own human story to tell.

Aside from the occasional oddball, apples trees must be cross-pollinated or fertilized by pollen from a different variety to produce fruit and in turn, more seeds. But the plant that grows from those new seeds will be genetically distinct from its parents, displaying its own expression of traits in its fruit.

The only way to preserve and reproduce the exact color, texture and flavor of a beloved apple is by grafting the tender offshoot of a tree, called scion wood, onto a compatible rootstock. For thousands of years, this is how apples have been spread and shared: by people, hand to hand.

As the trees grow, the researchers hope to learn why these apples were the ones that survived — and discover the stories of the people who made sure they did.

Fuder, the UGA extension agent, said he is realistic.

"Not all of these varieties are going to be sought after and have widespread adoption," he said.

"But you never know," he added later. "They've made it this far … There has to be a reason."

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Deadline looms for Congress to pass farm bill, essential to Georgia farmers

Laura Corley
The Macon Melody

Jason Vorhees | Georgia Trust for Local News

U.S. Reps. Austin Scott, R-Tifton, and Sanford Bishop, D-Columbus, speak at Wesleyan College in November 2024.

As a bill to set national food, farm and nutritional assistance policies hangs in the political limbo of a divided Congress, two of Macon's representatives are working across the aisle to pass a temporary resolution as the deadline for benefits looms on the horizon.

The farm bill, typically passed every five years, earmarks money that creates a safety net for farmers, who have grappled with soaring costs of production for more than two years. The bill also sets funding for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), forestry, extension services, trade and more.

"It's an urgent situation," U.S. Rep. Sanford Bishop, D-Columbus, told The Melody. "The farm bill is essential for lenders who bank (with) farmers who want to plant their crops. It's essential for them to know what the sources of the safety net will be so that they know their loans can be repaid, that farmers will have the resources to make good on their loans.

"And of course the farmers need to know because they need to make their plans for what they're going to plant and how much they're going to buy and how much land they will rent."

The 2018 Farm Bill expired in September 2023 but was extended for another year. That extension expired more than two months ago, leaving farmers, producers, suppliers and others in the agriculture sector with uncertainty about the future.

Rep. Austin Scott, R-Tifton, said the situation for farmers is especially acute "because it's been so long since the last farm bill passed, the reference prices, which are the prices at which support for the American farmer kicks in, are well below today's cost of production."

"Without America's farmers, the cost of food is going to go through the roof," Scott said. "There has to be support for American production, agriculture. We don't want to be dependent on foreign sources of food any more than we want to be dependent on foreign sources of oil."

Agriculture is Georgia's oldest industry and continues to be a foundational part of the state's economy. Georgia's agricultural producers contributed more than $83.6 billion and 323,300 jobs during 2022, according to the Georgia Farm Bureau. That year, the state tallied 42,400 farms and more than 9.9 million acres of production.

Georgia also is perennially the No. 1 producer of peanuts, broiler chickens, pecans, blueberries and spring onions, according to the bureau.

"We're No. 1 in Georgia for overall agricultural production," Bishop said of the district he has represented since 1993. "We have about 20% of the state's agricultural sales in our district."

Though Scott and Bishop are on the same page about the importance of the bill to Georgia's economy, the pair of representatives seem to be among few in Congress who are willing to compromise.

"We're in a situation we're probably 15% of Republicans won't vote for the farm bill because they don't support American agriculture and about 85% of the Democrats won't vote for the farm bill," Scott said, adding it has been "very difficult" to pass legislation this past session.

"I've never seen where the Democrats on the committee — or the majority of the Democrats on the committee — simply refused to negotiate or operate in good faith on the passage of the bill and unfortunately that's what happened this past year," Scott said, adding Bishop, who is on the committee, was not part of the majority.

Neither Scott nor Bishop expect it to pass by the Dec. 20 deadline, but both say they are pushing for the adoption of a continuing resolution to extend benefits for another year while Congress works to reach a compromise on a 2025 farm bill.

"Bipartisanship is going to be absolutely vital in getting the farm bill passed and signed into law," Bishop said. "If we don't pass the farm bill extension next week, then we revert to what's known as permanent law, which is the 1948 and 1949 farm bills, which really are not applicable and are not sufficient to cover the needs of a 21st century economy for agriculture."

Hurricanes that hit Southwest Georgia this year have made the need for disaster relief even more pressing. Bishop said he hopes to include a provision in the continuing resolution to provide relief.

"If they don't get it in the next three or so months, many of them won't be able to plant the next crop season," Bishop said of farmers in his district. "They won't be able to get financing to have their crops grown and many of them will just go out of business and sell their land in order to pay their debts from the last year."

In the meantime, Bishop says Georgians should pay attention to what's happening with the bill "because it is vitally important to everybody in our area and everybody in the country who eats."

NOTICE REGARDING 2025 TWIGGS COUNTY GEORGIA BUDGET AND NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

Twiggs County notifies the public that the Proposed 2025 Budget for the County is available at the Twiggs County Board of Commissioners Office located at the Twiggs County Georgia Courthouse, 425 Railroad Street, Jeffersonville, Georgia 31044.
Additionally, Twiggs County further notifies the public that a public hearing on the Proposed 2025 Budget will be held on December 19, 2024, at 5:00 PM at the Board of Commissioners' Meeting Room, 1st Floor, Twiggs County Courthouse, 425 Railroad Street, Jeffersonville, Georgia 31044.
Any person wishing to be heard on the Proposed 2025 Budget may appear.

A copy of the proposed budget summaries and detailed budgets are available for public inspection during operating hours at the Board of Commissioners office.

Revenues		2025 Proposed
Property Taxes		$ 6,071,189
Sales Taxes		$ 513,622
All Other Taxes		$ 1,247,950
Court Fees/Fines		$ 1,395,755
Fees		$ 1,402,409
Grants		$ 694,908
Other		$ 168,198
Total Revenues		$ 11,494,031
Expenditures:		
Unallocated		$ 816,800
Elected Officials		$ 142,356
Administration		$ 548,320
Registrars		$ 208,625
Tax Commissioner		$ 400,278
Tax Assessor		$ 274,306
Board of Equalization		$ 8,887
Clerk of Superior Court		$ 298,825
Magistrate		$ 214,867
Probate		$ 366,247
Solid Waste/Recycling		$ 460,606
Sheriff		$ 4,587,981
Coroner		$ 74,399
Fire & Rescue		$ 714,399
EMA		$ 308,699
Road Department		$ 1,129,240
Direct Assistance		$ 445,426
Senior Center		$ 87,762
Transit		$ 137,900
County Agent		$ 41,567
Buildings		$ 354,226
Planning/Zoning		$ 55,783
Recreation		$ 82,778
Total Expenditures		$ 11,760,277
Net General Fund		$ (266,246)
Other Funds		
E911 Fund Revenues		143,287
E911 Fund Expenditures		100,720
Transfer to/from General Fund from E911		$ 42,568
Water Fund Revenues		118,500
Water Fund Expenditures:		
GEFA Loans	125,424	
Other Expenditures	113,349	
Total Water Fund Expenditures		238,773
Transfer to/from General Fund from Water		(120,273)
Transfer to/From General Fund from TIA (TSPLOST)		$ 343,952
Net Change to General Fund after Transfers		$ -

Ga. lawmakers recommend licensing and regulation of tree care industry

Dave Williams
Capitol Beat

ATLANTA – The General Assembly should adopt licensing and regulation requirements for Georgia's tree care industry, a legislative study committee recommended Monday.

