



# The Dahlonega Nugget™

"The Gold of the News"

Volume 138 No. 42

Dahlonega, Georgia

April 17, 2024

thedahlonganugget.com

\$1.50

## County changes hotel restrictions

By Keith Murden  
The Nugget

The Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners approved significant changes to the Code of Ordinances regarding hotels and motels during a sparsely-attended public hearing last week.

Under the revision, hotels and motels are once again deemed an allowable land use within Restricted Development character areas, as they were prior to a major 2022 overhaul. However, any new hotel/motel project must also meet a more stringent set of performance standards in order to be deemed acceptable. "From an economic development

▶ Establishments now allowed in restricted developments

standpoint, the allowance of a hotel/motel land use within Restricted Development aligns with the

county's hospitality industry and directly supports agritourism and the wedding industry," Community & Economic Development Director Rebecca Mincey told *The Nugget* after the changes were approved.

"I also believe the updated performance standards will be able to accomplish this type of development in a responsible way," Mincey

added.

No one in attendance at the public hearing spoke in favor of the revisions, but one citizen spoke out against both the change and the way it was presented in accompanying public notices.

"I'm a bit disappointed that the meeting was written up the way

See County, 12A

## NEW HOSPITAL OPEN FOR BUSINESS



Photo by John Bynum/The Nugget

A jubilant crowd celebrated the opening of the new Northeast Georgia Medical Center Lumpkin location on Saturday. Pictured (from left) State Senator Steve Gooch, President & CEO of Northeast Georgia Health System Carol Burrell, NGHS Vice President of Regional Hospitals Kevin Matson, and Northeast Georgia Physicians Group board member Jane Taylor were among the many representatives who gathered to mark the beginning of the new era in local healthcare.

By John Bynum  
The Nugget

The beginning of a new era kicked off earlier this week for residents of Dahlonega as the long-awaited Northeast Georgia Medical Center Lumpkin opened its doors for the first time.

Anyone now needing emergency care in the area should go to the new location on GA-400 just south of the Highway 60 intersection.

The new 66,000-square-foot facility replaces the old medical facility on the hill in town, known to residents several years ago as Chestatee Region-

al. At a well-attended grand opening event on Saturday, local favorite Kurt Thomas and his band waited their turn to entertain the crowd.

But first, Carol Burrell, President and CEO of Northeast Georgia Health Systems, stepped to the microphone to

welcome everyone and express her excitement for the completion of the new facility.

Burrell thanked the elected representatives in attendance, including State Sen. Steve Gooch and State Rep. Will Wade, plus several representatives from the County and City.

See NEW HOSPITAL, 9A

## Roundabout in the works for risky intersection

By Keith Murden  
The Nugget

Last Wednesday county and state officials met at the corner of Auraria and Burnt Stand roads in Lumpkin County to announce a grant from the Georgia Department of Transportation [GDOT] in the amount of \$1,560,000.

That grant money will be used for a brand new roundabout to address lingering safety concerns at the busy intersection.

Burnt Stand is a heavily-traveled road that connects Dahlonega commuters to a traffic light on GA400. At the opposite end of Burnt Stand is the T-intersection with Auraria Road, and across the street from the stop sign is the entrance to White Oak Learning Academy.

"The Auraria/Burnt Stand Road intersection has a long history of accidents, especially

See Roundabout, 11A

It's primarily a safety issue... Roundabouts move traffic and they're very safe.

▶ County Manager Alan Ours

## ELECTION 2024

### County commission candidates compete for District 2 position

By Matt Aiken  
The Nugget

The three-way race for the Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners is well underway as Matthew Cootware, Jeremy Nye and incumbent Bobby Mayfield are all vying for the District 2 seat.

This week *The Nugget* caught up with each can-

didate for a round of election-related questions. This is the first in a series of Q&A's featuring all the candidates in contested local races, leading up to early voting which will begin on Monday, April 29.

**The Nugget:** What is the greatest need for Lumpkin County right now? How

would you, as a commissioner, help fulfill it?

**Cootware:**

Our greatest need is to lower TAXES for all County Residents! One way I would help and try to fulfill that would be to propose a minimum time served/lived in

See Candidates, 3A



John Bynum/The Nugget

## Bear fest is back on the square

It's time to welcome back the old-time music, storytelling, and arts that are a staple of the Bear on the Square Mountain Festival. The annual event will return to Dahlonega's Public Square this Friday through Sunday. For details, see this week's article inside!

See Bear, 7A

### OUR VIEW:

Side by Side is an endorsement worth making

▶ Page 4A

### LETTER WRITER:

A few will remember the old pecan trees next to St. Luke's

▶ Page 5A

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Advertising

The cost to place a classified advertisement is \$9 for the first 10 words, then 25 cents per word after that. These ads must be pre-paid. The Dahlonge Nugget accepts American Express, Discover, Mastercard and Visa.

Classified ads may be placed in other newspapers within the Community Newspapers, Inc., (CNI) family. CNI owns the Clayton News Tribune, the White County News and The Northeast Georgian (Habersham County) and dozens of other papers.

Display ("framed" or "boxed" ads) advertisements and inserts may be ordered by contacting one of our sales associates. Prices vary depending on the size/frequency of the advertisement and/or insert.

Submissions

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

There is no charge for running items involving community activities or announcements such as weddings, births and milestone anniversaries.

We will print photographs for such announcements free of charge.

Items should be submitted as far as possible in advance of the event's date or the date of requested publication.

The newspaper attempts to run all items as close to the requested date(s) as possible.

Since there is no charge for these items, they appear in the newspaper on a space-available basis.

Photographs

Photographs that are submitted must be sharp in order to reproduce well in the paper. Please do not print out digitals for use in the newspaper.

Digital photographs may be e-mailed to the newspaper. News photographs should be sent to jbynum@thedahlongenugget.com. Photos for advertisements should be sent to the appropriate sales representative.

People in photographs should be identified, and a contact name with a phone number must be included.

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CRIME

Weekly Crimebeat

The following incidents were reported to the Lumpkin County Sheriff's Office during the time period of April 8 through April 12.

April 8
A woman said she almost ran into a man pushing a grocery cart on Highway 400.

April 10
A local teen said he found a debit card at the Mr. Clean car wash.

A man said his girlfriend has been receiving threatening text messages.

April 11
A man said an

acquaintance stole his truck, his computer, his tools, his medication, \$4,200 in cash and his German Shepherd. He said the acquaintance eventually returned the German Shepherd.

April 12
A deputy responded to a report about a suspicious man walking on the side of Dawsonville Highway. The man said he was homeless but doing ok.

April 8 - April 13

Arrest Reports

The following arrests were released by the Lumpkin County Sheriff's Office.

April 8
Douglas Bishop, 80, of Dahlonge was arrested and charged with battery-family violence.

Bryan McCluskey, 47, of Dahlonge was arrested and charged with a probation violation.

Wesley Baxter, 52, of Gainesville was arrested and charged with failure to appear.

Stuart Parker, 64, of Dahlonge was arrested and charged with sexual battery.

Clyde Banks, 38, of Dawsonville was arrested and charged with a probation violation.

April 9
David Braswell Jr., 51, of Gainesville was arrested and charged with a probation violation.

Donnie Whitmire, 68, of Dawsonville was arrested and charged with cruelty to animals.

Noah Goergen, 25, of Dahlonge was arrested and charged with second degree cruelty to children.

Joseph Wright Jr., 58, of Shelby, N.C. was arrested and charged with being a pedestrian under the influence.

James Wigginton, 49, of East Point was arrested and charged with a probation violation.

Jennie Jones, 62, of Dahlonge was arrested and charged with possession of methamphetamine, failure to maintain a lane and a safety belt violation.

Hannah Gray, 27, of Cleveland was arrested and charged with DUI.

April 10
Robert Collins, 62, of Dahlonge was arrested and charged with battery.

April 11
Troy Fields, 30, of Dahlonge was arrested and charged with criminal trespass.

Pierce Doles, 24, of Dahlonge was arrested and charged with two counts of terroristic threats and acts, simple battery-law enforcement and intimidation or injury of any officer.

April 12
George Cartledge, 35, of Dahlonge was arrested and charged with a probation violation.

George Hause, 35, of Canton was arrested and charged with theft by taking a motor vehicle.

Elias Martin, 36, of Cleveland was arrested and charged with two counts of probation violation.

Hailey Grant, 23, of Dahlonge was arrested and charged with aggravated assault, simple battery and second degree criminal damage to property.

Joseph Wright Jr., 58, of Shelby, N.C. was arrested and charged with drivers to exercise due care.

William Metz Jr., 35, of Palmerton, Penn. was arrested and charged with simple assault and simple battery.

James Flanagan, 55, of Dahlonge was arrested and charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug related objects and a motor vehicle registration violation.

April 13
Mason Harwood, 29, of Dahlonge was arrested and charged with DUI, failure to maintain a lane, hit-and-run and intentional operation of a motor vehicle to create danger to persons or property-laying drags.

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The Dahlonge Nugget staff



John Bynum
Editor/Publisher



Matt Aiken
Executive Editor



Chauna Utterback
Office Manager



Carrie E. Bennett
Marketing Consultant



Keith Murden
Staff Writer



Sharon Hall
Remote Reporter



Eligha Roper
Sports Reporter

# LOCAL NEWS

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

# Candidates face off for County District 2 seat

Continued from Front Page

Lumpkin County in order to receive that over 65 property tax relief. We have County Residents that have earned that, and others that have moved in and abused it. I would try to enact an amendment to the current over 65 property tax relief, to reduce the abuse of others coming in for short periods of time to flip houses or just take advantage of its current form.

### Mayfield:

I believe it is time for us to refocus our efforts onto the quality of life issues which make people want to live here and to raise a family here. We have done a lot with traffic problems out in the county with multiple roundabouts and planned GDOT projects at the end of 400, so now I would like to begin looking at Parks & Rec. Our new Pine Tree Rec Center opens this year with a very nice swimming area and two basketball courts, but we also need more playing fields. We have done a good job working with the school system to utilize their facilities as well, but everything is at capacity. The old Blackburn Park area is one potential location where we can accomplish this at minimal cost since we own the property.

### Nye:

The greatest need of Lumpkin County is to reduce the burden of government on the people. The need for a reduction of taxation and the encroachment of commercial entities into residential areas has changed the inherent nature of our rural commu-

nity. The county government should not be a burden upon the people and must always strive to place its people's needs at the forefront of all its decisions. A multi-pronged approach to ensuring the general welfare of the people begins with finding ways to reduce the budgetary impact and constricting infrastructure upgrades that allow for larger commercial development aiding in the prevention of commercial expansion. The Cam (Character Area Map) has multiple categories for the same relative designations, allowing for loopholes in development types within the same consensual area.

### The Nugget: Growth has arrived in Lumpkin County. How would you suggest directing this growth?

#### Cootware:

I would suggest directing this growth towards the 400 corridor. This area is the best option for the County to keep its small town feel towards town, but also allow the availability of other County residents to spend their money in Lumpkin County. The 400 Corridor borders close to Hall, White and Dawson counties and they could spend their money here instead of our residents spending there. Let us manipulate that area to take full advantage of its traffic flow and ascertain all economic growth to this one area, so it doesn't come into town.

#### Mayfield:

Managing this coming growth is not a new idea for me. Soon after I first got elected, we crafted the Gateway



Matthew Cootware



Bobby Mayfield



Jeramy Nye

Corridor regulations to make sure our growth on Highway 400 does not look like the growth to the south of us. Stone and wood facades, dark skies compliant lighting, and lots of vegetation are just a few of the requirements. Along with this, we have installed significant infrastructure on 400 for water, sewer, internet, gas and electricity. We prepared that area and that is our intent to keep the majority of the growth on that road. Along with that initiative, we have modified our Land Use Regulations so that words like "suggested," "encouraged," and "recommended" no longer open the door for unregulated development across the county and we continue to work on those regulations to make them serve the needs of the people.

#### Nye:

Infrastructure restrictions will slow the expansion of commercial developments, and CAM revision and solidification will protect residential areas. We must prioritize Lumpkin citizens' needs over

commercial entities outside of Lumpkin. In Lumpkin there is a misplaced thought that adherent property ownership means unlimited development of said property regardless of residency or representation, this makes the Lumpkin County government, a government of all, that diminishes elected representation for people who live within Lumpkin. The proper role of local government is to provide overall quality of life for the people who reside in their communities and ensure the general welfare displayed by protecting the inherent nature of the county and protecting Lumpkin residents' property. Non-origin growth can be further constricted by implementing special taxation and strengthening large-scale commercial performance zoning restrictions.

### The Nugget: The County and City are currently embroiled in a lawsuit. What's your stance on this suit? Do you support going forward with it or finding a way to end it?

#### Cootware:

My stance on this lawsuit is simple, I'm not for it, but I also believe that the County is in the right. My reason for not being for the lawsuit is the taxpayers' money being spent on both sides of the lawsuit and it doesn't appear that cooler heads are prevailing. It also looks like there's a little tit-for-tat from the City on this issue from the previous court issue with LOST (Local Option Sales Tax) split lawsuit. Leaders need to step up and make things happen and create those talks and meetings and resolve these issues.

#### Mayfield:

I hate all of these legal shenanigans and would end it to-

day if I could. This back and forth predates me and goes all the way back to the building of our very first fire station in town. Unfortunately, for everyone concerned, that group of leaders left some un-dotted "i's" and some uncrossed "t's," so to speak, and many years later some poor judge has to try to figure out what they intended. I propose that the Board of Commissioners select two of their own and the City Council select two of their own, let them sit down and negotiate as regular people with no attorneys present, create a legally binding agreement which can then be codified by both bodies. Put it to rest already!

#### Nye:

Turmoil within government is always at the expense of the people who pay for it with taxation. The fact that civil dialog between the city and county cannot be effectively conducted to broker a deal without legal arbitration constitutes a government leadership failure. The only parties that pay for this folly are the people. The particulars of this case are inconsequential, the government wants more money for its means. What makes the government think it can take without limit from its people? The people have placed trust in their elected officials to resolve disputes for the betterment of their intention, legal adjudication of this matter creates a semblance of distrust from the citizens to the representation, that two parties of mutual concern cannot broker an agreement for the betterment of their people. It is a shame and should not happen.

### The Nugget: What personal qualities make you the most qualified candidate for this position?

#### Cootware:

I have a lot of personal qualities that make me qualified for this position, but the two most important are Leadership and Communication. I'm a retired Military Veteran offering 20 years of proven Leadership experience leading diverse teams during military combat operations and managing multiple training and leadership development programs. Communication is key as well and sets the precedence for all future endeavors and helps us build relationships, which I would love to do with more residents within the County limits and as your next District 2 Commissioner.

#### Mayfield:

This question reminds me of something the late Dr. David Miller said to me when we got elected together. I was concerned about the Land Use task in front of us and the seemingly infinite details involved. He said that the people did not elect us for our expertise in a particular area, but they elected us for our judgement. And I have found that to be true. I have encountered many topics about which I was initially ill informed, but I have been able to draw upon my many experiences as a leader and the depth of relationships with many in the community to exercise good judgement for the benefit of my friends and neighbors. Just this week I voted NO on a revision because I felt that it needed to be refined. Do the right thing and help the people—words which I live by every day.

#### Nye:

I have 20 years of experience in leadership in the US Army Rangers, I am near completion of a dual major in political science and constitutional law, and I am a working man with a large family on a semi-fixed income who understands the burdens of taxation and working with a budget. Most importantly I am not behold to anyone other than the people. I do not have excessive governmental ties and am free to be the people's voice as their elected representative. I will strive to preserve why many of us moved here and continue living within this wonderful county. I chose to make Lumpkin County my home so my children have a safe rural community to grow and learn. I am running for County Commissioner to make sure it stays that way.

## Meetings & Announcements

■ The Lumpkin County High School Governance Team will meet Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at 3 p.m. in the PLC Room (B-15). Meetings are open to the public.

■ The Lumpkin County Library Board of Trustees will hold a quarterly meeting on Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 5 p.m. at the Lumpkin County Library, 56 Mechanicsville Rd. All meetings are open to the public. Members of the audience may be allowed to speak at the end of the regular business session, if recognized by the Chairman. Visitors may not participate in board discussion of items on the agenda.

■ The Chestatee Regional Library Board of Trustees will hold a quarterly meeting on Monday, April 22, 2024 at 5 p.m. at the Dawson County Library, 342 Allen St., Dawsonville. All meetings are open to the public. Members of the audience may be allowed to speak at the end of the regular business session, if recognized by the Chairman. Visitors may not participate in board discussion of items on the agenda.

■ The Dahlonega Historic Preservation Commission will hold a meeting on Monday, April 22, 2024 at 6 p.m. in the City Hall Gary McCullough Council Chambers. Meetings are open to the public.

■ The Dahlonega Cemetery Committee will hold a meeting on Thursday, April 25, 2024 at 6 p.m. at City Hall. Meetings are open to the public.

■ The Long Branch Elementary School Governance Team will meet Monday, April 29, 2024, at 3:30 p.m. in the Media Center.

■ The Dahlonega City Council will hold a Regular Meeting Monday, May 6 at 6 p.m. at City Hall. The public is invited to attend.

■ The Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners will hold a Special Called Meeting on Tuesday, May 7, at 4:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Boardroom of the Administration Building, 99 Courthouse Hill, Dahlonega. The purpose of the meeting is to consider the renewal of the County health insurance. The public is welcome to attend.



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# OPINIONS

- Editorials
- Letters to the Editor
- Local Views

## OUR VIEW

# Side by Side is an endorsement worth making

It's 2024. And it's time to choose a side, Lumpkin County.

That's right. This year there is only one choice for our community. And the choice is obvious.

That choice is Side by Side in Service.

What, did you think we were talking about something else?

No no, this is a topic far greater than mere politics.

This is about an all-day effort where local churches, congregations and volunteers from across the county come together to help those in need.

That big day is Saturday, April 27.

If you want to participate, all you have to do is show up.

Volunteers will begin to gather at Dahlonega Baptist Church at 7 a.m. for registration.

At 7:30 a.m., projects will be assigned.

And at 8 a.m. the work will begin.

These projects will range from construction work to repairs to wheelchair ramps to yard work for the elderly or disabled.

It's not just sweat-on-the-brow stuff either.

Some may opt to help with lunch preparation, sewing projects or childcare.

Then at 3 p.m. any interested participants can head back to the church for a well-earned barbecue dinner.

For official details you can check out [sidebysideinservice.com](http://sidebysideinservice.com).

Spring is a busy season for many.

In the midst of the Parks & Rec games and weekend festivals, this is a local tradition that often flies under the radar.

