

MILESTONE DAY



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Georgia and U.S. flags are raised alongside a flag from the Parrish Construction Group during Monday's Topping Out ceremony at the construction of the new elementary school, which is scheduled to open next January. A topping out ceremony is usually held when the last beam is placed at the top of a structure. The 135,560-square-foot building, which is projected to cost \$41.5 million, will replace the existing Oglethorpe County Primary and Elementary schools.

CENSUS, FROM PAGE 1

What's increased?

- The number of farms in Oglethorpe County rose 3%, from 427 to 438.
- The average size of a farm in acres is 183, a 7% increase from 171 acres in 2017.
- Total market value of products sold is up 105%, from \$198.4 million to \$407.4 million.
- Farm-related income rose from \$1.65 million in 2017 to \$3.47 million, a 110% increase.
- Total net cash farm income also rose from \$76,409,000 to \$176,325,000, a 131% increase from 2017.
- Land use practices have increased from 4% of farms using no till to 9%. Reduced till farms have also increased from 2% to 6%.

Reduced tilling is a type of conservation tillage, which prevents soil erosion and water runoff, and also promotes healthy soil biology, according to Stanford University's Doerr School of Sustainability.

In previous reporting for The Oglethorpe Echo, Comer farmers Ben and Dale Brubaker said they limit tillage on their property, where they grow corn and soybeans.

"We're switching more to a non-tilling type of farming," Dale said. "More of a conservation approach than your traditional get out and really till the soil up every year."

"We don't want anything eroding because it takes thousands of years to get that topsoil, if it erodes," Ben said.

What's decreased?

- Intensive till land use has decreased from 3% of farms to 2%.
- Share of agriculture sales

from crops has decreased from 7% to 5%, in comparison to livestock, poultry and products.

- Organic farms have decreased from 1% to less than half of a percent.

- Family farms have decreased from 98% to 95%.

Poultry farmers Gabriel Jimenez and Tamita Brown from Caribe United Farm in Crawford told The Echo in previous reporting that several small local farms have been forced to shut down due to high demands and long hours.

Ben Brubaker attributes the fall of family farms to expenses, among other factors.

"Once the old guys, so to speak, got out years ago, it is too cost prohibitive for the younger generation to get back in," he said.

The decrease in organic farms may be due to the difficulty of becoming certified organic by the USDA.

"It is a very expensive and tedious process to obtain that (organic farm) certification," UGA County Extension Coordinator Shanna Reynolds said.

What's stayed the same?

- Eleven percent of farms have cover crops as a land use practice.

- Farms with over 1,000 acres account for 3% of farms in Oglethorpe County.

- Oglethorpe County maintained its No. 1 rank in the state for market value of hogs and pigs.

National and statewide changes

- Nationally, the number of farms is down 7% from 2.04 million to 1.9 million. The number of farms in Georgia decreased from 42,439 to 39,264.

RAINFALL, FROM PAGE 1

Pam Knox, director of the UGA Weather Network and agricultural climatologist, stated in a UGA Extension article that March was a warmer and wetter month in the Southeast compared to past years.

"The result of all that warmth and moisture is an early bloom and green-up of trees and shrubs across the region," Knox said.

Moody knows too much or too little rain can result in his business shutting down for multiple days.

"We rent boats and run shuttles on different sections of the river," he said. "Rainfall and runoff directly affect the conditions of the river in terms of its height."

Proper rain measurements are also crucial to the daily lives of many throughout counties like Oglethorpe County, where agriculture plays a crucial role.

"Depending on the amount and type of rains, farmers, ranchers, small town water suppliers and paddlers all pay attention to the type and amount of rainfall locally and in our regional areas," Moody said.

For others, measuring rain is strictly out of curiosity.

"My father had a dime-store-variety rain gauge for many years, for his own information and to satisfy his curiosity," Kalla said. "He was always very interested in the weather."

However, 20 years ago, Kalla stumbled on CoCoRaHS by accident.

"My wife and I started a garden as soon as we moved here," he said. "I wanted a high-quality rain gauge for the garden, and when I searched for one, I found out about CoCoRaHS and the local network."

He has been measuring precipitation ever since.

Having CoCoRaHS observers in a region gives accurate measurements and predictions for precipitation levels. However, to be an observer for CoCoRaHS, proper rain gauges are required.

"These gauges are very accurate and can measure up to 1/100 of an inch," said Gwen Hirsch, who lives in Smithonia. "Everyone on the CoCoRaHS network must use the same gauge so measurements are consistent across the country."

Hirsch became a volunteer after reading that CoCoRaHS needed observers in a University of Georgia publication in 2008. She "hesitated" when she learned that the required rain gauge cost \$40.

"I have since purchased many gauges as gifts for friends," Hirsch said. "I had a career in a number of different research labs, so I enjoy measuring things."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Oglethorpe County School System officials, including (from left) Paul Thiel, the director of operations, BOE board member Tim Poole, Superintendent Beverley Levine, BOE board member Susan Robinson, BOE Chair Becky Soto, BOE board member Guillermo Camacho, BOE board member Jake Willcox and and Principal Katie Baldwin gather for a photo with construction project officials on Monday. The new school will have 79 classrooms and space for 1,250 students.



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STEEL, FROM PAGE 1

But he wasn't able to learn about construction until he left home.

"It's been a journey, I'm here to tell you," Nation said. "The first day on the job, I didn't know nothing about anything hardly. I was born on a 212-acre farm and never got out of that area but a time or two in my life."

Steven Hudgins, president of Rainwater Construction, said Nation's starting job was a "bottom-layer, entry-level" role. However, Nation has built an impressive career since those early days.

"I started out as just one person in a crew," Nation said. "Before my first year was out, I had my own steel erection crew and ran it for about over 15 years. Then I got into management and managed steel erection and concrete crews."

Now, Nation works in Rainwater Construction's sales department as a building consultant. He estimates he began working in the department 35 years ago when he asked Cecil Rainwater, the founder of the company, to change career paths.

"Cecil had a saying, and we still honor that saying and practice that saying today, which is 'At Rainwater Construction, you can be anything that you want to be,'" Hudgins said. "So if you really think about it, he's had about two 30-year careers, and extremely successful 30-year careers, in two different sides of construction."

Hudgins said Nation is "the best salesman at Rainwater Construction" due to the extensive knowledge he gained while working in the field.

"One of his customers we've built more than 85 buildings for," Hudgins said. "We're talking about buildings, you know, we're not talking about 85 printers, right? So just think about the value of this service that he had had to provide for this customer to come back 84 times."

Hudgins often consults Nation on difficult projects and aspires to Nation's sense of calm, which he maintains even when "everybody's hair is on fire" during stressful

projects.

Hudgins said he believes Nation learned to stay calm under pressure through his race car driving career from 1969-75. He pursued this interest while continuing work at Rainwater Construction, racing at the Peach Bowl Speedway and Dixie Speedway, Nation said.

Last fall, Butler Manufacturing, a premier metal building company, recognized Nation's successful ways of working and dedicated career.

"Butler presented the first and only Butler Lifetime Achievement Award," Hudgins said. "They've been around for about 120 years, and they've only given it to one person so far. So I think that's a big testament of what the industry thinks of Ora Nation."

Nation's family also thinks highly of his accomplishments.

"He may not be a hero, but his perseverance and working with that one company in that industry for so long, to me, he is a man of steel," said William Nation, Nation's son who lives in Devil's Pond.

William Nation said his father's work ethic and loyalty were a great example for him and his siblings. Now, he serves as a positive influence for other members of the Nation family, many of whom live in Oglethorpe County.

"He's got nieces and nephews and grand nieces and nephews, and probably grand grand nieces and nephews, in the county," William Nation said. "It's quite a family reunion."

Lisa Nation, William Nation's wife, estimates that there are four generations of Nations in the county, spanning "age 90 down to babies."

William Nation said his father has instilled a "sense of hard work" in those who know him.

"We know what it is to put in a day's work," he said.

Only a few months ago, Nation decided to take Fridays off and work four days a week, Hudgins said.

"I feel like I still make some difference in the world," Nation said. "I love the people I work with, and I love what I do. So why should I retire?"

OBITUARIES

CHARLES RALPH BELLEW

Mr. Charles Ralph Bellew, 71, of Lexington Carlton Road in Carlton, died at his home on Sunday, March 31, 2024, surrounded by his family.

Bellew was born to Charles Henry Bellew and Lexie Adrath Partain Bellew on April 3, 1952 in Elberton. He was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and was a truck driver.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Carol Ann Nichols Bellew, and siblings Debbie Wheelless of Lake City, Florida, Ray Bellew of Maude, Oklahoma, Evelyn Power of Carlton, Laura Graham of Bowman, and Randy Bellew of Bowman.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Martha Calhoun.

Funeral services to celebrate his life were held 2 p.m., Thursday, April 4 in the Memorial Chapel of Berry Funeral Home. The family received friends from noon to 2 p.m., prior to the service at Berry Funeral Home.

Interment will follow in Carlton City Cemetery with Ben Power, Greg Graham, Mark Bellew, Mike Scoggins, Jacob Bellew, Sammy Calhoun, Daniel Prince and Kevin Bellew serving as pallbearers.

Those wishing may sign the online guestbook at berryfh.com.

Berry Funeral Home and Crematory of Elberton is in charge of the funeral arrangements.

DONALD GANTT

Donald Gantt of Danielsville died April 1, 2024. The funeral service was 1 p.m. Saturday, April 6 at Friendship Baptist Church, Lexington, with Pastor Clarence Burgess, eulogist. Interment was in the church cemetery.

Survivors include his mother, Pearl Gantt, siblings Shamar Gantt

and Derrick Gantt, special friend Hope Dorsey, and other relatives and friends.

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

HAROLD HOWARD

Harold "Boot" Howard of Lexington, died March 29, 2024. A memorial service was 2 p.m. Saturday, April 6 at Jones Funeral Chapel in Crawford, with Pastor Michael Gresham, eulogist.

Survivors include his siblings, Linda Johnson, Wilma Branner, Steve Templin, Carolyn Cornelius, Sandra Echols and Marilyn Echols, five grandchildren, one great-grandchild, three aunts, and other relatives and friends.

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

TERESA OGLE PRATHER

Teresa Ogle Prather, 66, cherished wife, mother, nana and sister, died unexpectedly on Monday, April 1, 2024.

A lifelong resident of Oglethorpe County, she was a daughter of the late Paul Ogle and Mamie Callaway Ogle. Mrs. Teresa enjoyed being outdoors, spe-



cifically taking trips to the mountains or gardening, and she was quite crafty with needlepoint and embroidery. She absolutely adored her family and thrived on time spent with her beloved granddaughter.

She was a longtime member and faithful attendee of Grove Chapel Church.

Survivors include her husband of almost 46 years, Larry Thomas Prather; children Tiffany Wells (Joe Miller) and Rusty Prather (Alicia), granddaughter McKenna Wells, siblings Phyllis Christian (Sam) and Randy Ogle (Karen), and nephews Kevin Christian (Brittany), Eric Christian (Marianne), Clint Ogle (Clarisse) and Clay Ogle (Jenalee).

Graveside services were 11:30 a.m. Friday, April 5 at Grove Chapel Church Cemetery.

Lord and Stephens, East were in charge of arrangements.

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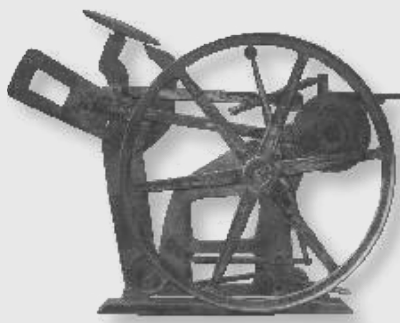
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- The Oglethorpe Echo encourages readers to submit items of community interest. Submissions for community news, obituaries, classifieds, and other sections are due by Monday at 5 p.m., on a week of normal publication schedule. Holiday events often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

Accuracy Policy

- The Oglethorpe Echo strives to produce error-free news reporting. When mistakes occur, it is our policy to correct them as soon as they are brought to our attention.
- To request a correction, contact the editor at editor@oglethorpeecho.com or 706-743-3111.

