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Election results in Twiggs, Bleckley roll in quickly with expected results

Mary Helene Hall
Times Journal Post

With strong voter turnouts, Bleckley and Twiggs counties wrapped up their election nights quickly with results coming in around 8:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Both counties had around three quarters of registered voters cast a ballot in the election. In Bleckley, 6,081 ballots were cast out of 8,115 registered voters, and in Twiggs, 4,479 were cast out of 5,908 registered voters. Out of the country's total voting-eligible population, the average turnout for the 2020 general election was about 66%, according to the Pew Research Center.

Here are the results of the contested elections that appeared on ballots in Twiggs and Bleckley counties. Note that these are unofficial results reported to the Georgia Secretary of State office as of Tuesday night.

U.S. President

Former President Donald Trump swept the two counties with a strong lead in each contest. About one-in-five voters in Bleckley voted for Trump.

Twiggs County:
— Donald J. Trump (R) — 57.19% — 2,548
— Kamala D. Harris (D) — 42.54% — 1,895
Bleckley County:
— Donald J. Trump (R) —

U.S. House of Representatives

Incumbent Austin Scott (R) took a similar lead to Trump in the District 8 U.S. House of Representatives election, mostly mirroring percentages in the presidential results.

Twiggs County:
— Austin Scott (I) (R) — 60.92% — 2,595
— Darrius Butler (D) — 39.08% — 1,665

Bleckley County:

— Austin Scott (I) (R) — 81.25% — 4,757
— Darrius Butler (D) — 18.75% — 1,098

Twiggs County

For local elections, Twiggs incumbents in the County Commission took home easy victories across the board.

County Commission Chairman:
— Casey Callaway (R) — 40.69% — 1,719
— Ken Fowler (I) (D) — 59.31% — 2,506

County Commission District 1:

— Wade C. Huffman (R) — 39.15% — 433
— Lonnie Ford (I) (D) — 60.85% — 673

County Commission District 3:

— Roger Hill (R) — 33.95% — 386
— Keith L. Washington, Sr. (I) (D) — 66.05% — 751

Eleven uncontested races were on the Twiggs ballots:

See ELECTION, page 2



Jason Vorhees / Georgia Trust for Local News

With few precincts to tally, Twiggs and Bleckley counties were quick to release unofficial results Tuesday.

Wilco remains 'reliably red'

Christian McKearney
Times Journal Post

A Democrat stronghold for many decades, it's now safe to say that Wilkinson County is "reliably red."

Not only did Donald Trump win the county's presidential vote by roughly 18 percentage points, local Republicans also cleaned up on Tuesday night.

In two months, when officeholders are sworn in at the courthouse, every constitutional officer in Wilkinson County will be a Republican, with the exception of the sheriff. That exception is Richard Chatman, who put up big numbers on Tuesday despite running as a Democrat. Chatman, first elected as sheriff in 1996, received 3,347 votes, while Republican challenger Chancey Allen garnered 1,477, a difference of 38 percentage points. 2024 marked the first time in years that anyone even bothered to run against Chatman.

Meanwhile, Republican Amanda Panther bested Jamesha Anderson, the Democrat incumbent, by a vote total of 2,653-2,122 in the Tax Commissioner's race. Anderson was sworn into office in May 2022 after then-Tax Commissioner Vanessa Lewis resigned and went to work in the private sec-

tor. Anderson and Panther have both worked in the Tax Commissioner's Office for a number of years.

Also, in the Coroner's race, Republican Dusty Thomas defeated Democrat Aisha Edmonds by a vote total of 2,844-1,938. Billy Matthews, Wilco's longtime Coroner, previously decided not to seek re-election, opening the door for a new crop of coroner candidates.

In terms of the other constitutional officers, current Superior Court Clerk Kimberly Bentley ran unopposed, as did Amanda Panther in the Probate Court Judge's race. Both ladies are Republicans. Bentley, who's worked in the Clerk of Superior Court's office for a number of years, has led the office since the retirement of Cinda Bright in early 2023. Bright had been on the job for roughly four decades, and Bentley was her protege. Panther, meanwhile, currently works in the office and soon will be sworn in to replace Lisa Dykes, who decided not to seek re-election earlier this year.

The local red wave did not stop there, however. The Wilkinson County School Board soon will be majority Republican. Up until 2016, no candidate in Wilkinson County even bothered to run

See WILCO, page 3



Christian McKearney / TJP

The old Irwinton jail will receive \$42,000 worth of improvements.

County commissioners cover old jail, JR Sims Road

Christian McKearney
Times Journal Post

Although barely hanging on, the "old jail" in Irwinton last year managed to celebrate its 100th birthday.

Help is on the way, however, as the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday voted to approve \$42,000 worth of structural work and improvements to the

facility, located adjacent to the county courthouse.

The old jail most recently served as the home of the Development Authority of Wilkinson County. Now, the hope is to eventually convert the property into a "tourism center" for Irwinton and Wilkinson County.

E Turner Construction & Investments of Dublin, one of two bidders on the project, was awarded the contract. The work includes securing joists and reinforcing some floors, as well as re-plastering and re-painting interior walls.

See COUNTY, page 2

Twiggs Co. Board of Education secures \$375,000 violence prevention grant

Mary Helene Hall
Times Journal Post

The United States Department of Justice (DOJ) chose the Twiggs County school district and over 1,000 other schools across the country to receive thousands of dollars for school safety. The Twiggs Board of Education (BOE) announced the grant at their last meeting Oct. 22.

The Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office School Violence Prevention Program is designed to provide funding to improve security at schools and on school grounds in the grantee's jurisdiction, a fact sheet from the DOJ read.

Applications were evaluated on factors such as the impact the proposed program could have on local schools, financial need, need for improved security, current school safety and the implementation plan, according to the DOJ.

There were 1,008 total applications from 49 states and one territory. The total 203 grants awarded across 40 states total over \$73,000,000 — the awardees include both school districts and individual schools, totaling nearly 1,300 schools and more than 675,000 students.

Of the awardees, 74% are in rural areas.

Two other Georgia school districts received grants: the Montgomery County Board of Education and the Paulding County Board of Education.

Twiggs BOE began receiving help from the Greenlights Grant Initiative in April,



Twiggs County Board of Education

Miriam Rearden, executive director of federal programs and accountability for the school district, presents information about the grant to the Twiggs Board of Education at their Oct. 22 meeting.

which provides grant-writing assistance to schools for safety projects. For "high-need, low-capacity school districts," the initiative helps free of charge.

The school district did not disclose the details of their plans "due to the nature of security and safety," said Miriam Rearden, executive director of federal programs and accountability during her presentation to the board, but she said it will support "ongoing safety and security efforts" of the schools.

"Funding will be used by (the) school jurisdiction to implement evidence-based programs to improve school security and promote a positive learning environment

for all students," the presentation said.

The COPS program benefiting Twiggs County is authorized by the STOP School Violence Act, which provides funding directly to states, local governments, Indian tribes and public agencies to improve security at schools. The safety programs that are implemented with the funding are required to meet certain parameters, which include factors such as coordination with law enforcement and placement of tools like metal detectors.

The school district is required to match a portion of the funds over the three years of the grant. It ends Sept. 30, 2027.



Upcoming Events

National Vietnam War Era Commemoration

Saturday, Nov. 9
Lunch at noon
Event at 1 p.m.
217 Masonic Drive
Join the Cochran Lodge for an event honoring those who served during the Vietnam War era, between Nov. 1 1955 and May 15, 1975. Retired Air Force Brig. Gen. James Sehorn and Army Sgt. William Smith will be guest speakers.

