

COMMUNITY, 6A
TOCCOA PRESBYTERIAN MEMBERS HOLD ANNIVERSARY SERVICE



SPORTS, 7A
TOCCOA LITTLE LEAGUE COMPETES IN STATE COMPETITION



The Toccoa Record

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Humane Shelter executive director terminated

BY LAURA SHAW
 THE TOCCOA RECORD

After a six-week controversy, Humane Shelter Director Jeff Roberts was fired Tuesday, effective June 30.

In a special called meeting, the Toccoa-Stephens County Humane Shelter Board of Directors voted to terminate Roberts, who was placed on suspension with pay on May 2

due to the unknown nature of a criminal case he was involved with at the time. The board voted to reinstate Roberts to his position at their regular meeting on May 21. Roberts has served as the Humane Shelter Director since 2013. His termination has nothing to do with the criminal case involving elder abuse in which he is charged, according to the Humane

Shelter board at a recent meeting.

There were numerous motions made by the board members before the motion to terminate was approved 5-2. Those voting in favor of termination were Chuck Wright, Terry Carter, Evan Hellenga, Jerry Brown, and Angie Garland, the members that voted against the motion were Tina Morris and Debbie

Duncan. Humane Shelter board chair Tara Simmons only votes in a tie-breaker situation.

The board is already accepting applications and resumes for the position. A draft of the job description lists the following requirements and qualifications for the position, must possess a high school diploma or GED, must have

previous experience working in an animal shelter, animal rights or wildlife rehab center, and administrative, managerial or supervisory experience preferred or any equivalent combination of related education and experience.

To send in a resume, mail it to TSCHS at P.O. Box 2182

SEE DIRECTOR PAGE 2A

Closed for renovations

BY MICHAEL O'HEARN
 THE TOCCOA RECORD

Renovations are coming to a historic bed and breakfast in downtown Toccoa, closing the lodge until a future date to be determined.

The Simmons-Bond Inn Bed and Breakfast across from the Stephens County Courthouse closed on Sunday to do renovations to the kitchen stemming from a water leak that occurred last Christmas.

Because the kitchen has been out of service, visitors staying at the inn are able to get breakfast at Linda's Place at the Rebel downtown with vouchers or have their breakfast fees credited back to them.

But that's not all for owners Bella and Bill Youngquist, as the business partners also have future plans for the bed and breakfast involving more tours and events similar to the mystery murder



Bill and Bella Youngquist are the owners of Simmons-Bond Bed and Breakfast on Tugalo Street in downtown Toccoa. The inn is temporarily closed until further notice while the couple works on renovations inside. Photo by Michael O'Hearn.

dinner they hosted last year.

The Youngquists have been the innkeepers of the bed and breakfast on Tugalo Street since February 2022. The 100-by-100-foot house was designed by architect E. Levi Prater, built in 1903, and Bill said the home precedes the establishment of

Stephens County in 1905.

"This house was built when this was still Habersham County," Bill Youngquist said. "James B. Simmons wanted to build the house out in the country, but his wife wanted to be a socialite and close to downtown."

Simmons was a

successful lumberman and furniture maker in Toccoa, and his wife was active in multiple clubs such as the Literary Club, the Garden Club, the Adelpian Society, and the First Methodist Church.

Ben Cheek, a president of First

SEE INN PAGE 2A

County commissioners begin discussing \$40 million FY25 budget

BY J. TODD TRUELOVE
 THE TOCCOA RECORD

Stephens County is moving toward a 5.11 percent decrease in spending for the 2024-2025 fiscal year which begins July 1.

The county had its first public hearing on the proposed budget Tuesday.

County administrator Christian Hamilton said that the spending decrease was because of a number of factors — less spending from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars, the end of Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) VI capital projects, and less spending in capital projects from the county's SPLOST VII fund.

"For the first time in county history, the board is separating out the millage rates, providing for additional transparency and accountability in showing the exact cost

of multiples departments, including funding for emergency medical services, fire services, and solid waste," Hamilton said.

Hamilton said residents will see a reduction of 1.35 mills on their net millage rate, setting the county's net millage rate at 14.34 mills — less than fiscal 2024's 15.69 mills.

"To further the point, county taxpayers will be paying a lesser tax rate this year than they did last year," Hamilton said. "The value of a mill is projected at \$792,186, or an approximate 8.08 percent increase in the net digest."

The budget includes a 2 percent cost of living increase for most county employees, and the county covering 98 percent of group health insurance costs out of one of the county's plans.

SEE BUDGET PAGE 2A

Toccoa Walmart closes temporarily due to inaccurate reports of hostage situation

BY J. TODD TRUELOVE
 THE TOCCOA RECORD

The Walmart on Big A Road was closed to patrons for about half an hour Tuesday late Tuesday afternoon after police received word of a hostage situation — that turned out not to be entirely accurate.

Toccoa police chief Jimmy Mize said that officers responded to the location after the Hart County Sheriff's Office contacted dispatch about a potential kidnapping and hostage at

the Toccoa Walmart.

Upon arriving at the Walmart, *The Toccoa Record* found shopping carts strewn along the front area of the store after people were asked to evacuate the business.

"Just prior to our arrival, the suspect group had left," Mize said.

Mize said that investigations revealed that some type of domestic dispute had occurred inside the superstore, causing Candace Mitchell, of Lavonia, to contact her husband from the store's

service desk regarding a dispute with her boyfriend, Joshua Pearson, of Lavonia.

"At no time was the public in harm's way," Mize said. "There was no man with a gun. There was no missing person out of Hall County." Mize said that Mitchell and Pearson had a history of domestic issues.

"In our store, there was another round of domestic," Mize said.

The vehicle the couple left the scene in was later

SEE HOSTAGE PAGE 2A



Toccoa police officers were called to what was believed to be a hostage situation at the Toccoa Walmart at approximately 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday night. The situation ended up being based on inaccurate reports. Photo by Michael O'Hearn.

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The Toccoa Record
 67 W. Doyle St.
 Toccoa, Ga.



Twenty additional parking spaces planned at Stephens County Historic Courthouse

BY J. TODD TRUELOVE
THE TOCCOA RECORD

Additional parking is coming for voters with disabilities who turn out to Stephens County polls at the historic courthouse in Toccoa.

Stephens County Commissioner Chuck Wright said Tuesday he was concerned about providing parking spots closer to the Stephens County Historic Courthouse for the disabled.

“We are concerned about the accessibility for ADA (American’s with Disabilities Act),” Wright said.

The plan is to concrete the area in front of the building, from one end to the other, which would require the removal of a Magnolia tree Wright said was rotting.

It would add some 20 parking spots in front of the building that serves as the county’s lone precinct and elections office.

“We would like to get this done by October,” Wright said.

The board unanimously approved the pursuit for more parking.

Director: Humane Shelter board terminates Roberts as director, effective June 30

FROM PAGE 1A

Toccoa, Ga. 30577, or email it to diggyg@windstream.net. The

position will be announced online once the draft of the job description is approved.

The Toccoa Record

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Submitting Info

The Toccoa Record encourages readers to submit items of community interest to the newspaper for publication.

Weddings, engagements, birth announcements and death notices are published free of charge for the community. Information about area residents and their achievements is also welcome.

Submissions should be typed or printed, and a name and phone number to call for more information should be included.

Accuracy Policy

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

To request a correction, contact the editor, Michael O’Hearn, at 706-886-9476.

In the event of errors in advertisements, The Toccoa Record will be responsible only for the space occupied by the actual error. The publisher assumes no financial responsibility for omissions.

Letters to the Editor Policy

The Toccoa Record welcomes all letters to the editor from its readers. Deadline is 10 a.m. on Tuesday morning for the Thursday edition. All writers are expected to follow our letters policy:

- Be exclusive to *The Toccoa Record*;
- Include writer’s full name, street address, daytime telephone number for verification. Writer’s name and city of residence will be published – names cannot be withheld;
- 350 words or fewer; only one letter per writer in any 30-day period;
- No endorsing or criticizing a business;
- Subject to editing for grammar, clarity and appropriate content. Publication of any letter is the sole discretion of *The Toccoa Record*.

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The Farmer and the Butcher opening this weekend near Tugalo Greenspace downtown

BY MICHAEL O’HEARN
THE TOCCOA RECORD

A new butcher shop and grocery store is opening this weekend in downtown Toccoa.

The Farmer and the Butcher is set to host its grand opening at 176 N. Pond St. on Saturday morning just in time for Father’s Day.

The shop is operated by Jonathan Tatum and Ryan Winne, who are both livestock producers in the region.

Winne said the shop’s offerings will include quality meats like beef, pork, lamb, seafood and poultry. Most of those meats will be locally raised, and there will also be an assortment of produce, dairy

products, as well as beverages such as beer, wine and more.

On the merchandise table will be local goods such as salsas and meat rubs. A refrigerator case and freezer case stand against the right wall that will include other meats and cold goods. The seafood offerings will include shrimp, salmon, and scallops, Tatum said.

Occasionally, the duo may also sell crab legs.

“We want to be open during [the] Ida Cox [music series], and we’ll be able to serve beer and wine when we get our pouring license in a few weeks,” Winne said. There is also a lounging area on the top floor of the building, which can be

utilized for meetings and events.

The store’s hours will be Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

The genesis of the butcher shop was an idea by Winne and Tatum to not only invest in their community but to also strengthen the supply chain between livestock producers and the customers. As an added bonus, Winne’s wife, Molly Winne, co-owns BW Threads next door with Rheanna Bauknight.

The Farmer and the Butcher is yet another new business that has announced it will be opening in Toccoa in recent months, joining

other businesses like Pelican’s Snoballs coming to Big A Road and The Bearded Bean Coffee and Provisions opening soon on Currahee Street. The operators of those businesses are targeting an early July opening.

Pelican’s Snoballs will have 150 flavors of shaved ice, and Bearded Bean owner Jorge Ortega is bringing his Cuban roots to Toccoa with a menu of Cuban coffee, sandwiches, pastelinos, and other dishes.

More businesses are coming soon to Toccoa, but details on those ventures are currently under wraps, Toccoa Planning Director Jeremy Ward recently told *The Toccoa Record*.

Hostage: Walmart temporarily closes due to inaccurate reports of hostage situation on Tuesday afternoon

FROM PAGE 1A

located in Franklin County where Mize said Mitchell, Pearson, and a relative who was inside

the vehicle were detained in Franklin County, spoken with, and released.

“We don’t feel at any time she (Mitchell) was

in danger,” Mize said.

No arrests had been made as of Wednesday morning, but Mize said the incident remained under investigation and

requested anyone who might have seen what occurred in the store to contact detective Kristi McKnight at 706-282-3237.

Budget: County begins discussions about FY25 budget

FROM PAGE 1A

The general fund for Stephens County’s fiscal 2025 budget is set at \$21.45 million, an 8.16 increase from the prior year.

Sales taxes provide for more than 16 percent of the revenue in the proposed budget and property taxes 43 percent in revenue for the budget.

“Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) is projected at a 4.94 percent increase over current year’s projections, with LOST

accommodating 16.23 percent of total operating revenue,” Hamilton said.

Hamilton said opioid dollars have been moved to a separate account.

“It should be noted that \$70,000 has been budgeted to assist with litter cleanup in the county,” Hamilton said.

Many departments have a reduction in spending in the county in the proposed budget including constitutional officers, the airport authority, governing body, and senior center. “Health and human

services will see a 55 percent increase in funding this year due to a new contract for (emergency medical services) with the Stephens County Hospital Authority to provide a fourth ambulance service for our community,” Hamilton said.

James Addison, chairman of Keep Toccoa-Stephens County Beautiful (KTSCB), spoke in opposition to the budget.

Addison requested additional funds for KTSCB — where the

budget was reduced from some \$9,000 to \$3,000.

“I feel like we need some of it (funding) back,” Addison said. “I’m not asking for a lot more,” Addison said, adding KTSCB has spent funds to add trash cans, planting flowers, and additional purposes.

Addison was the only one who spoke in opposition. No one spoke in support of the proposed budget.

A second public hearing before adoption is scheduled for June 25 at 6 p.m. at the historic courthouse in Toccoa.

Inn: Simmons-Bond Bed and Breakfast undergoing renovations this summer, opening date to be determined

FROM PAGE 1A

Franklin Financial, was born at the house, and the property was used to entertain the paratroopers who were training at Camp Toccoa during WWII.

The name derives from the marriage of Frances Louise, daughter of James and

Antoinette Simmons, and Julius Belton Bond, the owner of a local furniture store. Frances Louise’s mother insisted the couple move into the house with her, hence the name, Simmons-Bond.

In a recent blog post on the inn’s website, Bella Youngquist wrote that “in life, adversity has a curious way of

ushering in unexpected opportunities.”

“As I stood there, ankle-deep in the aftermath of a kitchen flood, my initial reaction mirrored the chaos around me – panic, frustration and a nagging sense of defeat,” she wrote. “Yet, little did I know that amidst the soggy chaos laid the seeds of a

journey that would lead me to places I never imagined.”

She resolved to turn the disaster into an opportunity, and she told *The Toccoa Record* ahead of the temporary closure she still believes the best is yet to come. That’s the hashtag she uses on her social media posts, which detail the project’s progress.

Scavenger hunt kicks off in downtown Toccoa

The hunt is officially underway! Downtown Toccoa invites residents and visitors alike to embark on a thrilling journey through the city’s rich history with its 150th Anniversary month long Scavenger Hunt.

Throughout the month of June, participants are encouraged to explore the charm of downtown Toccoa while uncovering hidden treasures of the past. Armed with clues provided by the Main Street Toccoa office, eager adventurers can set out to discover ten historical plaque markers strategically

placed throughout the downtown area.

But that’s not all - in addition to the 10 historical plaque markers, participants are challenged to locate five golden-framed historical items hidden within downtown Toccoa’s historic streets.

“The June Scavenger Hunt is designed to celebrate our heritage and foster a sense of community engagement,” said Toccoa Special Events Coordinator Misty Richardson. “We hope this event will inspire a deeper appreciation for Toccoa’s history and

encourage ongoing exploration of our beloved city.”

To participate, individuals or teams can pick up copies of the clues and a historical walking guide at the Main Street Toccoa office, ensuring they’re well-equipped for their expedition. Armed with knowledge and curiosity, adventurers can explore Toccoa’s past, one plaque and golden frame at a time.

Participants are to document their findings with pictures and submit their answers to mrichardson@cityoftoccoa.com by June

30th, 2024. All completed entries, including the ten plaque markers and five golden frames, will be entered into a prize drawing.

Prizes include:
• 1st Prize: \$150 Downtown Dollars Gift Card
• 2nd Prize: \$100 Downtown Dollars Gift Card
• 3rd Prize: \$50 Downtown Dollars Gift Card

For more information, email Toccoa Special Events Coordinator Misty Richardson at mrichardson@cityoftoccoa.com or call 706-282-3309.

City adopts \$53.9 million budget, reappoints Turner to Historic Preservation Commission

BY LAURA SHAW
THE TOCCOA RECORD

The Toccoa City Commission's meeting on Monday was all about the money, with the commission officially adopting the FY25 budget that will take effect on July 1. The other items on the agenda for the commission were the May financial report and approval of an appointment to the Historical Preservation Commission (HPC).

The FY25 budget was approved for a total of \$53,956,965 a 15.7 percent increase over the FY24 budget. The budget includes an increase of 0.8 mills for property taxes, a sewer rate increase of \$2.00 for the base, a water and sewer tap fee increase, and a solid waste increase of \$2.00 per roll-out or 10 percent on commercial. It also includes a Georgia Natural Gas increase for residential the increase is \$9.00 bringing the new base rate to \$20.00, commercial/industrial will see a \$28.00 increase

for a \$50.00 new base rate, and interruptible will have a \$99.00 increase for a new base rate of \$300.00.

The budget also includes a three percent pay increase for all employees. The general fund is getting a 3.3 percent increase from \$12,063,097 to \$12,445,267. The Water/wastewater fund is increasing 24.9 percent from \$14,002,163 to \$17,489,916.

Also increasing in the budget is the natural gas fund at a 6.1 percent increase from \$13,443,045 to \$14,283,449. The solid waste fund is rising 6.9 percent and the Lake Toccoa facilities fund is increasing 6.7 percent. These increases equal an 11.7 percent increase over the FY24 operating funds from \$41,264,781 to \$48,085,382.

"The city is able to meet all its financial and debt obligations. The city continues to make infrastructure and facility improvements in our community, and the city continues to maintain a high level of services for our citizens and customers. At this

time I'd like to publicly thank finance director Becky Bohannon for her leadership and the hard work of our department heads and staff for putting together a budget that meets our financial needs," City Manager Fredda Wheeler said.

Following the budget hearing and approval Bohannon reviewed May's financial report. With the budget cycle 91.66 percent finished the general fund revenues are at \$10,566,902 and the expenditures are at \$10,765,881 which comes to a net loss of \$198,979. "That leaves us with a net loss of \$198,979 and unfortunately that's probably about where we'll finish out the year probably in the loss. The biggest contributor to that loss is water funds is just not able to make the transfers that we had planned for from the fund," Bohannon said.

Closing out the month of May the city had \$14,22,857 in the bank. The funds are broken down into \$1,384,795 in operating, \$1,914,638 in

CRA, \$1,233,707 in reserves, \$6,576,752 in SPLOST, and \$3,112,965 in ARPA. During the reports portion of the meeting commissioner Evan Hellenga expressed his concern with the prospect of the city seeking a \$2 million loan for the Ritz Annex project when the proposed budget included so many increases on the citizens of Toccoa. He asked that the project be looked at again to see if more could be shaved off.

The final item addressed at the meeting is the renomination of Susan Turner to the HPC board for another three-year term. Turner is currently the chairperson of the board and her term expires on June 30. The commission unanimously approved her to serve another three years on the board.

There were no public comments at the meeting. The next city meeting will take place on June 18 at 5:00 p.m. with the Humane Shelter board meeting to follow at 5:30 p.m.

Trio of Georgia Republicans tour embattled Palmetto regional mailing facility

BY DAVE WILLIAMS
CAPITOL BEAT NEWS SERVICE

Three Republicans from Georgia's congressional delegation got a first-hand look Monday at what's being done to improve mail processing at the United States Postal Service's (USPS) regional center in Palmetto.

U.S. Reps. Mike Collins of Jackson, Austin Scott of Tifton, and Andrew Clyde of Athens toured the facility less than two weeks after U.S. Sen. Jon Ossoff, D-Ga., made a similar visit. Ossoff is a member of a Senate committee that questioned Postmaster General Louis DeJoy at a hearing in April about delays in mail processing at the center that began last winter after the launching of a restructuring program aimed at making the postal service financially self-sufficient. The program was rolled out first at the Palmetto facility and at a mail processing center in Richmond, Va.

During the hearing, Ossoff cited statistics showing that only 36% of the first-class mail processed at the facility was being delivered on time.

After visiting the Palmetto center on May 30, Ossoff said on-time mail delivery has improved to about 60%.

"While metrics are moving in the right direction, improving transparency and



U.S. Sen. Jon Ossoff.

communications between the USPS and our constituents remain top of mind," Collins posted Monday on social media after touring the Palmetto center with Scott and Clyde. "I will be staying in touch with Postmaster General (Louis) DeJoy to ensure that the necessary steps to improve USPS issues are being taken."

After being bombarded with complaints about service at the Palmetto regional mail processing center, DeJoy first put the nationwide restructuring initiative on hold, then announced a plan to address delays at the Georgia facility by bringing in more than 100 personnel from other centers and revising transportation schedules between the Palmetto facility and other local mail processing centers.

Like the three Republican congressmen, Ossoff has vowed to keep up the pressure on DeJoy until the problem is brought under control.

