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The Citizen Georgian

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Wednesday, July 29, 2026

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

SEP
28

1867: Toronto becomes the capital of Ontario.

1924: The first aerial circumnavigation is completed by a team from the United States Army.

1951: CBS makes the first color televisions available for sale to the general public.

Upcoming Weather

Wed 22		24%	73°
Thu 23		45%	74°
Fri 24		62%	74°
Sat 25		76%	73°
Sun 26		54%	73°
Mon 27		24%	74°
Tue 28		24%	74°
Wed 29		24%	73°
Thu 30		24%	72°
Fri 31		24%	72°
Sat 01		36%	72°
Sun 02		37%	72°

Sheriff, Coroner Budgets Cut

By Brittney Poole Giles
News Writer

Macon County Sheriff Carlos Felton addressed the Macon County Board of Commissioners with a concern about \$116,000 in cuts to his budget.

Sheriff Felton went on to explain the increase in the rate to house inmates in neighboring county jails, "Sumter County raised their rate from \$45 per inmate to \$51, they have a three year plan to raise them to \$63 a day, per person."

Sheriff Felton also called attention to cuts made for a vehicle, "Y'all gave me \$60,000 and cut me down to \$30,000, unfortunately that's not enough to buy a vehicle and get the equipment, that costs about \$15,000."

"My county is over 432 square miles, all my vehicles have to be four wheel drive," Felton said.

Commissioner Carl Oliver asked for clarification on what was cut and explained that Felton had asked for \$60,000 for two vehicles, and that they gave him a budget for one.

"That was the plan," Felton said, "to get them from Houston County."

"We're in a tough time, we've only gone the last few years getting four wheel drive, we've had many sheriff's for years that didn't have that," Oliver said, "we gotta cut somewhere."

Commissioner Felton then confirmed the plan to purchase from Houston County, "it's irrelevant



Photo by Brittney Poole Giles

Sheriff Carlos Felton speaks to commissioners

now, they aren't selling vehicles, the plan was to get two, now just get one."

"Just to equip the vehicle is over \$13,000, that leaves me with \$17,000 to buy the car," Felton said.

"I have deputies driving cars with 253,000 miles that's had two motors put in it," Felton said, "we're picking up slack from Ideal and

See Page 5A



Photo by Brittney Poole Giles

Citizen Tanzy Sutton addresses Montezuma City Council.

Montezuma Citizens Speak Out at Council Meeting

By Brittney Poole Giles
News Writer

Montezuma citizens Tanzy Sutton and Dawn James spoke at the Montezuma City Council Meeting on Tuesday, July 14.

Mayor Charles Ivey laid some ground work before citizens began speaking, "So let's just see if we can, one, citizens that come to speak will be allowed to speak. We have a time frame. We will not interrupt, we will allow them to speak. If they have questions, we are trying to keep it in a time frame. We want to keep it, and then my strongest suggestion, my strongest suggestion is, we, as a counsel, and mayor, may approach him, staff, department heads."

"We are available. We have, on our website, contact information. We have after the meeting, and I'm pushing this to all our council people, including myself, to stay around and listen to what people have to ask. But please do not expect to have instant answers. There are some things that we have to research, there are some days that we have to check through, but most important, we work on a priority list."

"The priority things are the things that will continue to have the services that we provide for our citizens. Then we begin to look at all of the other things. We all know that if you look for things that are wrong, you're gonna find things that are wrong," Ivey said.

Latanzia Sutton was the first to speak saying, in part, "I previously requested to be placed on tonight's agenda. My

request was denied because I was told my topic involved a personnel matter. I am here to discuss the performance. I am not here to discuss the performance of any individual employee. I am here to discuss government transparency and the public's right to access public records.

"Transparency and accountability are essential to good government. The citizens of Montezuma deserve confidence, that the business of this city is conducted openly, honestly, and in accordance with Georgia Law. Many members of our community have questions regarding the resignation of the city manager. Well, certain personnel matters may remain confidential, Georgia law also recognizes that many records relating to public officials, resignation, are public records.

"For example, if a written resignation was submitted to the city, that letter is generally a public record. If the city entered into a separation agreement, severance agreement, or any settlement involving taxpayer funds, those records are generally public as well. If the resignation was considered by the council, citizens generally have the right to review the meeting agenda, meeting minutes, and resolution, accepting the resignation and any vote taken by this council. The Georgia Open Records Act and the Georgia Open Meetings Act were enacted to ensure that government remains accountable to the people it serves. These laws are not obstacles to government. They are protections for every taxpayer and every citizen.

