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Photo Submitted

FORMER PINE MOUNTAIN MAYOR HONORED - The former Mayor of Pine Mountain, Keith Pendergrass, was awarded two plaques of recognition for his time as Mayor of Pine Mountain by Dr. Niles Ford of the Georgia Municipal Association and Carl Vinson Institute of Government as well as the Robert E. Knox Leadership Institute. Pendergrass served as a council member for Pine Mountain for eight years prior to his election as Mayor. Ford hand delivered the plaques to Pendergrass' home in Pine Mountain and expressed his appreciation for Pendergrass' years of service and dedication to Pine Mountain and to the Georgia Municipal Association.

Hamilton, Harris Purple Heart Dedication August 8

By ANDY KOBER

Hamilton and Harris County have scheduled a combined Purple Heart declaration.

Both the city and county have completed the requirements for Hamilton to become a Purple Heart city and Harris County to become a Purple Heart county.

The official ceremony is set to take place 1 pm Saturday, Aug. 8, on the Harris County Courthouse steps. Hamilton and Harris County will join Pine Mountain, which recently became a Purple Heart city. All three can place signs noting the designation at the respective city limits and county lines.

Also, once designated as Purple Heart cities and county, all three become part of the Purple Heart Trail which is a system of roads, highways, bridges, and other monuments that recognize those men and women who have been awarded the Purple Heart. The Purple Heart Trail started in 1922, at a monument in Mt. Vernon, Virginia. Sections of the Purple Heart Trail can currently be found in 45 states and Guam.

The Purple Heart award has been presented for different reasons since first instituted by Gen. George Washington. Then, it was just a piece of purple ribbon known as the Badge of Military Merit for service and bravery but after the Revolutionary War was not awarded again for about 150 years.

In 1931, Gen. Douglas MacArthur became involved in a project to reinstitute the award. The design, featuring the image of George Washington, was developed by Elizabeth Will of the Quartermaster General's Office and the new Purple Heart could be presented to those earning the Meritorious Service Citation Certificate, Army Wound Badge, or those authorized to wear the Wound Chevrons during World War I and early period of World War II.

It would be in 1942, the Purple Heart was changed again. Although the design remained the same, it would only be awarded to members of any military branch wounded during armed conflicts. That has remained the case for the last 84 years.

Any Harris County resident who has earned the Purple Heart is encouraged to contact Purple Heart Chapter 492 of Columbus and become a part of the organization. The chapter meeting is held at noon the second Saturday of each month at DAV #7, 1000 Victory Drive, in Columbus, or visit Military Order of the Purple Heart Columbus, GA #492 on Facebook.



Photo By George Batastini

FOOTBALL CAR WASH A SUCCESS - HCHS Touchdown Club President Lennie Moore states the annual car wash event for the football team was a great success, we had a great turnout at all of our locations today. Harris County Touchdown Club always does a great job of setting this event up and the County always comes through with the support! Thank you for your support Harris County, Football Coach Tommy Watson and Lennie Moore Touchdown Club President. Here, Touchdown Club President Lennie Moore circling the car to insure a clean car as the team continuing to wash the car.

Waverly Hall to Hold Night Out

Submitted to the *Journal*

Harris County Family Connection and the Waverly Hall Police Department have partnered to bring the 2nd Annual National Night Out to Harris County! If this year's event is anything like last year's, we're in for barrels of fun, unforgettable memories, and plenty of opportunities to build new friendships while strengthening old ones.

Time and place for this event:

Tuesday, August 4, 2026

Lucy Laney Park

6783 Georgia Highway 208, Waverly Hall, GA

What to expect when you arrive:

Children will be laughing in the bounce house, friends catching up over a meal, Families meeting our heroes who work every day to keep our community safe, and conversations that begin with a smile and end with a stronger community.

You will also meet your local law enforcement officers—our hometown heroes.

Check out amazing Resource Vendors with free giveaways.

Reconnect with friends and neighbors—or make some new ones.

Enjoy free food and drinks.

Listen to music.

Let the kids enjoy the bounce house.

Celebrate the community that makes Harris County such a special place to call home.

At Harris County Family Connection, our mission is to improve outcomes for children and families by bringing together community partners, resources, and opportunities that create stronger, healthier, and more connected communities. Events like National Night Out remind us that when we know one another, trust one another, and work together, everyone benefits.

The Waverly Hall Police Department stands ready to provide their leadership, partnership, and unwavering commitment to serving and protecting our community. We are honored to stand beside you in building relationships that make Harris County safer and stronger.

THIS WEEK IN THE JOURNAL

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Contact the *Harris County Journal*
starmercurynews@gmail.com

Longtime Waverly Hall Council Member Pat Lowman, 86, Dies

By JACK BAGLEY

Longtime Waverly Hall City Council member and former Mayor Pro Tem Patricia "Pat" Lowman died July 15 at age 86.

Lowman spent 40 years as a member of the Waverly Hall City Council, holding the Public Safety seat. During her tenure on the Council, Lowman was instrumental in bringing about the city's new Fire Administration building.

She served as Mayor Pro Tem twice, from 1996 to 2003 and again from 2017 to 2025.

In addition to her service on the City Council, Lowman played a critical role in numerous community improvement projects. Among the projects Lowman worked with were the 1977 Governor's Project competition; the "Paint Up, Clean Up, Fix Up, Beautify Waverly Hall" campaign; and her service on the "Up With Waverly Hall" committee. That last led to the renovation of the Government/Arts Building, which now serves as City Hall and the headquarters of the Police Department. The building was dedicated to Jim Stretch on October 9, 1994.

A celebration of her life is scheduled for this morning at 11:00 at Waverly Hall Methodist Church.

For more information, see the full obituary on **page 3-A**.



Did one of the most popular television programs of the 1960s happen because of a Broadway play?

Did You Know...?, page 7-A

Flag Football Seniors Participate in Media Day

Sports, Page 12-A



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Not Much Rain in the Forecast This Week

By JOHN KUYKENDALL

Editor's Note: *This is a weather forecast and the weather is subject to change. Please make sure to check for weather updates. This forecast taken from the Weather World's extended forecast.*

There is not much rain in the forecast for the upcoming week but the temperatures will continue to be hot, according to Weather World.

Here is what Weather World is forecasting weather wise for the Harris County area for the upcoming week.

Friday, July 24: The hot weather will continue with the high temperature expected to reach about 97 degrees and the low temperature around 72 degrees. Skies will be sunny with some clouds. There is a 57% of showers and winds are expected to reach about six mph and will be coming out of the East.

Saturday, July 25: The threat of rain will loom again today with a 57% chance of the wet stuff being predicted under sunny skies. The high temperature is expected to reach about 94 degrees and the low temperature is expected to be around 72 degrees. Winds will be mild, around eight mph and will be coming out of the West Northwest.

Sunday, July 26: There is a 78% chance of rain today under cloudy skies. The high temperature is expected to reach around 90 degrees today and the low temperature around 73 degrees. Winds are expected to reach speeds of about 10 mph and will be coming out of the West Southwest.

Monday, July 27: Expect partly cloudy skies today with a 58% chance of rain. Finally, the high temperature is expected to be below 90 and should reach about 89 degrees. The low temperature will be around 72 degrees. Winds are expected to reach speeds of about six mph and will be coming out of the East Southeast.

Tuesday, July 28: The temperature will remain below 90 degrees, but just below with the high temperature expected to reach about 89 degrees and the low temperature is expected to be around 77 degrees. There is a 69% chance of showers today. Winds are expected to reach speeds of about six mph and will be coming out of the South Southwest.

Wednesday, July 29: It's going to be hot today. The high temperature is expected to reach about 101 degrees and the low temperature is expected to be around 76 degrees. The skies will be partly cloudy and there is a 57% chance of rain. Winds are expected to reach speeds for about 13 mph and will be coming out of the West.

Thursday, July 30: If you though Wednesday was hot, today's high temperature is expected to reach about 105 degrees and the low temperature is expected to be 80 degrees. The skies will be sunny and with only a 2% chance of rain being predicted. There will be a breeze to help a bit. Winds are expected to reach speeds of 13 mph and will be coming out of the West Northwest.



F.D.R. State Park Offers Fun Programs

By ANDY KOBER

F.D. Roosevelt State Park is hosting family friendly events including:

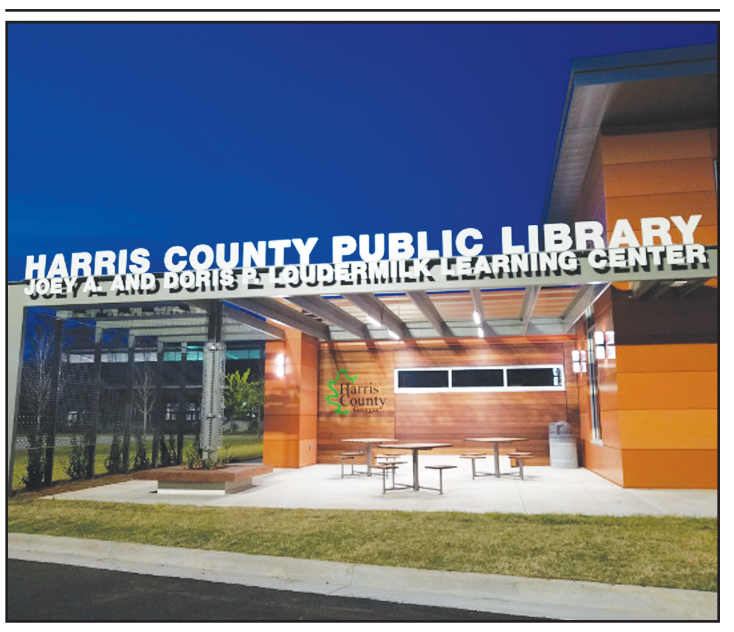
• **Saturday, July 25**, 9 am and 11 am. Archery. Beginners welcome. Basic instruction and equipment provided. Limited spaces available. Call the park office to register. Fee of $20 per person. Meet at archery course next to group shelter, park in boat dock parking area. Pre-registration required by contacting the park office at least one day ahead of the program.

• *Saturday, July 25*, 1 pm. Salamander Meander. Join park rangers for an investigative stream lab to discover salamanders and other cold water inhabitants in one of the park's streams. Wear shoes that can get wet. Fee of $5 per person. Pre-registration required by contacting the park office at least one day ahead of the program.

• **Saturday, July 25**, 2 pm. Animal Fur and Felting. Join park rangers for a lesson on animal fur and create your own wet felted fur based on patterns of animals in the park. Fee of $5 per person. Pre-registration required by contacting the park office at least one day ahead of the program.

Events at FD Roosevelt State Park do incur the $10 state parking fee.

FD Roosevelt State Park is located in Pine Mountain.



Things to Do At the Harris Public Library

By ANDY KOBER

Upcoming events at the Harris County Public Library include:

• **Friday, July 24,** Women's Voices for Civil Rights Traveling Exhibit all day, Dino Clay Eye part 2 for ages 12 and older at 1 pm pre-registration required by contacting the library.

• **Saturday, July 25,** Women's Voices for Civil Rights Traveling Exhibit all day, Magma Madness for ages 6-11 at 11 am preregistration required by contacting the library.

• **Monday, July 27**, Dino Play Day fun dino free play for all ages at 11 am.

• **Wednesday, July 29,** Teen Hangout video games at 4:30 pm.

Normal library hours are: 10 am to 6 pm Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday; 10 am to 7 pm Thursday; 10 am to 5 pm Friday, and 10 am to 4 pm Saturday. The library is closed on Sunday.

For more information about any event at the Harris County Public Library call 706-628-4685.

The library is located at 7511 Ga. Hwy. 116 West, Hamilton.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Request for Bids
Rock Church Road Project

The Town of Junction City is requesting bids for **paving the recently completed culvert portion of Rock Church Road**. Please contact **Gary Byrd, City Attorney at 706-628-5511,** to review engineering specifications. Sealed bids should be submitted to Mr. Byrd's office, **103 N. College St., PO Box 119, Hamilton, Georgia 31811, no later than noon on August 3, 2026**. Said bids will be opened at **7:00pm that day at City Hall, Junction City.**

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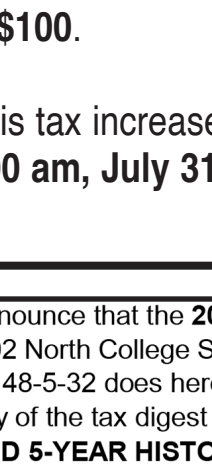
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NOTICE OF 2026 PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR THE CITY OF SHILOH

The governing authority of Shiloh has tentatively adopted a millage rate which will require an increase in property taxes by **36.76 percent**.

This tentative increase will result in a millage rate of **7.50 mills**, an increase of 2 mills. Without this tentative tax increase, the millage rate will be no more than **5.484 mills**.

The proposed tax increase for a non-homestead property with a fair market value of **$200,000** is approximately **$160** and the proposed tax increase for a non-homestead property with a fair market value of **$125,000** is approximately **$100**.

Citizens are invited to the public hearings on this tax increase to be held at **Shiloh City Hall located at 1222 Main Street July 28th at 10:00 am, July 31st at 5:00 pm and August 4th at 5:45 pm.**

The Harris County Board of Commissioners does hereby announce that the **2026 millage rate** will be set at a meeting to be held at the County Courthouse, Room 215, 102 North College St, Hamilton, on Aug 18, 2026, beginning at and pursuant to the requirements of the OCGA 48-5-32 does hereby publish the following presentation of the current year's tax digest and levy along with the history of the tax digest and levy for the past five years.

CURRENT 2026 TAX DIGEST AND 5-YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY

INCORPORATED Hamilton, Pine Mountain, Shiloh, Waverly Hall West Point - Annexed	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**
Real & Personal	182,196,556	207,504,029	193,541,193	237,604,987	271,849,468	287,592,404
Motor Vehicles	917,150	899,110	959,560	845,940	688,920	647,600
Mobile Homes	63,980	80,155	64,288	57,605	57,605	56,677
Timber 100%	0	0	0	0	0	0
Heavy Duty Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gross Digest	183,177,686	208,483,294	230,556,647	238,508,532	272,595,993	288,296,681
Less M&O Exemptions	17,822,226	20,905,124	23,683,567	26,499,917	40,050,700	41,923,379
Net M&O Digest	165,355,460	187,578,170	206,873,080	212,008,615	232,545,293	246,373,302
Adjusted Net M&O Digest	165,355,460	187,578,170	206,873,080	212,008,615	232,545,293	246,373,302
Gross M&O Millage	10.99	10.69	10.96	10.78	10.82	10.75
Less Rollbacks	1.61	1.56	1.83	1.65	1.69	1.62
Net M&O Millage	9.38	9.13	9.13	9.13	9.13	9.13
Net Taxes Levied	1,551,034	1,712,589	1,888,751	1,935,639	2,123,139	2,249,388
INCORPORATED West Point	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**
Real & Personal	22,675,790	23,859,865	25,331,159	28,480,286	32,567,369	37,274,532
Motor Vehicles	246,850	206,040	226,010	225,130	171,880	182,250
Gross Digest	22,922,640	24,065,905	26,280,583	28,705,416	32,739,249	37,456,782
Less M&O Exemptions	1,301,582	1388132	1,442,702	1,482,907	2,661,769	2,940,315
Net M&O Digest	21,621,058	22,677,773	24,837,881	27,222,509	30,077,480	34,516,467
Adjusted Net M&O Digest	21,621,058	22,677,773	24,837,881	27,222,509	30,077,480	34,516,467
Gross M&O Millage	7.24	7.038	7.31	7.13	7.17	7.09
Less Rollbacks	1.61	1.56	1.83	1.65	1.69	1.62
Net M&O Millage	5.628	5.478	5.478	5.478	5.478	5.478
Net Taxes Levied	121,683	124,229	136,062	149,125	164,764	189,081
UNINCORPORATED	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**
Real & Personal	1,418,446,942	1,561,267,178	1,624,392,917	1,790,972,829	2,064,398,557	2,141,057,014
Motor Vehicles	18,258,400	17,214,650	17,369,800	16,773,000	15,438,440	14,629,830
Mobile Homes	1,456,042	1,352,002	1,301,620	1,296,376	1,234,947	1,204,814
Timber 100%	3,559,855	3,283,546	3,468,413	2,031,328	2,459,447	2,896,953
Heavy Duty Equipment	445,396	849,910	545,277	514,091	1,326,369	161,209
Gross Digest	1,442,166,635	1,583,967,286	1,700,388,057	1,811,587,624	2,084,857,760	2,159,949,820
Less M&O Exemptions	222,948,702	240,519,014	270,916,310	281,836,412	490,360,867	511,791,395
Net M&O Digest	1,219,217,933	1,343,448,272	1,429,471,747	1,529,751,212	1,594,496,893	1,648,158,425
Adjusted Net M&O Digest	1,219,217,933	1,343,448,272	1,429,471,747	1,529,751,212	1,594,496,893	1,648,158,425
Gross M&O Millage	10.99	10.69	10.96	10.78	10.82	10.75
Less Rollbacks	1.61	1.56	1.83	1.65	1.69	1.62
Net M&O Millage	9.38	9.13	9.13	9.13	9.13	9.13
Net Taxes Levied	11,436,264	12,265,683	13,051,077	13,966,629	14,557,757	15,047,686
TOTAL COUNTY	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**
Total County Value	1,406,194,451	1,553,704,215	1,661,182,708	1,768,982,336	1,857,119,666	1,929,048,194
Total County Taxes	13,108,982	14,102,500	15,075,890	16,051,392	16,845,660	17,486,156
Net Taxes $ Increase	13,108,982	993,519	973,390	975,502	794,267	640,496
Net Taxes % Increase	4.7%	7.6%	6.9%	6.5%	4.9%	3.8%

****The reimbursement value for the Forest Land Protection Act is no longer included in this document.**

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14 Chevy Express Van 2500, White, **$7,900**
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17 Honda Accord, Maroon, **$9,800**
17 Ford F-150, Crew Cab, White, **$15,400**
10 Ford F-150, Ext. Cab, White, **$6,400**
13 Ford F-150, Crew Cab, White, **$8,400**
18 Kia Forte, Maroon, **$5,900**
21 GMC Sierra, Crew Cab, 4x4, Diesel, Silver, **$24,900**
16 Honda CRV, Blue, **$9,800**
23 Chevy Malibu, Blue, **$10,400**
23 Chevy Malibu, White, **$10,400**
18 Honda Civic, Gray, **$9,400**
20 Chevy Equinox, Gray, **$8,900**
19 Jeep Cherokee, Maroon, **$7,400**
17 Ford F-350, Service Body, White, **$13,400**
17 Ford Expedition, Black, **$7,900**
18 Chevy Equinox, Silver, **$7,900**
20 Ford Fusion, Blue, **$7,900**
16 Honda CRV, Maroon, **$9,800**
21 Honda Accord, Black, **$12,900**
18 Chevy Equinox, Black, **$7,900**
19 Chevy Colorado, Ext. Cab, White, **$10,800**
15 Jeep Renegade, Black, **$6,400**
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DEATHS AND FUNERALS

Patricia Jean "Pat" Lowman

April 24, 1940 - July 15, 2026

Waverly Hall City Council Member

Patricia Jean "Pat" Lowman, 86, of Waverly Hall, Georgia, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, July 15, 2026.

