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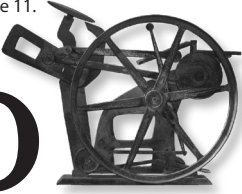
INSIDE

Sophomore Elizabeth Cook is a projected starter for the Oglethorpe County volleyball team, which will be under the direction of new coach Brianne Harrison this season. The Patriots open the season on Aug. 10.

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THE OGLETHORPE ECHO



Volume 149, Number 44

August 3, 2023 ■ Oglethorpe County, Georgia

\$1



Linda Anglin (from left), Henry Anglin, Vickie Anglin and Kelly Hembrick pose with a photo of Jimmy Anglin at Bryan Park in Crawford last month. The family continues to look for his remains, nearly six years after he went missing in 2017.

No peace for the Anglins

Jimmy Anglin's family won't rest until they find his remains

By Jamie Miller
The Oglethorpe Echo

Jimmy Anglin is never far from his family's thoughts. Nearly six years after his death, the Anglins catch glimpses of him as they sit around the tree on Christmas mornings and as they continue to celebrate his birthday every year.

Jimmy is remembered by his family and around Oglethorpe County for the impact he had on others.

"People still come up to us in the community and talk about how Jimmy would do anything for anyone," said Nicole Anglin, Jimmy's sister-in-law. "If there was any way that he could help you, he was going to help you. Even if it put him in a bad spot."

Anglin, an Oglethorpe County resident, went missing on Nov. 3, 2017 and was never seen again.

Five years later, on March 30, 2022, Robert David Jordan, Anglin's cousin and a Banks county resident, was found guilty of malice murder, felony murder, aggravated assault and concealment of death.

INFORMATION
WANTED

The Anglin family and Oglethorpe County Sheriff David Gabriel ask that anyone with information regarding Jimmy Anglin's remains contact the Oglethorpe County Sheriff's Office at 706-743-8101.

Jordan was sentenced to life in prison without parole the following day.

Jordan was arrested on a charge of felony murder on Sept. 16, 2019, following a search of a wooded area behind 4030 Comer Road, his primary residence at the time Anglin went missing. Anglin's skull was found 457 yards from Jordan's residence, but the rest of Anglin's remains are still missing.

"There's still no closure," Anglin said. "Even though (Robert Jordan) has been

arrested, convicted and is serving his time ... there's no peace and no closure because there's still a lot of unanswered questions and we have not been able to actually put him to rest."

The trial included 15 witnesses and more than 100 exhibits, including jail calls where Jordan gave directions to the suspected murder weapon — a Stoeger 12-gauge shotgun — in a wooded area in Banks County. Although the charges didn't require the state to prove motive, it was mentioned that Jordan was potentially motivated by emotion when Jimmy Anglin allegedly wanted to stop giving him portions of his government checks.

"Out in the world, and at home, he would be the first one to help. If he only had \$10, he would split it with you — even if he needed it. If he saw an animal hurt or abandoned, if he knew someone on drugs or homeless, he would bring them home, feed them and try to help them. He saw the world in a beautiful and innocent way," said Kelly Hembrick, Jimmy's sister.

See ANGLINS, Page 3

Hughes moves into new role

By McCain Bracewell
The Oglethorpe Echo

Sara Hughes has been awarded over \$14,800 on 14 grants the past seven years, ranging from \$200 to \$2,500 each. She put those to use to help students in her agriculture classes.

"I've applied for grants almost every year of my career, just to get extra funds for special projects that I've been interested in, that you know, were above and beyond," Hughes said. "The system does a great job of meeting our needs, but if I had a special project or special interest, I try to apply for funds."

Hughes will put her grant-writing ability to use in her new position as the federal programs coordinator and grant writer with the Oglethorpe County School System.

See HUGHES, Page 2



MCCAIN BRACEWELL/THE OGLETHORPE ECHO
Sara Hughes, who taught agriculture for 15 years, moves into a new position as the federal programs coordinator and grant writer with the Oglethorpe County School System.

School's back

Staff Report

It's that time of year again.

Oglethorpe County students head back to school next week, which means the roads will be busier in the mornings and afternoons while the buses are picking up and dropping off students.

Here are the dates for the first day of classes:

- Monday, Aug. 7 — First day of classes for all OCHS students; primary, elementary and middle school students with the last names beginning with A-L.
- Tuesday, Aug. 8 — First day of classes for primary, elementary and middle school students with the last names beginning with M-Z.
- Wednesday, Aug. 9 — First full day of classes for OCPS, OCES and OCMS.

Emergency trucks, bookbag handouts among Community Day highlights

By Jesse Wood
The Oglethorpe Echo

"Touch-a-Truck," one of the main attractions of Community Day, allows kids — and adults — to interact with emergency vehicles and meet first responders.

"The kids get used to seeing those emergency services personnel without it being in a hard situation," said Jeanne Jones, the organizer for Community Day. "They can meet them and see that they're friendly, they're nice and that they're there to help."

COMMUNITY DAY

When: 6:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 5
Where: Oglethorpe County Rec Department
Activities: Vendors, food trucks, family movie at sunset, video gaming truck, children's games, gifts and drawings
More info: Call Jeanne Jones at 678-779-5437 or email oglethorpecommunityday@gmail.com

Community Day will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 5 at Bryan Park. "The Super Mario Bros. Movie" will be shown at 8:30 p.m.

"It really brings everybody together to see what our community has to offer," Jones said.

See COMMUNITY, Page 3



JACK CASEY/THE OGLETHORPE ECHO
Community Day was a big draw in 2022, thanks to vendors, food trucks, bounce houses and free school supplies. This year's event is planned for Saturday, Aug. 5.

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JULIANNE AKERS/THE OGLETHORPE ECHO

Members of the Board of Education (from left) Susan Robinson, Tim Poole, Superintendent Beverley Levine, BOE Chair Becky Soto, Jake Willcox and Guillermo Camacho discuss matters at the BOE meeting on Tuesday night.

Computer science options presented

By Julianne Akers
The Oglethorpe Echo

Oglethorpe County Board of Education members were excited at Tuesday’s meeting to hear what several school leaders gathered from a conference they attended earlier this summer with the International Society for Technology in Education.

Assistant Superintendent Kan-ya Cornish gave a presentation on what the staff members learned about the expansion of technology in the classroom, including discussion of an Esports program and a pathway in game design.

“We already have one computer science class at the high school, and we started one at the middle school, but we want to have a K-12 approach,” Cornish said.

BOE Chair Becky Soto said, “I think it’s a really cool way to get kids

excited about computer science.”

In other business, the board:

- Approved the hire of Eric Schmidt (49%), Susie Johnson (49%) and Barbara Bertot (part-time) as certified personnel. Schmidt will teach social studies at Oglethorpe County High School, Johnson will work in student services at OCHS and Bertot will be a speech teacher 2½ days a week.

- Approved the hire of Kim Johnson as a custodian at OCMS, Lori Baker as a paraprofessional, Wendy Brown as an elementary school parapro and Kontera Collins as a high school parapro.

- Approved the board’s exemplary board status with the Georgia School Boards Association.

- Approved services for home

school students with disabilities for the 2023-24 school year. Federal regulations require school systems to provide services to students with disabilities who are home schooled or attend private schools in their county.

- Approved a memorandum of understanding with Medical Provider Services, Inc. as a provider of Medicaid Reimbursement Services.

- Approved an out-of-state field trip to Charleston, South Carolina, for the girls basketball team to participate in a tournament in December.

- Approved the issuance of a high school diploma to Kontera Sharice Collins, which follows a Georgia law enacted in 2015 that permits a high school diploma to students who completed all required coursework, but didn’t pass the previously required graduation tests.

Georgia State Patrol to focus on school zones next week

Staff Report

The Georgia State Patrol will have a presence in Oglethorpe County’s two school zones when students return next week.

Cpl. Neil Frankel said he and other troopers will enforce the school zone speed limit of 35 mph and other traffic laws in front of Oglethorpe County High School on Highway 78, and the primary, elementary and middle schools on Highway 22 (Comer Road) during both the morning and afternoon.

“One mile per hour over (the speed limit) could get you stopped,” said Frankel, who lives in Oglethorpe County.

All OCHS students begin Monday, along with students in the

primary, elementary and middle schools with last names starting between A-L.

OCPS, OCES and OCMS students with last names beginning between M-Z start on Tuesday.

Wednesday is the first full day for every student in the county.

The flashing lights and cameras in the school zones will be activated during the school zone hours. Frankel said troopers will also look out for drivers who attempt to pass in the right turn lane in front of Bell’s Food Store.

The speed limit is 45 mph on both roads outside school zone hours.

“I want to keep the kids safe from other drivers and from themselves,” Frankel said.



TANYA EIDSON/THE OGLETHORPE ECHO

Cpl. Neil Frankel with the Georgia State Patrol points his laser at drivers in downtown Lexington earlier this week. He and other troopers will patrol the school zones in both the morning and afternoon when schools start next week.

Georgia Milestones results show progress

By Dave Williams
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Georgia students haven’t fully recovered from the disruptions of the pandemic, but they’re making steady progress, according to the latest results from the Georgia Milestones tests.

This year’s results, released Friday, showed increases on 13 of 21 assessments. Most of the gains came in English/Language arts and math, and at the elementary and middle-school levels.

Most declines occurred in sci-

ence and social studies and at the high school level.

Third-grade students scored some of the largest increases, gaining on average three points in English/Language arts over 2022 scores. three points in math, and three points in reading. However, third-grade scores were still three points below the pre-pandemic year of 2019 in English/Language arts, while scores fell seven points in reading and six points in math.

Also, fewer than half of third graders scored at a proficient level in either English/Language arts or

math. On the plus side, the third-grade students did better at reading, with 66% scoring proficient or above.

On the other hand, Georgia Milestones scores continued to drop for eighth-grade students in science and social studies. Only 26% of eighth graders scored as proficient or above in science, down three points from last year and six points from 2019.

Proficiency in social studies among eighth-graders fell to 36% this year, down one point from 2022 and five points from 2019.

HUGHES, FROM PAGE 1

Hughes previously taught agriculture education, which will now be led by Katherine Throne. During her time in that role, Hughes built three agriculture education programs, including one at Oglethorpe County Middle School.

“I’ve been teaching agriculture for about 15 years and was looking to make a move,” she said. “I didn’t know exactly what that move was going to be at first. I was taking little baby steps of faith as things came open, and that was the first thing that came up.

“Then I learned about this job, and this was more of the kind of move I was looking to make.”

Hughes replaces Judy Spurgeon as the federal programs coordinator. Spurgeon will remain in a part-time role the next year to train Hughes, but the grant writing part of the position is new.

“She’s a go-getter. She always dots her i’s and crosses her t’s,” Spurgeon said. “She has a great relationship with everyone she meets, and she’s already done lots of grant writing.”

Superintendent Beverley Levine added several new positions to fill the needs of the Oglethorpe County School System as it heads into the 2023-24 school year. Teachers returned to their classrooms this week and students start on Monday, Aug. 7.

Hughes said there are grants that go untapped or unused because no one applies for them. She

hopes to help more students while being focused on researching and applying for grants for the entire system.

“When we’re talking about big grants, we’re talking state and federal grants,” Hughes said. “Anytime those come along, they’ve had to pull away from other projects to focus their time. This way, there’ll be a dedicated person to work on it.”

Hughes’ job as federal programs coordinator will include writing reports to the state and federal levels about grants the school system has been awarded. She also will work to increase parental engagement and give parents more opportunities to be involved in strategic plans while providing students and teachers the supplies they need to be successful.