Trash talk: Toccoa officials reminding residents how to handle disposables, relays city's rules

BY LAURA SHAW
THE TOCCOA RECORD

Last week Mayor Gail Fry, City Manager Fredda Wheeler, and Public Works Office Manager Janet Dye met with *The Toccoa Record* and WNEG to discuss the city's solid waste management ordinances. During the meeting, the city officials stressed that they wanted to help educate new residents on the ordinances.

In a press release issued by the Public Works department, the ordinances were outlined as follows: The City of Toccoa is committed to providing efficient and effective solid waste disposal services to all its residents. To ensure a clean and healthy environment, we ask that the citizens adhere to the following guidelines. For detailed information the entire ordinance can be found at www.cityoftoccoa.com/publicworks/page/curbside-debris-removal

Service Days: Solid waste will be collected on designated dates for each area of the city. Garbage should be placed in your green roll-out and on the street before 7 am and removed from the street by 7pm. All garbage must be bagged and placed inside the roll-out. Any bags or items on the ground beside the roll-out will not be picked up. Recyclables are picked up on the same day as your roll-out. Recycle containers are issued by the City free of charge.

Street trash and debris are picked up the day after your roll-out weekly, however holiday scheduling may sometimes alter pickup days. Any items that are placed on the curb for debris truck pick up should be placed the day before pick up, no earlier. Items placed earlier may result in a violation and a visit from the Code Enforcement Officer.

Permitted items for

debris trucks are household items such as single pieces of furniture, appliances, kitchen and bathroom fixtures, electronics, and other boxed household items. All small items must be bagged or boxed in order to be picked up.

Brush debris is allowed as follows: trees and branches no larger than three inches in diameter and no longer than six feet will be picked up. Larger items cannot be supported by our truck. The leaf vacuum truck runs from Nov. 1 to Jan. 31. All leaves to be vacuumed must be free of debris. After leaf vacuum season we ask for all leaves to be bagged.

The following items are unacceptable for Collection: Dangerous or hazardous materials or substances such as poisons, acids, gas, oil, antifreeze or explosives. Building debris such as plaster, roofing, concrete, boards, brick

and other such rubbish resulting from construction of any building will not be removed by the City. No Automobile or motor vehicle tires will be picked up. Any debris or rubbish left on a vacant lot or an unoccupied premise will not be picked up.

For more detailed instructions, the entire ordinance can be found on the City of Toccoa Web site at <https://www.cityoftoccoa.com/publicworks/page/curbside-debris-removal> "The City of Toccoa is glad we can provide these services and we'd just like to put out some reminders and make people aware of the ordinance and some reminders, we have a lot of new people that have moved in that may not be aware and this is a way," Fry said. The city will also hold a public meeting to answer questions on the ordinance before the next city meeting on June 18.

County commission Post 3 runoff election scheduled on Tuesday between Oglesby, Addison

BY J. TODD TRUELOVE
THE TOCCOA RECORD

Early in-person voting for the runoff election between Post 3 commissioner candidates James Addison and Craig Oglesby ends tomorrow, Friday, June

14.

Polls remain open at the Stephens County Historic Courthouse from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to cast a ballot.

Polls will reopen on runoff election day on Tuesday, June 18, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Warren to host author talk at Traveler's Rest

The Friends of Traveler's Rest group is hosting award-winning author and naturalist Mark Warren at the historical site on Saturday morning.

Warren is the owner of the nationally renowned Medicine Bow Wilderness School in Dahlenega and has been teaching about

native plants, trees, and Native American survival skills to adults and children for more than 50 years.

His program, "The Forest's Gifts of Food, Medicine, and Craft as Practiced by the Native Americans," will be held at Traveler's Rest at 11 a.m. on Saturday. He said he believes

today's society can, and should, learn some valuable lessons and skills regarding the use of native plants for food, medicine, insect repellent, craft, shelter and fire.

He will bring along some handmade Native American style crafts for viewing and discussion.

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OPINION

- OUR VIEW
- YOUR VIEW
- COLUMNS
- CARTOONS
- OUR MISSION

Support local businesses, especially new ones coming to Toccoa-Stephens County

OUR VIEW

In recent weeks, we've covered the opening of three businesses in Toccoa soon, including Pelican's Snoballs, Bearded Bean Coffee, and today, The Farmer and the Butcher. The Farmer and the Butcher will be a new butcher shop and grocery store opening on N. Pond Street in downtown Toccoa this weekend, just in time for Father's Day.

Meanwhile, the other two businesses have a few weeks left before they are ready to open in early July, around the Independence Day holiday.

Earlier this spring, we reported on the openings of Middle Earth Tea on Tugalo Street and Sage Street Bakery. Since then, we've learned business is going steady for those new shops.

Waiting in the wings are a few other businesses getting ready to open in Toccoa in the coming months, but details will be forthcoming on those at the moment.

Our city officials, including Toccoa Main Street Director Kristin Deal and Planning Director Jeremy Ward, have expressed their excitement about these new offerings

recently.

That excitement is palpable, and a new business in town is always certainly worth celebrating.

Small businesses are the lifeblood of communities such as Toccoa, and they are operated by people we know and interact with daily. They are trying to feed their families, keep a roof over their heads, and get by just like we are. It takes a lot of work, blood, sweat, and tears to make the leap to owning a small business and maintaining such a venture is incredibly challenging.

Here are some facts about small businesses that were published by Forbes earlier this year:

- Almost all businesses across the U.S. are small businesses.
- Nearly half of America's employees are working at a small business.
- Nearly one in five small businesses have fewer than 20 employees.
- Small businesses have contributed nearly 13 million jobs since 1999.

As you flock to support these new businesses over the coming weeks, keep those statistics in mind and ponder how far your contribution to their success is going to go for them.



Disappointed by lead story in June 6 paper

YOUR VIEW

The lead article of the front page of *The Toccoa Record* on June 6, 2024, is deeply bothersome and saddening. It reeks of salacious print for profit.

The Stephens County

Schools System has taken action which may be appropriate and/or required. However, for *The Toccoa Record* to publicize an investigation, initiated from hearsay, of consensual sex between two adults in 2021. Really? This standard of journalism is beneath our

community. We deserve more decency. Where is the "milk of human kindness" for goodness sake?

Is this to be the tenor of *The Toccoa Record* under new management? We hope not.

Jayne and Jerry Snell
Toccoa

ONLY FOUR THINGS ALLOW GOVERNMENTS TO CLOSE A MEETING:

- Personnel
- Litigation
- Purchase of Property
- Cybersecurity

Want to express your opinion? Submit a Letter to the Editor.

The Toccoa Record welcomes letters to the editor from its readers.

The deadline for the Thursday edition is Tuesday morning at 10 a.m.

All writers are expected to follow our letters policy:

- Be exclusive to *The Toccoa Record*.
- Be no longer than 350 words. Only one letter from a writer in any 30-day period is allowed.
- Cannot endorse or criticize a business.
- Must include your name, address, and phone number. Only your name and town in which you live will be published, and names cannot be withheld.
- Letters are subject to editing for clarity, grammar, and appropriate content. *The Toccoa Record* has the sole discretion as to whether to publish a letter.

Reservations about Ritz Theatre renovations

YOUR VIEW

Two million dollars in debt, in my opinion, is not a sound decision for updating the Ritz Theatre in downtown Toccoa.

I have two concerns about this project.

First, renovating the Ritz should include more comfortable seating. Seating should be updated, safer and more comfortable to make the experience better for the guests we want to come again for the shows. The current seats, while historically correct, are unsafe (they break with guests) and are lacking in today's comforts which I believe matter when people consider attending a venue. The new restrooms of course are much needed, and

though plans for how they will be were not shown, only the outer lobby was shown, but I would think they would be very nice and up-to-date. Our historic beauty can be preserved and showcased with a Retro interior in the new lobby to reflect the historically correct pretty exterior. Original seating can be used as display along with more of the old photos and retro colors with local facts to enhance our Toccoa Ritz Theatre and its rich history. I believe that would be an asset the guests we want to attend the events will enjoy, and then to have up to date restrooms and seating will win the day for us.

Second, and maybe most importantly, the budget for this project will put Toccoa into more than two million

dollars of debt over the amount of the grant money received to achieve this renovation. Is that a move that should be made in light of the across-the-board raise in city service prices for all of the city residents? You have been listening, haven't you? Our gas, water, trash collection, and property millage rate are all set to increase when the new July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025 budget goes into effect.

If we must go into debt, shouldn't it be for helping citizens with service prices? I believe the renovation of the Ritz Theatre should be looked at again, what can be improved within the grant money budget, in my opinion.

Susan Wade
Toccoa

The Toccoa Record

Our Mission

The Toccoa Record is published with pride for the people of Stephens and adjoining counties by Community Newspapers, Inc., Athens, GA. We believe that strong newspapers build strong communities - "Newspapers get things done!" Our primary goal is to publish distinguished and profitable community-oriented newspapers. This mission will be accomplished through the teamwork of professionals dedicated to truth, integrity, loyalty, quality and hard work.

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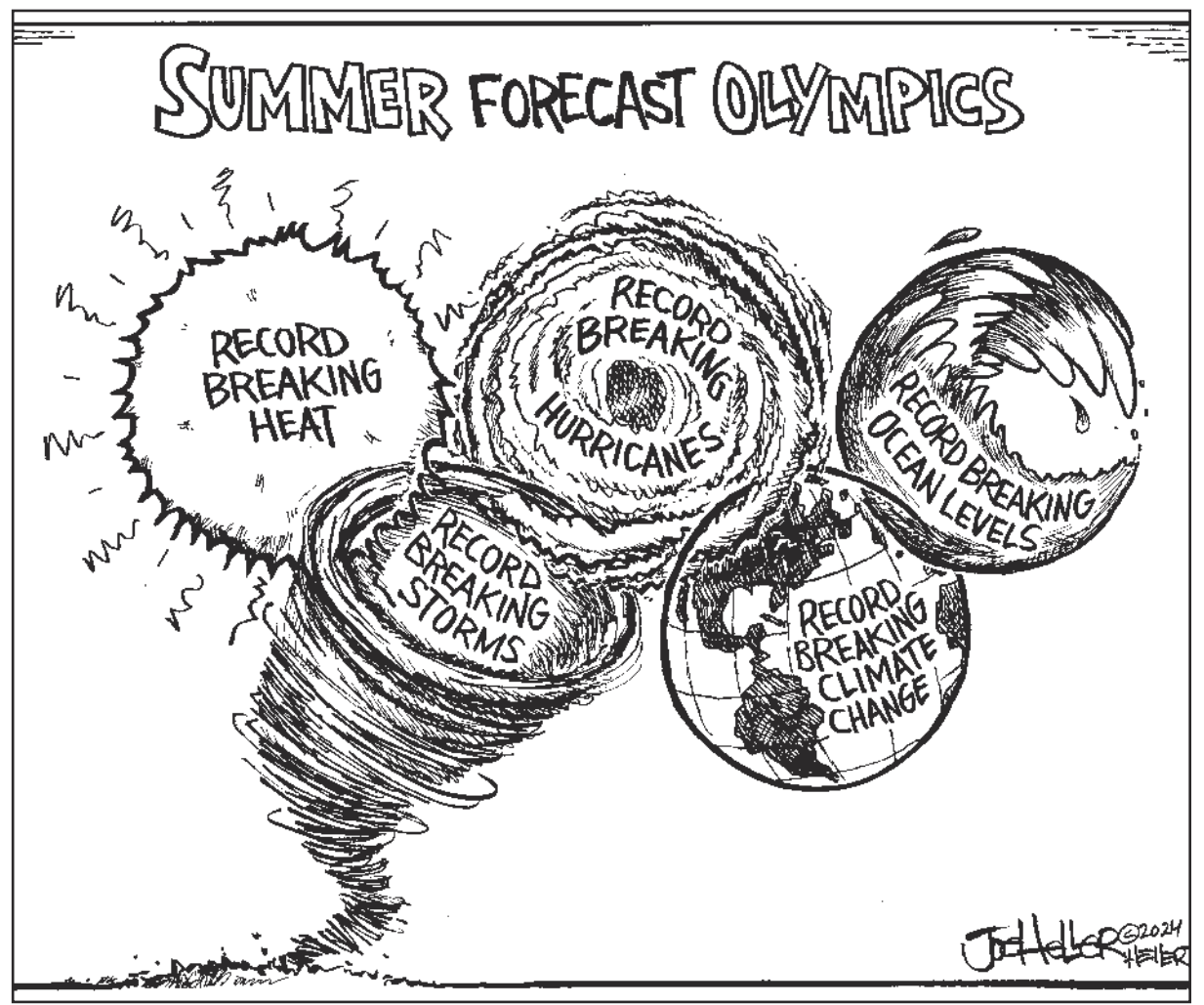
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Celebrating President Carter's African American Appreciation Music Month and Juneteenth

BY MARIE T. COCHRAN
SPECIAL TO THE TOCCOA
RECORD

We continue the 45th anniversary of President Jimmy Carter's declaration of June as Black Music Month and showcase local music. I also wanted to take the time to expand the celebration and recognize the creative impact that African American music has had on music lovers around the world. Let me lead you on a journey of discovery. First of all, when most folks think of Black music it is limited to Spirituals, Gospel, Blues and Hip Hop. However, a close listen and thoughtful study reveals that there are African roots and contributions to every possible musical genre – including classical music.

Tragically, centuries of enslavement and barriers imposed by the music industry forced performers into narrow channels and robbed them of their due financial compensation for their creative labor. In spite of that, Black Musicians have established bedrock musical traditions.

For example, the recent PBS series Gospel, a four-hour docuseries, from Harvard University Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr. brings gospel and secular artists together to explore the rich history of Black spirituality through sermons and songs. In the future, I look forward to the presentation of locally recognized talents who faithfully perform musical ministries in our communities.

Last week, my series

began with Ida Prather Cox touted as “The Uncrowned Empress of Blues.” The blues originated in the Deep South during the slavery era, as a vocal form of secular folk music that incorporated African American spirituals and work songs. In addition to Ida Cox, Toccoa has an unsung performer by the name of Jake Stagers. Growing up in Toccoa, I never heard of or learned about Ida Cox or Jake Stagers. However, sitting in a classroom in the Lamar Dodd School of Art I was introduced to Stagers by my teacher Art Rosenbaum who was a painter, musician and folk music expert. He and his wife Margo traveled throughout the South documenting rural performers.

“Art of Field Recording Volume I: Fifty Years of Traditional American Music Documented by Art Rosenbaum,” released Nov. 6, 2007, won Art Rosenbaum a 2008 Grammy award for Best Historical Album. It includes two songs performed by Jake Stagers and offers a glimpse at the legacy of Black Appalachians. You may be familiar with “Going Down the Road Feelin’ Bad” which has been recorded by many artists such as Bob Dylan, and the Grateful Dead but I hope you will take a listen to Stagers’ version on Rosenbaum’s album.

Next let’s talk about country music. Even before the release of the album “Act Two: Cowboy Carter” by Beyoncé and her 10 weeks at the top of the country music charts. There were Lesly Riddle, Linda Martell, Charlie Pride and many



Jake Stagers and his family in Toccoa. Photo by Margo Rosenbaum.

others. Read all about them in “My Black Country: A Journey Through Country Music’s Black Past, Present, and Future” by Alice Randall, award-winning songwriter and professor.

This weekend in Toccoa, we will celebrate Black Music Appreciation Month and the Juneteenth National Holiday. The Toccoa Improvement Association in partnership with the City of Toccoa presents “Juneteenth: Celebration of Freedom” in downtown Toccoa for the entire day starting at 11 a.m. As part of the Ida Cox Summer Music series, this year’s headline performer will be Toccoa’s own Scoot Teasley, a rising country music singer/songwriter and guitarist.

Born and raised in Toccoa, Scoot Teasley has been immersed in the world of music since his earliest days. With a deep-rooted passion for rhythm and melody, he initially found his groove behind the drum kit and in the church pews fostering a lifelong love of music. Scoot is a talented musician who can play the guitar, piano, and mandolin among other instruments. He has also entered the scene during a renaissance of Black Country music and carved out his unique niche.

From his debut single, the emotionally charged “Let Me Move On,” to the soulful resonance of “Nothin’ On Me,” “Moonshine,” and “Perfect Season,” Teasley has been on the rise, captivating

audiences and stirring hearts with his heartfelt songs.

Teasley’s single, “White Cowgirl Boots” not only showcases his artistic growth but also underscores his commitment to weaving authentic narratives through music. Overall, Teasley is a gifted and adaptable musician who has established himself in the scene of modern country music. Fans of all ages will appreciate his distinctive fusion of traditional and modern elements, strong vocals, and poignant lyrics, which make him an outstanding artist.

Both of his 2022 albums, “Perfect Season” and “Nothin’ On Me,” were warmly welcomed by both critics and fans. His latest career achievement is that

Independent music publishing company Prescription Songs has signed Teasley to a global publishing deal. As Teasley’s musical voyage unfolds, his dedication to crafting unforgettable country music experiences remains unwavering. Keep an ear out for more soul-stirring tunes on the horizon.

Marie T. Cochran is a Toccoa native and the founding curator of the Affrilachian Artist Project which celebrates Appalachia by nurturing African American communities and building a creative network of individuals and organizations committed to the sustainability of a diverse region. For more info contact Marie at: www.affrilachianstudio.com.

As competition decreases, healthcare costs increase

On May 17, the Buckeye Institute released the policy brief, “How Higher Hospital Costs Lead to Higher Prices.” Georgia and Ohio have certain regulatory differences when it comes to their healthcare landscape: Ohio has expanded Medicaid coverage under the Affordable Care Act unlike Georgia, while the only certificate of need (CON) requirements in Ohio are for long-term care beds and facilities. But one significant similarity is the amount of hospital consolidation both states have experienced in recent decades.

Take Piedmont Healthcare in Georgia, for example. Twenty years ago the system consisted of just two hospitals in Atlanta and Fayetteville. By the end of the decade, Piedmont would acquire Mountainside Medical Center in Jasper (2004) and Newnan Hospital (2007). Today, Piedmont is the largest health system based in the state, with 24 hospitals spanning from Columbus to Macon and from Athens to Augusta.

It is not just Piedmont. Wellstar Health System currently has 11 hospitals – despite closing two in recent

years – and stretches from LaGrange to Griffin to Augusta.

In Georgia, the four largest health systems currently account for 51.6% of hospital beds available statewide. As the brief’s author Rea Hederman noted, “One reason hospitals can charge insurers and patients exorbitant prices stems from a lack of market

competition. Hospital consolidation has reduced the number of hospitals that must price their services competitively, which insulates pricing from competition. And hospitals have acquired private physician groups, bringing them in-house, as another way to limit competitors. Demand for healthcare rises, but the number of care providers declines, allowing the remaining consolidated providers to charge higher rates.”

The brief also notes that “In sum, hospitals ultimately pass along their capital costs to patients, employers and taxpayers. A recent RAND study found that Ohio hospitals already charge commercial insurers 276.62% of what they charge Medicare for the same services and the Congressional Budget Office

found that rising costs get passed on to commercial insurers which ‘may lead to higher premiums, greater-cost sharing requirements for patients, reductions in the scope of benefits, or other adjustments to plans.’”

Unfortunately, that same RAND study holds even worse news for Georgians. On average, Georgia hospitals charge commercial insurers 344.73% of what they charge Medicare for the same services. This result makes Georgia the worst in the nation when it comes to overcharging privately insured individuals.

