





Meriwether County and Hogansville Community Calendar

- Hogansville City Council** meeting, 7 pm Monday, February 17. The public is invited to attend.
- Manchester Development Authority** meeting, 9 am Thursday, February 20. The public is invited to attend.
- Greenville City Council** work session, 5 pm Thursday, February 20. The public is invited to attend.
- Woodbury City Council** meeting, 6 pm Monday, February 24. The public is invited to attend.
- Meriwether County Commission** meeting, 6 pm Tuesday, February 25. The public is invited to attend.
- Lone Oak City Council** meeting, 6:30 pm Monday, March 3. The public is invited to attend.
- Hogansville City Council** meeting, 7 pm Monday, March 3. The public is invited to attend.
- Greenville City Council** meeting, 6 pm Tuesday, March 4. The public is invited to attend.
- Meriwether County Industrial Development Authority** meeting, 4 pm Monday, March 10. The public is invited to attend.
- Meriwether County Commission** meeting, 6 pm Monday, March 10. The public is invited to attend.
- Warm Springs City Council** meeting, 6:30 pm Monday, March 10. The public is invited to attend.
- Luthersville City Council** meeting, 6 pm Tuesday, March 11. The public is invited to attend.
- Manchester City Council** meeting, 6 pm Tuesday, March 11. The public is invited to attend.
- Meriwether County Board of Education** meeting, 6 pm Tuesday, March 11. The public is invited to attend.

**Readers are urged to call ahead and confirm that events listed here are still being held.**

To have your non-commercial community event listed in the Community Calendar, send the information to [starmcurynews@gmail.com](mailto:starmcurynews@gmail.com). To be included, the event must be taking place in Hogansville or Meriwether County. The deadline is each Monday at noon. Calendar events are subject to change.

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**GOSPEL SINGING**

**AT STOVALL**

**BAPTIST CHURCH**

14 Hardy Street

Greenville, GA (Stovall)

Saturday, February 15

6 P.M.

**Special Singers:**

**Young Spirit**

**of Manchester**

INTENT TO OPT OUT OF

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

The **Meriwether County Board of Education** intends to opt out of the statewide adjusted base year ad valorem homestead exemption for the Meriwether County School District. All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearing on this matter to be held at the **Meriwether County Board of Education on Friday, January 31, 2025, at 8 AM**. Times and places of additional public hearings on this matter are at the **Meriwether County Board of Education on Monday, February 10, 2025, at 11 AM** and **Thursday, February 13, 2025, at 6 PM**.



Photo By Dexter Williams

**GRAND MARSHAL** - Meriwether County native Glenn Render (center) served as Grand Marshal for the Newnan MLK Parade on February 9. Render is shown with his siblings Tomiko (left) and Francis.

Meriwether Native Leads Newnan MLK Parade

By DEXTER WILLIAMS

Grand is something that this local resident has always strived to be in life. From driving a Grand Am while in high school to being a “grand”father, Harvey Glenn Render, has taken that title to a new level. Render was chosen to be the 2025 Grand Marshall of the annual Order of Eastern Star No. 483 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade in downtown Newnan on Sunday, February 9. This is their 36th annual event. And how fitting that the event was on Super Bowl Sunday – A Grand Day for football fans.

Render, a native of Gay, was the perfect chose for this honor as he embodies the organization’s theme “Mission Possible.” The mission that Render has always had was one where happiness abounds. He takes this mission with him daily on his UPS route around Newnan and into the community. Customers on his route look forward to him arriving and chatting daily as he always willing to give good advice along with good laughter. “I get it from my daddy,” stated Render. “He was always talking to people, but he also was willing to help anyone out.” This was truly

the spirit of Dr. King as well. So, naturally, Render would be the right choice for the Grand Marshall seat.

Render brings his love to the community into everything that he does as he has been with UPS since the mid-1990s and on the downtown Newnan route for the last 15 years. However, Render’s community service began from watching his parents serve their community in Gay. He often recalls how his father would go around the neighborhood and provide rides for the local children to church or church outings. Or seeing his mother work in the church. Seeing this, Render complimented it by partnering with some of his friends and co-workers and started a program where they collect bicycles to give to children during the holiday season.

Render, a 1993 graduate of Greenville High School, became a member of the Great Newnan Lodge No. 299 in 2005 and really put that community service component to work as he spearheaded many projects for the lodge to give back to the community such as back to school drives along with feedings. During his time in the masonry, he has served as Worshipful Master and earned the 32 degree rank in both the Scottish

Rite and York Rite Masonry.

While at Greenville High, Render was a member of the football team and baseball team. Participating in sports prepared him for serving others as he was always part of a team trying to reach a common goal. The Newnan community recognized this in Render and in 2023, Newnan Mayor Keith Brady proclaimed that September 12 will be known as “Harvey Glenn Render Day” in Newnan annually.

Render’s community service does not stop there as he has a small business, SWWD Barbeque, where you will find them in Newnan with the grill fired up and hot meat coming off. However, he still finds time to fill his passion of sports as he is an avid golfer along with being a fisherman. And if that is not enough, he also enjoying motorcycling along with being a “grand” fan of the Atlanta Falcons and Georgia Bulldogs.

The father of five, with two grand-children (and a third one on the way), still finds time to spend with his family and would not trade it for the world. Therefore, the “Mission is Possible.”

Render is the son of the late Bettie and Harvey Render both formerly of Gay.



Photo Submitted

**HOGANSVILLE ELEMENTARY SHOUT OUT** - This week’s Staff Shout Out is going out to our amazing counselor, Mrs. Britt Wood! She is the perfect combination of calm, supportive, and funny! Whether it’s working with students or supporting adults, she always knows just how to make us feel heard, seen, and understood. She brings so much joy and we are incredibly lucky to have her as part of the Greenwave team! Thank you for everything you do and Happy National Counselors Week!

Hogansville Council Meeting Erupts Into Shouting Match

**Continued From Page 1-A**

taken at the November meeting. The first thing you said when you came in here was false.”

Johnson then called Dixon a liar, and told the mayor he didn’t appreciate being called a liar. Johnson was again told he could file an open records request and speak to the mayor, but he either had to sit down or leave. He chose to stay and the meeting continued.

In new business, two LG Smart Poles were approved to be installed in the city, one downtown and the other at Lake Jimmy Jackson. They will have EV charging stations, lights, wifi, closed circuit cameras and emergency buttons. A private donor will pay the \$104,000 to have them installed and LG will pay networking fees of \$1,200 per month for the first year.

Citizens were unanimously approved for several committees. Ricky Thrash, Ellen Shellabarger and Carol Smith were reappointed to the Hogansville Planning Commission for two year terms. Wanda Lowe and Mary Ann Neureiter were reappointed for 3 year terms to the Hogansville Historic Preservation Commission, along with first-time appointee Christian Whisnand, leaving one seat vacant. For the Meriwether Joint Development

Authority, John McKibben, George Bailey and Jimmy Russell were reappointed for 1 year terms along with new members Frederick Manley and Jackson Fussell. Lastly, for the Hogansville Development Authority, Jimmy Russell and Robert Leek were appointed, leaving one seat still vacant.

Kelly told of three water issues that arose during the last winter storm, the worst of which occurred after a car hit a fire hydrant on Main Street. She thanked the city workers who braved temperatures in the teens to make the repairs.

The new speed cameras in front of Hogansville Elementary have been installed, but tickets won’t be issued until after a 30 day warning period.

Check out [1937royalthewater.org](http://1937royalthewater.org) for upcoming events at the Royal Theater.

At a recent conference of Georgia mayors, city councilmen and city managers, Hogansville was one of three small towns to receive a Visionary Award.

Police Chief Jeffrey Sheppard received a Specialized Instructor Certificate in the area of firearms at the recent Peace Officers Standards and Training Council. Sheppard also gave the following dates for blood drives to be held at the City Annex Building: Friday April 25, Friday July 25 and Friday October 3.

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## Meriwether County Deaths and Funerals

### Paul Milner Bulloch

August 22, 1942 - February 3, 2025  
Retired Extension Agent

Paul Milner Bulloch, 82, of Woodland, GA, passed away on Monday, February 3, 2025. He was born on August 22, 1942, to Oscar Cyprian Bulloch and Florence Milner Bulloch of Meriwether County.

Paul graduated from Manchester High School in 1960, where he was named “Most Athletic.” Upon graduation, he attended the University of Georgia and earned a Bachelor of Science in Forestry. He then served in the U.S. Navy. After his military service, Paul began his career as a surveyor in the Outer Banks of North Carolina. He later furthered his education, earning two master's degrees-one from the University of Georgia and another from Columbus State University. Paul went on to work with the UGA Extension Service in Bibb and Carroll counties. From 1972 until his retirement, he served as the county agent in Talbot County. He was also a member of the Mid-Georgia Cattleman's Association and currently employed with NASDA.

During his tenure with the Extension Service, Paul received numerous awards for his hard work and dedication, including the Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor a county agent can receive. He was a member of both the National Association of County Agents and the National Association of 4-H Agents. Paul was deeply committed to fostering children's love of agriculture and the outdoors. He served in this capacity for over 30 years and, until the very end, was reminded of the lasting impact he had made. Paul wanted to share his knowledge of Georgia peaches and the long legacy of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service members, so he went on to write two books: The Georgia Peach Story and 100 Years of the Georgia Cooperative Extension Service.

Under his leadership, Talbot County 4-H excelled in their exhibits at county fairs. Additionally, Paul served as President of the Talbot County Farm Bureau for several years.

In 1980, Paul asked Pam if she wanted to watch Breakfast at Wimbledon tennis tournament on television. She said yes, and the rest is history. Pam and Paul were married on April 5, 1981. The next 44 years were filled with love and laughter. They enjoyed many summer trips to Panama City Beach with the kids and grandkids, a trip to Hawaii, and several trips to Washington, D.C., over the years. With summer 4-H camps, rafting trips on the Ocmulgee River, 4-H trips to Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Utah, Pennsylvania, Texas, Kentucky, and New York City, and taking 4-Hers to competitions at Rock Eagle, Atlanta, and Chicago, Paul lived a life full of adventure and passion for what he loved. Many of his 4-Hers still called and visited him, letting him know the great impact he has had on their lives. This is a testament to the many lives he has touched throughout the years.

After his retirement, he opened the Old South Farm Museum in Woodland, Georgia. He hosted many school field trips and tours over the years, teaching kids and adults alike the ways of farming and agriculture during the 1800s and 1900s. Every February, he hosted his annual Hog Killing event, where people from all over came to participate and attend workshops, learning to make sausage. He spent his later years with his grandgirls. Whether working around the museum, in the hayfield, or in the cow pasture, he was always teaching them something and instilling in them a love of agriculture and farming that they still cherish to this day. They enjoyed many Sunday afternoons learning to play tennis, bowling at the Institute, and listening to Alabama's greatest hits.

Paul loved the Lord and was baptized at a young age. He hardly ever missed Sunday morning service. He was a faithful member of the Talbotton United Methodist Church and had been since moving to Talbotton in 1972.

Paul loved all things Georgia Bulldogs and Atlanta Braves. He never missed watching a game on Saturday. Paul will be missed by many, but especially by his family who loved him so much. He was always the jokester at family gatherings and kept everybody laughing.

Paul is preceded in death by his father and mother, his two brothers, Oscar T. Bulloch and Larry C. Bulloch, his youngest sister, Eleanor B. Ballew, his nephew, Don Grant, and his mother-in-law, Jean Oliver.