First Baptist Church Yard and Bake Sale

Saturday, Nov. 9
7 a.m. to 2 p.m.
232 Ga. Hwy 126 Airport Road

Full Circle Band and The Double Barrel Band

Saturday, Nov. 9
6:30 p.m.
1151 SR 96
This Twiggs Academy fundraiser at Jail Creek Winery will feature raffles, auctions, food trucks, great music and dancing to the tunes of two live bands. Doors open at 6 p.m. To reserve a table, text 404-277-7316. Proceeds will go toward renovating gym locker rooms.

Mt. Calvary Baptist Church Fall Festival

Sunday, Nov. 10
3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
134 Abney Road
Visit Mt. Calvary Baptist to enjoy carnival rides, a rock wall, a cake walk, bingo, inflatables and a free dinner. No charge for entry.

Cochran Veterans Day Ceremony

Monday, Nov. 11
11 a.m.
112 West Dykes St.
Join the City of Cochran to pay tribute to the brave men and women who have served in the nation's armed forces. During the event, there will be a special recognition for local veterans, a flag ceremony and a moment of silence. For more information, contact Candace Summerall at 478-934-6346.

Bleckley County High School One Act: Into the Woods Jr.

Thursday, Nov. 14 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 17 at 3 p.m.
155 GA-87
Into The Woods Junior is a funny and engaging way to get young people to think about the stories with which they've grown up and the ethical issues raised therein. The community shows will be held at the Bleckley County High School Auditorium, and tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for students and children.

Twiggs Academy Cheerleaders Babysitting

Saturday, Nov. 16
5 to 10 p.m.
Enjoy a night out while helping the Twiggs Academy cheerleaders raise money for their new uniforms. Dinner, crafts, games and a movie are provided. The program is for ages 3-10, and it is \$30 for one child, \$50 for two and \$65 for three. Contact Twiggs Academy at (478) 945-3175 to learn more. Space is limited.

‘Skills 4 Life’ empowers students with disabilities for independence

A “Skills 4 Life” event in Dublin, which took place at the end of October, helped students with cognitive disabilities learn practical life and job skills through hands-on activities. Teachers and students from elementary through high school participated in activities that provided hands-on learning experience, rotating participants through stations focused on daily living and pre-vocational skills.

Organized by teachers Riley Troili and Brittney Faircloth, the program aimed to foster independence by teaching tasks like organizing and reading labels. State Superintendent Richard Woods attended, supporting the program’s goal to prepare these students for future opportunities and self-sufficiency.

Photos provided by Riley Troili



ELECTION, from 1:

— State Senate District 26 — David E. Lucas, Sr. (I) (D)
— State House of Representatives District 133 — Danny Mathis (I) (R)
— District Attorney Dublin Judicial Circuit — Harold D. McLendon (R)
— Clerk of Superior Court — Karen Fountain Burke (D)
— Sheriff — Darren Mitchum (I) (D)

— Tax Commissioner — E. Walton “Buddy” Nesmith (I) (D)
— Coroner — Harold L. Reece, Jr (I) (R)
— County Commission District 2 — James Clayton “Clay” Floyd (I)
— County Commission District 4 — Steve Birdsong (I) (D)
— County Board of Education District 2 — Teresa Dupree Blackshear (I) (D)
— County Board of Educa-

tion District 4 — Chesney “Chachi” Butler (R)

Twiggs County also voted 58.77% “yes” — 2,472 votes — to enact a 1% sales and use tax for the next five years in order to fund several local projects and improvements. Those projects will involve road, street and bridges; public recreation; improvements to water production, treatment and distribution; sewage systems; improvements to

Jeffersonville streets; repairs to basketball and tennis courts; and a handful of other projects.

Bleckley County

Bleckley County had no local contested elections. Nine uncontested Republican candidates won their respective elections. Those races were: — State Senate District 20 — Larry Walker (I)
— State House of Representatives District 133 — Danny

Mathis (I)
— District Attorney Oconee Judicial Circuit — Timothy G. Vaughn (I)
— Clerk of Superior Court — Carol Evans (I)
— Sheriff — Daniel Cape (I)
— Tax Commissioner — Paige Baggs (I)
— Surveyor — David W. Arnold (I)
— Coroner — Michael Francis
— Sole County Commissioner — Mike Davis (I)

Middle Ga. poll worker charged with making threats to other workers

Dave Williams
Capitol Beat

A Georgia poll worker has been arrested and charged with mailing a letter to the Jones County election superintendent threatening poll workers.

Nicholas Wimbish, 25, of Milledgeville was serving as a poll worker at the Jones County Elections Office on Oct. 16 when he allegedly had a verbal altercation with a voter. The next day, he allegedly mailed a letter addressed to the Jones County election superintendent purportedly from a “Jones County voter.”

The letter threatened that poll workers “should look over their shoulder,” and that “I know where they all live.” It concluded with a

handwritten note that said, “PS boom toy in early vote place.”

Wimbish was charged with mailing a bomb threat, conveying false information about a bomb threat, mailing a threatening letter, and making false statements to the FBI. If convicted, he faces up to 25 years in prison.

The FBI’s Atlanta Field Office is investigating the case.

Wimbish’s arrest was part of the U.S. Justice Department’s Election Threats Task Force. Since June 2021, the task force has led the department’s efforts to address threats of violence against election workers to ensure they are able to do their jobs free from threats and intimidation.

Two hospitalized following shooting outside of Gordon

Christian McKearney
Times Journal Post

The first 911 call came in shortly after midnight Tuesday after an apartment was riddled by rifle fire on Zollie Lavender Road, located just outside of Gordon and across the Fall Line Freeway.

More than a dozen shell casings were recovered. The shooter “is believed to have been traveling on foot,” according to Sheriff Richard Chatman, adding that “a high capacity rifle of some sort” is believed to be the weapon. Chatman added that it’s not immediately

clear if one person is responsible for the shooting or multiple people.

Chatman confirmed that at least one person was shot, although the injuries are not expected to be life-threatening.

“We are still working to determine if (the second victim) was struck by debris or if (the second victim) was directly struck,” Chatman said.

The Wilkinson County Sheriff’s Office and Georgia Bureau of Investigation are overseeing the investigation. Anyone with any information is asked to call the WCSO at 478-946-2411.

COUNTY, from page 1:

Meanwhile, help also is on the way for one particularly sketchy stretch of JR Sims Road outside of Irwinton. Erosion, exacerbated by heavy rains from Hurricane Helene, has created a large ditch along the median that continues to deepen. No guard rails are in place,

and county commissioners are hoping to fix the situation before a bad automobile accident occurs.

Triple Point Engineers, which has worked with the county for a number of years, was awarded an engineering contract during Tuesday’s regular meeting. An exact timetable for repairs hasn’t been established.