See Page 3A



Stinson Hears Citizen Concerns

State Representative Patty Stinson was in town last week to address some citizen concerns about the rise in property values in Macon County. The citizens discussed the county's decision to opt out of HB581 and expressed frustration over the tax assessment. The concerned citizens also discussed a rumored county millage rate increase, the high Board of Education millage rate and underperforming schools. There were discussions of frustration over bad roads and who decides what roads do and don't get paved; increasing county trash pickup prices monthly; property owners that feel they are being assessed at values higher because people from other states move here and pay higher price per acre than the average rate for our area because it's cheaper to them. Rep Stinson listened and tried answering questions and explaining things with the major takeaway being to send in appeals.

Macon County Schools Ban All Devices in Compliance with State-Wide Ban

By Brittney Poole Giles
News Reporter

Macon County School System recently announced its intention to fully comply with Georgia House Bill 1009, a new state law requiring public schools to maintain a distraction-free learning environment by restricting the use of personal electronic devices during the school day. "We're telling everybody now, you don't need these devices at school," Superintended Dr. Johnathan Roberts said, "We will exercise some level of patience in the first few days, but we can not afford to have our kids not learning reading and math." "Let's face it, these kids are glued to these things," Roberts said, "and there's a lot of bullying that happens on these things, pictures getting passed around. I want the kids to interact, face to face." In compliance with state law, all K-12 students are prohibited from using personal electronic devices

from arrival until dismissal. This includes cell phones, smart glasses, smart watches used for communication, earbuds, and similar devices. Personal electronic devices must be powered off and stored completely out of sight throughout the school day.

Students with documented accommodations or medical needs under IDEA, ADA, or Section 504 will be permitted access to devices as required by their individualized plans.

"I promise our phones in the front office work," Roberts said, "it's like the good old days, if they need you, they can come up front and call, and if you need them, we will answer."

Parents and guardians may communicate with students through the school's front office in the event of an emergency or other important need.

Students who violate the requirements of Georgia House Bill 1009

See Page 3A

DISTRACTION - FREE LEARNING

To support a focused learning environment, students will **NOT** be permitted to use personal electronic devices during the school day.

BENEFITS TO DISTRACTION - FREE LEARNING

FOCUSED LEARNING

INCREASED ENGAGEMENT

MEANINGFUL STUDENT INTERACTION

Beginning in the 2026 - 27 school year, Macon County Schools will implement procedures consistent with Georgia House Bill 1009.

NO Cellphones

NO Tablets or iPads

NO Headphones

NO Earbuds

NO Meta Glasses

NO Personal Laptops or Chromebooks

NO Smart Watches



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Community Calendar

Homecoming at First Salem
The First Salem Baptist Church Family 191 Twin Church Road Montezuma Ga cordially invite you to their 159th Church Anniversary and Homecoming Service the 3rd Sunday August 16 2026, at 11:00a.m. Minister Jontae Nash of Dublin, Ga will bring the message. Revival services will be held Tuesday- Thursday, August 18-20,2026 at 7:00 p.m. Revivalist for the week are: Tuesday, August 18th Pastor David Stanley, Union Baptist Church, Macon, Ga. Wednesday, August 19, Pastor Colby McKenzie, Magnolia Baptist Church, Montezuma, Ga. Thursday, August 20th Bishop Melvin McCluster, Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Americus, Ga. Your fellowship is greatly appreciated.

JOIN IN ON A LITTLE EDUCATION FOR ALL: THE UNDOCTRINATED SERIES
Hosts are two from our younger generations:
Garfield Green from TN
Belle Reese from SC
The truth about private property in the US
The War You Cannot See — Tactical Civics
MONDAY, JULY 27, 2026 AT 6:15 PM
Perry Public Library - Meeting Room, 1201 Washington Ave Perry, GA. 31069

OGLETHORPE PUBLIC LIBRARY - SUMMER READING PROGRAM
June - July: All Programs are Wednesday's at 10:30AM
LOCATION: 500 SUMTER

County and City Meeting Schedule

All are welcome to attend.

County Commission
1st Tuesday, 3rd Thursdays of each month at 6 p.m.
City of Ideal
First Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.
City of Marshallville
Budget Workshop 1st Monday at 6 p.m.
Work Session- Second Monday of each month at 6 p.m.
Meeting- Second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.
City of Montezuma
Work Session- Second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.
Meeting- Second Tuesday of each month following the work session
City of Oglethorpe
First Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.
Board of Education
Second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.
Board of Elections
Second Wednesday of each month at 4 p.m.
Board of Accessors
First Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m.