He is survived by his loving wife of 44 years, Pamela Oliver Bulloch; his children, Virginia “Ginny” Bulloch Dunn, Paul M. “Chip” Bulloch Jr. (Sandy), William “Bill” Kelley (Rhonda), and Kayanne Bostwick; his grandchildren, Montana Kelley (Nolan Warmack), Ivy Bostwick (Colin Hendricks), Danielle “Dani” Strickland (Jacob), Hunter Franklin (Austin), Kaiya Dunn, and Stone Bulloch; two great-grandchildren, Elijah Warmack and Jett Warmack; his sister, Lou Ellen Grant (Donnie); brother-in-law Hugh (Carol) Oliver and sister-in-law Pat Oliver Weekly, as well as several nieces and nephews. He is also survived by his best furry companion, Ethel Mae Bulloch.

Funeral service for Paul Bulloch were held 2:00 pm Thursday, February 6, 2025 at the Talbotton United Methodist Church with interment following in the Meriwether Memory Gardens in Manchester, GA. The family received friends from 12:00 -2:00 pm at the church prior to the service. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Talbotton United Methodist Church or Talbotton Baptist Church.

The Bulloch family is being assisted by Cox Funeral Home 93 Prather Barnes Road Manchester, GA 31816. The family requests that you please sign the online registry and leave condolences for the family on the tribute wall page.

### Dorothy Ann Bunn

November 8, 1936 - February 8, 2025  
Worked for Nabisco

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Dorothy Ann Bunn, who left this world on February 8, 2025, at the age of 88 after bravely battling renal failure for several years. A beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend, Dorothy's warmth, kindness, and unwavering love touched the lives of all who knew her.



Born in The Cove, Woodbury, Georgia, on November 8, 1936 to Robert Brown and Mary G. Brown, Dorothy lived a life filled with compassion, strength, and dedication. She attended Meriwether High School and in 1955, she married the love of her life, William Alton Bunn. Together they built a beautiful life filled with love, laughter, travel, and cherished memories. They shared 65 wonderful years before Alton's passing in April 2020.

Dorothy worked for many years at Nabisco, where her hard work and commitment earned her the respect and admiration of her colleagues. After a fulfilling career, she retired in September 1994, leaving behind cherished friendships and fond memories.

Beyond her career at Nabisco, Dorothy was an accomplished artist with a deep love for oil painting. Her creativity and talent shone through in each brushstroke, capturing the beauty of the world around her. She also had a deep appreciation for music, especially classic country and bluegrass, and loved attending festivals with Alton throughout the years, creating cherished memories and lifelong friendships.

Dorothy found joy in the simple pleasures of life. She loved cooking delicious meals for her family, growing beautiful flowers that brightened her home, and caring for her beloved kitties, who brought her endless companionship and comfort. Her nurturing spirit extended to all living things, and she found great happiness in tending to both her garden and her furry friends. She

had great compassion for animals and was a longtime supporter of animal benevolence organizations.

Dorothy's greatest joy in life was her family. She is survived by her children, Larry Bunn (Lynn) of Ringgold, GA and Vicky Matthews (Doug) of Woodbury, GA, two grandchildren, Leslie and Logan Bunn, both of Chattanooga, Tennessee, several cousins, and many nieces and nephews who will forever cherish her memory and carry forward the love she so freely gave. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Alton, her parents, Robert W. Brown and Mary G. Brown, as well as one sister, Lois Jones, and five brothers, Billy, James M, Earl, Cecil, and Edgar Brown.

The graveside funeral service was held on Monday, February 10, 2025 at the Cove Baptist Church Cemetery. The Rev. Will Brown officiating.

Though she is no longer with us in person, her love, wisdom, and creativity will live on in the hearts of those she touched. Rest in peace, Dorothy—you will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

Cox Funeral Home - Manchester, is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be given at [www.coxfh.com](http://www.coxfh.com).

### Pamela Jean Molton Newman

September 17, 1968 - February 4, 2025  
Worked for Kroger

Pamela Jean Molton Newman, 56, of Newnan, died Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at her home.

Born in Atlanta, September 17, 1968, she was a daughter of the late Marvin Molton and Lena Elaine Newberry Pruitt. Ms. Newman formerly worker at Kroger, Williams Grocery Store and Marina Wear. She formerly loved going to the Barnesville VFW.

Surviving are her three daughters, Malissia Newman of Newnan, Melinda Newman of Gay and Christiana Danielle Argroves of Newnan; grandchildren, Tristian Mitchell, Trevor Barber and wife Georgia and Jada Barber; all of Newnan, Destiny Neace and Lindsey Neace, both of Gay; great grandchildren, J.J. and Karma; a sister, Kimberly Hayles; and a brother, Henry Molton, both of Gay; several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins also survive.

The family will receive friends Friday, February 7, 2025, from 5:00 PM until 8:00 PM at Haisten McCullough Funeral Home.

Private services will be conducted.

For online condolences please visit [www.haistenmcclough.com](http://www.haistenmcclough.com).

Haisten McCullough Funeral Home, 1155 Everee Inn Road, Griffin is in charge of arrangements.

### Ellen Bowden Oglesby

June 16, 1953 - February 2, 2025  
Retired Meriwether County Teacher

Ellen Bowden Oglesby, 71, of Villa Rica, GA formerly of Woodbury, GA died Sunday February 2, 2025, at The Birches at Villa Rica Memory Care.

Ellen was born June 16, 1953, in Newnan, GA the daughter of Hollis and Waverlyn Knight Bowden. She graduated from college with her specialist degree in teaching and taught for over 28 years in the Meriwether County School System prior to her first retirement. She later taught at Flint River Academy for two years and then became a substitute teacher for many years. Ellen was raised in Imlac and attended Jones Chapel as a child and young adult. She later became a longtime member of the Macedonia Baptist Church in Manchester, GA. She was preceded in death by her parents, grandmother Gertrude Gill Knight, sister Diane Stokes, and uncle Robert Harold Bowden and many other close relatives.

Ellen is survived by her daughter Holly (Ricky) Challen and two grandsons Landon and Jett Challen all of Carrollton, GA, her brother Robert ( Tracy) Bowden and their two daughters Ashley and Taylor, (Ellen's "Adopted " granddaughters) all of LaGrange, GA, her niece Leslie Stokes of Villa Rica, GA, and numerous cousins including Rosemary (Jimmy) Poulson of Warm Springs, GA, Nancy (Ken) Waller of Baton Rouge, LA and Marie (Larry) Garrett of Woodbury, GA and former husband Lamar Oglesby.

Funeral services for Ms. Oglesby were held at 2:00 pm Friday, February 7, 2025, at Jones Chapel Community Church in Woodbury, GA followed by interment in the Woodbury Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers those that wish may make donations in Ellen Oglesby's memory to the Alzheimer's Association or [alz.org](http://alz.org). or to a charity of your choice.

The family are being assisted by Cox Funeral Home 93 Prather Barnes Road Manchester, GA 31816. Please sign the online registry and leave condolences on the tribute wall page.

*Editor's Note: Death and funeral notices must be received by 12 noon on Monday prior to run date. and should be sent to the newspaper by a funeral home only. We will run family-placed notices; call our office for details.*

## Warm Springs to Opt Out of HB 581 Exemption

Submitted to the *Star-Mercury-Vindicator*

The Mayor and Council Members of the City of Warm Springs voted to Opt-Out of GA HB 581 the statewide adjusted base year ad valorem homestead exemption for the City of Warm Springs GA.

As part of the process the mayor and council will hold three public hearings at City Hall in Council Chambers located at 3636 Whitehouse Parkway Warm Springs, GA 31830 on February 20 at 12:00 p.m., February 24 at 12 p.m. & February 24 at 6:00 p.m.

Georgia House Bill 581 took effect on January 1, 2025, and introduced a statewide floating homestead exemption that caps the annual increase in home values for tax purposes. The exemption impacts property taxes

for cities, counties, and school districts. HB 581 allows cities, counties, and school districts to opt out of the property tax cap.

While this was designed to provide property tax relief, the legislation could result in significant funding restrictions for municipalities potentially impacting public safety, city programs, and staff retention. Opting out of this exemption will allow the mayor and the council to continue to make financial decisions that align with our principles and needs of the City of Warm Springs community. Residents may address the Mayor and Council Members at three public hearings.

It is important to also note to our community residents that the decision to Opt-Out will not affect any existing exemptions for the City of Warm Springs residents.

Subscribe to *The Star-Mercury-Vindicator*

Call (706) 846-3188

## OFFICER NEEDED

The City of Warm Springs is now accepting applications for **Police Chief position**. The Police Chief will serve as the head of the Warm Springs Police Department, responsible for overseeing all police operations, ensuring the safety and security of the community, and maintaining public order. This is a working-chief position which requires the Chief to be actively engaged in day-to-day policing activities, emergency on-call, as well as administrative and leadership responsibilities.

Job Type: Full-time/Salaried

Pay: Starting at \$48,000.00 per year

Interested candidates should submit a resume, cover letter, and three (3) professional references to [r.crampton@warmsspringsga.gov](mailto:r.crampton@warmsspringsga.gov), by 4:30 pm on Friday, February 12th, 2025.

## INTENT TO OPT OUT OF HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

The City Council of Woodbury intends to opt out of the statewide adjusted base year ad valorem homestead exemption for the City of Woodbury. All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearing on this matter to be held at **Woodbury Municipal Complex on February 6th, 2025, from 6 pm - 7 pm**. Times and places of additional public hearings on this matter are at **Woodbury Municipal Complex February 13th, 2025 and February 24th, 2025 from 6 pm - 7 pm**.



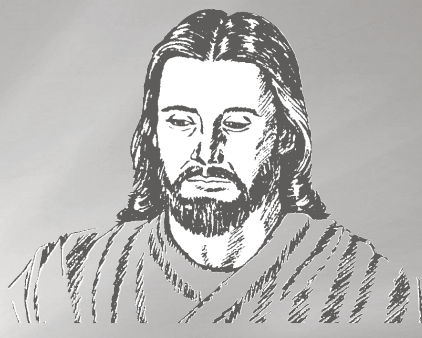
The report stated that Parham and the four juveniles had been charged with one count of burglary and that Barnes had been charged with two counts of burglary.



## Church News and Events

Send your church announcements to *The Manchester Star-Mercury/Meriwether Vindicator*  
Deadline is *noon Monday* of the week in which you want the item to run. Items received after deadline will be in next week's newspaper.  
E-mail your items to: [starmercurynews@gmail.com](mailto:starmercurynews@gmail.com). Items are only accepted via e-mail. Sorry, no .pdf files accepted.  
Dated events are listed in chronological order; regular ongoing events and announcements are listed after the dated events.

*Don't be afraid, for I am  
with you.  
Don't be discouraged,  
for I am your God.*



### Special Church Announcements

#### Family and Friends Day

To All our Church Families, Friends, Surrounding Church Neighbors and Community, New Arbor Community Church invites you to our Annual Family and Friends Day, Sunday March 2nd at 11:00 a.m. Because of last year and being so well supported, we are again having a Commemorative Balloon Release, for Love ones we have lost and passed on. You do not have to be a member of this church nor does your Love ones have to have been buried at this church. This is a Community Wide Event. Please bring your Inflated Balloons to be release and let's pray and worship and commemorate together. We pray our Families and Friends stay well blessed in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Thank you in advance for your support in making this a memorable day. New Arbor Community Church is located at 1150 Arbor Chapel Road in Warm Springs.