The House Study Committee on Safety & Consumer Protection in the Tree Care Industry was formed this year to look for ways to protect tree care workers from suffering deaths or injuries in an occupation identified by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) as among the most hazardous in the country.

OSHA reported in 2020 that the fatality rate for tree trimmers and pruners may be as high as one in 1,000, nearly 30 times higher than the national death rate for all workers.

A 2017 report by the Tree Care Industry Association indicated that Georgia has the third highest rate of reported incidents in the tree care industry, below only California and Florida.

The danger tree care workers face was driven home this month when a U.S. Department of Labor investigation found a Marietta tree trimming contractor could have prevented the death last May of a 38-year-old worker whose equipment came into contact with an unprotected powerline less than 10 feet from an Acworth worksite.

"Serious Tree Services failed to meet their obligation to protect workers by adhering to industry safety standards, resulting in a preventable tragedy," OSHA Area Director Jeffery Stawowy said. "Employers must prioritize training and hazard prevention to avoid such devastating consequences."

The House study committee approved four recommendations, including a suggestion that the tree care industry be encouraged to emphasize safety and training.

The panel also recommended that the General Assembly adopt legislation establishing licensing and regulation of the industry in Georgia.

"There is a place for state involvement from a regulatory and oversight standpoint, said Rep. Victor Anderson, R-Cornelia, the committee's chairman.

The study committee also suggested putting the tree care industry under the oversight of the state Department of Agriculture and asked the General Assembly to appropriate adequate funding to support the program.

Municipalities and utilities that conduct tree trimming operations would be exempt from the regulations.

"The biggest thing we're trying to capture here are the folks who put themselves out as professionals for hire," Anderson said.

The study committee's recommendations will be forwarded to the full House to take up during the 2025 legislative session that starts next month.

'Adopt me' of the week

Meet Max, a 2-year-old, full-blooded poodle. He was a part of a cruelty case — he was severely neglected and had to be rehabilitated back to health.

Max is a "sweetheart" to all, but "he's curious about cats," said Crystal Vargas, founder of Island Breeze Animal Rescue.

If you are interested in adopting Max, contact Vargas at Island Breeze Animal Rescue in Jeffersonville via Facebook or by emailing islandbreezeanimalrescue@gmail.com.

Kemp to head regional workforce development effort

Dave Williams
Capitol Beat

ATLANTA – Gov. Brian Kemp will lead a regional workforce development initiative to be undertaken by the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB).

Kemp, the board's chairman, announced Thursday the formation of a commission charged with developing lists of high-demand career pathways, priority occupations, and the credentials that will be needed to pursue careers valued by local businesses and industries.

"With the South experiencing incredible economic and population growth, one of the biggest challenges we currently face is preparing the next generation of workers for success in the ever-evolving job market," Kemp said.

"By bringing together leaders from across industries in the South, we can better align our efforts to equip citizens with the right skills and knowledge to thrive in and beyond the classroom."

The Commission on Career Pathways and Credentials will be made up of members from each of the SREB's 16 states, including officials and staff from governor's offices and state agencies, K-12 school superintendents, principals, teachers, postsecondary deans and faculty members, and business leaders.

"The goal is to bring us all together behind the north star of aligning education with the needs of our workforce," SREB President Stephen Pruitt said. "This is complex work beyond the ability of K-12, higher education, adult education, or workforce agencies to do alone."

The nonprofit, nonpartisan SREB was created in 1948 and is headquartered in Atlanta.

NOTICE

The **City of Ivey** does hereby announce that the millage rate will be set at a meeting to be held at the **Ivey City Hall** on **January 13, 2024** at **5:30pm** 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 2023 PROPERTY TAX DIGEST AND 5 YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY

City of Ivey	COUNTY WIDE		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	VALUE	Real & Personal	11,246,205	10,935,161	11,246,667	11,836,355	11,673,830	15,003,107
		Motor Vehicles	528,670	398,260	328,450	334,920	318,360	279,190
		Mobile Homes	167,095	203,123	240,894	262,336	262,336	398,738
		Timber - 100%						
		Heavy Duty Equipment						
		Gross Digest	11,941,970	11,536,544	11,816,011	12,433,611	12,254,526	15,681,035
		Less Exemptions	579,289	568,404	601,297	474,453	549,947	647,678
		NET DIGEST VALUE	11,362,681	10,968,140	11,214,714	11,959,158	11,704,579	15,033,357
	RATE	Gross Maintenance & Operation Millage	11.9740	11.4780	11.5350	12.6960	13.7230	14.7930
		Less Rollback (Local Option Sales Tax)	6.5860	6.0900	6.1470	7.3860	5.2550	10.3520
		NET M&O MILLAGE RATE	5.3880	5.3880	5.3880	5.3100	5.2550	4.4410
	TAX	**TOTAL M&O TAXES LEVIED**	$61,222	$59,096	$60,425	$63,503	$61,508	$66,763
		Net Tax $ Increase		($2,126)	$1,329	$3,078	($1,996)	$5,256
		Net Tax % Increase		-3.47%	2.25%	5.09%	-3.14%	8.54%

NOTICE

The City of McIntyre does hereby announce that the millage rate will be set at a meeting to be held at the McIntyre City Hall on 12/23/2024 at 11:00am 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

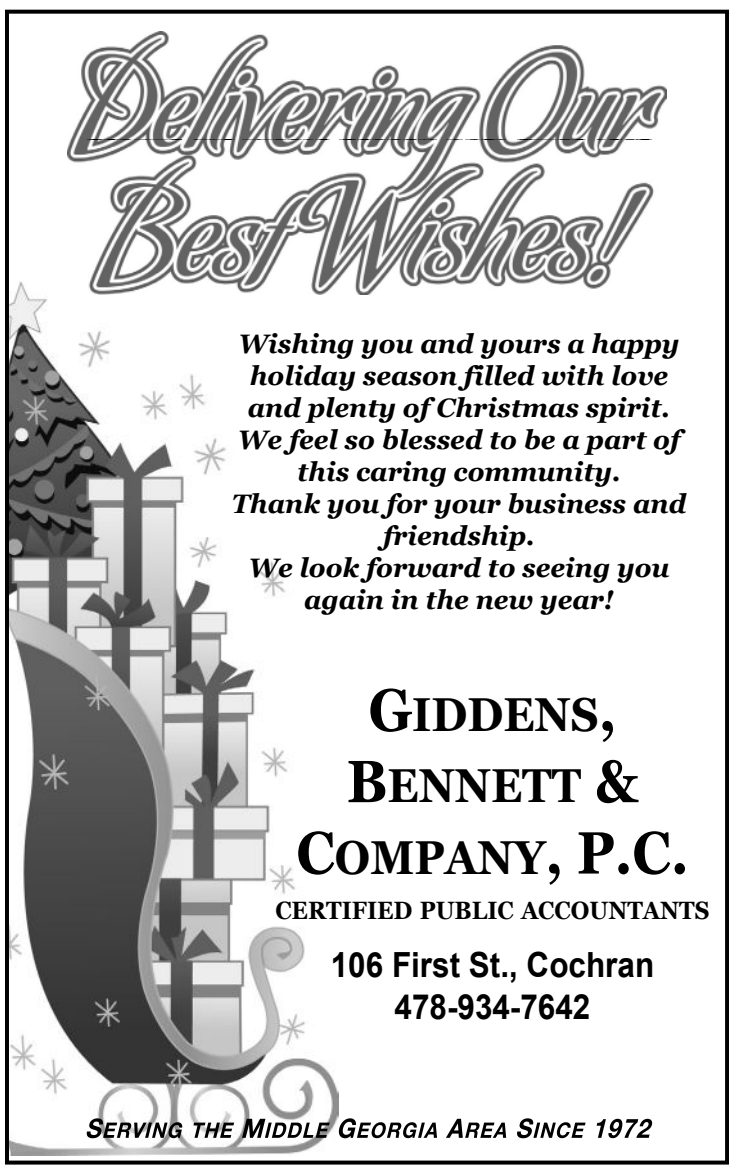
City of McIntyre	McIntyre		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	VALUE	Real & Personal	29,134,653	43,932,824	43,990,805	46,582,945	72,602,234	68,143,208
		Motor Vehicles	335,250	293,540	188,150	166,450	140,150	141,590
		Mobile Homes	258,027	273,959	281,241	309,723	309,723	301,966
		Timber - 100%						
		eavy Duty Equipment						
		Gross Digest	29,727,930	44,500,323	44,460,196	47,059,118	73,052,107	68,586,764
		Less Exemptions	227,440	233,188	268,101	250,972	273,319	305,233
		NET DIGEST VALUE	29,500,490	44,267,135	44,192,095	46,808,146	72,778,788	68,281,531
	RATE	Gross Maintenance & Operation Millage	7.0063	6.4850	6.5110	6.6770	6.3380	6.6240
		Less Rollback (Local Option Sales Tax)	1.2863	0.7650	0.7910	0.9570	0.7050	1.2670
		M&O MILLAGE RATE	5.7200	5.7200	5.7200	5.7200	5.6330	5.3570
	TAX	**M&O TAXES LEVIED**	$168,743	$253,208	$252,779	$267,743	$412,146	$365,784
		Net Tax $ Increase		$84,465	($429)	$14,964	$144,403	($46,362)
		Net Tax % Increase		50.06%	-0.17%	5.92%	53.93%	-11.25%