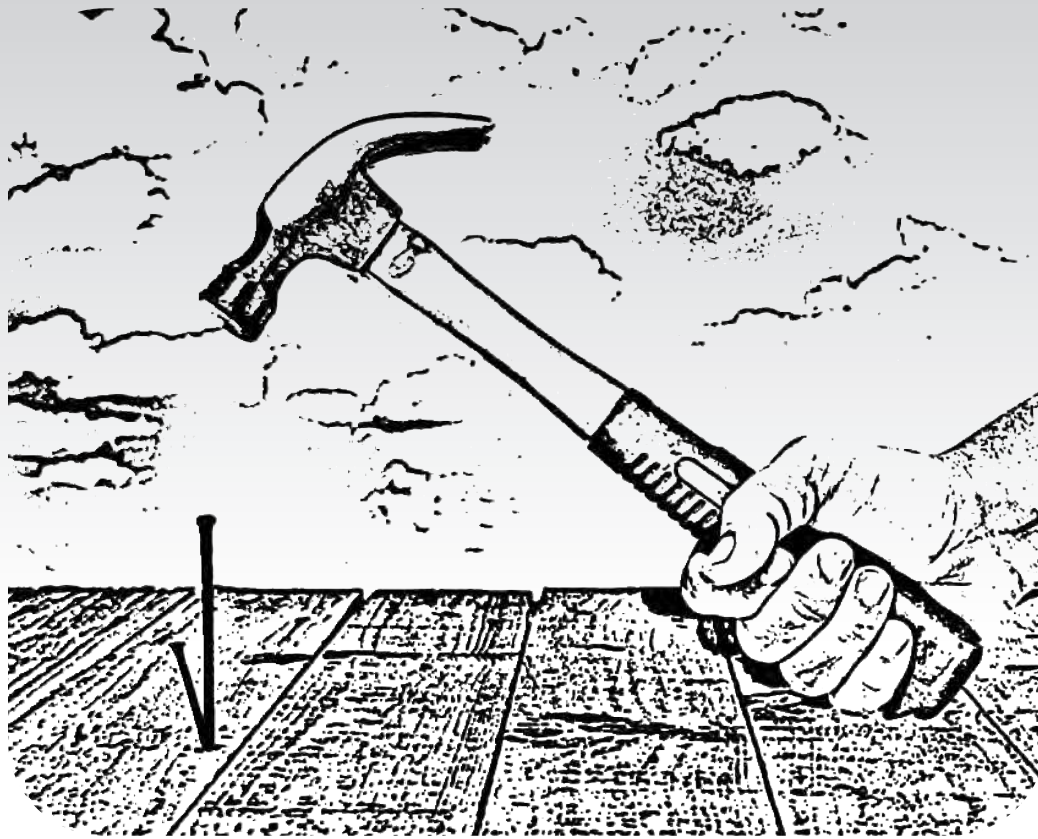
But it's perhaps one of Lumpkin County's most important days of the year.

Because it's a day that makes a real difference in our community.

And you can be a part of that difference.

Because, like we said, the choice is obvious.

And Side by Side is the side worth choosing.



## On the frontlines of the Prank War

Matt Aiken  
Executive Editor



They came at night. Dressed in black. And armed...with toilet paper.

From the looks of it, it was one-ply. Not the good stuff.

But then, this was Day Seven of the Junior-Senior Prank War.

No one wants to throw perfectly good Charmin Ultra Soft into tree branches for a full week.

In this case, that one-ply was destined for the front yard of my good friends Seth and Alison.

Except, well, Seth had other plans.

He sent out a group text to us dad friends Friday afternoon like an emergency flare.

It was an invite to hang out, sit around a fire ring and keep a watch out for potential TP-ers.

Sure the offer was tempting, but c'mon...I'm a responsible adult who doesn't have time for such high school shenanigans, right?

Just kidding, I left as soon as possible and brought snacks and walkie talkies.

But as I pulled up to Seth's front yard I didn't know exactly what I was getting into.

Chances are you saw the aftermath of the ongoing Prank War leading up to LCHS Prom. Yards and homes and trees were blanketed all across the county. Word on the street (and around the fire ring) was that the two classes even had a Twitter/X account to keep track of successful toilet paperings. The most yards rolled at the end of the week won. And if you're caught on camera, you don't get credit. (I'm not sure what happens if you're caught in a column.)

Since Seth teaches at the high school he had a sinking suspicion he was about to become an innocent victim of the war. Or, well, maybe not that innocent. Especially since he taunted all the teens at the end of the day and told them they'd never be able to successfully pull off a TP-ing at his house.

But the truth was, those poor pranksters were walking into a trap.

Because he had inside information.

Yes turns out there was a double agent teen who tipped us off that the TP-ing would be taking place at exactly 11 p.m. This teen also fed false intel to his classmates, guaranteeing that the lights would be off and everyone would be away for the night.

Well the lights were off. But everyone was home.

That included Seth, Alison, his kids, multiple dad friends and an entire army of eager middle and elementary schoolers from the neighborhood.

They too were armed, but with gel-blasters. These are like Nerf guns that shoot tiny water based pellets.

Feeling vulnerable, I jokingly suggested water balloons.

"Yes!" replied the members of the child army. And within minutes I was staring at two full buckets of balloons and wondering if I should take one.

Now this is where I needed to draw the line. I'm 45 years old. It's one thing to be a causal bystander but another to actually personally participate in these juvenile pranks right? Just kidding, I took as many balloons as I could carry.

When the clock struck 11 the middle school/elementary army was waiting across the street while I huddled in the shadows with my rag tag team of over-40 dads. Right on time, two car loads of teens pulled into a nearby driveway. There were a lot of them. They worked quickly and quietly. Until, that is, one of them unknowingly walked right up to us, his eyes cast upward, focused solely on looting the perfect toilet paper toss.

"Hey buddy," said Seth as he moved out of the shadows and warmly greeted his students with a perfectly synchronized counter-attack.

That teen, whose name has been removed just in case he was out past

See Aiken, Page 5A

■ What do you think? We want to hear your thoughts. Email letters to the editor to [maiken@thedahlongenugget.com](mailto:maiken@thedahlongenugget.com) and join the conversation on *The Nugget's* Opinions section.

## CARTOON COMMENTS



## Spring cleaning for the masses

David Zunker  
Columnist



Since spring is here to stay—although the last winter wasn't all that bad—apparently it's time to do spring things, like go to baseball games, play golf, and make time for hikes in the woods.

Spring is perhaps my favorite season in North Georgia, since it has a long ramp-up, and hangs around for quite a while before relenting to the onslaught of a humid summer.

Although that's the beauty of mountains—elevation translates quite directly into temperature changes, which is why it's often cooler here—in so many ways—than Atlanta.

I lived in Arizona for a while, where elevation's effect on temperature changes was painfully obvious. Flagstaff, at 7,000 feet, could produce some of the coldest, snowiest, most intense winters, even colder than Minnesota sometimes, if that's possible.

Sedona, groovy as it is, the self-proclaimed "Most Beautiful Place on Earth," is just an hour down the road from Flagstaff, surrounded by mystic mountains, with their energy vortexes, crystal influences, and hippy-dippy locals, and at a perfect 4,500 feet, it's blessed with a 3-Bears climate—not too cold, not too hot. Just right.

Then there's Phoenix, on the desert floor, with its 275-degree summers (a slight exaggeration), where you could literally (and I mean literally) cook an egg on the sidewalk on a hot day. All that said, I'll take North Georgia.

So, the point is, if you've been hibernating, it's time to get out. Unless...

There's this other thing about spring, that has not much to do with weather. It's more a mood, a mode and a moment, influenced by a feeling that maybe the accumula-

tions and distractions of the winter season deserve some reflection, and perhaps stored stuff needs a little winnowing. It's called spring cleaning.

Cleaning and organizing has become quite controversial lately with the arrival of the "Queen of Tidy," Marie Kondo, who stirred up some millennial and boomer dust, by professing that the key to a clean house is to keep only those things that bring you joy. She also maintained there was an order to organizing-tidy by category—starting with clothing, then books, papers, miscellaneous items and then sentimental items (what's likely been living in your top dresser drawer for a couple of decades).

I tried to try the KonMarie method but got stuck right away on the order of organizing. I know a lot of the clothes I own have got to go, but it's hard to say so long to that treasured tuxedo, and most of my pants still fit. Still, it's hard to admit I'm almost exclusively a jeans, shorts and button-down guy now. My wardrobe, like my life, could be even further simplified.

Books. I have a Kindle, but I like the feel of a book sometimes, and those I have look good on a bookshelf. What else would go there?

Miscellaneous? Well, that just speaks for itself.

And sentimental items? Why would I keep them if they weren't sentimental? And they bring me joy.

So I battle the concept of KonMarie, and, like the top drawer of my dresser, I can pretty much—with the best intentions—put everything out, and then put it all right back in again.

Fortunately, despite creating a brief organizational stir, it seems Marie Kondo is pretty much like all the rest of us. Her 15-minutes of fame sort of flared up and died when the reality of three kids hit. Now she says she's not so stuck on tidy, and some things can just go on being the mess they are.

As for the weather, and the beauty of spring in the mountains, maybe just do a bit of spring cleaning in the yard, and then go out there, relax and enjoy.

## The Dahlonega Nugget

The Gold of the News - Serving Lumpkin County for more than 130 Years  
P.O. Box 36 - 1074 Morrison Moore Pkwy, Dahlonega, Ga. 30533  
Telephone: (706) 864-3613  
FAX Number: (706) 864-5812  
Publication No. USPS 141740

### OUR MISSION

The Dahlonega Nugget is published with pride for the people of Lumpkin 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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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Dahlonega Nugget, P.O. Box 36, Dahlonega, GA. 30533.

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# YOUR VIEW

## OPINIONS

### Aiken: The frontlines of the Prank War

Continued from Page 4A

curfew, looked as though he had come face to face with an actual ghost. The Ghost of Prank Wars Past.

"Ruuun!" he screamed to his fellow TP-ers. Oh, they ran.

And they ran directly into the path of the teen/tween army waiting for them on the other side of the street who emerged from the bushes like pint-sized assassins.

The quiet night erupted in a panic of pranking madness.

In that madness I threw my water balloons somewhere and can't be sure where they landed. I might have accidentally tossed one into a neighbor's carport.

The panicked pranksters took off straight down the street and did not look back.

This was a bad strategic move since, you know, they left their cars.

Eventually they returned amidst a ceasefire and lots of laughing. There were jokes. There were fist bumps. There was peace in the neighborhood. For a few hours at least. Later on when everyone had gone to sleep they returned to the neighborhood ready to roll.

You know, I've heard tales of these Junior-Senior prank wars for years, but never experienced them. To be a part of it all was, well, a ridiculous amount of fun. It also makes me think we adults should have our own Prank Wars every once in a while. Just because we're responsible tax-paying citizens it doesn't mean we can't occasionally stay out past curfew and throw rolls of Cottonelle into the trees of our friend and family members right? Though I suppose the after-rolling clean-up would be a pain. And, um, now that I think about it, just by writing this column I might have painted a TP target on my own home.

If so, I have a message for any potential rollers out there.

Be warned. I know people who have access to plenty of water balloons and gel blasters.

Also I have snacks and walkie talkies.

Matt Aiken is Executive Editor of The Dahlonega Nugget. He can be reached at 706-864-3613 or via email at maiken@thedahlonenugget.com

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



### A few will remember the old pecan trees next to St. Luke's



Dear Editor:

In the late 1980s St. Luke Catholic Church owned most of what is now the community park.

For several years after we arrived at our new home in Lumpkin County, I remember parking cars in the grass (sometimes muddy wet grass) for church events and raising money for parish youth activities. It required building wooden ramps to get over the curbs or other obstacles and many youthful volunteers to help park the cars.

Our "parking lot" was bordered on the side toward the church and downtown by four or five huge pecan trees. If they were not 100 years old, they were close to it and starting to drop very large branches as they grew older. There was no record of a "widow maker" or other damage as far as we knew but the danger to a passersby or a car parked in the danger zone was there.

Our pastor agreed the largest one on church property was clearly a risk. A few of us, claiming to be chainsaw experienced, volunteered we could save a significant amount of money by taking it down ourselves. (Some of the survivors of the adventure are probably still around.)

It took Bill Wharton's well-used Bronco and lots of heavy-duty rope to insure dropping the huge trunk in a safe place. (This was obviously without the climbing and branch lowering equipment that normally shows up with paid professionals.) I do not remember how many saw chains we burned up cutting through the more than two feet of pecan hardwood at the base, then cutting the huge trunk into moveable pieces.

Why this tidbit of history now? A recent article in *The Nugget*, with a picture of the "last pecan tree standing" being taken down, brought the memory back.

I also remember crowds of pecan lovers scrambling to collect their share of the nuts before the squirrels beat them to it. If you were among them, your mouth is probably now drooling for that wonderful taste of pecan pie!

Bill O'Leksy

Missing y'all from Charlottesville, Va.

▶ The Dahlonega Nugget welcomes opinions about issues relevant to our local community. Send your letter to the editor by emailing [jbynum@thedahlonenugget.com](mailto:jbynum@thedahlonenugget.com)

### Office of the sheriff: why is it important for communities?



Dear Editor:

The position of sheriff has received much attention in the past weeks as it has gone as far back as any of us can remember.

Did you know that a sheriff's race has the highest number of votes cast for a county election, and most Georgians can tell you the name of the President, Georgia's Governor, Georgia's Head Coach, and their local sheriff? The sheriff's position holds a special place in our political choices and affects the social condition of our county.

Our sheriff tradition strongly traces back to the English model of local shire (county) governance: King, Earl, Bishop, Sheriff (keeper of the shire). The sheriff (like the sheriff of Nottingham) was appointed to the position, not elected as was the case in most all governance positions in that era. Thus, as the British Empire expanded the appointed sheriff position found its place in the American colonies. When our political structure shifted from a monarchial to a republic system the position of sheriff found its new place as a constitutional office. The intent was to protect the citizenry from the worst that could happen in government. Thus, the private citizen, who in a republic holds the highest office in the land, now would have an elected official who answered directly to them and was not under the control of greater elected positions.

In the 50 states, the law varies in the statutory requirements of the sheriff, but common duties are: seek out nefarious activity, service of court documents, serve warrants, maintain the county jail, and election roles. Our 50 states are composed of 3,140 counties (159 in GA) with only three states Alaska (16 Boroughs), Hawaii (five counties), and Connecticut (eight counties) along with a few large metro areas not having elected sheriffs.

Some common misnomers about the office of sheriff: First, the sheriff is not an employee of the county. Next, only the coroner can arrest a sheriff, nope! If the situation arises any sworn official has the authority to arrest a sheriff. The coroner's role falls within the temporary filling of the office during an unexpected transitional period of a sheriff. Finally, the sheriff must be a professional enforcement officer to seek office as sheriff, nope! Fortunately, in 2022 we live in one of the first states to have statutory requirements not only to seek the office but also to retain the office. It is highly recommended you research Georgia Code 15-16-1.

Then, why should we bother to vote for sheriff? It is our right and our duty, our right as guaranteed by the Constitution, and our duty to preserve the constitutional office of sheriff helping preserve "Vox populi" (voice of the people). The failure to participate only allows the office to become the victim of less than the better than part of our nature. To subject any elected office, especially this one, to strictly political aims, serves only to erode what we hold sacred.


Sheriff (RET) Rick Harris  
Formerly of Winston County, Ala.,  
current Dahlonega resident

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# Your LETTERS make us BETTER!




To The Editor:  
We completely enjoyed your story about Lumpkin County schools.



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# LOCAL NEWS

## Professor conjures magic at literacy fundraiser

By Keith Murden  
The Nugget

Long-time University of North Georgia professor Dr. Brian Jay Corrigan cast a spell on the audience last Monday during a dinner and show to benefit Lumpkin Literacy.

The event was presented by University of North Georgia First Lady Jessica Shannon. Afterwards, she and President Michael Shannon presented representatives from Lumpkin Literacy with a check from UNG for \$5,000.

Corrigan played the role of legendary writer Charles Dickens in a 'living biography,' a one-man theatrical performance designed to illuminate the life and times of a historical figure. Corrigan has toured the show across the United States, Canada and England, but this was the first time he had performed it at UNG.

"Brian Corrigan is the co-founder and faculty advisor to the Sigma Tau Del-



Dr. Brian Corrigan holds aloft a card with the word "gallows" on it for the audience. After being mesmerized by Corrigan, volunteer Fiona Bagley was able to recall the page on which the word appeared in a Dickens novel.

Keith Murden/The Nugget

"First of all, this is the hardest job I've ever had coming after Dr. Corrigan. That was amazing," Kridel began.

"To use a Dickens quote, 'Very small keys open very heavy doors.' And Lumpkin County, believe it or not, little Lumpkin, we had the honor to be the number one GED-producing county in the state. Out of 159 counties, we produce more GEDs than Fulton, Gwinnett, [and] DeKalb. And that's a tribute to everyone in this room: the school system, the college, but more than anything your dollars, your volunteer hours and your efforts to really make that work," Kridel said.

Kridel was followed up by current Lumpkin Literacy Chair Caroline Smith.

"One of the things we're doing at Lumpkin Literacy right now is intergenerational and family literacy programs. So to that end, we were just awarded an \$11,000 grant by the Georgia Department of Education . . . And what that's going to do is take our currently-enrolled students who are between the ages of zero and five that are enrolled in our Dolly Parton Imagination Library program and we're doing workshops for them and their families," Smith said.

The First Lady closed the program by inviting the audience to visit "lumpkinliteracy.com if you want to volunteer or contribute more hope. And I think that's what this is: hope."

After the show, she told *The Nugget* that she appreciates the group's partnership with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

"They give thousands of books out to hundreds of children once every month. I have a passion for being able to bring that literacy and literary environment into little kids' homes," she added.

Lumpkin Literacy is a 501(c)3 non-profit dedicated to increasing both childhood and adult literacy in Lumpkin County.

As for *Charles Dickens, Conjurer*, Corrigan said he will be giving the Dickens House Museum in England a special look at the show, as they are considering booking him for a special performance for sometime next year.



Pictured, from left, Lumpkin Literacy Chair Emeritus Geoffrey Kridel, UNG First Lady Jessica Shannon, UNG President Michael Shannon, Lumpkin Literacy Chair Caroline Smith and Dr. Brian Corrigan were all smiles as UNG presented a check for \$5,000 to Lumpkin Literacy.

Keith Murden/The Nugget

ta Honor Society, which we are celebrating tonight," the First Lady said before the show, referring to the English Society's 100th anniversary celebration. She went on to recite some of Corrigan's many academic and cultural achievements.

"He is the Senior Professor of Renaissance Literature. He's also an expert on Shakespeare. He is the General Editor of the *Compendium of Renaissance Drama*. He is one of the Georgia Authors of the Year. He's the Georgia Board of Regents Outstanding Professor of the Year. He's an honorary lifetime member of the British Society of Mystery Entertainers. He's also the former head of the theater

program here at UNG. I think we're about to see why he was involved in that," she said with a grin.

Corrigan arrived on stage in full period costume, the living embodiment of the late author.

As Dickens, Corrigan dazzled the dinner crowd, which also included several members of the Dahlonega City Council, with a mix of fascinating anecdotes, magic tricks and even a little mesmerism with Crown & Bear owner Fiona Bagley joining him on stage as a volunteer.

After the crowd-pleasing show, Lumpkin Literacy Chair Emeritus Geoffrey Kridel went on stage to deliver some final remarks.

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# Living

## MUSIC AND ARTS FESTIVAL

# Bear on the Square will return this weekend

Special to The Nugget

The Bear on the Square Mountain Festival will celebrate its 26th year on April 20-21 with a talented line-up of bluegrass and mountain musicians, storytellers, artists and more who will gather on Dahlonega's Public Square.

Pre-festival events begin Friday, April 19, as musicians from throughout the region will gather on the Square to

jam and the Live Country Auction returns to kick-off the festival.

### MAINSTAGE TENT

Bear on the Square is known for presenting a talented line-up of bands that play bluegrass and mountain music.

The following musicians are scheduled in the MainStage Tent throughout the day on Saturday and Sunday:



John Bynum/The Nugget

Musicians begin gathering for jam sessions on Friday afternoon around the Public Square. Bands and other musicians will perform on the MainStage and in the MainStage Tent on Saturday and Sunday.

BlueBilly Grit, The Kody Norris Show, Cup 'O Joe, Joe Newberry, Frances Mooney & Fontanna Sunset, Chatham Rabbits, Ugly Cousin, Curtis & Kim Jones Mountain Gypsy Music, Pick & Bow, Crooked Mile, and John Grimm.

To read more about each of these bands, visit [bearonthesquare.org](http://bearonthesquare.org).

On Sunday at 11 a.m., the Glenda Pender Gospel Jam expects its usual standing-room-only crowd for what is always a festival favorite. There is no cost for admission to any performance.

### ARTIST MARKET

The Artist Marketplace presents juried work from more than 70 regional artists. Pottery, glasswork, wood turning, drawings, fiber arts, leather and jewelry are a few

examples of the artwork that are for sale during the festival.

