



# TRI-COUNTY CONNECTOR

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## GTLN announces Cynthia DuBose as executive director

By JOSHUA WILSON  
Georgia Trust For Local News

Journalist and media executive Cynthia DuBose has been tapped as the new head of the Georgia Trust for Local News, which, as the Peach State's largest independent newspaper company, operates 20 publications throughout Middle and South Georgia.

DuBose, a former Atlanta Journal-Constitution newsroom lead and McClatchy Media Co. administrator,

will lead the group's continued digital transformation, according to officials at the nonprofit National Trust for Local News, which owns the Georgia Trust. As executive director, DuBose will be responsible for, among other duties, audience and revenue growth and editorial innovation.

She starts her new role on June 1 at a "pivotal moment" for the Georgia Trust, said Tom Wiley, CEO of the National Trust, in a news

release. The group, which runs some of the state's oldest newspapers as well as the Knight Foundation-backed startup The Macon Melody, has been investing in the future of its properties, the release notes. Those endeavors include equipping newsrooms with digital infrastructure and helping them launch newsletters, podcasts and social video to grow and sustain local audiences.

Wiley said in the release

that those efforts are "vital" and that DuBose's "talents in building new digital products that drive audience growth, her hands-on leadership and mentorship experience, and her focus on executing bold ideas to strengthen local news pair well with our leadership team's energy, direction and style."

"We're thrilled to have Cynthia ... drive our next stage of growth," Wiley said.

DuBose, a native of Long

Island, was first attracted to journalism as a student at Spelman College in Atlanta. There, a professor urged her to write for the campus newspaper. She later became its editor.

"I fell in love with the opportunity to be able to tell stories and meet people and learn something different every day," DuBose said in the National Trust's press



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Cynthia DuBose

## MoCo residents express concerns over potential data center at meeting

By LOGAN REYNOLDS  
Staff Reporter

Several Montgomery County residents, including one county commissioner, expressed concerns during the Board of Commissioner's May meetings over the potential construction of a data center in the area.

Discussions regarding data centers began on May 7 during the Montgomery County Board of Commissioner's work session with comments from Commissioner Amie Vassey.

"It is my humble and personal opinion that this is a bad thing," said Vassey. "We shouldn't want it. I don't want it, and we should do whatever we can to get ahead of it."

According to Vassey, she had been contacted by constituents regarding rumors of a data center being constructed in the county. She then reached out to the Montgomery County Tax Assessor, who informed Vassey someone had approached the office in January about leasing land for a data center.

During the work session, Vassey shared some of the research she had done on data centers to illustrate her concerns. She listed several adverse effects data centers have on the surrounding environment she had read, which include the centers taking up 200 to 1,000 acres of land, using a "tremendous amount" of local water to an extent that nearby wells run dry, damaging nearby HVAC units, causing long-term health effects to nearby residents due to noise and leading to the displacement of nearby homes.

"We need to protect our farmland, obviously," said Vassey. "That's the number one thing. We need to protect for food security, for the future of our nation and for land viability for our grandchildren, and their grandchildren, and so on and so forth."

Board Chair Ginger Morris also shared her own concerns on a potential data center, particularly focused on the issue of local water reserves.

"We're all on the same aquifer, so the water's being sucked up by all the people around us," said Morris. "I'd like to see our government maybe redistribute

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## MCES hosts senior walk

Montgomery County Senior graduates walked the halls of the Montgomery County schools and courthouse on May 15. The seniors were joined by the Kindergarten graduates inside the Montgomery County Elementary School/

LOGAN REYNOLDS



## Montgomery County BOC keeps local burn ban

Periodical — Mail Label

By LOGAN REYNOLDS  
Staff Reporter

The Montgomery County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to keep the local ban on outdoor burning during their regular monthly meeting on May 11 in Mount Vernon.

The board originally implemented their local burn ban on April 21 in response to increased drought conditions in the area, levying \$1,000 in fines and jail time against violators. The Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) implemented an emergency burn ban affecting 91 counties, including Montgomery County, on April 22, yet reduced the area to 17 counties on May 5, excluding Montgomery County.

However, despite recent rainfall, Montgomery County's EMS Director Travis Willis still believes the area is too dry to lift the ban.

"Forestry lifted their burn

[ban] last Tuesday evening, and Wednesday morning before lunch it started in someone's backyard right over here," said Willis. "So, it's definitely not enough rain to be stopped, in my opinion."

Willis said since the GFC had lifted its ban on the area, the Commission could authorize certain burn permits for agriculture and timber.

"Forestry will give the permits," said Willis. "I'd like to let them permit what they want to do, which right now is only agriculture and timber."

Commissioner Amie Vassey offered a motion to maintain the burn ban, which passed unanimously.

"I think we should follow the guidance that our EMA director provided to us," said Vassey.

Other local communities have also signaled a willingness to maintain their burn bans, such as Wheeler County, Treut-

len County and the respective cities within. The Treutlen County Board of Commissioners even implemented a new ordinance applying new penalties to present and future burn bans for enforcement.

Should any of these communities decide to lift their burn bans before their expiration dates, many must wait until their next board of commissioners or city council meeting to do so.

In other action items, the board considered several bids for a new utility tractor. Commissioner Leland Adams recommended the county purchase a 2026 Kubota MG 141 DTC F1 with a bat wing mower and a two year warranty, and the board voted to purchase the model unanimously.

The board also voted to renew their contract with the

BURN BAN  
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## Wheeler Co. Library Happy Helpings Feeding Program

SPECIAL TO THE TRI-COUNTY CONNECTOR

Beginning Monday, May 25, and continuing every Monday throughout June and July from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., the Wheeler County Library will serve as a food distribution site for families with children 18 and under in partnership with the Black Lotus Project and DECAL's Happy Helpings Summer Food Program.

This program does not replace other summer feeding sites, and families are welcome to use this resource along with any other resources available in our community.

To help ensure we remain a pick-up location, we need a strong turnout. We all know food insecurity impacts many children and families in our area, but we also know that groceries are expensive and many families could benefit from a little extra help during the summer months. Every family situation looks different, and this program is here to help support our community.



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**GTLN**

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release. After graduating from Spelman with her bachelor's degree, DuBose attended Columbia University, where she earned a master's degree in journalism. She then worked for Long Island's Newsday before returning to Atlanta in 2006 to work as a reporter at the state's largest newspaper. Over the next nine years, she served in several audience engagement and digital growth roles, helping to modernize the publication and grow its revenue. DuBose then spent almost seven years in management roles at McClatchy, which operates 29 newspapers across 14 states. Rising to the role of executive vice president of member-

ship, she built the organization's audience growth, product development and content monetization teams. In 2022, DuBose completed the executive program in news leadership and innovation program at the City University of New York's Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism. She later became the program's lead coach, a position she will continue to hold as she also works to strengthen the Georgia Trust. DuBose said she is eager to build deep relationships with the communities the Georgia Trust serves and to bring her experience developing digital products and growing audiences to her new role. She said she will "work tirelessly to ensure" residents have "access to credible, community-

centered news and information." "Throughout my career, in every position I've held, I have always valued bringing coverage to local communities," DuBose said. "I see tremendous opportunity for the Georgia Trust moving forward." DuBose replaces DuBose Porter, who served as executive director from the 2023 founding of the Georgia Trust through this January. The long-time newspaper publisher, attorney and former state representative now focuses on fundraising, partnerships and acquisitions as publisher emeritus. Danyale Starley, who served as interim executive director of the Georgia Trust, will return to her role as the organization's controller.

**DATA CENTER**

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money if you're going to be sucking from my well." While Vassey did not propose any immediate action during the work session, she did suggest the board consider implementing land ordinances to prevent the construction of data centers in Montgomery County. Commissioner Leland Adams suggested the issue may be more applicable to a zoning board, and the county could consider establishing one to solve the issue. The board also asked Development

Authority Director Michael Stanley, who was in attendance to disclose the upcoming Amazon distribution center, for his opinion and expertise on the matter. Stanley said companies constructing data centers often have the monetary advantage to outmaneuver local communities. "Private companies with billions of dollars move a lot more quickly than what we can do, you know, local communities," said Stanley. During the board's regular meeting on May 11, multiple residents spoke during public comments to express their concerns regarding the data centers.

The board made no official action regarding the issue, but the commissioners did agree to research the issue for future discussions. Stanley also said he would research the issue and attend the Board's June meetings to discuss data centers. "We haven't really had an opportunity to discuss it heavily or even research it enough, because this is a very new situation that we've just been made aware of," said Vassey during the main meeting. "So, we are gonna be doing some more research on that and having more conversations about it."

**BURN BAN**

Continued from page 1

Community Service Board of Middle Georgia, following another motion from Adams. He also offered a motion to accept provided drawings for renovations to the Montgomery County Recreation Department, which passed unanimously. With the drawings approved, the county can now move on to final designs and blueprints for the project. The board also reviewed the April

2026 cash bases financial report, delivered by County Manager Scott. According to the report, the county earned 49.1 percent of its projected revenue, while the county's total expenditures totalled 33 percent of its budget of \$6,048,403.89. In individual expenditures, general government costs have totalled 27.1 percent of its budget of \$1,427,297.14; judicial costs have totalled 37.8 percent of its budget of \$592,769.75; public safety costs have totalled 29.4 percent of its budget of \$2,004,320.55; pub-

lic works costs have totalled 34.2 percent of its budget of \$1,233,455.53; health and welfare costs have totalled 33.3 percent of its budget of \$53,250; culture and recreation costs have totalled 53.4 percent of its budget of \$123,815.36; housing and development costs have totalled 21.3 percent of its budget of \$82,815; debt service costs have totalled 62.3 percent of its budget of \$10,700 and other financing use costs have totalled 50.5 percent of its budget of \$519,990.56.

**OBITUARIES**



**Claudia Gail Morgan Phillips**

Mrs. Claudia Gail Morgan Phillips, 76, beloved wife of the late Van Royce Phillips of East Dublin, Georgia, passed away on Monday evening, May 11, 2026 at The Addington Place of Dublin. A native and lifelong resident of Laurens County, she was one of six children born to the late Willie Edwin Morgan and Annie Claude Brown Morgan. She was a graduate of Laurens County School and worked for the Veterans Administration in Dublin for over 30 years until retiring as a medical director. After retiring from the Veterans Administration she worked with her husband in the family business, Irish Moving and Storage, where she served as co-owner and office administrator. Mrs. Phillips enjoyed being outdoors working in their yard, cleaning house and trips to Pigeon Forge and the Smoky Mountains. She was a member of the Wilkes Church of the Naza-

rene. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband of 52 years, Van Royce Phillips, who passed away in December of 2024 and a sibling, Larry Morgan and his wife, Brenda all of East Dublin, Ga. Mrs. Phillips leaves behind, her son, Keith Phillips (Annette), East Dublin, Ga.; siblings, Pat Andrews, Dublin, Ga., Eddie Morgan (Beverly), Dublin, Ga. Janice Warnock (Donald), East Dublin, Ga., Teresa Soles (Ala.), East Dublin Ga.; grandchildren, Joanna Mosely, Pooler, Ga., Katie Phillips, East Dublin, Ga., Payton Phillips, Dublin, Ga., great-grandchildren, Mason Lively, Paisley Webb (due in August), Nolan Mosely, Madux Mosely and many nieces and nephews. Funeral services were conducted at 11 a.m. on Friday, May 15, from the graveside in Wilkes Church of the Nazarene Cemetery with Pastor Al Soles officiating. Her family received friends, on Friday, at the gravesite from 10 a.m. until the hour of service. She was laid to rest beside her husband. Please share a memory, leave a condolence message and sign the online guest register at [www.sammons-funeralhome.com](http://www.sammons-funeralhome.com). **Sammons Funeral Home, Family Owned and Operated Since 1917. Call (912) 529-4411 or (478) 455-0671.**



**Janice L. Tapley**

Janice L. Tapley, 90, a lifelong resident of Soper-ton, passed away peacefully during the early evening hours of May 11, 2026, at Treutlen County Health and Rehabilitation Center. Mrs. Tapley was the youngest of three children born to the late Horace and Vivian Morris. She was preceded in death by her brothers, Cpl. Raiford C. Morris and Alfred Eugene Morris. In addition to her parents and brothers, Mrs. Tapley was preceded in death by her former husbands, Howard W. Tapley and John B. Moore. Mr. and Mrs. Tapley shared more than 50 years of marriage before his passing in 2005. Later in life, Mrs. Tapley was reunited with a teenage friend, John B. Moore, to whom she was married from 2012 until his death in 2019. Having reached the age of 90, Mrs. Tapley experienced the loss of many cherished family members and dear friends through the years.

She especially mourned the recent passing of her lifelong friend, Katherine McLendon. Mrs. Tapley was a devoted wife, mother, homemaker, and loyal friend who was known for her warm smile, wonderful sense of humor, and optimistic spirit. She enjoyed cooking, shopping, music, dancing, and especially traveling with friends and family. She was also a faithful and devoted member of Boiling Springs Baptist Church, where she served for many years as both a member and leader within the WMU ministry. She is survived by her daughter, Cheryl (Ronnie) Spikes of Metter; her son, Randy Tapley of Soper-ton; her grandson, John-athon (Kaitlyn) Lawson of Macon; and her precious great-granddaughter, Len-non Lawson. The family received friends at Sammons Funeral Home on Friday, May 15 from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Funeral services followed at 6 p.m. from the graveside in the Boiling Springs Baptist Church cemetery with Pastor Conway Jones officiating. Please share a memory, leave a condolence message, and sign the online guest register at [www.sammons-funeral.com](http://www.sammons-funeral.com). **Sammons Funeral Home, Family Owned and Operated Since 1917. Call (912) 529-4411 or (478) 455-0671.**

**Honoring parents**

By ALBERT WHITE

1.) Children, obey your parents in the Lord; for this is right. 2.) Honor thy father and mother. 3.) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. —Ephesians 6:1-3

How fast the days are passing us by these days, another Mother's Day come and gone. We celebrate our parents every year, and that is a good thing. I feel that there is a push in my mind today to talk about training our children to be respectful to their parents all of the time. I will say first that respect returns respect. I don't have to be a buddy to my kids to have their respect. In fact that approach is not healthy either. We need to be good and loving parents with the ability and willingness to correct our children. Saying that, having the ability to correct our children without being met with an angry response is to first have raised them without the idea that correction is a bad thing. That is a fine line. If I respond with rebellion to correction, they will too. Nobody is right all of the time. If we are wrong then we need to be corrected. Otherwise we go on being wrong and eventually there is a bounty of our labor.

