

# LANIER COUNTY ADVOCATE

VOLUME 13, EDITION 2 • © 2023 LANIER COUNTY ADVOCATE • WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2023 • LAKELAND, GEORGIA • 8 PAGES, ONE SECTION

**Bargains, Coupons & Deals INSIDE with these sales papers:**



## NEWS BITS

### 'August Dawg Days' every Friday at church

Lakeland Methodist Church is hosting "August Dawg Days" every Friday in August from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. For \$5, you can get a hot dog, chips, soda and cookie. Proceeds go to benefit Lanier Family Connection. Drive-thru pickup or come inside to eat.

### Family needs help with funeral expenses

The McVey family is looking for any help they can get in purchasing a headstone for McKenna McVey, who passed away recently (see story from last week). She is buried next to her sister, Makayla, in Valdosta. The combined funeral expenses for both Makayla and McKenna wiped out their parents' savings. If you're able, please go to GiveSendGo.com and search for "McKenna McVey."

### Foster parents needed in Lanier

Lanier County's children need you - there are currently 30 children from this community in foster care and only four foster families. We need families to open their hearts and homes for our children. If you are interested in foster care or adoption please call 877-210-KIDS.

### Tri-County Authority meeting moved

The Tri-County 911 Authority will have a called business meeting on Wednesday, August 9 at 10 a.m. instead of our regular business meeting on Wednesday, August 16.

### Cassia Lodge Friends & Family Night

Cassia Lodge #224 in Homerville will hold a Friends and Family Night on Thursday, August 17. A meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. followed by presentation of aprons, recognitions and fellowship. All members, family, and friends are welcome to attend.

### CASA Volunteer Info Session on August 15

There will be a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) Volunteer Information Session on Tuesday, August 15, from 6-7 p.m. at 1015 Exum Street in Nashville. Call Elaine at 229-686-6576 or e-mail Carol at ckelly@fcisberrien.org for more information.

### Accepting new students for GED classes

The Lanier County Adult Education program of Wiregrass Georgia Technical College is now accepting new students to enroll in free GED® Classes. The Lanier County Adult Education program is located at The Threatte Center at 209 US Highway 221 in Lakeland, and classes are offered Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 am-1:00pm and 4:00pm - 8:00pm.

## With school back in session, officials urging bus safety

By Rebecca Galardo  
Staff Writer

Cars passing stopped school buses are on the rise, as are child deaths related to this crime. More than 24 million children take the bus to school, and across the United States more than 13 million times a year an impatient or careless driver will pass a bus illegally.

The greatest danger for children isn't in actually riding on the bus - it is getting on or off of it. A national average of 19 children each year are killed by drivers not paying attention, and the average age ranges from only 5 to 7 years old.

This school year, like others, the Lanier County Sheriff's Office and Lanier County schools are working together to monitor school bus stops. They are specifically looking for vehicles that pass buses while stopped loading or unloading children.

Sheriff Nick Norton has assigned deputies to watch as the buses make their stops. With the school year just starting, all drivers should plan to leave a little early and slow down, especially when kids are waiting for a school bus or playing near the road.

"We have to remember these are children and they sometimes do the unexpected things. We need to slow down and be aware," said Sheriff Nick Norton.

During the last school year, the driver of a semi-truck was cited by deputies after they failed to stop for two different buses that were stopped in different locations.

"The driver was distracted and not paying attention to the road. We are fortunate no one was injured," Norton said.

According to Georgia law, drivers are required to stop for all school buses when the lighting is active and the stop sign deployed. The penalties for passing a stopped school bus include a possible fine up to \$1,000.

"That school bus is yellow for a reason," Norton points out. "That (color) means caution and slow down. Allow yourself a few minutes extra to drive and be aware that children may be playing on the roadside as they wait for their bus."

Just because you don't see an officer on location, doesn't mean you won't be caught passing a school bus. Georgia was one of the first states in the US to require school buses to have stop-arm cameras. That fine of up to \$1000 may arrive in your mailbox, if the stop-arm camera catches you in the act.



Above, artist Andrew Sabori and John Fitton discussing placement of bolts on a damaged mural in downtown Lakeland.

## Maintaining Milltown's Murals

By Rebecca Galardo  
Staff Writer

Lakeland is known as the "Historic Mural City" for the "Milltown Murals" that span the town. These murals are a constant surprise for new people passing through. They cover many historical people, places and symbolize events from the 1920s-era. The name 'Milltown Murals' comes from Lakeland's original name, Milltown.

The Lakeland/Milltown area (which was originally considered a part of Alapaha) was first settled by James and Elizabeth Patten in 1819 - the name 'Milltown' came in 1857. It was changed to 'Lakeland' on September 15 of 1925 - in fact mural #6 commemorates this change.

They're a beloved part of the town and, for many younger or newer residents, it seems as though they have always been there.

In fact, the murals have been up for less than thirty years and for the last eight of those years, artist Andrew Sabori has been renovating them. With thirty-eight murals spreading all over the town, he has his work cut out for him.

Many know very little about the history of the murals themselves. In 1998, local community leader and archivist/historian Nell Patten Roquemore (known by most as 'Ms. Nell') commissioned the murals. And yes, she is related to the original settlers of Milltown/Lakeland.

Her passion for her hometown of Lakeland knew no equal. Even after traveling the world extensively (see the Lanier County Advocate: Volume 11, edition 8 - September 22 of 2021 to read just a fraction of her incredible story), Lakeland was her home and her love, through and

through. Roquemore was a life-long lover of the arts and owned a healthy obsession with the beautification of Lakeland. Those two things within her combined wonderfully with her passion for Lakeland's history. The result was the idea for the murals.

So, in 1998 Roquemore found two artists (Ralph Waldrop and Billy Love) to create that vision that now graces so much of her beloved town. The Milltown Foundation was created in order to fund the project.

The thirty-eight murals include large ones that span entire buildings, like #3 The Church Hotel (a hotel built in 1896 by Tom Church that was destroyed by a fire in 1941) to smaller ones like #26 The Cows - which is exactly what it sounds like. Did you know that in the 1920s, cows roamed the town freely?

Many of the murals show just how much the town and county has grown in just over a century. The Byrd Building (#2) was originally built in 1904, but when Lanier County was created in 1920, the upper floor was converted into a space for a courtroom, the clerk of courts office, a law office and the main office for the Lanier County Telephone Company. The mural depicts J.L. Byrd standing by the doorway, while Vera Wooten - Lakeland's telephone operator for 39 years - sits working. That little boy in the window is her two year old son Benny, watching the street and people below.

Some of the murals were more personal for Roquemore. #12 The Patten Playhouse now rests in Roquemore Memorial Park - it's fifth location in just under 100 years - and shows Roquemore as a young girl with her sister picking flowers.

Each and every mural, however  
(Continued on Page 3)

## Banks Lake paddling event held August 1

By Rebecca Galardo  
Staff Writer

Just under 20 excited paddlers surrounded the boat entrance at Banks Lake on August 1. They listened to the safety briefing given by first-time outings leader, Meredith Crosby. Crosby was friendly, bubbly and as eager to get out on the water as every one there.

Suwannee Riverkeeper John S. Quarterman was there as well. While overseeing the event, he was happy to answer any questions or help in any way.

After a slight delay, the group began their paddle. Lots of laughter and excited chatter could be heard across the water. Event members chose their own path to the first meet-up location. Some went in pairs in single-person kayaks. Others had two-person kayaks or the

canoes from Banks Lake. These canoes were rented for free for the outing (courtesy of the Lakeland-Lanier Chamber of Commerce and Banks Lake Outdoors).

Everyone went their own way as Crosby sent a scout ahead to find a new spot to observe bats. According to US Fish and Wildlife Service, bats are one of the most important misunderstood animals on our planet. "Bats play an essential role in pest control, pollinating plants and dispersing seeds. Recent studies estimate that bats eat enough pests to save more than \$1 billion per year in crop damage and pesticide costs in the United States corn industry alone." At Banks Lake, bats can be seen descending the trees as the sun goes down, skimming the water for bugs.