Every year, a local artist designs a logo for Bear on the Square that is used in publicity, on merchandise such as T-shirts and caps, on the website and more. The original artwork is then framed and auctioned at the Live Auction that kicks off the festival. This year's logo was designed by Alli Kirby, who has sold her artwork at the Artist Marketplace for many years. She and her husband, Pete Kirby, create painted wood carvings out of reclaimed wood, as well as beautiful hand painted guitars.

### OTHER ACTIVITIES

In addition to bands, jamming musicians and art, attendees can also enjoy storytelling, workshops, a contra dance and local wine and beer in the Bear's Den.

Storytelling kicks-off in

the MainStage Tent at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday with an Appalachian Storytelling Sampler by Debbie From. Storytelling then moves to the Zak McConnell Stage in Hancock Park for the remainder of the day.

Numerous free workshops and demos are offered both days in Hancock Park and Woodrow's Tent for festival goers who want to learn more about various aspects of music from banjo, to clogging, songwriting, Irish music, mandolin and more.

The Bear's Den next to Hancock Park offers local beer and wine for purchase that can then be consumed in the Bear's Den, the MainStage Tent and within the park. Food trucks will be alongside the park for festival-goers to enjoy.

Saturday evening will wrap up with a contra dance in the MainStage Tent at 8:00 p.m.

### DINNER AND AUCTION

Leading into the weekend is the Auction & Dinner in the MainStage Tent beginning at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 19. The Auction contributes a large portion of the budget that allows the festival to remain free.

This year, attendees can bid on a wonderful selection of items curated from area artists and businesses as well as the festival's Artist Marketplace vendors. Admission is \$5 at the door and includes a catered dinner. Wine, beer and mead from Etowah Meadery and Dahlonega Brewery will be available for purchase. Licklog String Band will perform prior to the 7:00 p.m. live auction with Auctioneer Sam Williamson.

### MORE INFO

Bear on the Square Mountain Festival, Inc., which stages the festival each year, is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit cultural arts organization dedicated to celebrating and preserving the culture of the Southern Appalachian region, including music, art and crafts and folklife. Tax deductible donations to help the organization pay for producing the event each year are welcome and can be sent to P.O. Box 1015, Dahlonega, GA 30533 or made online at [bearonthesquare.org](http://bearonthesquare.org).

Complete information about the Bear festival, including schedules of activities, names of performers and artists, a listing of sponsors, history of the festival, parking and other information can be found at [bearonthesquare.org](http://bearonthesquare.org).

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## LIVING

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

## Community Calendar

## UNG SINFONIETTA CONCERT APRIL 18

The UNG string orchestra, Sinfonietta, will give its final concert of the year on Thursday, April 18 at 7:30 p.m. in Shott Auditorium on the Dahlonega campus. The concert will be a celebration of the orchestra's many graduating seniors. They will perform a wide range of selections representing different eras and styles. The centerpiece of the concert will be J.S. Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 3, a virtuosic piece composed in the early 18th century for nine solo string players. The concert is free and open to the public. For additional information on this and other upcoming events, please visit us at [ung.edu/music/music-events.php](http://ung.edu/music/music-events.php) or contact us at [music@ung.edu](mailto:music@ung.edu).

## BENEFIT GARDEN PARTY APRIL 19

Friends of Lumpkin County Shelter Animals is hosting a garden party on Friday, April 19 from 4-8 p.m. at Fox Farm (1361 Seven Mile Hill Road). Get first dibs on our collection of garden decor and plants. Featuring appetizers, refreshments, silent auction, a succulent bar, statuary, bird houses, patio furniture, gorgeous flowers and veggies, antiques and miscellaneous garden accessories and tools. Tickets are \$15 and are available at Black Bear Mercantile, located next to Starbucks in Dahlonega. Proceeds go to the Friends of Lumpkin County Shelter Animals spay/neuter project.

## VICKERY HOUSE 'STAY AWHILE' GATHERING APRIL 19

The Appalachian Studies Center of UNG is hosting a 'Stay Awhile' gathering at the Vickery House on Friday, April 19 to rekindle connections and kick off the Bear on the Square Festival and UNG's Alumni Weekend. We're bringing back front porch "sittin'"—sharing stories, and just enjoying each other's company. Come 'Stay Awhile' on the Dahlonega Campus between 2-5 p.m. Drop in and share some time and refreshments bring your friends.

## BEAR ON THE SQUARE FESTIVAL APRIL 20-21

The 26th Annual Bear on the Square Mountain Festival will return to downtown Dahlonega on April 20-21. The festival will include Bluegrass and Old-time music on the Main Stage as well as a Main Stage Tent with additional bands and performances each day. Also, musicians gather for acoustic jams all weekend around the square. In Hancock Park, professional storytellers will share stories related to Southern Appalachia. The artist marketplace includes over 70 artists around the square featuring textiles, pottery, woodworking and other traditional crafts. For more information visit [bearonthesquare.org](http://bearonthesquare.org).

## UNG BANDS ALUMNI WEEKEND CONCERT APRIL 20

The University of North Georgia Department of Music Presents the UNG Bands Alumni Weekend Outdoor Band Concert on Saturday, April 20 at 1 p.m. in the Cottrell School of Business Courtyard (Dahlonega campus). This matinee event includes the Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band as they are joined by special guests, the Lumpkin Co. High School Band. The program will consist of audience-friendly music including a variety of styles and genres. Admission is free. Audience members are welcome to bring lawn chairs, blankets, food, and/or drink. Limited chair seating will be provided as well. For additional information on this and other upcoming events, please visit us at [ung.edu/music/music-events.php](http://ung.edu/music/music-events.php) or contact us at [music@ung.edu](mailto:music@ung.edu).

## GARDEN AND PATIO SALE APRIL 20-21

Friends of Lumpkin County Shelter Animals is hosting a garden and patio sale on Saturday, April 20 and Sunday, April 21 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Fox Farm (1361 Seven Mile Hill Rd.). Garden accessories and plants including annuals, perennials and vegetables will be available. Absolutely no early sales. Proceeds go to the Friends of Lumpkin County Shelter Animals spay/neuter project.

## MINDFULL MYCOLOGY WORKSHOP APRIL 20

Join mycologist and Mindfull Mycology owner Sam Blackstone on 40-acres of private property just outside Dahlonega at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 20. Wander in the woods learning about how to forage for wild mushrooms, lunch on Lion's Mane crab cakes, learn how to grow your own mushrooms, then make and take home an Oyster mushroom grow kit on a fungi-filled spring Saturday in April. The six-hour event also includes lunch, two presentations, a guided forage. For more information, to read reviews by past attendees, and/or to purchase your tickets, visit [mindfullmycology.com](http://mindfullmycology.com) or email Sam at [mindfullmycology@gmail.com](mailto:mindfullmycology@gmail.com).

## DDA ARTWORK UNVEILING HANCOCK PARK APRIL 25

The Dahlonega Downtown Development Authority & Main Street Program in partnership with the University of North Georgia's Department of Visual Arts will host a project unveiling Thursday, April 25. UNG students and staff have worked this semester to create a portable piece of art for downtown Dahlonega that is representative of the community. The public is encouraged to join in the celebration of their work. Light refreshments will also be served. The event will be at 2:00 p.m. in Hancock Park.

## MASTER GARDENERS PROGRAM ON BIRDS APRIL 25

A Year in the Life of a Bird is the topic for the April education program sponsored by Georgia Mountains Master Gardeners. The program by ornithologist Georgann Schmalz will discuss migration, pair bonding, mating and raising the nestlings and fledglings. Schmalz is a Dawson County resident and presents workshops for nature centers, universities and government organizations. The program will be at Lumpkin County Parks & Rec at 365 Riley Road on Thursday, April 25, from 7-8 p.m. Note the change in time to evening program hours beginning with this program. This program is free and open to the public. For more information contact Lumpkin County Extension at 706-864-2275 or email at [uge1187@uga.edu](mailto:uge1187@uga.edu).

## BONNIE &amp; CLYDE AT THE HOLLY BEGINS APRIL 26

The Holly Theatre presents Bonnie & Clyde April 26-28, May 3-5 and May 10-12. America's most notorious lovers and bank robbers take the country by storm in this exciting and compelling performance. Join us for this electrifying story of love, adventure and crime, that had captured the attention of an entire country at the height of the Great Depression. Showtimes: Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. (the show lasts two hours). Ticket prices are \$30 for adults and \$15 for students & children. Military and group discounts available. See [hollytheater.com](http://hollytheater.com) for more information and tickets.

## TLC PLANT SALE &amp; OPEN HOUSE APRIL 26-27

Looking to spruce up your garden while supporting a "pawsome" cause? TLC Humane Society's Plant Sale and Open House is in full bloom April 26-27, featuring a stunning variety of plants that will not only beautify your outdoor space but also help support our furry friends in need. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. On Saturday the open house will celebrate 47 years of TLC, featuring a bake sale, raffle tickets for \$2 each or 3 for \$5, and \$5 hot dog lunches. Knowledgeable volunteers will be on hand to offer gardening tips and help you choose the perfect plants for your home. More details available on Facebook: <https://fb.me/e/1Zqo-Q2WK2>. Located at 1735 Red Oak Flats Road in Dahlonega.

## TROUT &amp; OUTDOOR ADVENTURES FESTIVAL APRIL 27

The 7th annual Blue Ridge Trout and Outdoor Adventures Festival will be held April 27 at City Park in downtown Blue Ridge. Gates open at 10 a.m. with programs lasting from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. Concerts will be from 3-6 p.m. \$10 entry, kids 12 and under are free. Rain or shine. More information is available by visiting [www.blueridgetroutfest.com](http://www.blueridgetroutfest.com).

## BINGO WITH FCPGA APRIL 27

The Feral Cat Program of Georgia is hosting bingo and adoption of shelter cats on Saturday, April 27 from 4 p.m.-8 p.m. at Hancock Park in downtown Dahlonega. Bingo will be \$10 for a family, \$5 for individuals. Raffle tickets and T-shirts will also be available for purchase. There will be lots of prizes. All proceeds benefit The Feral Cat Program of Georgia.

## SPRING THRIFTING POP-UP APRIL 27

The Dahlonega Women's Club and Community Helping Place present a Spring Thrifting Pop-Up sale on Saturday, April 27 from noon to 3 p.m. at The Community House (111 N. Park St.). Come and support the largest outreach program in Lumpkin County. CHP is a non-profit that houses a free clinic, food pantry, and a thrift store. All second-hand items will be less than \$5. All ages welcome.

## NORTHERN STAR GARDEN PARTY APRIL 28

Northern Star presents the Third Annual Garden Party on Sunday, April 28 at 4 p.m. The dinner and program are hosted by Dahlonega Assembly of God, then the party continues next door at the new Northern Star campus. There will be a BBQ dinner, live artists, fellowship, live auction and guest speakers. Located at 2152 Dawsonville Hwy., Dahlonega. To purchase tickets or become a sponsor visit [northernstar.org/donate-now](http://northernstar.org/donate-now).

## PLANT SALE AT GMUU CHURCH MAY 3-4

A spring plant sale will be held at the new location of Georgia Numinants Unitarian Universalist Church, 3155 Morrison Moore Pkwy E (next to Dollar General) on May 3-4 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Perennials, annuals and vegetable plants will be available for purchase. Cash, Debit/Credit Cards, CashApp, Apple Pay and Google Pay will be accepted.

Ronda Rich  
Southern author



## DIXIE DIVAS

## The folks who are proud of you

About a year ago, Tink and I were visiting our friends, Don and Debbie Reid, in Staunton, Virginia.

In their living room with the over-stuffed chairs and sofa, the four of us had settled into a long, easy conversation. The kind you have with people who are your kind. Don's phone beeped with a text. He checked it, took a moment to absorb it then softly said in that melodious voice, "It's from Davis."

Davis is their grandson who is amazing at anything he chooses to do. One night, he found a video and watched a pianist play an old song by the band Chicago. By the next day, he could play it just as well and, now, two years later, he is being paid to play with his cousin at weddings and various other gigs. That day, though, Davis was responding to a text that Don had sent, congratulating him on a statewide baseball honor he'd received.

Don read it aloud. "I'm just glad that you're the ones who are proud of me." Don's eyes glistened. "That's a line from a song I wrote."

I thought I knew every Statler Brothers song recorded. "What song is that? I've never heard that line."

"It was an album cut. The song is called 'You Can't Go Home.'"

Later, I found the album, "Pictures of Moments to Remember" and listened to that song over and over. It talked of the people who had loved the young man and the advice "just do the right thing and you'll be proud, just wait and see." And, of course, concludes with the line that Davis had texted.

It happened that the album came up in my playlist one day while I was driving alone. Suddenly, it had new meaning to me. I'd just released a new mystery novel and introduced the loveable, admirable character named Stella Bankwell. People talked about her so much that she had truly come alive and now I think

of her as a real person.

When I introduced the book at a luncheon on Sea Island, in the audience sat my seventh-grade teacher, Mrs. Kathy Lovett. I told the story of how Mrs. Lovett had said, "Class, I have an essay I want to read. It's one of the most perfect stories I've ever read and I'd like you to view it as an example."

It was my essay and, truth be told, it was written in stone that day that I would be a writer. "I got an A+ and Mrs. Lovett rarely gave an A+." I looked over at her beaming self, and said, "Did you?" She shook her head vigorously.

As Stella Bankwell, her best friend, Chatty, and the other characters catapulted the book to bestselling status, there were congratulations from those who had known me since birth as well as others who had slipped into my life as the years trickled by.

At a football game, I ran into my niece who had been at a book event the previous day. "I AM SO PROUD OF YOU! I take you for granted but yesterday, I saw what you mean to people. One woman drove three hours to meet you."

Tink, my adoring (not an understatement) husband, often takes me by the shoulders, looks at me with tears in his eyes and, choked up, says "I am so proud of you. So proud."

My home economics teacher, Jean Trotter, bought one of the first copies at the drugstore and announced, "I taught her how to knit. But I never thought she'd be famous. I'm so proud."

"You done good, cuz," my cousin, Vicki said, after reading it. "And Ralph and Bonelle would be, too." When she mentioned Mama and Daddy, my eyes pooled and a lump choked back my words.

To quote a poet friend: I'm just glad that those folks are proud of me.

*Ronda Rich is the best-selling author of the new novel: St. Simons Islands: A Stella Bankwell Mystery.*

## WEEKLY MEETINGS

## Clubs

**LUMPKIN COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION (LCREA)** regularly scheduled meeting will be held Thursday, April 18, 2024 at Lumpkin County Park and Rec at 11:30 a.m. Please arrive by 11:20 a.m. Our program will be presented by Northern Star. After our business meeting we will conclude our meeting with a raffle of gifts brought in by LCREA members contributing. All proceeds from the raffle go to The Scholarship Fund. Guests are always welcome at the LCREA meetings. Please RSVP to [mera.turner@yahoo.com](mailto:mera.turner@yahoo.com) if you will be attending. This will assure a meal is prepared for you.

**LUMPKIN LITERACY** meets the third Thursday of the month (April 18) at 5 p.m. at the offices at 150B Johnson Street. Email [info@lumpkinliteracy.com](mailto:info@lumpkinliteracy.com) for more information.

**MOUNTAIN MEDITATION AND MINDFULNESS**, a meditation group for people of all levels of experience, meets Thursdays (April 18) at 5:45 p.m. at St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church, 1188 Hamp Mill Rd. The group is for people of all faiths or none. For more information, or to sign up for the weekly email, visit [dahlonegameditation.blogspot.com](http://dahlonegameditation.blogspot.com).

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY** meets the third Thursday of each month (April 18) at 6:30 p.m. Our meetings are now being held at the Lumpkin County Library, 56 Mechanicsville Rd. We will use the side entrance to the library. Newcomers are always welcome. For more information please email [mlvndish@gmail.com](mailto:mlvndish@gmail.com) or check our Facebook page at American Legion Auxiliary #239 (Dahlonega).

**GOLD COUNTRY SQUARES** square dancing club meets on the first and third Fridays of the month (April 19) from 7-9 p.m. at the Dahlonega Senior Center (56 Mechanicsville Rd.). For more information call 678-230-5952 or 706-525-8192.

**DISC GOLF GROUP SPONSORED BY THE TORCH** meets the third Saturday of each month (April 20) at 9 a.m. Everyone is invited to join the small group for recreation and fellowship at Yahooola Creek Park by #1 Tee (opposite the splashpad). The Torch will provide the discs for beginners and those that have discs of their own are welcome to bring them. Questions: contact Jim Guy via text at 706-300-0500.

**THE LUMPKIN COUNTY DEMOCRATS** will meet on Tuesday, April 23 at the Lumpkin Library, 56 Mechanicsville Rd, Dahlonega. The meeting topic is "How do you decide which candidates to support, and what do they really need." Bob Christian, candidate for U.S. Congress for the 7th District, will give us a candidate's perspective. The meeting begins with social time at 6:00 p.m.; the program begins at 6:30 p.m.

**GREAT DECISIONS** meets every two weeks on Wednesday (April 24) at the Lumpkin County Library at 2 p.m. to have interesting and enlightening discussions about the economic and political world. For more information contact Paula Sinclair at [lsinclair3@gmail.com](mailto:lsinclair3@gmail.com).

**THE DAHLONEGA SACRED HARP** singers gather every other Tuesday (April 30) from 7 to 8:45 p.m. in the Vickery House (UNG Appalachian Studies Center). Sacred Harp singing is a Georgia tradition dating back to 1844. All are welcome, and no experience or ability is required. We provide books and guidance.

**DAHLONEGA WOMAN'S CLUB** meets the first Thursday of each month (May 2) at 5:30 p.m. (except July and December) at the Community House, 111 North Park Street (adjacent to Hancock Park). All women of the community are cordially invited to attend.

**THE LUMPKIN COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY** will host a special evening filled with 2024 election activities, information, and who's who. The "Joe Gotta Go Tour" will be here in Dahlonega just for the LCRP. It's a perfect time to hear what's happening before the May 21 primary. Friends are encouraged to attend. Thursday, May 2, 6:30-8:30 p.m., 365 Riley Rd, Parks & Rec in Dahlonega.

**GOLD CITY LIONS CLUB** meets the first and third Monday every month (May 6) at 52 West Brewing from 6-7 p.m. Lions Clubs are the world's largest humanitarian organization with over 1.4 million members in over 200 countries worldwide. Primarily we serve those with sight and hearing difficulties, however we serve several community causes when the needs arise too. For more information, contact Lion Charles Carter at [lioncharlescarter@gmail.com](mailto:lioncharlescarter@gmail.com) or by calling 239-322-7736. We Serve!

**DAHLONEGA CAR CLUB, LLC** is a non-profit club for car enthusiasts that also does fundraising for Lumpkin County charities. Monthly meeting is on the first Tuesday of every month (May 7) in the Conference room at the Dahlonega Funeral Home. Come join us. All years, all makes and all models are welcome. If you don't have a car, join us anyway. See website at [www.dahlonegacarclub.com](http://www.dahlonegacarclub.com) for all club info and event details.

**AURARIA COMMUNITY CLUB** meets the first Tuesday of every month (May 7) at the Community Center building at 4125 Auraria Road. Potluck begins at 6:30 p.m. and the business meeting follows shortly afterwards. The club provides help to people of the community through donations to various charitable organizations. Come join us.

**INDIVISIBLE LUMPKIN:** We are citizens of Lumpkin County and surrounding areas who are united in advocating for progressive ideals, taking anti-racist action, and working to make our communities, state, and country more just and equitable. Join us in person or on Zoom the second Wednesday of each month (May 8). See meeting details on our Facebook page.

**GOLDEN STITCHES QUILTERS' GUILD** meets the second Thursday (May 9) from 6:00-8:30 p.m. at the Senior Center, 266 Mechanicsville Rd. All skill levels are welcome. Contact Terri at [terriwilkins7732@gmail.com](mailto:terriwilkins7732@gmail.com), or Janey or LisaMarie at [goldenstitches305533@gmail.com](mailto:goldenstitches305533@gmail.com).

