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The Harris County Journal

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VOL. 154 • NO. 28 | HAMILTON / PINE MOUNTAIN, GA. - THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026 | harriscountyjournal.com | 12 PAGES • 1 SECTION • $1.00



Photo By Andy Kober

DRAWING A CROWD - Serving BBQ at "Fire Up the Valley" last Saturday began at 11 am and people were already standing in line. This annual treat is eagerly anticipated by people around the area.



Photo By Andy Kober

BRINGING THE MUSIC - Eating BBQ and enjoying good music, it doesn't get much better. Randy and Darlene Dameron, and Nonie Eakle, provided the music that was enjoyed by all during Saturday's "Fire Up the Valley" BBQ.

GBI Investigating Shooting Involving Meriwether Deputies

By JOHN KUYKENDALL

At the request of the Meriwether County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) and the Coweta County Sheriff's Office (CCSO), the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) is currently investigating a shooting incident that occurred on Monday, June 29.

According to a GBI press release, at the request of the two law enforcement agencies GBI agents are investigating an officer involved shooting in Meriwether County. One man was shot and killed during the incident. No officers were injured.

According to the press release, preliminary information indicates on Monday, June 29 at about 1:30 p.m., a CCSO deputy conducted a traffic stop on a SUV located on I-85 southbound in Coweta County. The SUV came to a stop in Meriwether County, just over the Coweta County line.

During the traffic stop, the driver of the SUV, a man, spoke with the deputy at the rear of the SUV. While speaking with the deputy, the man suddenly moved from the rear of the SUV and got back into the driver's seat of the SUV.

The deputy then attempted to remove the driver from the SUV. At this time, a second deputy arrived on scene. The man refused to comply with the deputies.

One of the deputies then tased the man, but the taser was ineffective. The man then reached under the driver's seat and produced a gun. The man shot at the deputies several times, and the deputies fired shots toward the man, hitting him multiple times.

Coweta County Fire and EMS responded to the scene to provide life-saving efforts, but the man was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The man's body will be taken to the GBI Medical Examiner's Office for an autopsy.

The investigation is active and ongoing. Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the GBI Regional Office in Columbus by dialing (706) 565-7888. Anonymous tips can also be submitted by calling 1-800-597-TIPS (8477), online at https://gbi.georgia.gov/submit-tips-online, or by downloading the See Something, Send Something mobile app.

The GBI will conduct an independent investigation. Once the investigation is complete, it will be given to the Coweta Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office for review.





Photos Submitted

PINE MOUNTAIN BLOCK PARTY - The town of Pine Mountain celebrated America's 250th birthday in style, holding a block party for residents and visitors. The party drew a large crowd and plenty of fun was had by all.

THIS WEEK IN THE JOURNAL

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Great Barbecue Tradition Continues

By ANDY KOBER

The timing could not have been better.

For most people, last Saturday was not just the Fourth of July, but it was also the 250th birthday of the United States. And for local people it was time for the "Fire Up the Valley" BBQ.

While President of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt is reported to have visited the Pine Mountain Valley community during its annual BBQ and participated in the festivities. That BBQ tradition continued last Saturday as area residents gathered under the shade trees to enjoy the tasty treats.

There are some differences since Roosevelt's visit, including some very recent improvements to the park.

The park now belongs to Harris County and is managed by the county's recreation department and county commissioners. Recent additions include new restrooms, new playground equipment for children, a walking track and more. The park is now a focal point of the community.

The "Fire Up the Valley" BBQ featured pork or chicken plates with all the trimmings. There were silent auctions and music provided by Randy and Darlene Dameron joined by Nonie Eakle.

Members of the Coweta Falls Chapter Sons of the American Revolution were present and periodically fired a field artillery piece to help celebrate America's Independence Day.

Despite the intense heat, all who attended appeared to have a good time.

The "Fire Up the Valley" BBQ largely benefits the Pine Mountain Valley Volunteer Fire Department.

Board of Education to Meet

The Harris County Board of Education will hold its regular meeting this evening at 6:30 p.m.

This is a combined committee meeting and board meeting.

The meeting will be held at the Harris County Board of Education board room, located at 132 Barnes Mill Road in Hamilton.

The public is invited to attend the Board of Education meeting this evening.



Did a classic Christmas television special have its ending changed after its first airing?

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

HCHS Shotgun Team Brings Home National Honors

Sports, Page 12-A



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Photo Submitted

MASONIC SCHOLARSHIPS GIVEN - Every May the Harris County Masonic Scholarship Association (HCMSA) hosts a Scholarship dinner where the recipients are recognized for their achievements in school. Since 2004 HCMSA has given over 92 scholarships with a total of over $54,000 being given. This year's dinner was held at Hamilton Lodge and our guest speaker this year was RWB Brian Coffey Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Georgia. The HCMSA was started in 2004 by the four lodges of Harris Co. for the purpose of recognizing the seniors at Harris Co. High School with an academic scholarship towards a college, a university, or a trade school. The HCMSA was formed by Hamilton Lodge #16, Chipley Lodge #40, Gordon Lodge #108, and Kinbrough Lodge #118. Due to unforeseen circumstances the HCMSA is down to only two lodges participating (Hamilton #16 & Chipley #40). As a teacher/coach at Harris County High School, a mason and chairmen of the HCMSA, I am proud of this tradition that we started and that we continue to be able recognize and honor our young people. Pictured are, left to right: WB Rob (Coach) Grant of Chipley #40 & Hamilton #16 DDGM 4th District Chairman, Mysteria Arianna LaFeast Cobb, Takira Patrice Williams, RWB Brian Coffey Deputy Grand Master of Mason in the Grand Lodge of Ga., Ramsey Jolley, and Riley Markert.

Hamilton Holds America 250 Event

Submitted to the *Journal*

A great time was truly had by all at Hamilton's Celebration of America's 250th sponsored by Luminary Leadership Academy. The evening culminated with an outdoor viewing of *Independence Day* but fellowship, vendors, games and The Matter of Fact Roofing Bouncy House kept guests busy and entertained right up to the opening credits of the film. Guests also enjoyed free fresh popcorn and ice-cold bottled water compliments of Callaway Blue and the City of Hamilton.

Hamilton would like to thank all those who attended our Celebration of America's 250th and the sponsors who made it possible:

Title Sponsor:

Luminary Leadership Academy

Others:

Matter of Fact Roofing

Callaway Blue

Tiger Lillies

Mayor Partick Whearley stated; "I was glad to see such a nice turnout for our first movie night and celebration of Ameria's 250th. Seeing entire families in attendance was heartwarming. All the feedback I received was very positive. I'm looking forward to more movie nights to bring us all together".

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Why We Need the Arts

By ELIZABETH GRAVES

What are the arts? Merriam Webster defines the arts as "painting, sculpture, music, theater, literature, etc., considered as a group of activities done by people with skill and/or imagination". The arts are vast and one of the few areas that is without a doubt open to many different forms of interpretation. The arts have been around since the beginning of man. Found in Tibet and debated by archaeologists that it may represent some of the oldest art, a set of children's hand prints and feet prints were found preserved in limestone, estimated to be 200,000 years old. Art has been used as a form of protest, a way to express emotions, to explain how we feel when words can't. Art can change your mind, make you question reality. The arts build cognitive flexibility, creative problem-solving, and emotional intelligence. School arts programs contribute to improved academic performance, better grades and basic skills test results. Exposure to the arts is linked to better college and job prospects. Art has been shown to reduce stress, can improve mood, sharpen your attention, improve memory and focus. Art therapy has been used to help people process trauma, deal with grief and improve self-awareness.

Although the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 had good intentions, by focusing on improving academics scores in math and reading, it directly related schools with better test scores to get more funding. With this act in place, many schools began to push more academic focus and cut the funding to the art programs. Research from the National Endowment for the Arts highlights that consistent arts engagement correlates directly with higher GPAs, better test scores, and increased graduation rates. Schools that cut the arts programs expect to see an immediate increase in test scores and academic performance actually see the opposite, with a stagnation or drop in test scores; 3- to 5-point drop in reading comprehension and an increase in math remediation placements. Because students lose complex and basic problem solving skills when the arts are removed. Compared to a decade ago, math scores today are down 70 percent. Reading scores are down 83 percent. Students tend to have decreased engagement in the classroom, higher rates of absences, and increase in disciplinary referrals. For many students the arts are the reason to get up and go to school. The arts help them process the complex emotions that come with childhood and teenage years, by giving them an outlet to express what they can't say. Studies have also shown that schools that still offer art programs have lower dropout rates than schools that have cut their art programs.

When we as humans have to deal with intense emotions, we naturally look for an outlet that fits us. For some people it's working out, for some it's a hike through the mountains, for some it's a trip to the hair salon to dye your hair a wild color, and for many people it is some form of art. Whether it's writing, drawing, painting, acting, singing, music, art can heal the mind and soul. The arts have been shown to have benefits in lowering stress, processing complex emotions; like trauma and grief, and stimulating brain reward centers. Journaling or some form of writing exercise, is one form of art therapy that therapists have been recommending to help their patients deal with times of intense emotions or stress. Art therapy has been mainstream for the last 80 years, with the term being created in the 1940's by British artist Adrian Hill. At that time art therapy was being used to help returning WWII soldiers deal with trauma of the battlefield and those suffering with tuberculosis in the many santoriums. Margaret Naumburg and artist Edith Kramer were also strong practitioners of art therapy. Naumburg believed that art was linked to the expression of the unconscious mind through free expression and thought. Kramer was known as the mother of art therapy and believed to have played an important role in laying the groundwork for art therapy education. She felt that the art process was the healing factor in any form of successful art therapy. Art therapy has been widely studied and observed in its effectiveness to treat issues like trauma, abuse, grief, anxiety, and eating disorders. It has also been shown to be a helpful tool to alleviate stress through significant life changes and eases pain and suffering associated with mental, physical and emotional diseases.

For as long as humans have been around we have looked for ways to deal with and understand the things that we can't understand and arts have been a huge part of unraveling the unknown. We use the arts to help us deal with strong emotions. We use them to process our trauma and times of grief. Studies show listening to music for just 10 to 30 minutes a day significantly lowers stress and reduces symptoms of anxiety and depression; and 45-minutes of art making a day, has been shown to reduce stress and improve sleep. When arts are a part of schools children feel more engaged, feel like they have a moment in the complex scary world to escape and find themselves. They benefit from the arts through grades, increased attendance and less incidents of negative discipline. Children who have access to some form of arts program, have higher rates of college options, and better job prospects after graduation. Without the arts our complex brains would wither. We need the arts to stay sharp, to keep us focused and driven. We need art to escape when life gets too hard. We need the arts to help us express what words can't say. We need the arts because without them the world would be boring.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

RESOLUTION 2026-1: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS OF HARRIS COUNTY, GEORGIA, APPROVING THE REFERENDUM BALLOT FOR THE PROPOSED ADDITIONAL HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION FOR RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY OWNERS IN THE CITY OF WEST POINT AS PROVIDED FOR IN GEORGIA HOUSE BILL 1067; TO AUTHORIZE SUCH REFERENDUM TO APPEAR ON THE NOVEMBER 3, 2026 ELECTION BALLOT FOR CONSIDERATION BY ALL ELECTORS WITHIN THE CITY OF WEST POINT; TO DIRECT THE ELECTIONS SUPERINTENDERNT FOR HARRIS COUNTY, GEORGIA TO CALL FOR SUCH SPECIAI, REFERENDUM AND TO INCLUDE SUCH QUESTION ON THE NOVEMBER 3, 2026 BALLOT; TO AUTHORIZE AND DIRECT THE ELECTIONS SUPERINTENDENT TO SIGN ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE THIS RESOLUTION; AND TO TAKE ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY EFFECTUATE THIS RESOLUTION.

