

>> BALDWIN COUNTY

County mulls options in search of ambulance service

Greenberry Moore
The Baldwin Bulletin

Baldwin County will have a new ambulance service as early as November, and whether it will be operated by a private company or as a county department is yet to be determined. Grady Emergency Medical

Services (EMS) notified County Manager Carlos Tobar by a certified letter dated Aug. 1 that the company would not be renewing its contract with the county at the end of the current service period, Nov. 5. The company subsequently agreed to continue its service until the end of this year if requested.

Tobar and county officials do not believe that will be necessary. The Board of Commissioners met last Friday, Aug. 18, to discuss the situation and, following a thorough discussion, voted to send out requests for proposals (RFPs), for ambulance service for the county. Those proposals will be

due no later than 5 p.m. Sept. 1. "It will be a formal solicitation," Tobar said. "What it means is we're going to give the same parameters to all the prospective vendors so that there's no confusion as to as to what's expected." He added that the proposal notice will also go out via the Georgia

Procurement Agency. "Anytime a public agency goes out for bid for anything, engineering, construction, whatever, all firms that have licenses to do business in Georgia are emailed about that solicitation." Tobar has been working on

MORE COUNTY >> A2

>> URBAN ARTS VILLAGE



BAILEY McCULLY/Staff

A GCSU volunteer assists a young girl in tie-dyeing a shirt.

>> GEORGIA COLLEGE

Governor's Mansion, Andalusia undergoing updates

Bailey McCully
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Georgia College & State University's Director of Museums Matt Davis gave updates on projects currently ongoing at Georgia's Old Governor's Mansion and Andalusia Farm.

At Georgia's Old Governor's Mansion, the education building, originally built in 2005, is undergoing renovations. The building is typically where tours would start and attendees would learn a timeline of the mansion and a bit more about its significance before going inside.

"The education building supports our educational programming, exhibition spaces and for public programming. This renovation includes new heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, state-of-the-art, energy efficient lighting upgrades to furniture and pieces, and we are working right now to install a new permanent exhibit into the space," said Davis.

According to Davis, they have contracted with HW Exhibitions to do the work for the exhibit. HW Exhibitions is an exhibit design division of Brockington and Associates that is based in Atlanta. The company specializes in "delivering quality, customized interpretive exhibits" that

MORE UPDATES >> A3

LEC hosts Kids Block Party in collaboration with GC Gives Day

Bailey McCully
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The Life Enrichment Center (LEC) hosted its official ribbon cutting ceremony during the Kids Block Party at the Urban Arts Village at 224 E. Walton St., in

Milledgeville, Aug. 19.

The village was alive with vendors from Georgia College & State University (GCSU), the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL), the local fire department, Citizens of Georgia Power, and other individual organizations

and volunteers. Each table was set up with activities for children to participate in from painting their own fossils to exploring fire trucks and learning about fire safety.

"We are so thankful for all the

MORE PARTY >> A9

>> BALDWIN COUNTY

Baldwin provides successful free tire recycling day

Greenberry Moore
The Baldwin Bulletin

Recycling scrap tires doesn't sound like something exciting to watch, and while it likely wasn't, that activity was anything but boring this past weekend.

Baldwin County held its first Scrap Tire Amnesty Day

last Saturday at the Public Works Department off Linda Drive, where local residents took advantage of the offer to unload old tires at no cost. Road Superintendent Keith Green estimated more than 3,000 tires of all sizes were brought in, the vast majority in the first five hours.

"It was open to the public

at 7 a.m.," Green said while watching county employees unload and stack used tires. "At one point we had four or five vehicles in line to register and bring in their tires. We had a great turnout this morning."

The road superintendent pointed to an 18-wheeler trailer.

"That one is already full,"

he said. "Quality Recycling in Jackson is taking the tires for recycling. They will pick up this trailer Monday and bring us another empty one for us to load, and they will continue doing that until we get them all loaded."

Green calculated there were approximately 1,400 tires stacked in the trailer. There

also were five roll-off dumpster containers filled with about 200 tires each that would have to be loaded on a trailer. Meanwhile, county workers were unloading another semi-trailer that contained 302 tires, all for 18-wheel tractors and trailers.

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The Baldwin Bulletin

>> CITY OF MILLEDGEVILLE

Council hears EDA updates and discusses GMA certification

Bailey McCully
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The Milledgeville City Council heard updates from the Economic Development Authority (EDA) and learned more about one of the Georgia Municipal Association's (GMA) certification programs.

EDA Executive Director Jonathan Jackson stated there are about 1,000 job openings in Baldwin County from entry to professional levels and the brochure explaining how to look up these job positions

online has been doing well. Jackson also reported that EDA currently has nine active projects and eight expansions ongoing, though he did not specify what these are.

"I don't think we've ever seen a period this robust in economic development," said Jackson.

After his presentation GMA Director of Equity and Inclusion Freddie Broom spoke to the board and public about the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Certification, which the city is in the process of discussing. According to the

GMA website, the certification is "designed to equip municipal leaders with the knowledge, tools and resources to create a foundation for sustainable and equitable economic prosperity for their cities and residents."

According to Broom, there are seven categories and four tiers connected to the certification. Cities are recommended to do two or three categories for their certification and are required to at least complete the category related to community engagement. The certification is a seven month long course and

Mayor Mary Parham-Copelan told Broom at the end of his presentation that they would be getting back with him to discuss the details.

Moving into old and new business, the council also unanimously approved several items on the agenda:

- The council conducted a public hearing to amend the Land Development Code to allow a special use of 2651 N. Columbia St. for a used car lot with a maximum of 26 cars in the CC district. No one spoke in opposition and it

- was unanimously approved.
- The council approved an ordinance to amend the 2024 Fiscal Year Annual Operating Budget allocation to the Mary Vinson Memorial Library.
- The council approved the authorization for city enrollment in the Georgia Municipal Employee Benefit System Life and Health Program for the 2024 calendar year.
- The council approved Tyrone Evans for appointment to the Allied Arts board.

TIRES

CONTINUED FROM >> A1

"The guy says he owns 10 trucks; he said he's been saving tires for 10 years," Green said. "He lives here in Milledgeville, and he was glad to find out he could get rid of them."

Green said commercial businesses that sold tires as a major part of their operations were not allowed to dispose of tires through the day-long program.

Baldwin County Manager Carlos Tobar said the day's activities were the result of a state

grant, the first of its kind for Baldwin County.

"I used to do this in Grady County but haven't had the chance to do it here yet. I know it's popular with citizens cleaning up their yards; you have a lot of farmers and loggers out there who don't have spots to take their tires. So, this is a great way to do it," Tobar said.

The grant administered by the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources was for \$14,414.

"The grant will likely need to be increased due to the number of tires we received," Tobar said.

"The grant does allow for budget revision."

An attendant was onsite to register folks as they came in, and a review of the sheets showed well over 50 vehicles with tires entered. While Green said most of the tires were delivered in trucks or on trailers, there were exceptions.

"We had one guy in a Toyota Camry. He made about five trips. He had his trunk full, his back-seat full. One time he came with them laying up on top. I told him, 'I think you're riding around in the neighborhood and charging folks to haul their tires off,'" Green said with a laugh.



From left, Benny Turner, Oliver Stanton and Keith Green stack tires that were turned in on Scrap Tire Amnesty Day.

COUNTY

CONTINUED FROM >> A1

the unexpected problem since receiving the letter, and he told commissioners Friday he had

already been contacted by two potential providers, AmeriPro Health and Atrium Health, the Medical Center in Macon. Tobar said Monday that it is his understanding that AmeriPro currently provides ambulance

service in Upson and Lamar counties.

Tobar told the commissioners Friday that he planned to offer the option of the county providing the service in-house.

"We will prepare our own budget so that we can compare our budget with whoever responds," he said.

The county manager said that no matter whether the service is provided by the county or a third party, it is highly likely that the same employees would be utilized. It is common for employees to be retained, he emphasized.

"They're likely going to be the first ones the new contractor is going to want to hire," Tobar said. "Paramedics and EMTs don't grow on trees.

They're very difficult to recruit, train, and hire.

"These are specialized professionals," he continued. "Our employees know we're going to provide ambulance service. More than likely, we're going to hire them or a third party is going to hire them."

Tobar reiterated that he anticipated the current employees would stay on the job, whoever provides the ambulance service, noting the satisfaction of their service with county residents.

He said when the county went through the comprehensive planning process last year a survey was taken.

"The citizens were asked 'How do you rate your county services?'. Fire and EMS was the highest rated," Tobar

reported.

Should the board's decision be to provide the service in-house, the county would need to purchase ambulances.

"Grady EMS made a proposal to us to purchase five ambulances. So, that would be part of our proposal to the commissioners if they want to do it in-house," he said.

The county currently pays Grady EMS \$195,000 annually to subsidize the service here. Tobar said that company has a \$2.5 million budget, with expenditures being about the same as revenues from transports.

"So, the operating subsidy of \$195,000, more than likely, that's their profit," he speculated.

Should the commissioners decide to provide the ambulance service in-house, Baldwin County would receive the transport fees, and Tobar envisions using a third party to handle that aspect of the operation. He acknowledged that taking over the service would be more work for the county now, including handling payroll issues for approximately 32 employees, with some who are part-time. But, he said, it could be done.

"If we decide to take it in-house, I think we could be ready to go Nov. 5," he said. "That's the beginning of a payroll period, perfect timing for us. I've checked with our HR (Human Resources) about taking on 32 new people by Nov. 5, putting

policies and procedures in place.

County commissioners are taking a wait-and-see approach.

District 3 Board Member Sammy Hall said this past Tuesday that the schedule was set for proposals to be due by Sept. 5.

"At that time we will evaluate those proposals," he said. "At that time, if Carlos has a budget, it could be used as part of our evaluation and comparison.

"There are advantages and disadvantages to both choices," Hall added. "We will just have to compare as best we can to arrive at a decision."

District Two representative Kendrick Butts offered similar thoughts.

"I am just waiting on all the numbers and facts to be placed in front of me so I can make the best decision for the citizens of Baldwin County," he said. "At this point, I don't have an opinion on either one. It doesn't matter to me as long as the service chosen is reliable and less cost to the taxpayers."

Tobar said he could not speculate on which direction the county will take, as there is no way of knowing now how many proposals will be submitted. But, he said, Baldwin County residents should not have any concerns.

"There's going to be ambulance service," Tobar said. "Rain, snow, sleet or shine, there's going to be ambulance service."

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Obituaries

Ruby Inez Avant, 86, of Sandersville, passed away Aug. 21, 2023. Survivors include her daughters, Debra Tyson of Dublin and Donna Morgan (John) of Macon; grandchildren, Thomas Baugh, Jr. (Erin) of Panama City Beach, Florida, Jackson Morgan, Taylor Morgan (Ashlee), and Kayla Morgan all of Macon; great-granddaughters, Abigail Baugh of Macon and Keller Baugh of Panama City Beach, Florida; and several brother-in-laws, sister-in-laws, cousins, nieces and nephews.

John Mark Aycock, Jr., 36, of Gray, passed away Friday, Aug. 18, 2023. Survivors include his wife, Emily Aycock of Gray; daughter, Jordyn Aycock of Gray; sons, John Mark Aycock III and Miles Aycock, both of Gray; mother, Brenda Morgan (Vince) of Milledgeville; sister, Jessa Bloodworth (Jason) of Eatonton; and a number of nieces and nephews.

Linda Kaye Benefield, 66, of Milledgeville, passed away Thursday, Aug. 10, 2023. Survivors include her daughters, Kimberly K. Turner of Ivey, and Anna Michelle Amerson (Jeffrey Robinson) of Macon; her son she never had Kyle Alan Swicord (Emily) of Gordon; brothers, Tommy May, Robert David Walden, John Walden and Dennis Smith; sisters, Sandy Adams and Christine Jackson; and grandchildren, Lindsey K. Benefield (Jared Rickerson), Anna G. Amerson, Lexington R. Turner, Payton M. Amerson, Levi C. Turner, Elizabeth R. Robinson, Colton R. Jackson, Avery A. Jackson, and Tinsley R. Swicord.

Katie Marie Harper-Weeks, of Milledgeville, passed away Wednesday, Aug. 16, 2023.

Elizabeth "Liz" Bond Howard, 63, of Milledgeville, passed away Wednesday, Aug. 16, 2023. Survivors include her husband, Roz Howard, Jr. of Milledgeville; brother-in-law, Craig Howard (Cindy) of Eatonton; sister-in-law, Janane

Pilcher (Kerry) of Macon; Aunt, Moncell Blackstock (Hugh) of Gainesville; cousins, Greg Hodges of Florida, and Fredrick Moore of Gainesville; and several nieces, nephews, and other family members.

Willie Ingram Jr., 86, of Milledgeville, passed away Wednesday, Aug. 16, 2023.

Prudus Jarrett, 59, of Milledgeville, passed away Monday, Aug. 14, 2023.

Bobby Key, 71, of Eatonton, passed away Wednesday, Aug. 16, 2023.

Pamela Faith Merritt, 21, of Milledgeville, passed away Aug. 19, 2023. Survivors include her mother, Kiva Hood (bonus dad, Nathaniel); sister, Lesley Cruz-Mortera (Gustavo); brothers, Justin Merritt and John Cruz; Grammy Sharon Hood; grandfather, Carey Merritt; uncle, Ethan Hood (Paige); aunts, Lyndsey Hood, Victoria Hood (Ryan), Linda Thornton (John); special great aunt, Debbie Smith (Alan); two sets of great grandparents, and several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Thomas Dorsey "Tommie" Simmons, Jr., 82, of Milledgeville, passed away Sunday, Aug. 20, 2023. Survivors include his wife of 53 years Gayle Hutchins Simmons of Milledgeville; daughters Britt McRae (Ed) of Milledgeville and Kim Hofilena (Mark) of Grove Town; brother, Michael Simmons; sister, Meri Barclay (Tom) both of Milledgeville; grandchildren, Alex McRae, Emma McRae, Ashley Guy (Daniel), Ryan Brown (Kristin), Cory Jones (Jamie); and six great-grandchildren.

Billie D. "Billy" Stephens, 80, of Alabama, passed away Wednesday, Aug. 16, 2023. Survivors include his wife, Kathy Stephens; and cousins, Elizabeth "Kay" Nichols and Heather and Brandon Hooker.

UPDATES

CONTINUED FROM >> A1

have a connection to the natural and cultural heritage of an area.

"This historic exhibit will have new interpretive panels and a combo of a timeline, artifacts, archival images, and more. Matt Davis will select the artifacts and we will create the display and architecture of the exhibit," said Jordan Sandin, senior project manager for HW Exhibitions. "We are taking inspiration from the mansion itself to design the exhibit. For example the colors we have looked at so far have been inspired by the window shades inside one of the rooms in the mansion and some of our architectural details were inspired by a medallion that is on display."

Part of the goal of working with HW Exhibitions is to increase technological capabilities of exhibit spaces. According to Davis, the exhibit inside the education building has not been significantly updated in about 10 years and is in-need of a "refresh." Currently, plans are for the building and the new exhibit to be finished by the end of the fall semester.

"The exhibit is still currently in the design phase but it will be essentially a comprehensive orientation and timeline exhibition that will cover the history of the mansion," said Davis. "It will cover construction to the present day. It will cover multiple stories including periods of the governors, enslaved at the site, social engagement and more."

At Andalusia Farm,



CONTRIBUTED

The education building at Georgia's Old Governor's Mansion is being renovated to offer a new exhibit that visitors will view at the beginning of each tour.

exhibits are also undergoing updates to allow for an augmented reality tour that will help when touring the buildings and surrounding areas of the main house.

"One of the things we are working to do is improve visitor experience, give as much factual information as possible, and interpret the variety of acreage onsite," said Davis. "So, we are working with ARtGlass, based out of Richland, Ga., to create a phone based tour of certain key points of our exterior spaces and the supporting out buildings of the grounds."

According to ARtGlass Chief Commercial Officer Lauren Jensen, augmented reality takes the location one is already in and adds digital context on top of it. It is a place-based interpretive tool that the company plans to use to add more story and historical information about the grounds of Andalusia Farm, including telling the story of other families beside the O'Connors.

"They have a huge property with fascinating historic buildings that each have their own story," said Jensen. "But many of these buildings are in different stages of preservation or cannot be entered so, using AR, we will be able to deliver stories to visitors while they are standing on the grounds. It will allow stories of each building's use and the people who may have lived or worked in them to be told and ensure the safety of visitors as they explore."

The tour will be a mix of historic imagery, immersive sound experiences, and interactive panels featured through an app.

"We are still in the concept and design phase of the AR but I believe the best way to explain how it can be used is to say that visitors can download the content or scan a QR code at buildings they are present at to learn more," said Jensen. "This content will add a human element to the interactivity of the self-guided tour and will provide a more broad and inclusive story of all the

families and jobs on the farm."

Davis stated an example of a potential interactive panel may be scanning the main house and having the app color code the house to show the different eras of how the house evolved.

"We have a QR code guided tour that was developed by us so we are trying to take this step as a next evolution of that tour," said Davis. "Our goal is for it to be more immersive, user friendly, and engaging."

According to Davis, there will still be options available for anyone who tours the grounds and does not have the technology to access the app. Tour guides will also continue to be available to answer questions after the normal guided tour.

"These are the two biggest projects we have ongoing at Georgia's Old Governor's Mansion and Andalusia Farm. We hope both will be completed by the end of GCSU's fall semester, which is the end of the calendar year," said Davis.

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Opinions

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Danger at work

Do you know what the most dangerous job is in these United States? No, it isn't writing columns, though when you have been referred to as a "racist redneck" and an "Obama-bedwetting liberal" in the same week, not to mention a "spiritual moron" by a God-fearing, love-thy-neighbor Baptist, this is not exactly a job for the faint of heart. The humor-impaired can be a formidable bunch and they seem to be growing in numbers. But I bravely carry on. (Pause for applause.)



Dick Yarbrough
Columnist

According to research at JohnFitch.com, a personal injury law firm in Columbus, Ohio, the most dangerous job around is in veterinary services. Unlike the humor-impaired, animals can be very unpredictable. They say veterinary jobs receive the most injuries in a 40-hour week with 13.8 injuries for every 100,000 workers. Dogs can bite you; cats can claw you; and birds can peck you; not to mention someone who brings in a cranky boa constrictor for its annual checkup.

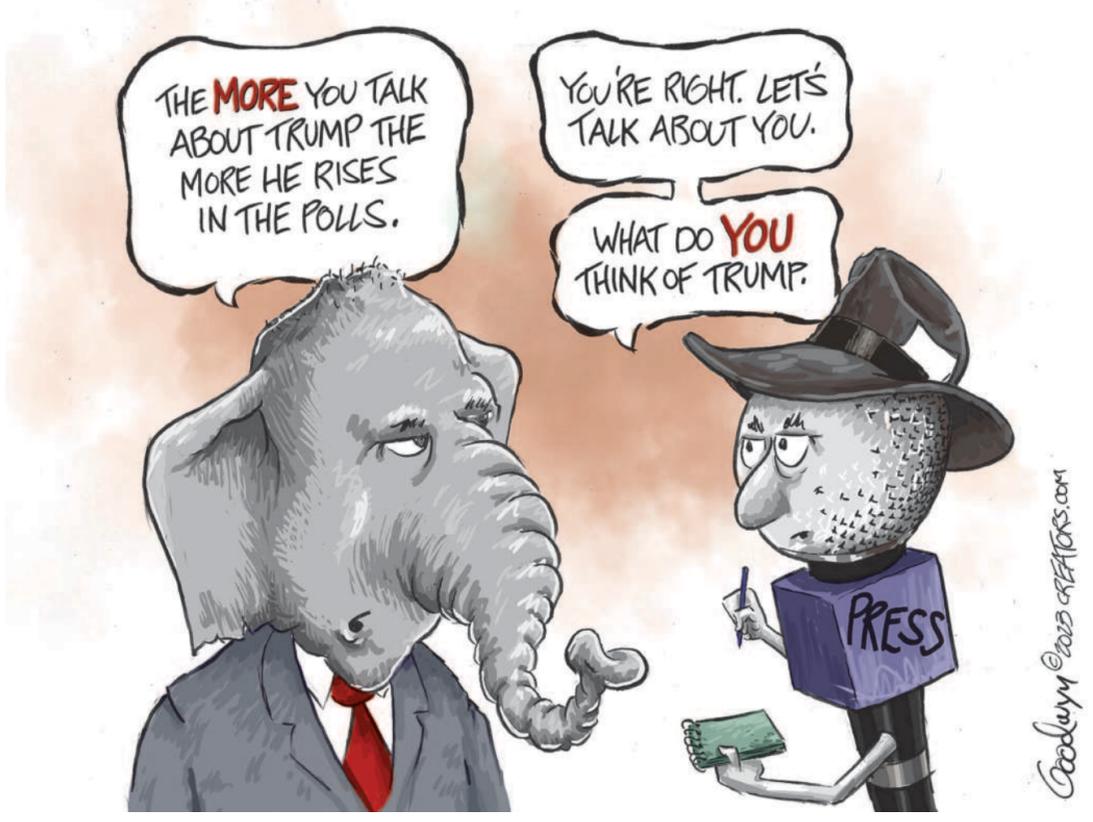
The second-most dangerous job? Here is a factoid that will wow the crowd at your next cocktail party or church picnic. The researchers at John Fitch say it is in bottled water manufacturing. Do what? You

manufacture water? I thought water – like air – came with the territory. Upon closer inspection, they are talking about getting the wet stuff into bottles, which involves machinery, and packaging, and stacking – and danger.

