

INSIDE

Oglethorpe County's Quentin Nash and his teammates face a tough test when they open region play against Prince Avenue Christian, the top-ranked team in Class A Division I, on Friday night.

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SIDNEY CHANSAMONE/THE OGLETHORPE ECHO

Jacob Dake sits on the front of his 2001 Mazda Miata before participating in the Angel Ride, a non-profit fundraiser that raised \$42,077.65 for the Oglethorpe County High School grad who was injured in a severe vehicle accident last September.

Guardian angels

Non-profit Angel Ride raises more than \$42K for Jacob Dake

By Sidney Chansamone and Caleb Rollins The Oglethorpe Echo

The 13th annual Angel Ride raised \$42,077.65 for Jacob Dake on Saturday at the Jackson County Agricultural Center in Jefferson.

"I'm really grateful that they're able to help me," Dake said after the ride, a non-profit fundraiser that selects one person facing hardship as the recipient

The Oglethorpe County High School graduate was in a motorcycle accident last September, and he underwent 15 surgeries, including the amputation of his right arm. The funds will help support Dake and his family as he pursues a career as an auto mechanic.

Dake, who drove the 50-mile escorted route through rural Jackson County with his girlfriend Emilee Griffiths, said he was surprised when he was selected as this year's recipient.

"He was happy," said Rhonda Pilgrim, Dake's mother. "He didn't think he was going to be chosen because there's so many people who were needing help. You know, it was a blessing."



SIDNEY CHANSAMONE/THE OGLETHORPE ECHO Motorcyclists start the 13th annual Angel Ride that benefitted Oglethorpe County's Jacob Dake on Saturday. The ride lasted 50 miles through Jefferson and Jackson County.

Roughly 175 riders and passengers participated in the ride, and more people attended the event as spectators.

"What I love about this event is that so many people everywhere are so willing to help other people," event crew member Elizabeth Harris said. "The big goal for today, and for any day, is just to make things a little easier for him to not have to worry,"

The rest of the afternoon included lunch and a variety of fundraising activities, such as ticket raffles, a silent auction, door prizes, a gun raffle and live music by Levi Lowrey.

Bailey Armistead, an event crew member, said Dake was a great candidate for the ride.

"He's got a great outlook on life — he's young, he has a lot of goals, and he very much so fits," Ar-

Dake and his friends, who own custom cars they enjoy working on, said they were thrilled to partic-

See ANGELS, Page 3

OCHS grad rates among best in area

County administration credits strong systemwide involvement

By Cassidy Hettesheimer The Oglethorpe Echo

Oglethorpe County School System leaders celebrated an increase in the graduation rate — now at 95.8% — with cupcakes that spelled out the percentage.

The dessert display was delivered not just to the high school, but the primary, elementary, and middle schools.

"This is not just a high school celebration," Oglethorpe County Superintendent Beverley Levine said. "It starts in kindergarten, and really, in pre-K, we start molding the kids to be lifelong learners."

Oglethorpe County's High School's graduation rate has climbed in six of the past seven years, even as neighboring school systems' rates dipped slightly in 2023.

OCHS Principal Bill Sampson said graduation is a focus in his

"From the day they come in as

ninth-graders, and we have the first class meeting, we're telling them, 'OK, you're the class of 2023 ... and there's not one of you that we can

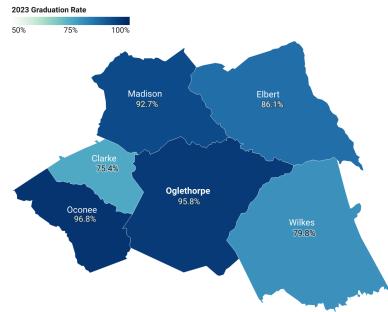
Bill Sampson

afford to lose," Sampson said. Oglethorpe County's graduation rate increased 1.6% from 2022, and is more than 10 points above the state's rate of 84.4%. The county is also only one of 43 districts in Georgia with a graduation rate at or above 95%, according to the Georgia Department of Education.

See RATES, Page 2

Oglethorpe County graduation rate among highest

The Oglethorpe County School System graduated 95.8% of seniors in the class of 2023. This rate is third highest among the 13 county and city school systems in Oglethorpe County's surrounding area. Oglethorpe also graduated students above the state average rate of 84.4%.



CASSIDY HETTESHEIMER/THE OGLETHORPE ECHO

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Callie Bridges kneels alongside an Angus cow at Bridges Angus Farm in Lexington. Callie, the daughter of Phillip and Leigh Anne Bridges, is part of the fourth generation of the Bridges family to work the farm.

Livestock production is in the DNA

By John Henry Hammond The Oglethorpe Echo

Ralph Bridges, who founded Bridges Angus Farm in Lexington, made headlines in 1985 when his bull, Warlock, became the first documented one to gain 5 pounds in a single day.

Today, under the ownership of Phillip Bridges, Ralph's grandson, the farm's bulls routinely set the individual gain test record, sometimes gaining between 6-7 pounds per day.

This is due, in part, to the use of modern methods in livestock farming.

When Phillip Bridges and his

brother Alan purchased their grandfather's Angus cow herd in 2005, they recognized the need to maximize their beef's quality and increase demand for their cattle.

Their solution? DNA.

"We do a lot of things through genetics," Phillip Bridges said. 'Every animal in the place has a genomic profile on them, and they have data such as birth weights, weaning weights, and a lot of other information.'

As the industry grows in Oglethorpe County, local cattle farmers like the Bridges are adopting new technology to enhance beef production.

Livestock production is vital to

Oglethorpe County's economy.

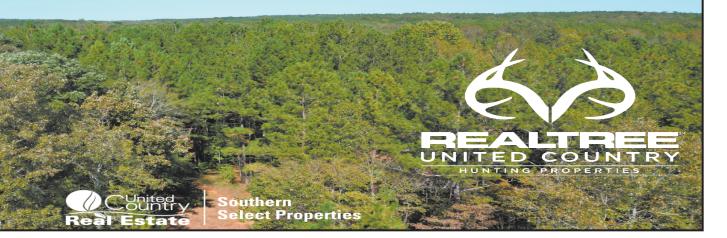
In 2021, the county ranked fourth in total livestock and aquaculture value across the state. Livestock, including cattle, contributed more than \$48 million to the local economy, according to the University of Georgia's Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development.

"Beef production as a whole has made significant quality advances through genetic selection over the past couple of decades," said Shanna Reynolds, UGA Extension coordinator for Oglethorpe County. "We have several high

See LIVESTOCK, Page 8

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Ramey addresses bullying through beauty pageants

By Sidney Chansamone and Caleb Rollins The Oglethorpe Echo

To outsiders, beauty pageants may seem all glitz and glamor.

However, for Gracelyn Ramey, a senior at Oglethorpe County High School, pageantry is how she overcame personal struggles and gained renewed self worth.

"It has just given me a whole new sense of confidence," said Gracelyn, who won the America's National Miss pageant over the summer.

Gracelyn, raised in the Veribest community, became interested in pageantry when she was 7 years old after seeing a pageant crown on Facebook, and she decided she wanted to wear one herself.

Her mother, Lisa Ramey, despite having no experience with pageants, wanted to support Gracelyn and entered her in Miss Southern Royal in 2013.

"The only thing I told her is to be yourself," Lisa said. "Don't lose yourself, just smile, look at the judges and be her because that's all I knew to tell her, is to be you. And that was what was important."

Ten years later, her advice has proven effective. Gracelyn not only won that first pageant in her age division, but has more than 20 pageant titles, including her first national crown this year.



SIDNEY CHANSAMONE/THE OGLETHORPE ECHO

Gracelyn Ramey, a senior at Oglethorpe County High School, was crowned America's National Miss last summer. She aligns with ANM, which has anti-bullying values.

Battling bullying

Despite Gracelyn's success, her path there was not always easy. Growing up, she frequently faced bullying at school. She distinctly recalled one violent, physical altercation in primary school that left her feeling unsupported by teachers and peers.

"They never listened to what I had to say. Even though I'm a kid and, you know, stuff like that happens," she said.

In an effort to improve her situation, Ramey changed schools mul-

She first withdrew from primary

school and was homeschooled for third grade, but she missed the social interaction. The next year, she enrolled at a private school, where she eventually withdrew a second time due to bullying during her sophomore year of high school.

Gracelyn said she has found her place again at Oglethorpe County High School, where she is finishing her senior year.

"I'm glad that I'm now in a space where I have someone that will listen to me and take care of problems when something's happening," she said.

More than a crown

Gracelyn first competed in the America's National Miss Pageant in 2022 in the teen division, marking the first time she competed at the national level. The following year, she returned and was crowned America's National Miss

"I didn't place, and that made me want to work harder so that I could win," she said. "I came back this year, and I did better than I've ever done, probably, and I won, and it was a dream come true."

Gracelyn is proud to align with ANM, citing the pageant system's anti-bullying values.

"Being a part of a system that is against that really means a lot to me because I know that I now

have a platform to stand against bullying, and I can also promote what I've been through and the system as well," she said.

McKenna Wells, a friend and fellow cheerleader at OCHS, said Gracelyn inspired her to start doing pageants.

'My favorite memory of us together is at pageants," Wells said. "I loved us always practicing together, whether it was for interview or just my walk."

Wells said competing against Gracelyn is all good fun.

"I'm just happy to have my best friend by my side," she said.

After graduation, Gracelyn plans to go to Athens Technical College to pursue a degree in accounting.

"Once I'm older, I want to be able to have enough money to be able to travel the world," Gracelyn said. "I want to take my dad with me. Because it's his dream to go to Egypt and see the pyramids."

In her more recent future are two state pageants: Spirit of Georgia and Exquisite Royalty. Thanks to her years of experience, Gracelyn said she will move forward with a newfound confidence.

"Being able to go into an interview room with the confidence to express myself and know that I am doing amazing at what I do has just given me a whole new sense of confidence," she said.

RATES, From Page 1

Two key elements of this higher rate for the county were a 100% graduation rate for Black students and a 96.2% graduation rate for "economically disadvantaged" students, which the Georgia Department of Education classifies as students receiving free or reduced

Hispanic students in Oglethorpe County had a graduation rate of 88.9%, and other subgroups, such as Native American, Asian/Pacific Islander, multiracial, English learners and students with a disability were listed as "too few students" to report.

"We are really focused on every individual that comes in with (a) cohort," Sampson said. "There's just a lot of checks and balances in place so that when that student might be struggling, or they get caught in a rocky place, we're trying to do everything we can to pull them out."

Compared to graduation rates, Oglethorpe's standardized testing Milestones scores were lower among its regional district neighbors, varying from 11th to third among the 13 public school districts in its Northeast Georgia Regional Education Service Agency, depending on grade level and sub-

But Levine said one factor behind higher graduation numbers comes from the "soft skills" the schools teach — like work ethic. Also, the county's relatively small school system also allows for a

hands-on approach with students and families, Sampson and Levine

"Perseverance, that doesn't

show up on necessarily the reading Milestones, (but) that it shows up on your graduation rates," Levine said. "(It's) teaching our kids that it's OK



Beverley Levine

if you don't get it the first time. It just means we need to put in a little bit more work."