Above are some of the paddlers who participated in the August 1st event at Banks Lake.

As the group spread out, Crosby and Quarterman helped the members by pointing out the attractions of Banks Lake and sharing information on the Full Sturgeon Moon. This month the full moon was also a "supermoon." A supermoon happens when the moon comes nearly as close to the Earth as it can get at the same time that it is full (or new). With the full moon also being a supermoon, the size of it seems much larger. These outings are hosted

by the WWALS (standing for Withlacoochee, Willacoochee, Alapaha, Little, Santa Fe, Suwannee) Watershed Coalition, a nonprofit corporation. WWALS holds at least one paddle outing a month, plus frequent cleanups, and even occasional hikes. For non-members, the outings fee is \$10 per person, or \$11 online. For members, the outings are free and the membership dues go to help the Coalition with  
(Continued on Page 2)

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Above and at right are more scenes from the event at Banks Lake.

## Banks Lake paddle

(Continued from Page 1)

its mission and vision: “A healthy watershed with clean, swimmable, fishable, drinkable water.”

The next outing with WWALS Saturday, August 12, a Naylor to Mayday Paddle on the Alapaha River starting at 9AM. If the more relaxed vibe is more your style, WWALS hosts a paddle at Banks Lake every full moon (weather permitting).

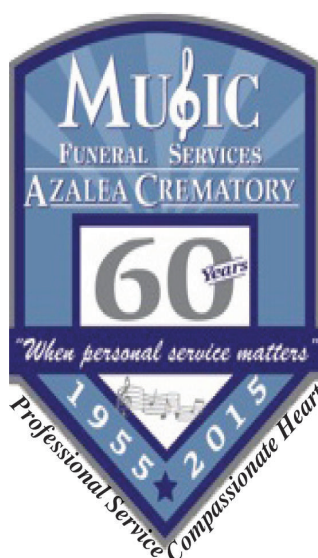
For more information, go to <https://wwals.net/outings> for a calendar of fun, outdoor, family-friendly events.

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Alapaha Judicial Circuit District Attorney Chase Studstill addresses representatives from various agencies in Atkinson, Berrien, Clinch, Cook, and Lanier counties at a Child Abuse protocol meeting held in Nashville on July 28.

## Alapaha Judicial Circuit discusses child abuse cases

On Friday, July 28, representatives from several agencies in Atkinson, Berrien, Clinch, Cook, and Lanier counties met to discuss how Child Abuse cases will be investigated and prosecuted within the Alapaha Judicial Circuit. The meeting

took place in the Agricultural Building in Berrien County and was spearheaded by Alapaha Judicial District Attorney Chase L. Studstill.

Members attending included representatives from the Atkinson and Cook County Department of Family and Children's Services; Unison Behavioral Health; Atkinson County Coroner's office; Alapaha Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office; Berrien and Lanier County Health Departments; Berrien, Clinch, and Cook County Magistrate Court; Atkinson, Berrien, Lanier, and Clinch County school systems; Clinch County Sheriff's Department; Lanier County Sheriff's Office; The Haven; Department of Juvenile Justice; CASA; Children's Advocacy Center; and Atkinson, Berrien, and Lanier County Family Connections.

According to District Attorney Studstill, the primary purpose of the meeting was to gather members from these agencies and others within the circuit to implement a Protocol

for the Investigation and Prosecution of Alleged Cases of Child Abuse. Studstill addressed the members in attendance and reviewed the proposed protocol. “The Protocol outlines the procedures to be used in investigating and prosecuting cases arising from alleged sexual abuse and sexual exploitation as well as the procedures to be followed for each agency within our circuit. The Protocol mirrors the state’s model protocol for the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases, but we have modified ours to accommodate our local organizations.”

Studstill went on to state, “We appreciate everyone who attended this meeting and provided input for the implementation of this protocol. Most of the members are part of a multi-disciplinary team which we commonly refer to as ‘MDT’. These team members consist of law enforcement officials, DFCS, the district attorney’s office, the Child Advocacy Center, the Haven, mental health and medical professionals, domestic

violence shelters when a child is involved and others who provide a coordinated response in these cases. The overall goal of this protocol is to increase the effectiveness of investigations while reducing the stress and risk of secondary trauma to children. The MDT currently in place for our circuit meets monthly to share information regarding child abuse cases in Berrien, Cook, and Lanier Counties.”

In addition to implementing the protocol, Studstill said, “I am proud to announce that we are also planning to implement MDTs for the remaining two counties, Atkinson and Clinch. It was my honor to spearhead this meeting and discuss the protocol. We obtained acceptance signatures from all who attended the meeting. The fact that this meeting was so well attended shows the commitment that people within our circuit have for the protection of children. My office is committed to ensuring that we all move forward and implement the best practices for investigation and prosecution of these cases.”

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\*All proceeds to benefit Lanier Family Connection

## Lady Dawgs tie Vikettes in scrimmage

By KEITH NEWBERN  
SPORTS REPORTER

The Lanier County Lady Dawgs, ranked #1 in the Class A D-2 preseason poll, and Lowndes High Vikettes, ranked #7 in the Class 7A preseason poll, played to a 1-1 tie in Tuesday's scrimmage game at Lowndes.

The two teams were originally scheduled to played at VL Moore Field in Lakeland, but a heavy rain made the field unplayable. There was no rain in Valdosta, so the teams boarded their respective buses and headed to Lowndes to play.

Lowndes got on the board first. They scored their lone run on a bases loaded single in the bottom of the 1st. Senior Jaden Benefield struckout two batters to get out of the inning. She was near perfect over the next three innings. Benefield pitched 4 innings, striking out 10, while allowing just 2 hits.

The Lady Dawgs scored their lone run in the top of the 4th inning. Sayla Schade hit a line drive single to left, went to second base on a passed ball, and scored on a rbi single from senior Jaycee Newsome. That would be all the scoring in the game.

Kaylee Creamer pitched two scoreless innings in relief. She allowed a pair of hits and walked a pair, but kept them off the board. Molly Newbern threw a scoreless bottom half of the 7th.

Sayla Schade and Jaycee Newsome each had a hit for the Lady Dawgs.

Lanier County will start their regular season on Thursday at Cook. Game time is 5:30 p.m.

## Maintaining murals

(Continued from Page 1)

broad or narrow the scope of the subject, is a visual link with history - a way to give eternal life to a moment in time and make more relatable the city's past.

The problem with many of the murals was that a lot of them were done on wood - time and weather have done their collective damage. Fading, water damage, chipping... It was wearing down the beautiful artwork.

Roquemore wanted the murals preserved, symbolic of the past that she was so passionate about. As an author (Rocks, Roots and Recollections) as well as an archivist (Lanier County: The Land and Its People), some of her own art lives in print. Other kinds of art are far more fragile.

Andrew Sabori was her answer. While Sabori was in Albany showing the work he'd done recreating The Lost Mural of Ellis Island ([www.thelostmuraloffellisland.com](http://www.thelostmuraloffellisland.com)), he'd been commissioned to create work. Around the time he'd finished, Roquemore was looking for someone to handle the repairs. She was pointed to Sabori. Roquemore asked him to do the restoration work and was happy to have him add his own personal touches, his own style.

Sabori, who lives in Tifton, is a warm and friendly man that is clearly passionate about his work. He can talk about it endlessly and is eager to share what he loves with others. His wife, Roberta, is almost always by his side, working in an administrative capacity, handling requests and emails.

The boards for the replacement murals are a mixture of fiberglass and metal. When they arrive cut into the right shapes, Sabori paints the mural. He is not replicating the old artist's work exactly, but creating versions that are very close - just with his own style and a few aesthetic choices. For instance, Sabori prefers slightly brighter colors for their ability to catch the eye and warm up the scenes. The brighter murals stand out, instead of blending into the buildings.