The Fitch study cites incidents in which pallets of water, some weighing up to 4,000 pounds, have fallen and severely injured or killed workers. I feel terrible that I might be somewhat responsible for having bought bottled water in the past, not knowing the risks I was putting on these people. From now on, I plan to get my water from the garden hose, just like I did as a kid.

The Fitch folks say the third-most dangerous job is ambulance services. I'm going to take their word for it. I have never seen the manufacturing of

MORE DANGER >> A5



Rivian off and running



Bill Crane
One Man's Opinion

Though I do not believe that we should or will see a complete fleet conversion from fossil fuels to electric vehicles, they certainly should be a growing part of the mix. And if the U.S. is going to be a leader in this space, we do have to assemble and build those EVs somewhere. As that industry is exploding globally, Georgia is staking a smart claim to be its U.S. home.

And like it or loathe it, we are well on our way. Hyundai/Kia is building a \$5.5 billion EV plant near Savannah in Ellabell, in Bryan County, and Rivian will build its second assembly plant, nearly twice as large as its first, in Stanton Springs, an industrial park straddling the borders of Newton, Morgan, Walton and Jasper counties off I-20, less than an hour east of Atlanta.

The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) has site prep underway for a new interstate exchange for the Rivian Plant, which will spread across nearly 2,000 acres, on the opposite side of I-20 from Stanton Springs's existing 1,800 acres.

And last week, Morgan County Superior Court Judge Brenda Trammell quietly signed a bond validation order, following the Georgia Supreme Court's refusal to hear an appeal challenging the Rivian project's bond

agreement by residents of the community of Rutledge in Morgan County. Previously, the Georgia Court of Appeals had ruled in favor of the usufruct and bond issuance.

That \$5-billion bond issuance was the key to the tax-incentive package offered to recruit Rivian to Georgia. In addition to gifting the site, this means Rivian will not pay property taxes (on its land and buildings) but will make Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOTs), as well as pay taxes on personal property (plant machinery and equipment), to the four counties in the Joint Development Authority.

Grading and site development on the Stanton Springs North Megasite started in 2022. Vehicle assembly is planned to begin in 2026. Rivian's technology development center will also be housed on the campus, in effect Rivian's R&D facility for future innovation and products. Rivian also has voluntarily invested millions in charging

stations and infrastructure in Georgia state parks and additional public spaces across the state, as well as announced a showroom location at Ponce City Market in Atlanta, slated to open this fall.

Rivian's first plant is in Normal/Bloomington, Ill., a college and insurance town (home of State Farm), in a refurbished but abandoned Mitsubishi assembly plant. Rivian has nearly doubled the plant's prior employment and footprint in only a few years there. The plant sits among hundreds of acres of Illinois sweet corn, as well as quite a few sheep and heads of cattle, with an employee garden at the rear of the complex, next to the Rivian Customer Experience Center. On my visit there last year, a Rivian plant worker cooked us supper using produce from that garden on a camp cookstovetop that came right out of the side of an R-1T model Rivian pickup.

Those unique pill-shaped Rivian headlamps will soon be a much more common sight on Georgia roadways. Rivian customers order their preferred make and model online and then go to pick them up at a customer experience center. Rivian currently owns and operates all of its experience centers, versus the more traditional dealership

network model. Opponents of the project, as well as economic development incentives, argue against the incentives, as well as the lack of local input in those proceedings. Though I am not a fan of usufructs, a similar deal beginning in 2005 near LaGrange for locating the continually expanding Kia Plant and related suppliers there completely revitalized that area and dozens of counties in southwest Georgia.

Back in 1979, Greene County, also near the Rivian site, was among the poorest in Georgia. Georgia Power completed construction of the Wallace Dam on the Oconee River, creating Lake Oconee and its 374 miles of shoreline across Greene, Putnam, and Morgan Counties, and beginning a real estate boon and wealthy retiree relocation boom still rippling across that region today.

This significant judicial sign-off is an official green light to move this project forward and past the starting line, along with the battery plants and related suppliers and jobs to follow. Those engines have been idling and revving for quite some time and having had the opportunity to test drive and experience a Rivian R-1T, I can attest they can make up a good bit of mileage in the most challenging of conditions pretty quickly.

News questions? Call editor Bailey McCully at 706-749-7304!

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My wife and funerals

By John Tinker (sitting in for Ronda Rich)

For some unknown reason, the other day, I began adding up the number of funerals I've attended since moving to the South. I stopped at eight since I quickly realized what a morbid, mental exercise I was undertaking.

Tallying funerals wasn't what got me thinking in the first place, anyway. It was the fact that funerals are such a common occurrence for me and Ronda; so much so that, early in our marriage, she cautioned me always to have a dark suit "ready" at all times.

It is now my personal experience that — whether it's a "home going," a "celebration of life," or some other kind of "send-off" — death is treated with greater consequence here in the South.

At this point, I should confess that, after my mother died, my siblings and I held no funeral for her. What's more, after my father died, at his request, we held no funeral for him, either. My mother's ashes are in a lovely urn atop my sister's mantelpiece where she cheerfully speaks to our mom whenever passing. As for my father's ashes? I'm aware they "reside" in a very lovely wooden box. More than that, I know not. After all, it was he who made it clear, during his life, that he wouldn't care, anyway.

Please, understand: I don't mean to sound callous. The fact that I regard their "shuffling off of their mortal coils" somewhat matter-of-factly is due to my own beliefs, beliefs which I thankfully



Ronda Rich
Dixie Divas

share with many of those here in this region and, in particular, my married-into family.

And another confession. Or, rather, a disclosure — even a bit of a spoiler for those fans of Ronda Rich: Ronda has instructed me that, when she dies, she'd like to be interred in a "Valentino red" (which, Ronda claims, is the "most perfect shade of red") dress.

She will, of course, be "featuring" a different ensemble prior to her actual interment. Yes, she's requested a wardrobe change between the viewing and the burial. Ronda's also requested several songs be sung including, "I'll Fly Away" and "They Shall Walk With Me In White".

You may be surprised to hear that Ronda does have her limits. While she thoroughly enjoyed the playing of Elvis Presley's, "Polk Salad Annie," at one funeral we attended as the casket was wheeled from the sanctuary, that kind of "irreverence" is where she seems to draw the line. For herself, at least.

Also on Ronda's funeral list: a procession from the church to the cemetery — nothing so grand as a New

Orleans jazz procession with mule-drawn carriage, coffin in tow, mourners following with parasols and singing along the way.

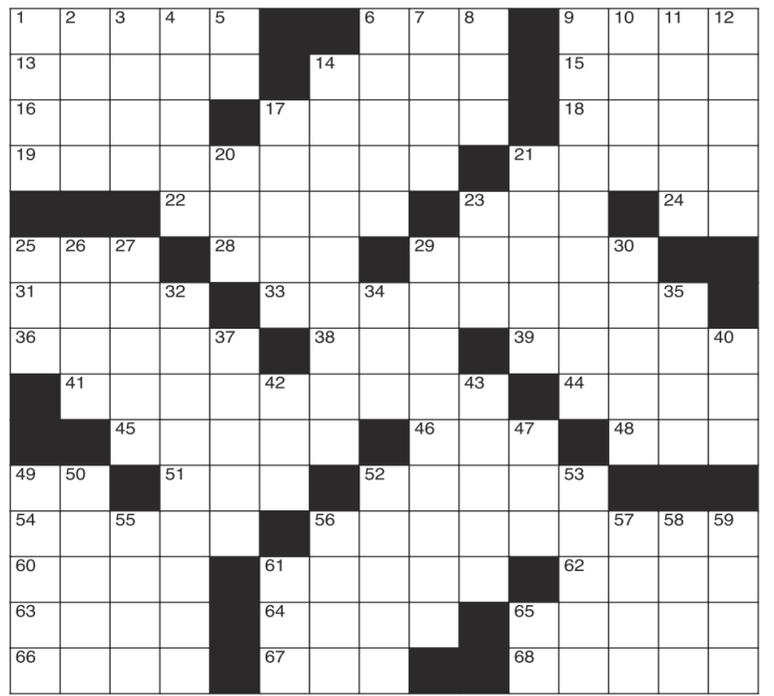
No, just a long line of cars, one where folks who are not in the actual procession, pull to the side of the road and stop. If observers would step from their cars and remove any hats, that would please my wife. When she sees and takes part in such an occasion now, she dabs away tears.

If this already isn't too much information, know that I've capitulated to Ronda's insistence that I not be cremated. Our compromise was that she agrees to forego having a viewing for me (you're welcome.) It isn't that I regard a viewing as necessarily macabre. However, we came close at one funeral where the electricity was out and we used flashlights, coffin-side.

Maybe I've just gotten used to it all, though I can say for sure that when viewing someone whose life has been extinguished, they do not, at all, look a thought they are sleeping.

As for me? Unlike Woody Allen who said, "I don't fear death. I just don't want to be around when it happens," when it's my time to go, I'll be more than fine. After all, my Savior has promised, that in an instant, I will be with Him. And nothing could ever be any better.

John Tinker, a television writer, is sitting in for his wife, Ronda Rich. He is a Southerner by choice. Not by birth. Please look for Ronda's new novel, St. Simons Island: A Stella Bankwell Mystery.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Russian painter
- 6. Very fast jet
- 9. Philippine municipality
- 13. Intestinal
- 14. Small freshwater fish
- 15. Algerian coastal city
- 16. Vomit
- 17. Famed astronomer
- 18. Ghanaian currency
- 19. Improved the condition of
- 21. Int'l association of interpreters
- 22. Infections
- 23. Dish made with lentils
- 24. Thou
- 25. Former CIA
- 28. Unit used to compare power levels
- 29. Members of Pueblo people
- 31. Myanmar monetary units
- 33. Polished
- 36. Signed a contract
- 38. Nothing
- 39. Once-ubiquitous department store
- 41. Neural structures
- 44. Thick piece of something
- 45. Slang for trucks with trailers
- 46. Longing
- 48. Senior officer

CLUES DOWN

- 1. "Iron Man" actress Leslie
- 2. Wings
- 3. Adjust the spacing
- 4. They're usually locked
- 5. Atomic #43
- 6. Wise individuals
- 7. Horse mackerel
- 8. Pearl Jam's debut album
- 9. Confines
- 10. Colorless crystalline compound
- 11. Unsatisfactorily
- 12. Plant of the parsley family
- 14. Determines time
- 17. Causes the birth of

- 20. Small ornament on a watch chain
- 21. Richly decorated cloth tapestry
- 23. Vito Corleone was one
- 25. Igbo musical instrument
- 26. Put in harmony
- 27. Japanese alcoholic drinks
- 29. Tinseltown
- 30. Closes tightly
- 32. Songs sung to one's lover
- 34. One thousandth of an inch
- 35. Small drink of whiskey
- 37. Political divisions in ancient Greece
- 40. Helps little firms
- 42. Baby's eating accessory
- 43. Very long periods of time
- 47. Small block of wood
- 49. Town in Surrey, England
- 50. Enquiry
- 52. Murdered
- 53. Bura-__: Chadic language
- 55. Crater on Mars
- 56. Mammal genus
- 57. Sock
- 58. Make
- 59. Stony waste matter
- 61. Partner to cheese
- 65. Pound

SEE PUZZLE ANSWERS >> PAGE B6

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DANGER

CONTINUED FROM >> A4

bottled water, but I have seen first responders at work — sometimes, up close and personal — and I can't imagine a more dangerous job. I'm thinking that when 4,000 pounds of bottled water falls on somebody or a vet technician is bitten by a pet possum, the EMTs are going to be the first call. And they have the third-most dangerous job?

Skiing is said to be the fourth-most dangerous job. I wouldn't know. I have never had a pair of skis on in my life. Given my agility impairment, I would probably look like the ski jumper on the old Wide World of Sports show that never made it down the chute. Besides, I don't like cold weather.

Some of the rest of the John Fitch.com rankings are pretty obvious. Nursing and residential care facilities were rated fifth-most dangerous. The report notes: "With the amount of equipment required in patient care and oftentimes long hours with little rest, there is potential for risk and injury due to the nature of this incredibly difficult industry to work

in." Not so obvious, the study says that inland water passenger transportation is more dangerous than working in correctional facilities. That raises an eyebrow. I know storms can come up on lakes and rivers on occasion, but is it really more dangerous than guarding prisoners, many of whom would gladly inflict bodily harm on an officer if given half a chance?

The Fitch list of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S. rounds out with number eight, iron foundries, where molten pig iron or iron alloy is poured into molds to manufacture castings, followed by couriers and express delivery services because of the potential in that business for road accidents, bad weather and having to deal with cuckoo customers.

Last on the top-10 list is mobile home

manufacturing, which involves "heavy machinery, tools and materials that could potentially cause harm. There is a multitude of hazards that make these manufacturing jobs dangerous to work in." Not to mention, mobile homes seem to be the first to go in a storm, which has got to be frustrating.

If you work in any of the above industries, I urge you to be really careful. I don't want a parakeet to claw you or a palette of water to fall on you or for you to go and break a bone skiing or get hot pig iron poured on you or any of the other above-mentioned hazards. I need you, dear reader. I mean, why else would I risk doing such a dangerous job?

You can reach Dick Yarbrough at dick-yarbrough.com or at P.O. Box 725373, Atlanta, Ga. 31139

SUDOKU PUZZLE

7			3		4			
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Level: Intermediate

SEE PUZZLE ANSWERS >> PAGE B6



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The Baldwin Bulletin

CRIME WATCH

Unknown suspect damages door

On Aug. 17, law enforcement was dispatched to West Charlton Street in reference to damage to property. After clearing the location, law enforcement spoke with the complainant and learned the door of the location was found open and damaged. The damages to the door were valued at approximately \$500. Law enforcement also noted there were three holes in the walls inside the residence, however, the complainant stated he did not know if the damage to the walls was done by the person who damaged the door. Personnel had not entered the location since the previous tenant moved out of the location, approximately one month ago. According to the report, the holes appeared to be there for a while. As of *The Baldwin Bulletin's* deadline, there is no further information.

Males attempt to steal electronics from Walmart

On Aug. 17, law enforcement was dispatched to Walmart in reference to theft. Law enforcement received a call in reference to a red sedan with several males on the property stealing from the store. Prior to the officer's arrival, an employee advised the vehicle had circled the building and left heading southbound on North Columbia Street. The employee stated he had just returned to the property when he began to walk near the gardening section and observed a red passenger car backed in near the gardening section. As he approached, he saw a male walking inside the perimeter of the gardening section as if he was looking for something. Upon being seen by the male, he took off on foot back inside the store and the red car proceeded around the back of the building. Reportedly the two males had camouflage bookbags with suspected stolen merchandise in them. They left out of the produce section front door and jumped into the red car, which was waiting near the in-store pick-up parking. Upon viewing security cameras, law enforcement observed the red car parking in front of the northernmost front entrance and four males exited the vehicle. All four males entered the store and proceeded to wander around for the next hour before one male backed the car near the gardening section. While investigating the gardening section, several electronic products were located stashed above some gardening products and suspected to be some of the items the males attempted to steal. A training receipt was produced with the known items attempted to be stolen totaling \$644.26. Photos were taken of the four males but they have yet to be identified, as of *The Baldwin Bulletin's* deadline.

Woman steals tow truck

On Aug. 17, law enforcement was dispatched to the area of Gordon Highway and Colony Farm Road in reference to a female stealing a tow truck from Pittman's Towing lot. Another Pittman's Towing driver spotted the truck and blocked it on the road. The driver of the stolen truck was detained and identified as Lillian Adams. The other driver reported that the company has no female tow truck drivers and that when Adams exited the truck, she appeared to be on some kind of drugs and was saying obscure things. Adams was placed under arrest and admitted

to using methamphetamine earlier that day. Nothing appeared to be damaged or stolen from the vehicle. The tow truck was turned over to the company. A warrant for theft by taking was secured on Lillian Adams.

Man steals bike from Zaxby's

On Aug. 18, law enforcement was dispatched to Zaxby's, on North Columbia Street, in reference to a stolen bicycle. The complainant stated that when she got off of work she went to get her on her black and yellow electric bike, valued at \$600, and found it was missing from the backdoor. She rode the bike to work and last saw the bike that morning. Video footage was provided of a male wearing a black hat, black t-shirt, and black sports shorts walking to the back door, where the bike was stationed, and getting on the bike. They left riding towards Waffle House. In a later report, law enforcement stated the bike was found behind a shed, where officers were advised Daniel Hartry slept. Hartry advised he did not remember being at Zaxby's and, while being arrested, he attempted to flee on foot but was detained a few feet away. The bike was later returned to the victim.

Man arrested for DUI and possession of marijuana

On Aug. 18, law enforcement was patrolling the area of State Route 22 near Lake Laurel Road and observed a vehicle failing to maintain its lane of travel. A traffic stop was initiated near State Route 22 and Kings Road and the driver eventually stopped at East Hancock Street and North Lincoln Street. The driver identified himself as Rondrell Durden and stated his license was suspended. While speaking with the driver, law enforcement detected the odor of an unknown alcoholic beverage and the smell of marijuana. When asked if he had any marijuana in the vehicle, Durden advised that he did and retrieved two small plastic bags containing suspected marijuana from the center console. Durden also stated that he had consumed some alcohol earlier in the day. A deputy responded to the location to conduct the Standardized Field Sobriety test on Durden and, based on the conclusion of the tests, Durden was placed under arrest for suspected driving under the influence. Durden was charged with possession of marijuana less than one ounce, driving while license suspended or revoked, failing to maintain lane, and driving under the influence.

Man caught with methamphetamine

On Aug. 19, law enforcement was checking the parking lot of the Jet Food Store on South Wayne Street when an officer observed a male appearing to avoid them. A check of the tag of their vehicle alerted the officer it was expired. The officer waited on the other side of the store to verify who was driving the vehicle, however, the driver eventually pulled out of the parking lot. The vehicle pulled into the Town and County shopping center parking lot and to the side of Quality Pawn where the driver began rapidly exiting the vehicle. The officer had followed the vehicle and

MORE CRIME WATCH >> A7



Baldwin County Property Transfers Through Aug. 11

Date	Price	Buyer	Seller	Property Address
7/21/23	\$154,480	Shepard, Elizabeth	Shepard, Glenn	086C 059
7/28/23	\$229,900	Hunt, Candance	Riz Communities & Development, LLC	381 Oakwood DR Milledgeville
7/31/23	\$375,000	William S. Frederick and Joyce C. Lilly	Coletta Joy Ward and Robert B. Ward	083 018
7/31/23	\$229,900	Harrison, Milo	Buyside Capital Advisors, LLC	255 Oakwood DR NW Milledgeville
8/2/23	\$95,000	Barber, David	Byrd, James	Lot 30 Cedar LN
8/3/23	\$329,900	Patel, Mitesh	Attaway, Brantley	084B 053
8/4/23	\$489,500	Baliko, Keith	John Harrill and Mary Harrill as Co-Trustees of the John Harrill and Mary Harrill Living Trust u/a d	062C 033
8/4/23	\$50,000	Biba, Hana	Brigham, Grace	310 Brook ST
8/4/23	\$1,000	Palmer, Jewel	Smith, Randy	183 ALLEN MEMORIAL DR
8/7/23	\$233,000	Goff, David	Lamar, Aiesha	102 Persimmon LN
8/7/23	\$128,200	Hoffa Properties, LLC	Bobby Henderson	M40 141
8/8/23	\$220,000	Valdes, Lazaro	Serafini Rental Properties, LLC	133 Sandy Beach RD NE
8/9/23	\$101,000	TRASK, JACK	WALDEN, SR., BOBBY	021 004
8/9/23	\$73,500	Adams, Laurie	Christi G. Harris, Trustee of The Evelyn M. Gunn Irrevocable Trust dated July 26, 2022	063A 071
8/9/23	\$5,000	Lawrence, G.	Woodland Terrace Properties, LLC	Fernwood DR
8/9/23	\$10,000	Woodland Terrace Properties, LLC	Lawrence, G.	Verndale DR
8/11/23	\$124,000	Myers, Charles	Eady, Tony	025 033
8/11/23	\$619,900	McLain, Timothy	Komaee, David	120 W Montego CT NW
8/11/23	\$16,500	Professional Home Builder, LLC	Thomas Davis Developments, LLC	2267 Leo CT

The Baldwin Bulletin

ARREST REPORTS

Aug. 16

- Raquaz Demon Burch**, 38, of Milledgeville - parole violation
- John Michael Califf**, 43, of Milledgeville - failure to register as a sex offender
- Keshawn Terrell Daniels**, 23, of Milledgeville - willful obstruction of law enforcement officers (misdemeanor); disorderly conduct
- Mandy Jane Davis**, 36, of Milledgeville - probation violation
- Latroy Zakare Hardwick**, 19, of Macon - aggravated assault
- Robert Lee Howard**, 50, of Milledgeville - parole violation
- Catavius Lashawn Reaves**, 32, of Milledgeville - probation violation
- Rodney Lee Rhodes**, 41, of Milledgeville - probation violation
- Amanda Ann Reynolds**, 32, of Milledgeville - driving without a valid license; tail lights required