Oglethorpe County's graduation rate hasn't always been above the

state average. In 2012, the county's graduation rate of 69.3% was four-tenths of a

percent lower than the state average. Levine said the 2017 opening of a Foothills Regional High School at Oglethorpe County High School, offering classes outside of normal high school hours, has helped students graduate outside of the "tradi-

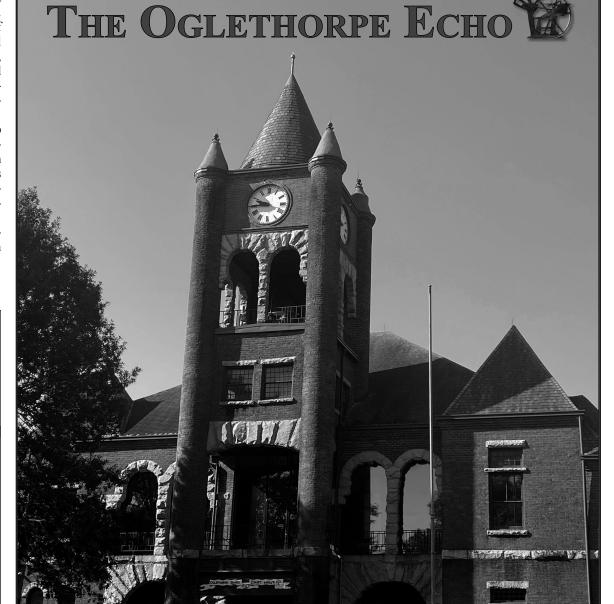
tional high school experience." Less turnover in leadership roles, a focus on student development in the first two years of high school, and strong relationships with counselors and other mentors were also key factors, Sampson and Levine said.

"It's a village approach to keeping them on track to graduate in four years," Sampson said.



LANDEN TODD/THE OGLETHORPE ECHO

Senior Phadesha Barnes waves toward the crowd as she walks to receive her diploma with the other seniors at the Oglethorpe County High School graduation ceremony last May. The county's graduation rate improved to 95.8%, up 1.6% from 2022.



Year in Review for 2022-2023

School System

Oglethorpe County

Visit The Oglethorpe Echo's website (oglethorpeecho.com) to view the goals, data and achievements of Oglethorpe County Schools last year.

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SIDNEY CHANSAMONE/THE OGLETHORPE ECHO



SIDNEY CHANSAMONE/THE OGLETHORPE ECHO

Jacob Dake, behind the wheel of his 2001 Mazda Miata, prepares to lead the Angel Ride on Saturday. Emilee Griffiths, his girlfriend, rode with him on the fundraising drive through Jefferson and Jackson County.

ANGELS, From Page 1

ipate.

"I love cars," said Dake, who drove his 2001 Mazda Miata that he has been working on since last December.

This was the Angel Ride's first year at this venue, having previously taken place in Hoschton.

"It has grown so much," Harris said. "We started with 15 or 20 bikes in 2011, in a tiny little backyard."

Today, the event has not only provided financial support, but also community support to the recipi-

Shelby Smith, attendee and 2016 Angel Ride recipient, was so moved she does her best to attend every year. She was chosen for the event after being in a pedestrian accident,

leaving her in a coma for weeks.

"Everybody here is just so unbelievably sweet and caring," Smith said. "They go completely out of their way all year long to help you, and to know that this many people were in my corner helping me with my fight was just the best feeling ever."

The Angel Ride has cultivated over 1,800 members on Facebook since 2012, and it continues to

"We just want to make that a little easier for him and for his family," Harris said. "So that's hopefully just enough to get him to where he doesn't have to worry about all of the big stressors and just continue to live his life the way he wants to live it."

Employee retention part of Bell's deal with B&T's

Staff Report

Bell's Food Stores customers should expect to see changes by early 2024 after the five-store chain was acquired by B&T's Food Fresh Market last week.

The deal was finalized on Friday. Details were not disclosed.

Ralph J. Costa Jr., corporate secretary and director of operations for Bell's, said the Bell family's priority was to find a buyer that would retain Bell's employees. He said B&T's Food Fresh Market agreed to do that.

'That was our main objective, to make sure our employees were taken care of, and that is one of the agreements that we had with them," Costa told The Oglethorpe Echo on Monday. "That's the only way we would've done the deal. We talked to many people that wanted to buy us, and keeping our employees was not part of it, so we said bye. Our employees were the main goal, to make sure they were taken care of."

Costa said B&T's Food Fresh Market, a small chain based in East Georgia, has plans to redecorate the stores. The name likely will change around the first of the year, he said.

All five Bell's locations — Lexington, Athens, Watkinsville, Jefferson and Lincolnton — were sold, doubling the size of B&T's Food Fresh Market, which was

Food Store BOSTONBUTT **UCKSBEANS**

AISHA SHULZ/THE OGLETHORPE ECHO

The Bell's in Lexington, along with the other four stores in the chain, were sold to B&T's Food Fresh Market on Friday. The name likely will be changed sometime by the first of the year.

founded by John Triplett and Clark Brunson in the early 2000s.

"They're good people," Costa said. "They're energetic and they're family-owned, like we are, and do business like we do, and that's the only way to do the deal because they agreed to come in and take over the legacy of Bell's that it's had for 97 years. You can't beat that."

Costa said Bell's and B&T's

Food Fresh Market use the same meat and grocery wholesalers as

"The only thing that's going to change is the name of the business," he said.

Bell's emailed a release on Tuesday that states: "The legacy of Bell's Food Stores is in fantastic hands. B&T only intends to preserve and improve upon what Bell's has already established."

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of bereavement.

May God continue to richly bless each of you.

Daughters: Olivia Bolton McKinney and Valerie Bolton Winfrey; Grandchildren: Terrell, Tomekia, Pendrick, Melanie and Garrett; and Great Grandchildren

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- 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.

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OPINION & COMMENTARY-

THE ECHO'S OPINION



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Graffiti covers the recently repaired Howard's Covered Bridge, which was built in 1904-05.

Time to find out who's defacing our history

Oglethorpe County is rich in history. It's one of our points of

The newspaper you're reading has been chronicling this community's history for 150 years. We believe that makes The Oglethorpe Echo the oldest, continuously operated business in the county.

Your newspaper strives to be more than just a newspaper. The Echo wants to be a good citizen, too.

That's why we're stepping up to help solve a series of vandalism acts on an important Oglethorpe County landmark.

Howard's Covered Bridge — built in 1904-05 — is under assault from vandals wielding cans of spray paint. As the historical marker reads, "This bridge bears the name of a pioneer family who settled near Big Cloud's Creek in the late 1700s.'

We have partnered with the Oglethorpe County Sheriff's Office to help stop the criminal acts and catch the parties responsible for the graffiti. The initiative is three-fold:

- Warning signs have been posted, informing the public of 24-hour video surveillance.
- The camera will be monitored by Sheriff David Gabriel's dispatch office.
- The Oglethorpe Echo, in addition to paying for the equipment, is offering — through the sheriff's office — a \$500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the party or parties responsible for the vandalism.

If you have information, you're encouraged to contact the sheriff's office. During business hours, call 706-743-8101 and ask for an investigator. You can also email this address: info@ogletho-

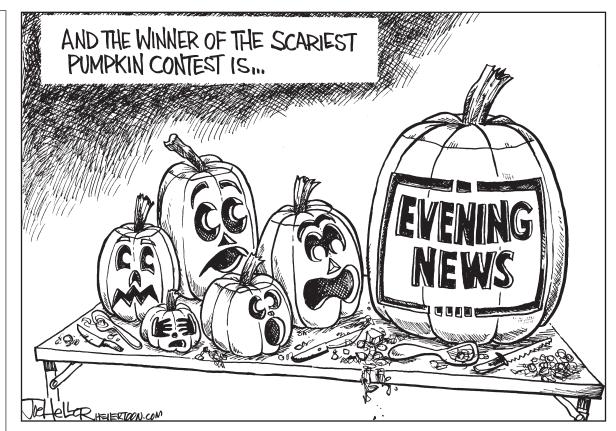
Vandalism isn't just a prank; it's a crime.

Please help us solve this series of crimes that target Oglethorpe County's rich history.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A surveillance sign warns visitors to Howard's Covered Bridge that cameras have been installed and are being monitored.



Deion Sanders could sell milk to a cow

If there's ever been a human marketing machine, Deion Sanders is one.

I believe Neon Deion, aka Coach Prime, could sell milk to a cow and hard-boiled eggs

My alma mater, the University of Georgia, might have back-to-back national championship rings, and the Dawgs are ranked No. 1, but Coach Prime's Colorado Buffaloes have hogged the publicity this season.

Deion has a polarizing personality. Either you like him, or you'd rather never see or hear him again.

I like Deion's high energy and swashbuckling spirit. It is what

Oh, I could do without the overload of bling and his wearing sunglasses after sundown.

But Coach Prime is an unvarnished version of a phenomenal two-sport professional athlete. He's an NFL Hall of Famer who has leveraged every ounce of his personality to fame and fortune. If Rolls-Royce made a pickup truck, it wouldn't hold the millions he has made or will make.

More power to him. And to his five children, who will cash in on the Sanders name, too. Colorado's quarterback, Shedeur Sanders, is reportedly making \$5 million this year, thanks to the Name Image and Likeness (NIL) jackpot for amateur athletes.

But this isn't about the gaudy amount of money that is drawn to the Sanders-name magnet.

It's about entertainment for me. What Deion is apt to say or do is a breakaway from mudslinging politics and the daily avalanche of negativity in the news.

Here's what ESPN's Olivia Harlan Dekker (a UGA grad and daughter of broadcasting icon Kevin



Dink NeSmith dnesmith@cninewspapers.com

DEREK MARCKEL/CUBUFFS.COM

Deion Sanders, otherwise known

as Coach Prime, has electrified the

college football landscape this fall

with his personality and transforma-

tion of the Colorado Buffaloes. The

former two-sport star, who played

for the Falcons and Braves, has led a

program that had one win last year

to four this season.

Harland) had to say when she witnessed Neon Deion light up a convention audi-"He was electric in this room. He had

people hanging on every word and clapping after every sentence. Everything that he says sounds like a bumper sticker, or it should be sewn on a pillow."

So, what did Coach Prime have to say after the Oregon Ducks clipped the wings of the high-flying Buffaloes 42-6 on Sept. 23?

He told the world that Colorado got

'a good, old-fashioned buttkicking." And he told his trampled herd of cleated bison, "Get your butt up and let's go. We ain't got time to have a pity party. Ain't nobody walking around the locker room with napkins and tissues."

Colorado's season hasn't gone the way its coach envisioned — they're 4-3 after blowing a 29-0 halftime lead and losing to Stanford 46-43 in double overtime last Friday but I'm still entertained by Deion Sanders' stories.

Here's one I heard years ago: Deion was negotiating with Jerry Jones, owner of the Dallas

Jerry said, "OK, Deion, hat's it going to be \$7 million or \$8 million?"

"Mr. Jones," the superstar

said, "I'll take them both."

As the story goes, the Cow-

boys paid Deion \$15 million.

If that's not the truth, it should be.

I repeat: Coach Prime, as he

is called today, is a human marketing machine. He could sell milk to a cow. And hard-boiled eggs to a chicken.



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- Opinion or guest columns express the views of the writer only.
- We encourage letters to the editor on a wide range of issues
- 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.