For comparison’s sake, Arkansas experienced the lowest rate in the country at 164.28%. It was also one of only five states under 200%. Meanwhile, Georgia was one of seven states above 300%. It is important to note that gaining health insurance through your employer represents a tradeoff when compared to other employer-provided benefits, primarily wages. Since World War II, when the federal government determined that benefits were not taxable, employer-provided health insurance has been the main source of commercial health insurance in this country. As the cost of healthcare continues to rise, employers often scale back not only coverage, but salary increases needed to keep pace with inflation.

While proponents of hospital consolidation argue that this allows for better economies of scale and thus increases quality and the scope of services offered, the lack of competitors in a marketplace removes any incentive to provide competitive pricing. Consider what has happened in Southwest Georgia with a monopolistic health system: high costs and a limited choice of providers.

Consolidation on the insurance side has also placed strain on consumers. Former Gov. Nathan Deal was once forced to mediate a contract dispute between Piedmont Athens Regional and Blue Cross Blue Shield, the state’s largest health insurer and administrator of the state health benefit plan, when hundreds of thousands of state employees suddenly found their providers out of network.

Unfortunately in Georgia, most of the damage to a competitive landscape might already be done. In this era of consolidation, we are continuously trending towards a field of haves and have-nots. The have-nots are typically the remaining independent hospitals in rural communities.

What is perhaps more worrisome is that even the state’s largest health systems might not be immune to acquisitions. This could

result in mergers on an even larger scale, such as the attempted merger between Wellstar and Emory in 2015. Or we could see continued acquisitions by health systems outside of Georgia, such as the acquisition of Navient Health and Floyd Health by Charlotte-based Atrium Health, or the purchase of three hospitals in Northwest Georgia by AdventHealth in Florida. While federal and state regulators can – and should – be more vigilant prior to approving these consolidations, some local governments are fighting back. In Western North Carolina, multiple cities and counties and now even the state’s Attorney General are engaged in lawsuits against HCA Healthcare after its acquisition of Mission Health in 2018.

In his pretrial ruling earlier this year, Chief U.S. District Judge Martin Reidinger noted that HCA’s alleged scheme of reducing outpatient service availability and quality in the outlying regions, which increased cost in those areas and compelled patients to travel and receive services at HCA’s Asheville facilities, was sufficient enough for the case to proceed.

Chris Denson is the director of Policy and Research at the Georgia Public Policy Foundation.



Chris Denson
My View



Toccoa Presbyterian Church hosts anniversary service

The congregation at Toccoa Presbyterian Church visited their Mother Church, Tugaloo Presbyterian in Madison, South Carolina, on Sunday, June 2. Built in 1856 by Patrick Prather near Crossroads, South Carolina, the church building was then moved to Madison in 1870 and named Tugaloo Presbyterian Church. To celebrate the church's origins, a Sunday worship service was held inside the quaint wooden-framed church building, without electricity and plumbing. A picnic was held afterwards on the grounds surrounded by the original cemetery still used by Ramsay and Jarrett ancestors today. *Photo by Jim Morden.*



Gamma Delta Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa installs new officers

The Gamma Delta Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa recently met at Tugaloo Bend Park. State President Debbie Boswell (right) installed officers for the 2024-2026 biennium. Officers include (from left to right) include Eleanor Ivester – immediate past president, Samantha Pruitt, chaplain, Susan Kesler (standing in for President Elect Jennifer Howell), Donna Smith, historian, Jacquelyn Hale, treasurer, Stephanie Wilbanks, secretary, and Ann Hunt, president. Alpha Delta Kappa is an honorary organization for women educators whose mission includes excellence in education, altruism, and world understanding. Members of the Gamma Delta Chapter are active and retired teachers from Stephens County Schools. *Submitted photo.*

Oconee Federal Bank maintains five star superior rating for 144th consecutive quarter

Oconee Federal, based in Seneca, S.C., is once again a recipient of BauerFinancial, Inc.'s highest, five-star superior rating for financial strength and stability.

This marks the 144th consecutive quarter that Oconee Federal has

earned this rating. Only banks that have earned and maintained this rating for 25 years, or 100 quarters, or longer may claim the distinction.

The latest rating was assigned to them this month based on March 31 financial data.

“Life has changed dramatically over the past few years, but the commitment of community banks like Oconee Federal has never wavered,” BauerFinancial President Karen Dorway said. “These banks understand that a

customer’s worth is much greater than the size of their bank account. They believe in relationships that help grow and maintain communities, and they work together to nurture both those relationships and communities.”



Oconee Federal Bank, which has a branch in Toccoa, recently received a five star superior rating for the 144th consecutive quarter. *Photo by Laura Shaw.*

Toccoa’s Ritz Theatre showing “Trolls: Band Together” today

“Trolls: Band Together,” the third installment of the “Trolls” animated film franchise starring the voices of popular 1990s band *NSYNC, will be playing at the Ritz Theatre today at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

“Poppy discovers that Branch and his four brothers were once part of her favorite boy band. When one of his siblings, Floyd, gets kidnapped by a pair of nefarious villains, Branch and Poppy embark on a harrowing and emotional journey to reunite the other

brothers and rescue Floyd from a fate even worse than pop culture obscurity,” according to the film’s synopsis.

As always, the theatre’s movies and concessions are \$1 each. Tickets will be available at the box office starting one hour before show time. Please contact Tami Mayhugh, general manager of the Ritz, at 706-244-0039 with any questions. Check out www.ritztheatretoccoa.com for a complete list of movies that are part of the Summer Movie Series.



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Public Notice:

FY25 Proposed Budget Public Hearings

THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2024
 6-6:30 P.M.
 TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 2024
 5:30-6 P.M.
 TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024
 5-5:30 P.M.

DISTRICT OFFICE
 191 BIG A SCHOOL ROAD
 TOCCOA, GA 30577

The FY25 proposed budget is available for viewing at www.stephenscountyschools.com.

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Toccoa Little League teams battle in state competition

BY LAURA SHAW
THE TOCCOA RECORD

The Toccoa Little League Sandlot Softball team battled their way into the state competition last week during the sectionals tournament and the Sandlot Baseball team fell in their bid for state.

The sandlot softball team pulled off a 14-3 win in the semi-finals, sending them to face off with Oconee County in two more games for the title.

Early in the tournament, the softball team fell 7-1 to Oconee but in game four the Toccoa team pulled out a win sending the two teams into a two-out-of-three match-up on June 7. The Toccoa team prevailed in the final game to secure a chance at the state championship.

The softball team will play in game one of the tournament tomorrow (June 14) at the Warner Robins American Complex. The game starts at 6 p.m. and Toccoa will be facing off against the team from Jones County. Tournament information can be found at <https://www.llbgeorgia.org/Default.aspx?tabid=715714>.

The Toccoa Sandlot Baseball team faced a similar situation when they went into a two-out-of-three match-up with



Nolan Taylor pitches a baseball during one of the games at the state competition last week. Photo by David Byargeon.

the team from Martinez-Evans Little League (MELL). Early in the tournament, Toccoa beat MELL 10-4 sending Toccoa forward in the tournament and MELL into the losers bracket.


MELL beat the team from Athens to earn a spot in the finals against Toccoa. The second time Toccoa and MELL met on the field MELL came away with a 14-1 win breaking a five-game winning streak for Toccoa and ensuring both teams played one more time on June 7.

The winner-takes-all match was a Toccoa shut out with them falling to the MELL team 7-0. MELL will now compete in game two of the state tournament tomorrow (June 14) against the winner of game one. To follow the tournament use the link above.

Next up to start their district tournaments are the teams for 10u, 12u, and junior league all-stars. 10u will play their tournament first on June 15 starting at 11 a.m. in Oglethorpe against the

home team.

The Junior League team takes the field next starting on June 22 at 11:00 a.m. in Hart County against the home team. 12u starts their tournament bid on June 29 in Rabun County at 11 a.m., also against Oglethorpe. Follow Toccoa Little League on Facebook to watch the progress of the tournaments or go to <https://www.llbgeorgia.org/Default.aspx?tabid=484139> and click on the tournaments tab.



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**Week of
June 13, 2024
Thru
June 19, 2024**

INVESTMENTS
VARIABLE RATE SUBORDINATED DEBENTURES*

INTEREST ADJUSTMENT PERIOD(a)	EFFECTIVE YIELD(b)	INTEREST RATE(c)	MINIMUM INVESTMENT AMOUNT
1 Month	1.77	1.75	\$500
3 Months	1.77	1.75	\$500
6 Months	5.13	5.00	\$500
1 Year	5.66	5.50	\$500
2 Years	5.66	5.50	\$500
4 Years	4.61	4.50	\$500

(a) At the end of this period, the interest rate will be adjusted. Debentures mature four years from their date of issue, subject to earlier redemption as provided for therein. Redemption at any other time other than during the grace period is at the discretion of the Company and is subject to an interest penalty. Absent redemption by the holder at maturity, the term of the Debenture will be extended for one four-year period, subject to the same redemption rights.
(b) Compounded daily based on a 365/366 day year.
(c) Interest is earned daily and will be paid promptly upon a holder's request. Otherwise principal and interest are payable at maturity.

SENIOR DEMAND NOTES*

A Senior Demand Note account may be opened with a minimum investment of \$25. Senior Demand Notes may only be purchased by Georgia residents, and other restrictions may apply Draft Writing option available.

DAILY BALANCE	\$1 - 2,499	\$2,500 - 9,999	\$10,000 - 49,999	\$50,000 - 99,999	\$100,000 & over
EFFECTIVE YIELD(a)	1.51	1.51	1.77	2.02	2.02
INTEREST RATE	1.50	1.50	1.75	2.00	2.00

(a) Compounded daily based on a 365/366 day year.

COMMERCIAL PAPER \$50,000 Minimum

TERM	INTEREST RATE (SIMPLE)
30 - 59 Days	4.00
60 - 89 Days	4.50
90 - 179 Days	5.00
180 - 260 Days	6.00

*This is not an offer to sell, or the solicitation of an offer to purchase these securities. Any offer or sale will be made only by a Prospectus, which is available by visiting us at 135 E. Tugalo St, Toccoa, GA, by writing us at PO Box 880, Toccoa, GA 30577, or by calling us at 706-886-7571 or 800-282-0709 (in GA) or 800-700-7943 (outside of GA).
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Stephens County Recreation Department Update

Summer Camps

We're gearing up for some incredible adventures at the SCRD! Let's make this summer unforgettable for the kids by signing them up for our exciting summer camps.

Check out the lineup of amazing camps we'll be offering:

Cheer Camp with Coach Jessica Thomas from SCMS (June 17-19) Baseball Camp with Coach Chad Sorrells from SCMS (June 17-19) Softball Camp with Coach Jeremy Stowe from SCMS (July 8-10) Football Camp with Atlanta Falcon Jerious Norwood (July 15-17) Volleyball Camp with Coach John Lafevers from SCHS (July 22-24)

These camps are going to be great with awesome instructors. Head over to our website at stephenscountyga.gov/parks-and-recreation and click on the summer camps link to sign up. Let's make this summer one to remember!

Roselane

Fireworks will light up the sky, Friday, June 28 on Roselane Ballfields. Several food trucks will be available, including Dippin Dots, Mikes on the Go, Glory Grill, Chick-Fil-A, My Dudes Donuts and Roselane Concessions. The Splash Pad will be open until 8:30 pm. WNEG Radio will broadcast the display and play music throughout the night.

Soccer

Online registration for youth soccer will begin May 6 and the deadline is June 28. This is for ages 5-12. The cost is \$70. Age Control Date is

September 1, 2024. Register online by going to Stephenscountyga.gov/parks-and-recreation.

Volleyball

Online registration for Volleyball will begin May 6 and the deadline will be June 28. This is for ages 9-17. The cost is \$70. Age Control Date is September 1, 2024. Register online by going to Stephenscountyga.gov/parks-and-recreation.

Splash Pad

The Splash Pad will officially open May 24. Dive into fun with us from Monday to Saturday, 11am to 6pm, and Sunday from 12pm to 5pm (weather permitting). Want to extend the excitement? Rental reservations are available from 9am-11am and 6pm-8pm, Monday to Saturday. Don't miss out on the ultimate summer experience! Contact Cheryl Haynes at 706-886-5101 ext 2 to secure your spot. Let's make this summer unforgettable!

Karate

Warrior Karate Academy is taking place at Rose Lane Gym. Sensei's Jonathan Martin (706-491-4945) and Josh Brady (706-491-5049) have over 40 years of combined experience training in and teaching "Sho-Kushin" Karate to people ages 6 and above. Classes are available for kids and adults. Kid's classes will be divided between Beginners and Advanced. Ages 6-12 classes will be held on Thursdays at 5:30pm and 6:15pm. Adult classes (13 & up) will be held on

Thursdays at 7:00pm. The cost is \$40 per month for kid classes and \$50 per month for adult classes. Instructors will teach concepts including self control, perseverance, respect, confidence, anti-bullying and more.

Pickleball

Pickleball is available Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 3:00pm in the SCRD Gym. Come out and learn how to play this activity that is great exercise while having fun!

Roselane Therapeutic Pool

The pool is heated and the deepest end is 4'5" deep. There are many benefits to doing water aerobics, including ability to increase muscle strength, alleviate pressure on the joints. Water aerobics can help boost health and physical vitality. It will increase muscle strength, Support flexibility, Prevent injury due to low-impact nature of these exercises, Alleviate pressure on the joints, Burn calories, Lower blood pressure, Aids in weight-loss efforts, Provide relief from chronic pain, Increases muscle and joint strength, Improve many spinal problems and Stimulate circulation and blood flow. Below are classes that have already started. We will be adding more soon!

Water Wellness Classes are held Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10:00AM. The cost is \$5 per visit. Marilyn Norris is instructing these classes and you can contact

Norris at 706-491-9958. Making Waves Water Aerobics Classes will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:00am. Daphne Paxton is the instructor. Cost is \$4 per class. Contact Paxton at 706-491-6766.

Water Aerobics by Debbie Penland will take place on Mondays at 5:30pm. The cost is \$5 per class. Contact Penland at 706-491-6380. Open Swim/Water Walking is taking place Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:30am-12:30pm. The cost is \$3. Gloria Caldwell will be the pool attendant. You can do some water walking or work out with your own exercises.

Office hours are Monday-Friday from 8am-5pm. SCRD staff: 706-886-5101 Address: 125 Rose Lane Park Drive, Toccoa, GA 30577



Stephens County Board of elections and registration
37 West Tugalo Street
P.O. Box 1557
Toccoa, Georgia 30577
706-886-8954

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Stephens County Board of Elections and Registration will have a quorum present on Tuesday, June 18, 2024 beginning at 8:00 am and will remain in session until the completion of their duties for the June 18, 2024 General Primary/Non-Partisan runoff election for Stephens County Commission Post 3 pursuant to O.C.G.A. 21-2-490.

This will take place in the Historic Courthouse located at 37 West Tugalo Street Toccoa, Georgia and is open to the public.

Basketball summer practices underway at SCHS



Basketball season may be months off, but that hasn't stopped the Stephens County High School Lady Indians from hitting the court last week and practicing for the upcoming season. They practiced Monday through Thursday last week in Currahee Arena with Coaches Jerry Brown, William Trimier, and Jeremy Stowe. They will continue practicing for the next two weeks both at the school and on the road. Above are Stowe, Nessi Verdell, and Aleria Faulkner. Bottom left are Jazzy Russell, Saige Wedesser, and Jaiya Hague. Bottom right are Nevaeh Holland and Faulkner. *Photos by Laura Shaw.*

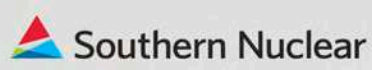


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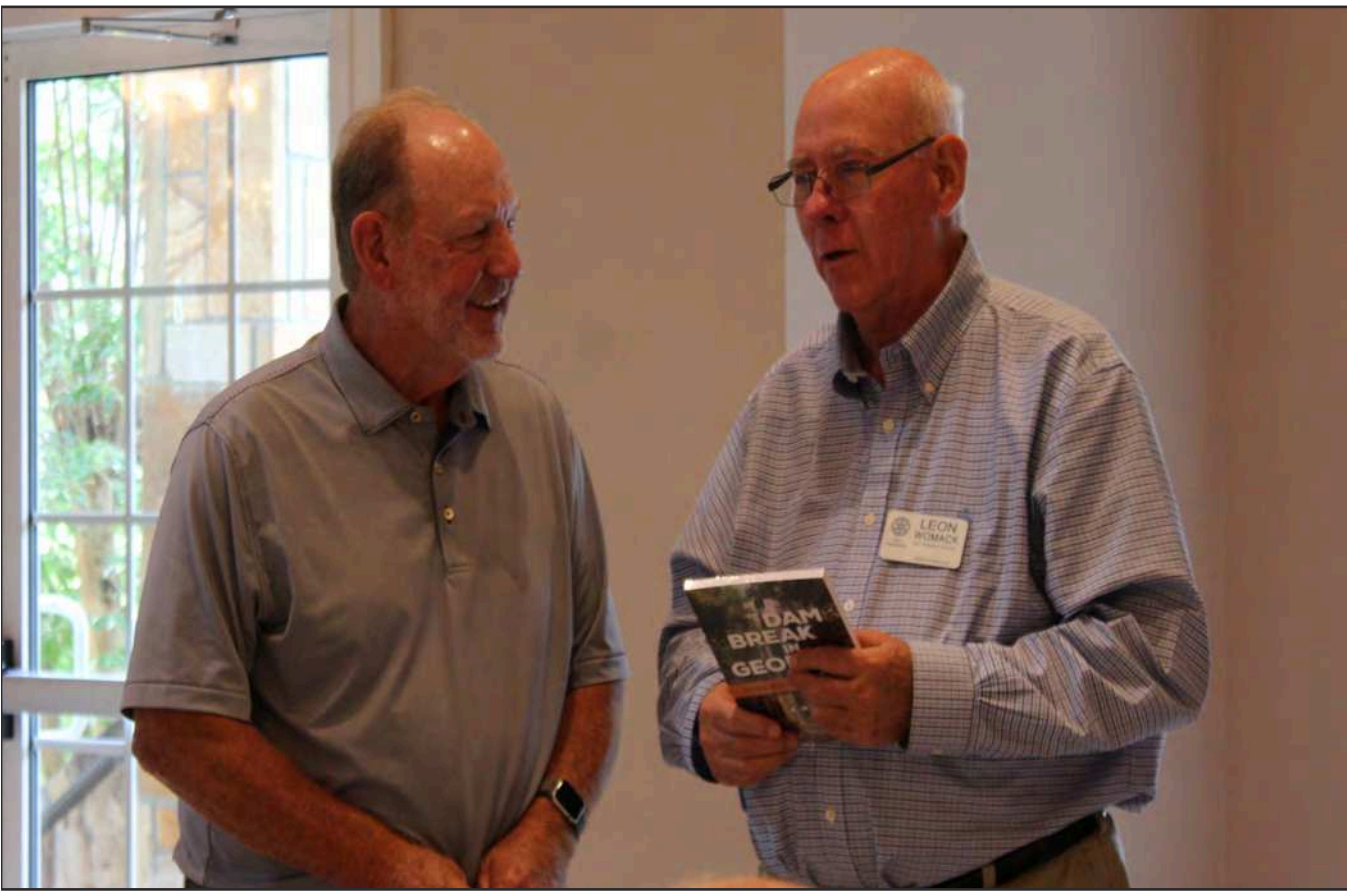
SCMS robotics team competes in Massachusetts invitational

The Stephens County Middle School robotics team earned the opportunity to compete in the annual FIRST LEGO League Open Invitational at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Massachusetts, June 7-9. Their research, problem-solving, coding, and engineering skills will be put to the test against 108 schools and 80 countries worldwide with students traveling from Germany, China, South Korea, Spain, Belgium, Greece, Ghana, and more. They are also one of only two schools in the state of Georgia competing in the competition. *Submitted photo.*



Craig receives scholarship from Gamma Delta Chapter

The Wanda Kesler/Debbie Fricks Gamma Delta Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa Scholarship was awarded at the May Senior Honors Night to Karragen Craig by Gamma Delta Vice President Ann Hunt. The scholarship is named for the chapter's Omega Sisters and is awarded to a high school senior whose goal is to become a teacher. *Submitted photo.*



NFL, college football coach visits Toccoa Rotary Club meeting

Last week, college and NFL football coach Chan Gailey (left) was the guest speaker at the Toccoa-Stephens County Rotary Club meeting. Gailey was a coach from 1974-2020 and coached for the Dallas Cowboys, Georgia Tech, the Buffalo Bills, and more. At the Rotary meeting, he answered the five most common questions he gets asked and then had a 10-minute question and answer session with the Rotarians. Toccoa Rotary Club President Leon Womack (right) presented Gailey with a book on dam breaks in Georgia as a thank you for speaking to the club. *Photo by Laura Shaw.*

Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest firewood permits now available

Firewood permits for the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest are now available for purchase through a new online E-Permit system. Permits may be purchased by computer or mobile device at any time and eliminates traveling to your local Forest Service office. This new service provides flexibility and convenience to our forest users. To purchase a firewood permit or to learn more about permits and gathering firewood, visit the USDA Forest Service E-Permit website. Firewood permits will still be available to purchase at local Forest Service offices and participating vendors. For more information about the firewood program on the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest, visit fs.usda.gov.