Aug. 17

- Lillian Marie Adams**, 22, of Milledgeville - theft by taking (felony); failure to appear
- Christopher Jermaine Butts**, 39, of Macon - probation violation
- Brandon Patrick Ford**, 36, of Milledgeville - probation violation
- Thomas James Kitchens**, 46, of Milledgeville - parole violation
- David Orlandor King Jr.**, 17, of Milledgeville - disorderly conduct
- Jean Thompson**, 68, of Milledgeville - maintaining disorderly house
- Fredrick Cornelius Thomas**, 37, of Milledgeville - probation violation

Aug. 18

- Detrick Demon Collier**, 41, of Milledgeville - failure to appear
- Alicen Jene Cole**, 40, of Milledgeville - willful obstruction of law enforcement officers (misdemeanor)
- Justin Charles Cunningham**, 22, of Milledgeville - driving while license suspended or revoked; failure to appear
- Rondrell Antonio Durden**, 45, of Milledgeville - driving while license suspended or revoked; DUI (alcohol); failure to drive within single lane; possession less than one ounce of marijuana
- Tquez Finney**, 31, of Milledgeville - theft by taking (felony)
- Terrica Laquita Hicks**, 43, of Covington - failure to appear

Willie Frank Howell, 37, of McIntyre - aggravated assault

- Samuel Georgia Lent**, 19, of Oxford - furnishing, purchasing, and possession of alcoholic beverages by persons below age limit; open container in vehicle
- Jaques Montavious Ray**, 31, of Milledgeville - aggravated assault; two charges of cruelty to children (third degree); willful obstruction of law enforcement officers (misdemeanor)

Aug. 19

- Edward Antonio Brown**, 46, of Milledgeville - two charges of willful obstruction of law enforcement officers (misdemeanors); public drunkenness
- Todd Stephen Greene**, 58, of Milledgeville - possession of methamphetamine
- Daniel Antonio Hartry**, 26, of Milledgeville - probation violation; theft by taking; two charges of willful obstruction of law enforcement officers (misdemeanor)
- Gildardo Flores Mondragon**, 23, of Snellville - driving without valid license
- Jonterrius Peters**, 24, of Milledgeville - failure to appear
- Antron Davon Reaves**, 35, of Milledgeville - DUI (alcohol); failure to drive within single lane; improper backing; lighted headlights required at certain times
- Kenneth Satcher**, 19, of Milledgeville - two charges of willful obstruction of law enforcement (misdemeanors)
- Dominique Maureen Thompson**, 37, of Milledgeville - DUI (alcohol); DUI (endangering life of a child); failure to drive within single lane
- Montavis Perez Webster**, 28, of Milledgeville - simple battery (family violence)
- Nasair Rashad White**, 19, of Milledgeville - expired or no license plate or decal; driving while license suspended or revoked

Aug. 20

- Kijaun Marquize Blount**, 30, of Milledgeville - probation violation
- Shelby Tyler Gee**, 30, of Milledgeville - DUI (alcohol); fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer (felony); no insurance; speeding
- Lori Jean Omasta**, 57, of Milledgeville - criminal trespass
- Jamario Monquez Reese**, 35, of Milledgeville - driving vehicle when registration suspended or revoked; DUI (alcohol); failure to obey traffic control device

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>> SUPPORTING AREA ARTISTS

Allied Arts hosts Cindy Stubbs exhibit

Bailey McCully
bailey@bbnews.today

Allied Arts hosted an exhibition for Cindy Stubbs, an artist from Social Circle, known for hand-built pottery and acrylic painting.

Stubbs first began exploring her interest in the two mediums when she was in high school. According to Stubbs, her high school art teacher "allowed freedom of originality." Anything she created in that class allowed her the opportunity to put personal expression and interest into it.

"I had a great art teacher who let us explore whatever we wanted. The freedom she gave us to create is what allowed us to learn and become interested in art and its various mediums," said Stubbs.

According to Stubbs, her interest in art led her to become involved with the community. She began volunteering with Bridge of Georgia, a therapy center for kids with special needs, to assist with pottery and

would eventually begin teaching pottery. She has taught twice a week at the Rutledge Community Depot for six years. She has also worked closely with Social Circle Theater to teach classes and teach during their annual camp.

"Art has always come naturally to me. I took classes here and there but my experience has primarily been self-driven," said Stubbs. "And I love working in my community to teach and volunteer with various events."

According to Stubbs, when teaching, she has followed that same model of freedom that her high school teacher offered her. She believes that making art that only fits specific criteria prevents it from being personal.

"Without the freedom to add your own work, it's more of a copy or their (whomever the teacher is) work," said Stubbs. "I tell my students that I'm just here to edge them in and that I want them to do their own thing. They are encouraged to change colors, sizes, and more to

make it their own." Stubbs encourages color and expression above all else in her lessons. Teaching how to explore that desire to make art one's own is the core of her classes.

"If we are painting daisies, for example, I bring out a huge color palette. I may be showing them how to paint white daisies but if that doesn't agree with them I encourage them to find what speaks to them. Paint them another color, make them have polka dots, and such. Whatever makes those daisies feel like they are yours and not a reprint of my own," said Stubbs.

According to Stubbs, her favorite part of teaching art in these various events is seeing the smiles and final creations that come out of her classes.

"Nothing is worth more than seeing them smile at their own creation," said Stubbs.

Learning about Stubbs through her own submission to a local art contest hosted by Allied Arts, the

nonprofit organization reached out to Stubbs to host her first exhibit. According to Stubbs, the opening reception on Aug. 11 had a large turnout with many people traveling a long way to see her art.

"This is my first ever exhibit and I was overwhelmed by the recognition," said Stubbs. "It really touched my heart knowing how many people traveled a long distance to come see my art and look at the display."

Each piece exhibited was picked out by Stubbs and her daughter, who also assisted her in pricing everything. The exhibit closed on Aug. 24 but left a lasting impression on Stubbs and the many who were able to visit.



Cindy Stubbs is an artist from Social Circle.

CONTRIBUTED



CONTRIBUTED

Stubbs paintings use a lot of colorful expressions to bring out a sense of environment.

CRIME WATCH

CONTINUED FROM >> A6

ordered the male back into the vehicle, which he complied to. The driver was identified as Todd Greene. Greene was advised why he was stopped and given a warning for the expired tag. Greene stated he intended on letting the finance company repossess the vehicle because he needed a truck. Green was advised he would need to park the vehicle if he had no intentions of renewing the tag.

Nothing illegal was located inside the vehicle. Greene then gave consent to do a search of his person and law enforcement removed a cigarette pack from Greene's left front pants pocket. Inside the pack, a small plastic bag containing a substance believed to be methamphetamine was found. Greene originally stated he had just found the cigarettes on the ground at the store and didn't know there was methamphetamine inside. After urging Greene to be truthful, he stated the methamphetamine was his. A warrant was secured on Greene for possession of methamphetamine.

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BAILEY McCULLY/Staff

The Life Enrichment Center alongside all of their supporters and LEC individuals cuts the ribbon to the Urban Arts Village.

PARTY

CONTINUED FROM >> A1

hard work and help that was contributed to create this village and make it a home for us to host events like these," said Barbara Coleman, executive director of The Life Enrichment Center. "We had a large turnout for our event and so many vendors and volunteers who made it possible. We couldn't do anything like this without the support of the community."

The Kids Block party was the largest site for GC Gives Day, an annual event hosted by GCSU where first year students volunteer at various sites. Every volunteer and vendor had assistance from GCSU students. Students were assigned to sites that best aligned with their academic major and career interests.

"GCSU Gives Day is a fundamental piece of the liberal arts education we provide students at Georgia College," said Ashley Copeland, director of Community Engagement & Service, in a press release. "Right from the start, GCSU Gives Day shows our new students what it means to be a part of Georgia College. We give back."

GC Gives Day volunteers led activities, assisted with registration, helped with parking, interacted with LEC individuals and worked one-on-one with attendees of the block party. According to Coleman, these students were one of the largest contributors to the day's success.

"When planning the event, we ensured it aligned with the date of GC Gives Day because we wanted to have a big event with lots of opportunities for the students, our individuals, and attendees," said Coleman. "GCSU has been a very big supporter of the LEC in numerous ways and we are just so grateful for their continued support."

One of the block party's big events included the university's Sandra Dunagan Deal Center for Early Language and Literacy giving away copies of *Thunder Learns*



BAILEY McCULLY/Staff

Georgia College & State University President Cathy Cox reads *Thunder Learns to Read* to GCSU mascot Thunder and attendees on the main deck.

to *Read* that GCSU President Cathy Cox read to the GCSU mascot Thunder on the main deck. School supplies, packed by students, were also distributed.

"We always look forward to offering a chance for students to read and learn about reading," said Kim Scott, director of operations for the Sandra Dunagan Deal Center for Early Language and Literacy. "Today (Aug. 19), kids are getting a chance not only to receive a copy of *Thunder Learns to Read* but to also win some free books in our raffle and meet Thunder, the star of the story. It's a great opportunity to introduce kids to a love of reading."

Dr. Linda Bradley, professor of literacy education at GCSU, and author of *Thunder Learns to Read*, was also present during the event and sang a song with kids after the reading to encourage them to read more and be a "wonder" like Thunder. According to GCSU's newsletter *This Week* published on May 11, 2021, Bradley worked with professional illustrator Min McGlaughn for the project to write and illustrate how Thunder decides he wants to learn to read and the challenges he faces along the way.

"I always enjoy seeing the kids interact with the book," said Bradley. "And it's always fun to have Thunder reliving his experience with the kids."

A total of about 300 people were recorded by registration attending the event. Numerous LEC employees and vendors remarked on the large turnout and how happy it made them to see the community coming together. For Coleman, seeing the interactivity between community

members and LEC individuals made her "overjoyed."

"We want a world where people look at each other for their abilities not disabilities," said Coleman. "Today (Aug. 19), we were all just one large community having fun and working together towards a common goal. And that is what the Urban Arts Village will continue to do, connect Baldwin County and the LEC together as a single community."



BAILEY McCULLY/Staff

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>> JOHN MILLEDGE ACADEMY



TREY NORRIS/Staff

In his first game start as JMA's new quarterback, junior Kolt McMichael (7) impressed with a pair of touchdown passes and two carries for scores against visiting Brentwood last Friday night.

Trojans trounce Brentwood War Eagles

Trey Norris
The Baldwin Bulletin

John Milledge Academy (JMA) got its 2023 season off to a dominant start last Friday when it hosted the Brentwood War Eagles. In a battle of defending state champions, the Trojans beat the War Eagles 43-3 at Trojan Field.

Last season, Brentwood won its first state title since 2003 and it arrived in Milledgeville with hopes of ending one of the greatest winning streaks in state history, held by a team coming off its fourth-straight state title after notching 50 consecutive victories.

JMA quarterback Kolt McMichael enjoyed his first-career start, throwing two touchdowns and rushing for two others. Jalen Butts also had a hot start to the season with three interceptions on the night and hauling in a receiving touchdown as well.

JMA opened the scoring with a McMichael 29-yard rushing score. JMA newcomer Jayden Dorsey then picked up his first interception as a Trojan when he intercepted a pass on Brentwood's first drive of the night.

JMA's ensuing drive would end on an interception as well, but Brentwood was unsuccessful on its possession, turning the ball over to Jalen Butts on another intercepted pass. Justin England also made an interception for the Trojans later in the night.

The Trojans reached the end zone again on an McMichael 18-yard rushing touchdown, shortly before Jalen Butts got his second interception of the night. That set up the Trojans for a 31-yard McMichael touchdown pass to Butts, giving JMA a 21-0 lead with the extra point after.

JMA's lone score in the second quarter came on an

obscure punt return with Davis Todd rushing past defenders to the end zone for six. Brentwood would score their only points of the game with a 34-yard field goal as the first half wound down.

To start the second half, a crowd of Trojan defenders tackled a Brentwood ball carrier in their own endzone for a safety, extending the Trojans lead to 30-3.

JMA lost the ball to a fumble on its following drive, but Brentwood quickly turned the ball over to Jalen Butts' final interception of the night. The Trojans then went on another long touchdown drive that ended with McMichael throwing to Bud Veal in the endzone for a 36-3 Trojans lead.

JMA had one more scoring drive left as they ended the game at 43-3 after Bryce McDonel made a 9-yard touchdown carry, followed by the extra point.



TREY NORRIS/Staff

Senior Trojans wide receiver Jalen Butts (13) enjoyed a good start to his season on Friday by catching a touchdown pass and making three interceptions on defense against the Brentwood War Eagles.

>> BALDWIN HIGH SCHOOL

Baldwin pounds Peach County in season opener

Lance McCurley
lance@bbnews.today

After a disappointing 2022 season, Baldwin started 2023 with a win over Peach County last Friday. The Braves traveled down to Fort Valley and left with a 34-13 victory over the Class AAA Trojans.

Baldwin head coach Jesse Hicks said he liked what he saw from his players in the 2023 season opener.

"Going back to last year, everything [we do] is about execution. We've had a huge buy-in from our kids from last December until Friday. Our guys have done that," Hicks said. "It's been on the field and in the weight room, too. Our guys are really physical and want to play that brand of football."

The Braves executed well and were physical in Fort Valley. Their offensive explosion was sparked by running backs Micah Welch and Sadur Salahuddin, who each rushed for over 100 yards.

Welch, a Class 4A Preseason All-State

selection and Colorado commit, led Baldwin in rushing with two touchdowns. The 5-foot-10, 210-pound back also had an 88-yard kick return for a score. Salahuddin is only a sophomore but was just as physical and dominant against the Trojans.

Hicks said Welch is the center of his team's offense, but the Braves have multiple other weapons, including Salahuddin, quarterback Lamar Pounds, plus wideouts Armontae Palmer and Jacobe Jackson.

"A thing that a lot of people get misconstrued about our football team is that if you stop Micah, you're going to be able to stop us offensively. But we've got multiple weapons on that side [of the ball]," Hicks said. "Lamar, our quarterback, does a great job of getting the ball to different players. We had two backs over 100 yards in Micah and Sadur Salahuddin, who had an awesome night. Lamar was also throwing the ball to Jacobe Jackson and Armontae, too."

Hicks credited his team's offensive success and defensive prowess to his players up front in the trenches.

"We were able to spread the ball around pretty good, but all that starts up front," Hicks said. "We have very good offensive and defensive lines, probably the best since our trip to the Georgia Dome in 2005 when we had two SEC linemen on the team. I think this year's offensive line is extremely young, with three of those guys being tenth graders, but they seem to be the most stable. So, our offensive and defensive lines are really the ones that are guiding us right now."

Welch scored the game's first two touchdowns before senior defensive back Yauri Calixte picked off a Trojans' pass late in the second quarter. He then returned it for six, giving the Braves a 20-0 lead.

The Trojans scored on the opening drive of the second half, with senior Dwayne Coleman scoring from a few yards out. However, even after it seemed like Peach County

was going to mount a comeback, Welch sucked the life out of the Trojans with his 88-yard kickoff return for a score.

That was the nail in the coffin for the contest, despite both teams reaching the end zone one more time each. The momentum shifted back in the Braves' favor for good when Welch crossed the goal line.

Overall, Hicks was impressed with how his team fared against the Trojans. The longtime Baldwin head coach reiterated how important physicality is in the game and how it was on full display Friday.

"There's nothing like being physical," he said. "If you're not used to playing that brand of football, you'll have to step up and stop it. I'm really happy with what our players and staff have done."

Baldwin hopes to continue its winning streak at home on Friday against border rival Putnam County. The War Eagles defeated the Braves 23-14 last year in each team's opener at Al Reaves Field. Hicks



LANCE MCCURLEY/Staff

Baldwin running back Micah Welch (5) stiff arms a Putnam County defender during last season's opener in Eatonton.

and his team have a lot of respect for Putnam County and new head coach Joel Harvin. He said the War Eagles are another physical team and his guys can't wait to step onto the field with them.

"I think that plays right into what we want to do, to be honest with you.

Our guys want to be physical; they like when you attempt to run the ball," Hicks said. "We don't see much Wing-T in this area of the state, but I know they'll be running it and our guys are going to step up to the challenge."

Kickoff is set for 7:30 p.m. Friday at Braves Field in Milledgeville.

WEATHER GEORGIA'S LAKE COUNTRY

LOCAL WEATHER INFORMATION PROVIDED BY ACCESSWEATHER.COM

SEVEN DAY FORECAST

Lake Country Weather Report

Putnam County's Seven Day Forecast

Aug. 24, 2023

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Sunny	Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Few Showers	Cloudy
High: 94 Low: 71	High: 97 Low: 73	High: 98 Low: 74	High: 90 Low: 70	High: 88 Low: 69	High: 90 Low: 70	High: 92 Low: 73

Local Lake Levels

Local Lake	Full Pool	Latest Level
Jackson	530	528.82
Oconee	435	434.88
Sinclair	340	338.50

All full pools and latest lake levels are in feet.

Putnam County Recreational Forecast

Today we will see sunny skies, high temperature of 94°, humidity of 49%. East southeast wind 4 mph. The heat index for today could reach up to 99°. The record high temperature for today is 102° set in 1938. Expect clear skies tonight, overnight low of 71°. South wind 4 to 7 mph. The record low for tonight is 54° set in 1997. Friday, skies will be sunny, high temperature of 97°, humidity of 51%. West southwest wind 6 mph. Friday night, skies will be mostly clear, overnight low of 73°. Southwest wind 6 mph. Saturday, skies will be mostly sunny, high of 98°, humidity of 50%.

Weather History

Aug. 24, 1989 - Late afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in eastern Montana and western sections of the Dakotas. Thunderstorms in Montana produced wind gusts to 76 mph at Jordan and golf ball size hail at Rock Springs.

Weather Trivia

When was the first weather satellite launched?

Answer: On April 1, 1960, TIROS I was launched in the United States.

For more weather updates, please visit: www.WhatsOurWeather.com

Sun/Moon Chart This Week

	Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset	
First 8/24	Thursday	7:01 a.m.	8:08 p.m.	2:45 p.m.	12:00 a.m.	Last 9/6
	Friday	7:02 a.m.	8:07 p.m.	3:51 p.m.	12:43 a.m.	
	Saturday	7:03 a.m.	8:05 p.m.	4:57 p.m.	1:35 a.m.	
Full 8/30	Sunday	7:03 a.m.	8:04 p.m.	5:56 p.m.	2:37 a.m.	New 9/14
	Monday	7:04 a.m.	8:03 p.m.	6:49 p.m.	3:48 a.m.	
	Tuesday	7:05 a.m.	8:02 p.m.	7:33 p.m.	5:03 a.m.	
	Wednesday	7:05 a.m.	8:00 p.m.	8:11 p.m.	6:20 a.m.	

Aug. 25, 1987 - Morning thunderstorms produced heavy rain in eastern Nebraska and southwestern Iowa. Stanton, Iowa reported 10.5 inches of rain. Water was reported up to the handle of automobiles west of Greenwood, Neb.

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DENNIS STATION	1PM-7PM	7AM-7PM	CLOSED	7AM-7PM	7AM-7PM	7AM-7PM	8AM-7PM
WARDS CHAPEL	1PM-7PM	7AM-7PM	CLOSED	7AM-7PM	7AM-7PM	7AM-7PM	8AM-7PM
LONG SHOALS	1PM-7PM	7AM-11AM 3PM-7PM	CLOSED	7AM-11AM 3PM-7PM	CLOSED	7AM-11AM 3PM-7PM	8AM-7PM
RABBIT SKIP	1PM-7PM	7AM-11AM 3PM-7PM	CLOSED	7AM-11AM 3PM-7PM	CLOSED	7AM-11AM 3PM-7PM	8AM-7PM
ROCK EAGLE	1PM-7PM	7AM-11AM 3PM-7PM	CLOSED	CLOSED	7AM-11AM 3PM-7PM	CLOSED	8AM-7PM
REID DRIVE	1PM-7PM	7AM-11AM 3PM-7PM	CLOSED	CLOSED	7AM-11AM 3PM-7PM	CLOSED	8AM-7PM
ROCKVILLE	1PM-7PM	7AM-11AM 3PM-7PM	CLOSED	7AM-11AM 3PM-7PM	CLOSED	7AM-11AM 3PM-7PM	8AM-7PM
GLADES RD	1PM-7PM	7AM-11AM 3PM-7PM	CLOSED	CLOSED	7AM-11AM 3PM-7PM	CLOSED	8AM-7PM
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>> GEORGIA MILITARY COLLEGE

Battle of the Bulldogs goes to Wheeler



Trey Norris
The Baldwin Bulletin

The GMC Prep Bulldogs got off to a rough start last Friday when the visiting Wheeler County Bulldogs won the season opener 41-7 at Davenport Field in Milledgeville.

It turned out to be a tough night on both sides of the ball for GMC and new head coach Bobby Rhoades. The Bulldogs are still transitioning to a new offensive scheme while finding their guy at quarterback. Logan McMillan made his first career regular season start on Friday and completed 4 of 7 passes for 14 yards.

