

INDEX

Opinion 4-5
Community 5-10, 13
Classifieds/Legals..... 11
Sheriff's Report12
Sports14-15

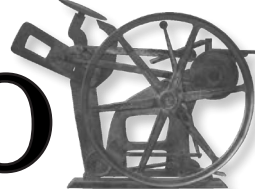
INSIDE

Senior running back Nate Brown has flourished in the Patriots' offense with 1,005 rushing yards this season Page 15



To start your subscription to The Oglethorpe Echo, see Page 3.

THE OGLETHORPE ECHO



Volume 148, Number 5

November 4, 2021 ■ Oglethorpe County, Georgia

50 cents



SARAH WHITE/THE OGLETHORPE ECHO

Ralph Maxwell, former owner and editor of The Oglethorpe Echo, poses for a portrait outside of The Oglethorpe Echo building on Oct. 29, 2021. Maxwell had been the owner, publisher and editor of the Echo since 1981.

End of an Era for the Echo

Tribute to Ralph Maxwell's 40 years as Echo editor, a longtime family tradition

By Alden Lisse
The Oglethorpe Echo

For 40 years, Ralph Maxwell Jr. has served his community as editor of The Oglethorpe Echo.

However, the Echo's inability to generate revenue and Maxwell's health issues made it difficult for him to continue to operate the newspaper. To save the paper from closing, Maxwell is transferring it to a non-profit organization, The Oglethorpe Echo Legacy Foundation. Although Maxwell is stepping away from the paper, his legacy at the Echo will not be forgotten.

A family calling

Maxwell's history with the paper goes far beyond his first day on the job. As the paper has circulated around Oglethorpe County, its ownership has been passed down through

the Maxwell family.

The story of Maxwell's involvement begins with his father, Ralph Maxwell Sr., who was looking for a new career path after his 24 years in the Navy. Ralph Sr.'s aunt and uncle, who raised him, had owned The Oglethorpe Echo for 13 years and were looking to sell it. Ralph Sr. bought the paper from them in 1956 and went to linotype school for six months, learning the technique of printing the paper.

He came back to Oglethorpe County to learn the business, only to assume full responsibility when his uncle died of a heart attack two weeks after his arrival.

Over the next few years, Ralph Sr. would establish his role at the paper and often bring his children to work with him.

This is where Ralph Jr.'s first work

See ECHO, Page 8



SARAH FREEMAN/SUBMITTED PHOTO

The new staff of The Oglethorpe Echo, along with Managing Editor Andy Johnston and Chairman Dink NeSmith, mark the beginning of reporting for Oglethorpe County.

UGA students begin reporting for the Echo

By Andy Johnston
The Oglethorpe Echo

Welcome to a new era at The Oglethorpe Echo.

Looking at this front page, you might have noticed new names and a different look to your community newspaper.

Please don't be alarmed.

Starting with this edition, a team of University of Georgia student interns have taken over for longtime editor Ralph Maxwell and his staff and have begun to write the articles and take the photos that will help fill

See STAFF, Page 9

GBI arrests court clerk

Oglethorpe County Probate employee charged with theft, forgery

Staff report

Oglethorpe County Probate Court clerk Angel Bramlett was arrested by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation on Tuesday and charged with 30 counts of theft by taking, 38 counts of computer trespass and 17 counts of computer forgery, the GBI announced in a statement.

Bramlett, 43, of Winterville, was arrested as a result of an investigation into missing funds, dating to August 2019. The GBI stated that "several thousands of dollars in fines supposedly paid to Probate Court were missing."

In a statement to The Oglethorpe Echo, Probate Court Judge Kayla Grier said she noticed irregularities, and after her initial investigation, reported her findings to the Oglethorpe County Sheriff, who then contacted the GBI.

"Our office is working closely with the GBI to determine how much money has been stolen," Grier said in the statement. "(Bramlett) manipulated the protocol for procedures to avoid the office's checks and balances, which would have exposed her actions."