NOTICE

The **Town of Toomsboro** does hereby announce that the millage rate will be set at a meeting to be held at the Toomsboro City Hall on December 31, 2024 at 4:00pm 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

Town of Toomsboro	COUNTY WIDE		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	VALUE	Real & Personal	6,040,707	6,157,901	6,251,118	6,913,061	6,997,257	8,980,609
		Motor Vehicles	274,180	231,790	194,530	201,330	210,060	187,850
		Mobile Homes	131,028	149,503	147,223	162,220	162,220	148,903
		Timber - 100%						
		Heavy Duty Equipment						
		Gross Digest	6,445,915	6,539,194	6,592,871	7,276,611	7,369,537	9,317,362
		Less Exemptions	188,642	229,135	194,920	178,548	178,538	248,912
		NET DIGEST VALUE	6,257,273	6,310,059	6,397,951	7,098,063	7,190,999	9,068,450
	RATE	Gross Maintenance & Operation Millage	10.4838	9.9550	10.0260	10.6730	9.5710	10.9150
		Less Rollback (Local Option Sales Tax)	4.6338	4.1050	4.1760	4.8230	4.1530	6.3340
		NET M&O MILLAGE RATE	5.8500	5.8500	5.8500	5.4200	5.4180	5.5000
	TAX	**TOTAL M&O TAXES LEVIED**	$36,605	$36,914	$37,428	$38,472	$38,961	$49,876
		Net Tax $ Increase		$309	$514	$1,043	$489	$10,916
		Net Tax % Increase		0.84%	1.39%	2.79%	1.27%	28.02%



UNDER THE WEATHER WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

ARTHRITIS
BACTERIA
COMMON COLD
COVID
DISEASE
E-COLI
FUNGAL
HEPATITIS
HOOKWORMS
ILLNESS
INFECTIOUS
INFLUENZA
MIGRAINE
PAIN
PARASITE
PERTUSSIS
SALMONELLA
STOMACH BUG
STREP THROAT
THRUSH
TOXOPLASMOSIS
TRANSMISSIBLE
TUBERCULOSIS
VIRUS

WEEKLY RECIPE

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES JOURNAL POST

People tend to think of sipping ice cream floats in the middle of summer when temperatures are soaring. Ice cream floating in a bubbling base of cola or root beer can be a welcome treat on a hot day. However, floats can be just as delicious when the weather chills, particularly when ice cream enhances rich and decadent hot chocolate.

For this "Hot Chocolate Float" from "Chocolate: Over 100 Temptingly-Tasty Dishes" (Love Food) by the Love Food editors, coconut and chocolate-flavored scoops of ice cream bob and melt in creamy hot chocolate. Feel free to use your favorite flavors of ice cream to make this recipe your own.

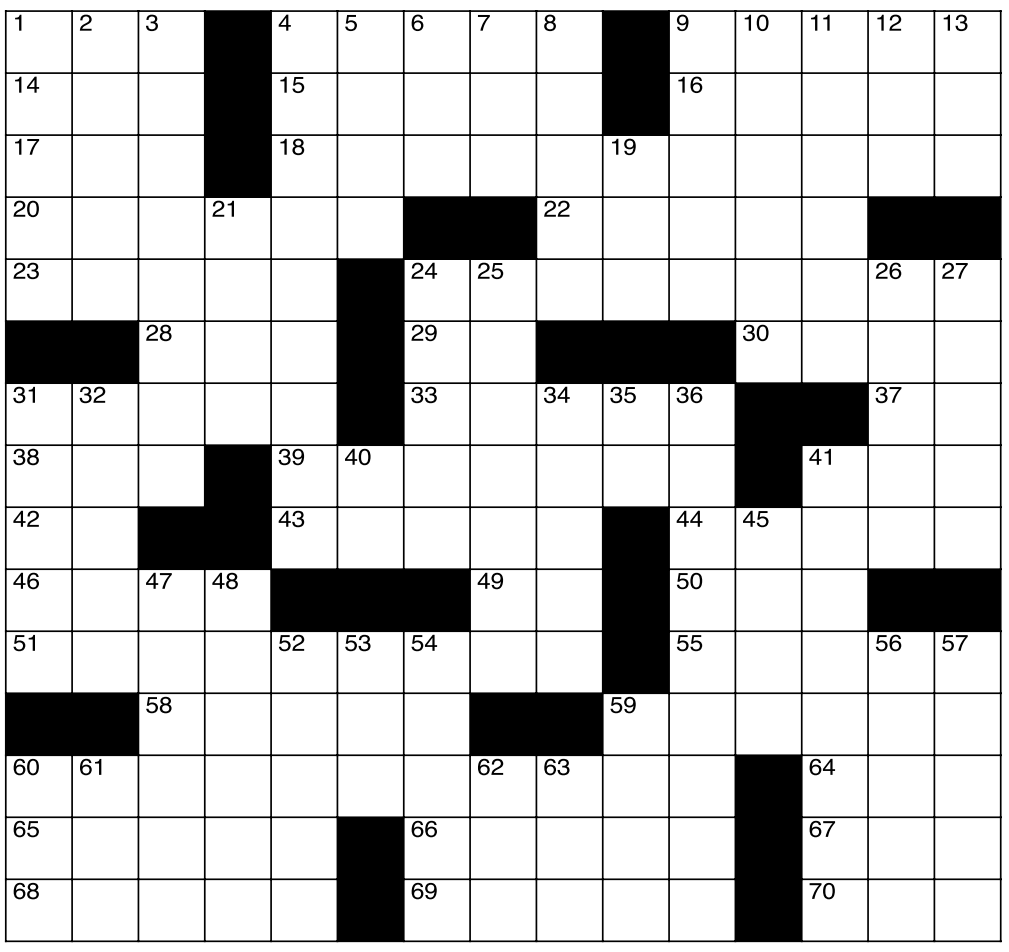
Hot Chocolate Float
Serves 4

Ingredients
2 cups milk
8 oz semisweet chocolate
2 tbsp superfine sugar
8 scoops coconut ice cream
8 scoops chocolate ice cream
Whipped cream, to decorate

Instructions
1.) Pour the milk into a saucepan. Break the chocolate into pieces and add to the saucepan with the sugar. Stir over low heat until the chocolate has melted, the sugar has dissolved and the mixture is smooth. Remove the saucepan from the heat.