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JUST JERRI

Worth the risk

According to writer Karl Romero, “Risk is all around us, and we all take risks every day. Some of us, such as race car drivers, cliff divers, and bungee jumpers, actually thrive on risk. Others go to great lengths to reduce risk.” While thinking on this subject I remembered the American daredevil motorcyclist, Evel Knievel. Wikipedia says, “Knievel’s nationally televised motorcycle jumps, including his 1974 attempt to jump Snake River Canyon at Twin Falls, Idaho, account for four of the 20 most-watched ABC’s Wide World of Sports events to date. His achievements and failures, including his record forty broken bones, earned him several entries in the Guinness Book of World Records.” Some may be unaware that at the age of 68, just one year before Knievel died, he quit taking risks and went for a “sure thing”. That sure thing was Jesus Christ, to whom Knievel

committed his life. Sharing his newfound faith to thousands at the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California Knievel said, “I want to scream to the world I’m a born-again Christian.” He then shared that he had authored a book saying his life was better than anyone’s, better than any president. Repudiating his own statement, Knievel said that his boasting was all “hogwash, because I didn’t have Jesus Christ in my life.” Knievel said that many people had prayed for him over the years and sent letters asking about his belief in God. “I don’t know what in the world happened,” he said. “I don’t know if it was the power of the prayer or God himself. The power of God in Jesus just grabbed me. All of a sudden, I just believed in Jesus Christ. I did. I believed in him.” In Knievel’s passionate message on that Palm Sunday at the Crystal Cathedral, hun-

dreds of people committed their lives to Jesus Christ. At the conclusion of the service Rev. Schuller prayed for Knievel and baptized him. For over five decades Knievel risked his life on motorcycles. However, the greatest risk was losing his soul for eternity. Jesus said, “For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?” (Mark 8:36) Isn’t it amazing that man will take all kinds of financial risks, marital risks, physical risks and yet not realize the greatest risk is going into eternity without the knowledge of where your soul is going? Why? Could it be that the god of this world has blinded the eyes of mankind? The Apostle



Jerri Tuck

Paul said it like this: “Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don’t believe...” (2 Corinthians 4:4) Kneivel, by his own confession, was spiritually blind for 68 years. Thank God, that with one year remaining in his life, he realized his need for the Lord Jesus Christ. Have you considered Jesus? He’s worth the risk! *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.*

The art of bandwagon fandom and why it matters

When my hands shot up above my head in an involuntary reaction of celebration, a couple heads turned and gave me weird looks in the Five Star Stadium press box. Any sports journalist knows the age-old rule: no cheering in the press box. Everyone in that part of the booth was a Mercer employee or media member, though, so cheering for the Bears would not have been entirely out of line, even if I try to avoid doing so during games. But I don’t think it was the fact that I cheered that made some folks glance my way. They probably turned and raised eyebrows, in fact, because Mercer’s football game that day would not start for another hour, give or take. I had reacted with my arms in the air instead because Lane Thomas — most casual sports fans are probably saying “Who?” right about now — hit a grand slam in Game 5 of the ALDS. The long ball propelled the Cleveland Guardians to a series win and a berth in the ALCS, where they made a valiant effort but failed to topple the Yankees. How do I know this? Why was I watching this game in the Mercer football press box before a football showdown despite the fact that I am not actually a Cleveland fan? Well, it’s simple. I love baseball so much that I became a bandwagon fan.



Micah Johnston

It is a term both nauseating and compelling. I have hated bandwagon fans in some respects — the type of people who root for the Yankees while cheering for the Crimson Tide on the college gridiron, the New England Patriots in the NFL and the Duke Blue Devils in college basketball, for instance. I’ve been a bandwagon fan myself, however. When I was a kid I decided I would was a fan of the Cincinnati Bengals for about a year. I still have no idea why — I think I enjoyed that they used a similar mascot and color scheme to my Clemson Tigers, but regardless, it was a strange choice. (Of course I somehow chose to root for a franchise with a postseason curse at the time that included a cataclysmically dumb postseason loss. Go figure.) The bandwagoning I like to do now, though, comes during the playoffs. The Falcons have been out of it lately. The Braves, aside from that magical 2021 season, have been making early exits quite often. So I pick a team to cheer for because I enjoy watching the games so much. This year, that team was Cleveland. A scrappy team headlined by guys like great defender and contact hitter Steven Kwan, MVP-level talent Jose Ramirez and a guy named Johnkensy Noel? Count me in.

But once the Yankees eliminated the Guardians disaster struck. The World Series featured two teams I despise, as New York met the Los Angeles Dodgers in the series. Yuck. Perhaps only Mets-Yankees would have been worse. So what was I to do? I couldn’t root for those two putrid clubs, teams that have tortured the Braves in the past. Lucky for me, Macon sports had my back. The first story in recent weeks that comes to mind is that of Karlee and Karsyn Yates, the two twin sisters who hit home runs in the same inning of a game for the ACE Gryphons last week. If that wasn’t enough, the two girls had torn their ACLS within the same week all the way back in January. It was a storybook moment that I was lucky to be present for. Remember that rule I mentioned about cheering in the press box? That doesn’t apply when your daughter plays on the team with the Yates twins, as the folks next to me above ACE’s softball field went wild after the home runs, and justifiably so. That was an easy team to root for as a bandwagon fan. I’ve also watched the Northeast Raiders play football all season and began enjoying their games, though I obviously don’t root for them while I cover them. Star running back Nick Woodford is one of the most entertaining football players I’ve ever seen in person and up-close. As I watched Woodford gash the Dodge County defense and help his team more or

less secure a home playoff game — it’s still up in the air but should probably happen, I know because I’ve pored over GHSA’s power rankings system all week — I realized that I was not a bandwagon fan. Local sports have something that the big national leagues don’t, I think: the charm that you can root for nearly any team. As a Central and Sugarbear Band alum, it was mandatory for me to hate the rival Southwest Patriots as a student. As an adult, I’ve gotten joy out of hearing about Southwest upsetting Bleckley County on the final play or seeing the Patriots’ third-string quarterback Steve Robinson sling passes, even if their season has not panned out from a playoff perspective. Just as essential to sports fandom as pride in your professional teams, it seems, is pride in your city’s local ones. Whether it’s Macon’s illustrious high school basketball history, its uniquely — sometimes frustratingly — crowded football scene or even teams like the Macon Bacon and Mayhem, there’s always a bandwagon to hop on and learn about at a moment’s notice. For folks who can’t get enough of sports, it’s a great bonus. For a sportswriter, it’s a bona-fide blessing. *Micah Johnston is the sports editor of The Macon Melody, covering high school and college sports in the Middle Georgia area. Reach him at micah@maconmelody.com.*

NEW SOUTHERN DAD

On the stump, not giving speeches but instead digging them up

Nothing epitomizes American politics quite like a stump speech. Long before the days of social media and the 24-hour news cycle, politicians, especially those seeking national offices like the president, had to travel to as many towns as possible to make their platforms known and encourage folks to vote. These short speeches, usually given over and over again, had to be delivered in an area where the biggest possible crowd could be gathered. For most cities and towns, or so the legend goes, that space was an open area, a yard or field, with a large stump. Stumps make an easy impromptu stage and usually don’t require booking ahead of time. Overtime stumps were replaced with soap boxes. Soap boxes must have been lying around everywhere back then. Maybe people were just more hygienic? Later, train

platforms were the best place to draw a crowd for the politician on the go. Such speeches garnered little attention outside the boundaries of where they occurred and didn’t generally receive interest from anyone outside earshot of the vote seeker. Those were the days. Like many of you, I am also glad we’re nearing the end of another presidential election cycle (this is being written five days before Election Day). I’m sick of the news of every political event, every rally in a distant city and, above all, all the campaign fliers stuffed in my mailbox and unsolicited phone calls and text messages from both major political parties. There were three stumps in my yard that I had removed last week to help prevent further campaign assaults on my person. The last thing I want is a stump speech on my land. The stump removal was unrelated to this year’s elec-

tion and was just an item on my ever-growing property maintenance to-do list. The stumps have been an eye sore the whole time I’ve lived in my current home, and I’ve grown tired of having to navigate the lawnmower around them. The stumps were eliminated the good old-fashioned way, with an axe and a shovel. Time had already started the job for me in the form of rot, which my back and arms appreciated. I’m not as adept at swinging a blade as I used to be. Within an hour or so, two large, decaying slabs of wood had been pulled from the earth. As an added bonus, each contained an ample offering of fatwood. Like a dentist extracting dead teeth, I picked up my tools and headed to the third. Once again, the digging was easier than expected. After a couple of whacks with the axe and a few scoops with the shovel, I was ready to claim my prize. Sudden-