#### Gospel Music Singing

Evans Chapel's Gospel Music Singing nights will start up again on Saturday, March 29th, at 6 p.m. We love to host gospel groups that everyone enjoys and hope you'll come join us in this old-time tradition. Light refreshments. Everyone welcome and encouraged to attend. Evans Chapel is located at 3436 Chalybeate Springs Road in Woodland.

### Ongoing Church Announcements

#### Invited to Services

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, located at the intersection of Judson Bulloch Rd & Roosevelt Hwy at 2904 Judson Bulloch Rd, Warm Springs, GA 31830. All are invited to celebrate the Mass with our community & officiated by our pastor Reverend Timothy Gadziala every Sunday at 2pm.

#### First Methodist Manchester Food Pantry

The First Methodist Church, located at 206 Broad Street, Manchester announces a Food Pantry for the community each third Wednesday of the month. The food pantry is located in the fellowship hall. Times are 10:00am - noon.

#### Faith Baptist Church Services

Faith Baptist Church - We are located at 11844 Whitehouse Pkwy, Woodbury, GA 30293. Come join with us for Sunday School at 10 a.m. and Sunday worship 11 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study at 6 p.m. Pastor David Dodgen. Phone (706) 333-5999. Follow us on Facebook - Faith Baptist Church-Woodbury.

#### New Arbor Community Church Services

New Arbor Community Church (Formerly known as Arbor Chapel U.M.C.) located on 1150 Arbor Chapel Road, Warm Springs, GA. (Stovall Community) invites everyone to attend regular worship services on First and Third Sunday at 11:00 A.M. Phone Number: 706-663-4113. Matt. 18:20 "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Rev. Jimmy Hardnett, Jr. Pastor.

#### Mt. Sinai Church Announces New Pastor

The Mt. Sinai C.M. E. Church is announcing our new pastor: Rev. John Pollard and our new worship service time. Our services will be held every second and third Sunday at 11a.m. We welcome you to join us to be motivated and encouraged by our pastor and the members of the Mt. Sinai C.M. E. Church. If there are questions or concerns please contact Barbara B. Russell at (404) 242-6421.

#### Trinity CME In-Person Services

Trinity CME Church in the Durand Community Sunday Services will be in person on the first and fourth Sundays, and by telephone conference on the second and third Sundays. The telephone conference number is 720-843-2834 and Passcode is 6398632. Masks are required for in-person service along with social distancing. Rev. William Spratling, Pastor.

#### Church of Christ at Greentown Heights

The Church of Christ at Greentown Heights is open to worshippers of all ages and backgrounds. We are committed to the teachings of Christ and to spread His message. Feel free to visit one of our services at 407 Roger Brawner Avenue, Manchester, GA. Bible Classes are Wednesdays at 11:00 am and 7:00 pm. Classes are held for all ages at 7:00 pm. Sunday: Sunday School classes for all ages begin at 9:45 am; Worship Service at 11:00 am. We also offer in home Bible studies and free bible correspondence classes. For more information contact Brother Joey Waller at 706-846-2792 or 706-441-0181.

#### Warm Springs United Methodist Services

Warm Springs United Methodist Church - Sunday Worship 10am. Just ordinary people doing the best we can to worship & serve an extraordinary God. We don't have all the answers, but we know someone who does. We are a traditional progressive church where ALL people are welcome.

#### Youth/Children Services Weekly

The Anointed Remnant-Church, Columbus Georgia has resume In-Person worship service in the circle of Warm Springs and Blackmon Road each Sunday. Located next to Flat Rock Park. We also, have Wednesday's night bible study. Worship service starts at 11:00 am on Sundays and 6:30 pm on Wednesdays. POC: 706-325-5769.

#### Souls for Christ

Souls for Christ Church, located at 444 Todd Road in Greenville, invites you to join us every 2nd and 4th service at 11:00 a.m. Bible

Study Tuesday at 6 p.m. Evangelist Sue Ann Reid.

#### Arise Ministry Podcast

Be sure to tune in to the Arise Ministry Pod Cast from Hogansville First Baptist Church which airs a new program every Sunday at 5:30PM. Gary Blanks, Randy Brady, Kevin Folds, Bill Dollar, and occasional guests talk about life in recovery. They talk about serious issues with humor, empathy, and joy, and it will be well worth your time to listen. The podcasts may be found on Facebook, Spotify, or YouTube.

#### Transportation for Friendship Missionary Church

The Transportation Ministry for Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Woodland will be picking up people who would love to come to our church service! The service will be available every Sunday from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Masks and social distancing are required. Contact Clarence Leonard at (706) 427-3443 or Scott Hope at (706) 573-8231.

#### Harvest Time Clothing and Shoes

Harvest Time Community Baptist Church offers Free clothing and shoes to needed Families in the Harris, Troup, Coweta, and Meriwether Counties. If you know of a needed family in your area, please call Mrs. Geneva Blackmon at 706-400-4158. Our service area has expanded since 2017, and we now need volunteers to help distribute clothing in each area. For more info, please email the church at [harvesttimeom2@gmail.com](mailto:harvesttimeom2@gmail.com) or call the Church at 706-400-4158 to our website [www.itsharvesttime.org](http://www.itsharvesttime.org). Harvest Time Community Baptist Church is located 6710 Whitesville Rd, West Point, Ga. Phone 706-400-4158. W. "Bill" Blackmon, Pastor.

#### Change in Service Time

Valley Grove Baptist Church, Manchester (Tax), will have services on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am until further notice. Safeguards are in place to insure social distancing and masks are required. Hand sanitizer will also be available for use. All are welcome to attend.

#### Feed My Sheep

The Grace Of Christ Ministries, at 3894 Hwy 85 Manchester, Ga 31816, invites you to worship with them. ORDER OF SERVICE: Sunday: Bible Teaching, 10:30am; Worship Service 11:00am. Founder/Bishop: Bishop Dr. Eric Johnson. Contact Number: 678-622-1458. Blessed by the Best!

#### Harvest Time Outreach Shoe Drive

Pine Mountain Church Need Your Help! Harvest Time Community Baptist Church launches a State-wide shoe Drive by committing to collecting 25,000 pairs of new or slightly worn shoes for developing nations. It's hard to believe that an estimated 600 million pairs of shoes go into America's landfills. The bulk of these shoes can still be worn. The slightly worn or new shoes that Harvest Time Community Baptist Church collect will be kept from landfills and will help others in developing countries. Can you collect or donate 25 pairs of shoes and help? With many people doing a small thing we can achieve great results. Remember, if you can't collect 25, every pair counts. For more info or pickup in your area, please call Ms. Geneva Blackmon, Outreach Ministry Director at 706-400-4158 or email us at [harvesttimeom2@gmail.com](mailto:harvesttimeom2@gmail.com)

#### Harvest Time Bible Study

Harvest Time Community Baptist Community Church Bible study has been changed from Monday to Wednesday evening at 6:00pm.. This Bible study is open to the whole family. Our Sunday morning service starts with Sunday school at 10:30am and morning worship at 11:00am. Everyone is invited. Harvest Time Community Baptist Church is located 6710 Whitesville Rd, West Point, Ga.

#### Pentecostal Services

The Pentecostals of Woodbury welcome you to come and worship with us each Sunday at 10 AM at 500 Flat Shoals Rd in Woodbury, Georgia. For more information contact Pastor Philip Murray at 706-957-3230.

#### Services Offered

Harvest Time Community Baptist Church now offers: Free counselling to veterans, Veterans benefits reference help, Free clothings to veterans and needed families, and Free family counselling. Call the Church at 706-400-4158 for more information and an Appointment. Bill Blackmon, MABC, Pastor. Harvest Time Community Baptist Church is located 6710 Whitesville Rd, West Point, Ga.

#### Caring & Sharing Food Pantry

The Woodbury Baptist Church Caring & Sharing Food Pantry is open the third Thursday of each month from 1:00 pm til 3:00 pm. The church is located at 106 Dromedary Street, Woodbury, Georgia 30293. Pantry is at the rear entrance of the church.

#### Good Neighbor

If you are in need of clothing, shoes, kitchen items, we have 2 baby mattresses, sheets and a few comforters and more. You can call shirley at 706-457-3937 or text her what you are in need of - your size, or your childrens sizes. We will pull it and call you when you can come by and pick your items up at the door. If you have questions contact Shirley at 706-457-3937.

#### Alcoholics Anonymous

If you or a loved one needs help with a drinking problem, Alcoholics Anonymous can help. There are meetings available throughout Meriwether County. Sunday 7:30PM Jones Chapel - Imlac, GA; Monday 8PM Greenville Baptist Church - Greenville, GA; Tuesday 7:30PM Jones Chapel - Imlac, GA; Thursday 8PM First Baptist Church - Pine Mountain, GA.

#### Al-Anon

Are you troubled by someone's drinking? Al-Anon can help! Local meetings are held Sundays at 7:30 p.m. at Jones Chapel Church in Imlac.

#### Bethesda Baptist Church Food Bank

Bethesda Baptist Church Food Bank in Ellerslie is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Our ministry priority is to help those in need in our surrounding communities with food, prayer and encouragement.

#### Food Pantry

Luthersville Baptist Church Food Pantry is open to distribute food in a driveup fashion every Tuesday at 30 Park Street Luthersville, Ga. To receive food everyone needs to be there by between 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Bonnetta's Cupboard Food Pantry is open on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month from noon until 1:00 pm at Greenville Methodist Church, 502 N. Talbotton Street, Greenville, GA.

The Woodbury Baptist Church Caring & Sharing Food Pantry is open the third Thursday of each month from 1:00 pm til 3:00 pm. The church is located at 106 Dromedary Street, Woodbury, Georgia 30293. Pantry is at the rear entrance of the church.

#### How to Submit News

Submit brief church news items to: [starmercurynews@gmail.com](mailto:starmercurynews@gmail.com) by noon Monday. Items **must** be e-mailed; faxed, mailed, or hand-delivered items are no longer accepted.

Items are **only** accepted via e-mail.

Items should pertain to special events, not routine services.

All items received are subject to standard editing for context and grammar.

## Idiotic Moments

Sometimes I amaze myself. When I think I cannot do anything to top my latest idiotic blunder, figuratively speaking, I look at myself in the mirror and tell myself, "Here, hold our sweet tea and watch this!" On February 3, 2025, about an hour before I sat at my computer to write this column, I experienced one of those idiotic, sweet-tea-holding moments. I was in my office/studio upstairs when I received a call from a gentleman I didn't know. He was calling to see if he could schedule me to preach at their church. He explained that they were without a pastor and were looking for someone to help them. Now, understand that the calendar I use to keep up with my appointments is on my cell phone. Usually, I carry it in my shirt pocket. So, after the gentleman told me who he was and what he wanted, he gave me some dates and asked if I could preach for them. I told him I would be glad to come if I was available. I said, "Let me check my calendar." And with that, I reached into the pocket where I keep my cell phone. Horror of horrors! It wasn't there. I told him, "Well, I don't know what I did with my cell phone; maybe I left it in my car." So, with him still on the line, I walked down the stairs, through the house, and headed toward the backdoor and my car. My wife was standing in the kitchen adjacent to the mudroom I had to go through. I paused and asked her, "Have you seen my phone? Did you see me pick it up at the restaurant? Reckon I left it in my car?" She said, "Yes, I've seen your cell phone." I asked, "Well, where is it?" She shot me that - "You're as dumb as a post and not half as useful!" look. She cracked up and said, "You're holding it to your ear, talking on it!" Ugh! I knew that! Amazingly, the gentleman booked me to preach anyway! Needless to say, that little escapade, for the moment, occupies first place in my life for the dumbest idiotic things I've done!