2.) Put 1 scoop of coconut ice cream into each of 4 heatproof glasses, top with a scoop of chocolate ice cream, then repeat the layers.

3.) Pour the chocolate flavored milk into the glasses, top with whipped cream, and serve immediately.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Miller beer variety
4. Member of people inhabiting Bering Sea islands
9. Stomach
14. Investment vehicle
15. Fictional soccer coach Ted
16. Irregular in botanical parlance
17. Cease standing
18. "American Horror Story" actress
20. Grow milk teeth
22. Plant parts
23. Snow house
24. Most contemptuous
28. Note to repay
29. Old English
30. Wings
31. Financial institutions
33. Parks and Lopez are two
37. Mr. T's "The A-Team" character
38. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
39. Give off
41. Semitic alphabet letter
42. Farm state
43. Actress Sarandon
44. Back parts
46. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
49. Touchdown
50. One point north of due east
51. Refurbishes
55. Silver and Dogg are two
58. Former Tigers catcher Alex
59. Type of envelope
60. Seriously considered
64. Unhappy
65. Past (archaic)
66. Asian wild dog
67. Old English letter
68. Young domestic sheep
69. Football players need to gain them
70. Witness

CLUES DOWN

1. Dormant Peruvian volcano
2. Norwegian composer
3. Indicates location
4. Pubs
5. Unable to walk easily
6. Electronic warfare-support measures
7. World leader
8. Midsection
9. Jewish calendar month
10. Urological condition
11. A small quantity of anything
12. Mountain Time
13. Affirmative
19. Word element meaning ear
21. Carried away
24. Short-billed rails
25. Newborn child
26. Sword
27. Groups of people
31. Prickly, scrambling shrubs
32. Become less intense
34. Polishes
35. Indicates position
36. Songs sung to one's beloved
40. The 12th letter of the Greek alphabet
41. Insects
45. Israeli politician
47. Pre-digital
48. Roaming
52. Ambience
53. Brew
54. Late
56. Make ecstatically happy
57. Semitic alphabet letter
59. Blend
60. Dash
61. Self
62. Exclamation of satisfaction
63. Hill or rocky peak

GUESS WHO?

I am a comedic actor born in Canada on December 17, 1946. In high school I used humorous campaign posters to win the student council race. I've worked alongside fellow Canadians and am known for my thick eyebrows and glasses. My most iconic role was as an awkward dad in a movie about teenagers and virginity.

Answer: Eugene Levy

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 cold and flu.
Each number corresponds to cooking.
(Hint: 6 = E)

A. 5 25 8 10 10 20 6 5
Clue: Runny nose

B. 10 6 7 6 17
Clue: Elevated temperature

C. 24 9 11 6 5
Clue: Body soreness

D. 14 24 20 24 8 5 6
Clue: Unwell

Answers: A. sniffles B. fever C. aches D. malaise

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

M	G	D	■	A	L	E	U	T	■	T	U	M	M	Y
I	R	A	■	L	A	S	S	O	■	E	R	O	S	E
S	I	T	■	E	M	M	A	R	O	B	E	R	T	S
T	E	E	T	H	E	■	■	S	T	E	M	S	■	■
I	G	L	O	O	■	S	N	O	O	T	I	E	S	T
■	■	I	O	U	■	O	E	■	■	■	A	L	A	E
B	A	N	K	S	■	R	O	S	A	S	■	■	B	A
R	B	E	■	E	M	A	N	A	T	E	■	M	E	M
I	A	■	■	S	U	S	A	N	■	R	E	A	R	S
A	T	A	R	■	■	■	T	D	■	E	B	N	■	■
R	E	N	O	V	A	T	E	S	■	N	A	T	E	S
■	■	A	V	I	L	A	■	■	M	A	N	I	L	A
D	E	L	I	B	E	R	A	T	E	D	■	S	A	D
A	G	O	N	E	■	D	H	O	L	E	■	E	T	H
H	O	G	G	S	■	Y	A	R	D	S	■	S	E	E

It pays to advertise in your local paper!

Legals

Wilkinson Co. Legals

HELP WANTED

City of Irwinton is currently seeking to fill the following positions:

Full- time City Clerk 40hr/wk:

Must be able to satisfactorily perform the essential duties of a City Clerk. Duties include, but are not limited to: Serves as the custodian of all official records and documents of the City of Irwinton. Prepares agenda and supporting materials for City Council meetings; Attend all city council meetings, record meetings, prepare and file minutes, documents and correspondence. Prepares city financial transaction, statements, and payroll. Serves as Clerk of Municipal Court. Assist Mayor and Council with budget preparation. Receives payment for all business and insurance licenses, handles all qualifying paperwork of municipal elections. Other duties may be required and assigned. Individuals must be able to pass a background check and drug screen.

Part - time Clerk 16-31hr/wk:

Individual will exemplify excellent customer service. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office, have cash handling experience, possess effective oral and written communication skills, and have experience using basic office equipment. Individual must be able to pass a background check and drug screen.

Applications can be picked up at and returned to Irwinton City Hall

Application/resume deadline: Jan 10, 2025

POSITION AVAILABLE

The City of Gordon is now accepting applications for a non-certified police officer.

Requirements: Valid Driver's License, high school diploma or GED. A criminal history & driver background check will be performed on all duties.

Pay Scale: Begins at $18.07 per hour. Pay will increase after certification.

Benefits: Insurance, paid holidays, vacation, sick leave, retirement

Applications can be picked up & returned to the Gordon City Hall, 115 College Street, Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Wednesday from 8:30 p.m. to 12;00 p.m. Applications must be submitted no later than January 3, 2025 at 4:00 p.m..

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER
For more information, contact Chief Mike Hall @ 478-628-2323

Legals

Bleckley Co. Legals

C24-159
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF BLECKLEY
IN RE: ESTATE OF DONNIE RAY DIXON
All creditors of the estate of Donnie Ray Dixon, 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.
Teresa Dixon Daniels and Diane Carol Boutwell are the Co-Executors of the estate of Donnie Ray Dixon. D. Lee Peacock, Attorney at Law, 1719 Russell Pkwy., Bldg. 200, Warner Robins, GA 31088 (478) 922-3010
December 19, 26, 2024 January 2, 9, 2025