Kyle Dominy

ly, all progress stopped with a sharp, stinging pain in my legs. It was a familiar sensation, that anyone who grew up in a rural area would be familiar with — ant stings. The final stump was home to a massive fire ant colony that was getting its revenge for being disturbed on my calf and legs. I managed to finish the job regardless. Now I know why politicians swapped to soap boxes. *You can reach Kyle Dominy at k.l.dominy@gmail.com or write to 115 S. Jefferson St. Dublin, Ga. 31022.*

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A South Ga. ecological oasis, slammed by Hurricane Helene, faces an uncertain future

Grant Blankenship
Georgia Public Broadcasting

Most people come to Broxton Rocks for the waterfall. There, Rocky Creek sluices down a sandstone shelf above a yards-wide ravine with craggy cliffs on either side in what is otherwise a pine and wiregrass prairie about 20 miles north of the South Georgia city of Douglas. The next waterfall is at least 150 miles away in any direction. Erick Brown is the director of stewardship for the Georgia chapter of the Nature Conservancy which manages Broxton Rocks, which exists amid cotton fields and pines planted for profit. Brown calls it an oasis. “People have, like, this mental image of the palm trees in the middle of the desert,” Brown said from a spot which, earlier this year, was a prime place to view the waterfall. “These aren't palm trees, of course, but it’s a very different system than everything around it.”

When Hurricane Helene barreled through the southern and eastern parts of Georgia, it pummeled some 8.9 million acres of forest. While the vast majority of that is commercial timberland, some are like Broxton Rocks: treasured pockets of an older ecology.

For instance, the endangered eastern indigo snake, which typically uses gopher tortoise burrows, shelters here in rock crevices downstream of the waterfall. The state’s only rock-clinging orchid, the greenfly orchid, is here, too. In fact, some 500 to 600 plant species are found at Broxton Rocks.

But now that’s all harder to find. Helene, revved up by climate change and record hot waters in the Gulf of Mexico, toppled more trees than you can count across the creek.

“It’s a new world; I’m seeing this for the first time,” Brown said by a jumble of trees and water. “I’m trying to figure out what it means.”

Brown has been working to restore this space since the 1990s. Jim Cottingham’s relationship to Broxton Rocks began long before that.

“I went there as a kid with my parents, my great-grandparents,” said Cottingham, an administrator emeritus at nearby South Georgia State College. “There’s a photograph of a



Grant Blankenship / GPB News

Many of the loblolly and slash pines felled or nearly felled by Hurricane Helene at Broxton Rocks in Coffee County were part of a nursery for longleaf pine seedlings being nurtured by the Georgia chapter of the Nature Conservancy.

great-uncle there, with a group of about six, at the Broxton Rocks probably in 1890.” Cottingham said back then it was just called Picnic Rock. Or even just “The Rocks.” Later, SGSC botanist Frankie Snow began cataloging the plant diversity. “Probably June of 1984, Frankie and I stumbled on to some Elliottia racemosa,” Cottingham said. The common name for the plant is Georgia plume. It’s a threatened plant endemic to only Coffee and Jeff Davis counties. That’s the sort of thing that put the space on the Nature Conservancy’s radar, imbued it with a sense of larger importance and led the group to change the name. “Just ‘The Rocks’ wouldn't quite do it,” Cottingham said. After Helene, Cottingham and Snow came to

Broxton Rocks in search of some of their old haunts, such as particular trees they hoped were survivors. They got through to some, but not all of them. “We didn't didn't get in just because of the obstruction of the trees,” he said, meaning fallen trees littering the ground. A week or so before Cottingham and Snow attempted their survey, Erick Brown and his Nature Conservancy colleague Steven Cabrera made their own. “We’re gonna try and make it uphill, but

there’s a lot of debris between here and there,” Brown warned at the bottom of the hill. Brown and Cabrera clambered over trunk after trunk before finding a tree Brown said gives him hope. “We’ve got a longleaf pine that we know is well over 200 years old and it looks untouched,” Brown said. Perched on a patch of rock uphill from the creek, the tree bore the scars of being tapped for

See HELENE, page 6

Georgia

LOCAL MATTERS

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MISCELLANEOUS

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NOTICE OF THE OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION
AIR PROTECTION BRANCH

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF WILKINSON
NOTICE OF DRAFT TITLE V OPERATING PERMIT

To All Interested Parties:

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division announces its intent to issue a Title V Air Quality Operating Permit to KaMin LLC – Toddville Plant. The facility is located at 1277 Dedrick Road McIntyre, Georgia. The primary purpose of this permit is to identify and consolidate existing State and Federal air requirements applicable to KaMin LLC – Toddville Plant and to provide practical methods for determining compliance with these requirements. The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) is preparing Title V Operating Permits in accordance with Title V of the Clean Air Act. This permit will be enforceable by the Georgia EPD, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and other persons as otherwise authorized by law.

The facility is a kaolin processing plant.

The draft permit and all information used to develop the draft permit are available for review. This includes the application and all other relevant materials available to the permitting authority. This information is available for review at the office of the Air Protection Branch, 4244 International Parkway, Atlanta Tradeport - Suite 120, Atlanta, Georgia 30354. All visits to EPD's offices are by appointment only. To set an appointment, email askepd@dnr.ga.gov with your name, email and phone number and an associate will reach out to you. Copies of the draft permit, explanatory narrative, and associated permit application may also be requested by contacting Steve Allison, steve.allison2@dnr.ga.gov.

Copies of the draft permit, narrative, and permit application will be available through our internet site <https://epd.georgia.gov/draft-title-v-permitsamendments>. (Please note that the Internet is generally accessible from most public libraries in Georgia.)

You are hereby notified of the opportunity to submit written public comments concerning the draft Title V Air Quality Operating Permit. Persons wishing to comment on the draft Title V Operating Permit are required to submit their comments, in writing, to EPD at the above Atlanta Air Protection Branch address, or via email [preferred] to epdcomments@dnr.ga.gov (email comments must include the facility name and "Air Permit" in subject line). Comments must be received by the EPD no later than 30 days after the date on which this notice is published in the newspaper before close of business at 4:30 p.m. (Should the comment period end on a weekend or holiday, comments will be accepted up until the next working day.) The Division, in making its final decision to issue the Title V permit, will consider all comments received on or prior to that date.

Any requests for a public hearing must be made within the 30-day public comment period. A request for a hearing should be in writing and should specify, in as much detail as possible, the air quality related issues that constitute the basis for the request. Where possible, the individual making the request should also identify the portion(s) of the Georgia Rules for Air Quality Control and/or the Federal Rules that the individual making the request is concerned may not have been adequately incorporated into the draft permit. If a public hearing on the draft Title V Operating Permit is to be held, the date, time, and location of the hearing will be provided in a subsequent, separate public notice. At that hearing, anyone may present data, make a statement or comment, or offer a viewpoint or argument either orally or in writing concerning the draft Title V permit. During the Division's decision-making procedures to issue the Title V permit, any information received during a public hearing will be considered together with information received during the comment period. The Division conducts public hearings in "virtual" format using Zoom meeting applications.

Following this 30 day public comment period, the draft permit will undergo a 45 day review by U.S. EPA in accordance with 40 CFR 70.8. Information pertaining to U.S. EPA's review period can be found on their website at <http://www.epa.gov/caa-permitting/georgia-proposed-title-v-permits>. After the comment period has expired, the EPD will consider all comments, make any necessary changes, and issue the Title V Operating Permit. Copies of the final Title V Operating Permit, comments received, EPD's responses to comments, and any other relevant information will then be made available for public review at the office of the Air Protection Branch by appointment only. A summary of comments and any changes made to the final permit will be found in an addendum to the narrative. A copy of this narrative and the final Title V permit will be added to the information already available at the internet address given above.