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the Board of Elections of Harris County, Georgia is a board duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the City of West Point, Georgia has requested and the General Assembly has
passed legislation, which legislation has been signed by the Governor, allowing for a referendum for City electors to consider an increase of Homestead Exemptions as in Georgia House Bill 1067;
and

THEREFORE, IT IS NOW RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS OF HARRIS COUNTY, GEORGIA, AS FOLLOWS:

HARRIS COUNTY, GEORGIA, AS FOLLOWS:

1. Incorporation of Pre-Amble. The pre-amble is incorporated herein as fully set forth above.

2. Approval of Referendum for consideration of proposed Homestead Exemption for City of West Point Residents. The Board of Elections hereby officially requests that such homestead exemption be submitted to the electors of the City of West Point for consideration on the November 3, 2026 ballot, and specifically approves and adopts the Referendum Ballot attached hereto as "Exhibit A" and incorporated herein by reference, to provide for an additional homestead exemption in the amount of $10,000.00 for residents of the City.

3. Authorization for Elections Superintendent. That the Board of Elections hereby authorizes and directs the Election Superintendent for Harris County, Georgia to take any and all actions necessary to include such Referendum Ballot on the ballot for the November 3, 2026 election, and to submit, approve and execute all documents necessary to provide for the submission of such ballot referendum for the proposed homestead exemption in accordance with Georgia law.

4. Severability. To the extent any portion of this Resolution is declared to be invalid, unenforceable, or nonbinding, such portion shall be stricken and shall have no effect on the remaining provisions of this Resolution.

5. Repeal of Conflicting Provisions. All existing resolutions and/or ordinances of the City that are inconsistent with this Resolution are hereby stricken and repealed.
6. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon approval.

Resolved this 9th Day of June, 2026.
Run Dates: July 9, 2026 & July 16, 2026

PO#55513



Artisans on Square to Feature Barrientos Exhibit

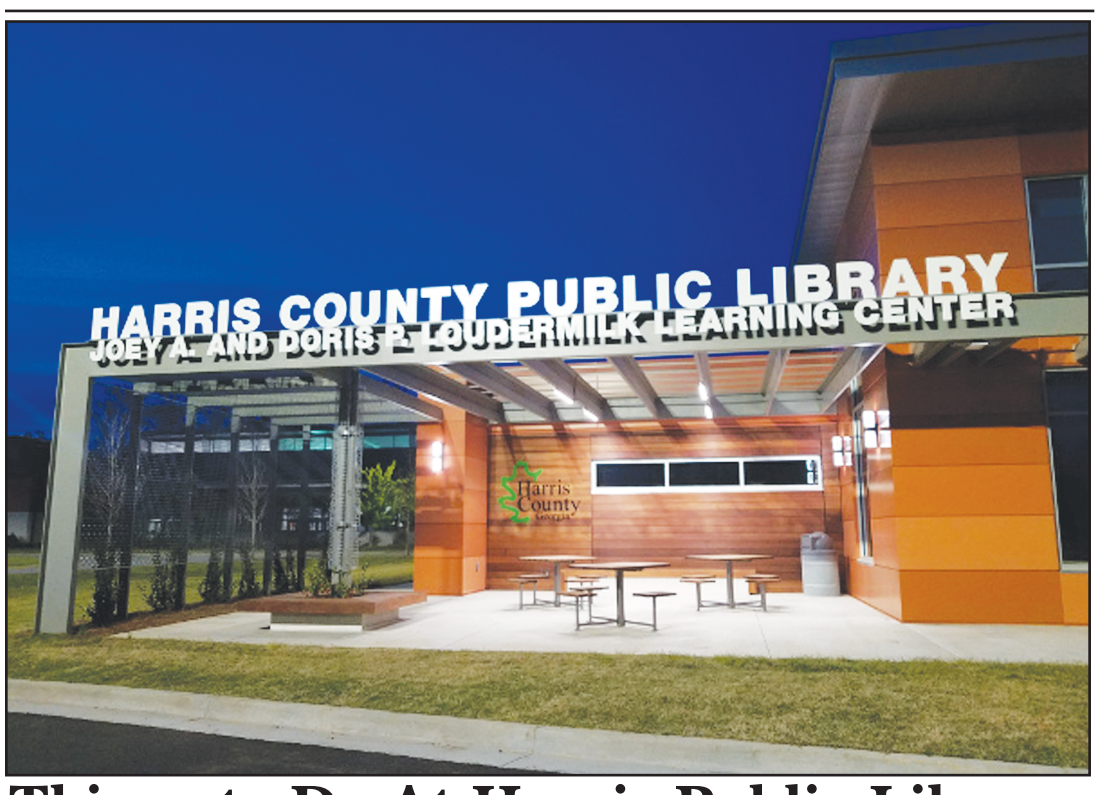
Submitted to the *Journal*

Artisans on the Square proudly presents *Celebration of Color - The Art of Jaasiel Barrientos*, featuring new and early abstract paintings as well as Impressionistic landscapes.

The exhibit will be on display from July 11th to August 29, 2026. Everyone is invited to the opening reception Saturday, July 11th from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Artisans on the Square, located in downtown Greenville GA, across from the Courthouse.

Jaasiel Barrientos is a fine artist who considers himself a self-taught artist, even though he has taken drawing classes, workshops, and learned from mentors. For more than a decade, he has continually studied, applied, and developed new techniques. The influence of several artists began to shape Jaasiel's work — most notably Vincent Van Gogh and Jackson Pollock allowing him to express himself through texture, composition, and color — particularly vibrant, rich colors.

The exhibit is free to the public. Gallery hours are Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 11am to 5pm. For more information visit our website: artisansonthesquare.ga



Things to Do At Harris Public Library

By ANDY KOBER

Upcoming events at the Harris County Public Library include:

- **Friday, July 10**, Anne Frank in Translation Traveling Exhibit all day, Floor Is Lava: Dino Extravaganza & Dino Mini Golf Adventure all day, Sewing for Kids ages 7 & older at 1:30 pm.
- **Saturday, July 11**, Anne Frank in Translation Traveling Exhibit all day, Floor Is Lava: Dino Extravaganza & Dino Mini Golf Adventure all day, Prehistoric Perler Beads for ages 6 to 11 at 1 pm.
- **Monday, July 13**, Pre-World Tiger Day at Wild Animal Safari 11:30 am, Pokemon Trading & Raiding at 2 pm.
- **Tuesday, July 14**, Cretaceous Crochet Club Community Crochet ages 12 and older at 1 pm.
- **Wednesday, July 15**, Performer Wednesday with Auburn University Raptor Center at 10:30 am, Teen Hangout Amber Fossil at 4:30 pm.
- **Thursday, July 16**, Bedtime Triassic Tales for ages five and under at 5:30 pm.
- **Friday, July 17**, Dino Clay Eye part 1 for ages 12 and older at 1 pm.
- **Saturday, July 18**, Patriots & Pathfinders BYO Lunch & Learn at 11:30 am, Magic the Gathering at 1 pm.
- **Monday, July 20**, Dino Play Day fun dino free play for all ages at 11 am.
- **Tuesday, July 21**, Cretaceous Crochet Club for ages 12 and older at 1 pm.
- **Wednesday, July 22**, Performer Wednesday Wild Animal Safari at 10:30 am, Teen Hangout End of the World Chaos at 4:30 pm.
- **Thursday, July 23**, Diplodocus Dance Party for all ages at 11:30 am.
- **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.
- **Saturday, July 25**, Women's Voices for Civil Rights Traveling Exhibit all day, Magma Madness for ages 6-11 at 11 am.

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.

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This Revolutionary War Hero Knew Liberty Could Not Be Backed By Slavery

Opinion Column



Dr. John A. Tures
Professor of Political Science, LaGrange College

You may never have come across John Laurens in your pantheon of Revolutionary War heroes in your history class. I didn't until the Hamilton Musical. After you read his story, you'll see why we need to celebrate this South Carolinian a little more on America's 250th Birthday. He knew what liberty really meant.

Laurens grew up a child of wealth and privilege, because his father made his fortune in the slave labor. The son was sent to study in Switzerland and then learn the law in England. But John Laurens was more passionate about something else: The American Revolution. He fought bravely at the Battle of Brandywine (a site I took my family when I taught at the University of Delaware). His fluency in French got him into George Washington's inner circle.

But Laurens had grander ideas. According to the Mount Vernon digital library "Despite his upbringing, Laurens believed that the republican principles the Americans were fighting for were hypocritical if they continued to utilize enslaved labor. Strongly influenced by the growing abolitionist literature that circulated in England while he was studying, Laurens encouraged those around him, including Washington, to consider freeing those they enslaved."

The Marquis de Lafayette came around to his way of thinking. Washington did fear economic and social consequences. But Laurens was persistent. He came up with a plan where African American slaves could fight for the Continental Army and win their freedom. The Continental Congress balked in 1778, but on a second try a year later, Laurens won their approval. However, the state delegations of South Carolina and Georgia vetoed the idea. South Carolina reaped the repercussions of their shortsightedness, as Charleston was captured and Gates' army was thrashed at the Battle of Camden (another battle site I took my family…sense a trend?).

Laurens was captured at Charleston, but on parole, joined Benjamin Franklin in Paris, convincing King Louis XVI to dispatch his French Navy to Yorktown. So regardless of one's views on race, we all owe a debt of gratitude to Laurens for helping win that battle.

Despite the win at Yorktown, the war wasn't over. While negotiations dragged on, the British Army and Navy harassed the Americans. When a British foraging party threatened South Carolina, Laurens, who was wounded in every battle he fought, was finally killed at the Battle of Combahee River in 1782. Of Laurens, Washington wrote "he had not a fault that I ever could discover, unless intrepidity bordering upon rashness, could come under that denomination; & to this he was excited by the purest motives."

From the bitter winter at Valley Forge, he wrote this to his father: "I would solicit you to cede me a number of your able bodied men Slaves, instead of leaving me a fortune—I would bring about a twofold good, first I would advance those who are unjustly deprived of the Rights of Mankind to a State which would be a proper Gradation between abject Slavery and perfect Liberty—and besides I would reinforce the Defenders of Liberty with a number of gallant Soldiers…The Ridicule that may be thrown on the Colour I despise, because I am sure of rendering essential Service to my Country." How's that for a prodigal son?

In recent debates, some seek to uphold the virtues of slavery, with "free room and board" and "the ability to learn a trade, like being a blacksmith," while conveniently ignoring the whipping, lack of pay, racism and no freedom, and contrast that with the truths that Laurens sacrificed his fortune and life for. "He believed liberty and freedom, helped by slavery, did not deserve to be called either," writes the National Museum of the United States Army.

John A. Tures is a professor of political science at LaGrange College in LaGrange, Georgia. His views are his own. He can be reached at jtures@lagrange.edu or on "X" at @johntures2. His first book Branded, *a thriller novel where corporate greed, media manipulation and academic intrigue collide in a deadly game of product placement, has been published by the Huntsville Independent Press. His second book, an election thriller about a third party candidacy, titled* Independent Thought, *is coming out later this summer.*

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING POLLING PLACE CHANGE ELLERSLIE PRECINCT HARRIS COUNTY, GA

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §21-2-265, you are hereby notified of changes to the Polling Place for voters in the Ellerslie Voting Precinct. The Harris County Board of Elections plans to relocate the **Ellerslie Polling Place from its current location at Cornerstone Baptist Church to the Ellerslie Park Lodge located at 3280 GA HWY 85, Ellerslie, Georgia 31807**. The Board of Elections plans to relocate the Ellerslie polling place for all voters in the Ellerslie Precinct for the next scheduled election on November 3, 2026 and for subsequent elections pending a public hearing at a special called meeting that will be held on **July 28, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. at the Harris County Elections Office, 727 Carver Circle, Hamilton, GA 31811**.

Ellerslie Election Day Precinct Relocation

Old Voting Location	~~Ellerslie Park Lodge~~
Cornerstone Baptist Church **16117 GA HWY 315** **Ellerslie, GA 31807** **New Planned Voting Location**	**3280 GA HWY 85** **Ellerslie, GA 31807**

If approved, the change will be effective immediately. Questions concerning this Election Day voting place change or voter registration status may be directed to the ***Board of Election at 706-628-5210 or by visiting the Board of Elections website, https://www.harriscountyga.gov/board-of-elections-registration-2/***. Voters may also check their status by inquiring online at https://mvp.sos.ga.gov/s/ or by using the free mobile app GA SOS.