While I cannot insulate myself from idiotic moments as described above, nor can I insulate you from them, I did run across a list of fifteen things that somebody wrote that will help all of us in life. I believe Jay Yang is the name of the gentleman who wrote these; however, I'm not sure. All I know for sure is that I

**Rev. Aaron McCollough**  
Columnist



didn't write them, but they are good. I hope they help you:

1. Fear doesn't stop death; it stops life.
2. If it costs you your peace, it's too expensive.
3. People only see the decisions you made, not the choices you had.
4. Never take criticism from someone you wouldn't take advice from.
5. The magic you're looking for is in the work you're avoiding.
6. Ships are safe in the harbor, but that's not what they're built for.
7. Ambition without action turns into anxiety.
8. To live a life most people don't, you must be willing to do what most people won't.
9. You can do anything, but not everything - focus!
10. If you want to make the wrong decision, ask everybody.
11. Those who don't move won't notice their chains.
12. It's okay to live a life most people don't understand.
13. If someone could only see your actions, and not hear your words, what would they say your priorities are?
14. You can't have a new reality with an old mentality.
15. No risk, no story.

If the story and list I shared made you smile and encouraged you, I accomplished my goal with this column.

We're all human, and we all do human things! Our lives are filled with "idiotic moments." We all do things that aren't so smart. Occasionally, we just flat-out blow it! But Spiritually speaking, the most idiotic thing anybody can do - is to walk through life looking for Jesus - when all along He is in your hand and ear speaking to you.

- Bro. Aaron

Rev. Aaron McCollough is the retired Associational Missionary for the Troup Baptist Association, which serves Harris, Meriwether, and Troup Counties, Georgia. You may correspond with him at: [freshfire@mindspring.com](mailto:freshfire@mindspring.com)



# School Board Opting Out Of HB 581 Exemption

Submitted to the S-M-V

The Meriwether County Board of Education intends to opt out of the statewide adjusted base year ad valorem homestead exemption for the Meriwether County School District. All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearing on this matter to be held at the Meriwether County Board of Education on Friday, January 31, 2025, at 8 AM. Times and places of additional public hearings on this matter are at the Meriwether County Board of Education on Monday, February 10, 2025, at 11 AM and Thursday, February 13, 2025, at 6 PM.

The Meriwether County School Board wants our county to understand their decision to opt out of this Bill has not been made lightly. This Bill is confusing, and the language we are

required to use in the public notices only misleads and adds to the confusion. This decision reflects the Board's commitment to protecting the financial stability of the school system and prioritizing the needs of students, staff, and the schools.

The Board supports responsible tax relief; however, failing to opt out of HB 581 would lock the School System into uncertainty regarding its long-term financial future. It is important to note that the decision to opt out of HB 581 does not impact the current local freeze exemption, Georgia's homestead tax exemption, or exemptions for veterans. We are determined to be sensitive to the taxpayer's financial pressures in addition to the needs of our students. Every person on the Board owns property and pays taxes.

While keeping the school

taxes flat through local actions, we have increased teacher salaries to be more competitive, expanded student support for success, updated our curriculum, significantly increased school safety, given our teachers more training, and eliminated our debt thus allowing the School Board to issue bonds in 2024 for the purpose of improving school facilities. The School Board has a consistent record of responsible use of our taxing authority and will continue the same common-sense approach. We will continue to be careful managers of your money and ask that you continue to place your trust in us rather than politicians who do not live, work, and learn in Meriwether County.

The Board's decision reflects a steadfast dedication to the future of Meriwether County's students and the long-term prosperity of the county.



Photo Submitted

**HES ACADEMIC BOWL TEAM PLACES SOLID SECOND** - The 2025 Greenwave Academic Bowl Team, coached by Gary Jones & Kasey Sewell, finished the season with a solid 2nd place finish at their final meet hosted by Moreland Elementary. Their cumulative point total from all their meets earned them a 3rd place spot in their division. This advances the team on to the final championship round which is slated to be hosted by Willis Road Elementary on Tuesday, February 25th. During the season, the Greenwaves only dropped one head-to-head round versus Eastside out of Senoia, Georgia. Looking forward, the team is preparing to take on the best of the best by focusing on confidence and teamwork. This year's team consists of: Josie Crews, Nolan Couch, Cameron Bryant, Lucas Pike, Xion Carter, Rayden Towry, Haven Cook, Ainsley Thomas, Sawyer Votis and Journee Kenerley.



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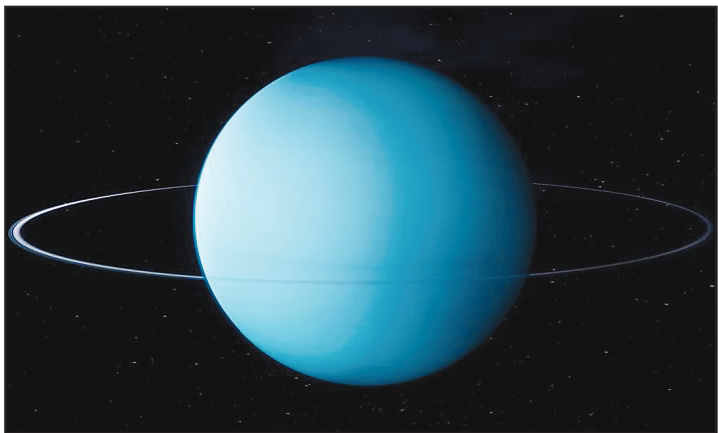


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# FEATURES & CLASSIFIEDS

The Manchester Star-Mercury/Meriwether Vindicator • Thursday, February 13, 2025 • Page 7-A



File Photos  
**RINGS AROUND URANUS** - Though many do not realize it, the planet Uranus also has a ring system. Other than being dark, not much is known about the rings.

## A True Ice World

By ANDY KOBER

As the journey in our Solar System continues, the next planet is Uranus.

The seventh planet from the Sun, Uranus is another gas giant, has an ice mantle, and most importantly – is backyard astronomer Ms. Lynn's favorite planet.

Like our other gas giants, Uranus has rings though not nearly as pronounced as Saturn's. Scientists report that Uranus is made up of water, ammonia, and methane. The planet has a bluish cast though difficult to see with the unaided eye.

Ms Lynn notes the ice mantle is not ice in the conventional sense, but rather a dense fluid of water, ammonia and other chemicals.

German-British Astronomer William Herschel discovered Uranus in 1781 though initially thought it to be a comet. In diameter, Uranus is the third largest planet in our Solar System and the fourth largest in mass. Its mass is about 14-1/2 times that of Earth, and physically Uranus is four times the size of Earth.

Uranus also has an axial tilt with a retrograde rotation. Each of the planet's poles has 42 years of continuous sunlight followed by 42 years of continued darkness. It orbits the Sun every 84 Earth years.

Ms Lynn agrees with scientists



in postulating that Uranus has a rocky solid core with an atmosphere primarily of hydrogen and helium along with carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide.

To date, 28 natural satellites have been discovered orbiting Uranus, including 18 regular moons - 13 inner moons and five major moons: Ariel, Miranda, Oberon, Titania, and Umbriel. There are also 10 irregular moons.

Much about Uranus remains unknown and it has been visited by a single spacecraft and that was *Voyager 2* in 1986.

The name Uranus and how it came about is actually interesting. When pushed to name the planet he had discovered, Herschel's decision was "Georgium Sidus" or George's Star to honor King George III. This did not prove widely popular. Other suggestions included Neptune, George III and Neptune Great Britain, which also caused issues. In 1782 the name Uranus would be recommended and adopted, and Ms Lynn considers that to have been a grand idea. Uranus comes from the Greek god of the sky whose name was Uranus.

It is the only planet named for a Greek deity.

**LOOK FOR** the International Space Station.

\* **Thursday, Feb. 13**, the space station should be visible for about five minutes beginning at 5:59 am. Look south-southwest about 20 degrees above the horizon and the space station should appear. It will track to the east-northeast reaching a height of about 44 degrees above the horizon.

\* **Friday, Feb. 14**, the space station should be visible for about six minutes beginning at 6:47 am. Look west about 10 degrees above the horizon and the space station should appear. It will track to the north-northeast reaching a height of about 26 degrees above the horizon.

\* **Saturday, Feb. 15**, the space station should be visible for about three minutes beginning at 6:01 am. Look northwest about 10 degrees above the horizon and the space station should appear. It will track to the northeast reaching a height of about 47 degrees above the horizon.

## This Week In American History



File Photo  
**REAL HORROR** - Survivors of the bombing of Dresden that took place this week in 1945 are shown shifting through debris and rubble searching for victims, bodies and anything that can be salvaged.

### 1945 - Dresden is Firebombed During World War II

By ANDY KOBER

Here is what happened this week in American History.

• **Feb. 12.** On this day in 1825, the Creek Indians give up their remaining lands in Georgia to the US and migrate west as part of the Treaty of Indian Springs. Four years earlier the Creek had ceded all of their lands east of the Flint River. The Treaty of Indian Springs was signed at what is now the Indian Springs Hotel Museum in Indian Springs, Georgia.

• **Feb. 13.** In 1945, the most intense bombing of World War II takes place with Dresden being the target. Today will start four bombing raids lasting over 48 hours with the British bombing at night and USAAF, or United States Army Air Force, aircraft during the day. The effort involved over 770 bombers from the Royal Air Force, nearly 530 B-17 Flying Fortress heavy bombers and nearly 800 P-51 Mustang fighters. More than 3,900 tons of bombs were dropped – a mixture of high explosive and incendiary devices. It was a nightmare for Dresden as defenses were immediately overwhelmed and largely silenced. The German Luftwaffe only managed to put 28 night fighters in the air. The intense bombings created a firestorm the likes of which had never been seen. More than 1,600 acres in the center of Dresden were devastated. Cultural and historic landmarks were destroyed. Upwards of 25,000 people were killed. A post-bombing report indicated that 23 percent of the industrial buildings and 56 percent of non-industrial buildings had been seriously damaged. In addition, 78,000 residences had been completely destroyed with nearly 28,000 left uninhabitable. The USAAF lost a single B-17 during the attack. The German people are reaping what Adolf Hitler and the Luftwaffe had done to England earlier in the war.

• **Feb. 14.** Today in 1945, Prague is accidentally bombed by American aircraft in an incident connected to the massive bombing of Dresden. Forty B-17 Flying Fortress heavy bombers dropped 152 tons of bombs on Prague, thinking they were attacking Dresden. It would be determined the radar navigational equipment on the lead bomber not functioning properly plus high winds had the bombers about 70 miles off course. It has been noted that both Prague and Dresden were similar in appearance from the air with rivers bisecting both. Over 700 people are killed with nearly 1,200 wounded.