Born on April 24, 1940, in Manchester, Georgia, Pat was the daughter of the late Willie Gordan Harris and Frances Hancock Harris. She grew up in Meriwether County, graduated from Manchester High School, and later attended Phillips Business College in Columbus, Georgia. Shortly after completing her education, she met the love of her life, Bobby Lowman. The two were married for 60 years and made their home in Waverly Hall, where they built a life centered on family, faith, and service to their community.

For 20 years, Pat served as the office manager for Hayward Pritchett Distributor Inc./Pritchett's Chainsaw and Small Engine Repair in Waverly Hall. While she enjoyed her career, her greatest passion was serving the town she loved.

Her dedication to Waverly Hall spanned more than four decades. She played an instrumental role in numerous community improvement projects, including the 1977 Governor's Project Competition; the Paint Up, Clean Up, Fix Up, Beautify Waverly Hall campaign; and the "Up with Waverly Hall" Committee, which led the renovation of the Government/Arts Building dedicated to Jim Stretch on October 9, 1994. That building now serves as Waverly Hall's City Hall and Police Department.

As councilwoman for public safety for 40 years, Pat helped guide the growth and stability of the Waverly Hall Police Department and was instrumental in establishing the city's new Fire Department building. She also faithfully served as Mayor Pro Tem from 1996 to 2003 and again from 2017 to 2025. Her steady leadership, unwavering commitment, and genuine love for her community helped shape Waverly Hall through decades of growth and change.

In recognition of her extraordinary service, the City of Waverly Hall honored Pat on February 22, 2026, proclaiming the day as Patricia Lowman Day in celebration of her forty years of distinguished public service.

Pat was known for her spirited personality, infectious sense of humor, and generous heart. She loved her family deeply and treasured every moment spent with them. A devoted member of the First United Methodist Church of Waverly Hall, she faithfully served on the Board of Trustees and taught Sunday School for many years. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Bobby Lowman, and her niece, Allison Morgan Cline.

She leaves behind to cherish her memory her daughter, Laurie Ann Lowman of Waverly Hall; grandsons, Andrew (Jessica) McPherson of Shiloh, Adam McPherson of Columbus, and Allen McPherson of Shiloh; great-grandchildren, Hailey, Harley, Hazley, Elleigh Ann, and Lilly McPherson, all of Shiloh; great-great-granddaughter, Leilah McPherson of Shiloh; sisters, Geraldine Morgan of Manchester and Mary Jane (Robert) Koon of Shiloh; nieces, Cindy (Mark) Stephens of Ellerslie, Stacy (Keith) Haralson of Pine Mountain Valley, and Brenda (Tim) Brown of Griffin, Georgia; nephew, Greg Lowman of Milton, Florida; along with several beloved great-nieces and great-nephews. The family gratefully acknowledges the attendance of Mayor Michael Harris; Mayor Pro Tem Geraldine Boddie; Council Members Tara Barbee, Gregg Fischer, Rob Miley, and Brian Wallace; Police Chief Jason Durham, Fire Chief Alex Lawski, City Clerk Pam Nelms, and city attorney, Dennis P. McPherson, whose presence honors Pat's decades of faithful service to the Town of Waverly Hall.

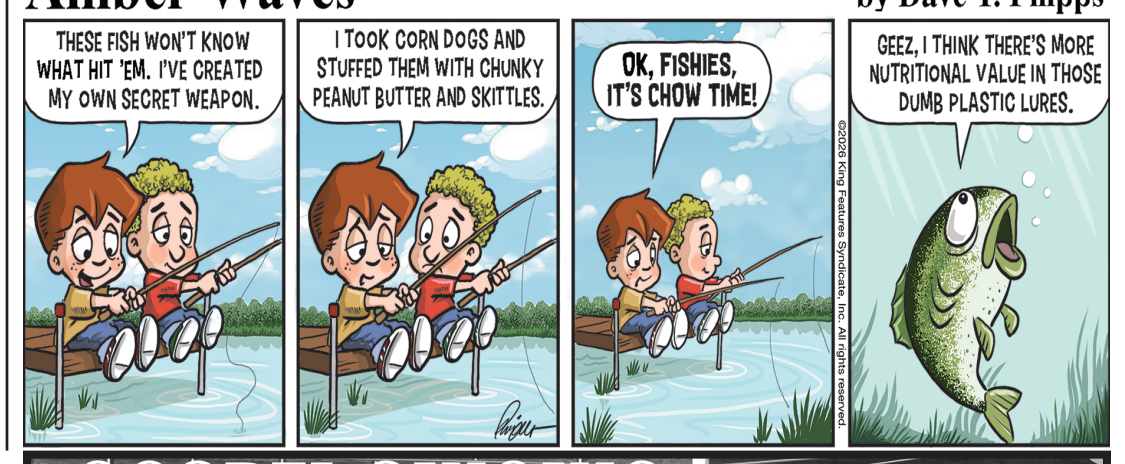
A celebration of Pat's life will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 23, 2026, at the Waverly Hall Methodist Church. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the church. Interment will follow at Waverly Hall Cemetery.

The family requests that memorial donations be made to the Refuge Church Building Fund, Refuge Church, 150 Pine Street, Waverly Hall, GA.

Pat's legacy will live on in the community she faithfully served, the family she dearly loved, and the countless lives she touched through her kindness, leadership, and unwavering dedication to Waverly Hall. She will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who knew her.

Cox Funeral Home of Manchester is honored to serve the Lowman family.

Editor's Note: *Death and funeral notices must be received by 12 noon on Monday prior to run date. and shoud be sent to the newspaper by a funeral home only. We will run family-placed notices; call our office for details.*



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Understanding Food Labels

Submitted to the *Journal*

Nutritious food is necessary to sustain life, and that's one reason why food packages contain lists of ingredients. But all ingredients are not created equal. A growing number of consumers desire greater transparency about the foods they are eating, including sourcing, production, preparation details, and nutritional content. While that can be challenging to ascertain when dining out, people have more control over what they eat at home.

According to the plant-based food advocacy company ProVeg International, 62 percent of people are paying more attention to ingredient lists now than they did five years ago. In addition, nearly two-thirds of adults say the ingredients in a food or beverage have at least a moderate influence on whether they buy it.

One of the ways to be mindful of food ingredients is to understand food labeling. Pertinent information is included on the label, and it pays to study these labels when choosing foods. Here's how to navigate the Nutrition Facts Label, according to the U.S. Food & Drug Administration.

· Servings per container: The first thing people will come across is the servings per container. This tells a person how many servings are in the package.

· Serving size: The serving size indicates how much of the food equates to one serving. It maybe measured in cups, grams, ounces, or even pieces.

· Calories: The calories pertain to the number of calories in one serving. As a general guide for nutrition advice, 2,000 calories a day is used. A person's calorie needs may be higher or lower depending on variables like age, sex, height, weight, and physical activity level.

· % daily value: These numbers will appear next to the various nutrients in the product and show the percentage of each nutrient's recommended daily value is in the food. Daily values are listed in grams, milligrams or micrograms. By understanding daily values, one knows how many nutrients to consume each day. As a general rule, 5% DV or less of a nutrient per serving is considered low, while 20% DV or more of a nutrient per serving is considered high.

Many older adults do not get the recommended amount of nutrients each day and can use food labels to create a more nutrient-rich diet. It's essential for seniors to look for foods that contain adequate dietary fiber, calcium, vitamin D, and potassium. Individuals also should consume less saturated fat, sodium and added sugars.

Seniors can use nutrition labels as a source of information that helps them make healthy food choices.

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The Harris County Journal
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PT-32.1 - Computation of MILLAGE RATE ROLLBACK AND PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAXES - 2026

COUNTY:	Harris County	TAXING JURISDICTION:	Countywide Less West Point

ENTER VALUES AND MILLAGE RATES FOR THE APPLICABLE TAX YEARS IN YELLOW HIGHLIGHTED BOXES BELOW

DESCRIPTION	2025 DIGEST	REASSESSMENT OF EXISTING REAL PROP	OTHER CHANGES TO TAXABLE DIGEST	2026 DIGEST
REAL	1,938,790,749	19,814,127	364,281,037	2,322,885,913
PERSONAL	89,488,414		16,275,091	105,763,505
MOTOR VEHICLES	17,618,940		(2,341,510)	15,277,430
MOBILE HOMES	1,353,981		(92,490)	1,261,491
TIMBER -100%	2,031,328		865,625	2,896,953
HEAVY DUTY EQUIP	514,901		(353,692)	161,209
GROSS DIGEST	2,049,798,313	19,814,127	378,634,061	2,448,246,501
EXEMPTIONS	309,685,506	6,434,303	237,594,965	553,714,774
NET DIGEST	1,740,112,807	13,379,824	141,039,096	1,894,531,727
	(PYD)	(RVA)	(NAG)	(CYD)
2025 MILLAGE RATE:	9.130		2026 MILLAGE RATE:	9.130

CALCULATION OF FINAL ROLLBACK MILLAGE RATE

DESCRIPTION	ABBREVIATION	AMOUNT	FORMULA
2025 Net Taxable Digest	PYD	1,740,112,807	
Net Value Added-Reassessment of Existing Real Property	RVA	13,379,824	
Other Net Changes to Taxable Digest	NAG	141,039,096	
2026 Net Taxable Digest	CYD	1,894,531,727	PYD+RVA+NAG
2025 Millage Rate	PYM	9.130	PYM
Millage Equivalent of Reassessed Value Added	ME	0.064	(RVA/CYD) * PYM
Rollback Millage Rate for 2026	RR - ROLLBACK RATE	9.066	PYM - ME
PTRLOST/FLOST Net Proceeds	NP of PTRLOST		
Millage Rate Equivalent of PTRLOST/FLOST Net Proceeds	MRE of PTRLOST	0.000	NP of PTRLOST/CYD
Rollback Millage Rate for 2026 minus Millage Rate Equivalent of PTRLOST/FLOST	RRPTR	9.066	RR - MRE of PTRLOST

CALCULATION OF PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAXES

If the 2026 Proposed Millage Rate for this Taxing Jurisdiction exceeds the Final Rollback Millage Rate (at right) this section will automatically calculate the amount of increase in property taxes that is part of the notice required in O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32.1(c)(2)

Final Rollback Millage Rate	9.066
2026 Millage Rate	9.130
Percentage Tax Increase	0.71%

CERTIFICATIONS

I hereby certify that the amount indicated above is an accurate accounting of the total net assessed value added by the reassessment of existing real property for the tax year for which this rollback millage rate is being computed.

Chairman, Board of Tax Assessors Date

I hereby certify that the values shown above are an accurate representation of the digest values and exemption amounts for the applicable tax years.

Tax Collector or Tax Commissioner Date

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct computation of the rollback millage rate in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32.1 for the taxing jurisdiction for tax year 2026 and that the final millage rate set by the authority of this taxing jurisdiction for tax year 2026 is _____.

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE PARAGRAPH BELOW THAT APPLIES TO THIS TAXING JURISDICTION

☐ If the final millage rate set by the authority of the taxing jurisdiction for tax year 2026 exceeds the rollback rate, I certify that the required advertisements, notices, and public hearings have been conducted in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 48-5-32 and 48-5-32.1 as evidenced by the attached copies of the published "five year history and current digest" advertisement and the "Notice of Intent to Increase Taxes" showing the times and places when and where the required public hearings were held, and a copy of the press release provided to the local media.

☐ If the final millage rate set by the authority of the taxing jurisdiction for tax year 2065 does not exceed the rollback rate, I certify that the required "five year history and current digest" advertisement has been published in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32 as evidenced by the attached copy of such advertised report.

Responsible Party Title Date

PO#55517

Opinions & Ideas

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PUBLISHER

JACK BAGLEY
EDITOR

RICHARD NASH, BRYAN GETER
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Phone (706) 846-3188

E-mail:
jack@starmercuryvindicator.com

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Trying to Be An Easy-Going Kind of Guy



Jack Bagley

Musings of An Aging Mind

As silly as this may sound, I have tried to live my entire life according to the following (admittedly odd) belief:

One is allotted only a certain number of times in one's life to get angry. After one uses them up, one then dies.

That's a big reason why I do not get very angry very often.

Getting angry really doesn't do much good. It causes stress, makes other people uncomfortable at best, and when you're all done being angry, nothing really changes.

So why bother?

Let me give you an example of how I handle things that might make other people start gnawing at a rug somewhere.

A couple of weeks ago, as a part of my continuing recovery from last year's heart attack, I had an appointment in Griffin for a CT scan on my neck. My cardiologist wanted to make sure I didn't have anything building up in there that might block blood supply to the brain, since I had reported being dizzy and light-headed from time to time.

I arranged to get off work early that Friday so I could make the one-hour-plus drive from Manchester to Griffin. I left the office about 12:45 for my 2:30 appointment, for which I needed to arrive about a half-hour early.

No problem.

The GPS in my car took me on the unfamiliar journey. Well, it wasn't all unfamiliar - once I got past Woodbury I was going into *terra incognita*, places where I had never been before, so I was glad my car was equipped with GPS.

I don't know if you've ever driven from Manchester to Griffin, but it's some very pretty countryside out there.

Anyway, I made it to the medical park in plenty of time, went inside, and checked in.

I had already taken care of the majority of the paperwork online before the visit, so there wasn't a whole heck of a lot I had to do at the check-in desk. After getting my wristband I sat down in the waiting area to wait (which is what you do when you're in a waiting area).

When they called my name (I still look around for my father every time I hear someone say, "Mr. Bagley," because that was *his* name - mine's Jack), I followed a very nice nurse into a room where I was instructed to sit in a reclining chair.

The nurse and I chatted about many different things as she prepared all the needles and tubes and tapes and things that she would be working with for the CT scan, for which a dye would be injected into my bloodstream. As she worked and we talked, she checked her computer and saw my latest labs had something called eGFR measured at a level of 33. (Since the "doctor" before my name is in education, not medicine, I had no real idea of what she was talking about, but I nodded and went along with it.)

The nurse frowned a bit and said that number was low, as they looked for a number around 50. It's supposed to be linked to kidney function, and mine took a hit with the heart attack. So to be sure, she drew some blood and they did a fresh test.

This time the number came back at 29.

The nurse and the technician who'd be performing the CT scan said that their policy was that the bottom line for the test was a 30, and I was at 29. There was no way they could conduct the CT scan, and they were very sorry ... but maybe an ultrasound could be done (elsewhere) to check my carotid arteries.