STREET - OGLETHORPE

Soup Kitchen Open
The Bread of Life Soup Kitchen in Montezuma will be open Wednesdays, 12 noon to 1 p.m. to feed people in the community who need meals. The lunch hour will include a spiritual message and prayer. Ten churches have been involved in collecting and distributing food through the Soup Kitchen at 114 South Dooly Street. It is a nonprofit, non-denominational ministry. Volunteers to assist with meals are needed and are welcome.

Macon County Back to School Bash
11th Annual Macon County Back to School Bash will take place Saturday, Aug. 11 beginning at 11 a.m. at the MCHS Gym. Please contact Verenda Johnson at 478-235-3027 to learn how you can become a vendor!

Montezuma Public Library 2026 Summer Reading Program Events

July 27 4:00 p.m. Monday Movie: "Dinosaur 13" Rated PG
July 28 11:00 a.m. End-of-Summer Party Inflatables, games, and sno-cones. A great way to end the summer!
Events are open to everyone. Registration in the Summer Reading Program (SRP) is not required for attendance.

Macon County 4-H Homeschool Club

Macon County 4-H has a homeschool club that meets at the Extension Office on the first Thursday of each month (unless otherwise notified)
Starting at 3:30 PM
Free to Join
All homeschoolers are welcome to join us.
Questions?
Call Mrs . Rachel at 467-472-7588
or text her at 478-286-0006

University of Georgia is an Equal Opportunity Institution. If you need reasonable accommodation or language access services, contact the your County Extension office at least three weeks prior to the program date.

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
EXTENSION

WE'RE KICKING OFF THE YEAR TOGETHER!

YOU'RE INVITED TO

MACON COUNTY'S 11th ANNUAL COMMUNITY WIDE BACK TO SCHOOL BASH!

Let's start the school year STRONG - TOGETHER!

#MACONADIFFERENCE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 2026

REGISTRATION OPENS AT 10:00AM

EVENT TIME: 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

LOCATION: MACON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES (WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!)

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MACON COUNTY BRANCH NAACP

2026 BRANCH ELECTION INFORMATIONAL MEETING

As we prepare for the 2026 Branch Elections, it is important that we review and reinforce the eligibility requirements established in the 2025 NAACP National Bylaws. These guidelines apply to all current leaders and members who are interested in seeking office during this election cycle.

YOUR VOICE. YOUR VOTE. YOUR BRANCH.

MEETING DETAILS

DATE: Saturday, August 15, 2026

TIME: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon

LOCATION: First United Holiness Church Fellowship Hall 324 Engram Street Montezuma, GA 31063

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Members interested in serving as:

- Branch President
- Branch Vice President(s)
- Secretary
- Assistant Secretary
- Treasurer
- Assistant Treasurer
- Executive Committee At-Large Member
- Any Other Elected Branch Office

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- Candidate eligibility requirements
- Offices to be filled
- Nomination and election procedures
- Responsibilities of elected officers
- Timeline for the 2026 Branch Election

Your participation is encouraged as we work together to ensure a fair, informed, transparent, and successful election process in accordance with the 2025 NAACP National Bylaws.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR ATTENDANCE AND APPRECIATE YOUR COMMITMENT TO THE CONTINUED SUCCESS OF THE MACON COUNTY BRANCH.

Together, We Are Stronger!

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE MACON COUNTY BRANCH PRESIDENT

P. O. Box 149
Montezuma, GA 31063
Jeneverlyn Tookes, President
(478) 472 - 5146 office



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MONTEZUMA

Continued from page 1A

Trump’s speech, declassified documents offer scant support for Georgia election fraud claims

“Therefore, I respectfully ask that this council, I ask this council to be as transparent as the law allows, by making available all public records relating to this matter. including any resignation letter, any separation or severance agreement, funded by public money, and all public actions taken by this council concerning the resignation

“This request is not about personalities. It is about principles. Public trust is earned through openness, honesty, accountability, and willingness to answer the questions of the people you serve. I also respectfully ask that citizens wish to address matters of public concern be given a meaningful opportunity to participate in public process. Civic engagement should be encouraged because an informed and involved community makes our city stronger,” Sutton said.

Montezuma citizen Dawn James stood and read a petition type letter addressed to the Mayor and council which read in part, “We, the undersigned citizens, taxpayers, business owners, employees, and supporters of the city of Montezuma, respectfully request that the mayor and city council immediately initiate an independent investigation into the allegations of the city manager, Mel Fulgum, who made racially offensive remarks concerning African American children, referring to them as little monkeys.