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OPINION & COMMENTARY

THE ECHO'S OPINION

What's with the mail?

"Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds."

While those words are often quoted as the U.S. Postal Service's motto, the mail service has no official slogan.

The reference comes from the wars fought between the Greeks and Persians from 500-449 B.C. Nonetheless, the ancient phrase has been touted through the ages, referencing postal deliveries.

But not anymore.

If you've had trouble with timely service, sending or receiving, you're not alone.

All you have to do is listen, and you'll hear horror stories from residents who thought that "neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night" meant swift and reliable service. Repeat, not anymore.

The easy option is to lambast your local postal clerks and carriers.

But that'd be unfair.

The local postal workers are just as frustrated. Mandated distribution reorganization has thrown the proverbial monkey wrench into the mix. And when the Postmaster General in Washington sends out an edict, well, the troops must follow his marching orders.

The Oglethorpe Echo has relied on the post office as its delivery partner during its 150-year history.

Recently, the complaints have never been so numbered or frequent.

And we aren't just talking about the newspapers. Regular first-class mail often takes weeks for delivery, when a few days were the norm.

Perhaps you've read or seen the news about what's going on in Atlanta.

Four distribution centers in North Georgia have been consolidated into one megacenter in Palmetto. On paper, the cost-saving/efficiency plan must have seemed promising, but the result — so far — has been a delivery nightmare.

So much for progressive change.

In the meantime, know that your newspaper is doing everything it can to ensure prompt delivery. We are in regular contact with the Athens postal officials who oversee delivery in our area.

What's happening in Atlanta is 100% out of local control.

Thank you for your loyal readership. As a subscriber, we hope you are signed up for our no-extra-cost email editions sent out on Wednesdays.

But if you don't get your print edition, please let us know. We are determined to do everything we can to promptly deliver the latest community news to you.

And about that motto, often attributed to the post office. Forget it.

Times and hard-to-understand changes have left postal workers frustrated, too.



There are two ways to get a miniature mule

My wishlist baffles most folks. I have never wanted a convertible, a motorcycle or an airplane.

But for the past three years, I have wanted a miniature mule. No, not a donkey. I have five of those, plus a big red mule with black stockings. So, how do you get a miniature mule?

There are two ways:

You breed a miniature donkey — a jack — with a mare miniature horse. And then you wait 11 to 14 months for a miniature mule to be born. That was my plan 36 months ago. Larry Walker loaned me Kickapoo, his miniature mare, to spend time with Otis, our miniature jack. The plan was for Larry to get the first miniature mule, and I'd get the second. So far, nada for both of us.

You buy two miniature mules, one for Larry and one for me. But where? Enter Robert McCurley. He walked into The Oglethorpe Echo to advertise two miniature mules for sale. I could hear him from my office, so I poked my head into the lobby. Our office manager started laughing. Tanya knew who was going to buy those tiny mare mules.

She was right.

One trip to Robert's pasture, and I was smitten. We shook hands, and he delivered the 2-year-olds two days later. They're in a separate stall, but the llamas, donkeys, Kickapoo and Maggie, the big mule, keep their eyes on the new arrivals.

Ditto for the three barn cats. They perch on a high stack of hay bales to watch the what's-going-to-happen-next circus.

Until Robert's son put halters on them, the mules had never been touched by human hands. In a word, the pair is wild. The closest I've been to them is 3 feet.

Sunday afternoon, I tried something different.



Dink NeSmith
dnesmith@cni-news-papers.com

I took a bucket of sweet feed into the stall and put it on the ground. A few feet away, I turned a 5-gallon bucket upside down and sat on it.

For the next hour, I read a book and watched them out of the corner of my eye. And they watched me.

I thought they might get curious and come over for a sniff. But if I moved, they made a mad dash — kicking up orange dust — around the 24-foot-square stall. So much for that theory.

After watching a few YouTube videos, I had a better idea. I'd call friends who actually knew what to do.

I'm not about to let these four-legged ladies outsmart me. Stay tuned.

Oh, what are their names?

I haven't decided yet. Thelma and Louise have been suggested, as well as Polly and Esther. Ummm, I'm going to let Larry participate in the naming rights.

So, when did I get fascinated with mules?

As a boy, I marveled at Coca-Cola baron Robert W. Woodruff's quail-wagon mules on his Ichauway Plantation in Baker County. I decided then that one day I'd have a pair of big draft mules. I had to wait about 40 years.

In the early 1990s, I announced to my wife that I was giving her a ruby and a rose for Valentine's Day.

We were at our Lake Hartwell farm. Pam smiled and asked, "Where are they?" I pointed out the kitchen window and said, "There they are — your Ruby and Rose, the prettiest mules you'll ever see."

And with that, she quipped, "Now we have three jackasses on this farm — the two in the pasture and the one who brought them here."

Yeah, I baffle her, too.

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



DINK NESMITH/THE OGLETHORPE ECHO

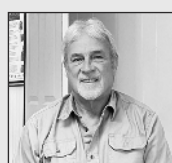
Robert McCurley Jr. helped his dad deliver the two miniature mules to our farm. In a word, they are wild. Taming them gives me a new project. Daddy llama Curious George watched the wrangling to get the new arrivals into the barn.

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LETTERS TO THE ECHO

Shooting dogs isn't an effective solution

Editor,
There was a heated debate over the county's failure to enforce the abandoned dog ordinance at the Board of Commissioners meeting on April 1.

Chairman Jay Paul, at one point, said that if a dog was causing problems on his property that he would shoot it and said others could do the same. Paul even asked the reporter from The Oglethorpe Echo to quote him in the paper.

"Shoot the Dog" is not an animal control program.

It leads to conflict between residents that can escalate. That's why the county's ordinances that deal with abandoned dogs and nuisance animals include a 72-hour impoundment period to sort things out.

This allows time to determine whether the dog has an owner, and whether the dog simply got away from the owner by accident, was abandoned or was negligently allowed to terrorize the neighbors.

Oglethorpe County doesn't have a dedicated animal control department, but the Sheriff, his deputies and the code enforcement officer are designated as dog control officers. Because the county doesn't have an animal impoundment facility, however, there is nothing they can do about abandoned or nuisance dogs but file a report.

On paper, Oglethorpe County has an animal control program. In fact, it does not.

The commissioners need to do their job to ensure our ordinances and state animal control laws can be enforced.

— Steve Ledford, Winterville

BOC should adopt dog ordinance

Editor,
In response to The Echo's Opinion, I attended and spoke at the April 1 BOC meeting. I wouldn't classify myself as an "animal advocate," but an animal ordinance advocate.

I passionately believe in the laws that protect our rights, especially when it comes to dangerous dogs. I was bitten as a child, and my biggest fear is that a child is going to get killed by a dangerous dog in Oglethorpe County.

I admit I locked horns with Chairman Jay Paul, but I wouldn't let him divert from answering my question: "What is the BOC's plan to sustain their animal ordinances infrastructure?"

I will never be goaded or intimidated by a public official without standing my ground on this issue.

The chairman's diversionary

tactics didn't work on me. So he took aim at my Achilles' heel — the Madison Oglethorpe Animal Shelter — and threatened to take away its funding. He only added insult to injury.

The chairman even challenged and taunted the press to quote him on how to deal with "dangerous dogs," as if this matter is a joke in the county. I'm grateful The Echo didn't concede to his challenge and print the details of his order.

Dealing with dangerous dogs in Oglethorpe County isn't a joke, by any means. I have addressed this concern before the Board of Commissioners for years.

I have begged them to take this matter seriously and adopt the ordinance.

Well, it has been written, legally vetted and has sat under the control of the chairman for close to four years. The county attorney has explained we are following state law.

I no longer feel this excuse has standing.

Once again I will ask Paul to sign the Dangerous Dog Ordinance into the law and place it in our code of ordinances.

— Faith Campbell, Lexington

Commissioners shouldn't ban books

Editor,
My mouth is still hanging open after reading the headline: "BOC voices concerns over library book" in last week's Echo.

Apparently, the BOC feels it should control what kids can check out of the library?

I thought that was a job for parents?

Continuing in this vein, are all books in the library required to be suitable for children? News flash: The library is not just for children.

Even worse than "voicing concern" over a book(s), the BOC is attempting to blackmail the library by threatening to withhold its funding if the library doesn't remove the offending book.

This behavior is reprehensible. The BOC has many functions, but deciding which books the public can read is not one of them.

Stay in your own lane, gentlemen.

— Gwen N. Hirsch, Colbert

It's a bad precedent to ban library books

Editor,
Members of the Board of Commissioners want to remove the book, "All Boys Aren't Blue" from our library.

They say it's pornography and not something "a kid should be able to check out."

I doubt they've read the book,

probably only seen passages pulled out of context.

Nevertheless, I think it's a bad precedent to remove distasteful books. The library has reading material that presents opinions I don't agree with or find repugnant. Should they be banned?

Besides, kids don't go to the library for porn: They get that off their phones or computers.

Let's leave the book banning to those who do it best: fascists, Nazis, Communists and dictators, and let our librarians continue to offer us different points of view.

— Andy Kretzer, Arnoldsville

BOC should remember Constitution

Editor,
Chairman Jay Paul and Commissioner David Clark would do well to remember the words of the First Amendment of the Constitution, which reads in part: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; of abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press."

The freedom to read materials that others disagree with is an essential American right. Paul and Clark may object to this book, but this is not about one book. It's about whether the residents of Oglethorpe County want the BOC to be in charge of their reading choices.

The First Amendment protects controversial speech for a reason. Otherwise, we would live in a country where censorship was the order of the day.

The public library serves all people of Oglethorpe County. Threatening the funding of the public library because they have taken against one book is short sighted and damaging to the county.

Where else in this county can you find free internet, a printer, help with job searches, story time for small children, craft programs, movie nights, summer reading programs, book clubs,

picture books, cookbooks, history and fiction to suit all kinds of people, for free.

I urge the commission to stop and consider their actions in light of the fundamental freedom of the press that has come to mean so much to Americans. The freedom to read is just as essential as freedom of speech.

— Emma Jones, Winterville

Development would be bad for Arnoldsville

Editor,
I read in last week's Echo that there is a proposal to build a mixed use development (apartments and 1,200-square-foot homes) on Arnoldsville Road near Highway 78.

It seems the BOC has tabled it for 90 days and the builder has asked Arnoldsville to annex this development.

You think we have water problems in Arnoldsville now? I'm a hard no to this bad idea. Once again our elected officials are adding more residents who will require more taxpayer funded services and add more kids to the school system. This is what you call uncontrolled growth.

The Arnoldsville City Council meets at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of every month. We need to show up. This affects us all, whether you live in Arnoldsville or not.

The larger problem that affects us all is a Board of Commissioners that wants the county to

be like it was 50 years ago. Yet, they want salaries and equipment at 2024 prices. That's an unsustainable problem that falls on the shoulders of every property owner in this county. It's not 1974 anymore.

The BOC keeps approving new residential buildings, thinking that will fix the problem, and it won't.

What would provide homeowners relief is getting businesses into the county along the 78 corridor according to our 10-year plan.

William Brown, District 4 Commissioner is chair of the Economic Development Authority, and in my mind, he has been a dismal failure.

All they do is approve more residential development.

That is not economic development.

— Connie Maschera, Arnoldsville

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Sheriff candidates on key issues, policies

By Kayla Lopez
The Oglethorpe Echo

Oglethorpe County primary
ELECTION 2024
May 21

Two Republican candidates seek the next term as Oglethorpe County sheriff on May 21.

The incumbent, David Gabriel, is running for reelection. Gabriel was elected in 2016 and reelected in 2020, when he defeated challenger Don Waldroup with 55% of the vote.

His opponent, James "Junior" Jackson, announced his candidacy in December and has worked in law enforcement for 18 years.

They spoke to The Oglethorpe Echo about the office and their plans.

Comments have been edited for length and clarity.