This 9th day of July 2026. Harris County Board of Elections
Publish Date: July 9, 2026 & July 16, 2026 PO#55514

Opinions & Ideas

THE HARRIS COUNTY JOURNAL
USPS 235960
a division of
The Georgia Trust for Local News
Cynthia DuBose, Executive Director. Danyale Starley, Deputy Exec. Dir.
DuBose Porter, Publisher Emeritus Pam Burney, General Manager

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On Fitting In, Which Is Something I Usually Don't



Jack Bagley

Musings of An Aging Mind

During an appearance on *The Tonight Show* back in the 1980s, the late comedian George Gobel asked a very poignant question:

"Did you ever feel as if the world was a tuxedo and you were a pair of brown shoes?"

Lonesome George hit the nail on the head. I've felt that way most of my life.

I don't say that as if it were a bad thing, though. Not fitting in has led me to a few interesting jobs and careers, including my current one in journalism.

As far back as I can remember, I didn't fit in. When I was a little kid back in Chicago, I spent a lot of my time inside, reading or writing, while my peers were out playing. I did do my fair share of outside play, don't get me wrong, but I felt much better when I was inside with a good book.

When my family moved from Chicago to LaGrange in 1970, the feeling of not fitting in intensified exponentially.

Arriving at Troup Junior High School as a brand-new seventh grader in September of that year, I was as outcast as I could be. I was short, skinny, wore glasses, had big ears, and I talked funny.

In other words, I had a target on my back for the next year or so, and the "good old boy" kids who'd grown up in the area delighted in picking on the weird kid from up North.

Interestingly, a lot of those kids who'd been torturing me then turned out to be good friends as the years went by.

In fact, when that class of students held their 50-year reunion recently, they made it a point to invite me. I didn't graduate with them; my family moved from LaGrange to Columbus during my ninth grade year, and when they came back a year later, I didn't. I lived with relatives in Columbus to finish my high school a year early. (I was very involved in the Junior ROTC program at my school, and didn't want to leave. Also, a girl named Lisa didn't live in LaGrange, so there was that, too.)

I was honored and very much moved to be invited to the Troup High School Class of 1976 50-year reunion, and I attended with great excitement and anticipation.

Some of the faces I remembered, but they had changed over the intervening half-century. Well, so had mine. At the meet-and-greet Friday evening, I knew a couple of my erstwhile classmates by sight - but only because we'd been friends on Facebook.

The fact that I'd been going by the name "Jack" since 1976 threw them, because - except for the ones who'd stayed in the area and knew my radio work - they remembered me by my real name.

(No, I'm not going to go into that particular topic here. It's not a state secret or anything; I just don't use it unless I have to.)

The meet-and-greet was held at the Wild Leap Brewery in LaGrange, a very popular place for people to visit - but this was my first time in there. It's a pretty neat place, too, especially if one is into imbibing spirits (which I generally don't do).

My best friend from those old days, Elton, showed up and we had a really great reunion. We've kept in touch over the years, so our relative appearances weren't a surprise, but actually seeing my old friend once again was great.

The "formal" dinner Saturday night was wonderful. Many more attendees were there than came to the meet-and-greet, and everybody was wearing a name tag with their senior photo on it. It was a lot of fun seeing how many of us had changed in the intervening years.

The organizers even found my senior photo from my Columbus high school, but they listed me as "Jack" and that confused several classmates who didn't know me as that. A few words or even a silly joke reminded them, and we had some really great reunions at the Reunion.

Still ... I felt a little left out. I didn't go through the high school experience with these wonderful folks, and our memories of each other were based more on the end stage of childhood than the beginnings of adolescence.

They drank and danced, two things I generally don't indulge in. I sipped my Diet Coke and watched, apart from the rest - just like it was half a century ago.

I was, once again, the outsider. It was different, as I'd become something of a "celebrity" to my classmates - I'd gone into radio and television work, writing, and acting, which the rest of my former schoolmates didn't grow up to do. Though it was unintentional and certainly not malicious, I realized again that being well-known, even in a small Georgia town, isn't all it's cracked up to be.

Don't get me wrong. I had a very good time at the Reunion, and it was great to see all those old friends ("old" being the operative word these days).

But I still didn't fit in, and I know now I never will.

THE HARRIS COUNTY JOURNAL is published weekly by The Georgia Trust for Local News at 3051 Roosevelt Highway, P. O. Box 426, Manchester, Georgia 31816. *The Harris County Journal* is published proudly for the citizens of Harris County and its goal is to produce quality, profitable, community oriented newspapers that you, our readers, are proud of. We will reach that goal through hard work, teamwork, loyalty, and a strong dedication toward printing the truth.

USPS 235-960. Periodical postage paid at Hamilton Post Office, Hamilton, Ga. 31811.

FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS call (706) 846-3188 or write to Circulation Manager, *The Harris County Journal*, P. O. Box 426, Manchester, Georgia 31816. Annual subscription rates: $55 per year for online and print; $45 per year for print only; $25 per year for online only. Prices include all sales taxes. Single print copy price is $1.00.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to P. O. Box 426, Manchester, Georgia 31816.

Newspapers Must Be Community Minded



John Kuykendall

Publisher & Editor

In this hurry up, fast paced world we live in people say newspapers are dieing. But a newspaper that keeps its community ties, in my opinion, will continue to survive.

Today we live in a world where access to news is quick and easy. We have social media (which is not always correct but people read it), and other quick news sources. Television and radio can report news quickly but only give short versions of the news.

Today, newspaper also rely on digital print and websites to break stories. As weekly newspapers, even though we might know about a news story, we will probably not break it first because of the other news sources that I've mentioned.

So, how do newspapers survive? The way they always have.

The other day I was in a local service station and a lady was disappointed because she couldn't find one of our newspapers. She was asking the if there were any newspapers from the week before left, noting her son was in a photograph and she wanted a copy.

I always keep copies in my vehicle for a couple of weeks so I went outside, retrieved the copy of the newspaper she was asking for and returned inside.

When I presented her with the newspaper she was so excited.

"Thank you, thank you," she said. "This is going in my scrapbook, my son's photograph is in this newspaper."

Ironically, it was just a photograph of some construction the city was doing, but her son was doing some of the construction. You could hardly see him, but it was important to her.

That is what separates us from other news sources. Local news coverage and photographs.

In small community newspapers, there are always local photographs of people in the community, there is always local news that is important to the community and more importantly, most often the staff members of community newspapers reside in the community. Being a part of the community matters because as a resident the things that are important to everyone else in the community are just as important to you as an individual.

By telling my age a little, I've been working for community newspapers for 50 years. As a young reporter I learned that newspapers should be a reflection of the community they serve. That does not mean everything can be covered by the newspaper. News happens 24 hours a day and it's impossible to be everywhere and cover everything.

There are several things that tie a community but the most important things include, the governments, schools and churches. That is because our local government sets our policies and spends our tax dollars. Our schools are educating our children and our churches provide valuable services to the community.

Newspapers also provide the areas they serve as a historical record of news and events that occur.

It is often that people visit newspaper offices looking for photographs and news stories that occurred years before and note the only record they can find is in the old newspaper.

Basically, a newspaper is charged with the responsibility of printing accurate, honest and comprehensive news stories. Providing information about events, things that are important to the community and more. Newspapers never take things at face value. Over the years I have learned that with most issues, there are hidden details that need to be discovered and reported.

Newspapers were founded on the basis of keeping government honest. No reflection on our local politicians or governments, but would you take the word of a politician at face value or would you want to see the documentation?

As a reporter, I feel it is our responsibility to write a complete, accurate, comprehensive and unbiased news article. It is also a reporter's responsibility to remember the rights of others and to always remember and adhere to the First Amendment of our Constitution.

So, as long as newspapers continue to write accurate local news, write about the things of interest in the community, cover the government, schools and churches, and be a reflection of the community, they will survive.

While community newspapers may not always break the story first, we can do a more in-depth story with all the facts. We owe that to the communities we serve.

Also, for community newspapers to survive, they need the help of the community. People in the community must let the newspaper know what is going on and what is important to them.

If newspapers do their job and have community support, I believe they will always survive.

The Movie Makes One Think



Andy Kober

Columnist

Steven Spielberg is a master.

Not every movie made by Spielberg has been a blockbuster, but his rate of success has been nothing short of phenomenal.

Spielberg single-handedly took the dirty, dusty, and boring image of an archaeologist and made becoming one adventurous. He made people laugh at the adventures of a little alien being, and then most cry as it appeared the little creature had died.

Spielberg made it appear plausible that DNA found in amber could be used to bring dinosaurs back to life and the danger of doing so if it ever can be done. He also made people scared to swim in ocean water and immortalized a short musical score that remains instantly recognizable over 50 years later.

He has done it again with *Disclosure Day*.

This column does not urge you to spend your hard-earned money to watch the movie, or provide any spoilers about the movie. This columnist is not receiving a kickback from Spielberg, Amblin Entertainment, or anyone connected to the movie but any of them wanting to buy a cup of coffee for this columnist would be welcome.

That said, *Disclosure Day* has already proven incredibly popular as the day this is being written, June 27, it had already reportedly grossed $175 million worldwide. It is a throwback to creative storytelling without the need for gratuitous sex or gratuitous violence. Those looking for blood and gore will have to look elsewhere.

But it does leave one thinking: What if this were true?

"IN THE beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."

Our small Solar System is located in the Milky Way galaxy, about 26,000 light-years from its galactic center. The entire Milky Way galaxy is estimated to be about 100,000 light-years in diameter and about 30,000 light-years thick in the center.

The part of the universe that is known stretches about 93 billion light-years in diameter. How large it might be is unknown and it might stretch into infinity.

That's a lot of incomprehensible numbers but consider just one more.

Just the Milky War galaxy is estimated to have 100 to 400 billion stars and the number of planets simply cannot be estimated using current technology. However, the Milky Way galaxy is just one of many galaxies in the Universe, how many galaxies might exist is also unknown.

It is much easier to believe that somewhere out there in the vastness of space there is intelligent life -- much easier than believing we are alone in that same vastness.

It stands to reason that if there is life out there, then from a technological perspective some of it will be well ahead of us, and some will be behind us. Alien species that have conquered long-distance space travel would likely have some interest in observing developing species – as repeatedly noted in *Star Trek* -- just as we search for signs of present or past life on our neighboring planets and their moons.

This leads us to reported sightings of UFOs by some very reputable people and interesting evidence that is coming to light as official government documents are declassified and released to the public.

HOW many of you believe that if an alien species had been discovered on Earth, the government would reveal everything?

How many of you believe that if an alien species had been discovered on Earth, the government would do everything possible to keep that knowledge classified and away from the public?

The latter question is the theme that *Disclosure Day* is built around.

Your answer indicates how much trust you have in our government.

That's my opinion.

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

Heat Domes, Air Conditioning and the Human Condition



Kyle Dominy

New Southern Dad

The heat, coupled with the oppressive humidity—that is what makes Southern stories great. This sultry, summertime climate slows the pace of life, and it gives you time to think clearly and carefully, making it ideal for storytellers as well.

Or so thought William Faulkner. The famed novelist believed the temperature affected his characters, and the way he penned their stories, so much that he refused to have air conditioning installed in his Mississippi home. Sweating is good for humans and is key to learning how to endure this thing called life.

Ironically, Faulkner wasn't cold in the grave, pun very much intended, before his wife had a window unit brought up from the nearest department store. In fact, she made the purchase just one day after his funeral. He would roll over in the ground if he knew his prized estate, Rowan Oak, is now a perfectly climate-controlled museum and Southern writing research center.

How, pray tell, can you properly study Southern writing without sweating through your shirt? Maybe that's why a good writer is hard to find these days. Keep your thoughts about my talents, or lack thereof, to yourself, please …

It's been so hot lately around the world that Europeans are buying AC units faster than Faulkner's overheated widow. Wearing black is also not good for trying to stay cool.

The danger of overheating is well documented and too many people fall ill, or even die, each year because they fail to heed their body's warning signs. There's something to be said about being able to survive in the summer elements. It's easy to spot the person who is used to sitting at a desk in an air-conditioned room versus someone who works outside for a living. The former typically starts whining as the first bead of sweat forms on their forehead, while the latter is fond of saying things like, "Hot enough for ya?"