“Public confidence in local government depends upon accountability, transparency, and equal treatment of all members of the community. Therefore, we respectfully request that the mayor and city council conduct, which hopefully they already have, or commission an independent investigation into the allegations.

“Interview all witnesses, preserve our relevant evidence and communication... Publicly released the findings of the investigation, to the extent permitted by the law. Or take appropriate disciplinary action, if the allegations are substantiated, including termination, if warranted by the facts.

“Implement or strengthen diversity, equity, and anti-discrimination training for citizen, for city, leadership, and employees, which I’m sure they’re already doing... Reaffirm the city’s commitment to treating all residents, employees, and children with dignity, respect, regardless of their race.”

Another citizen had the council clarify how to get on the agenda to speak. Ivey explained that you must call prior to a meeting and give a summary of what you wish to speak about.

In other business the council:

Discussed an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Macon County Development Authority Board for

the shared services and expenses of Angie Peaster serving as Economic Development Director. The agreement designates Ms. Peaster as the new Executive Director of Economic Development for Macon County, who will simultaneously maintain her role providing Economic Development and Tourism Services to the City of Montezuma.

“I’m not satisfied with this, it’s like she’s part time for us and full time for them,” Took’s said, “I also disagree with her benefits.”

“She gives us a pathway to bigger and better things,” Mayor Ivey replied.

Councilman Brown motioned to approve the agreement, no other councilmen seconded, so there was no vote.

Voted to authorize replacing the roof on Water Plant #1 in the amount of \$20,036.40. Water Fund to be amended at the end of the fiscal year.

Voted to removed the word “Consent” from the meeting agenda so that each item could be voted on separately. Brown opposed this vote.

Heard a report from the Mayor about the success of the Juneteenth program and his vision looking forward for his tenure as mayor.

Heard a report from Fire Chief Esh about the calls the department had received over the past month, including one structure fire, 11 medical calls, two vehicle fires, and three accidents.

Heard a report from Public Works about grass cutting and limb pickup as well as storm drains and cleaning that needs to be done downtown.

Councilman Took’s asked for clarification on a large limb pile that was located on Morse Avenue.

“Do you know a contractor cut it and left it?” She asked, “If we had cut it, you would have taken it wouldn’t you, you’ve taken some on College Street.”

Mayor Ivey and Lonnie Shaw from Montezuma Public Works agreed to give the residents more time to have the limbs cleaned up.

John Fox of the Montezuma Library gave a glowing report of the success of the Summer Reading program. He reported a total of 97 readers and over 310 people attending the 17 programs held at the library.

Montezuma Police Chief Eric Finch reported on suspicious vehicles and people wearing safety vests in and around town who were stealing mail and possibly passing cash between two vehicles. “If you see something or someone suspicious, call us,” Finch said.

By Ty Tagami
Bureau Chief
Capitol Beat News Service

When President Donald Trump delivered his primetime address about election fraud Thursday, Dana Barrett was watching and ready to take notes.

But Barrett, a Fulton County commissioner, did not hear much worth writing down.

The Democratic commissioner represents a county that Trump has repeatedly blamed for his 2020 election loss.

Last winter, the FBI raided the Fulton election warehouse and seized ballots.

Then, in early July, came reports that the FBI had plans to “surge” 260 analysts and specialists to Fulton for what a government memo described as a “priority” investigation.

The memo gave the analysts until July 17 to check 708 records, the Associated Press reported after obtaining a copy.

So, Barrett figured Trump’s decision to schedule his speech on July 16 must have been related to that deadline and that he would be revealing big news about Fulton.

Then, Trump went live with his speech — and he did not mention the county.

Barrett said that was a telling omission. “There was really nothing that Trump said in that speech that was significant,” she added.

Along with Trump’s speech came his declassification of documents related to investigations of election meddling. Despite the president’s past claims that Georgia had been a hotbed of voter fraud, the Peach State was mentioned only a handful of times in those 58 documents, which the public can download from the White House website.

None of those references contained clear evidence of fraud.

One document points to a 2017 television news report about an FBI investigation of a data breach at Kennesaw State University while



Homeland Security

PREVENTING ALIEN VOTING

NATIONAL SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS: The Department of Homeland Security has initiated multiple investigations related to allegations of non-citizen voting and registration. Review of the first set of public voter files from states that have not utilized the SAVE system revealed:

OVER 250,000 NON-CITIZENS ARE ILLEGALLY REGISTERED TO VOTE

IN JUST THE FOUR STATES FOR WHICH PUBLIC DATA FILES HAVE BEEN REVIEWED.