For additional information, contact the manager of the Stationary Source Permitting Program, at the Atlanta address, or by phone at 404/363-7000. Please refer to this notice when requesting information. You can sign up to receive weekly emails regarding Air Public Notices at <https://epd.georgia.gov/subscribe-air-protection-branch-updates>.

HELENE, from 5:

turpentine in its middle age. Its size belied its age. It looked like a giant bonsai straining for height.

Brown was pleased. “You wouldn't even know that a hurricane came through here looking at that,” he said. Longleaf pine forests once

ranged from Louisiana to Virginia. Only about 10% of those forests remain. The trees Helene stacked like cordwood are slash pines and loblollys planted here years ago by a timber company. But longleaf pines evolved here to endure hurricanes and fire. In fact, controlled fire is the tool used to sculpt and nurture

longleaf forests. “We say that that longleaf is fire tolerant, but it's not fire-proof,” Brown said. As a standing canopy, these toppled trees had been a long-leaf nursery. On the ground, they’re just fuel. Brown worries the next fire could be out of control, and way too hot even for longleaf seedlings.

Jim Cottingham worries the timber on the ground may have crushed slightly older trees. “The thing we don't know is just how many of the 3- or 4- or 5- or 6-year-old longleaf pines will have been knocked down by the nursery trees,” Cottingham said. “It's hard to see how many of them are go-

ing to be spared.” Brown said 500 years ago none of this would have been a big deal. “Because you would have tens of thousands of acres that were not hit by a hurricane that were in good natural condition,” Brown said. “But we don't have that.” There's just this oasis. “These so-called treasures house things that we don't even know about yet,” Cottingham said. “And there's just so much to be learned and discovered.

Cabrera cares for a swath of old growth longleaf further east on the Altamaha River. Helene destroyed some tree cavities there, formerly used as habitat by threatened red-cockaded woodpeckers. The storm was strong enough to take the lives of people not far from his home. He and his neighbors were without power for nine days.

“It has been hard to work maybe four or five hours in a day and then do what you can, go back home while you still have light because there's no electricity,” Cabrera said. for example. “Balancing your work and home balance during a disaster like this can be challenging.” But, Cabrera said, the work is necessary. “When an event like this happens, you know, where do those rare and threatened species go?” Cabrera said he's hopeful the birds he's seen still flying through the remaining tree stands will nest in the new cavities being installed by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. After over 30 years of hard work, Erick Brown had been close to releasing red-cockaded woodpeckers at Broxton Rocks, too. He said Hurricane Helene set that goal back by at least another 30 years.

Georgia providing \$100M in disaster relief to Helene victims

Dave Williams

Capitol Beat

Help is on the way for Georgia farmers and timber producers who suffered losses from Hurricane Helene.

The Georgia State Financing and Reinvestment Commission (GSFIC) voted Friday to redirect \$100 million from a state capital projects fund to provide financial support for farmers affected by the massive storm and debris cleanup for owners of damaged timberland.

“As Georgia’s No.-1 industry continues on the road to recovery from Hurricane Helene, I’m thankful our partners on all levels, including the GSFIC board, are working with us to provide relief to those who put food on our tables and provide the materials that build our communities,” Kemp said following Friday’s vote.

“This measure is the latest we’ve taken to help them rebuild their livelihoods, but it will not be the last. We’ll continue to work with stakeholders on all levels to direct resources and support to the hardworking Georgians devastated by this storm.”

Helene cut a wide swath of destruction through southeast Georgia in late September before heading into the Carolinas. The storm left 34

All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Land Lot 100, 4th Land District, 327th GM (Irwinton) G.M. District, City of McIntyre, Wilkinson County, Georgia, containing 0.7 acres, more or less, and being more particularly designated and distinguished in a plat made by Walker McKnight, dated February 9, 1957, and recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 114, Wilkinson County Deed Records which plat is by this reference incorporated herein in aid of this description. The debt secured by said Deed to Secure Debt 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 Deed to Secure Debt. 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 Deed to Secure Debt and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees 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), any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Deed to Secure Debt first set out above. The person who has full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the mortgage with the debtor is: James Jason Palmer, 820 River Rd, Tennille GA 31089 (912) 678-2144. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the property is Chelsea Sowell, and/or tenant(s). The sale will be conducted subject to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U. S. Bankruptcy Code. PALMER REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS, LLC as attorney-in-fact for Chelsea Sowell Keenan R. Howard Attorney at Law 318 S. Harris St., Ste A Sandersville, GA 31082 478-552-6107 THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. November 7, 14, 21, 28, 2024

W24-094
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF WILKINSON
IN RE: ESTATE OF DONNA MARIE BREWER
All creditors of the estate of **DONNA MARIE BREWER**, deceased, late of Wilkinson 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 the undersigned Administrator, Timothy Glenn Burris. This 8th day of October, 2024. Timothy Glenn Burris Administrator of the Estate of Donna Marie Brewer 559 Brewer Road Irwinton, Georgia 31042 S. Ryan Dixon Nelson & Dixon, LLC 125 North Franklin Street Dublin, Georgia 31021 478-272-3545 October 17, 24, 31, November 7, 2024

W24-098
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
IN RE: ESTATE OF ELIZABETH N. EUBANKS, DECEASED
All creditors of the Estate of Elizabeth N. Eubanks, 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 28th day of October, 2024. James Dewar Wentworth P.O. Box 360 Irwinton, GA 31042 By: McMullen Law Firm, LLC November 7, 14, 21, 28, 2024

W24-098
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
IN RE: ESTATE OF ELIZABETH N. EUBANKS, DECEASED
All creditors of the Estate of Elizabeth N. Eubanks, 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 28th day of October, 2024. James Dewar Wentworth P.O. Box 360 Irwinton, GA 31042 By: McMullen Law Firm, LLC November 7, 14, 21, 28, 2024

Invitations for Bid and Request for Proposals by Twiggs County Georgia

Twiggs County is accepting proposals for the Milling, Leveling, Patching, Resurfacing and Striping for a total of approximately 3,000 feet (0.57 miles) of roadway at Robinwood Drive from qualified Contractors.

All bids must be received by Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 5 p.m. Proposals/Bids must be signed, late Proposals/Bids will not be considered. Bids/Proposals for the Project will be sealed and not opened until Thursday, November 21, 2024 at 6 p.m. at the Twiggs County Board of Commissioners Meeting at the Twiggs County Court House.

The terms and conditions for the Proposals/Bids, specifications for the Project, and other Proposal/Bid documents are available from the Twiggs County Board of Commissioners Office at 425 N Railroad Street, Jeffersonville, Georgia 31044 or the Twiggs County Road Department at 5524 Hwy 96 W Jeffersonville, Georgia 31044.

As allowed by Georgia law, this Request for Proposal expressly provides that:

Offerors submitting proposals may be afforded an opportunity for discussion, negotiation, and revision of proposals. Discussions, negotiations, and revisions may be permitted after submission of proposals and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining best and final offers.

In accordance with the request for proposals, all responsible offerors found by Twiggs County to have submitted proposals reasonably susceptible of being selected for award shall be given an opportunity to participate in such discussions, negotiations, and revisions. During the process of discussion, negotiation, and revision, Twiggs County shall not disclose the contents of proposals to competing offerors.