I've been on both sides of that conversation, and strangely enough when I worked outside, I longed for comfort that comes with mental work, and when I've been chained to a desk, I yearn for the integrity that couples with earning a dollar with your sweat. Unlike Faulkner, I've never combined the two and tried to write something while sweating my tail off. But neither paper nor computers hold up well in moisture.

The eastern United States is currently nestled underneath a heat dome, an atmospheric phenomenon where high pressure traps warm air, therefore making temperatures feel hotter than they are. At any given moment it can feel like triple digits, or hot enough to bake cookies on the sidewalk or write the next great Southern novel.

If risking heat stroke is what it takes to fully understand being alive, I think I'll stick to what I am now. It's worth noting that Faulkner, aside from a derision of making his wife happy, had a serious drinking problem. It is hard to be hot when you're passed out.

Stay cool out there.

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



"I'll tell you about the birds and the bees if you'll help me with the computer."

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: starmercurynews@gmail.com. Information must be e-mailed. No .pdf files accepted.
Dated events are listed in chronological order; regular ongoing events follow.

Special Church Announcements

Gospel Sing



Victory Temple Worship Center 1515 Ga. Highway 85 Manchester on Saturday July 10th at 5 pm. Singers will be the Trinity Trio. Free admission. Love Offering will be received. Light refreshments after the sing. For more information call Pastor Richard Nash (478)-998-2996.

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.

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

West Point Presbyterian Little Free Food Pantry

The Little Free Food Pantry: Seven locations in West Point. Call 706-443-2260 for details. The church is in constant need of food items for the Little Free Food Pantry. Any canned vegetables or non-persihable items are welcomed.

Harvest Time Church in West Point

Come and Worship with us every second and fourth Sunday morning at 9:00am, and every first and third Sunday at 11:00am for a great Worship Experience! Join us each Wed. Night at 7:30pm for Bible Study via "Zoom." Please email the church at harvesttimeom2@gmail.com for more info or go to our website www.itsharvesttime.org. The church is located 6710 Whitesville Rd./Hwy 219 in West Ga, 31833. Phone 706-400-4158. W. "Bill" Blackmon, Pastor.

Bethesda Baptist Food Bank

Bethesda Baptist Food Bank in Ellerslie is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Our ministry priority is to help those in need in our surrounding communities with food, prayer and encouragement.

Prayer Breakfast

Piney Grove Baptist Church would like to invite all Men to attend our prayer breakfast on the third Saturday of each month at 8:00am. PGBC is located on the corner of River Road and Highway 315. Good food and Christian fellowship, praising Jesus Christ.

Food Pantry Information

The Good Shepard Food Pantry will be open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10am-4pm located at 33 Macon Drive Cataula, Ga. 31804 next door to Cars 2 Go. We are a 501c3 Non-profit Entity supported by donations.

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.

All items received are subject to standard editing for context and grammar.

*Sorry, **no flyers** accepted, **no PUB documents**, and **no .pdf files**.*

Please send copy in regular email body copy or on a Word document.

Please do not submit items more than once. All items will be published until the event occurs.

And please remember - when you don't need an ongoing item run any longer, let us know to remove it from the page.

This newspaper prints church news and events as a public service at no charge, but does reserve the right to edit, change or reject any submission. Thank you.

Bible Thought of the Week

"Blessed is the nation whose God the Lord."
Psalm 33:12

Perspective



Rev. Aaron McCollough
Columnist

I laughed when I read what Andy Andrews said about a man who visited a Wednesday night prayer service at a local church. The man was quite a character, and almost brought the service to an end when he responded to the pastor's question about whether there were any more prayer requests. The gentleman spoke up and said, "I'd like to pray for some smiling faces in this church." He added, "I think more people would want to go to heaven, if they weren't afraid it'd be like church when they got there!" Wow! That hurt, didn't it? But you know what? There's a whole lot more truth in that statement than we care to admit. It reminds me of a question I once heard somebody ask. He asked, "Do you know why some people won't attend this church?" Then he answered his own question, "Because they already have," and the church didn't match their perspective of what a church should look and act like. Again, this is tough, but it happens more than we care to admit. I fear the church has lost its perspective regarding what it is supposed to be.

Speaking of perspective, I heard a story about a man who ran into a city street chasing a hat that had blown off somebody else's head. A car hit him, and he died. Here's the sad truth: He lost everything chasing nothing. Why? Because he had lost perspective of where he was and what he was chasing. The hat could have been replaced. He couldn't!

This past weekend, Marianne and I attended church with our grandson, Jacob. He is the Youth Pastor at New Hope Baptist Church in Nicholson, Georgia. While there, we heard his pastor, Zack Hawkes, preach a fine sermon on John 8:31-37. He camped on verses 31-32, which state, "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." I'm talking about perspective here. Note that Jesus is speaking to His disciples. They already believe in Him. Note what He didn't say. He didn't say, "Oh great boys! You already believe on Me, so you're home free now." NO! He said, "… If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." This is a totally different perspective from the "Name it and Claim it" or "Blab it and Grab it" crowd. So, the correct perspective is to believe in Jesus, continue in His Word, learn the truth, and ***TRUTH*** is what will set us free. Freedom is not derived from being loosed from something; it is derived by continuing in the right something! Perspective!

I want to pose one of those philosophical questions to you. You're taking a walk on the beach. You look up and spot five seagulls sitting on a pier. One of them decides he will fly away. So, here's the question: After one seagull decides to fly away, how many are still on the pier? Are you ready? The answer is five. Just because the seagull decided to fly away doesn't mean he flew away. Perspective!

In today's column, I have discussed our perspective on the church. Which, by the way, I firmly believe we need to revisit and get a new perspective! But that's just me! I discussed a person who lost everything chasing nothing. Bingo! Here we go! I discussed that peace with God doesn't automatically come simply by knowing Him; rather, it comes by continuing in His Word. And finally, I discussed the futility of failing to act on the things we have decided to do.

As I close this column, I leave you with one word: "Perspective." Ponder it. Sometimes ours is the one that needs adjusting.

- 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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The "Lighter Side" of the News

One Billion Visitors

Seventy years after Walt Disney opened the Disneyland park and resort, California's "Happiest Place on Earth" welcomed it's billionth guest last week.

Andres Robles, an 11-year-old boy from Arizona who is visiting Disneyland to celebrate his birthday, and his parents, Alejandra and Jose, were selected as the honorary billionth guests to have visited the West Coast House of Mouse, the Disney Parks Blog reported.

The Disneyland park, located in Anaheim, Calif., opened in 1955 and is credited with launching the American theme park industry, which now includes Disney parks on three continents -- including in Orlando, Fla., Paris and Tokyo.

"The Robles family visit is just one of the many lifelong memories that that's been created here at Disneyland Resort," the blog post said.

"Reaching this milestone just days before the 71st anniversary shows that Walt Disney's dream lives on today: Disneyland continues to be a source of joy and inspiration to all the world," it said.

The Robles family participated in an unveiling of a sign updating the "population of Disneyland as 1,000,000,000," with Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse, Donald Duck and Daisy Duck joining them for the ceremony.

The family also got a VIP guided tour of Disney's first park -- Disney World, in Orlando, would not open for more than a decade and a half -- which included Disney's private apartment and a preview of the newly opened "Soarin' Across America" attraction, the blog post said.

Perseverance Pays Off

A South Carolina man said 40 years of buying lottery tickets finally paid off when he scored a $20,000 Mega Millions prize on his "lucky day."

The Grand Strand resident told South Carolina Education Lottery officials he is a regular lottery player, bit he doesn't normally play Mega Millions.

"I've been playing the lottery for 40 plus years," the man said. "The excitement was definitely there when I won."

The player said he decided to take a shot at Mega Millions on a whim during a visit to the Publix grocery store on Oakheart Road in Myrtle Beach.

The quick pick ticket delivered a big prize in the June 5 drawing that the winner initially thought was $400, but soon realized it was actually $20,000.

"It was my lucky day," the winner said.

Wonder Where These Came From

An organization dedicated to protecting wild horses in North Carolina said several apples found on a beach had apparently fallen from a cargo ship.

The Corolla Wild Horse Fund said officials received a call Tuesday reporting the local beach in Corolla was littered with loose apples.

"Our employee started heading towards the area where the apples were reported and quickly realized someone didn't dump them out there on purpose -- they seemed to be washing up out of the ocean! They must have come off a ship out at sea," the organization said on social media.

The incident recalled another event from a few years ago, when Doritos chips washed up on the beach.

Employees and volunteers collected several bags of apples. A pair of men who regularly clear garbage from the beach later found many more apples, as well as some oranges.

The group explained why the apples weren't simply left as treats for the wild horses.

"Anything that's not part of their natural diet can cause choke and/or colic, which can be fatal," the post said. "In 2020 we lost a yearling colt to choke after he was fed an apple. In 2021, stallion Junior nearly died after choking on an apple. You should never feed an animal that isn't yours, whether it's domestic or wild."

He's Baaaaack ...

An approximately 2,200-pound elephant seal is in the midst of his annual visit to Tasmania, leaving property damage and public disturbances in his wake.

The 5-year-old animal, dubbed Neil the seal by locals, has been visiting southern Tasmania towns every year since he was born, residents said.

Neil has become a celebrity both locally and on social media, but local officials said he isn't exactly well-behaved.

"At the moment we don't have a complete understanding of the damage Neil has caused to public infrastructure but he has obviously knocked over a number of poles and bollards," Clarence Mayor Brendan Blomeley told Pulse Tasmania.

Jane Younger, a seal expert at the University of Tasmania, said locals have reported Neil is equally destructive toward private property.

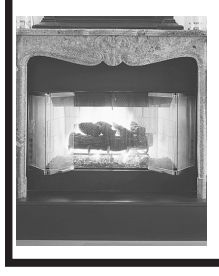
"He's broken fences, he's harassing people's cars -- that's just a function of his size," Younger told Guardian Australia.

Neil stopped traffic Saturday at an intersection in the Seven Mile Beach area, forcing police and Department of Natural Resources and Environment personnel to attend the scene and encourage him back toward the beach.

Officials are encouraging the public to give Neil a wide berth.

"I understand that until he completes his molting process, he'll continue to scratch up against things to help shed his old fur," Blomeley said. "Until then, I encourage everyone to please give Neil the space he needs and not to attempt to visit him. While he is of great interest, he is also potentially dangerous and does pose a risk to the community."

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FEATURES & CLASSIFIEDS



Photo from Public Domain

ICONIC IMAGE - Blood-splattered face and fist held high became the image of Donald Trump during the last Presidential Election. Shown being covered by Secret Service personnel, an assassins bullet narrowly missed killing him this week in 2024.

This Week in History

2024: Assassination Attempt on Former Pres. Trump

By ANDY KOBER

Here is what happened this week in American History.

• **July 9**. On this day in 1776, during the Revolutionary War the Sons of Liberty topple the statue of King George III located in Bowling Green, New York City. Appropriately the statue will be melted down and used to make bullets to be shot at the British. Much blood had already been shed on both sides and it was about to get much worse. The Sons of Liberty was a confederation of those supporting the ideals of freedom. The organization will remain active through the Revolutionary War and until about 1783.

• **July 10**. In 1951, armistice negotiations begin in the North Korea city of Kaesong to bring the Korean War to an end. It will not happen. While South Korea, UN and US diplomatic staff are willing to end the war along the 38th Parallel, the Chinese and North Koreans are not. Even as peace negotiations are being held, North Korean Army and Chinese Peoples Volunteer Army units are actively attacking South Korean, UN and US forces.

• **July 11**. Today in 1921, William Howard Taft is sworn is as 10th Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court. Taft had previously served as President of the United States. To date, he is the only person to have served both as President and as a Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

• **July 12**. On this day in 1942, Jerry Williams, Jr. is born in Portsmouth, Virginia. Coming from musically talented parents and family, Williams is just 12 years old when he records "Hardsick Troublesome Downout Blues", or "HTD Blues", with his parents and uncle serving as background musicians. Performing as Little Jerry Williams, in 1966 his "Baby You're My Everything" reaches #32 on the R&B chart. His career remains steady and he focuses on writing songs performed by others. Williams adopts the name Swamp Dog in 1970. Today he is 83 and remains active.