I digested that information and said, "So you're telling me that I drove an hour and change to get here for nothing, right?"

They both nodded and again apologized. I think they were waiting for me to get angry. Many people in that situation, who like me needed that particular test and weren't going to have it, would have done so.

I didn't.

After a moment, I said, "Well, life happens."

The nurse and the technician looked at each other, then back at me.

"Look, I can't complain. I got off work a couple of hours early, I had a nice drive through some pretty countryside, and I get to go home with nothing more than one needle jab into my arm. All in all, it's not a bad day."

The technician said, "I wish more people who come in here had your attitude."

It wasn't worth getting upset. What if I had made a scene? Well, as soon as I was finished, I would still be going home without having had the test.

It just wasn't worth wasting one of my allotted angries.

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Let's Keep Sportsmanship in Mind This Season



John Kuykendall

Publisher & Editor

In small towns and rural counties, high school and youth sports are a big deal. The competitions are normally attended well and cheers from the crowd can help motivate the competitors on the field.

When all is said and done and the game comes to an end what could be the most important thing for players and fans that happened during the event?

To answer that I will refer back to a quote by sportswriter Grantland Rice: "It's not whether you win or lose, it's how you play the game."

Let's face it, winning does matter. It matters if the coach wants to keep his or her job, it matters if the players are going to advance to a higher level, and it matters to the fans.

While Rice had the right idea about the game there was one important ingredient he missed in the quote... "Sportsmanship."

As high sports begin this fall, high school coaches and athletic directors have been involved in preseason meetings to emphasize the expectations, needs of the program and more.

As a coach, among the fundamental values for competition that is discussed a great deal are being academically sound, displaying sportsmanship and good behavior and displaying good character both on and off the field of competition. It is the job of a coach to not just coach the game, but provide life lessons to help young men and women become sound in character, teaching them how to obtain goals, work ethic, over coming adversity, setting goals and about making sacrifices along the way. All of this is going into preparing the student athlete to not only become better on the field, but become productive individuals as an adult.

While coaches are working with the players, they are also responsible for maintaining the sound traditions of the sport, minimizing the risk of injury to players and more. Encouraging sportsmanship, while many may not know it, is a big part of a coach's responsibilities. Part of the playing rules for the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) has, on the first page of its rules, includes a statement "each athlete is responsible for exercising caution and good sportsmanship."

An emphasis on good conduct on the playing field or court, sportsmanship has been defined as those qualities of behavior that are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. More so than preparing students to play sports or another activity at the next level, one of the significant goals of education-based high school sports and activities is helping the student athletes in these programs to become responsible citizens.

And in today's online world dominated by hand-held devices, that goal has become more challenging. Now, messages to students in high school sports and other activities about sportsmanship must be communicated before they hit the practice field or court because one inappropriate post, tweet or message could alter their lives forever.

In today's digital age, student athletes, coaches and even fans need to be aware that their character and respect for others should be the same whether at a sporting event or posting things online. It is important to be aware that words and behavior displayed on social media can have a lasting impact. It is important to realize that the way respect is shown on the field of competition that same respect should be exercised on social media.

There are at the very minimum certain characteristics of good sportsmanship that should be followed by coaches, student athletes, parents and fans. Always give respect to others, show compassion for others, be responsible individuals and always show courage.

Also, it is important to remember the fans as part of this equation.

High school athletic contests bring residents of area communities together. The strengths and weaknesses of their favorite team is carefully evaluated, so is every play made during the event.

For any sport, the athletes have been practicing, working hard, being committed and dreaming of the time on the field. Coaches have been putting in long hours and working hard to prepare the athletes for the competition on the field and teaching life skills.

Let's not forget, all those athletes on that playing field are between the ages of 15 and 18. They are not paid professionals. They play because they love the sport.

As this year's fall sport season gets underway for our student athletes, let's remember all the hard work, dedication and commitment they have given. Let's also remember the players on the other side of the filed of play have done the same. Let's all show good sportsmanship everyone on the field of competition this season and encourage them as needed.

Fans, let's cheer loud and remember to encourage good sportsmanship and foster an atmosphere of respect for both teams.

1984 Has Arrived



Andy Kober

Columnist

I was a high school student when first reading George Orwell's *1984* and never thought I would see it happening – but I have.

Published in 1949, Orwell gave us a glimpse into a future where Big Brother oversees all with people constantly under surveillance, bombarded with propaganda, and manipulations of truth.

That future has arrived, not in a way that would have drawn critical attention, but slowly creeping into our lives and when it was noticed we were repeatedly that it was good for us and made us safer.

Long ago the business community began installing cameras inside their places of business. This was to reduce theft as images of thieves and their actions were recorded and provided to law enforcement for prosecution. The public was okay with this because those surveillance systems were responsible for getting bad people arrested and off the streets –at least until some liberal judge turns them back loose on society.

Fast forward to now and the cameras and security systems have become incredibly sophisticated with facial recognition capability. Private businesses have expanded their surveillance systems to include recording what goes on outside of their businesses, on sidewalks and in parking lots. Add to this all the governmental agencies that now have surveillance systems – always watching and always recording.

And that is not all.

Camera-based surveillance systems have become so inexpensive that an increasing number of people are using them in their homes. These are constantly recording not only who or what approaches the home, but also who or what is passing by on the road or street.

It has gotten to the point that when leaving home a person's total activities might be recorded until they return home and go inside. That might not be completely true in some places but it is getting uncomfortably close.

THE NEXT phase of this Orwellian situation are the Flock cameras found along highways, constantly recording your travels. Once again, they are promoted as helping catch criminals – and they do, but they are also recording and storing information about the travels of law-abiding people as well.

We are told this information is deleted after a certain period of time, though such has been called into question. Even if it is, at that point the damage has been done because we are constantly hearing about law enforcement officials misusing these recordings. Officers have lost their jobs, maybe even facing criminal charges regarding misusing the information, but when Flock officials finally realize that a law enforcement official has misused the information, serious damage or loss of life might have already occurred.

This is not to suggest that any of you should take matters into your own hands and damage any of the Flock cameras as people have done and continue doing. Know that while Flock does not prosecute officers who misuse the information their cameras gather, they will most certainly go after you for damaging their cameras. So will the law enforcement agency that authorized their use.

WHEN it comes to Flock, or school zone cameras, there is something you can do and that is at the ballot box.

There are already political hopefuls that are promising that if elected they will work to abolish Flock and school zone camera systems.

If you don't like these camera systems watching you all the time don't damage them, instead vote the people who approved them out of office and vote for people who will get rid of them.

That is the best way to handle the situation.

That's my opinion.

Andy Kober can be reached by email at andykober@hotmail.com

One Foot in the Grave: When It's Your Turn to Go, You Got to Go



Kyle Dominy

New Southern Dad

Back when I was a young man, just a boy really, I was terrified of getting on an airplane. I still don't like flying, but who does? There is nothing natural about cramming people into a metal tube and then sending said tube 600 mph at 30,000 feet. And that's after strangers rummage through your luggage and your dignity is destroyed by standing in long lines and being poked and prodded in security.

Still beats walking though.

When it was time to board my first cross-country flight, my parents sat me down and tried to assure me that everything would be OK; that statistically speaking, flying is safer than riding in an automobile; and lastly, I should never fear death, because the good Lord wasn't going to call me home until it was my turn.

I wasn't worried about my time to go, the young me quipped, I was more concerned about if it was somebody else's. Surviving a plane crash seems worse than dying in one.

You often hear people use phrases like "halfway dead," or "near death." Those colloquialisms, when you think about it, don't really make sense, because we're always a hair breadth away from dying and you never know when your number is going to come up. My paternal grandmother, when asked how she was doing, always said she had one foot in the grave and the other on a banana peel.

Truer words are hardly ever spoken.

Famed Greek playwright Aeschylus died when an eagle dropped a tortoise on his head. The wordsmith, considered the founder of tragedy, stared death in the face numerous times in his life. He survived the Battle of Marathon, helping drive the Persian invaders from Athens. Later he was accused of spilling the secrets of a cult he belonged to on stage and escaped the clutches of an angry, blood-thirsty mob.

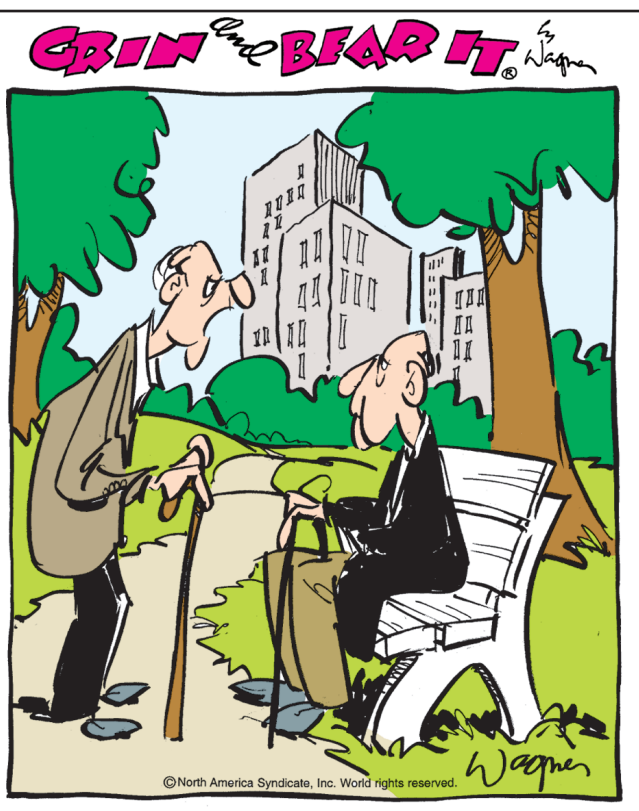
This guy was like a cat with nine lives. He surely didn't expect to go by wayward airborne reptile. Something's going to kill you, am I right?

I recently read a report outlining a new study showing the dangers of sitting down. Sitting for 30 minutes at a time, apparently, is just as bad for our collective health as smoking used to be. It has taken me about 45 minutes to string these words together, so now I'm at a higher risk of cancer. I hope it hasn't taken you that long to read it. If so, get up and walk around a little bit.

If you focus on death, you'll quickly consume your life with worry. If you start looking for ways to die, you will find many. Dying is easy. It's the living that gets hard sometimes.

Next time you find yourself scared of dying, just remember we all have one foot on a banana peel and that we're not going to go until it's our time to go. But look out for falling turtles..

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



"I could have been a bigger success than you could have been!"

Religion

Harris County Church News and Events

Send your church announcements to the Harris County *Journal.*
Deadline is *12:00 noon Monday* of the week in which the item is to run.
E-mail your items to: jack@starmercuryvindicator.com. Information must be e-mailed. No .pdf files accepted.
Dated events are listed in chronological order; regular ongoing events follow.

Special Church Announcements

Women's Conference

Pastor Eric Seldon and Christian Valley Church, Highway 315 West in Cataula, invites you to come out and join us for our Women's Conference on July 17 at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The Women's Day program will be July 18 at 10 a.m. Speaker will be Dr. Carolyn Scott. We look forward to having you join us for this uplifting event.

Homecoming and Revival

Mt. Olive Baptist Church, located at 5435 Georgia Highway 315 in Fortson, will observe its annual Homecoming and Revival beginning with a prayer meeting from July 22 through July 24 at 7 p.m. nightly. Homecoming services will be held Sunday, July 26, at 11 a.m. with Rev. Charles Graddick and Rehobeth Baptist Church in Cataula as guests. Revival services will be held July 27 and July 28 at 7 p.m. nightly. Speaker will be Rev. Marcus Gibson, pastor of Greater Shady Grove in Columbus.

Men's Breakfast

Victory Temple Worship Center will hold its Men's Breakfast Saturday July 25 at 8:00 A.M. at Smitty's Restaurant in Woodbury. For More Information call Pastor Richard Nash at 478-998-2996.

Vacation Bible School

Antioch Baptist Church, located at 275 Antioch Baptist Church Road in Fortson, is holding Vacation Bible School for students in grades Kindergarten through 6. "Light of the World" begins on Saturday, July 25 from 9 am to 4 pm, with lunch provided. Sunday, July 26, VBS will be held from 10:30 am to 3 pm, for parents and kids as this will be our commencement and closing for VBS, following lunch and a giant inflatable water slide for everyone to enjoy.

Monthly Grocery Distribution

"For I was hungry and you gave me food." (Matt: 25-35). New Vision Christian Ministries invites you to join us July 25th for distribution of food. We are located at 8132 Hwy 85 Alt 19 across from the football, soccer & baseball fields. There is an electric red sign and red feather food flags all out front of our church down by the road. This is our monthly distribution of food from 10am till 12 noon. We are giving out full grocery bags & toiletries, and we are giving them out till we run out. You must be present to receive a bag, and there is a limit of one bag per household. We are only serving Meriwether, Troup, Harris and Talbot Counties. We are looking forward to seeing you Saturday the 27th. God bless you and safe travels.

Ongoing Church Announcements

Fishing for Youth

Fishing For Youth of America was founded by Richard and Ginny Nash in memory of Richard's mother and father. The program provides fishing supplies for our youth. It is the hope of FFYA to encourage our youth to fish and do other wholesome activities and to stay away from drugs, guns, gangs and violence. If we can get our youth to appreciate the outdoors they make better young people. If you know of a child or grandchild that could benefit from this program we would love to hear from you. It's also a program that benefits children that would otherwise not get anything for Christmas. If anyone would like to support this cause you can give in Honor or in Memory of someone. For more information on how you can be a part of this much needed outreach you may call Richard 478-998-2996.



Monthly Clothing Bank

Oak Grove Church, 1264 Oak Grove Road, Pine Mountain, near the animal park, has a monthly clothing bank on the 2nd Saturday each month from 10-12. The clothing bank offers a variety of gently used clothing for all ages at no cost for those in need.

New Life Church Fellowship

New Life Community Church invites everyone to fellowship with us on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. The location is 80 Palmetto Creek Lane, Hamilton, Ga. at the city hall building. Rev. Desmond Thornton and associate pastor Rev. Solomon Terry presiding.

FOCUS Men's Bible Study

FOCUS Men's Bible Study meets every Wednesday from noon to 1pm at the Philomena Family Center located at 80 Palmetto Creek Lane in Hamilton. Lunch is provided and there is no fee to attend.

BackSnacks at St. Nicholas

BackSnacks, an outreach program of St Nicholas Episcopal Church, located at 69 Mobley Road in Hamilton, provides food over weekends and holidays for school children who live in a food insecure home. Learn more about this program by calling the church office at 706-628-7272. Come worship with us on Sundays at 10 am and Wednesdays at 5 pm.

Law Enforcement Outreach

West Point Presbyterian Church's LEO (Law Enforcement Outreach) meet on Thursdays at 8AM. at the Police Station of West Point. If you would like to get involved see Jerry Ledbetter at WPPC, phone 706-443-2260.

Pastor's Pantry Open Mondays

For those in need, grocery items are available at the Pastor's Pantry at Pine Mountain First United Methodist Church. The oantry is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. All are welcome.

Christ the King Catholic Church Outreach

Christ the King's Outreach Ministry welcomes Harris and Talbot County residents in need of short-term assistance with groceries, utility bills and rental payments. Our office is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Appointments can be made at (706) 663-0090.

Church of Christ Sets Services

Harris County Church of Christ, 3470 US Hwy 27, Cataula, GA (Minister: Ronald Jones), holds Sunday services. Sundays, Bible Study is at 10 a.m. and Worship is at 11 a.m. Wednesdays, Bible Study is at 7 p.m. A Gospel Singing is held the first Wednesday of each month.

Special Video Series

Reformation Lutheran Church has begun posting a special series, Reading the Word, on our wbsite each day. We will put a link to each video on the resource page. The series is available to everyone. We hope you will log in and enjoy. www.rlcoc.org

Interfaith Food Closet

The Interfaith Food Closet of West Point Presbyterian Church now has branches in Valley (behind Langdale Methodist), Lanett (First Methodist), and West Point (First Methodist). If you would like to volunteer to help, please see Linda Dean, our church liaison. For hours of operation call the church office at 706-443-2260.

Disciples Youth Group

West Point Presbyterian Church is adjusting our prayer time again to account for the joint Lenten Bible study. We will pray together (virtually) on Thursday nights at 7:30pm (contact Sherrad for the link at sherrad.hayes@gmail.com) or call 706-773-5201

FOCUS Food Pantry

FOCUS offers a "choice pantry" for residents of Harris County. Individuals may choose from weekly stocked items such as fresh produce, frozen meat, canned goods, and other items. Pastors are available for prayer and encouragement. Hours: weekly on Tuesday and Wednesday, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. FOCUS Open Arms Food Pantry is located at 80 Palmetto Creek Lane, Hamilton, GA 31811. Serving residents of Harris County

How To Submit Items

*Submit brief church news items to starmercurynews@gmail.com by noon Monday. Items **must** be e-mailed; faxed, mailed, or hand-delivered items are no longer accepted.*

Items should pertain to special events, not routine services.