**SINGLES OVER SIXTY** meet in person on the second Thursday of each month (May 9) at 11:30 a.m. upstairs at Shenanigan's Irish Pub. We enjoy social interaction and occasional field trips. Single seniors are welcome.

**PFLAG GAINESVILLE**, serving NE Georgia, holds support group meetings on the second Sunday of each month (May 12) in Dahlonega. These are support groups for the LGBTQIA community and family, friends and allies. Contact us at [pflagvgla@gmail.com](mailto:pflagvgla@gmail.com) for more information or visit [pflaggainesvillega.org](http://pflaggainesvillega.org).

**THE DAHLONEGA-LUMPKIN NEWCOMERS CLUB** meets the second Monday of each month (May 13) at Parks & Rec. For more information please visit our Facebook page: Dahlonega Lumpkin Newcomers.

**LUMPKIN COUNTY FFA ALUMNI** and Supporters chapter will be meeting the second Tuesday of every month (May 14) at 6:00 p.m. at the Lumpkin County High School Ag barn. Anyone who is interested in helping support our local high school and middle school FFA chapters is welcome to attend. For more information call Carey Michael Woodall at 706-344-9398.

**GOLD DIGGERS GARDEN CLUB** meets on the second Tuesday of every month (May 14). All gardeners welcome. For meeting location information email [Golddiggersgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:Golddiggersgardenclub@gmail.com).

**NORTH GEORGIA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB** meets on the third Tuesday of every month (May 21) at El Jimador Mexican Restaurant in Dahlonega. Dinner begins at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. All licensed hams and anyone interested in becoming a ham are invited. For information on the North Georgia Amateur Radio Club please contact [w4qq@arrl.net](mailto:w4qq@arrl.net)

**YAHOOOLA CREEK PICKLEBALL** plays at Lumpkin County Parks & Rec, 365 Riley Rd, Dahlonega Monday through Friday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday 5 to 8 p.m. Open play and lessons are free. This is adult play with a minimum age of 14. Beginner lessons are offered the first Sunday of each month at 3:30. We supply paddles and balls. Novice play is on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 3:30. Please attend a lesson prior to attending open play.

**NA HEART OF GOLD** meets Mondays and Fridays at 7 p.m. at the Park and Rec Building (365 Riley Rd.) in the Art Room.

**AA GRATITUDE GROUP** meets Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at noon and Saturdays at 9 a.m. at Parks & Rec (365 Riley Rd.) in the Art Room.

**SMART RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP** meets at SkyeHelps at 72 Public Square N. Suite B. in Dahlonega every Wednesday from 7-8:30 p.m. This free group offers community and self-empowering tools to people seeking help with and recovery from behavioral addictions (gambling, shopping, sex, internet, etc.) and substance addictions (alcohol, narcotics, opioids, etc.). SMART Recovery is a nationwide program with hundreds of meetings offered virtually and in-person.

**COOPER/GREEN MEN'S PRAYER GROUP** continues to meet after 50 years. Men of all churches and all Christian faiths are invited to attend, enjoy fellowship, coffee and pastries, pray, and hear inspiring speakers who share their faith. Men continue to meet by Zoom or in person at the DBC fellowship hall every Tuesday from 7:00-8:00 a.m.

## PET OF THE WEEK

"TLC" Dahlonega-Lumpkin County Humane Society  
1735 Red Oak Flats Road • 706-864-2817 • Tuesday—Sunday, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.  
• <http://www.tlchs.org> • [info@tlchs.org](mailto:info@tlchs.org)

Meet Calypso, the enchanting tuxedo kitten who embodies sweetness and charm. With her elegant black-and-white coat and sparkling eyes, she captures hearts effortlessly. Calypso finds solace in her cozy cubby, where she retreats for moments of tranquility. But don't let her serene demeanor fool you—she's a playful spirit at heart. Nothing brings her more joy than chasing catnip bubbles and basking in the warm sunlight streaming through the windowsill. With her gentle nature and penchant for adventure, Calypso is more than just a kitten—she's a beloved companion who brightens every room she enters. Calypso's adoption fee is \$180 which includes the spay, microchip, Rabies vaccine, 2 FVRCP vaccines, FIV/FelV combo test (Calypso is negative) and is up to date on flea/tick preventative. If you're interested in adopting Calypso, feel free to make a match making appointment to come out and meet her. We are open Tuesday - Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.





# LOCAL NEWS

## NEW HOSPITAL OPEN FOR BUSINESS



John Bynum/The Nugget

At last week's grand opening, State Senator Steve Gooch helps NGHS President & CEO Carol Burrell cut the ribbon at the new Northeast Georgia Medical Center Lumpkin location.

Continued from Front Page

Speaking to the crowd on a windy but sunny afternoon, Burrell said NGHS has served the area for decades, having opened the hospital in Gainesville about 70 years ago.

She said they bought the new property in 2013, hoping that one day NGHS would be part of the Lumpkin commu-

nity.

Between that time and the present day opening of the new location, the COVID pandemic affected the timeline, and the community also saw the temporary closing, then re-opening of the old hospital.

Also taking the stage was Kevin Matson, Northeast Georgia Health System's Vice President of Regional Hospitals.

Matson told the large



Photo courtesy of NGHS

Lumpkin County's new hospital is located on GA-400 just south of the Highway 60 intersection.

## LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

### Woman's club to host Electronics Recycling Day

#### Library Report

The Lumpkin County Library, in partnership with the Dahlonega Woman's Club, is pleased to announce a free community electronics recycling day on Saturday, May 18, 2024, from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., at the Lumpkin County Library.

Chambers Recycling of Dahlonega will have a trailer on site to be loaded with the items to be recycled.

For a list of accepted items, please visit the library website at [chestateelibrary.org](http://chestateelibrary.org) or stop by the circulation desk at the library.

The Dahlonega Woman's Club is a charitable service organization of women dedicated to strengthening our community and enriching lives through volunteer service and fundraising.

The DWC sponsors community events, offers financial support, and supplies

volunteer hours to various community endeavors. The group is also actively involved in community conservation efforts, so what better way to promote conservation than by partnering with the library to offer this program to the community?

The Dahlonega Woman's Club has been a faithful partner to the library for over 100 years. The DWC was instrumental in starting the first library in Lumpkin County in 1917, and over the years has supported the continued success of the library in immeasurable and countless ways, helping the community at the same time.

For more information about the Dahlonega Woman's Club, please visit their Facebook page at [facebook.com/Dahlongawomansclub/](https://www.facebook.com/Dahlongawomansclub/) or their website at [dahlongawomansclub.org](http://dahlongawomansclub.org).

### Sunrise Rotary to host secure document shredding day

Chestatee Regional Library System will be offering a secure way to destroy confidential records. Document Destruction Services will be bringing an on-site shred truck to free personal documents free of charge on Tuesday, April 30, from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

The library is partnering with the Dahlonega Sunrise Rotary Club to offer this free event at the Lumpkin County Library which is open to the public. Volunteers from Rotary will be on hand to help facilitate the shredding. Participants are invited to bring up to five boxes of confidential documents to shred.

You must take your empty boxes after your materials are shredded. There is no need to remove staples, but for the safety of the volunteers, please remove any metal strips, metal spirals, or other binding materials.

Items you may want to bring include: bank information, canceled or blank checks, credit card offers/information, personal bills, legal papers, medical records, financial statements, or old income tax records.



Photo courtesy of Patrick Conarro

Saying goodbye to the old location (pictured from left) RN Sara Howerton, RN Tracy Cowart and Dr. Ryan Getters wrap up the final shift at the hospital on the hill in Dahlonega at 7:00 a.m. Monday, April 15. At the same time, the new Northeast Georgia Medical Center Lumpkin location along GA400 officially opened at 7:01 a.m.

crowd of visitors about many of the important services the new hospital will offer patients.

According to information released this week by NGHS, these will include round-the-clock emergency care, inpatient care, lab and pharmacy support, on-site imaging, orthopedic surgery and advanced surgery.

While speaking to the assemblage, Sen. Gooch surveyed the new hospital and expressed his appreciation.

"We are blessed to have Northeast Georgia Health System in our community," he said. "They are one of the top hospital organizations in the country."

Gooch pointed out that NGHS has invested \$70 million in the new facility.

"This industry will bring much economic prosperity to the community," he said. "Great things will happen to this area because of this hospital."

Gooch also took time to

recognize the efforts of first responders.

"Quality healthcare doesn't just start here, he said. "It starts with the local emergency rescue personnel, the sheriff's office, and others."

Following the ceremony, Gooch told *The Nugget* he expects the new hospital to have a significant regional impact, as it will serve Lumpkin, White, Dawson and other counties.

"With over 50 acres here, this facility is designed to grow outward," he said. "And the structure is reinforced so that they can build upward as well."

#### RURAL HOSPITALS

Standing under the high ceiling of the new hospital's foyer, Gooch said a hospital is the hub of the community.

He pointed out that prospective businesses always ask about certain things, especially the education system, and what kind of healthcare is available in the local community.

Gooch said that although Lumpkin is able to celebrate the opening of this new healthcare facility, it is still a challenging time for many rural hospitals in nearby areas.

"I grew up in this commu-

nity and Chestatee Regional Hospital struggled," he said.

Gooch said that when the old hospital closed, he told then-governor Nathan Deal "We've got to do something to save it."

He said that's when key leaders such as the governor, then-UNG president Bonita Jacobs, UNG Senior Vice President for Business and Finance Mac McConnell and many others came together to find a way to re-open the hospital in Dahlonega with the university purchasing the property and NGMC holding a long-term lease.

#### LOOKING AHEAD

The region is at a tipping point, Gooch said.

"For a few decades we tried to get Northeast Georgia Health System to come to Lumpkin," he said. "People were trying to retire here. So, having quality healthcare is important for attracting quality growth."

He said having a good hospital is an integral part of creating the kind of community people want to live in.

"It took us 24 years to get a grocery store," Gooch said. "The new Publix coming here is related to the new hospital. All the pieces are coming together. The City and the County are doing a good job."


But Gooch cautioned that he is careful about the kind of growth that happens here.

"I never want Lumpkin County to resemble North Atlanta. That's why we have proper land use plans. And they have to be updated. This creates good clean industry here so our children don't have to leave the local community to find work," he said. "I'd rather see this growth on the GA400 corridor than in downtown Dahlonega."

The new Lumpkin location brings the number of Northeast Georgia Medical Center campuses to five, including Braselton, Winder, Demorest and Gainesville.

### Word of God

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."  
~ John 14:3



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**Romans 10:9-10**  
 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

# Lumpkin County Devotional Page THE SUNDAY SNAPSHOT

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."  
 Isaiah 9:6



**BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 is open to all for Sunday worship services at 11 a.m. Sunday School and a Student Worship Service takes place at 9:45 a.m.

If you'd like to see your church featured in The Sunday Snapshot send your best picture and selected verse or inspirational quote to [maiken@thedahlongenugget.com](mailto:maiken@thedahlongenugget.com).

This devotional and directory page is made possible by these businesses who encourage all of us to attend worship services.

**ASSEMBLY OF GOD DAHLONGE ASSEMBLY OF GOD**  
 2152 Dawsonville Hwy., 706-864-6899  
 Steve & Cindy Landers, Mins. W.S. 10:30 a.m.

**BAPTIST ANTIOCH BAPTIST**  
 Auraria Rd. Bobby Whitmire, Min. S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Wed. 7 p.m.

**BEREA BAPTIST**  
 43 Pecks Mill Creek Rd., 706-867-6745  
 S.S. 9:30 a.m.; W.S. 10:45 a.m.

**BETHLEHEM BAPTIST**  
 Cavender Creek Rd. Tony Ledford, Min. S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Wed. 7:30 p.m.

**BETHLEHEM BAPTIST**  
 1101 Camp Wahsega Rd., 706-864-2743  
 Michael B. Rodgers, Min. W.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. Wed. 7 p.m.

**CAVENDERS CREEK BAPTIST**  
 Cavender Creek and Porter Springs, 678-617-2922  
 Stephen Adams, Min. S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m. & 4th Sun. 7 p.m. Wed. 7 p.m.

**CHRIST FAMILY**  
 7788 S. Chestatee, www.cfcnga.org  
 W.S. 11 a.m.

**CONCORD AT DAHLONGE**  
 1312 S. Chestatee, 706-864-4034  
 W.S. 11 AM.

**CONCORD BAPTIST**  
 Hwy. 19 North, 706-864-2443  
 S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m. Wed. 5 p.m.

**CRADLE MOUNTAIN BAPTIST**  
 Town Creek Church Rd. Pastor Brent Jordan, Min. S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m.

**DAHLONGE BAPTIST**  
 234 Hawkins St., 706-864-3676  
 Rev. Charles Mayberry W.S. 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.

**DAMASCUS BAPTIST**  
 Damascus Church Rd. Rev. Junior Abernathy S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m.

**ENON INDEPENDENT BAPTIST**  
 3625 South Chestatee St., 706-892-4157  
 Pastor Jason Moon, Min. S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m.

**ETOWAH BAPTIST**  
 7879 Auraria Rd., Dawsonville S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m. Wed. 7 p.m.

**FORTSON MEMORIAL BAPTIST**  
 142 Goudlock St., 706-864-9522  
 Darrell E. Watkins, Min. W.S. 11 a.m. Wed. 7 p.m.

**FREEDOM BAPTIST**  
 Corner of Happy Hollow Rd. & West Circle Jonathan Martin, Min. S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m.

**FREEDOM BAPTIST MINISTRIES**  
 1067 Old Dahlonge Hwy., 706-867-6534  
 W.S. 5 p.m. Sat. singing 7 p.m.

**FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST**  
 Pine Tree Rd., 706-864-1715  
 S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m. Wed. 7 p.m.

**GOSPEL WAY BAPTIST**  
 5007 Hwy. 52 East Tommy Rudasill, Min. S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Wed. 7 p.m.

**MILL CREEK BAPTIST**  
 Jack Pilcher, Min. S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m. Wed. 7 p.m.

**MOUNTAIN VIEW BAPTIST**  
 Hwy. 52, 706-864-3821  
 Rev. Mason Caine S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m. Thurs. 7 p.m.

**MT. GILEAD BAPTIST**  
 5332 Hwy. 52 E., 706-867-6064  
 Les Fuller, Min. S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m. & 2nd & 4th Sun. 6 p.m. Wed. 7 p.m.

**MT. OLIVE BAPTIST**  
 220 Mt. Olive Church Rd., 706-864-7798  
 Terry Head, Min. S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m. Wed. 7 p.m.

**MT. SINAI BAPTIST**  
 Hwy. 52 East Blake Fields, Min. W.S. 11 a.m. 1st & 3rd Sun. S.S. 10 a.m. 1st & 3rd Sun.

**MT. ZION BAPTIST #1**  
 1 Camp Wahsega Rd., 706-864-7543  
 Danny Spurr, Min. S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m. Wed. 7 p.m.

**MT. ZION BAPTIST #2**  
 Stephen Gerrells, Min. S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m. Wed. 7 p.m.

**NAMBREWILL BAPTIST**  
 Dawson Rickett, Min. W.S. 11 a.m. 2nd & 4th Sun.

**NORTHLAKE BAPTIST**  
 4823 Thompson Bridge Rd., Gainesville 770-536-7338  
 Chuck Nation, Interim Minister S.S. 9:30 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Wed. 6:15 p.m.

**OAK GROVE BAPTIST**  
 Shane Wehnt, Min. S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m. Wed. 7 p.m.

**PHILIPPI BAPTIST**  
 Cavender Creek Rd. Nick Rice, Pastor S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m.

**PLEASANT HILL BAPTIST**  
 Mickey Wheeler, Min. W.S. 11 a.m. 1st & 3rd Sun.

**SALEM BAPTIST**  
 1052 Black Mtn. Rd. Jason Fuller, Min. S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m.

**SILOAM BAPTIST**  
 Siloam Rd. Tony Allison, Min. S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m. Wed. 7 p.m.

**SOLID ROCK BAPTIST**  
 7662 Hwy. 115 W. Cleveland S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m. & 2nd & 4th Sun. Eve. 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.

**TABERNACLE BAPTIST**  
 223 Torrington Dr., 706-864-0378  
 Douglas R. Sherrill, Min. S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Wed. 7 p.m.

**WAHOO BAPTIST**  
 9365 Hwy. 52 E., Murrayville 706-867-9385

**WAUKA MOUNTAIN BAPTIST**  
 6076 Ramson Free Rd., Clermont  
 Rev. Shane Seabolt S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Wed. 7:30 p.m.

**YAHOOOLA BAPTIST**  
 947 Yahooola Rd., 706-864-5613  
 Kris Butler, Min. S.S. 9:45 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m. Wed. 7 p.m.

**CHURCH OF CHRIST DAHLONGE CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
 48 Welch Dr., 706-864-4520  
 S.S. 9:30 a.m.; W.S. 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.

**CHURCH OF GOD THE FOUNTAIN**  
 1304 Grove St. N., 706-864-6624  
 Bo Robinson, Min. W.S. 10:30 a.m. Wed. 5:30 snacks, 6 p.m. Bible study

**EPISCOPAL ST. ELIZABETH EPISCOPAL**  
 1188 Hamp Mill Rd., 706-864-5423  
 John Hamilton, Min. W.S. 10:30 a.m.

**GOSPEL PLEASANT HILL FULL GOSPEL**  
 Henry Grady Rd. off GA 400 Jimmy Payne, Min. S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Wed. 7 p.m.

**HOLINESS COMMUNITY CHAPEL C.H.**  
 1656 Old Dahlonge Hwy., 706-864-6995  
 Rev. J. Clarence Reynolds S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.

**JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES**  
 30 Buckhorn Tavern Rd., 706-864-9008  
 S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 10:40 a.m. Wed. 7:30 p.m.

**LUTHERAN ST. PETER LUTHERAN**  
 109 Tipton Dr., 706-864-6001  
 Rev. Charles J. Kanefke, Min. S.S. 9:15 a.m.; W.S. 10:30 a.m.

**METHODIST CAMP GLISSON UNITED METHODIST**  
 690 Camp Glisson Rd., 706-864-6181

**DAHLONGE METHODIST CHURCH**  
 107 S. Park St., 706-864-2521  
 Steve Schofield, Min. S.S. 9:30 a.m.; W.S. 8, 9:30 & 11 a.m.

**HICKORY GROVE CME**  
 69 Hickory Grove Rd., 706-864-2179  
 S.S. 9:15 a.m.; W.S. 10 a.m. Wed. 7 p.m.

**PLEASANT GROVE UNITED METHODIST**  
 219 Hwy. 52 W., 773-213-6613  
 Rev. Christian Van, Min. S.S. 9:45 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m.

**ST. PAUL METHODIST**  
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**WESLEY CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST**  
 1751 Wesley Chapel Rd., 706-867-7833  
 New Pastor: Gary Moore GMB1231@gmail.com S.S. 9:30 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m.

**PRESBYTERIAN CREEKSTONE CHURCH (PCA)**  
 Meets at The Well 1365 Ben Higgins Road 706-867-1974  
 W.S. 10 a.m., Rich Good, Min.

**DAHLONGE PRESBYTERIAN**  
 150 Warwick St., 706-864-2638  
 Mari Turner, Min., 770-540-4814 S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m.

**THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS**  
 DAHLONGE WARD 7207 Dawsonville Hwy 9 N Dawsonville  
 Sacrament Meeting 10 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. 678-577-6958

**OTHER AURARIA CHURCH OF ALMIGHTY GOD**  
 Auraria Rd. S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 11 a.m. Wed. 7:30 p.m.

**BROWNS CHAPEL**  
 6303 Hwy. 52 E., 706-82-8321,  
 W.S. 11 a.m.; Wed. 7 p.m.

**CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES**  
 Grant Rd. at 400, 706-216-4912  
 J.P. Morris, Min. W.S. 9:15 a.m.; W.S. 10:30 a.m.