State election officials in California, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Nevada have been notified of this serious threat to national security and DHS stands ready to support their efforts to identify and remove ineligible registrants. The investigation is expanding to include multiple additional states. In addition, DHS will support the Department of Justice’s review of voter files obtained pursuant to their enforcement authority under the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 and the Help America Vote Act of 2002.

STATES THAT PROTECT FEDERAL ELECTIONS: Numerous proactive, conscientious state officials have successfully utilized free services offered by the Department of Homeland Security to assist election officials in identifying non-citizens who have registered and/or voted in their states.

In the short time that the enhanced SAVE system has been available to states, 10 have states processed their full voter lists. As of June 22, 2026, a total of 25 different states processed more than 68 million registration records through the SAVE system. DHS has enabled those states to identify over 400,000

Proactive SAVE User States		
State	Deceased	Non-Citizen
Georgia	42,776	2,549
Ohio	59,774	769

the university was involved in maintaining the state’s voter registration database.

Another refers to a 2021 federal lawsuit against Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger that included a report from an expert who said barcodes, like the QR codes used by Georgia’s voting machines, were vulnerable to hackers.

Many of the declassified documents were heavily redacted, including one that mentions Georgia and other states along with the government of China. So much of that document is blacked out that it is not possible to summarize its contents, but it mentions the personal information of millions of Americans in voter registration databases. Other documents say China vacuumed up such information, much or all of it publicly available.

Finally, one of the documents

notes that Trump alerted leaders in 15 states, Georgia among them, that their voter registration rolls had been “compromised” by China.

Yet, a 2020 memo by the National Intelligence Council says the country’s elections would be difficult to undermine.

The newly declassified document says voting locations are not connected to the internet or to each other, so they can only be manipulated in person. It could still be done in enough states to influence a presidential election, the memo says, but it would be difficult and, the authors concluded, “postelection audits and paper trails very likely would uncover such an effort.”

That memo, which says vote tabulation systems in the United States “would be difficult to manipulate on a wide enough scale to compro-

mise election results,” was written during Trump’s first term.

Another declassified memo also mentions Georgia. It offers a narrative seemingly at odds with the president’s claims that the state runs unreliable elections.

Trump has been unsparing in his criticism of Raffensperger, who oversaw the 2020 election when Trump lost, as well as the 2024 election when he won.

More than a quarter million noncitizens are illegally registered to vote in four states, the new Department of Homeland Security memo says. But as of late June, it says, 10 states had “conscientious” leaders who had successfully used the agency’s services to scour their rolls for such noncitizen voters.

Georgia is listed among these “proactive” states.

DEVICE BAN

Continued from page 1A

and district procedures will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Macon County School System Code of Conduct.

Georgia House Bill 1009 is a law signed by Governor Brian Kemp on May 5, 2026, that enacts a bell-to-bell ban on personal electronic devices in public schools. The legislation requires school systems to

restrict student access to items like smartphones, smartwatches, and tablets during the instructional day. Key Rules and Timeline

Grades K-8: Access is prohibited starting no later than July 1, 2026.

Grades 9-12: Access is prohibited starting no later than July 1, 2027 (for the 2027–2028 school year).

Exemptions: Students with medi-

cal plans, Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), or 504 plans requiring a device are exempt, as are off-campus programs like dual enrollment or work-based learning.

Enforcement and Communication

Storage: Schools must use lockers, locked pouches, or specific classroom locations to store devices.

Emergency Protocols: All emer-

gency communication must go through official school systems. Parent Contact: Parents must call the school directly to reach their child during the school day rather than contacting the student’s personal device.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The City of Oglethorpe will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, August 5, 2026 at 1:00 p.m at the City of Oglethorpe City Hall building at 115 Chatham Street, Oglethorpe, Georgia 31068 to provide information on its plans to expand the 2022 Community Development Block Grant target area. The activity for which these funds are being used is in the area of housing rehabilitation.

In 2022 the City of Oglethorpe received \$901,025 in CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization funds. The City of Oglethorpe plans to submit a request to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs to expand the 2022 CDBG target area and offer housing rehabilitation assistance to homeowners on the West end portion of McClendon Street that was not originally included in the 2022 CDBG target area. Further details will be discussed at the public hearing.

All of these funds must be used to benefit low and moderate income persons.

The City of Oglethorpe is committed to providing all persons with equal access to its services, programs, activities, education and employment regardless of race, color national origin, religion, sex, familial status, disability or age. Persons with special needs relating to handicapped accessibility or foreign language shall contact Melissa Jones, City Clerk at (478) 472-6485 Ext. 221 prior to August 5, 2026. Melissa Jones can be contacted between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. except holidays. Persons with hearing disabilities can contact the Georgia Relay Service at (TDD) 1-800-255-0056 or (voice) 1-800-255-0135.