Q: What do you think are the top three priorities of the office and how the deputies' time is being allocated?

Jackson: I'd say, the top priority for me is to protect and serve the citizens and maintain the jail. As far as the sheriff's office side deputies, they should be out in the public, in the communities throughout the county, getting to know what each community is like. If you don't know what that community is like, you can't serve them properly. Second, there are a lot of duties that come along for a deputy. There's traffic enforcement, serving civil papers, serving warrants and serving temporary protective orders on family violence. So you've got to balance that time between all of those. None of it takes priority over others. Unfortunately, here there's not a huge staff, so everybody needs to take part and spread that out so that every piece can get some sort of effort put into it.

Gabriel: On any given day, it's not three things you do. It's 10 things you do. It's certain things you do at certain times, when the visibility's high. There are other things you need to do at other times. You always have to take care of your calls and service. You also have to take care of your civil papers, so I think the biggest thing is just trying to keep that balance and stay proactive so that you reduce crime through proactivity, but also take care of your requirements. So I think the biggest priority is just to keep a good, balanced sheriff's office that takes care of all of its duties and responsibilities, while at the same time, making sure that you're deterring crime and making this a place that's uncomfortable for criminals to do their business.

Q: What have you heard from the public about the traffic cameras and how would you address those issues?

Jackson: The residents do not like those traffic cameras at all. I've talked to hundreds of people, some that have received citations, some that have not. They feel that it's a money-grab situation. When we get in, we'll look at that contract and see what the stipulations are, as far as times. I think we need to change those times to flashing light only, or if we need to continue it because of the financial bur-

den of the system itself that's in the contract, raise the speed limit that captures them out of the flash and light times. It's getting rich off of our citizens, and I think that if we put deputies in the school zones to slow down that traffic, stop, write a warning, write a ticket, whatever needs to be done, you'll get more reaction from the citizens by being face-to-face with their public servant that they're already paying taxes for than just getting something out of the mail out of state.

Gabriel: The whole reason we got traffic cameras in the first place was because people were complaining about speeding in school zones. We did a test period where we went, saw what the size of the problem was, and they were correct. There were like 1,200 violations a day between the two school zones at 10 miles an hour over the speed limit. I think the other problem is people think, let's put a deputy on it. And to put it quite simply, we don't have the manpower to do that for the size of the problem it was. You know, grown folks don't like being corrected. It's only on school days. It's only while schools are in session. I think it's reasonable. I think the other thing people don't realize is if a deputy writes you the ticket, it's a \$300 fine for a point to your license and stays on the insurance for seven years. If a school camera writes you the ticket, the first time is a \$100 fine. The second time, and every time after, it's a \$150 fine. No matter how fast you're going, it never goes on your license and never affects your insurance. So I feel like it's a pretty fair deal. It's also very effective, we've had a 90% reduction within the first three months of using the system.

Q: What should the role of the Sheriff be in the abandoned dog ordinance?

Jackson: There's not a lot in county ordinance to dictate who does what. To some, it's very unclear. My opinion is that we can do whatever we need to do. Taxpayers are paying the budget and, in turn, paying our salaries at the sheriff's office. We don't have anybody in the county to pick up. There are some other sheriff's offices in the state that have programs that will get their license from the Department of Agriculture to be an animal shelter, and then they're able to take dogs in. Part of that, in my plan to reopen the jail, would utilize inmate workers that are going to be long-term there. Get them trained up and potentially be able to use them to help care for and feed these dogs until we get them out to a foster home or whatever it may be.

Gabriel: When you start dealing with animals and stuff like that, all of that comes with the price tag. You don't see sheriff's really getting involved with that in most counties because, to put it bluntly, we have a whole lot of



**DINK NESMITH/
THE OGLETHORPE ECHO**

David Gabriel was elected Oglethorpe County's sheriff in 2016 and reelected in 2020.



**KAYLA LOPEZ/
THE OGLETHORPE ECHO**

James Jackson worked in law enforcement and was coroner before running for sheriff.

other stuff to do. That's why you see animal control in a lot of places as a whole separate thing. I helped write the ordinance for the nuisance animals, so there were some consequences for people whose animals go out and actually do something wrong, not just free roaming, but actually going to tear people's property up, hurt their livestock or their pet, or something like that. What we try to look at is when you have a problem animal, what are the problems and then put that in the ordinance so that way we can address it.

Q: How would you characterize the effectiveness of how the county handles inmates and what changes would you make?

Jackson: It's not very effective right now. We're paying a lot of money to these other agencies for them to house, when we have the room here to house it. We're supposed to have been saving money by shipping them out, but we're still spending a lot of money on other people's housing, when we have the facilities. Crime is not going away. We're right on the edge of Athens-Clarke County, and it's not going to be long before Oglethorpe County is in the same situation. If we've shut our jail down and it's sitting by the wayside, not being properly main-

gonna cost us about half a million, nearly \$1 million. We're doing it for probably 40% less than what other people are doing it for and we're giving good value to the citizens. It doesn't make any sense to house inmates in your facility if it's going to cost you that much more money, almost doubling your budget to do it.

Q: What steps do you feel would be most effective at retaining deputies?

Jackson: The top thing is leadership. Leadership goes a long way, not just a manager or an authority figure, but true leadership and how they interact with those deputies and jailers alike. If they feel like they're needed and they're appreciated, that goes a long way with a lot of people. Oglethorpe County doesn't have a large budget to pay, and while the pay has drastically increased, some other benefits go along with it. If we get a standard pay across the board for each rank and set up an actual structure for pay, we can't compete with Clarke County or any place like that, but if we put that little bit of money into it, in the long run, that's going to help retain people.

Gabriel: Part of it is you got to be fair on the pay scale. When I originally took office, I think deputies made \$28,000 a year. I've given raises every single day I've been in office, every single year and we're still behind. My goal used to be to get to \$40,000, and we're at \$40,000, but now everybody's at \$55,000. We don't have money to burn, like other places do. We also have some other intangibles, and it comes down to deputies just wanting to do their jobs. We let people come down and do their jobs. We're not really political about it. If you're right, and you're doing something ethical, legal and moral, I let them do it. It's not like we don't try to play the politics game. Right is right, wrong is wrong, and it seems simple, but in a lot of places, you don't get to do your job that way.

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IZZY WAGNER/THE OGLETHORPE ECHO

Anthony Tambling (left) and his son Graysen Tambling attended the viewing event at the Oglethorpe County Library on Monday. The two stood on a nearby boulder to get a clear view of the sun.

Library draws crowd to watch the eclipse

By Izzy Wagner
The Oglethorpe Echo

The sky was clear and vast outside the Oglethorpe County Library on Monday afternoon, which provided an unimpeded view of the sun — at least for a moment.

A rare astrological event soon cast a large shadow as a partial solar eclipse moved through the sky, peaking at approximately 3:06 p.m.

Viewers began to gather in the library parking lot at 1:30 p.m. Laura Lindsey, the library's circulation desk specialist, handed out eclipse glasses to visitors as they entered the library's community space.

Lindsey also set up chairs, crafts and snacks inside. Using a projector, she displayed a live feed of NASA coverage for patrons to participate in a viewing party. Between serving scoops of popcorn and cups of Hawaiian Punch, Lindsey darted outside to get a glimpse of the sun as the moon began to travel in front of it.

She said her decision to host the event was fueled by her keen interest in space, which started at a young age.

"I knew I was interested in space ever since I was little," Lindsey said. "In sixth grade, my homeroom teacher had a poster of the solar system, and I would stare at it all day."

At 2 p.m., the eclipse was underway. About 20 children and adults stood outside, eclipse glasses in hand.

"Is this what it feels like to be blind?" said a young boy as he put on the light-blocking eclipse glasses for the first time.

For some, this was their first so-

lar eclipse.

Others, like Lindsey, had been anticipating this day since the annular solar eclipse on Oct. 14, 2023.

According to the National Weather Service, an annular solar eclipse is different from a total solar eclipse in that it occurs when the moon is closer to its maximum distance from Earth in its orbit. If an eclipse happens during this situation, the moon appears visually smaller than the sun, creating a shadow too small to reach the earth.

Monday's eclipse also differed from 2017's total eclipse.

According to NASA data, the path of totality, or the places in which the moon completely blocks the sun, was much wider during this year's eclipse. The unique occurrence of totality reveals the sun's corona, or its outer atmosphere.

Although Georgia was not on the path of totality, viewers experienced 83% coverage of the sun by the moon.

By 3 p.m., the sky had become darker. Outside, the eclipse's shadow was captured through the leaves, casting crescent-shaped spots on the pavement.

The sun had become a tiny sliver.

Data from scientists predict that the next total solar eclipse will not occur until Aug. 22, 2044.

"I can't believe that just happened," said a young girl as she took off her glasses.

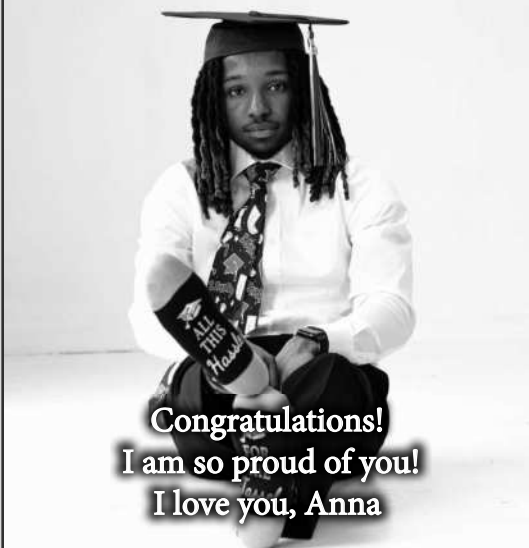
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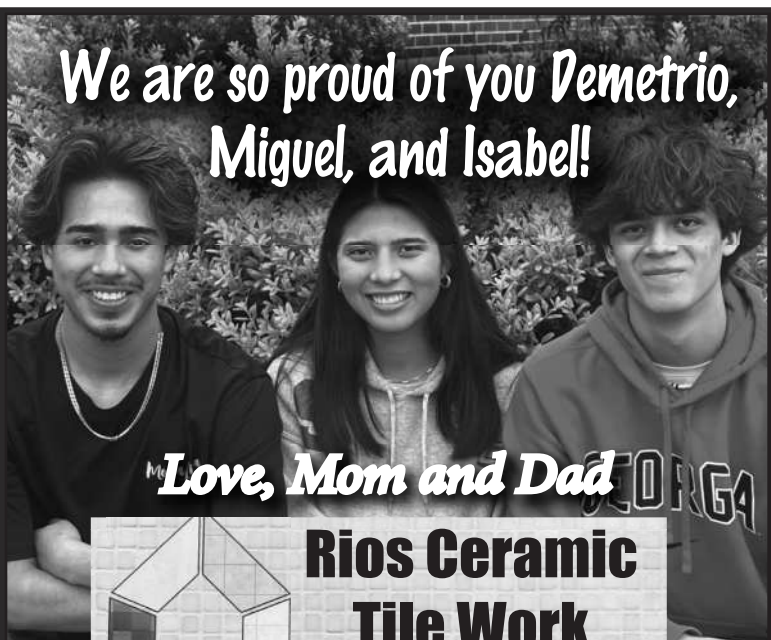

Oglethorpe County Tire Amnesty Event

Oglethorpe County Landfill will be holding a tire amnesty event April 19th from 7:30 am to 3:45 pm & April 20th from 8:00 am to 11:45 am.

Oglethorpe residents will be allowed to bring passenger vehicle & semi-truck tire, **without rims**, free of charge on these dates.

Proof of residence will be required!

We are so proud of you Demetrio, Miguel, and Isabel!