If we as adults and parents, even grandparents, can show grace to others including our children and grandchildren then we will be met with the same. I am reminded that we are teachers of character even when we are not sitting down and class is in session. What we don't say sometimes speaks volumes over the words that we do say with instruction. I have heard my entire life that behavior breeds behavior. I have seen it to be a true statement. I'm careful with my words, but I want us to set our children up for success. I think that means starting with biblical principles. Teach them to and how to honor you. They will appreciate it and you will too. I pray that your day is blessed and your health is restored. That the favor of the Lord would find you in peace and safety.

Albert White is the pastor of Blocker's Chapel Church on Thompson Pond Rd. in Vidalia, Ga.

**PASTOR'S VIEWPOINT**

By CHARLES "BUDDY" WHATLEY

Passover in Jerusalem was like Rose Show weekend in Thomasville or the Cherry Blossom Festival in Macon or the Peach Festival in Fort Valley or the Watermelon Festival in Cordele or the Onion Festival in Vidalia or the Shrimp & Grits Festival in Brunswick or the Wild Chicken Festival in Fitzgerald. It's a beautiful time of the year. Crowds gather, families come home, food appears out of nowhere and vendors set up booths. It was customary to sell animals and exchange money outside the temple, but in Jerusalem, the festival of animals and money had moved into the lobby of the temple.

It was almost time for the Passover Festival, so Jesus went to Jerusalem. There in the Temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and pigeons, and also the moneychangers sitting at their tables. So he made a whip from cords and drove all the animals out of the Temple, both the sheep and the cattle; he overturned the tables of the moneychangers and scattered their coins; and he ordered those who sold the pigeons, "Take them out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that the scripture says, "My devotion to your house, O God, burns in me like a fire."

They had everything but wild chickens in the lobby of the temple. All the animals for the temple sacrifices had to be perfect and inspected by the priest. The vendors set up shop selling animals and the priests set up shop inspecting them. It was the oldest game in the book called, "You scratch my back and I'll scratch your back."

The second game in this system was a shell game with the monetary offerings. The priests only accepted temple currency, but the people used Roman currency in the marketplace. The moneychangers were extremely happy to buy the Roman currency with temple currency, and the priests were extremely happy to exchange the temple currency for the money-changer's Roman currency.

Nobody seemed to notice it created a barrier between the people and their temple. But Jesus noticed and he decided to clean house. He braided a short whip and used it on the vendors and moneychangers while he turned the whole system upside down... literally turned their tables upside down.

We've all had "market moments" or distractions that push God to the side, and maybe it's time to "turn the tables upside down." Maybe it's time to walk past the festivals and go into the sanctuary to spend some quiet time with the God who waits for us there?

Charles "Buddy" Whatley is a retired Methodist pastor serving the Dawson Street Methodist in Thomasville, Ga.

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## DID YOU KNOW...?

## Did a popular music group lose all the money made on their best-selling album?

By JACK BAGLEY  
Georgia Trust For Local News

*Did you know...*

... one country's snow ski resorts only operate in summer? The city of La Paz, Bolivia, has an elevation of almost 12,000 feet above sea level. Nearby ski resorts, which can be found up to 17,000 feet above sea level, can only operate during the months of November to March, which in South America is summertime. The resorts are too cold to operate during winter in South America because of their elevation. (Too cold to ski? Nonsense!)

... the oldest recipient of an Academy Award was 82 when he received it? Actor Christopher Plummer (1929-2021) received the Oscar for Best Supporting Actor for his performance in the 2012 movie *Beginners*. The oldest actress to win an Oscar was Jessica Tandy (1909-1994), who took home the award for *Driving Miss Daisy* in 1989, when she was 80 years old. Additional trivia note: Tandy managed to beat out another Oscar winner for the title of oldest recipient by just a few months. George Burns (1896-1996) was also 80 when he won an Oscar for *The Sunshine Boys* in 1975. Tandy's feat was eclipsed by that of Plummer.

... the longest average lifespan in the world can be found in a small European country? In the nation of Andorra, a tiny enclave between Spain and France, the average lifespan of the people is 83.5 years. (Ah, but what do they do with those years in Andorra? Hmm?)

... a popular musical group lost all the money they made from their greatest album? In 1973, the British rock group Pink Floyd released *Dark Side of the Moon*, one of the most critically acclaimed rock music albums in history. The hit single, "Money," came from the album. Sales rocketed into platinum territory, and the group earned well over \$45,000,000 in sales. Members of the group invested their money in various ways – a floating restaurant, a hotel in which fudge was made, a computer game, a movie (which apparently nobody saw), a skateboard company, a car-for-hire business, and a shoe factory. All of the investment venues failed. The group eventually fled to France as tax exiles from Great Britain and recorded their next major hit album, *The Wall*, in 1979. Additional trivia note: *Dark Side of the Moon* holds the record for the longest time spent on Billboard's Top 200 Albums chart. It spent 950 weeks – over 18 years – on the chart. (Well, the group had to make money somehow.)

... the decoration outside a popular restaurant chain was inspired by a movie? In-and-Out Burger locations feature a display of crossed palm trees outside the restaurant, and those were inspired by the 1963 movie *It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World*. Co-founder Harry Snyder (1913-1976) said he liked the imagery from the film, in which the characters hunted for a buried treasure hidden beneath a pair of crossed palm trees. (Don't go digging for treasure there, though.)

... lobsters have rubber bands around their claws in aquariums for a reason? It appears that in captivity, lobsters become cannibalistic. The bands keep the lobsters from eating each other. (And yes, I know they don't eat through their claws. They're banded so they can't ... oh, the heck with it.)

... a Tinder™ match was once made in Antarctica? In 2014, two lonely scientists stationed in Antarctica put in their profiles on the global dating app, only to find that they were a match – and the man was working at McMurdo Station, while the woman was on a scientific camping expedition about 45 minutes away by helicopter. Yes, they met each other. (And I sincerely hope they lived happily ever after.)

... a newspaper once ran an April Fool's prank that wasn't a prank? On April 1, 2015, the New Zealand Herald newspaper ran a front-page advertisement that offered a free BMW automobile to the first person who brought their old car in and asked for "Tom," a salesman. Everybody who saw the ad thought it was a hoax – except for one person, Tianna Marsh (born 1985) of Auckland. Marsh showed up at the dealership with the ad coupon and her 15-year-old station wagon, asked for Tom, and was presented the keys to a brand-new BMW worth \$37,000. Marsh's old car was auctioned off for charity, and her new car – an April Fool's joke that wasn't a joke – had the license plate, "No Fool." (She certainly wasn't.)

... all websites containing "ahh" are owned by one company? The Coca-Cola Company went to the expense of purchasing all websites that contain "ahh," up to 62 h's. (What a relief!)

*Now... you know!*

## Sweet dreams: Learning in your sleep

The average human spends about a third of their lifetime asleep. That equates to about a quarter of a million hours, or roughly 26 years. If you include time trying to go to sleep, and restless nights, a person will have spent over 30 years of their time on Earth lying in bed, assuming you make it to the ripe old age of 90.

These calculations, and I'm trusting the internet on this because I've never been good with figures, are based on a body getting a healthy eight hours a day. But we all know few people actually get the required amount of rest a human needs to function properly and that is why most people either shuffle around like zombies or, in the case of mass caffeine consumption, are as jittery as a cat in a room full of rocking chairs.

All that being said, and the fact that to be healthy you must sleep aside, that seems like a lot of time wasted. With our waking moments crammed with the obligations and monotonous tasks required by this great society of ours, it seems a shame that most of our free time is spent with our eyes closed.

Don't get me wrong, I love a good sleep and I am usually the first person among my family and friends to call it night, but I always end the day with too many tasks left undone. There are things I want to learn, skills I want to cultivate. I often leave work with lofty expectations for my evening, that I will make time to run a few miles or



By KYLE DOMINY

practice playing guitar and the like.

But that's not often the case, and as any one with a family can attest, time slips away from you and by the time you get to sit down a spell, closing your eyes for a moment seems like a great idea. The next thing you know, tomorrow has come and gone.

There may be hope for me yet though. New research suggests that people can communicate and strengthen skills while sleeping and dreaming, particularly in lucid dreams, a state of sleep where the brain recognizes it is experiencing a dream.

For instance, dreaming about playing the piano or speaking in a foreign language will register as

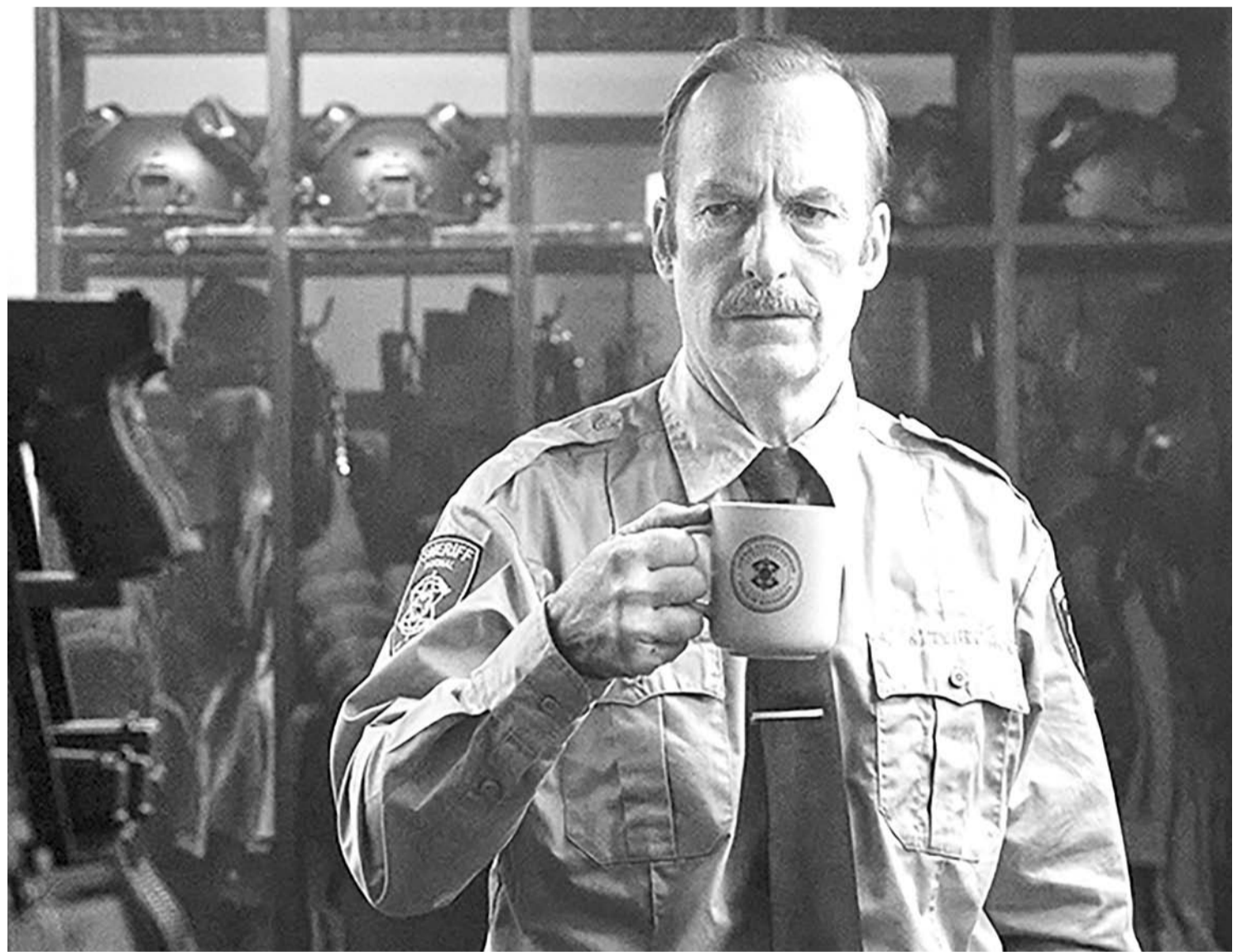
practice for that skill. The dreamer will wake up and the body will retain that experience as if it really happened.

The setback, however, is that my dream self is quite inept. In my dreams (I guess you can call these nightmares) I can never perform the skills that I want to improve. If I need to run, my feet are like anchors. If an instrument is placed in my hands, I can't make it produce anything close to music.

I've never been one to put meaning to a dream, but if a dream can improve your abilities can it also impair them?

I may need to drop some hobbies, but at least I'm getting enough shut eye.