Rhoades said there isn't really a competition at quarterback as much as there are just certain signal-callers he and his coaches like to have in the game for certain situations. "There are certain things we like about both guys,"

Rhoades said of McMillan and Johnathan Roach under center. "There are certain situations we like for one of the guys to be in the game and other situations for another guy."

GMC was down 13-0 after a rushing and passing touchdown from Wheeler County, due to a missed extra point on its second scoring drive. After a short drive for GMC, the Bulldogs punted the ball back to Wheeler County, giving it the ball on GMC's 45-yard line.

A long pass completion from Wheeler quarterback Rhett Rodgers to wide receiver Kenton Mincey then put the Bulldogs on GMC's 10-yard line. They completed the drive with another score on the ground followed by a two-point conversion on a Lamarcus Woodward rush to make it a 21-0 game at halftime.

It didn't get any better for

the hometown Bulldogs. To start the second half, Wheeler County scored another rushing TD in the third quarter, then tacked on two more in the fourth.

Meanwhile, GMC eventually broke through with an 8-yard rushing touchdown by Roach in the final quarter to reach the 41-7 final.

Despite the loss, Rhoades insisted he still saw things he liked from his Bulldogs.

"I was proud of the way we finished with a scoring drive and how we had guys who got knocked down and kept getting back up," Rhoades said.

"But we've got to learn to be more physical up front and we've got a lot of work to do as a team," he added. "We're a very young team and we're going to have some tough nights but we're going to get better. I don't know exactly when that is, but we'll get there."

TREY NORRIS/Staff
Logan McMillan got his first career start at quarterback for the GMC Bulldogs last Friday night, but unfortunately, it led to a 41-7 loss for the home team.

Deep thoughts on deep woods

Have you ever heard or seen something long before daylight on the way to your deer stand? And I'm not talking about these sissy stands about 20 yards off the road with feeders, air conditioning and comfy chairs. I mean one of those stands so far off that about halfway in, no matter your physical condition, you are wondering if you were in your right mind to put it so far away.

Yep. That stand. Now, my folks are from the mountains. We are solid Appalachian stock, and I grew up with stories of haints and boogers, panthers (panthers or mountain lions), wild people, and outlaws. I



James K. Pressley

Pressley Outdoors
jameskpressley@gmail.com

heard my great-grandmother tell of hearing panthers scream at night and of her own grandmother walking home late at night and being stalked by them.

I've heard great uncles and cousins tell of ghosts

and spirits that were lurking in the deep hollers of the Fannin and Gilmer County regions of Georgia. I love those old stories and I'd give anything to hear them again around those same fireplaces, on those same porches, in those same old hills.

But right now, I want to know if on one of those those long walks toward a deep-woods stand, have you ever seen or heard something you just can't explain?

Last year in Morgan County, for instance, there was a sighting of Big Foot. Now you may laugh, and you may scoff, but I won't. I'm a bit too afraid to offend whatever that

might be. Is Big Foot real? I have no idea, but my people have been telling stories of him since before there was time.

On a walk at night following hounds through a middle-Georgia swamp have you ever stopped walking and heard footsteps continue? Have you ever peered through the mist of an early morning only to see bodies walking and the figures of those long since gone? All these things are commonplace among the people of the Appalachians. We settled in an area never wanted by anyone for centuries, with native peoples no one had seen when we arrived and histories no one knew.

To be honest, though, I've never seen Big Foot. I did go to his museum last year with my wife and kids, though. Pretty cool place just outside Blue Ridge. We had been up at Lake Blue Ridge with my aunt, cousin, and his family at their lake house.

On the way home my wife and I thought it would be fun to stop, and it was. It gave a fascinating history of the creature and its sightings and folklore, and in my family, we are suckers for old homes, battlefields and museums. We all enjoyed it and spent way more than an hour in there that afternoon.

I have, however, seen a ghost, but that's a story

for a different day. I just thought that right before deer season opens and everyone gets out in the woods amongst all those creatures and beings that you ignored the rest of the year, remember a lot of them haven't been ignoring you!

While you walk through the woods early one morning, think of all those who walked the same land, the same river bottoms, the same ridges before you. Even though it was long ago, let's just hope they are pleasant companions for the trek.

In all seriousness, though, enjoy the coming season.

Tight lines and following seas, y'all!



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Si detecta este olor en el aire, por mínimo que sea:

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No intente localizar la fuente del olor.
- Leave the area immediately and alert others.
Abandone el área inmediatamente y alerte a los demás.
- Avoid using any sources of ignition, such as cell phones, cigarettes, matches, flashlights, electronic devices, motorized vehicles, light switches or landlines.
Evite usar cualquier fuente de ignición, por ejemplo, teléfonos celulares, cigarrillos, fósforos, linternas, aparatos electrónicos, vehículos a motor, interruptores de luz o teléfonos fijos.
- Call Atlanta Gas Light at **877.427.4321** or **911** once you are out of the area and in a safe place.

*Llame a Atlanta Gas Light at **877.427.4321** o al **911** una vez que esté fuera del área y en un lugar seguro.*

BUSINESS UPDATES



The cows at Stone Gable Farm are allowed to roam, and Weidner believes this makes the meat taste better because the cows are happier.

Stone Gable Farm offers variety of meats

Story and photos by Alaina Clarke
alaina@msgnews.com

Stone Gable Farm, a local beef farm, sells to residents around the area, and keeps their cows happy while doing so.

Chris Weidner, the farm owner, said he's lived in Jones County since the late 1960s. He said he came to Jones County from Indiana, because his father bought land and was transferred.

"Jones County is home. Everybody likes to move here," he said. "Back in the 1970s you had to drive down the road with your hand in the air, because everyone knew you. If you didn't do that, someone would get offended. Gray is still the number one place to be in Georgia."

The owner said he always farmed, and he loves it. His family had another farm in the 1970s before they bought Stone Gable Farm. He said they have had cows ever

since they have had Stone Gable Farm.

"Stone Gable Farm started in 1979 when my parents bought this land, and through a divorce most of the land was sold off. My wife and I bought the house and remaining acres from my parents, and it's just been carried on from there," Weidner said.

The owner said Stone Gable Farm is a good learning opportunity to know what happens with beef. He said FFA members visit the farm to help them feed the cows and learn more about cows. They enjoy being at the farm, and he can answer their questions. He said he doesn't want people to lose sight of where their food comes from.

"Stone Gable Farm is important, because it gives people a chance to come out and see the cows. A lot of people have never seen a cow up close," he said. "They don't know the

process, and we have a lot of people who want to pick out their cow to be harvested. They can shop locally."

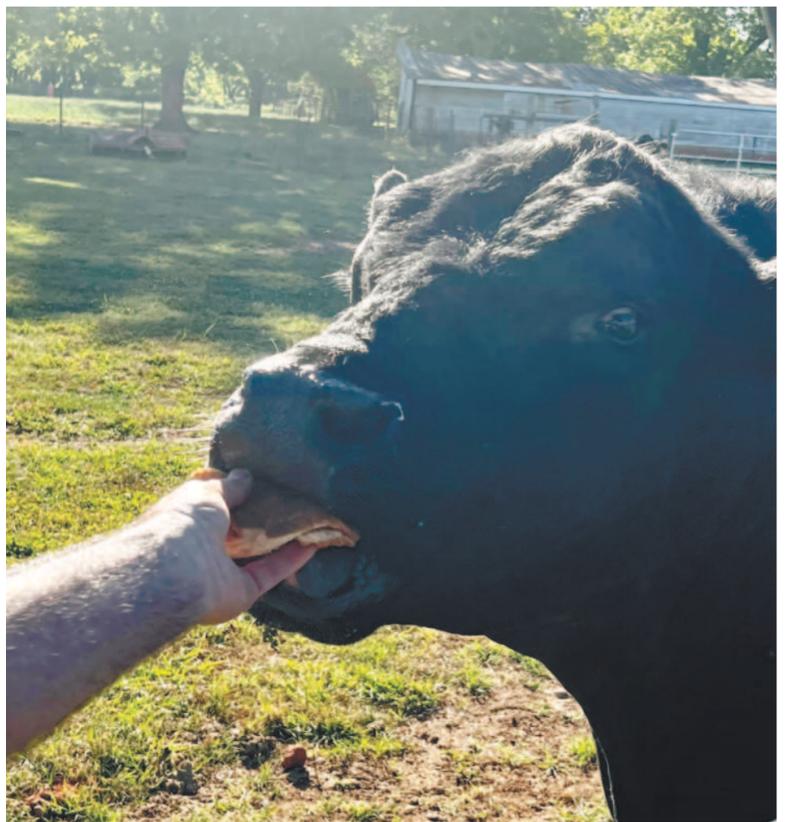
Weidner said the boxes of meat people can purchased for \$7 a pound. He said right now the waiting list is until December. He said he won't know the prices for after December, since material prices have changed. Some of the meats included in the boxes are ribs, ground beef, brisket, steaks, stir fry packs, ribeye steaks, New York strip steaks, filet medallions, and more.

The owner said his cows are happy and a happy cow taste better. He said his cows aren't pinned up and allowed to roam. He said feeding the cows bread is the secret to what makes them taste so good. He added that watching the calves being born is a real learning experience and something amazing to witness. "My favorite thing

about Stone Gable is the memories of my childhood and the memories with my kids. I enjoy the neighborhood kids

who want to feed the cows," Weidner said. Stone Gable Farm is located at 163 Weidner Road in Gray. For more

information about Stone Gable Farm, visit <https://www.facebook.com/StoneGableFarm> or call 478-986-0870.



Chris Weidner, the farm owner, feeds his cows bread that enhances the taste of the beef.

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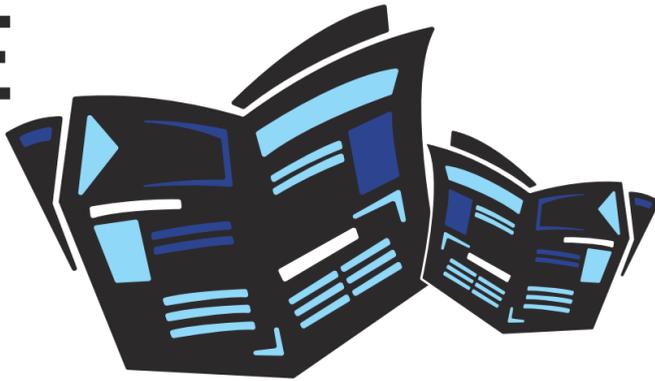
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BALDWIN

SATURDAY, AUG. 26

What: Getting More or Less: Plant Propagation Workshop
When: 10-11:30 a.m.
Where: Rose Hill Classroom (Hwy 441 South, 1534 Irwinton Road)
More info: Come learn cuttings, divisions, layering and other methods to gain new plants. Learn how easy it is to expand your plant collection with just a little effort, or to collect plants from friends through easy propagation methods. The workshop is free for members and \$10 for non-members.

What: Moms Meetup Picnic
When: 6 p.m.
Where: Central City Park
More info: Bring the family, a snack, and get acquainted. In case of inclement weather, the event will be rescheduled. Signup at <https://tinyurl.com/MomsPicnic>.

TUESDAY, AUG. 29

What: GriefShare Small Group
When: 6:30-8 p.m.
Where: New Life Ministries, 385 Log Cabin Road, Milledgeville
More info: Everyone in the community who is coping with the loss of a loved one is welcome to participate in New Life's on-campus Grief Ministry. New Life uses GriefShare materials, which provide a very effective combination of counselors and testimonials on video, along with small group sharing and workbooks to help in the grief journey. See griefshare.org for details.

What: Jeff Dantzler at Duke's Dawg House
When: 5-7 p.m.
Where: 162 Sinclair Marina Road, Milledgeville
More info: The UGA Alumni Association's Milledgeville Chapter will host An Evening with Jeff Dantzler, a longtime, award-winning broadcaster, speaker, writer and media personality. He also co-hosts the Georgia football pre- and post-game shows and the UGA Sunday morning recap show, The Bulldog Brunch, on the Bulldog Sports Network. There is a \$10 cover charge and cash bar available. Please email Larry Edwards at edw005@aol.com to register.

THURSDAY, AUG. 31

What: 3rd annual Employ Baldwin Job Fair
When: 3-6 p.m.
Where: CGTC, H Bldg., 54 GA-22, Milledgeville
More info: Presented by the Milledgeville-Baldwin Chamber of Commerce, the 3rd annual Employ Baldwin Job Fair is at Central Georgia Technical College, Milledgeville. If interested in showcasing your company to find the employees you've been searching for, visit milledgevillebaldwincountycommerce.growthzoneapp.com/ap/Form/Fill/LxdIVcxl?cid= for a link to apply. All applications and dues are required by Aug. 28.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 2

What: Book Signing Session 1
When: 2-4 p.m.
Where: The Red Door, 133 South Wayne Street
More info: Susan Lindsley will be signing her latest book, *Whitetail Secrets: Bachelor Life*, and also the Marion Stembridge biography, *Milledgeville's Sesquicentennial Murders*.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 6

What: Book Signing Session 2
When: 2-6 p.m.
Where: The Red Door, 133 South Wayne Street
More info: Susan Lindsley will be signing her latest book, *Whitetail Secrets: Bachelor Life*, and also the Marion Stembridge biography, *Milledgeville's Sesquicentennial Murders*.

3RD FRIDAY MONTHLY

What: Learning in Retirement
When: 11:15 a.m.
Where: Freedom Church, 500 Underwood Rd., Milledgeville
More info: An informative speaker will talk while lunch is served. Lunch is \$15. Speakers cover a variety of interesting and thought-provoking topics. Periodically, there will also be area tours via carpool or bus. For more information contact Wanda Zvanut at 404-259-8771.

PUTNAM

SATURDAY, AUG. 26

What: Crystal Cards
When: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Where: The Artisans Village Art Gallery, 110 W. Marion St., Eatonton
More info: Learn to make beautiful crystal-adorned cards to send to friends or frame and keep for yourself. Taught by Jacquie Jackson. For details visit theartisansvillage.org/events.

EACH SATURDAY UNTIL SEPT. 16

What: Harmony Park Farmers Market
When: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Where: 100 Harmony Crossing, Eatonton
More info: Visit more than two-dozen local farmers and makers offering the best of Lake Country's produce, meat, baked goods, arts and crafts. Rain or shine. For more information or vendor applications visit online at vharmonycrossing.com/farmersmarket.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 2

What: Beginning Acrylic – Cheers to Summer
When: 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Where: The Artisans Village Art Gallery, 110 W. Marion St., Eatonton
More info: Celebrate summer with a fun beginner acrylic class taught by April Hendricks. For details visit theartisansvillage.org/events.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 8

What: OPAS Soiree en Blanc et Noir
When: 6 p.m.
Where: Barrel 118, 118 N. Jefferson Ave., Eatonton
More info: Annual fundraiser for Oconee Performing Arts Society (OPAS), cocktails and dinner gala featuring a live auction, live music and more. Black and/or white cocktail attire. Tickets \$275 each. To purchase tickets call OPAS at 706-467-6000.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 9

What: Taste of Eatonton
When: 4-8 p.m.
Where: The Plaza Arts Center, 305 N. Madison Ave., Eatonton
More info: In addition to tasty bites, wine & brews, and music, the 23rd annual Taste of Eatonton will feature a car show, a VIP area, a spirit pull, and a 50/50 raffle along with other tried-and-true favorites. Come help celebrate local small businesses, bring your appetite, and enjoy the area's largest foodie event of the year.

What: Downtown Getdown Concert
When: 7-10 p.m.
Where: City Center Stage, Eatonton
More info: This free concert will include a live performance from Dean Brown and DubShak (Reggae). Bring your lawn chairs, coolers, and dancing shoes.

MONDAY, SEPT. 11 TO OCT. 11

What: 6th annual GWM Spooky Story Writing Contest
When: Submissions accepted Sept. 11 to Oct. 11
Where: Georgia Writers Museum, 109 S. Jefferson Ave., Eatonton
More info: The 6th annual Georgia Writers Museum Spooky Story contest is open to all third through eighth graders in Georgia. Contestants can come from public, private or home schools. The first-place winner from each grade will have his or her story published in the The Eatonton Messenger. Stories must be original and not exceed 500 words in length. Judges will be comprised of teachers and published authors. Winners will be announced Oct. 26. Contact GWM for details.

What: Six Weeks Narrative Non-Fiction Writing Workshop
When: 7 p.m. Mondays, Sept. 11 to Oct. 16
Where: Workshop done entirely via Zoom meetings
More info: Led by a former Atlanta Journal-Constitution journalist and the author of *The Class of '65* as well as *Smokelore: A Short History of Barbecue in America*, this weekly workshop involves instruction, group discussions, and weekly narrative non-fiction writing assignments. Both of instructor Jim Achmutey's books were named among 10 books all Georgians should read by the Georgia Center for the Book. He has taught narrative nonfiction writing at the Decatur Writers Studio and has lectured at Wofford College and Georgia State University. Admission is \$300.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 12

What: Peaceful Purpose Hospice Grief Support
When: 7 p.m.
Where: E-P Chamber of Commerce, 108 W. Marion St., Eatonton
More info: Our monthly grief support meetings are free and open to the public. Please come or bring a loved one to discuss coping with loss in ways that encourage personal healing and growth. Visit online at peacefulpurposehospice.com to learn more.

What: Meet the Author with Steven Cooper
When: 7 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.)
Where: Georgia Writers Museum, 109 S. Jefferson Ave., Eatonton
More info: Steven Cooper will be presenting his mystery novel, *Desert Remains: A Gus Parker and Alex Mills Novel*. Admission is \$45 (\$40 each for two more tickets) and \$200 for a table of six (a savings of \$40). The event will feature heavy hors d'oeuvres and a full bar. Following his presentation, Steven will be signing copies of his books. A former broadcaster specializing in crime and investigative journalism, Steven Cooper has written six novels and has won multiple Emmy Awards and nominations. Contact GWM for details.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 16

What: Writing Workshop: Creating Impactful Characters
When: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Where: Georgia Writers Museum, 109 South Jefferson Ave.
More info: Impactful stories start with impactful characters. Every book you've ever fallen in love with has at least one character you continue to think about long after you read the last page. In this workshop, Karli Lake will discuss some important aspects of character development that can make characters unforgettable and leave readers begging for a sequel. Admission is \$35. Contact GWM for details.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 20

What: AngioScreen for Cardiovascular Disease
When: schedule appointment
Where: Putnam General Hospital, 101 Lake Oconee Pkwy.
More info: Angioscreen detects cardiovascular disease, test is 12 minutes long, \$50 with a scheduled appointment by calling Tracy at 706-923-2028.

FRIDAY, OCT. 6

What: Behind the Curtain: Ontario Williams
When: 6 p.m.
Where: The Plaza Arts Center, 305 N. Madison Ave., Eatonton
More info: Ontario Williams is a teacher in the Putnam County School System and also a classically trained vocalist. From hymns to Broadway hits, Williams is a master of them all. Following Williams' performance in the Plaza theater, guests will mingle and enjoy an exquisite dinner while sitting at tables set up on the historic Plaza stage. Tickets are \$150 each and include an open bar, dinner and dessert, in addition to Williams performance. This fundraising event represents a celebration of The Plaza's 15th year of entertaining Eatonton. A ticket link for members only will be sent out first, followed by a link for tickets available to the public.

SUNDAY, OCT. 8

What: History of Beer
When: 2-4 p.m.
Where: Old School History Museum, 305 N. Madison Ave., Eatonton
More info: Join Dr. Eric Tenbus, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Georgia College & State University for a presentation on all things beer! Need we say more? Visit online at oldschoolhistorymuseum.org for more information.

GREENE

SUNDAY, SEPT. 3

What: New Springfield Baptist Church 68th Choir Anniversary
When: 3 p.m.
Where: New Springfield Baptist Church, 4300 GA-15, Siloam
More info: Visit the New Springfield Baptist Church Senior Choir for its 68th anniversary. Everyone is invited to come and help lift the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through songs of praise.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 5

What: Lake Oconee Quilt Guild Meeting
When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: Lake Oconee Lutheran Church, 1089 Lake Oconee Pkwy., Greensboro
More info: Meet and hear from Wini McQueen, a contemporary textile artist from Macon who is a gifted storyteller. Her narrative quilts tackle social issues including race, class, society, and women. McQueen redefines the traditional art of quilting and has been featured in exhibits in the Museum of African American Folk Art, Tubman Museum and Museum of Arts & Science in Macon. Coffee is available at 9:30 a.m. and the program begins at 10 a.m. The purpose of the "quilt" is to promote the art and craft of quilting through encouragement and education, as well as building fellowship within the community. Membership is \$25 per year and there is a \$5 fee charged for non-members and visitors, who are always welcome.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 6

What: Lake Oconee Shag Club lessons & dance
When: 6-9 p.m.
Where: Oconee Brewing Co., 202 N. West St., Greensboro
More info: The Shag Club meets every first Wednesday for shagging and fun. 6-7 p.m. the basic dance steps of shag are taught; 7-9 p.m. is dance time! Free for Lake Oconee Shag Club members, \$5 for non-members. Oconee Brewery's tasting room and The Burch food truck open. For more info, email lakeoconeeshag@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 13

What: Wine, Wags and Whiskers
When: 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Where: Oconee Brewing Co., 202 N. West St., Greensboro
More info: Join the Oconee Regional Humane Society for Wine Wags & Whiskers, its 2nd annual Rescue Dog Wine tasting event, with Oconee Brewing Company beers also on sale. Taste award-winning wines from Rescue Dog Wines, heavy hors d'oeuvres by The Burch, and listen to live music by South of Somewhere. Place bids in ORHS silent and live auctions, with all proceeds going directly to helping local animals in need. Tickets \$100 each, available now online at orhspets.org.