When his painting has been completed, John Fitton - retired from military service and the Chamber of Commerce - helps install the new murals. Sabori and Fitton work together. Fitton drills holes where Sabori can most easily paint over the bolts. Sometimes, the bolts are used as three dimensional accents of the art - like buttons or a part of a dog's collar.

Many members of the community have stopped to watch him work and have spoken to him about the paintings. He's heard many other stories about Nell Roquemore from

passersby. Her legacy continues to spread through the murals even through conversations between strangers.

Sabori only works in the mornings: not only due to the weather, but also due to the fact that the fiberglass panels have a coating of metal on them. They get hot quickly.

Only one item has been vandalized, the vehicle on #25 The Ice House. It had been scratched, much like a vehicle might be keyed. The truck was taken down, repaired, and replaced.

As a fitting tribute, Sabori created a panel for Ms Nell herself, after her passing in 2021. You can find her standing at the Lakeland-Lanier Board of Commissioners, ready to greet those entering.

She would have been pleased to know she is there to watch over the city she loved so much.

Anyone can visit the Lakeland-Lanier Chamber of Commerce 8 S Valdosta Road to pick up a map of all of the locations. They can either take a pamphlet with details on all of the murals or scan the QR code on the map and listen on their phone.

### ANDREW SABORI SPOTLIGHT

Andrew Sabori was born in San Jose, California. He attended the Santa Barbara Art Institute and graduated from the University of California at Santa Barbara with a BA in Fine Arts. He has thousands of completed works including posters, paintings and murals spanning both coasts of the United States.

Sabori has an exhibit currently on display at the Valdosta Main Library until Sept. It will then be moved to the Pine Hills Branch in Albany.

He painted murals for the 1996 Olympics.

His most recent accomplishment is a huge one: two of his paintings (a part of the Lost Murals of Ellis Island project) are being displayed in the "Art in Embassies" at the U.S. Department of State. Ambassador Manuel Micaller, the US Ambassador to Tajikistan, saw his work and asked for it specifically. After the short-term display in the "Art in Embassies" exhibit, the painting will be moved to Tajikistan for three years.

Andrewsabori.org  
[www.thelostmuraloffellisland.com](http://www.thelostmuraloffellisland.com)  
Currently (due to the Milltown Mural work) Andrew is only accepting commissions for interior murals.

If you are interested in a mural for your home or business, Andrew suggests one painted on canvas that can be glued to the wall (and removed without damaging the mural or wall). Please contact Andrew at 706-434-8824 or [acsabori@yahoo.com](mailto:acsabori@yahoo.com) if you're interested in a potential mural project.

# THE LANIER COUNTY SCANNER

Weekly reports from the Lakeland Police Department, Lanier County Sheriff's Department, and Lakeland Fire Department

## Lanier County Fire Department

The following is a list of calls answered recently by the Lanier County Fire Department:

- August 1 - Fire units responded to a call to an auto accident on Hwy. 221 south. Arrived to find that a truck had left the roadway and struck a tree. The truck was locked up and no driver was found at the scene.

- August 3 - Fire units responded to a call to a home on Roe Road with report of smoke in the area with loud boom noises. Law enforcement on scene canceled fire units advising that all was okay.

- August 3 - Fire units responded to a call to an auto accident on Hwy 129 and Church Road.

Arrived on scene to find a single vehicle rollover with no injuries. the scene was left with law enforcement.

- August 4 - Chief Yeomans was called by 911 to meet with an officer on Royals Road to confirm the nature of a line down across lee road. The chief arrived and found that it was a power line and the fuse was blown at the pole. Dispatch was notified to call the power company and the scene was left with the officer until they arrived.

- August 5 - Chief Yeomans was called by 911 to meet with a homeowner on Jacob's Walk. The chief arrived to find that the owner had discovered her front porch was previously burning but was not on

fire at the time. The chief performed an inspection and determined that the fire was out and had not spread.

- August 6 - Fire units responded to a call to an alarm on oak street. Call was canceled by officers on scene advising all was okay.

## Lanier County Sheriff's Office

The following is a list of arrests recently made by the Lanier County Sheriff's Office:

- July 31 - Taran Andropolous Kiser, 39, was charged with probation violation.

- August 1 - Tamarina Ann Polite, 25, was charged with failure to appear (misdemeanor).

- August 1 - Charlton Wilson Studebaker, 51, was charged with

driving while license suspended or revoked (misdemeanor), failure to drive within single lane, and too fast for conditions.

- August 2 - Tatiana Latangela Shyvett Townsend, 25, was charged with affixing materials that reduce or increase reflectance, driving while license suspended or revoked (m i s d e m e a n o r), knowingly driving motor vehicle on suspended or revoked license, headlight violation, no proof of insurance, speeding 11 to 15 miles over 55 mph zone.

- August 4 - Julio Sesar Gonzalez-Gomez, 31, was charged with driving without a valid license (misdemeanor) and failure to drive within single lane.



Above and below are murals that have been restored recently, or are being worked on currently.



Artist Andrew Sabori touches up the dog mural in downtown Lakeland.

# OPINION

Send Letters to the Editor to: [editor@laniercountyadvocate.com](mailto:editor@laniercountyadvocate.com), or mail to: Editor, Lanier County Advocate, P.O. Box 476, Lakeland, GA 31635.

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P.O. Box 476, Lakeland, GA.  
31635, or e-mail to [editor@laniercountyadvocate.com](mailto:editor@laniercountyadvocate.com).



## A test most men will probably fail miserably

A disgruntled reader recently forwarded the following to me.

I have edited it a good bit, taking out parts that weren't fit for printing in a family newspaper, and also inserting parts that aren't fit for printing in a family newspaper.

If you find it offensive, sexist, or not funny, I accept no responsibility. If you think it's hilarious, I take full credit.

Basically, the below is a quiz that measures how well men are treating their special lady friend, using an easy-to-follow point system of merit/demerit that I don't understand at all. You will be graded at the end of class.

- SIMPLE DUTIES**  
You make the bed.....+1  
You make the bed, but forget to add the decorative pillows..... 0  
You throw the bedspread over rumpled sheets..... -1  
You leave the toilet seat up..... -5  
You replace the toilet paper roll when it is empty..... 0  
When the toilet paper roll is barren, you resort to Kleenex..... -1  
When the Kleenex runs out you use the next bathroom..... -2