C24-143
State of Georgia
County of Bleckley
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER
By virtue of the power of sale contained in that certain Deed to Secure Debt from Martin Industrial & Mechanical Contractors, Inc. to Philip W. Pittman, dated December 3, 2013, filed on January 15, 2014, and recorded in Deed Book 389, pages 621-623 in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Bleckley County Georgia, which secured a promissory note from Martin Industrial & Mechanical Contractors, Inc. to Philip W. Pittman in the original principal amount of $525,000,00, there will be sold at public outcry for cash to the highest bidder before the courthouse doors of said county between the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday of January 2025, January 7th 2025, by Philip W. Pittman, as attorney-in-fact for, Martin Industrial & Mechanical Contractors, Inc, the following described property, to-wit:
All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in Land Lot 99 of the 21st Land District of Bleckley County, Georgia, containing 37.66 acres, as shown on a plat of survey prepared for James P. Wimberly by John w. Dye, Registered Surveyor, dated December 27, 1999, recorded in Plat Cabinet B, Slide 40-8, Bleckley County Clerk's office, said plat and the record thereof being incorporated by reference herein in aid of this description.
Said tract contains a race track and various outbuilding all as shown on said plat.
Said property is further described as that same property conveyed unto MARTIN INDUSTRIAL & MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS, INC., by PHILIP W. PITTMAN by Warranty Deed dated December 23, 2013, being filed for record in said Clerk's Office simultaneously herewith. Philip Pittman acquired said property by the following deeds: (a) Warranty Deed from James P. Wimberly to Winford Johnson and Philip Pittman dated December 27, 1999, recorded in Deed Book 199, page 175, Bleckley County deed records; and (b) Warranty Deed from Winford Johnson to Philip Pittman dated September 6, 2007, recorded in Deed Book 333, page 539, Bleckley County Deed Records.
A copy of this legal advertisement (Notice of Sale Under Power) which was sent to the Cochran Journal, has been mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested to Martin Industrial & Mechanical Contractors, Inc., as required by Georgia law, O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2.
The indebtedness secured by said Deed to Secure Debt having been declared due and payable because of default in the payment of the indebtedness secured thereby, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of the sale, including attorney's fees, notice of intention to collect attorney's fees having been given as provided by law.
The property will be sold as the property of Martin Industrial & Mechanical Contractors, Inc., subject to all outstanding taxes, assessments, unpaid bills, charges, and expenses that constitute liens against the property whether due and payable or not yet due and payable. Philip W. Pittman is the holder of the Note and Deed to Secure Debt to the property.
In accordance with O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2, the person that has full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the mortgage with the debtor is David B. Pittman and he may be reached at the Law office of David B. Pittman, 204 NE Main St, Suite 1, Vidalia, Georgia, 30474 or by telephone at (912) 537-8772. The foregoing notwithstanding, nothing in O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2 shall be construed to require David B. Pittman to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the Deed to Secure Debt described herein.
Said sell will be made subject to the following items which may affect the title to said property; All restrictive covenants, easements and rights-of-way appearing of record, if any; all zoning ordinances; matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or by an inspection of the property; all outstanding or unpaid bills and assessments for street improvements, curbing, garbage, water, sewage and public utilities which may be liens upon said property; and any outstanding taxes, assessments and other liens superior to the security deed being foreclosed hereby.
The undersigned reserves the right to reject any, and all bids to continue the sale from day to day, and to withdraw said property from sale and subsequently to reoffer same in the event no reasonable bid is received and accepted. To the best of the undersigned's knowledge and belief, the party in possession is Martin Industrial & Mechanical Contractors, Inc., or parties claiming under the aforementioned.
The sale will be conducted subject to (1) to confirmation that sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the security deed, including but not limited to a determination that the loan was not reinstated prior to the foreclosure.
Philip W. Pittman, as Attorney-in-fact for Martin Industrial & Mechanical Contractors, Inc.
David B. Pittman
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 1556
Vidalia, Georgia 30475
(912) 537-8772
This attorney is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
December 12, 19, 26, 2024 January 2, 2025

C24-151
NOTICE OF SALE
Because of the default in payment of the indebtedness secured by Deed with Power of Sale to Secure Debt executed by ROBERT TIMMONS to BOBBY L. BOBO, dated February 13, 2009, and recorded on February 13, 2009, and of record in Deed Book 349, pages 601-602, Clerk's Office, Bleckley Superior Court, pursuant to the power of sale contained in said Deed with Power of Sale to Secure Debt will, on the first Tuesday in January, 2025, during the
legal hours of sale, at the courthouse door in Cochran, Bleckley County, Georgia, sell at public outcry to the highest and best bidder for cash, the property described in said deed, to-wit:
All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in that certain tract of land with dwelling house thereon in Land Lot 142 in the 21st Land District of Bleckley County, Georgia and in the City of Cochran in the Happy Hill Section of said city having the following particular description: That tract of land with dwelling house thereon in which Peter Drayton lived at the time of his death located at the south corner of intersection of Johnson Street and Seventh Street bounded on the northwest by Johnson Street, on the northeast by Seventh Street, on the southeast by lands of Junior Whitehead; and on the southwest by lands of the Estate of Theo Williams. Said tract being enclosed on the southwest and southeast sides by a wire fence.
The property address is 155 N Seventh Street, Cochran, Georgia 31014.
Said property will be sold subject to the accrued and/or outstanding ad valorem taxes, if any. A deed will be made by the undersigned to the purchaser at said sale as attorney in fact for the said, **ROBERT TIMMONS** with the proceeds of said sale to be applied as provided in said deed with power of sale to secure debt.
To the best knowledge, information and belief of the undersigned, the property is presently in the possession of **ROBERT TIMMONS.**
This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained shall be used for that purpose.
The name, address and telephone number of the individual who has full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the referenced indebtedness is: Bobby L. Bobo, 1644 Eastman Highway, Hawkinsville, Georgia 31036. (478) 972-1329
BOBBY L. BOBO, as attorney in fact
for ROBERT TIMMONS
Hall & Hall
Attorneys at Law
116 Commerce Street
P.O. Box 779
Hawkinsville, Georgia 31036
(478) 783-1730
Dec 12, 19, 26, 2024, Jan 2, 2025

C24-157
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
RE: ESTATE OF JOHN P. PARKS, DECEASED
All creditors of the Estate of John P. Parks, 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 Administrator.
This 5th day of December, 2024.
Walter J. Parks, Administrator
177 Jeanne Drive
Cochran, GA 31014
December 12, 19, 26, 2024 January 2, 2025

C24-160
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF BLECKLEY COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
JESSIE GILMORE, PLAINTIFF
V.
LINDREKA GILMORE, DEFENDANT
CIVIL ACTION FILE NO. 2024V-0175SFW
NOTICE OF SUMMONS--SERVICE BY PUBLICATION
TO: Lindreka Gilmore, Defendant Named Above:
You are hereby notified that the above-styled action seeking COMPLAINT FOR DIVORCE was filed against you in said court on October 18, 2024 , and that by reason of a order for service of summons by publication entered by the court on December 10, 2024 you are hereby commanded and required to file with the clerk of said court and serve upon JESSIE GILMORE, plaintiff, whose address is 175 JOHNSON STREET, COCHRAN, GA 31014, an answer to the complaint within sixty (60) days of the date of the order for service by publication. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.
Witness the Honorable Sarah F. Wall, Judge of said Court.
This 10th day of December, 2024.
/s/ Carol Evans
Clerk of Superior Court
Bleckley County
December 19, 26, 2024 January 9, 16, 2025

C24-150
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
RE: ESTATE OF AARON E. MULLIS, DECEASED
All creditors of the Estate of Aaron E. Mullis, 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 18th day of November, 2024.
Misty R. Glover, Executor
103 Waterford Court
Milledgeville, GA 31061
November 28, December 5, 12, 19, 2024

C24-155
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF BLECKLEY
IN RE: ESTATE OF ESTER JEANETTE EDGE, DECEASED.
All creditors of the estate of ESTER JEANETTE EDGE, deceased, late of Bleckley County, 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.
This 3rd day of December, 2024.
RICKY DALE EDGE
Executor of the Estate of
ESTER JEANETTE EDGE
213 COTTONFIELD COURT
BONAIRE, GA 31005
December 12, 19, 26, 2024 January 2, 2025