## COUCH THEATER



Bob Odenkirk stars in "Normal"/Photo courtesy of MovieStillsDB

By DEMI TAVERAS  
King Features

## Project Hail Mary (PG-13)

This sci-fi film starring Ryan Gosling ("The Actor") became the second highest-grossing film of the year, pulling in \$656.3 million at the box office. It's now available to rent and buy on demand following its successful theatrical run, which should make a lot of fans happy now that they can watch *Grace and Rocky* in action from the comfort of their homes! Originally a novel written by Andy Weir, the film follows middle school science teacher Ryland Grace (Gosling), who gets the opportunity of a lifetime to go on a one-way space flight for research that could potentially save humanity. The catch is that he wakes up on the interstellar spacecraft without his crew -- and with amnesia. Luckily, he encounters a friendly alien named Rocky, and together the two fight to get the other back to their home planet. (Amazon Prime Video)

## Ladies First (R)

Inspired by the French film "I Am Not an Easy Man," this comedy film premiering May 22 flips the patriarchy on its head by asking, "What if the power dynamics between men and women were reversed?" Sacha Baron Cohen ("Balls Up") stars as a chauvinistic executive who gets bonked on the head after walking into a pole. Upon awakening, he realizes that he's somehow transported himself into a matriarchal alternate reality. A woman who originally was his subordinate (Rosamund Pike) is now his boss; he suddenly lives alone in a smaller apartment with a cat; and he gets told by women to smile as he walks down the street. The only way for him to exit this reality is to change his misogynistic ways. Now, if you'll excuse me, I'll be outside trying to find a pole... (Netflix)

## Normal (R)

This action/comedy film is led by Bob Odenkirk ("Better Call Saul"), who co-wrote the story alongside screenwriter Derek Kolstad. Odenkirk plays Ulysses, an interim sheriff who gets hired to serve the fictional town of Normal, Minnesota. Shortly after Ulysses starts the job, a robbery occurs at the local bank, whereupon he finds out that Normal's law enforcement is corrupt and connected to a Japanese criminal operation. Little did Ulysses know that a small town could hold such dark conspiracies within its buildings, but it's now up to him to invoke the law. Look out for Henry Winkler ("American Horror Stories") and Lena Headey ("Ballistic"), who star as important townsfolk. It's available to rent starting May 19. (Apple TV+)

## In the City (TV-MA)

The spin-off of the Bravo reality series "Summer House" hits streaming this week with its pilot episode premiering on May 20! Naturally, fans will tune in to see some of their favorite cast members, like Kyle Cooke and Lindsay Hubbard, navigate their daily lives in New York City, rather than the Hamptons where they vacation and shoot "Summer House." CEO and founder (of what?) Danielle Oliveira is back again on the Bravo network, this time starring alongside her boyfriend/hotelier Eoin Heavey. Meanwhile, Andrea Denver from season six of "Summer House" also makes his return for the spin-off, with his wife, Lexi Sundin, joining the cast as well. Hopefully this episode holds off Bravo fans until the long-awaited "Summer House" reunion! (Peacock)

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## Trout activity

It is about time for the trout to disappear in North Georgia streams, as the water temperatures will soon become too warm for them to remain active. Their preferred temperature is 50 to 65 degrees.

Temperatures are pleasant this time of the year for the most part, but not if you are a serious fisherman. Trout, which flourish when the temperatures are low, literally run away and hide as June rolls around.

When summer's heat blankets the upper part of the state, trout seek colder, deeper, and shaded higher-elevation waters. In addition to that, the state halts stocking many of the smaller streams after July, which causes fish populations to decline.

Nonetheless, you can still enjoy the mountains of North Georgia if



LORAN SMITH

you cannot catch fish. There is something special about the mountains of our state any time of the year, except for when the ice storms wreak havoc.

Because the trout become inactive in summer, that doesn't mean you can't find fishing opportunities, such as striper fishing, in many of the lakes that abound

throughout the mountains.

As I think about the forthcoming summer heat, which eliminates that wonderful experience of fishing the Chattahoochee in October and November – even the cold days in December and the first quarter of the New Year – I found time this week to sit on my back porch and recall the good times I've had on the Chattahoochee.

*Out of the Hills of Habersham,  
Down the valleys of Hall,  
I hurry amain to reach the plain  
Run the rapid and leap the fall.*

That stanza of Sidney Lanier's poem, "Song of the Chattahoochee," is my constant companion wherever I go. I recite those words driving down the backroads of our state and when I am zoned out on a plane, moving through smooth air to a distant location.

There is so much fuss and so many squabbles in our world to-

day. I humbly recommend that mudslinging politicians succumb to a pow wow on the Chattahoochee. Maybe we ought to coordinate a session of the legislature on one of the campgrounds where the Creeks and Cherokees once congregated.

And whenever a Republican speaks ill of a Democrat and vice versa, we wash their mouths out with soap. If they act like children, then they ought to be constrained to endure that old-fashioned foul-language remedy.

Despite the heat that envelops our state, the mountains are cool and the coastal ocean breezes invite you in. Remembering this makes you pine for the voices of Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald singing "Summertime."

*Summertime, and the livin' is easy,  
Fish are jumpin, and the cotton is high,  
Oh, your daddy's rich and you ma is good-lookin',*

*So hush, little baby, don't you cry.*

George Gershwin composed that tune for the 1935 opera *Porgy and Bess* with lyrics by DuBose Heyward, which describes a peaceful, lazy summer.

Growing up, I remember that on the hottest days—without air conditioning to count on—we could repair to the pecan orchard in our back yard, relax under the shade of the cluster of the trees, and escape the sun's burning rays. Those were laid-back times. And a good book in a peaceful setting always makes the summer's heat more tolerable.

Signing off, I'm here to say, I have already begun to pray for rain. A few well-placed rain showers between now and Labor Day will make living easy in the forthcoming summertime—even if we must wait till fall to catch a few trout.

## Graduations are now representing an investment in the future

We have primary and judicial elections this week in Georgia. As timelines aren't often convenient, the deadline for this column is before the votes are counted, but most will be reading it as or after the votes are counted. This gives us an opportunity to look at what others are doing outside the barrage of negative tv ads, overflowing mailboxes, and increasingly unwanted unsolicited text messages.

In the real world, it's graduation season. Social media feeds are overflowing with pictures of college graduations. High School graduations are now also in full swing. The pictures posted by parents and grandparents depict pride and accomplishment, with smiles all around.

Beneath the smiles of the newly minted grads often lies at least a bit of apprehension. Some have their plans fully thought out, with either college acceptances or job offers in hand. Others may still be figuring things out.

Either way, big changes are happening. They are

marching through an exit door to something new. There are great opportunities ahead.

There are also new found responsibilities. While the transition from adolescence to adulthood is different for each person, a graduation puts them closer toward real world responsibilities where choices have consequences and opportunity costs.

Opportunity costs are not discussed enough during an education path, at least in future terms. The concept is fairly well understood. It's difficult for a student to play football and be in the band. The practice schedules usually overlap. So the opportunity cost of playing football is not being in the school band (and all other extracurricular activities that mandate the football team's practice time).

Students understand money even if not given a formal personal finance course. Too many of us, including adults, fail to account for the value of our time – our opportunity costs. Our time, ultimately,



CHARLIE HARPER  
GEORGIA POLITICS

is our most precious asset. It is impossible to create more of it, and none of us know exactly how much of it we will ultimately have.

College is now an expensive endeavor. The rising amount of student debt outstanding is emblematic of the monetary cost. It's also a good sign of the opportunity cost.

Too often absent in the choices made in education is the concept of return on investment. Students who choose an AP course in High School or those who choose

dual enrollment do at some level. The extra time and expense for these tracks in high school saves tuition spent at the next stage when getting a degree. Those savings are usually a lot greater than any nominal expenses incurred in high school. They're good investments.

They also save the student time. They can complete their next degree sooner, or spend that time earning a double major, perhaps taking fewer classes to reward themselves with extra leisure time. Again, that time saved or spent represents opportunity cost.

Opportunity costs in education can also have a downside. A student who chooses a degree without employment opportunities or, perhaps worse, a student spending years paying tuition without a clear focus or major, could find themselves without job prospects and with tens of thousands in new debt. They then have to figure out how to pay their adult bills and make payments on student loans representing the opportunity costs of a delayed or

suboptimal decision on a major.

Georgia's technical colleges are starting to understand how to make this argument more persuasive. While many will still cite salary statistics which show college grads make more money than non-college grads, most of these studies are using decades old data and don't reflect either the wide disparities between colleges and majors, nor the recent rise in salaries for those with specific skills taught in our technical colleges.

Many of the programs taught in Georgia's technical college system offer tuition assistance or waivers similar to HOPE, offer a quicker path to a degree than many university programs. They also provide graduates to employers facing skilled worker shortages, which is good for employment prospects now and into the future.

University graduates are openly wondering if artificial intelligence will take

their jobs away. Some larger companies are blaming A.I. for eliminating many formerly entry level positions – the ones where college grads often get their first corporate experience and opportunities to start moving up the ladder.

Too many attach a stigma of "blue collar" to jobs from our technical colleges, and project a certainty of "the good life" to university diplomas. The employment and salary data paint a different picture.

The time and resources spent in our education system are valuable. The monetary costs consume roughly half of all state revenues. The time invested by a student from kindergarten to graduation can easily be 20% of a long and well lived life.

Each family – the parents and the students – needs to take a long look at these investments, consider all costs, and ensure choices made provide the best return on investment for the graduates' future.

## What exactly would life be like without the existence of a junk drawer?

I'm not sure how anyone could exist without a junk drawer. No household that calls itself a household is without one. It may be in the kitchen or the living room or the den or perhaps the garage. Maybe even the bedroom. But it is there. And it is essential to life as we know it.

To be a truly authentic junk drawer, it must contain things too valuable to throw away because there will come a time when we will surely need them. For example, a bolt. To be operable, bolts generally need a nut at the other end to secure whatever it is that we may one day choose to repair. Also, a corresponding washer may be required as well.

A junk drawer by design will contain several random-sized nuts and washers, just not any that will fit any of the bolts in the drawer. But who in good conscience can throw away a 3/16" x 3/4" roundhead stove bolt even if it doesn't have a locknut that fits? Or a washer? They are all too valuable to throw away and we may need them one day.

And don't forget screws. Most screws in a junk drawer will be of the slightly used variety. We took them out of something and even though they may be bent and a bit rusted, we assign them to the junk drawer. We may need them one day.

Any junk drawer worthy of its name will also have nails that have been previously extracted and like



DICK YARBROUGH

the aforementioned screws, may be bent and a bit rusted but who is going to throw away otherwise functional 3-inch tenpenny nails? We may need them one day.

If Rome wasn't built in a day, neither was my junk drawer. It has grown over the years with an accumulation of things too valu-

able to throw away because I will surely need them one day. I have all the prerequisite bolts and bent nails and rusty screws and nuts and washers that don't fit anything. I also have a door strike plate – brass – should I ever have to replace one in my home. You never know when that time will come and you have to be ready. The only thing missing are two little screws – brass – to secure the strike plate.

My junk drawer has one rubber chair leg bottom protector of indeterminate size if I find a chair that only needs only one and assuming it fits. But it is there just in case and that is the important thing. There is also a half-opened pack of felt sliders of all sizes to go under my chairs if I don't want to use the rubber chair

leg bottom of indeterminate size. The point being that when it comes to chair leg bottoms, one can never be too prepared.

Probing around in my junk drawer can be a safety hazard. That is due to several random thumbtacks interspersed with the other essentials I may need one day. For some reason, the thumb part always seems to be down and the tack part always up. My fingers hate that.

And no junk drawer is worthy of being called a junk drawer without some string or cord to tie up something. And if you can't tie it up, you will likely need to glue it. And for that eventuality, you need Super Glue. I have several tubes of Super Glue because the stuff tends to dry up and I have to buy

another one that also dries up and then another. I don't even think about throwing them away because I have been told if you soak them in hot water, they will once again be usable, and I may need to glue something one day. Right now, I'm thinking thumbtacks.

I also have in my junk drawer the directions to a flip phone that I owned back in the '90's, a warranty for a Sony Walkman cassette player, two cassettes that can't be identified, three

ballpoint pens that don't write and several pencils that need to be sharpened. If there is a pencil sharpener in the drawer, I haven't been able to locate it. It may be under the flip phone directions.

I maintain that junk drawers are an absolute necessity. Who knows when you might suddenly have to glue a 3/16" x 3/4" roundhead stove bolt to a brass door strike plate with thumbtacks? I don't know about you, but I'm ready.



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Legals

Treutlen Co. Legals

S26-028 NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER GEORGIA, TREUTLEN COUNTY

Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by Kevin Manning to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for AgGeorgia Farm Credit, ACA, its successors and assigns dated January 30, 2017, recorded in Deed Book 153, Page 468, Treutlen County, Georgia Records, as last transferred to AgFirst Farm Credit Bank by assignment recorded in Deed Book 25001, Page 1811, Treutlen County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of SIXTY-EIGHT THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE AND 0/100 DOLLARS (\$68,495.00), 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 Treutlen 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 June, 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.

AgFirst Farm Credit Bank 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: LoanCare, LLC, 3637 Sentara Way, Suite 303, Virginia Beach, VA 23452, 800-909-9525.

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 **2980 Ga Highway 46, Soperton, GA 30457**. 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.

AgFirst Farm Credit Bank as Attorney in Fact for Kevin Manning  
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP  
1544 Old Alabama Rd  
Roswell, GA 30076  
www.foreclosurehotline.net  
EXHIBIT "A"

All that tract or parcel of land, together with all improvements located thereon, situate, lying, and being in the 1221st G.M. District of Treutlen County, Georgia, containing one (1) acre, more or less, and being more particularly shown on that certain plat of survey prepared by Daniel R. Riggs, Registered Surveyor, dated January 12, 1978, and recorded in Plat Book 5, Page 90, in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Treutlen County, Georgia. Said tract fronts on the southeast side of Georgia Highway No. 46 for a distance of 210 feet and extends back southeasterly of equal width for a distance of 210 feet. Said tract is the same as conveyed to Terry Duane Henry from Jack E. Josey, Jr., by warranty deed, recorded on October 4, 2016, in Deed Book 152, pages 287-289, Treutlen County Deed Records.  
MR / KR June 2, 2026  
Our file no. 25-18746GA-FT7  
25-18746GA

May 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

**S26-030 DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAX SALE** Under and by virtue of certain tax Fi. Fa.'s issued by the Tax Commissioner of Treutlen County, Georgia, in favor of the State of Georgia and County of Treutlen County, against the following named persons and the property as described next to their respective name(s). They will be sold for cash or certified funds at public outcry, before the Courthouse door in Soperton, Treutlen County, Georgia, between the legal hours of sale, on the first Tuesday in June 2026, the same being June 2nd, 2026, and continuing on June 3rd, 2026, if necessary, between the legal hours of sale, 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM. The below listed and described properties, or as much thereof as will satisfy the State and County tax execution on the respective individual and property. The property (ies) hereinafter described

have been levied on as the property of the persons whose names immediately precede the property description. Each of the respective parcels of property are located in Treutlen County, State of Georgia. The years for which said Fi. Fa.'s are issued and levied are stated opposite the name of the owner in each case. Each defendant and tenant in possession, if applicable, has been notified of levy time and place of sale. Purchaser shall pay for title, all transfer costs, all taxes, advertising costs and recording fees.