Macon County Board of Commissioners

Job Announcement

Position Title: Accounting Technician

County or Business Name: Macon County Board of Commissioners

Closing Date & Time: August 7, 2026

Job Description: The Macon County Board of Commissioners is now accepting applications for the position of **Accounting Technician** for Macon County. This position is responsible for providing financial, administrative and clerical support in the service of County government operations. **This is a full-time position.**

Areas of responsibility include:

> Processes and files all accounts payable, prepares monthly financial reports;

> Processes and reconciles payroll for County employees and elected officials;

> Assist in preparation of the annual budget;

> Enters all information in financial records systems, maintains general ledger;

> Produces manual checks for monthly garnishments, credit union, health and life insurance;

> administer financials transactions for EMS operations;

> Assist with duties for the front office;

> Attends monthly Board of Commissioners meetings, records minutes;

High school diploma or GED; supplemented by more than two (2) years related experience in local government, human resources, finance or accounting; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job.

The ideal candidate must be able to communicate well and interact with other officials, departments and agencies and proficiently perform duties as assigned. Applicant will be required to pass a physical examination, drug and alcohol test and a criminal background check.

Macon County Board of Commissioners does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, national origin, or handicap status.

Interested applicants should submit an application and three (3) references (contact information including address, phone, email, etc.) to the address below. Applications can be obtained online at www.maconcountygga.gov or from the Macon County Courthouse at 121 S. Sumter St. Oglethorpe, GA. 31068.

For More Information contact: Macon County Board of Commissioners
c/o Roselyn H Starling
P.O. Box 297 Oglethorpe, GA 31068

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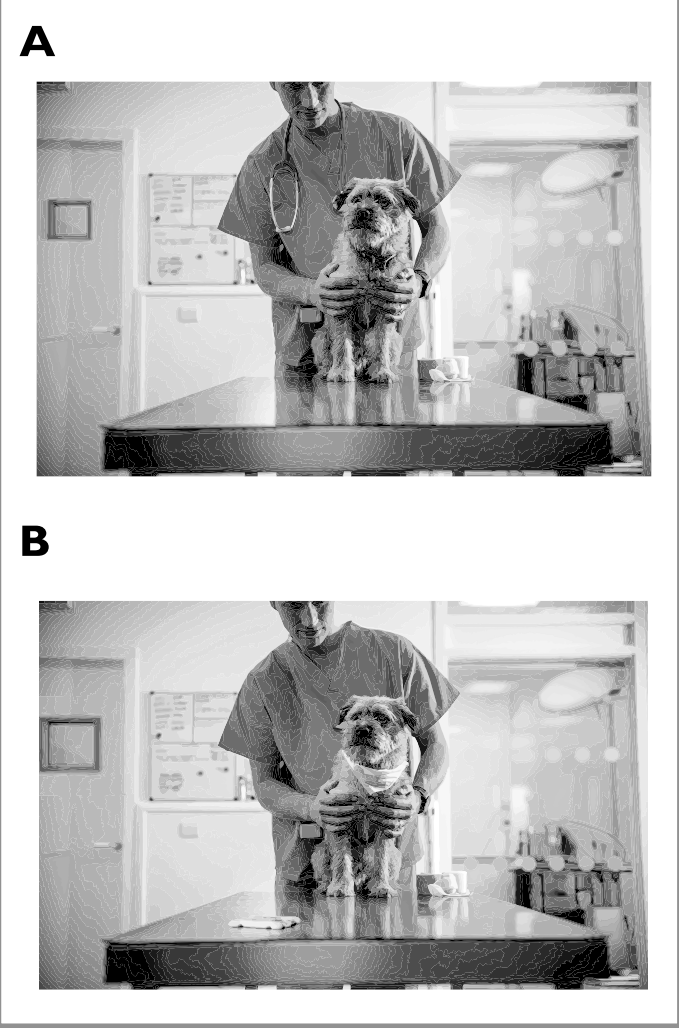
The Citizen Georgian

478-472-0189
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What’s the Difference?

Find the four differences between the two pictures.



Answers: 1. Dog is wearing a bandana 2. Biscuit on the table 3. Missing stethoscope 4. Sign on door is larger

Answer: True

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1587: A second group of English settlers arrives on Roanoke Island.

1793: Alexander Mackenzie becomes the first recorded human to complete a transcontinental crossing of North America.