• **July 13**. In 2024, former President Donald Trump is campaigning for re-election near Butler, Pennsylvania, and speaking when gunshots ring out. Trump narrowly misses being killed as a bullet strikes the top of his right ear. The assassination attempt ends with the shooter, identified as 20-year old Thomas Crooks, being shot and killed by the US Secret Service. The image of Trump's blood-splattered ear and face with fist held in the air becomes a compelling image.

• **July 14**. Today in 1769, America is not yet an independent country and California is not a state when an expedition led by Spanish Army officer Gaspar de Portola leaves it base in San Diego and founds the Port of Monterey, now known as Monterey.

• **July 15**. On this day in 1954, the Boeing 367-80 makes its maiden flight. Later referred to as the "Dash 80" Boeing used the aircraft to display the feasibility of civilian jet airliners when American civilian aviation was still using propeller aircraft. Never intended for commercial use, only one Dash 80 was ever built, however its construction and successful testing led to the development of the Boeing 707 airliner and the C-135 military transport. The Dash 80 is currently on display in the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, a part of the National Air and Space Museum, located in Chantilly, Virginia.

Meteor Shower Begins Next Week

By ANDY KOBER





One of the best summer meteor showers is set to begin next Friday night.

The Perseids Meteor Shower begins July 17 typically ending on or about Aug. 24.

One of the more popular meteor showers, the Perseids will peak during the overnight hours of Aug. 12-13 with about 30-50 meteors per hour. Best viewing time is shortly before dawn of Aug. 13.

The meteor shower is known to produce meteors with long, bright trails mixed with some fireballs. The shower comes from the comet Swift-Tuttle which has a 133-year orbit around our Sun.

A new moon takes place during peak activity and 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.

Mixed in the Perseids could be a few meteors from the ongoing Alpha Capricornids Meteor Shower that started July 3 and ends on or about Aug. 15.

The next meteor shower will be the Southern Taurids that begin Sept. 20.

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 June 24, a fireball was reported by 17 people across Florida.

The fireball was first reported at 9:50 pm by a skywatcher in Clearwater who reported, "At first, I thought it was a shooting star, but it didn't fade away. It stayed bright and fell south of me beyond the horizon." It was seen as far north as Jacksonville, as far east as Coral Springs, as far south as Marco Island, and as far west as Largo.

None of those spotting the fireball reported hearing noise associated with or seeing it fragment. The fireball appeared to travel from south-southwest to north-northeast.

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 a classic Christmas television special have its ending changed after its first airing?



By JACK BAGLEY
didyouknowcolumn@gmail.com

Now that I have your attention, may I let you know that the second book from these columns is now available?

Now ... You Know! is the follow-up volume to my first trivia book, released in 2022. It's avilable from Amazon.com and I hope you'll go on line and check it out.

I'd be honored if you would add my silly book to your collection. It was a lot of fun to compile, and I think you'll enjoy it.

Let's get on to this week's trivia!

Did you know ...

... the tongue of a blue whale weighs as much as an elephant? The tongue of the largest mammal on Earth can weigh up to 8,000 pounds - and so can the largest elephant. (Put that in your trunk and smoke it.)

... the second-oldest restaurant in the world is in Spain? Restaurante Sobrino de Botín opened in Madrid in 1725. It was founded by a Frenchman, Jean Botín (1680-1740), in a building which was constructed in 1590. The name of the restaurant means "Botín's Nephew," so called after a nephew of Botín took over the business in 1740. Legend says that the fire in the restaurant's oven has never been extinguished. *Additional trivia note:* While the *Guinness Book of World Records* lists Sobrino de Botín as the world's oldest restaurant, other sources say that title is held by the Historische Wurstküche of Regensburg, Germany, which has been selling sausages without interruption since 1135. (To be in business that long, the food *has* to be good!)

... the inventor of the Frisbee™ was turned into one after his death? Ed Headrick (1924-2002) invented the toy flying disc, which he called the Frisbee, for the Wham-O company in 1948 at the start of the flying saucer craze. Following his death, Headrick's ashes were incorporated into a limited number of Frisbees, at his request. Most of the discs were given to family and friends, with a few put up for sale to benefit the "Steady Ed" Memorial Disc Golf Museum. (So many good lines here ...)

... an opera house straddles the U.S.-Canada border? The Haskell Free Library and Opera House, built in 1904, is located in Derby Line, Vermont – at least, part of it is. The stage portion is located in Stanstead, Quebec, Canada, while most of the audience sits in Vermont. There's no entrance or exit on the Canadian side except for one emergency exit, and Canadian patrons are allowed to enter the building on the U.S. side without going through Customs provided they go back to Canada immediately after the program in the theatre is over. The border is marked by a thick black line under the seats in the audience and into a nearby reading room. (Wonder if the operas are performed in French?)

... a classic Christmas television special had its ending changed after its first airing? In 1964, the now-iconic *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* premiered on NBC. The story, about the reindeer and the Misfit Toys, became one of the best-loved parts of the holiday season, but in its first airing it ended on a rather dismal note – the end credits rolled over the delivery of packages (with the show's credits on them) from the sleigh, but the Misfit Toys were just left behind, despite Rudolph's promise to tell Santa about them. Hundreds of viewers (mostly children) wrote the network in protest, and before the special was shown again in 1965, the production company Rankin-Bass filmed and added a scene where Santa visits the Island of Misfit Toys and rescues them. *Additional trivia note:* The revised ending meant the credits had to be redone, and in the process the voice actor for Rudolph, Billie Richards (1921-2010), had her name misspelled. She was credited as "Billy" in the revised credits, which to this day have not been fixed. (She didn't get top billie-ing, either.)

... several classic horror movies have their basis in a real-life crime? Movies like *Psycho* in 1960, *The Texas Chain Saw Massacre* in 1974, and *The Silence of the Lambs* in 1991 are based in part on the real-life crimes of a man named Ed Gein (1906-1984). Gein was a serial killer and body snatcher known as the Butcher of Plainfield, Wisconsin. Ironically, the movie made about him, *Monster: The Ed Gein Story*, was a flop, while the fictional horror movies made millions. (Sometimes fiction is stranger than truth.)

... a despised dictator was also a decorated war veteran? Adolf Hitler (1889-1945) served in the German Army during World War I. He received the Iron Cross Second Class in 1914 and in 1918 received the country's then-second-highest military decoration, the Iron Cross First Class. Additionally, he received the Black Wound Badge in 1918. As was the custom in Germany at the time, Hitler continued to wear his Iron Cross and Wound Badge on his civilian clothing and, later, on his Nazi uniforms.

... Carnegie Hall was built out of a sense of guilt? The famous performing venue in New York was constructed by steel magnate Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919) because he felt responsible for the 1889 Johnstown Flood in Pennsylvania. Carnegie had been one of a select group of industrialists to purchase Lake Conemaugh on the South Fork River and convert it into a fishing and hunting club. The lake had been formed by an earthen dam on the river, which had been built between 1838 and 1853. The dam gave way after heavy rains on May 31, 1889, and the resulting flooding killed more than 2,200 people. Guilt caused Carnegie to build the musical hall in New York as a tribute.

... your nostrils register smells differently? In most people, the right nostril catches odors and aromas which are more pleasant. However, accurate smells are made more by the left nostril. (That's why it's important to blow your nose.)

Now ... you know!

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MISCELLANEOUS

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Journal PUBLIC NOTICES

Harris County's Legal Organ - Published on Thursdays

HOW TO PLACE A LEGAL NOTICE
EMAIL: starmercurylegals@gmail.com
For information reguarding legal notices you may call 478-987-1823 or use the email address above.

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Noon on Friday prior to run date.
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COSTS FOR LEGAL NOTICES
$15 per 100 words times weeks published.
A typing fee will be charged for legals not on a Word document or in regular email body copy. Cost depends on words in legal notice.

Debtors & Creditors Notice

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)

26-209

Notice to Debtors and Creditors

All creditors of the estate of Kenneth Leroy Carter Jr. late of Harris County, deceased, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.

This 18th day of June, 2026

Name: Bradford C Dodds of Goggans, Stutzman, Hudson, Wilson & Mize, LLP
Attorney for Kay B. Carter
1 Bradley Park Court, Suite B,
Columbus, GA 31904

(6:25, 7:2, 9, 16)

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)

Foreclosures

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)

26-221

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)

26-217

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 Rick Saga to Newsouth Financial Services, Inc., dated April 10, 2000, and recorded in Deed Book 0455, Page 0354, Harris County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of Seventy-Three Thousand and 0/100 dollars ($73,000.00), 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 Land Lot 73, 20th Land District of Harris County, Georgia, and being known and designated as LOTS 17 AND 18 MOUNTAIN HILLS SUBDIVISION, as shown on a map or plat of said Subdivision recorded in plat book 10, page 11, in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Harris County, Georgia, to which reference is hereby made for a more complete and accurate description of said property.

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: Truist Bank they can be contacted at (800) 443-1032 for Loss Mitigation Dept, or by writing to 1001 Semmes Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23224, 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 The Saga Family Trust, Pamela L Saga, Trustee or tenant(s); and **said property is more commonly known as 101 Indian Mtn Trl, 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.

Truist Bank as Attorney in Fact for
Rick Saga.
Brock & Scott, PLLC
4360 Chamblee Dunwoody Road
Suite 310
Atlanta, GA 30341
404-789-2661
B&S file no.: 26-15870

(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)

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)

General Legals

26-212

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES

Pursuant to OCGA Subsection 40-11-2, Castleberry's Collision & Towing

through its Agents, states that the following vehicles are abandoned and will be sold at auction on

Thursday, July 16, 2026, at 10:00am,
113 Cherokee Street,
Pine Mountain, GA, 31822.

Vehicle Year: 2011 Honda Accord
Vehicle ID#: 1HGCP2F41BA142855
Vehicle License #: SJE8075 State: GA

Magistrate Court Case No: AV26-18
(7:2, 9)

26-215
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: 2021 GMC SERRIA 1500
3GTP9EED6MG127379
TAG: KALISHI STATE: CA
Vehicle: 2019 NISSAN ALTIMA
1N4BL4DWXKN309914
TAG: CYK9945 STATE: CA
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
(7:2, 9)

26-213
ABONDONED MOTOR VEHICLE PETITION ADVERTISEMENT
You are hereby notified, in accordance with O.C.G.A. Section 40-11-19.1, that petitions were filed in the Magistrate Court of Harris County to foreclose liens against the vehicles listed below for all amounts owed. If the lien is foreclosed, the court shall order the sale of the vehicle to satisfy the debt. The present location of the vehicles is 113 Cherokee Street, Pine Mountain, Georgia.
Anyone with an ownership interest in a vehicle listed herein may file an answer to the petition on or before:
Forms may also be obtained online at www.georgiamagistratecouncil.com.
Vehicle Year: 2013 KIA Optima EX
Vehicle ID#: 5XXGN4A72DG119854
Vehicle License #: SCI7215 State: GA
Magistrate Court Case No: AV26-23
(7:2, 9)