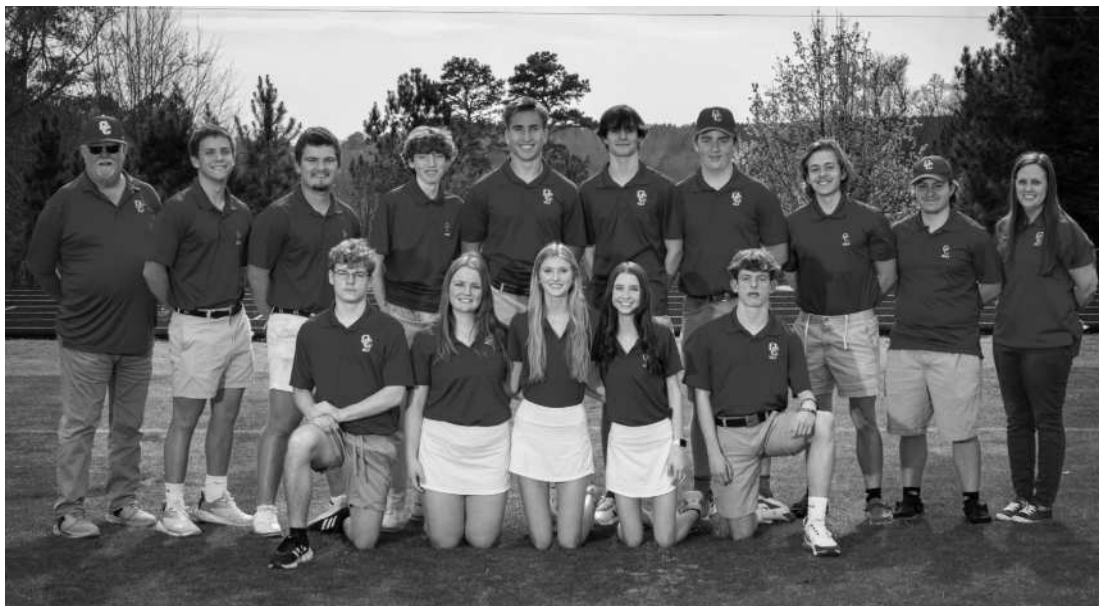
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Saluting

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Boys and Girls Golf

Back: Coach Dale Blalock, Phil Paradise, Cole Horsley, Baron De Mattei, Jake Turner, Ethan Dodd, Jake Huff, Will Perry, Kit Perry, Coach Melissa McGarity
Front: Jackson Wallace, Sofia Horsley, Avery Kort, Ella Crowe, Peyton Duvall

SOCCER



Boys Soccer

Back Row: Coach Erich Forschler, Coach Armando Padilla, Aden Latimer, Hudson Stepp, Micheal Orłowsky, Ian Elder, Sergio Alio, Mason Anderson, Coach Josh Austin
Middle: Bryan Berrios, Jonathan Escalante, September Htoo, Reyes Pacheco, Henry Hernandez, Miguel Rios, Maung Myint, Dominic Piscitelli
Front: Luke Holbrooks, Noe Hernandez, June Saw, Bailey Abrams, Braxton Edmondson, James Beach, Clint Graham, Kevin Jimenez
Not pictured: Demetrio Rios




Girls Soccer

Back: Coach Erich Forschler, Sophia Wilson, Lurdes Hernandez, Aidan Hill, Marin Sampson, Emmaleigh Hemingway, Abigail Cabaniss, Eve Myers, Mylee Nimmons, Reese Campbell, Anna Adams, Coach Holli Stouffer
Front: Emily Forschler, Harper Palmer, Genesis Palma-Umana, Melody Alfaro, Emily Gregory, Khloe Eidson, Isabel Rios, Madeleine Forschler
Not pictured: Dorothy Palmer

Photos by Mercer Harris Photography

Congratulations Ella!

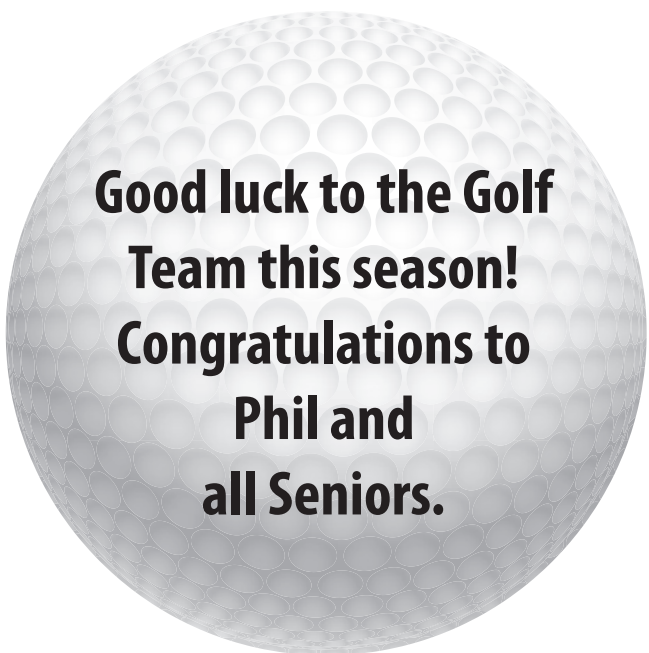
We're so proud of you, and Mom is, too!



Congratulations Abigail Cabaniss and Emmaleigh Hemingway!



We love you and are so proud of you both! -Papa and Nana



Good luck to the Golf Team this season! Congratulations to Phil and all Seniors.

The Paradise Family

Logan and Jackson, we are so proud of you both! Good luck to the OC baseball team!

Love, Mama, Adam, & Joseph



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The spring teams of OCHS sports!

TRACK



Boys Track

Back: Coach James Cole, Jake Turner, Malachi Bryant, Beau Gabriel, Jamarion Miller, Kyle Thorton, Landon Mallonee, Logan Grier, Daniel Dinkins, AC Pich, Coach Maurice Freeman

Middle: Brock Barrett, O'Maury Huggs, Darius Heard, Nica Pass, Payton Prince, Caleb Heard, Jordan Johnson, Kingston Holland

Front: Ke'Mauri Brown, Jackson Wallace, Paris Crowder, Brandon Bess, Keyvon Gresham, Natreze Calhoun, Cory Tillman



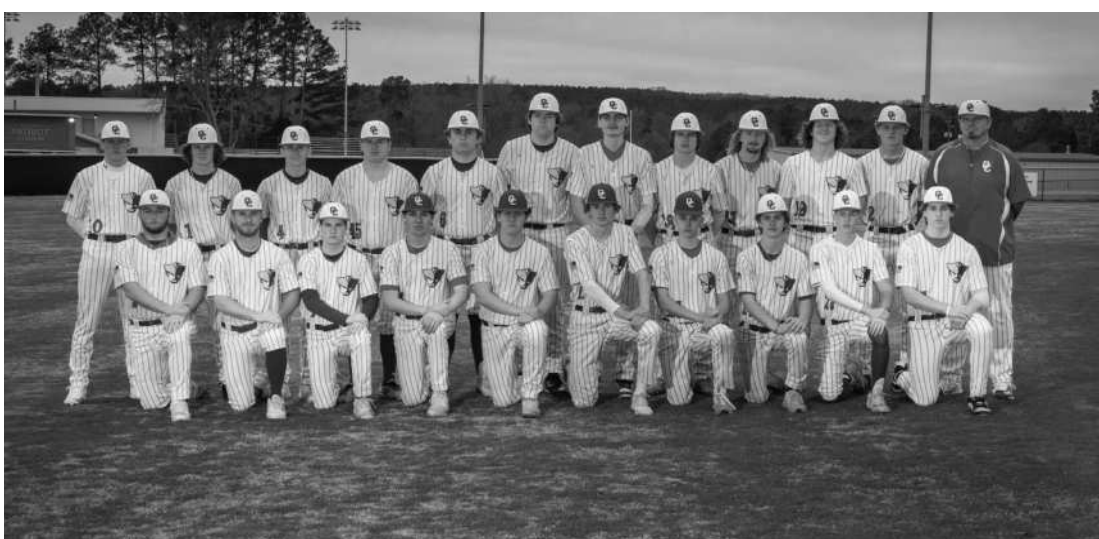
Girls Track

Back: Zy Edwards, Taloria Clarke, Jaliyah Turner, Kenzie Henderson, Abby Jones, Amber Watkins, Zharia Burgess, Jakorria Woods

Middle: Nora Turner, Zariah Johnson, Elin Turner, Carlee Appling, Karmen Bermudez, Nevaeh Calhoun, ZaNijha Carter

Front: Paris Crowder, Emily Wisham, Denim Goddard, Sydnie Henderson, Avanna Stewart, Aariana Bell, Pricila Lopez

BASEBALL



Back: Austin Lowe, Nash Campbell, Mathew Martin, Eli Ossick, Jacob Sass, Eli Frost, Jett De Mattei, Quinn Ossick, Tripp White, JW Derry, Hunter Hall, Coach Mike Campbell

Front: Caleb Hall, Haiden Ashworth, Bryce Frankle, Hayden Brown, Jude Morris, Logan Tatum, Maddox Bradberry, Ryder Goodson, Evans Wilkins, Jackson Tatum

Thank you for the memories Abby Lee!
It has been a joy to watch you compete!



Love Momma and Daddy

Proud of you
Haiden!
-Nan and Pop



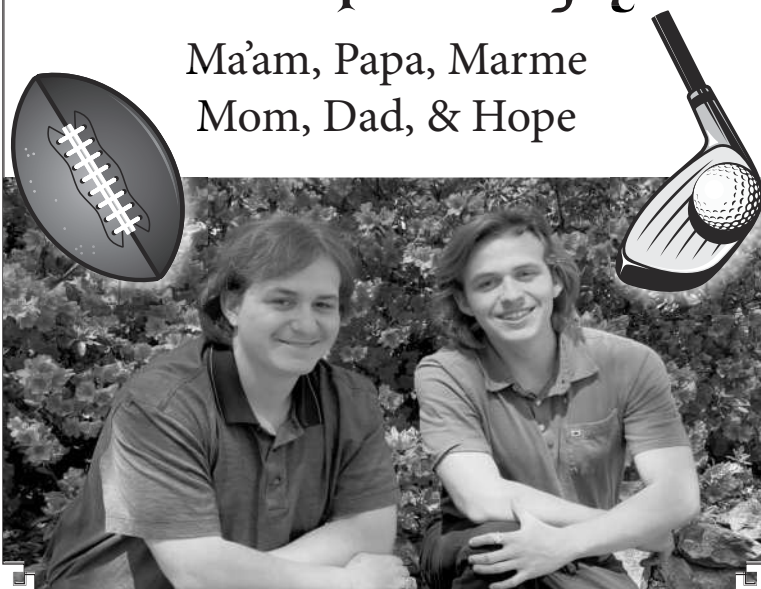
We are so proud of you
Tripp and your entire
Team!!!
Love Nanny (Cindy)
Papa (Allen) Nana (Sandra) and Papa (Mike)

To the Maxeys' Crew:
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and Emmaleigh -
We wish you the very best!

Love, Uncle Bill and
Aunt Barbara

Will and Kit,
we are so proud of you!

Ma'am, Papa, Marme
Mom, Dad, & Hope



Congratulations to Landon,
Phil, and our favorite senior,
Logan Grier!



We love you!
Mama, Danny, Lane, Lannah,
and Nana

*Congratulations to the baseball players
of the Sophomore class of 2026!*

Evans Wilkins	Jacob Sass
Haiden Ashworth	Ryder Goodson
Mathew Martin	Hayden Brown
Tripp White	Braylon Hull

AROUND THE COUNTY

STAR SPEAKERS



WINGATE DOWNS/FOR THE OGLETHORPE ECHO

OCHS senior Macie McDaniel and STAR teacher Eric Schmidt recently spoke at Regional STAR Student Reception at UGA. McDaniel received the honor for having the highest SAT score and ranking in the top of her class with the highest GPA. She chose Schmidt, who retired last year, as the STAR teacher.