• **Feb. 15.** On this day in 1933, President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt is giving an impromptu speech from an open car in the Bayfront Park of Miami, Florida. Quite a crowd had gathered and in the crowd was Giuseppe Zangara, an immigrant originally from Italy. Zangara was slight of stature, not in the best health, and worked menial odd jobs. This night he was carrying a .32 caliber handgun with the intention of shooting Roosevelt. At just over five feet tall, Zangara could not see over the crowd and climbed on a bench just 25 feet from Roosevelt then aimed

the gun over a woman's shoulder. The woman was Lillian Cross and when she saw the gun, Cross pushed Zangara's hand up and to the side as he was shooting. Roosevelt was uninjured but five people in the crowd were, including Chicago Mayor Anton Cermak who would die from the wounds. Zangara was tried and convicted of a number of charges including murder. He would be executed about a month later.

• **Feb. 16.** In 1961, the probe *Explorer 9* is launched from the Wallops Flight Facility on Wallops Island, Virginia. Cameras on *Explorer 9* allowed scientists to survey the Earth's exosphere and confirm the atmosphere's bulge in the upper areas. *Explorer 9* would be the first probe placed in orbit by an all-solid rocket booster. The probe reentered Earth's atmosphere in 1964 and burned during reentry.

• **Feb. 17.** Today in 1970, US Army Captain and medical doctor Jeffrey MacDonald is charged with murdering his wife, who was pregnant, and their two daughters. Military police responded to a call for help from the MacDonald's on-base home. They arrived to a scene of carnage. Colette had been stabbed in the chest with an ice pick 21 times and stabbed 16 times in the neck and chest with a knife. She had been beaten with both forearms broken. Five-year old Kimberly had been stabbed with a knife multiple times and been beaten around her head and neck, and her skull had been fractured. Two-year old Kristen had been stabbed with a knife over 30 times over her chest, neck and back. She had also been stabbed repeatedly with an ice pick. MacDonald, appearing injured and unconscious, was in bed with his wife. During the investigation, MacDonald would claim that three men and a woman attacked the family in their home. No suspects were found on base and as the investigation progressed MacDonald became a suspect. It would be in 1975 before MacDonald would be indicted by a civilian grand jury on three counts of murder. The trial was held in 1979 and he was found guilty on one count of first-degree murder and two counts of second-degree murder. Despite exhaustive appeals, he is currently incarcerated at the Federal Correctional Institution in Maryland.

• **Feb. 18.** On this day in 1983, 14 people in the Wah Mee Club in Seattle are bound, robbed and shot. The Wah Mee Club apparently had a reputation as a dive bar and place for gambling, dancing, and other types of "entertainment" and had previously been raided by police. Three men identified as Kwan Fai "Willie" Mak, Keung Kin "Benjamin" Ng, and Wai Chiu "Tony" Ng entered the club. There were 14 people in the club when the assailants drew their guns. They bound customers with rope and robbed them, then shot each one in the head at least once. One survived and the other 13 died. Benjamin Ng was convicted of aggravated murder. Willie Mak was convicted of murder. Tony Ng was convicted of 13 counts of first degree robbery. He was granted parole in 2013 and subsequently deported to Hong Kong.

## Did You Know?



### Was Major League Baseball's 1969 expansion supposed to take place in 1971?

By JACK BAGLEY

didyouknowcolumn@gmail.com

This week brings Valentine's Day, and with it the memories of getting a lot of well-meaning cards back in elementary school.

In the 1960s it was left up to the classroom teacher to decide how (or if) Valentine's Day cards would be handled. My school was blessed with teachers who thought the idea was cute, so I always received several.

They were not very original, of course, since Mom and Dad bought them in packs of thirty or so, but hey - it's the thought that counts.

From then til now, I haven't received the same number of cards. But it's okay. I don't send them, either.

Happy Valentine's Day, and happy trivia!

**Did you know ...**

... what a group of goldfish is called? I'll bet you thought it was a "school," like all other fish. Nope – a group of goldfish is called a troubling. (A troubling thing to call them, I think.)

... an Illinois city honored a cartoon villain? In 2015, the state capital of Springfield was hosting a huge convention of fans of the television cartoon series *G.I. Joe*. As a part of the festivities, the keys to the city were handed by Mayor Jim Langfelder (born 1960) to Cobra Commander, the show's resident bad guy. (Somehow, that fits with Illinois. Thanks to Mason for the tip!)

... France gives medals to citizens who raise several children with dignity? The *Médaille de la Famille française* (Medal of the French Family) is awarded in three classes – bronze, silver and gold – under a 1920 law that originally honored the mothers of large families. Over the decades the award has morphed to become one recognizing children "raised well" and the oldest child in the family must be at least 16 years old. (That's an awful lot to go through just to get a medal, isn't it?)

... the number one reason for stress in many countries is money? In 2009, the cable network CNN took a poll that revealed that money is the most stressful thing in the nations of Malaysia, China, Singapore, and the United States. The nations least stressed about money in the poll were Russia, France, and Italy. (It makes one wonder ... is it having money, or not having money, that causes the stress?)

... Major League Baseball's expansion in 1969 wasn't supposed to happen until 1971? In 1967, the owner of the Kansas City Athletics, Charles O. Finley (1918-1996), moved his team to Oakland, California, making baseball fans in Kansas City very angry. So angry, in fact, that MLB promised to expand again and add a new team in the city for the 1971 season. However, that was not soon enough for one big fan, Senator Stuart Symington (1901-1988) of Missouri.

## CLASSIFIEDS

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Road, said point located 0.15 miles East of the Southwest corner of Grantors property; thence running North 16 degrees 10 min. West along a fence line for a distance of 181.0 feet to a point; thence running North 75 degrees 30 min. East for a distance of 265.0 feet to a point; thence running South 20 degrees 00 min. East for a distance of 165.0 feet to the North right of way of Stovall-Greenville Road to a point; thence running South 72 degrees 02 min. West along said right of way for a distance of 276.0 feet to the point of beginning. Land Lot 97 of the 7th District.

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The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note and Security Deed. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in Security Deed and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).

Your mortgage servicer, SN Servicing Corporation, as servicer for U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee for LB-Ranch Series V Trust, can be contacted at 800-603-0836 or by writing to 323 5th Street Eureka, CA 95501, to discuss possible alternatives to avoid foreclosure.

Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.

To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the parties in possession of the property are Estate of Willie L. Woods and Carolyn Boyd or tenant(s); and said property is more commonly known as 7656

Stovall Road, Greenville, GA 30222.

The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the security deed.

U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee for LB-Ranch Series V Trust as Attorney in Fact for Willie L. Woods and Carolyn Boyd  
McMichael Taylor Gray, LLC  
3550 Engineering Drive, Suite 260  
Peachtree Corners, GA 30092  
404-474-7149  
MTG File No.: GA2025-01219

(2:6,13,20,27)

030

NOTICE OF SALE  
UNDER POWER

STATE OF GEORGIA,  
COUNTY OF PIKE

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the power of sale contained in an unrecorded Real Estate Installment Sale Contract executed and delivered on December 23, 2017, by **TIMOTHY P. COLE and BRITTANY G. DOANE to Reliance Realty Holdings, LLC, as Grantee**, and by virtue of default in payment in indebtedness therein mentioned, which has made the aforesaid power of sale operative and effective, the undersigned, **Reliance Realty Holdings, LLC, as Attorney in fact for TIMOTHY P. COLE and BRITTANY G. DOANE** will sell at public outcry before the Courthouse door in Meriwether County, Georgia, on the **first Tuesday in March, 2025**, during the legal hours of sale, to the highest bidder for cash, the property described in said Security Deed to-wit:

**all that tract or parcel of land containing 3.52 acres, more or less, lying and being in Landlot 42 of the 10th Land District of Meriwether County, Georgia, and being more particularly shown and designated as LOT 4 - 3.52+- ACRES according to that certain plat of survey entitled "Final Plat of Panther Creek Farms", dated August 12, 1998, prepared by Steve J. Reeves, Georgia Registered Professional Land Surveyor #2765, a copy of which said plat is recorded in Plat Book 17, Page 273, Clerk's Office, Superior Court, Meriwether County, Georgia, and**

which said plat, together with the metes, bounds, courses and distances as shown thereon with respect to the said 3.52+- acres, is by this reference incorporated herein in aid of this description as fully as if copied at length herein.

Also conveyed with the above-described real property is that particular Manufactured Home Serial #GMHGA6340102039AB. Said home has been permanently attached to the subject property and the title has been officially retired as evidence by the Certificate of Permanent Location recorded at Deed Book 630, page 286, Meriwether County Superior Court Clerk's Office.

Notice of the initiation of proceedings to exercise the power of sale in the Deed to Secure Debt hereinabove referenced has been given and of grantees intention to collect attorney's fees in connection herewith as required by law.

The note executed on December 23, 2017, by **TIMOTHY P. COLE and BRITTANY G. DOANE as Grantor, to Reliance Realty Holdings, LLC as Grantee**, and secured by said Real Estate Installment Sale Contract, is now in default and the said Reliance Realty Holdings, LLC does so elect that said indebtedness, with principal and interest, become due and payable at once.

The said property shall be sold subject to all outstanding taxes and assessments against said property.

The proceeds from said sale shall be distributed as follows:

1. to pay the expense of said sale;
2. to pay all indebtedness secured by said Real Estate Installment Sale Contract;
3. to pay attorneys fees; and
4. to distribute any excess proceeds as provided by law.

This 31st day of January, 2025.

**eliance Realty Holdings, LLC  
As Attorney in Fact for  
TIMOTHY P. COLE and  
BRITTANY G. DOANE**

**David G. Brisendine, III  
Attorney at Law  
P. O. Box 632  
Zebulon, GA 30295  
Phone (770)567-3080**

(2:6,13,20,27)

# Buckner to Address Sierra Club

Submitted to the *Star-Mercury-Vindicator*

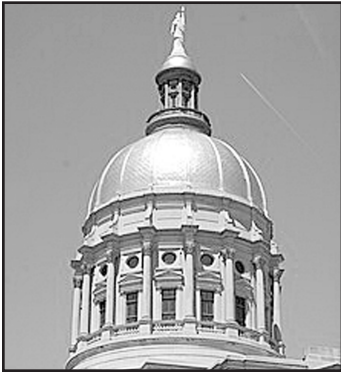
The Middle Chattahoochee Group invites everyone to our next meeting Tuesday February 18th at St. Mark's Episcopal Church at 207 N. Greenwood St.  
Refreshment and social time begin at 6:30, meeting 7PM to 8PM. Our guest speaker will be Representative Debbie Buckner and Mark Woodall. Their topic will be "Environmental Legislative Updates".  
Representative Buckner serves the citizens of House District 137 and serves as a member of the Appropriations Sub Committee on Health, and the Ways and

Means, State Properties and Technology and Infrastructure Innovation committees.  
Mark Woodall is the Legislative Chair for the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club  
The meeting can be attended in person or virtually via ZOOM. For those who can not attend please go to Middle Chattahoochee Group - Events Calendar and register for the Zoom link  
You can also connect with us on:  
• Facebook - Middle Chattahoochee Group  
- GA Sierra Club  
• MeetUp  
• Email us at midchattsieraclub@gmail.com



Photo Submitted

**CALLAWAY ELEMENTARY KICKS OFF "ONE BOOK, ONE SCHOOL"** - Callaway Elementary recently kicked off a communitywide shared reading event. "One Book, One School," encourages shared reading, incorporates the entire school community, and bridges the home-school connection. Every student and adult in our school received a copy of *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White. Families are encouraged to read together for 20 minutes each night, following the schedule that was shared with the entire school. During the school day, teachers and students participate in collaborative discussions, focus on specific reading strategies, and contribute to a schoolwide display. We can't wait to see what unfolds on the pages of this classic novel.