Christ the King Church Welcomes New Pastor

Submitted to the *Journal*

Christ the King Catholic Church in Pine Mountain has a new pastor. He is Fr. David Koetter. " Fr. David," as he asked to be called, replaces Fr. Brian O'Shaughnessy.

Fr, David comes to Christ the King from Blessed Sacrament Church in Savannah. Fr. Brian is the new pastor at Blessed Sacrament.

Fr. David was born in Louisville, Ky. and is the oldest of three boys. His family later moved to Macon, Georgia where he attended St. Joseph's Catholic Church and participated in Mass as an altar server. He attended St. Joseph's Catholic School followed by Mount de Sales Academy. He later attended Valdosta State University where he received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education, with a teaching certificate in Social Studies for grades 7-12.

Introducing himself in his first Mass at Christ the King, he told parishioners he soon found he wasn't called to be a teacher. And then found he wasn't called to be a budget analyst either a job he took at Warner Robins Air Force Base, "I was there when the base went into lockdown because of 9/11."

That's when he felt he was being called to the priesthood. He met with Fr. Brett Brannen, the vocation director for the Diocese of Savannah who guided his way to the priesthood.

He entered Mount St. Mary's Seminary in January of 2002, and was ordained to the priesthood on June 23, 2007, by Bishop Kevin Boland.

Fr. David has served as Parochial Vicar at St. Theresa of Avila Catholic Church, Grovetown, Ga; Parochial Vicar at St. James Catholic Church, Savannah, Ga; Pastor at St. Augustine's Catholic Church, Thomasville, Ga; and Pastor of Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Macon, Ga.

Fr. David said he was looking forward to getting to know the parishioners of Christ the King.

We Lead From Where We Are (Part Two)

Rev. Aaron McCollough
Columnist



In my previous column, I wrote about Moses becoming a shepherd and leading his father-in-law's sheep to the backside of the desert. I asked why he would do that. I then explained that he was leading the sheep from the place he was Spiritually, mentally, and physically. Moses was in a bad place. And like Moses, when we're in a bad place, we lead others into a bad place.

Now, the logical question for today's column is: Why was he there? Why did God lead him to Egypt, and more importantly, to the backside of the desert? The short answer is that he was there because God was preparing him for what He had created him for. Don't run past what I just said. Quite often, when God wants to prepare us, He sends us into some of the most untenable, God-forsaken places and circumstances imaginable. This is not to crush or destroy us, but to prepare us for our destiny.

For forty years, Moses endured God's preparation process. I want to mention a few character traits Moses must have possessed that got him through.

First, Moses possessed confidence. Forty years in Egypt taught Moses that God's timetable wasn't his timetable. But because of his miraculous beginning - being born under a sentence of death, the midwives defying Pharaoh's order to kill all the male Hebrews at birth, and being floated down the river by his mother, being drawn from the water by Pharaoh's daughter, and being raised in Pharaoh's house - undoubtedly, he was confident God had a plan for him!

Secondly, Moses possessed faithfulness. I believe that because Pharaoh's daughter hired Moses' mother as his nursemaid, she instilled the tenets of the Jewish faith in him. As has often been quoted, "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world." In the harshest circumstances imaginable, he remained faithful to the core values his mother instilled in him and allowed them to guide him. The values that would enable him to lead a flock of sheep for forty years on the backside of the desert would empower him to lead a bunch of ungrateful, rebellious Hebrews for forty years through the Wilderness.

Thirdly, Moses was prepared. Slow down and very slowly read what I am about to say – God never calls us up to the next level until we are prepared to go. We get impatient. We get in a hurry. We want to move to the next level of our destiny right now. But again – God never calls us up to the next level until we are prepared to go. Sometimes, the preparation process is long, arduous, and frustrating! But hear me, it is always necessary!

I sense that somebody reading this column today may feel as though God has forgotten you. I hope that you will believe me when I tell you that He has not forgotten you. He knows exactly where you are and what you are going through. He is allowing it! Why? To prepare you to move to the next level of your destiny.

"Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD." (Psalms 27:14)

Be confident, be faithful, and be prepared.

- Bro. Aaron

Rev. Aaron McCollough is the retired Associational Missionary for the Troup Baptist Association, which serves Harris, Meriwether, and Troup Counties, Georgia. You may correspond with him at: freshfire@mindspring.com Follow him on Facebook at Fresh Fire Ministries, Hogansville, Georgia.

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Georgia Trust Acquires Two Historic Newspapers

Submitted to the *Journal*

The Georgia Trust for Local News today purchased *The Macon Telegraph* and *The Columbus Ledger-Enquirer* in a landmark transaction that puts two storied papers under local control and nonprofit ownership.

The Telegraph has operated as a journalistic mainstay in Middle Georgia for 200 years and has a legacy of community-changing investigative journalism, including a Pulitzer Prize for specialized reporting. *The Ledger-Enquirer* has long been Columbus' leading news source and has twice won the Pulitzer Prize for public service. For both papers, this is the first change of ownership in 20 years.

The Georgia Trust is a subsidiary of the National Trust for Local News, a nonprofit that acquires, stabilizes and revitalizes news organizations across the country. Thanks to support from local funders in Macon and Columbus, these vital civic institutions will benefit from the National Trust's model for sustaining trusted sources of local news.

Including today's acquisitions from McClatchy Media, the Georgia Trust now operates 21 local newspapers and digital platforms across Middle, West and South Georgia – covering a geography of more than one million people. That includes an expanded presence in Macon, where it currently operates *The Macon Melody*, plus expansion into Columbus, the state's second-largest city. The Columbus coverage area includes the western part of the state and eastern sections of Alabama.

The purchase of these newspapers from one of the country's largest media companies marks a new phase of growth for the entire National Trust, which also operates state trusts in Maine and Colorado.

"This is a great day for local news in Georgia," said Tom Wiley, CEO of the National Trust for Local News. "These vital community assets will not only be preserved, but also reinvigorated and strengthened for a vibrant future."

To mark the acquisition, the Georgia Trust will temporarily remove *The Ledger-Enquirer*'s and *The Telegraph*'s digital paywalls to welcome all members of the community to connect with these publications.

Financial Support & News Operations

The National Trust's growth model leverages catalytic philanthropic investment to accelerate local publishers' ability to drive earned revenue from subscriptions, advertising, events and other emerging sources.

In 2024, with a $5 million grant from Knight Foundation, the National Trust for Local News launched a startup community newsroom, *The Macon Melody*. The community journalism produced by Georgia Trust reporters in Macon quickly established The Melody as a vital local resource and partner in Middle Georgia. Knight Foundation's support strengthened the infrastructure that makes today's acquisitions possible.

Another steadfast supporter of the Georgia Trust is the Peyton Anderson Foundation. To honor the legacy of Peyton T. Anderson, Jr., former owner and publisher of *The Telegraph*, the Peyton Anderson Foundation is providing funding for the acquisition of *The Telegraph*.

The Melody and *The Telegraph* will bring their strengths together into a single news source. Operating as *The Telegraph*, this combined publication will blend the scale, domain authority and subscriber base of *The Telegraph* with the community-first voice, local relationships and entrepreneurial muscle of *The Melody*. Later this summer, *The Melody* will become a section within *The Telegraph* highlighting the people, places and moments that are the rhythm of Macon. *The Telegraph* newsroom will be housed in Mercer University's Reg Murphy Center for Collaborative Journalism.

Funding for the acquisition of *The Ledger-Enquirer* in Columbus was provided by a grant from The Local News and Information Fund at the Community Foundation of the Chattahoochee Valley. Through the Community Foundation, more than a dozen individuals and community stakeholders contributed to the fund's support of *The Ledger-Enquirer* acquisition, underscoring the enthusiastic local support for the newspaper's future under nonprofit ownership.

The Ledger-Enquirer newsroom will move to a space on Broadway, in Columbus' central business district. The space is rented from CSU Properties, the charitable arm that manages real estate holdings for the benefit of Columbus State University. CSU and the Georgia Trust for Local News are in talks to bolster collaboration that will allow students to gain hands-on experience at the publication.

Restoring Local Leadership

The acquisition comes on the heels of the Georgia Trust for Local News' hiring of a new executive director, Cynthia DuBose, who started in her role on June 1.

While the National Trust provides the capital and runway to transform local newsrooms into modern enterprises, the state trusts ensure each newsroom relies on local management driving on-the-ground operations – a role DuBose is leading in tandem with Georgia Trust newsrooms throughout the state.

"What makes this historic transaction especially exciting is the groundswell of national, statewide and community-based financial support to enable these storied publications' shift to nonprofit ownership and local management," DuBose said. "Under the Georgia Trust's stewardship, these publications will recapture their role in civic leadership, and ensure a strong commitment to hyper-local coverage and enhanced community engagement."

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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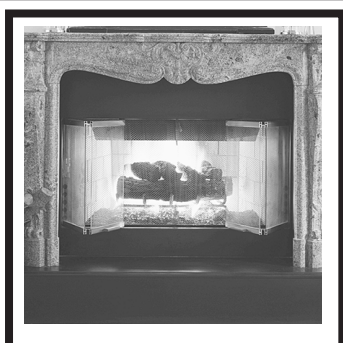
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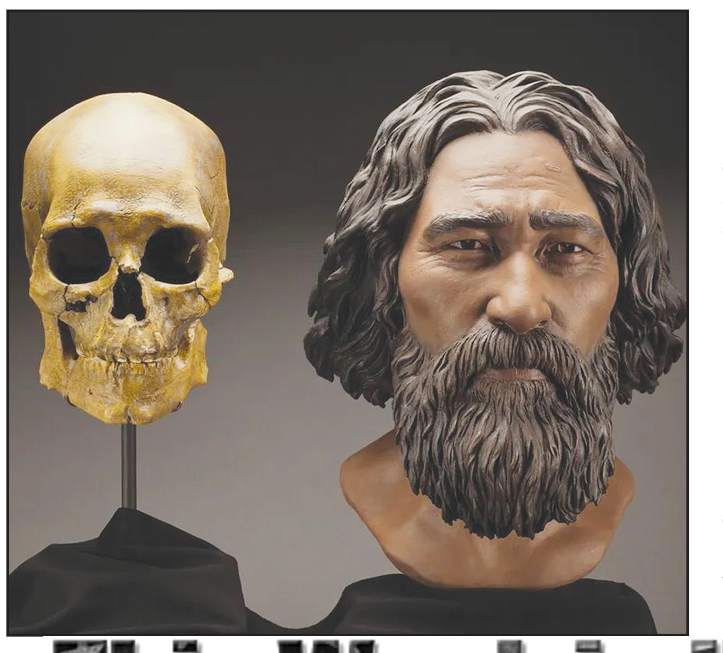

Photo from Public Domain

KENNEWICK MAN - Anyone recognize Kennewick Man? Probably not as his skeleton dates to between 8,400 and 8,700 years ago. His nearly complete skeleton was found by college students this week in 1962. The discovery in the Pacific Northwest changed many theories about ancient peoples in that area and it has been determined that Kennewick Man was related to Native Americans in that area during that time frame. Shown is Kennewick Man's skull and what he might have looked like.

This Week in History

1962: Skull of Kennewick Man is Found

By ANDY KOBER

Here is what happened this week in American History.

• **July 23**. On this day in 1972, the *Landsat 1* satellite is launched into space. This was the first satellite to investigate Earth resources, notably agricultural and forestry resources, geology, hydrology, oceanography, environmental pollution and more. *Landsat 1* was a polar-orbiting satellite, meaning it orbited Earth over or very near the poles. The satellite's mission was scheduled to last five years, five months, and 14 days. It was deactivated in January 1978 but during its service transmitted over 100,000 images of about 75 percent of Earth's surface. It was responsible for discovering a small, uninhabited island off the Canadian east coast that was subsequently named Landsat Island. *Landsat 1* remains in a decaying orbit and will eventually return to Earth.

• **July 24**. In 1998, at 3:40 pm Russell Weston enters the US Capitol building and is directed toward a metal detector. The detector alarms and Weston is asked to pass through it a second time. Instead, he draws a handgun and begins shooting. Capitol Police Officer Jacob Chestnut is struck in the back of his head and killed. Weston then shoots at Officer Douglas McMillan who was getting a wheelchair for a visitor. McMillan is injured but shoots at Weston who runs through a doorway, turns into a corridor, and bursts into an office. Detective John Gibson is in that room along with office staff. Hearing the gunshots, he had staff members hide under their desks. As Weston enters the office, he shoots Gibson in the chest. Despite being mortally wounded, Gibson manages to shoot Weston four times. Weston survived and was declared mentally incompetent to stand trial, suffering from paranoid schizophrenia. He remains in psychiatric care.

• **July 25**. Today in 1609, the British sailing ship *Sea Venture* is heading toward Virginia with 200 passengers looking to settle in the New World. *Sea Venture*, the flagship of a seven-ship fleet, had sailed from Plymouth, England, six weeks earlier. Just days before arriving in Jamestown, the fleet was struck by a tropical storm or hurricane and scattered. At least one ship sank. *Sea Venture* began taking on water. It would be the morning of Aug. 3 that land was spotted. Slowly sinking, the ship was run ashore on the island of Bermuda with the survivors establishing a new colony on the island.

• **July 26**. On this day in 1944, Betty Gray Mabry is born in Durham, NC. She develops as interest in music at a young age and begins writing songs at the age of 12. She eventually moves to New York where she works as a model and becomes a singer, which becomes a career. Because of her risqué lyrics and dance moves, she never achieves major stardom but does develop a cult following. She would marry jazz musician Miles Davis, becoming Betty Davis, with the marriage lasting only a year. She dies in 2022 of cancer.

• **July 27**. In 1817, it is during the Seminole Wars and Negro Fort is largely occupied by escaped slaves. Located about 15 miles north of what is now Apalachicola, FL, the fort had been built by the British during the war of 1812 to support an attack on the US from the south. To support the attack, the British recruited Creek and Seminole Indians along with escaped slaves. That attack never happened but the fort, mostly a wooden stockade, remained becoming what was described as the "largest concentration" of escaped slaves in the area. The existence of this community became a concern for the US. Then ships carrying supplies for the nearby Fort Scott were fired upon by those in Negro Fort. During the fight that followed a "hot cannon ball" from a gunboat landed in the Negro Fort magazine resulting in a huge explosion destroying the fort and killing most of those inside. It is reported the Creek Indians recovered 2,500 muskets, 50 carbines, 400 pistols, and 500 swords from the ruins. The action became known as Battle of Negro Fort, thought it is also called Battle of Prospect Bluff and Battle of African Fort. Historical markers note the location of Negro Fort.

• **July 28**. Today in 1962, college students Will Thomas and David Deacy are at the Columbia River near Kennewick, WA, to watch a hydroplane race. Thomas is wading in the water when his foot strikes something hard. That something is a human skull. They take the skull to a Kennewick police officer and a subsequent search of the area finds more human bones – nearly a complete skeleton. Forensic study determines the bones are 8,400 to nearly 8,700 years old and he becomes known as the Kennewick Man. DNA tests have shown that Kennewick Man was related to his contemporary Native Americans in the Northwest.

• **July 29**. On this day in 1962, Scott Rechsteiner is born in Bay City, MI. He follows older brother, Rick, to the University of Michigan becoming a notable amateur wrestler. Rechsteiner also follows his brother into professional wrestling, adopting the name Scott Steiner, and enjoys an incredible career becoming known as "Big Poppa Pump" along the way.

ADDENDUM – The Revolutionary War continues but with no significant battles until August. The Korean War continues with many small skirmishes.

Study Continues on Earth 2.0

By ANDY KOBER

ANDY'S ASTRONOMY

A planet discovered 11 years ago, that is very similar to Earth, continues being studied.

It was in July 2015 the Kepler Space Telescope discovered a planet 1,800 light-years from Earth that has been loosely called Earth 2.0 or Earth's Cousin, though the actual name is Kepler-452b.

The discovery of Kepler 452b caused shockwaves in the astronomy and scientific communities with some of the experts saying the planet did not exist. Since then more evidence has substantiated the claim.

A super-Earth exoplanet found in the Cygnus constellation, Kepler 452b is orbiting its parent star, Kepler 452, in what has been defined as the "habitable zone" for life as we know it.

Kepler 452b has a mass about three times that of Earth with a radius of 1.6 times that of Earth. The planet orbits its star in about 385 days, just days longer than Earth's orbit.

Today's technology cannot determine if life exists on Kepler 452b and the speed of current spacecraft would require a travel time of 30 million years to reach the planet.

It will be up to future generations to ascertain if Kepler 45b is another Earth.