LETTERS TO THE ECHO

Tim Hughes scored five TDs for Patriots in 1979

Editor,

It was a wonderful and exciting game when OCHS beat Athens Christian 56-0 last week! Jake Turner certainly deserved "Player of the Week," scoring five touchdowns in a single game. And I congratulate him and the team!

However, I must set the record straight. If you look back at the 1979-80 team, you will find that Tim Hughes set the record at that time with five touchdowns in one game, plus he kicked all the

PATs, scoring a total of 35 points.

It was the last game of the season. Oglethorpe County defeated Madison County on Nov. 2, 1979. The final score was 35-6. As in 1979, without the whole Patriot team of

2023-24 doing a super job, neither Jake nor Tim could have accomplished this! Offense, defense, special teams, coaches, manag-

ers, band, cheerleaders and fans.

Patriots, keep up the good work! As we said in '79, GATA.

- Patsy Hughes, Smithonia

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Hansford, volunteers set day for free dental services

By Caleb Rollins and Sidney Chansamone The Oglethorpe Echo

Greenpoint Pediatric Dentistry, owned by John Hansford Jr., will offer free dental services to children ages 1-10 on Friday, Oct. 27 with the help of medical professionals, organizations and individ-

Hansford is the son of Tim and

Ann Hansford of Stephens and attends Salem Baptist

Church. "This is such a great event to showcase the power of collective action," said Vaidehi



John Hansford Jr.

Patel, volunteer service coordinator for the University of Georgia's Dental Minority Dawgs club.

Patel is one of many volunteering their work toward this "shared vision."

"Our primary focus is to provide care for patients who have a hard time getting dental care," Greenpoint office manager May Dantas said. "These patients range from Medicaid and uninsured patients to patients with conditions that preclude them from receiving dental care while conscious, such as oppositional defiant disorder, Down syndrome, autism, etc."

Services and activities

Appointments are available on a first-come, first-served basis to any children within the age range.

"Services include routine cleanings, preventive sealants, white fillings, durable silver crowns and extractions with space maintainers," clinical coordinator Jenny Negrete said.

After consultation and approval, both local and general anesthesia will also be provided free of charge.

In the spirit of Halloween, volunteers will engage patients with festive activities, including distributing treat bags, dressing up and playing with the kids.

Alexis Carr, a pharmacy technician at Athens Infusion & Pharmacy, is volunteering as the 'Good Time' coordinator. Carr said one reason she was recommended to Hansford was because of her dedication to a "Willy Wonka" Halloween costume, even cutting her

hair to achieve the correct look. "He reached out to me saying that was the kind of dedication he was looking for in someone to lead the entertainment for the patients, Carr said. "My job is to hand out goodie bags, tie-dye T-shirts and, generally, make sure folks are having a good, spooky time."

A community collaboration

Hansford credits the idea for Greenpoint's free day to "a confluence of seeming coincidences and opportunities."

"One of my clinical assistants, Sydney Jones, made me aware and got me interested in volunteering my anesthesia services at The Mercy Health Center, a non-profit where dentists volunteer to treat adults free of charge," he said. "We decided we could help extend that opportunity for pediatric patients."

Patel heard about the event through U-Lead, "an Athens nonprofit that focuses on equal access for immigrants and children of immigrant families."

She felt this would be a great opportunity for members of her club to give back to the community.

"It highlights the transformative change when individuals, organi-

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- All appointments must be scheduled in advance.
- Patients must be accompanied by a legal guardian.
- Prior consultation with Dr. John Hansford required for office-based anesthesia approval.

zations and professionals come together with a shared vision," Patel said. "As a pre-dental student, I know this opportunity to help those in need will solidify my commitment to continue serving my community through dentistry

and advocacy for equal access to

healthcare."

Hansford also credits his "freedom to consider a no-cost day" to Drs. Whitney Swann and Alyson White, the senior dentists at Mitchell Bridge Dental Associates.

They allow Hansford to rent their practice on off days, keeping

his costs of operation low. "None of this would be feasible

if not for them," he said.

Hansford felt inspired to create a "free day" after a health scare during his wife's recent pregnancy.

Hansford's mission

He recalled being "fearful" after his wife was diagnosed with vasa previa, a pregnancy complication that involves an obstruction of the birth canal.

We heard in church that sometimes when you can't control or work on something in your own life, just give it to God, and go help and serve someone else."

The Hansfords were fortunately able to bring home a healthy daughter, and Hansford is acting on this advice.

"The goal of Greenpoint Pediatric Dentistry is to provide care for people who have a hard time accessing dental care, or have a hard time at the dentist's office once they get there," he said.

Outreach to these types of patients is at the core of his practice's "philosophy and structure."

"The nurses, paramedics, administrators, hygienists and assistants I work with are the great kind of people that find purpose in this work," Hansford said. "Our hearts are in the right place."



Bell's Food Stores - A Legacy Continues

We would like to thank our Athens, Lexington, Watkinsville, Jefferson and Lincolnton communities for contributing to the success of Bell's Food Stores for the last 97 years. Our friends in Hartwell and Gainesville also have a special place in our hearts.

From our humble beginnings in 1926 at the corner of Washington and Pulaski in downtown Athens, the expansion to Five Points and east Athens, then on to the growing suburban areas of northeast Georgia, Bell's always strived to serve our communities that became part of our family.

When the thought of passing on our business was first being discussed, the first thing we insisted on preserving was our legacy of making sure we took care of the people that dedicated their time working alongside us.

If we were not able to leave our company in the hands of someone who would take care of our biggest asset, our people, our family, then we would have to look elsewhere.

Fortunately, we were approached by a like-minded company, B&T's Food Fresh, who agrees with and practices these same value principles. They understand the importance of taking care of the people that help run your business and realize the importance of being a caretaker of the community

The legacy of Bell's Food Stores is in fantastic hands. B&T only intends to preserve and improve upon what Bell's has already established.

For those of you who like the old-fashioned way, you get to keep it. For those who want more innovation, you will get it.

But the fundamentals of what helped our family-owned business operate for 97 years will not change. You will see gradual changes over time, but the friendly faces of our people, our family, will not.

So on behalf of the entire Bell's family, thank you for allowing us to serve you for nearly a century and we encourage you to welcome B&T's Food Fresh into the community to keep the same tradition of service moving forward.

President

Vice President

Raya flota n Ralph J. Costa, Jr. Director of Operations



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AROUND THE COUNTY

GRAND CHAMPION



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Audrey Brown added another honor to her trophy case at the Georgia Jr. National Fair in Perry on Oct. 7. Her entry, GG, was named Grand Champion Composite All Other Breeds Heifer. Brown lives in Oglethorpe County and attends Madison County High School. Her parents are Lee and Sadie Brown. In the photo, on the left, are her brother Drew, a student at ABAC, and her father Lee.

NEW ROTARY MEMBERS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Tim Hansford (left) and Beth Wells (right) were inducted into Oglethorpe Rotary by club president Jean Westmacott during its meeting on Oct. 13.

WINNING WEEKENDS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

DJ Faust (11u team) and the Oglethorpe County rec department's teams have gone 10-0 the past two weekends. That includes five wins on Oct. 7 and five wins on Oct. 14. The scores from Oct. 7 were: 6u defeated Stephens County 35-0, 7u defeated Stephens County 32-18; 8u defeated Hart County 36-0, 10u defeated Madison County 21-20 and 11u defeated Banks County 20-13. The scores from Oct. 14 were: 6u defeated Banks County 20-0, 7u defeated Hart County 40-0, 8u defeated Franklin County 47-0, 10u defeated Madison County 31-12 and 11u defeated Elbert County 13-12.

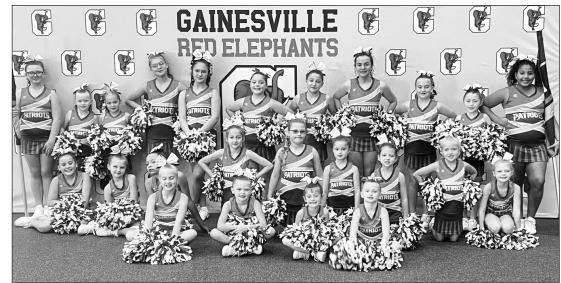
SPECIAL SPEAKER



State Rep. Trey Rhodes was the guest speaker at the OCREA meeting on Oct. 10 at Countryside Catering. He updated the organization on what's happening in the state legislature, concentrating on education. Linda Banks provided the inspirational message.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

CHEER CAMP



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Oglethorpe County rec department's 8u cheer team (aged up to 13u) won the Big Red Cheer Classic in Gainesville two weeks ago. They include (back, from left): Emily Firster, Lizze Holder, Isabella Gear, Riley Sisk, Mae Scoggins, Harmony Tanksley, Adalynn Hardeman, Kaylee Wade, Amelia Liguori, Carli Holder, Maddie Byerly; (middle, from left): Adalyn Tanksley, Karsyn Tucker, Mackenize Mack, Lily Ohler, Brooklyn Stayer, Carlie Brown, Averi Burroughs, Alexis Streetman, Adalynn Spratlin; (front, from left): Ava Colquitt, Kylie Holder, Layla Gillham and Maggie Hulse.



The Oglethorpe County rec department's 6u cheer team (aged up to 10u) finished second in the Big Red Cheer Classic in Gainesville two weeks ago. They include (back, from left): Carley Maxwell, Brooklynn Williams, Carsyn Caldwell, Paisley Thornton, Liliana Whitlow, Kadence Westmoreland, Eastyn Hargrove, Abbi Bryant, Bella Hardy, Maggie Blumenshine, Aubrey Gresham; (front, from left): Lakelyn Parker, Kaylee Westmoreland, Karissa Whitley, Nola Fleming, Oaklyn Anderson, Annora Daniel, AvaGrace Hammond, Amelia Mauldin, Zacheri Kitchens, Adaline Bouknecht and Kamryn Wise.

GROUP RECOGNITION





SUBMITTED PHOTO

Shirley Smith was recognized for 40-plus years of continuous service (center) as a poll worker by Beverly Nation, the chair of the Oglethorpe County Board of Elections and Registration, and Marilyn Huff-Waller, who is elections supervisor. The elections board also recognized poll workers for the integral role they play during elections.

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Pig farmers struggle with soaring feed prices

By John Henry Hammond The Oglethorpe Echo

Lorelei Prichard's family expressed interest, about a decade ago, in a hobby that's increasingly popular in the Southeast — raising and showing cattle. But Prichard, a mother of five in Watkinsville, decided purchasing five cows was too large of a financial commitment and opted for something more cost-effective: pigs.

What initially seemed to be budget friendly has proven to be equally, if not more, expensive as pig farmers deal with the skyrocketing price of feed.

Prichard, who owns OMG Show Pigs in Watkinsville, paid \$970 for three tons of feed two years ago.

Now, she pays a staggering \$1,650

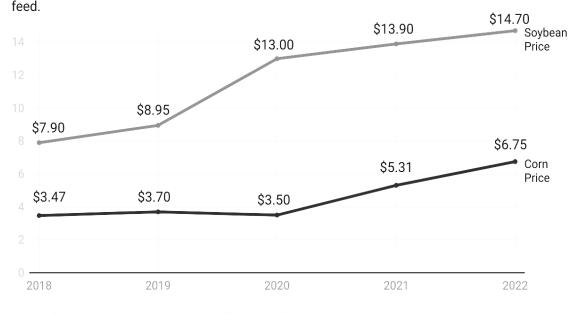
"A lot of people think, 'I'm going to save money, and I'm going to make my own pigs,' and then they realize it's a whole lot more expensive and a lot more trouble than they were expecting," Prichard said. "Everything seems easier until you try to do it."