MONDAY, OCT. 16

What: 16th annual ATLAS Ministry Golf Tournament
When: 9 a.m. start
Where: Reynolds Lake Oconee - Oconee Course
More info: Entry fees: \$250/player or \$950/foursome. Register at atlasministry-bloom.kindful.com/e/2023-atlas-golf-tournament.

MORGAN

THURSDAY, SEPT. 21

What: A.D. Blanco
When: 7:30-9:30 p.m.
Where: Madison-Morgan Cultural Center, 434 S.Main St., Madison
More info: Athens-based indie rock band A.D. Blanco will present a woven blend of alternative rock with hints of '90s grunge and punk. Before becoming a band, Bennett Evans (lead vocal, guitar), Owen Lange (vocal, bass guitar), and Aaron White (drums, keys), were best friends and neighbors in middle school. They grew into musicians under similar influences, including bands like The Strokes, Kings of Leon, and Modest Mouse. A.D. Blanco's newest E.P., *April's Fool*, is their third studio project, with most of the production done in-house by Lange, a certified audio engineer. Tickets are \$35 each, available at app.arts-people.com.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

B	A	K	S	T		S	S	T		L	U	B	A
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REFER TO PUZZLE ON PAGE A5

SUDOKU PUZZLE ANSWERS

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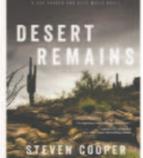
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FEATURES FROM THE BIBLE

TRUTH IN SCRIPTURE

Jehu Has Ministers of Baal Killed
II Kings 10

Acting deceptively Jehu explained to the people that he would serve Baal and invited all of his ministers and priests to a great sacrifice for Baal. He ordered that anyone who failed to come would die. All the ministers of Baal came and they crowded into the temple of Baal until it was full. Jehu had robes brought out for them. Then Jehu and Jehonadab son of Recab went into the temple of Baal and had the ministers of Baal to look around and see that no servants of the LORD were there - only ministers of Baal.

When they went in to make sacrifices and burnt offerings Jehu had posted eighty men outside telling them that if they permitted any of the ministers of Baal to escape they would have to forfeit their life in their place. As soon as Jehu had finished making the burnt offering, he ordered the guards and officers to go in and kill the Baal worshippers and let no one escape. The guards and officers cut them down with the sword and threw the bodies out and then entered the inner shrine of the temple of Baal and brought out the sacred stone and burned it.

They demolished the sacred stone of Baal and tore down the temple of Baal, and the people used it for a latrine. Although Jehu destroyed Baal worship in Israel he did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam which he had caused Israel to commit - the worship of the golden calves at Bethel and Dan. The Lord told him that because he had done well in accomplishing what is right in His eyes and had done God's will concerning the house of Ahab then His descendants would sit on the throne of Israel to the fourth generation.



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478-453-1019 | EL BETHEL BAPTIST
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478-452-3052 | HARDWICK BAPTIST
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John 6:35

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01-Employment

PART-TIME WORSHIP LEADER

Bradley Baptist Church is prayerfully searching for a part-time Worship Leader. If you are a strong leader, have two years experience in traditional and contemporary music, can read music, and have the ability to lead instrumentalists and praise team, please submit your resume to ready2servebbc@gmail.com.

HELP WANTED

We are seeking a reliable general laborer for a part-time position in the White Plains area. **Starting pay \$10 per hour.** A strong work ethic and attention to detail are essential. **Call 706-817-6959 between 8 AM and 5 PM for more information.**

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Valid Class A CDL is required. Driver will be responsible for hauling material and making sure material is safe for hauling. Driver will also be responsible for maintenance and necessary upkeep for the assigned truck. Any needs for repair will be reported to supervisor. Benchmark provides paid holidays and vacation. Benefits are also available after 30 days of employment. Salary is negotiable. You may apply in person at 2814 Gray Hwy., Macon, GA or e-mail resume to gayle.benchmark@gmail.com. Work schedule will be Monday – Friday, OT as needed as well as weekend work that might be needed. Benchmark Paving is an equal opportunity employer.

02-Jobs Needed (free)

SITTER FOR HIRE
Looking for an elderly person to sit with.
706-623-1396

04-Miscellaneous For Sale

LA-Z-BOY RECLINER
Oversized, brown leather. One year old. \$500.
478-936-0075



TRAVEL CHAIR
Lightly used. 41 pounds. \$600 OBO. **Call 478-932-5412.**



SAMSUNG REFRIGERATOR
18 months old. Works good. \$500 OBO. **Call 478-932-5412.**

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ITEMS FOR SALE
Couch, \$50.
Chest of drawers, \$50.
Call (478) 234-7587

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GRAY W/ RECLINER COVER
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HAMMOCK
WITH REVERSIBLE BEDDING AND GREEN STEEL SUPPORT FRAME
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PORTABLE METAL FIREPIT
28" DIAMETER, WITH SPARK BLOCKING COVER
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OR, ALL FOR ONLY \$75

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FOR SALE Electric pressure washer Karcher electric firewasher. Brand new, never been used. 1700 psi NEW \$99.00 478-968-0889

06-Yard Sale

ANTIQUÉ LIQUIDATION

Antique dealer of 43 years liquidating inventory of chairs, rockers, tables, dressers, and miscellaneous items at affordable prices. Also does chair and rocker caning, wicker and rattan repair. **(H) 770-725-2554 (C) 706-340-5523**

ESTATE SALE - FINAL 3 DAYS

Thurs., Fri. & Sat., Aug. 24-26, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. 338 Buck Road, Gray Furniture, kitchenware, antiques.

MOVING SALE

August 25 & August 26 8:30-3:30 201 Pembroke Dr Washington GA

Furniture, LOTS of Christmas Decorations, Fall/Halloween Decorations, Vintage Blow Molds, Camping Gear, Barbie Collection, Kitchenware, Home Decor, & MORE

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6000 sq ft. 2000+ treasures
Aug. 28 & 29 8 am-noon. 736 Broad St CSH

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August 26 7:30 - until 100 Sequoia Ct Eatonton, GA 31024
Small furniture, dining room set, benches and barstools, clothes with tags still on them. Home decor AND a bedroom full of kids toys

09-Autos For Sale



1976 MERCEDEZ BENZ 450 SL
Automatic, Soft and Hard Tops. Tan Leather Interior, CD Player, A/C.
\$12,900.00 Contact: 706-829-6461

05-Artides Under \$100 (free)

1962 FORD THUNDERBIRD
Needs restoration. **\$5,000 OBO.**
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Leather seats
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85K miles
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Only 78,000 miles
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\$4000.00 706-318-0188



1988 GMC GEN1 SIERRA SLE CK1500
125,000 on odometer
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Automatic transmission, 3 speed w/ overdrive
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2013 CHEVY SILVERADO
2WD
Crew cab
Z71-LTZ loaded
A1 condition
\$100,800 true miles
2 owner
478-968-0889 \$21,400

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600cc cruising scooter. Only 3,500 miles. Garage kept, one owner, runs perfect. Includes BESTEM carrier and two HJC full-shield helmets. **Priced to sell at \$4,900 (678)308-4762**

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Applicant must have a valid driver's license, a High School diploma or GED, the ability to read, write, and comprehend complex written or oral directives, to translate those directives into operational plans, the ability to plan and prioritize work, to adjust those plans to meet time limitations. Strong MS Office skills and computer proficiency preferred. The person must be able to see, hear, talk, walk, stand, stoop, sit, carry packages and objects weighing up to 10 pounds. Selected applicant must agree to a criminal background check, pre-employment and periodic drug screenings, and to a probationary employment period.

Employment applications may be accessed and printed via our website, www.eatontonga.us. Completed applications should be submitted to:

City of Eatonton
Attn: City Clerk
201 N. Jefferson Avenue / P. O. Box 3820
Eatonton, GA 31024

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The Eatonton Messenger
Lake Oconee News
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10-Cycles/ATVs

2018 HONDA REBEL 500 CMX
Orange. 100 miles.
Motorcycle jack stand
and many extras.
\$4,500. Call 478-986-0983.

11-RVs

2006 HOLIDAY RAMBLER NAVIGATOR
41 ft., 515 Detroit Diesel engine. 35k miles. Great condition inside and out. Many upgrades. Too many to list. **\$145,000. Call 478-951-8680.**

FOR SALE
1981 33 ft. Apollo Motorhome
440 Dodge Engine
Good running condition
\$8,700 OBO
Call 706-473-4253

FOR SALE
2016 THOR ACE 30.2 Bunks
17,000 miles
158 Gen. hours
New tires and house batteries storage
\$60,000
Call 478-454-8112

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PONTOON BOAT
Pontoon Boat
22 ft. Omni
50 horse Yamaha 2 stroke
at Sinclair
\$7,600
770-601-7217

1978 CORRECT CRAFT SKI TIQUE
Length - 16'5"
Hull Fiberglass
198 Horsepower Mercruiser
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FOR SALE
McGregor Sailboat
with trailer and
3 HP Johnson motor
Sails are new
Selling due to health problem
\$2000.00
Call 478-234-3303

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620 2-CYLINDER JOHN DEERE TRACTOR
\$3,500 OBO.
478-456-2083

FORD 600 TRACTOR
runs good, stored inside
\$3,500
(706) 485-8458

ALLIS CHALMERS D17 TRACTOR
\$2,200 OBO. Call
478-456-2083.

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KITTENS FOR ADOPTION
ORHS offers many
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All shots & Spay/Neuter.
\$85
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FREE COLORFUL GAME ROOSTERS
to a good home. Call
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18-Services

GIBSON'S LAWN SERVICE
Complete lawn care.
Mowing, edging, pruning,
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priced and dependable.
Residential and Commercial.
Call for free estimates, 478-
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For a FREE estimate call
Prestige Pressure Washing
www.prestigepressure.com
706-318-8801

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Grading
Brush Cutting
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Driveway Repair

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@ (478)696-2620

YSURE KIDS BIRTHDAY PARTY ADVENTURE
It's not your birthday? Come
anyway! Games/activities
included, free food, Ysure!
With paid admission. 2782
Riverside Drive, Macon.
478-213-5680
478-508-6724

20-Notices

ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE
(Towing or Storage Company)

Vehicle Make: Ford
Year:2003
Model: Mustang
Vehicle ID:
1FAPF40463F423396
Vehicle License #:TAN 4831
State: GA

You are hereby notified, in accordance with OCGA 40-11-19 (a) (2), that the above-referenced vehicle is subject to a lien and a petition may be filed in court to foreclose a lien for all amounts owed. If the lien is foreclosed, a court shall order the sale of the vehicle to satisfy the debt. The vehicle is currently located at 896 C Oak St. Eatonton, GA 31024
Anyone with an ownership interest in this vehicle should contact the following business immediately.
Business name: Taylor's Wrecker Service, LLC
Address: 201 Linchburg Rd. Eatonton, GA 31024
Telephone #: 706-485-7406

2004 Ford Explorer
Vin# 1FMZU62K64ZA86764
Tag # TDS8021

NOTICE
In accordance with OCGA (40-11-2), the following vehicle(s) have been impounded and are located at:
Taylor's Wrecker Service, LLC
896C Oak St.
Eatonton, GA 31024

They will be sold at public auction on September 26, 2023, at 10 a.m. to noon at the above address.

Year/Make/Model:
1997 Oldsmobile LSS
VIN: 1GHY52K0V4804435
Pulled from Parks Mill Rd

2007 BMW 328
Vin# WBAVA37597NL10096
Pulled from Justins

22-Commercial

1200 SQ. FT. SUITE
in Clinton Crossing. 4
offices and a lobby.
\$1,450 per month.
Call 478-954-9286.



COMMERCIAL LOT FOR RENT
1.38 fenced acres
199 Sammons Parkway
\$1200/mo - \$1200 deposit
Call 706-473-9846

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HOUSING AUTHORITY NOW
accepting applications at
Hillside Apartments for elderly,
disabled or handicapped persons.
Rent based on income.
For Appointment call
706-485-5361



HOME FOR RENT
Beautiful home for
long term lease
170 Garrett Drive
in Phoenix Crossing
Eatonton, GA.

Two-car garage, all
appliances, with access
to the community pool
and playground.

\$2300 per month,
\$2300 deposit.
Please contact Kimberly,
property manager,
with Lindsay Properties
at (904) 415.0417
(if no answer, please
leave a message) or email
lindsayprop@bellsouth.net.

25-Land For Sale

LAND BY LAKE SINCLAIR
1/2 acre lot by Lake
Sinclair in Hancock
County off Venture Tr.
\$3,000
Call 478-217-0305

TWIGGS COUNTY TRACTS
28.6 acres off US 80
\$3,100 per acre
881 acres, Cochran
Short Route
\$2,950 per acre
Call 478-361-3105

CREEKSIDE PLANTATION
Two 8-acre lots for sale.
Wooded 8.20 and 8.10
lots for sale by owner.
Located on Greenwood
Road off Gray Highway.
Call 478-731-4618

2.3 ACRES WITH POND
316 MacKenzie Drive.
Call 478-737-3528

APPROXIMATELY 11 ACRES AT INTERSECTION OF HIGHWAYS 18 AND 49 IN JONES COUNTY FOR SALE.
Frontage on both
highways; residential
driveway approved for
Highway 18. \$4,500 per
acre, owner financing
available. Call (478) 986-
9979 and leave message
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THE BIG GAME



2023 LAKE COUNTRY FOOTBALL PREVIEW

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT PUBLISHED AUG. 24, 2023

The Gatonton Messenger
Lake Oconee News
The Baldwin Bulletin

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PUTNAM COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL



LANCE McCURLEY/Staff

Evan Bennett (7) dances his way across the goal line for a touchdown in Gatewood's pre-season scrimmage win over Mount de Sales Academy.

War Eagles primed for first season under new head coach

Lance McCurley
lance@msgnews.com

Putnam County football officially began the Joel Harvin era on Aug. 25.

Previously at Early County, Harvin was hired in January after previous head coach Shaun Pope retired. The War Eagles went 9-3 and made it to the second round of the Class AA playoffs under Pope in 2022 but were eliminated by Fitzgerald for a second-straight year.

Harvin plans to lead Putnam County back to the playoffs, so he's had the War Eagles working hard since spring camp and throughout the summer. As the season nears, Harvin said he's ready to see his guys reap the benefits of their hard work.

"We've got a lot of young guys that have stepped up and we've grown over the summer," he said. "I've asked these kids to learn a new offense and defense. Most of the time when

you ask players to learn new things it's a challenge, but we've got a lot of guys that are bought in. They're here every day. We still have a lot of young guys who are still learning, but they're coming along like we want them to. It's just a learning process."

Harvin and his staff have been impressed with the work ethic of their players, but also how they've picked up the new offensive and defensive systems. The Putnam County coaches also admire how their players performed at various camps they attended this summer.

According to Harvin, the War Eagles remain a "work in progress," but he is encouraged by how things have gone from the first spring practice in May to the end of July.

"From the first day of [fall] practice, I am pleased with where we are. We still have a long way to go, though. The summer has been good, and the kids understood how I wanted things to go. They've responded



LANCE McCURLEY/Staff

MORE HARVIN >> P.4 Joel Harvin coaches up a player during spring camp last May.

SCHEDULE

VARSITY

- Aug. 25..... at Baldwin County
- Sept. 1..... at Oconee County
- Sept. 8.....vs. Jasper County
- Sept. 15..... at Butler*
- Sept. 22..... at Josey*
- Sept. 28..... vs. Westside-Augusta*
- Oct. 6.....vs. Glenn Hills*
- Oct. 20.....vs. Thomson*
- Oct. 27.....at Laney*
- Nov. 3.....vs. Washington County*

*Denotes region game. All game times 7:30 p.m.

WAR EAGLES



2023



Rashod Daniel (2) reaches the end zone in a scrimmage against Jefferson County this past May. IAN TOCHER/Staff



A pack of Putnam County defenders take down a running back from Jefferson County. IAN TOCHER/Staff

War Eagles hungry, hoping to be more physical

Lance McCurley
lance@msgrnews.com

Putnam County heads into the upcoming season with a chip on its shoulder, especially after losing to Fitzgerald for a second straight year in the playoffs and finishing behind Thomson in Region 4-AA.

Those two teams, the Purple Hurricanes and the Bulldogs, went on to play in the Class AA state title game.

Thomson rallied late to defeat Fitzgerald 32-27 to capture the Class AA state championship, although the Purple Hurricanes won the state title two years ago against Thomasville in 2021.

So, it's safe to say the War Eagles are hungry to get after it under new head coach Joel Harvin in 2023.

Heading into this season, Putnam County is a younger team, and it lost a bunch of key players and production from last year. However, those younger War Eagles are ready to step up and fill those roles.

Players such as seniors Zacoree Wallace and Sharod White and junior Rashod Daniel are now all veterans. So, all three will need to learn to be leaders in the locker room and on the field this year.

Daniel, a running back and inside line-backer, feels like the War Eagles are being disrespected this year. He believes that he and his teammates can "shock" every opponent on the schedule in 2023.

"We want to shock a bunch of people, [especially] because they're doubting us this year," Wallace said. "I feel like we're going to sneak up on a lot of teams this year. We have talent. It will show."

Putnam County went 9-3 overall last season, with two of its losses coming to Fitzgerald and Thomson. The other War Eagles' loss came against non-region opponent Oconee County early in the year.

Putnam County's schedule is the exact same as last year, possibly setting it up for success. The War Eagles' key games are against Baldwin (Aug. 25), Oconee County (Sept. 1) and Thomson (Oct 20.)

Daniel compared this year's Putnam County team to the NFL's Detroit Lions squads in the 1980s.

He highlighted that no matter what the result of the game is, Daniel expects opponents not to want to play the War Eagles again because of how physical they're going to be on each side of the ball.

"This team this year is way more physical," Daniel said. "We love to get in folks' faces, so it's better for us overall. We're going to be like [the Detroit] Lions in the '80s, we're going to beat you up."

Harvin agrees with Daniel's sentiment. He said both lines of scrimmage need to have a more physical presence, especially on the offensive side of the ball because of the War Eagles' new offense.

Harvin brings with him to Putnam County an offensive system that primarily features the run game, so he challenges his players to be more aggressive, which starts up front in the trenches on offense.

"To be a good football team and to make the run deep into the playoffs, you have to be able to run the ball," Harvin said. "You look at last year's state championship game between Thomson and Fitzgerald, they are both run-heavy teams. Both of them are really good at what they do. In my 15 years of experience from running a spread offense to the Wing-T, the single-wing is the most important. If you can run the football and stop the run, you're more than likely going to be successful."

The first-year Putnam County coach said he wants his players to develop a hungry and physical mindset.

"We're going to develop that physicality mindset," Harvin said. "We want to impose our will on other teams when we play them. We want to try and be as physical as possible on the offensive and defensive lines. We want to play with good technique, too. That's kind of going to be our mindset."

Even though those painful losses might have plagued the Putnam County teams of the past, they don't affect this year's squad. Harvin has built a culture of toughness, whether it's physical or mental.

His players don't think about the past, but more

about the present. The current War Eagles are taking also things day by day, and are being motivated by growing as a team while striving to be better.

Wallace, a fullback and defensive tackle, sees a lot of "potential" in this year's Putnam County team. Regardless, he believes that they need to come together a little more before the start of the season.

"There's a lot of potential, really," Wallace said of his team. "The freshmen have shown a lot of it, but we need to come together more. We're a little separate right now. We [need to

create] a bond."

Daniel echoed Wallace's sentiment about potential, adding that there are also several guys to watch out for such as White, Mark Watkins, Kaleb Crawford, Jay Nelson and Bill Waters, among others.

"Most definitely Bill [Waters], he's coming," Daniel said. "He's coming. We've got a lot of guys."