**LEN ROBBINS**  
PUBLISHER



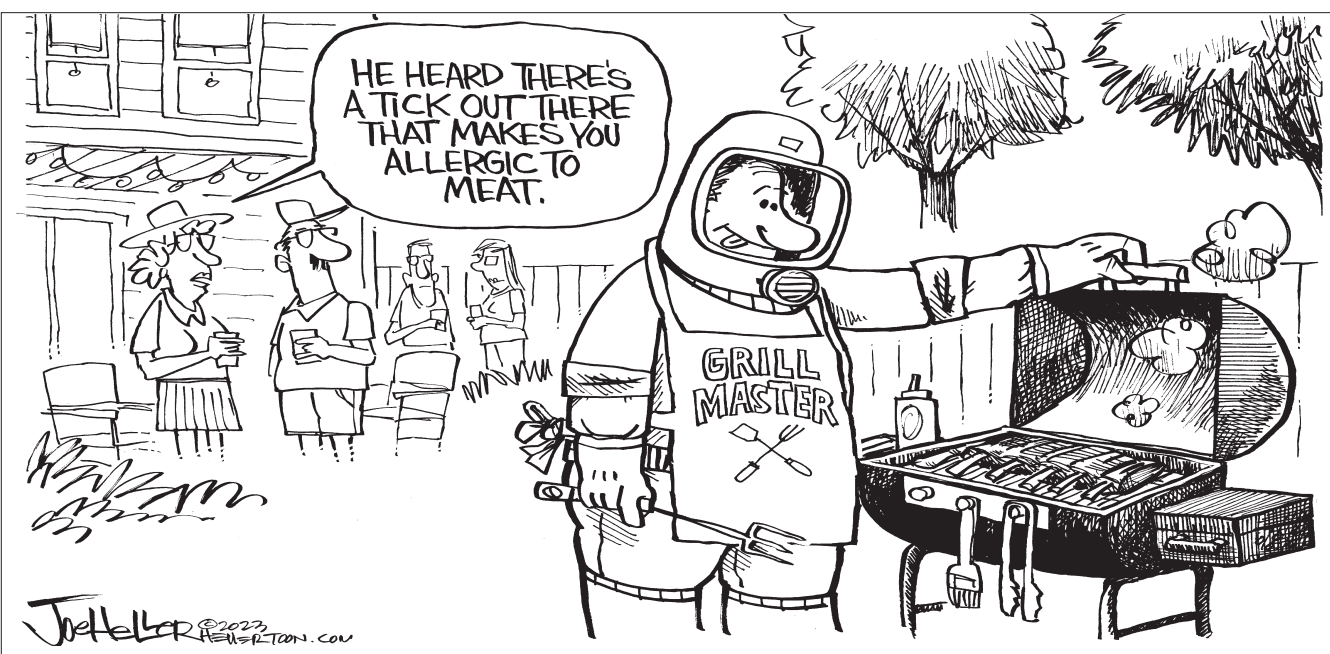
[publisher@laniercountyadvocate.com](mailto:publisher@laniercountyadvocate.com)

- You check out a suspicious noise at night..... 0  
You check out a suspicious noise and it is nothing.....0  
You check out a suspicious noise and it is something..... +5  
You pummel it with a six iron..... +10  
It's a plant ..... -40  
**AT THE PARTY**  
You stay by her side the entire party..... 0  
You stay by her side for a while, then leave to chat with a college buddy..... -2  
Named Tiffany..... -4  
Tiffany is a dancer..... -10  
**HER BIRTHDAY**  
You remember her birthday..... 0  
You buy a card and flowers..... 0  
You take her out to dinner..... 0  
You take her out to dinner and it's not a

- sports bar..... +1  
Okay, it is a sports bar..... -2  
And it's all-you-can-eat night..... -3  
It's a sports bar, it's all-you-can-eat night, and your face is painted the colors of your favorite team..... -10  
**A NIGHT OUT WITH THE BOYS**  
Go with a pal..... 0  
The pal is happily married..... +1  
The pal is single..... -7  
He drives a Corvette..... -10  
**A NIGHT OUT WITH HER**  
You take her to a movie..... +2  
You take her to a movie she likes..... +4  
You take her to a movie you hate..... +6  
You take her to a movie you like..... -2  
It's called "Death Cop 3"..... -3  
Which features Cyborgs that eat humans..... -9  
You lied and said it was a foreign film about orphans..... -15  
**YOUR PHYSIQUE**  
You develop a noticeable pot belly..... -15  
You develop a noticeable pot belly & exercise to get rid of it..... +10  
You develop a noticeable pot belly and resort to loose jeans

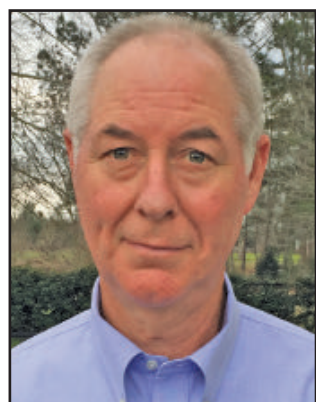
- and baggy Hawaiian shirts..... -30  
You say, "It doesn't matter, you have one too."..... -800  
**THE BIG QUESTION**  
She asks, "Does this dress make me look fat?"  
You hesitate in responding..... -10  
You reply, "Where?"..... -35  
You reply, "No, I think it's your butt."..... -100  
Any other response..... -20  
**COMMUNICATION**  
When she wants to talk about a problem: You listen, displaying concern..... 0  
You listen, for over 30 minutes..... +5  
You relate to her problem and share a similar experience..... +50  
You're mind wanders to sports and you suddenly hear her saying "well, what do you think I should do?"..... -50  
You listen for more than 30 minutes without looking at the TV..... +100  
She realizes this is because you have fallen asleep..... -200  
I'm certain I failed. How about you?

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## Hauling Rocks

**NEIL JOINER**  
COLUMNIST



The stream on my grandfather's farm is shallow and narrow where it begins, only inches deep and two feet wide. The spring which feeds it is small but reliable, even in the dry months of summer. A hundred feet in the woods, however, is a much different look.

Two tributaries, located closely together, join the flow. They run about half the year, mostly in winter and spring, then go dry for a while. Their contribution is nominal much of the time, but substantial after hard rains.

Not much has changed on the first part of the stream since my early childhood. Intermittent flooding from the branches, however, has eroded the earthen walls farther down and deepened the streambed. Some banks have a four-foot drop and are ten feet apart rather than two.

Erosion has taken a gradual toll as seasonal water has whittled away soil and washed it toward the Ocmulgee River. I'm trying to stop that process, or at least slow it down. That's why I've been hauling rocks.

My first efforts were focused on a small peninsula. It's only 30 feet long and 20 feet across, but clearing vines and underbrush revealed undeniable charm. It's a minuscule replica of

Florida, complemented by one main attraction, a leaning tree. Our granddaughter, Megan, once climbed it to escape an alligator. The tree and the memory are special.

Eight boulders are in a cluster near the spring, each about the size of a rocking chair. They're artistically positioned to overlook the branch. My brother, Jimmy, wondered aloud one day how such large rocks came to rest there. I thought God arranged them, but now I'm guessing Granddaddy lent a hand.

Stones from baseball size to five-gallon buckets are scattered throughout the woods. I've been tossing them in piles for a couple of years, saving them for later use. And I've come across a dozen or so rock piles that have been there for decades. Some were only partially hidden by nature. Others had multiple layers of rocks covered in topsoil and required some persuasion to leave.

I had been pulling up old fencing for several weeks before I realized the proximity of rock collections to the wire. They were all on the interior side of the fence nearest to the water, which led to another theory about my grandfather's fences.

Woods are on both sides of the fencing, which I thought was put

there to give livestock access to the stream. The piled rocks, however, cause me to believe that part of what I've always known as woodlands was once in pasture.

It would make sense that rocks were thrown over the fence to get them out of the way, or maybe piled there before the fence was put up. The boulders are too heavy for lifting, but a mule team could have pulled them down the slope.

Maude and Tom were a mule-horse pair that my mother remembers from early childhood. Maude, the horse, was gentle and Mama would take slow rides as her father or older brothers held the reins and led her. Tom was a good worker but not keen on entertaining.

How the pair fell into an open well in the field, I'm not sure. Apparently the wooden sides had collapsed or been taken down, perhaps to make it easier to fill an abandoned hole with rocks. Maude went in headfirst with Tom falling on top of her. Tom was okay but Maude had to be shot by my grandfather, a sad day on the farm.

Rocks have always intrigued me, partly because my mother has collected them over the years for her flower garden and patio. They don't bloom but never need watering, plus have

ancient stories to share if we listen closely.

The same stones that were unwelcome in the pasture were thankfully not discarded. Now they're quite useful for lining the banks of the stream. I trust they'll slow the erosion, and perhaps even help regain lost ground as a respite for passing sand.

During the past decades these rocks have changed very little. Yet they've transitioned from being unwanted to greatly valued. It was a matter of finding a purpose and being given an opportunity.

Granddaddy would be pleased those rocks are being put to use. I hope fifty years from now someone will find they were beneficial to the stream, and maybe even listen to their story. That's why I've been hauling rocks.