“I will have the chance to impact even more students for the entire county, so that is definitely a driving factor,” Hughes said. “I am limited to the students in my classroom or in my school. I’ll be helping and facilitating things that affect all of the school students. It’s a bit of a challenge, but still exciting to try to impact more students.”

Her new role is different from her time in the classroom and will take acclimation.

“It’s still bittersweet, and I’m still asking myself every day did I made the right decision,” Hughes said. “It’s exciting, but it was a very difficult decision. It’s going to be an ongoing decision ev-

ery day to not be in the classroom, because I love my students and I love middle school.”

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Sanders’ Down Home BBQ

will be closed for the month of August and reopen Friday, September 1. Y’all come back and thanks!

Sanders’ Down Home BBQ

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ANGLINS, FROM PAGE 1

Jimmy Anglin grew up on Piney Grove Road in Comer, where he lived until his death in 2017. Despite a learning disability and academic challenges, Anglin graduated from Oglethorpe County High School in 2008 with a special education diploma.

Anglin was a family man who prioritized relationships with his parents, Henry Donald and Vickie Elaine Biffle Anglin, siblings, Donald Anglin, Hembrick and Randy Anglin, and his 12 nieces and nephews.

He had faith in people, believed in the good of the world and never missed a Christmas with his family — even if it meant driving to South Carolina, where Hembrick lived for a short time.

Hembrick’s son, 15-year-old Kayden Hembrick, was especially close with Jimmy.

“I love Jimmy and I miss him all the time,” Kayden Hembrick, Jimmy’s nephew, said. “He was a practicing angel here on earth and now he is a real angel.”

Kayden has made it his mission to include Jimmy in every Christmas by giving memorial items. Kayden takes special pride in picking out gifts for his grandparents, Henry and Vickie Anglin. Last year, Kayden gave customized pillow cases to remind family that Jimmy

will always be with them in spirit.

“Kayden won’t even open his presents until after (his grandparents) open what he picked out for them,” Hembrick said. “Jimmy didn’t have kids of his own, but he definitely instilled his giving heart into my son’s heart. He was definitely a role model for his nephews and niece.”

Search for remains

July 3 marked Anglin’s 33rd birthday, the sixth one the Anglin family spent without a grave to visit. They have not given up the search for his remains.

For over half a decade, Randy Anglin, Jimmy’s brother, has conducted weekly searches for remains in the wooded area behind Jordan’s previous residence on 4030 Comer Road, the location where Anglin’s skull was found in 2019.

He has yet to find any.

The skull was one of the main pieces of evidence in the State of Georgia v. Robert David Jordan trial and hasn’t been handed over to the family for burial because it is still involved in legal proceedings and is being held by the District Attorney’s office.

Georgia law allows the government to hold onto skeletal remains



SUBMITTED PHOTO
The Anglin family and friends wore T-shirts with Jimmy Anglin’s face on them during a parade in Madison County in 2018.

for as long as necessary in case there are appeals or reasons for retrial, Oglethorpe County Sheriff David Gabriel said.

“In the end, it is up to the DA’s office when the evidence, and in this case, the human remains, will be released to the right folks,” Gabriel said.

Gabriel said although justice was done when Jordan was found guilty, “the job is not finished.”

“I know the DA and the sheriff’s department did everything they could do by law. But I guess you could say I don’t feel like I’m at peace,” Randy Anglin said.

After Jordan’s conviction, Oglethorpe County officials drained two quarries near 111 Rocky Drive in the northeast part of the county, pursuing a lead mentioned during the trial. No re-

mains were found.

Anglin’s case has a lasting legacy, not only because of who he was, but because of the nature of the crime. There were only two murders in Oglethorpe county from 2012-22, according to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation’s Georgia Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program.

“Everyone in Oglethorpe cares for each other. We hurt for each other,” Gabriel said. “I keep the Anglin family in my prayers. I am not giving up and I am staying hopeful that we will get a call and can bring Jimmy home.”

In the years since Jimmy’s murder, the Oglethorpe County community has continued to support the Anglin family.

The "In Loving Memory of Jimmy Lee Anglin" Facebook page has over 200 followers and acts as a living memorial. Included on the page are photos from the Nov. 2, 2019 memorial, where the community gathered to celebrate Anglin’s life and legacy.

“We have just been hoping to find the rest of Jimmy’s remains before his (skull) is released,” Hembrick said. “I feel we will see no peace if we are not able to truly lay him to rest.”

COMMUNITY, FROM PAGE 1

She’s been a member of the Community Day committee the past seven years and works to ensure the continuation of many light-hearted activities, like a dunk tank, bounce houses and pony rides.

Salem Baptist Church has donated to the event in the past, but this year it will sponsor the bounce house under the oversight of Andy Paul, its youth minister.

“We have it incorporated into our budget because we love Oglethorpe County, we love the people that are there and the membership of our church believes in investing back into our community,” Paul said.

Paul said Salem Baptist realized it could make the biggest dif-

ference among the county’s kids with a bounce house at Community Day.

“To provide (the kids) with a few stress-free minutes, they can get their minds off of the future and just focus on having fun, like a kid, is something we’re definitely behind,” Paul said.

Car seat checks and bookbag handouts will also take place before the school year begins on Monday, Aug. 7. Last year, approximately 250 bookbags were given away.

“A lot of the time, these parents don’t know what’s out there that they can access to help them through the school year to help their children,” Jones said.

Approximately 30 vendors

have signed up, including the Rotary Club, which will promote their weekly meetings at 7 a.m. Fridays.

“We now have a flyer that we’ll be handing out at Community Day,” said Jean Westmacott, Rotary president. “I would say come by the booth, talk to someone who cares about Rotary and pick up a flyer if they’re interested.”

The event is funded by donations from organizations and members of the community, ranging up to \$1,000, as well as vendor participation fees.

“We are a small county. We are a rural county, but I truly believe that we have the best people you will ever find,” Paul said.

Until we meet again

August 6, 1984 -January 1, 2021

We think about you always,
We talk about you still,
You have never been forgotten,
And you never will.
We hold you close within our hearts and there you will remain,
To walk and guide us through our lives,
Until we meet again.
Happy Heavenly Birthday Mkaael.
Love Mom, RonBeo, Tierra, Anterio Jr, A'Dai and Amazi

OBITUARY —
LONNIE APPLING

Lonnie Appling, 59, of Lexington, died Monday, July 24, 2023. The funeral service was Saturday, July 29, 2023 at 2 p.m. at Fork Bethel Baptist Church, Pastor Perez Watson, eulogist. Interment was in the church cemetery.

Survivors include his wife, Patricia Appling; children Lonneshia Appling, Feterral Appling, Zack Neal and Sandreus Hortage; siblings Joanne Appling, Rubie (Eugene) Cunningham, Deborah (Bobby) Mattox and Calvin Appling, 11 grandchildren; and other relatives and friends.

Jones Funeral Chapel, LLC of Crawford was in charge of services.

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Policies and Deadlines

■ The Oglethorpe Echo encourages readers to submit items of community interest. Submissions for community news, obituaries, classifieds, and other sections are due by Monday at 5 p.m., on a week of normal publication schedule. Holiday events often cause an earlier deadline.

■ Submissions can be mailed to: Editor, P. O. Box 268, Lexington, Georgia 30648 or emailed to editor@oglethorpeecho.com, along with a name and phone number for more information.

Accuracy Policy

■ The Oglethorpe Echo strives to produce error-free news reporting. When mistakes occur, it is our policy to correct them as soon as they are brought to our attention.

■ To request a correction, contact the editor at editor@oglethorpeecho.com or 706-743-3111.

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Opinion & Commentary

Next BOC meeting:
6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 7

How to register for BOC meeting on Zoom

Step 1: Visit the county website and click on the BOC meeting on the calendar



Step 2: Click on the Zoom link
registration is required prior to meeting



Step 3: Fill out the registration information and click the blue "register" button when finished

Webinar Registration

First Name* Last Name*

Email Address*

Address*

City*

I would like to speak on one of the following Resonance Items:

1. Hedwig Gabriel has requested a rezoning of Tax Parcel 050 DBMA from A2 to R1 in order to convert existing structure to a single-family residence.

2. Hedwig Gabriel has requested a variance to the setback of her parcel to be reduced from 90' from the right-of-way to 34' from the right of way.

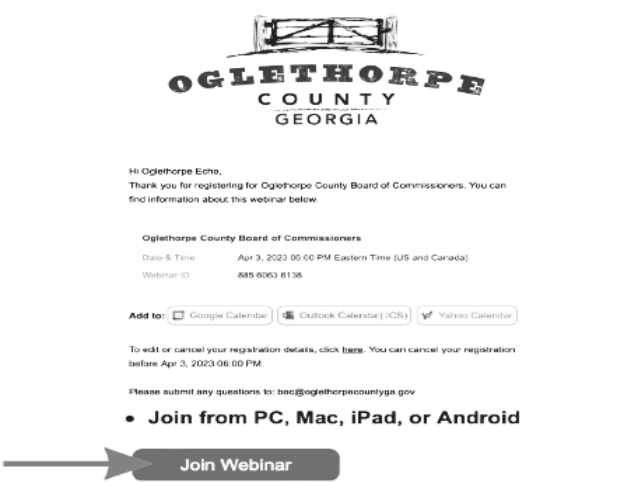
3. Robert Sindriner has requested a rezoning for Tax Parcels 150 005 and 151 001 from A2 to A1 to allow poultry houses.

I do not wish to speak.

Information you provide when registering will be shared with the account owner and host and collected and shared by them in accordance with their Terms and Privacy Policy.

Register

Step 4: Check your email and scroll to see the options for joining the session



Uncle Bud almost spit out his false teeth

Step back into the 1950s, when you were lucky if your rabbit ears could pull in three TV channels.

Rabbit what? There was a time when rural folks sat on their front porches — after working from “can to can” — and entertained themselves without 987 channels.

During my boyhood summers, I was lucky enough to step off concrete and into that country-fried world.

I couldn’t wait for the last supper dish to be washed and stewed. That meant my grandmother was going to reign from her front-porch rocker, set back 20 yards from the hard road and two-country-songs-on-Camilla’s-WCLB-AM south of Newton in Baker County on Highway 91.

If you don’t know what rabbit-ears antennas are, you probably won’t know what a dirt-road sport is, either, but that was exactly what Nanny was. She could cuss, cackle and spin a yarn better than an Alabama cotton mill. Some would say that my grandmother was full of it.

But the more foolishness that she stirred — in between rocking and streaming peach snuff into a Maxwell House instant-coffee jar, stuffed with a pillow of Kleenex — the more I liked it.

She knew I was a gullible city boy. That made me her summertime entertainment.

And vice versa.

I adored her and every moment on her farm, especially those evenings on her front porch.

Nanny had a barnyard cure for everyday ailments.

Here’s a sampler:

Chicken pox?

Simple, go to the coop and let a chicken fly over your head.

Cure for sore eyes?

Simple, wash your face in the horse trough.

Got ground itch from wading barefoot in mud puddles?

Simple, let Bessie, the milk cow, pee on your feet.

Once, Nanny saw me licking my cracked lips.



Dink NeSmith
dnesmith@cninews-papers.com

If you don't know what rabbit-ears antennas are, you probably won't know what a dirt-road sport is, either, but that was exactly what Nanny was. She could cuss, cackle and spin a yarn better than an Alabama cotton mill. Some would say that my grandmother was full of it.

the explosion of new curly growth.