All the players that Daniel mentioned were brought up by Harvin. He acknowledged that

MORE PHYSICAL >> P.4

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2023 WAR EAGLES

No.	Name	Grade	Position
2	Jamarion Robertson	11	QB/DB
3	Rashod Daniel	11	RB/LB
4	Sharod White	12	RB/DB
5	Kavar Andrews	11	WR/DB
6	Mark Little	12	TE/DL
7	Rodney Hines	10	WR/DB
8	Brannen Griffin	10	QB/LB
9	Kaleb Crawford	12	RB/DB
11	Tyson Waller	12	RB/LB
12	Mekhi White	12	WR/DB
13	D'Corys Foster	11	RB/DB
14	Jayson Smith	10	TE/DL
15	Don Dorsey	11	WR/DB
16	Ethan Whatley	10	QB/DB
17	Bill Waters	10	RB/DB
19	Khaleb Turner	9	QB/LB
21	Allen Hill	12	WR/DB
22	Omarion Butts	10	RB/LB
23	Kalleb Lawrence	10	RB/DB
24	Jadarius Williams	12	TE/DL
25	Bryson Foster	10	RB/LB
26	Brandon Brown	12	RB/DB
31	Bryce Brabham	11	TE/LB
32	Keith Justice	12	WR/DB
33	Christian Farley	10	TE/LB
35	Zacoree Wallace	12	RB/DL
36	Elijah Dunn	9	RB/LB
37	Tre-Lei Calhoun	10	RB/LB
38	Zyler Griffin	9	WR/DB
40	Blake Williams	9	RB/LB
41	Cedric Wingfield	9	RB/LB
46	Kimora McMullen	10	WATER GIRL
49	Ehmad Reeves	9	TE/DL
51	Japheth Nelson	9	OL/DL
52	Zion Gadson	9	OL/DL
54	Tereyon Rowell	9	OL/DL
55	Tyler Dennis	11	OL/DL
56	Ryan Parks	11	OL/DL
57	Steven Grandt	10	OL/DL
58	Mark Watkins	11	OL/LB
59	Isaac Pope	11	OL/DL
60	Ja'Bius Farley	9	OL/DL
62	Joe Ward	10	OL/DL
63	Charleston Weaver	10	OL/DL
65	Noah Long	11	OL/DL
66	Johnny Bishop	10	OL/DL
68	Zachariah Long	9	OL/DL
72	Alex Jimenez	9	TE/DL/K
76	Cameron Humphries	9	OL/DL
77	Jabe Gresham	9	OL/DL
80	Jason Clemons	11	WR/DB
84	Jordan Porter	10	WR/DB
88	Bryson Brown	9	WR/DL

PHYSICAL

CONTINUED FROM >> P.3

each is important to the team. White, Watkins, Crawford, Waters and Nelson are primed to have breakout years.

"They've all had a good summer, but overall, we have a good summer," Harvin said. "We do expect big things out of all of our guys. They're communicating well and are starting to grasp the offense and defense well. They're all learning and adjusting well to what we are trying to do here."

White, a wide receiver and corner-back, acknowledged that this War Eagles' team is coming together nicely. He also said their hunger and wanting to be more physical definitely fuels them.

"We're gonna' be physical on offense and defense," White said. "Being physical, hungry. That's it."

HARVIN

CONTINUED FROM >> P.2

well. We've also had a few leaders step up," Harvin said.

Putnam County had to replace a lot of senior leadership from last season with players such as Jalon Kilgore, DJ Bland, Brayon Farley, Seth Boyer, and Tamarion Peters, among others, all graduating. Each of those former players were huge contributors in 2022.

Harvin believes replacing that leadership and talent can be done, however, he recognizes it will not necessarily be an easy task. Still, he said he's already seen a few guys "step up."

"Kaleb Crawford has



IAN TOCHER/Staff

Jamarion Robertson (2) brings down a Jefferson County wide receiver during a scrimmage last May.

stood out. He's been there about every day. Tyson Waller, Zacoree Wallace, Rashod Daniel, and Sharod White, too. Those guys have really stepped up," Harvin said. "They're a little bit older now and not [underclassmen] anymore. They are going into their junior and senior years. It's important for them to succeed. I definitely think they can."

Crawford, a senior wide receiver and safety, missed all of last year with an injury but is primed to have a stellar campaign for the War Eagles this season. The same goes for a trio of seniors in Waller, White, and Wallace.

Daniel carried a lot of the load last year behind Kilgore and Peters on offense. Out

of all the players Harvin mentioned, the junior running back was the most effective last season. He rushed for nearly 600 yards and is looking to be even more productive in 2023.

"We're going to have to lean on those guys [a lot] to help carry us through the first few games of the season," Harvin said. "We've also got to wait for these younger [players] to get their experience before we're finally able to really move along."

The goal for Harvin throughout the offseason was to get his players accustomed to his style of coaching. It seems as if his players have done just that as they started fall camp two weeks ago.

Harvin acknowledged he doesn't want his team to be judged on its record but on how it grows week by week. He said that growth each week will be a measuring stick for this squad.

"A lot of the time, people only judge a football team by wins and losses, but to me, it's about our players continuing to get better and better each week, to absorb the experience that so many of our guys need to become better football players," Harvin said. "We're going to face adversity at some point throughout the season, whether it be at the start, middle, or end. Our guys need to understand that we're going to have to push through it."

Putnam County is likely to face some adversity at the start of the season, just as it did in 2022.

The War Eagles will face Baldwin and Oconee

County to open up the season. They played each at home on Al Reaves Field last year, splitting the games, but will face both on the road this time around.

Putnam County is set to begin region competition in Week 4 against Butler. The War Eagles are also predicted to finish second in Region 4-AA behind reigning Class AA state champion Thomson, according to the Georgia High School Football Daily newsletter.

Harvin highlighted he has a lot of respect for the teams on his squad's schedule, especially during the final three weeks of the season. Putnam County will face Thomson (Oct. 20 at home), Laney (Oct. 27 on the road), and Washington County (Nov. 3 at home).

"To be in the [same] region with the team that won the state championship [last year] shows how strong it is," he said. "Obviously, the last three weeks will be some tough games. We have to be ready to play good football. The first two games of the year are also really great teams. So, we're going to get the experience early."

Harvin explained how important it is for guys to be playing their best at the end of the year.

"We're going to get to throw our kids into the fire and get them ready for those last three weeks. Really the last four weeks," Harvin added.

"We need to make sure that they can withstand the physicality of the game, and also be ready to play whenever they are called upon."

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IAN TOCHER/Staff

Gators quarterback Ames Johnson (10) completes a handoff to fellow junior Jackson Hewatt in a pre-season scrimmage early last month.

Gators counting on experience to improve

Ian Tocher
ian@msgrnews.com

A 5-7 finish like last year (including play-offs) will not be enough to satisfy Gatewood head coach Jeff Ratliff this time around. The Gators opened last season with two wins, but then went on a four-game skid before putting together another pair of victories followed by two more losses to end the regular season.

To start the playoffs, Gatewood knocked off Augusta Day Prep. The Gators looked good one week later, too, holding a 14-13 lead well into the third quarter over Central Fellowship Christian Academy. However, at game's end, CFCA advanced to the final with a 43-14 victory.

"I was generally pleased with how we finished," Ratliff says, now entering his 12th season with the Gators and his 11th as head coach. "I mean, we had to figure a lot of things out and at the end of the year we made it to the semifinals. Got beat by the state champions (CFCA). But last year's team accomplished and improved as much as any team I've ever had. I think we got a lot of miles out of that team considering the inexperience."

After losing four seniors on the offensive side of the ball, including All-State tailback Justin Jameson, and four seniors on defense, Gatewood returns 14 starters on its 22-man roster for 2023. Ratliff points out he had several more first-time starters last season, too, though not all first-year players. He considers those players now battle-tested, so they're much more aware of what's to come.

"We've got guys coming back this year that have been in the trenches, they've been in the war, they know what it takes to win," the coach points out. "They also know,

unfortunately, how we can lose a ballgame. You know, if we don't do this, this and this. And yeah, knowing that is huge.

"The biggest thing for us is we've got to compete every play. Everyone has got to compete as if you don't

have a starting position and you're earning it every play," Ratliff continues. "Of course, that's how I always want it to be, but I feel good from the vantage point that last year we had four returners starting and this year we have

14. So, I feel pretty good about those numbers."

Leading the charge for Gatewood will be North Carolina commit Evan Bennett, moving from fullback to tailback this season, but also playing on both sides of the ball.

Fellow seniors Lawson Wooten, Sean Harvey, Luke McNeill, Blake Callaway, and Jayden Daniel are all critical members of the team, too, Ratliff stresses.

"I'll tell you right now, it's got to start with my seniors, and it's got to

start with leadership. You know, you'll hear that every year from me, but that's just because it's the truth. If my seniors don't lead, if they don't take care of the locker room, if they

MORE GATORS >> P.6



IAN TOCHER/Staff

Evan Bennett (7) dances across the goal line for a touchdown in Gatewood's pre-season scrimmage win over Mount de Sales Academy.

SCHEDULE

VARSITY

- Aug. 25..... at Trinity Christian
- Sept. 1.....vs. Augusta Prep Day
- Sept. 8..... at Southland Academy
- Sept. 15..... vs. Briarwood Academy
- Sept. 22..... at St. Anne-Pacelli
- Sept. 29..... at Central Fellowship
- Oct. 13..... vs. Fullington Academy
- Oct. 20 vs. Edmund Burke Academy
- Oct. 27..... at Piedmont Adademy*
- Nov. 3 vs. Brentwood*

*Denotes region game. All game times 7:30 p.m.

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No.	Name	Position	Grade
1	Jackson Lundy	WR / DB	So
2	Ben Brannen	QB / DB	So
3	Jackson Hewatt	RB / DB	Jr
4	Jayden Daniel	K / WR	Sr
5	Blake Callaway	WR / DE	Sr
6	Drew Love	WR / DB	Fr
7	Evan Bennett	RB / LB	Sr
8	Jack Wooten	WR / LB	Fr
10	Ames Johnson	QB / DB	Jr
11	Mason Sinclair	RB / LB	So
13	Luke McNeill	OL / DL	Sr
15	Lawson Wooten	TE / DE	Sr
17	Sean Harvey	WR / DB	Sr
18	Sean Bennett	RB / LB	Fr
20	Landon Moreno	RB / LB	Fr
21	Lake Ferman	TE / DE	So
22	Hunter Johnson	WR / DB	Jr
24	Tanner Johnson	WR / DB	Jr
27	Bodie Corry	TE / DE	So
33	Jake Carnes	OL / DL	So
42	Gage Rainey	OL / DL	Jr
45	Colt Jenkins	OL / LB	So
64	Colton Painter	OL / DL	Fr
65	Fischer Dillard	OL / DL	Fr
70	Tyler Middleton	OL / DL	Jr
72	Mikey Padula III	OL / DL	So
77	Drew Burke	OL / DL	Fr
99	Blake Daniel	OL / DL	Jr

Head Coach

Jeff Ratliff – Head Coach, Offensive Coordinator

Assistant Head Coach

Tyler VanDusen - Defensive Coordinator

Assistant Coaches

Josh Ringer, Andrew Ringer, Mike Kelly

Strength Coach: John McMillian

Trainer: Troy Burner

Team Doctor: Dr. Dave Ringer

Manager: Colton Painter, Cayden Burner

PA Announcer: Steve Sinclair

Film: Dr. Bob Betzel

End Zone Camera: Joe Tkacik, Isaac Ringer, Charlie Randolph, Cale Ferguson

Statistician: Johnny McMillian

Ball Boys: Joe McMillian, Bo Wooten

Cheerleaders: Sr - Brynlee Burgess, Lydia Gailey, Hillary Haley, Taylor Moreno, Lexi Moss, Eliana Tkaci; Jr - Anna Scott Ault; Soph - Addison Coker, Audrey Hicks, Julianne Good, Presley Moss, Miley Sils, Cora Tkacik; Fr - Kesler Atkinson, Harper Craine, Sophia Gailey, Izzy Leaper, Lola Seagers, Tessa Watson

Sideline Coach: Beth Moss

Competition Coach: Libby Rainey

Headmaster: Jeff Decker

Athletic Director: Troy Burner



IAN TOCHER/Staff

Gatewood's assistant coaches include (l-r) Andrew Ringer, Josh Ringer, Tyler VanDusen and Mike Kelly.

Coaching comes first at Gatewood

Ian Tocher
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In any sport, it's the athletes who make the plays and score the points to win the game, but there are always coaches on the sidelines or behind the bench, providing the game plans and advice to guide the way.

For the Gatewood Gators, Jeff Ratliff has been there for 12 years, with the last 11 spent as head coach making the calls. Ratliff stressed, however, that he relies heavily on four official assistant coaches: Tyler VanDusen, Josh Ringer, Andrew Ringer and Mike Kelly, though he mentioned there are several other important volunteers at every Gators game, too.

Ratliff said VanDusen has been with him as an assistant since he took over as head coach and currently serves as

the Gators' defensive coordinator.

"I actually coached Tyler when he was in school back at Tatnall," Ratliff says. "I was the assistant coach at Tatnall and Tyler, I taught him and I coached him and he's been with me a long time now. He does the defense now and he helps scheme up the blocking each week. He's just a fantastic coach, really good at what he does."

Though technically the team's offensive coordinator, Ratliff said he couldn't manage that role without Josh Ringer serving as his eyes in the booth above the field.

"Josh coaches the wide receivers, but he'll move over and he's been our assistant D-line coach the last several years, too," Ratliff said. "But he's calling things from the booth and most of the time I stick with his call. When I've got things in my head, I sometimes stay with my pattern, but Josh understands that role and he's a tremendous asset on a Friday night."

"Then during the week, he coordinates all of our passing game, works a lot with our wide receivers and he'll be on the D-line this year, too, with the run game. Another fantastic coach."

Another longtime assistant to Ratliff is Kelly, a former track star at Florida State who was inducted into that university's track-and-field hall of fame. Kelly also serves as an assistant to Ratliff's



IAN TOCHER/Staff

Gators quarterback Ames Johnson (10) completes a handoff to fellow junior Jackson Hewatt in a pre-season scrimmage early last month.

head coach role with the Gatewood T&F team each spring.

"Mike handles the team's conditioning and he's just a track guru. He really didn't know a lot about football when he started, but he's a great coach and now he handles my special teams," Ratliff said.

"A couple of years ago, I put him in charge of kickers and he's very detail-oriented. He researches, does all the homework, and now, all of a sudden he's a pretty good kicking coach. So, he handles those guys for me during the week."

"But primarily he's in charge of our conditioning and he does a fantastic job. He really takes offense if we start cramping, he takes it personally. I mean, his number-one goal is we're going to be in shape. Really, Mike is just a good dude, and he knows a little bit about

everything out there. He can pick up the subtleties that most people don't even notice."

The most recent to officially join the Gators' sideline crew is Andrew Ringer, Josh's older brother and also a Gatewood graduate.

"When I first got here, he was on the previous head coach's staff, too," Ratliff said. "And ironically, he helped me with coaching track when I first got here. But since then he's gotten married, had kids, had to step away from coaching for a while, but now he feels comfortable enough and I asked him in the off-season if he would come back and help us, so it's worked out really well."

"I really couldn't do this without these guys and everyone who volunteers and helps out around here," Ratliff added. "They're all so important to the team and the program in general."

GATORS

CONTINUED FROM >> P.5

don't lead by example on and off the field, if they don't get the team behind them, making

sure they do things right by setting the example and then having others follow, we're going to struggle."

Also key to any hope for Gatewood's success will be the play of junior quarterback Ames

Johnson, who perhaps more than anyone benefited from his role as a starter last season.

"Ames having one year under his belt is huge. Just being able to take charge of the offense," Ratliff says. "He was green his first year as starting quarterback and as a sophomore, but he looked so much more confident at the end of the season than he did at the beginning."

On defense, Ratliff will be looking to Bennett as linebacker, of course, but also to Wooten and sophomore Mason Sinclair as defensive ends, with Harvey leading the secondary.

Bottom line? "We've got to be unified. If you're unified, no matter what happens, you can get through it," Ratliff says. "And it was a testament to last year's group, all the close losses and the games where we'd fall behind and battle back, they were still able to hold it together. That's what we've got to do again, only a little bit better."

Good luck to all area teams!

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BRENDAN KOERNER/Staff

Chris Lowe (4), Steve Miller (1), Kevin Wynn (55) and Justin Hill (2) are Greene County's captains this season, and will look to make an impact on both sides of the ball.

Tigers more comfortable under Banks in year two

Brendan Koerner
brendan@lakeoconeenews.us

The Greene County football program has stayed active this offseason in preparation for the 2023 football season, both on and off the field. The Tigers have traveled all across the southeast, participating in 7-on-7 camps, organized team

activities and other events, where they have been able to test their skills.

Not only have they put some miles on the bus, but the team has also put in countless hours of work in Tiger Stadium. GCHS second-year head coach Terrance Banks has been able to watch his players work over the last couple months

and believes they feel more comfortable with each other and the systems in place.

"The boys have gotten a stronger bond between each other. It's unspoken stuff that you can't really see, but it will show up in our play if we continue to work and get better every day," Banks said. "They're connecting with each

other, and I think that means a lot. Now that I've been here through a whole football season and have had a full offseason with the guys, they're getting more comfortable playing as a team."

Banks acknowledged that adapting to each kid and the way they respond to coaching is essential for the growth of the

program and its success this upcoming year.

"We've just been learning from each other more and [I am] starting to see our relationships grow. As players and coaches, we have a sort of family relationship, and we all have to know the expectations

MORE PHYSICAL >> P.10

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BRENDAN KOERNER/Staff

Tigers' head coach Terrance Banks demonstrates fundamentals to his team this past summer at offseason workouts.

Hill intent on having successful senior season

Brendan Koerner
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Greene County senior Justin Hill has been playing football for only three years, and in that time, he's transitioned into one of the main leaders in the locker room and on the field.

Since stepping onto the field for the first time in 2021, the 5-foot-10, 185-pound linebacker has quietly become one of the Tigers' main play-makers on the defensive side of the ball.

Hill's passion for the sport didn't just pop up overnight. He recently acknowledged that this past offseason has increased his appreciation and desire to get better at the game.

"This past summer has really made me love the sport. We were all just going through a regular workout one day, and I saw my teammates kind of drowsy, so I was the one that tried to get their energy up," Hill said. "I don't know what it was, but that kind of brought out something in me. It has just felt like I was meant to be out here and I'm glad I am."

During the last two seasons, Hill was Greene County's second-leading tackler. Two years ago, he totaled 22 tackles with the Tigers and racked up 60 total stops as 2023.

The former All-Region First-Team honoree is also always making plays around the ball. Hill has recovered five fumbles in roughly 20 contests, forcing one of those fumbles himself last year.

This season, Hill will take on a new role for Greene County as he



BRENDAN KOERNER/Staff

Hill, a Greene County senior, wants to lead by example this season for the Tigers.

is transitioning to the offensive side of the ball as a running back in the backfield. Regardless of what position he plays, Hill wants to be recognized for his intensity on the gridiron for the Tigers as a senior.

"I want to be noticed for my intensity and how [hard] I go [on] every play. I never take one play off, and I am straight going at it every down," Hill explained. "We just want to go 1-0

every week, every day, and I know everyone else on the team is with me on that."

Hill holds himself accountable and wants his teammates to play to a high standard as well. Heading into this season, Hill wants to make a point that everyone is on the same page.

"In terms of my leadership, I bring

MORE HILL >> P.10

2023 TIGERS

No.	Name	Grade	Position
1	Steve Miller	11	QB/DB
2	Justin Hill	12	LB/RB
3	BJ Mullens	12	WR/DB
4	Chris Lowe	12	WR/DB
5	Baugh Aveon	12	WR/DB
6	Quay Burdette	12	WR/DB
7	RJ Monford	11	LB/RB
8	Tamari Roberts	11	RB/DB
9	Tyler Green	12	LB/RB
10	Travez Gibson	9	RB/DB
11	Jaden Dorsey	11	DB/WR
12	Kamari Smith	11	DB/WR
13	Devin Porter	12	
14	Denim Harris	10	QB/DB
15	Aiden Pursell	11	LB/RB
16	Doremus Alexander	10	WR/S
18	Armari Durham	11	RB/S
19	Quincy Robbins	9	
20	Detrick Stribling	10	WR/DB
21	Jailen Ruff	10	FS
22	James Marshall	10	DL/RB
23	Jorquez Kilpatrick	9	WR/DB
24	MJ Peek	10	LB/FB
25	Zabian Smith	12	LB/RB
26	Gonnie Armstrong	10	
28	Amari Kilpatrick	10	TE
29	Amarion Ross	9	RB/LB
31	Melvin Lawrence	9	
33	Jamarion Burke	9	S/WR
34	Jaquez Hull	9	WR/DB
35	Christian Reyes	12	K
37	Aiden Mapp	10	
38	Javius Cleveland	10	
42	Ivan Porter	10	RB/DB
44	Mareyon Miller	9	
51	Haddon Maloy	10	OL/LB
52	Dayshaun Copeland	12	LB/TE
53	Tim Gresham	12	OL/LN
54	Tavaris Turner	11	OL/DL
55	Kevin Wynn	11	OL/DL
56	Demound Copeland	10	OL/FB
57	Tavien Stephens	12	DL/OL
58	Zabian Smith	12	DL/OL
59	Jamarion Evans	12	OL/DL
61	Devontae Dunn	11	OL/DL
62	Desmond West	10	LB
64	Jay'Shaun Jernigan	12	OL/DL
65	Jaxson Lawrence	11	OL/DL
66	Lebron Miller	12	OL
67	Terence Wright	10	OL/DL
68	Cameron Rhodes	11	OL/LB
72	Ka'Darius Andrews	10	OL/DL
75	Jailyn McKellar	10	OL/DL
77	Caleb Lewis	9	
79	Vincent Mitchell	9	
81	Keon Mosley	10	WR/S

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BRENDAN KOERNER/Staff

The 2023 Greene County Tigers' football team.

PHYSICAL

CONTINUED FROM >> P.7

[we've set forth]," Banks said. "As you learn about each kid, you figure out ways to reach that kid and help him get to his

next level. That's really important for the growth of a program, and I think we're doing a good job of it so far."