Map & Parcel: 11326MH  
Defendant in Fi-Fa: Braswell, Marnie  
Current Record Holder: Braswell, Marnie  
CRH Address: 4026 Loathair Church Road Soperton, GA 30457  
Amount Due: \$ 777.29  
Tax Years Due: 2025, 2024  
Legal Description: MOBILE HOME: 2000, 16x76, Fleetwood, Weston, located at Tax Map & Parcel 017A004, Treutlen County, Georgia.

Map & Parcel: 11396MH  
Defendant in Fi-Fa: Anderson, Deborah  
Current Record Holder: Heirs Known & Unknown of Anderson, Deborah, Deceased  
CRH Address: 6 Poplar Court Bluffton, SC 29910  
Amount Due: \$ 511.96  
Tax Years Due: 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022  
Legal Description: MOBILE HOME: 1984, 14x70, Horton Homes, Inc., Horton, located at Tax Map & Parcel 006045, Treutlen County, Georgia.

Map & Parcel: 11487MH  
Defendant in Fi-Fa: Johnson, Archie R.  
Current Record Holder: Johnson, Archie R.  
CRH Address: 1189 Troups Tomb Road Soperton, GA 30457  
Amount Due: \$ 488.54  
Tax Years Due: 2025, 2024  
Legal Description: MOBILE HOME: 1995, 14x65, located at Tax Map & Parcel 009052, Treutlen County, Georgia.

Map & Parcel: 11558MH  
Defendant in Fi-Fa: Lawson, James  
Current Record Holder: Lawson, James  
CRH Address: 1226 Outlaw Avenue Soperton, GA 30457  
Amount Due: \$ 468.90  
Tax Years Due: 2025, 2024  
Legal Description: MOBILE HOME: 2004, 14x65, located at Tax Map & Parcel S011051, Treutlen County, Georgia.

Map & Parcel: 1238MH  
Defendant in Fi-Fa: Crockett, Roger Jr.  
Current Record Holder: Crockett, Roger Jr.  
CRH Address: 1143 Sumner Lane Soperton, GA 30457  
Amount Due: \$ 755.40  
Tax Years Due: 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019  
Legal Description: MOBILE HOME: 1986, 12x54, located at Tax Map & Parcel S016011, Treutlen County, Georgia.

Map & Parcel: 1400MH  
Defendant in Fi-Fa: Clark, Janilene  
Current Record Holder: Clark, Janilene  
CRH Address: 77 Cedar Lane Soperton, GA 30457  
Amount Due: \$ 762.55  
Tax Years Due: 2025, 2024, 2023  
Legal Description: MOBILE HOME: 1980, 14x60, Horton Homes, Inc., Summit, located at Tax Map & Parcel 017B036, Treutlen County, Georgia.

Map & Parcel: 1563MH  
Defendant in Fi-Fa: Coney, Shanita  
Current Record Holder: Coney, Shanita  
CRH Address: 1476 Mississippi Avenue Soperton, GA 30457  
Amount Due: \$ 386.56  
Tax Years Due: 2024, 2023, 2022  
Legal Description: MOBILE HOME: 1980, 12x56, located at Tax Map & Parcel S010039, Treutlen County, Georgia.

Map & Parcel: 1605MH  
Defendant in Fi-Fa: Telfair, Kristal L.  
Current Record Holder: Telfair, Kristal L.  
CRH Address: 329 New Street Soperton, GA 30457  
Amount Due: \$ 627.28  
Tax Years Due: 2025, 2024  
Legal Description: MOBILE HOME: 1997, 16x76, Fleetwood, 6763L, Serial # GAFLV75A29654WL12, located at Tax Map & Parcel S003094, Treutlen County, Georgia.

Map & Parcel: 1736MH  
Defendant in Fi-Fa: Crockett, Robert  
Current Record Holder: Crockett, Robert  
CRH Address: 515 Sumner Lane Soperton, GA 30457  
Amount Due: \$ 527.50  
Tax Years Due: 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019  
Legal Description: MOBILE HOME: 1985, 12x60, Bonnell Enterprises, Dynas-ty, located at Tax Map & Parcel S016011, Treutlen County, Georgia.

Map & Parcel: 1813MH  
Defendant in Fi-Fa: Stevens, Maxine Marie  
Current Record Holder: Stevens, Maxine Marie  
CRH Address: 2684 Old Louisville Road Soperton, GA 30457  
Amount Due: \$ 548.95  
Tax Years Due: 2025, 2024  
Legal Description: MOBILE HOME: 1990, 14x66, Horton Homes, Inc., Echo, located at Tax Map & Parcel S004039, Treutlen County, Georgia.

Map & Parcel: 1819MH  
Defendant in Fi-Fa: Harden, Larry  
Current Record Holder: Heirs Known & Unknown of Harden, Larry, Deceased  
CRH Address: 1733 Martin Luther King Road Soperton, GA 30457  
Amount Due: \$ 1,472.84  
Tax Years Due: 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020  
Legal Description: MOBILE HOME: 2000, 16x76, Southern Energy Homes, Southern Homes, located at Tax Map & Parcel S011075, Treutlen County, Georgia.

Map & Parcel: 1889MH  
Defendant in Fi-Fa: Wise, Ron  
Current Record Holder: Wise, Ron  
CRH Address: 1076 Ennis Circle Soperton, GA 30457  
Amount Due: \$ 700.62  
Tax Years Due: 2024, 2023  
Legal Description: MOBILE HOME: 1998, 16x68, Horton Homes, Inc., Dynas-ty M Series, located at Tax Map & Parcel S013038, Treutlen County, Georgia.

Defendant in Fi-Fa: Barwick, Danielle Mason  
Current Record Holder: Barwick, Danielle Mason  
CRH Address: 3376 GA Highway 199 Spur Soperton, GA 30457  
Amount Due: \$ 1,311.23  
Tax Years Due: 2025, 2024, 2023  
Legal Description: MOBILE HOME: 1996, 16x76, Horton Homes, Inc., Mi-rage, located at Tax Map & Parcel 017B032, Treutlen County, Georgia.

Map & Parcel: 1932MH  
Defendant in Fi-Fa: VanFleet, Geneva  
Current Record Holder: Heirs Known & Unknown of VanFleet, Geneva, Deceased  
CRH Address: 501 GA Highway 298 Soperton, GA 30457  
Amount Due: \$ 758.17  
Tax Years Due: 2025, 2024, 2023  
Legal Description: MOBILE HOME: 2002, 28x76, located at Tax Map & Parcel 044021A, Treutlen County, Georgia.

Map & Parcel: 1989MH  
Defendant in Fi-Fa: Jones, Loretha  
Current Record Holder: Jones, Loretha  
CRH Address: 1464 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive Soperton, GA 30457  
Amount Due: \$ 1,412.12  
Tax Years Due: 2025, 2024, 2023  
Legal Description: MOBILE HOME: 1995, 28x66, Horton Homes, Inc., Summit, located at Tax Map & Parcel S011084, Treutlen County, Georgia.

Map & Parcel: 1992MH  
Defendant in Fi-Fa: Williams, Amanda  
Current Record Holder: Williams, Amanda  
CRH Address: 145 Cascade Circle Soperton, GA 30457  
Amount Due: \$ 853.40  
Tax Years Due: 2025, 2024, 2023  
Legal Description: MOBILE HOME: 1990, 14x66, Horton Homes, Inc., Sum-mit, located at Tax Map & Parcel 023058, Treutlen County, Georgia.

Map & Parcel: 287MH  
Defendant in Fi-Fa: Blair, Anthony Chuck  
Current Record Holder: Blair, Anthony Chuck  
CRH Address: 2102 Alabama Avenue Soperton, GA 30457  
Amount Due: \$ 625.59  
Tax Years Due: 2025, 2024, 2023  
Legal Description: MOBILE HOME: 1995, 14x70, General Manufacturing Homes, Inc., General Ltd., located at Tax Map & Parcel S010016, Treutlen County, Georgia.

Map & Parcel: 315MH  
Defendant in Fi-Fa: Ferguson, Catherine  
Current Record Holder: Heirs Known & Unknown of Ferguson, Catherine, Deceased  
CRH Address: 5301 Louisiana Avenue West Soperton, GA 30457  
Amount Due: \$ 1,199.90  
Tax Years Due: 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019  
Legal Description: MOBILE HOME: 1984, 14x70, Fleetwood, Auburn, located at Tax Map & Parcel S008001, Treutlen County, Georgia.

Map & Parcel: 368MH  
Defendant in Fi-Fa: Thomas, Diane  
Current Record Holder: Thomas, Diane  
CRH Address: 1455 Outlaw Avenue Soperton, GA 30457  
Amount Due: \$ 468.74  
Tax Years Due: 2025, 2024  
Legal Description: MOBILE HOME: 1995, 14x56, Pioneer Housing Systems, Inc., Pioneer, Serial # PH305GA6878, located at Tax Map & Parcel S004031, Treutlen County, Georgia.

Map & Parcel: 370MH  
Defendant in Fi-Fa: Watts, Charles  
Current Record Holder: Watts, Charles  
CRH Address: PO Box 103 Soperton, GA 30457  
Amount Due: \$ 529.25  
Tax Years Due: 2025, 2024, 2023  
Legal Description: MOBILE HOME: 1995, 24x60, Horton, Serial # H68764GLR, located at Tax Map & Parcel 009A033A, Treutlen County, Georgia.

Map & Parcel: 415MH  
Defendant in Fi-Fa: McDougle, Marchell  
Current Record Holder: McDougle, Marchell a/k/a Marchelle McDougle & McDougle, Stacy  
CRH Address: 1656 Ginger Springs Road Soperton, GA 30457  
Amount Due: \$ 528.73  
Tax Years Due: 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019  
Legal Description: MOBILE HOME: 1996, 16x76, Pioneer, Serial # PH1501GA9835, located at Tax Map & Parcel 016057, Treutlen County, Georgia.

Map & Parcel: 466MH  
Defendant in Fi-Fa: Clayton, Carla  
Current Record Holder: Clayton, Carla  
CRH Address: 64 Bittersweet Trail

Soperton, GA 30457  
Amount Due: \$ 703.28  
Tax Years Due: 2025, 2024, 2023  
Legal Description: MOBILE HOME: 1997, 28x48, Pioneer, GD, located at Tax Map & Parcel 014049, Treutlen County, Georgia.

Map & Parcel: 480MH  
Defendant in Fi-Fa: Phillips, Sadie  
Current Record Holder: Phillips, Sadie  
CRH Address: 1721 Anderson Pond Road Adrian, GA 31002  
Amount Due: \$ 520.56  
Tax Years Due: 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019  
Legal Description: MOBILE HOME: 1995, 24x60, located at Tax Map & Parcel 006012, Treutlen County, Georgia.

Map & Parcel: 481MH  
Defendant in Fi-Fa: Dunn, C.T.  
Current Record Holder: Heirs Known & Unknown of Dunn, C.T., Deceased  
CRH Address: 1020 Oak Hurst Road Soperton, GA 30457  
Amount Due: \$ 528.45  
Tax Years Due: 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021  
Legal Description: MOBILE HOME: 1970, 12x48, New River Homes, Shiloh, located at Tax Map & Parcel 006063, Treutlen County, Georgia.

Map & Parcel: 518MH  
Defendant in Fi-Fa: Jackson, Robert Lee Jr.  
Current Record Holder: Jackson, Robert Lee Jr.  
CRH Address: 698 Oak Ridge Road Soperton, GA 30457  
Amount Due: \$ 688.57  
Tax Years Due: 2025, 2024, 2023  
Legal Description: MOBILE HOME: 1993, 28x66, located at Tax Map & Parcel 024004, Treutlen County, Georgia.

Map & Parcel: 596MH  
Defendant in Fi-Fa: Miller, Lawanda  
Current Record Holder: Miller, Lawanda  
CRH Address: Route 2 Box 399-2AA Soperton, GA 30457  
Amount Due: \$ 1,279.52  
Tax Years Due: 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021  
Legal Description: MOBILE HOME: 1997, 14x66, Fleetwood, "C" Series, located at Tax Map & Parcel 024066, Treutlen County, Georgia.

Map & Parcel: 624MH  
Defendant in Fi-Fa: Latimer, Zack  
Current Record Holder: Latimer, Zack  
CRH Address: 1176 MLK Jr. Drive Soperton, GA 30457  
Amount Due: \$ 963.12  
Tax Years Due: 2025, 2024, 2023  
Legal Description: MOBILE HOME: 1996, 24x64, Pioneer Housing Systems, Inc., Pioneer, located at Tax Map & Parcel S012020, Treutlen County, Georgia.

Map & Parcel: 641MH  
Defendant in Fi-Fa: Phillips, Crystal  
Current Record Holder: Phillips, Crystal  
CRH Address: 571 Whipoorwill Way Soperton, GA 30457  
Amount Due: \$ 1,272.94  
Tax Years Due: 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019  
Legal Description: MOBILE HOME: 1982, 24x46, Fleetwood, Spring Hill, located at Tax Map & Parcel 037008, Treutlen County, Georgia.

Map & Parcel: 756MH  
Defendant in Fi-Fa: Smith, Gloria  
Current Record Holder: Smith, Gloria  
CRH Address: 1089 Sumner Lane Soperton, GA 30457  
Amount Due: \$ 755.31  
Tax Years Due: 2025, 2024  
Legal Description: MOBILE HOME: 1998, 28x56, Pioneer Housing Systems, Inc., Budget, located at Tax Map & Parcel S016011, Treutlen County, Georgia.

Map & Parcel: 758MH  
Defendant in Fi-Fa: Lovett, Chiquita  
Current Record Holder: Lovett, Chiquita  
CRH Address: 1121 Canady Avenue Soperton, GA 30457  
Amount Due: \$ 627.67  
Tax Years Due: 2025, 2024  
Legal Description: MOBILE HOME: 1995, 16x76, Fleetwood, Weston, located at Tax Map & Parcel S012043A, Treutlen County, Georgia.