While I was waiting, Nanny’s baby brother, my Great Uncle Bud, joined us on the porch one night. It was obvious that he was staring at my slick-as-a-baby’s-behind legs and arms.

“Dang, son,” he said, “I believe you might be the most hairless boy I’ve ever seen.”

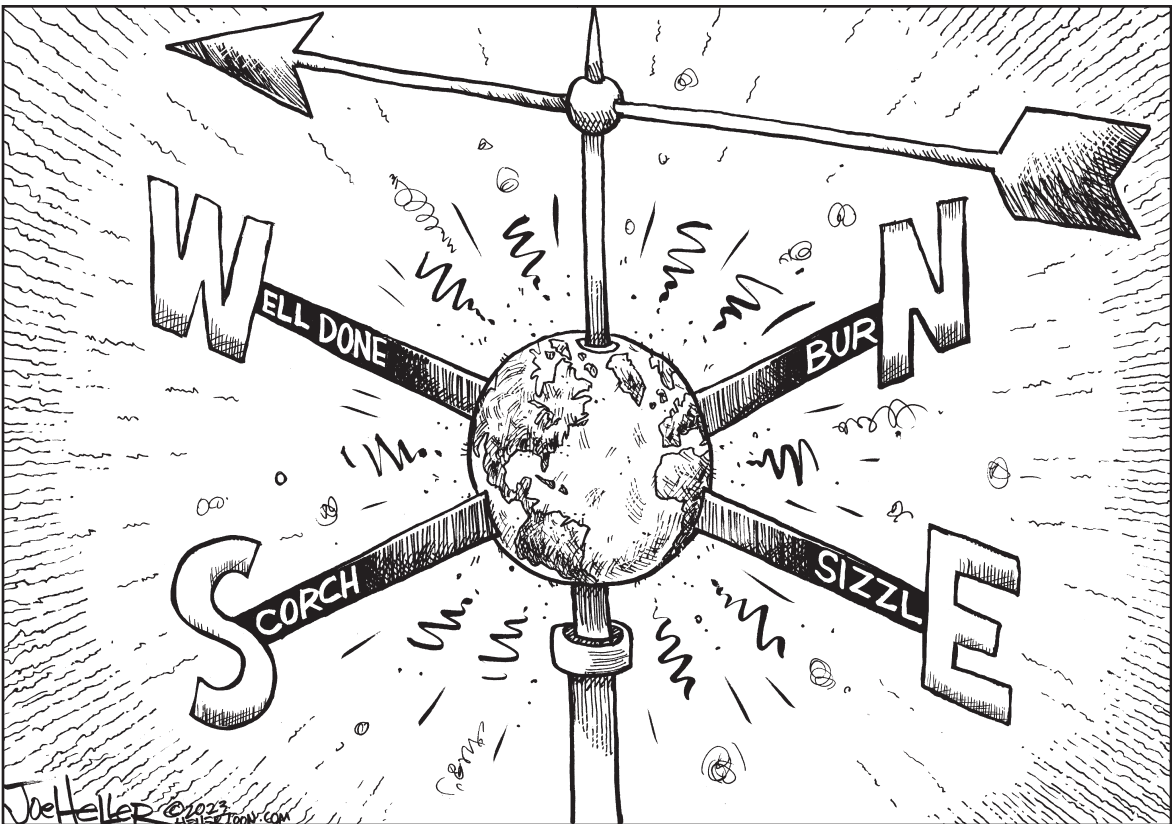
Rather than be embarrassed, I explained — in my gullible way — Nanny’s shave-it-off-and-it’ll-grow-back-more-and-faster strategy.

A bona fide dirt-road sport, too, Uncle Bud almost spit out his false teeth before he joined his sister cackling.

And even today — when I walk by his grave at Pilgrims Home Free Will Baptist Church, I think that I can hear Uncle Bud’s “heh, heh, heh.”

Sometimes, I wonder whether our eight grandchildren think their grandpa might be a dirt-road sport, too.

Heh, heh, heh.



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THE OGLETHORPE ECHO
Serving Oglethorpe County for more than 149 years

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Opinion & Letter Policies

- The Echo’s Opinion is a staff editorial expressing the views of The Echo.
- Opinion or guest columns express the views of the writer only.
- We encourage letters to the editor on a wide range of issues and topics.
- Publication of any letter is subject to the discretion of the The Oglethorpe Echo. All views expressed in any letter are those of the writer.
- Letters are subject to editing for style, grammar or libel and should be limited to 350 words.
- All letters must be signed. Please include street address and phone number for the verification of identity. Only names and city of residence will be published.
- Letters are due by the weekly deadline of Monday at 5 p.m., on a week of normal publication schedule. Holiday events often cause an earlier deadline.
- Letters can be mailed to: Editor, P. O. Box 268, Lexington, Georgia 30648 or e-mailed to editor@oglethorpeecho.com
- Letters regarding a candidate or an issue on a ballot will not be published two weeks preceding election day.

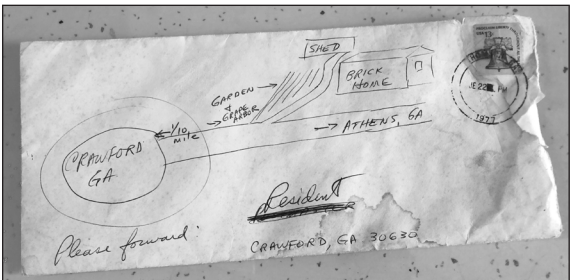
FREAK ACCIDENT



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

A large granite block flew off an out-of-control tractor-trailer and crushed a car parked on the side of Lexington Carlton Road around 2:30 p.m. July 24, according to the Georgia State Patrol. The driver of the truck failed to maintain his lane, according to the Georgia State Patrol, and overcorrected before losing control of the vehicle. The block of granite he was transporting flew off the trailer and crushed a red Toyota that was parked on the side of the road. The owner of the car was fishing nearby and wasn't in the vehicle. The block of granite came to rest in the woods. The incident blocked both lanes and the road was closed for several hours.

LETTERS TO THE ECHO



ANDY JOHNSTON/THE OGLETHORPE ECHO

This envelope, with only a crude map for an address, was delivered to the correct house in Crawford in 1977.

The difference in the post office between then and now

Editor,
In June of 1977, a pharmacist from Thomson, Georgia, was traveling on Highway 78 through Crawford. In passing my parents' home, he decided to stop because he wanted to get some information about my daddy's grapevines.
No one was home, so he walked down to look at the vines, and when he got home, decided to write to ask several questions. Since my parents got their mail at the post office, there was no mailbox with an identifying number or name for him to address his letter. You can see how he addressed the envelope. The mail was delivered!
Fast forward to 2023.
Months ago, someone at the USPS decided that it would be a good idea to change the way our mail is delivered in Oglethorpe County. As it's been explained to me, all the mail goes to Athens and is delivered from there.
The fault is not in our local county post offices. Now carriers drive to Athens to pick up mail daily, and if they have a day off, your mail may be delivered by a substitute, who is apparently not familiar with the routes and doesn't bother to check in with local post offices for clarification.
I have had several letters and bills returned to the sender with a "NSS" (no such street) notation written on them. Three days this past week, no mail carrier came by my house to pick up mail I had delivered in the mailbox.
I live in the city limits.
I have been to the local post office to ask how this can be corrected. I have called the Athens Post Office on Olympic Drive. After many long holds and jumping through hoops, I finally spoke with a person, supposedly a supervisor.
She assured me that she would call me back the next day. One month later, I still have not heard from her.
I hope the powers with the U.S. Postal Service, please fix this mess.
— Connie Morgan White, Crawford

County needs to provide more services to those on fixed incomes

Editor,
I'm criticizing the rise in property taxes.
My husband and I have lived in Oglethorpe County for 22 years. It provides us with virtually no services. We have never had children in school, the fire hydrant in my front yard is dry, and at the beginning of the week, our backyard stinks so bad — like dead

animals — that we just want to vomit.
We understand that the value of our home has gone up, however, because we live on a limited income, Oglethorpe County might as well just stab us in the belly with even higher property taxes.
The county needs better homestead exemptions. We gratefully receive the \$2,000 homestead exemption, but this is a drop in the bucket for property taxes as high (or higher) than other surrounding counties.
This is a terrible hardship for us and there is no help for homeowners over 65 or people with fixed incomes.
We shouldn't walk in our yard and smell dead animals. No sludge should be dumped close to this residential area considered to be prime real estate.
Dumping animal remains is illegal by federal and state EPA laws. They aren't dumping chicken litter or soil amendments for crops. Someone is being paid to get this nasty waste dumped on their land.
It certainly doesn't smell like chicken litter!
Our house doesn't seem so valuable when our yard smells like dead animals!
We applaud the efforts of all the underfunded volunteer firefighters. Since we have no hydrants with water, most likely if our home catches on fire, it will burn to the ground in spite of the fire department's best efforts.
We are fortunate to have a nice house.
Oglethorpe County needs to treat the elderly, disabled people and people of low income better when it comes to expensive property taxes.
— Kim Smith, Colbert

National Health Center Week to be recognized next week

Editor,
In 1965, our nation launched its first community health centers to improve the lives and well-being of Americans regardless of their ability to pay. President Lyndon B. Johnson piloted a program to deliver affordable primary health care to Americans who needed it most.
He helped establish community health centers in underserved areas, making medical services accessible to people irrespective of their age, geography, or economic status. Johnson's philosophy was simple: in a "Great Society," no one is left behind.
Today, community health centers are one of the largest health care providers in the country and provide high-quality, affordable health care services.
During National Health Center Week, Aug. 6-12, we reflect on the significant role that health centers have played in providing the comprehensive care that all people deserve.
MedLink Georgia plays a vital role in the health of communities and offers a sliding fee scale to uninsured and underinsured patients who qualify.
During National Health Center Week, let us recognize our health centers and staff for their outstanding contributions to communities across Georgia and beyond.
Let us thank the dedicated professionals in our community health centers who provide quality care at affordable prices. Let us thank them for their dedication, their service, and their commitment to a stronger, healthier, and more equitable healthcare system.
— Dave Ward, CEO, MedLink Georgia

Stricklands take over Ace Hardware

By Julianne Akers
The Oglethorpe Echo

The Ace Hardware Stores in Crawford and Colbert will transition to new owners Tripp Strickland and his father George Strickland, who live in Danielsville.
The current owners, Leisa Coyne and Tony Coyne, were ready to sell the business, Strickland said. The Coynes couldn't be reached for comment.
The Stricklands started managing the store on Aug. 1, with an official closing scheduled in about two weeks.
"We've been in the hardware business for 50 years. We've serviced many of the towns in

Oglethorpe County," said Tripp Strickland, who also owns Madison County Ace Hardware and Georgia Metals with his father.
He said that many residents in Oglethorpe County have had accounts at their stores.
"We look forward to seeing those folks again," he said.
Strickland said one change on the way is the name of the Crawford location, which will be changed to Oglethorpe Ace Hardware.
The manager will be Chuck Gabriel, who is local to Oglethorpe County and has worked in the hardware industry with Hammer Head Sales.
"I've got good management coming in," Strickland said.



The new leadership group for the Ace Hardware in Crawford includes Jeff Strickland (from left), the vice president of operations, Chuck Gabriel, the store manager, and store owners George and Tripp Strickland.
SUBMITTED PHOTO

City of Lexington Water & Sewer Customers:

We are pleased to announce our new ServLine Leak Protection Program to all eligible City of Lexington water & sewer customers, effective **September 1, 2023**. For residential and small commercial customers who see high water bills as the result of a qualifying leak, this program will offer some relief. Each eligible customer will automatically be enrolled. This is an **opt-out** program, and customers must call (762) 795-3001 to decline charges for the ServLine program.