**COMMUNITY WORSHIP CENTER**  
 Norman Bell Rd., 770-983-3798  
 Eugene Turner, Min. W.S. 6 p.m. Tues. 7:30 p.m.

**COVENANT FAMILY**  
 Hwy. 400 N., 770-621-0738  
 Dr. Paul E. Bellino, Min. W.S. 6 p.m.

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 145 Torrington Rd., 706-864-9672  
 Joel & Connie Crozter, Mins. W.S. 11 a.m. Wed. 7 p.m.

**FORTSON MEMORIAL**  
 142 Goudlock St., 706-864-9522

**GEORGIA MOUNTAINS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST**  
 3155 Morrison Moore Pkwy E W.S. 10:30 a.m.

**KING'S HIGHWAY WORSHIP CENTER**  
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 Joseph C. Whitner, Min. W.S. 3 p.m.

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 706.219.2857

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 706-482-0239  
 Todd Miller, Min. S.S. 10 a.m.; W.S. 10:45 a.m. Wed. 7 p.m.

**TORCH DAHLONGE**  
 4 Happy Hollow Rd., Pastor Mike Franklin 706-778-4063  
 W.S. 11 a.m. Wed. 7 p.m.

**TURNING POINT OUTREACH**  
 798 Reid Chapman Rd., Murrayville 706-429-6418  
 S.S. 10:30 a.m.; W.S. 11:30 a.m. & 6 p.m. Thu. & Sat. 7 p.m.

**UNIVERSAL**  
 330 Mount Sinai St., 706-864-8345

**WELCOME WORSHIP CENTER**  
 12293 Hwy. 19 W.S. 10:30 a.m. Wed. 7 p.m.

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# OBITUARIES

# LOCAL NEWS

## Faye Ramsey Reynolds Garner Resident of Dahlonega

Faye Ramsey Reynolds Garner of Dahlonega, Georgia, went to be with the Lord on April 1, 2024, surrounded by the love of her family.

Born to Herman and Daisy Cox Ramsey in 1938 in Franklin, Kentucky, Faye's life was a tapestry of love, joy, service and adventure with all who knew her.

Faye loved the Lord and served Him throughout her life including teaching and participating in Precept Bible Studies over 20 years, serving on mission teams and in the local churches where she lived.

Her lifelong adventures included caving, backpacking, whitewater rafting, climbing/rappelling, parachuting, camping and hiking. Through her adventures and wonderful storytelling, her love of nature and wildflowers was instilled in her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Faye was a member of the Marching Abominables, a street performing group, as well as a clogger and square dancer with the Druid Hillbillies club. She was a long-time member of the National Speleological Society and participated in the Atlanta City Grotto and later the Dogwood City Grotto. She was a licensed ham radio operator (N4HLE).

Faye started her career as a secretary in a small Atlanta-based German machinery distribution firm and worked her way up to eventually buy the company then operate it for many years before retiring. She traveled extensively within the U.S. and abroad and never met a stranger anywhere she went.

She will be missed by her daughter Sheri Samples (Tim) of Cumming, GA, and son Jack Reynolds (Beth) of Dahlonega, GA. She was loved by her six grandchildren: Craig Samples (Amanda) of Mt. Airy, NC; Phillip Samples (Randi) of Cumming; Katie Samples of N. Augusta, GA; Petty Officer Jackson Reynolds (Cami) of Rancho Cucamonga, CA; 1LT Sam Reynolds of Camp Pendleton, CA and SGT Harry Reynolds of Camp Pendleton, CA. Her nine great grandchildren loved "Grandmother Great." Elisha, Elizabeth, T.J., Carollynn, Esther and Moriah Samples; Riley Samples; and Charlee and Garin Reynolds.

Other family members include her sister, Debbie Ramsey Law of Bowling Green, KY, and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

But blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence. - Jeremiah 17:7

## Dewey Junior Garmon Resident of Clermont

Dewey Junior Garmon, 88, of Clermont, Ga. died on Monday, April 8, 2024. He was born July 14, 1935.

Mr. Garmon is survived by his wife of 64 years, Mary Louise Adams Garmon; his children, Chuck Garmon, Pam Garmon, Joe Garmon (Tammie); his sisters Mae Miller (Guy), Nancy Conner (Johnny), Bertie Stephens, and his sister-in-law Carolyn Garmon; four grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Mr. Garmon is preceded in death by his parents, Dewey Allen and Nellie Rider Garmon; his brothers and sisters, Kermit Mincey (Virginia), Lucille Sosebee (Ray), Gene Mincey (Ene), J. D. Mincey (Katie), George Garmon and Pauline Peck (Benjamin).

A graveside service was held April 12, 2024, at Christian Hill Baptist Church Cemetery. Reverend Matt Mote officiated.

The family expresses their sincere appreciation to all of the wonderful caregivers for Mr. Garmon. W. R. Strickland & Sons, Clermont, Ga.

## Dorothy Faye Butler Norton Native of Dahlonega



Dorothy Faye Butler Norton, 80, passed away at her home in Ocean City, Maryland.

She was a native of Dahlonega and the daughter of the late Harry McConnell Butler and Sallie Saine Butler. Dorothy was predeceased by her four brothers, Willie, Horace, Shorty and Herman Butler and one sister, Fannie Mae Butler Sherrill. As per her wishes she was cremated.

"Dottie" (her nickname) went to Lumpkin County Schools until the 11th grade and quit to get married. She married a Ranger and left Dahlonega in her rear-view mirror. She hated our small town and growing up here. Her vision was for bigger and better things. She married Captain James W. Napier, III and to this marriage two children were born: Helen Jamelle Napier and James W. Napier, IV.

The second time around she found the right person, Robert Duncan Norton, Jr. Bob is from Boston and imagine that accent coming into little Dahlonega and us Southerners trying to understand him. He passed all the tests the brothers threw at him and we all fell in love with Bob. He helped Dottie raise Jamelle and Jimmy and took good care of my sister during their 49 years of marriage. August 3, 2024 would have been their 50th anniversary.

Dot and Bob lived in Fairfax Station, Virginia until recently when they moved to Ocean City, Maryland. Dottie had a stroke in August 2023 as a result of a catheterization to check on a heart problem and during this procedure something went wrong which caused her to have a stroke. She spent a month in rehab and was gaining some mobility but things were never the same. It's hard to recover from a stroke of this magnitude, but she gave it her best for eight months.

Dottie leaves behind her loving husband of 49 years, Bob Norton, daughter, Jamelle Showell, son and daughter in law, Jim and Laurie Napier, grandchildren: Adam Showell, Sarah Ann Showell, Hannah Showell Purnell and twins Olivia Rae and Julia Rose Napier. Three great grandchildren: John Henry Showell, Maxwell Lockhart Showell and Harper Lee Purnell. Two sisters in Georgia, Lorene Lee, Cumming, Georgia and Bobbie Butler, Dahlonega. Also, numerous nieces and nephews and a best friend from Dahlonega, Elease Burnett, more affectionally known as "Weezer." We had many, many good times at the beach in Emerald Isle, North Carolina.

I hope my sister is in a peaceful place with no pain as she suffered throughout her life with different problems which were mostly related to car accidents.

To her grandchildren: "Nannie's" legacy will live on in each of you as she surrounded each of you with all of her love. You have a life of memories made with your Nannie. Keep them close to your hearts forever. Even though our world is so dark right now, we pray that soon we all can see some light from the good memories we had with Dorothy Faye Butler Norton.

## Roundabout planned for risky intersection



Keith Murden/The Nugget

Last week, GDOT presented Lumpkin County with a grant for construction of a roundabout at Auraria and Burn Stand Roads. Pictured are (left to right) County Chairman Chris Dockery, Commissioner Dr. Bobby Mayfield, District Preconstruction Engineer Justin Lott, State Senator Steve Gooch, Commissioner Rhett Stringer, GDOT District Engineer Kelvin Mullins, Public Works Director Johnny Trammell and Special Projects Manager Charles Trammell.

Continued from Front Page

after the Blackburn school and White Oak day care came there," Special Projects Manager Charles Trammell told *The Nugget*.

Trammell said there have been many accidents at the intersection, including cars that barreled straight on through the stop sign, despite the County's best efforts to increase visibility.

"We double-indicated the stop ahead, put up a flashing beacon and put down rumble strips ... We tried everything to make it as safe as we could, but we feel like a roundabout is the only other option," Trammell said.

Although a final cost for the roundabout is yet to be determined, Trammell said initial estimates are between \$2.6 and \$3 million. TSPLOST [Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax] funds will be used to cover the remaining balance of the project after the DOT grant has been applied.

County Manager Alan Ours agreed that the invest-

ment is an essential one.

"It's primarily a safety issue," Ours said. "In the morning, school buses are trying to make a left turn here, and there isn't a lot of sight distance with the roads. Roundabouts move traffic and they're very safe."

Ours said he expects the County to begin accepting bids for the project in May.

"Our goal has always been to be under construction by the summer," he added.

### ESTABLISHING NEED

In 2022, Lumpkin voters approved an extension of the special one percent local transportation tax. Both the City and County governments were required by law to include a list of transportation-related projects that the taxes could be used for, along with their estimated costs.

Trammell said the roundabout on Auraria was one of those anticipated transportation projects. When a county has TSPLOST funds earmarked for a particular transportation project, it increases the likelihood that

GDOT will authorize additional state spending.

"We put a request package to the DOT for assistance in building this roundabout together. Lumpkin County board Chairman Chris Dockery and I took the package down to the Capitol and met with State Senator Steve Gooch and DOT Commissioner Russel McMurray and presented our package to them and asked for help funding this project. Both were very receptive to our request," Trammell recalled.

### SECURING FUNDS

Gooch, who was also in attendance for the grant presentation, said inflation is the main reason that many transportation infrastructure projects throughout the state have been delayed.

"The state has experienced tremendous increases in pricing because of inflation, so a lot of our projects like this have been put off for a couple of years because of the rising costs of road construction," Gooch explained.

"It's putting some stress on DOT to get some projects delivered, because the bids keep coming in 30-50 percent

higher than they had anticipated," he added.

There is renewed hope that the backlog of projects can be cleared, however, with the welcome announcement that Georgia accumulated a budget surplus of \$15 billion at the close of Fiscal Year 2023.

"We sent \$2 billion of it back to the taxpayers through tax reduction and property tax relief, and then \$1.4 billion came out of surplus and went straight to DOT for projects like this," Gooch said. "We're going to see a lot of projects around the state that will get spent from that \$1.4 billion. This is one of those. I think there will be several others in Lumpkin County as well."

Gooch said he was pleased to see some of the surplus money directed towards critical transportation needs.

"Infrastructure is exactly where that needs to go. So I'm happy we were able to do that while I was in session. As Majority Leader, I'm on the conference committee for the budget ... So the timing worked out perfect, but it is to offset the high inflationary times that we're in right now," Gooch concluded.

# OBITUARIES

## George Hannie Conner Resident of Murrayville



George Hannie Conner, aged 82, of Murrayville, Georgia, passed away on Saturday, April 13, 2024.

He was born on October 6, 1941, to the late Clyde Conner and the late Dorothy Everett Conner. George honorably served his country in the U.S. Army from 1964 to 1966. Following his service, he found fulfillment in a career at ConAgra Feed Mill, where he dedicated himself to his work for many years.

George was a man of many talents and passions, but perhaps none so beloved as his knack for woodworking. He found joy and purpose in disassembling wooden objects, only to piece them back together, often with liberal amounts of wood glue. This hobby became symbolic of his patient and thoughtful nature, leaving behind countless creations as testaments to his craftsmanship.

In addition to his parents, George was preceded in death by his loving wife, Carolyn Conner; sisters Libby (Frank) Featherston, Mary Brookshire, Clydine (Joe) Hulsey; as well as sister-in-law Jenny Conner and brother-in-law Rick Hunnicutt.

He is survived by his children, Ken (Rhonda) Conner and David (Tammy) Conner; grandchildren Ashley (Andrew) Stevenson, Blake Conner, and Alicia (Jamie) Saunders; great-grandchildren Harrison Saunders and Harper Saunders; brothers Joe (Vivian) Conner, Johnny (Nancy) Conner, Charles Conner, Donald Conner, and Nelson (Jean) Conner; sister Edwina (Wayne) Blackburn; sister-in-law and brother-in-law Joel Brookshire and Eloise Hunnicutt. Numerous nieces, nephews, friends, and other relatives also survive.

Funeral services to honor and celebrate George's life were held April 16, 2024 at Yellow Creek Baptist Church, where the Reverend Ricky Stone officiated. Interment took place in the church cemetery, with Nelson Conner officiating and military honors being rendered.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association to further their research efforts. Donations may be sent to 225 N. Michigan Ave., Fl. 17, Chicago, IL 60601.

To share a memory or a condolence with the family, visit Mr. Conner's online guestbook at [andersonunderwood.com](http://andersonunderwood.com) Anderson-Underwood Funeral Home, 2068 U.S. 19 Business, Dahlonega, GA 30533.

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# County changes hotel restrictions

Continued from Front Page

that it was," County Planning Commission member Steve Sylvester told the board during public comments.

"I think if it was written with a proposal for introducing hotels and motels into restricted development areas we would have a much larger attendance," Sylvester added as he glanced toward all of the empty seats in the room.

The advertised purpose of the public hearing was "to present revisions to Chapter 27, Sec. 2.2.3 of the Code of Ordinances (Chart of performance standards)."

That chart is 14 pages long, however, and contains zoning regulations for more than 200 types of developments ranging from Addiction Facilities to Warehouses.

Georgia Press Association legal counsel David E. Hudson informed *The Nugget* that state code "requires a local government taking action in a zoning matter to require a hearing. The hearing must be preceded by notice within a newspaper of general circulation. The notice must state the time, place and purpose of the hearing."

Hudson said that while the recent public hearing announcement likely meets the county's legal obligation, he described it as "bad policy."

"They knew what they wanted to change and could have put [it] in the notice," he added.

## PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

In a video of the public hearing posted to social media, Chairman Chris Dockery opened the meeting by noting that Commissioner Rhett Stringer was traveling.

"The law allows him to attend by phone two meetings a year, so he's actually out of the state, so he's joining us by phone," Dockery said as he held his cell phone aloft.

Next Dockery called on Mincey to present the details of the resolution to the board.

Lumpkin County's 115,143 acres of planning area are further divided into nine different "Character Areas [CAs]." Each of those CAs is then assigned to one of two development categories: the Restrictive Development category or the General Development category.

This is important, because whether a property is restricted or general development determines the specific set of performance standards that govern the desired activity.

Mincey explained that for each activity proposed in Lumpkin County there are correlating requirements on the chart of performance standards (Table 1 in Section 27.2.2.3 of the Code of Ordinances).

"That determines the type of road that that activity would have to use, and what would be allowable off an arterial collector or local road. It would then also determine the amount of acreage required and the buffers next to adjoining properties, the right-of-way setback for the building as well as the adjoining property right-of-way, and any type of screening that would be required for that proposed activity," Mincey said.

## MAKING CHANGES

Mincey went on to explain that staff's proposal is to amend the principle activity within the chart of performance standards for hotels



Photo by John Bynum/The Nugget

**A public hearing was held on Courthouse Hill last week to amend Chapter 27, Sec. 2.2.3 of the County Code of Ordinances to allow hotel/motel activity in restricted development areas.**

and motels.

"Currently, what staff is suggesting is that a hotel/motel in restricted development be allowable off an arterial or collector road, it be required to have a minimum of six acres, a buffer around the whole property of 150 feet, a 200-foot setback for buildings from adjoining properties, a 50-foot setback from the right-of-way for the building, and then full screening of a minimum of 150 feet (or an applicant, if they wish, can do partial screening all the way at 175 [feet])," she said.

The amendment also recommended reducing hotel/motel buffers to 50 feet within the general development character area.

## OPPOSING VIEWS

After Mincey wrapped up her initial presentation, Dockery explained the rules for the public hearing.

"What we're going to do is we're going to give each side, those in support and those opposed, ten minutes," Dockery said.

After no one spoke in favor, Sylvester made his way to the podium to oppose the change on the grounds that it defies the county's Comprehensive Plan.

"The plan, as I understood

it, was open the Gateway Corridor up 400 and the Auraria Rd. area, and so this actually goes against our Comprehensive Plan and what I've heard most of y'all talk about as far as future development of the county. It opens up commercial development in restricted areas that we had not planned on doing," Sylvester told the board.

After Dockery opened up discussion to the members of the board, Commissioner Dr. Bobby Mayfield jumped in.

"I think Mr. Sylvester brings up an excellent point," Mayfield began.

"I want to wrap my mind around this, because this is a very complex topic, and even more complex regulations. In a restricted area, which we decided we wanted to keep kind of rural, this change would open up to hotels and motels? Is that the whole thing in a nutshell?" he asked.

Dockery said he looked at the matter a little differently. He said he sees the revision as correcting "an unintended consequence of when we updated the land use code" two years ago.

Dockery listed examples of existing small hotel/motel operations that simply could not have been established under the 2022 version of the code.

"If anybody's familiar with Forest Hills, they could not exist under the current land use code. When you look at places like Mountain Top Lodge. That could not exist under the current land use code. When you look at places like the Limelight Inn on Hwy. 52, that could not exist. And out in my neck of the woods when you look at what used to be Blueberry Inn, that has numerous little cabins, plus a large building with consolidated lodging, that could not exist under the land use code," Dockery said.

Dockery said it was unlikely that a large chain hotel would try to operate in a rural portion of the county.

"I honestly don't see a Ramada, you know, opening up near Turner's Corner. I just don't see that. But I think this probably enhances some of the facilities in the community so they can expand. And with those expansions, maybe that's in keeping with the agritourism and tourism that's the basis for this community. That's my call," he told the rest of the board.

Commissioner Jeff Moran motioned to approve the resolution, which was seconded by Stringer.

Only Mayfield raised his hand in opposition to the measure on the final vote.

## FINAL COMMENTS

Several citizens raised questions online about the timing of the resolution after its passage, citing a recent request by Bill Bertram before the planning commission.

In March, Bertram represented a series of Montaluce property owners requesting character area map amendments for 472 total acres of land across 28 parcels.

Dockery told *The Nugget* that the latest change to the performance standards chart was not made at the behest of Montaluce representatives. However, Dockery said he was aware that hotel/villas were something Montaluce property owners might be interested in adding to the development.

"I think that their request was pretty ambitious, to change that much land into something other than 'rural areas.' It kind of raised a brow for me, because I don't know that that is exactly what we're looking for," Dockery said of Bertram's planning commission requests, which were tabled and then ultimately withdrawn by the developer.

He said that incident prompted his own board and staff to consider whether major character area map amendments are needed in order for Montaluce to add lodging for their event center.

"But to say this is specifically for Montaluce is wrong," Dockery clarified. "It's more of 'Let's go back and make it the way that it was because it seems to have worked in the past.'"

As for the possibility of a Ramada Inn coming to a cow pasture near you, he said common sense dictates otherwise.

"I would think that those chain hotels and motels are going to go where there's a large flow of traffic, along a corridor, somewhere where people can find them that's not out of the way. And even more importantly, I think they're going to require water and sewer," Dockery explained.