Map & Parcel: 764MH  
Defendant in Fi-Fa: Johnson, Charlie  
Current Record Holder: Johnson, Charlie  
CRH Address: PO Box 342 Soperton, GA 30457  
Amount Due: \$ 578.37  
Tax Years Due: 2025, 2024, 2023  
Legal Description: MOBILE HOME: 1998, 16x76, Clayton Homes, Inc., Explorer, located at Tax Map & Parcel S004035, Treutlen County, Georgia.

Map & Parcel: 871MH  
Defendant in Fi-Fa: Barwick, Earl  
Current Record Holder: Barwick, Earl  
CRH Address: 3724 Highway 298

Soperton, GA 30457  
Amount Due: \$ 626.64  
Tax Years Due: 2025, 2024  
Legal Description: MOBILE HOME: 1997, 28x65, Peach State Homes, Signa-ture Homes, located at Tax Map & Parcel 037042A, Treutlen County, Georgia.

Map & Parcel: 953MH  
Defendant in Fi-Fa: Phillips, Terrell  
Current Record Holder: Phillips, Terrell  
CRH Address: 615 Horseshoe Bend Soperton, GA 30457  
Amount Due: \$ 840.89  
Tax Years Due: 2025, 2024, 2023  
Legal Description: MOBILE HOME: 1995, 28x56, located at Tax Map & Parcel 041025A, Treutlen County, Georgia.

Map & Parcel: 979MH  
Defendant in Fi-Fa: Shaffer, Debra  
Current Record Holder: Shaffer, Debra  
CRH Address: 11813 GA Highway 46 Soperton, GA 30457  
Amount Due: \$ 1,129.82  
Tax Years Due: 2025, 2024, 2023  
Legal Description: MOBILE HOME: 1993, 24x48, Horton Homes, Inc., Sum-mit Mod, located at Tax Map & Parcel 030023, Treutlen County, Georgia.

Map & Parcel: 995MH  
Defendant in Fi-Fa: Jones, Woodrow  
Current Record Holder: Jones, Woodrow  
CRH Address: 1732 MLK Jr. Drive Soperton, GA 30457  
Amount Due: \$ 421.84  
Tax Years Due: 2025, 2024, 2023  
Legal Description: MOBILE HOME: 1977, 12x76, Fleetwood, Broadmore, located at Tax Map & Parcel S011104, Treutlen County, Georgia.

Penny S. Wheeler  
Treutlen County Tax Commissioner

\* Deed Book: Refers to Deed Records located in the Treutlen County Courthouse, Clerk of Superior Court's Office where property is more fully described. 4C-2-26  
May 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026

**S26-032 IN THE PROBATE COURT OF TREUTLEN COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA**  
IN RE: ESTATE OF Pamela Moore, DECEASED  
ESTATE NO. 26-P-22  
**PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE**

TO: whom it may concern:

Tommy Moore has petitioned for Tommy Moore to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of Pamela Moore, deceased, of said County. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before June 17, 2026.

**BE NOTIFIED FURTHER:** All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.  
Tiffany W. McLendon  
Judge of the Probate Court  
650 Second Street  
Suite 101  
Soperton, GA 30457  
912-529-4320

May 21, 28, 4, 11, 2026

**S26-031 STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF TREUTLEN**  
IN RE: ESTATE OF BEVERLY ZAN CAULEY, DECEASED.  
All creditors of the estate of Beverly Zan Cauley, deceased, late of Treutlen County, are hereby notified to render their demands to Richard M. McNeely, attorney for William Carlton Cauley, Administrator of the Beverly Zan Cauley Estate, at P. O. Box 767, Swainsboro, Georgia 30401, according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment of any indebtedness due the estate.

This 27th day of April, 2026.  
RICHARD M. MCNEELY,  
Attorney for William Carlton Cauley, of the Beverly Zan Cauley Estate  
Richard M. McNeely, P.C.  
P. O. Box 767  
Swainsboro, Georgia 30401  
(478) 237-4225  
May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 2026

# Kemp extends gas tax break just in time for Memorial Day

By TY TAGAMI  
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Georgians and people visiting or just passing through the state will get a 33-cent per gallon break at the gas pump while traveling for Memorial Day.

Gov. Brian Kemp on Friday used his authority under state law to declare a state of emergency due to spiraling fuel prices. That in turn allowed him to re-suspend collection of the motor fuel excise tax a minute after the current suspension expires Tuesday night.

The renewed suspension goes into effect at midnight Wednesday. It will remain in effect for two weeks, until 11:59 p.m. on June 2.

On March 20, Kemp signed the current gas tax suspension, which expires at 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, just hours after the General Assembly approved it.

The U.S. conflict with Iran has continued to drive up oil prices.

"Global markets remain unstable and are subjecting Georgians to unpredictable price shocks on basic goods and services," Kemp wrote in his executive order. It noted that futures on Brent crude, a global benchmark for oil prices, had spiked 3% for the day.

The order prohibits price gouging. It also suspends collections on the 37.3-cent per gallon tax on diesel fuel.

Diesel factors into the cost of groceries and any other product that must be hauled.

"As Georgia families prepare for the Memorial Day travel weekend, they should not feel blindsided by prices at the gas pump," Kemp said in a statement.

His office said AAA predicts 39.1 million Americans will travel by car this Memorial Day weekend, topping last year's record.

The release said the average cost of a gallon of regular gas in Georgia is \$4.02, half a dollar less than the national average. It said Georgia is one of only two states with a motor fuel tax suspension.

Middle Georgia Community Action Agency, Inc.

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montgomeryhs@mgcaa.org

**REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION**

- Proof of Birth
- Social Security Card
- Immunization Form 3231
- Medicaid / Insurance Card
- Proof of Income / SNAP, SSI, TANF
- Well Child Check
- Dental Exam
- GA Public Health 3300
- Verification of Income & Housing Form

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Ad Council

# Ocmulgee Regional Library System announces a community dino hunt

By **LOGAN REYNOLDS**  
Staff Reporter

The Ocmulgee Regional Library System (ORLS) announced a "community dino hunt" to coincide with the Georgia Public Library Service's 2026 summer reading program, running from May to July.

The theme for the 2026 Summer Reading Program is "Unearth a Story," using dinosaurs as a general theme to encourage local community members of all ages to read over the summer months.

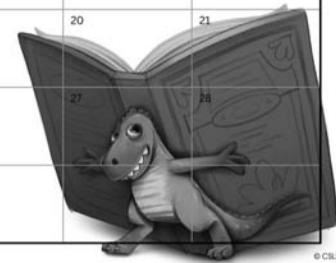
To support the theme, the Ocmulgee Regional Library System organized a community scavenger hunt across six counties, including Wheeler, Telfair, Wilcox, Bleckley, Pulaski and Dodge, where participants must travel to local schools and businesses to take photos of dinosaurs.

Participants can take a photo of a dinosaur at any participating location and upload the photo to Facebook, tagged with #orlsdinohunt. By doing so, participants will have the chance to win family passes donated by several local businesses, including Shamrock Bowling, Golden Ticket Cinemas, Houston Lakes Cinemas and Peachy Playtown.

"The more dinosaur photos participants post, the more chances they have to win," said ORLS Public Services Librarian Delillah Carr.

According to Carr, the event is open to all age groups, and is intended to "help build excitement for Summer Reading [Program]."

WHEELER COUNTY LIBRARY						
JUNE 2026						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	2	3	4	5 Mid GA Gem & Mineral Society 11 AM	6	7
8 Ranger Jodi 10:30 AM Building Brain Health 1 PM (adults)	9	10	11 Chad Crews Magic Show 3:30 PM	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Untamed Zoo 2:30 PM	19 CLOSED	20	21
22	23	24 Marc Griffiths Ventriloquist 1 PM	25	26	27	28
29	30 GA Ag Experience Mobile Classroom 11 AM					



Participating locations will include Wheeler County's schools and SunMark Bank; Telfair County's Ryals Drugs, Smith's Pharmacy, Telfair County Elementary School and Joiner Creek Nursery; Wilcox County's schools and Half Moon Brew; Bleckley County's The Mule Barn; Pulaski County's elementary school, Little Children Growing, Jo's Pizza and Yummy Jo's; and Dodge County's elementary school, primary school, Scoops and Brews and Eastman Bake Shop.

The hunt will last from May 8 to June 26, with winners announced the week following June 26.

For the Wheeler County Public Library, the Summer Reading Program will see several events inside the library scheduled throughout June and July, such as magic shows, storytimes and science lessons. The

library will also hold a summer reading kick off party on May 26 at 3 p.m., where attendees can sign up for summer reading and engage in games and activities.

"These events are a great opportunity for families to register for Summer Reading, receive a bag of goodies and start their summer reading journey with us," said Carr. "We have tons of exciting activities planned for all ages."

For summer reading, participants can read books and check in with the library each week to receive prizes. Top readers will receive recognition and may win extra prizes, such as an e-reader.

According to Carr, several Ocmulgee libraries will also serve as summer feeding sites as well, but final details and schedules have yet to be confirmed.

## MAGIC MAZE ● MIDDLE

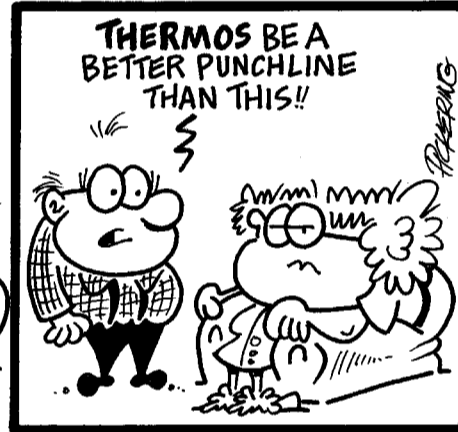
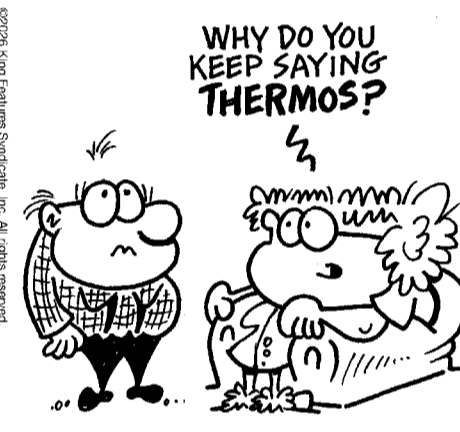
R Z W T Q N K H D A X U R P M  
 J G D D A X A V S Q N K I F D  
 A X V T A Q M O M J H Y F C A  
 Y W U R P O E E W N L A J H L  
 F L D R B Z R E C X S D V S A  
 T R O Q E O I E M N K E I E I  
 D N U O R G C H H F A H M G T  
 D B Z Y H A A W T T L T V A I  
 T R Q T O C E N S I F F S N N  
 L K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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally  
 Unlisted clue hint: **First Letter of Your Middle Name**

- Ages America Class Distance
- Ear East Ground Income
- Manager Names Of the day Of the road
- Rail School Weight

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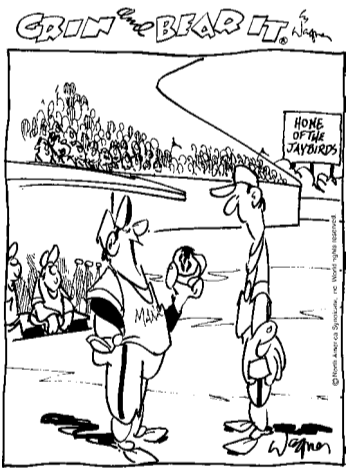
## The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



**King Crossword**  
 Answers  
 Solution time: 21 mins.

**CROSSWORD ANSWERS**

**MAGIC MAZE**  
 Answers

## King Crossword

	1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11
12									13			
14									15			
16						17	18				19	
			20	21					22	23		
24	25	26		27				28		29	30	31
32			33						34			
35						36					37	
			38	39		40			41			
42	43			44	45				46	47	48	49
50			51					52	53			
54								55				
56								57				

**ACROSS**

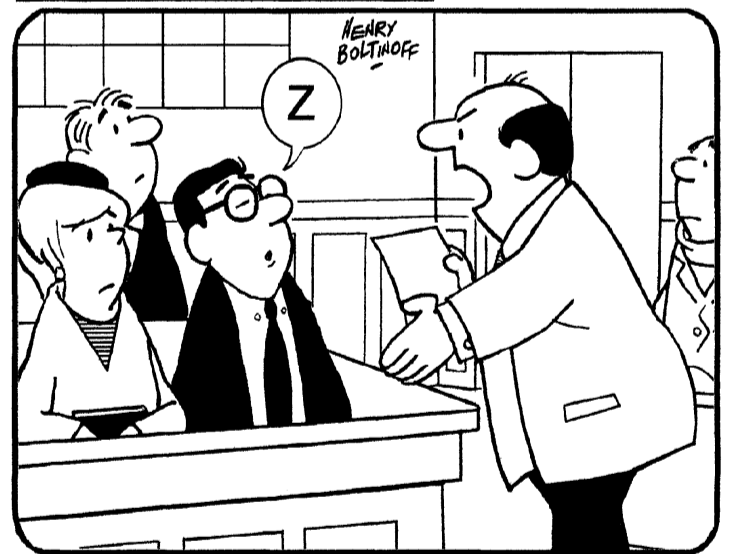
- 1 Detox center
- 6 Gives up
- 12 Swiss metropolis
- 13 Unexpected
- 14 Ingratiate
- 15 Stahl of "60 Minutes"
- 16 Disposition
- 17 "La — Bonita"
- 19 Casual shirt
- 20 Third son
- 22 Capote nickname
- 24 Canine greeting
- 27 Furnace fuel
- 29 Branches
- 32 President of South Africa, 1994-1999
- 35 Pronto
- 36 Monumental
- 37 Half dozen
- 38 Fannie —
- 40 Former Laker Lamar
- 42 Sashimi fish
- 44 Neatnik's nightmare
- 46 Jazzy James
- 50 Legislative group
- 52 Camelot king
- 54 Aerie newborn
- 55 Organize an art show
- 56 Pueblo structures
- 57 Recognizes