The Stephens County Sheriff's Office held its inaugural Level 2 Instructor Training Course on June 7. *Photo by David Byargeon.*

Stephens County Sheriff's Office holds inaugural training course

The Stephens County Sheriff's Office announced on Monday the hosting of its inaugural Level 2 Instructor Training Course. The event, held on June 7, brought together law enforcement officers from various agencies across northeast Georgia, underscoring a collective commitment to enhancing the skills and knowledge essential for effective public safety instruction. In a pioneering collaboration, the Stephens County Sheriff's Office partnered with the University of North Georgia Public Safety Academy, becoming the first agency outside the Academy to host this prestigious

training. Sheriff Randy Shirley highlighted the comprehensive nature of the 80-hour course, which began with instruction in adult learning theories, progressed through course development, and culminated in an in-person lesson presentation. "This course is meticulously designed to develop and train high-quality, professional instructors who can deliver a high standard of training to public safety agencies throughout the state," said Shirley. The Stephens County Sheriff's Office remains committed to fostering excellence in public safety training, ensuring that officers are well-prepared to serve and

protect our communities with the highest level of professionalism.

Hope for a Drug Free Stephens is a nonprofit community-based organization that provides education and awareness on substance abuse, prevention and treatment solutions, and support services and resources for individuals in long term recovery.

Hope for a Drug Free Stephens initiative for World Drug Awareness Day June 26, 2024, 10AM-5PM. Please join outside Badcock Home Furniture at 966 Big "A" Road South Toccoa, GA 30577 to raise awareness regarding substance abuse and to better empower our community.

Please Join Us For A Day of Awareness and Fun:

- Raise Awareness
- Empower our Community
- Empower Youth
- Drawings and Giveaways

<https://www.facebook.com/drugfreestephens/>

Join us for VBS SOUBA 2024

diving into friendship with God

Toccoa First Methodist Church
333 E. Tugaloo Street
Toccoa, Georgia 30577

June 23 - 27 5:30 - 8:00 PM

COMMUNITY/CHURCH CALENDAR

The Al-Anon Family Group

meets every Monday from 6-7 p.m. in the fellowship hall of St. Matthias Episcopal Church located on East Tugaloo Street. Al Anon's purpose is to help family and loved ones of alcoholics or those with a substance abuse problem. For more information, call 706-491-9882.

Family Connection of Stephens County

is looking for mentors. If you can volunteer one hour of one day each week, you can make a difference in a child's life. The mentoring program pairs at-risk students with a caring adult who will provide friendship and be a positive role model. During the time with a student, you two will talk, play games, do crafts or just hang out. The mentoring hour is set up for adults to build a relationship with a student and be a supportive individual in their life. If you are interested in being a mentor, contact Kelly O'Shields at 706-244-5812 or director@stephens-familyconnection.org.

Free GED classes

through North Georgia Technical College are held Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Currahee Campus, instructor, Jackie Morgan. Classes will also be offered on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. at the campus, Randy Wood, instructor. Also, at the Currahee Campus, ESL classes are offered on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings from 4 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Renee Sweeney, instructor. The Hope Center will have GED classes available on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9 a.m. till 2:00 p.m., instructor, Cindy Vickery. For more information on all classes, please contact Jackie Morgan (706-779-8116). The campus is located at 9238 Hwy. 17 in Toccoa, GA.

English as a Second Language Classes

with free child care are at 4 p.m. The classes take place at The First Baptist Church located at 475 East Tugaloo Street. Call (706) 244-1871 to sign up. The cost of the material is \$50.

Northeast GA CASA

has a way that YOU can help a child experiencing foster care to have their needs met and to be placed back in a loving permanent home as soon as possible. CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) volunteers are community citizens from all walks of life, 21 years of age or older, who have some time and a passion for helping one of our most vulnerable populations, children who have been abused or neglected. Training for prospective volunteers begins soon! Contact the Northeast Georgia CASA Office, 706-886-1098 or www.northeastgacasa.org for further informa-

tion about becoming a CASA volunteer or other ways you can help.

The local chapter of the Sons of American Revolution (SAR)

meets the second Thursday of each month at the Toccoa-Stephens Co. Airport located at 2201 East Tugaloo Street. A meal will begin at 6:30 and the program will start at 7 p.m. For more information call Lamar Davis at (706) 886-6767 or Justin Reese at (706) 353-3145.

A Torah study will be held each Saturday at 1 p.m. featuring the teaching of Jewish roots of the Christian Faith at the Toccoa Salvation Army located at 306 E. Franklin St.

The Toccoa American Legion Post 104

meets the second Monday of every month at 7 p.m. in the post home at 610 E. Doyle St. All veterans are welcome to join or transfer membership to the 104. For more information contact Post104adjutant@yahoo.com

The VFW

The VFW offers Bingo on Mondays, guaranteed \$1K jackpot. Doors open at 5 pm, early bird games start at 6 pm, regular games at 7 pm. Regular and early bird game packets start at \$20. Food and drinks are available at the bar. Must be 18 to play. For more information, see the VFW Post Toccoa Facebook page, or call (706) 886-2283. The Post is located at 270 W. Savannah St.

Liberty Hill Church

will be offering "Free Groceries" on the third Tuesday of each month for those in need. No ID is required. The groceries will be available from 10 a.m. till 1 p.m. The church is located at 2894 Liberty Hill Road Eastanollee, Ga. 30538. For more information call (404) 822-2965.

Toccoa Amateur Radio Society

holds a meeting every two months. The next meeting is Saturday, June 8 at 10:30 a.m. The next meeting will be held at Airport-R.G. LeTourneau Field. Anyone interested in joining can contact President of the Club Ryan Chase at (706) 491-1886 or by visiting the website at www.toccoaamateurradio.org. Anyone that is interested in taking a test for a Tech, General, or Extra Class will have an opportunity after the meeting.

St. James MC

is hosting the following on going activities and events. On Mondays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Art class, on Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. to noon there will be a Forgiveness workshop and also on Wednesday noon to 12:30 p.m. Spiritual Practice Bible study. On Fridays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. there will be a Celebrate Recovery activity offered.

Neighbors4Neighbors Food Pantry

distributes food and toiletries each month on the first and third Wednesdays. From 10 to 11 a.m. in the parking lot behind St.

Matthias Episcopal Church located at 995 E. Tugaloo Street.

The Stephens County Republican Party

host their monthly meeting on the third Thursday of the month at Stephens County Senior Center located at 55 Rose Lane Park. The meeting will begin with a meet and greet at 6:30 followed by the meeting from 7 to 8 p.m. Anyone interested in attending is invited to join. There will be refreshments served and each month different speakers attend, everyone interested in the party is invited to attend.

Attention!! If you've been terminated from medicaid and believe you have been terminated without merit, you are eligible to appeal their decision and receive back payment, if eligible. Call Sandra Reese at (706) 898-5050 Monday through Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m. She is located at The Hope Center of Toccoa. You may also be eligible for virtual primary care, if ineligible for medicaid.

Pruitt Toccoa Volunteers

seek to engage in an additional 100 plus volunteers from the local Christian faith community to visit residents at PruittHealth-Toccoa Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation. For more information contact PruittHealth-Toccoa Activity Director, Crystal Daniels at (706) 886-8491 or via email at CryDaniels@pruitthealth.com.

Mountain Education Virtual Summer School

will be from June 3 to August 1. ReSupply Virtual summer school will be Monday through Thursday from 10:00 to 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. ME campuses close for face to face instruction on May 30 and will be open the week of July 8 through 11. First day back for all students and staff will be August 5.

The Greater Hope Baptist Church

is asking for help to purchase pews on June 30. The price of the pews are \$1000 each. The church is asking for donations and the church will have plates with the family names placed in the new church as an archive memorial for future references. Checks can be made payable to The Greater Hope Baptist Church P. O. Box 325 Martin, Ga 30557. Another way to make a donation is to contact church clerk Carrie Beasley at (706) 491-4487.

The Jameson Family Reunion

will be on June 9. The reunion will be at Antioch baptist Church with a worship service starting at 10:00 a.m. The speaker will be Rev. Chris Webb. For more information contact Jimmie Franklin at (770) 362-9364.

VFW Post 4346 PTSD Support Group

will be meeting on Thursday evenings 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The first Thursday of the month it will

take place at the Krispy Kreme in Commerce. The second Thursday of the month it will be held at the Starbucks in Toccoa. On the third Thursday of the month the meeting will be held at the Dunkin Donuts in Lavonia. The fourth and fifth meetings of the month will be held at the Starbucks in Toccoa. This is a chance for veterans dealing with PTSD to get together for emotional support and help with daily life. Contact Dave Cornelius at (22) 342 -5359 before coming to keep up with any changes.

St. James Methodist Church

is hosting a Family Day of Fishing on June 15. The event will be held at Lake Toc-

coa for free. Food, fishing poles, bait, crafts, and fellowship will be provided for all. The event will be from 9:00 a.m. till 12:00 p.m. RSVP by June 3 with Pastor April at (678) 571-7818. Anyone over the age of 15 needs a valid Georgia Fishing license to fish.

Alumni Foundation Banquet

will be held on July 6. It begins at 6:00 p.m. for an acquainted hour and then 7:00 p.m. begins the dinner hour. Tickets are \$45 and only available if purchased in advance. RSVP by June 21 by calling Shirley Dooley at (706) 244-5613. Make checks payable to Old Toccoa & Whitman Street Alumni Founda-

tion, Inc. The banquet will be held at 160 N Alexander St.

The Toccoa Women's Club

is hosting their 90 year anniversary party on June 22. The event will take place at the Toccoa-Stephens County Library located at 53 West Savannah St. It will be from 2:00-3:00 p.m. For more information call Shelby Holland at (706) 491-3047.

Friendship Baptist Church

is holding its Vacation Bible School June 12 through June 14. It will go from 6:00 p.m. through 8:30 p.m. every night. The theme is Christian Olympics and all youth are invited to participate.



Brad Goss is Stephens County's new chief tax appraiser. Photo by Todd Truelove.

Stephens County enlists Goss as chief appraiser

BY J. TODD TRUELOVE
THE TOCCOA RECORD

Stephens County has a new chief tax appraiser.

Brad Goss started on the job last week after being a May 28 and said Tuesday that he's been getting acquainted with the staff and his new job.

"It's going well," Goss said.

He hails from Hart County but is no stranger to the local area here having

formerly been the pastor of Trinity CME. "The community (of Stephens County) has always been inviting," Goss said.

For the past 27 years, Goss has served with the Hart County Tax Assessors office and prior to the served with the Bell Family YMCA in Hartwell where he rose to be the executive director of the facility.

Goss obtained a diploma in Theological Studies from

Interdenominational Theological Center and studied business administration at Forest Business College in Anson, S.C.

And he was a Staff Sgt. at the National Guard Armory in Hartwell from 1984-1990.

Goss is certified as a Level III Appraiser and is a graduate of Hert County High School.

He succeeds former chief appraiser Christen Collier.



Stephens County Board of elections and registration

37 West Tugaloo Street
P.O. Box 1557
Toccoa, Georgia 30577
706-886-8954

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with O.C.G.A. 21-2-492 notice is hereby given that the computation and canvassing of the returns of votes cast in the June 18, 2024 General Primary/Non-Partisan runoff election for Stephens County Commission Post 3 shall commence on Tuesday, June 18, 2024 beginning at 7:00 pm. Said computation and canvassing shall be held at the Historic Courthouse located at 37 W. Tugaloo Street Toccoa, Georgia. Candidates or his or her representative and any member of the general public are permitted to be in attendance during this process.

Toccoa-Stephens Church Directory

Branches of Christ Fellowship - 132 Childs St., Martin. Sunday worship 11 am, Rev. Charles G. Rausch, 706-779-3085.

Bethel Holiness Church - 860 Oak Valley Road.

Broad River Baptist Church - Eastanollee.

Broad River Baptist Church - 894 S. Fairview Rd., Lavonia, GA 30556, 706-356-1529, Sunday school 10 am, Worship service 11 am.

Calvary Baptist Church - East Tugalo Street.

Calvary Temple of Deliverance - Old Mill Road, Eastanollee.

Carnes Creek Baptist Church - 1655 Carnes Creek Road, Toccoa. Jason DeFoor, Senior Pastor. Sunday school - 10 am, Morning Worship - 11 am, Evening Service - 6 pm. Wednesdays: Adult Bible Study - 7 pm, Youth Programs - 7 pm. carnescreek@gmail.com. 706-886-8740

Chauga Baptist Church - Rev. Matthew Crain, pastor, 864-647-5150.

Christ Fellowship Church - 3273 Highway 17, 706-282-7345.

Christ's Redeeming Love Ministries - 285 Stephen Drive, Cedric Carter, pastor, 404-247-5590 or e-mail Christredeeminglove@gmail.com. The church is non-denominational.

Clark's Creek Baptist Church - Sunday school 9 am, Morning worship at 10 am

Confidence Methodist Church - 9044 Highway 17, Avalon, 706-282-0499.

Crossroads Missionary Baptist Church - 1660 Whispering Pines Road, 706-779-3644.

Currahee Baptist - 1977 Highway 184.

Deercourt CME - 34 Deercourt Private Drive on north Red Rock Road, Toccoa. Rev. Raphael Robinson, pastor.

Ebenezer Baptist Church - 49 Rose Lane, 706-886-9300, www.ebenezerbaptist.com.

Eastanollee Baptist Church - Rev. Ricky McFarlin, pastor.

Encounter Church - 243 Collier Rd., Toccoa, 706-886-1100, Chris Summerlin, Pastor, encountertoccoa.com, Services: Sun. 10 am - Encounter Kids ages 3-5 and 6-12; Wed. 6:30 pm - Encounter students (youth) Royal Ranger Boys Clubs, MPact Girls Clubs, Encounter small groups for adults (contact church for locations). Nursery provided free. Join us on facebook live every Sun.

Lavonia East Church - 706-356-8807 or 706-599-3236.

Ellis Chapel C.M.E. Church - Highway 106 in Carnesville, 706-779-7145.

Faith Community Church - 4749 Vickery St. (Highway 77), Lavonia. Dr. Chuck Zellner, pastor, 706-356-1228 or e-mail luckyangels@windstream.net.

Fair Play Baptist Church - Harbert Valley Road, Rev. Robert Blackwell, pastor, 706-779-3714, 706-244-8375 or 706-716-2645.

Faith Assembly of God - 184 Rothell Road, David Crisp, Pastor, Sunday School - 10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m., Church service - 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., Wednesday youth night - 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Faith Tabernacle Holiness Church - 420 Fowlertown Road, pastor Dorsey Holmes. Call 706-244-2530

First Alliance Church of Toccoa - Across from Walmart - Rev. Brian Rockwell, Lead Pastor; 706-886-5948. Visit FACToccoa to find out more!

First Baptist Church of Toccoa - 475 E. Tugalo St., Rev. Brett Sanders, pastor, 706-886-6822 or visit www.fbctoccoa.org.

First Methodist Church of Toccoa - 333 Tugalo St., Rev. Brent White, senior pastor. www.toccoafirstumc.org, 706-886-9446.

Friendship Baptist Church - 244 Sage St., Toccoa. Rev. Tramon Butts, pastor.

Fresh Fire Fellowship - 40 Holiness Church Rd., Toccoa. Steve Powers, pastor. 706-963-9605.

Full Gospel Baptist Church - 387 Childs St., Martin, 706-779-5965.

Iglesia de Dios Ebenezer - 109 Design Point, Toccoa. Alejandro Martinez, pastor.

Gateway Community Chapel - 2624 Highway 17 South, Don Scott, pastor, Pentecostal faith-based church. 706-963-1071.

Grace Baptist Church - 157 Moore Circle, Eastanollee, one mile south of the junction of the Toccoa Bypass and Highway 17. Mike Petty, pastor.

Grace Fellowship of Toccoa - 201 Alewine Dr., Toccoa, a non-denominational church. Visit online at www.gracefellowshiptoccoa.org, 706-963-0120 or e-mail contact@gracefellowshiptoccoa.org.

Greater Hope Baptist Church - 920 Greater Hope Road, Martin. Rev. Michael Sullivan, pastor.

Hill Street Baptist Church - 151 S. Hill St., Rev. Paul Garrison, pastor, 706-886-4840.

Highpoint Community Worship - Located at the corner of Highpoint Ave. and Davis Ave.

Hurricane Grove Baptist Church - Martin, GA., Rev. William Trimier, pastor.

Last Time Ministries - 706-491-5062.

Lighthouse Church - On Jordan Road, turn on the first right which is Pressley Drive. The church is the last building on the right.

Liberty Baptist - 127 Fairgrounds Road in Toccoa. Visit www.libertybaptistchurch-toccoa.com, 706-297-7174.

Liberty Hill Baptist Church - Highway 145, Eastanollee. Rev. Cody Kelley, pastor, 706-779-2922 or e-mail libertyhillbaptist@windstream.net.

Living Hope Worship Center - On Highway 106, Ted Armour, pastor.

Loving Life Fellowship/The Outpour at Loving Life - The church has changed its name to The Outpour at Loving Life. Worship services held at its new location, 418 N. Pond St.

Love Walk Ministries - The ministry accepts donations of adult diapers in all sizes and senior aid products. For more information, call Cindy Love at 706-982-0222.

Martin Baptist Church - 751 Red Hollow Road, Martin, Brennon Gatewood, Pastor, 706-779-2424.

Mt. Bethel Church of God - 1668 Talmadge Drive, 706-886-2986.

Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church - 1095 Ayersville Rd., Toccoa, Ga 30577, Roy Bainey, pastor. 706-244-4312

Mt. Sinai Fire Baptized Holiness Church - 607 S. Broad St., Toccoa. Bill Nicely, pastor, 706-491-3404.

Mt. Zion Baptist Church - 411 W. Whitman St., 706-886-5341.

Mullins Ford Baptist Church - Rev. James Duncan, pastor, 706-779-2286.

New Birth Greater of Toccoa Ministries - Teddy Cowans, pastor, 1-864-364-7021.

New Covenant Worship Center - 407 N. Broad St., an interdenominational worship center.

New Beginnings Christian of Toccoa - 303 N. Pond St. across from Toccoa Elementary School. Mary Ann Town, pastor, Church service every Sunday at 11 am.