C24-152
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
RE: ESTATE OF HUDSON PADGETT, JR., DECEASED
All creditors of the Estate of Hudson Padgett, Jr., 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 25th day of November, 2024.
Jo Ann D. Padgett, Executor
147 South Sixth Street, Apt. 406
Cochran, GA 31014
December 5, 12, 19, 26, 2024

C24-158
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF BLECKLEY
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER
Pursuant to the power of sale contained in the Security Deed executed by ANGIL J. BONAWITZ AND KRISTEN HOWARD to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS MORTGAGEE, AS NOMINEE FOR AUSTIN CAPITAL BANK SSB in the original principal amount of $125,435.00 dated August 9, 2019 and recorded in Deed Book 434, Page 594, Bleckley County records, said Security
Deed being last transferred to PLANET HOME LENDING, LLC in Deed Book 468, Page 774, Bleckley County records, the undersigned will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, before the Courthouse door in said County, or at such other place as lawfully designated, within the legal hours of sale, on February 04, 2025, the property in said Security Deed and described as follows:
ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 16 OF THE 21ST LAND DISTRICT, BLECKLEY COUNTY, GEORGIA, COMPRISING 1.39 ACRES AND BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS TRACT 1, ACCORDING TO A PLAT OF SURVEY OF RECORD IN PLAT CABINET B, SLIDE 141-9, CLERK'S OFFICE, BLECKLEY SUPERIOR COURT. SAID PLAT AND THE RECORDED COPY THEREOF ARE INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE FOR ALL PURPOSES.
SUBJECT TO ALL EASEMENTS, ORDINANCES, COVENANTS, CONDITIONS, RESTRICTIONS AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY OF RECORD, IF ANY.
ADDRESS UNDER CURRENT SYSTEM OF NUMBERING: 832 GA. HWY. 112, COCHRAN, GEORGIA.
Said property being known as: **832 GA HIGHWAY 112 COCHRAN, GA 31014**
To the best of the undersigned's knowledge, the party or parties in possession of said property is/are ANGIL J. BONAWITZ AND KRISTEN HOWARD or tenant(s).
The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due and payable because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as provided for in the Note and said Security Deed. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of sale, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).
Said property will be sold subject to the following: (1) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, whether or not yet due and payable); (2) the right of redemption of any taxing authority; (3) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property; and (4) any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.
Said sale will be conducted subject to the following: (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.
The name, address, and telephone number of the individual or entity who has full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the mortgage is as follows:
Planet Home Lending, LLC
321 Research Parkway, Suite 303
Meriden, CT 06450
1-855-884-2250
Note that pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2, the above individual or entity is not required by law to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the mortgage.
THIS LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
PLANET HOME LENDING, LLC,
as Attorney-in-Fact for
ANGIL J. BONAWITZ AND KRISTEN HOWARD
Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC
13010 Morris Rd.
Suite 450
Alpharetta, GA 30004
Phone: 470.321.7112
Firm File No. 24-251383 - KaK
December 19, 2024 January 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025

C24-156
NOTICE OF INTENTION TO SECURE RETAIL DEALER LICENSE FOR SALE OF DISTILLED SPIRITS
GEORGIA, BLECKLEY COUNTY
Notice is hereby given pursuant to O.C.G.A. 3-4-27 that an application is being filed with the City of Cochran by KUBER LAKSHMI, LLC for a Retailer Dealer License for the sale of distilled spirits/operation of a Retail Package Liquor Store at 393-B Georgia Highway East, Cochran, Georgia 31014, the sole member and owner of KUBER LAKSHMI, LLC being Arpitkumar Ravleker whose address is 181 9th Street, Cochran, Georgia 31014.
This 3rd day of December, 2024.
KUBER LAKSHMI, LLC
/s/ Arpitkumar Ravleker, Sole Member
December 12, 14, 2024

C24-149
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF BLECKLEY COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF GARY LEE ABNEY, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 2024P81
PETITION BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR WAIVER OF BOND AND/OR GRANT OF CERTAIN POWERS
NOTICE
Betty Abney King has petitioned for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in OCGA 53-12-261 in regard to the above estate. 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 December 30, 2024.
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.
/s/ Jonathan R Fordham
Judge of the Probate Court
By: Clerk of the Probate Court
112 North Second Street
Cochran, GA 31014
478-934-3200 Ext. 4
November 28, December 5, 12, 19, 2024

Twiggs Co. Legals

T24-087
NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF TWIGGS COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
TWIGGS COUNTY TAX COMMISSIONER, E. WALTON NESMITH, Petitioner
v.
WILLIAM MACK WALL, ALTHEA WALL JENKINS, THE ESTATE OF KYRTLE WALL ROBERTSON, MELZETTA GEORGE, FREDDIE M. WALL, AND AVERY ROBERTSON, Respondents
CIVIL ACTION FILE NO. 2024-V-143
To: WILLIAM MACK WALL, ALTHEA WALL JENKINS, THE ESTATE OF KYRTLE WALL ROBERTSON, MELZETTA GEORGE, FREDDIE M. WALL, AND AVERY ROBERTSON AND ANY AND ALL PARTIES CLAIMING INTEREST IN THE EXCESS FUNDS GENERATED FROM THE AUGUST 6, 2024, TAX SALE FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4922 MARION-RIPLEY ROAD, JEFFERSONVILLE, TWIGGS COUNTY, GEORGIA 31044, IDENTIFIED AS TAX MAP & PARCEL NUMBER T081A 019.
You are hereby notified that, pursuant to an Order Directing Service by Publication filed on November 15, 2024 ("Order") by the Honorable Judge Helton, a Verified Petition for Interpleader Regarding Excess Funds After Tax Sale ("Petition") was filed on November 13, 2024 in the Superior Court of Twiggs County. The purpose of the Petition is to distribute excess funds received from a non-judicial tax sale of the real property situated in Twiggs County, Georgia at 4922 Marion-Ripley Road, Twiggs County, Georgia 31044 and identified as Tax Map & Parcel Number T081A 019. You are hereby given this notice of this action and directed to O.C.G.A. 9-11-4(f)(1)(C) which commands you to file with the Clerk of Superior Court of Twiggs County and serve upon the Petitioner's attorney, W. Kerry Howell, W. Kerry Howell, LLC, 320 Third Street, Macon, Georgia, 31201, an Answer within sixty (60) days of the date of the Order referenced above.
November 28, December 5, 12, 19, 2024

T24-094
MONTANA, RICHLAND COUNTY
NOTICE OF DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
All creditors of the Estate of Justin Ray Nefva, deceased, late of Twiggs 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.
This 3rd day of December, 2024.
VALERIE K. ALLISON, AS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF JUSTIN RAY NEVA, DECEASED
Valerie K. Allison
35314 County Road 137
Fairview, Montana 59221
December 19, 26, 2024 January 2, 9, 2025