Feed costs are now responsible for approximately 70% of the total cost of pork production.

Oglethorpe County, which led the state in feeder pork production in 2021, according to the University of Georgia Center of Agribusiness and Economic Development's Farm Gate Value Report, doesn't produce enough corn or soybeans, two crops popular in pig feed, to maintain a self-sufficient pig farm-

Soybean and Corn Prices Steadily Rising

The National Agriculture Statistics Service's data highlights the rising costs of corn and soybeans. As common components of pig feed, these rising costs indicate a rise in the cost of food



 $\textbf{Chart: John Henry Hammond \cdot Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service \cdot Created with Datawrapper}$

marketing the products.

Some smaller farms have opted to feed their pigs with an integrator. When farms do this, they typically have an agreement with a larger company that will provide the necessary resources for production, including feed, in exchange for a percentage of the final pork product.

"There's only a couple left in the county, and they're not affected by the price of feed because they're feeding with an integrator," said Danny Sanders, owner of Oglethorpe Feed and Hardware Supply. "That's the way hogs have gone in this day and time."

JOHN HENRY HAMMOND/THE OGLETHORPE ECHO

In 2018, corn cost \$3.47 per bushel. Just five years later, that price jumped to \$6.75 per bushel. Within that period, soybean prices rose from \$7.90 to \$14.70 per bushel.

Pig farmers are grappling with

the challenge of maintaining profitability with both the rising cost of feed and the declining price of pork.

"It's so expensive, and the price of pork is so low, so it is hard to make a good living out of it," Prichard said.

She's not alone in her concerns. Pork farmers across the country are feeling the implications of rising production costs. Nationally, pork production has fallen 4.8% from 28.3 billion pounds in 2020 to 27 billion in 2022, according to the U.S. Department of Agricul-

ture's Economic Research Service.

"The swine industry across the country right now is probably in a little bit of a contraction mode," said Robert Dove, associate professor and undergraduate coordinator of Animal and Dairy Science at the University of Georgia. "It's a little hard to tell, but we are decreasing the number of sales and breeding stock."

Despite the negative outlook, Prichard encourages individuals to consider entering the industry, as she believes that raising pigs can impart valuable lessons and insights.

"The kids that do this, they're coming out from showing pigs and learning how to talk with people and communicate," Prichard said. "They're learning responsibility, they're learning the cost of their food and they're learning that everything has a purpose in life."

Scams hit Georgia churchgoers

So, farmers in the county rely

on imports to feed their pigs, but

rising production and transporta-

The rising costs have made it

difficult for local farms to keep up

with commercial farms that have

vertically integrated. Vertical in-

tegration in hog farming is when

one company controls all aspects

of the supply chain, from breeding

and raising hogs to processing and

tion costs have driven up prices.

ing ecosystem.

ATLANTA — Attorney General Chris Carr is warning Georgians of an imposter scam targeting faith-based communities in which fraudsters pose as religious leaders to try to trick congregants into sending them money.

There are different variations to these imposter scams. In one version, scammers set up Gmail accounts that display the actual name of a rabbi, priest, pastor or imam. The fraudster then emails the members of the congregation asking for emergency donations to help someone in need.

In another version, scammers pose as real religious leaders and send texts or emails to congregants requesting they send money via

"With advancements in technology, it's easier than ever for criminals to hide their true identity, which is why we continue to hear about imposter scams," Carr said Monday. "Consumers should be very suspicious of any emails or

texts asking them to send money, even if they appear to come from a trusted source."

While it may be difficult to get money back once it's in the hands of a scammer, victims can take steps to boost their chances of recovering lost funds. Carr's office urges victims to report the fraud as soon as they become aware of a scam. Immediately contact the appropriate financial provider, money transfer company, or gift card provider.

— Capitol Beat News Service



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Friends, I hope you are talking. And I mean talking to your family, but also your friends. Asking how did we get here? High gas prices again, high grocery prices and really the cost of everything. I hope it's not limited, but also the headlines. FOX News had an article about economic similarities not seen since the 1930's are being recorded. New data reveals a crash not seen since Great Depression could hit in 2024. If the White House and Congress don't cut spending soon, the results could be catastrophic, by Justin Haskins, FOX Business. Another article said; high interest rates are here to stay. I bought my first house and welcomed home a child in 1988. I had an adjustable rate at 7.5 % and it went up 4 years in a row. I complained a lot and just worked harder, never once connected the dots that tied this to out of control Government spending and policies being made into law at the Federal and State levels that affected me monetarily. And I just didn't connect the dots it was the Government that was creating all these burdensome regulations and policies. Then I listened to Rush Limbaugh and he began to pull back the curtain. He informed us all about the main street media narrative lies as he researched and gave us the truth.Now fast forward to today. The Leftist Marxist Socialist Progressive Uni Party hasn't changed, but gotten bolder. These elected officials have been stripping away our freedoms and have provoked me into being an activist advocating against their strategies and policies. But also holding Republicans accountable for their actions of not saying no! And that is what Trump has taught the Grassroots. To fight and say NO!

Represent Republican traditions and values and why today I ask you again to help find someone who will run against this Carpet Bagger Uni Party Dist 124 Representative. Who has voted to raise the budget 12 times and increase the government bureaucracy for 12 years being in elected office? He must be voted out

That is how we stop this Government from selling out Georgians to the highest bidder and driving us over a cliff to Marxist Socialist Police State. No Sir, not happening!

Did you read Friday; Hillary Clinton said: 'There Needs to Be a Formal Deprogramming' of MAGA 'Cult Members, October 8, 2023 Georgia Star News Staff. And the FBI's Latest Excuse to Hunt MAGA 'Terrorists', October 7, 2023 by Julie Kelly, georgiastar.com/ These Leftist People are out of their collective minds. I hope you are talking to your family and your friends, also the people that don't know and to start paying attention. That If you love America and want an America First Agenda? The FBI has a new category of terrorist and that is people that love America. Are you talking to family and friends about this? Exclusive: Donald Trump Followers Targeted by FBI as 2024 Election Nears, BY WILLIAM M. ARKIN ON 10/04/23 AT 5:00 AM EDT, newsweek.com. We are soon to be living in a police state unless we elect people that will stand as a Republican that love America and Freedom and will represent Georgians in Dist124 as a Republican.

There is one among us that will fight for our God given freedoms. Is a Republican and will fight for limited government and say no to the Marxist Socialist Progressive Uni Party train wreck Georgia is heading. Not a Carpet Bagger who will not sell out Dist 124 Georgians to the highest bidder. We need this person to step out and become known to us

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Crawford church to welcome community to Judgment House

By Martina Essert For The Oglethorpe Echo

Mt. Pleasant Community Church in Crawford will bring back a Judgment House after a four-year hiatus.

The Judgment House, which is open from 7-9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21 through Monday, Oct. 23, is less about fear for Pastor Levi Taylor and more about spreading the word of a loving, merciful God.

"I don't preach scare tactics," Taylor said. "I don't believe you can scare somebody into not going to hell or into going to heaven ... scaring somebody is only going to last for so long."

Instead, Taylor said he wants to "open people's eyes to what possibilities could be" if they aren't allowed into heaven on their judgment day.

Judgment houses, which crop up in October at churches around the country, are similar to haunted houses, often using a combination of masked actors, jump scares and fake blood to spook attendees.

However, the Christian attractions have a different intention.

Pastors and volunteers hope at-

tendees leave having realized the importance of salvation and making it to heaven.

Mt. Pleasant's Judgment House will follow the story of a waitress and her two friends who are involved in a car accident, and the plot will emphasize the dangers of texting and

driving, Taylor said.

The actors will use a wrecked car provided by Gabriel's Towing in Winterville, a dummy and backboard donated by



Levi Taylor

Oglethorpe County Emergency Medical Services and a squad car from the Oglethorpe County Sheriff's Office to set the scene.

"I think the most (the Judgment House) has ever cost us was \$500," Taylor said. "But you can't put a price on the impact it has on people's souls."

Attendees will navigate a 15-20 minute route both indoors and outside, watching the characters' journey to heaven's gates.

"In order to get a judgment scene, there's got to be a death," Taylor said.

An actor playing God will read 2 Corinthians 5:9-10, demons will hiss, and at the end, attendees will have the chance to pray or ask questions in a prayer room.

Because of potentially disturbing scenes, attendees must be older than 12 or accompanied by a par-

The Judgment House is free. Attendees can leave cash donations or donate food to Mt. Pleasant's CAYA (Come As You Are) food

Around 1,000 people attended the event over the course of the weekend in past years, Taylor said.

Planning for the Judgment House began in May. Taylor said getting the attraction together was a relatively smooth process; the hardest part was getting the volunteers together to practice.

The Judgment House is a chance for Taylor, who has been the pastor at Mt. Pleasant for four years, to show the community the intentions for his ministry and for Mt. Pleasant.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Julie Wade (left) and Deidre Boswell work on the set in preparation for Mt. Pleasant Community Church's Judgment House, which is open from 7-9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21 to Monday, Oct. 23. Pastor Levi Taylor said the Judgment House is more about spreading the word of a loving, merciful God.

"The biggest thing I want people to know when they leave the Judgment House is. No. 1, that there's a God that loves them,

and No. 2, that if they don't have a church, there's a church — Mt. Pleasant Community Church that loves them," Taylor said.

LIVESTOCK, From Page 1

quality Angus cattle producers in Oglethorpe County that significantly influence other small registered herds and commercial herds with the genetics they offer through animal sales."

Bridges sends his bulls' DNA samples to the American Angus Association, which tests them and generates genetic profiles for each animal. Once he has the profiles, he then provides an adequate environment to capitalize on his herd's genetic potential.

"You've got to provide an environment in which the cattle can survive easily, and have plenty of grass to eat, and aren't bothered by disease, or flies, or the need for fresh water and shade," Bridges said. "If you stress an animal, it won't reach its genetic potential."

Bridges' methods have paid off. Bridges Angus Farm registered the 10th most cattle in Georgia with the American Angus Association during the 2023 fiscal year, which ended Sept. 30.

"Our association members lead the industry in adopting new technology and breeding the most problem-free cattle for their customers," said Mark McCully, CEO of the American Angus Association.

After three generations of Oglethorpe County farmers, Bridges Angus Farm recognizes the importance of adaptability and innovation in meeting the evolving demands of Oglethorpe County.

"We've been doing it here for nearly 80 years," Bridges said. "We have to constantly evolve just to find new markets, just to survive."



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NEWS ROUNDUP

Chamber needs host businesses

Staff Report

The Oglethorpe County Chamber of Commerce needs host businesses for two monthly events: the networking breakfast and the business after hours.

The networking breakfast is held at 8:30 a.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at the Depot. The chamber provides beverages and the sponsoring business provides food.

The host business can present a program about itself and each attendee can introduce themselves and speak briefly about their businesses.

The business after hours events are held at 5:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of every month. They are typically held at the sponsoring business, which provides food and beverages, and gives tours/overviews.

Call or email the chamber at 706-743-3113 and oglethorpechamber@gmail.com to host and sponsor one of these events.