Greene County is coming off of a year in which the team went 6-4 during the regular season and made a trip to the

GHSA Class A Division II state playoffs as the No. 2 from Region 8.

A great deal of the Tigers' success came from their ability to consistently make stops up front on the defensive side of the ball. On the other hand, they were balanced on offense as the run-and-pass games complemented each other. Under Banks in his first season, the team averaged just over 25 points per game, while giving up only about three touchdowns per contest.

While Greene County does have star players such as quarterback Steve Miller and defensive tackle Kevin Wynn returning, Banks is more interested to see how some of the other position groups and younger guys – on each side of the ball – step up this year. "Offensively, I'm

excited about the wide receivers. I think for a lot of people, we have some question marks in that group about playmakers, but I feel confident that they're going to be able to make the big plays when needed," he said.

"Defensively, I'm excited about the step our linebackers will take. I think that will be the biggest determining factor of how good we are on defense, our linebackers. If they can communicate and make plays, we'll be fine."

Another underrated part of the Tigers' success last year was its special teams.

Senior JaQuavious Burdette, Greene County's punter last season, averaged over 35 yards per punt on top of putting a couple inside the 20-yard line. With the graduation of placekicker Ricky Picasso, the Tigers will look to Burdette to kick PATs as well.

Burdette also plays vital roles as a wide receiver and in the secondary as a safety and Banks expects him to play a large role in helping the Tigers score more often.

"He'll do a little bit of everything for us this year. He's the guy we're looking to take the biggest leap offensively in our production in touchdowns," Banks said of Burdette. "In terms of special teams, he'll be key to what we do. He's been training and working hard to have that year where he can be the go-to guy for Steve (Miller)."

Beyond the work on the field, the Tigers have been helping others all around the Greensboro area. They've visited city hall, nursing homes, and made a trip to a local prison.

Banks attributes that to the philosophies the coaching staff teaches



BRENDAN KOERNER/Staff

Wynn is the 17th ranked defensive tackle in the Class of 2025, and will be the Tigers' main run-stopper on the defensive line this season.



BRENDAN KOERNER/Staff

Miller threw for over 1,500 yards last season, and enters this year with a full slate of varsity experience.

in the locker room, and he believes all this extra work will pay off during the season. He thinks it helps the kids understand how important their success is to the people in the Greene County community.

"We preach that love equals sacrifice, and if you love somebody or something, then you'll have to sacrifice something for it. Even if you asked a Greene County football player when

I'm not around, they'll tell you that's what love means," Banks said.

"That's why we've been doing community service, going to camps, and helping out around the community when needed. I think that's part of the brotherhood. When they can see the compassion from others and that they appreciate what you do, then they'll have a better understanding that they have a lot of people that are pulling for them."

is really the defense.

People don't understand that because all they see is Juju upfront," Banks said. "He's the one that makes every call He puts everybody in position, their alignment. So, he's really the one that can probe for 90 or 95 percent of the plays. He's the one that makes sure the adjustments are together. If we call a blitz, making sure everyone understood it."

"He is basically the quarterback of the defense. So much of what we do goes through him," Banks added. "And because he's a flexible player that can be a linebacker or DB, he's doing all of that while not lining up in the same spot most of the time. So, for him to be able for him to do that, it's kind of big for what we do. He leads the defense and is a

leader for us."

Aside from football, Hill is also a track-and-field athlete who was instrumental in the Tigers placing first in the 4x100 meter relay at the GHSA state championship meet this past spring.

Hill is familiar with success and believes it takes the entire team giving it their all to achieve their goals.

"Being a Greene County Tiger means taking pride in everything you do and giving 100 percent on and off the field," Hill said. "And when you are on the field, make sure you leave everything out there. Every play, every snap, going out there with your teammates giving it your all is what it's all about. It really takes being a team player to be able to get better."

SCHEDULE

VARSITY

- Aug. 18 vs. BEST
- Aug. 25 vs. Morgan County
- Sept. 1 at Hancock Central
- Sept. 8 at Wilkinson County
- Sept. 15 at Oglethorpe County
- Sept. 29 vs. Towns County*
- Oct. 6 at Warren County*
- Oct. 20 vs. Lincoln County*
- Oct. 27 at Aquinas (Augusta)*
- Nov. 3 vs. Washington-Wilkes*

*Denotes region game. All game times 7:30 p.m.

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HILL

CONTINUED FROM >> P.9

accountability to the table, and hold everyone up to a higher standard, just like [head coach Terrance] Banks holds me to," he said. "I want my teammates to be able to look at me and see that I'm giving it my all so that they do the same. If I mess up, I just brush it off and make sure I'm giving them 100 percent on the next play. I also tell the guys to listen to Coach, not talk back and just be a coachable player."

Banks said that Hill plays an important role for Greene County as the "quarterback" of the defense.

"Everybody knows Juju [Kevin Wynn] on defense, but Justin Hill



CHARLES JORDAN/Staff

Ja'Quon Hall (14), Ike O'Neal (7), Cameron Kelley (8), and Reid Davis (9) are some of the Titans' playmakers that want to continue to improve the Lake Oconee Academy program.

Titans aim to be player-led team this season

Brendan Koerner
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After a promising season in 2022, the Lake Oconee Academy football program ramped up its offseason workouts this past summer in order to raise the team's expectations.

LOA second-year head coach Patrick Stewart wants the Titans to come into the regular season playing physical football. He's implemented more workouts in the weight room and padded periods at practice to encourage it. The team also participated in several camps.

Upperclassmen on the team have seen the hard work pay off, and they are excited to start the season. Players such as Cameron Kelley and Jaquon Hall, who have been with the program since its first season in 2021, have seen their teammates want to get better. They each believe both sides of the ball will see an improvement this upcoming season.

Kelley was a part of an Lake Oconee Academy offense last season that was run-heavy; however, he acknowledged that the Titans will be "spreading" it out more on the field in 2023.

"We're [going to] spreading the ball out this year, throwing it around a little bit. You definitely need to keep your eye on Walker [Poyner] and some of the freshmen coming up," he said. They've got some speed and agility, and they've worked hard so far at practices. Our offensive line is full of dogs. We struggled to run the ball at times last year, but they've matured and been hitting that weight room, so I think we'll be good at all areas on offense."

Hall was on a Titans' defensive unit which struggled to make stops last year, although he explained that the unit has gotten better after a full offseason of working hard in the weight room.

"I expect us to get more stops and shut down the offenses we will play. We have some



CHARLES JORDAN/Staff

Junior quarterback Ike O'Neal (right) taking snaps this offseason under center for the Titans.

new coaches this year, and I feel like they've helped us a lot to prepare for the season," Hall said. "We've also gotten older and some of the guys are starting to realize it's about to come to an end, so I feel like we're all just locked in and committing more to the team."

On top of the returning seniors, Lake Oconee Academy has other players in the locker room that have stepped up and become leaders this offseason.

Titans' junior Reid Davis is an inside line-backer for the blue and gold. The class of 2025 defensive player acknowledged that the team's increased physicality in team practices will only help prepare LOA to be a lot more aggressive against opponents during the season.

"Defensively, we're going to be a lot more physical because we've all gotten a lot bigger, stronger and faster. Our whole offensive line is coming back as well, so I think we'll show a lot of improvement from last year on both sides of the ball," Davis said. "It's really about being physical [and] though. You can see it at our practices, we're way more physical and aggressive than we used to be. And I think that will help so

many things." The Titans have also gotten a few players that transferred in at the end of last season.

Former Morgan County backup quarterback Ike O'Neal has only been with the team for a few months, but has a lot of experience playing for the Bulldogs through the past two years.

He acknowledged the work ethic is there and that the team's chemistry is only growing stronger.

"We've all been working really hard, so I think we'll have a much better season this year than we did last [season]. We've got a few new kids coming [in] and I think we'll be able to find success on Friday [nights]," O'Neal said. "It's smaller than Morgan, but we work just as hard, if not harder. The team is becoming a family, and I'm excited for the season."

The Titans' football program is gaining momentum each year, and the shift around its culture has something to do with it. The team is trying to add more success in the win column.

As long as more players buy in and learn from the older guys that have been there since

the beginning, LOA can grow as a program and become more successful over time.

"We've the pieces in place," O'Neal said. "Now, it's just about transitioning that to the field."

2023 TITANS

No.	Name	Grade	Position
1	Logan Waldron	11	WR
4	Knox Van Mol	11	RB
5	Dylan Hiter	10	MLB
7	Ike O'Neal	11	QB
7	Ian Watson	12	MLB
8	Cameron Kelley	11	RB/CB
9	Reid Davis	11	RB/CB
10	Ty Hiter	9	RB
12	Evan Satterfield	10	QB
13	Canon Mullen	9	QB
14	Noah Human	11	WR
15	Abias Smith	9	WR/MLB
16	Adrian Dunn	10	WR/C
20	Jon Funderburke	9	OLB/TE
23	Hayes Fleming	11	WR
24	Jaxon Herrin	12	RB/CB
25	Quinton Anthony	10	WR
28	Jackson Hood	11	OLB
32	Brady Higham	10	RB/MLB
34	Walker Poyner	10	RB
35	Griffin Stanford	9	RB/MLB
36	John Hodges	9	MLB
50	Mason Salemi	11	TE/OLB
52	Logan Davis	9	DE/T
53	Ja'Quon Hall	12	DE/RB
54	Chase Cater	12	
60	Dylan Seay	9	NG/G
60	Kaleb Mathis	11	DE/G
65	Matthew Lewis	11	G/MLB/T
67	Jack Walker	12	C/NG
72	Luke Hankinson	9	G
74	Gavin Harris	9	C/DT
79	Logan Underwood	12	DT/DE
88	Jonah Cadwallader	9	WR



BRENDAN KOERNER/Staff

Ja'Quon Hall (14), Ike O'Neal (7), Cameron Kelley (8), and Reid Davis (9) are some of the Titans' playmakers that want to continue to improve the Lake Oconee Academy program.

Titans building confidence as a young program

Brendan Koerner
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The Lake Oconee Academy football program is heading into its second season under head coach Patrick Stewart and third overall.

The Titans have made steady progress since their start in 2021. They won only a pair of games in the team's first year two years ago and doubled that amount of wins last season.

Now, Stewart believes his players are starting to buy into the culture he wants surrounding the program, and that their progression this past summer has shown that.

"Compared to this time last year, we are way ahead of schedule from the standpoint of offense, defense, and special teams installments and recognitions," Stewart said. "From the summer perspective, you can tell the guys are a lot more confident, and that's the most important part to the foundation of our

program. That has come from what we're able to do in the weight room and during our strength and conditioning sessions. They just feel more confident on the field because of the work they've put in [the past several months]."

Stewart and his staff spent the offseason figuring out what aspects of the Titans' game needs to be focused on more and also on what needs to be changed before the start of the season.

Over the past couple of months, the Titans have gotten more players out on the field consistently than in the past. Stewart acknowledged that the team's attendance and attention to detail will have them more prepared for Week 1 against George Walton Academy.

"This summer, we were able to do a lot more installs on the field for offense and defense. We had a lot more time, and with this team going into its third year, we've had a lot more buy-in

and consistency from the guys," Stewart said. "The main battle during the offseason is getting everybody here, and now that our expectations are set for the program, everyone knows that summer is the time to work."

As more kids join the program, Stewart continues to emphasize the importance of leadership in the locker room. He believes it is more beneficial for the players to lead each other rather than just being led by the coaching staff. Leadership is one of the most important attributes he looks for in a kid.

"From a coaching perspective, as long as we are developing leadership qualities in these young men, I'd think of this season as a success," Stewart said. "I really want some of these older guys to gain a sense of pride in having a player-led team. We can give them all the tools they need to know what to do on the field, but player-led teams usually seem to have more success since they're motivating each other and not having to have the coaches sit there and beg for stuff to get done."

For this upcoming season, Lake Oconee Academy hopes to make improvements on both sides of the ball.

On offense, the Titans struggled to find the end zone at times but still had three contests in which they scored over 30 points last season. Defensively, Lake Oconee Academy ended last season with two shut-outs, but gave up more than 30 points in a



BRENDAN KOERNER/Staff
Second-year head coach Patrick Stewart hitting the sled showing some of his linemen correct technic during offseason practices this past July.

handful of contests. Heading into the season-opener, Stewart believes that both the offensive and defensive lines will be vital to the Titans' success. He added that it all starts "upfront" inside the trenches.

"We have a defensive line that you could call 'veterans.' Ja'Quon Hall, Caleb Mathis and Mason Salemi are all upperclassmen now and have really been the anchors of our defense," Stewart said. "If they play like they have, that group will definitely contribute to winning games on Friday nights. Offensively, [running back] Reid Davis and our entire offensive line are the anchors on that

side of the ball. The most important position on the field for us is our offensive line, so as long as they can get movement upfront, we'll be able to score some points."

After spending the past couple of months conditioning and participating in padded camps, Stewart just wants his team to believe they can compete with teams they have lost to in the past.

"The main thing going into that [George Walton] game is having the mindset that they can hang with these guys. Last year's score was pretty lopsided, and with it only being [my] second year, we still had guys on the fence about

if we could play up to the level of competition in 1A ball," Stewart said. "The team we have this year is more than ready, so I just want them to have that competitive edge and nature about themselves, whether we win or lose."

The Titans will travel to face the Bulldogs on Aug. 18th before hosting the Indians of Towns County the following week.

Lake Oconee Academy will have to wait until the GHSA realignment next summer to have a full varsity schedule, so this season will be the final season of only non-region contests. Until that happens, the Titans are ineligible to make the state playoffs until 2024.

SCHEDULE

Aug. 18...at George Walton Academy
Aug. 25..... vs. Towns County
Sept. 1..... at Skipstone Academy
Sept. 8..... vs. Oglethorpe County
Sept. 15.....vs. Jasper County
Sept. 22..... at Loganville Christian
Sept. 29..... at Crawford County
Oct. 6.....vs. Augusta Prep Day
Oct. 13.....at Cherokee Christian
Oct. 20 vs. Georgia School for Innovation
Nov. 3..... vs. Piedmont Academy

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CHARLES JORDAN/Staff

Now a senior, Morgan County running back Jaydon Dorsey (1) is expected to contribute the most to the Bulldogs' running game this season.

'Dogs have unfinished business to attend to

2023 BULLDOGS		
No.	Name	Grade
1	Jaydon Dorsey	12
2	Jaylen Elder	11
3	Dallas Dickerson	10
4	Trevon Rhodes	12
5	Davis Strickland	10
6	Jordan Gordon	10
7	Ty Tillery	10
8	Antavious Elder	12
9	Drew Cole	12
10	Brody Jenkins	10
11	Jamarius Benford	12
12	Amiyr Mahone	12
13	Zach Moore	12
14	Talan Fuller	12
15	Averion Adams	12
17	Eduardo Lizarde	12
18	Draco Frazzitta	11
19	Cole Wesley	9
21	JaQuallous Jones	11
22	Makai Owens	10
23	Christian Monfort	10
25	Wyatt Singleton	10
26	Chase Pearson	11
27	Cad Braswell	10
28	Trey Lumpkin	9
29	James Murray	9
30	Quin Ruffin	9
31	George Dickinson	9
32	Alex Corrias	9
33	Brody O'Neal	9
34	Tyler Smith	12
35	Isaac McClendon	9
36	Starling Odoms	9
37	Grant Smith	9
38	Bradyn Hunter	12
39	Evan Johnson	11
42	Jamais White	11
44	Nick Brown	11
45	Neko Lumpkin	10
46	Ryan Bailey	9
47	Jayson Standard	11
48	Kyler Spain	10
49	Tyler Mull	10
50	Jamel Cox	11
51	David Bertrand	12
52	Clay Turner	10
53	Dilon Williams	9
54	Landen Vickers	12
55	Colton Morgan	10
56	Drew Breda	9
57	Jairen Brown	11
58	Raj Singh	9
59	JJ Thomas	10
60	Jatavious Ward	10
61	Noah Jackson	11
62	Sean Freeman	9
63	Conner Pittman	10
64	Jackson Hammond	9
66	Nehemiah Franklin	12
67	Nehemiah Franklin	12
68	Jaden Bulter	10
69	Ja'Mari Mundy	10
70	Trent Peters	9
73	Ryker Pittman	9
74	Cooper Pittman	10
75	Andrew Ozburn	10
76	Jacob Jones	9
78	Ladainian Ruffin	11
79	Tristen Folds	11
80	Drew Ainslie	10
81	Ellis Guritz	9
87	Sylans Hulsey	9

Lance McCurley
lance@msgnews.com

Morgan County football heads into year three under Clint Jenkins with some unfinished business in mind.

The Bulldogs made positive strides in 2022 as they vastly improved, especially after winning seven games compared to four in 2021 during Jenkins' first year. They also made the state playoffs for the second consecutive season under Jenkins as the No. 2 seed out of Region 4-AAA.

However, Morgan County failed to advance as its 2022 season ended with a loss to No. 3 seed Liberty County. The Bulldogs of Hinesville upset the Bulldogs of Madison, 19-14, in the first round.

Jenkins' squad has moved on from that loss last November and has set its eyes toward the 2023 season. He acknowledged that the Bulldogs have worked hard all summer to prepare for the season.

"I think our kids understand what we are trying to do conceptually. [Do it] better than we ever have, which this is the third season. That's an expectation now," he said. "So, our energy is good and our kids like each other. That's important. The best teams I've ever had were close in the locker room."

Morgan County has high expectations for this season, with important goals such as winning the region and making a playoff run. The Bulldogs haven't won a region title since 2017 when Bill Malone was head coach. They also haven't been to the second round of the state playoffs since 2012.

While those goals are on Jenkins' and his players' minds, they're not at the forefront. First, his team wants to get to that point, and it all starts with the season opener at home against Social Circle. Jenkins wants his players to initially focus on the smaller picture before

focusing on the future. "I think we're getting there," he added. "This past spring and [summer] were the best we've ever had. Everything is trending the way we want it to go. [However], the bottom line is that when the lights come on, we've got to go out there and execute, and that's what we don't know [about] yet."

Despite being a young team, Morgan County has the skills to accomplish all of its goals. The Bulldogs lost some production from a season ago, but also return a lot on both sides of the ball in 2023.

Offensively, Morgan County brings back senior quarterback Talan Fuller, who's already been in the system for a few years. He passed for 1,291 yards with 15 touchdowns and only five this past season.

The Bulldogs might have lost a 1,000-yard rusher in Jacere Cooper, but return a stable of running backs led by senior Jay Dorsey. The senior totaled 707 rushing yards and 10 scores as a junior in 2022.

Dorsey's backups, sophomores Christian

Monfort and Jordan Gordon, are going to get their fair share of the carries as well. Both had a lot of success during spring practice and throughout the summer.

The biggest question mark for Morgan County on the offensive side of the ball is at wide receiver after losing TJ Thompson, who hauled in 36 receptions for 824 yards and 15 scores last year.

Jenkins highlighted that he has a few players in mind who he thinks will step up to replace Thompson.

"I will say that Dallas Dickerson has had a good summer. He's young. He's only a sophomore," Jenkins said. "Jay Elder is going to do what he's going to do as well. He is really steady and consistent. Ty Tillery is [also] another young guy that's going to help us on the perimeter at receiver."

Morgan County set multiple offensive program records in 2022 under coordinator Loren Purvis, who is now the head coach at South Effingham. Following his departure, Jenkins promoted Brett Bell to be the new offensive coordinator after being

the defensive coordinator for the past few years.

Bell, who already knows Purvis's system and terminology, thinks it will be an easy transition. He also believes that Morgan County's offense can thrive because it returns so many pieces from 2022.

"After losing Jacere and TJ, my expectations are still high," Bell said in June. "They are to be efficient at what we do, especially at running the football, and to grow a little bit in the passing game."

On the defensive side of the ball, Morgan County also returns a lot of key players from last season.

Seniors such as defensive lineman Antavious Elder and inside linebacker Landen Vickers will anchor the Bulldogs' defense. Dorsey and Jay Elder will also play a key role in the secondary this year.

Morgan County allowed an average of nearly 20 points per game in 2022 but hopes to cut that number down this year under new defensive coordinator David Bethea, who was

MORE MORGAN >> P.14

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Baldwin banking on better results

Trey Norris
The Baldwin Bulletin

Following a disappointing season a year ago, going 4-7 and losing to Bainbridge in the first round of the playoffs, the Baldwin Braves are looking for much more in 2023.

"Yeah, 4-7 is definitely not where we want to be," Baldwin head coach Jessie Hicks said of his team's previous record. "I think the biggest thing we can do is get stronger and we've done that. A lot of our young guys have also gotten a lot of reps over the summer, and that's going to help us."

The Braves will be returning some of their top talent from last season as well, highlighted by four-star running back Micah Welch. But Welch is not the only returning player

with a lot of talent. Cousins Jonquavious and Devarious Russell are returning defensive linemen, and Decori Elum will be moving from offensive guard to tight end. Last season Elum was a First-Team All-Region lineman.

"He's going to help us set the edge," Hicks said of Elum. "You think about a guard who was All-Region that you can put at tight end, that guys going to be able to keep guys out and face defensive ends and go set the edge."