**DOWN**

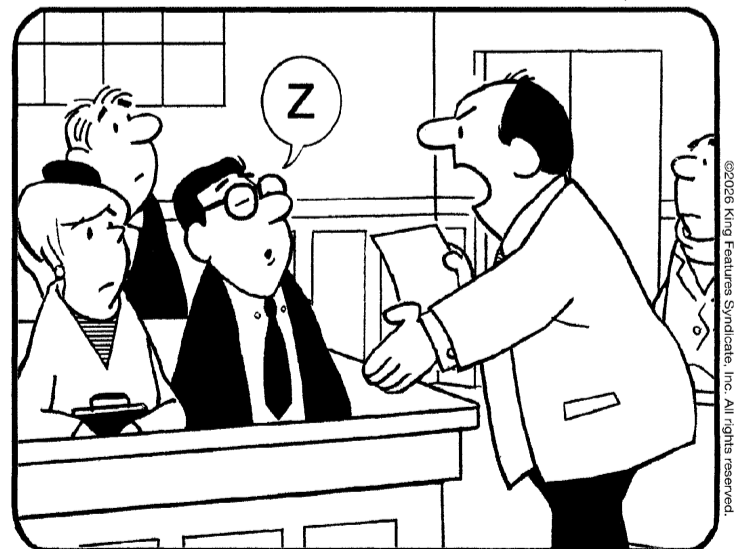
- 1 Nevada city
- 2 Within (Pref.)
- 3 Obeys
- 4 "Selma" director DuVernay
- 5 Male singing voice
- 6 Humpty's perch
- 7 Skip — (flutter)
- 8 Tax-collecting org.
- 9 Birds of prey
- 10 Duel tool
- 11 Ocular woe
- 12 Tiara jewel
- 18 Rug cleaner
- 21 — friendly
- 23 "Awesome, dude!"
- 24 Navarro of "The View"
- 25 Scale members
- 26 Pink wading bird
- 28 Relaxed
- 30 Roman 1051 instrument
- 33 Aromatherapy spot
- 34 Sgt., e.g.
- 39 Lauder of cosmetics
- 41 Paris subway
- 42 Cruising
- 43 Lettuce unit
- 45 Reply to "Shall we?"
- 47 Spring melt-down
- 48 Mild rebukes
- 49 "How — you?"
- 51 Cleric's tunic
- 53 Scamper

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## HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. The is different. 2. Hat is smaller. 3. Handle is added to purse. 4. Window is not as wide. 5. Man has more hair. 6. Arm is longer.

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Montgomery County High School students have gained real-world experience through internship programs/SPECIAL PHOTOS

## MCHS students gain real-world experience through internship program

SPECIAL TO THE TRI-COUNTY CONNECTOR

Students at Montgomery County High School may come from a small school, but they have big dreams — and an entire community supporting them along the way. From Board of Education members to custodial staff, countless individuals are committed to helping students succeed both in school and in life.

Although the school serves approximately 270 high school students, Montgomery County High School continues to provide students with high-quality educational opportunities often found in much larger districts. One of those opportunities is an innovative work-based learning internship program, led by Mrs. Leslie Thomas, that allows students to explore career interests while earning elective credit.

The success of the program depends greatly on the generosity of local businesses and community partners who donate their time, knowledge, and mentorship to students throughout the semester. Participating businesses this term included RCF Technologies, Kilgore Veterinary Clinic, and Montgomery County Elementary School.

Senior Makailah Moore completed an internship at RCF Technologies, where she worked alongside John Potter, head engineer for projects and modeling. Moore shared that the experience made a lasting impact on her.

"I've really enjoyed the people and work environment at RCF," Moore said. "I've met many kind, hardworking people who were amazing at their jobs and welcomed me with open arms from the very beginning."

Following graduation, Moore plans to begin her service in the United States Navy.

Another student participant, junior Ty Gillis, gained classroom experience through an internship with elementary teacher Ashley Morris at Montgomery County Elementary School. Gillis said the opportunity strengthened an interest in education and leadership.

"One thing I like is watching how Mrs. Morris teaches," Gillis said. "She is there for her students and always works to make them better students. She is very patient, and it encourages me to do the same."

Gillis plans to join the United States Air Force after graduation next year.

Student Isabella Sistrunk spent the school year interning at Kilgore Veterinary Clinic, where she worked alongside Dr. Kilgore and staff members. Sistrunk said she thoroughly enjoyed her experience and appreciated the opportunity to work closely with the clinic team.

Montgomery County Schools expressed sincere appreciation to the local businesses and mentors who continue to invest their time and talents into the success of students through the work-based learning program.



## MCHS Valedictorian, Salutatorian:

### MCHS VALEDICTORIAN: EVAN HARDEMAN

**What habit or mindset made the biggest difference in your success?**

"Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection, we can catch excellence." - Vince Lombardi. I believe a mindset that has been fundamental in my academic success is one of constant growth. I am always searching to be better in every aspect of life. There is always room for improvement in everything that I do, and I strive to get better each time I do a task.

**What did high school teach you that had nothing to do with class?**

I believe high school really taught me that it costs absolutely nothing to be kind. With the age of social media, everyone is looking for how they can have the most followers or the most likes. It is often used to diminish others and make them feel less than. I used to fall into this trap, but the truth is that none of that matters in the grand scheme. So, what that has taught me is that no matter the person, we should always be kind because you never know the impact it can have on their life.

**What does success look like to you — and has that changed?**

I believe that success is being able to leave a positive impact on someone. Whether it's as simple as being a smiling face someone can count on, or as impactful as leading someone to Christ



EVAN HARDEMAN  
VALEDICTORIAN

Jesus, success is not measured in accolades or followers. That definition has definitely changed for me because I used to think that success was measured in money, awards, or the type of job you had. I learned this because, well, I went for all of the accolades and still never found true fulfillment. That changed when I shifted my focus to others and how I could serve them.

**What's one thing you'd tell an incoming freshman that no one told you?**

Find a community that feels like home that encourages and pushes you to be your best self. Whether it's a small friend group, organization, or team, you will only be as good as the people you surround yourself with. Very recently, someone told me, "People need people." This couldn't be more true. Without the community I have grown into over the past four years, I wouldn't be where I am today. So, find those people who allow you to be yourself and drive you to be a better person each and every day.

**What do adults consistently get wrong about your generation?**

Probably the most common misconception about our generation is that we are lazy. I will be the first to tell you that some of the hardest-working people I know come from our generation. While it's not always with their hands, but more often than not, it is, people my age have found different ways to use their skills and passions to work for themselves. In our area and beyond, people my age often work to support their families and are asked to bear the weight they never asked for. We are always looking for ways to make tasks easier, not out of laziness, but because we have more tasks to do. So ask someone in high school what they are up to, because I can bet it's not just a bunch of nothing.

### MCHS SALUTATORIAN: ADDYSON SHEPARD

**What habit or mindset made the biggest difference in your success?**

To be honest, in my early middle school years, I didn't care much about school, lost all passion, and had a lot of absences. Once I changed my environment, the people I surrounded myself with, and came to Montgomery, my mindset shifted. Being around people who truly believed in me and cared about academics pushed me to try harder each year.

**What did high school teach you that had nothing to do with class?**

High school taught me to put myself out there and get involved in my community. It also showed me that it's okay to make mistakes or not "win" at everything.

**What does success look like to you — and has that changed?**

To me, success means giving my all in everything I do and being proud of myself at the end of the day.



ADDYSON SHEPARD  
SALUTATORIAN

**What's one thing you'd tell an incoming freshman that no one told you?**

I would tell an incoming freshman to put yourself out there and get involved. You never know what could happen in these four years, so make the most of it. Anything is possible & I am proof.

**What do adults consistently get wrong about your generation?**

I feel like adults often question our work ethic and mistake our burnout for laziness. Over the past 18 years, we've experienced a lot, including major political changes, global conflicts, a worldwide pandemic, and economic challenges like rising costs of living. Despite all of that, we've continued to push forward. I don't think we're always recognized for how much we've had to adapt and handle at such a young age. Many of us balance school, one or even two jobs, sports, and a social life, which takes a lot on our mental health than people realize.

## WCHS Valedictorian:

### WCHS VALEDICTORIAN: ANNA ETHREDGE

**1. What habit or mindset made the biggest difference in your success?**

Learning to not take failure personally. Instead of seeing mistakes as proof of "I wasn't good enough," I started seeing them as a part of growing and getting better.

**2. What did high school teach you that had nothing to do with class?**

How to balance life. School, friends, activities, and personal time all at once.

**3. What does success look like to you — and has that changed?**

At first, success used to be about achievements and having everything figured out. Now it's more about growing at my own pace, staying true to myself, and being okay with not having all the answers yet.

**4. What's one thing you'd tell an incoming freshman that no one told you?**

Take more chances; join clubs, try new things. It's easier to regret what you didn't do than what you did.

**5. What do adults consistently get wrong about your generation?**

They assume we're unprepared for the real world, but we're growing up in a world that's very different from the one they experienced.



ANNA ETHREDGE  
VALEDICTORIAN

# Southeastern Tech President's List for spring semester

SPECIAL TO THE TRI-COUNTY CONNECTOR

Southeastern Technical College is proud to announce the 2026 Spring Semester President's List. These students earned a grade point average of 3.75 or higher while enrolled in 12 or more credit hours for the semester.

**Appling County**  
Abby Eason

**Bulloch County**  
Skylar Marks

**Candler County**  
Kaitlyn Dekle  
Alexis Driggers  
John Monroe  
Mirian Nunez

**Effingham County**  
Bralen Claridge

**Emanuel County**  
Kelcey Bird  
Morgan Hall  
Leuntay Starnes

**Evans County**  
Dylan Joyner

**Jefferson County**  
Summer Williams

**Jenkins County**  
Katie Bell  
Kevin Parrish  
Jazara Pierce

**Johnson County**  
Jaxson Lee

**Montgomery County**  
Kimberly Dees  
Landon Glisson  
Carley Moxley  
Grayson Osborne  
Sage Powell

**Tattnell County**  
Ashlyn Bacon  
Rosaria Browder  
Breanna Callaway  
Brianna Johnson  
Brianna Kiltz  
Lexie Miller  
Yanet Olvera-Cimarron  
Mariafernanda Ovalle Gonzalez

**Telfair County**  
Sierra Parrish  
Millie Smith

**Toombs County**  
Karyme Arias  
Alyssa Bailey  
Maxon Beverly  
Kyler Boggus  
Riley Braddy  
Devin Burrell  
Chad Corner  
Octavian Edwards  
Talaya Fletcher  
Isaac Fontaine  
Peyton Foster  
Loistine Godwin  
Justin Heckel  
Summur Howell

# THS Valedictorian, Salutatorian:

## THS VALEDICTORIAN: BAILEY EDGE



**BAILEY EDGE**  
VALEDICTORIAN

### What habit or mindset made the biggest difference in your success?

The mindset that made the biggest difference in my success was the one that I had to do every assignment perfectly. I didn't let myself cut corners or accept an "okay" grade.

### What did high school teach you that had nothing to do with class?

High school taught me that my future success depends on me. The harder I pushed myself, the more opportunities I was given to have amazing experiences. It doesn't matter that we come from a small school, opportunities are there if you look and work for them.

### What does success look like to you — and has that changed?

Success to me is being happy and content with my circumstances. As long as I love what I'm doing, it doesn't matter what others want for me to achieve. I used to think that success would be go-

ing to the biggest college, getting the best paying job, and making a name for myself. Now I realize that just isn't true.

### What's one thing you'd tell an incoming freshman that no one told you?

I would tell incoming freshmen two things. First being, do not get behind in your work. It feels impossible to catch back up and can give you stress for no reason. The second is the things you think are important really aren't. You don't have to have the most friends, the best grades, or the most exciting life. It's ok to be boring.

### What do adults consistently get wrong about your generation?

One thing adults consistently get wrong about our generation is they think we, as a whole, do not care. I feel like adults tend to think we just want to goof off and don't know how to be serious when it's required.

## THS SALUTATORIAN: ALEXANDER SAMMONS

### What habit or mindset made the biggest difference in your success?

One mindset I developed that helped manage my life to work towards success is not stressing over assignments or tests.

### What did high school teach you that had nothing to do with class?

High school taught me how to manage stress and how stressing can be the root of most of your struggles within a class.

### What does success look like to you — and has that changed?

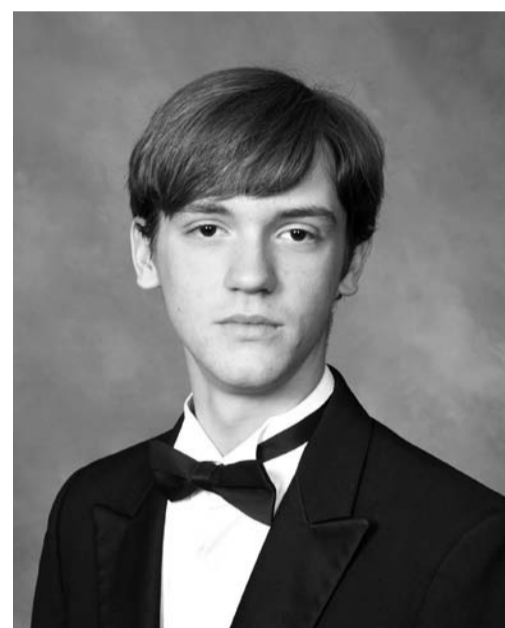
Success to me isn't good grades or a title like Valedictorian or Salutatorian. Success to me has always been achieving the goals you've set for yourself, including your future plans after high school, so to me, I have not reached what I consider to be my success.

### What's one thing you'd tell an incoming freshman that no one told you?

One thing I would tell upcoming freshmen is to not stress over school. Focus on the small steps that can lead you to your goals while learning how to manage and minimize your stress.

### What do adults consistently get wrong about your generation?

Most adults today see our generation as lazy, which is true in a sense. In many cases that applied when adults today were in school, this generation is lazy, but in many cases, such as computer literacy, this generation works much harder than can be seen. Many young adults in this generation are trying to navigate a tough financial scene, some even having to work two jobs, while the average cost of a house in 1990 was around \$100,000, which is around \$350,000 today after inflation. This generation is forced to work much harder to survive and many adults today see the exhaustion of a generation struggling to survive as laziness.