As noted last week, July has been an interesting time for space exploration.

Our esteemed backyard astronomer, Ms. Lynn, reminds that it was in July 1995, the Comet Hale-Bopp was discovered.

Hale-Bopp was discovered almost simultaneously by two people in separate places.

Alan Hale was tracking comets from his home in Cloudcroft, New Mexico, and discovered the comet. Meanwhile, Thomas Bopp was using a homemade Dobsonian telescope at Vekol Ranch near Stanfield, Arizona, and spotted the same comet. Both men reported their findings which were subsequently confirmed and the comet carries both their names.

Hale-Bopp is a long-period comet and was visible to the unaided eye for 18 months in 1997. It should return to the inner Solar System about the year 4385.

Early meteors from the Perseids Meteor Shower have already been reported flashing across the night sky. The frequency of meteors will increase slightly until peak activity forecast for the overnight hours of Aug. 12-13. During peak activity, the Perseids Meteor Shower could produce 30-50 meteors per hour. The best viewing time will be prior to dawn Aug. 13

The Perseids Meteor Shower is known to produce meteors with long, bright trails mixed with some fireballs.

If skies are clear this could be a great meteor shower to watch. Those with an action camera should consider setting up the camera pointing at the sky to capture peak activity.

Meteors can flash across the sky anytime, day or night, and they are spotted quite often. Particularly bright meteors are often referred to as fireballs.

On July 12, a fireball was reported by 10 people across Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi. The fireball was first reported at 8:45 pm Central Time by a skywatcher in Pace, FL. It was seen as far north and east as Atlanta, GA, as far south as New Orleans, and as far west as Holden, LA. The fireball appeared to travel from the west-southwest to the east-northeast.

None of the skywatchers reported hearing noise associated with the fireball but one reported seeing it fragment into pieces. A video of the fireball was captured by a camera mounted in a car.

Anyone seeing a fireball is urged to report the sighting to https://amsmeteors.org

Going outside and looking at the night sky can be fun and educational for the entire family.

There are a number of free apps available to help identify stars and constellations, and some of the apps will show satellites.

Happy skywatching!

Did You Know... by Jack Bagley

Did one of the most popular television programs of the 1960s happen because of a Broadway play?



By JACK BAGLEY
didyouknowcolumn@gmail.com

I know what you must be thinking.

"How in the world does this guy come up with different trivia each week?" That's got to be it.

Well, if you are indeed thinking that, then I just made the best guess I'll ever make. And I'll answer it: I have a storehouse of trivia that may last into the 22nd Century, or beyond! I've already mined it; each week I polish up a few nuggets and leave them here for you to enjoy.

That's my story, and I'm sticking to it.

Now, enjoy this week's collection!

Did you know ...

… a British gymnast survived a four-story fall thanks to his skills? Steven Jehu (born 1987), a gymnast from Exeter, England, fell from the fourth floor of a hotel in Slovenia in 2004. Somehow, Jehu had the presence of mind to go into a somersault during the fall, and he landed – almost fifty feet below – on his feet, suffering only a broken ankle. Doctors who set the ankle later said Jehu would have died had he not instinctively gone into his gymnastic training. (Good training beats just about everything else!)

… the "I'm Feeling Lucky" feature on the Google™ search page actually costs the company money? Estimates are that Google loses $110 million in ad revenue per year when people use that feature to avoid advertising in their searches. (So when you're feeling lucky, Google isn't.)

… in the popular video game, "Super Mario Brothers," the character of Mario the Plumber does not use his head to get bonus points from blocks? He uses his hand, which – if you freeze-frame the game – you can see above his head. It's his left hand, by the way. *Additional trivia note:* The bushes in the background of the game are just re-renditions of the clouds in the sky, re-colored green. (You always wondered about that, didn't you?)

… one of the most popular television shows of the 1960s indirectly happened because of a Broadway play? In 1965, ABC tried hard to acquire the rights to the character of Superman, in order to make a new series, but those rights were tied up in a not-too-successful Broadway musical titled *It's a Bird, It's a Plane, It's Superman*. So the network then tried to get the rights to *Dick Tracy*, but creator Chester Gould (1900-1985) was already negotiating with NBC. Finally acquiring the rights to *Batman* from DC Comics, the network hired producer William Dozier (1908-1991) to make the show happen, and happen it did. Airing twice a week during its first two seasons, *Batman* demolished the competition with its lampooning of the entire superhero genre. (To the Bat-poles, Robin!)

… television can be a very bad influence? Yeah, you needed me to tell you that. But consider this: when the television series *Breaking Bad* finished its run, police agencies throughout the country noted a sharp uptick in the popularity of crystal methamphetamine, the drug created by the show's central character Walter White, played by Bryan Cranston (born 1956). Manufacturers of the illegal substance actually dyed their drug blue in an effort to resemble the drug shown in the series. (I've heard of emulating your heroes, but this is ridiculous.)

… a singer's vegetarianism caused a popular parody artist to not perform one of his songs? When "Weird Al" Yankovic (born 1959) wanted to do a parody version of the Wings song "Live and Let Die," he asked permission from the composer, Sir Paul McCartney (born 1942). McCartney did not object to the parody, but he did object to Yankovic's change of the title line to "chicken pot pie." McCartney is a vegetarian, and did not want his work to be used to promote the eating of meat. Yankovic tried to work around the restriction but could not come up with a suitable substitute, so the parody was scrapped. (Now that I would have liked to hear.)

… no firm consensus exists on what a popular McDonald's™ character is supposed to be? Beginning in 1971, advertisements for the restaurant chain began using a cast of characters in "McDonaldland," which were ads aimed primarily at children. Most of the characters – Ronald McDonald™, Mayor McCheese™, the Hamburglar™, etc. - are pretty obvious, but for decades, there's been disagreement over what The Grimace™ is supposed to be. The purple, teardrop-shaped character doesn't look like anything living on Earth, but it's supposedly a living milkshake. At least, that's what some think. Others, however, maintain the Grimace is a taste bud. (Having never seen either a purple milkshake or a purple taste bud, I can't offer an opinion – well, I can, but I'm not allowed to say stuff like that here.)

… a man once went to a great length to prove the afterlife is real? He killed himself. In 1921, Thomas Lynn Bradford (1872-1921), a spiritualist, decided once and for all to prove there is an afterlife. He got in touch with another spiritualist, Ruth Doran (1877-1938), and made an agreement to prove the existence of the afterlife. On the agreed-upon date, Bradford went into his Detroit apartment, sealed it, blew out the pilot light on his gas stove, and turned on the gas. He died … but Doran said she never received any messages from him. (I have a line here, but it would close the show.)

… the average person in the United States eats about 100 pounds of sugar a year? Sugar currently represents about 50% of a person's daily carbohydrate intake for the day. Amazingly, just a century ago, the average American (whoever that is) only ate around 10 pounds of sugar per year. Scientists say that ideally, only about 10% of a person's diet should come from sugar. (How sweet!)

Now ... you know!

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WANTED: STOCK/Loader. Contact Christi between 8 am and 1 pm Mon-Fri. 706-672-1888. 07:23

MACEDONIA BAPTIST Church in Manchester is hiring a Ministry Assistant/Church Secretary. Seeking a spirit-filled, motivated Christian to join our ministry team. Qualifications: Faith - a growing relationship with Jesus Christ; Experience - office/administrative background; Skills - strong communication and interpersonal skills; Software - knowledge of MS Word and Excel. Part-time, 20 hours per week; $14,000 - $17,000 per year. Apply by August 9, 2026. Macedonia Baptist Church is at 280 Wrightsville Road in Manchester. 08:06

Journal PUBLIC NOTICES

Harris County's Legal Organ - Published on Thursdays

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Adoption

26-231

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF HARRIS COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF LINDA FAYE GLENN, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 26P083
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

GARY STUTSON GLENN has/have petitioned to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of **LINDA FAYE GLENN** 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 17TH, 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.

THOMAS W. LAKES
Judge of the Probate Court
By: NANCY STEWART
Clerk of the Probate Court
POST OFFICE BOX 569
HAMILTON, GA 31811
706-628-5038

(7:23, 30, 8:6, 13)

Debtors & Creditors Notice

26-228

Notice to
Debtors and Creditors

All creditors of the estate of LARRY MELTON ADAMS late of Harris County, Georgia, deceased, are hereby notified to render their demand to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me.

This 15th of July 2026.
Margaret Lane Adams, for the estate of Larry Melton Adams
c/o Poydasheff & Sowers
P.O. Box 1172
Columbus Ga 31902

(7:23, 30, 8:6, 13)

26-226

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF HARRIS

All persons having claim against the Estate of **BRANDY JILL BROWN** are hereby notified to render demand upon the undersigned as provided by law, and all persons indebted to **BRANDY JILL BROWN** are hereby required to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This 9th day of July, 2026.
PAUL ADAM BROWN,
Administrator of the Estate of
BRANDY JILL BROWN, Deceased
560 Park Avenue SE
Atlanta, Georgia 30312

Amber N. Crawford
Hall Booth Smith, PC
P.O. Box 2707
Columbus, Georgia 31902-2707

(7:16, 23, 30, 8:6)

26-219

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF HARRIS

All creditors of the estate of Ruby Mae Walton, Deceased, late of Harris County, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to ssaid estate are required to make immediate payment to us.

This 18th day of June, 2026.
Ronald Walton,
Personal Representative of the Estate of Ruby Mae Walton, deceased.
P. O. Box 1062
Waverly Hall, Georgia 31821

(7:9, 16, 23, 30)

26-232

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
GEORGIA, HARRIS COUNTY.

All persons having claims against the Estate of Cleveland Clark Stallings, late of Harris County, Georgia, deceased, are hereby requested to present the same, properly itemized and verified to Worth Williams Stallings aka Elizabeth Worth Williams as Administrator, c/o Joseph A. Sillitto, P.O. Box 1199, Columbus, GA 31902-1199 for payment, and all persons indebted to said estate are hereby required to make prompt payment to the undersigned at the address specified above.

This 16th day of July, 2026.
Worth Williams Stallings aka Elizabeth Worth Williams
as Administrator for the
Estate of Cleveland Clark Stallings
Joseph A. Sillitto

Page, Scrantom, Sprouse, Tucker & Ford, P.C.
P. O. Box 1199
Columbus, GA 31902-1199
706-324-0251

(7:23, 30, 8:6, 13)

26-214

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
ESTATE OF SANDRA GOLDEN SHEFFIELD, DECEASED

All creditors of the Estate of Sandra Golden Sheffield, deceased, late of Harris 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 me.

John Keith Sheffield, Executor of the Last Will and Testament of Sandra Golden Sheffield

ROBERT R. LOMAX, LLC
Post Office Box 2339
Columbus, Georgia 31902-2339

(7:2, 9, 16, 23)

26-227

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF HARRIS
ESTATE NO: 26P045

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to all persons having demands against RITA LOUISE BELLO A/K/A RITA LOUISE MOORE (Deceased person), late of said County, deceased, to present them to me, properly made out within the time prescribed by law, so as to show their character and amount; and all persons indebted to said deceased are requires to make immediate payment to me.

This 11th day of June, 2026
Personal Representative:
Darlene Carderelli
402 Flowers St.
Smithfield NC, 27577
984-239-7647

(7:23, 30, 8:6, 13)

Foreclosures

26-221

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO REDEEM FORECLOSURE PROPERTY

To: Loring F. Perez, Gina E. Perez and Loancare, LLC and any other interested party or parties:

TAKE NOTICE THAT :

The right to redeem the following described property, to wit:

ALL AND ONLY THAT PARCEL OF LAND DESIGNATED AS TAX PARCEL 083151, LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOT 261 OF THE 17 TH LAND DISTRICT, HARRIS COUNTY, GEORGIA, CONTAINING 11.14 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, BEING LOT 21, MT MCKEE SUBDIVISION, SHOWN IN PLAT BOOK 25, PAGE 294, DESCRIBED IN DEED BOOK 946, PAGE 33, THE DESCRIPTION CONTAINED THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY THIS REFERENCE.

Map and Parcel: 083151

will expire and be forever foreclosed and barred on and after the 5th day of August, 2026.

The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated the 1st day of April, 2025, and is recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Harris County, in Deed Book 2344, Page 242.

The property may be redeemed at any time before the 5th day of August, 2026, by payment of the redemption price at as fixed and provided by law to the undersigned at the following address:

Robert L. Ashley
c/o Gary Ellis Byrd, LLC
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 119
Hamilton, GA 31811

(7:9, 16, 23, 30)

26-176

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER
STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF HARRIS

Because of a default under the terms of the Security Deed executed by Daniel Mcgownse and Aubrey Jayn Mcgownse to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Rocket Mortgage, LLC. dated October 27, 2023, and recorded in Deed Book 2199, Page 150, Harris County Records, said Security Deed having been last sold, assigned, transferred and conveyed to Rocket Mortgage, LLC FKA Quicken Loans, LLC, securing a Note in the original principal amount of $328,932.00, the holder thereof pursuant to said Deed and Note thereby secured has declared the entire amount of said indebtedness due and payable and, pursuant to the power of sale contained in said Deed, will on the first Tuesday, August 4, 2026, during the legal hours of sale, before the Courthouse door in said County, sell at public outcry to the highest
bidder for cash, the property described in said Deed, to-wit:

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in Land Lot 92 of the 19th District of Harris County, Georgia, and being more particularly described as Lot 42, Section Two, Chase Plantation Subdivision, as shown on a plat of survey of said subdivision recorded in Plat Book 25, Page 112, in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Harris County, Georgia, which plat of survey is incorporated herein and made a part hereof by this reference thereto for the purpose of a more complete and accurate description.

This is the same property conveyed in that certain Limited Warranty Deed from Jonathan Wray Phares and Megan Phares to Morgan B. Lynch and Raymond L. Lynch, dated March 1, 2019 and recorded in Deed Book 1584, at Page 189 in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Harris County, Georgia.

Said property is known as 35 Lauri Lane, Fortson, GA 31808, together with all fixtures and personal property attached to and constituting a part of said property, if any.

Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, whether or not now due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.

The proceeds of said sale will be applied to the payment of said indebtedness and all expenses of said sale as provided in said Deed, and the balance, if any, will be distributed as provided by law.

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

The property is or may be in the possession of Daniel Mcgownse and Aubrey Jayn Mcgownse, successor in interest or tenant(s).

Rocket Mortgage, LLC as Attorney-in-Fact for Daniel Mcgownse and Aubrey Jayn Mcgownse
File no. 25-083376
LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP*
Attorneys and Counselors at Law
1050 Crown Pointe Parkway, Suite 500
Atlanta, GA 30338
(770) 220-2535
https://www.logs.com/

*THE LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

(6:4, 11, 18, 25, 7:2, 9, 16, 23, 30)

26-222

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER
GEORGIA, HARRIS COUNTY

Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in that certain Security Deed given by Shantel Taylor and Homer Taylor, as joint Tenants with right of survivorship and not as tenants in common to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Grantor, as nominee for NorthStar Mortgage Advisors, Div. of Canopy Mortgage, LLC, its successors and assigns, dated 12/19/2024, and recorded on 12/20/2024, in Instrument No.: —, Deed Book 02307, Page 0281, Harris County, Georgia records, as last assigned to Freedom Mortgage Corporation by assignment recorded on 10/6/2025 in Instrument No.: — Deed Book 02389, Page 0135, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of $430,717.00, with interest thereon as provided for therein, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the Courthouse door of Harris County, Georgia, within the legal hours of sale on 8/4/2026, the following described property: ALL THAT LOT, TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN LAND LOTS 63, 65 AND 66 IN THE EIGHTEENTH (18TH) LAND DISTRICT OF HARRIS COUNTY, GEORGIA, BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS LOT 93 OF A SUBDIVISION KNOWN AS BOWERS CREEK, ACCORDING TO A PLAT OF SURVEY ENTITLED "FINAL SUBDIVISION PLAT FOR BOWERS CREEK" PREPARED BY STROZIER SERVICES, LLC, CERTIFIED BY MARK D. STROZIER, GEORGIA REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR NO. 2782, DATED NOVEMBER 30, 2022 AND RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 41, PAGE 317, OF THE RECORDS IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT OF HARRIS COUNTY, GEORGIA, TO WHICH REFERENCE IS HEREBY MADE FOR THE SPECIFIC LOCATION AND DIMENSIONS OF THE REAL PROPERTY HEREIN DESCRIBED. SAID PLAT AND THE RECORD THEREOF ARE INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE FOR ALL PURPOSES.

Said property is commonly known as 89 IRONWOOD CT MIDLAND, GA 31820.