What are the benefits? Customers enrolled in our new ServLine Leak Protection Program will receive a benefit that will cover the water use above their average bill amount up to \$2,500, caused by a qualifying leak — such as those behind a wall, under a foundation or underground. The program allows for one (1) adjustment per 12 months over a maximum of two (2) billing cycles after leak repair. *The cost of repairs is not included in this leak protection.*

What happens if I opt out? Customers who decline the program accept responsibility for water loss charges caused by a water leak.

We hope this program will provide financial relief and encourage speedy repairs and reduced water loss. Please look for additional information in the mail. Customers may call City of Lexington's dedicated ServLine phone number for detailed program guidelines or questions at (762) 795-3001.
We look forward to this opportunity to enhance our customer service to you.
Thank you,
City of Lexington

NOTICE							
The Oglethorpe County Board of Commissioners does hereby announce that the millage rate will be set at a meeting to be held in the Admin Building located at 105 Union Point St Lexington GA on August 21, 2023 at 6 PM and pursuant to the requirements of O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32 does hereby publish the following presentation of the current year's tax digest and levy, along with the history of the tax digest and levy for the past five years.							
CURRENT 2023 PROPERTY TAX DIGEST AND 5 YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY							
UNINCORPORATED	2018						
	2019						
	2020						
	2021						
	2022						
	2023						
	Real & Personal	394,768,518	481,349,886	487,975,842	496,409,455	578,120,121	690,231,643
	Motor Vehicles	11,530,230	10,180,170	8,023,430	8,024,520	7,323,340	7,593,850
	Mobile Homes	2,534,970	2,553,445	2,677,639	2,590,917	2,789,539	2,897,152
	Heavy Duty Equipment	5,455,931	5,200,071	7,679,114	6,355,985	7,023,117	6,943,078
INCORPORATED	Gross Digest	414,289,649	499,283,572	506,356,025	513,380,577	595,256,117	711,665,703
	Less Exemptions	59,095,788	87,938,730	86,591,098	83,096,915	88,528,581	91,819,314
	NET DIGEST VALUE	354,981,861	411,344,834	419,764,927	430,373,662	506,727,536	619,786,389
	Gross Maintenance & Operation Millage	11.2710	9.3470	2.5340	10.1750	8.7340	7.4910
	Less Rollbacks (Local Option Sales Tax & Insurance Premium)	3.4150	2.3830	2.5340	2.9530	2.3710	1.9800
	NET M&O MILLAGE RATE	7.8560	6.9640	0.0000	7.2200	6.3630	5.5110
	TAX	NET M&O TAXES LEVIED	\$2,785,689	\$2,864,605	50	\$3,107,294	\$3,415,643
TOTAL COUNTY	2018						
	2019						
	2020						
	2021						
	2022						
	2023						
	Real & Personal	23,037,199	29,264,765	29,571,033	29,478,629	42,589,438	52,282,243
	Motor Vehicles	568,940	513,880	352,540	369,170	405,330	384,470
	Mobile Homes	289,429	342,168	362,425	337,207	388,918	404,270
	Heavy Duty Equipment	23,895,548	30,120,813	30,285,998	30,185,004	43,380,894	53,070,983
TOTAL COUNTY	Gross Digest	1,351,154	1,295,082	1,287,809	1,285,803	1,937,750	2,172,051
	Less Exemptions	22,744,414	28,865,731	29,096,108	28,999,644	41,446,134	50,896,572
	NET DIGEST VALUE	1,328,439	1,266,351	1,258,701	1,256,159	1,891,616	2,121,479
	Gross Maintenance & Operation Millage	11.2710	9.3470	2.8470	10.1750	8.7340	7.4910
	Less Rollbacks (Local Option Sales Tax & Insurance Premium)	1.6200	1.4770	1.6400	1.7630	1.7050	1.6130
	NET M&O MILLAGE RATE	9.6510	7.8700	1.2070	8.4100	7.0290	5.8780
	TAX	NET M&O TAXES LEVIED	\$218,546	\$227,173	\$35,121	\$343,887	\$291,325
	TOTAL COUNTY	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
	TOTAL DIGEST VALUE	\$77,338,275	\$440,210,567	\$448,863,035	\$459,373,366	\$448,173,670	\$705,885,361
	TOTAL M&O TAXES LEVIED	\$3,005,196	\$3,091,779	\$35,121	\$33,351,185	\$33,315,632	\$3,714,827
	Net Tax \$ Increase	\$86,583	(\$3,096,637)	(\$3,316,063)	\$316,448	\$199,195	\$199,195
	Net Tax % Increase	2.88%	-88.86%	-98.86%	9441.71%	4.91%	5.67%

NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF PROPOSED BUDGET; NOTICE OF THE AVAILABILITY OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET; NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING; NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF THE BUDGET RESOLUTION FOR OGLETHORPE COUNTY, GEORGIA

The proposed budget for Oglethorpe County, Georgia for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2024 was submitted to the Board of Commissioners on July 31, 2023. A copy of the proposed budget is available at www.oglethorpecountyga.gov and posted at the Administrative Building at 105 Union Point Street in Lexington, GA. The proposed budget is available for inspection by the general public at the Administrative Building between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM Monday through Friday. A public hearing to consider the proposed budget for 2024 will be held at the Administrative Building board room on August 14, 2023 at 10 AM. All persons wishing to be heard concerning the proposed budget may appear and make their comments. The budget resolution for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2024 will be adopted by the Board of Commissioners at a meeting at the Administrative Building board room to be held on August 21, 2023 at 6 PM.

AROUND THE COUNTY

TOP HONOR



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Crawford's Dolan O'Neal (second from left) earned the rank of Eagle Scout through her involvement with Troop 5300 in Watkinsville and Venturing Crew 1 in Athens. She has completed the required badges, community service and camping experience. For her Eagle Project, O'Neal planned and led the construction of eight benches around the outside basketball court at Bryan Park in Crawford. She is pictured with Seavy O'Neal, Amy Atao and great aunt Colette Sego. Below, Dolan O'Neal receives her certificate from Marcus Fecheimer.

COPTER CLEANUP



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The American Legion Post 123 Riders, including Ken Pagel (from left), Eddie Sackett, Mike Boyd and Chuck Burroughs, are in phase 1 of helicopter refurbishment, which includes cleaning and painting. Phase 2 will focus on more detailed painting and adornments, and phase 3 will include lifting the copter onto a platform with a memorial site and dedication ceremony. Bricks will be placed under the helicopter.

STATE FINALIST



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Kate Spearing, a recent graduate of Oglethorpe County High School, finished second in the safety project at the 80th annual 4-H State Congress in Atlanta on July 18-21. Her presentation focused on her interest and enthusiasm working with Oglethorpe County Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Spearing, who worked as a 4-H camp counselor at Rock Eagle this summer, competed against district winners from across the state. She qualified for the State Congress at the Northeast District Project Achievement competition at Rock Eagle in March.

HELPING HANDS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Corrine Thiel (right), the president of the Oglethorpe County Lions Club, presents "pajama packs" to Deanna Warren, the pediatric child life specialist at Piedmont Athens Regional. Thiel and the Oglethorpe County Lions Club assembled over 50 pajama packs to be distributed to children on hospital stays. Thiel is in her third year spearheading this effort with the Oglethorpe County Lions Club.

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LANDEN TODD/THE OGLETHORPE ECHO

Robert and Lani Kline hold signs on Highway 78 to let folks know about the Wesley Chapel Volunteer Fire Department’s car wash fundraiser at Lexington Auto Parts last Saturday. The donations help the department purchase and maintain its equipment.

Wesley Chapel firefighters put water to different use

By Avni Trivedi
The Oglethorpe Echo

Robert Kline, dressed in full firefighter gear, holds a “Car Wash” sign above his head standing on the side of Athens Road.

The cars that turn into the Lexington Auto Parts parking lot are met by Chris Dickens and other members of the Wesley Chapel Volunteer Fire Department, sponges and hoses in hand.

The Wesley Chapel Fire Department held a fundraising car wash on July 29 to raise money for new equipment such as turnout gear, fuel for the fire engine and tankers and general funds for the department. Dickens said they didn’t have a specific monetary goal in mind or a set amount of money people had to donate.

“Whatever they can do to help we really appreciate it, whether that’s \$1 or \$2 we’re fine with that,” Kline said.

Dickens said the department raised about \$1,200 on Saturday and that Lexington Auto Parts let the firefighters use its water.

Kline said turnout gear, the personal protective equipment firefighters wear, can cost about \$3,800. Expired gear can be dangerous for firefighters to use, so new sets of gear need to be available. The department also receives new recruits frequently, who also need a set of gear.

The volunteer fire department receives a budget from the county which it uses to supply gear and equipment, however if the department goes over its budget, it has to raise funds.

Wesley Chapel separated from Oglethorpe County Consolidated Fire and Rescue in June and is

now one of three independent fire departments in the county. Glade and Vesta became independent stations in 2022.

The fire department holds various fundraisers throughout the year; their most recent — prior to Saturday’s car wash — was a “Nature’s Harvest” variety meat box that also raised about \$1,200 for the fire department.

Dickens is thankful the community has shown support to the fire department by participating in the fundraisers. Along with members of the community, other emergency services stopped by to have their vehicles cleaned and donate money.

“Our sheriff’s real big on us getting out in the community and doing things,” said Cpl. AJ Wiles with the Sheriff’s Office. “We try to hit every lemonade stand and car wash we can.”

The fire department is planning to attend Community Day at the Oglethorpe County Recreation Department on Saturday, Aug. 5. Firefighters plan to give out hats and show kids the fire trucks.

In the future, Kline said the fire department wants to make their fundraisers bigger, with hopes to coordinate a 5K.

For the firefighters, fundraising events aren’t just to raise money. It’s about making connections with the community and helping residents feel their presence.

Kline, who has been with the fire department for about a year, said community is what brought him to Wesley Chapel.

“We just enjoy doing it to help our community,” he said. “That’s what I wanted to do when I moved up here — was to join the volunteer fire department.”

County fire departments prioritize new equipment

By Julianne Akers
The Oglethorpe Echo

Equipment used by fire departments goes through extensive wear and tear, which has become an issue at several Oglethorpe County volunteer fire departments.

“Anything within the fire service has a lifespan,” said Cody Gibbs, assistant chief of the Beaverdam Volunteer Fire Department.

Charleen Foott, chief of the Wolfskin department, said this is a problem with their trucks.

She said the Wolfskin station was built in the 1970s when trucks were smaller, and “nowadays, I mean, any current vehicle, you need a certain size bay, and those trucks simply will not fit into our station.”

She said the department hopes to build a new building to house its trucks and engines, but it can be difficult to find funding.

“We don’t have collateral with anything. I mean, we can’t put our vehicles as collateral,” Foott said.

She hopes to receive funding or a grant from the Emergency Services Commission.

The need for newer equipment has become a priority at Pleasant Hill.

Its SCBAs failed last year’s flow and fit test, were repaired, and failed again this year, Gibbs said.

One solution that’s in place to fix these issues is a strategic plan intended to unify emergency services in the county. Six county departments belong to the Oglethorpe County Fire and Rescue, five are part of the Oglethorpe Volunteer Firefighter Association, and three are independent stations.