County Commission Chairman Jay Paul confirmed earlier this week that he had been informed of the investigation, but was not at liberty to discuss any other details at the request of the GBI.

Grier said additional information will be available when the investigation is completed. She also confirmed that Bramlett's employment had been terminated.

"Clerks are given duties and take an oath swearing to fulfill those duties," Grier said in her statement. "I trusted her and am deeply hurt and betrayed by her actions. As a constitutional officer of the court, the integrity of my office is paramount. We have implemented further safeguards to prevent recurrence in the future."

Ralph Maxwell contributed to this article.

Lexington officials ask for feedback on new city hall design

By Maddie Brechtel
The Oglethorpe Echo

Lexington officials are seeking input from residents for a planned city hall addition.

The draft design from Evelyn Reece of Reece Preservation Services, LLC would make the entire building Americans with Disabilities Act compliant, provide space for a visitor's center staffed by volunteers on the weekend and an auditorium with flexible space for public and private events.

The current city hall on Main Street was described by Mayor Craig Snow as being "old and run down," as well as "not fitting with the rest of historic Lexington." The building is around 50 years old, classifying it as historic, although it isn't nearly as old as other buildings in Lexington, many of which date to the 19th century.

"I just did a sketch (of the blueprint) and just floated it out there," Reece said. "And then I saw people were just referencing it, so several years later, I put a memo with it."

Other features would include:

- An ADA-approved bathroom with separate access so it could be open to the public on the weekends

- An ADA-accessible ramp in the front entrance

- A lockable sliding glass window and door for added security

- Mid-century modern elements, such as replacing the auditorium's overhead doors with glass and a wood pergola — a structure that forms a shaded walkway — at the front of the building.

Snow said once approved, the process should take around six months. Around \$125,000 has been earmarked for the addition. Snow said he hopes to use local companies for the construction.

"As long as we can get our hands on all the materials, we're just using a lot of the existing structure that's there," he said.

Although Reece drafted the design, both Reece and Snow said many residents have come forth with other ideas, and the city

See CITY HALL, Page 3



SARAH WHITE/THE OGLETHORPE ECHO

Lexington City Hall is pictured on Oct. 29, 2021. City officials are asking residents to share their ideas about the addition or other aspects of the design.

Student Journalists Proudly Serving Oglethorpe County

As student journalists working with The Oglethorpe Echo Legacy Inc., we pledge to the best of our ability to:

- Report on issues and cover stories important to the county;
- To be truthful, objective and accurate in our writing;
- To hold the powerful accountable while giving voice to the voiceless.



Dink NeSmith (far left), chairman of The Oglethorpe Echo Legacy Inc. board and Andy Johnston (far right), managing editor, with the inaugural student journalists for The Oglethorpe Echo (from left): Sarah White, De Turner, Alden Lisse, Julianna Russ, Mackenzie Tanner, Maddie Brechtel and Thomas Ehlers.



Our student journalists will be mentored by managing editor Andy Johnston. Johnston served more than 30 years as a writer and editor of local newspapers, including The Athens Banner-Herald, where he was sports editor from 2003 to 2007. He also served as editorial adviser for The Red & Black in 2018 and as a sports adviser from 2019 to 2020. He is currently a part-time journalism instructor at Grady College.

Since 1915, Grady College has inspired students in the art, science and integrity of telling the story. We offer undergraduate majors in journalism, advertising, public relations and entertainment and media studies, and several graduate degrees. We are home to the Peabody Awards, internationally recognized as one of the most prestigious prizes for excellence in electronic media.



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA

Grady College of Journalism
and Mass Communication

Grady.uga.edu

Local woman dies in accident

Smithonia Road car crash kills 30-year-old from Winterville

By Julianna Russ
The Oglethorpe Echo

A Winterville resident was killed in a one-car traffic accident on Smithonia Road near Beaverdam Creek Road early Sunday morning, according to the Georgia State Patrol.

Brianna Knight, 30, was traveling west in her Nissan Juke when her car left the roadway at the north shoulder, striking a fence, according to the Georgia State Patrol, which investigated the accident.