SOCK HOP DONATION



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Oglethorpe County handyman and wood carver Bruce Barnett is donating a "Bear Unfinished Cedar relief" and decorated dowls to the silent auction at a Sock Hop fundraiser for the Lena Wise Community Center on Saturday, April 20. The event will be held from 6:30-10 p.m. at the Platt-Brooks Estate in Lexington. Music will be provided by Ken Mobley and Jack Parsons, food by 2nd Chance BBQ and free desserts by the Maxeys Woman's Club. There will also be a 50/50 raffle. Tickets are \$20 per person. Email lenawisecc@gmail.com for tickets.

CANDIDATES ON PARADE



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Candidates and Oglethorpe County residents attended the 2024 Patriotic Parade in Crawford on Saturday. They included (back, from left) Bruce Barnett, Sharon Crawford, and Delbra Kendrick, (front, from left) is Darryl Gresham, Rick Glenn (candidate for Georgia House District 124), Jessica Fore (candidate for U.S. House District 10), David Jordan (candidate for district attorney of the Northern Judicial Circuit), Jerry Wayne Loggans (candidate for commission chair), James "Junior" Jackson (candidate for sheriff) and Tammy Loggans.

FIRST BIRD



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Garrison Norman, son of Tracy and Michelle Norman of Crawford, shot his first turkey of the season on his family's property in Lexington on April 5. Garrison, who is 25, is the grandson of David and Brenda Norman of Lexington.

Sock Hop Dance

Saturday, April 20th • 6:30PM - 10:00PM

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Brad Turner - Owner Operator

NEWS ROUNDUP

MedLink hires nurse practitioner

Staff Report

Denise Atkins, a family nurse practitioner, is accepting patients ages 6 and older as the latest addition to the MedLink Oglethorpe team.



Denise Atkins

Atkins, who focuses on preventive care and promoting overall wellness, offers a range of primary care services, including check-ups, management of chronic conditions, preventive screenings and acute care for minor illnesses and injuries.

“We are thrilled to welcome Denise Atkins to the MedLink Oglethorpe family,” said Dave Ward, MedLink Georgia CEO. “Her passion for patient-centered care and her dedication to improving the health and well-being of individuals and families make her a valuable asset to our healthcare team.”

Atkins has a master’s of science in family nurse practitioner from Troy University.

Registration for general primary ends April 22

The final day to register to vote or update your address for this year’s general primary is Monday, April 22.

Residents can register or check their voter status online at mvp.sos.ga.gov or visit the Board of Elections office at 41 Fairground Road in Lexington.

In addition, advance voting for the May 21 general primary will begin Monday, April 29 and end Friday, May 17.

Voting will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each week day at the elections office.

Registered voters must bring a valid photo ID to vote.

The elections office also is accepting applications for registered voters to have a ballot mailed to them. That deadline is Friday, May 10.

For more information, call the elections office at 706-743-8954.

Artists wanted for Lexington Art Crawl

Artists and vendors interested in participating in the Lexington Art Crawl on Saturday, April 27 should contact Linda Parish at lindaparish1012@gmail.com. The crawl will be held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Headmaster’s Corner By Steve Cummings

“HATE SPEECH” HYPOCRISY

Perhaps you’ve heard about Scotland’s new hate speech law that went into effect last week. Under the law, citizens cannot say anything that might be considered harassing or insulting about someone’s sexual orientation, transgender identity or variations in sex characteristics.

J.K. Rowling, an outspoken critic of the law, said that freedom of speech and belief are now at an end in Scotland.

Interestingly enough, the law has one big exception. Specifically, the law says you can express your dislike, ridicule, and even insults toward those who engage in religious beliefs and practices.

You can also urge people to “cease practicing their religions.”

Don’t insult certain groups, but insult the religious people all you want. It’s the new way in Scotland.

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(706) 743-7000
Thursday-Saturday, 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Drive through is open for your convenience

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CHURCH OF CHRIST
www.crawfordchurch.com

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CONTRACTORS, INC.
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Bread
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Community Church Directory



CHURCH OF THE WEEK

*“There is surely a future hope for you,
and your hope will not be cut off.”*

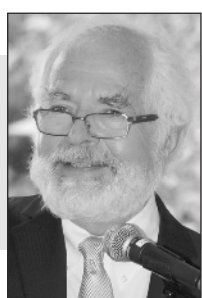
Proverbs 23:18 NIV

- 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.,
Crawford, GA 30630
- Mt. Zion Baptist Church**
388 Stephens Salem Road,
Stephens, GA 30667
- 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 Christian 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
- Sandy Cross Baptist Church**
791 Lexington Carlton Rd.,
Carlton, GA 30627
- Sonlight Baptist Church**
1134 Hargrove Lake Road
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
- SWAG Ministry**
1186 Athens Road
Crawford, GA 30630
- 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

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

OGLETHORPE
ANIMAL CLINIC
706-743-8021
1562 Athens Road
Crawford, GA 30630

Bell's
740 Athens Road, Lexington, GA 30648
706-743-8352
M-F: 7:30 am - 8 pm • Sundays: 8 am - 8 pm



Rick LaFleur

The secret lives of words

Rats, ratso and ratatouille

“Rats!”

Webster defines the interjection, a tad politer than some other four-letter words you might let slip, as expressing “disappointment, frustration or disgust.”

The usage, which dates back to the 1800s, may be making a comeback with the widespread resurgence of rodent populations, as reported by the New York Times, PBS and other media.

A 2023 Orkin report of America’s 50 “rattiest” cities lists Chicago and L.A. as the most infested. But Atlanta ranked No. 14.

Yikes!

Georgia has about a dozen species of rats and mice, ranging from the cute (?) house mouse (*Mus musculus*) to the perhaps less charming black rat (*Rattus rattus*).

Most folks despise these little guys.

If you’re suspicious of someone, you smell a rat. A messy apartment is a rathole. The hectic workaday world is a rat race. Rat-fink was ’60s slang for a tattler, someone who rats on you: custom car aficionado Ed “Big Daddy” Roth popularized the term with his comic Rat Fink, a Mickey Mouse parody.

Dustin Hoffman’s con man Rico Rizzo in the 1969 film “Midnight Cowboy” longed to rid himself of the moniker “Ratso” that his misadventures had earned him on the street. Likewise, the 1971 movie “Willard,” based on Stephen Gilbert’s novel “Ratman’s Notebooks,” did little to improve the critters’ image.

But rats and mice get plenty of good press in our culture, too.

Disney’s Mickey and Minnie Mouse are prime examples of the loveable rodent. Their original images from the 1928 cartoon “Steamboat Willie” (on YouTube) were recently released from copy-

right.

And don’t forget Jerry, of the Tom and Jerry cartoons created by Hanna-Barbera in 1940. Or Terrytoons’ Mighty Mouse, originally Super Mouse, a takeoff on Superman, also dating to the ’40s, and Andy Kaufman’s crooning Mighty’s theme song: “Here I come to save the day.”

More recently, there’s Remy (voiced by Patton Oswalt), perhaps the most beloved cinematic rat of all time, the culinary hero of the 2007 animated film “Ratatouille.”

The ancient Romans had similarly mixed responses to these RODents. The scientific name for the order Rodentia derives from Latin meaning to bite, gnaw, eat away, and is source of corRODe and eRODe.

The ROD-root may be connected with RAT-in Late Latin *rattus*, our modern genus name.

Both rats and mice belong to the rodent family Muridae, and the Romans didn’t distinguish them except by size.

What we call a mouse, they called *mus*, and a rat was just a big one — a *magnus mus*!

A tiny one was a *musculus*, a word Roman physicians humorously adopted for what we call MUSCLE, presumably for the little subcutaneous movements flexing muscles make.

The Romans would call someone a *mus* as an insult (like our “you dirty rat!”) or as a term of endearment (like “my little mousy”).

The poet Horace, who gave us *carpe diem* (“harvest the day”), also retold Aesop’s fable of the “City Mouse and the Country Mouse.”

We have from the Greeks another delightful tale, the *Batrachomyomachia*, a mock epic about a battle between mice and frog warriors (the mice win!) — a charmingly illustrated translation by

UGA alumna Alicia Stallings is available on Amazon.

Mice have a role in an earlier, more serious epic: In Homer’s *Iliad*, Apollo “Smintheus,” meaning “Mouse-God,” punished the Greeks with a plague, likely spread by mice.

While rats, or the fleas infesting them, can transmit diseases (the CDC has identified several connected to rodents), they have also proven beneficial to medical researchers and other scientists.

From the 19th century onward, the use of rats in experimentation has led to breakthroughs in studies of genetics, diet, human behavior, and intelligence, the efficacy of drugs, as well as in treating diabetes, cardiovascular conditions and other illnesses.

With their intelligence and keen sense of smell, rats have been employed in identifying tuberculosis in patients and detecting landmines.

In some cultures, rats are a food source; Brits in the Victorian Age ate rat-pies; and rat cuisine has appeared on occasion in the Roadkill Cook-off in West Virginia. The Romans considered dormice delicacies and enjoyed them as hors d’oeuvres or dessert.

“When in Rome, do as the Romans do,” the saying goes.

But in this instance, I think eating mice is not nice. How could we ever look Mickey in the eye?

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

UPCOMING

Lego Club will meet from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 13 at the Oglethorpe County Library.

Genesis Church will hold an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast fundraiser for church repairs from 8-10:30 a.m. Sunday, April 14. This is dine-in and the cost is \$7. Everyone is invited.

Fester Hagood will perform at No. 3 Railroad St. at 6 p.m. Sunday, April 14.

The Oglethorpe County Bee Club will have its regular monthly meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, April 15 at the Farm Bureau. Doors will open at 6:45 p.m. A panel of members will speak and answer questions. Guests are welcome. For more information, go to www.ocbeeclub.com/

A candidate forum will take place at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 18 at the Historic Crawford Depot. The forum will be moderated by Dink NeSmith, and candidates for local office will introduce themselves and be available for questions.

The Oglethorpe County Landfill will hold a tire amnesty event from 7:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. on April 19 and from 8 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. April 20. County residents can bring passenger vehicle and semi truck tires — without rims — without charge. Proof of residence is required.

The Brambles will perform at No. 3 Railroad St. on Saturday, April 20.

A Sock Hop benefit fundraiser for the Lena Wise Community Center will be held from 6:30-10 p.m. Saturday, April 20 at the Platt-Brooks Estate in Lexington. Music will be provided by Ken Moble and Jack Parsons, food by 2nd Chance BBQ and free desserts by the Maxeys Woman’s Club. There will be a silent auction and a 50/50 raffle. Tickets are \$20 per person. Email lenawisecc@gmail.com for tickets.

The final day to register to vote or update your address for this year’s general primary is Monday, April 22. Residents can register or check their voter status online at mvp.sos.ga.gov or visit the Board of Elections office at 41 Fairground Road in Lexington. Advance voting for the May 21 general primary will begin Monday, April 29 and end Friday, May 17.

Earth Day: Ask A Master Gardener will be held at the Oglethorpe County Library from 3-5 p.m. Monday, April 22. Attendees are encouraged to ask questions.

The Lexington Art Crawl will be from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 27 in downtown Lexington. Contact Linda Parish at lindaparish1012@gmail.com for artist and vendor information.

The Athens Area Master Gardeners Association will take orders for its 2024 Sensational Daffodils and Other Flowering Bulbs sale. Forms must be mailed with a check by May 1 to place an order. Visit tinyurl.com/aamga2024bulbsale for more info.

The third annual Friends of the Oglethorpe County Library Art Show is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 4. It will be held at No. 3 Railroad St. A book sale will coincide with the event for \$5 a bag. Artists interested in participating in the show should contact Peggy Hroma at 706-742-5012.

The New Anon Grove Baptist will celebrate its 152nd church anniversary at 11:30 a.m. May 5. Minister Larry Smith will be the guest minister. The public is invited.

The Oglethorpe County Democrats will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 23 at the Oglethorpe County Library. Local candidates will attend and the 2024 election will be discussed. The meeting is free and open to the public. For information, email oglethorpedems@googlegroups.com.