Book sale, art show set for Nov. 4

The fourth annual Book Sale and Art Show, benefitting the Oglethorpe County Library, is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4 at No. 3 Railroad St.

Seventeen local artists and artisans — including jewelry makers, soap makers, wreath makers, among others — have signed up for the event.

Table fees are \$15, which go to the library. Artists keep what they

For more information, call Peggy Hroma at 706-338-6389.



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CONGRATS, MIDDLE SCHOOL XC CHAMPS!

This past Thursday, ACS hosted the Kent Kramer Cross-Country Championships. Over 40 schools participated in the event.

Congratulations to the ACS Middle School boys team, as they won their race going away with Travon Roberson finishing first, Butler Dekle third, Rob Fleischer seventh, Daniel Brink 10th, Hugh Hale 16th and Owen Smith 27th.

In the middle school girls race, the Lady Eagles also took first with Sarah Ra Fields finishing third, Janaiyah Dixon fourth, Reagan Lee sixth, Evva Barton 10th

and Henslee Robolin 18th. Great job by the ACS XC athletes and coaches, as they used their talents to honor the Lord!



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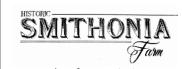
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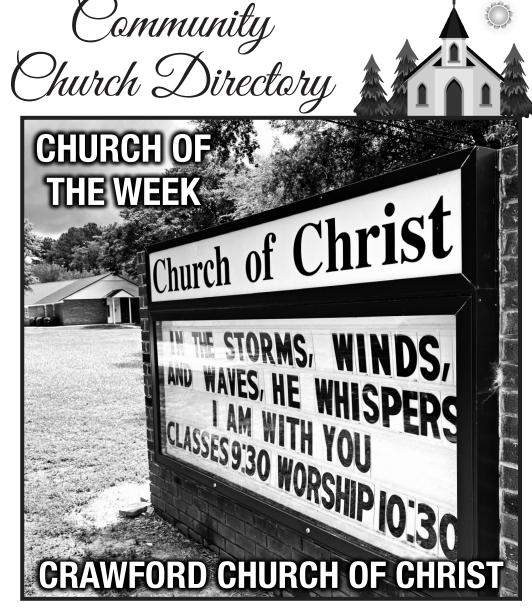


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Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in face you are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 NIV

Antioch Baptist Church 135 Railroad Rd., Stephens, GA 30667

Arnold's Grove Baptist Church 625 Wolfskin Rd, Arnoldsville, GA 30619

Arnoldsville Baptist Church 240 Yancey Rd., Arnoldsville, GA 30619

Athens Friends Meeting Quakers 2092 Athens Road Arnoldsville, GA 30619

Baird's Baptist Church 1031 Community Drive, (physical address: 42 Bairdstown Loop) Union Pt, GA 30669

> **Bethany Baptist Church** 3193 Centerville Rd. Lexington, Ga 30648

Born Again Church 1180 Athens Road Crawford, GA 30630

Burts United Methodist Church 77 Veribest - Enterprise Road, Carlton, GA 30627

Clarke Grove Baptist Church 726 Crawfordville Hwy., Stephens, GA 30667

Cloud's Creek Baptist Church 274 Cloud's Creek Rd, Crawford, GA 30630

> **Collier Baptist Church** 115 Collier Church Rd., Comer, GA 30629

Corinth Baptist Church 2040 Belmont Road Arnoldsville, GA 30619

County Line Baptist Church 3248 Walker Road Rayle, GA 30660

Crawford Baptist Church 124 Church Street, Crawford, GA 30630

Crawford Church of Christ PO Box 76, 979 Athens Rd., Crawford, GA 30630

Crawford Pentecostal Church 804 Athens Rd., Crawford, GA 30630

Fork Bethel Baptist Church 3003 Centerville Road Lexington, GA 30648

Friendship Baptist Church P.O. Box 47, Lexington, GA 30648

> **Genesis Church** 520 North Street, Crawford, GA 30630

Gholston Baptist Church 45 Gholston Church Rd., Comer. GA 30627

Glade Baptist Church 1742 Lexington - Carlton Rd., Carlton, GA 30627

Glade United Methodist Church 1735 Lexington Carlton Rd Carlton, GA 30627

Grove Chapel Church 136 Grove Chapel Church Rd Winterville, GA 30638

Harmonia Baptist Church 324 Church Street, Maxeys GA 30671

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses 585 Elberton Road Lexington, GA 30648

Lexington Baptist Church 103 West Church Street, Lexington, GA 30648

Lighthouse Evangelical Church Elberton Rd. Lexington, GA 30648

Living Water Baptist Church 734 Yancey Road

Arnoldsville, GA 30619 **Love & Action United Church** 1071 Athens Road,

Crawford, GA 30630 **Maxeys Christian Church** 160 Church Street Maxeys, GA 30671

Millstone Baptist Church 479 Gene Smith Road Carlton, GA 30627

Mt. Olive Baptist Church P.O. Box 42,

Lexington, GA 30648 Mt. Pleasant Community Church 1244 Comer Rd.,

Mt. Zion Baptist Church 388 Stephens Salem Road, Stephens, GA 30667

Crawford, GA 30630

New Anon Grove Baptist Church 24 Fairgrounds Rd.,

Lexington, GA 30648 **New Bethlehem Baptist Church** 1108 Lexington-Carlton Rd,

Carlton, GA 30627

New Hope Baptist Church 383 New Hope Vesta Rd., Carlton, GA 30627

> **New Life Church** 1186 Athens Road Crawford, GA 30630

New Springhill Baptist Church 2491 Crawfordville Rd. Philomath, GA 30660

> **New Zion Church** 735 Smokey Road, Crawford, GA 30630

Oconee Baptist Church 58 Lower Wire Bridge Road, Stephens, GA 30667

Oglethorpe Fellowship Church 64 Brown's Chapel Road Lexington, GA 30648

Palmetto Chtistian Church 884 Arnold Caldwell Rd Carlton, GA 30627

Pentecost Chapel Congregational Holiness Church 389 Stephens Grove Church Road Lexington, GA 30648

Piney Grove Baptist Church 241 Piney Grove Rd., Comer, GA 30629

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church 338 Collier Church Road, Comer, Ga 30629

Rocky Branch Baptist Church 58 Millstone Church Rd., Carlton, GA 30627

Salem Baptist Church 694 Salem Church Rd.. Lexington GA 30648

791 Lexington Carlton Rd., Carlton, GA 30627 **Sonlight Baptist Church** 1134 Hargrove Lake Road

Sandy Cross Baptist Church

Colbert, GA 30628 **Springhill Baptist Church** 187 Old Springhill Church Rd.,

Rayle, GA 30660 **Springs of Life Fellowship** 217 Arnoldsville Road

Arnoldsville, GA 30619 St. James AME P.O. Box 37, Arnoldsville, GA 30619

St. John African **Methodist Episcopal Church** 632 Crawford-Smithonia Rd.,

Crawford, GA 30630

St. Paul CME Church 660 Comer Rd., Lexington, GA 30648

Stevens Grove Baptist Church 707 Stevens Grove Church Rd., Lexington GA 30648

Thankful Baptist Church 1218 Union Point Rd., Stephens, GA 30667

Thankful Grove Baptist Church 2026 Lexington Carlton Rd., Carlton, GA 30627

The Light of the World Church 714 Washington Road Lexington, GA 30648

> **Vesta Baptist Church** 35 New Hope Road Carlton, GA 30627

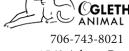
Welcome Avenue Congregational Holiness Church 1140 Crawford Smithonia Road Crawford, GA 30630

GLETHORPE ANIMAL CLINIC 706-743-8021





Equipment 764 Athens Road Installation & Lexington, GA 30648 Construction 706.743.6135 • Sales & Service Mon.-Fri. 8-5 pm



1562 Athens Road Crawford, GA 30630



Charlie Snelling

I've been told that you have decided on what the world is like by the time you're 10 years old.

You know what is good and bad, right and wrong, normal or abnormal by that time. Thinking about this, I continually revert back to the things I observed as a young man while accompanying my grandfather in his daily activities. Pretty much everything that was said in my presence was absorbed and processed in the mind of an otherwise hyperactive young man.

I did a whole lot of listening, something that I should do a lot more of today.

When I was being raised by my parents, my grandparents or my extended family, it was clear to me that children needed to be seen and not heard.

What I mean is, in the 1950s, when I was not yet 10 and adults were talking, I didn't insert myself in the conversation unless I was specifically addressed or asked a question. That is how all the listening came about. I just paid close attention and kept my mouth shut.

I so much admired the adults in my family because they seemed to know just about everything about anything. I'm sure that I was a pest at times because every time I had a question, I would wait until the opening came and then I would rapid-fire those questions to whoever seemed to be the au-

Tales from Sandy Cross

Our experiences help set our values

thority figure.

One of the answers I would get was, "That's not something we

cousins. Some of them were older than me. They were always around because we visited a lot. It's a good feeling to think back to those visits and all I learned.

of information and a safe place to ask a question regarding what may have been a delicate subject with an adult. They would usually give you the straight skinny.

However, they would also pull my age the more likely they were

All the values and knowledge were seriously disrupted on a few occasions. These milestones are

a grammar school where you

Moving on to high school, ent classes (including homeroom) with seven different teachers, was

Also being exposed to that overwhelming. At least everybody

The next major value shift for me was going off to school at Georgia Southern in Statesboro, 160 miles away.

I was living with someone I didn't know in a dorm. My classes were all over the campus and at different times.

Most of the folks I interacted with were from Georgia, but a significant number from elsewhere. Talk about an eye opener.

There is much to be considered when you are exposed to what a large diverse group thinks and what it believes. Georgia Southern is not necessarily the melting pot of the global population, but it was big to me in 1968.

Next, I went to work at Westinghouse in Athens. The Pennsylvania culture was prevalent since the management team mostly came from somewhere else and headquarters was in Pittsburgh.

It may have been the largest dynamic shift in my value system. I worked for six other companies during my career, each one being a totally different experience.

My view of what makes us what we are is the sum of the experiences in our lives and how that affects our values. I often quote an author who said, "What you are is where you were when."

Like him. I didn't change much until those significant events. With these I have learned, grown and adapted over the last 73 years.

I'm still doing that. If you reflect on these major milestones, I think it will make you smile. If not, it will certainly make you think.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR -

UPCOMING

Oglethorpe County Recreation Department will offer the following events at Bryan Park:

Basketball and wrestling registration is open until Tuesday, Oct. 24.

The annual Halloween at the Park Trunk or Treat will be held from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 31. Volunteers are needed to decorate trunks and donate candy.

The Oglethorpe County Democrats will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 19 at the Ogelthorpe County Library. The meeting is open to the public. Contact oglethorpe-dems@googlegroups. com for more information.

No. 3 Railroad Street will host the following concerts this week:

Claude Bourbon from 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 19.

Betsy Scott and Friends from 6-8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21. For more information, go to 3railroad.org/index.php.

The American Legion will hold a ceramic painting event with Renee from 1-5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21. There will be two different options to paint. Call to reserve your spot.

Salem Fire and Rescue will have its annual chicken mull dinner at 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21. There will be a cake walk afterward.

New Anon Grove Baptist Church will host a Family and Friends Day at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 22. The guest minister will be Pastor Larry Clark. Attire is casual and everyone is invited.