**ALEXANDER SAMMONS**  
SALUTATORIAN

William Knight  
Nataleigh Lehot  
John McDonald  
Hannah McGowan  
Walker Moncus  
Adriana Nava  
Caleigh Page  
Sean Page  
Harlie Rapp  
Demetrius Sharpton  
Cristina Tinoco  
Joey Todd  
Tynetta Willis  
Wendy Zamorano

**Wheeler County**  
Adam Cravey  
Ernest McNeal  
Britney Rooks

## SYMBOLS OF GRADUATION

Graduating high school or college is a major milestone. It is associated with many symbols that have endured for some time. As graduates prepare to receive their diplomas or degrees, they might be curious to know what's behind some notable symbols of graduation ceremonies.

**Gown:** The gown is a customary garment worn on graduation day. The Georgia Institute of Technology says gowns historically were heavy robes worn by medieval scholars for warmth in the largely unheated universities. Today, graduates don gowns not for warmth (as most graduation ceremonies take place in the spring and summer), but to symbolize the level of degree being conferred.

**Cap:** A cap, also known as a mortarboard, often goes hand-in-hand with a graduation gown. Historians surmise the flat, square shape represents either a mason's mortarboard to symbolize hard work. Others say it may be the shape of a book to signify academic achievement.

**Tassel:** The turning of the tassel is a relatively modern tradition. The tassel, which is attached to the mortarboard, initially was an ornament but has since evolved into a traditional element. The Honor Society says the practice of moving the tassel from one side of the cap to the other symbolizes completion of this important academic milestone. Typically, graduates move the tassel from the right to the left. The right side represents

the student being a candidate, while the left means he or she is now a graduate. While some sources date the tradition to the early 1900s, the current tradition has been traced to the 1960s and 1970s.

**Cords and stoles:** Graduates may adorn their graduation garb with other elements. Cords are twisted ropes that often represent high grade point averages or participation in honor societies. Stoles are satin scarves that often denote participation in specific organizations or a student's cultural heritage, according to the University of Colorado Boulder.

**Diploma:** A diploma is a legal document. Historically, diplomas were written on thin sheepskin and rolled into tubes. Students may receive a prop diploma on graduation day or empty diploma folio. Later on the actual document will be mailed or made available for pickup.

**Rings:** Some graduates have opted to purchase class rings. Students will often wear the ring with the school name facing them while still a student. Upon graduation, the ring will be turned so the name faces outward, presenting the completed coursework to the world.

**Commencement speech:** The word "commencement" means "beginning," which is fitting for a graduation ceremony. Instead of marking the end of something, commencement is for students who are about to start a new chapter.

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CONGRATULATIONS,  
**GRADUATES!**



# Wheeler County High School



Anna Ethredge  
- Valedictorian



Layla Gibbs  
- Salutatorian



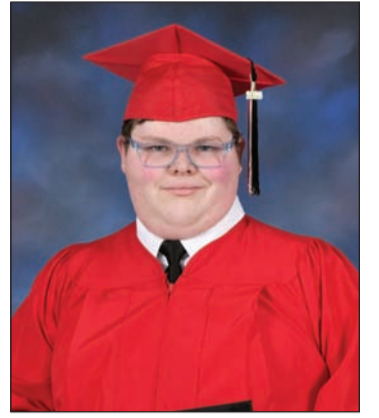
Brody Adams



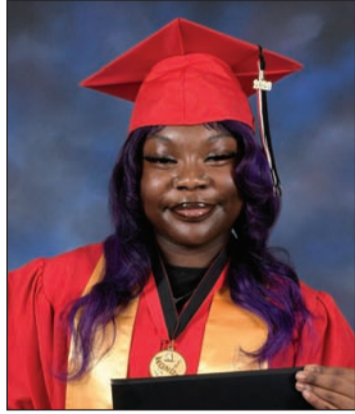
Lockland Bell



CJ Bowman\*



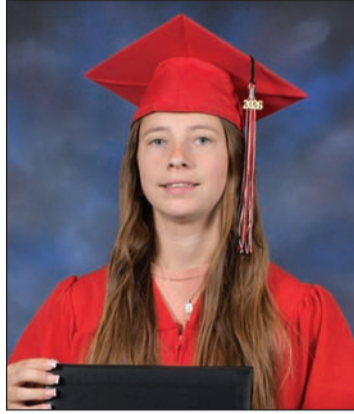
London Bridges



Irvoni Bryant\*



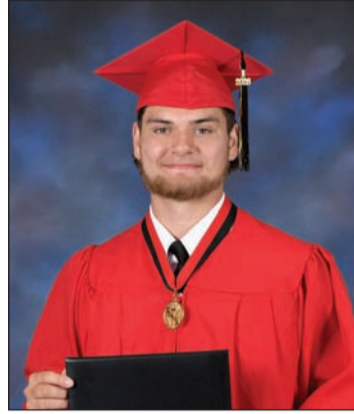
Trent Butler\*



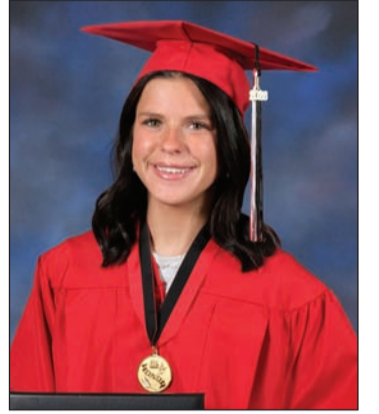
Shian Carey



Tobias Clark\*



Lane Connell\*



Laurie Conner\*



Shelley Conner\*



Justin Culver



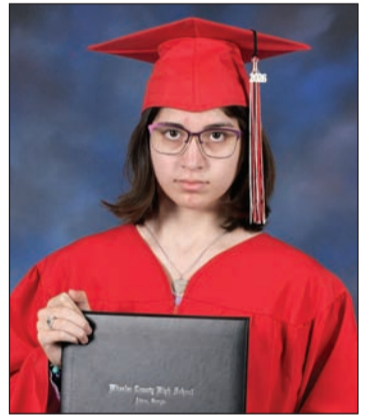
Laith Davis



Carson Ford\*



Jackson Geter



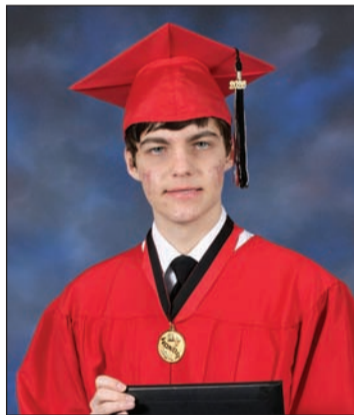
Sicily Gonzalez



Tyona Green\*



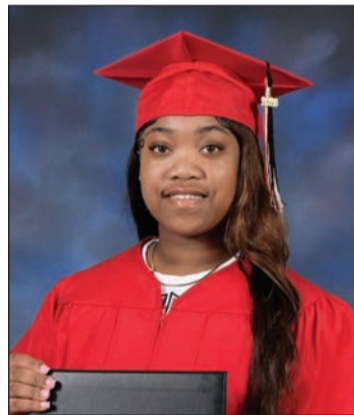
Kolben Haymons



Braydon Horne\*



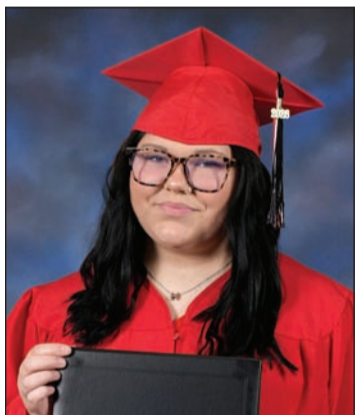
Ki'Ahni Jackson



Talia Jackson



Nikita James\*



Haley Kaderabek



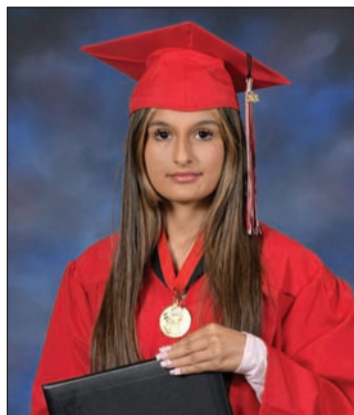
Aiden Lanier\*



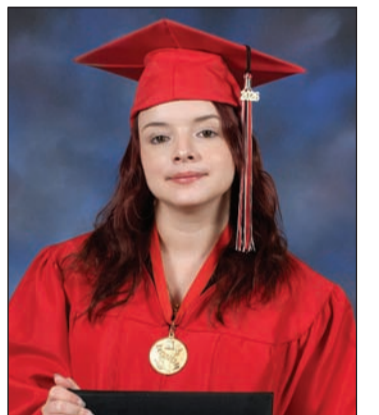
Sencear Marks



Sirius Marks



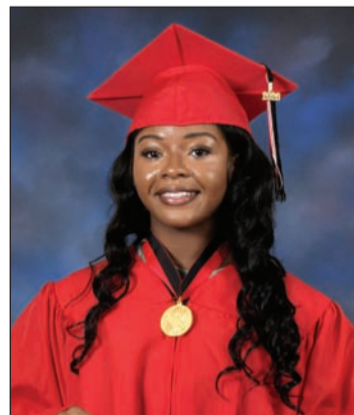
Brittny  
Martinez-Arellano\*



Kyla McClure\*



Ahmad McMillian



Jekayla Mills\*



Ryan Parker



Keaton Pickle



Simaya Pound



Jadirra Randolph

**Congratulations to the Graduates!**

*Today we celebrate you with best wishes from all of us!*



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Alvin Ricks



Isabelle Sellers\*



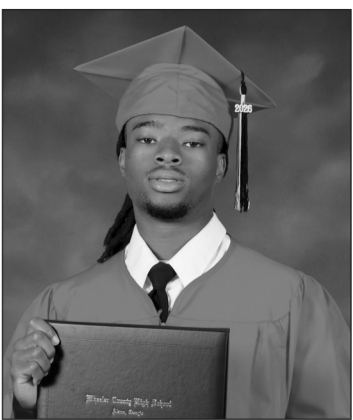
Konner Smith\*



Remington Smith\*



Jakob Tarpley



Kasyn Troup



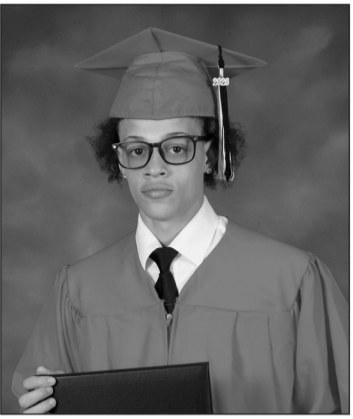
Lily Van Houten\*



Zoey Vann



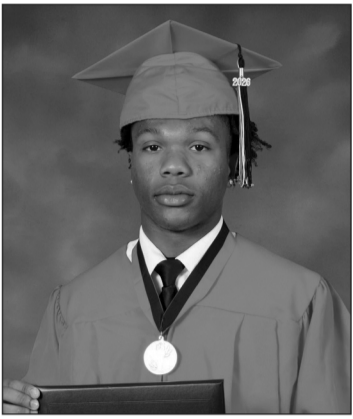
Mela Weedman



Amaru Weeks



Peyton Williams



Reco Wooten\*



**Congratulations**

CLASS OF

20 26

YOU DID IT

**Paul W. Calhoun, III**  
Solicitor-General  
Trentlen County

CONGRATS  
to the Class of  
2026  
*We wish you all the best!*

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Nathan Wright

Not pictured:  
Patrice Allen  
Summer Chapman  
Juan Delgado\*  
Maniya Pettigrew  
Erin Ricks\*  
Jose Tavera

\* honor graduate

# Hats Off to the Graduates




As we celebrate the Class of 2026 and all of their achievements, we'd like to pause and recognize the unique challenges this year's seniors have faced on the road to graduation.

**We are so proud, and we wish today's graduates nothing but the best!**



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**Congrats!**  
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MOUNT VERNON**  
Mayor, Council  
& Staff

# Treutlen County High School



Elizabeth Edge  
- Valedictorian



Alexander Sammons  
- Salutatorian



Josiah Blair



Jagger Braddy



Camdyn Brantley\*



Desirae Bright\*



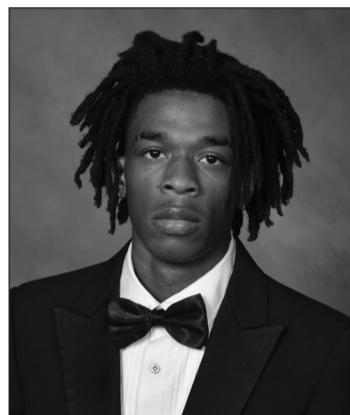
I'Leria Clayton



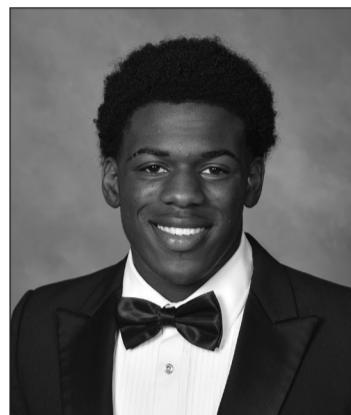
Chestin Collins



Mary Claire Corbett\*



Noah Daniels



Noel Daniels



Kimora Day



Gracie Edenfield



Camila Esquivel Aguilar



Annon Forehand



Rosemary Franklin



Charvis Givens



Cainan Gladden



Ze'niah Griffin\*



Markel Hamilton



Ryleigh Hardy



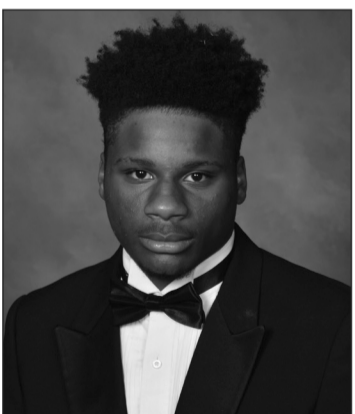
E'mariah Hill



Mallie Hooks



Cloey Hutcheson\*



Johnny Johnson



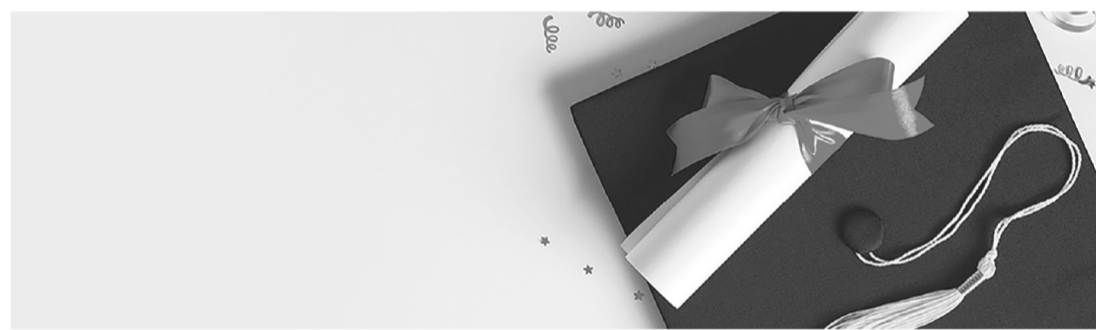
Jazzlyn Jones



Tyrone Jones



Brihanna Jordan



## CONGRATULATIONS

*Let the caps fly, Class of 2026!*

**Treutlen High School**  
**Montgomery County High School**  
**Wheeler County High School**  
**East Laurens High School**  
**West Laurens High School**  
**Dublin High School**  
**Johnson County High School**  
**Twiggs County High School**  
**Bleckley County High School**  
**Wilkinson County High School**



We're celebrating your hard work and achievement today, so give yourself a pat on the back. Congratulations, and may all of your hopes and dreams come true!