REGULAR MEETINGS

The Rotary Club of Oglethorpe County meets Fri-

days, starting with coffee at 7 a.m., at the Farm Bureau. On Friday, April 12, the club will honor Madeline Holtzleiter, daughter of Lisa and Joe Holtzleiter, as the OCES Spring Student, and Dylan Minthorn, son of Ryan and Miranda Minthorn, as the OCMS Spring Student. Guests are welcome. The OCHS Student of the Month, Tanner Mask, son of Brett and Laray Mask, will be honored April 19.

Coffee and Tea at No. 3 is a weekly fundraising event hosted by the Friends of the Oglethorpe County Library. It is held at 9 a.m. every Thursday at No. 3 Railroad St. in Arnoldsville. The shop offers bottomless cups of coffee, tea, juices, snacks and pastries. Guests are encouraged to stay, socialize, read a book, color a picture or play a game. Free WiFi is available. Food and beverages are offered on a donation basis and all proceeds go to support the Friends of the Library.

Restore Hope Again, a Christian-based community support service to help people break free from destructive behavior patterns, meets from 6:30-8 p.m. every Thursday at the Oglethorpe County Library.

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. This month’s event will be held on Thursday, Feb. 15 at Oglethorpe County Middle School.

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.

The Oglethorpe County Library’s Adult Book Club meets at 1 p.m. on the last Tuesday of every month. Copies of this month’s book, “The Only One Left,” are available at the front desk. Snacks and coffee are provided.

American Legion Post 123 hosts a veteran’s breakfast buffet the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 8:30-10 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, April 11: Exercise with Sarah Baker. Lunch: provencal chicken breast over asparagus risotto with a side of cinnamon spiced peaches.

■ Friday, April 12: Bingo. Lunch: beef meatballs, marinara sauce, mozzarella cheese, whole wheat rotini and green beans, or whole grain breaded chicken drumstick with white rice and herbed green beans.

■ Monday, April 15: Bingo. Lunch: seasoned baked chicken breast, cheese ravioli with Florentine sauce, broccoli, cauliflower, orange and yellow carrots and a wheat roll, or pulled turkey with florentine sauce, roasted rosemary potatoes, broccoli, cauliflower, carrots and a wheat roll.

■ Tuesday, April 16: Shiloh Bluegrass Band. Lunch: chicken tenders, black-eyed peas and a side of BBQ sauce, or blackened haddock with lemon cream sauce over stewed cannellini beans with pear and cranberry dessert.

■ Wednesday, April 17: MedLink Podiatry Presentation. Lunch: classic chicken salad, whole wheat bread, green leaf lettuce, coleslaw and a fresh orange.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



Oglethorpe County Rainfall Reporting Network

Name (CoCoRaHS Number)	Location	April 1-8
Kevin Hartley (OG-4)	Arnoldsville	1.00
Danny Morcom (OG-5)	Arnoldsville	1.30
Pete Kalla (OG-7)	Sandy Cross	1.24
Paul Webb (OG-10)	Lexington	2.21
Wayne Hughes (OG-12)	Wolfskin	1.52
Gwen Hirsch (OG-15)	Smithonia	1.48
Michael Moody (OG-21)	Glade	1.15
Kathrine Clark (OG-29)	Lexington	1.10

Oglethorpe County average rainfall for the week: 1.38 inches.

Athens rainfall for the week: 1.47 inches (typical weekly 0.92).

Measurements reported at 7 a.m. Monday.

COMMUNITY NEWS

DEB’S COMMUNITY OUTREACH

May God go before you this week and make the rough roads smooth.

Happy April birthday to Laronda Mosley, Lisa Howard, Jennifer Gatlin, Paul Watson, Marquis Morse, Robin Fleming, Beverly Johnson, Shuntria Turner, Latasha Gresham, Courtney Bonds, Rondolyn Harper, David Varner and Alfred Strong.

On behalf of the “War Room Show,” we want to thank everyone for participating in our Patriotic Parade. And to also invite you to join us at 7 p.m. every Tuesday to help spread the word, informative information and praise the Lord with a dance.

The St. John Church indoor yard sale will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 13. Items include: couches, loveseats, chairs, kitchen tables and chairs, entertainment centers, coffee tables, end tables, TV stands, home decor, clothes, shoes and more. Call 706-202-6707 for more information.

I want to give a big shout out and send love to a beautiful lady I’ve had the pleasure to share with her daughters, Tonya and Tamara, and call my mom, Do-

lores Stevens. She visited with me about two weeks ago, which made my day. I’m so proud to know she still calls me daughter. I love you so much, Mama Stevens.

Kreationz By Sherry specializes in extraordinary balloons, table setup, arrangements and rental, and all sorts of decorations for any occasion. If you’re looking for decorations for retirement, birthdays, weddings, baby showers, or whatever the case may be. Give Sherry a call at 706-614-0814 and tell her Delbra D says she’s the best.

The “War Room Show” will hold our annual Krispy Kreme Doughnut fundraiser in the parking lot at the BP station in Crawford at 8 a.m. Saturday, April 13. Please come out to support, or if you’d like to make a donation to the War Room Ministry, call me at 706-202-6707 or Cash App at \$delbrad.

Big “O” thought for the week: May God’s joy be your strength and His peace fill your heart. Greatness is yours!

— Delbra Kendrick

Stephens. We appreciate all the ladies who worked so hard to make this meal great.

I know all the kids and teachers enjoyed their week off from school for spring break.

Claudette, Jimmie Lee and I enjoyed a visit with Martha at The Oaks last week. She is slowly improving and really looking much better. She has enjoyed the staff at The Oaks and appreciates all the work they do.

Beverly Gabriel and I enjoyed going to Colbert and picking strawberries last week. The fields are beautiful and the strawberries are really good, as well as the strawberry ice cream.

The strawberries are at Moon Farms on Highway 72.

— Jean Fleming

Update from Arnoldsville

I don’t get nearly enough credit in life for all the things I’ve managed not to say.

Florine White had a very happy birthday last Thursday. Jimmie Lee, Claudette and I met up with Florine and her sister, Sandra, for a great meal at Carrie’s Corner Cafe in Stephens.

If you have not gone to Carrie’s for the fried pork chop lunch on Thursday, you’ve missed a great meal. The banana pudding was pretty good, too.

We also met up with James Smith and his wife. They were also enjoying the pork chop meal, and James was celebrating his birthday. A big Happy Birthday to James and Florine.

I also had a short visit with Joe Epps at the cafe. It seems a lot of people have found this special cafe in

LEGALS

NOTICE HEARING

LEXINGTON, GEORGIA PROPERTY MAINTENANCE BOARD OF APPEALS

The Lexington, Georgia Property Maintenance Board of Appeals ("Board") will hold a special called meeting to hear the Appeal of Richard Hawkins regarding properties known as 110, 112, 114, 116 and 118 W. Main Street, Lexington, Oglethorpe County, Georgia, pursuant to agreement of counsel on April 18, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at City Hall, Lexington, Georgia and will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the International Property Maintenance Code as adopted by the City of Lexington, the Rules of Procedure adopted by the Board and applicable law.

This the 9th day of April, 2024.

William C. Berryman, Jr.
SECRETARY
April 11

PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

TO: Whom it may concern:

KIANA MARIE SMITH has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of WAYNE THURSTON SMITH 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 May 6, 2024.

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. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.

Kayla H. Grier
Judge of the Probate Court
PO Box 70
Lexington, GA 30648
706-743-5350
April 11-May 2

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER

GEORGIA, OGLETHORPE COUNTY

By virtue of a Power of Sale contained in that certain Security Deed from GENEVA TOMPKINS to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS INC. AS GRANTEE, AS NOMINEE

FOR COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS, INC., dated January 2, 2007, recorded January 19, 2007, in Deed Book 18-P, Page 517-528, Oglethorpe County, Georgia Records, said Security Deed having been given to secure a Note of even date in the original principal amount of Ninety-Five Thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$95,000.00), with interest thereon as provided for therein, said Security Deed having been last sold, assigned and transferred to The Bank of New York Mellon as Trustee for CWABS, Inc. Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2007-2, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash at the Oglethorpe County Courthouse, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in May, 2024, all property described in said Security Deed including but not limited to the following described property:

ALL THAT CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE IN THE 1303RD DISTRICT, G.M., CITY OF CRAWFORD, COUNTY OF OGLETHORPE, AND STATE OF GEORGIA, BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS FOLLOWS: BEING ALL OF LOT NOS. 9, 10, 11, 12 AND 13 IN BLOCK E OF THE A.S. RHODES SUBDIVISION AND BEING BOUNDED ON THE NORTHEAST BY LANDS OF J.B. LOONEY; ON THE SOUTHEAST BY A TWENTY FOOT ALLEY SEPARATING SAID LAND FROM LANDS OF C.M. HUNTER ESTATE; ON THE SOUTHWEST BY LANDS OF EARL ENGLAND; AND ON THE NORTHWEST BY A 40 FOOT STREET KNOWN AS MAIN STREET. FOR A MORE COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF SAID LOTS REFERENCE IS HEREBY HAD TO A PLAT OF SAME RECORDED IN DEED BOOK JJ, PAGE 692, OGLETHORPE COUNTY RECORDS.

Said legal description being controlling, however the property is more commonly known as 502 WALL STREET, CRAWFORD, GA 30630. The indebtedness secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of default under the terms of said Security Deed. The indebtedness remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same, all expenses of the sale, including attorneys' fees (notice to collect same having been given) and all other payments provided for under the terms of the Security Deed. 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: any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, whether or not now due and payable); the right of redemption of any taxing authority; matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or by an inspection of the property; all zoning ordinances; assessments; liens; encumbrances; restrictions; covenants, and any other matters of record superior to said Security Deed.

To the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the owner and party in possession of the property is GENEVA TOMPKINS, or tenants(s).

The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed. The entity having full authority to negotiate, amend or modify all terms of the loan (although

not required by law to do so) is: Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc., Loss Mitigation Dept., 3217 S. Decker Lake Dr., Salt Lake City, UT 84119, Telephone Number: 888-818-6032. Nothing in O.C.G.A. Section 44-14-162.2 shall be construed to require a secured creditor to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the mortgage instrument.

THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON AS TRUSTEE FOR CWABS, INC. ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-2 as Attorney in Fact for GENEVA TOMPKINS

THE BELOW LAW FIRM MAY BE HELD TO BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR, UNDER FEDERAL LAW. IF SO, ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Attorney Contact: Rubin Lublin, LLC
3145 Avalon Ridge Place, Suite 100, Peachtree Corners, GA 30071
Telephone Number: (877) 813-0992 Case No. SPS-13-01940-8
Ad Run Dates 04/11/2024, 04/18/2024, 04/25/2024, 05/02/2024

riselaw.com/property-listing
April 11-May 2

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF OGLETHORPE

Because of a default under the terms of the Security Deed executed by Willie Ed. Sanders, Jr. to NationsCredit Financial Services Corp. dated July 27, 1998, and recorded in Deed Book 11-B, Page 512, Oglethorpe County Records, said Security Deed having been last sold, assigned, transferred and conveyed to U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely in its capacity as Indenture Trustee of CIM Trust 2021-NR2, securing a Note in the original principal amount of \$48,588.23, the holder thereof pursuant to said Deed and Note thereby secured has declared the entire amount of said indebtedness due and payable and, pursuant to the power of sale contained in said Deed, will on the first Tuesday, May 7, 2024, during the legal hours of sale, before the Courthouse door in said County, sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, the property described in said Deed, to-wit:

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE 238TH DISTRICT, G. M., OGLETHORPE COUNTY, GEORGIA, CONTAINING 2.66 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, BEING BOUNDED, NOW OR FORMERLY, AS FOLLOWS: ON THE NORTHWEST BY CARL SANDERS; ON THE SOUTHWEST BY CHAMPION PAPER CO.; ON THE SOUTHEAST BY NAPOLEON LONG; AND ON THE NORTHEAST BY OTHER LANDS OF THE EULA GREENARD, CARLTON SANDERS, ANNETTE MANLEY, EMMA COLLINS, WADENE CHERRAD, WILLIE ED SANDERS, ROBERT SANDERS, RUTH FORSTER HEREIN. SAID TRACT IS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS TO COURSES AND DISTANCES, METES AND BOUNDS, BY A PLAT ENTITLED "SURVEY FOR WILLIE ED SANDERS, JR." DATED NOVEMBER 16, 1992 BY SHERALD SHARP, REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 14 AT PAGE 578, OGLETHORPE COUNTY, GEORGIA RE-

CORDS.