**YOU ARE INVITED**

**THE DAHLONEGA DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY & MAIN STREET PROGRAM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA'S DEPARTMENT OF VISUAL ARTS INVITES YOU**

*Project Unweiling*

**2:00 PM | APRIL 25, 2024 | HANCOCK PARK**

**UNG students and DDA staff have been hard at work this semester creating a portable piece of art for downtown Dahlonega. This project is representative of our community and we encourage you to join us to celebrate their hard work and enjoy light refreshments in the park.**

Historic **DOWNTOWN DAHLONEGA** Georgia

DISCOVER **DAHLONEGA**

**UNG UNIVERSITY of NORTH GEORGIA**  
THE MILITARY COLLEGE OF GEORGIA

**6th Annual Alpine Helen Songwriters Festival**

Top, award winning songwriters will perform and tell stories at our annual **ALPINE HELEN SONGWRITERS FESTIVAL** **APRIL 26, 27 & 28, 2024**

LIVE AT:  
Cowboys & Angels Restaurant and Bar  
The Hofbrauhaus Restaurant & Pub  
Marketplace Bandshell Downtown  
Betty's County Store and The Heidelberg

For specific lineup and times go to [www.helenga.org](http://www.helenga.org) or call 706-878-2181

Hear from the songwriters who wrote the soundtrack for the 80s, 90s, and early aughts. Look at some of the artists our roster performers have made famous with their songwriting skills!

**Rafe VonHoy** has songs recorded by George Jones and Tammy Wynette, Oak Ridge Boys, Michael Martin Murphy, Brook sand Dunn, Reba McEntire, Leann Rimes, and many other.

**Wood Newton** has written some of country music's biggest hits, among them are; "Bobbie Sue" for the Oak Ridge Boys.

**Wil Nance** is an award winning writer for Brad Paisley, George Strait, John Michael Montgomery, Tracy Lawrence, Diamond Rio, Sammy Kershaw, The Oak Ridge Boys and others.

**Mary Kate Farmer** is a 2x winner and current Georgia Country's Female Artist of the Year.

**Chris Garner** is a Georgia native and has been writing, recording and performing his original music in Nashville since 2018.

**Trey Teem** has won the Nash Next Middle Georgia competition two years in a row. Trey is now "living the dream", in Nashville collaborating with some of the best songwriters in the business.

**Joe Doyle** has been writing songs in Nashville for thirty plus years. Joe's songs have been included on numerous multi-platinum, platinum and gold albums, exceeding more than 17 Million in sales.

**Bobby Tomberlyn** is a CMA, ACM & Grammy nominee and his writing credits include "One More Day", recorded by Diamond Rio, Darryl Worley's hit, "A Good Day To Run" and the Grammy nominated Dolly Parton/Bill Anderson single, "Someday It'll All Make Sense".

**Destin Bennett** is a Helen, GA native and was featured on the major motion picture soundtrack "Forever My Girl" with the song titled "Wild and Free.

**Ace Suggs** singer, songwriter, and producer. Ace quickly gained recognition for his unique sound and musical style, and has released a string of hits including "X-Ray Eyes," "I Get Lonely Too," and "Physical" Ace has worked with some of the biggest names in the industry.

Logos for sponsors: Cafe, Troll Tavern, Q Paso Latin Grub, Cat Head Biscuits, Helen Tubing, Pizza, dizzo bear, Helen Cellar, Groceries, Monday's, Kopper Kettle Fudge, Hofbrauhaus Restaurant, Cowboys & Angels, Mountain South TV, Betty's Country Store, Cafe International, The Heidelberg.

April 17, 2024

### HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

## Indians clip Dragon's wings in region finale

By Eligha Roper  
*The Nugget*

The LCHS soccer teams were victorious as they visited the Dragon's Den this week, and both varsity squads were able to pick up victories.

The boys routed the Dragons with a decisive 7-0 victory.

The girls squad won their matchup 4-0. Pickens was each team's final regional matchup of the season.

With the big win, the boys' squad secured their spot in the state tournament as the Region 7-AAA fourth seed, with an overall record of 5-6-1 and a regional record of 3-3. The girls also enter the State Tournament as the region's second seed behind Wesleyan, with an overall record of 10-1-1 and a regional record of 5-1.

The Indians clashed with the Dragons and had to do so under pretty rigorous weather conditions. Boys Head Coach Brent Howell felt the team played great despite the harsh conditions.

"We played extremely well versus Pickens County in horrible weather conditions. It was cold, extremely windy, and at times it felt like a monsoon. We moved the ball and possessed the ball really well. Our offense was able to get going early and often," said Howell.

Early and often was an understatement for the Indians' Jake Porter. Just ten minutes into the matchup, Porter picked up the team's first goal, establishing an early one-zip lead for The Tribe. Two minutes later, Porter showed off his leg strength, hammering in a 30-plus-yard free kick to increase the team's lead to two.

With ten minutes remaining in the first, Wes Childers scored on a rebounded shot from Nico Esqueda to put the Indians up by three. The Indians continued to lay it on the Dragons. With four minutes remaining in the first, Nate Gilleland connected with an assist to Esqueda, who followed up with another goal to increase the teams' lead to 4-0 going into halftime.

The relentless Indians weren't done as they stepped back on the field following the half. Just five minutes into the second, a handball was called on the Dragons in the box, and senior athlete Stephen Sherrill converted the penalty kick to push the lead to five. Five short minutes after that, Payte Rucker found Esqueda on the left side, who then scored his second goal of the night, putting the Indians up by six.

Jake Lloyd connected with Childers, who then sunk his second goal of the night, ending the game against Pickens 7-0. Coach Howell praised Childers' efforts on the big score.

"I have to give Wes credit. He simply out-hustled the defenders and keeper to score his two goals of the night and finished the scoring for us," he said. "Our defense was fantastic on the night. We played as a unit, and I give our guys credit. We possessed the ball much better tonight



Eligha Roper/The Nugget

Jose Lopez moves the ball down the field for the Lumpkin County High School soccer team.

See Indians, 3B

## LCMS soccer finishes as league runner-up

By Eligha Roper  
*The Nugget*

The LCMS Indians soccer team wrapped up their season in the Mountain League Championships on Tuesday, April 9, against the Clear Creek Bobcats. The game was very tightly contested and ultimately decided by a penalty kick shootout. In the end, the Indians fell 5-4.

Despite coming up short, the squad put together a stellar season with an overall record of 6-2. The game also saw Radford Windham's final game as LCMS

Head Soccer Coach. Coach Windham leaves a legacy of 20-plus years of coaching for the Lumpkin community. His son Witt Windham also played his final soccer matchup as he looks to aim solely at competing in track and cross country in the foreseeable future. Coach Windham shared some departing thoughts with *The Nugget*.

"This was definitely a big game for both Witt and I, considering it was the last time we would be on the soccer field and my last time officially coaching," said Coach Windham. "Unfortu-

nately, it didn't end the way we would have liked. I have coached for 22 years at LCHS (soccer, football, basketball, cross country, and fast pitch softball). It is now time to hang up the coaching title and be a parent to my two boys, Wyatt and Witt. They both have goals of running cross country and track at the collegiate level, and I will help them in any way I can."

His boys Wyatt and Witt Windham have been staples for the Lumpkin track and cross country teams, and

See LCMS, 3B



Eligha Roper/The Nugget

Head Coach Radford Windham rallies his team during their championship game.



Photo courtesy of Ben Lilley UNG Sports

UNG defeated Georgia College to claim their 10th consecutive PBC Regular Season Championship.

## UNG softball wins 10th straight regular season PBC Championship

UNG Reports

In a roller coaster day of emotions, the No. 2 University of North Georgia softball team clinched the Peach Belt Conference regular season championship.

UNG split a double header with Georgia College & State University, and the victory in Game Two gave the Night-

hawks the title.

This is the 10th consecutive time in the last 11 seasons UNG has won the regular season championship (the 2020 season had no champion after being canceled due to COVID-19).

### GAME ONE

After rallying for an epic comeback a few days before

to avoid a sweep against Alabama Huntsville, the Nighthawks returned to conference play with a buzz around the program.

The magic number stood at one as UNG only needed to win one of its final six PBC games to earn the outright regular season title.

However, the Nighthawk celebration was forced to wait an extra game after Georgia College ambushed the UNG pitching staff in the first game.

Senior Kristen Davis started in the circle in the opener for head coach Mike

Davenport's team.

After a single and an error, GCSU catcher Karlie Gutierrez roped a three-run home run to left center on the first pitch to make it 3-0 before a single out was recorded.

In the second inning, Georgia College added three more runs.

Senior Delaney Heaberlin took over in the pitcher's circle but GCSU didn't let up.

In the first at bat, GCSU belted another three-run home run to make it 6-0.

In the third inning, the

See UNG, 8B

### USA WRESTLING

## Lumpkin competes in Freco and World Team Trials

By Eligha Roper  
*The Nugget*

It was another busy week for several Lumpkin wrestlers. They competed in a USA Wrestling tournament in Commerce, and Lumpkin athlete Greta Garbuzovas competed in the Marine Corps Women's Nationals Championships (world team trials) in Spokane, Washington. The athletes came away with several exceptional performances.

With Team Alpha Head Coach Micah Goss coaching the girls' squad in Washington, Lumpkin athlete Nathan Nielsen had the opportunity to step up and not only wrestle for his team in Commerce but also step into the role of interim coach for his squad. It was pretty big shoes for Nielsen to fill, but the team still saw several first-place finishes.

The Nielsen clan lead the charge in Commerce, with Nathan, Xander and Liam Nielsen all coming away with first-place



Eligha Roper/The Nugget

Lumpkin's Liam Nielsen, Xander Nielsen, Nathan Nielsen and Aiden Marshall had a successful Freco tournament in Commerce.

See Garbuzovas, 3B

# RACING THIS WEEK

**TRUCKS FINISH LINE:** Kyle Busch takes the checkered flag to win the SpeedyCash.com 250 at Texas Friday. J. Bachman/Getty



## XFINITY RECAP

• **Saturday's** ANDY'S FROZEN CUSTARD 300, Texas Motor Speedway



**WINNER: SAM MAYER**

In a race decided by less than the length of a Texas hot chili pepper, JR Motorsports driver Sam Mayer pulled off a last lap pass of veteran Ryan Sieg to claim his first victory of the season Saturday in the Andy's Frozen Custard 300 at Texas Motor Speedway.

Officially, the margin of victory was .002-second as Mayer's No. 1 JR Motorsports Chevrolet and Sieg's No. 39 Ryan Sieg Racing Ford crossed the finish line door-to-door, bumper-to-bumper – the cars so close officials took a brief extra look to formally declare Mayer the winner. It was Mayer's first win of the year and fifth of his career.

It would have been Sieg's first win in 342 career starts in the series.

"That's absolutely unreal," the 20-year old Mayer said, shaking his head after climbing out of his car. "This team, the amount of adversity we've had to fight this entire year so far and to come to a mile-and-a-half that I want to say I'm good at, but it took a lot."

Veteran Justin Allgaier, who led a race best 117 laps and swept both stage victories, finished third. It was disappointing DeJa'Vu for Allgaier, who a year ago led a dominating 133 of the 200 laps only to finish fifth.

A.J. Allmendinger finished fourth. Reigning Xfinity champ Cole Custer was a top five car all day and finished fifth. Two-race winner Austin Hill finished sixth, followed by Ryan Truex, Sammy Smith, Jesse Love and Anthony Alfredo, who earned his third top-10.

## TRUCKS RECAP

• **Friday's** SPEEDYCASH.COM 250, Texas Motor Speedway



**WINNER: KYLE BUSCH**

A handful of late race cautions only made it more dramatic but veteran Kyle Busch still managed to hold off a hard-charging field to claim a record-tying sixth Truck Series race victory at Texas Motor Speedway, beating Corey Heim by a mere .112-second to win Friday night's SpeedyCash.com 250.

Maybe while competing in Texas Busch should consider changing his nickname from "Rowdy" to the popular Texas greeting, "Howdy" because the two-time Cup Series champion has created a mark of excellence competing at the Fort Worth 1.5-miler.

Busch's sixth win in a Texas truck race ties him with Todd Bodine for most ever. Busch has won the last four truck races he's entered at the track. And...it is Busch's 20th overall win at TMS – an unprecedented tally that also includes four Cup Series victories and 10 Xfinity Series race wins.

He led a race best 112 of the 167 laps in the No. 7 Spire Motorsports Chevrolet Friday and won both stages.

"Great team, everybody here at Spire [Motorsports]," said Busch, who has won a record 66 Truck Series races in his career – two this season.

Corey Heim's runner-up finish in the No. 11 TRICON Garage Toyota continues his perfect streak of top-10 finishes in every Truck race this season.

## AUTOTRADER ECHOPARK AUTOMOTIVE 400

Chase Elliott prevailed in three late race restarts – including two in overtime – to claim his first Cup Series win on the 1.5-mile Texas high banks and first trophy since a Playoff victory at Talladega in October 2022.



Chase Elliott, driver of the #9 Hooters Chevrolet, takes the checkered flag under caution to win Cup Series AutoTrader EchoPark Automotive 400 at Texas Motor Speedway Sunday. (Jonathan Bachman photos/Getty Images)

# Chase is on again with 3-OT Texas victory

Chase Elliott held off the field in a thrilling, wildly-popular double overtime victory in the AutoTrader EchoPark Automotive 400 at Texas Motor Speedway Sunday afternoon to earn his first victory in 42 starts – dating back to the 2022 season.

By no means was it an easy win for the 2020 NASCAR Cup Series champion and the sport's perennial Most Popular Driver, but that's part of what made it so special to 28-year old Georgia native. The driver of the No. 9 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet prevailed in three late race restarts – including two in overtime – to claim his first Cup Series win on the 1.5-mile Texas high banks and first trophy since a Playoff victory at Talladega (Ala.) Superspeedway in October 2022.

"Oh man, it couldn't feel any better," said a smiling Elliott, who did a "reverse" victory lap around the track in homage to the late series champion Alan Kulwicki, whose car was also sponsored by the Hooters restaurant chain that Elliott's car carried on Sunday.

"Couldn't be any more grateful for this journey and the fact, it hasn't always been fun but certainly I have enjoyed working with our guys," he continued. "We've been working really hard and really well together and that's always been fun. We've enjoyed the fight together."

RFK Racing owner/driver Brad Keselowski finished a season-best runner-up in a race that lasted more than three and a half hours and had a track record 16 caution periods.

On a restart with two laps of regulation to go, Elliott and Denny Hamlin were vying for the lead side-by-side when Hamlin's No. 11 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota got loose and into the wall, putting the race into a two-lap overtime shootout. Trackhouse Racing's Ross Chastain started alongside Elliott but couldn't pass him before another caution came out a lap into overtime, forcing another restart.

On that restart, Elliott got ahead of Chastain again and took the white flag signaling one lap to go, when Chastain was tagged from behind by Hendrick Motorsports' William Byron – officially

ending the race. Chastain, who led 33 laps on the day was credited with a 32nd-place finish. Hamlin, who led 37 laps, was 30th.

Elliott conceded the afternoon was a full-on day of drama and high competition. There were 23 lead changes among 13 drivers – seven of whom led double digit laps. "It was crazy," he said, "And I couldn't be more proud of our team."

Bryon, a three-race winner this season, was third, followed by 23XI Racing's Tyler Reddick and Chastain's Trackhouse Racing teammate Daniel Suarez.

Differing pit strategies and plenty of pit road issues played into the late race push to the checkered flag.

With 60 laps remaining Reddick pulled away to the biggest lead of the race – more

## Differing pit strategies and plenty of pit road issues played into the late race push to the checkered flag.

than six seconds on the field, but a slow pit stop – trouble with the left rear tire – forced him into a game of catch-up. His top five was impressive considering the setback.

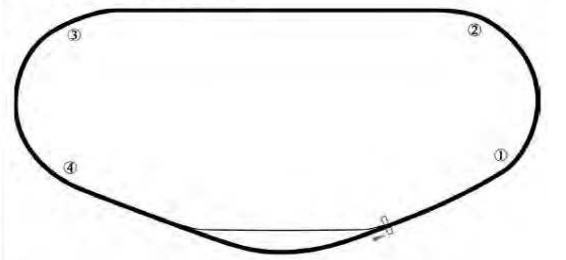
Similarly, Joe Gibbs Racing driver Martin Truex Jr., who has led the championship standings this year, was running up front when he had trouble on pit road – forced to make two stops on the final pit stop cycle to correct a loose wheel. He finished 14th despite the woes.

The day's dominant driver, Kyle Larson, had to rally from a setback. He started his No. 5 Hendrick Chevrolet from the pole position for the third consecutive week and led a race best 77 of the 276 laps early – winning the opening stage, only to have a right rear tire fall off during a caution period.

He was penalized two laps for the tire situation and spent much of the remainder of the race trying to make up ground. He got back on the lead lap and was moving forward when he was caught in an accident with only eight laps remaining, ultimately finishing 21st, but holds a 17-point edge over Truex atop the Cup Series championship.

Stewart-Haas Racing's Chase Briscoe finished sixth. Richard Childress Racing's Austin Dillon earned his best finish of the season with a seventh-place run. 23XI Racing's Bubba Wallace, RCR's Kyle Busch and Spire Motorsports rookie Carson Hocevar rounded out the top-10.

## NEXT: GEICO 500



## Talladega Superspeedway 3 p.m. ET Sunday, FOX

Talladega Superspeedway, nicknamed "Dega," and formerly named Alabama International Motor Speedway, is a motorsports complex located north of Talladega, Alabama. It is located on the former Anniston Air Force Base in the small city of Lincoln.

**Capacity:** 80,000–175,000  
**Length:** 2.66 mi (4.281 km)  
**Surface:** Asphalt

**Banking:** Turns 1 & 2: 33°; Turn 3: 32.4°; Turn 4: 32.5°; Tri-oval: 16.5°; Back straight: 3°  
**DYK ...**

• Alabama International Motor Speedway (AIMS) opened Sept. 14, 1969 with its first race, the Talladega 500, named in honor of the local people who helped bring the track from vision to reality. Richard Brickhouse wins the inaugural event.

• Talladega is the longest NASCAR oval, with a length of 2.66 miles (4.281 km), compared to the Daytona International Speedway, which is 2.5 miles (4.0 km) long. The total peak capacity of Talladega is around 175,000 spectators, with the main grandstand capacity 80,000.

• How fast do NASCAR's go at Talladega? The Talladega record is 212 mph and has stood for over 30 years.

• Talladega has seen a wide amount of winners, but Brad Keselowski has the most wins there among active drivers with five.

• Talladega is known for first-time winners, including Bubba Wallace mor recently.

• Talladega Superspeedway is the most competitive racetrack on the NASCAR schedule (record 88 lead changes in 188 laps).

• Three- and four-wide racing at 200 mph are a norm at Talladega, along with nail-biting photo finishes.



Kyle Busch celebrated in Victory Lane with his son Brexton last Spring at Talladega. (Getty)

## 2024 CUP SERIES STANDINGS

Top 30 as of April 14

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 K. Larson Chevrolet	335	16 Ky. Busch Chevrolet	217
2 M. Truex Jr. Toyota	318	17 B. Keselowski Ford	216
3 D. Hamlin Toyota	307	18 D. Suárez Chevrolet	210
4 C. Elliott Chevrolet	303	19 E. Jones Toyota	179
5 W. Byron Chevrolet	297	20 J. Nemechek Toyota	160
6 T. Gibbs Toyota	280	21 A. Cindric Ford	159
7 R. Blaney Ford	278	22 C. Hocevar Chevrolet	152
8 T. Reddick Toyota	269	23 M. McDowell Ford	151
9 D. Wallace Jr. Toyota	256	24 R. Preece Ford	137
10 C. Bell Toyota	250	25 T. Gilliland Ford	132
11 R. Chastain Chevy	247	26 J. Berry Ford	130
12 C. Briscoe Ford	231	27 R. Stenhouse Chevy	127
13 C. Buescher Ford	229	28 A. Dillon Chevrolet	122
14 A. Bowman Chevy	228	29 C. LaJoie Chevrolet	120
15 J. Logano Ford	217	30 N. Gragson Ford	120

## 2024 XFINITY SERIES STANDINGS

Top 20 as of April 13

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Chandler Smith #81	333	11 Ryan Sieg #39	197
2 Cole Custer #00	314	12 Brandon Jones #9	192
3 Austin Hill #21	300	13 Anthony Alfredo #5	185
4 Justin Allgaier #7	277	14 Sam Mayer #1	180
5 Jesse Love #2	257	15 Shane V. Gisbergen #97	175
6 Riley Herbst #98	232	16 Aric Almirola #20	160
7 A.J. Allmendinger #16	229	17 Brennan Poole #44	149
8 Sammy Smith #8	225	18 Parker Retzlaff #31	144
9 Tanner Gray #48	215	19 Jeremy Clements #51	140
10 Sheldon Creed #18	200	20 Josh Williams #11	115

**NEXT RACE:** AG-PRO 300, Talladega Superspeedway, 4 p.m. ET Saturday, FOX

## 2024 TRUCK SERIES STANDINGS

Top 20 as of April 12

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Christian Eckes #19	287	11 Daniel Dye #43	162
2 Corey Heim #11	285	12 Ben Rhodes #99	161
3 Ty Majeski #98	275	13 Stewart Friesen #52	150
4 Nicholas Sanchez #2	260	14 Bayley Currey #41	143
5 Taylor Gray #17	249	15 Jake Garcia #13	143
6 Tyler Ankrum #18	244	16 Bret Holmes #32	131
7 Rajah Caruth #71	233	17 Chase Purdy #77	130
8 Matt Crafton #88	195	18 Dean Thompson #5	122
9 Tanner Gray #15	171	19 Timmy Hill #56	119
10 Grant Enfinger #9	167	20 Ty Dillon #25	108

**NEXT RACE:** HEART OF AMERICA 200, Kansas Speedway, 8 p.m. ET Saturday, May 4, FS1

## ECHOPARK WINNER QUOTE

"Couldn't be any more grateful for this journey and the fact, it hasn't always been fun but certainly I have enjoyed working with our guys. We've been working really hard and really well together and that's always been fun. We've enjoyed the fight together."