Oglethorpe County Family Connection Board will hold a meeting for collaborative partners and community members to discuss a five-year strategic plan for the community from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 24 at the Senior

Working Oglethorpe Women will hold a meeting at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 24 at Countryside Manor. All Oglethorpe County women are invited to share ideas and experiences. For more information, contact Claudia Reit at wow.oglethorpe@gmail.com or 404-488-5011.

Friendship Baptist Church will celebrate the 24th anniversary of Pastor Clarence and Mearian Burgess at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 29. Bishop Calvin Turner and the sliced almonds. Mount Zion Baptist Church will be the guests. Lunch will be served at 1 p.m.

The Oglethorpe County Library will host a family-friendly Halloween movie night from 4-6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 30. Snacks will be provided.

The LiSCARY Spooktacular will take place from Monday, Oct. 23 to Tuesday, Oct. 31 at the Oglethorpe County Library during regular hours of operation. There will be crafts, games and a selection of spooky books available for check out. Costumes are encour-

The Oglethorpe County Library's Book Club will meet at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 31. The book of the month is "The Measure" by Nikki Erlick.

The fourth annual Book Sale and Art Show, benefitting the Oglethorpe County Library, is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4 at No. 3 Railroad St. Seventeen local artists and artisans — including jewelry makers, soap makers, wreath makers, among others — have signed up for the event. Table fees are \$15, which go to the library. Artists keep what they sell. For more information, call Peggy Hroma at 706-338-6389.

The Oglethorpe County Board of Elections and Registration will hold its monthly meeting at 9 a.m. Monday, Nov. 6 at the Board of Elections office at 41 Fairground Road in Lexington. The meeting is open to the public.

Arnoldsville Cemetery Association will have a Spaghetti Supper fundraiser at 5 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 9 at the Arnoldville Baptist Church. Tickets are \$10 and will be sold at the door. There will be a raffle for a Moss Creek swing with rack. To purchase raffle tickets, call 706-715-9524, email arnoldsvillegacemetery@gmail.com or write to Arnoldsville Cemetery Association, Inc., P.O. Box 14, Arnoldsville, GA 30619. Tickets are \$2 each or \$5 for three. The drawing will be immediately following the annual meeting.

The American Legion is selling Boston Butts by Smokehouse BBQ in Lexington as a fall fundraiser. Tickets are on sale for \$40 per full Boston Butt. Pick up is from 3-5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 11. Tickets must be purchased before pick up date.

REGULAR MEETINGS

The Rotary Club of Oglethorpe County will not hold its regular meeting on Friday, Oct. 20. Instead, club volunteers will work at its golf tournament fundraiser at the Double Oaks Golf Club.

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.

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 10:30-11:30 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, Oct. 19: Bingo; lunch: beef chili with beans over whole wheat penne pasta and topped with cheddar cheese with an oatmeal raisin cookie, or sliced croissant with vanilla greek yogurt, fresh raspberries and toasted
- Friday, Oct. 20: Penny pinching; lunch: breaded baked pollock with tomato pesto orzo and cumin roasted carrots, or classic tuna salad with a whole wheat roll, carrot pineapple salad and fruit cocktail.
- Monday, Oct. 23: War Room with Delbra; lunch: Beef Bourguignon, mashed cauliflower, five way vegetable blend with carrots, corn, green beans, peas and lima beans and a wheat roll, or turkey chorizo, spanish brown rice, Monterey jack cheese, and five way vegetable blend with carrots, corn, green beans, peas and lima beans.
- Tuesday, Oct. 24: Shiloh Bluegrass Band; lunch: beef sloppy joe sliders on wheat rolls with creamed collards, or creamy chicken alfredo over egg noodles with roasted brussels sprout halves.
- Wednesday, Oct. 25: Arts and crafts; lunch: beef taco filling, shredded Monterey jack cheese, cherry tomatoes, iceberg lettuce and southwest ranch dressing with a side of baked tortilla chips and vanilla pudding

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A free developmental and speech/language screening is available for 3- and 4-yearold students upon request. Contact Oglethorpe County Primary School at 706-743-8194 and ask for Caroline Paradise.

Northeast GA CASA seeks volunteers to be trained as Court Appointed Special Advocates for children in foster care. As a CASA volunteer, you will impact the lives of young people by advocating for their best interest. Children benefit from the diversity of our volunteers and their varied and unique approaches to connecting with young people. Volunteers must be over the age of 21 and be able to pass a background check. If you're interested, contact Chad Wayne at c.wayne@northeastgacasa.org or call 706-886-1098.

talk about!' That's how I learned what was off limits and what was not.

One of my resources was my

Those cousins were a wealth

your leg. The closer they were to to tell the truth. I learned pretty quickly how to tell the difference.

that I accumulated in my youth typical for most people. My first one was moving from

stayed in one room all day with one teacher for the first eight grades. Most of my fellow students went all the way through those grades with me.

where you changed classrooms every hour and had seven differa shock.

many more people was initially was from the same county.



Oglethorpe County Rainfall Reporting Network

Name (CoCoRaHS Number)	Location	Oct. 9-12
Danny Morcom (OG-5)	Arnoldsville	1.32
Pete Kalla (OG-7)	Sandy Cross	0.97
Paul Webb (OG-10)	Lexington	1.73
Wayne Hughes (OG-12)	Wolfskin	1.52
Michael Moody (OG-21)	Glade	1.36
Kathrine Clark (OG-29)	Lexington	1.59

Oglethorpe County average rainfall for the week: 1.42 inches. **Athens rainfall for the week:** 1.13 inches (typical weekly 0.92). Measurements reported at 7 a.m. Monday.

COMMUNITY NEWS DEB'S COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant.

Happy October birthdays to Saundra Dorsey, Felecia Hubbard, Shirley Lester, Mary Armstrong, Leonard Waller, Bernard Waller, Daisy Waller, Michael Burden Alvin Armstrong, Polly Echols, Sheila Sims and Walter Smith.

Happy 49th anniversary to Curtis and Nell Strong. We wish you many more.

The "War Room Show with Delbra D," along with her guests, Pastor Darron and Pastor Laronda Mosley will appear on TV 57, "A Time In The Word With Sarah Hurd" on at 6 a.m. Sunday. Also, we invite you to join us on Facebook Live at 7 p.m. every Tuesday for a night of celebrating the goodness of God.

St. John Church will have a selling this Friday, October 20th, starting at 12 noon, at 836 Smokey Road (Deb's Shop). Please stop by and support our fundraiser. For more information call (706)351-8969. Thanking you in advance.

The St. John Church indoor yard sale will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21. Items include: beds, coffee tables, end tables, chairs, couches, bookshelves, entertainment centers, dishes, home decor, clothes and more. Call 706-202-6707 for more information.

Update from Arnoldsville

That moment when you have something important to say but you're waiting for the person who is talking to stop talking, but when they do, you forget what you were going to say.

The Class of '61 reunion will have a get together at 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 21 at Arnoldsville Baptist Church. Lunch will follow. Join us even if you were not in this class.

I have three people whose cards were returned last week. If anyone knows anything about Margie Gerrin Hart, Ann Cooper Lundebo or Martha Smelley Carter, please give me a call at 706-338-9499. I would appreciate it.

Beverly Gabriel and I had another really great trip on Monday and Tuesday of last week. We went to the goat show and fair in Perry. It was really a treat to see.

Beverly's granddaughter Abygail was grand cham-

pion with her goat and also won first place in showmanship. Aby's sister Emma also placed in several of We spent the night on Monday and enjoyed the beautiful fireworks show at the fair with about 5,000

other people. In other words, there were a lot of people there.

If you have a chance to attend any of the livestock

I will minister through songs at the Oglethorpe County Senior Center at 10 a.m. Monday, Oct. 23, and at Bethesda Baptist Church's revival at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 25. The revival will be held from Monday, Oct. 23 to Wednesday, Oct.25. Everyone is invited.

Join Piney Grove Baptist Church as it celebrates its Extraordinary Crown program at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 29. Please wear your favorite hat and gloves. They promise you will enjoy it, in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Drakkar Kilpatrick is the pastor.

Pastor Willie Kendrick and the St. John Church family will celebrate its Men and Women's Day program at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 12. Pastor Alexander "Moochie" Wymbs and the Arnold Grove Baptist Church are the special guests. Dinner will be served after the program.

Mark your calendar and share it with your church and community: the War Room Christmas parade will be held Saturday, Dec. 9. The parade will be at least three miles long. For more information or questions, call 706-202-6707.

Big "O" thought for the week: What a joy to wake up knowing we are loved by such an awesome God. Greatness is yours!

- Delbra Kendrick

shows and go to the fair, it's a treat. You better take plenty of money if you want to eat or drink. A cup of tea was \$7. I appreciate Beverly letting me go with

her. She is a great friend. I enjoyed having my great grandsons spend the night this week. Bennett and Jack are such sweet and caring boys to be around. The main thing was being ready to get on the school bus at 6:45 a.m., but they were up at 5:30 and we had plenty of time.

Bennett and Jack's parents took a few days off for a trip to Nashville with friends. I know Kathryn and Jeff enjoyed their time together.

On Sunday after church, Beverly and I enjoyed going to G Brand for lunch. We were glad to have Billy Pass join us at our table. We tried to talk about everybody in the restaurant and remember who they were. It's quite the gathering place on Sunday to see so many people that you know.

The food was really great and the young people who work there are very good. The restaurant was full on Sunday, so we saw several people we know. We appreciate G Brand for having such a nice place to get together.

We're thankful for the rain this week and also for the Bulldogs giving us another win.

- Jean Fleming

LEGALS —

2024 **PROPOSED BUDGETS**

The 2024 Proposed Budgets for the City of Crawford are available for review. Please contact Crawford City Hall for further information. 706-743-5260. Oct. 19

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT

TO: ANTHONY TARRELL HALL

You are hereby notified that SANTERICA ELAINE CHAMBLEE has filed a Petition seeking to be appointed temporary guardian of the above-named Minor (A. Hall). All objections to the Petition to the appointment of a temporary guardian or the appointment of the Petitioner as temporary guardian, must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and be filed with this Court no later than fourteen (14) days after this notice is mailed, or ten (10) days after this notice is personally served upon you, or ten (10) days after the second publication of this notice if you are served by publication. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or Georgia 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.

NOTE: If a natural guardian files a timely objection to the creation of the temporary quardianship, the Petition will be dismissed. If a natural guardian files an objection to the appointment of the Petitioner as guardian, or if a parent who is not a natural guardian files an objection to the Petition, a hearing on the matter shall be scheduled at a later date. If no objection is 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 Oct. 12-19

TERMINATION JUDGEMENT

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF OGLETHORPE STATE OF GEORGIA IN THE INTEREST OF .W .M Case Number: 109-23J-00036 Sex: Male. Age: 7 years. DOB: 06/16/2016 .W .M Case Number: 109-23J-00037 Sex: Female, Age: 10 years DOB: 05/10/2013

Children under 18 years of age.

SUMMONS AND NOTICE OF EFFECT OF TER-MINATION JUDGMENT

TO: Micah Ryan Warner, Legal father of the above identified children.

Georgia law provides that you can permanently lose your rights as a parent. A petition to terminate parental rights has been filed requesting the court to terminate your parental rights to your children. A court hearing of your case has been scheduled for December 13, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. at the Juvenile Court of Oglethorpe County, said proceedings to be held at the Oglethorpe County Courthouse, 111 W. Main Street, Lexington, Geor-

If you fail to appear, the court can terminate your rights in your absence.