Twiggs County specifically reserves all of its rights under Georgia law as to the proposals that it receives pursuant to this Request, specifically including but not limited to, the right to waive any requirements and/or specifications included, to reject any or all proposals, waive technicalities or informalities, and to accept any proposal that in its judgment best serves the interests of the County and/or is deemed to be best suited for its needs.

If there are any questions please submit such questions in writing to the Twiggs County Board of Commissioners Office at the address provided above.

Legals

Bleckley Co. Legals

C24-136
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
RE: ESTATE OF CHERYL LYNETTE CRANFORD, DECEASED
All creditors of the Estate of Cheryl Lynette Cranford, 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 17th day of October, 2024. Linda L. Grantham, Administrator 152 Wood Duck Road Cochran, GA 31014 October 24, 31, November 7, 14, 2024

C24-138
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF BLECKLEY
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
IN RE: Estate of John Quinton Roberts, Deceased
All creditors of the Estate of John Quinton Roberts, deceased, late of Bleckley County, 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 to me. This 20th day of August, 2024. Betty G. Roberts, as Executor under the Last Will and Testament of John Quinton Roberts D. Lee Peacock Attorney at Law 1719 Russell Parkway, Building 200 Warner Robins, Georgia 31088 478-922-3010 October 31, November 7, 14, 21, 2024

C24-135
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF BLECKLEY COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF ULISA BROWN VILA, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 2024P75
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE
To whom it may concern: Julissa Vila has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of Ulisa Brown Vila deceased, late 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 this Court on or before November 25, 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. Jonathan Fordham Judge of the Probate Court October 24, 31, November 7, 14, 2024

C24-137
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF BLECKLEY COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
Jessie Gilmore, Plaintiff v. Lindreka Gilmore, Defendant
Civil Action File No. 2024V-01755FW
ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION
Plaintiff having moved the Court for an order directing service to be made upon defendant Lindreka Gilmore in the above-styled action by publication of summons, and it appearing to the Court from the verified Complaint and Affidavit in support of such motion that defendant is a nonresident and that the action is an action in which a defendant may be served by publication pursuant to OCGA 9-10-71, it is ORDERED that service upon defendant be made by publication as provided by law. This 25th day of September, 2024. October 31, November 7, 14, 21, 2024

C24-134
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF BLECKLEY COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
Deandre Dreshawn Scott, Sr, Plaintiff v. Warshaunda Denae Scott, Defendant
Civil Action File No. 2024V-01725FW
ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION
Plaintiff having moved the Court for an order directing service to be made upon defendant Warshaunda Denae Scott in the above-styled action by publication of summons, and it appearing to the Court from the verified Complaint and Affidavit in support of such motion that defendant is a nonresident and that the action in which a defendant may be served by publication pursuant to O.C.G.A. 9-10-71, it is ORDERED, that service upon Defendant be made by publication as provided by law. This 10th day of October, 2024. October 17, 24, 31, November 7, 2024

C24-140
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
GEORGIA, BLECKLEY COUNTY
All creditors of the Estate of Emory Eugene Nobles II, deceased, late of Bleckley County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands to the Executrix of his Estate according to law, and all persons indebted to the Estate of Emory Eugene Nobles II, are required to make immediate payment to the Executrix. This 22nd day of October, 2024. Executrix of the Estate of Emory Eugene Nobles II Francis M Lewis Attorney for the Estate 1808 Bellevue Road Dublin, GA 31021 October 31, November 7, 14, 21, 2024

C24-141
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF BLECKLEY
IN RE: ESTATE OF EMMA JEANETTE KULIGOWSKI, DECEASED.
All creditors of the estate of EMMA JEANETTE KULIGOWSKI, 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 31st day of October, 2024. Gina Rodriguez Executor of the Estate of Emma Jeanette Kuligowski 214 Nicholson Carr Rd Cochran, GA 31014 November 7, 14, 21, 28, 2024

C24-139
Notice to Debtors and Creditors
All creditors of the Estate of Bonnie A. Horne, late of Bleckley County, Georgia, 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 11th day of July, 2024. Jennifer N. Moore, Attorney for Administrator of the Estate of Bonnie A. Horne PO Box 5085 Macon, GA 31208 October 31, November 7, 14, 21, 2024

Twiggs Co. Legals

T24-084
Notice to Debtors and Creditors
All creditors of the Estate of Doretha Coley, late of Twiggs County, Georgia, 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 23rd day of July, 2024 Jennifer N. Moore, Attorney for Administrator of the Estate of Doretha Coley P.O. Box 5085 Macon, GA 31208 October 31, November 7, 14, 21, 2024

T24-082
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF TWIGGS COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF LEE EDWARD BRACEWELL, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. P-24-065
NOTICE PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATOR
TO: WHOM IT MAY CONCERN
Brenda A. Freeman, has petitioned to be appointed successor administrator of the estate of **Lee Edward Bracewell** 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 **November 11, 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. Gary Nobles, Jr Judge of the Probate Court By: Diane H Robinson Clerk of the Probate Court Twiggs County Probate Court 425 Railroad St. N. PO Box 186 Jeffersonville, GA 31044 478-945-3390 October 17, 24, 31, November 7, 2024

T24-085
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF TWIGGS COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
Adrian Thomas, Plaintiff VS Shuneca Crockett Thomas, Defendant
Civil Action No. 2024-V-124
NOTICE
TO: SHUNECA CROCKETT THOMAS
By Order of the Court for service by publication dated the 29th day of August, 2024, you are hereby notified that on the 9th day of October, 2024 Adrian Thomas filed suit against you for divorce. You are required to file with the Clerk of the Superior Court, and to serve upon Plaintiff's attorney an answer in writing within sixty days (60) days of the 9th of October, 2024. Witness, the Honorable Jon F. Helton, Judge, of Twiggs County Superior Court. This 22nd day of October, 2024. October 31, November 7, 14, 21, 2024

Wilkinson Co. Legals

W24-093
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
WILKINSON COUNTY, GEORGIA
In RE: Estate of Elizabeth Jean Weaver, deceased. All creditors of the estate of Elizabeth Jean Weaver, 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 8th day of October, 2024. Donald S. Weaver and Amanda Gail Weaver Brown, Co-Executors Estate of Elizabeth Jean Weaver John D. Newberry Newberry & Newberry Attorneys at Law PO Box 844 Gray, GA 31032 478-986-5141 October 17, 24, 31, November 7, 2024

W24-095
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
IN RE: ESTATE OF MARLENE TOMPKINS, DECEASED
All creditors of the Estate of Marlene Tompkins, deceased, late of Wilkinson 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 the undersigned. This 16th day of October, 2024. Emmo Lord 10270 Hwy 57 McIntyre, GA 31054 By: McMullen Law Firm, LLC October 31, November 7, 14, 21, 2024

All creditors of the Estate of Marlene Tompkins, 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 16th day of October, 2024. Emmo Lord 10270 Hwy 57 McIntyre, GA 31054 By: McMullen Law Firm, LLC October 31, November 7, 14, 21, 2024

W24-092
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF WILKINSON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF TRAVIS DARYL YOUNGBLOOD, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 223
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

To: Garvis M. Youngblood and to whom it may concern: Garvis M. Youngblood has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of Travis Daryl Youngblood, deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. 53-12-261.) All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before November 12, 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 Probate Court 100 Bacon Street Irwinton, GA 31042 478-946-2222 October 17, 24, 31, November 7, 2024

W24-099
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
GEORGIA, COUNTY OF WILKINSON
All creditors of the estate of Keary Leonie Hawthorne-Harrison, deceased, as of late May 13, 2024, Wilkinson County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned, according to law, and all persons indebted to said Estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned: Wilkinson County Probate Court, 100 Bacon St. Irwinton, Georgia 31042 Donald Lewis Roberts, Attorney November 7, 14, 21, 28, 2024