Neil Joiner is a syndicated newspaper columnist from Dooly County.

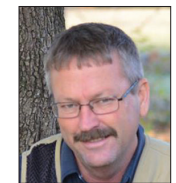
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**Unconditionally**  
 “Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of God and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

**I Corinthians 6:19-20**

Have you ever ask yourself, what is wrong with me? If you are like

**GOOD NEWS**

By  
 VIC DOVE

most of us, you have asked yourself that question many times over the years. I know I have asked myself that question many times in my life.

It’s very common for us to doubt and criticize ourselves, because the enemy, satan, plants these thoughts in our minds. These thoughts are designed to make us feel like we are not what we need to be and to prevent us from enjoying ourselves. This

encourages insecurity and all kinds of fear. We compare ourselves to other people and if we are not what they are, we assume something is wrong with us.

Well, I have some good news for you; there is a way to keep these thoughts from poisoning our lives. It is constantly thinking God loves me unconditionally. Not only does God love us, but He chooses to see us as being right with Him, accepted and blameless, if you have chosen to make Jesus your Lord and Savior.

God wants us to

learn proper behavior, but He accepts and loves us first and once rooted and grounded in the knowledge of His unconditional love, then He can begin the work of transforming our character into the image of His Son Jesus Christ. The reality is that if you want your behavior to improve, then your knowledge of the unconditional love of God must be the foundation for the new you. The more we experience God’s love, the more we desire to do what pleases God.

If you are saved and have made Jesus your

Lord and Savior, your walk not just your talk should be seen in your behavior. Being religious will not change your behavior, however a personal relationship with Jesus Christ will. Jesus did not die so we can be religious; He died so we can have a close personal intimate relationship with God. Religion just offers more rules and regulations to follow so we can get close to God. But a relationship lets us know we can be close to Him because of His unconditional love for us.

Me, you nor anyone

else will draw near to God if we are afraid He is mad or displeased with us. We must learn how to separate how important we are to God from what we do right or wrong. How can we ever hope to have an intimate relationship with God, His Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit if we are not confident that we are loved unconditionally?

So the next time satan starts his mind games with you, just tell him God loves me unconditionally, even if I do make mistakes and bad choices.

**Shoulder to Shoulder,**  
 Bro. Vic

**LANIER COUNTY CHURCH PAGE**

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**Let Go and Let God**

**W**e sometimes need to remind ourselves that we are not entirely responsible for the way things turn out with our affairs, let alone the outcome of worldly affairs. Sometimes it is okay to take a moral holiday and leave everything to God. Besides, it is often nothing more than pride which makes us think that we are responsible for how things turn out. Often parents blame themselves for their children’s behavior, when in fact children have a mind and a will of their own at a very young age and need to be held responsible for their own actions. Letting God take over can even apply to our plans for self-improvement. We sometimes try with the best of intentions to fix ourselves when in fact God may be able to do it with little or no effort on our part. We sometimes struggle to act more charitably or to abstain from some vice that afflicts us when in fact letting God work that change within us often leads to sudden, almost miraculous change. Pray that God will work the changes in your life that He sees fit to change and then leave it up to Him. God is on the job and knows what He is doing. “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28 NIV  
 – Christopher Simon

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Choose EarthLink Fiber Internet for speeds up to 5 Gigs, no data caps, no throttling. Prices starting at \$54.95. Plus a \$100 gift card when you make the switch. Call 1-833-917-3436.

WANTED

TOP CASH PAID FOR OLD GUITARS! 1920-1980 Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild, Mosrite, Rickenbacker, Prairie State, D'Angelico, Stromberg and Gibson Mandolins/Banjoes. Call 866-398-1867.

PAYING TOP CASH for MEN'S SPORT WATCHES! Rolex, Breitling, Omega, Patek Philippe, Heuer, Daytona, GMT, Submariner and Speedmaster. Call 866-398-1867.

CASH FOR CARS! We buy all cars! Junk, high-end, totaled - it doesn't matter! Get free towing and same day cash! NEWER MODELS too! Call 833-882-3437

**The Weekly Crossword** by Margie E. Burke

**ACROSS**

- Karate blow
- Donate funds
- Amorphous mass
- Track event
- Actress Téa
- Ancient letter
- False friend
- Earth orbiters
- Walk like a drunk
- Hate with a passion
- Part of some joints
- California's motto
- Student, ideally
- Castaway's place
- Arrive at
- Vatican dogma
- "Right you \_\_\_!"
- "Meet the Parents" actor
- Chowed down
- Best seats at a boxing match
- Rooftop shooter
- Model's stance
- Students take them
- Bailiwick
- Did some sculling
- More loaded, as a wallet
- Whenever
- Impossible to fill
- Neon sign word
- Ginger cookie
- Pitch
- \_\_\_ Station
- Medal recipient
- Minds, as a bar
- Swirling current

**DOWN**

- Pizza part
- Proverbial waste-maker
- Triton's realm
- Shade structure
- Otherwise
- More within reach
- Braille bit
- "\_\_\_ Life to Live"
- Backcountry
- The U.K.
- Mandolin kin
- Singles
- Second to none
- Albanian
- currency
- Banded rock
- Not evident
- Genuine
- Biblical impostor
- Blow from Moe
- Past the deadline
- Big jug
- Retirees' org.
- Chamber group, maybe
- Addition column
- Obstinate
- Lazy
- Nazi secret police
- Carbon 12, e.g.
- Closed up tight
- Teacher's fave
- Exhausted, with "out"
- Improve
- One of pop music's Papas
- Drop a line?
- Novelist Tyler
- Bygone autocrat
- "I Remember Mama" character
- King Kong, e.g.
- Trash holder

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**Answers to Previous Crossword:**

T	A	I	L	A	N	G	L	E	C	U	R	B	
A	N	N	E	B	O	R	O	N	A	N	O	A	
U	N	D	E	R	S	T	A	N	D	S	W	A	N
P	O	I	R	O	T	N	E	A	P	T	I	D	E
E	Y	E	B	R	E	D	L	O	S	T			
L	X	V	I	C	Z	A	R	L	E	T	B	A	
A	C	I	D	I	T	Y	A	R	S	E	N	A	L
M	I	N	E	R	M	A	T	E	I	G	G	Y	
B	I	D	K	E	E	L	O	V	E	R			
I	B	E	X	D	R	E	W	S	H	E			
T	H	E	O	D	O	R	E	R	E	O	P	E	N
R	O	S	A	C	E	N	T	E	R	F	O	L	D
A	V	E	R	E	A	T	E	N	F	R	E	E	
M	E	L	D	T	R	E	A	D	S	E	N	D	

# PUBLIC NOTICES

## PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

GEORGIA, LANIER COUNTY PROBATE COURT

John Franklin Bowling, deceased  
Cs# 2023-P-036  
TO: To Whom It May Concern

Travis Lee Bowling has petitioned for Travis Lee Bowling to be appointed as Administrator of the estate of John Franklin Bowling, deceased of said County. The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. r53-12-261). All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the court on or before Monday, August 14th, 2023

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

Judy B. Mullis  
Judge of the Probate Court

Kelsey Durrance  
Probate Clerk  
Lanier County, Georgia  
56 W. Main Street, Suite 10  
Lakeland, Georgia 31635  
229-482-3668  
249w Ch. Probate 7-19-8-9

STATE OF GEORGIA  
LANIER COUNTY

## NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

RE: Estate of HENRY ALLEN HARDEN SR

All debtors and creditors of the Estate of HENRY ALLEN HARDEN SR, deceased, late of Lanier County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands and payments to the Personal Representative(s) of the estate, according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the Personal Representative(s).