The Georgia House of Representatives returned to the State Capitol on Monday, February 3rd to begin the fourth week of the 2025 legislative session. With Monday marking Legislative Day 10, my colleagues and I are now more than a quarter of the way through the 40-day session. Last week, our efforts were focused on fulfilling our constitutional duty to pass a balanced budget. House Bill 67, the Amended Fiscal Year (AFY) 2025 budget, which outlines the state's spending through the end of the current fiscal year, ending June 30, 2025, passed with bipartisan support.

The House's version of the AFY 2025 budget is set by a revised estimate of \$40.5 billion, including \$2.7 billion in surplus funds for a total infusion of \$4.4 billion, which is an increase of 12.2 percent over the original Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 budget.

The House's version of the AFY 2025 budget emphasizes strengthening Georgia's economy while also prioritizing early education, healthcare, higher education, and public safety. One of the most critical areas addressed in the House's version of the amended budget is the urgent need to provide relief and funding for Georgians impacted by Hurricane Helene. Our state's budget remains robust, and I will highlight some of the House's recommendations and how they may impact our state and communities.

\$145 million to be added to the Governor's Emergency Fund to continue funding our state's emergency response efforts to the storms

Georgia Department of Transportation will be protected from the financial impact of the motor fuel tax suspension following Hurricane Helene by redirecting the lost \$98 million into the Capital Construction program, and \$200 million be allocated to routine maintenance for response efforts related to Hurricane Helene, Hurricane Debby, and flooding that took place in November 2024

\$100 million in previously authorized funds through the Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission for relief efforts, along with an additional \$150 million to support disaster relief for farmers and timber producers affected by Hurricane Helene

\$50 million for the Department of Administrative Services' property risk pool to repair state property damaged in Helene's wake.

In support of fire and environmental safety efforts, HB 67 would also direct \$15.7 million to the Georgia Forestry Commission to fund the use of firefighting helicopters and environmental cab tractors

The devastation caused by Hurricane Helene was vast, with countless homes, businesses, and infrastructure left in ruins. Many Georgia families are still struggling to rebuild their lives and property after the storm's destruction, making this funding essential for supporting recovery efforts and restoring state assets.

Following the storms, rural Georgians are facing barriers to accessing quality healthcare and challenges in receiving timely medical care. To resolve this concern, the House's version of the AFY 2025 budget provides \$35.6 million in one-time stabilization grants to support

# Under the Gold Dome

## A Report on the 2025 Georgia General Assembly

### State Representative Debbie Buckner

Georgia's rural hospitals in their recovery efforts

\$1.4 million for a \$3,000 salary enhancement for federal eligibility caseworkers, recognizing their hard work and dedication to assisting natural disaster victims

\$10 million in grant funds specifically allocated for relief from Hurricane Helene, further reinforcing the state's commitment to aiding in the recovery of those impacted by the storm

In line with our commitment to supporting rural communities, HB 67 would allocate \$28 million to rural workforce housing through grants and loans. This funding aims to boost rural workforce development by increasing housing availability in these areas

\$20 million in grants for rural site development, which would support local economic growth and help communities create development-ready sites

\$50 million for school security grants, which would provide \$21,635 per school for one-time security expenses. When combined with the \$109 million in base funding, school systems would receive a total of \$68,759 per school in FY 2025

\$3 million is allocated to the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) to establish funds for a school risk assessment system

\$7.42 million in new lottery funds for the Department of Early Care and Learning to implement recommendations from the House Early Childhood Education Working Group. These recommendations include raising pay for Pre-K lead teachers and assistant teachers to align lead teacher salaries to the State Board of Education schedule and strengthening the Pre-K workforce

\$160,000 in one-time funding to the Governor's Office of Student Achievement to establish a Regional Crisis Recovery Network in partnership with the Southern Regional Education Board. This network would train counselors and deploy them to provide psychological first aid to students following traumatic events, such as natural disasters or school shootings  
One-time \$25 million investment for Mercer School of Medicine, aimed at expanding learning opportunities and training physicians to practice in rural, underserved communities where healthcare needs are most critical

\$25 million investment for Morehouse School of Medicine to support faculty recruitment and retention, modernize the medical curriculum, and expand the pathway and career academy program

\$2 million be allocated to the HOPE Grant program, which would support increased usage and expanded eligibility

\$6 million for HOPE Scholarships, bringing the total appropriation to \$852 million, which would benefit more than 300,000 students across the state

\$22.2 million to the Georgia Department of Human Services to address the growth in foster care and the rising costs associated with that care, and \$1.7 million to fund a special victim's unit within the department, which would be focused on rescuing foster youth from sexual exploitation.

\$1 million to the Georgia Department of Veterans



Services to open a sub-acute unit for veterans with severe mental illness and brain injuries and \$1.5 million to cover rising healthcare costs at veterans nursing homes

The House is also dedicated to addressing the critical needs within Georgia's corrections system, including correctional officers, staff and inmates, which remains a top priority this legislative session.

\$333.6 million for the Georgia Department of Corrections, including:

- \$214 million earmarked for safety, security and technology upgrades

- \$35 million allocated specifically for security technology to combat contraband

- \$50.6 million for inmate healthcare services

- \$15 million for the creation of a state-owned electronic healthcare records system

- \$10.5 million would also be allocated for new body cameras and tasers to enhance the safety of both officers and inmates

- \$7.2 million would be set aside for the Over Watch Logistics Unit to provide continuous surveillance and response coordination

HB 67 now heads to the Senate for consideration, where it will undergo a similar review process. Once the Senate has reviewed the House's version, they may propose changes, and if that happens, the Senate's version of the amended budget will return to the House for further review. If the two chambers cannot reach an agreement, a conference committee will be appointed to resolve any differences between the two versions. Once both chambers can reach an agreement, the final version of the amended budget will be sent to the governor for signature. This same process will be followed for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 budget, which is what we will turn our attention to next.

On Tuesday, we honored firefighters from across the state during the 53rd Firefighters Recognition Day at the State Capitol. Thursday, we celebrated Georgia National Guard Day by presenting Major General Richard Dwayne Wilson with a resolution honoring the dedication and sacrifice of the National Guard's members.

We also recognized the 50th anniversary of Morehouse School of Medicine, presenting President Valerie Montgomery Rice with a resolution for the school's outstanding contributions to the community and the entire state.

The Georgia House of Representatives will continue its legislative work on Monday, February 10th as we begin our fifth week of session. With Crossover Day quickly approaching, we're gearing up for a busy period ahead, where bills and resolutions must pass out of their respective chambers. As always, I encourage you to reach out with any questions or concerns about the work being done at the Capitol.

Contact *The Star-Mercury-Vindicator*

E-mail: [starmercurynews@gmail.com](mailto:starmercurynews@gmail.com)

Phone: (706) 846-3188

Mail: P.O. Box 426, Manchester, GA 31816



# How the All-Time Hogansville High Girls Basketball Team Was Chosen

By TODD PIKE

To say finding information about Hogansville High girls basketball teams was difficult some years would be a HUGE understatement. One year, I could find only one short article giving the outcome of a girls game that included individual scoring totals. Other years, I couldn't even find that many! While articles from the mid-70s through the 90s were usually helpful, the 1950s through the early 70s, for the most part, were void of all but the sparsest coverage. The same goes for 1995-96. After the team picture appeared at the beginning of that season, there was not another mention of the team for the entire year.

This lack of coverage, combined with very little information in most old yearbooks, made it difficult to find information and statistics for some players who might have merited inclusion on the All-Time Hogansville High School Girls Basketball Team. This was especially true of the 3 on 3 era that ended in 1969. With that said, I did speak to many former players and several coaches, both

recently and from 2008-2012, when induction ceremonies for the Hogansville High School Sports Hall Of Fame were held. Their memories were very helpful for this project.

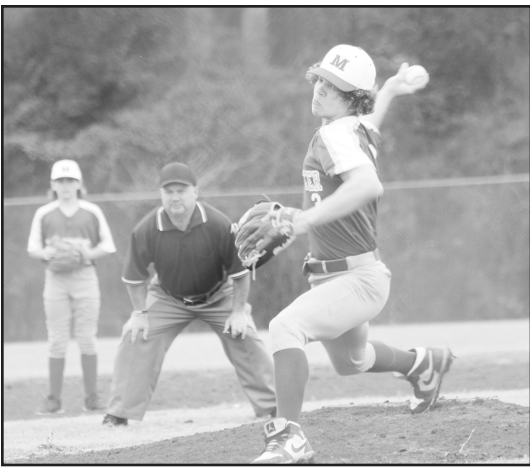
Many years, no Most Valuable Player award was given for girls basketball. While there were All-Christmas Tournament Team selections as early as 1974, it wasn't until 1979 that the LaGrange Daily News began selecting an All-Area team in girls basketball, thirteen years after All-Area teams were chosen for boys. This also prevented more recognition from being bestowed upon players from those years.

With these roadblocks in mind, I used the following criteria to help with my selections for the HHS All-Time Team. All-State honors are most important, followed by being named to the All-State Tournament Team. Next would be All-District, as districts had more teams than regions. All-Region, All-West Georgia, All-Columbus Valley and playing in college were next in importance. LaGrange Daily News All-Area recognition was next, followed by

WTRP Radio All-Area, then All-Sub Region Tournament and All-Christmas Tournament honors. Team MVP awards were next, followed by other team honors. Team accomplishments were also considered, in order from state tournament play, District Titles, Region Titles, Christmas Tournament titles and Region Runner-Up finishes.

I made probably two dozen trips looking up stats for this project. With that said, I know some people will not agree with some of my choices. My purpose is to recognize who I think are the best players, not to upset anyone. Everyone out there is free to name their own team. Next week, I'll name my All-Time Coaching Staff.

*Todd Pike is a correspondent for the Star-Mercury Vindicator and has work tirelessly to preserve the history of athletics at Hogansville High School. Pike is a resident of Hogansville and a graduate of Hogansville High School. The newspaper would like to thank Todd Pike for his contributions to the Star-Mercury Vindicator and his efforts to preserve history.*



Photographs By Mary Byers

**MANCHESTER MIDDLE SCHOOL BASEBALL BEGINS** - In the top left photograph, Isaiah Dixon threw heat against Chattahoochee County this past Saturday in Cusseta. In the right photograph, Isaiah Gribble hustles in to lob the ball to first base against Chattahoochee County.



Photographs By Mary Byers

**KEEPING ON TOP OF THE GAME** - In the left photograph, Kennon Elder and Isaiah Dixon meet at the mound to reset and encourage each other for the next inning. In the right photograph, after an attempt by Chattahoochee County to pick him off, Kennon Elder slides into home for the Manchester Middle School Blue Devils.



Submitted Photo

**COLLEGE GREEK NIGHT AT GREENVILLE HIGH SCHOOL** - Greenville High School recently hosted a "College Greek Night" where they invited members of the Divine Nine (D9) Greek Letter Organizations out to be recognized during halftime of a basketball game. Each group was recognized with information such as their founding year, location of founding and programs that they facilitate through their organizations. Members of the Divine Nine include Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. (ΑΦΑ), Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (ΑΚΑ), Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. (ΚΑΨ), Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. (ΩΨΦ), Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. (ΔΣΘ), Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. (ΦΒΣ), Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. (ΖΦΒ), Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. (ΣΓΡ), and Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc. (ΙΦΘ). Each of the organizations serves Meriwether County and the surrounding areas through various service projects and host events in the area. Pictured above are members that were in attendance, (front row l-r, Zeta Phi Beta, Delta Sigma Theta, Kappa Alpha Psi, Alpha Phi Alpha and Alpha Kappa Alpha). Back row, l-r Phi Beta Sigma, Delta Sigma Theta, Kappa Alpha Psi and Alpha Phi Alpha. Delta Sigma Theta was awarded the sorority organization with the most members in attendance while Kappa Alpha Psi was awarded the fraternity organization with the most members in attendance.