If the court at the trial finds that the facts set out in the petition to terminate parental rights are true and that termination of your rights will serve the best interests of your children, the court can enter a judgment ending your rights to your children. If the judgment terminates your parental rights you will no longer have any rights to your child. This means that you will not have the right to visit, contact, or have custody of your child or make any decisions affecting your child or your child's earnings or property.

Your child will be legally freed to be adopted by someone else

Even if your parental rights are terminated: (1) You will still be responsible for providing financial support (child support payments) for your child's care unless and until your child is adopted;

(2) Your child can still inherit from you unless and until your child is adopted.

Any responsive pleading should be served upon the Petitioner's counsel, Chad A. Hunt, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 51, Crawford, GA

This is a very serious matter. You should contact an attorney immediately so that you can be prepared for the court hearing. You have the right to hire an attorney and to have him or her represent you. If you cannot afford to hire an attorney, the court will appoint an attorney if the court finds that you are an indigent person. Whether or not you decide to hire an attorney, you have the right to attend the hearing of your case, to call witnesses on your behalf, and to question those witnesses brought against you. If you want a lawyer appointed to represent you. you must let the Court or the officer of this Court handling this case know that you want a lawyer immediately by contacting the Office of the Public Defender for the Northern Judicial Circuit, whose telephone number is (706) 246-9320, and whose office is located at 461 Cook Street, Suite J, Royston, Georgia 30662.

You may obtain a free copy of the petition directly or by mail by contacting the Clerk of Court, whose telephone number is 706-743-5731.

WITNESS the Honorable Warren C. Caswell. Judge of said Court. Kelli Paradise Smith, Clerk of Juvenile Court of

Oglethorpe County, Georgia

Oct. 5-Oct. 26

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property: Notice is hereby given that Arnoldsville Storage, located at 32 Arnoldsville Rd, Arnoldsville, Ga 30619; intends to sell the personal property according to the Georgia Self Storage Act, 10-4-210 through 10-4-215 to satisfy the owner's lien.

All bids will be accepted online through www.storageauctions.com. The auction will end on or after 11-09-23 at 10am. Arnoldsville Storage reserves the right to withdraw units from such a sale and reject any bid. Terms of sale are cash or money order only

Latisha Neal, C71, appears to contain; tv, décor, plastic bags, plastic containers, misc. boxes, cool-

Robert Queen, B11, appears to contain: Couches.

shelving, décor, ironing boards, plastic containers, misc. boxes, clothing, laundry baskets, artwork, coolers, toys, misc. items.

Jeff Coker, B27, appears to contain; construction supplies, dressers, lamps, chairs, décor, plastic bags, plastic containers, misc, boxes, clothing, suitcases, coolers, misc. items.

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER

STATE OF GEORGIA, COUNTY OF OGLETHORPE

By virtue of a Power of Sale contained in that certain Security Deed from Joe L. Latimore to American General Financial Services, Inc., dated April 24, 2007 and recorded on April 27, 2007 in Deed Book 18-W, Page 71, in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Oglethorpe County, Georgia, said Security Deed having been given to secure a Note of even date, in the original principal amount of Forty- Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Eight and 00/100 dollars (\$48,708.00) with interest thereon as provided therein, as last transferred to U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE FOR THE CIM TRUST 2020-NR1 MORTGAGE-BACKED

NOTES, SERIES 2020-NR1, recorded in Deed Book 152, Page 245, aforesaid records, will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the courthouse door of Oglethorpe County, Georgia, or at such place as has or may be lawfully designated as an alternative location within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in November, 2023, all property described in said Security Deed including but not limited to the following described property:

All that tract or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the 1303rd District, G.M., Oglethorpe County, Georgia, containing 1.51 acres, more or less, and being more particularly described on a plat of survey entitled "Survey for Gwendolyn Adkins" by Piedmont Engineering and Surveying Co. dated June 28, 1989 and recorded in Plat Book 14, Page 588, in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Oglethorpe County, Georgia and being incorporated herein by reference for a more

Said property may more commonly be known as 21 Smokey Trail, Crawford, GA 30630.

The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, non-payment of the monthly installments on said loan. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).

The individual or entity that has full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of the loan is U.S. Bank Trust Company, National Association not in its individual capacity but solely as Trustee for the CIM TRUST 2023-NR1 Mortgage-Backed Notes, Series 2023-NR1, 8950 Cypress Waters Blvd., Dallas, TX 75019.

Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. The sale will also be subject to the following items which may affect the title: a) zoning ordinances; b) matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or by an inspection of the property; c) any outstanding ad valorem taxes, including taxes, which constitute liens upon said property whether or not now due and payable; d) special assessments; e) the right of redemption of any taxing authority; f) all outstanding bills for public utilities which constitute liens upon said property; g) all restrictive covenants, easements, rights-of-way and any other matters of record superior to said Security Deed. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the owners and party in possession of the property are Joe L. Latimore and or tenant(s). The sale will be conducted subject to 1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy code and 2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed.

U.S. Bank Trust Company, National Association not in its individual capacity but solely as Trustee for the CIM TRUST 2023-NR1 Mortgage-Backed Notes, Series 2023-NR1

As Attorney-in-Fact for Joe L. Latimore Contact: Padgett Law Group: 6267 Old Water Oak Road, Suite 203, Tallahassee, FL 32312; (850) 422-2520 Oct. 12-Nov. 2

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

All creditors of the estate of Charles Jermaine Hughes, 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 20th day of September, 2023.

Mary E. Hughes 3061 Elberton Road Carlton, GA 30629 Oct. 19-Nov. 9

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS All creditors of the estate of Harry Winston Westbrook, 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 3rd day of October, 2023.

Clay M. Westbrook 1345 Crawford-Smithonia Road Crawford, GA 30630 Oct. 12-Nov. 2

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS All creditors of the estate of Miller Alton Tucker, 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 5th day of October, 2023.

Melinda Ann Lindmier 261 Onnie Colquitt Road Crawford, GA 30630 Oct. 12-Nov. 2

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS All creditors of the estate of Ronald George Phelps, 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 25th day of September, 2023.

Mrs. Cindy Phelps 67 Hawks Ridge Rd Colbert, GA 30628 Sept. 28-Oct. 19

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS All creditors of the Estate of JULIE DIANNE COHRAN, late of Oglethorpe County, deceased, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said Estate are required to make im-

This 20th day of September, 2023. DUSTIN COLWELL, Administrator C/O Bryson Law Firm, P.C. 4045 Smithtown Rd., Suite K, Suwanee, GA 30024 Sept 28-Oct 19

NOTICE OF PETITION TO FILE FOR YEAR'S SUPPORT

The petition of Deborah K. Archer, for a year's support from the estate of Danny Lee Archer, 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 October 23, 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.

Kavla H. Grier Judge of the Probate Court PO Box 70 Lexington, GA 30648 Sept. 28-Oct. 19

PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

TO: Whom it may concern: CHRISTOPHER SCOTT REARDEN has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of MARY JANE VEALE 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 November 16, 2023.

BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to 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

Kayla H Grier Judge of the Probate Court PO Box 70 Lexington, GA 30648 706-743-5350 Oct. 19-Nov. 9

PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

NOTICE TO: whom it may concern: OLIVIA B. McKINNEY has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of BETTY FRANCES NOWELLS 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,

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

setting forth the grounds of any such objections,

and must be filed with the Court on or before Oc-

Kayla H. Grier Judge of the Probate Court PO Box 70 Lexington, GA 30648 706-743-5350 Sept. 28-Oct. 19

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SHERIFF'S REPORT —

Staff Report

All information is from the **Oglethorpe County Sheriff's Of**fice arrest/booking reports and miscellaneous incident reports. All defendants are presumed innocent.

ARRESTS

- Van Oakley Barton, Old Hull Road, Athens, was arrested Oct. 8 and charged with DUI driving under the influence of alcohol under the age of 21, waste control/littering local ordinance, and under age possession of alcohol.
- Kevin Adonay Castro, Firewood Street, Athens, was arrested Oct. 9 and charged with possession of a schedule I controlled substance, DUI — driving under the influence of drugs, speeding, and possession of a schedule I or II controlled substance with intent to distribute.
- David Joshua Fields, Wire Bridge Cut Off Road, Stephens, was arrested Oct. 9 and charged with aggravated assault, two counts of disorderly conduct, battery — family violence (first offense) - misdemeanor, possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute, and possession and use of drug related objects.
- Josh Joshua Fields, Wire Bridge Cut Off Road, Stephens, was arrested Oct. 9 and charged with aggravated assault, two counts of disorderly conduct, battery — family violence (first offense) — misdemeanor, possession and use of drug related objects, and possession of cocaine with intent to distribute.
- Lajarvis Antwon Howard, Elm Street, Woodville, was arrested Oct. 9 and charged with probation violation (when probation terms are altered) for fingerprintable charge — misdemeanor.
- Jonathan Edwards Hymes, Tignal Road, Washington, was arrested Oct. 12 and charged with

probation violation (when probation terms are altered) for fingerprintable charge — misdemeanor.

- Peter Iturrian, Barnett Shoals Road, Athens, was arrested Oct. 12 and charged with criminal trespass.
- Daphnye Fournier, no address listed, was arrested Oct. 13 and charged with possession of a schedule IV controlled substance, marijuana — possess less than 1 ounce, drugs not in original container — misdemeanor, and lighting equipment.
- Edward Allen Harper, Athens Road, Crawford, was arrested Oct. 13 and charged with theft by taking — misdemeanor.
- Chad Edward Maio, Millcreek Drive, Zuni, Virginia, was arrested Oct. 13 and charged with possession of a schedule IV controlled substance, possession of a schedule I or II controlled substance with intent to distribute, marijuana — possess less than 1 ounce, and drugs not in original container — misdemeanor.
- Adolphus Lee Streetman, Shady Glade Place, Winterville, was arrested Oct. 13 and charged with aggravated assault.
- Brenda Foster, North Rose Street, Union Point, was arrested Oct. 14 and charged with speeding, open container in vehicle, and DUI — driving under the influence of alcohol.
- Andrew Porterfield, Echols Road, Carlton, was arrested Oct. 14 and charged with two counts of possession of a schedule II controlled substance, drugs not in original container — misdemeanor, and manufacture/deliver/distribute/administer/sell/possess with intent to distribute controlled substance.
- Cindy Postell, Echols Road, Carlton, was arrested Oct. 14 and charged with two counts of possession of a schedule II controlled substance, and possession of a schedule IV controlled substance.

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HELP WANTED

The City of Crawford is hiring in the Water and Wastewater depart-

Duties include, but are not limited to: meter reading, repair & maintenance of water and sewer lines, grass cutting, etc. Salary based on experience.

Please contact Crawford City Hall for an application. 706-743-5260. We are located @ 148 S Broad Street; Crawford.

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.

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.

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JORDYN GERSHONI/THE OGLETHORPE ECHO

Tennis pro Lloyd Martin teaches student John Utley, who is 12, proper swing techniques during a recent practice at Bryan Park. There are three tennis sessions throughout the year at the park.

Tennis program expands, thanks to grants, support

By Jordyn Gershoni The Oglethorpe Echo

Tennis in Oglethorpe County is growing

The addition of a third yearly tennis session, plans to resurface the courts, recent grants and a vision for tennis in schools have started to foster a tennis culture within the county.