The car hit a small tree and traveled through the air for 40 feet. Once on the ground, the car overturned and rotated, stopping when it struck a large

tree, according to the Georgia Motor Vehicle Crash report.

The car was found by first responders in an upright position facing south.

Emergency Medical Services arrived at the scene and Knight was transported to a local hospital.

"She was deceased on the scene," Oglethorpe County EMS director Jason Lewis said. He said he couldn't disclose other details about the accident.

A portion of Smithonia Road between Melton and Pittard roads was closed on Sunday morning, the Oglethorpe County Sheriff's Office posted on its Facebook page.

The road reopened later that day.

CITY HALL, FROM PAGE 1

council is open to hearing them.

"I'm just doing this in a volunteer capacity. I'm not attached to an outcome necessarily," Reece said. "I really just simply put something together that I thought would be functional and versatile."

Reece highlighted that the visitor area is set up so that it could be open to the public on the weekends, allowing the building to double as a public facility and visitor center. Reece also envisions volunteers with knowledge of Lexington's history working during this time to answer questions about the town.

"We have this amazing, rich history," Reece said. "I think it would be really forward thinking to preserve a building that is mid-century and enhanced in a way that respects what it is, that also respects that history."



SARAH WHITE/
THE OGLETHORPE ECHO
Lexington City Hall's current front door is pictured on Oct. 29, 2021.

Commissioners approve redistricting maps

By Maddie Brechtel
The Oglethorpe Echo

The Oglethorpe County Board of Commissioners unanimously passed the proposed redistricting maps of the county for election districts at its monthly public hearing and work session on Monday night.

"I know it may be hard to look at this compared to what it looked like last year, but I think we eliminated a lot of the gerrymandering," chairman Jay Paul said. "We are trying to get as even as we can with the population."

District 2 Commissioner Andy Saxon said he noticed District 1 looked proportionally large compared to District 2, which has typically been the largest in the county in the past. Paul said he could likely get an estimate of the specific land mass.

The commissioners discussed a variety of other items, including a board reappointment and vacancies, roads recommended for the Truck Traffic listing, an aerial imagery presentation and the financial report.

The commissioners voted 5-0 to approve a Temporary Use Application for the Caitlin Gala, a benefit raising money for Caitlin Gal to help offset medical costs, to be held on Nov. 26.

The commissioners also un-

animously approved the reappointment of Dink NeSmith and John Robertson to the Economic Development Authority. When discussing the vacancies of the Health and Library Board, Paul said he recently met with Jean Westmacott, the Financial Officer for the BOC on the Oglethorpe County Library Board of Trustees, who may know potential candidates for those positions.

When discussing adding Ralph Bridges and West Beaverdam Road to the Truck Traffic List, Paul said he has noticed many trucks taking West Beaverdam to get to the highway, causing traffic build up.

Commissioner David Clark asked about how the road will be restricted to prevent this, prompting discussion over how to deal with the issue.

The motion to add the two roads passed 5-0.

County Clerk Amy Forrester reported a budget proposal of aerial imagery from the Board of Assessors. The proposal is for 2022 Eagleview aerial imagery, which would replace the 2015 aerial imagery the county currently uses, Forrester said.

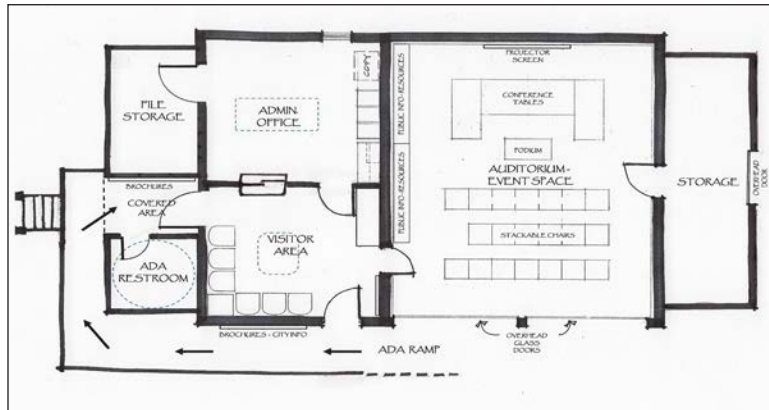
The purpose of the proposal is to properly assess properties that are not currently accessible and evaluate possible revenue from them.