PHYLLIS HARDEN FELTON  
2031 LaSalle Drive  
Valdosta, GA 31602  
This July 14, 2023. BY:  
James F Council, Jr  
Attorney for Executrix  
PO Box 1201  
Valdosta, GA 31603  
229-242-5362  
99w Ch. Probate 7-19-8-9

STATE OF GEORGIA  
LANIER COUNTY

## NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

RE: Estate of SARAH S HARDEN

All debtors and creditors of the Estate of SARAH S HARDEN, deceased, late of Lanier County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render their demands and payments to the Personal Representative(s) of the estate, according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the Personal Representative(s).

Henry Allen Harden Jr  
603 E Adair Street Valdosta, GA 31601  
Vicki R Neloms  
4364 Sandy Springs Drive  
Valdosta, GA 31605  
This July 14, 2023. BY:  
James F Council, Jr  
Attorney for Executrix  
PO Box 1201  
Valdosta, GA 31603  
229-242-5362  
113w Ch. Probate 7-19-8-9

## PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

GEORGIA, LANIER COUNTY PROBATE COURT

CHERRIE JEAN THOMAS  
Cs# 2023-P-038  
Deceased, Estate

To Whom It May Concern:  
NICOLE YVETTE THOMAS has petitioned for NICOLE YVETTE THOMAS to be appointed as Administrator of the estate of

CHERRIE JEAN THOMAS, deceased of said County. The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. 52-12-261. All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the court on or before August 21st, 2023.

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

Judy B. Mullis  
Judge of the Probate Court

Judy B. Mullis  
Judge/ Probate Clerk  
Lanier County, Georgia  
56 W. Main Street, Suite 10  
Lakeland, Georgia 31635  
Phone: 229-482-3668  
232w Ch. Probate 7-26-8-16

## PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION WITH THE WILL ANNEXED (WILL PREVIOUSLY PROBATED) NOTICE

GEORGIA, LANIER COUNTY PROBATE COURT

CONNIE SUE STITH  
A/K/A/ CONNIE S. WHITE  
Cs# 2013-P-037  
Deceased, Estate  
To: CASEY WALTER  
ETHRIDGE

UNKNOWN ADDRESS  
PEGGIE ALLEN has petitioned for PEGGIE ALLEN to be appointed as Administrator of the estate of CONNIE SUE STITH A/K/A CONNIE S. WHITE, deceased of said County. All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. This is to notify you to file objection, if there is any, to the above referenced petition, in this court on or before August 21st, 2023.

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

Judy B. Mullis  
Judge/ Probate Clerk  
Lanier County, Georgia  
56 W. Main Street,  
Suite 10  
Lakeland, Georgia 31635  
Phone: 229-482-3668  
216w. Ch. Probate 7-26-8-16

## PUBLIC AUCTION

Under the Georgia Self-Service Storage Act 10-4-213 King's Gate Self Storage will be holding a public auction to the highest bidder to satisfy a lien(s) upon personal property on August 26, 2023.

Cash only sale.  
The sale will be conducted on site at 27 Berrien Avenue Lakeland, GA 31635.  
Kanisha Clark A-109: Misc. Items  
Sandra Burroughs A-136: Misc. Items  
Joshua Herrron C-307: Misc. Items  
Benquetta Perry C-310: Misc. Items  
Kandis Holloman H-827: Misc Items  
Angela Brockington H-838: Misc Items  
Samuel Robinson H-839  
Eston Hutto I-922  
88w Ch. King's Gate  
7-26-8-2-9

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Lakeland Storage, LLC., will be selling at public auction the contents of storage Unit #4, SHANE DANIELS, which includes household furniture and items, to satisfy a lien. The date of the sale will be AUGUST 19, 2023, at 9:00 AM. The sale will be conducted at the facility located at 137 S Valdosta Rd, Lakeland, GA 31635.

92w Lakeland Storage  
8-2-9

## ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID LANIER COUNTY, GEORGIA 2023 LOCAL MAINTENANCE & IMPROVEMENT GRANT (LMIG)

**SWE PROJECT # 22-3424**  
LEVELING AND RESURFACING IMPROVEMENTS CHURCH ROAD AND MILL POND PLACE  
Separate, sealed Bids will be received for furnishing all materials, labor, tools, equipment, and incidentals necessary for the installation of Leveling and Resurfacing Improvements to Church Road and Mill Pond Place located for the Lanier County, Georgia 2023 Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) until 10:00am (local-time) Thursday, August 17, 2023 at which time bids will be opened and read.

The meeting will be held at the Lanier County Board of Commissioners Office and will be opened to the public. Proposals can be mailed to the attention of Patti Bass, County Clerk, Lanier County Board of Commissioners, 56 West Main Street, Lakeland, Georgia 31635. Proposals received after the designated time will not be considered. Lanier County may select a successful low bidder after evaluation of all bids.

The Scope of Work Includes:

Leveling and Resurfacing Improvements to Church Road and Mill Pond Place (1.47 Miles)

All proposals shall be accompanied by a Bid Bond in favor of Lanier County in the amount of at least five percent (5%) of the lump sum bid for the complete work: such Bid Bond representing that the Bidder, if awarded a Contract, will promptly enter into a Contract and furnish Performance Bond and Payment Bonds as provided by the law and approved by the Attorney for Lanier County. Performance Bond shall be equal to 100 Percent (100%) of the contract amount and Payment Bond shall be equal to 100 percent (100%) of the Contract amount.

All work on the project must be completed within 120 consecutive calendar days of the Notice to Proceed.

Copies of the specifications may be obtained from Statewide Engineering, Inc., 516 East Ashley Street, Douglas, Georgia 31533, 912-384-7723 for \$100.00 per set or \$50.00 for an emailed PDF Version (non-refundable). Specifications are also on file (for view only) at the Lanier County Board of Commissioners Office. All Bidders must receive bid package from Engineer in order to be considered certified. Bids from non-certified Bidders will not be considered.

The Contractor shall be a current "Prequalified Contractor" with the Georgia Department of

Transportation, Office of Contract Administration or shall be approved in writing by the Lanier

County Board of Commissioners prior to bids being opened. A copy of the Contractor's "Notice of Contractor Qualification" as issued by the Georgia Department of Transportation or a copy of an approval letter from the Lanier County Board of Commissioners must be submitted with the bid.

The Georgia Department of Transportation Standard Specifications, 2021 Edition, any applicable

Supplemental Specifications, 2016 Edition, Special Provisions or other provision contained within this contract will be applicable to this project. All materials, workmanship, testing, etc. shall meet the Georgia Department of Transportation Specifications.

The Owner reserves the right to reject all bids and to waive informalities, and to accept any Bid which in its opinion may be in the best interest of the Owner. The Owner has the right to add or to delete from the Contract once it has been awarded. No bids shall be withdrawn for a period of 60 days after the opening of the bids.

Lanier County, Georgia  
By:  
Chairman Alex Lee  
544w Ch. County 8-2-9

## IN THE PROBATE COURT OF LANIER COUNTY

State of Georgia  
IN REF: ESTATE OF Joseph Arnold Paquet, Sr  
CS# 2023-P-2037  
Deceased

## NOTICE

IN RE: The Petition to Probate Will in Solemn Form in the above-referenced estate having been duly filed,  
TO: Joseph Arnold Paquet, Jr,

This is to notify you to file objections, if there is any, to the petition to probate will in solemn form, in this Court on or before August 28th, 2023.

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

Judy B. Mullis, Judge  
Kelsey Durrance  
56 W. Main Street,  
Lakeland, GA 31635  
229-482-3668  
181w Ch. Probate 8-2-23

## NOTICE OF INTENT TO INCORPORATE

Notice is given that Articles of Incorporation which incorporate "Unity Church (Laner), Inc." have been delivered to the Secretary of State for filing in accordance with the Georgia Non-Profit Corporation Code. The initial Registered Office of the Corporation is located at 224 Unity Church Road, Lakeland, Lanier County, GA 31635, and its initial Registered Agent at such address is William H. Royal, Jr.