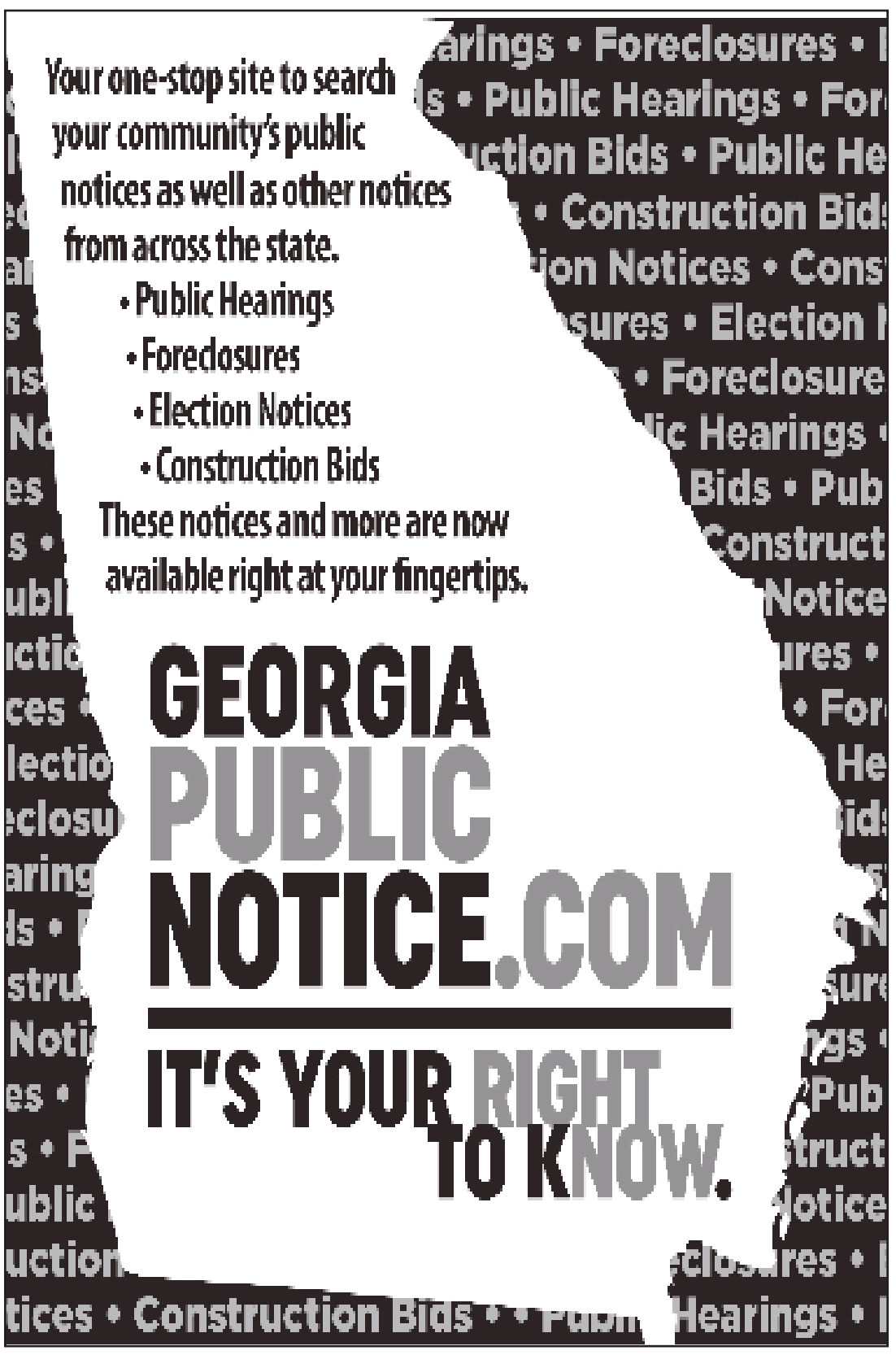
26-223
ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE
You are hereby notified, in accordance with OCGA 40-11-19 (a) (2), that each of the below-referenced vehicles are subject to a lien and a petition may be filed in court to foreclose a lien for all amounts owed. If the lien is foreclosed, a court shall 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 NISSAN SENTRA
3N1AB7AP8DL731645
TAG: PDKX61 STATE: GA
Vehicle: 2001 FORD SPORT TRAC
1FMZU67E11UC04196
TAG: NA STATE: GA
Vehicle: 2008 CHEVROLET COLORADO
1GCCS299288200959
TAG: SER0994 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
(7:9, 16)

26-205
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
for the
Middle District of Georgia
LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC, Plaintiff(s)
v.
CHRISTIAN GAMBOA; and UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, Defendant(s)
Civil Action No. 4:25-cv-00209
SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION
To: (Defendant s name and address)
CHRISTIAN GAMBOA
312 Central Church Road
Midland, GA 31820
A lawsuit has been filed against you.
Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff s attorney, whose name and address are:
Marinosci Law Group, P.C.
Attn: MLG File No 25-03299
16415 Addison Road, Suite 725
Addison, TX 75001
If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.
Date: 7/1/2025
CLERK OF COURT
/s/ Timothy L. Frost, Deputy Clerk
(6:18, 25, 7:2, 9)

26-220
LEGAL NOTICE
Liberty Utilities (Peach State Natural Gas) Corp. (Liberty Utilities) filed its Petition for
Approval of the 2026-2027 Gas Supply Plan with the Georgia Public Service Commission (the Commission) on July 6, 2026, under O.C.G.A. 46-2-26.5. All filings in this matter shall be made at the Office of the Executive Secretary, Georgia Public Service Commission, 244 Washington Street, SW, Atlanta, GA 30334.
This matter has been assigned Docket No. 57062 and is scheduled for public hearing in the Commission s Hearing Room, 244 Washington Street, SW, Atlanta, GA 30334-5701 (Room 110) at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at which time anyone interested in this matter will be given an opportunity to be heard.
Under O.C.G.A. 46-2-59 and Commission Utility Rule 515-2-1-.06, persons wishing to intervene must file an application to intervene within thirty (30) days of the first publication of this notice. Any intervenor applicant s pre-filed testimony shall be filed with the Commission's Executive Secretary Office in conformity with Commission Rule 515-2-1.04(3) using the Alternative E-filing (available at https://psc.ga.gov/alternative-efile) in Microsoft Word for text documents or Excel for spreadsheets with formulas live and intact. Eight physical copies of the filing including any Trade Secret data should be filed by 4:00 p.m. on August 28, 2026. In addition, each applicant shall submit a copy of its application to intervene and other filings to Liberty Utilities, all other parties, and persons who have applied to intervene, and submit a Certificate of Service to the Commission. A list of parties and other intervenor applicants that must be served can be obtained from Sallie Tanner, Georgia Public Service Commission, 244 Washington Street, SW, Atlanta, GA 30334 (stanner@psc.ga.gov).
Additional information concerning participation in this docket is contained within the Procedural and Scheduling Order issued in this Docket on April 21, 2026, available on the Commission s website.
If you have a disability and request assistance or accommodation to participate, or need further information, please contact the Executive Director's Office, Georgia Public Service Commission at 404-656-4501 or 1-800-282-5813 (inside Georgia only).
This notice is published at the direction of the Georgia Public Service Commission.
Lindsey S. Williamson
Attorney for Liberty Utilities
(7:9)

Trade Name

26-211
TRADE NAME REGISTRATION
State of Georgia
Harris County
To whom it may concern:
Please be advised that Red Clay Co. Holdings, LLC is doing business in the following trade name, to-wit: Red Clay Strength Co. and the nature of said business is health and fitness.
This statement is made in conformity with O.C.G.A. ~ 10-1-490 ed seq. requiring the filing of such statement with the Clerk of Superior Court of this county.
This 24th day of June, 2026.
/s/Jason O'Kelley
(7:2, 9)





Make Mexican Corn Family Style

How about a quick word game with your kids? Start with "corn." There's corn on the cob, corn mazes, cornflakes, corndogs, and corny jokes. Keep going. You might even hear someone exclaim, "Can of corn!" This refers to an easy catch at the baseball field.

This summer, I've been thinking about "Mexican street corn" (elotes) — a lightly grilled and slightly charred corn on the cob that is typically slathered with mayo, rolled in crumbles of tasty cotija (pronounced ko-TEE-hah) cheese and chopped cilantro, then drizzled with fresh lime juice. A dusting of chili powder raises the heat, if you dare! The mix of flavors is dynamic and will be memorable at your next barbecue.

Many street corn recipes call for mixing the add-ons before spreading them onto the corn, but I prefer a buffet-style toppings bar to let each guest customize their corn with their favorite textures and flavors.

Rather than cooking the husked corn on the outdoor grill, which takes time, skill and space, I opt for boiling it in a big pot on my stove, while the main course cooks on the grill. Just before we eat, I set the boiled corn on the empty hot grill until it's lightly charred on all sides.

MEXICAN CORN
FAMILY STYLE

Serves 6
— 1/4 cup mayonnaise
— 3/4 cup cotija cheese, crumbled (substitute with crumbled feta or Parmesan)
— 1/4 cup cilantro, chopped
— 1 jalapeno chili, seeded and finely chopped (optional)
— Chili powder (optional)
— 2 limes, cut in wedges
— 6 ears of fresh sweet corn, shucked

Set up the toppings bar next to a stack of dinner plates. Place mayonnaise, cheese, cilantro and chopped chili in bowls. Arrange in a row on a serving table with a shaker of chili powder and a plate of cut limes at the end. Set a brush by the mayo.

Boil or steam corn until tender. Remove corn from cooking pot, pat dry, and set on hot grill. Rotate with tongs for a few minutes.

Arrange on a large platter and set alongside toppings. Invite family and guests to take a dinner plate and begin by brushing the corn with mayonnaise. Press cheese and cilantro into the mayo. Add chilies or sprinkle with chili powder if desired, then drizzle all over with squeezed lime juice. Serve hot.



Serving tip for those who prefer eating corn that is removed from the cob: Secure the end of an ear of corn in the hole of an angel food cake pan. Slice down with a sharp knife to remove the kernels; they will fall directly in the pan.

***

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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Celebrity Extra
by Dana Jackson

Q. Is it true that Zendaya and Tom Holland are married? There have been rumors about it, but was it ever confirmed? — *A.O.*

A. Fashion stylist and TV personality Law Roach let it slip back in March that engaged A-listers Zendaya and Tom Holland (both of the most recent "Spider-Man" franchise) secretly wed. Neither of the stars confirmed the nuptials until June, when the very private Holland pretty much admitted to a reporter that it was true. But he stayed mum on the details, simply stating that his relationship with Zendaya is "the happiest [he's] ever been."

The newlyweds are starring in the upcoming Christopher-Nolan-directed epic film "The Odyssey," which will be released in theaters on July 17. They'll also return in "Spider-Man: Brand New Day," which releases in theaters on July 31.

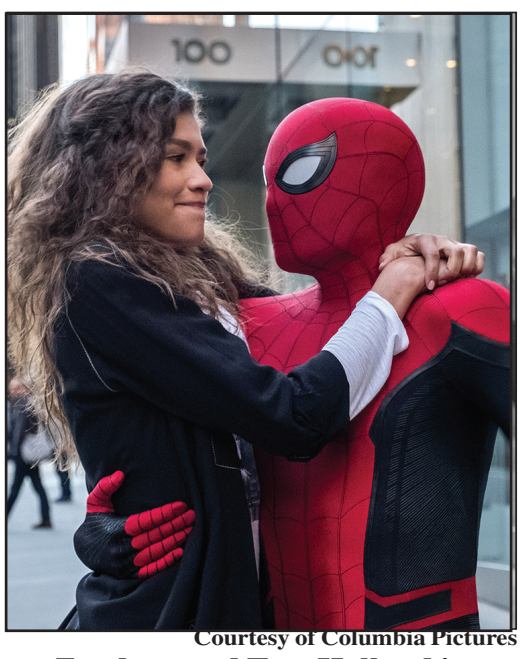
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Q. What ever happened to the show "S.W.A.T." with one of my favorite actors, Shemar Moore? I think I've seen all the episodes, but I'm not certain. — *S.A.*

A. "S.W.A.T" was canceled for the third and final time after eight seasons on CBS. I say the third time because it was given its first pink slip after season six but returned after viewers demanded it. Unfortunately, no amount of rallying by fans or by star Shemar Moore on social media could save it after season eight in 2025, when the series ceased production.

Now "S.W.A.T." is returning yet again but in the form of a spin-off. "S.W.A.T. Exiles" will air exclusively on the Starz pay cable channel beginning on Sept. 25 — at least at first. According to People magazine, there have been discussions about a "second window under Netflix," but these details haven't been solidified yet.

You'll be pleased to know that Moore will be reprising his role of Daniel "Hondo" Harrelson Jr. in "an experimental S.W.A.T. unit made up of untested, unpredictable young recruits," according to an article in TVLine. Ronen Rubinstein ("9-1-1: Lone Star"), Freddy Miyares ("When They See Us"), Lucy Barrett ("Charmed"), Zyra Gorecki ("La Brea"), and Adain Bradley ("All American") will round out the cast.