New Covenant CME Church - 502 North Holcomb Drive, Martin, a new church formed in a consolidation of Bethlehem-Burns and Cleveland CME churches. Cassandra Ellington, pastor, Rev. Leon C. Moore, president elder, Kenneth W. Carter, presiding prelate, Call Loneal Boyd - 706-716-1018, Larry Jones - 706-599-0074, Thomas Richie - 706-244-3830.

New Day Worship Center - 37 County Farm Road Extension. Rev. Anthony Coley, pastor.

New Hope Baptist Church - 706-886-6024 or visit the web site at www.newhopetoccoa.org

North Trinity Baptist Church - 43 Northside Dr., Stephen Harris, pastor, 706-599-6733.

Old Toccoa Baptist Church - 122 N. Black Mountain Rd., Rev. Scott E. Alexander, pastor, 229-947-1400.

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church - 706-356-8558 .

Potter's House Worship Center - 515 W. Spring St., Sunday service 10 am and 6 pm; Wednesday 7 pm, 706-886-0908.

Reach Out Time Church - On Price Road, Martin. Travis Rucker, pastor.

Refuge Baptst Camp - 2303 Prospect Road, Carnesville, southern Sunday worship 10:30 am. There is special singing and preaching.

Restoration Anointed Worship and Praise Center - 21 White Oak Road, Lavonia.

Restoration World Outreach Center - Sunday services 10 am and 6 pm, Food and clothes are given away on Sundays and Wednesday.

Revelation Chapel - 910 Chapel Road, Martin. Church pastor and teachers are Broadus Taylor and Marvin Wilbanks, 706-356-1964.

Rock Creek Baptist Church - 3729 Rock Creek Road/Brookhaven Circle, 706-779-5140.

Rock Quarry C.H. Church - 2357 Rock Quarry Circle, 706-886-6059.

Safe Harbor Church of God - 377 Davis Road, Eastanollee, 706-779-5538.

Shiloh Baptist Church - On Lake Louise Rd., Craig Brown, pastor.

Sunnyside Baptist Church - 1154 Mize Road, Dr. Jesse Colbert, pastor, 706-573-8172.

Sunshine Methodist Church - Dr. Bill Hyndman, pastor, 706-297-7564.

St. James Methodist Church - 900 Mize Road, Rev. April Briant, pastor, 678-571-7818

St. Mary Catholic Church - 231 Rothell Road Extension, 706-886-2819. Rev. Thang 'Henry' M. Pham, pastor.

St. Matthias Episcopal Church - 995 E. Tugalo St., 706-886-4413.

St. Thomas the Apostle Anglican Church - 1636 Mud Creek Road, Alto. Rev. Georgan Geddings, pastor, 706-894-2422 or go online at stthomasapa.org.

St. Timothy Orthodox Christian Church - 722 Collins Road, Father Thomas Langdon, pastor, 931-257-4093.

Salvation Army Church - 306 E. Franklin St., 706-886-5293.

Tates Creek Baptist Church - 6461 Highway 184, Rev. Jerrell Beatty, pastor, 706-282-0634.

Toccoa Church of Christ - 398 Highway 123 North (at the corner of Orlando Drive), Ed Owens, pastor, 706-886-7306.

The Pointe - 111 Fieldcrest Drive, Eastanollee, Chad Smith, pastor, visit, www.thepointecog.com, 706-886-3827.

Toccoa Christian Church - 49 Ramsey Road, (behind Toccoa Chevrolet) Gary Phillips, Minister. Sunday morning Bible School 9:30, Service 10:45. 678-906-8886 www.toccoachristianchurch.org or www.facebook.com/toccoachristianchurch

Toccoa Creek Baptist Church - 1635 Falls Road, Rev. Joey Whitlock, pastor.

Tom's Creek Baptist Church - On Highway 145, Martin. Rev. Wayne Marcus, pastor.

Toccoa Assembly of God - 696 Rothell Rd. in Toccoa. tagfamily.org. Find us on FaceBook. Sunday School @ 9:45 am with free coffee & connections. Sunday worship and TAGKids@ 10:45 am. Sunday Prayer service @ 6 pm. Mon @ 6 pm Emerge Student Ministries. Wed. at 7 pm M Pack Girls Clubs, Royal Ranger Boys Clubs and Adult Class. Pastor Lester Cowan - 706-391-3911

Toccoa Presbyterian Church - ECO - 105 E. Tugalo St., downtown Toccoa, 706-886-3680, Sunday worship 11:00 am, www.toccoapresbyterianchurch.org

The Springs - Formerly the Toccoa Pentecostal Holiness Church, 58 Rothell Road in Toccoa, 706-297-3101 or visit on Facebook at www.facebook.com/thespringsoftoccoa and the church's web site at www.thespringsoftoccoa.org.

Trinity CME Church - 241 W. Franklin St., 706-886-6743. Rev. Montavious D. Brinson, Pastor

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church - 4041 Highway 17, Eastanollee, Rev. Roland Vega, pastor, 706-886-6723, Sunday Worship at 10:45 a.m.

Tugalo Baptist Church - 2601 East Silver Shoals Road, Rev. Harris Pressley, pastor. 706-779-2045 or 706-491-0000.

The Voice of Hope (Seventh Day Adventist Church) - 633 Sage St., tocco22.adventistchurchconnect.org. 706-886-3800.

Zebulon Baptist - 1083 W. Currahee St., Rev. John Thomas, pastor, 706-886-8270 or e-mail zebulon1@windstream.net. Church web site www.zebulonbc.com

This Church Directory is made possible by these businesses who encourage you to attend the worship service of your choice.

Thank You. Celebrating 53 years in Business!

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Call 706-779-2790
or 706-244-2083 (cell)

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706-886-3339 or 706-282-0603
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706-716-2227
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706-886-7722
Fax: 706-282-7388
Brent Haddock, Manager
469 Oak Valley Road, Toccoa, GA
haddockcollision@windstream.net

OSBORNE
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And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. If the son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. -John 8:32,26

Graling Simpson

Mr. Graling Letroit Simpson, age 62, of Watkins Street, Toccoa, passed away Tuesday, June 4, 2024 at the Northeast Georgia Medical Center Gainesville.

A son of James Hines and Susie Simpson, he was born Aug. 13, 1961 in Stephens County, Ga., where he lived all his life. He was a 1979 graduate of Stephens County High School and attended Clark College in Atlanta. Over the years, he was employed with Kentucky Fried Chicken, Acree-Davis Funeral Home and lastly with Quality Foods. He also did yard work. He was a member of Ellis Chapel CME Church in Carnesville where he served as an usher and sang in the choir. He was an avid sports fan.

Survivors include his father, James Hines of Albany, Ga.; mother, Susie Simpson of the home; wife of the home, Maudine Steeple Simpson; daughter, Kongaydra Nicely; son, Willie Gibson; five grandsons, Vashon Gibson, Vonquise Nicely Victor Nicely, Veon Nicely and Tay Jones; eight great-grandchildren; brother

and sister-in-law, Kistler and Costello Simpson of Toccoa; sister, Cassandra King of Atlanta; three sisters-in-law; uncle and aunt, Dan and Philis Simpson of Toccoa and aunt, Betsy Simpson of Toccoa; a number of nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be Thursday, June 13, 2024, 2 p.m. at Ellis Chapel CME Church, Carnesville with the Rev. Alton Downer officiating. Friends and family will serve as pallbearers and flower girls. The body will lie in state at the church on Thursday from 1 p.m. until the service time.

The family will be at the home of his uncle, Dan Simpson, 197 Fern Point, Apt. B102, Toccoa. The family received friends at the Acree-Davis Funeral Home on Wednesday, June 12, 2024 from 5-7 p.m. Online condolences may be left for the family at www.acree-davisfh.com.

Interment followed in the Ellis Chapel CME Church Cemetery with the Acree-Davis Funeral Home and Crematory in charge of the arrangements for Mr. Graling Letroit Simpson.

Judy Slocum

Mrs. Judy Diane Holbrooks Slocum, age 69, of Toccoa, passed away Tuesday, June 4, 2024, at the Northeast Georgia Medical Center after a sudden illness.

A daughter of Jeanette Hare Holbrooks and the late Edgar Asbury Holbrooks, she was born Nov. 9, 1954 in Oconee County, S.C., having lived in Stephens County, Ga. all her life. She was retired from the Stephens County School System with 30 plus years of service, having served as a paraprofessional, librarian and lastly as the secretary for Big A School. She was a member of Old Liberty Baptist Church in South Carolina. She enjoyed making stained glass, gardening and working in her flowers.

Survivors include her mother, Jeanette Hare Holbrooks of Toccoa; husband, Roger Slocum of the home; sons and daughter-in-law, Clay and Anna Slocum of Bishop and Curt Slocum of Sarasota, Fla.; brother, Larry Holbrooks

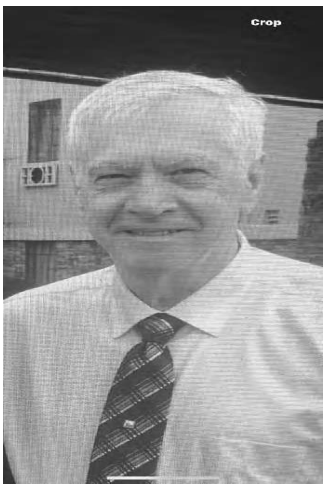
of Toccoa; sister, Elise Rose of Toccoa; grandchildren, Abby Slocum and Avery Slocum; four nephews, one niece, two great-nephews, one great-niece and one great-great nephew; special friend, Anne Coker.

Funeral services were held Saturday, June 8, 2024, at 11 a.m. in the Hillcrest Chapel of Acree-Davis Funeral Home with the Rev. Jerrell Beatty officiating. The following gentlemen served as pallbearers; Stephen Pless, Nick Holbrooks, Dalton Pless, Doug Carswell, David Stewart and Ronnie Crunkleton.

The family received friends at the Acree-Davis Funeral Home on Friday, from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Online condolences may be left for the family at www.acree-davisfh.com.

Interment followed in the Roselane Cemetery with the Acree-Davis Funeral Home and Crematory in charge of the arrangements for Mrs. Judy Diane Holbrooks Slocum.

James Randall Walters



son, Connon Walters; daughter and son-in-law Rhonda and Kevin Waller; granddaughters, Caroline and Lindsay Waller; brothers, Harold (Carol) and Frankie Walters (Lynn); and sister, Kathy Crawford (Garry).

He is preceded in death by his wife, Rebecca Walters; father, Ira Odell Walters; mother, Dorothy Fay Turner Walters; daughters, Randette Walters and Melanie McCallister; and sister, Brenda Tillotson (Garry).

A special thanks to his caretaker later in life, Dyan Allen.

The family will receive friends at Eastanollee Baptist Church, 78 Church Drive, Eastanollee, Georgia 30538, from 1 p.m. until the service time on Thursday, June 13, 2024.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, June 13, 2024 at Eastanollee Baptist Church with the Rev. Harold Walters officiating.

Burial will follow at Eastanollee Baptist Church Cemetery.

Flowers are optional. Memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 123 W. Antrim Drive, Greenville, South Carolina 29607.

Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers and sign the online guestbook at www.whitlockmortuary.net.

Whitlock Mortuary, Funerals and Cremations is honored to be serving the family of James Randall "Randy" Walters.

He is survived by his

Orell Hezzie Frady



Orell Hezzie "O.H." Frady, age 96, of Mt. Airy, passed away on Friday, June 7, 2024.

Born on Dec. 13, 1927, in the Persimmon Community of Clayton, he was a son of the late Hezzie and Della Benfield Frady. Mr. Frady was a United States Army veteran having proudly served his country during the Korean War. He was a dedicated, hardworking, self-employed contractor that built numerous residential and commercial properties. O.H. loved life and his family deeply, especially his grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers: J.C., Lloyd, and Lewis Frady and sisters: Omajeane Caloway, Ravelene Joyner Smith, and Doris Davis.

Survivors include the loving mother of his children, Betty Frady of Mt. Airy; sons and daughter-in-law: Danny Frady of Toccoa, Ricky Frady of Mt. Airy, and Marty Frady (Wanda) of Clarkesville; daughters: Brenda Frady of Toccoa, Elaine Burton of Mt. Airy, and Karen

McEntyre of Mt. Airy; grandchildren and spouses: Stephanie, Amanda, Carrie, Cheyenne (Thomas), Renée, Jason, Kyle (Sophia), Casey, Brandi (Randy), Brent, Dustin, Clay (Malorie), Dylan (Ashlyn), Clif, Chad (Angie), and Chris (Gail); 34 great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren; stepson and spouse, Kevin Frady (April); brothers and sister-in-law, Corbin "Chub" Frady of Clarkesville and Bobby Frady (Gladys) of Mt. Airy; and numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. on Monday, June 10, 2024, at Chopped Oak Baptist Church with the Rev. Jewell Gaines and the Rev. Paul Jameson officiating. Interment followed in the church cemetery with full military honors provided by the Grant-Reeves Veterans Honor Guard.

He laid in state from 12 p.m. until the service hour on Monday at the church.

The family received friends from 5-8 p.m. on Sunday, June 9, 2024, at McGahee-Griffin & Stewart Funeral Home.

The family would like to give a special thanks to Amedysis Hospice and caregiver, Carey Wilbanks.

An online guest register is available and may be viewed at www.mcgahее-griffinandstewart.com.

McGahee-Griffin & Stewart Funeral Home of Cornelia, Georgia (706/778-8668) is in charge of arrangements.

Maxine "Deborah" Hartley

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Maxine "Deborah" Hartley, age 83. She died peacefully, June 7, 2024, in her home surrounded by family and friends. Deborah was born to parents Linea Olin and Maximilian Bruckner in New York City on Oct. 18, 1940. Although Deborah grew up with little means, a first generation American and the second child of 10, her parents instilled in her an appreciation and love of fine arts. As a child, Deborah sought sanctuary and found inspiration in the magnificent (and at the time, free) museums throughout Manhattan.

Deborah attended Julia Richmon High School (Class of 1955). While still in school, she met her future husband, Duane Hartley, who was stationed in New York during his service in the Army. They married in New York in 1958, then moved to Duane's home state of Missouri where their two children were born. The young family moved to Athens, Ga., in 1966 when Duane took a teaching position at the University of Georgia. After the dissolution of their marriage, Deborah pursued a degree in art education at Georgia Southern College, graduating Magna Cum Laude in 1976.

Upon graduation, Deborah was hired to teach art at Tallulah Falls School, thus bringing her to Toccoa. Soon after, she took the position of art teacher at Stephens County High School, where she taught for 10 years.

Deborah found her true calling when she boldly opened The Studio, a gallery, frame shop, home for art lessons, and hub for all things art. Deborah truly believed anyone could learn to become an artist, and took it upon herself to make sure those who

wanted to learn did just that. She particularly felt that children should have every opportunity to create, and was ever supportive and encouraging in this endeavor.

Deborah lived an uncompromised life, guided by her own sense of ethics and morality. She cared about all humanity, animals and the environment. She was beyond generous with her time and energy, always putting others before herself.

She loved books and old movies, both of which she had an encyclopedic knowledge. She was never comfortable with computers, cell phones or new technology. A favorite early memory of Deborah's was walking to Central Park to ice skate in the winter and roller skate in the summer. She would pack a piece of bread with butter for lunch and said that after a morning of skating, nothing ever tasted more delicious. At the end of the day, when she and her friends walked home, it felt like they still had skates on their feet.

Deborah is survived by her daughter, Jennifer Hartley (David Judd), son David Hartley (Kitty), grandchildren, Halliday and Wiley Hartley, and a rich community of countless friends and former students. She was preceded in death by her grandson Jeffrey Rogers.

A celebration of Deborah's life will be held at The Studio, 61 Doyle Street, Toccoa, Ga., on Saturday, June 22, from 1-3 p.m. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Currahee Artists Guild, which Deborah helped found. Checks can be mailed to The Studio at the above address.

Acree-Davis Funeral Home and Crematory is in charge of the arrangements for Maxine Deborah Hartley.

Thomas Alvin Arrowood, Jr.

Thomas Alvin "Buz" Arrowood Jr., 63, of Toccoa, passed away on June 9, 2024 at his home surrounded by his sons.

A son of Mary Arrowood Smith of Toccoa and the late Tom Arrowood, Buz was born Jan. 24, 1961, in Atlanta, Ga. He was a 1979 graduate of Stephens County High School and a 1983 graduate of the University of Georgia where he received a degree in risk management and insurance from the Terry College of Business and was a member of the 1980 National Championship football team.

After graduating from Georgia, Buz began working for Milliken in Greenville until he returned home to Toccoa in 1989 to work for Dodd Construction as a foreman. In 2000, Buz founded Arrowood General Contracting, which he was president and owner of until his passing.

Buz always felt it was important to serve the community in which he lived, particularly the youth. He served as a coach for countless little league baseball teams, recreation department football and basketball teams, helped transport students and animals to numerous livestock shows around the state with the FFA, and was an assistant scout master with Boy Scout Troop 217 of Toccoa for over 20 years.

While he was loved by many, his favorite place to be was wherever his sons were. Fishing, playing golf, throwing the frisbee, sitting on East Beach in St. Simon's, or being at a Bulldog football game

were merely back drops for his primary goal of being with and loving on his family.

Survivors include his mother, Mary Smith of Eastanollee; four sons, Tripp (and Rachel), Hutch, Hank, and Rhett all of Toccoa; sister and brother-in-law, Beth Arrowood Brown and Tyke Brown of Spartanburg, S.C.; one grandson, Tom Arrowood of Toccoa; several nieces and nephews; the mother of his children, DeeDee Dodd Arrowood of Toccoa. He was preceded in death by his father, Mr. Thomas Arrowood Sr. and his brother Benny Arrowood.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, June 12, 2024, at 2 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Toccoa with the Rev. Brett Sanders and the Rev. Jerrell Beatty officiating. The following gentlemen served as pallbearers; Tripp Arrowood, Hutch Arrowood, Hank Arrowood, Rhett Arrowood, Joshua Murray and Ronnie Gober. Honorary pallbearers were Tom Arrowood, James Kimsey, Tyke Brown and all current and former employees of Arrowood General Contracting.

The family received friends at the Acree-Davis Funeral Home on Tuesday, from 5-8 p.m. Online condolences may be left for the family at www.acree-davisfh.com.

Interment followed in the Stephens Memorial Gardens with the Acree-Davis Funeral Home and Crematory in charge of the arrangements for Mr. Thomas Alvin "Buz" Arrowood, Jr.

Steve Bennett

Mr. Steve Michael Bennett, age 71, of Toccoa passed away Monday, June 10, 2024 at Stephens County Hospital.

A son of the late Boyd and Joyce Fulghum Bennett, he was born Sept. 5, 1952, in Stephens County, Ga., where he lived most of his life. He was a self-employed carpenter and was of the Baptist faith.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by brothers, Aaron Bennett and Danny Wells.

Survivors include his siblings, Joan Keller, Jerry Bennett, Linda Williams, Maxine Bennett and Cary Bennett; a number of nieces and nephews; caregivers, Cindy Doorley and Holly Moore.

Memorial service will be Thursday, June 13, 2024, at 2 p.m. at New Hope

Baptist Church with the Rev. David Sosebee officiating. The family will receive friends at the church from 1 p.m. until the service time.

The family would like to express their thanks to the Stephens County Hospital, ICU Unit and Comfort Care Unit staff, nurses and doctors for the love and compassion extended to their loved one during this difficult time.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to New Hope Baptist Church, Renovation and Expansion Fund, 6731 Mize Road, Toccoa, Georgia in memory of Mr. Steve Michael Bennett.

Acree-Davis Funeral Home and Crematory is in charge of the arrangements for Mr. Steve Michael Bennett.