1997: The second Blue Water Bridge opens.

NEW WORD

REUNITE

come together again after a period of separation

COUNTY

Continued from page 4A



Macon County Coroner Eddie Hosley

Oglethorpe, they don’t have officers after midnight. Can you put a price on safety?” Commissioner Linda Barfield then asked Felton, “How many deputies do you have?” “Eight,” answered Felton, “And how many cars?” “Nine,” answered Felton.

“You can get by with what you have,” Barfield said, “I shared cars for 38 years.”

After further discussion, the conversation was ended with Felton telling commissioners he would look for a vehicle because he’s looking for a specific car that his “big guys can get in and out of.”

Commissioner Bob Melvin then turned attention to the budget for housing inmates.

“We need to amend the budget to house the inmates, we can’t change what they decide,” Melvin said, “we can’t change what they decide.”

Commissioner Oliver then asked where most of the inmates come from, Felton answered that there are only three that came from the Sheriff’s Department. Some inmates are state warrants.

“Why should we have to pay for the state? Why doesn’t the state pay?” Oliver asked.

State Senator Teddy Reese, from the crowd, spoke up and said that he’d look into this issue.

Macon County Coroner Eddie Hosley then approached the commissioners also asking about budget cuts.

“We’re at a point where we want to open the morgue,” Hosley said, “we got a \$5,000 grant from Flint Energies, but our budget here was cut.”

“We had some capitol items we were asking for but, with the cuts, there are still two items I need that aren’t in the budget, there’s one I can get by without,” Hosley said.

County Manager Roselyn Starling added that there were cuts made in the budget, “we cut \$5,000 out of his small equipment budget, he’s got another \$2,000 in small equipment.”

“He’s got about \$8,000 worth of equipment to purchase, but he’s only got about \$4,000,” Starling said.

Felton and Melvin both agreed and proposed a motion to amend the budget by \$4,000, all other commissioners voted no.

In other business the board discussed the county’s current hiring policy and voted to amend the policy presented by Chairman Melvin that allowed department heads more power in the decisions to hire and fire employees and for the departments to quickly notify candidates who were not chosen for employment.

Legals

Legals
Legals

CG26-070
Georgia, Macon County
All creditors of the Estate of Dean R. Prickett, Sr., deceased, late of Macon 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 14th day of July, 2026.
Dianne Prickett, Executor of the Estate of Dean R. Prickett, Sr
Jon L. Coogle Attorney at Law
P. O. Box 178
100 Sumter Street
Oglethorpe, Georgia 31068
July 15, 22, 29, August 5, 2026

CG26-074
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF MACON
IN RE: ESTATE OF TONYA SOLOMON
All creditors of the Estate of Tonya Solomon, deceased, late of Macon 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 us.
This 21st day of July, 2026.
Kentorria E. Solomon- Administrator
Tonya Solomon - Deceased
Kentorria E. Solomon
619 Lancing Lane
Montezuma, GA 31063
July 29, August 5, 12, 19, 2026

CG26-065
Georgia, Macon County
All creditors of the Estate of Barbara A. Naftal, deceased, late of Macon 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 6th day of July, 2026.
Gerald Eugene Naftal, Sr., Executor of the Estate of Barbara A. Naftal
Jon L. Coogle Attorney at Law P. O. Box 178
100 Sumter Street
Oglethorpe, Georgia 31068
July 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

CG26-066
Georgia, Macon County

All creditors of the Estate of Wilma B. Naftal, deceased, late of Macon 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 6th day of July, 2026.
Gerald Eugene Naftal, Sr., Executor of the Estate of Wilma B. Naftal
Jon L. Coogle Attorney at Law P. O. Box 178
100 Sumter Street
Oglethorpe, Georgia 31068
July 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

CG26-069
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF MACON
IN RE: ESTATE OF EDWARD HENDERSON
All creditors of the Estate of Edward Henderson, deceased, late of Macon 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 us.
This 2nd day of July, 2026.
Mary Henderson- Administrator
Edward Henderson - Deceased
Mary Henderson
PO Box 741084
Riverdale, GA 30274
July 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

CG26-071
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF MACON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF JAMES BENJAMIN HOBBS, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. P26-036
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE
To James C. Hobbs, Waylon C. Hobbs, and Tara A. Boyce and to whom it may concern:
Wanda Lynne Creel has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of James Benjamin Hobbs, deceased, of said county. The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261. All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before August 14, 2026.

BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.
s/ APRIL H. CROSS
Judge of the Probate Court
By: April H. Cross
Clerk of the Probate Court
PO Box 216 – 121 S. Sumter St.
Oglethorpe, GA 31068
478-472-7685
July 15, 22, 29, August 5, 2026

CG26-067
Georgia, Macon County
All creditors of the Estate of Raymond Clark Hall, deceased, late of Macon 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 24th day of June, 2026.
William K. Hall, Administrator of the Estate of Raymond Clark Hall
Jon L. Coogle
Attorney at Law
P. O. Box 178
100 Sumter Street
Oglethorpe, Georgia 31068
July 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

CG26-075
NOTICE OF REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS
The City of Oglethorpe is requesting proposals for engineering services related to a Community Development Block Grant project. This is a Section 3 Covered Contract and Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply. If you or your firm would like to receive a Request for Proposal (RFP), please call the River Valley Regional Commission at 1-877-819-6348. Proposals are due to the River Valley Regional Commission Columbus office by 10:00 a.m. August 31, 2026.
July 29, 2026

CG26-072
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF MACON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF THOMAS WAYNE ETHERIDGE, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. P26-037
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

NOTICE
To whom it may concern:
Kathy J. Wimberley has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of Thomas Wayne Etheridge, deceased, of said county. The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261. All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. 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/APRIL H. CROSS
Judge of the Probate Court
By: April H. Cross
Clerk of the Probate Court
PO Box 216 – 121 S. Sumter St.
Oglethorpe, GA 31068
478-472-7685
July 15, 22, 29, August 5, 2026

CG26-068
GA2600293933
Notice Of Foreclosure Sale Under Power
Macon County, Georgia Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by Rhodessia Strong And Willie Leland, Married to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., As Grantee, As Nominee For Alcova Mortgage, LLC, dated 04/22/2024 and recorded 04/23/2024 in, in Book 00637,
Page 00113, Macon County, Georgia Records, as last transferred to Amerihome Mortgage Company, LLC by assignment recorded on 09/25/2025 Deed Book: 00651 PAGE: 0129 in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Macon Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of \$ 249,299.00, 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 Macon County, Georgia, within the legal hours of sale on

08/04/2026, the following described property: All That Tract Or Parcel Of Land Situate, Lying And Being In The City Of Montezuma, Macon County, Georgia, And Being More Particularly Described As Lots 24, 25, 26 And The East Half Of Lot 27 In The Felton Heights Subdivision, Montezuma, Georgia.
The Foregoing Described Property Is Bounded On The North By Lands Of James Pi. Brown,
On The East By Engram Street, On The South By East Williams Street, And On The West By Melvin Baker. This conveyance is made subject to all zoning ordinances, easements and restrictions of record affecting said bargained premises. 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 Security Deed and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fee having been given). The entity having full authority to negotiate, amend or modify all terms of the loan (although not required by law to do so) is: Amerihome Mortgage Company, LLC they can be contacted at 866-978-2622 for Loss Mitigation Dept, or by writing to Amerihome Mortgage Company, LLC 9726 Old Baires Rd Ste 200, Fort Mill, SC 29707 to discuss possible alternatives to avoid foreclosure. Said property will be sold on "as-is" basis and 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 Security Deed first set out above. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the property is Rhodessia Strong And Willie Leland, Married or tenant(s); and said property is more commonly known as 601 Engram St, Montezuma, GA 31063. The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the security deed and (3) any right of redemption or other lien not extinguished by foreclosure. Amerihome Mortgage Company, LLC Rhodessia Strong And Willie Leland, Married. Sokolof Remtulla, LLP c/o First American Title Insurance Company 4795 Regent Blvd, Mail Code 1011-F Irving TX 75063 866-429-5179 GA2600293933

July 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026
CG26-073
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF MACON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF OTIS HARRIS, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. P26-038
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE
To whom it may concern:
Curtis L. Harris has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of Otis Harris, deceased, of said county. The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261. All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before August 14, 2026.
BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.
s/ APRIL H. CROSS
Judge of the Probate Court
By: April H. Cross
Clerk of the Probate Court
PO Box 216 – 121 S. Sumter St.
Oglethorpe, GA 31068
478-472-7685
July 15, 22, 29, August 5, 2026

NOTICE OF REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS
The City of Oglethorpe is requesting proposals for engineering services related to a Community Development Block Grant project. This is a Section 3 Covered Contract and Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply. If you or your firm would like to receive a Request for Proposal (RFP), please call the River Valley Regional Commission at 1-877-819-6348. Proposals are due to the River Valley Regional Commission Columbus office by 10:00 a.m. August 31, 2026.