W24-100
Notice to Debtors and Creditors
All creditors of the estate of Lawrence Hubert Campbell, Jr. late of Wilkinson County, 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 28th day of October, 2024 Name: Stuart B. Bagley Title: Attorney for Executor, Robert Louis Jones, Jr. Address: 331 N Marietta Parkway, NE, Marietta, GA 30060 November 7, 14, 21, 28, 2024

W24-096
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF WILKINSON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF VERNICE WALKER JONES, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 220
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

To whom it may concern: EDWARD JONES has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of VERNICE WALKER JONES 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. 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 100 Bacon St Irwinton, GA 31042 478-946-2222 October 31, November 7, 14, 21, 2024

W24-097
GEORGIA, WILKINSON COUNTY
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER
Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Deed To Secure Debt given by CHELSEA SOWELL to PALMER REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS, LLC dated March 10, 2022, recorded in Deed Book 402, Pages 918-923, Wilkinson County, Georgia Records, conveying the after described property to secure a note in the original principal amount of \$15,500.00, and all extensions, renewals, modifications or substitutions, 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 Wilkinson County, Georgia, within the legal hours of sale on December 3, 2024, the following described property:

WEEKLY
HOROSCOPE

ARIES –
Mar. 21/Apr. 20
Aries, this week you may find yourself with some extra energy and enthusiasm for new projects. Figure out what you want to get done and think through a plan.

TAURUS –
Apr. 21/May 21
Taurus, you may have a strong desire for stability and security. Now is a good time to focus on financial matters and investigate potentially valuable investment opportunities.

GEMINI –
May 22/Jun. 21
Communication will be key for you this month, Gemini. Whether you aim to strengthen existing relationships or start new ones, be clear and honest in all of your interactions.

CANCER –
Jun 22/Jul 22
This week your focus shifts largely toward home and family, Cancer. Now might be the time to address any conflicts in your home life to reinforce family relationships.

LEO –
Jul. 23/Aug. 23
Leo, this could be a week when you find yourself in the spotlight more than usual. You don't shy away from extra attention; in fact, you will thrive this week.

VIRGO –
Aug. 24/Sept. 22
This is a good week to start organizing and planning, Virgo. The holidays are right around the corner, and you want to be sure that everything you need to get done will be accomplished.

LIBRA –
Sept 23/Oct 23
Relationships and partnerships are priorities for you this week, Libra. Figure out how you can balance your needs with those of others in your inner circle.

SCORPIO –
Oct. 24/Nov. 22
Scorpio, it's a good time to implement new habits or make improvements to your work life. Perhaps the balance has been skewed and you need more time for family?

SAGITTARIUS –
Nov. 23/Dec. 21
This week could be bursting with creativity for you, Sagittarius. If you've been meaning to pursue hobbies or other interests, now is the time to explore and have some fun.

CAPRICORN –
Dec. 22/Jan. 20
Making improvements to your home or livings space can give you a fresh perspective, Capricorn. It might just be the change you need to feel revitalized.

AQUARIUS –
Jan. 21/Feb. 18
Don't be afraid to share your ideas and connect with others this week, Aquarius. Staying curious and getting your perspective across may lead to some exciting opportunities.

PISCES –
Feb. 19/Mar. 20
Financial matters may come into focus this month, Pisces. It's a good time to look at your budget and make some tweaks, if necessary. Taking on extra work might be an option.

HOLIDAY ROUNDUP

WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

CELEBRATE
CHANUKAH
CHRISTMAS
DINING
EASTER
EXCITEMENT
FEAST
FESTIVE
FIREWORKS
FOOD
FRIENDS
GAMES
GUESTS
HALLOWEEN
HOLIDAYS
INDEPENDENCE
INVITATION
KWANZAA
NEW YEAR'S DAY
PASSOVER
PRESENTS
THANKSGIVING
TOGETHER
VACATION

GUESS WHO ?

I am a singer-songwriter born in Canada on November 5, 1959. As a child, I traveled to different places with my father, who was a diplomat. I've had many hit songs, but my work on the soundtrack for a Robin Hood movie really set my career ablaze.

Answer: Bryan Adams

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to the holiday season.

R E K U Y T

Answer: Turkey

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to the holiday season. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 11= A)

A. 12 11 16 1 22 19

Clue: Come together

B. 8 11 9 23 26 4

Clue: Related people

C. 15 23 25 25 22 19

Clue: Evening meal

D. 1 13 26 23 15 11 4

Clue: Festive event

Answers: A. gather B. family C. dinner D. holiday

CLUES ACROSS

1. Absence of effort
5. Preserve a dead body
11. Gratitude
14. The act of coming together again
15. Simpler
18. Visionaries
19. Large, fish-eating bird
21. Indicates near
23. Former CIA agent and critic
24. Icelandic poems
28. Pop
29. “Hammer” is one
30. Senses of self-importance
32. Thyrotrophic hormone
33. Not around

35. Electronic data processing
36. Licenses and passports are two types
39. Snakelike fish
41. Air Force
42. Popular computers
44. Of a withered nature
46. Wings
47. Used in combination
49. Laid back
52. Jeweled headdress
56. In slow tempo
58. __ Falls
60. Assertions made again
62. Periods of history
63. Hyphen

CLUES DOWN

1. Body part
2. Mimics
3. Expel large quantities rapidly
4. Sea eagle
5. A type of subdivision
6. Variety of Chinese
7. Mr. T’s name on “The A-Team”
8. Consumed
9. Chinese dynasty
10. NFL great Randy
12. Ireland
13. Palm trees with creeping roots
16. Fungal disease
17. Impressionable persons
20. Affirmative! (slang)
22. Instinctive part of the mind
25. “The First State”
26. A way to develop
27. Fraternities
29. Woman (French)
31. Sunscreen rating
34. Beer
36. Spiritual leader
37. Indigo bush
38. Burn with a hot liquid
40. Junior’s father
43. Ray-finned fishes
45. Morning
48. Line passing side to side through the center (abbr.)
50. Double curve
51. A small bundle of straw or hay
53. Got older
54. Crater on Mars
55. Humanities
57. Relating to the ears
58. “To the __ degree...”
59. Residue of a burned product
61. It cools a home

CROSSWORD
ANSWERS

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

It pays to advertise
in your local paper!



Special to The Macon Melody / Donn Kester
Royals Senior QB #14 Kam'ryn Everett eyes his target at the Sept. 5, 2024, match against Southwest.

Bleckley Co. football dominates Central in 56-0 road Halloween-game victory

Micah Johnston
For the TJP

Bleckley County rolled to a much-needed dominant win on Halloween night, crushing the Central Chargers 56-0 on the road last week in Macon.

It was Central's Homecoming game, but the Chargers struggled to get any offense going yet again, a trend of their season. The Royals rolled to 35 first-half points and never looked back, securing their most convincing win of the year.

It looked near the beginning of the game as if the Chargers might build some momentum. They stopped Bleckley County on fourth down to earn a turnover, then drove into Royals territory.

But a Central fumble opened the floodgates, as Bleckley County's Patrick Roberts recovered it to set up another drive and an eventual 22-yard rushing score from Joshua Stanley to put the Royals up early.

It seemed as if that score might hold into the second quarter as Central tried to get another drive going, but

the Chargers' sequence stalled and gave Bleckley County another chance to tack on in the fourth quarter.

This time the Royals drove down the field in chunks, polishing off the scoring drive with a 7-yard Amarian Burns rushing score followed by a Kam Everett quarterback run for a two-point conversion to make it 14-0.