- Chase Elliott, who grabbed his first-ever win at Texas in 3-OT fashion Sunday



Chase Elliott and crew in Victory Lane Sunday at Texas.

CHRIS GRAYTHEN/GETTY IMAGES

## 2024 CUP SERIES SCHEDULE

**FEB. 3, 8 PM, FOX:** Busch Light Clash at the (LA) Coliseum (D. Hamlin)  
**FEB. 15, 7 PM, FS1:** Bluegreen Vacations Duel 1 at DAYTONA (T. Reddick)  
**FEB. 15, 9 PM, FS1:** Bluegreen Vacations Duel 2 at DAYTONA (C. Bell)  
**FEB. 19, 4 PM, FOX:** DAYTONA 500 (W. Byron)  
**FEB. 25, 3 PM FOX:** Ambetter Health 400 at ATLANTA (D. Suarez)  
**MARCH 3, 3:30 PM, FOX:** Pennzoil 400 at LAS VEGAS (K. Larson)  
**MARCH 10, 3:30 PM, FOX:** Shriners Children's 500 at PHOENIX (C. Bell)  
**MARCH 17, 3:30 PM:** Food City 500 at BRISTOL (D. Hamlin)

**MARCH 24, 3:30 PM, FOX:** EchoPark at CIRCUIT OF THE AMERICAS (W. Byron)  
**MARCH 31, 7 PM, FOX:** Toyota Owners 400 at RICHMOND (D. Hamlin)  
**APRIL 7, 3 PM, FS1:** Cook Out 400 at MARTINSVILLE (W. Byron)  
**APRIL 14, 3:30 PM, FS1:** Auto Trader EchoPark 400 at TEXAS (C. Elliott)  
**APRIL 21, 3 PM, FOX:** GEICO 500 at TALLADEGA (Ky. Busch)  
**APRIL 28, 2 PM, FS1:** WURTH 400 at DOVER (M. Truex Jr.)  
**MAY 5, 3 PM, FS1:** AdventHealth 400 at KANSAS (D. Hamlin)  
**MAY 12, 3 PM, FS1:** Goodyear 400 at DALLAS (D. Hamlin)  
**MAY 19, 8 PM, FS1:** NASCAR All-Star Race at N. Wilkesboro, NC (K. Larson)  
**MAY 26, 6 PM, FOX:** Coca-Cola 600 at CHARLOTTE (R. Blaney)  
**JUNE 2, 3:30 PM, FS1:** Enjoy Illinois 300 at WORLD WIDE TECH (Ky. Busch)

**JUNE 9, 3:30 PM, FOX:** Toyota/Save Mart 350 at SONOMA (M. Truex Jr.)  
**JUNE 16, 7 PM, USA:** Iowa Corn 350 at IOWA (Inaugural Cup race)  
**JUNE 23, 2:30 PM, USA:** Cup Race at NEW HAMPSHIRE (M. Truex)  
**JUNE 30, 3:30 PM, NBC:** Ally 400 at NASHVILLE (R. Chastain)  
**JULY 7, 4:30 PM, NBC:** Grant Park 165 Chicago Street Race (S. van Gisbergen)  
**JULY 14, 2:30 PM, USA:** Highpoint.com 400 at POCONO (D. Hamlin)  
**JULY 21, 2:30 PM, NBC:** Brickyard 400 at INDIANAPOLIS (M. McDowell)  
**AUG. 11, 6 PM, USA:** Cook Out 400 at RICHMOND (C. Buescher)  
**AUG. 18, 2:30 PM, USA:** FireKeepers Casino 400 at MICHIGAN (C. Buescher)  
**AUG. 24, 7:30 PM, NBC:** Coke Zero Sugar 400 at DAYTONA (C. Buescher)  
**SEPT. 1, 6 PM, USA:** Cookout Southern 500 at DARLINGTON (K. Larson)

**PLAYOFFS ROUND OF 16**  
**SEPT. 8, 3 PM, USA:** Quaker State 400 at ATLANTA (W. Byron)  
**SEPT. 15, 3 PM, USA:** Go Bowling at the Glen at WATKINS GLEN (W. Byron)  
**SEPT. 21, 7:30 PM, USA:** Bass Pro Shops Night Race at BRISTOL (D. Hamlin)  
**PLAYOFFS ROUND OF 12**  
**SEPT. 29, 3 PM, USA:** Hollywood Casino 400 at KANSAS (T. Reddick)  
**OCT. 6, 2 PM, NBC:** YellaWood 500 at TALLADEGA (R. Blaney)  
**OCT. 13, 2 PM, NBC:** BoFA ROVAL 400 at CHARLOTTE (A.J. Allmendinger)  
**PLAYOFFS ROUND OF 8**  
**OCT. 20, 2:30 PM, NBC:** South Point 400 at LAS VEGAS (K. Larson)  
**OCT. 27, 2:30 PM, NBC:** Cup Race at HOMESTEAD-MIAMI (C. Bell)  
**NOV. 3, 2 PM, NBC:** Xfinity 500 at MARTINSVILLE (R. Blaney)  
**PLAYOFFS CHAMPIONSHIP 4**  
**NOV. 10, 3 PM, NBC:** Championship at PHO. (R. Blaney title; R. Chastain race)

2023 winners in parenthesis; 2024 winners in bold as the schedule unfolds; times ET

## XFINITY PHOTO FINISH

Sam Mayer, driver of the #1 Carolina Carports Chevrolet, crosses the finish line seconds ahead of Ryan Sieg, driver of the #39 Texi Aps Ford, to win the Andy's Frozen Custard 300 at Texas Motor Speedway Saturday. (J. Bachman/Getty Images)



# SPORTS

## LCMS soccer finishes as league runner-up

Continued from Page 1B

they have consistently broken records since arriving on the scene. If you were to attend one of the meets, you might see Coach Windham running after his boys on the track sideline, helping update them on their times to help keep them on pace to set new school records in a heartwarming display.

Coach Windham feels this year's middle school soccer team was special for him as a coach.

"This group of boys is very special to me. I have coached most of them since they were five," he said. "I am very familiar with their character and their work ethic, and I am very proud to send this group of eighth graders to high school and be under Coach Howell's leadership. I am excited to see how they develop and mature in the next four high school years."

Coach Windham took time to praise the team's field captains.

"Our team was led by four solid captains: Eli Branan, Witt Windham, Wylder Flakes and Austin Fortner. Eli Branan has been our clear leader of the team the entire season and has shown his leadership



Eligha Roper/The Nugget

The Lumpkin Middle School soccer team saw an exceptional season and now some athletes look ahead to keeping the momentum going at the high school level come next year.

in many ways," he said. "In the Championship game, Eli was able to get us back in the game with a one-touch shot outside of the goalie box."

He also feels the team's midfielders played a huge role in helping establish the squad's game plans.

"Witt Windham, Salvador Figueroa, Wylder Flakes, Joseph Alvarez and Eli Branan have been a consistent nucleus for our team," said Windham. "Our game plan heavily relied on

these midfielders to step up and play the entire game, and they did a phenomenal job."

Another standout athlete for the Indians was Goalie Austin Fortner. Fortner played a huge role in helping keep the Bobcats off the board throughout the game, making several critical saves throughout the game. Windham feels he's on course to a very successful athletic career.

"Austin Fortner was

born to play goalie. He is constantly working and improving his skills to become the best he can," explained Windham. "Throughout the past few years, Lumpkin County has been blessed with great goalies, and Austin is following in the footsteps of the greats such as Brauner Boegner and Chance Sprague."

One of the team's challenges this year was rebuilding its defense after losing several athletes to the

high school level last year. Despite having to rebuild, Windham was proud of what his team accomplished.

"Although the ending wasn't what we hoped for, I couldn't be more proud of how my team played. They did not give up. Last year, we lost our goalie and entire defense to the high school. So, this year was somewhat of a rebuilding year for our defense," he explained. "We had huge performances from our defensive line and

goalie the entire season. Saylor Kelley, Isaac Sherrill, Asher Adkins, Brewer Dansby-Sparks, Duncan Rix, Grey Galbraith and Austin Fortner only allowed four goals all season. This was a huge accomplishment and contrast compared to the 29 goals our team scored this season. On offense, Chris Allejandro did a great job constantly putting pressure on the team as our striker all season."

Windham also feels that penalty kicks were an unfortunate way for their season to reach its conclusion.

"It is always stressful to end the game in a PK shootout," he said. "No matter how much a team practices for that moment, which we practiced numerous times, the pressure is unbelievable when you are put in that position."

Coach Windham leaves the middle school soccer program in great hands.

"I know the future of boys middle school soccer is in good hands. My assistant coach, Joe Froggatt, will be taking over as the head coach of the program," he said. "Joe is an alumnus of Lumpkin County and is very knowledgeable about the game. I know he will do a great job."

## Garbuzovas competes in World Team Trials

Continued from Page 1B

are taking a break from the sport, and I am certain that they are going to see it pay off in the near future."

Marshall recalled some of the challenges he faced during the tournament.

"This past tournament has shown me I am still growing in this sport. I did not win many of my matches in my last season of Freestyle and Greco. But this season, in my first tournament, I placed in both divisions," said Marshall. "In Freestyle, I placed third. My bracket was combined between 132 pounds and 138 pounds. I wrestled and beat all of the 132 wrestlers, but I fell a couple points short of the 138-pound wrestler. In Greco, I only had to wrestle against 132-pound wrestlers and won my division. Even though it is cool to win these tournaments, the

real reason for Freestyle and Greco is to prepare for next season and test my current skill level against real competition. I feel I have grown and know that I will continue to. I also want to thank Coach Hage and Coach Pedraza for always believing in me."

Garbuzovas represented Lumpkin County on the National stage in Spokane, Washington. She ended the tournament with an overall record of 4-2. She suffered her first loss in the first round to a very tough Sandilynn Tuinei of Nevada, succumbing to a score of 5-0. Following the tough loss, Garbuzovas battled her way through the consolation rounds, picking up four straight wins.

The first win came over Taya Crookston of Utah. Crookston started the bout after a feeling-out process shooting for a single leg take-down; Garbuzovas was able



Submitted to The Nugget

Greta Garbuzovas competed in the World Team Trials, representing Lumpkin County on a National stage.

to read the attempt and took her opponent back once on the ground, taking an early two-point lead. After being

stood back up, her opponent once again took a single leg shot. After freeing up her leg, Garbuzovas once again was

able to take her back, increasing her lead to four. Garbuzovas continued the onslaught, keeping Crookston scoreless,

leading to a 10-0 major victory.

Her third matchup pitted her against Hayden Bratland of Iowa. Garbuzovas got on the board right away, quickly pushing her opponent out of bounds, and only gave up a single point in the match. Garbuzovas pulled away on the scorecards, picking up a 9-1 victory.

Garbuzovas made quick work of her next California opponent, Alexis Peregrina, jumping ahead 10-0 in just the first period. Quickly taking her opponent down on two separate occasions, the second time around, she locked hold of her opponent's legs and gator rolled to close the match 10-0.

In her final match, she lost to Corynne McNulty of Massachusetts. Overall, Garbuzovas had a very impressive showing on a huge stage.

## Indians clash with Pickens at the Dragon's Den

Continued from Page 1B

and played really good soccer. Brauner Boegner and Chance Sprague combined for the clean sheet in the net. We were able to get everyone in the match today for an extended time and were able to get some younger guys some quality play time on varsity."

Both teams look to start their state tournament against Coahulla Creek next week on April 16. The Coahulla Creek Lady Colts currently have a 9-6 overall record and are 4-2 in AAA Region Six competition. The Lady Colts are currently



Eligha Roper/The Nugget

The lady Indians soccer team huddles together before storming the field in one of their games.

ranked third in their region. The Lady Indians are ranked second in Region Seven, boasting a 10-1-1 record, their only loss coming from a very tough and talented Wesleyan. The Lady Indians seem to be slight favorites heading into the matchup.

For the guys, Coahulla enters the matchup with an 11-4-1 record, going 6-0 in Region Six competition.

The Indians sit 5-6-1 with a 3-3 regional record but compete in a very competitive region.

Coahulla is the first seed coming out of Region Six.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Dahlonega City Council will attend the Georgia Municipal Association Annual Convention 2024, which begins on Thursday, June 20, 2024, and ends on Tuesday, June 25, 2024. The convention will be at the Savannah Convention Center, 1 International Dr, Savannah, GA 31421. The GMA Annual Convention is a yearly learning and social convention. No official or legally binding action will occur at this convention.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Dahlonega City Council will hold a strategic planning retreat on Friday and Saturday, April 26 and 27, 2024, at the Public Safety Building Meeting Hall, 160 North Main Street, Suite 400, Madison, GA 30650. The retreat is for strategic planning purposes only. No official or legally binding action will occur at this retreat.





# Legal Advertisements

### Alcoholic Beverages

#### APPLICATION FOR ALCOHOL BEVERAGE LICENSE

Muhammad Shoib has applied with the the city of Dahlonega for an alcohol beverage license for **BCONE Group, Inc. DBA KKMART**, located at 703 North Grove Street, Dahlonega, Georgia 30533.

04/17, -04/24, 05/01, 05/08/24

#### Retail Wine Alcoholic Beverage License

Penny Sharp has applied with the City of Dahlonega for an Retail Wine Alcoholic Beverage License for Dahlonega Tours and More LLC dba Dahlonega Walking Tours Grapes & Ghost Tasting Room located at 19 E Main Street Suites F & E Dahlonega, GA 30533

04/17, 04/24, 05/01, 05/08/24

### Debtors & Creditors

Sullens

#### NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF LUMPKIN

All creditors of the Estate of **Barbara Jo Sullens**, deceased, late of said county and state, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said Estate are required to make immediate payment to us.

This 11<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024.

Martha Sue Sullens  
Administrator  
42 Robin Hood Dr.  
Murrayville, GA 30564

04/17, 04/24, 05/01, 05/08/24

Cantrell

#### NOTICE OF DEBTORS AND CREDITORS STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF LUMPKIN

All creditors of the estate of **Boyd Cantrell**, deceased, late of said county and state, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment o me.

This 27<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024.

Rebecca Thompson, Executor of the Estate of Boyd Cantrell.

Joy L. Edelberg  
Law Office of Joy L. Edelberg, P.C.  
PO Box 37  
Dahlonega, Georgia 30533

04/03, 04/10, 04/17, 04/24/24

### Debtors & Creditors

Tyson

#### NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF LUMPKIN

All creditors of the Estate of **Bradley Y. Tyson**, deceased, late of said county and state, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said Estate are required to make immediate payment to us.

This 12<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024.

E. Melissa Tyson  
Executor  
183 Westview Drive  
Dahlonega, GA 30533

04/17, 04/24, 05/01, 05/08/24

Nosworthy

#### NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF LUMPKIN

All creditors of the Estate of **Deborah Elaine Nosworthy**, deceased, late of said county and state, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said Estate are required to make immediate payment to us.

This 28<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024.

James Nosworthy  
Administrator  
466 Tommy Alexander Drive  
Blairsville, GA 30512

04/03, 04/10, 04/17, 04/24/24

Stiller

#### NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF LUMPKIN

All creditors of the Estate of **Derik Stiller**, deceased, late of said county and state, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all person indebted to said Estate are required to make immediate payment to us.

This 7<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024.

Regina C. Smith  
Administrator  
76 Grand View St.  
Dahlonega, GA 30533

04/10, 04/17, 04/24, 05/01/24

Tyson

#### NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF LUMPKIN

All creditors of the Estate of **Evelyn**

### Debtors & Creditors

**Juliette Tyson**, deceased, late of said county and state, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said Estate are required to make immediate payment to us.

This 12<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024.

Bradley Maxwell Tyson  
Executor  
183 Westview Drive  
Dahlonega, GA 30533

04/17, 04/24, 05/01, 05/08/24

Stancil

#### NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF LUMPKIN

All creditors of the Estate of **Glinda Ann Stancil**, deceased, late of said county and state, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said Estate are required to make immediate payment to us.

This 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2024.

Leon M. Pirkle  
Executor  
5290 Cavender Creek Road  
Dahlonega, GA 30533

04/10, 04/17, 04/24, 05/01/24

Hallman

#### NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF LUMPKIN

All creditors of the Estate of **Gordon E. Hallman**, deceased, late of said county and state, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said Estate are required to make immediate payment to us.

This 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024.

Mark E. Hallman  
Executor  
53 Antioch Cemetery Road  
Dawsonville, GA 30533

03/27, 04/03, 04/10, 04/17/24

Miller

#### NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF LUMPKIN

All creditors of the Estate of **Jo Ann Miller**, deceased, late of said county and state, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all person indebted t said Estate are required to make immediate payment to us.

### Debtors & Creditors

This 27<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024.

Charles David Shields & Anthony Murray Shields  
Executors  
1525 Laurel Crossing Pkwy.  
Apt. 810  
Buford, GA 30519

04/03, 04/10, 04/17, 04/24/24

Locklear

#### NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF LUMPKIN

All creditors of the Estate of **John Paul Locklear, Sr.**, deceased, late of said county and state, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said Estate are required to make immediate payment to us.

This 10<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024.

John Paul Locklear, II  
Executor  
186 Cabernet Trail  
Dahlonega, GA 30533

04/17, 04/24, 05/01, 05/08/24

Schwartz

#### NOTICE OF DEBTORS AND CREDITORS STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF LUMPKIN

All creditors of the estate of **Marie A. Schwartz**, deceased, late of said county and state, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to me.

This 27<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024.

Annette M. Russo, Executor of the Estate of Marie A. Schwartz.

Joy L. Edelberg  
Law Office of Joy L. Edelberg, P.C.  
PO Box 37  
Dahlonega, Georgia 30533

04/03, 04/10, 04/17, 04/24/24

Anderson

#### NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF LUMPKIN

All creditors of the Estate of **Ralph Dean Anderson**, deceased, late of said county and state, are hereby notified to render their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said Estate are required to make immediate payment to us.

This 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024.

### Debtors & Creditors

David Dockery  
Executor  
139 Redd Rd  
Cleveland, GA 30528

03/27, 04/03, 04/10, 04/17/24

Misko

#### NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF LUMPKIN

All creditors of the estate of **William John Misko**, late of Lumpkin County, deceased, are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.