The indebtedness 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 the sale, as provided in the Security Deed and by law, including attorneys' fees (notice of intent to collect attorneys fees 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: Freedom Mortgage Corporation, Attention: Loss Mitigation Department, 11988 EXIT 5 PKWY BLDG 4 FISHERS IN 46037-7939, Telephone No.: (855) 690-5900. Nothing in O.C.G.A. Section 44-14-162.2 shall be construed to require the secured creditor to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the security instrument.

Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, whether or not now 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 any other matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS: Please be advised that the highest bidder (purchaser) at this trustee s sale may be required to provide information, documentation and/or certification as mandated by applicable federal law, and entity and trust purchaser should be prepared to provide beneficial ownership information as required by federal reporting requirements effective for transfers of residential real property to covered transferees on or after March 1, 2026. If applicable, the required information must be provided to the trustee before a trustee s deed will be issued for covered transfers. Additional information regarding these regulations and the required transferee information and certifications can be found at https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/08/29/2024-19198/anti-money-laundering-regulations-for-residential-real-estate-transfers and https://www.fincen.gov/rre-faqs#D_5.

To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party(ies) in possession of the property is (are) Shantel Taylor and Homer Taylor, as joint Tenants with right of survivorship and not as tenants in common or tenant(s) or other occupants.

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.

The sale is conducted on behalf of the secured creditor under the power of sale granted in the aforementioned security instrument, specifically being Freedom Mortgage Corporation as Attorney in Fact for Shantel Taylor and Homer Taylor, as joint Tenants with right of survivorship and not as tenants in common.

Nestor Solutions, LLC 214 5th Street, Suite 205, Huntington Beach, California 92648, (888) 403-4115,
TS # 2026-20986-GA.
For sale information, visit: https://www.nestortrustee.com/sales-information.com or call (888) 902-3989.

(7:9, 16, 23, 30)

26-218

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER
GEORGIA, HARRIS COUNTY

Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by Gregory T Hill and Robertha Hill to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for First Mortgage Company, its successors and assigns dated July 11, 2000, recorded in Deed Book 463, Page 544, Harris County, Georgia Records, as last transferred to SELENE FINANCE LP by assignment recorded in Deed Book 2439, Page 33, Harris County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of FIFTY-NINE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($59,375.00), 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 Harris County, Georgia, or at such place as may be lawfully designated as an alternative, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in August, 2026, the following described property:

SEE EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF

The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due and payable because of default having been made of the terms of the Note and Security Deed. The terms remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the total debt, including all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Security Deed and by law which includes, but is not limited to, attorney's fees (notice pursuant to O.C.G.A. 13-1-11 having been given).

Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and any matters of record including, but not limited to, those superior to the Security Deed first set out above. Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. Prospective bidders must perform their own due diligence.

SELENE FINANCE, LP is the holder of the Security Deed to the property in accordance with OCGA 44-14-162.2.

The entity that has full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the mortgage with the debtor is: Selene Finance LP, 3501 Olympus Boulevard, 5th Floor, Suite 500, Dallas, TX 75019, 877-768-3759.

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

Upon information and belief, **said property is more commonly known as 117 Carriage Lane, Pine Mountain, GA 31822.** Should a conflict arise between the property address and the legal description, the legal description shall control.

ATTENTION ALL PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS: On March 1, 2026, the data collection and reporting requirements under the U.S. Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) new Anti-Money Laundering Rule (the Rule), found at 89 FR 70258, went into effect. The Rule applies to certain residential real estate sale transactions (including some that go beyond the typical one-to-four family residence) where the transfer is to a legal entity or trust, and which includes cash purchases, private financing or financing provided by an institution not subject to a federal Anti-Money Laundering or Suspicion Activity Report requirement. If applicable, as part of this Rule, buyers and sellers are required to provide additional information and documentation about themselves, their legal entities, and/or the source of funds used in the reportable transaction. The collection of this information and documentation is required to comply with the Rule s federal reporting requirements, if applicable.* This notice is provided for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. You are encouraged to consult with your own independent legal counsel if you have questions about how the FinCEN Anti-Money Laundering Rule affects your transaction and whether your transaction is reportable.

*The Rule is the subject of ongoing litigation in several jurisdictions. We suggest that you seek your own legal counsel if you have questions about the status of the Rule and its applicability to your sale, if any.

The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed, and (3) to confirmation that the successful bidder has timely provided all information required for reporting under the Rule, 89 FR 70258, if applicable.

SELENE FINANCE, LP
as Attorney in Fact for
Gregory T Hill and Robertha Hill
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP
1544 Old Alabama Rd
Roswell, GA 30076
www.foreclosurehotline.net

EXHIBIT "A"

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in Land Lot 60 of the Third Land District of Harris County, Georgia, in the Town of Pine Mountain, and being known as the southern portion of Lot 8 of Carriage Gate subdivision on which is located the southern portion of a duplex and is more particularly described according to that plat of survey entitled "Survey for: Edward J. Wagner" prepared by James Stothard, Registered Land Surveyor, dated August 20, 1998, as recorded in Plat Book 23 at Page 49 in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Harris County, Georgia. Said plat is herewith incorporated by reference for a more complete and accurate description.

MA August 4, 2026
Our file no. 26-23081GA

(7:9, 16, 23, 30)

26-216

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE UNDER POWER
HARRIS COUNTY, GEORGIA

Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by Gordon Drawdy to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Everett Financial, Inc. Dba Supreme Lending, dated May 23, 2022, and recorded in Deed Book 02065, Page 00251, Harris County, Georgia Records, as last transferred to Everett Financial, Inc. dba Supreme Lending by assignment recorded on June 16, 2023 in Book 02167 Page 00309 in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Harris County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of Three Hundred Eighty-Two Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty-Six and 0/100 dollars ($382,936.00), 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 Harris County, Georgia, within the legal hours of sale on August 4, 2026, the following described property:

All that lot, tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Harris County, Georgia, and being known and designated as all of LOT NUMBERED 35-B, BIG SKY, as said lot is shown upon a map or plat of said subdivision recorded in PLAT BOOK 30, FOLIO 61-A, of the records in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Harris County, Georgia, to which reference is hereby made for the more particular location and dimensions of the real property herein conveyed.

Said property is presently assigned street address of **268 Big Sky Court, Hamilton, Georgia 31811** according to the present system of assigning street addresses in Harris County, Georgia.

Harris County Tax Parcel: 043-032.

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 fees 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: Supreme Lending they can be contacted at 866.219.0032 for Loss Mitigation Dept, or by writing to 14801 Quorum Drive, Suite 300, Dallas, Texas 75254, to discuss possible alternatives to avoid foreclosure.

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 Security Deed first set out above.

To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the property is GORDON DRAWDY or tenant(s); and **said property is more commonly known as 268 Big Sky Court, Hamilton, GA 31811.**

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.

Everett Financial, Inc. dba Supreme Lending as Attorney in Fact for Gordon Drawdy.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
4360 Chamblee Dunwoody Road
Suite 310
Atlanta, GA 30341
404-789-2661
B&S file no.: 23-11788

(7:9, 16, 23, 30)

General Legals

26-233

ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

You are hereby notified, in accordance with OCGA 40-11-19 (a) (2), that each of the below-referenced vehicles are subject to a lien and a petition may be filed in court to foreclose a lien for all amounts owed. If the lien is foreclosed, a court shall order the sale of the vehicle to satisfy the debt.

The vehicles are currently located at

202 State Street
Pine Mountain, GA 31822.

The vehicles subject to liens as stated above are identified as:

Vehicle: 2013 TOYOTA COROLLA
1NXBR32EX3Z088735
TAG: SLP6566 STATE: GA

Anyone with an ownership interest in any of these vehicles should contact the following business immediately:

Harris County Towing
202 State Street
P.O. Box 1211
Pine Mountain, GA 31822
706-663-2307

(7:23, 30)

26-225

ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE PETITION ADVERTISEMENT

Vehicle: 2015 Nissan Altima
1N4AL3AP7FN356729
TAG: 57C0PAB STATE: AL
Present location of vehicle:

202 W. STATE STREET,
PINE MOUNTAIN, GA 31822

You are hereby notified that a petition was filed in the Magistrate Court of HARRIS County to foreclose a lien for all amounts owed. If the lien is foreclosed, a court shall order the sale of the vehicle to satisfy the debt.

Anyone with an ownership interest in this vehicle may file an answer to this petition on or before: July 24, 2026.

Answer forms may be found in the Magistrate Court Clerk s office located at: 102 N. COLLEGE ST, HAMILTON, GA 31811.

Forms may also be obtained online at www.georgiamagistratecouncil.com.

(7:16, 23)

26-224

ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

You are hereby notified, in accordance with OCGA 40-11-19 (a) (2), that each of the below-referenced vehicles are subject to a lien and a petition may be filed in court to foreclose a lien for all amounts owed. If the lien is foreclosed, a court shall order the sale of the vehicle to satisfy the debt.

The vehicles are currently located at

202 State Street
Pine Mountain, GA 31822.

The vehicles subject to liens as stated above are identified as:

Vehicle: 1998 HONDA ACCORD
1HGCG5640WA168175
TAG: ZMD516 STATE: GA

Anyone with an ownership interest in any of these vehicles should contact the following business immediately:

Harris County Towing
202 State Street
P.O. Box 1211
Pine Mountain, GA 31822
706-663-2307

(7:16, 23)

Probate Notices

26-234

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF HARRIS COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF
EMORY KEITH BLANCHARD, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 26P072
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

NOTICE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

KATHY BLANCHARD LAMBERT has/have petitioned to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of **EMORY KEITH BLANCHARD** 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 17TH, 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.

THOMAS W. LAKES
Judge of the Probate Court
By: NANCY STEWART
Clerk of the Probate Court
POST OFFICE BOX 569
HAMILTON, GA 31811
706-628-5038

(7:23, 30, 8:6, 13)

26-230

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF HARRIS COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF
ANNIE KATHERINE WELDON, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 25P089
NOTICE

[For discharge from office and all liability]

IN RE: Petition for Discharge of Personal Representative

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to notify you to file an objection, if there is any, to the above-referenced petition, in this Court on or before **AUGUST 17TH, 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.

THOMAS W. LAKES
Judge of the Probate Court
By: NANCY STEWART
Clerk of the Probate Court
POST OFFICE BOX 569
HAMILTON, GA 31811
706-628-5038

(7:23)

26-229

CITATION
PROBATE COURT OF HARRIS COUNTY
RE: ESTATE OF LOUIS COOK, (FORMER) WARD.
Date of Publication, if any:
JULY 23, 2026

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN AND:

The conservator(s) of the above estate, has/have applied for Discharge from said trust. This is to notify the above interested party(ies) to show cause, if any they can, why said conservator(s) should not be discharged from office and liability. All objections must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and filed with the above Probate Court, POST OFFICE BOX 569, HAMILTON, GA 31811 on or before **AUGUST 24, 2026** said date being more than 30 days from the date of publication, or if personally served, then 10 days from the date of such service. All pleadings must be signed before a notary public or probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your pleadings, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel at the below address/telephone number for the required amount of filing fees.

If any objections are filed, a hearing will be **scheduled for a later date**. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.

THOMAS W. LAKES
PROBATE JUDGE
By: NANCY STEWART
PROBATE CLERK/DEPUTY CLERK
POST OFFICE BOX 569
HAMILTON, GA 31811
706-628-5038

(7:23)



The Chicken Recipe You'll Use Every Week

"What is there to eat?" That question plays on repeat in households everywhere.

Today I'm sharing one of the handiest short cuts to give you a great answer when the inevitable question is asked. Now you can say, "There's chicken in the fridge, go make yourself something!"

I call this recipe "Every Week Chicken" because I make this chicken nearly every week for my family. And once you try this, you might do the same. Chicken breast can be troublesome because they're so lean, it's easy to overcook. You'll find this recipe produces tender, juicy chicken every time.

This is a simple recipe for oven-roasted chicken breasts. It's perfect for an easy dinner or to make in advance for meal prep all week long. Moist and flavorful, this is the chicken you want waiting in the fridge to expedite your dinner, stick in a salad, slam on a sandwich, toss in a pasta, put on a pizza. You get the idea.

This simple salt and pepper seasoning gives the chicken tons of flavor yet keeps it neutral enough to play well with other flavor profiles. As always, feel free to adjust to your personal preferences.

EVERY WEEK CHICKEN

4 pounds boneless skinless chicken breast (about 6 breasts)
2 teaspoons kosher salt
1 teaspoon fresh ground pepper
Olive oil or your choice of cooking spray

Preheat oven to 375 F degrees. For easy clean up, line a baking sheet with parchment or foil. Brush the chicken with olive oil or give it a quick spray of cooking spray. Mix the salt and pepper in a small bowl and season both sides of the chicken breasts with the mixture, then put them on the prepared baking sheet, uncovered. Place them in oven and bake for 30 minutes. Remove the chicken when it reaches 160 F. Carryover heat will bring it to a safe final temperature while it rests. Remove the chicken and rest, covered with foil, for 15 minutes.

This cooking time works on chicken breasts of nearly all sizes, 3/4 inch to 1 1/2 inches thick. If your chicken breast is thinner than 3/4 inch thick, reduce cooking time to 25 minutes.



www.JasonCoblentz.com

One batch of juicy "Every Week Chicken" today means faster, easier dinners all week long.

To store, place in a storage container with the accumulated pan juices over the chicken for flavor and to keep the chicken moist. Store in the fridge for up to five days.

So, what do you do with all that chicken? Well, besides chicken salad, sandwiches and wraps, here are three fabulous ideas:

BBQ Chicken French Bread Pizza: Split a loaf of French bread lengthwise and spread with barbecue sauce. Top with shredded mozzarella, cooked shredded chicken and chopped red onion. Bake at 400 degrees until the bread is crisp and the cheese is melted and bubbly, about 15 minutes. Finish with a drizzle of additional barbecue sauce and a sprinkle of chopped cilantro before slicing and serving.

Chicken Avocado Quesadillas: Layer shredded mozzarella, cooked chicken and diced avocado between two flour tortillas. Add a drizzle of your favorite sauce, such as ranch, barbecue or teriyaki, if you'd like. Cook in a skillet over medium heat until both sides are golden brown and the cheese is melted, then slice into wedges and serve.

Quick Chicken Alfredo: Make sliced leftover chicken into a fast comfort meal by simmering it with jarred Alfredo sauce, a splash of milk, butter and Italian seasonings. Spoon over cooked egg noodles and finish with chopped parsley.

Sometimes the simplest recipes become the ones you reach for again and again. I have a feeling this will be one of them. Enjoy!

***

Lifestyle expert Patti Diamond is the penny-pinching, party-planning, recipe developer and content creator of the website Divas On A Dime — Where Frugal, Meets Fabulous! Visit Patti at www.divasonadime.com and join the conversation on Facebook at DivasOnADimeDotCom. Email Patti at divapatti@divasonadime.com

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Prepare a Summer-Style Blueberry Pie

Fresh blueberries peak at this time of year, so it's time to make good use of them. Not only are they versatile and delicious, but they are nutritional standouts due to being high in antioxidants.

Pick your own, or purchase a basket at the market and start thinking with your kids of all the ways that you can enjoy blueberries from morning until night. Sprinkle them on cereal, toss them in a muffin batter, or create smiley faces on top of pancakes and waffles for happy food art to start the day! Combine them in a fruit salad for lunch, eat a handful for an afternoon snack, or stir them into yogurt fruit pops.

As a sweet finale to any summer day, enjoy my family's favorite blueberry pie! The uncooked berries in the recipe, combined with lemon juice and zest, create a zingy, fresh flavor. This recipe is very easy to prepare at the last minute with your kids when friends come by, or when you want to bring a crowd-pleasing summer dessert to a potluck picnic. You simply prepare the blueberry filling on the stovetop and pour it into a prepared pie crust. Chill, and it's ready to serve!

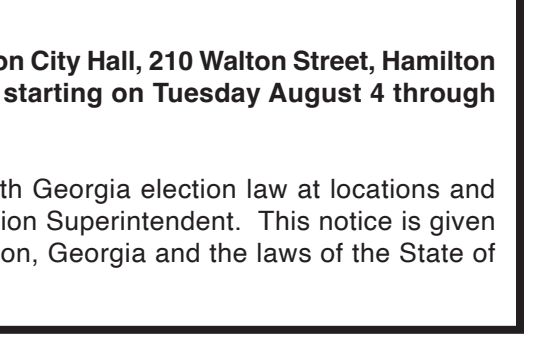
I top each slice with a dollop of fresh whipped cream, or I serve a scoop of vanilla ice cream on the side. Yum! It's like a taste of summer.

EASY FRESH BLUEBERRY PIE

Makes 1 pie

— 4 cups fresh blueberries, rinsed and stems removed (Let kids go through them to pick out any crushed or overripe berries.)
— 3/4 cup sugar
— 1/2 cup water
— 3 tablespoons cornstarch
— Pinch of salt
— 1 tablespoon freshly squeezed lemon juice
— 1/2 teaspoon grated lemon zest (optional)
— 1 (9-inch) pie crust, baked

In a medium saucepan, gently stir together 2 cups blueberries, sugar, water, cornstarch, and a pinch of salt. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, and stir constantly until thick and clear. It'll be a luscious dark-purple color.