Bleckley's offense took over the game from there, rolling to three more touchdowns in the opening half including an Everett passing touchdown to Kaden Perkins, a Deondrez Robertson rush and another Burns score on the ground.

The Chargers never got the momentum on a drive that they found on the opening two possessions, largely because of pre-snap penalties that killed any forward progress.

The points kept coming in the second half for the Royals, who were firing on all cylinders. Another Central fumble helped, and Bleckley County came away with the 56-0 win.

The victory brought the Royals to 3-6 on the year and 2-6 in the region, good for seventh in Region 2-A Division

I behind Dublin, Northeast, Dodge County, Washington County, ACE and Southwest.

While Bleckley cannot make up enough ground to secure a top four spot — those were finalized last week, when Dublin won the region by beating Dodge and ACE fell at home to give Washington County fourth place — they still have an outside chance at sneaking into the playoffs with the new power rankings system.

GHSA elected to remove private schools from the A Division I playoff bracket this year, meaning any private schools that finish in the top four of their region will leave a vacant playoff spot. The new GHSA postseason ranking formula will be used to fill those slots with at-large teams from other regions.

This means that despite being out of the region auto-bid race, the Royals could still make a playoff bid as an at-large team. They'll need to keep a close eye on the power rankings, as they were ranked 44th in GHSA's Postseason Rankings Formula list as of Tuesday.

That sounds like a poor

ranking when there are only 32 playoff spots available, but there are 18 private schools in Class A-Division I. If 12 of those schools notch top four region finishes, then Bleckley could possibly be bumped into that top 32.

Plus, the Royals have a chance to make a jump. Bleckley played Jefferson County in its final game of the season Tuesday night (before the newspaper went to print). Depending on the results of that game, the Royals could move even further up in the power rankings.

A playoff game could offer a chance at some redemption for Bleckley County, who have been less stout than usual this season.

The Royals suffered several close losses over the course of the tough season, including a one-point loss to Southwest, a three-point loss to second-place Northeast and a one-point overtime defeat against ACE. Their wins besides Central were a convincing 31-0 shutout against Rutland in the season opener and a 42-6 blowout over East Laurens.

Warriors hosting state playoff game for third-straight season

Christian McKearney & Micah Johnston

Fresh off its eighth consecutive victory against border rival Twiggs County, the Wilkinson County Warriors are now focused squarely on the state playoffs.

With the victory last Friday night, Wilco reserved the right to host a first-round state playoff game for the third straight season. Its opponent in that contest will be Miller County, the No. 3 seed out of GHSA Region 1-A Division II, or the "south Georgia region." Miller County is located roughly halfway between Albany and Tallahassee, Fla., and the road trip to Irwinton will be a four-hour bus ride for the Pirates.

Both teams will have two weeks to prepare for the Saturday, Nov. 16 matchup. For anyone wondering "why Saturday and why not Friday," the GHSA has been plagued by a referee shortage in recent years, which has resulted in first-round playoff games being staggered between Friday and Saturday.

The Pirates (7-3, 4-2) are expected to be tough. They gave Clinch County all it could handle earlier in the season, and Clinch County currently is ranked No. 4 in the state in the Class A-Division II composite poll. Wilkinson County ranks 28th in GHSA's Postseason Ranking Formula for the classification, while Miller County ranks 14th thanks to their

tougher schedule.

Leading the Pirates is tailback JP Powell, a Georgia Tech verbal commit and consensus four-star recruit. In the On3 composite rankings, Powell is ranked as the second-best senior running back in Georgia. Wilco largely has struggled in run defense this year and slowing down Powell presumably will be the primary objective.

Luckily, the Warriors get home field advantage thanks to Miller County's strong region. The Pirates finished behind Early County and Mitchell County. Early County is ranked 10th in GHSA's Postseason Ranking Formula, just ahead of Mitchell County at 12th. Early County also earned the No. 9 spot in composite state-wide rankings for A-Division II, according to Georgia High School Football Daily.

Kickoff is set for 3 p.m. at Bud Dupree Stadium, and admission is \$10.

The Warriors season has been up-and-down, but they appear to be getting hot at the right time. Their opponents have helped, as GMC and Twiggs County were two of the weaker teams in the region this season.

The season started with wins over Wheeler County, 34-20, and Treutlen, 29-7. Those two A-Division II opponents were a good litmus test, but Wilkinson County then had to contend with some stronger teams and suffered a three-game skid.

A-Division I opponent Jasper

County defeated the Warriors 17-7, but the fight put up by Wilkinson was encouraging. The Warriors traveled to then-undefeated Stratford Academy in Macon next, losing 28-12. This loss was more concerning, and the Eagles have since lost momentum down the stretch with losses to rivals Tattnall and FPD.

The last loss in the losing streak was against A-Division I ACE in Macon, a 51-14 defeat that was the low point of the season for Wilkinson County.

A win against Hancock Central put them back on track, even with a loss

to eventual region champ Johnson County the following week.

Three straight wins against Glascock County, GMC and Twiggs rounded out the season to give the Warriors a good running start heading into the home game.

Meanwhile, the Cobras had trouble getting anything going against Wilkinson last week and now face an even tougher matchup in the final game of the season.

Twiggs County looked slightly improved this season when they won back-to-back games over Josey and

GMC, a feat they had not achieved in some time, but the toughest part of the schedule for the Cobras arrived at the end of the season. They have allowed 61, 44 and 40 points each in the last three games.

Now Johnson County comes to town to round out the year. The Trojans are 7-2 and the top team in Region 5-A Division II after defeating Wilkinson County earlier this year. They've scored 123 points against region foes while allowing only 34. Johnson County also rides a six-game winning streak into the contest.



Courtesy Wilkinson County Gridiron Club

Mercer wins 37-31 over ETSU to take commanding SoCon lead

Micah Johnston
The Macon Melody

An unlikely punt block touchdown, along with multiple defensive scores and some whacky last-minute dramatics, helped Mercer win another thriller 37-31 over East Tennessee State on Homecoming last weekend.

The win gave the Bears a firm hold on the top spot in the Southern Conference

with only two league games left on the schedule against weaker teams in VMI and Furman.

At the team's Monday press conference, head coach Mike Jacobs spoke about another win in which Mercer defied the circumstances and secured a win despite some lackluster offense.

"Certainly not the game we were looking for from the offense... but we had a good game as a team. We're

certainly proud of how our defense played," Jacobs said. "We want to have physical violence in all three phases of the game."

With the zany plays, Mercer's crowd came alive with ease for the pivotal Homecoming game.

"It was a great crowd, our players feed off that energy," Jacobs said. "We like to play, period. We'll play in a parking lot... that made the game even more fun for us."

The Bears moved to 8-1 overall and 5-1 in the conference with the win. The defense stayed dominant, holding the typically sound ETSU rushing attack to just 13 yards on the ground. T.J. Moore snagged his sixth interception, a nation-leading tally and a Mercer record.

The win, like many others this season, was largely courtesy of the defense. Special teams also chipped in, with kicker Reice Grif-

fith booting through a trio of field goals. And while the offense struggled in the first half — first with junior transfer quarterback D.J. Smith, then with freshman passer Whitt Newbauer — it came up when it needed to most.

Newbauer saw more success in the second half, tossing an impressive 34-yard touchdown to star wideout Kelin Parsons in the third quarter and setting up two

of Griffith's three field goals in the fourth quarter.

Jacobs said the team planned on using both quarterbacks in the game and that Smith's health was still not 100%. The coach made no commitment to either signal caller for the remainder of the season.

The Bears will now try and win its final two SoCon games, starting with a road game against VMI this Saturday.