Jason Lewis, Oglethorpe County EMS director, said one of the main goals of this plan is sustainability when it comes to apparatus.

“It’s not just buying things,” he said. “It’s buying things and maintaining things and replacing things, and we want to focus on life safety, but we have a responsibility to the taxpayer.”

Gibbs said another key factor is to keep all stations following this same plan.

“We’re trying to standardize the



ELOISE MCNAIR/THE OGLETHORPE ECHO

Community donations helped the Devil’s Pond Volunteer Fire Department purchase a JAWS Combi Tool last year. The tool is used to help free accident victims from vehicles.

equipment across the county, regardless of which station or which department is buying the equipment,” Gibbs said. “We’re trying to standardize everything so that everybody knows how to work the gear or the equipment, everybody has the same gear, and it kind of simplifies the servicing.”

Gibbs said he thinks it’s important for county residents to pay attention and be involved in public safety, but he doesn’t think they should be concerned.

“Our fire stations, they’re still responding. They’re still training. They’re staying sharp on their skills,” Gibbs said. “We’re doing what we need to do to stay compli-

ant with the state and to make sure that we can offer the best service to its citizens.”

Lewis and Gibbs agreed that firefighters in the county work together to ensure the safety and protection of everyone.

Gibbs said, “Regardless of what fire station it is in Oglethorpe County, whether they’re a part of this group or that group, or they’re solely independent, at the end of the day, we all have to work together for the common cause, which is the citizens of Oglethorpe County.”

“When the crisis comes, you’ve never seen a group of people work harder together,” Lewis said.

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LANDEN TODD/THE OGLETHORPE ECHO

Tyler Bouknecht (left) and Wesley Chapel Volunteer Fire Department Chief Chris Dickens wash a car during the department’s fundraiser at Lexington Auto Parts on Saturday. The department holds several fundraisers throughout the year.

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*Country farmhouse on 22.29 acres with a shop, pasture, and a pond in Crawford. \$575,000

*Single level 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with a new roof on a 2.15-acre lot in Comer. \$319,000

Farm Listings

*30.40 acre farm with 5 active broiler houses, main home and additional mobile home. Also, an equipment shed and horse barn. Property has a flowing creek. \$1,150,000

Land Listings

*2.06 acre residential lot in Oconee County. Nice hardwoods with an established well, septic tank, shop and paved driveway. \$150,000

*13.46 acres on New Hope Vesta Rd, ready for your dream home or as a recreational getaway! \$94,220

*11.33 acres on Deer Haven Run in Carlton, build your home here with plenty of privacy. \$120,000

*1.68 acre tract on New Hope Vesta Rd, could be used to build a secluded getaway. \$12,500

*2 acres of commercial property zoned B-1 on Bisson Woods Rd in Lexington. \$45,000

*18.11 acres with a creek in Carlton, property is land locked. \$79,000

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NEWS ROUNDUP

State gives OK to county’s voting system

Staff Report

Oglethorpe County has successfully passed the audit of its election infrastructure (software and hardware), Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger’s office said Tuesday.

The county’s voting system “remains secure, unaltered and fully functioning as Georgia heads into a major election cycle,” the office said in an email.

Municipal elections are scheduled for this fall and the presidential election highlights the 2024 election cycle.

Friends of Library to start monthly series

The Friends of the Library will hold a presentation on beekeeping to kick off its new Lunch and Learn series at noon Monday, Aug. 14 at the Oglethorpe County Library.

Cory Momany, vice president of the Oglethorpe County Bee Club, will speak on how to start beekeeping.

The Lunch and Learn presentations will be held at noon on the second Monday of each month until the end of the year. Drinks will be provided, but attendees are encouraged to bring a brown bag lunch for this series.

Momany is a Georgia Journeyman Beekeeper and owner of Flying Pigs Honey. He maintains 50 hives around the Athens area and at Yonah Mountain Vineyard. He is vice president of the Oglethorpe County Bee Club, and has served as president, secretary and vice president of Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association.

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Headmaster’s Corner
By Steve Cummings

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Community Church Directory

CHURCH OF THE WEEK


COUNTY LINE BAPTIST CHURCH

"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

Jeremiah 29:13 NIV

Antioch Baptist Church 135 Railroad Rd., Stephens, GA 30667	Glade Baptist Church 1742 Lexington – Carlton Rd., Carlton, GA 30627	Oconee Baptist Church 58 Lower Wire Bridge Road, Stephens, GA 30667
Arnold's Grove Baptist Church 625 Wolfskin Rd, Arnoldsville, GA 30619	Glade United Methodist Church 1735 Lexington Carlton Rd Carlton, GA 30627	Palmetto Chtistian Church 884 Arnold Caldwell Rd Carlton, GA 30627
Arnoldsville Baptist Church 240 Yancey Rd., Arnoldsville, GA 30619	Grove Chapel Church 136 Grove Chapel Church Rd Winterville, GA 30638	Pentecost Chapel Congregational Holiness Church 389 Stephens Grove Church Road Lexington, GA 30648
Athens Friends Meeting Quakers 2092 Athens Road Arnoldsville, GA 30619	Harmonia Baptist Church 324 Church Street, Maxeys GA 30671	Piney Grove Baptist Church 241 Piney Grove Rd., Comer, GA 30629
Baird's Baptist Church 1031 Community Drive, (physical address: 42 Bairdstown Loop) Union Pt, GA 30669	Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses 585 Elberton Road Lexington, GA 30648	Pleasant Hill Baptist Church 338 Collier Church Road, Comer, Ga 30629
Bethany Baptist Church 3193 Centerville Rd., Lexington, Ga 30648	Lexington Baptist Church 103 West Church Street, Lexington, GA 30648	Rocky Branch Baptist Church 58 Millstone Church Rd., Carlton, GA 30627
Born Again Church 1180 Athens Road Crawford, GA 30630	Lighthouse Evangelical Church Elberton Rd, Lexington, GA 30648	Salem Baptist Church 694 Salem Church Rd., Lexington, GA 30648
Burts United Methodist Church 77 Veribest – Enterprise Road, Carlton, GA 30627	Living Water Baptist Church 734 Yancey Road Arnoldsville, GA 30619	Sandy Cross Baptist Church 791 Lexington Carlton Rd., Carlton, GA 30627
Clarke Grove Baptist Church 726 Crawfordville Hwy., Stephens, GA 30667	Love & Action United Church 1071 Athens Road, Crawford, GA 30630	Sonlight Baptist Church 1134 Hargrove Lake Road Colbert, GA 30628
Cloud's Creek Baptist Church 274 Cloud's Creek Rd, Crawford, GA 30630	Maxeys Christian Church 160 Church Street Maxeys, GA 30671	Springhill Baptist Church 187 Old Springhill Church Rd., Rayle, GA 30660
Collier Baptist Church 115 Collier Church Rd., Comer, GA 30629	Millstone Baptist Church 479 Gene Smith Road Carlton, GA 30627	Springs of Life Fellowship 217 Arnoldsville Road Arnoldsville, GA 30619
Corinth Baptist Church 2040 Belmont Road Arnoldsville, GA 30619	Mt. Olive Baptist Church P.O. Box 42, Lexington, GA 30648	St. James AME P.O. Box 37, Arnoldsville, GA 30619
County Line Baptist Church 3248 Walker Road Rayle, GA 30660	Mt. Pleasant Community Church 1244 Comer Rd., Crawford, GA 30630	St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church 632 Crawford-Smithonia Rd., Crawford, GA 30630
Crawford Baptist Church 124 Church Street, Crawford, GA 30630	Mt. Zion Baptist Church 388 Stephens Salem Road, Stephens, GA 30667	St. Paul CME Church 660 Comer Rd., Lexington, GA 30648
Crawford Church of Christ PO Box 76, 979 Athens Rd., Crawford, GA 30630	New Anon Grove Baptist Church 24 Fairgrounds Rd., Lexington, GA 30648	Stevens Grove Baptist Church 707 Stevens Grove Church Rd., Lexington GA 30648
Crawford Pentecostal Church 804 Athens Rd., Crawford, GA 30630	New Bethlehem Baptist Church 1108 Lexington-Carlton Rd, Carlton, GA 30627	Thankful Baptist Church 1218 Union Point Rd., Stephens, GA 30667
Fork Bethel Baptist Church 3003 Centerville Road Lexington, GA 30648	New Hope Baptist Church 383 New Hope Vesta Rd., Carlton, GA 30627	Thankful Grove Baptist Church 2026 Lexington Carlton Rd., Carlton, GA 30627
Friendship Baptist Church P.O. Box 47, Lexington, GA 30648	New Life Church 1186 Athens Road Crawford, GA 30630	The Light of the World Church 714 Washington Road Lexington, GA 30648
Genesis Church 520 North Street, Crawford, GA 30630	New Springhill Baptist Church 2491 Crawfordville Rd., Philomath, GA 30660	Vesta Baptist Church 35 New Hope Road Carlton, GA 30627
Gholston Baptist Church 45 Gholston Church Rd., Comer, GA 30627	New Zion Church 735 Smokey Road, Crawford, GA 30630	Welcome Avenue Congregational Holiness Church 1140 Crawford Smithonia Road Crawford, GA 30630

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Saturday, August 5
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Crawford Pentecostal Church
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Crawford GA
Aug. 3

HELP WANTED

Quiet Oaks Health Care has immediate day and night time openings for LPNs to work 12-hour shifts with every other weekend off. The hours are 6:45 a.m. to 6:45 p.m. and from 6:45 p.m. to 6:45 a.m. There are also immediate openings for CNAs to work DAY shift from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. We are offering a new higher pay rate and after

90 days benefits, including insurance/sick pay. Fax resumes to 706-743-5455 or email to quietoakshealthcare@gmail.com or come by 125 Quiet Oaks Drive, Crawford, GA 30630. Criminal background and drug screen required. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.
TFN

HELP WANTED

Quiet Oaks Health Care has positions available in Dietary, Laundry, and Housekeeping. Different departments have different schedules. After 90 days benefits include health and dental insurance and sick pay. Fax resumes to 706-743-5655 or email to quietoakshealthcare@gmail.com or come to 125 Quiet Oaks Drive, Crawford, GA, to complete an application. A background check and drug screen are required. We are an equal opportunity employer.
TFN

SHERIFF’S REPORT

Staff Report

All information is from the Oglethorpe County Sheriff’s Office arrest/booking reports and miscellaneous incident reports. All defendants are presumed innocent.

ARRESTS

Heath Bradley Gilley, Lexington Road, Carlton, was arrested July 23 and charged with driving without license on person, remove or affix plate to conceal vehicle ID, speeding, and fugitive from justice.

Brittany Daryl Angelo, Fowler Street, Canon, was arrested July 24 and charged with tampering with evidence — misdemeanor, possession of a schedule I controlled substance, and possession of marijuana — less than 1 ounce.

Richard Dwayne Flanagan, Sanford Road Hull, was arrested July 24 and charged with probation violation (when probation terms are altered) for fingerprintable charge.

Stacy Kay, Fowler Street, Canon, was arrested July 24 and charged with failure to drive within single lane, and marijuana — possess less than 1 ounce.

Eliseo Acuna, Colham Ferry Road, Watkinsville, was arrested July 25 and charged with speeding, and driving without a valid license — misdemeanor.

Angel Jane Karnes, Thornton Drive, Winterville, was arrested July 25 and charged with failure to appear for fingerprintable charge — misdemeanor.