## City of Warm Springs intends to Opt-Out of Georgia House Bill 581

The **City of Warm Springs** intends to Opt-Out of the statewide adjusted base year ad valorem homestead exemption for the City of Warm Springs GA. All concerned Citizens are invited to the public hearing on this matter to be held at **The City of Warm Springs City Hall at Council Chamber 3636 Whitehouse Parkway, Warm Springs, GA 31830. Dates & Times are Thursday February 20, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. and Monday February 24, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.** Residents are encouraged to attend these hearings to learn more about the exemption and ask questions. For more information, please call 706-655-9096.

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# Manchester Lady Angel Basketball Team Wins Three in a Row

By JOHN KUYKENDALL

The Manchester High Lady Angel basketball team played hard and was hot as the team earned three straight victories last week. The Lady Angels improved to 8-9 overall and 7-5 in region play with the win.

The team is now waiting to begin tournament play. Although schedules for the region and state tournaments have not been announced at press time, the state tournaments are scheduled to begin on Feb. 18.

### MHS vs. Atlanta Classical

Lady Angel Kaliya Gray, a senior, was hot-handed

against the Atlanta Classical Lady Cavaliers in Atlanta on Wednesday, Feb. 5 and helped the team bring home a 53-47 victory.

Gray was the leading scorer for the Lady Angels putting up 16 points on the night. She was the only Lady Angel to score in double digits.

Senior NyAsia Hunt added nine points for the Lady Angels, freshman Erlyanna Stallworth and sophomore Karlecia White scored seven points each, junior Avah Ortiz scored five points, sophomore Jhada Waller added four points and senior Emary warrior scored four points.

### MHS vs. Mt. Zion

The Lady Angels continued the team's winning ways on Friday, Feb. 7 when the Mt. Zion Lady Eagles came calling. It was no contest as the Lady Angels easily defeated the Lady Eagles by a score of 63-19.

Stallworth led the offense charge of the Lady Angels scoring 12 points, Gray added 10 points and senior Rhinna Storman was the only other Manchester player to score in double digits with 10 points.

Waller added eight points for Manchester, Warrior scored seven points and Ortiz and Hunt added six points



Photo LG Broadcasting

**GETTING READY** - Manchester High Lady Angel, freshman Eriyanna Stallworth, prepares to shoot a free throw shot against the Trion Lady Bulldogs this past Saturday. Stallworth scored nine points in the game and the Lady Angels won a close one by a score of 39-36.

each.

### MHS vs. Trion

It was a hard-fought battle when the Trion High Lady Bulldogs visited the Lady Angels in Manchester on Saturday, Feb. 8. The Lady Angels battled to the end and eventually earned a 39-36 victory.

Gray was hot-handed once again putting up 12 points on the night; Stallworth and Hunt scored

nine points each; Waller added four points; Storman scored two points and White Ortiz and senior Auriyanna Wright scored one point each.

### Something to be proud of

Manchester High Lady Angel sophomore Karlecia White has been named the Region 7 All-Region Defensive Player of the year and the team had seven players named to or

receive an honorable mention for the All-Region Team.

Senior Kaliya Gray was named to the All-Region First Team.

Senior NyAsia Hunt and freshman Erlyanna Stallworth were both named to the Second Team.

Seniors Emary Warrior and Auriyanna White and sophomore Jhada Waller all received honorable mentions.

# Regular Season Ends for Callaway Basetball Teams

By JOHN KUYKENDALL

The Callaway High basketball teams ended regular season this past week and are now waiting for the region and state tournaments to begin.

### CHS Lady Cavaliers

The Lady Cavaliers are boasting a 13-8 overall record and a 7-3 region record after taking two of three games this past week.

On Monday, Feb. 3 the team hosted the Pike County High Lady Pirates and rolled to a 61-12 victory.

The Lady Cavaliers led by a score of 22-2 at the end of the first quarter and by a score of 41-7 at the end of the first half.

Callaway increased the lead to 47-7 in the third quarter rolling to the big win in the fourth quarter.

Sorry, no individual statistics were available for the game.

On Tuesday, Feb. 4, the Lady Cavaliers ended an 11-game winning streak for the Harris County High Lady Tigers by a score of 49-47.

Senior Raniya Mahone and sophomore Shakenya Wortham led the Lady Cavaliers on offense scoring 15 points each. Sophomore Kenzi Howard added eight points and sophomore Aubrey Chelcy scored six points.

On Friday, Feb. 7 the team traveled to Madison to play the Morgan County High Lady Bulldogs and were defeated by a score of 42-35.

The Lady Bulldogs led by a score of 15-7 at the end of the first quarter. The Lady Cavalier offense came to life in the second quarter and out scored the Lady Bulldogs 13-4 to take a slim 20-19 lead.

The score was tied at 25 at the end of the third quarter but the Lady Bulldogs managed to out score the Lady Cavaliers 17-10 in the fourth quarter to earn a 42-35 victory.

Sorry, no individual statistics were available for the game.

### CHS Cavaliers

The Cavaliers also won two of three games last week.

On Monday, Feb. 3 the team hosted the Pike County



Photo By LG Broadcasting

**READY TO REBOUND** - Callaway seniors Bryceton Sanders (#12) and Trey Buggs (#3) prepare to rebound against Pike County High Pirates in a recent game.

Pirates, a region opponent, and earned a 70-61 victory.

The Cavaliers led by a score of 17-12 at the end of the first quarter and 27-18 as the first half came to a close.

Callaway increased the lead to 50-39 in the third quarter and went on to win by the score of 70-61.

Senior Bryceton Sanders scored 20 points for the Cavaliers and had two rebounds, an assist, two steals and a block. Senior BreShun Hall was the only other Cavalier to score in double digits with 12 points. He also had 10 rebounds and three assists.

Junior Landon Thomas scored eight points for Callaway and had seven rebounds, three steals and two blocks; junior Ahmad Roberts scores six points, had two rebounds, an assist and a steal; sophomore Kaiden James scored six points, had 12 rebounds, six assists, a steal and two blocks; senior Tyson Shells scored six points, had four rebounds, two assists and a block; freshman AJ Williams scored five points, had two rebounds, two assists and a steal; senior Tyren Buggs scored four points, had six rebounds, two assists, a steal and a block and freshman JaQuinton Williams scored two points, had a rebound, three assists and a steal.

On Tuesday, Feb. 4, the

Cavaliers hosted the Harris County High Tigers, a non-region opponent, and rolled to a 76-49 victory.

Sanders led the Cavaliers on offense in the game with 15 points, six rebounds, an assist and two steals. Hall scored 11 points, had three rebounds, two assists, two steals and a block. Williams scored 11 points, had a rebound and two assists. Rounding out the Callaway players scoring in double digits was Thomas with 11 points, five rebounds, a steal and two blocks.

James had a great night on defense. He scored eight points for Callaway and had six rebounds, seven assists, five steals and a block.

Senior Nakel Johnson scored eight points and had 10 rebounds; Shells added six points, had four rebounds, three assists and two steals; sophomore Zy Dandy scored four points, had a rebound, an assist and a steal and Buggs added two points, had four rebounds and two assists.

The Cavaliers ended regular season play on Friday, Feb. 7 in Milner against region opponent Morgan County and were defeated by a score of 56-44.

Sorry, no individual statistics were available for the game.

# Baseball Season Begins For High School Teams

Continued from Page 12A

results of the game were not available at press time.

The team will host Pepperell on Monday, Feb. 17 and will travel to Valley High in Valley, AL on Tuesday, Feb. 18 and will play at Troup High on Friday, Feb. 21. All of the games will begin at 5:30 p.m.

The Manchester High Blue Devils traveled to Cusseta on Monday to play Chattahoochee County and host Chattahoochee County on Wednesday, but results from the game were not available at press time.

The Blue Devils return several key players this sea-

son including, but not limited to, Christian Whitaker, Kaleb Gay, Gavin Garrett and Jayden Hodo.

On Friday, Feb. 14 the team will travel to Ellaville to play the Schley County High Wildcats at 4 p.m.

On Monday, Feb. 17 the Blue Devils will travel to Butler to play the Taylor County High Vikings at 5:55 p.m.

On Wednesday, Feb. 19 Manchester will host the Taylor County High Vikings at 4 p.m.

On Friday, Feb. 21 the team will again travel to Butler to play the Vikings at 5:55 p.m.

# GHS Teams Finish Season on Road

Continued from Page 12A

They started the week out on the road visiting the Mt. Zion Eagles on Tuesday, February 4 and came away 71-58 losers. The Patriots played steady in the first quarter as they were down 16-8. The Patriots played better in the second quarter as they kept Mt. Zion within striking distance and were down 32-23 at the half. Marquel Deering carried the Patriots during the quarter as he scored 13 of the team's 15 points for the quarter. The third and fourth quarters proved to be too much for the visitors as the Eagles secured the victory.

Marquel Deering was the leading scorer for the Patriots as he had 21 points, six assists, six rebounds and five steals. Jarvis Simmons had 16 points, nine rebounds and two steals, while Shaun Moreland had 14 points, four assists, four rebounds and three steals.

The Patriots continued their road trip on Friday, February 7 at the Atlanta Classical Academy Cavaliers and ended up losing 69-41. The Patriots started out slow and was behind 18-6 at the end of the first quarter and could only muster nine points in the second quarter and was down 38-15 at the half. The visitors could not match the host's scoring output in the second half and The Cavaliers cruised to the region win.

Simmons led the Patriots in scoring on the night as he had 13 points, along with



Photo By LG Broadcasting

**MAKING PLANS** - Greenville High Patriot Coach Walter Jackson talks strategy with senior Ijshawn Times and junior Marquel Deering during a game last week.

seven rebounds. Ijshawn Times followed with 11 points and five rebounds.

The nightcap to the season had the Patriots on the road playing Elite Scholars Academy Royal Knights on Saturday, February 8 and they came within a basket of winning, 45-44. The Patriots came out competitively and were only down two, 9-7, at the end of the first quarter. The scoring output slowed in the second quarter and saw the Patriots being down 20-15 at the half. The third quarter found the Patriots tying the game at 30 at the buzzer. The hot shooting continued for the Patriots, however, they could not get over the hump and fell just short of the victory to end their regular season.

Simmons led the Patriot attack with 15 points, nine

rebounds and three blocks. Deering knocked in 13 points to go along with six rebounds, four assists and four steals.

Next up for the Patriots is the region playoffs as they look to extend their season. (Results of their first-round game on Monday, were not available at press time.)

For the season, the Patriots had a few players high in region statistics. Deering was sixth in the region with 16.2 points per game. He was also fifth in the region in steals with 2.4 per game. Elijah Frazier was second in the region in blocks with 2.2 per game. Shaun Moreland averaged a half block per game to put him at ninth in the region. Deering was sixth in the region in double-doubles with one.

# Intent to Opt Out of Homestead Exemption

The **City Council of Luthersville** intends to opt out of the statewide adjusted base year ad valorem homestead exemption for the City of Luthersville.