T24-091
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF TWIGGS
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER
Pursuant to the power of sale contained in the Security Deed executed by MABEL HUDSON PATTERSON to AMERICAN GENERAL FINANCIAL SERVICES. INC. in the original principal amount of $76,143.65 dated March 25, 2008, and recorded in Deed Book 8-H , Page 147, Twiggs County records, said Security Deed being last transferred to WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR THE FLIC RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 1 in Deed Book 11I, Page 734, Twiggs County records, the undersigned will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, before the Courthouse door in said County, or at such other place as lawfully designated, within the legal hours of sale, on January 07, 2025, the property in said Security Deed and described as follows:
ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING, BEING AND SITUATE IN THE PEARSON DISTRICT, G.M.D., OF TWIGGS COUNTY, GEORGIA, WHICH IS MORE PARTICULARLY KNOWN AS LOT NO. 4 OF BLOCK F, ACCORDING TO A SUBDIVISION OF A PART OF THE WADE BELL ESTATE FRONTING 200 FEET, MORE OR LESS, ALONG THE NORTHWESTERN MARGIN OF NORTH BELL COURT, WHICH IS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT AN IRON PIN SET ALONG THE NORTHWESTERN MARGIN OF NORTH BELL COURT AT A POINT COMMON TO LANDS OF FULLER AND FROM SAID BEGINNING POINT RUNNING THENCE NORTHWESTERLY ALONG THE LINES OF FULLER FOR A DISTANCE OF 200 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO A SECOND IRON PIN; THENCE SOUTHWESTERLY ALONG THE LINE OF LANDS RETAINED BY THE WADE BELL ESTATE FOR A DISTANCE OF 200 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO A THIRD IRON PIN; THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY ALONG THE LINE OF OTHER LANDS RETAINED BY WADE BELL ESTATE FOR A DISTANCE OF 200 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO A FOURTH IRON PIN; AND THENCE NORTHEASTERLY ALONG SAID NORTHWESTERN MARGIN OF NORTH BELL COURT FOR A DISTANCE OF 200 FEET, MORE OR LESS TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.
Said property being known as: **190 BELL COURT, MACON, GA 31217**
To the best of the undersigned's knowledge, the party or parties in possession of said property is/are MABEL HUDSON PATTERSON or tenant(s).
The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due and payable because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as provided for in the Note and said Security Deed. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of sale, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).
Said property will be sold subject to the following: (1) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, whether or not yet due and payable); (2) the right of redemption of any taxing authority; (3) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property; and (4) any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.
Said sale will be conducted subject to the following: (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.
The name, address, and telephone number of the individual or entity who has full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the mortgage is as follows:
Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc.
3217 S. Decker Lake Drive
Salt Lake City, UT 84119
800-635-9698
Note that pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2, the above individual or entity is not required by law to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the mortgage.
THIS LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR THE FLIC RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 1,
as Attorney-in-Fact for
MABEL HUDSON PATTERSON
Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC
13010 Morris Rd.
Suite 450
Alpharetta, GA 30004
Phone: 470.321.7112
Firm File No. 24-185215 - DoP
December 12, 19, 26, 2024 January 2, 2025

T24-090
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER
GEORGIA, TWIGGS COUNTY
Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by Betty Wimberly, Randolph Wimberly to CitiFinancial Services, Inc. dated November 14, 2005, recorded in Deed Book 7Q, Page 186, Twiggs County, Georgia Records, as
last transferred to U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as indenture
trustee for the CIM Trust 2020-R1 by assignment recorded in Deed Book 11A, Page 1034, Twiggs County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of FIFTY-ONE THOUSAND EIGHTY-EIGHT AND 22/100 DOLLARS ($51,088.22), with interest thereon as set forth therein, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the courthouse door of Twiggs County, Georgia, or at such place as may be lawfully designated as an alternative, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in January, 2025, the following described property:
SEE EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF

LOCAL MATTERS

Georgia
STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS
Publish your classified ad in more than 60 Georgia newspapers for only $350.
Call Georgia Newspaper Service: 770-454-6776
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 12/15/24

CELLULAR

Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just $20/month. For more information, call 1-833-446-1847

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

HOME IMPROVEMENT

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

NEED NEW FLOORING? Call today schedule a FREE in-home estimate on Carpeting & Flooring. Call Today! 1-877-771-6882

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.

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material - steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer – up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-866-939-2151

Want a greener lawn? TruGreen's your go-to for a tailored lawn care plan. Act now and get 50% off your first service with a purchase of an annual plan. Call us at 1-866-799-1832 to learn more.

PEST CONTROL: PROTECT YOUR HOME from pests safely and affordably. Roaches, Bed Bugs, Rodent, Termite, Spiders and other pests. Locally owned and affordable. Call for service or an inspection today! 1-877-548-7945 Have zip code of property ready when calling!

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

HOME BREAK-INS take less than 60 SECONDS. Don't wait! Protect your family, your home, your assets NOW for as little as 70¢ a day! Call 1-833-888-2038

MISCELLANEOUS

When you want the best, you want Omaha Steaks! 100% guaranteed and delivered to your door! Our Butcher's Deluxe Package makes a great gift and comes with 8 FREE Burgers ONLY $99.99. Call 1-844-532-0002 and mention code 77318DBH or visit www.omahasteaks.com/Deluxe9674

BANKRUPTCY RELIEF! Help stop Creditor Harassment, Collection Calls, Repossession and Legal Actions! Speak to a Professional Attorney and Get the Help You NEED! Call NOW 855-968-5222

BEHIND ON YOUR MORTGAGE PAYMENTS? Threatened with foreclosure? Denied a loan modification? Let us help! Call the Homeowner Relief Line to speak with a mortgage specialist. 844-797-7162

Wesley Financial Group LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts Over $50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 866-411-5215

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY BENEFITS. Unable to work? Denied benefits? We Can Help! Strong, recent work history needed. Call to start your application or appeal today! 877-627-2704

Moving Out of State? Licensed and insured, full-service nationwide movers. Call now to get a free, instant price quote on your next move. 1-866-590-6443

TV/INTERNET

Get DISH Satellite TV + Internet! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To $600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-866-369-1468

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WANTED

We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-877-399-2113

We buy 8,000 cars a week. Sell your old, busted or junk car with no hoops, haggles or headaches. Sell your car to Peddle. Easy three step process. Instant offer. Free pickup. Fast payment. Call 1-833-702-1961

TOP CA$H PAID FOR OLD GUITARS! 1920-1980 Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild, Mosrite, Rickenbacker, Prairie State, D'Angelico, Stromberg. And Gibson Mandolins / Banjos. 1-877-548-8134

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 pursuant to O.C.G.A. Â§ 13-1-11 having been given).Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and any matters of record including, but not limited to, those superior to the Security Deed first set out above. Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. U.S. Bank Trust Company, National Association, as Trustee, as successor-in-interest to U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as indenture trustee, for the holders of the CIM Trust 2020-R1, Mortgage-Backed Notes, Series 2020-R1 is the holder of the Security Deed to the property in accordance with OCGA Â§ 44-14-162.2.

The entity that has full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the mortgage with the debtor is:

Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc., 3217 S. Decker Lake Dr., Salt Lake City, UT 84119, 888-818-6032.

Note, however, that such entity is not required by law to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the loan.

To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the property is Betty Wimberly, Randolph Wimberly, Estate of Betty Wimberly and Estate of Randolph Wimberly a/k/a Betty Winberly a/k/a Betty Joyce Wimberly or a tenant or tenants and said property is more commonly known as **184 Ridge Rd, Macon, GA 31217.**

Should a conflict arise between the property address and the legal description the legal description will control.

The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the security deed.