Brittany Lauren Locke, Sandy Cross Road, Lexington, was arrested July 25 and charged with reckless driving, failure to drive within single lane, possession and use of drug related objects, endangering a child by driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, possession of a schedule II controlled substance, and DUI — driving under the influence of drugs.

Francisco Jesus Elias Oaxaca, Smithonia Road, Colbert, was arrested July 25 and charged with battery — family violence (first offense) misdemeanor.

Mary Barlett Whiteman, Mark Twain Circle, Athens, was arrested July 25 and charged with failure to appear for fingerprintable charge — misdemeanor.

Eric Stacy Adams, Howell Landing, Duluth, was arrested July 26 and charged with two counts of probation violation (when probation terms are altered) for fingerprintable charge.

Nathaniel Anes, Smithonia Road, Comer, was arrested July 26 and charged with tail lights required, expired or no license plate or decal, DUI — driving under the influence of drugs, possession and use of drug related objects, possession of firearm or knife during commission of or attempt to commit certain crime, purchase, possession, manufacture, distribution, or sale of marijuana, and possession of a schedule I controlled substance.

Nicholas Arzele Elder, North Hilliard Street, Union Point, was arrested July 26 and charged with littering highway, tampering with evidence — misdemeanor,

or, and purchase, possession, manufacture, distribution, or sale of marijuana.

Jocelyn Kierra Kendrick, North Hilliard Street, Union Point, was arrested July 26 and charged with possession of firearm or knife during commission of or attempt to commit certain crime, fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer — felony, purchase, possession, manufacture, distribution, or sale of marijuana, aggravated assault against law enforcement officer when engaged on official duty, failure to drive within single lane, violation of window tint law, and reckless driving.

Gregory Pyne, Stonebrook Drive, Colbert, was arrested July 26 and charged with probation violation (when probation terms are altered) for fingerprintable charge.

Remington Daniel Bowling, Crawford Smithonia Road, Crawford, was arrested July 28 and charged with two counts of theft by taking — felony.

Donald Anthony Fry, Bluegrass Trail, Grovetown, was arrested July 28 and charged with failure to appear for fingerprintable charge — felony.

Ashley Lynn Hill, Heather Lane, Crawford, was arrested July 28 and charged with battery, and disorderly conduct.

Danny Lee Hill, Jr, Heather Lane, Crawford, was arrested July 28 and charged with disorderly conduct, two counts of battery, and two counts of terroristic threats and acts — felony.

Sara Peterson Johnson, Wolfskin Road, Arnoldsville, was arrested July 28 and charged with marijuana — possess less than 1 ounce.

April Brightwell, Carriage Court, Athens, was arrested July 29 and charged with marijuana — possess less than 1 ounce, tampering with evidence — misdemeanor, and crossing state/county guard lines with weapons, intoxicants, drugs without consent.

Marques Coleman, Winter Hill Drive, Winterville, was arrested July 29 and charged with driving while license suspended or revoked — misdemeanor, three counts of child restraint law child seat safety belt, and reckless driving.

Charlie Dorsey, Board Acres, Athens, was arrested July 29 and charged with windshields and windshield wipers, and marijuana — possess less than 1 ounce.

Bobbie Paige Ritch, Highfalls Park Road, Barnesville, was arrested July 29 and charged with two counts of crossing state/county guard lines with weapons, intoxicants, drugs without consent, two counts of possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute, possession and use of drug related objects, two counts of tampering with evidence — felony, obstruction of an officer — misdemeanor, and giving false name, address or birthdate to law enforcement officer.

Richard Welch, Blackmon Farm Road, Washington, was arrested July 29 and charged with driving while license suspended or revoked — misdemeanor, possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute, possession and use of drug related objects, and failure to drive within single lane.

LEGALS

NOTICE OF ELECTION QUALIFYING

The City of Lexington will hold qualifying for the upcoming General Election (Tuesday, November 7, 2023). Any person desiring to become a candidate shall file a written notice of his or her candidacy at City Hall, 223 West Main Street. The qualifying period shall begin Monday, August 21, 2023 and shall end Thursday, August 24, 2023, during normal business hours of 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. The notice of candidacy shall be accompanied by the appropriate qualifying fee of \$5.00 for council seat and \$10.00 for Mayor. Requirements for qualifying are 1.) Be a resident of the City of Lexington 2.) A qualified voter for the City of Lexington 3.) Must be 21 years of age. If you have any questions please contact City Hall at 706-743-3322.

The five positions for council seat shall be qualified according to individual post (Post 1 through Post 5) and all candidates for the City Council shall designate the post for which he or she desires to qualify. The present Mayor and Council post are: Mayor Craig Snow: Post 1: Greg Reece Post 2: Ronald Boggs Post 3: Jill Severn Post 4: Cindy Haynes Post 5: Cory Crayton Aug. 3

NOTICE OF ELECTION QUALIFYING

The City of Arnoldsville (City Hall: Yancey Rd. Arnoldsville, GA 30619) will hold qualifying for the 2023 General Election (November 7th, 2023) beginning Monday, August 21, 2023–Wednesday, August 23, 2023. Hours are: Monday the 21st & Wednesday the 23rd from noon-6pm & Tuesday the 22nd from 5:30pm-7:30pm.

All seats are up for election (Mayor & five council seats). Qualifying fees are \$10 for the mayor seat & \$5 for each of the five council seats. Requirements for qualifying are: a) be a registered voter of the City of Arnoldsville, b) be a resident of the City of Arnoldsville for at least one year and c) be at least 21 years old.

If you have any questions, please contact Election Superintendent Heidi Tweedell by email at cityofarnoldsville@gmail.com or by phone at 706-742-5036.

Heidi Tweedell
Elections Superintendent-Arnoldsville, GA
Aug. 3-Aug. 10

CALL FOR SPECIAL ELECTION & NOTICE OF QUALIFYING FEE

Notice is hereby given that, in accordance with O.C.G.A. 21-2-540, a special election shall be held in the City of Arnoldsville to fill the vacancy in the office of Mayor. The special election will be held on November 7th, 2023.

Qualifying for the special election shall be held beginning Monday, August 21, 2023–Wednesday, August 23, 2023. Hours are: Monday the 21st & Wednesday the 23rd from noon-6 pm & Tuesday the 22nd from 5:30 pm-7:30 pm.

The qualifying fee set according to the Mayor and Council for the seat of Mayor is \$10.00. Requirements for qualifying are: a) be a registered voter of the City of Arnoldsville, b) be a resident of the City of Arnoldsville for at least one year and c) be at least 21 years old.

If you have any questions, please contact Election Superintendent Heidi Tweedell by email at cityofarnoldsville@gmail.com or by phone at 706-742-5036.

This office will be elected to finish out the four-year term that will end on December 31, 2023.

Heidi Tweedell
Elections Superintendent-Arnoldsville, GA
Aug. 3-Aug. 10

APPLICATION TO REGISTER A BUSINESS TO BE CONDUCTED UNDER A TRADE NAME

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF OGLETHORPE
The undersigned hereby certifies that it is conducting a business in the City of Crawford, County of Oglethorpe, State of Georgia under the name of: Athens Professional Septic and Drain and that the nature of the business is septic tank pumping, maintenance and inspections and that said business is composed of the following:

(Corporation) Business address:
Jordan Air, Inc.
1165 Athens Road
Crawford, GA 30630

This affidavit is made in compliance with Georgia Code Annotated Title 10 Chapter 1 Section 490.
Aug. 3-Aug. 10

TRADE NAME REGISTRATION

Personally appeared Andrew Betts who on oath deposes and says that Piedmont Outdoor Services, LLC at 242 Hargrove Circle, Winterville, GA 30683 is doing business in Oglethorpe County, Georgia under the name of The Deck Doctor at 242 Hargrove Circle, Winterville, GA 30683 and that the nature of business to be carried on at such address is carpentry.
July 20-Aug. 10

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

All creditors of the estate of Clarence John Fleming, Jr., late of Oglethorpe County, Georgia, deceased, are hereby notified to render their demand to the undersigned according to the law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.

This the 10th day of July, 2023.

Dorothy Jean Fleming
28 Creek View Drive
Winterville, GA 30683
July 20- Aug. 3

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
State of Georgia
Oglethorpe County

All creditors of the estate of John Clayton Wetherington, Sr., deceased, are hereby notified to render their demand to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned. This day, July 11, 2023.

Karen M. Wetherington, Administrator with the Will Annexed of the Estate of John Clayton Wetherington, Sr., Brad Sperr, Attorney, 2350 Prince Ave., Ste. 21, Athens, GA 30606.
July 13-Aug. 3

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

All creditors of the estate of Robert Frank Fitzpatrick, late of Oglethorpe County, Georgia, deceased, are hereby notified to render their demand to the undersigned according to the law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.

This the 19th day of July, 2023.

Darlene Maria Fitzpatrick
365 Pine Ridge Cir
Winterville, GA 30683
July 27-Aug. 17

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

All creditors of the estate of Billie Ann Nairn, late of Oglethorpe County, Georgia, deceased, are hereby notified to render their demands to the Executor according to the law and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to Campbell Joseph Nairn III, Executor of the Estate of Billie Ann Nairn, 404 Lindmar Ct., Athens, GA 30605.
Aug. 3-Aug. 24

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

All creditors of the estate of Deena Kay Seabolt, late of Oglethorpe County, Georgia, deceased, are hereby notified to render their demand to the undersigned according to the law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.

This the 31st day of July, 2023.

Jerry Seabolt/Ken Seabolt
549 Smithonia Road
Winterville, GA 30683
706-215-1156
Aug. 3-Aug. 24

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

GEORGIA
OGLETHORPE COUNTY
All creditors of the Estate of CLARENCE JOHN FLEMING, JR., deceased, are hereby notified to render an account of their demands to the undersigned, and all debtors are required to make immediate payment.
This 11th day of July, 2023.

DOROTHY JEAN FLEMING, Executor of the Estate of CLARENCE JOHN FLEMING, JR., deceased

Elinore R. Young
Fortson, Bentley and Griffin, P.A.
2500 Daniel’s Bridge Road
Building 200, Suite 3A
Athens, GA 30606
July 20-Aug. 10

NOTICE OF PETITION TO FILE FOR YEAR’S SUPPORT

The petition of Edith Dian George, for a year’s support from the estate of James Albert George, deceased, for decedent’s surviving spouse, having been duly filed, all interested persons are hereby notified to show cause, if any they have, on or before August 21, 2023, 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 on or before the time stated in the preceding sentence. 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.

Kayla H. Grier
Judge of the Probate Court
PO Box 70
Lexington, GA 30648
706-743-5350
July 27-Aug. 17

NOTICE OF PETITION TO FILE FOR YEAR’S SUPPORT

The petition of Darlene Maria Fitzpatrick, for a year’s support from the estate of Robert Frank Fitzpatrick, deceased, for decedent’s surviving spouse, having been duly filed, all interested persons are hereby notified to show cause, if any they have, on or before August 21, 2023, 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 on or before the time stated in the preceding sentence. 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.

Kayla H. Grier
Judge of the Probate Court
PO Box 70
Lexington, GA 30648
706-743-5350
July 27-Aug. 17

PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

NOTICE
TO: Whom it may concern: TINA RENAY TRUMAN has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of LINDA SUE MOTICHEK deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before August 7, 2023.

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.

Kayla H. Grier
Judge of the Probate Court
PO Box 70
Lexington, GA 30648
706-743-5350
July 13-Aug. 3

PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

NOTICE
TO: Whom it may concern: DUSTIN COLWELL has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of JULIE DIANNE COHRAN deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before August 28, 2023.