Stir in lemon juice and zest, then gently fold in the rest of the blueberries. Cool slightly.

Pour the thick filling into the pie shell. Let set or chill before serving. Serve with whipped cream or vanilla ice cream.

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Donna Erickson creates relationships and community through food and fun. Find more to nourish and delight you at www.donnaerickson.com.

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CITY OF HAMILTON
NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: that a **Special Election will be held in the City of Hamilton, Georgia, on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, for the purpose of filling the unexpired term of an At-Large City Council seat** which has become vacant due to resignation.

The person elected shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term, ending December 31, 2028.

Qualifying for said seat shall be held at **Hamilton City Hall, 210 Walton Street, Hamilton during the hours of 8:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. starting on Tuesday August 4 through Thursday August 6, 2026.**

Voting shall be conducted in accordance with Georgia election law at locations and times designated by the Harris County Election Superintendent. This notice is given pursuant to the Charter of the City of Hamilton, Georgia and the laws of the State of Georgia.

CITY OF WOODLAND, GEORGIA
INVITATION TO BID
SIDEWALK DEMOLITION AND REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The City of Woodland, Georgia, is accepting bids from qualified and properly licensed contractors for the demolition and replacement of sidewalks located within the public rights-of-way at the following locations:

1. State Route/Highway 36: Beginning at the intersection of Highway 36 and 6th Avenue and continuing to the intersection of Highway 36 and 8th Avenue.

2. Manchester Highway: Beginning at the intersection of Manchester Highway and West Main Street and continuing to the intersection of Manchester Highway and West Pleasant Hill Street.

The scope of work includes, but is not limited to:

- Obtaining all required permits and approvals, including any permits or approvals required by the Georgia Department of Transportation;
- Removal and demolition of the existing sidewalks;
- Hauling and lawful disposal of all demolition debris;
- Grading, compaction, and base preparation;
- Installation and finishing of new concrete sidewalks;
- Installation of ADA-compliant curb ramps;
- Restoration and cleanup of all disturbed areas; and
- Traffic and pedestrian control necessary to complete the work safely.

All work must comply with applicable federal, state, and local requirements, Georgia Department of Transportation standards, and current Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility standards.

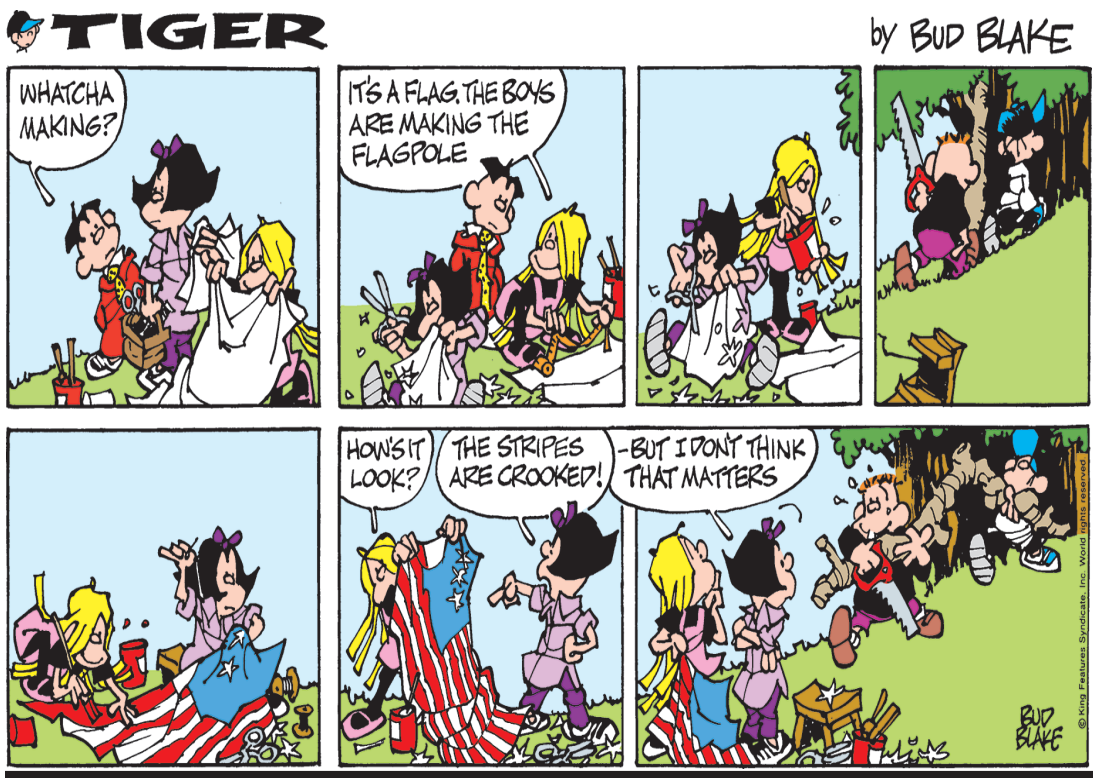
Contractors must provide proof of all required licenses, general liability insurance, workers' compensation insurance, and any other documentation requested by the City. Each bidder is responsible for inspecting the project locations and verifying all measurements, quantities, site conditions, and permitting requirements before submitting a bid.

Bids may be delivered during regular business hours or mailed to:
City of Woodland
Attn: City Clerk
PO Box 187
49 E Main St
Woodland, GA 31836

Delivered or mailed bids must clearly state "SIDEWALK DEMOLITION AND REPLACEMENT BID" on the outside of the envelope.

Bids may be submitted by email to the City Clerk at cityofwoodland2014@gmail.com. All bids must be received no later than 4:30 PM on Friday, July 31, 2026. Bids received after the stated deadline will not be considered. The City of Woodland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

If you have questions, please contact the City Clerk at cityofwoodland2014@gmail.com or (706)674-2200, during the regular business hours of Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM and Wednesday 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM.



HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR 2026

PRESS RELEASE

The Harris County Board of Commissioners adopted the FY 2026-27 annual budget on June 16, 2026 after two public budget work sessions, two public hearings, and much thoughtful deliberations. To adequately fund the approved budget of $68.2M, sufficiently fund upcoming capital projects, and prepare for future growth, the Board of Commissioners is proposing to continue the county's millage rate of 9.13 mills. This property tax rate would increase property taxes by 0.71% above the roll back rate of 9.066 mills. The portion of the city of West Point that is located within Harris County will also continue to have the same millage rate of 5.478. This property tax rate would increase property taxes by 1.39% above their roll back rate of 5.403 mills.

As an example, the financial impact of this proposed property tax increase on a home with a fair market value of $250,000 will be approximately an additional $6.40 in county property taxes.

To view the county's approved FY 2026-27 budget, please visit the county's website at www.harriscountyga.gov.

Since the Board of Commissioners is proposing a property tax increase that is above the roll back rates, state law requires the county to conduct three public hearings to obtain citizen comments.

Therefore, all concerned property owners and citizens are encouraged to attend and participate in the three public hearings to be conducted on Tuesday, August 4, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. and on Tuesday, August 18, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. All public hearings will be conducted in Room 215 of the Harris County Courthouse, 102 N. College Street, Hamilton, GA.

PO#55519

PT-32.1 - Computation of MILLAGE RATE ROLLBACK AND PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAXES - 2026

COUNTY:	HARRIS	TAXING JURISDICTION:	SHILOH

ENTER VALUES AND MILLAGE RATES FOR THE APPLICABLE TAX YEARS IN YELLOW HIGHLIGHTED BOXES BELOW

DESCRIPTION	2025 DIGEST	REASSESSMENT OF EXISTING REAL PROP	OTHER CHANGES TO TAXABLE DIGEST	2026 DIGEST
REAL	11,338,774	62,782	426,424	11,827,980
PERSONAL	2,964,779		86,681	3,051,460
MOTOR VEHICLES	152,610		(13,290)	139,320
MOBILE HOMES	54,807		0	54,807
TIMBER -100%	0		0	0
HEAVY DUTY EQUIP	0		0	0
GROSS DIGEST	14,510,970	62,782	499,815	15,073,567
EXEMPTIONS	1,619,338	25,667	413,775	2,058,780
NET DIGEST	12,891,632	37,115	86,040	13,014,787
	(PYD)	(RVA)	(NAG)	(CYD)

2025 MILLAGE RATE:	5.500	2026 MILLAGE RATE:	7.500

CALCULATION OF ROLLBACK RATE

DESCRIPTION	ABBREVIATION	AMOUNT	FORMULA
2025 Net Digest	PYD	12,891,632	
Net Value Added-Reassessment of Existing Real Property	RVA	37,115	
Other Net Changes to Taxable Digest	NAG	86,040	
2026 Net Digest	CYD	13,014,787	(PYD+RVA+NAG)
2025 Millage Rate	PYM	5.500	PYM
Millage Equivalent of Reassessed Value Added	ME	0.016	(RVA/CYD) * PYM
Rollback Millage Rate for 2026	RR - ROLLBACK RATE	5.484	PYM - ME

CALCULATION OF PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAXES

If the 2026 Proposed Millage Rate for this Taxing Jurisdiction exceeds Rollback Millage Rate computed above, this section will automatically calculate the amount of increase in property taxes that is part of the notice required in O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32.1(c) (2)	Rollback Millage Rate	5.484
	2026 Millage Rate	7.500
	Percentage Tax Increase	36.76%

NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The **Harris County Board of Commissioners** has tentatively adopted a 2026 millage rate which will require an increase in property taxes by **.71** percent in the County Wide less West Point area and by **1.39** percent in the West Point area.

All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearings on this tax increase to be held in Room 215 of the Harris County Courthouse, 102 North College Street, Hamilton, GA on **August 4, 2026 at 11:00 am and 6:30 pm.**

Times and places of additional public hearing on this tax increase are in Room 215 of the Harris County Courthouse, 102 North College Street, Hamilton, GA on **August 18, 2026 at 6:30 pm.**

This tentative increase will result in a millage rate of **9.13 mills**, an increase of **0.064** mills in the County Wide less West Point area. Without this tentative tax increase, the millage rate will be no more than **9.066 mills**. The proposed tax increase for a home with a fair market value of **$250,000** is approximately **$6.40** and the proposed tax increase for non-homestead property with a fair market of **$175,000** is approximately **$4.48**.

In the West Point area, this tentative increase will result in a millage rate of **5.478 mills**, an increase of **0.075 mills**. Without this tentative tax increase, the millage rate will be no more than **5.403 mills**. The proposed tax increase for a home with a fair market value of **$175,000** is approximately **$5.25** and the proposed tax increase for non-homestead property with a fair market of **$125,000** is approximately **$3.75**. PO#55515



Is Pet Insurance Worth It?

Submitted to the *Journal*

Keeping pets happy and healthy is a priority for pet owners. Navigating companion animals' health issues is not always easy and can be expensive if something serious crops up. People may wonder if pet insurance is an effective way to defray some of the costs and achieve peace of mind?

Pet insurance is something that many rely on when they bring a new pet into a home. According to the North American Pet Health Insurance Association, there was a 12.7 percent increase in the total number of insured pets from 2023 to 2024. Here is a look at what pet insurance may cover and how to decide if it is right for you.

What is pet insurance?

Progressive Insurance says pet insurance can reimburse a person for eligible vet bills if a pet has an accident or gets sick. Most pet insurers limit plans to cats and dogs, but some may consider other pets or exotic animals. Pet insurance plans vary, but typically include the following:

· Accident-and-illness: These plans cover treatment for accidents and various illnesses, such as infections, arthritis, diabetes, and hereditary diseases.

· Accident-only: These plans only cover injuries sustained in accidents, including broken bones or consumption of foreign objects.

· Wellness: Wellness plans reimburse owners for preventive and routine care, and usually are add-on options to other plans. They may offer reimbursement for flea and tick treatments or dental cleanings.

How does pet insurance work?

Once pet owners choose a company, they will pay a monthly premium. When the pet visits the vet, the pet insurance will cover some of the cost. This typically requires a person to pay the veterinarian out-of-pocket and then submit a claim for reimbursement afterwards. Some insurers will pay the vet directly. Coverage and cost are determined by the deductible, reimbursement rate and annual limit chosen.

What doesn't pet insurance cover?

Pet insurance typically does not cover preexisting conditions, pet pregnancies and non-vet related costs like grooming and boarding. Additional restrictions may apply depending on the policy.

What are the average premium costs?

The NAPHIA reported that, in 2024, the average monthly accident and illness pet insurance premium was $62.44 for dogs and $32.21 for cats. For accident-only coverage, the average monthly premium was $16.10 for dogs and $9.17 for cats.

Is pet insurance worth it?

Many people find that pet insurance is a worthwhile investment. It can offset some of the costs of vaccines and examinations, and will make more expensive diagnostics and treatments more affordable.

Pet insurance is a consideration for pet owners who want to offset costs for veterinary care and keep them more manageable.

celebrity extra

by Dana Jackson

Q. What's next for Paul Anthony Kelly after his practically overnight success from playing John F. Kennedy Jr.? — *G.C.*

A. The careers of both leads of the miniseries "Love Story" have taken off since it became a huge hit on Hulu. While Paul Anthony Kelly didn't receive an Emmy nomination, his co-star, Sarah Pidgeon, was recognized in the Outstanding Lead Actress in a Limited or Anthology Series category. Kelly, however, is striking while the iron's hot! He'll appear in the upcoming 13th season of "American Horror Story," the news of which was revealed at the Disney Upfront presentation in May. Kelly emerged on stage saying, "I guess every nightmare needs fresh blood … and 13's my lucky number."

Kelly will also co-star with Sydney Sweeney and Amanda Seyfried in "The Housemaid's Secret," which is set for release in December 2027.



Courtesy of FX

Paul Anthony Kelly as JFK Jr. in "Love Story"

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Q. I read recently that the longtime announcer for the "Jeopardy!" game show just had his 98th birthday, which is incredible! Are there any other announcers or hosts of game shows who started decades ago and are still working today? — *J.V.*

A. Johnny Gilbert is the oldest game-show announcer who still isn't retired. The famous voice of "This … is … 'Jeopardy'!" has been with the show since 1984. According to 13News Now, ever since the pandemic, Gilbert has been recording the show's intro, the descriptions of contestants, and the quiz categories from his home studio in Los Angeles.

Game-show hosts have some impressive genes because many of them have lived well into their 90s. Bob Barker of "The Price Is Right" passed away in 2023 at the impressive age of 99. He retired, however, in 2007, and Drew Carey is now the host. "Hollywood Squares" host Peter Marshall died in 2024 at age 98 but had retired at age 72.

"Tic-Tac-Dough" host Wink Martindale left us at age 91. He continued working in show business in some capacity right up until his passing. When asked when he was going to retire, Martindale famously asked, "Retire from what? From having fun?"

Bob Eubanks of "The Newlywed Game" fame is now 88 years old and has never officially retired. His memorable quote, "If you rest, you rust," has not only guided him through his decades as a game-show host, but also through covering the Tournament of Roses Parade for 36 years.

***

Q. Is it true they're making a sequel to the "Practical Magic" movie? Are Nicole Kidman and Sandra Bullock both in it, or will it be with new stars? — *K.E.*

A. The answer is "yes" and "yes"! "Practical Magic 2," starring Nicole Kidman and Sandra Bullock, will premiere in theaters this Sept. 11. Dianne Wiest ("Only Murders in the Building") and Stockard Channing ("The Good Wife") will also be returning as the aunts, along with new young witches played by Joey King ("We Were the Lucky Ones") and Maisie Williams ("Game of Thrones").

The film is said to be based on "The Book of Magic," a sequel novel to "Practical Magic," which was released in 2021 by author Alice Hoffman.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com.

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Thinking About Kitchen Cabinets?

Submitted to the *Journal*

Updated kitchens are in demand, and homeowners are not hesitating to open their wallets when renovating these popular spaces in their homes. According to a 2025 study from Houzz, the median spend on kitchen renovations rose to $60,000 between 2024 and 2025.

Homeowners concerned about the high price tag of kitchen renovations should know they have some less expensive means to giving their kitchens a new look. Cabinet projects can dramatically alter how a kitchen looks and feels. This rundown of cabinet projects can help homeowners answer any questions they have about this unique and budget-friendly way to revitalize their kitchens.

· Refacing and replacing each merit consideration. Homeowners unfamiliar with cabinet projects may not realize they have two very different options to consider. Refacing allows homeowners to transform the look and feel of a kitchen while keeping the existing cabinet structure in place. When refacing cabinets, new doors, drawer fronts and typically hardware are installed to replace the existing ones. When replacing cabinets, the existing cabinet structure is torn out and completely new units are installed. Replacing might be done when the structural integrity of the existing cabinets is questionable or when homeowners are not fond of the existing cabinet layout and decide to change it completely.