Tennis hasn't always occupied a prominent position in the county's landscape. The courts at Bryan Park were built only eight years ago in 2015. Then, in 2022, two devoted tennis advocates, Ronnie Boggs and Lloyd Martin, started the Oglethorpe Recreation Department's tennis program.

And despite the recent start, the uptick of program engagement is noticeable.

Registration for the Oglethorpe Rec Department tennis sessions has increased since 2022. There are 11 players in the adult class and two youth classes have a total of nine students.

The switch from two to three tennis sessions annually was created as a result of increased interest.

"I like to see so many people coming back out and keep trying the sport again and again, and I know that they have become fairly close as a group," said Martin, the tennis pro.

The renovation of the courts, intended to create better playing conditions for more players, is a key development.

ey development.

Partnerships with the United

States Tennis Association (USTA) and the Clarke Oconee Tennis Association also have helped. The USTA has provided financial assistance, including a grant of \$2,000 this year and \$1,000 in 2022.

"What the United States Tennis Association is trying to do is grow tennis from the grassroots level, and your grassroots level is your parks and recreation areas," said Boggs, who is the program and equipment coordinator.

Promoting engagement among all age groups is central to this strategy.

Kala McNair, the league coordinator for the Clarke Oconee Tennis Association and an Oglethorpe County native, is focused on expanding participation and increasing tennis awareness in the Athens area.

"I love seeing kids and adults excited about tennis," she said. "I played tennis my whole life and I really think that it is a great lifelong sport. So, I am reaching out to the community."

With the USTA grant money, Martin secured new equipment for those who just want to "try out the sport." He attributes the program's success to participants' continued involvement in tennis, as many have joined nearby leagues in Athens

"One of our long-term goals is to establish scholastic programs," Martin said. "We would like to be able to establish at least a high school program within the next few years and then possibly a middle school program, as well."

Nothing is acceptable but your best.

— Nick Saban

Dennis Peter Helmreich

Attorney-at-Law 120 W. Main Street Lexington, Georgia 30648 706-743-3410

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Words From The Well

A bi-weekly ministry of Living Water Baptist Church, Arnoldsville

LIVE GREEN. There's much ado today about being green. I won't add anything to it except that God speaks of "living green." "He who leans on and trusts in and is confident in his riches will fall, but the righteous (who trust in God's provision) will flourish like a green leaf." (Proverbs 11:28, AMP). There's no denying the immeasurable physical blessings of living in this country. How easily we forget and neglect, however, to acknowledge how blessed we are! God tells us in Proverbs 11:25, "he that watereth shall be watered also himself." This verse speaks about the generous person who is a source of blessing, and as he blesses others is himself enriched. Paul drills down on this principle of scattering: "Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:6-7, NASB). The concept of generously scattering should shape our attitudes toward sharing what we have with others. Bottom line: we are either generous or we are selfish; and, selfishness never honors The Father, who withheld nothing from us, even His own Son for our salvation! If you want to "flourish like a green leaf" in the most effective and eternal way, scatter generously and live green!

"Words from The Well" is written by Beverly F. Chandler Read "Morning with Beverly" Monday-Friday at www.morningwithbeverly.blogspot.com.

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OGLETHORPE SPORTS



LAUREN HILL/THE OGLETHORPE ECHO

Oglethorpe County head coach Michael Holland speaks to his players after a recent practice. The Patriots will play host to Prince Avenue, the defending Class A Division I state champion, at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

Patriots open region play against No. 1 Prince Avenue

By Lauren Hill and Trevyn Gray The Oglethorpe Echo

Oglethorpe County is preparing for one of its toughest opponents this season. The Patriots play host to No. 1 and defending state champ Prince Avenue Christian on Friday night.

"If you want to be the best, you have to beat the best," senior running back Jake Turner said.

Prince Avenue (6-1) defeated OCHS 56-17 as part of its 20game winning streak, which came to an end in a loss to Mary Persons on Sept. 29. The Wolverines have had consecutive bye weeks to prepare for the Patriots (3-4).

It's the first Region 5-A Division I game for both teams.

"I don't want the players to get outside of themselves and think that one game is bigger than another," head coach Mike Holland said. "That way, when we do play in those big games, we have a business-as-usual mentality and just go out, do the best you can, play free, and play hard.'

Coming off a bye week and a 56-0 shutout against ACS, the Patriots said they remain level-head-

"We just have to take the momentum from our win (over Athens Christian) into the Prince Avenue game," senior linebacker Ashton Sexton said. "It's going to be tough, but I think we can do it."

In the Patriots' loss last season, Holland said he saw potential points that he wants to capitalize on this week.

"The things that hurt us, hopefully, will fall right in our lap this year," Holland said. "It's not necessarily a mystery in what we think we're gonna see. It's not like they have special plays that are going to come out just for us.

"But, what they do, they do at a high level. So, that's what we're trying to get them ready for."

One of the main differences between OCHS last season compared to this year is the Patriots' defensive scheme. Their 3-3-5 defense is designed to combat pass heavy offenses, while also focusing on different pressures on the quarter-

This creates a potential foil for Prince Avenue quarterback Aaron Philo, who has thrown for 2,180 yards and 27 touchdowns this sea-

The Georgia Tech commit passed for 372 yards and five touchdowns against OCHS last

"(The Wolverines) do a good job with their screen game, and they do a really good job with some unconventional stuff," Holland said. "They're really good at what they do."

New Patriot Stadium guidelines

Oglethorpe County Superintendent Beverley Levine, OCHS Principal Bill Sampson and the school's athletic department have established new guidelines for Patriot Stadium. "There are no specific incidents prompting this," according to a release. "We just need a more orderly environment. We express our sincere gratitude for your continuous support of our student-athletes." Here are the new guidelines:

- In an effort to maintain safety and order at Patriot Stadium during all sporting events, we have implemented new procedures. We hope to provide a positive environment where everyone can support our student-athletes and enjoy the events. We welcome everyone, but need your help maintaining a safe
- Tickets for OCHS football games can be purchased with cash at the gate or online at https://gofan.co/app/school/
- No Passes Out. Reentering requires purchasing another
- The Oglethorpe County School System is a drug-free zone. No alcohol or tobacco products allowed. Smoking is prohibited.
- Parental supervision is required for non-high school stu-
- dents. These students must enter with a supervising adult. All students must remain in the bleachers unless visiting
- the concession area or restrooms. OCHS students will not be allowed on the visitor side.
- Outside footballs and other toys will not be allowed.
- Book bags will not be allowed.
- Walkways must remain clear.
- Horseplay will not be allowed in the stadium.
- No one should stand in front of the press box.
- Please keep handicap areas clear for those who need
- Failure to comply with these guidelines will result in removal from the stadium with no refund.
- Security and game administrators will monitor the prem-

PREP SCHEDULE

Friday, Oct. 20

Prince Avenue at OCHS football, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 24

OCHS cross country at region meet, Social

Friday, Oct. 27

OCHS football at Social

Circle, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 3

- Jasper County at OCHS football, 7:30 p.m.
- Class A cross country meet, Carrollton

Saturday, Nov. 4

Class A cross country meet, Carrollton

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Saluting r Veterans

America will celebrate Veterans Day on November 11. In our November 9 edition, The Oglethorpe Echo will pay tribute to the brave men and women-past and present-who have fought to protect our country's freedoms at home and overseas. We invite you to submit a photograph and information about your hero or heroes. (See submission form below.) There is no cost to participate. You may email the photo and information to editor@oglethorpeecho.com or bring it to our office at 121 East Main Street in Lexington.

EXAMPLE:

If you have questions, please call 706-743-3111.

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THE OGLETHORPE ECHO

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Oglethorpe County School System

Year in Review 2022-2023

For the full 20 page copy of the Year in Review please visit theoglethorpeecho.com, www.oglethorpe.k12.ga.us, or the Oglethorpe County School System Facebook page! Thank you to our local sponsors for making this first edition possible!



Welcome to the first edition of the Oglethorpe County School System annual review! Since finishing eight years as the superintendent of the Oglethorpe County School System and thirty-six years overall with the district, one of my goals for this past year was to capture a "year in review." I want this review to act like our very own report card/yearbook for the entire school system. Our students and staff have many accomplishments throughout the school year that we have sought to highlight. Though highlights are presented at board meetings, within the

school system's Patriot E-News and The Echo (our local newspaper), on social media, on our website, and during the annual system-wide strategic planning meetings, we wanted to have a way to showcase it all in one document. We also share information on our system's finances as well as our partnerships within the community. Overall, this document will contain memorable moments that have defined our year. We look forward to the upcoming school year and the many new accomplishments of our students and staff!

Excellence for Every Student, Every Day! Beverley Levine Superintendent



Dave Hawkins District 3 Retired 12-31-22

Tim Poole District 2

Collin Cherry District 1

Becky Soto District 5

Jake Willcox District 4

Collin Cherry District 1 Resigned 5-23-23

Tim Poole District 2

Susan Robinson District 3 Elected Term Start 1-1-23

Jake Willcox District 4

Becky Soto District 5



Stats for the Class of 2023!

- 80% completed CTAE pathways
- 21% completed Fine Arts pathways • 44% completed Advanced Academic pathways
- · 25% took AP classes
- 15% participated in a work release program
- 13 students earned Technical Certificate of Credit (TCC) through
- \$232,640+ was earned in local scholarship dollars!
- Accepted to 34 higher education institutions
- 41% of the senior class participated in dual enrollment classes

Dear Oglethorpe County Staff, Families, and Community,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Board of Education. We are proud to play an integral part in the success of our schools and community!

This past year, we were pleased to plan and break ground for the new K-5 Elementary School! This is going to be an amazing place for our students to learn and our staff to engage with our students and their families. We look forward to the opportunities this new educational space will provide to our current and future Patriots!

We were also beyond pleased to approve an updated pay scale for every single employee in our school system. Our classified pay scale had not been updated since 1994. The new pay scale allows a cost-of-living raise for these vital team members each year of their service.

We appreciate our staff and every member of the OC Family. Each of us plays a very important role in the lives of every child in Oglethorpe County. We encourage you to engage with your board of education and our schools. Do not hesitate to reach out to any member of this board anytime! We are here to serve.

Other 7%

Respectfully, The Oglethorpe County Board of Education

2022/2023 **Employee Demographics**

212 Certified Employees 144 Classified Employees

Highest Degree Held Bachelors 21% Masters 43% Specialists 31% **Doctorate 5%**

2022/2023 **Faculty Years of Experience**

0-5 17% 6-10 15% 11-15 14% 16-20 19% 21+ 35%

2022/2023 **Student Demographics** ***** Caucasian 62% African American 18% **†††††† ††††††** Hispanic 13%

2022/2023 Enrollment 2,264 students up 126 in 2 years

Students Eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch 63%

> **Services Provided:** cial Education 14% English Learners 6% Homeless 2%





An Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST) allows local school districts the option to ask voters for the ability to levy and to collect a one percent sales tax to help fund school improvements. This tax collects one penny for each dollar spent at any local business in Oglethorpe County. This money can be used to pay for capital projects, technology, transportation, or to retire debt, but it cannot be used to pay operating expenses, such as salaries. ESPLOSTs are enacted by a referendum approved by local voters.

Thank you local Sponsors!











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