This 11<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024

Name: Katrina Lynn Duffey  
c/o Broel Law, LLC  
Title: Administrator  
Address: 331 North Marietta Pkwy  
Marietta, GA 30060

04/17, 04/24, 05/01, 05/08/24

### Local Government

#### Destruction of Special Education Records

In accordance with state and federal regulations implementing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), this notice is to inform you of Lumpkin County Schools intent to destroy records related to special education. Records will be destroyed that were collected, maintained, or used in providing a free appropriate public education for disabled and or exceptional students in the Lumpkin County School System. This notice is in compliance with the system's comprehensive plan for special education as required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Lumpkin Special Education records for students who have not received Special Education Services from Lumpkin County for more than 3 years are considered no longer needed for educational purposes. If a student or parent would like copies of a student's special education records, he or she should contact Christie Castleberry in the Special Education Office of Lumpkin County Schools at 706-864-3611, extension 10108.

The Lumpkin County School System plans to destroy the above referenced Special Education records on 6/1/2024 and, then again, on 12/1/2024.

04/17, 04/24, 05/01/24

### Subscribe!

### Miscellaneous

#### NOTICE OF SEXUAL OFFENDER



Name of Convicted Person: **JOSUE RODRIGUEZ**

Street Address of Person Convicted: **306 ESTATE DRIVE DAHLONEGA, GA 30533 LUMPKIN COUNTY**

Crime Convicted of: **ATTEMPTED RAPE**  
Offense Date: **04/18/18**  
Convicted on: **012/11/18 GWINNETT COUNTY, GA**

Information Provided by: Lumpkin County Sheriff Department  
04/17/24

### Name Changes

Lopez

#### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF LUMPKIN COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

In Re: **Jasmin Maria Ortiz Lopez**

Civil Action File No. **24-CV-209-JP**

#### NOTICE OF PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

Notice is hereby given that **Jasmin Maria Ortiz Lopez**, the undersigned, filed petition to the Superior Court of Lumpkin County, Georgia on the 04 day of April, 2024, praying for a change in the name of petitioner from **Jasmin Maria Ortiz Lopez** to **Jayce Mateo Ortiz Lopez**. Notice is hereby given pursuant to law to any interested or affected party to appear in said Court and to file objections to such name change. Objections must be filed with said Court within 30 days of the filing of said petition.

This 04 day of April, 2024.

04/10, 04/17, 04/24, 05/01/24

Dore'

#### NI THE SUPERIOR COURT OF LUMPKIN COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

In re the name change of: **Christian Stowe, Petitioner.**  
CIVIL ACTION FILE #: **24-CV-215-RG**

NOTICE OF PETITION TO

# KICK BACK AND RELAX

{ with } **The Dahlonega Nugget**

Come by our office located at 1074 Morrison Moore Parkway in Dahlonega or call us at 706-864-3613 to subscribe!

**Name Changes**

**CHANGE NAME OF ADULT**

You are hereby notified that on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024, **Christian Stowe**, filed a Petition to Change Name in the Superior Court of Lumpkin County. Christian Stowe desire to change his/her from Christian Stowe to **Troy Dore**. Any interested party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within 30 days after the Petition to Change Name was filed.

Dated: April 8, 2024.

04/17, 04/24, 05/01, 05/08/24

**Public Sale / Auction**

**ADVERTISEMENT OF SALE**

Wishing to avail themselves of the provisions under the Georgia Self-service Storage Facility Act of 2013, the below storage facility gives notice of the sale under said act; **Friday the 3rd day of May, 2024 at 10:00 AM**, on that day will conduct a sale to the highest bidder, with bidding to take place on lockerfox.com, and payment to seller via credit/debit card, the contents of spaces.

All units contain household goods unless otherwise indicated. **10 Federal Self Storage, 2099 Hwy 19 N, Dahlonega, GA, 30533**

Latina Jones D53  
Crystal Greene C74

04/17, 04/24/24

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**

In accordance with the "Georgia Storage Act" Millie's Mini Storage will be selling to the highest bidder the following unit A-12 on April 24, 2024 at 10:00 am at 127 Millie's Place, Dahlonega, GA 30533. Millie's Mini Storage reserves the right to refuse any bid and withdraw any sale on a unit.

Millie's Mini Storage terms cash only and all items must be removed within 2 days (48 hours) from the facility. All items are sold as is and sale is subject to cancellation baring any settlement between Millie's Mini Storage and the obligated party.

A-12 Sandra Knowles

04/10, 04/17/24

**Probate Notice**

Wathen

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF LUMPKIN COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA**

**IN RE: CHARLES WAYNE WATHEN, DECEASED ESTATE NO.**

**Probate Notice**

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO FILE FOR YEAR'S SUPPORT**

The petition of **Kim Palmour Wathen**, for a year's support from the estate of **Charles Wayne Wathen**, deceased, for decedent's surviving spouse and minor child, having been duly filed, all interested persons are hereby notified to show cause, if any they have, on or before May 13, 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.

Michael A. Chastain  
Judge of the Probate Court  
By: Shelley Wilson

04/17, 04/24, 05/01, 05/08/24  
Satterfield

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF LUMPKIN COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA**

**IN RE: ESTATE OF DOROTHY JOYCE SATTERFIELD, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2024-40**

**PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE**

**Robert R. Satterfield** has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of **Dorothy Joyce Satterfield**, 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 April 29, 2024.

**BE NOTIFIED FURTHER:** All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk. 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.

Micheal A. Chastain  
Judge of the Probate Court  
By: Shelley Wilson

**Probate Notice**

Clerk of the Probate Court  
325 Riley Road, Room 122  
Dahlonega, Georgia 30533  
706-864-3847

04/03, 04/10, 04/17, 04/24/24

Shirley

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF LUMPKIN COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA**

**IN RE: ESTATE OF JAMES GARY SHIRLEY, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2023-8**

**NOTICE**  
[For discharge from office and all liability]

**IN RE:** Petition for Discharge of Personal Representative

**TO:** All and singular the heirs of said decedent and to whom it may concern:

This is to notify you to file an objection, if there is any, to the above-referenced petition, in this Court on or before April 29, 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. 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.

Wil Maxwell, Judge  
Judge of the Probate Court  
325 Riley Road, Room 122  
Dahlonega, Georgia 30533  
706-864-3847

04/17/24

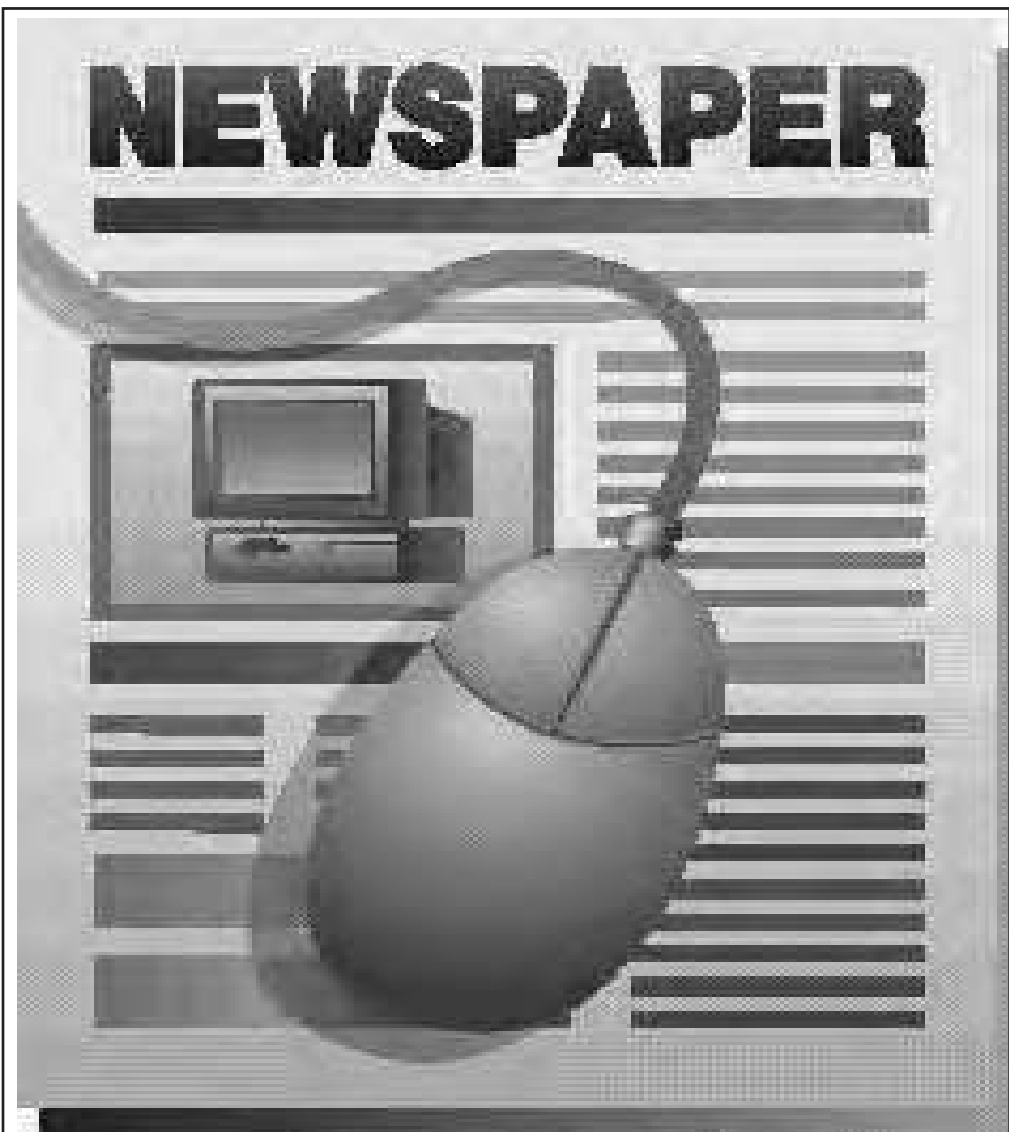
Shumake

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF LUMPKIN COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA**

**IN RE: ESTATE OF JEANNIE M. SHUMAKE, DECEASED ESTATE NO. 2024-37**

**PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE**

**Jennifer Lea Wilson** has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of **Jeannie M. Shumake**, 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



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**Probate Notice**

the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before April 22, 2024.

**BE NOTIFIED FURTHER:** All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk. 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.

Micheal A. Chastain  
Judge of the Probate Court

By: Shelley Wilson  
Clerk of the Probate Court  
325 Riley Road, Room 122  
Dahlonega, Georgia 30533  
706-864-3847

03/27, 04/03, 04/10, 04/17/24

Grizzle

IN THE PROBATE COURT  
OF LUMPKIN COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ESTATE OF  
MARTHA GRIZZLE,  
DECEASED  
ESTATE NO. 2024-47

PETITION FOR  
LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

**Probate Notice**

NOTICE

**Patricia An Herold** has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of **Martha Grizzle**, deceased, of said county. The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. §53-12-261. All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before May 6, 2024.

**BE NOTIFIED FURTHER:** All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk. 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.

**Probate Notice**

Micheal A. Chastain  
Judge of the Probate Court

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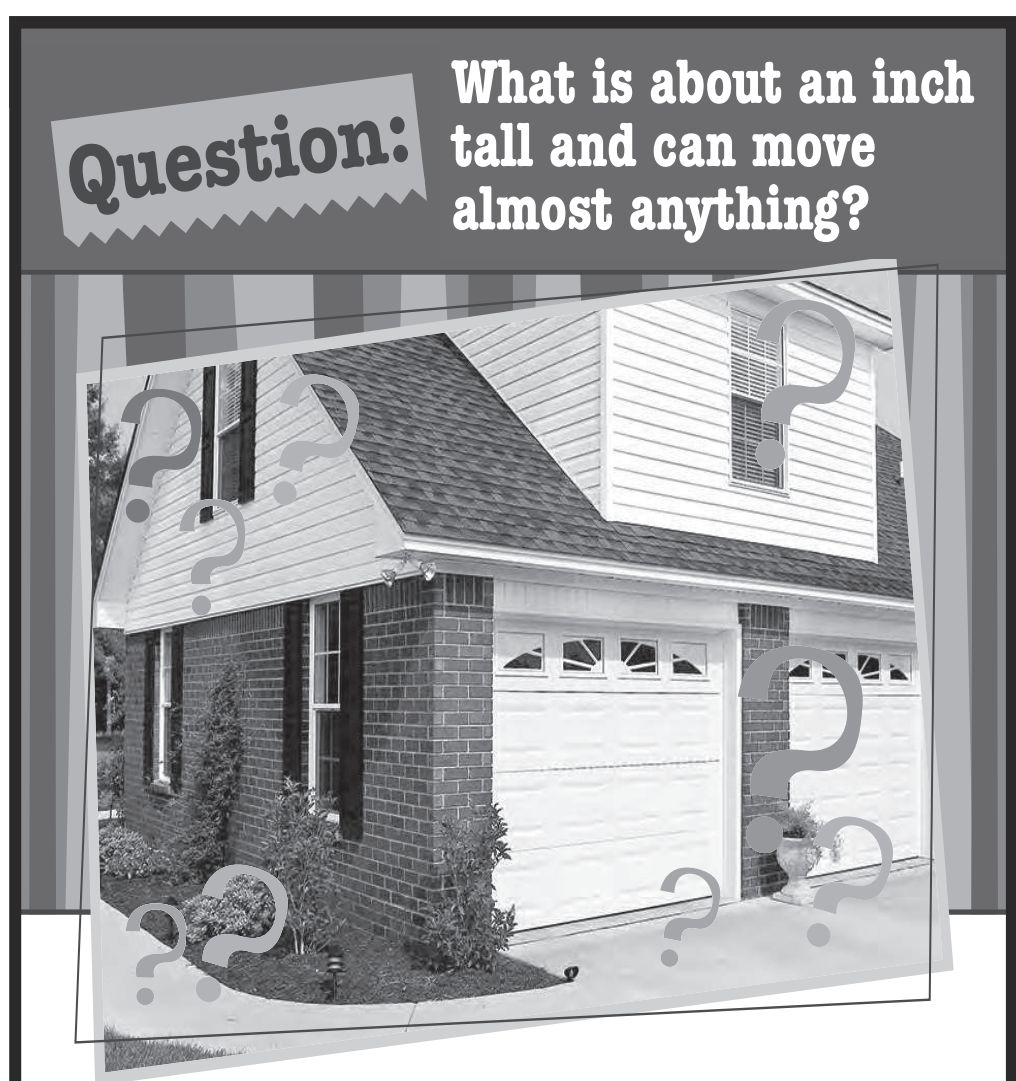
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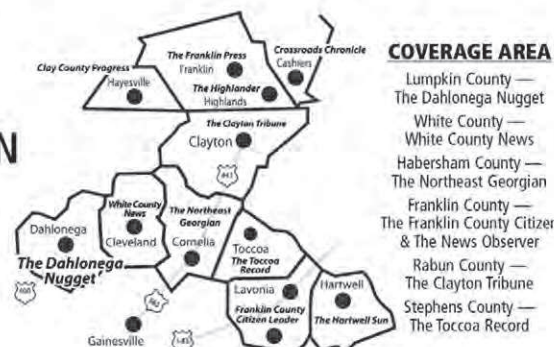
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# SPORTS

## UNG softball clinches PBC regular season title

Continued from Page 1B

GCSU team had another offensive outburst with a six-run inning.

Finally, the scoring ended for Georgia College when junior Aniston Wright handled the ball in the circle for UNG.

Wright did not allow a base runner the rest of the game for the Bobcats, however the damage was already done and was too large for the Nighthawks to mount a comeback.

For UNG, in the bottom of the fourth inning, sophomore first baseman Marycille Brumby tattooed her third home run of the year as she deposited the ball into the



The UNG softball team prepares to take the field before one of their games.

Photo courtesy of Ben Lilley UNG Sports

key insurance runs in their last offensive inning with three runs in the bottom of the sixth.

Parker singled to center field once again, bringing home Johnson and Cosgrove to extend the lead.

Blair scored in the next at bat on a sacrifice fly from senior outfielder Madison Simmons, giving UNG a 9-4 lead.

After getting a run back in the top of the seventh to make it 9-5, the Bobcats threatened to stage a comeback late in the game.

However, senior pitcher Tybee Denton stranded a pair of Georgia College runners and closed the door, ending the game with back-to-back strikeouts to seal regular season championship for UNG.

Denton threw her 17th complete game in the victory on Saturday, racking up her nation-leading 21st win on the year. She struck out nine batters and allowed just five hits in another stellar performance.

### UP NEXT

North Georgia is scheduled to hit the road Saturday, traveling to Greenwood, S.C. to face Lander University. The Bearcats are currently 30-11 overall.

UNG will return home to begin Peach Belt Conference Tournament play next Friday, April 26 in Dahlonega. Opponents are to be determined.



**Lumpkin County Player of the week**

*Shiloh Clausen is a phenomenal athlete for the Lumpkin County Mountain Biking team. She has represented Lumpkin on the National stage in several races, including the US Pro Cup in Arkansas and The Tennessee Nationals. Clausen is used to competing in long 50-mile races consisting of some very strenuous trails and obstacles. She has a very kindhearted and respectful personality, combined with a strong will to compete and push herself beyond her limits. Clausen's dedication to her sport doesn't go unnoticed.*



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parking lot beyond right field.

Just a few pitches later, senior third baseman Gracie Mixson also connected on a homer, her fourth of the year to make it 12-2.

UNG got another run later in the inning thanks to a line drive double from junior catcher Sadye Johnson who roped a ball off the wall in center field to score a run.

However, the Nighthawks fell 12-3 in five innings. The loss marked the first time UNG had lost via the run-rule since a road loss to No. 17 Auburn Montgomery last year. Saturday was the first time the Nighthawks lost by the run rule at home since 2014 in a 9-1 loss to No. 3 Alabama Huntsville.

### GAME TWO

Not to be outdone, UNG struck first in game two, thanks again to Brumby.

Her RBI double in the second inning brought home junior infielder Grayson Perry

to give the Nighthawks an early 1-0 lead.

The Bobcats tied the game in the next inning with a sacrifice fly from sophomore infielder Emily Hobbs.

The Nighthawks poured on the decisive offensive attack in the third and fourth innings to follow.

Senior catcher Georgia Blair collected her team leading 42nd RBI with a double in the third.

Then in the fourth, sophomore second baseman Katie Ward reached on an infield single to bring home sophomore outfielder Caroline Branch. In the next at bat, a stolen base from sophomore

infielder Madison Cosgrove baited a bad throw allowing redshirt freshman infielder Tegen Laveo Maisonet to score from third on the error.

Cosgrove scored a few pitches later on another error that helped freshman outfielder Kaitlyn Johnson reach first base.

Johnson would eventually come home on a single from senior center fielder Mallory Parker as the fourth Nighthawk run in the inning, giving UNG a 6-1 lead.

After scoring a run in the fifth, Georgia College brought home a pair of runs in the sixth to make it 6-4.

The Nighthawks got some

## UNG track star breaking records



Photo courtesy of UNG Sports

The University of North Georgia women's track & field team had a historic day Saturday at the Electric City Invitational in Anderson, S.C. Namely junior Ella Stoudenmire was the one re-writing history for the Nighthawks in the event hosted by Anderson. Stoudenmire was the only UNG runner to make the podium in the meet. She finished in second place in the women's 800-meter race on Saturday, marking her fifth appearance on the podium this year and third in the 800-meter event. She made the podium this time in historic fashion. Shooting for a record that has stood since 2017, Stoudenmire broke the UNG women's track & field 800-meter all-time record with a 2:12.27 on Saturday. She dethroned Brittany Truitt's 2:12.45 record that has stood since the Peach Belt Conference Championships seven years ago. Stoudenmire and the Nighthawks will now get ready for a Division I meet in the Georgia Tech Invitational on Friday, April 19 and Saturday, April 20 in Atlanta.



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