All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearing on this matter to be held at the **Luthersville Municipal Complex, 104 Wortham Road, Luthersville, GA 30251** on **Saturday, February 22, 2025, at 9:00 AM.**

Times and places of additional public hearings on this matter are at the Luthersville Municipal Complex on **Sunday, February 23, 2025, at 3:00 PM** and **Monday, February 24, 2025, at 6:00 PM.**



# SPORTS

The Manchester Star-Mercury/Meriwether Vindicator • Thursday, February 13, 2025 • Page 12-A

## TO THE NEXT LEVEL



Photo LG Broadcasting

**FLINT RIVER ACADEMY PLAYERS SIGN** - Flint River Academy student athletes signed letters of intent last week to play college football. DJ Baums (right), who signed to play at Shorter College. Baums had four receptions for 139-yards and a touchdown and on defense he had 14 tackles for the Wildcats, five quarterback hurries, two tackles for a loss, eight pass deflections and a caused fumble. Quarterback Trent Young (center) signed to play at Andrew College. Young carried the football 62 times for the Wildcats for 477-yards and 10 touchdowns. He was also 19 of 41 passing for 452-yards and six touchdowns. Jamir Muhammad (left) had 22 carries for 160-yards and a touchdown and had three receptions for 59-yards and a touchdown. Defensively he had 26 tackles, one quarterback hurry, two interceptions and seven pass deflections. The players help lead the Wildcats to the state championship game.



Photo LG Broadcasting

**MANCHESTER PLAYERS SIGN** - Manchester High Blue Devil football players (left to right) Zycurious Alford and Tyquevious Johnson both signed letters of intent to play football at Georgia Warhawks. The Georgia Warhawks are a post-graduate football program at Gwinnett Technical College, Lanier Technical College, or Education Solutions. During his playing career at Manchester High, Alford had 116 tackles, two interceptions, caused two fumbles and had a fumble recovery. Johnson played in six games this past season and had 22 tackles and a sack and a fumble recovery. The players help lead the Blue Devils to the state playoffs this past season.

## FRA Teams End Regular Season Play

By JOHN KUYKENDALL

The Flint River Academy (FRA) Wildcat basketball teams will end regular season play this coming week after the Lady Cats fell prey to St. George's last week and the Wildcats won two out of three games..

### FRA Lady Wildcats

The Lady Wildcats fell prey to St. George's in Milner on Friday, Feb. 7 by a score of 58-29.

Sorry, no individual statistics were available for the game.

The Lady Wildcats will end regular season play on Friday, Feb. 14 when the team will host St. George's in Woodbury at 6 p.m.

The Lady Cats are 6-8 overall and 0-2 in region play. The region tournament and playoff schedule had not been release as of press time.

### FRA Wildcats

The Wildcats took two out of three games this past week.

On Monday, Feb. 3 the

team hosted Oak Mountain Academy and earned a 46-32 victory.

Senior Jamir Muhammad led the Wildcats on offense scoring 19 points, had seven rebounds, two assists and a steal. Junior Cole Riner was the only other player to score in double digits with 14 points, three rebounds and two steals.

Junior Ethan Newman scored six points, had six rebounds, an assist and a steal; senior DJ Baums was a force under the boards scored five points had 13 rebounds, four assists, two steals and six blocks; junior Mason Jones added three points, had one rebound and an assist and freshman Jack Collins scored two points.

On Tuesday, Feb. 4, the Wildcats hosted Lafayette Christian and earned an impressive 60-28 victory.

Muhammad was again the leader on offense for the Wildcats with 26 points, nine rebounds, two assists and five steals. Jones was the only other player to score in double digits with 14 points, three rebounds and two

assists.

Riner added seven points for FRA, had 12 rebounds, an assist and six steals; Baums scored six points, had 10 rebounds, three assists and two blocks; freshman Mitchell Parham scored three points, had two rebounds, an assist and a steal; Newman scored two points, had 10 rebounds, an assist and two steals and freshman Grayson Garrett scored two points, had five rebounds, a steal and a block.

On Friday, Feb. 7 the team traveled to Milner to play St. George's and were defeated by a score of 59-41.

Jones led FRA in scoring with 16 points, an assist and a steal; Baums scored nine points, had 18 rebounds, an assist and three steals; Riner scored eight point, had four rebounds, an assist and a steal; Muhammad scored five points, had eight rebounds and two assists and sophomore Thomas Geldback scored two points.

The Wildcats are boasting an 11-8 overall record and are 3-3 in region play at the present time.

## MHS Lady Angels Named to All-Region Team

### Karlecia White Named Region Defensive Player of Year

By JOHN KUYKENDALL

Manchester High Lady Angel sophomore Karlecia White has been named the Region 7 All-Region Defensive Player of the year and the team had

seven players named to or receive an honorable mention for the All-Region Team.

Senior Kaliya Gray was named to the All-Region First Team.

Senior NyAsia Hunt and

freshman Erlyanna Stallworth ws both named to the Second Team.

Seniors Emary Warrior and Auriyanna White and sophomore Jhada Waller all received honorable mentions.

## Baseball Season Begins for Area High Schools

By JOHN KUYKENDALL

The high school baseball season is ready to begin.

The Greenville High Patriots will begin action on Feb. 21 in Columbus at Carver High at 5:30 p.m.

The Flint River Academy Wildcats will not play until March.

The Callaway High Cavaliers played on Thursday, Feb. 6 at Landmark Christian in Fairburn and were defeated

by a score of 1-0. The War Eagles score the lone run in the bottom of the first inning in a game that turned out to be a pitching duel.

The Cavaliers play on Wednesday, Feb. 12 but

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Photo LG Broadcasting

**MANCHESTER BLUE DEVILS TAKE TWO OUT OF THREE** - The Manchester High Blue Devils won two of three games last week defeating Atlanta Classical Academy and Trion but falling short against Mt. Zion. The team is boasting an overall record of 16-3 and a region record of 10-2. In the photograph above, Jaedyn Terry (#4) and Trey Jones (#1) wait to make a rebound as L'Ki Prather (#15) prepares to play defense.

## MHS Blue Devils Take Two Wins

By JOHN KUYKENDALL

The Manchester High Blue Devil basketball team has completed regular season play and are preparing for tournament action after taking two out of three games last week.

### MHS vs. Atlanta Classical

The Blue Devils had three players to score in double digits against the Atlanta Classical Academy Cavaliers to lift the team to an impressive 80-59 victory in Atlanta on Wednesday, Feb. 5.

The Blue Devils took a 21-15 lead first quarter lead and never looked back. Manchester increased the lead to 47-25 at the end of the first half.

The Cavaliers began a rally in the third quarter and cut the Blue Devil lead to 54-48 but it was all Manchester in the final quarter as the team rolled to an 80-59 victory.

Junior Dre Mcghee had a great night on offense scoring 23 points and had eight rebounds and three steals.

Junior Jaedyn Terry scored 19 points, had eight

rebounds and a steal.

Senior Trey Jones scored 12 points, had seven rebounds and two steals.

Junior Brontae Jones scored seven points, nine rebounds and three steals; senior Jhiere Terry scored six points, had 15 rebounds, two steals and three blocks; Junior L'Ki Prather scored five points and had four rebounds; junior Darrius Favors score four points and had six rebounds and senior Mond Johnson scored four points, had six rebounds and a steal.

### MHS vs. Mt. Zion

The Blue Devils suffered a heartbreaking 64-61 loss to the Mt. Zion Eagles on Friday, Feb. 7 in Manchester.

Jaedyn Terry led the Blue Devils in scoring in the game with 15 points and seven rebounds; Trey Jones scored 12 points and had six rebounds; Mcghee scored 12 points, had three rebounds and a steal; Jhiere Terry had a double-double scoring 10 points, had 10 rebounds, two steals and two blocks; Brontae Jones scored nine points, had 10 rebounds, three steals and a block and

Prather scored three points, had three rebounds and a steal.

### MHS vs. Trion

The Blue Devils ended regular season play on Saturday, Feb. 8 with a 73-38 victory over the Trion Bulldogs in Manchester.

Trey Jones paced Manchester on offense with 19 points, had 10 rebounds and two steals; Jaedyn Terry added 16 points and had eight rebounds; Mcghee scored 12 points, had six rebounds and four steals; Jhiere Terry scored seven points, had 10 rebounds, a steal and a block; Prather scored seven points and had four rebounds and Johnson scored two points, had nine rebounds, a steal and a block.

The Blue Devils finished regular season play with an overall record of 16-3 and a region record of 10-2.

### What's Next?

The Blue Devils will compete in the region tournament but a scheduled was not available at press time. The team is expected to begin state playoff action on Wednesday, Feb. 19.



Photo Dexter Williams

**GIVING INSTRUCTIONS** - Greenville High Lady Patriot Coach Jamison McCrary gives some instructions to his players during a recent game.

## GHS Teams Finish Season on Road

By DEXTER WILLIAMS

The Greenville High Lady Patriots (15-3, 11-1) went 2-1 in their last three region road games of the regular season, and they wrapped up first place in Division II Region 7-A. They played one of their classic games along with one of their worst games of the season before winning big on the last day of the regular season.

Tuesday, February 4 found the Lady Patriots on the road against the Mt. Zion Lady Eagles and they came away 69-36 winners. The first quarter saw the Lady Patriots dominate the game as they jumped to a huge lead, going up 19-4. The charge was led by Catavia Bennett with 11 points. The second quarter saw the lead increase to 39-14. The second half was not better for the host team as Greenville hit for 30 points to their 22 for the victory.

Bennett continued her hot shooting as she netted 26 points, grabbed 8 rebounds, along with 8 steals, and four assists. Jamya Kelley had 16 points, three rebounds, four

assists and four steals. Daliyah Ellison followed with 12 points, six assists, three steals and three rebounds.

The Lady Patriots continued their road show on Friday, February 7, as they traveled to face the Atlanta Classical Academy Lady Cavaliers and came away with their worst showing of the season and suffered their first region defeat, 32-26. Overall, the Lady Patriots played poorly on the offensive end and missed timely and routine shots.

Seeking to put that game behind them, the Lady Patriots dismantled the host Elite Scholars Academy Lady Royal Knights, 77-6, on Saturday, February 8. The win saw the Lady Patriots get contributions from every member of the team.

Next up for the Lady Patriots will be the region playoffs this week where they will be the number one seed. Their match-up will be determined by play early in the week.

For the season, Catavia Bennett led the region in scoring at 21.1 points per game,

while Daliyah Ellison was third at 12.4 points per game and Jamaya Kelley was fourth at 12.1 points per game. Bennett was second in rebound average at 8.6 per game with Shanti Mims third at 7.5 rebounds per game and Rihanna Abbott was fourth at 7.1 rebounds per game.

The Lady Patriots were in the top three for assists on the season with Ellison leading the way at 4.4 assists per game, followed by Bennett with 4.1 per game and Kelley with 2.6 per game. Bennett also led the region in steals with 4.8 per game, Za'Nariah Williams was third with 3 per game and Ellison was fourth with 2.8 per game. Defensively, Mims lead the region with 1.5 blocks per game with Bennett second at 1.3 per game, followed by Abbott with 1.1 per game and Ashlely Kelley was fourth with .5 per game.

The Greenville High Patriots (1-16, 0-12) closed out a disappointing regular season by dropping their last three road region games of the regular season.

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