**The City of Ailey**  
912-583-2465



*Phil Gay, Agent*

1215 Arch St., Soperton, GA 30457  
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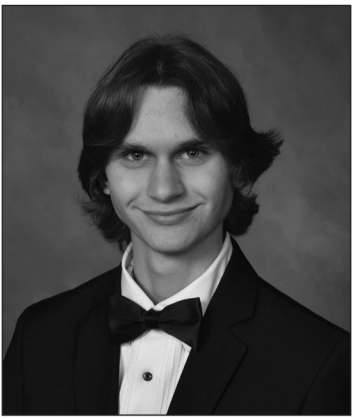
Ka'Niyah Jordan



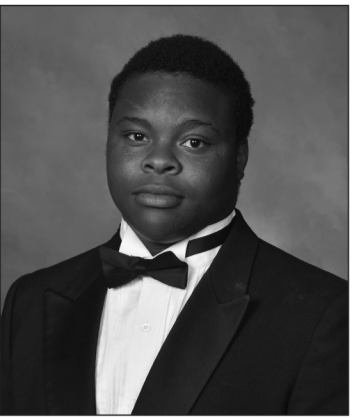
Sammieonna Jordan



Takaria Jordan



William Keene



Jaquise Lovett



Ashley Lumpkin\*



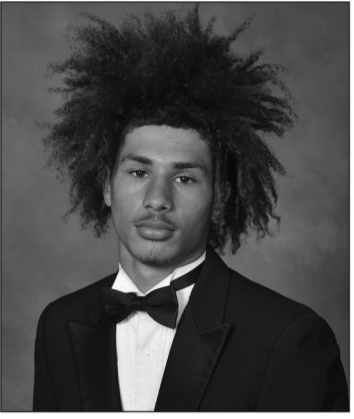
Lauryn McArthur\*



Justin McClendon



Lilly Meeks



Nathaniel Miller



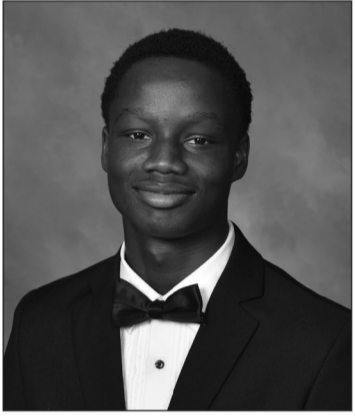
Sy'Maria Miller



Deshanay Miller



Maggie Nobles



Kavion Peeples\*



Za'Niah Richards\*



Kayla Rivera



Carter Roberson\*



Ella Roberson



Rey Rodriquez



Bryson Simmons



Amber Spellan



Shalynn Spellan



Terry Stevens



Jaliyah Strickland\*

\* honor graduate



Marley Strickland\*



Zoe Thigpen



Takyla Wadley\*



Jayden Wesley



Dallas Wheeler\*

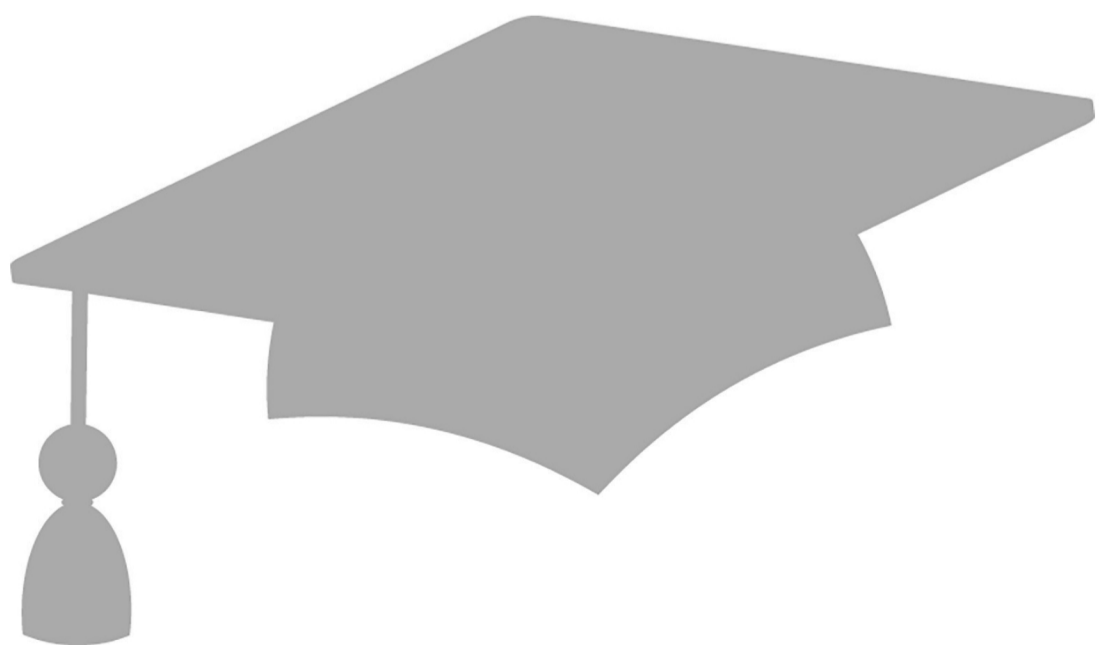


Elijah Williams

*Congratulations,*  
**THS SENIORS!**



**20**  
**26**



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1973 Martin Luther King Jr Dr.,  
Soperton, Georgia

# Montgomery County High School



Evan Hardeman  
- Valedictorian



Addyson Shepherd  
- Salutatorian



Emily Anderson



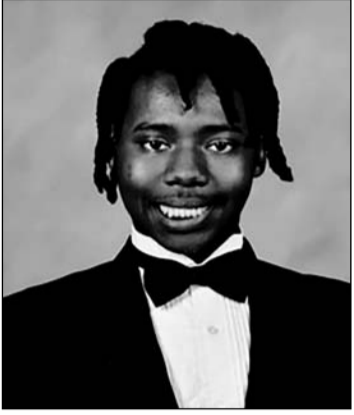
Key'Miare Andrews\*



Jacayla Benjamin



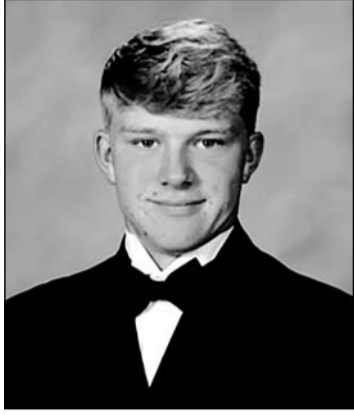
Christopher Blackburn\*



Tavarus Blount\*



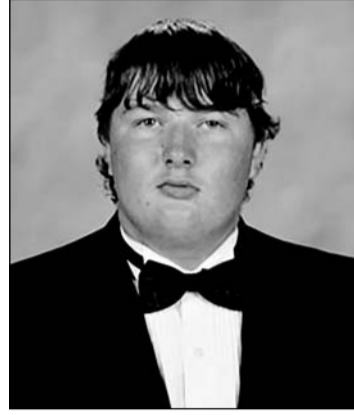
Shankira Burch



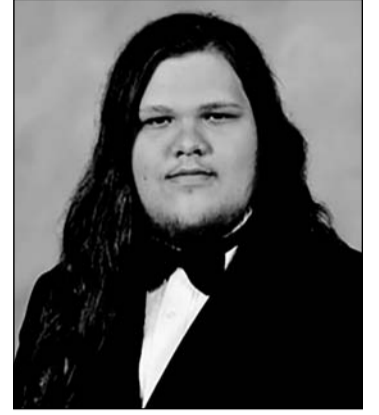
Luke Burns\*



Nora Cartwright\*



Mack Chambers



Zachary Douglas



Madison Elder



Bailey Fountain\*



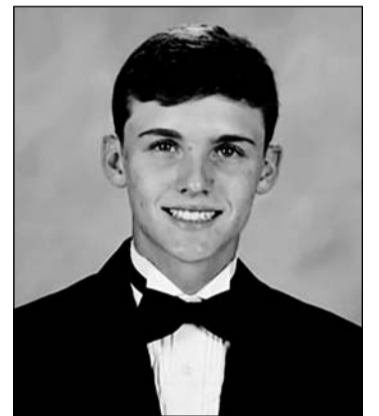
Tamarley Hansley



Zion Harvey\*



Patricia Horne\*



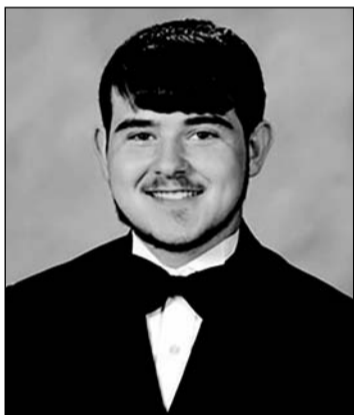
Kevin Hutchison



Erin Johnson



Daniel Johnson\*



Ramsey Jordan



Zoe Jordan\*



Aaralyn Little



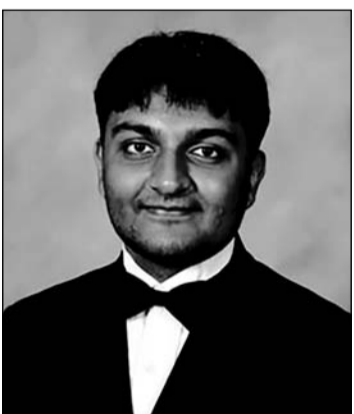
Jackson McCoy\*



Makailah Moore\*



Mya Nichols\*



Rudr Patel\*

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As you wrap up this exciting chapter, we hope you'll take with you fond memories of friends, classmates, teachers and experiences.

**Montgomery County Board of Education**

Dr. Ronda Hightower, Superintendent and the Montgomery County Board Members



Meiah-Faith Patterson



Yasmine Peebles



Bernice Ramos



Johnathan Richardson



Chez Rivera



Jayden Roberson



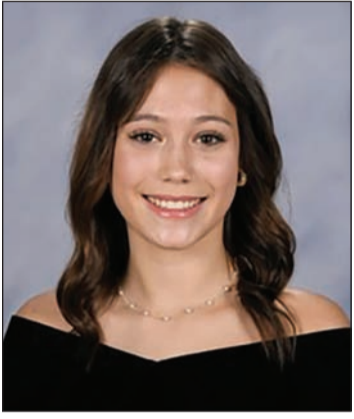
Josiah Roundtree



Savannah Seavey



Johnathan Sirmans



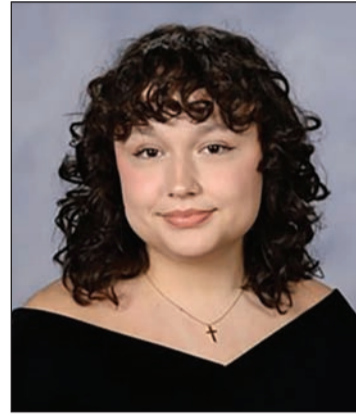
Isabella Sistrunk



Olivia Smiley



Angel Sosa\*



Marissa Tanner\*



Jonathan Talamantez



Haze Thigpen\*



Ka'Lexis Thomas



Zyna Thomas



Jaden Turner\*



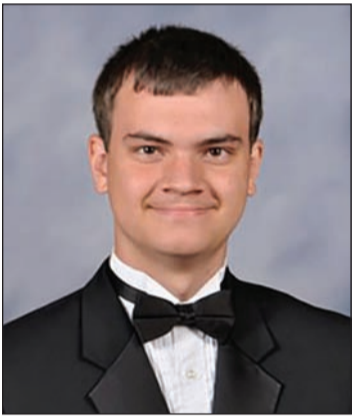
Zaid Vasquez-Maldonado



Jamia Wesley\*



Trinity Wideman\*



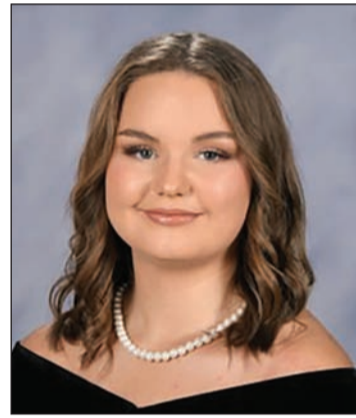
Hilton Williams\*



Landon Williams



Terreanna Williams\*



Hannah Williamson\*



\* honor graduate

Not pictured:  
Jazmely Sanchez\*



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First  
BANK

*Congrats*  
**GRADUATES**

CLASS OF 2026

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