· Cabinet refacing or replacing projects will not cost nearly as much as a complete kitchen overhaul. The cost of any home renovation project is unique to each home. No two homes are the same, and variables like layout and square footage will affect the price of most projects, including cabinet renovations. But homeowners should know that the average cost of cabinet refacing projects and replacement projects falls far short of the $60,000 price tag of kitchen renovations noted by Houzz. According to Angi.com, refacing cabinets costs between $900 and $6000 on average, while cabinet replacement projects can cost anywhere from $2,000 to $30,000. The wide ranges reflect the variables unique to each home. Homeowners are urged to contact a professional who specializes in cabinet refacing and replacement to get an accurate estimate of how much these projects will cost in their homes.

· Cabinets also can be repainted. If refacing or replacing cabinets also threatens to bust the budget, homeowners can consider repainting or re-staining existing cabinets. This is a particularly cost-effective project because it gives the kitchen a new look but does not require homeowners to purchase new doors, drawers or hardware. This is a potentially good option for homeowners whose existing cabinets are structurally sound and painted but started to fade in regard to their color. It's also a potentially sound temporary option for homeowners who are hoping to do a full kitchen renovation at some point in the near future but looking for a less costly and temporary means to give their kitchens a fresh look.

Cabinet projects can create a different feel in the kitchen without requiring homeowners to make as sizable a financial investment as a full kitchen overhaul demands.

State Retirees Association to Meet

Submitted to the *Journal*

The Tri-County Chapter of the Georgia State Retirees Association (GSRA) will hold its quarterly meeting at Doodlum's Barbeque and Fruit Stand located at 18600 Main Street, Woodbury, GA 30293 on Monday, July 27, 2026, at 11:30 AM. Lunch can e purchased individually. The Tri-County Chapter includes retirees from Meriwether, Harris, Troup, Talbot, Upson, and Pike counties. Scheduled speaker will be a local pharmacist to report on medication interactions and other items of interest for retirees. Also much information from our legislative liaison. Join your fellow retirees and prospective retirees for this informative meeting.

For more information, contact Joy Evans at 706-656-0046 or Kay Garrett at 706-846-3422 or Kathy Clements at 706-655-2390. GSRA is an organization established and maintained by state retirees for state retirees. We advocate for retirees as well as active employees and keep you informed about any changes or impacts to your retirement benefits through monthly newsletters, media sites, annual statewide meetings, legislative liaison team, action alerts, and local chapters with regular meetings. Join your fellow retirees and prospective retirees and help us help you. Website – www.mygsra.com

The **City of Shiloh** Governing Authority does hereby announce that the millage rate will be set at a meeting to be held at the SHILOH CITY HALL on **August 4th, 2026 at 6:00 p.m**. Pursuant to the requirements of the O.C.G.A 48-5-32 do hereby publish the following presentation of the current year's tax digest and levy along with the history of tax digest and levy for the past five years.

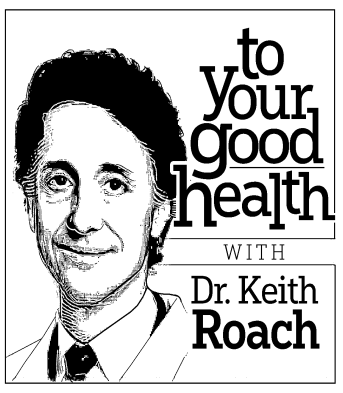
Current 2026 Tax Digest and 5-Year History of Levy

City of Shiloh	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Real & Personal	10,876,649	12,805,076	12,246,799	11,512,721	14,303,553	14,879,440
Motor Vehicles	213,480	199,810	215,940	202,710	152,610	139,320
Mobile Homes	61,133	77,308	61,490	54,807	54,807	54,807
Timber - 100%	-	-	-	-		
Heavy Duty Equipment	-	-	-	-		
Gross Digest	11,151,262	13,082,194	12,524,229	11,770,238	14,510,970	15,073,567
Less M&O Exemptions	1,011,125	1,018,626	984,301	1,021,403	1,619,388	2,058,780
Net M&O Digest	10,140,137	12,063,568	11,539,928	10,748,835	12,891,582	13,014,787
Adjusted Net M&O Digest	10,140,137	12,063,568	11,539,928	10,748,835	12,891,582	13,014,787
Gross M&O Millage	5.500	5.500	5.500	5.500	5.500	7.500
Less Rollbacks	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Net M&O Millage	5.500	5.500	5.500	5.500	5.500	7.500
Net Taxes Levied	55,771	66,350	63,470	59,119	70,904	97,611
Net Taxes $ Increase	3,334	10,579	-2880	-4351	11,785	26,707
Net Taxes % Increase	6.36%	18.97%	-4.34%	-6.86%	19.93%	37.67%

BID REQUEST - ROAD RESURFACING

Harris County is accepting sealed written bids for the resurfacing of **Nine (9) county roads, a total distance of 5.35 miles** to include traffic control, tack, leveling, turnouts, asphalt, shoulder work, grassing and striping. The bid package, which includes details and bid forms that must be used to submit a bid, and can be obtained by contacting **Tammy Cantrell, Executive Assistant, via e-mail at tcantrell@harriscountyga.gov using the subject line "Bid - LRA Supplement 2026"**. ***Mandatory pre-bid conference will be held Thursday, July 16, 2026, at 2:00 PM in the conference room of Mike Brown Public Works Facility, 215 Water Oak Way, Hamilton, GA***. Project is to be completed by October 30, 2026, and must conform to GDOT specs. Bids shall be sealed, bear the notation "BID: LRA Supplement 2026", be addressed to the attention of Tammy Cantrell, and be received at **Mike Brown Public Works Facility, 215 Water Oak Way, Hamilton, GA 31811, by 2:00 PM, Thursday, July 30, 2026**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid must be accompanied by a bid guarantee in the form of a bid bond, cashier's or certified check, in an amount equal to 5% of the total bid. This bid bond will be returned to bidders when the project is awarded. The successful bidder will be required to submit a 100% payment bond and a 100% performance bond. Payments to contractors will be made in periodic draws as submitted by the contractor. It is the responsibility of the bidder to ensure that their bid arrives at the proper location by the time and date indicated. Harris County reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

NIGP Code 91395 PO#55512



Daily Productive Cough Causes Patient To Wonder About COPD

DEAR DR. ROACH: I decided to practice using an inhalation spirometer, partly because I have a daily productive cough (small amounts three to four times a day). I smoked a pack of filtered cigarettes a day from ages 17-29. I smoke marijuana now.

My scoliosis is quite complex and has taken over 4 inches off my height. But at age 75, I volunteer as a stable hand for 6-8 hours a week, and they say that I'm the hardest-working volunteer! I'm lean and fit.

I do three inhalation tests in a row, and it's always 2,400 mL. Do I have chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and should I report this to my primary care physician? He doesn't know about my current marijuana consumption. — *C.R.*

ANSWER: The diagnosis of COPD is made based on symptoms (usually shortness of breath, cough, and sputum production); frequent exacerbations of breathing troubles; and abnormalities on breathing tests (or if there's no other explanation). Your history of smoking tobacco and cannabis are compatible with a diagnosis of COPD, but you'd need pulmonary function testing in a lab.

The device that you have (which I think is an incentive spirometer) is very helpful for expanding the lungs, and it's especially used after surgery. But the number doesn't tell me a lot about your lung function.

The problem with COPD is that breathing gets obstructed, and although obstruction occurs with both inspiration and exhalation, it's mostly when a person breathes out that symptoms occur. Some people have cough or sputum production without having any trouble breathing. This is most compatible with chronic bronchitis, which is one of the most common presentations of COPD; the other is emphysema.

Scoliosis, which is curvature of the spine, can cause a completely different lung disease called restrictive disease. With restrictive diseases, it's not airflow that's the primary problem; it's the lung volume. With severe chest-wall deformities like scoliosis and kyphosis (when the spine is bent forward, sometimes called a "dowager's hump"), the lungs can't expand fully.

I'd discuss your lung symptoms with your physician, who'll consider sending you in for pulmonary function tests. These tests will tell you whether you have an obstructive disease, like COPD, or a restrictive disease. You should tell your doctor about your cannabis use; he should know and be professional about it.

If you do have COPD, I recommend against smoking cannabis. Although the evidence isn't as strong that smoking cannabis causes COPD the way that smoking tobacco does, I still recommend against it in people with lung disease. If you want to use cannabis, take a gummy, since this doesn't potentially harm your lungs the way that smoking does.

***

DEAR DR. ROACH: I've noticed that when I wipe the cap of my glass water bottle, there's a dark gray or black material inside the cap after I've refilled it. Is this mold? Should I stop refilling the water bottle? — *D.D.*

ANSWER: The cap of your glass water bottle is made from aluminum. When you open and close the cap, the aluminum metal is exposed to air, where it reacts with oxygen to form aluminum oxide. This is the black material that you're wiping off the cap. Aluminum oxide is inert and passes through the body, so you don't need to worry about it.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu.

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PT-32.1 - Computation of MILLAGE RATE ROLLBACK AND PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAXES - 2026

COUNTY: Harris County TAXING JURISDICTION: West Point County Portion

ENTER VALUES AND MILLAGE RATES FOR THE APPLICABLE TAX YEARS IN YELLOW HIGHLIGHTED BOXES BELOW

DESCRIPTION	2025 DIGEST	REASSESSMENT OF EXISTING REAL PROP	OTHER CHANGES TO TAXABLE DIGEST	2026 DIGEST
REAL	31,103,823	762,077	4,187,208	36,053,108
PERSONAL	1,460,790		(239,366)	1,221,424
MOTOR VEHICLES	171,880		10,370	182,250
MOBILE HOMES	0		0	0
TIMBER -100%	0		0	0
HEAVY DUTY EQUIP	0		0	0
GROSS DIGEST	32,736,493	762,077	3,958,212	37,456,782
EXEMPTIONS	2,745,415	288,054	(93,154)	2,940,315
NET DIGEST	29,991,078	474,023	4,051,366	34,516,467
	(PYD)	(RVA)	(NAG)	(CYD)
2025 MILLAGE RATE:	5.478		2026 MILLAGE RATE:	5.478

CALCULATION OF FINAL ROLLBACK MILLAGE RATE

DESCRIPTION	ABBREVIATION	AMOUNT	FORMULA
2025 Net Taxable Digest	PYD	29,991,078	
Net Value Added-Reassessment of Existing Real Property	RVA	474,023	
Other Net Changes to Taxable Digest	NAG	4,051,366	
2026 Net Taxable Digest	CYD	34,516,467	PYD+RVA+NAG
2025 Millage Rate	PYM	5.478	PYM
Millage Equivalent of Reassessed Value Added	ME	0.075	(RVA/CYD) * PYM
Rollback Millage Rate for 2026	RR - ROLLBACK RATE	5.403	PYM - ME
PTRLOST/FLOST Net Proceeds	NP of PTRLOST		
Millage Rate Equivalent of PTRLOST/FLOST Net Proceeds	MRE of PTRLOST	0.000	NP of PTRLOST/CYD
Rollback Millage Rate for 2026 minus Millage Rate Equivalent of PTRLOST/FLOST	RRPTR	5.403	RR - MRE of PTRLOST

CALCULATION OF PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAXES

If the 2026 Proposed Millage Rate for this Taxing Jurisdiction exceeds the Final Rollback Millage Rate (at right) this section will automatically calculate the amount of increase in property taxes that is part of the notice required in O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32.1(c)(2)

Final Rollback Millage Rate	5.403
2026 Millage Rate	5.478
Percentage Tax Increase	1.39%

CERTIFICATIONS

I hereby certify that the amount indicated above is an accurate accounting of the total net assessed value added by the reassessment of existing real property for the tax year for which this rollback millage rate is being computed.

---------- Chairman, Board of Tax Assessors Date

I hereby certify that the values shown above are an accurate representation of the digest values and exemption amounts for the applicable tax years.

---------- Tax Collector or Tax Commissioner Date

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct computation of the rollback millage rate in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32.1 for the taxing jurisdiction for tax year 2026 and that the final millage rate set by the authority of this taxing jurisdiction for tax year 2026 is _____.

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE PARAGRAPH BELOW THAT APPLIES TO THIS TAXING JURISDICTION

☐ If the final millage rate set by the authority of the taxing jurisdiction for tax year 2026 exceeds the rollback rate, I certify that the required advertisements, notices, and public hearings have been conducted in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 48-5-32 and 48-5-32.1 as evidenced by the attached copies of the published "five year history and current digest" advertisement and the "Notice of Intent to Increase Taxes" showing the times and places when and where the required public hearings were held, and a copy of the press release provided to the local media.

☐ If the final millage rate set by the authority of the taxing jurisdiction for tax year 2065 does not exceed the rollback rate, I certify that the required "five year history and current digest" advertisement has been published in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32 as evidenced by the attached copy of such advertised report.

---------- Responsible Party Title Date

PO#55518

JOURNAL SPORTS

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Photo Submitted

HCHS FLAG FOOTBALL REPRESENTED - HCHS Seniors Addison Fowler, Maci McGuire and Hannah Huff and coaches represented the team at the Georgia High School Football Media Day.

HCHS Flag Football Seniors Participate in Media Day

Submitted to the *Journal*

High School football in the state of Georgia is just around the corner as Georgia High School Football Media Day and the 2026 Corky Kell & Dave Hunter Classic Media Day was held on July 16–17.

Harris County Flag Football participated in Score Atlanta Media Day. HCHS Seniors Addison Fowler, Maci McGuire and Hannah Huff and coaches represented the team. The Lady Tigers will open their season September 19th at Bowdon.

Both days of Georgia High School Football Media Day was streamed digitally on the Atlanta News First a website/app as well as the National Federation High School (NFHS) Network.

Beginning at the Mechanical Trades Institute building in Atlanta on Thursday, July 16th, teams from around the state piled in to talk live on the air about their upcoming season and the outlook for their teams. Each program was interviewed by the Score Atlanta team including Georgia High School Sports Daily host Landon Knight alongside analysts Craig Sager II, Hayden Gilbert and Max Wolborsky.

At the MTI building, players and coaches had the chance to go on air as well as go through multiple stations, discussing various different trades such as pipefitting, welding, plumbing and HVAC units in a full day ushering in the new season of high school football.

On Friday, July 17th at the Score Atlanta Studio, teams that will be participating in the 35th annual Corky Kell & Dave Hunter Classic traveled up to Roswell to be interviewed by the Score Atlanta crew to preview their team and to talk about being a part of the prestigious event.



Photo Submitted

FINAL FOOTBALL OTA HELD - The final OTA for the summer of 2026 is in the books. Thank you to all the schools that made their way to Hamilton: Brookstone High School, Marion County High School, Callaway High School and Upson-Lee High School.

Harris County Sports Update

By GEORGE BATASTINI

The following updates and announcements are for the week of for July 16 – July 23, 2026

Harris County Girls Flag Football

Registration is now open for the Fall 2026 Season\ for Harris County Girls Flag Football. If you are ready to hit the field, build confidence, and have some FUN? Grab your spot today and be part of something amazing! If you have any questions? Email us anytime at: hcgirlsflagfootball@icloud.com

Sign up using the following email address: https://leagues.bluesombrero.

Harris County Boys Basketball

Harris County High School Head Boy's Basketball Coach Lucy Ellison is sponsoring again this year the Play Like A Tiger Basketball Camp for ages 5 – 14. This camp will provide training in, ball handling & shooting drills, game IQ & teamwork, friendly competitions & prizes. all skill levels welcome! Improving their skills and having fun this summer for both boys and girls. The cost of the camp is $40.00 for the first child and $35.00 for each additional child. Each child will receive a free camp shirt.

Dates and time for the "Play Like A Tiger" camp are:

July 27th – 28th from 2:00pm – 5:00pm for ages 5 - 9

July 29th – 30th from 2:00pm – 5:00pm for ages 10 - 14

The location for the camp is at the Harris County High School Gym.

For additional information contact Coach Ellison at Ellison-L@Harris.k12.ga.us

Training for the Tigers of the future

Submit Sports Photos and Related News each week to: HarrisCountyJournalSports@gmail.com



Little League Fall Ball

Submitted to the *Journal*

Keep the fun going this fall with Harris County Little League! Fall Ball is the perfect opportunity for players to continue developing their skills, gain more game experience, and have fun with teammates in a relaxed, instructional environment.

Registration is open now through August 9, 2026

Registration Fee: $65

Season Begins: September 14, 2026

Whether your player is returning for another season or stepping onto the field for the first time, Fall Ball is a great way to prepare for the spring season while enjoying America's favorite pastime.

For additional information please email: http://www.harriscountylittleleague.com

Medicare Questions?

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