Attorney for Inc: Daniel L. Studstill, Studstill Firm, LLP, 110 North Dogwood Drive, Nashville, GA 31639, Phone: 229-686-3500, Fax: 229-686-3500, Email: danny@studstillfirm.com.  
90w Ch. Studstill 8-2-9

## NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER

STATE OF GEORGIA  
COUNTY OF LANIER

Pursuant to the Power of Sale contained in a Security Deed given by Clyde Foster to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as grantee, as nominee for Mortgage Research Center, LLC dba Veterans United Home Loans, its successors and assigns dated 8/31/2018 and recorded in Deed Book 310 Page 288 and modified at Deed Book 361 Page 269 Lanier County, Georgia records; as last transferred to or acquired by PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC, conveying the after-described property to secure a Note in the original principal amount of \$164,000.00, with interest at the rate specified therein, there will be sold by the undersigned at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the Courthouse door of Lanier County, Georgia (or such other area as designated by Order of the Superior Court of said county), within the legal hours of sale on September 5, 2023 (being the first Tuesday of said month unless said date falls on a Federal Holiday, in which case being the first Wednesday of said month), the following described property:

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE, LYING AND CONTAINING 1.01 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, LOCATED IN LAND LOT 469 IN THE 10TH LAND DISTRICT OF LANIER COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: STARTING AT A POINT ON THE EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY OF GEORGIA HIGHWAY NO. 125 (THE RAY CITY TO VALDOSTA HIGHWAY) WHERE SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY INTERSECTS WITH THE NORTH ORIGINAL LAND LOT LINE OF LAND LOT NO. 469, THENCE IN A SOUTHERLY DIRECTION ALONG THE EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY OF SAID HIGHWAY NO. 125 A DISTANCE OF 1708.2 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO A POINT MARKED BY AN IRON PIN; THENCE SOUTH 7 DEGREES 44 MINUTES WEST A DISTANCE OF 200 FEET TO A POINT MARKED BY AN IRON PIN; THENCE SOUTH 44 MINUTES WEST A DISTANCE OF 40 FEET TO A POINT MARKED BY AN IRON PIN ON THE EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY OF SAID STATE ROAD; THENCE SOUTH 4 DEGREES 48 MINUTES WEST A DISTANCE OF 200 FEET TO A POINT MARKED BY AN IRON PIN ALONG THE EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY OF SAID STATE ROAD, AND CALL THIS THE POINT

## OF PLACE OR BEGINNING.

THENCE NORTH 88 DEGREES 38 MINUTES EAST A DISTANCE OF 220 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO A POINT MARKED BY AN IRON PIN; THENCE SOUTH 0 DEGREES 31 MINUTES EAST A DISTANCE OF 200 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO A POINT MARKED BY AN IRON PIN, BEING THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT EARLIER SOLD TO EARL W. AND ELENA I. WARREN; THENCE SOUTH 88 DEGREES 38 MINUTES WEST A DISTANCE OF 220 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE POINT MARKED BY AN IRON PIN ON THE EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY OF STATE ROAD NO. 125; THENCE NORTH 2 DEGREES 18 MINUTES EAST A DISTANCE OF 200 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE POINT OR PLACE OF BEGINNING. SAID PROPERTY IS BOUNDED ON THE NORTH AND EAST BY OTHER

LANDS OF WILBURN F. ANDERSON, JR., ON THE SOUTH BY LANDS OF EARL W. AND ELENA I. WARREN; AND ON THE WEST BY THE EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY OF STATE ROAD 125.

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 the Security Deed and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).

Said property is commonly known as 424 N Hwy 125, Ray City, GA 31645 together with all fixtures and personal property attached to and constituting a part of said property, if any. To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party (or parties) in possession of the subject property is (are): Clyde Foster aka Clyde Lee Foster, Sr or tenant or tenants.

PennyMac Loan Services, LLC is the entity or individual designated who shall have full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of the mortgage.  
PennyMac Loan Services, LLC Loss Mitigation 3043 Townsgate Road #200, Westlake Village, CA 91361 1-866-549-3583

Note, however, that such entity or individual is not required by law to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the loan.

Said property will be sold subject to: (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) unpaid water or sewage bills that constitute a lien against the property whether due and payable or not yet due and payable and which may not be of record, (c) the right of redemption of any taxing authority, (d) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, and (e) any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.

The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 9-13-172.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and non-judicial sales in the State of Georgia, the Deed Under Power and other foreclosure documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided immediately above.

PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC as agent and Attorney in Fact for Clyde Foster  
Aldridge Pite, LLP, Six  
Piedmont Center, 3525  
Piedmont Road, N.E., Suite  
700, Atlanta, Georgia 30305,  
(404) 994-7400.  
1120-23969A

THIS LAW FIRM MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. 1120-23969A  
988w Ch. EquityDepot  
8-9-30

## NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER

STATE OF GEORGIA  
COUNTY OF LANIER

Because of default in the

payment of the indebtedness secured by the Note and Security Deed from Donald Joseph Thurman and Larry Joseph Rowe to Bank of Alapaha, which Security Deed, dated October 29, 2018, is recorded in Deed Book 311, Page 521, in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court in Lanier County, Georgia, the holder thereof, pursuant to the Security Deed and Note thereby secured, has declared the entire amount of said indebtedness due and payable.

Pursuant to the power of sale contained in said Note and Security Deed, the holder will on the first Tuesday in September, 2023, during the legal hours of sale, before the Courthouse door in said County will offer for sale at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, the property described in said Security Deed, to-wit:

TRACT 1: All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the City of Lakeland, Lanier County, Georgia, and described as Lot Numbers 2 and 3 in Block No. 19 of the Roberts Survey of the South Georgia Land Industrial Company's Subdivision in the City of Lakeland, Lanier County, Georgia, said lots fronting North on Bostick Street 50 feet each and running back South of even width a distance of 150 feet. Situate on this tract is a dwelling designated as 64 E. Bostick Avenue, Lakeland, GA 31635, according to the present system of numbering homes in Lanier County, Georgia. (Lanier County Tax Map L10, Parcel 0043)

TOGETHER WITH a 2000 14' x 66' Red Man Mobile Home, Vin Number: 13847592.

TRACT 2: All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the City of Lakeland, Lanier County, Georgia, and being all of Lots 9 and 10 in Block No. 11 according to the Roberts Survey of the lands of the South Georgia Land and Industrial Company's Subdivision in the City of Lakeland, Lanier County, Georgia. Situate on this tract is a dwelling designated as 49 E. Bostick Avenue, Lakeland, GA 31635, according to the present system of numbering homes in Lanier County, Georgia. (Lanier County Tax Map L10, Parcel 0028)

The sale will be held subject to all unpaid taxes, assessments, mineral and oil rights, easements and restrictions of record.

Notice has been given of intention to collect attorney's fees in accordance with the terms of the Note and Security Deed.

The individual or entity that has full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the mortgage with the debtor is: Kenneth Hughes, Bank of Alapaha, 502 North Davis Street, Nashville, GA 31639 or by phone at 229-686-7491.

Please understand that the secured creditor is not required to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the mortgage instrument.

Said property will be sold as the property of Donald Joseph Thurman and Larry Joseph Rowe, the property to the best information, knowledge and belief of the undersigned, being presently in his possession. These properties are known as 64 E. Bostick Avenue, Lakeland, GA 31635 and 49 E. Bostick Avenue, Lakeland, GA 31635. The proceeds of said sale will be applied to the payment of said indebtedness and all the expenses of said sale, including attorney's fees, all as provided in said Security Deed, and the balance, if any, will be distributed as provided by law.

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

This the 29th day of June, 2023.