Courtesy of Columbia Pictures
Zendaya and Tom Holland in "Spider-Man: Far From Home"

***

Q. I was surprised to see Lauren Koslow playing Jill Abbott on "The Young and the Restless." Is she leaving "Days of Our Lives"? — *V.V.*

A. When Jess Walton, longtime portrayer of Jill Abbott on "Y&R," couldn't travel from Oregon to film scenes as Jill on the set in Los Angeles, "Y&R's" head writer Josh Griffith (who used to write for "Days") called on Lauren Koslow. The two soaps coordinated her schedule, allowing Koslow to film her short arc of just five episodes as Jill with short notice.

If you're a longtime "Y&R" fan, you'll remember that Koslow played Lindsey from 1984-1986 when she blackmailed Jill! Jill was played by Brenda Dickson in those days, but it was also during that time that Koslow met the man who'd become her future husband, "Y&R" makeup artist Nicky Schillace.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com.

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Families Can Apply for 2026-2027 Free & Reduced School Meals Online

Submitted to the *Journal*

The Harris County School District (HCSD) is now accepting applications for free and reduced-price school meals for the 2026–2027 school year. The application is available online at www.EZMealApp.com, providing a convenient and paperless option for families.

"As a district, we are committed to ensuring that every child has the nutrition they need to succeed in the classroom," said Shelia Baker, HCSD assistant superintendent of support services. "Submitting a free or reduced-price meal application could significantly ease the financial burden on families and help avoid accumulating meal charges."

Meal Prices for the 2026–2027 School Year

- Student Breakfast (All Schools): $1.50
- Student Lunch:
  - Elementary Schools: $3.00
  - Intermediate, Middle, and High Schools: $3.25
- Reduced-Price Students:
  - Breakfast: $0.30
  - Lunch: $0.40

Students who qualify for reduced-price meals will temporarily receive meals at no cost, in accordance with federal and state guidance.

Jessie Hudson, HCSD director of school nutrition, emphasized the importance of applying early. "The application process is fast, secure, and confidential. We encourage all families to apply—even if they're unsure about eligibility. The sooner we receive the application, the sooner we can ensure students have uninterrupted access to healthy meals."

Ways to Apply

- Online: visit www.EZMealApp.com and follow the easy step-by-step process.
- Downloadable Forms: Available at www.harris.k12.ga.us under "Departments > Nutrition."
- Paper Copies:
  - Pick up at your child's school
  - Visit the HCSD School Nutrition Office at 140 Barnes Mill Road, Hamilton, GA 31811
  - Available at Sneak-A-Peek events

Forms approved during the 2025–2026 school year will expire on Thursday, September 17, 2026. Families should submit applications as soon as possible. Paper forms should be returned to the child's homeroom teacher or cafeteria manager.

Meal Charge Policy

To help prevent unexpected charges, HCSD allows students to charge up to $25 per year for reimbursable meals. If that amount is exceeded, students will receive an alternative meal—a ham or turkey and cheese sandwich with fruit and milk—that meets USDA nutrition standards.

"We understand that emergencies happen, but our goal is to prevent students from reaching the charge limit by encouraging families to monitor balances and apply early," said Hudson. "We also offer tools for managing accounts that make it easy to stay current."

Families can track meal balances, set up auto-pay, and receive low-balance alerts through the EZPay portal at secure.EZMealApp.com.

Additional Food Options

Students may purchase a variety of additional snacks and beverages:

- Additional Entrée: $2.50
- Bottled Water: $1.25
- Milk: $0.50
- Fresh Fruit/Juice (4 oz): $0.50
- Miscellaneous Snacks: $0.50–$1.00
- High School Only: Carbonated Beverages and Powerade Zero: $1.50 each

Please Note About School Menus

School menus are thoughtfully planned at the district level and must meet both federal and state nutrition guidelines. However, due to possible delivery challenges from food suppliers, menu items may occasionally change at the school level—even after monthly menus have been published or sent home. The School Nutrition Department works closely with school administrators to communicate any changes as quickly as possible. Substitutions are typically very similar to the original item—for example, tater tots may be served in place of French fries, as both are potato-based sides.

"We understand that menu changes may be disappointing to some students, and we appreciate the patience and flexibility of our families," said Jessie Hudson, Director of School Nutrition. "Our top priority remains serving nutritious and appealing meals to all students each day."

For questions or assistance with school nutrition, contact Jessie Hudson at (706) 628-4172 or hudson-j@harris.k12.ga.us.

The Harris County School District is in Hamilton, Ga. For more information, visit www.harris.k12.ga.us or call (706) 628-4206.

About the Harris County School District

Georgia's Harris County School District (HCSD) is an accredited K-12 school system based in the county seat of Hamilton, Ga. It serves 5,500+ students with four elementary schools, one intermediate school, one middle school, one high school, and one performance learning center. With a vision of "one community committed to the well-being and preparation of every student for life-long success in a global society," the HCSD strives to ensure an excellent education for every student in Harris County. For more information, visit www.harris.k12.ga.us or follow us on Facebook or Twitter (@HCSDga).

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD 3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online :https://www.usda.gov/sites/Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-

1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

2. fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

3 . email:program.intake@usda.gov This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Autos For Sale
Wide Variety To Choose From

20 Chevy Silverado, Double Cab, 4x4, Silver, **$19,800**
17 Nissan Titan, 4x4, Crew Cab, Blue, **$12,900**
14 Chevy Express Van 2500, White, **$7,900**
19 Chevy Equinox, White, **$7,900**
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**
18 Dodge Journey, Red, **$7,400**
16 Honda CRV, Maroon, **$9,800**
21 Honda Accord, Black, **$12,900**
20 Toyota Camry, Blue, **$12,900**
18 Chevy Equinox, Black, **$7,900**
19 Chevy Colorado, Ext. Cab, White, **$10,800**
15 Jeep Renegade, Black, **$6,400**
15 Ford F-150, Crew Cab, 4x4, Blue, **$14,400**
17 Ford Explorer, Blue, **$7,900**
18 Jeep Renegade, Gray, **$7,900**

Truck & Jeep Auto Sales
2.7 miles South of Butler on Hwy. 19
862-3362
www.Truckand Jeep.com



FDR State Park Offers Fun Programs

By ANDY KOBER

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

- **Saturday, July 11**, 9:30 pm and 11 am. Star Light, Star Bright. Join staff from the Coca Cola Space Science Center for a night sky talk and sky viewing. Bring your own telescope or use one that will be set up. Bring a chair or blanket for sitting, Held on the ballfield across from Liberty Bell Pool along State Route 354, just east of Pine Mountain. No fee to participate in the program. Parking fee does apply.
- **Saturday, July 18**, 7:30 am. Sunrise Yoga on the Mountain with instructor Monique French. Bring a yoga mat and meet at the stone amphitheater at the park office. Held weather permitting. Fee of $15. Restrooms open at 8 am.
- **Saturday, July 18**, 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 18**, 10 am. Impressions of Nature. Learn printmaking through botanical prints using a variety of plants found in the park. Take a lasting impression of the ephemeral beauty of nature home. 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.



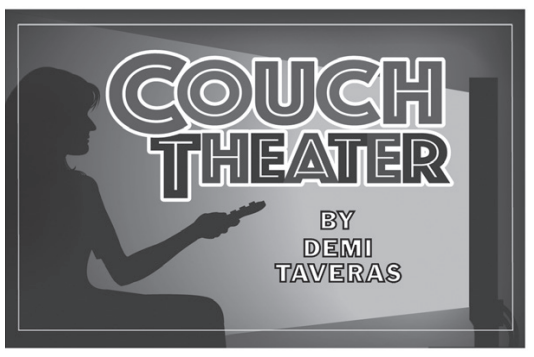
Photo Submitted

SIP 'N PAINT EVENT - A group of people gathered at Sleight of Hand in Manchester on June 25 for a Sip 'n Paint event. The group gathered to create art and they turned out paintings of daisies. Diane Spencer put the event together, and Nath Cochran, owner of Sleight of Hand, provided the venue. To join the next Sip 'n Paint, contact Spencer at (505) 231-2543.

Harris County School District Board of Education Meeting Schedule 2026-2027

Note: The meeting will begin at 5:00 p.m., at which time the Board will enter Executive Session. The meeting will reconvene at 6:30 p.m.

Month	Meeting	Date	Time	Opening	Location	School Visits 12:00 p.m.	Special Sessions
July 2026	***Combined** Committee Meeting & Board Meeting	Thursday, July 9, 2026	6:30 p.m.	N/A	Harris County Board of Education - Board Room 132 Barnes Mill Road, Hamilton, Georgia 31811	N/A	Board Planning Session Thursday, July 9, 2026 12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m.
August 2026	Committee Meeting	Thursday, August 13, 2026	6:30 p.m.	N/A	Harris County Board of Education - Board Room 132 Barnes Mill Road, Hamilton, Georgia 31811	N/A	
	Board Meeting	Thursday, August 20, 2026	6:30 p.m.				
September 2026	Committee Meeting	Thursday, September 10, 2026	6:30 p.m.	N/A	Harris County Board of Education - Board Room 132 Barnes Mill Road, Hamilton, Georgia 31811	N/A	
	Board Meeting	Thursday, September 17, 2026	6:30 p.m.	Creekside		HCHS	
October 2026	Committee Meeting	Thursday, October 8, 2026	6:30 p.m.	N/A	Harris County Board of Education - Board Room 132 Barnes Mill Road, Hamilton, Georgia 31811	N/A	Board Planning Session Tuesday, October 20, 2026 4:00 p.m.
	Board Meeting	Thursday, October 15, 2026	6:30 p.m.	NMH		Park Elementary	
November 2026	Committee Meeting	Thursday, November 12, 2026	6:30 p.m.	N/A	Harris County Board of Education - Board Room 132 Barnes Mill Road, Hamilton, Georgia 31811	N/A	
	Board Meeting	Thursday, November 19, 2026	6:30 p.m.	HCCMS		Creekside	
December 2026	***Combined** Committee Meeting & Board Meeting	Thursday, December 10, 2026	6:30 p.m.	Park	Harris County Board of Education - Board Room 132 Barnes Mill Road, Hamilton, Georgia 31811	MCE	
January 2027	Committee Meeting	Thursday, January 14, 2027	6:30 p.m.	N/A	Harris County Board of Education - Board Room 132 Barnes Mill Road, Hamilton, Georgia 31811	N/A	
	Board Meeting	Thursday, January 21, 2027	6:30 p.m.	PRE		NMH	
February 2027	Committee Meeting	Thursday, February 11, 2027	6:30 p.m.	N/A	Harris County Board of Education - Board Room 132 Barnes Mill Road, Hamilton, Georgia 31811	N/A	Board Planning Session Tuesday, February 23, 2027 4:00 p.m.
	Board Meeting	Thursday, February 18, 2027	6:30 p.m.	HCHS		PRE	
March 2027	Committee Meeting	Thursday, March 11, 2027	6:30 p.m.	N/A	Harris County Board of Education - Board Room 132 Barnes Mill Road, Hamilton, Georgia 31811	N/A	
	Board Meeting	Thursday, March 18, 2027	6:30 p.m.	Art		HCCMS	
April 2027	Committee Meeting	Thursday, April 15, 2027	6:30 p.m.	N/A	Harris County Board of Education - Board Room 132 Barnes Mill Road, Hamilton, Georgia 31811	N/A	Budget Meetings Tuesday, April 20 @ 5:30 Tuesday, April 27 @ 5:30
	Board Meeting	Thursday, April 22, 2027	6:30 p.m.	MCE		EOC / STC	
May 2027	Committee Meeting	Thursday, May 13, 2027	6:30 p.m.	N/A	Harris County High School - Auditorium 8281 Highway 116, Hamilton, Georgia 31811	N/A	
	Board Meeting	Thursday, May 20, 2027	6:30 p.m.			Transportation & Central Office @ 3:00 p.m.	Public Budget Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.
June 2027	Committee Meeting	Thursday, June 10, 2027	6:30 p.m.	N/A	Harris County Board of Education - Board Room 132 Barnes Mill Road, Hamilton, Georgia 31811	N/A	Public Budget Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.
	Board Meeting	Thursday, June 17, 2027	6:30 p.m.			N/A	