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.

NOTICE

IN RE: ESTATE OF JAMES YIPTE CROWE, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 2023 P 58
IN RE: The Petition to Probate Will in Solemn Form in the above-referenced estate having been duly filed.

TO: ROBBIE CROWE
[List here all heirs having unknown addresses to be served by publication]

This is to notify you to file objection, if there is any, to the petition to probate will in solemn form, in this Court on or before August 14, 2023.

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.

Kayla H. Grier
Judge of the Probate Court
PO Box 70
Lexington, GA 30648
706-743-5350
July 20-Aug. 10



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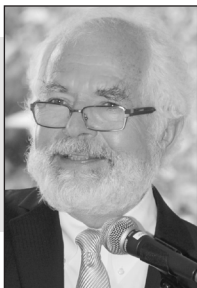
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Rick LaFleur

From Rome to Oglethorpe

The shape of water

The shape of water? It has none, despite the title of Guillermo del Toro’s reptilian sci-fi film that received four Oscars in 2018. Water is the chameleon of the inorganic world. Like those mutating reptiles I fostered as a kid, feeding them pet-store mealy worms in their habitat between my bedroom window and screen and watching them proudly puff out their dewlaps and change color to match their perch, water shifts its form to that of its container. I’m one of those containers, and so are you.

Nearly 70% of each of us is water. About the same percentage of the earth’s surface is covered by the life-sustaining fluid, even more when the earth herself was born, entirely shrouded by dark waters, as Genesis depicts, until her third day

No wonder the ancients regarded water as one of the five elements making up the universe, along with earth (Latin terra, as in TERRain), air (aer, source of AERial), fire (ignis, which gives us IGNeous and IGNite) and the cosmic ETHER (aether, like matters ETHEReal).

The Greek philosopher Thales theorized that water was the prime substance from which all else is made.

The Greek word for water, hudor, is the source of the English HYDRate/HYDRaunic/HY-DRoplane. Related is Latin sudor, sweat, which our bodies eXUDE.

The Latin water word, aqua, gives us AQUatic, AQUarium, and AQUifer, a vital geologic feature here in Oglethorpe County, where most of us have wells.

Romans called the Mediterranean mare nostrum, our sea, as their empire completely surrounded it. At one time the ancients envisioned a vast body of water called Oceanus/OCEAN encircling all the earth’s continents and mythologized as one of the gods called Titans.

Son of Uranus/Heaven and Ge/

Mother Earth (as in GEography/GEology), Oceanus was father both of the Potamoi, 3,000 sons who became gods of earth’s rivers (hippoPOTAMus means literally river-horse), and of the Oceanids, 3,000 nymphs who resided in FOUNTains (Lat. fons/fontis), LAKes (lacus, related to LA-Goon) and streams.

The Romans called a stream a rivus and a small stream a rivulus, giving us the words RIVulet, deRIVe, to stream down from, and even RIVAl, in origin one with whom you shared use of a stream or, figuratively, someone in competition for a business or romantic interest.

The Romans’ word for river was flumen, like FLUMe, which meant water that flows. English deRIVatives include FLU-id, CONFLUence (a point where things flow together, Lat. con-), EFFLUent (with the prefix ex-/ef-, meaning something that flows out/EXits), and INFLUence (with Lat. in-, some force that flows into you).

Rome itself, like Athens, Georgia, was founded on the banks of a river, the Tiber, a resource essential to both towns’ settlers for transport and as a source of fresh water.

The Tiber’s chief deity was Tiberinus, one of the Potamoi. Legend credited him with aiding the Trojan prince Aeneas upon his arrival in Italy and, centuries later, with rescuing the abandoned infants Romulus and Remus and entrusting them to the care of a she-wolf, who nursed them in place of her own cubs.

But the Tiber, like all bodies of water, could bring harm as well as good. Accordingly, Tiberinus, Father Tiber, was venerated at a festival each December. Likewise, the sea-god Neptune, counterpart to the Greek Poseidon, was honored at the Neptunalia in July by worshippers hoping to profit from the Mediterranean’s bounty and avoid its wrath.

Neptune was master not only of the sea, but of the power of earth’s waters, of flooding, and

earthquakes. Jupiter/Zeus too was a weather god, lord of the sky, of lightning, the Thunderer and Bringer of Rain as the Romans called him.

Aeolus was god of windstorms, imagined by Vergil as horses confined in their stalls beneath the sea, roaring ferociously to escape and wreak destruction — like the tornado-like storm that galloped madly through Athens and Oglethorpe County last month.

The ancients wisely revered the forces of nature. They were subject, as we are today, to the mutability of climate, but, unlike too many of us, they by no means denied it. The Great Flood and the legend of the lost island of Atlantis, its total submergence known first from Plato, share a common reality: we are subject to water’s determination to shape itself, to the formidable might of rising rivers and seas.

As you next sip at your glass of sweet water, “watch what feeds you run dangerous,” as the poet Geoffrey Davis cautions, “the Biblical possibility of nurture rising into a final rage.”

We have the capacity to escape being cast into the waves (the meaning of INUNDation from Lat. in plus unda/wave), if we can hold back the rising tide of ignorance, the enticing temptation to view news that displeases as fake, and the denial of the validity of SCIENCE (whose source scientia means knowing, not conjecture) that plunged the post-Roman western world into its previous, centuries-long Dark Age.

Rick LaFleur is retired from 40 years of teaching Latin language and literature at UGA; his latest books, both on Amazon, are “The Secret Lives of Words,” a collection of 60 of his newspaper columns, and “Ubi Fera Sunt,” a translation into classical Latin of “Where the Wild Things Are.” Rick and his wife Alice spend their time visiting kids and grandkids, gardening, writing and enjoying life on Lake Oglethorpe.



Oglethorpe County Rainfall Reporting Network

Name (CoCoRaHS Number)	Location	July 24-31
Kevin Hartley (OG-4)	Arnoldsville	0.06
Danny Morcom (OG-5)	Arnoldsville	0.19
Pete Kalla (OG-7)	Sandy Cross	0.44
Paul Webb (OG-10)	Lexington	1.53
Wayne Hughes (OG-12)	Wolfskin	0.05
Gwen Hirsch (OG-15)	Smithonia	0.57
Michael Moody (OG-21)	Glade	0.96
Kathrine Clark (OG-29)	Lexington	0.83

Oglethorpe County average rainfall for the week: 0.58 inches.
Athens rainfall for the week: 0.00 inches (typical weekly 0.92).
Measurements reported at 7 a.m. Monday.

COMMUNITY NEWS

DEB’S COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Because so many of you reached out to me with your love, and concerns for Deb’s Community Outreach News, I’m back with my weekly column, in addition to the longer column that will run once a month.

Thank you so much for supporting The Oglethorpe Echo. Your feedback is important to us.

Please be very careful when you’re out in public. The COVID-19 virus seems to be spreading rapidly once again. It’s another good reason to stay prayed up.

The “War Room Show with Delbra D” would like to say thank you to all those who tune in via Facebook Live at 7 p.m. Tuesday to watch the show, as well as follow us to various places ministering the gospel. If you or someone you know would like to join us, please call me at 706-202-6707.

Happy August birthdays to Deondra Favors, Kenza Abraham, Kenya Hardy, Darren Bell, Dorothy Bonds, Joyce Waller, Dianne Fleming, Connie White, Shirley Sanders, Michael Terrell, Shaquilla Debose, Deme-trius Appling, Brandy Holder, Janice Mathis, Ambrose Goss, Billy Pittard, Morgan Rich, Stacy Taylor Sr. and

Update from Arnoldsville

It’s so hot in Georgia, farmers are feeding their chickens crushed ice to keep them from laying hard boiled eggs.

If you come down Dudley Farm Road, you’ll get to view our hay roll school bus. I think it turned out really cute. Thanks to my granddaughter Kathryn for making it so special.

I know all the teachers, staff and children are getting excited about the new school year. I hope everyone has a good year.

I enjoyed going with Beverly Gabriel and grand-

Robert Jackson.

Happy 24th wedding anniversary to Jake and Bonnie Howard. We wish you many more.

The St. John Church Yard Sale will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 5. Items include furniture, home decor, dishes and more. Call 706-202-6707 for more information.

I will travel to Flat Rock Baptist Church in Madison on Sunday, Aug. 6 to help celebrate the first pastoral anniversary of Pastor Nathan Durham. The service will begin at 9:30 a.m.

It’s back to school time! We pray for safety, love, respect, the ability to learn, good teachers, bright students and honesty throughout the entire school administration and board. As a community, let’s keep them covered, even in our homes, and while traveling. Welcome back.

Big “O” thought for the week: Memories remind us that nothing lasts forever. Time is precious and should not be wasted. Enjoy life and remember, don’t count the days. Make the days count. Greatness is yours!

— Delbra Kendrick

daughter Emma for a great lunch at La Cabana on Thursday. We were celebrating Beverly’s birthday.

We had a short visit with the Blantons and Iris and Barry Walker. We all enjoyed a nice lunch.

Jay, Tina and family enjoyed a day on Sunday at the lake. They love boat rides and being together on the water.

I guess no news is good news, so just stay as cool as you can.

— Jean Fleming

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

UPCOMING

Mount Olive Baptist Church will hold a revival at 7 p.m. from Aug. 2-4. The guest speakers are: Larry Smith of Friendship Baptist Church (Wednesday), Iris Chandler of Brown Chapel Baptist Church (Thursday) and T.R. Thomas of New Hope Baptist Church (Friday).

Genesis Baptist Church (520 North St., Crawford) will hold a BBQ chicken fundraiser, with pick up at noon Saturday, Aug. 5. Tickets will be presold. Call 706-713-7543 for more info or tickets.

The Oglethorpe County Community Day & Family Movie Night at Sunset is scheduled for Bryan Park on Saturday, Aug. 5. The community day is scheduled for 6:30-8:30 p.m. with the movie to start at sunset. Activities will include vendors, a video gaming truck, children’s games, food trucks, gifts and drawings. For more information, contact Jeanne Jones at oglethorpecommunity-day@gmail.com or 678-779-5437.

The American Legion will host the Ramblin County Band on Saturday, Aug. 5. Doors open at 7 p.m., music starts at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

The Friends of the Oglethorpe County Library will hold its monthly book sale at No. 3 Railroad St. from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 5.

Collier Baptist Church will hold its homecoming at 11 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 6 with Pastor Richard Coppage. A meal will follow the service. All are welcome.

The Oglethorpe County Board of Elections & Registration will hold its monthly meeting at 9 a.m. Monday, Aug. 7 at the Board of Elections office at 41 Fairground Road in Lexington. The meeting is open to the public. For more info, call 706-743-8954.

The Oglethorpe County Republican Party will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 8 at the Oglethorpe County Library. The meet and greet will start at 7 p.m. and the meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. The guest speaker is Ja-Quon Stenbridge, who is the 10th District Teen Republican chairman, which is open to ages 13-19. He is speaking as part of a membership drive. Teens and everyone else are welcome to attend.

The Oglethorpe County Retired Educators Association (OCREA) will hold a meeting at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 8 at Countryside Catering in Winterville. Wallace Vassar, the director of GREA Area 17, is scheduled to attend the program, which is the history of Oglethorpe County, presented by Ashley Simpson of Historic Oglethorpe. To reserve a lunch, email karen_wamsley@hotmail.com by Friday, Aug. 4.