Linda B. Blackwelder

Mrs. Alice Linda Buff Blackwelder of Anderson, S.C., died June 8, 2024, at her home. She was under the care of Interim Hospice. She was a former resident of Toccoa, Ga.

Linda was born June 29, 1939, in Lincoln County, N.C. She was the daughter of Clee Howard Buff and Pauline Hovis Buff.

Linda attended Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory, N.C. She was a devoted wife and mother and held a variety of clerical positions outside the home. Linda was an avid reader and was known to carry a book with her wherever she went. She also enjoyed gardening and working in her yard. She was a member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

Richard Michael Scott

The love of my life died this week. He loved, was loved, and was blessed to live on this beautiful earth for 85 years. A private oceanside service of love will be held at a later date.

May you and yours be surrounded with kindness and love. In memory, donations may be made to the Hospice of the Upstate in Anderson, South Carolina.

His memory will live on with his wife Janet; his daughter and son-in-law, Kristina and Glen, his son and daughter-in-law Michael and Karen and his grandchildren; Oscar, Calder, and Audrey, his step-granddaughter Michelle Cooper and her children Shyla, Ryder and Knox.

DEATH NOTICES

Mary Frances Simmons, of Toccoa, passed away at age 93, on Sunday, June 3, 2024. A funeral service will be held on Friday in Greenville, Alabama.

Joyce Faye Griffin Pitts Peebles, age 81, of Martin, passed away on Saturday, June 8, 2024. Funeral services will be held on Friday at Acree Davis Funeral Home.

James Steven "Steve" Vaughn, age 66, of Lavonia, passed away on Thursday, June 6, 2024. A memorial service will be held today at the chapel of Strickland Funeral Home.

Rodney Lee Payne, age 59, of Lavonia, passed away on Monday, June 10, 2024. A memorial service will be held on Saturday at Hartwell Church of God.

Shane Steven Alzen, age 43, of Toccoa, passed away Saturday, May 18, 2024. The family will receive friends at Whitlock Mortuary in Toccoa on Friday, June 14, 2024.

PLANT A
TREE
FOR THE FUTURE





Miles visits June Veterans Coffee meeting

Bill Miles was the speaker for the June Veterans Coffee. He spent 28 years in the Army and had 55 months of combat duty. He is currently the Department of Georgia Veterans of Foreign Wars' junior vice commander. Pictured above are veteran Dave Cornelius, Crash, and Bill Miles on right. *Submitted photo.*

Toccoa Falls College announces trio of retirees this summer

After years of dedicated service, Toccoa Falls College announced the retirement of the following employees and thanked them for their incredible impact at Toccoa Falls College.

Linda Bainey began her TFC journey in 1996, when she accepted a position in the Registrar's Office. She served as the assistant registrar for certification and scheduling and retired at the end of May.

She and her husband, Roy, have pastored Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Toccoa for the past 28

years and plans to enjoy each day to the fullest in life as a retiree. "It has been a blessing to work at Toccoa Falls College. I have many fond memories that I will treasure forever," Bainey said. "Thank you to everyone for walking along this journey with me."

Paula Elkins came to TFC in 1999 and held the position of the school president's administrative assistant for 25 years. During this time, she served four TFC presidents and retired at the end of May. She and her husband, Gary, look

forward to retiring in Florida.

Fred Gingrich will retire in July. He was hired as the program director for the master of arts in the marriage and family therapy program in 2021. In his three years at TFC, he celebrated the implementation of the MAMFT Licensure Program and the design and implementation of the Counseling Ministries Program (MACM) and Graduate Certificate in Trauma Therapy. He thanked his colleagues and students at TFC who he will miss working with.

Toccoa City Hall to be closed on Juneteenth holiday

Toccoa City Hall will be closed in observance of Juneteenth on June 19.

The city's garbage and recycle routes scheduled to be picked up on Wednesday, June 19 will be picked up on Thursday, June 20.

Commercial garbage will be picked up as usual, but yard waste and other items will not be collected.

The Toccoa Police and Fire Departments will be on duty. Utility department employees, as well as employees

from the Public Works Department, will be on call for emergency situations.

The Links at Lake Toccoa will operate as normal.

Call Toccoa City Hall at 706-886-8451 for more information.

Georgia Court of Appeals pauses former president's election interference trial

BY DAVE WILLIAMS
CAPITOL BEAT NEWS SERVICE

The Georgia Court of Appeals declared on June 5 that it will not move forward with an election interference prosecution of former President Donald Trump until after deciding whether to disqualify Fulton District Attorney Fani Willis from the case.

The one-page ruling came just two days after the appellate court set a hearing date of Oct. 4 on the appeal, virtually guaranteeing the case won't go to trial before the Nov. 5 presidential election pitting Trump in a rematch against incumbent President Joe Biden.

Lawyers for Trump and eight of the co-defendants in the election interference case

sought Willis' removal after she admitted a prior romantic relationship with attorney Nathan Wade, who she hired to lead the prosecution. The relationship first came to light last January in a motion filed by Ashleigh Merchant, a lawyer from Cobb County representing Republican political operative and Trump ally Mike Roman. Fulton County Superior Court Judge Scott McAfee ruled in April that Willis could remain on the case but only if Wade stepped down, which he did several hours after the decision was handed down.

A Fulton grand jury indicted Trump and 18 codefendants last August, charging the Republican with participating in a conspiracy to overturn

the 2020 presidential election in Georgia, which saw Joe Biden become the first Democrat to carry the Peach State in nearly 30 years.

With the Georgia case on hold, Trump's conviction last week for falsifying business records to cover up a hush-money scheme appears to be the only one of four criminal cases against the ex-president likely to be tried before the election.

Two other cases charging Trump in the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol and with retaining classified documents after leaving office are moving through the legal system so slowly, they also aren't expected to go to trial before November.



Library celebrates 80th birthday of Smokey the Bear

A large audience attended Toccoa-Stephens County Lirrary's Tuesday morning program recognizing the 80th birthday of Smokey the Bear. Pictured above with library children and youth director Shantelle Grant (far left), are mascots Roary of Toccoa Lions Club, Batman, Captain America, Smokey, Stash of South State Bank, the fire department's Sparky, North Georgia Credit Union's Sunny the Savasaurus, and Money Moose of Oconee Federal Bank. Left, Smokey greets 7-year-old Shoal Goss. *Photos by J. Todd Truelove.*

Stephens County Sheriff's Office Blotter

The following incidents were taken from reports filed by deputies and investigators of the Stephens County Sheriff's Office.

June 5

• Arrested: William D Burdette, 63; DUI.

June 6

• Deputies filed warrants for the arrest of Patrick R. Burt, 34, on charges of battery/simple battery under the family violence act, cruelty to children in the third degree, and cruelty to children in the first degree.

• Deputies responded to a suspicious person call at School Circle.



Stephens County Board of elections and registration
37 West Tugalo Street
P.O. Box 1557
Toccoa, Georgia 30577
706-886-8954

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Stephens County Board of Elections and Registrations will hold a special called meeting on Friday, June 21, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. to certify the June 18, 2024 General Primary/Non Partisan runoff election for Stephens County Commission Post 3 pursuant to O.C.G.A. 21-493(k). This meeting will be held in the Historic Courthouse located at 37 West Tugalo Street, Toccoa, GA 30577 and is open to the public.

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Policies

• The Toccoa Record reserves the right to refuse any ad for any reason.
 • Short term classified ads are to be prepaid or charged to a business account.
 • All ads are subject to credit approval.
 • Rates are determined when ad is placed.
 • Please read your ad the first day it appears. Liability is limited to the first run.
 • Publishers Notice: All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, disability, financial status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

Deadlines

Deadlines for Thursday's edition is Monday at noon.

Payment Methods

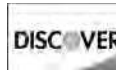
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805-HOMES FOR SALE

Gumlog area. Remodeled Jim Walters house. 4 bd, 2ba \$129,900
 1-864-710-0496
 ctr819778

835-REAL ESTATE WANTED TO BUY

REAL ESTATE WANTED
 Wanted to Buy: House Fixer-upper. Call 386-451-0701

Debtors and Creditors

This 16th day of May, 2024.

Mary E. Brady McCollum, Executor of the Estate of James Martin McCollum, Sr., a/k/a James M. McCollum, a/k/a James McCollum, Deceased

Janney E. Sanders Sanders, Ranck & Skilling, P.C. P. O. Box 1005 Toccoa, GA 30577 706-886-7533 Attorney for Mary E. Brady McCollum (Executor) gpn07 tr817017

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

GEORGIA, STEPHENS COUNTY. Kelli Powell Foster has qualified as Executor of the Estate of Joy Denise Cash Powell, a/k/a Joy C. Powell, a/k/a Joy Powell, deceased. All creditors of the Estate of Joy Denise Cash Powell, a/k/a Joy C. Powell, a/k/a Joy Powell, deceased, late of Stephens County, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the said Executor, Kelli Powell Foster, according to law, and all persons indebted to said Estate are required to make immediate payment to the said Executor, Kelli Powell Foster.

This 14th day of May, 2024.

Kelli Powell Foster
 Executor of the Estate of Joy Denise Cash Powell, a/k/a Joy C. Powell, a/k/a Joy Powell, Deceased

Matthew D. Skilling Sanders, Ranck & Skilling, P.C. P. O. Box 1005 Toccoa, GA 30577 706-886-7533 Attorney for Kelli Powell Foster (Executor) gpn07 tr816950

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

GEORGIA, STEPHENS COUNTY. Mary Elizabeth Wilkinson has qualified as Executor of the Estate of Richard Wendle Pressl, a/k/a Richard Wendle Pressl, deceased. All creditors of the Estate of Richard Wendle Pressl, a/k/a Richard Wendle Pressl, deceased, late of Stephens County, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the said Executor, Mary Elizabeth Wilkinson, according to law, and all persons indebted to said Estate are required to make immediate payment to the said Executor, Mary Elizabeth Wilkinson.

This 6th day of June, 2024.

Mary Elizabeth Wilkinson,
 Executor of the Estate of Richard Wendle Pressl, a/k/a Richard Wendle Pressl Deceased

P. Ann Pickett Sanders, Ranck & Skilling, P.C. P. O. Box 1005 Toccoa, GA 30577 706-886-7533 Attorney for Mary Elizabeth Wilkinson (Executor) gpn07 tr819719

Divorces

said Court on April 21, 2023, and that by reason of an order for service of summons by publication entered by the Court on May 21, 2024 you are hereby commanded and required to file with the clerk of said court and serve upon Cecilia Barrett, plaintiff, whose address is 81 Skyview Ln, Toccoa, GA 30577, an answer to the complaint within sixty (60) days of the date of the order for service by publication. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

WITNESS the Honorable William R. Oliver, Judge of said Court.
 This the 21 day of March, 2024.

//s/ Julie Dooley
 Clerk of Superior Court
 Stephens, County
 gpn08
 tr818746

Foreclosures

(850) 388-0500
 Attorney for The Wright Credit Union
 gpn11
 tr818885

Local Government

PUBLIC NOTICE STEPHENS COUNTY LAND USE REGULATION HEARING

Notice is hereby given that under provisions of the Stephens County Land Use ordinance, the Stephens County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, July 2, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Stephens County Historic Courthouse, located at 37 W. Tugalo Street, Toccoa, GA. The Stephens County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, July 23, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Stephens County Historic Courthouse, located at 37 W. Tugalo Street, Toccoa, GA.

REZONING REQUEST FROM JASON & JOAN EAST, 544 EAST-ANOLLEE BYPASS, EASTANOLLEE. PARCEL 053A 003. PROPERTY IS CURRENTLY ZONED AS AGRICULTURAL INTENSIVE. THE PROPOSED ACTION TO BE TAKEN IS TO REZONE ONE ACRE TO AGRICULTURAL RESIDENTIAL FOR THE PURPOSE OF SPLITTING OFF A PARCEL FOR RESIDENTIAL USE.

REZONING REQUEST FROM SAVANNAH & ETHAN WALKER, 28 AYERSVILLE ROAD, TOCCOA. PARCEL 009C 054. PROPERTY IS CURRENTLY ZONED AS RESIDENTIAL SINGLE. THE PROPOSED ACTION TO BE TAKEN IS TO REZONE TO AGRICULTURAL RESIDENTIAL TO OPERATE A SMALL FARM FOR PERSONAL AGRICULTURAL USE AND PROVIDE A SMALL FARM STAND ON THE PREMISES.

CONDITIONAL USE REQUEST FROM SAVANNAH & ETHAN WALKER, 28 AYERSVILLE ROAD, TOCCOA. PARCEL 009C 054. PROPERTY IS CURRENTLY ZONED AS RESIDENTIAL SINGLE. THE PROPOSED ACTION TO BE TAKEN IS TO GRANT A CONDITIONAL PERMIT TO UTILIZE THE PROPERTY FOR A HOME-BASED BUSINESS.

VARIANCE REQUEST FROM BARBARA & RALPH JUNE, 478 S CENTURY DRIVE, MARTIN. PARCEL 071F 101. PROPERTY IS CURRENTLY ZONED AS RESIDENTIAL SINGLE. THE PROPOSED ACTION TO BE TAKEN IS TO GRANT A VARIANCE OF 5 FT TO THE REAR YARD SETBACK FOR A TOTAL 5 FT REAR YARD SETBACK.

REZONING REQUEST FROM RLP INVESTMENTS LLC, RACETRACK ROAD, TOCCOA. PARCEL 034 104A. PROPERTY IS CURRENTLY ZONED AS AGRICULTURAL INTENSIVE. THE PROPOSED ACTION TO BE TAKEN IS TO REZONE TO RESIDENTIAL SINGLE FOR SUBDIVIDING FOR SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DWELLINGS.

REZONING REQUEST FROM RLP INVESTMENTS LLC, COKER ROAD, TOCCOA. PARCEL 034 108A. PROPERTY IS CURRENTLY ZONED AS AGRICULTURAL INTENSIVE. THE PROPOSED ACTION TO BE TAKEN IS TO REZONE TO RESIDENTIAL SINGLE FOR SUBDIVIDING FOR SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DWELLINGS.

REZONING REQUEST FROM RLP INVESTMENTS LLC, COKER ROAD, TOCCOA. PARCEL 034 108A. PROPERTY IS CURRENTLY ZONED AS AGRICULTURAL INTENSIVE. THE PROPOSED ACTION TO BE TAKEN IS TO REZONE TO RESIDENTIAL SINGLE FOR SUBDIVIDING FOR SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DWELLINGS.

Gpn13
 tr819762

Name Changes

Asjah Simpson
 Petitioner, pro se
 gpn15
 tr818408

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF STEPHENS COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: Isabella Eileen-Nicole Pilgrim Minor child(ren) CIVIL ACTION FILE NO. 2024-SU-CV-208-CC

NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

GEORGIA, STEPHENS COUNTY. **Notice** is hereby given that Ashley York, the undersigned, filed this Petition to the Superior Court of Stephens County, Georgia on the 29th day of May, 2024, praying for a change in the name of minor child(ren) from Isabella Eileen-Nicole Pilgrim to Isabella Nicole York.

Notice is hereby given pursuant to law to any interested or affect party to appear in said Court and to file objections to such name change. Objections must be filed with said Court within thirty days of the filing of said Petition.

This 29th day of May, 2024.

Ashley York
 Petitioner, pro se
 gpn15
 tr818404

300 EMPLOYMENT

305-GENERAL

Toccoa Falls College is hiring a Cashier for the Business Office. This position performs daily cash receipt function duties as well as a number of ongoing responsibilities in accounting procedures under general supervision. Visit the TFC website at tfc.edu/employment for the full job posting and to apply.
 ctr819717

800 REAL ESTATE SALES

805-HOMES FOR SALE

Gumlog area. Remodeled Jim Walters house. 4 bd, 2ba \$129,900
 1-864-710-0496
 ctr819778

835-REAL ESTATE WANTED TO BUY

REAL ESTATE WANTED
 Wanted to Buy: House Fixer-upper. Call 386-451-0701

Debtors and Creditors

This 14th day of May, 2024.

Kelli Powell Foster
 Executor of the Estate of Joy Denise Cash Powell, a/k/a Joy C. Powell, a/k/a Joy Powell, Deceased

Matthew D. Skilling Sanders, Ranck & Skilling, P.C. P. O. Box 1005 Toccoa, GA 30577 706-886-7533 Attorney for Kelli Powell Foster (Executor) gpn07 tr816950

Foreclosures

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF STEPHENS

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER

By virtue of the power of sale contained in that certain Deed to Secure Debt with Power of Sale from EFREM THORNTON and MICHELE THORNTON, to THE WRIGHT CREDIT UNION, dated May 26, 2023 recorded in Deed Book 133, Page 320-325, Stephens County, Georgia, Office of Superior Court Records, said Deed to Secure Debt with Power of Sale having been given to secure a Balloon Note dated May 26, 2023 in the original principal sum of One Hundred and Seventy Thousand Dollars and no/100, (\$170,000.00), with interest from date at the rate stated in said Balloon Note on the unpaid balance until paid, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the Courthouse door at Stephens County, Georgia, between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., on July 2, 2024, the property located at 222 Poplar Circle, Toccoa, GA 30577, more fully described in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference. The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, non-payment of the installment payment due on said loan. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, including attorney's fees.

Said property will be sold as the property of EFREM THORNTON and MICHELE THORNTON, subject to the outstanding ad valorem taxes and/or assessments, if any, and all easements and restrictions of record, if any, having priority over this Security Deed.

Exhibit A
 ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN THE 440TH DISTRICT, G.M., STEPHENS COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT AN IRON PIN CORNER ON THE SOUTH RIGHT OF WAY OF POPLAR STREET, SAID IRON PIN CORNER BEING COMMON TO THE PROPERTY HEREIN CONVEYED, THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 63 OF THE MARTIN AND RICE SUBDIVISION AND THE SOUTH RIGHT OF WAY OF POPLAR STREET; NORTH 69 DEGREES 52 MINUTES EAST 200.0 FEET ALONG PROPERTY NOW OR FORMERLY OF LAKE CRISP TO AN IRON PIN CORNER; THENCE SOUTH 69 DEGREES 52 MINUTES WEST 100.0 FEET TO AN IRON PIN CORNER; THENCE NORTH 71 DEGREES 45 MINUTES WEST 200.0 FEET ALONG THE LINE OF LOT 63 OF THE MARTIN & RICE SUBDIVISION TO THE BEGINNING IRON PIN CORNER AND BEING SHOWN, AND DESIGNATED AS LOT 62 OF THE MARTIN & RICE SUBDIVISION ACCORDING TO THE PLAT OF SURVEY BY CLELLAND A. TYSON, DATED NOVEMBER 15, 1977, TO WHICH PLAT REFERENCE IS MADE FOR A MORE COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF SAID PROPERTY.

THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PROPERTY BEING THE SAME AS CONVEYED BY WARRANTY DEED FROM WILLIAM R. PERRY TO EFREM THORNTON AND MICHELE THORNTON DATED DECEMBER 17, 2019, RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 1197, PAGE 204, STEPHENS COUNTY DEED RECORDS.

The Wright Credit Union
 As Attorney-in-Fact for Efrem Thornton and Michele Thornton

D. Tyler Van Leuven
 GA State Bar No. 142073
 P.O. Box 3637
 Tallahassee, Florida 32315-4128

Public Sales/Auctions

Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice Midgard Self Storage-Eastanollee located at 63 Scott Rd., Eastanollee GA 30538 intends to hold a public sale to sell the property stored in the following units stored at the Facility. The public sale to the highest bidder will occur at an online auction via www.storageauctions.com on 6/21/2024 at 1:00PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods, furnishings and garage essentials.