"Obsession" (R) — No doubt you've heard the buzz all over the internet about this supernatural horror film! Shot with a budget of $750,000, this film became Focus Features' highest-grossing film of all time with grosses of $371 million. "Obsession" follows music store employee Bear (Michael Johnston), who has a crush on one of his co-workers, Nikki (Inde Navarrette). (Sounds normal enough so far.) Before hanging out with Nikki and a few other co-workers, Bear decides to buy her a novelty toy that grants one wish per person when broken. Later that evening, Bear breaks the toy himself in frustration and wishes that Nikki would "love him more than anyone in the world." Shortly after, their relationship finally turns romantic, but what follows isn't for the faint of heart. Out now to rent. (Apple TV)

"Backrooms" (R) — Eating at the heels of the previous entry is this psychological sci-fi film starring Chiwetel Ejiofor ("The Old Guard 2") and Renate Reinsve ("Sentimental Value"). This film was produced with a budget of $10 million and has grossed $330 million, making it A24's highest-grossing film to date. Add on top of it that it was directed by 21-year-old Kane Parsons in his feature-length directorial debut, and it's nothing short of a filmmaking phenomenon. (Parsons also co-scored the film alongside Edo Van Breemen.) Taking place in June 1990, the film follows Clark (Ejiofor), the owner of a furniture store, who struggles with alcohol and marriage issues. While in his store, he encounters a glowing slit in one of the walls, where he's able to enter a chilling reality called "The Backrooms." Eventually, Clark fully disappears into The Backrooms, leaving none other than his therapist, Mary (Reinsve), to attempt to get him out. Available to rent on July 7. (Amazon Prime Video)

"The Five-Star Weekend" (TV-MA) — Jennifer Garner ("The Last Thing He Told Me") leads this heartwarming drama miniseries that drops on July 9, and it's based on the 2023 novel from Elin Hilderbrand. Garner portrays food influencer Hollis Shaw, whose world gets unexpectedly turned upside down when she receives news that her husband died in an accident. Ever productive and stuck in her domestic ways, Hollis decides to host a girls' weekend at her house with four friends from different chapters throughout her life. As Hollis tries to process her grief, each of her friends grapples with obstacles of their own. Regina Hall ("One Battle After Another"), Chloe Sevigny ("After the Hunt"), D'Arcy Carden ("Sunny Nights"), and Gemma Chan ("Josephine") co-star. (Peacock)

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Courtesy of MovieStillsDB

Chiwetel Ejiofor stars in "Backrooms."



Photo By George Batastini

FOOTBALL CAR WASH FUNDRAISER PLANNED - Plan ahead to join HCHS Football Coach Tommy Watson and the Tiger Football Team for their annual Car Wash on July 18th from 10:00am – 2:00pm at the following locations: Church In The County, First Peoples Bank, BP in Ellerslie, Fox's Pizza and The Store on 219. (Photo from last year's car wash 2025).

Not Too Early to Winterize Your Home

Submitted to the *Journal*



It's not uncommon to spend a lot of time out of the house when the weather outside is warm. The popularity of outdoor living spaces has made it easier than ever to enjoy nature without leaving home, which can generally be done from late spring to mid-fall each year in many regions. But as fall creeps toward winter and temperatures drop, it's time to head back indoors.

As millions prepare to go back inside with winter approaching, it can be beneficial to winterize a home so interior spaces are more comfortable and exterior spaces are better able to withstand potentially harsh winter weather.

· Check your carbon monoxide detectors. Fall is a great season to open the windows in many regions that feature prototypical autumn air. But the crisp air of fall will eventually give way to much colder air, at which time the windows will be closed and likely remain shut for months to come. The Minnesota Department of Health notes that carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas that cannot be detected by the senses. When windows remain closed for long periods of time, such as in winter, the buildup of CO, which can come from sources like water heaters, gas stoves, fireplaces, and clothes dryers, can poison residents over time. CO detectors are a safety net against such a fate, but they must be operating at peak capacity in order to be effective. As fall winds down, check all CO detectors to make sure they're working properly and replace any that are not.

· Check for drafts. Check around windows and doors throughout the home to see if there are any gaps that are allowing air from outside to enter the home. If daytime temperatures are mild well into the fall, then it can be difficult to see if there are any drafts before the sun goes down. Conduct this check in the evenings when temperatures are a little more chilly and leaks are easier to detect. If drafts are detected, apply weather stripping around doors and windows that do not require replacement. If there's drafts around aging windows and doors, consider replacing them.

· Call a chimney sweeping service. Cozying up beside a fire can make anyone forget the cold weather outside. But fireplaces should be subjected to a thorough cleaning by a skilled professional before each winter. Animals might have nested in the chimney since the fireplace was last used, and you will want any nests cleared prior to lighting your first fire of the season. In addition, the tar-like substance creosote, which forms when wood is burned in a fireplace, can build up and harden over time. That's a dangerous prospect, as creosote is highly flammable, which can lead to chimney fires. Creosote also can block the flow of air through a chimney, and that can trap gasses, including CO, in a home.

· Reverse your fans. It's a simple step but one people may not even realize they can make. In homes with ceiling fans, residents can reverse the fans so the blades spin clockwise. This simple step pushes trapped warm air hovering around the ceiling into the living space below. This can make home interiors warmer without requiring residents to turn up the thermostat and increase their energy bill.

· Replace your HVAC air filter. Replacing the air filter on your HVAC prior to winter can make the unit operate more efficiently, which can help reduce your wintertime energy bill. Replacing the filter prior to winter also improves indoor air quality, which is a notable benefit during a time of year when the windows typically remain closed for months.

Winterizing a home is not a significant undertaking, but it can be very effective at making homes healthier and more comfortable once windows are closed for the season.



Don't Pour This Secret Ingredient Down the Drain

Summer grilling has a funny way of convincing sensible people to overspend. Fancy marinades, premium cuts of meat and specialty sauces leap into the shopping cart. One of my favorite summer dinners starts with a can of pineapple.

Restaurant teriyaki tastes complicated, but it isn't. Once you know the formula, you're just a few pantry ingredients away from a sweet, savory glaze made right at home.

The secret ingredient in this recipe isn't hiding in an expensive specialty aisle. It's the juice you were going to pour down the drain after opening the can. Around here, pineapple juice isn't waste. It's tomorrow's teriyaki. My kitchen has a "Don't pour flavor down the drain" policy.

Buy whatever protein is on sale.

I made mine with pork chops because they were marked down and that's the kind of gal I am. Once cubed and marinated, economical cuts become wonderfully tender, so you can skip the pricier pork tenderloin. If chicken is the better bargain, boneless breasts or thighs work just as well.

SWEET & SAVORY PINEAPPLE TERIYAKI PORK SKEWERS

Yield: 6 servings
Total Time: 8 hrs., 35 mins.

1 recipe Pineapple Teriyaki Marinade (recipe follows)
1 (20-ounce) can pineapple chunks in juice, drained (reserve the juice for the marinade)
2 to 3 small zucchini, cut into 1 1/2-inch slices
1/2 pound fresh mushrooms, quartered
1 large sweet red pepper, cut into 1 1/2-inch pieces
1 small red onion, cut into 1 1/2-inch pieces
12 (10-inch) skewers (soak bamboo skewers for 30 minutes before using)
Cooked rice, for serving



www.JasonCoblentz.com

Tender pork, sweet pineapple and colorful vegetables are brushed with a homemade teriyaki glaze.

Prepare the Pineapple Teriyaki Marinade as directed below, reserving 3/4 cup before adding the remainder to the pork.

Place the pork in a zip-top bag or shallow dish and pour the remaining marinade over it. Refrigerate for at least 8 hours or overnight.

When ready to cook, thread the marinated pork onto skewers, alternating with pineapple chunks, zucchini, mushrooms, bell pepper and onion.

Meanwhile, prepare the reserved marinade as a basting sauce according to the directions below.

Grill over medium-high heat for 12 to 15 minutes, or oven broil on LOW, turning occasionally, until the pork reaches an internal temperature of 145 F. Brush the skewers several times with the warm basting sauce during the last few minutes of cooking.

PINEAPPLE TERIYAKI MARINADE

Yield: 1 1/2 cups
Total Time: 15 mins.

1/2 cup pineapple juice (reserved from one 20-ounce can of pineapple chunks)
1/2 cup low-sodium soy sauce
1/4 cup brown sugar
2 tablespoons rice vinegar
1 tablespoon sesame oil (or other neutral oil)
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 tablespoon grated fresh ginger
1/4 teaspoon black pepper
Pinch red pepper flakes (optional)

In a small saucepan over medium heat, whisk together all of the ingredients until the sugar dissolves. Remove from heat and reserve 3/4 cup of the mixture for the basting sauce.

Pour the remaining marinade over the pork and refrigerate for 8 to 24 hours.

To Make the Basting Sauce

Combine the reserved 3/4 cup marinade with:

1/2 cup water
1 tablespoon cornstarch

Stir together the water and cornstarch. Bring marinade to a gentle simmer over medium heat, add the cornstarch mixture, whisking constantly, until the sauce thickens and becomes glossy. Use to baste the skewers during the final minutes of grilling and serve any remaining sauce at the table.

***

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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Americanisms



"I've never had a humble opinion. If you've got an opinion, why be humble about it?"
— *Joan Baez*

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JOURNAL SPORTS

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Photo Submitted

MEDAL WINNERS - Tinsley Rigsby (left) and Rylan Culpepper each earned impressive third-place finishes in their respective divisions.

Shotgun Athletes Bring Home National Honors

By LINDSEY CULPEPPER

Two talented local shotgun athletes brought home national honors after competing at the USA Shooting National Junior Olympics held June 28–30 in Hillsdale, Michigan.

Representing the Columbus/Harris County area on one of the nation's biggest stages for Olympic-style shotgun competition, Tinsley Rigsby and Rylan Culpepper each earned impressive third-place finishes in their respective divisions.

Tinsley Rigsby captured the bronze medal in the Ladies Collegiate International Skeet division, showcasing poise and consistency against some of the top collegiate shooters from across the United States.

Rylan Culpepper also claimed a bronze medal, finishing third in the U15 Men's International Skeet division. Culpepper has established himself as one of the nation's top young competitors.

The USA Shooting National Junior Olympics is one of the premier junior shooting events in the country, bringing together elite athletes from across the United States who are pursuing opportunities to compete at the highest levels of the sport, including future international competitions and the Olympic Games.

The accomplishments of both Rigsby and Culpepper reflect not only countless hours of dedication and training but also highlight the growing strength of shotgun sports in our area. Their success on the national stage is a proud moment for their families, coaches, and the local shooting community.

Congratulations to Tinsley Rigsby and Rylan Culpepper on representing our area with excellence and bringing home national podium finishes.



Photo By George Batastini

WRESTLING CAMP - Wrestlers in the Columbus, Harris County & LaGrange area - Register and join us for the HC Alumni Folkstyle Wrestling Camp Harris County Science & Technology Center July 10-11. Three sessions for $60, led by HC grads - competing at the collegiate level. Learn how to be gritty on the mat with high level scoring in the neutral, top, and bottom positions. Elevate you competition! Email garrettowood12@gmail.com to sign up. Waivers will need to be signed at the door.

GHSA Releases 2026-2027 Start Dates

By GEORGE BATASTINI

Anticipation is building as the summer progresses for sports activity in the county. The GHSA (Georgia High School Association released the 2026-2027 official dates for all sports on June 1, 2026. These dates have been followed by the appropriate coach for each sport. The start date for the first practice is July 27thfor the following sports: Football, Cheerleading, Softball, Volleyball, Cross Country and Riflery. Each of these sports listed have been participating during the summer in Weight training, conditioning and attending various camps to improve their skills.

Currently the schedules for Softball, Volleyball and Football have been made available for the 2026-2027 seasons, and the following are the dates for the first games of the season with photos from last season to remind us all of whats to come for the Harris County Tigers:

Softball – August 4th against Taylor County at Tiger Field at home.

Volleyball – August 20th against Upson-Lee at Upson-Lee

Football – August 21st against Manchester High School at Manchester



Harris County Sports Update

By GEORGE BATASTINI

The following updates and announcements are for the week of for July 2 – July 9, 2026

Football

Plan ahead for the Tigers Football Car Wash on July 18th from 10:00am – 2:00pm at the following locations:Church In The County, First Peoples Bank, BP in Ellerslie, Fox's Pizza and The Store on 219

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