Countryside Manor will hold an open house from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 12. There will be a tour of the venue, complimentary sparkling wine, food tasting, music and giveaways. RSVP to countrysidemanorinfo@gmail.com or call 404-422-4573.

Burts Methodist Church will hold its homecoming at 11 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 13 with the Rev. Wiley Carney and music by the 3T’s. A meal will follow the service.

Rocky Branch Baptist Church will hold a homecoming celebration at 11 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 13. Dinner will be served after the service. Revival will start at 7 p.m. Aug. 16-18. The guest speakers each night are Larry Clark (Aug. 16), G. Perry (Aug. 17) and Robert Finch (Aug. 18).

The Friends of the Oglethorpe County Library will hold its first Lunch and Learn series called “How to Get Started in Beekeeping” at noon Monday, Aug. 14 at the library. Cory Momany, a Georgia journeyman beekeeper and the owner of Flying Pigs Honey will share information about how to begin beekeeping. Bring a sandwich; FOL will provide drinks. For more information, visit facebook.com/OglethorpeFOL.

Burts Methodist Church will open its food pantry from 10 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, Aug. 16. The church is at 77 Veribest-Enterprise Road, off the Elberton Highway.

Friendship Baptist Church’s worship service will start at 9 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 20. Everyone is welcome.

The Oglethorpe County Democrats will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 24 at the Oglethorpe County Library. Melanie Miller, Georgia House seat candidate, is the guest speaker. The meeting is free and open to the public. For more information, contact oglethorpe-dems@googlegroups.com.

The Oglethorpe County Library will host Ashley Simpson for a talk titled Back 2 School, based on her work as part of the Digital Atlas of Historic Oglethorpe County Project. The event will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 26 at the library meeting room and will focus on their findings of early schools in the county.

REGULAR MEETINGS

The Rotary Club of Oglethorpe County will not meet Friday, Aug. 4, but invites folks to stop at its booth at Community Day, Aug. 5, at Bryan Park.

The Oglethorpe County Chamber of Commerce holds a networking breakfast at 8:30 a.m. on the second Wednesday of every month.

The Oglethorpe County Chamber of Commerce holds an after hours networking event at 5:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of every month.

The Oglethorpe County Library holds story time for toddlers and pre-K children from 10:30-11:15 a.m. every Wednesday. Stories, rhymes and take-home crafts are provided.

American Legion Post 123 hosts a veteran’s breakfast buffet the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 9-10:30 a.m. The breakfast is free to veterans and open to the public for a donation. Everyone is invited.

The Oglethorpe County Senior Center provides meals and activities for anyone 60 years old and older. The center is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Here’s the schedule:

■ Thursday, Aug. 3: Open Hand presentation and crafts; lunch: blueberry breakfast bread, chicken sausage links, and grits, or Cuban braised pork, brown rice, fajita onions, peppers, and mushrooms, with cinnamon spiced peaches.

■ Friday, Aug. 4: Chair exercises; lunch: everything bagel with garden veggie cream cheese spread, turkey bacon and a side of sliced apples with almonds, or seasoned baked chicken breast over whole wheat spaghetti, marinara sauce and herbed green beans.

■ Monday, Aug. 7: Bingo; lunch: braised beef tips with egg noodles, broccoli, cauliflower, orange carrots and yellow carrots and a wheat roll, or seasoned baked chicken breast, cheese ravioli with florentine sauce, broccoli, cauliflower, orange carrots and yellow carrots and a wheat roll.

■ Tuesday, Aug. 8: Cards, dominos, board games; lunch: blackened haddock, brown rice and red quinoa and green beans, wax beans, baby carrots and chocolate pudding with toasted almonds, or chicken tenders, black eyed peas and a side of BBQ sauce.

■ Wednesday, Aug. 9: Ring toss game; lunch: classic chicken salad, whole wheat bun, green leaf lettuce, coleslaw and a fresh orange

The Oglethorpe County Recreation Department offers a line dancing class at the rec department’s gym from 9-10 a.m. every Tuesday. The cost is \$5 per class. Debbie Winsett is the instructor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mentors are needed for the Oglethorpe County School System’s STAND (Students Taking A New Direction) mentoring program. If interested, email vhunter@oglethorpe.k12.ga.us or text 706-248-1101. This is a year-long commitment for the 2023-24 school year for students K-12.

A free developmental and speech/language screening is available for 3- and 4-year-old students in Oglethorpe County upon request. If interested, contact Oglethorpe County Primary School at 706-743-8194. Ask for Caroline Paradise.

OGLETHORPE SPORTS

Youth movement takes over cross country program

By Owen Warden
The Oglethorpe Echo

Oglethorpe County’s cross country program is facing a youth movement. And that’s one of the reasons why participation in summer runs has been sparse.

With only three seniors (all on the boys team) and four juniors (two on each the boys and girls teams), the younger players can’t drive themselves to 8 a.m. practices.

“It’s been a little scarce,” coach Melissa McGarity said. “We’ve had several that have come religiously. We don’t expect them to come every time in the summer because they’re on vacation and doing things with family and we want them to enjoy their time, but we didn’t have a great summer practice.”

In addition, two of the top runners — senior Landon Mallonee and junior Sydnie Henderson — haven’t been able to attend practices, but for good reason.

Mallonee, who also wrestles, has been at camps to gear up for that season. In addition, McGarity said he also cut his foot, which has kept him out of practice.

She still expects a strong season from Mallonee, who finished 24th among individuals at the Class A Division state meet last fall to lead the Patriots to an eighth-place finish.

“Since ninth grade, he’s always been in our top tier and in the past year, he’s really turned it on and worked hard,” McGarity said. “He’s gonna be a force for us for sure.”

Henderson, like Mallonee, has also been training elsewhere this summer.

She has been training for the AAU Junior Olympics and missed the team’s picture day earlier this week because she was in Des Moines, Iowa, for the meet.

Henderson finished fifth in the state meet last year to lead OCHS to a third-place finish as a team.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Sydnie Henderson is back to lead the Oglethorpe County girls cross country team after finishing fifth in the Class A Division I state meet last year as a sophomore.

OCHS OPENER

The OCHS cross country teams open at the North Georgia Championships on Saturday, Aug. 26 in Jefferson. The boys will run at 8:05 a.m. and the girls will run at 8:55 a.m.

Aside from Mallonee, the boys team also includes returners Phil Paradise and Logan Grier. They have been steady attendees this summer.

“It puts them so much farther ahead when we start running,” McGarity said. “They’ll be head and shoulders above the kids who didn’t train over the summer. Definitely looking for a lot out of a couple of them who have been training religiously.”

One of these runners includes Harper Palmer with the girls team.

With no seniors, and as one of the two upperclassmen, McGarity said Palmer’s hard work and consistency has been great to see.

“(Palmer) is a very stylized leader,” she said. “Does what she’s got to do and sets a good example for everybody because she’s consistent, hard working and you never hear a complaint.”

Sophomore Elin Turner wasn’t with the team in June, but has rejoined them recently for the start of the season.

“I’m really excited,” McGarity said. “We’ve got a lot of new faces this year, and I hope they can put up with my crazy, but we have such a good time. It’s just so much fun to get to spend that kind of time with the kids outside of the school building. I get to cut up with them and we get to be silly and have a good time. It’s a lot of fun.”



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Landon Mallonee is one of three seniors in the OCHS cross country program this year. He helped lead the Patriots to an eighth-place finish at the state meet last fall.

CROSS COUNTRY ROSTERS			
Boys		Girls	
Name	Year	Name	Year
Landon Mallonee	12	Harper Palmer	11
Phil Paradise	12	Sydnie Henderson	11
Logan Grier	12	Elin Turner	10
Logan Tatum	11	Mylee Nimmons	10
Ethan Dodd	11	Lurdes Hernandez-Boyz	10
Dominic Piscitelli	10	Debora Perez	9
Ethan McClean	10		
Cory Tillman	10		
Josiah Young	9		
Peyton Duvall	9		
Luke Holbrooks	9		

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LANDEN TODD/THE OGLETHORPE ECHO

Brianne Harrison leads practice earlier this week in her first season as Oglethorpe County’s volleyball coach. She previously coached at the middle school.

Volleyball Rosters

Varsity		Junior varsity	
No.	Name	No.	Name
1	Sydney Sniff	3	Haley Matthews
9	Kenzie Henderson	10	Venus LaParr
11	Avery Kort	12	Ansley Paul
13	Weslynn Thurmond	17	Nora Turner
15	Aryana Knight	18	Leanna Newton
20	Madi Kelley	19	Ashlin Warren
21	Elizabeth Cook	23	Maggie Barnes
22	Abby Colquitt	24	Laura Spearing
27	Sofia Horsley	25	Kylah McFarland
28	Samantha Amos	31	Anika Bermudez

Harrison eager to start first season as varsity coach

By Owen Warden
The Oglethorpe Echo

Oglethorpe County volleyball has entered a new era.

And new coach Brianne Harrison has already found her starting six: Seniors Madi Kelley and Avery Kort, juniors Sofia Horsley and Kenzie Henderson, and sophomores Elizabeth Cook and Aryana Knight.

Harrison, who took over for Kate Shealy, was familiar with many of the players from her time coaching them when they were younger and at Oglethorpe County Middle School. The Patriots are coming off the Area 5-A championship and a first-round loss in the Class A tournament.

“They know my expectations,” Harrison said. “I’ve grown a lot as a coach since the last time I’ve seen them and so my expectations are even (higher). This group of girls, especially on the varsity team, is excited, they want to do well and they’re setting high goals for themselves at (the) state level. I’m just glad that they’re ready to work and give their best effort.”

Kort, Harrison said, is a strong middle blocker and showcases surprising strength. Harrison was also praiseworthy of her attitude and how she, even as a senior, looks to constantly improve.



LANDEN TODD/THE OGLETHORPE ECHO

Oglethorpe County freshman Haley Matthews passes the ball during drills at volleyball practice on Monday. The Patriots won the Area 5-A championship last season.

Harrison is familiar with Kelley, who spent a year with Metro Elite Volleyball, a club that Harrison helps coach.

She said Horsley, the team’s setter, is a strong, all-around player.

Harrison also has definite plans for Henderson, the other junior,

so she can showcase her athleticism.

“(Henderson is) one of the most coachable girls I’ve ever coached,” Harrison said. “And she’s naturally athletic. Her body’s supernatural — she leaps off the floor with ease and it’s amazing. She’s powerful. I

plan on using her as a middle hitter this year because she’s got amazing blocking skills. Kenzie can be good at anything that she tries.”

Harrison also expects a lot out of the two sophomores in her rotation.

Harrison is familiar with Cook

OCHS Opener

The OCHS volleyball team will open at Loganville Christian on Aug. 10. The Patriots will play Loganville Christian at 5 p.m. and Cedar Shoals at 6 p.m. The home opener is set for Tuesday, Aug. 15, against Prince Avenue at 5 p.m. and Athens Christian at 6 p.m.

and said Knight is a player that continues to grow and improve. As the team’s libero, her speed and ability to save hard hit balls is promising.

“When they’re seniors, we’re gonna have a strong, or even stronger team, because they’re going to have a lot of experience,” Harrison said.

The Patriots open that season with matches against Loganville Christian and Cedar Shoals on Thursday, Aug. 10.

“I’m ready to get going,” Harrison said. “I’m nervous and I want to do well. I don’t want to let anybody down, so I put a lot of pressure on myself, but it’s out of my control. I can only do as much as I can do. I’m just so excited because it’s a new adventure. It’s not middle school anymore.”

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