U.S. Bank Trust Company, National Association, as Trustee, as successor-in-interest to U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as indenture trustee, for the holders of the CIM Trust 2020-R1, Mortgage-Backed Notes, Series
2020-R1
as Attorney in Fact for
Betty Wimberly, Randolph Wimberly
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC
1544 Old Alabama Rd
Roswell, GA 30076
www.foreclosurehotline.net
24-16137GA
HIBIT "A"

EX-

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN THE 27TH LAND DISTRICT AND THE 355 G.M.D. OF TWIGGS COUNTY, GEORGIA, BEING SHOWN AND DESIGNATED AS LOT 2, RIDGE ACRES SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO A PLAT OF SURVEY OF SAID SUBDIVISION, PREPARED BY JOHN W DYE SURVEYING SERVICE AND RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 8 AT PAGE 86, OF THE RECORDS OF THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT, TWIGGS COUNTY, GEORGIA, SAID LOT HAVING THE METES BOUNDS AND DIMENSIONS SHOWN ON AFOREMENTIONED PLAT, WHICH BY REFERENCE IS MADE A PART OF THE DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY HEREIN CONVEYED. CONVEYANCE OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY IS MADE SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS AND COVENANTS APPLICABLE TO ALL LOTS IN SAID SUBDIVISION, A DECLARATION OF WHICH IS DATED JUNE 2, 1987, AND IS
RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 3N, AT PAGES 244-246, OF THE RECORDS OF THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT, TWIGGS COUNTY, GEORGIA.

MR / January 7, 2025
Our file no. 24-16137GA-FT1
24-16137GA

December 12, 19, 26, 2024 January 2, 2025

T24-088
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

All creditors of PAMELA A. CANNON, deceased, 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 21st day of November 2024.
Mr. Charles W. Wyche Jr.
815 Myrtle Street, G3
Roswell, GA 30075
BRADLEY G. PYLES
Attorney for Executor
Post Office Box 1797
Macon, GA 31202-1797
478-745-1651

November 28, December 5, 12, 19, 2024

T24-093
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
TWIGGS COUNTY, GEORGIA

In RE: Estate of Charles F. Benton, Jr., deceased, late of Twiggs County, 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 me.

This 4th day of December, 2024.
Nicole Faye Comer, Executor
Estate of Charles F. Benton, Jr.
John D. Newberry
Newberry & Newberry
Attorneys at Law
PO Box 844
Gray, GA 31032
478-986-5141

December 19, 26, 2024 January 2, 9, 2025

Wilkinson Co. Legals

W24-112
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF WILKINSON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF FREDDIE JOE HALL, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 229
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE

TO: BARBARA ANN BUTLER and to whom it may concern:

BARBARA ANN BUTLER has petitioned for BARBARA ANN BUTLER to be appointed administrator of the estate of FREDDIE JOE HALL 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 6, 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

December 12, 19, 26, 2024 January 2, 2025

W24-103
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
IN RE: ESTATE OF JACK BRASWELL MCCOOK, DECEASED

All creditors of the Estate of Jack Braswell McCook, late of Wilkinson County, deceased, 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 the undersigned.

This 18th day of November 2024.
Phillip McCook
P.O. Box 212
Tallulah Falls, GA 30573
By: McMullen Law Firm, LLC
Angela McCook Herring
P.O. Box 276
Tallulah Falls, GA 30573
By: McMullen Law Firm, LLC

November 28, December 5, 12, 19, 2024

W24-110
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
WILKINSON COUNTY, GEORGIA

In RE: Estate of Thomas Lloyd Gibbs, deceased.

All creditors of the estate of Thomas Lloyd Gibbs, deceased, late of Wilkinson County, 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 me.

This 3rd day of December, 2024.
Gail T. Gibbs, Executor
Estate of Thomas Lloyd Gibbs
John D. Newberry
Newberry & Newberry
Attorneys at Law
PO Box 844
Gray, GA 31032
478-986-5141

December 12, 19, 26, 2024 January 2, 2025

W24-111
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF WILKINSON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF CHARLES RUSSELL SMITH, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 236
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE

TO: Terry Lynn Ramsey and to whom it may concern:

Terry Lynn Ramsey has petitioned for Terry Lynn Ramsey to be appointed administrator of the estate of Charles Russell Smith 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 6, 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

December 12, 19, 26, 2024 January 2, 2025

W24-106
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF WILKINSON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: CHARLES MARVIN BRACK, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 234
NOTICE OF PETITION TO FILE FOR YEAR'S SUPPORT

The petition of Jean Olsen Brack, for a year's support from the estate of Charles Marvin Brack, deceased, for decedent's (surviving spouse)(and)(minor child(ren)), having been duly filed, all interested persons are hereby notified to show cause, if any they have, on or before December 30, 2024, 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, 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: Brittany Jones
Clerk of the Probate Court
100 Bacon Street
Irwinton, GA 31042
478-946-2222

December 5, 12, 19, 26, 2024

W24-104

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER
WILKINSON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

By virtue of Power of Sale contained in the Deed to Secure Debt from Kenneth Wayne Davis, dated December 30, 2022, recorded February 2, 2023, in Deed Book 408, Pages 923-932, as may be amended of record, Wilkinson County, Georgia Land Records. Said Deed to Secure Debt being given to secure a Note dated December 30, 2022, totaling the original principal amount of Twenty-Six Thousand One Hundred Seventy-Five and 18/100 ($26,175.18) Dollars, with interest from date as stated therein, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the Courthouse door at Wilkinson County, Georgia, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in January, being January 7, 2025, the following described property:

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in the 1505th GMD, City of Ivey, Wilkinson County, Georgia, described as Lots T-63, T-65 and T-66, Section One, described by that certain plat of survey entitled "Holiday Hills Lake Tchukolako Development", prepared by John Barker, GRLS, dated April 23, 1974, recorded in Plat Book 7, Page 160, Wilkinson County Land Records. Said plat of survey and record thereof are by reference made a part hereof for a more accurate description of said property.

The debt secured by said Deed to Secure Debt has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, non-payment of the monthly installments on said loan. 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. Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes, special assessments, unpaid utility bills constituting liens against the property, and all security deeds, liens and encumbrances existing when the above-described security deed was filed for record. To the best of the undersigned's knowledge, information, and belief, the party in possession of the property is Kenneth Wayne Davis or a tenant or tenants. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §44-14-162.2, the entity who shall have full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of your mortgage is Wilkinson County Bank, whose legal representative is located at 241 E. Hancock Street, Milledgeville, GA 31061 and having a telephone number of (478) 451-3065.

Wilkinson County Bank, acting under and by virtue of the powers contained in said Deed to Secure Debt as Attorney-in-Fact for Kenneth Wayne Davis.

By: J. Lance Stribling
Stribling and Crockett Law
241 E. Hancock Street
Milledgeville, Georgia 31061

Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, the purpose of this correspondence is to collect a debt. Any and all information obtained as a result of this communication will be used solely for that purpose.

December 12, 19, 26, 2024 January 2, 2025

W24-107
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF WILKINSON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF BRIAN KEITH SCARBROUGH, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 232
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE

TO: WHOM IT MAY CONERN AND TO ANY AND ALL SINGULAR THE HEIRS AT LAW OF DECEDENT and to whom it may concern:

Floyd Scott Scarbrough has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of **Brian Keith Scarbrough** deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for a 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 December 30, 2024.

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 Courthouse
PO Box 201
Irwinton, GA 31042
478-946-2222

December 5, 12, 19, 26, 2024

W24-108

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF WILKINSON
IN RE: ESTATE OF VERA J. WOOD

All creditors of the Estate of Vera J. Wood, deceased, late of Wilkinson County, 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.

This 2nd day of December, 2024.
Judy Veal, Administrator of the
Estate of Vera J. Wood
105 Choctaw Drive
Ivey, GA 31031

December 12, 19, 26, 2024 January 2, 2025