Bank of Alapaha, as  
Attorney in Fact for  
Donald Joseph Thurman  
and Larry Joseph Rowe  
Daniel L. Studstill  
STUDSTILL FIRM, LLP  
Attorney at Law  
110 N. Dogwood Drive  
P.O. Box 647  
Nashville, GA 31639  
(229) 686-3500  
State Bar No: 690125  
This law firm is acting as a debt collector attempting to collect a debt.  
Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.  
671w Ch. Studstill 8-9-30

**CITY OF LAKELAND  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
ENGINEERING SERVICES**

Statements of qualifications and proposals are being requested from Engineering firms with a strong record in successfully assisting local governments with the implementation of state and federally funded grant and loan programs. Responding firms should be technically qualified and licensed in the State of Georgia to provide these services.

Plans are to contract within a year from the date of this notice, with a reputable consulting firm for grant engineering and design services for Federally Funded Projects related to community and economic development. This procurement could include Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA), American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Redevelopment Fund Projects (RDF), Employment Incentive Program (EIP), Economic Development Administrations (EDA) Projects, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Projects, and any other federally funded project in Compliance with 2 CFR 200 for Procurement. This procurement action may also lead to additional project contracts and/or contract addendums for engineering, design, and other related services for State and Federally funded projects. This is not a request for a retainer of services. Immediate plans call for services to assist with the engineering and design of a 2023 Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) project including but not limited to water system improvements, sewer system improvements, road improvements, drainage improvements, and pedestrian safety improvements and recreation facilities improvements. All firms submitting will be reconsidered, on a project-by-project basis, should future state and federally funded opportunities arise within the next 2-3 year period.

Information which should be submitted for our evaluation is as follows:

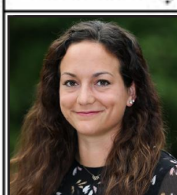
- 1) History of firm and resources
- 2) CDBG/EIP/RDF experience, including other DCA grant programs
- 3) Key personnel/qualifications
- 4) Current workload
- 5) Scope and level of service proposed
- 6) Experience with similar projects and list of references
- 7) Errors and Omissions Insurance
- 8) Statement of Qualifications Form
- 9) Section 3 Certification Form

All contracts are subject to Federal and State contract provisions prescribed by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. This project is covered under the requirements of Section 3 of the HUD Act of 1968, as amended and Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.

*The City also abides by the following laws as they pertain to HUD Assisted Projects: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Section 109 of the HCD Act of 1974, Title 1; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Fair Housing Act); Section 104(b)(2) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended; Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA); and the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968.*

Interested parties should request copies of the Statement of Qualifications Form and Section 3 Certification Form prior to preparing and submitting their proposal. Proposals should be received no later than **5:00 PM on August 29, 2023**. Proposals received after the above date and time may not be considered. We reserve the right to accept or reject any and all proposals and to waive informalities in the proposal process. Questions, Statement of Qualifications and Section 3 Certification form requests and proposal packages should be submitted to the name and address listed below:

**William P Darsey, Mayor**  
City of Lakeland  
64 S Valdosta Rd  
Lakeland GA 31635-6653



**Extension Tips**

*Kim Post*  
Lanier County Agriculture Agent

Putting Knowledge to Work



**Beef heifer  
development  
deadline approaching**

The deadline to send in nomination forms for heifers in the 2023-2024 Georgia Heifer Evaluation and Reproductive Development (HERD) program is coming up!

Conducted in Tifton, the HERD program allows producers to consign beef heifers for heifer development. The program was designed to serve and educate the beef industry in Georgia, including demonstration of feeding and health programs that result in replacement heifers reaching target weights required for successful breeding performance and providing a method of evaluating heifers on performance and reproductive traits. The HERD program is a cooperative effort between cattle producers, animal health professionals, the Georgia Cattlemen's Association, the UGA Animal and Dairy Science Department, the UGA Diagnostic Lab and College of Veterinary Medicine, and Georgia County Extension Agents.

Heifers are consigned to the program in fall, managed by the UGA HERD Team including being bred, and sold in the HERD Sale in spring. Producers may also buy back their bred heifers. Additionally, the live sale is open to any beef producer to view or purchase animals. Eligible heifers for the 2023-2024 program must have been born September 1st, 2022, through November 30th, 2022. They must be home-grown animals and can be registered or commercial.

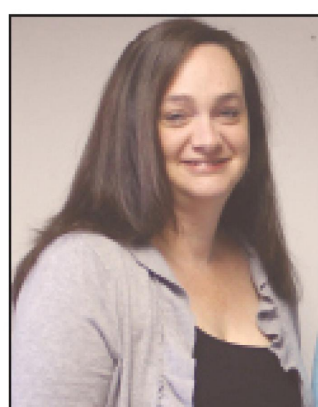
Nomination forms to consign heifers must be postmarked by September 1st, 2023. For complete program rules and nomination forms, visit the Georgia HERD Program at [www.beef.caes.uga.edu/programs/live-animal-programs](http://www.beef.caes.uga.edu/programs/live-animal-programs) or visit the Extension office in-person for more information.

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**Ready, Set, Go! A Parent's Guide to Preparing Your Child for the Start of School**



**Amy Griffin**  
Lanier Family Connection

The start of the school year can be both exciting and nerve-wracking for parents and kids alike.

On one hand, you get to dive into a new school year with new experiences for you and your kiddos, but on the other hand, preparing them for the transition back into a regimented academic experience can sometimes be overwhelming. But don't worry – there are lots of great tips that can make sure your little ones (and yourself) feel relaxed and ready to take on their next educational journey!

Going back to school means new beginnings, new classes, and new opportunities for growth and learning. It also means a trip to the store for new school supplies. As a parent, it's important to shop smartly to make sure your child is well-equipped for the upcoming school year without breaking the bank. One tip is to plan ahead and make a list of the essentials your child needs before heading to the store. This way, you won't overspend on unnecessary items. Another tip is to keep an eye out for sales and coupons that can save you money. If school supplies are a financial hardship, consider Community Day or other Back to School Drives that your family could participate in.

Before school starts, it's important to establish a consistent routine to help smooth the transition to the school year. You don't need to be rigid with your schedule, but having some structure in place will help you and your family feel more organized. Start by setting specific times for getting ready for bed, going to sleep, waking up, eating breakfast, and getting dressed. You could also plan out some activities to do at night to help them prepare for bed, such as reading or taking a relaxing bath. In the morning to help your child get ready for the day ahead, you could try reading together or doing some stretches. Remember, routines take time to establish, so be patient and adjust as needed.

Setting realistic goals for your child and openly discussing them is crucial for their growth and development. Do you want them to excel in academics, sports, or other fields? It's important to remember that every child is unique and has their own pace of learning. As a parent, start by setting achievable goals that will help build their confidence. Talk to your child about what they want to achieve and encourage healthy discussions around their aspirations. This not only helps create a positive mindset but also fosters a sense of responsibility and accountability.

It's no surprise that going back to school can be a stressful time for both you and your child. But with some careful planning, setting realistic goals, and creating the right environment, you can help your child get ready for the upcoming school year. With the right preparation, there's nothing stopping your family from having a great school year!

**'Hi! I'm Gina!'**



I'm a young, female, medium-sized 'Black Mouth Cur' with a short coat (So my shedding will be minimal!) who's up to date on my vaccinations... and I've already been spayed!

I'm pretty quiet, very smart- yet eager to learn, friendly, gentle, and very loyal! I'm very curious about everything, and brave too (you need to be when you're so curious!)

I'm great with other dogs and children. I'm not a big fan of cats and I'd do best in a home without any...

*I'd love to be a part of your family!*

My adoption fee is: \$150.

If you're interested, please come and visit me at the Lanier County Animal Control and Shelter at 56 West Main Street Suite 9. Lakeland, Georgia 31635. If you have any questions, please call Jessica Ganas at: 229.569.1655 or email her at: [lanieranimalcontrol@laniercountyloc.com](mailto:lanieranimalcontrol@laniercountyloc.com).

*Our shelter is always looking for volunteers and foster homes, as well as treats, food, toys, beds and cleaning supplies. We welcome your participation!*



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