Said property is known as 22 Sanders Dr, Carlton, GA 30627, together with all fixtures and personal property attached to and constituting a part of said property, if any. Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, whether or not now due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above. The proceeds of said sale will be applied to the payment of said indebtedness and all expenses of said sale as provided in said Deed, and the balance, if any, will be distributed as provided by law. The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the secured creditor.

The property is or may be in the possession of The Representative of the Estate of Willie Ed Sanders, Jr, successor in interest or tenant(s).

U.S. Bank Trust Company, National Association, as Trustee, as successor-in-interest to U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely in its capacity as Indenture Trustee of CIM Trust 2021-NR2 as Attorney-in-Fact for Willie Ed. Sanders, Jr.
File no. 23-081189
LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP*
Attorneys and Counselors at Law
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*THE LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
April 5-May 2

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF OGLETHORPE COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA
IN THE INTEREST OF:
B.L.S. Case Number: 109-23J-049
Sex: Female, Age: 7 years, DOB: 05/29/2016
T.F. Case Number: 109-23J-050
Sex: Male, Age: 9 years DOB: 06/20/2014

Child under 18 years of age.
NOTICE OF SUMMONS
To: Kimberly Patrick, mother of the above-named child.
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the above styled action seeking an order finding that the above named children are dependent was filed by the Georgia Department of Human Services by and through the Oglethorpe County Division

of Family and Children Services was filed against you in the Oglethorpe County Juvenile Court on November 16, 2023. YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a final hearing on said petition shall be held before the Juvenile Court of Oglethorpe County, Georgia on April 30, 2024, at 9:30 o'clock a.m. at the Oglethorpe County Courthouse, located 111 W. Main Street, Lexington, Georgia. This hearing is for the purpose of determining whether or not said children are dependent and with whom custody of said children should be placed. A copy of the complaint and petition filed in this matter may be obtained from the Clerk of the Juvenile Court of Oglethorpe County at 111 W. Main Street, Lexington, Georgia, during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., exclusive of holidays. A free copy shall be available to the parents. Upon request, the copy will be mailed to the requester. The clerk of court may be reached by telephone at (706)743-5731.

The general nature of the allegations is that the children are dependent due to abuse and neglect of the children by the parents. All concerned parties are informed that they are entitled to have an attorney represent them, and if a party is unable, without undue financial hardship to employ counsel, the Court will appoint counsel at no cost. WITNESS THE HONORABLE Warren C. Caswell, Judge of Juvenile Court. Signed, Kelli Paradise Smith, Clerk of Courts of Oglethorpe County, Georgia
March 28-April 18

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

All creditors of the estate of Patsy England, 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 March, 2024.

Matthew P. England
415 Wall Street
Crawford, GA 30630
March 28-April 18

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

All creditors of the estate of Angela E. Couch, 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 2nd day of April, 2024.

Glenn A. Townsend
Administrator, of said Estate
166 Holly Hills Dr
Athens, GA 30606
April 4-25

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Staff Report

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

ARRESTS

- Daniel Anthony Busby, Holcomb Drive, Athens, was arrested April 1 and charged with possession of a schedule II controlled substance, and possession and use of drug related objects.
- Zachary David Morris, Baxter Drive, Athens, was arrested April 1 and charged with possession of a schedule II controlled substance, and possession and use of drug related objects.
- Ferrico Lavar Brookins, Atlanta Avenue, Athens, was arrested April 2 and charged with failure to appear for fingerprintable charge — misdemeanor.
- Alexander Estaban Skinner, Cotton Circle, Colbert, was arrested April 2 and charged with probation violation (when probation terms are altered) for fingerprintable charge — felony.
- Tyler Kenneth Anderson, Pope Miller Road, Hull, was arrested April 3 and charged with probation violation (when probation terms are altered) for fingerprintable charge — felony.
- Auner Elias Niz Lopez, DeKalb Drive, Doraville, was arrested April 3 and charged with driving without a valid license — misdemeanor, and failure to stop.
- Betty Sue Watkins, Wall Street, Crawford, was arrested April 3 and charged with simple assault — family violence.
- Irmay Coromoto Alvarez Colmenares, Berlin Street, Athens, was arrested April 4 and charged with failure to drive within single lane, and driving without a valid license — misdemeanor.
- David Wayne Gayle, Frank Matthews Road, Lexington, was arrested April 5 and charged with driving while license suspended or revoked — misdemeanor, no proof of insurance/motor vehicles, failure to drive within single lane, brake light/turn signal violation, and knowingly driving motor vehicle on suspended, canceled, or revoked registration.
- Daleon Trent Jacobs, East 90th Street North, Owasso, Oklahoma, was arrested April 5 and charged with driving without a valid license — misdemeanor, marijuana — possess less than one ounce, DUI — driving under the influence of alcohol while driving commercial mo-

tor vehicle, and obedience to traffic control devices.

- James Phillip Seagraves, Hargrove Lake Road, Crawford, was arrested April 5 and charged with probation violation (when probation terms are altered) for fingerprintable charge — felony.
- Brantley Jeremy James, Old Commerce Road Extension, Athens, was arrested April 6 and charged with probation violation (when probation terms are altered) for fingerprintable charge — felony.
- Ryan Joseph Klein, Lem Edwards Road, Winterville, was arrested April 6 and charged with no proof of insurance/motor vehicles, fleeing to attempting to elude a police officer, brake light/turn signal violation, driving while license suspended or revoked — misdemeanor, failure to use turn signal, knowingly driving motor vehicle on suspended, canceled, or revoked registration, 40-5-24 learners permit, and possession and use of drug related objects.
- Polly Ann Porter, Washington Highway, Union Point, was arrested April 6 and charged with possession and use of drug related objects, possession of methamphetamine, drugs not in original container — misdemeanor, possession of a schedule IV controlled substance, and driving on expired tag.
- Thomas Cole Stephens, Penfield Road, Union Point, was arrested April 6 and charged with open container in vehicle, possession and use of drug related objects, possession of methamphetamine, drugs not in original container — misdemeanor, possession of a schedule IV controlled substance, and interference with government property — felony.
- Teodoro Hernandez, Hardman Morris Road, Colbert, was arrested April 7 and charged with driving without a valid license — misdemeanor, and failure to drive within single lane.
- Dilen D. Lewis-Williams, Colbert School Road, Colbert, was arrested April 7 and charged with probation violation (when probation terms are altered) for fingerprintable charge — felony.
- Angelo Perlera Rivera, Walter Sams Road, Winterville, was arrested April 7 and charged with simple battery — family violence.
- Wesley Adam Staton, Walker Street, Augusta, was arrested April 7 and charged with probation violation (when probation terms are altered) for fingerprintable charge — misdemeanor.

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OGLETHORPE SPORTS



OWEN WARDEN/THE OGLETHORPE ECHO

Oglethorpe County goalie Bailey Abrams dives on the ball to stop a Valdosta scoring threat in the Patriots' 2-1 loss on April 5. OCHS can clinch the region's top seed with a win over Jasper County on Thursday.

Patriots in fight to finish for region title

By Hank Tatum
The Oglethorpe Echo

The Region 5-A Division I boys soccer title will come down to Oglethorpe County's final regular-season game on Thursday, April 11, when the Patriots host Jasper County.

"We just need to win and keep them from scoring," head coach Erich Forschler said.

Sophomore Sergio Alio and junior Bryan Berrios' goals were the difference in the Patriots' 2-0 win at Jasper County in the first matchup on April 8. To win the region, the Patriots will need a similar outcome in the second

game. If the Patriots win, and hold Jasper County to less than three goals, they'll clinch their second straight region title. The Patriots would hold the tiebreaker over Social Circle, each finishing 5-1.

With a guaranteed state playoff appearance, the Patriots (8-5, 4-1) have more to play for than just the region title this season.

"I want (them) to win the region title if (they) want it, but my focus is on us getting better every chance that we're together," Forschler said. "So when those playoffs roll around, we're ready to go."

Forschler said he understands the playoffs will be an elevated level of competition.

"We're getting there, but we're not quite at cruising altitude yet," Forschler said.

The Patriots are led in scoring by Miguel Rios, who has nine goals, followed by Henry Hernandez, who has four. Hernandez also leads the team in assists.

The first round of the Class A Division I State Soccer Tournament will be on April 17, with the Patriots' opponent still to be determined.

"They can beat any team they play; I'm totally convinced of that," Forschler said.



OWEN WARDEN/THE OGLETHORPE ECHO

Oglethorpe County's Sergio Alio dribbles away from a Valdosta defender in a 2-1 loss to the Wildcats on April 5. The Patriots rebounded from the loss with a 2-0 win over Jasper County on Monday night.

PREP ROUNDUP

Girls soccer wins 3-2

Staff Report

Marin Sampson, Eve Myers and Khloe Eidson scored goals to lead the Oglethorpe County girls soccer team to a 3-2 victory over Jasper County on April 8.

The Lady Patriots trailed 2-1 before rallying for the victory.

Emily Forschler assisted on the goals.

The Patriots defeated Jasper County 2-0 behind goals from Sergio Alio and Bryan Berrios. Clint Graham added an assist.

Prince defeats OCHS baseball 2-1

Tripp White allowed only two runs in five innings, but the Oglethorpe County baseball team had only four hits in a 2-1 loss to Prince Avenue on Tuesday night.

White struck out four, Matthew Martin pitched a perfect inning in relief and Haiden Ashworth had two hits for the Patriots.

OCHS fell to 10-12, 0-4 in Region 5-A Division I. All the region losses have been by one run.

PREP SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 11

- Prince Avenue at OCHS baseball, 5:30 p.m.
- OCHS golf at Putnam County
- Jasper County at OCHS soccer, 5:30/7:30 p.m.

Friday, April 12

- OCHS baseball at Prince Avenue, 5:55 p.m.
- OCHS track at North Oconee

Monday, April 15

- OCHS baseball at Jasper County, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 16

- OCHS golf vs. Washington-Wilkes

Wednesday, April 17

- Jasper County at OCHS baseball, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 18

- OCHS track meet
- OCHS golf at Lincoln County
- OCHS baseball at Jasper County 5:30 p.m.

Friday, April 19

- OCMS track at state championship

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FRI 4/12	@ PRINCE AVENUE	5:55
MON 4/15	@ JASPER COUNTY	5:30
WED 4/17	JASPER COUNTY	5:30
THUR 4/18	@ JASPER COUNTY	5:30

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OGLETHORPE SPORTS –



MICAHYA COSTEN/THE OGLETHORPE ECHO

Dominic (with beard) and Cassandra Fabrizio (fourth from left) and their children (from left) Austin, Wyatt, Colton and Ryley (right), and friend Harper Bondie (second from right) watch the Oglethorpe County boys soccer team play on Rec Night.

Rec night gives taste of OCHS soccer experience

By Micahya Costen
The Oglethorpe Echo

Cassandra Fabrizio's oldest kids, Ryley and Wyatt, dream of being soccer phenoms. While playing on Oglethorpe County rec teams, their parents want them to be exposed to a higher level of play to prepare for what's to come. "So if they want to go to the World Cup, they got to make it to the high school team," Fabrizio said. "So we're trying to get her and him just kind of familiar with their rules and how they play and what it takes to get on that team."

The Fabrizios were in attendance as Oglethorpe County High School hosted a rec night Friday for the youth rec teams as they took on the Valdosta Wildcats.

The county's recreation department hosts recreation nights at OCHS, where youth rec team kids are invited to watch and support various sports. The young players wear their jerseys to get free entry to the games and catch a glimpse of what playing for OCHS teams could be like in the future.

Fabrizio brought her kids out

for the night for the first time.