Kelly Vaughn units #C036, #C037 & #PS04;
 Kyla Harvey unit #F074;
 Crystal Garlington unit #J079;
 Vivian Cobb unit #J088;
 Chandler Ausborn unit #L005;
 Lindsay Foster unit #N006;
 Kendra Flanagan unit #N010;
 Paula Bailey unit #O054;
 Sedrick M Sadler unit #P053.

All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.
 Gpn17
 tr817959

Probate Notices

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF STEPHENS COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: JOEY ALAN HORNICK DECEASED ESTATE NO. 13655

NOTICE OF PETITION TO FILE FOR YEAR'S SUPPORT

The petition of CARMEN CELESTE HORNICK, for a year's support from the estate of JOEY ALAN HORNICK, deceased, for decedent's surviving spouse, having been duly filed, all interested persons are hereby notified to show cause, if any they have, on or before JULY 8TH, 2024, why said petition should not be granted.

All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed on or before the time stated in the preceding sentence. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed the petition may be granted without a hearing.

Glenda S. Ernest
 Judge of the Probate Court
 By: Cindy Simmons
 Clerk of the Probate Court

70 N ALEXANDER ST SUITE 108 TOCCOA, GA 30577 706-886-2828 gpn18 tr819118

400 FOR SALE

405-YARD SALES

ESTATE/MULTI FAMILY YARD SALE

Huge Estate/Yard Sale. Mens clothing sizes large - 3 xlg, womens clothing sizes medium - xlg, womens shoes, bathing suits. Boutique clothing, name brands, alot new with tags. Books, puzzles, toys, home decor, mirrors, pictures, dishes, glasses, Tupperware, serving platters, holiday decor (Easter, Fall, Christmas), party decor, wrapping paper, antiques, knick knacks. Quilt fabric, craft supplies and patterns and more. Four family yard sale - priced to sell! We will accept cash and Venmo. Text 706-669-1896. Dates - Friday, June 14 from 8 am - 4 pm, Saturday, June 15 from 8 am - 2 pm. Address - 1986 Toms Creek Road, Martin, GA 30557. Look for signs, balloons.

Legals

Corporations and Business Organizations

NOTICE OF INCORPORATION

Notice is given that articles of incorporation which incorporate SW RECYCLING, INC. have been delivered to the Secretary of State for filing in accordance with the Georgia Business Corporation Code. The initial registered office of the corporation is located at 484 Chubby Smith Road, Toccoa, GA 30577 and its initial registered agent at such address is Sharon Whitlock.

Gpn06
 tr818064

Debtors and Creditors

GEORGIA, STEPHENS COUNTY. IN RE: DARRYL F. DILGER, DECEASED

All creditors of the estate of Darryl F. Dilger, late of Stephens County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands to the Executor, according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to said Executor.

This 31st day of May, 2024.

Scott H. Dilger
 Executor of the Darryl F. Dilger Estate
 9 High Street,
 Farmingdale, New York 11735

Prepared By:
 McClure, Ramsay, Dickerson, LLP
 P. O. Drawer 1408
 Toccoa, Georgia 30577
 (706) 886-3178
 gpn07
 tr818869

GEORGIA, STEPHENS COUNTY. IN RE: PERRY MATHESON a/k/a LYMAN PERRY MATHESON, DECEASED

All creditors of the estate of Perry Matheson a/k/a Lyman Perry Matheson, late of Stephens County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands to the Executor, according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to said Executor.

This 10th day of June, 2024.

Douglas P. Matheson
 Executor of the Perry Matheson a/k/a Lyman Perry Matheson Estate
 18618 Harbor Light Blvd
 Cornelius, NC 28031

McClure, Ramsay & Dickerson, LLP
 P. O. Drawer 1408
 Toccoa, Georgia 30577
 (706) 886-3178
 gpn07
 tr819850

Divorces

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF STEPHENS COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

Cecilia Nicole Barrett, Plaintiff vs. Mitchell Lamar Smith, Defendant, CIVIL ACTION FILE NO.: 2023-SU-CV-116-WO

NOTICE OF SUMMONS-SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: Mitchell Lamar Smith, Defendant
 Name Above:
 You are hereby notified that the above styled action seeking Petition for Divorce was filed against you in

Name Changes

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF STEPHENS COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: Braxton Josiah Bruce Minor child(ren) CIVIL ACTION FILE NO. 2024-SU-CV-196-RS

NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

GEORGIA, STEPHENS COUNTY. **Notice** is hereby given that Asjah Simpson, the undersigned, filed this Petition to the Superior Court of Stephens County, Georgia on the 23 day of May, 2024, praying for a change in the name of minor child(ren) from Braxton Josiah Bruce to Braxton Josiah Richie.

Notice is hereby given pursuant to law to any interested or affect party to appear in said Court and to file objections to such name change. Objections must be filed with said Court within thirty days of the filing of said Petition.

This 23 day of May, 2024.

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF STEPHENS COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF CAROL G. POST, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 13650

PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

NOTICE

TO: whom it may concern:
 George J. Post has petitioned to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of CAROL G. POST deceased, of

700 REAL ESTATE RENTALS

705-HOMES FOR RENT

Apartments, Houses and Mobile Homes. 706-779-2790 CTR818781

Gumlog Area 2bd. 1ba house for rent. \$900. 864-710-0496 ctr819775

Debtors and Creditors

GEORGIA, STEPHENS COUNTY. IN RE: PERRY MATHESON a/k/a LYMAN PERRY MATHESON, DECEASED

All creditors of the estate of Perry Matheson a/k/a Lyman Perry Matheson, late of Stephens County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands to the Executor, according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to said Executor.

This 10th day of June, 2024.

Douglas P. Matheson
 Executor of the Perry Matheson a/k/a Lyman Perry Matheson Estate
 18618 Harbor Light Blvd
 Cornelius, NC 28031

McClure, Ramsay & Dickerson, LLP
 P. O. Drawer 1408
 Toccoa, Georgia 30577
 (706) 886-3178
 gpn07
 tr819850

Divorces

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF STEPHENS COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

Cecilia Nicole Barrett, Plaintiff vs. Mitchell Lamar Smith, Defendant, CIVIL ACTION FILE NO.: 2023-SU-CV-116-WO

NOTICE OF SUMMONS-SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: Mitchell Lamar Smith, Defendant
 Name Above:
 You are hereby notified that the above styled action seeking Petition for Divorce was filed against you in

Name Changes

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF STEPHENS COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: Braxton Josiah Bruce Minor child(ren) CIVIL ACTION FILE NO. 2024-SU-CV-196-RS

NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

GEORGIA, STEPHENS COUNTY. **Notice** is hereby given that Asjah Simpson, the undersigned, filed this Petition to the Superior Court of Stephens County, Georgia on the 23 day of May, 2024, praying for a change in the name of minor child(ren) from Braxton Josiah Bruce to Braxton Josiah Richie.

Notice is hereby given pursuant to law to any interested or affect party to appear in said Court and to file objections to such name change. Objections must be filed with said Court within thirty days of the filing of said Petition.

This 23 day of May, 2024.

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF STEPHENS COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF CAROL G. POST, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 13650

PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

NOTICE

TO: whom it may concern:
 George J. Post has petitioned to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of CAROL G. POST deceased, of

700 REAL ESTATE RENTALS

705-HOMES FOR RENT

Apartments, Houses and Mobile Homes. 706-779-2790 CTR818781

Gumlog Area 2bd. 1ba house for rent. \$900. 864-710-0496 ctr819775

Debtors and Creditors

GEORGIA, STEPHENS COUNTY. IN RE: PERRY MATHESON a/k/a LYMAN PERRY MATHESON, DECEASED

All creditors of the estate of Perry Matheson a/k/a Lyman Perry Matheson, late of Stephens County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands to the Executor, according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to said Executor.

This 10th day of June, 2024.

Douglas P. Matheson
 Executor of the Perry Matheson a/k/a Lyman Perry Matheson Estate
 18618 Harbor Light Blvd
 Cornelius, NC 28031

McClure, Ramsay & Dickerson, LLP
 P. O. Drawer 1408
 Toccoa, Georgia 30577
 (706) 886-3178
 gpn07
 tr819850

Divorces

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF STEPHENS COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

Cecilia Nicole Barrett, Plaintiff vs. Mitchell Lamar Smith, Defendant, CIVIL ACTION FILE NO.: 2023-SU-CV-116-WO

NOTICE OF SUMMONS-SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: Mitchell Lamar Smith, Defendant
 Name Above:
 You are hereby notified that the above styled action seeking Petition for Divorce was filed against you in

Name Changes

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF STEPHENS COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: Braxton Josiah Bruce Minor child(ren) CIVIL ACTION FILE NO. 2024-SU-CV-196-RS

NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

GEORGIA, STEPHENS COUNTY. **Notice** is hereby given that Asjah Simpson, the undersigned, filed this Petition to the Superior Court of Stephens County, Georgia on the 23 day of May, 2024, praying for a change in the name of minor child(ren) from Braxton Josiah Bruce to Braxton Josiah Richie.

Notice is hereby given pursuant to law to any interested or affect party to appear in said Court and to file objections to such name change. Objections must be filed with said Court within thirty days of the filing of said Petition.

This 23 day of May, 2024.

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF STEPHENS COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF CAROL G. POST, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 13650

PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

NOTICE

TO: whom it may concern:
 George J. Post has petitioned to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of CAROL G. POST deceased, of

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705-HOMES FOR RENT

Apartments, Houses and Mobile Homes. 706-779-2790 CTR818781

Gumlog Area 2bd. 1ba house for rent. \$900. 864-710-0496 ctr819775

Debtors and Creditors

GEORGIA, STEPHENS COUNTY. IN RE: PERRY MATHESON a/k/a LYMAN PERRY MATHESON, DECEASED

All creditors of the estate of Perry Matheson a/k/a Lyman Perry Matheson, late of Stephens County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands to the Executor, according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to said Executor.

This 10th day of June, 2024.

Douglas P. Matheson
 Executor of the Perry Matheson a/k/a Lyman Perry Matheson Estate
 18618 Harbor Light Blvd
 Cornelius, NC 28031

McClure, Ramsay & Dickerson, LLP
 P. O. Drawer 1408
 Toccoa, Georgia 30577
 (706) 886-3178
 gpn07
 tr819850

Divorces

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF STEPHENS COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

Cecilia Nicole Barrett, Plaintiff vs. Mitchell Lamar Smith, Defendant, CIVIL ACTION FILE NO.: 2023-SU-CV-116-WO

NOTICE OF SUMMONS-SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: Mitchell Lamar Smith, Defendant
 Name Above:
 You are hereby notified that the above styled action seeking Petition for Divorce was filed against you in

Name Changes

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF STEPHENS COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: Braxton Josiah Bruce Minor child(ren) CIVIL ACTION FILE NO. 2024-SU-CV-196-RS

NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

GEORGIA, STEPHENS COUNTY. **Notice** is hereby given that Asjah Simpson, the undersigned, filed this Petition to the Superior Court of Stephens County, Georgia on the 23 day of May, 2024, praying for a change in the name of minor child(ren) from Braxton Josiah Bruce to Braxton Josiah Richie.

Notice is hereby given pursuant to law to any interested or affect party to appear in said Court and to file objections to such name change. Objections must be filed with said Court within thirty days of the filing of said Petition.

This 23 day of May, 2024.

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF STEPHENS COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF CAROL G. POST, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 13650

PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

NOTICE

TO: whom it may concern:
 George J. Post has petitioned to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of CAROL G. POST deceased, of

700 REAL ESTATE RENTALS

705-HOMES FOR RENT

Apartments, Houses and Mobile Homes. 706-779-2790 CTR818781

Gumlog Area 2bd. 1ba house for rent. \$900. 864-710-0496 ctr819775

Debtors and Creditors

GEORGIA, STEPHENS COUNTY. IN RE: PERRY MATHESON a/k/a LYMAN PERRY MATHESON, DECE

Probate Notices

said County. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before July 1st, 2024.

BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.

GLENDAS S. ERNEST
Judge of the Probate Court
By: Cindy Simmons
Clerk of the Probate Court
70 N ALEXANDER ST SUITE 108
TOCCOA, GA 30577
706-886-2828
gpn18
tr818832

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF STEPHENS COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: ESTATE OF WILLIAM HARRISON PRUITT, DECEASED
ESTATE NO. 13643
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE

TO: whom it may concern:
SANDRA MOBLEY PRUITT has petitioned to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of WILLIAM HARRISON PRUITT deceased, of said County. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before JUNE 17th, 2024.

BE NOTIFIED FURTHER: All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.

GLENDAS S. ERNEST
Judge of the Probate Court
By: Cindy Simmons
Clerk of the Probate Court
70 N ALEXANDER ST SUITE 108
TOCCOA, GA 30577
706-886-2828
gpn08
tr817013

Tax Sales

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF RIGHT TO REDEEM
To: 2 Day Designs, Inc., a North Carolina Corporation c/o Timothy P. Key, Registered Agent and Ms. Joyce Neely, Successor to Joseph S. Neely, deceased
Take notice that:
The right to redeem the following described property, to wit:
All that tract or parcel of land lying in the Wolf Pit District, 267th G.M.D., Stephens County, Georgia, containing 3.88 acres, more or less, and being bounded, now or formerly, as follows: On the Northeast by the 80 foot right-of-way of Ridge Road; and on the Southeast, West and Northwest by property of Larry T. White.

Said tract being more particularly described as to courses and distances on a plat of survey prepared by Dean H. Teasley, Registered Surveyor, dated December 28, 1993, which plat, recorded in Plat Book 15, Page 669, Public Records of Stephens County, Georgia, is by this reference incorporated hereby as a part hereof.

As described in Deed Book 388, Page 485. Further described as Map & Parcel 050656A.

The right to redeem will expire and be forever foreclosed and barred after July 1, 2024.

The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated the 2nd day of May, 2023, and is recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Stephens County, Georgia in Deed Book 1330, Pages 497-498, Stephens County Deed Records.

The property may be redeemed at any time before midnight on July 1, 2024 by payment of the redemption price as affixed and provided by law to 1157 Ridgeland Road, LLC at the following address: c/o Tony Hicks, 1425 Ridgeland Road, Eastanollee, Georgia 30538. Contact may be made to the Attorney for 1157 Ridgeland Road, LLC - Janney E. Sanders, Sanders, Ranck & Skilling, P.C., P. O. Box 1005, Toccoa, Georgia 30577. Telephone (706) 886-7533 / jsanders@toccoalaw.com.

PLEASE BE GOVERNED ACCORDINGLY.
This 23rd day of May, 2024.

//s// Janney E. Sanders
Janney E. Sanders, Attorney at Law
for 1157 Ridgeland Road, LLC
P. O. Box 1005
597 Big A Road
Toccoa, Georgia 30577
(706) 886-7533
jsanders@toccoalaw.com
gpn20
tr818020

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF RIGHT TO REDEEM
Name: Craig Burns; Heirs, Beneficiaries, Executors, Administrators, Successors and Assigns
Address: 8428 Hagers Ferry Road Denver, North Carolina 28037
Take Notice That:
The right to redeem the following described property to wit:
ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND lying and being in the City of Toccoa, Stephens County, Georgia, bounded as follows: four lots East side of College Street, fronting on College Street 50 feet each, known as Lot No. 22, 23, 24 and 25. South side of Lot No. 25 being 202 feet, and the North side of Lot No. 24 being 190 feet; and East end 55 feet; and North side of Lot No. 23 being 209 feet and East end 55 feet; North side of Land Lot 22 being 123 feet, and the Southeast end 130 feet, all lots known and distinguished by map and survey of M.B. Collier,

Tax Sales

County Surveyor, of March 28, 1907
As described in Deed Book 557, Page 21. Further described as Map and Parcel T21 103.
will expire and forever be foreclosed and barred on or after the 3rd day of May, 2024.

The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated May 3, 2022 and is recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Stephens County, Georgia in Deed Book 1300, Pages 144-145.

Property may be redeemed at any time before the 3rd day of May, 2024, by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to Jeffrey Giovanni Juarez the undersigned at the following address: 6339 Danbury Lane, Norcross, Georgia 30093. Contact may be made to the Attorney for Jeffrey Giovanni Juarez, John C. "Jay" Doss, McClure Ramsay & Dickerson, LLP, P.O. Drawer 1408, Toccoa, Georgia, 30577. Telephone (706) 886-3178.
PLEASE BE GOVERNED ACCORDINGLY.
This the 22nd day of May, 2024.

//s// John C. Jay Doss
John C. Jay Doss
Attorney for Manweal Halawi

McClure, Ramsay & Dickerson, LLP
P.O. Drawer 1408
38 Falls Road
Toccoa, Georgia 30577
(706) 886-3178
tr817779

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF RIGHT TO REDEEM

Name: DIV Tax Venture II, LLC; Heirs, Beneficiaries, Executors, Administrators, Successors and Assigns
Address: 125 High Street, Suite 2100 Boston, Massachusetts 02110

Take Notice That:
The right to redeem the following described property to wit:
ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND situate, lying and being in the City of Toccoa, 440th G.M.D., Stephens County, Georgia, being Lot 4, Block 135, and being more particularly described in Deed Book 351, Page 135, Stephens County Tax Assessors Office.

This conveyance made subject to all recorded easements, covenants, and right-of-ways, Stephens County Land Records.

As described in Deed Book 783, Page 103. Further described as Map & Parcel T17 066.

will expire and forever be foreclosed and barred on or after the 3rd day of May, 2024.

The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated May 3, 2022 and is recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Stephens County, Georgia in Deed Book 1300, Pages 156-157.

Property may be redeemed at any time before the 3rd day of May, 2024, by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to Manweal Halawi the undersigned at the following address: 2615 Cardinal Lake Circle, Duluth, Georgia 30096. Contact may be made to the Attorney for Manweal Halawi, John C. "Jay" Doss, McClure Ramsay & Dickerson, LLP, P.O. Drawer 1408, Toccoa, Georgia, 30577. Telephone (706) 886-3178.
PLEASE BE GOVERNED ACCORDINGLY.
This the 22nd day of May, 2024.

//s// John C. Jay Doss
John C. Jay Doss
Attorney for Manweal Halawi

McClure, Ramsay & Dickerson, LLP
P.O. Drawer 1408
38 Falls Road
Toccoa, Georgia 30577
(706) 886-3178
gpn20
tr817587

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF RIGHT TO REDEEM

Name: DIV Tax Venture II, LLC; Heirs, Beneficiaries, Executors, Administrators, Successors and Assigns
Address: 125 High Street, Suite 2100 Boston, Massachusetts 02110

Take Notice That:
The right to redeem the following described property to wit:
ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND situate, lying and being in the City of Toccoa, Stephens County, Georgia, being Lot #11 in Block 4, in a Plat of Survey recorded in Deed Book 11, Pages 336 & 33, and being more particularly described in Deed Book 114, Page 56, Stephens County Land Records. Said tract of land is also known as Map and Parcel # T20 102 in the Stephens County Tax Assessors Office.

This conveyance made subject to restriction recorded in Book N/A, Page N/A, Stephens County Records.

As described in Deed Book 114, Page 56. Further described as Map and Parcel Number T20 102.

will expire and forever be foreclosed and barred on or after the 3rd day of May, 2024.

The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated May 3, 2022 and is recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Stephens County, Georgia in Deed Book 1300, Pages 156-157.

Property may be redeemed at any time before the 3rd day of May, 2022, by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to Manweal Halawi the undersigned at the following address: 2615 Cardinal Lake Circle, Duluth, Georgia 30096. Contact may be made to the Attorney for Manweal Halawi, John C. "Jay" Doss, McClure Ramsay & Dickerson, LLP, P.O. Drawer 1408, Toccoa, Georgia, 30577. Telephone (706) 886-3178.
PLEASE BE GOVERNED ACCORDINGLY.
This the 22nd day of May, 2024.