Also, Lamar Pounds will head into his second season as the starting quarterback for Baldwin and Hicks is excited about his upcoming season, too.

"It's been good," Hicks said in assessing the Braves' quarterback situation. "Lamar's been having a great

summer. He's been going to different camps and learning different things and he's been really good at our padded camps and 7-on-7 (camps)."

But it's not necessarily all about Pounds taking the snaps.

"Monte Palmer, who played a little quarterback for us last year, adds another dimension of being able to throw and run," Hicks said. "And our offense has been a little bit of a different offense when he's not there, because he does give us the option to do both, he's dangerous doing both. But right now, the number-one guy is going to be Lamar Pounds."

As for running backs, Welch will be leading the pack. Last season, Welch averaged 6.1 yards per carry, 124.8 yards a game and rushed for 1,373 yards, which was

fourth-best in the state. He also scored 16 touchdowns, the most in Class 4A last season. Welch also can be a threat in the receiving game, catching seven passes for 107 yards last year.

"[Another] guy I've been really impressed with is Johnathan Butts," Hicks added. "Now, he's played behind a guy that's a four-star kid and gets all this attention, and it can be tough, but he's showed up big. He's had a great offseason."

On the offensive line, Howard Clark and Jace Powell will be the Braves' leaders in the trenches this season. Overall, Baldwin will have some challenges ahead of them with a tough road schedule that includes games at Peach County, Ware County, and Perry, all of which are considered to be among the top teams in the state.



TREY NORRIS/Staff
Junior Lamar Pounds (who will wear No. 18 for Baldwin High this season) will lead the Braves offense as quarterback this season.

Vickers strives for greatness in senior season

Lance McCurley
lance@msgnews.com

Morgan County senior Landen Vickers is a player that every coach dreams of having on their team.

The veteran inside linebacker is a team-first guy who is the first one in the building and the last out.

Vickers heads into his senior season for the Bulldogs wanting to make a bigger impact on the program. He also wants to leave Morgan County with a football scholarship to play at the next level.

"I've been playing football my entire life. Basically since elementary school," Vickers said. "In middle school, I got down on myself and took a few years off, which was the worst mistake I have made in my entire life. I saw all of my buddies out there [on the field] having the time of their lives, and I realized that this is what I want to do for the rest of my school career. Hopefully, I can do it at the next level, which would be a dream. At that moment, I realized there was nothing more that I could dream of than having a greater chance of playing [football] more and more."

Vickers has been a key part of Morgan County's defense over the past few years. However, the Bulldogs coaching staff is hoping the senior can play an

even bigger role heading into the 2023 season.

Vickers is the lone returning starter at the linebacker position for Morgan County. So, his coaches are relying on him to handle a lot of responsibilities as a veteran on the defense, including being a leader.

The 6-foot-1, 225-pound linebacker acknowledged the responsibility of being a leader and what he's been asked to do. He also added that he has high expectations for the defense this year.

"I'm the middle linebacker, which means I call the defense with Coach [Clint] Jenkins, I do our checks and everything," Vickers said. "We have a very experienced defense. I expect them to play their part and they've been doing great so far [this summer]. I just want to be that teammate that puts them in the right spot, and hopefully makes the entire defense be successful in what they do."

Morgan County head coach Clint Jenkins thinks highly of Vickers, who's been in his system for two years.

"Landen [Vickers] is a guy that comes to work every day. He's a good kid and he never causes any problems. He's [also] always going full speed and you never have to worry about his effort, attitude, or anything like that," Jenkins said. "He's a guy that's going to show up and know that he



CHARLES JORDAN/Contributed
Morgan's Landen Vickers is looking for a big season in 2023, both for himself and the Bulldogs.

loves playing football. We're expecting big things out of Landen this year."

Jenkins added that Vickers is a leader for the young players on the team, and they look up to him.

"He's definitely a guy that these younger [players] are looking up to for some leadership," Jenkins said. "Landen's had a really good offseason as well. He's kind of had some injuries along the way with a little bit of bad luck, but I am really excited to see and watch what he does this year."

Vickers embraces the role of being a leader both on and off the field. He thinks his

teammates would describe him as a player that leads by example and is there for them at all times during the season.

Vickers is big on the idea of accountability and wants it to be important for the Bulldogs. He wants his teammates - on either side of the ball - to hold him accountable while he does the same for them.

"I hope they see me as a guy who is there to help them out, but that is also there to correct them. I want my boys to call my bluff, call my bullcrap anytime I do something," Vickers said. "Just like I am going to call them out every time I get the chance. Because I definitely want them to hold me accountable and I hold them accountable. So, hopefully, if you were to have this same conversation with them, they would say, 'Vickers is hard on us sometimes, but he's also there to pick us up.' And I want to be that kid who can put down a hit, but also be able to help my boys up."

As far as expectations go for 2023, Vickers hasn't put much thought into the wins and losses of the team. He desires that the Bulldogs can play as a team and face adversity together as a unit this year.

According to Vickers, Morgan County fell apart in the middle of last season after facing some challenges and felt as if the camaraderie wasn't quite the same, so he wants

that to immediately change.

"We faced some adversity last season and it tore us up [internally]. After all of that, I don't think we were the same," he said. "This year, we need to stay a team, start as a team and finish as a team. If these boys stay as a team and play together, I think that we have a [fighting] chance this year."

Vickers doesn't have any social media and spends a lot of his time outside of football working toward his future. He also enjoys playing video games, hanging out on the lake and working out.

Vickers takes his academics very seriously, hoping his skills on the field can further both his education and football career. He's had a dream of playing college football since he was a little kid.

"I've been talking with my dad and he thinks I have a future in the engineering field," Vickers said. "I love math and work stuff out with my head and hands. Right now, I have no idea what I am going to do with my life and what this season is to bring. I'm just trying to look forward to my senior year, have fun with my boys and see where my education goes. Maybe it can lead to a football scholarship. I have always dreamed of continuing my football career to play at the next level."

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MORGAN

CONTINUED FROM >> P.13

previously the defensive backs coach. He was promoted by Jenkins last month after Bell took over on offense in June.

"I am really excited about it. We are rebuilding at linebacker, though," he said. "We're replacing three of four there, so that might be difficult. But in the front, we have Antavious [Elder] coming back. Three other kids are returning that also played up front [on the defensive] line from last year."

Other players such as Monfort, Gordon, Tillery, Draco Frazzitta, Drew Ainslie, Dayne Dickerson, Zach Moore, and Jamel Cox, among others, will be

huge contributors at their respective for the Bulldogs.

Morgan County plays a similar schedule to last season, with its five non-region opponents being the same. The Bulldogs will face Greene County, Jasper County Hebron Christian, Social Circle and Monroe Area. Their region schedule of mostly Augusta-based schools begins on Sept. 29 with ARC.

According to the Georgia High School Football Daily's Maxwell Ratings, the Bulldogs are favored to win Region 4-AAA. However, Jenkins doesn't want his players to buy into the preseason hype.

Overall, Jenkins, his coaching staff and players are hoping to attend to their unfinished business in 2023.

SCHEDULE

Aug. 18	..... vs. Social Circle
Aug. 25	..... at Greene County
Sept. 1	..... at Jasper County
Sept. 8	..... vs. Hebron Christian
Sept. 15	..... vs. Monroe Area
Sept. 29	..... vs. Acad. of Richmond Co.*
Oct. 6	..... at Salem*
Oct. 13	..... at Hephzibah*
Oct. 27	..... vs. Cross Creek*
Nov. 3	..... at Harlem*

*Denotes region game. All game times 7:30 p.m.

"We want to be a better football team in October and November than we were in September," Jenkins said. "I might argue that we were a better team in August and September than we were late in the year [last season], so our next step is to flip

that. We want to be a better team later on in the season. That's a huge goal for us. How you do that is by working hard. You go out [and] get better at every practice. Every rep matters, even in the weight room. You do that a little bit at a time."



Trojans tackle new challenges after title runs

Trey Norris
The Baldwin Bulletin

The John Milledge Academy (JMA) Trojans won the state championship last season, defeating Deerfield-Windsor 49-0 to capture their fourth-consecutive state title. It capped off an incredible 50-game undefeated run, meaning the seniors on last year's JMA team never tasted the bitterness of defeat on the gridiron.

This year, the Trojans aspire to keep their championship streak alive; however, the team will need to see new leaders emerge on the field to make it happen.

"Our biggest goal has been to try and continue to get bigger, faster, and stronger physically," JMA veteran head coach J.T. Wall said. "Also, knowing that we graduated such a large senior class last year, one of our main focuses has been on leadership."

To that end, Wall said that brothers Javan and Javian Butts, along with Brandon Watson, Bud Veal, and junior quarterback Kolt McMichael have all stepped up as leaders over the summer.

McMichael is taking over the reins of the team from two-year starter Briggs Eady, who graduated in May.

"He's had a really good summer," Wall said of McMichael. "He's very knowledgeable with the offense and is getting better with his reads

and checks both pre- and post-snap."

On the offensive line, it will take five new linemen to protect McMichael with Watson leading the way.

"It makes all the difference in the world," Wall said of his O-line. "With us graduating our whole offensive line (last year), we know that there may be some growing pains early on."

JMA had one of the top offenses in the state last season, averaging 441.7 yards and 47.0 points per game. Newcomers Jayden Dorsey, Solomon Burney, and Isaiah Womble will all be new targets for McMichael, while Javan Butts, Justin England, and Veal are returning receivers with experience.

Wide receiver Javan Butts had a solid season last year, catching 20 passes for 459 yards and four touchdowns. Veal had 23 catches for 383 yards receiving and six touchdowns for the year, while also scoring three rushing touchdowns after 142 yards on the ground on 18 carries. Running back Javian Butts will remain a big key to the Trojans offense this season, too, after racking up 1,097 yards rushing and 249 yards receiving last year while accumulating a career-high 18 rushing touchdowns to lead the team in that category.

On the defensive side of the ball, the Trojans allowed less than three touchdowns a



TREY NORRIS/Staff

Junior quarterback Kolt McMichael will guide the offense for the Trojans this season, his first as a starter for the four-time defending GIAA 4-A state champions.

game on average last season, with their closest game being against Tattnall Square in the regular season finale when JMA allowed three touchdowns in a 28-21 victory.

But a major change will come at middle linebacker where Andrew Mullis will have to be replaced by Veal and David Todd. Mullis, who

led the Trojans in tackles for two seasons, transferred from JMA to Jones County at the end of the school year.

"Another guy that is really special is Bud Veal," Wall said in an interview with *The Eatonton Messenger's* Lance McCurley last year. "He had a great postseason for us last year. Defensively for us, he

plays outside linebacker. He can also play cornerback or safety. He's a Swiss Army knife that can play anywhere. And Javan (Butts) is also a lockdown corner that does great things."

Veal had 39 total tackles, one sack, two interceptions, and three fumble recoveries during the 2022 season. David Todd, a sophomore last year, had 19 tackles, a sack, an interception, and a fumble recovery in 2022.

Dorsey and Burney will be among the new starting defensive backs for the Trojans, while Javan Butts will be the only starting defensive back to return in 2023. Butts was third on the team in tackles last season with 31 solo stops and 11 assisted tackles but placed first on the team in interceptions with seven on the year. And though Burney lacks experience at the safety position, he has a lot of athletic talent, according to Wall.

On the defensive line, the Trojans return starter Brandon Watson who stands at 6-foot-3, 310 pounds. Watson had 69 total tackles last season with 27 solos, 42 assisted tackles and three sacks.

There is no question the Trojans have enjoyed tremendous success on both sides of the ball in recent years. The obvious challenge for this season will be for the team's offense and defense to live up to those lofty standards.

Brothers remain key to Trojans' sustained success

Trey Norris
The Baldwin Bulletin

"Both" seems to be the best way to describe brothers Javan and Javian Butts as great contributors to the John Milledge Academy (JMA) football program for the past three years. Both became starters in their junior year, and both have made major impacts on both sides of the ball.

"Both guys have started for us the last couple of years and each guy brings a little something different to the game," JMA head coach J.T. Wall said. "They do a great job

pushing each other to get better each day."

Javan and Javian are close brothers who are always looking to help each other succeed.

"Yes, we're always pushing each other to get the best out of one another. We love to see each other shine," Javan said of he and Javian. "For example, if we see one another slacking we tell each other to 'tighten up,' which means do what you got to do to win the rep or anything."

JMA had one of the best defenses in the state last season, posting three shutouts, including a dominating 49-0 win in

the state championship game over Deerfield-Windsor last fall.

Javan was a major part of that team's defensive success, racking up 42 tackles and a team-leading seven interceptions on the season. He also was the Trojans top pass catcher, hauling in 20 passes for 459 yards and four touchdowns for the year.

Meanwhile, Javian became the starting running back as a sophomore in 2021, rushing for 618 yards and 11 touchdowns. In his junior year, he cemented his place as the team's top back by rushing for 1,097 yards and 18 touchdowns. Javian also caught 11 passes for 249 yards and two touchdowns to bring his offensive numbers to 1,346 total yards of offense and 20 touchdowns last season.

Both also mentioned they have worked over the summer on getting bigger and that they have been going to the gym twice a day, once in the morning during team workouts and again in the afternoon with each other.

The standard for success at John Milledge Academy has been set very high for several years now with the Trojans having won five state titles, including the last four under coach Wall, while appearing in six championship games over the past dozen seasons.

The standard remains the same and the Butts brothers understand those standards that have been set.

"The team goals are to get a state and region championship, stay humble, and come together," they both agreed.



TREY NORRIS/Staff

Brothers Javan (14) and Javan Butts are key contributors to the JMA Trojans, both on offense and defense, and both will be called upon often as leaders on the team, too.

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J.T. WALL NAMED 2022 GIAA AAA
STATE COACH OF THE YEAR**

2023 TROJANS

No.	Name	Grade	Position
1	Solomon Burney	12	ATH
2	Bryce McDonel	10	QB/DB
3	Bud Veal	12	WR/LB
7	Kolt McMichael	11	QB
9	Justin England	11	WR/DB
10	Wyatt Echols	10	WR/DB
11	Jaden Dorsey	12	WR/DB
12	David Todd	11	WR/LB
13	Javan Butts	12	WR/DB
14	Javian Butts	12	RB/LB
16	Keontae Whipple	12	WR/DB
17	Jacob Noles	11	K
22	Noah Johnson	10	WR/DB
27	Isaiah Womble	12	TE/DE
32	Jadyn Tingle	11	RB/LB
33	Jamel Cooper	9	RB/DB
40	Cohen Brooks	10	TE/LB
44	Bradyn Jenkins	11	OL/DL
50	Hudson Dominy	12	OL/DL
51	Cohen Bryan	9	OL/DL
52	Ryan Murphey	9	OL/LB
55	Tyrecus Harrison	12	OL/DL
57	Kellen Eady	9	OL/DL
58	Cooper McNair	9	OL/DL
62	Evan Byrd	9	OL/DL
65	Parker Soltay	9	OI/DL
66	Brandon Watson	12	OL/DL
68	Cohen Griffin	9	OL/DL
70	Rhen Prior	10	OL/DL
72	Josh Miller	12	OL/DL
74	Griffin Barnard	12	OL/DL
77	Seth Worthy	9	OL/DL
78	Rodney Latimore	10	OL/DL
82	Eli Merrill	9	WR/DB
83	Bradyn Harrison	10	WR/DB



GEORGIA MILITARY COLLEGE PREP

New coach, new approach for GMC Prep

Trey Norris
The Baldwin Bulletin

Last season, the Georgia Military College (GMC) Prep Bulldogs went 4-and-7, with their season capped off by a first-round playoff loss to Schley County. Still, despite the disappointing record, GMC Prep scored a big win over longtime rival Riverside Military Academy, as well as three region wins against Wilkinson, Glascock, and Twiggs counties.

The Bulldogs were led by head coach Lee Coleman for four seasons, highlighted by a 10-0 regular season in 2021, followed by the region title that year. So, 2022 was an obvious disappointment, but on a personal level, Coleman advanced to a new job as head coach at Lakeview Academy in Gainesville after the season ended.

That in turn led to the hiring of Bobby Rhoades at GMC Prep as its new head football coach. Rhoades came from Pepperell High School, where he was an assistant coach for six seasons.

"I just really believed in the core values of the school, 'Character Above All' and 'Duty, Honor, Country,'" Rhoades said of being attracted to the GMC Prep position. "We have a great administration, great facilities, with a top-flight education. All the ingredients to build a great program."

Rhoades has inherited a young O-line and D-line. Joe Taylor is the lone returning



TREY NORRIS/Staff

With more than 430 yards gained on the ground for GMC Prep last year, Jessie Washington (7) posed a running threat to opposing defenses in every game.

senior on the offensive side and the coach expects he will play defense, too, alongside two-time All-Region defensive linemen Hudson Dominy and Jose Caballero.

At quarterback, the Bulldogs will have a battle for who will replace Tyler Saunders and be named the starter by the season opener. Rhoades said Nate Webster and Logan McMillan have been swapping the position all summer and likely will continue to compete for a few more weeks.

Among the top returning playmakers on offense for GMC Prep are Johnathan

Roach, who can play at running back or wide receiver, Parker Edens at tight end, Jessie Washington at running back, and Walt Greene at wide receiver.

Rhoades said that Greene has been a standout this summer, with great size at 6-foot-4. He added that Edens has shown flashes of brilliance over the summer at tight end, but neither player has much playing experience and neither has been a starter before.

"We are a very young team, so it's been exciting to watch this team grow over the summer," Rhoades said. "We have a few



TREY NORRIS/Staff

Senior running back Johnathan Roach averaged 5.1 yards per carry in 2022 and is expected to be a category leader again this year for the Bulldogs.

seniors that are college-level players who are growing as leaders, and I enjoy watching that."

Roach had 62 carries last season for 319 rushing yards and two touchdowns, but this season he will be looking to add some depth and veteran leadership with Edens to the receiver room.

Meanwhile, Washington will be a playmaker to keep an eye on all season long. In 2021, he rushed for 989 yards and eight scores on 137 carries while averaging 123.6 yds a game that season. Last year, he had only 92 carries but still racked up

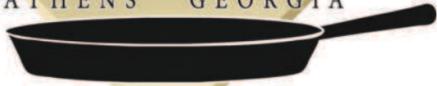
439 yards and six touchdowns on the year while averaging almost five yards per rush.

Washington will also be playing linebacker where he has enjoyed some success, too, with 52 total tackles and 40 solo tackles over the past two seasons.

"I feel the players have bought into what we are trying to do, but we are incredibly young, so there will be growing pains, especially against a very difficult schedule," Rhoades pointed out. "But I'm excited to see where this team is when we get to late October and into November."

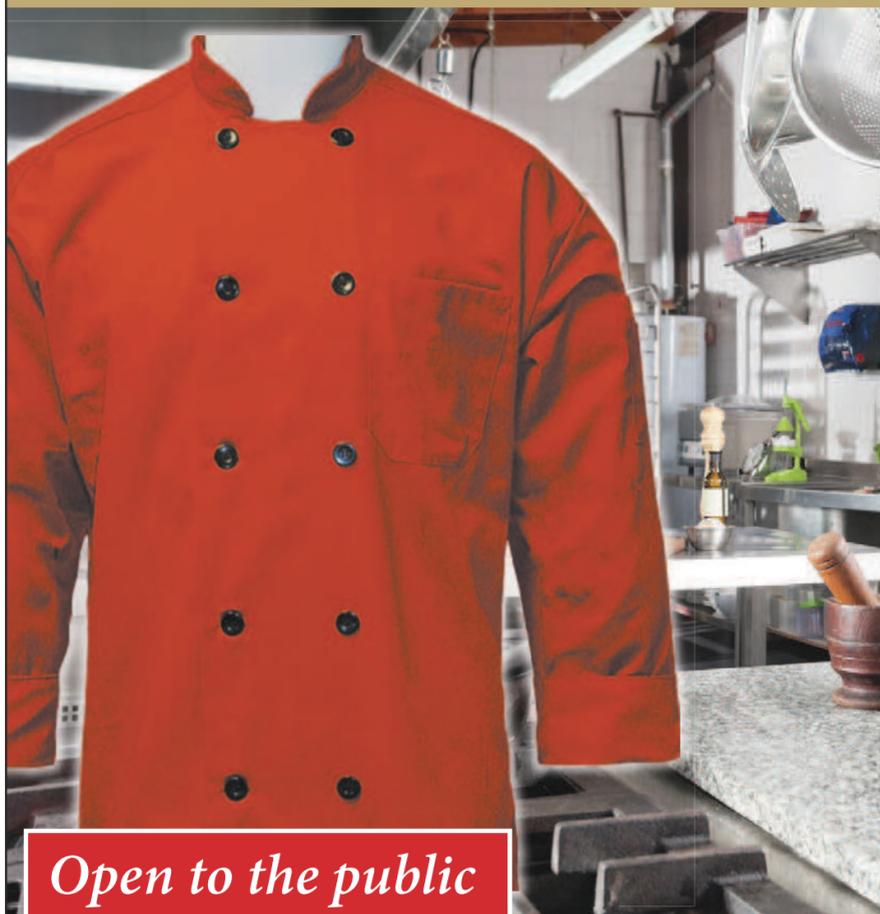
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