"I really want this county to open up to soccer," Fabrizio said. "I wasn't a fan before, but my kids enjoyed it, and these kids are really good."

Fabrizio said her family relocated from Maryland to Oglethorpe County when their eldest was a toddler, describing it as the best decision they've made.

"It's been great. The community has been so welcoming and everybody knows my kids," Fabrizio said. "They welcome them, and I just love it. We're definitely keeping them in the county."

Fabrizio also expressed appreciation for the recreation department's acknowledgment of the sport's growth in the county and its investment in soccer fields to foster the development of the growing talent on their teams.

"I think they need to invest in more summer programs because they have such a big break," she said. "My husband coaches, but they have a really tough time finding coaches. So, I think maybe investing in that would definitely help because then they can have

smaller teams and focus on the training that they need."

Erich Forschler, head coach of OCHS' boys and girls soccer teams, said he enjoys seeing families support the teams, especially young players from the rec leagues who can get a glimpse of what's ahead.

"We just try to involve the community because a lot of the kids that are playing in rec will possibly, hopefully, one day be playing here, if they stay in Oglethorpe County and go to school here," he said.

Forschler said that while attendance for youth night was modest this year due to it falling during spring break (it was rescheduled due to scheduling conflicts), he believes those who attended, including kids and families, would benefit from seeing their future teams in action.

"All I really hope they get from it is to have a good time and enjoy being here and watching it," Forschler said.

OCMS SOCCER TEAMS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Oglethorpe County Middle School girls soccer team includes (back, from left): Ava McCook, Brianna Lamb, Cailyn Torbit and Skyler Hembree (third row); Esmeralda Rodriguez, Da'Money Lattimore, Allisson Palma, Ava Nimmons and Kiley Paul (second row); Alicia Velasquez, Kassie Mathews, Lannah Scarborough, Meadow Nimmons and Abigail Whitney (front); Diana Velasquez, Mya Thin and Charley Nation.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Oglethorpe County Middle School boys soccer team includes (back): Coach Craig Roberts (third row, from left); Benji Ditty, Dylan Minthorn, Michael Viers, Jonathan Hernandez, Saw Soe, Jason Colindres and Anthony Heredia (second row); Chaz Palmer, Conner Wilson, Eli Patton, Karsin Burke, Joshua Velasquez and Omar Sagastume (front); Alex Vittorio, John Adams, Bentley Arnold, Jake Godfriaux, Nick Godfriaux and Evan Minthorn.

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18 To 92-Ct., Selected Always Feminine Care Products 7.98	15 To 25-Count, Quart Or Gallon Glad-Lock Freezer Or Storage Bags 2/\$4		
28 To 36-Ct., Selected Tampax Pads Or Tampons 7.98	2.6 To 3-Oz., Gillette Clear Gel, Old Spice Or Secret Deodorant 3.98	30 To 45-Ct., Selected Glad Trash Bags..... 9.98	20 To 24-Oz., Selected Pine-Sol Cleaner..... 3.98
1-Ct. Toothbrush, 500-ml. Mouthwash, Or 3.3 To 12-Oz., Selected Colgate Toothpaste 3.98	11.25-Oz., Selected Softsoap Hand Soap 2/\$5	32-Oz. Tylex Cleaner Mold & Mildew..... 5.48	32-Oz., Scentiva Or Selected Clorox Clean-Up Spray..... 4.48
		32 Oz., Selected 409 Cleaner..... 3.48	32-Oz. Tylex Clean Fresh Shower Cleaner..... 3.48
		30-Oz., Selected Clorox Bath Cleaner..... 4.48	24 To 28.6-Oz., Selected Soft Scrub Cleaner..... 3.98
		4-Pack Sponges Or 2-Ct. Simply Dope Scrubbers..... 2/\$3	75-Ct., Selected Clorox Disinfectant Wipes..... 4.98

LOVE YOUR PETS

22.5-Oz. Beef Canine Carryouts 5.48	14-Lb. Scoop Away Cat Litter 7.48	14-Lb., Selected Gravy Train Dog Food 11.98	3.15-Lb., Indoor Complete 9 Lives Cat Food 5.48
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FRESHEST FLAVORS
Produce

10-Oz. Great Snack
Angel Sweet
Red Grape Tomatoes
2.98

6-Oz.
Sweet Plum
Fresh Blackberries
2.68

Sweet & Juicy Large
Minneola Tangelos Or
California Navel Oranges
5/\$5

FARMERS FINEST®

Select
Creamy Baking
Potatoes
.78/lb.

7 To 11-Oz., Selected
Fresh Express
Salads
2/\$6

8-Oz., Southmill Fresh
Whole Or Sliced
White Mushrooms
1.98

Farmer's Finest
Crisp Green
Snap Beans
1.78/lb.

5-Lb., All Purpose
Creamy
White Potatoes
2/\$7

Sweet
Cantagold
Cantaloupes
3.98

10 To 16-Oz. Bolthouse Farms
Crinkle Cut Chips
Or Matchstick Carrots
1.98

All Purpose
Jumbo Yellow
Onions
.98/lb.

Florist Quality
Citrus Splash
Bouquet
9.98
Where Available

DELICIOUS
Pantry
TREASURES
AWAIT

20-Oz. Chicken
& Dumplings Or
Dinty Moore
Beef Stew
2/\$6

12-Oz.
Spam
Luncheon Meat
3.48

15-Oz.
Hormel Chili
With Beans
2/\$4

15-Oz.
Hormel Chili
No Beans
2/\$5

4.6-Oz., Selected
Armour Vienna
Sausages
.78

15 To 16-Oz., Selected
Hunt's
Manwich Sauce
1.48



28 To 29-Oz., Selected
Hunt's Canned
Tomatoes
2/\$5

15-Oz.
Van Camp's
Pork And Beans
.88

12-Oz., Selected
Armour
Treet
2/\$4

15-Oz.
Libby's Country
Sausage Gravy
2/\$3

10-Oz.
Valley Fresh
White Chicken
3.48

QUICK and EASY SOLUTIONS

11.5 To 16.95-Oz., Selected
Banquet Mega
Bowls Or Meals
2/\$6

8 To 11-Oz., Selected
T.G.I. Friday's
Appetizers
4.78

9-Oz.
Philly Gourmet
Beef Steaks
2.98

10.25 To 11-Oz., Selected
P.F. Chang's
Bowls
4.48

16-Oz. Onion Rings Or
24 To 32-Oz., Selected
Craw'n Flavor
Frozen Potatoes
SALE PRICE **3.48** FINAL PRICE **2.48**
1.00 OFF ONE

7-Oz., Pepperoni Or Cheese
Ore-Ida
Bagel Bites
2/\$5

16-Oz., Reg. Or Low Fat
Breakstone's
Sour Cream
2/\$5

24-Oz., Selected
Daisy
Cottage Cheese
3.48

8 To 11.25-Oz. Texas Toast, Knof Rolls Or
Food Club
Garlic Breadsticks
2/\$5

32-Oz., 8-Slicks
Blue Bonnet
Margarine Quarters
2/\$6

128-Oz., Selected
Country Maid
Ice Cream
6.98

8 To 15-Oz., Selected
Bird's Eye
SteamFresh Vegetables
2/\$7

8-Oz. Fresh Mozzarella Ball
Or 12-Oz., Selected
Galbani Stringers
3.78

64-Oz., 2% Or Whole
Organic
Valley Milk
5.48
16-Oz. O.V. Heavy Whipping Cream \$4.98

14-Oz., Selected
Baskin Robbins
Ice Cream
3.98

5-Lb.
Kraft
American Cheese
SALE PRICE **14.98** FINAL PRICE **13.98**
1.00 OFF ONE

48-Oz., Selected
Callifa Farms
Oatmeal Or Almond Milk
3.98

16-Oz. Roll, Hot Or Mild
Carolina Pride
Pork Sausage
3.48

24-Oz. Stack Pack
Smithfield Applewood
Or Hickory Bacon
7.98

2.52-Oz., Fully Cooked
Oscar Mayer
Sliced Bacon
3.98

Wake Up To A Hearty
BREAKFAST
59-Oz.
Bright & Early
Orange Drink
2/\$3

11 To 14.75-Oz., Selected
Post
Cereal
2/\$6

6-Ct., 12-Oz., Selected
Bay's English
Muffins
2/\$6

12 To 16.7-Oz., Selected
General Mills
Cereals
2/\$8

20 To 24-Oz., Selected
Simply
Potatoes
2/\$6

8.4 To 14.1-Oz., Selected
Quaker
Instant Oatmeal
4.48

1.3 To 2.8-Oz., Selected
Kellogg's
Cereal Cups
3/\$4

7 To 8-Oz., Selected
Folger's
Instant Coffee
6.78

12-Oz., Selected
Swaggerty's
Links Or Patties
3.48

4-Pack, Selected
Food Club
Biscuits
SALE PRICE **2/\$6** FINAL PRICE **2/\$5**
1.00 OFF TWO

15-Oz.
Libby's Country
Sausage Gravy
2/\$3

10-Oz.
Valley Fresh
White Chicken
3.48

READY. SET.

Grill!



16-Oz., Fresh 85% Lean Butterball Ground Turkey
3.98



75% Lean Fresh Ground Beef Patties
3.98^{lb.}



12-Oz. Fischer's Meat Wieners
2/\$4



Sold in a 6-Lb. Box 24-Ct.
Party Pack Hoften Burgers
24.00



USDA Inspected, Bone-In Country Style Pork Ribs Or Pork Steaks
2.48^{lb.}



11 To 12-Oz., Selected Nathan's Beef Franks
4.98



12-Oz., Selected John Morrell Franks
4/\$5



5-Lb. Bag Crinkle Cut Fries
7.90

THE BEST "MEATING" PLACE

5-Lb. Bag, IQF Agro Boneless Chicken Breasts
9.90



Butcher's Best® Boneless Beef Shoulder Steaks
5.98^{lb.}



2.5-Lb., Selected Marinated Prairie Fresh Signature Shoulder Roast
8.98



USDA Inspected Boston Butt Pork Roast
1.98^{lb.}



16-Oz. Cotto Salami, Reg. Or Thick Oscar Mayer Meat Bologna
2/\$7



Smithfield, Reg. Or Honey Sliced Quarter Premium Ham
4.98^{lb.}



7 To 8-Oz., Smithfield Selected Prime Fresh Lunch Meat
3.48



15 To 16-Oz., Selected Oscar Mayer Deli Fresh Lunch Meat
5.98



Tonight SKIP THE DRIVE THRU



5-Lb. Bag, Selected Boneless Breaded Chicken
10.00



28 To 32-Oz., Selected Bob Evans Side Dishes
4.98



11 To 14-Oz. Selected Armour Meatballs
3.48

CREATE Your PERFECT #1 COMBO

18 To 20-Oz., Selected Land O' Frost Sub Sandwich Kit
6.98



11-Oz., Selected Spreads Or Star's Deli Salads
2.98



1-Lb. Nature's Best Tilapia, Whiting Or Swai Fillets
4.98

Seafood CATCH THE SAVINGS

10-Oz. Southern Seas Shrimp Ring
5.98



1-Lb., 41/50-Ct. P&D, Tail On Southern Seas Cooked Shrimp
5.98



1-Lb., 41/50-Ct. P&D, Tail Off Southern Seas Large Raw Shrimp
4.98



12-Oz., Crab Or Lobster Dockside Classics
6.98



8-Oz. Chunks Or Flakes Louis Kemp Crab Delights
2/\$5



BAKERY FRESH

61-Oz. Double Layer Carrot Cake
14.98



22-Oz., 8-Inch Coconut Or Egg Custard Pie
4.98



4-Ct., Selected Bakery Fresh Toaster Tops
3.98



4-Count Apple Fritters
3.98



6-Ct., Maple Or Vanilla Iced Cinnamon Rolls
6.98



12-Ct., Selected Cafe Valley Mini Muffins
4.48



Guaranteed Fresh All The Time! Satisfaction Guaranteed Or Your Money Back!

Independently Owned

Food Fresh