//s// John C. Jay Doss
John C. "Jay" Doss
Attorney for Manweal Halawi

McClure, Ramsay & Dickerson, LLP
P.O. Drawer 1408
38 Falls Road
Toccoa, Georgia 30577
(706) 886-3178
gpn20
tr817590

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF RIGHT TO REDEEM

Name: Mrs. T.O. Fisher; Her Heirs, Beneficiaries, Executors, Administrators, Successors and Assigns
Address: 325 Lawhouse Road Toccoa, Georgia 30577
Take Notice That:
The right to redeem the following described property to wit:
BEGINNING at an iron pin corner on the Southeast side of the old Mize-Toccoa Road on the right-of-way of said road at the North corner of the present Broad River Law House, said

Tax Sales

iron pin corner being approximately 210 feet Northeast of the center of the old Mize-Toccoa Road and the John Andrews Road; thence North 43 degrees 04 minutes East 75 feet to an iron pin; thence South 50 degrees 47 minutes East 60 feet to an iron pin; thence South 43 degrees 04 minutes West 75 feet to an iron pin; then North 50 degrees 47 minutes West 60 feet to the beginning iron pin corner; said lot is bounded on the Northwest by the old Mize-Toccoa Road; and on the Southwest, Southeast and Northeast by lands of Mrs. T.O. Fisher.

This description is according to a plat of survey made James H. Garrett, Jr., Georgia Registered Surveyor No. 872, dated July 7, 1955, said plat made for Stephens County, Georgia. Reference is herein had and made to said plat for more complete description of said lot.

This being the same property described in the Warranty Deed from Mrs. T.O. Fisher to Claud R. Jones, G.W. Williams and George Turner, Commissioners of Road and Revenues dated September 1, 1955, recorded in Deed Book 60, Pages 297-298 Stephens County Deed Records. Title to the above described property reverts to Grantee because said property has ceased to the use as a voting precinct (law house).

As described in Deed Book 1179, Page 131 and Deed Book 60, Page 297. Further described as Map and Parcel 034 168.

will expire and forever be foreclosed and barred on or after the 5th day of April, 2024.

The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated April 5, 2022 and is recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Stephens County, Georgia in Deed Book 1294, Pages 444-445.

Property may be redeemed at any time before the 5th day of April, 2024, by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to Manweal Halawi the undersigned at the following address: 2615 Cardinal Lake Circle, Duluth, Georgia 30096. Contact may be made to the Attorney for Manweal Halawi, John C. "Jay" Doss, McClure Ramsay & Dickerson, LLP, P.O. Drawer 1408, Toccoa, Georgia, 30577. Telephone (706) 886-3178.
PLEASE BE GOVERNED ACCORDINGLY.
This the 22nd day of May, 2024.

//s// John C. Jay Doss
John C. Jay Doss
Attorney for Manweal Halawi

McClure, Ramsay & Dickerson, LLP
P.O. Drawer 1408
38 Falls Road
Toccoa, Georgia 30577
(706) 886-3178
gpn20
tr817592

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF RIGHT TO REDEEM

Name: Beverly J. Hemrick; His Heirs, Beneficiaries, Executors, Administrators, Successors and Assigns
Address: 798 Pleasant Drive South Elgin, Illinois 60177

Take Notice That:
The right to redeem the following described property to wit:
TRACT I:
All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the City of Toccoa, Stephens County, Georgia on the North side of Nassau Street, and more fully described as follows: BEGINNING at an iron pin corner on the North side of Nassau Street next to property of Horton, and running thence along the line of Horton North 00 degrees 24 minutes East 126.9 feet to an iron pin corner next to property of Dalrymple South 78 degrees 03 minutes East 3 feet to an iron pin corner; thence due South 127.42 feet to an iron pin corner on the North side of Nassau Street; thence along the right of way of Nassau Street North 73 degrees 20 minutes West 4 feet to the beginning corner, all according to plat and survey by Clelland A. Tyson, Registered Surveyor, dated November 17, 1978.

TRACT II:
All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the City of Toccoa, Stephens County, Georgia, containing 0.22 ACRES, more or less, lying on the North right-of-way of Nassau Street, and being more particularly described as follows: BEGINNING at an iron pin corner located on the North right-of-way of Nassau Street adjacent to TRACT III on the plat hereinafter described; thence running along TRACT III North 00 degrees 24 minutes East 126.9 feet to an iron pin corner adjacent to property of, now or formerly, Dalrymple; thence running along, now or formerly, Dalrymple property North 78 degrees 03 minutes West 64.2 feet to an iron pin corner adjacent to TRACT I on the plat hereinafter described; thence running along TRACT I South 14 degrees 29 minutes West 117.4 feet to an iron pin corner located on the North right-of-way of Nassau Street; thence running along the North right-of-way of Nassau Street South 73 degrees 20 minutes East 94.0 feet to the beginning iron pin corner, and being known and designated as TRACT II on a plat of survey for Jack Loudermilk by Clelland A. Tyson dated November 17, 1978, the description as contained therein being incorporated herein by reference.

The above described property is the same as that conveyed by Warranty Deed with life estate reserved from Rosa Mae Hemrick f/k/a Rosa Mae Horton to Harold Hemrick and Beverly Hemrick, dated September 8, 2004, recorded in Deed Book 676, Page 33, Stephens County Records. The said Rosa Mae Hemrick f/k/a Rosa Mae Horton died as a resident of Stephens County, Georgia on October 15, 2005.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD, the said bargained premises, together with all and singular the rights, members and appurtenances thereof, to the same being, belonging or in anywise appertaining, to the only proper use, benefit and behoof of the party of the second part, their heirs and assigns forever in FEE SIMPLE.

As described in Deed Book 837, Page 1. Further described as Map and Parcel T27138.

will expire and forever be foreclosed and barred on or after the 7th day of May, 2024.

The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated May 7, 2013 and is recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Stephens County, Georgia in Deed Book 1015, Pages 130-131.

Property may be redeemed at any time before the 7th day of May, 2024, by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to Robert A. Davis the undersigned at the following address: P.O. Box 1598, Toccoa, Georgia 30577. Contact may be made to the Attorney for Robert A. Davis, John C. "Jay" Doss, McClure Ramsay & Dickerson, LLP, P.O. Drawer 1408,

Tax Sales

Toccoa, Georgia, 30577. Telephone (706) 886-3178.

PLEASE BE GOVERNED ACCORDINGLY.
This the 23rd day of May, 2024.

//s// John C. Jay Doss
John C. Jay Doss
Attorney for Robert A. Davis

McClure, Ramsay & Dickerson, LLP
P.O. Drawer 1408
38 Falls Road
Toccoa, Georgia 30577
(706) 886-3178
gpn20
tr817569

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF RIGHT TO REDEEM

Name: Thelma Louise Miller; Her Heirs, Beneficiaries, Executors, Administrators, Successors and Assigns
Address: 12060 Highway 56 Enoree, South Carolina 29335

Take Notice That:
The right to redeem the following described property to wit:
ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING and being in Big Smith District, 215 G.M.D. of Stephens County, Georgia and designated as Lot 15, Block N, Section 2 of Shorewood Estates ad Camping Club, as shown by plat recorded in Plat Book 6, Page 191, in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court, Stephens County, Georgia. A full and complete description of said lots as shown on said recorded plat is hereby made part of this instrument by reference.

This property is conveyed subject to restrictive covenants of record in Deed Book 118, Pages 253-254, Stephens County Records.

This is the same property conveyed to grantor and grantee in Book 125, Page 463, recorded on October 24, 1974 in Clerk of Superior Court Office, Stephens County, Georgia.

As described in Deed Book 174, Page 684. Further described as Map and Parcel 057E037.

will expire and forever be foreclosed and barred on or after the 5th day of April, 2024.

The tax deed to which this notice relates is dated April 5, 2022 and is recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Stephens County, Georgia in Deed Book 1294, Pages 444-445.

Property may be redeemed at any time before the 5th day of April, 2024, by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to Manweal Halawi the undersigned at the following address: 2615 Cardinal Lake Circle, Duluth, Georgia 30096. Contact may be made to the Attorney for Manweal Halawi, John C. "Jay" Doss, McClure Ramsay & Dickerson, LLP, P.O. Drawer 1408, Toccoa, Georgia, 30577. Telephone (706) 886-3178.
PLEASE BE GOVERNED ACCORDINGLY.
This the 23rd day of May, 2024.

//s// John C. Jay Doss
John C. Jay Doss
Attorney for Manweal Halawi

McClure, Ramsay & Dickerson, LLP
P.O. Drawer 1408
38 Falls Road
Toccoa, Georgia 30577
(706) 886-3178
gpn20
tr817776

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF RIGHT TO REDEEM

Name: Judson Sammons; His Heirs, Beneficiaries, Executors, Administrators, Successors and Assigns
Address: 151 Century Drive, Apt. 132 Greenville, Georgia 29607

Take Notice That:
The right to redeem the following described property to wit:
ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING and being in the State of Georgia, Stephens County, and within the Corporate Limits of the City of Toccoa, and being Lot No. 13, as shown by a Plat of Survey made by M.B. Collier, County Surveyor, of the T.A. Capps Tan Yard Lane on March 20, 1930, said Lot being more particularly described as:
Beginning at an iron pin 246 feet from the intersection of Davis and Peachtree Streets; thence running an East course along the line of Lot No. 14 to an iron pin on the lot of land belonging to Hartwell Mill #2 a distance of 110 feet, more or less, thence running a North course along the line of Hartwell Mill #2, 100 feet more or less, to an iron pin corner at corner of Lot No. 12; thence running a West course along the line of said Lot No. 12, 110 feet, more or less, to an iron pin on Peachtree Street; thence running a South course along said Peachtree Street 100 feet to the beginning corner.

This is the same property conveyed by Warranty Deed from Robert Ward Murphy to Judson Sammons and John Jordan date June 15, 2006, and recorded in Deed Book 765, Pages 63-64, Stephens County Records.

As described in Deed Book 1042, Pages 332-333. Further described as Map & Parcel T20235.

will expire and forever be foreclosed and barred on or after the 3rd day of May, 2024.

The tax deed to which this notice

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relates is dated May 3, 2022 and is recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Stephens County, Georgia in Deed Book 1294, Pages 444-445.

Property may be redeemed at any time before the 3rd day of May, 2024, by payment of the redemption price as fixed and provided by law to Manweal Halawi the undersigned at the following address: 2615 Cardinal Lake Circle, Duluth, Georgia 30096. Contact may be made to the Attorney for Manweal Halawi, John C. "Jay" Doss, McClure Ramsay & Dickerson, LLP, P.O. Drawer 1408, Toccoa, Georgia, 30577. Telephone (706) 886-3178.
PLEASE BE GOVERNED ACCORDINGLY.
This the 22nd day of May, 2024.

//s// John C. Jay Doss
John C. "Jay" Doss
Attorney for Manweal Halawi

McClure, Ramsay & Dickerson, LLP
P.O. Drawer 1408
38 Falls Road
Toccoa, Georgia 30577
(706) 886-3178
gpn20
tr817581

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF STEPHENS COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA TOCCOA TOWNSHIP, LLC, Petitioner,

vs.
ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN THE 267TH AND 440TH G.M.D., STEPHENS COUNTY, GEORGIA, CONTAINING 25.77 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN IN DEED BOOK 1234, PAGE 56, STEPHENS COUNTY RECORDS, KNOWN AS 148 MEMORIAL DRIVE, ALSO KNOWN AS TAX PARCEL ID: 043 037, ESTATE OF JEFF DAVIS AND ALL HEIRS KNOWN AND UNKNOWN; ESTATE OF JONES YOW AND ALL HEIRS KNOWN AND UNKNOWN; AND ALL THE WORLD, Respondents.

CIVIL ACTION FILE NO. SUCV20220003566C
NOTICE OF SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

TO: The above-named Respondents, HEIRS OF DR. JEFF DAVIS, HEIRS OF JONES DU B YOW, PRESUMED HEIRS OF JONES DU B YOW, ANGELA YOW, JONES D. YOW, JR., HAYDEN RATHER, and MARY SHORE, ANY PERSONS THAT MAY HAVE AN INTEREST IN LAND FORMERLY OWNED BY DR. JEFF DAVIS and / or JONES DU B YOW, STEPHENS COUNTY TAX COMMISSIONER, and ALL THE WORLD.

You are hereby notified that the above-styled action, being one to Quiet Title (Quia Timet) was filed against said Respondents and All the World in said Court on October 28, 2022 and pursuant to Georgia law, you are hereby commanded and required to file with the Clerk of said Court and serve upon Matthew D. Skilling, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is P.O. Box 1005, Toccoa, Georgia 30577 an answer to said Petition to Quiet Title (Quit Timet) within sixty (60) days of May 23, 2024. All the World and the above-named Respondents shall appear on the 22nd day of August, 2024 beginning at 10:00 a.m., at the Law Offices of McClure, Ramsay, Dickerson & Escove, LLP, 38 Falls Road, Toccoa, GA 30577, at which time the Respondents shall show cause why the prayers of the Petition should not be granted.

WITNESS the Honorable B. Chan Caudell, Judge, Mountain Judicial Circuit;

WITNESS the Honorable Tim Quick, Clerk of said Court.
This 15th day of May, 2024.

//s// Timothy D. Quick
Honorable Tim Quick
Clerk, Superior Court of Stephens County

Prepared By:
Matthew D. Skilling
Georgia Bar No. 159037
Sanders, Ranck & Skilling, P.C.
P.O. Box 1005
Toccoa, GA 30577
706-886-7533 (p)
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mskilling@toccoalaw.com
Attorney for Petitioner
gpn20
tr816962

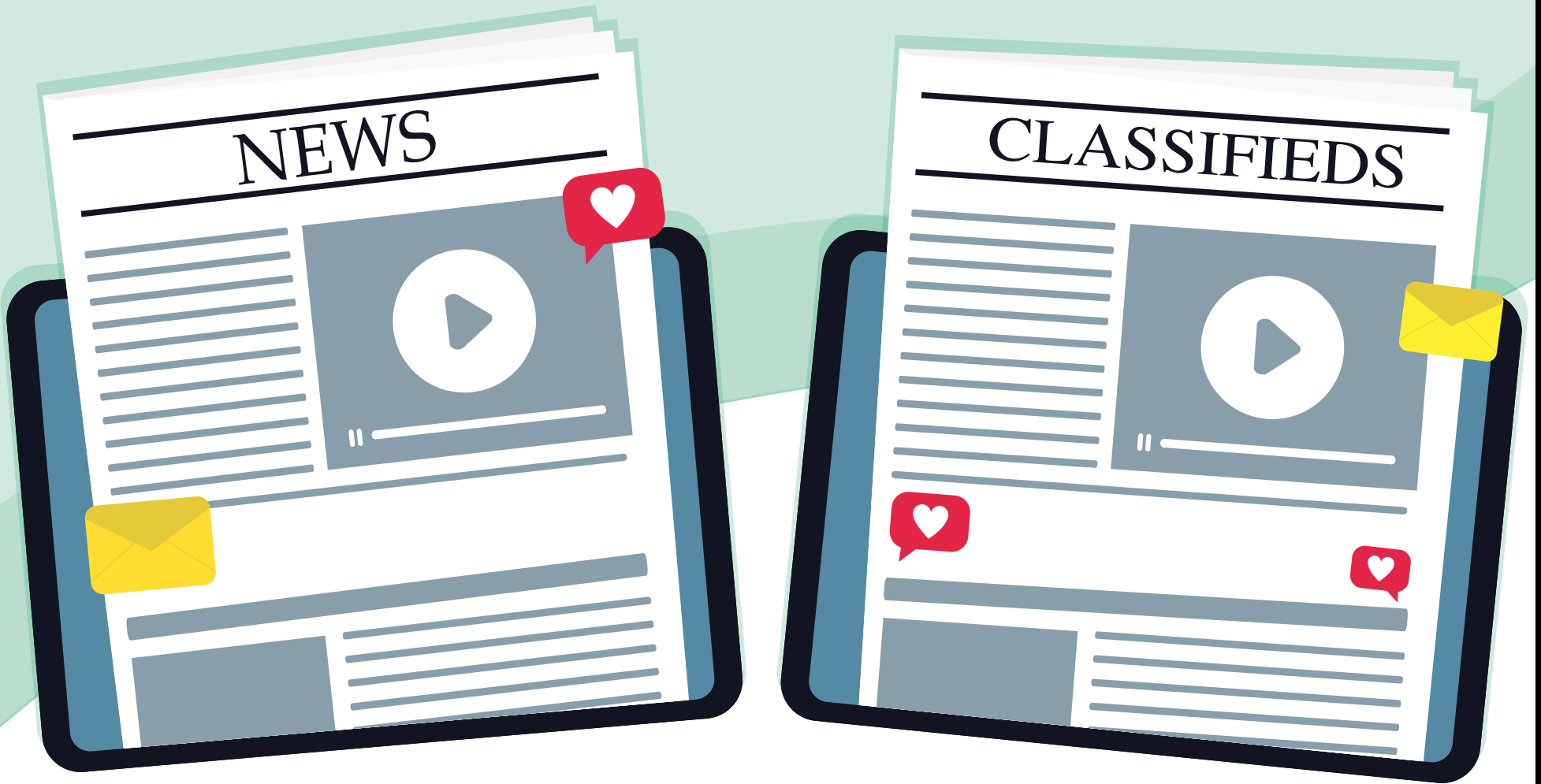
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF RIGHT TO REDEEM

Name: Pamela Miller Veach; Her Heirs, Beneficiaries, Executors, Administrators, Successors and Assigns
Address: 5050 The Orchard Road Clarkesville, Georgia 30523

Take Notice That:
The right to redeem the following described property to wit:
ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND lying and being in the 440th District, G.M., Stephens County, Georgia, in the Toccoa Industrial District; and being a tract of land containing 9.79 acres, more or less, being designated as Site 6 of the Toccoa Industri-

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al District, according to a plat of survey prepared for Rico Chemicals, Inc. by Max Lewallen, Georgia Registered Land Surveyor No. 2067, dated October 25, 1988, recorded in Plat Book 15, Page 684, Stephens County Records (the "Plat"), the description as contained therein being incorporated herein by reference, and being more particularly described as follows:
BEGINNING at the corner formed by the intersection of the Southeasterly right of way line of Collier Road (having a 60 foot right of way) with the Northeasterly right of way line of Industrial Boulevard (having an 80 foot right of way) and running thence in a Northeasterly direction along the Southeasterly right of way line of Collier Road North 32 degrees 14 feet East 41.30 feet to a point; running thence North 40 degrees 02 feet East 72.50 feet to a point; running thence North 44 degrees 05 feet East 85.50 feet to a point; running thence North 45 degrees 59 feet East 90.00 feet to a point; running thence North 45 degrees 43 feet East 100.00 feet to a point; running thence North 45 degrees 58 feet East 133.70 feet to a point; running thence North 45 degrees 34 feet East 272.90 feet to a point at the intersection of the Southeasterly right of way line of Collier Road and the center line of Eastanollee Creek; running thence along the center line of Eastanollee Creek, and leaving the right of way line of Collier Road, South 48 degrees 23 feet East 143.20 feet to a point; running thence South 37 degrees 36 feet East 100.80 feet to a point; running thence South 68 degrees 52 feet East 67.10 feet to a point; running thence South 41 degrees 48 feet East 46.60 feet to a point; running thence South 57 degrees 18 feet East 79.10 feet to a point; running thence South 50 degrees 59 feet East 85.40 feet to a point;



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