A contract term with Eag-

levy is six years with a cost of \$106,080 divided into annual payments of \$17,680. District 4 Commissioner Will Brown said the commissioners should think about the proposal and consider the possibility of one flight. The commissioners agreed to give Forrester an answer in next month's meeting while Forrester agreed to discuss the possibility of a three-year contract with Eagleview.

When District 5 Tracy Norman asked whether the technology was better than satellites, Forrester said the imagery is better, in her opinion, "of all the buildings, and I do think it's better than Google Maps."

The financial report passed unanimously and the BOC then entered into an executive session over personnel.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Evelyn Reece, of Reece Preservation Services, LLC, created the above draft design, which includes an auditorium for events, space for a visitor's center, and ADA compliance for the entire building.

PLEASE HELP US FIND OUR BLACK CAT!



His little sister and his family miss him.
CALL 706-424-7768 WITH INFORMATION.
He left his home near Hwy 78 and
Old Lexington/Bunker Hill Road on Sunday, October 24.
He has never been outside before.
A REWARD IS BEING OFFERED FOR HIS RETURN



"Service with a conscience."

Free inspections and free estimates!

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL

- Pest Management
- Fire Ants
- Mosquitoes
- Bed Bugs and more!

Owner/Operator: Brad Turner
706-247-2252
smalltownpest@gmail.com



TRAVA'S TRIVIA

Trava's Dog Gone Good Cafe
Weekly trivia through the rest of the year.
The weekly question will only be in
The Oglethorpe Echo.
The first 3 people to email
doggonegood27@gmail.com
will receive a free meal at
Trava's Dog Gone Good Cafe.
This week's question is:
What city and year was
Dog Gone Good founded?

Mixon
Used Cars
and
Body Shop
Mon.- Fri. 8-6
706-743-5500

THE OGLETHORPE ECHO

KEEP YOUR ECHO COMING

The expiration date of your ECHO subscription is imprinted on the label in the upper, right-hand corner.

Remember to renew your subscription before the expiration date. Please cut the label off your ECHO and paste below to renew or become a new subscriber.

Name _____

Address _____

Mail to: The Oglethorpe Echo, P. O. Box 268, Lexington, GA 30648

In-County
Six Months - \$16.20
One Year - \$21.60

Out-of-County
Six Months - \$21.60
One Year - \$28

Out-of-State
Six Months - \$25
One Year - \$35

THE OGLETHORPE ECHO

Serving Oglethorpe County for more than 148 years

P. O. Box 268
Lexington, Georgia 30648
editor@oglethorpeecho.com
706.743.3111

The Oglethorpe Echo Legacy Inc.
Nonprofit 501(c)(3)
Application filed with IRS

Managing Editor: Andy Johnston
Reporting Staff: Alden Lisse, De Turner, Julianna Russ, Mackenzie Tanner, Maddie Brechtel, Sarah White, Thomas Ehlers
Design Editor: Amanda Bright
Office Staff: Elaine McGarity and Fran Rauschenberg
Chairman: Dink NeSmith

Policies and Deadlines

■ The Oglethorpe Echo encourages readers to submit items of community interest. Submissions for community news, obituaries, classifieds, and other sections are due by the weekly deadline of Monday at 5 p.m., on a week of normal publication schedule. Holiday events often cause an earlier deadline.

■ Submissions for the above sections can be mailed to: Editor, P. O. Box 268, Lexington, Georgia 30648 or emailed to editor@oglethorpeecho.com, along with a name and phone number for more information.

Accuracy Policy

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

■ To request a correction, contact the managing editor at editor@oglethorpeecho.com or 706-743-3111.

Copyright

No part of this publication may be reproduced in any manner without specific written permission of The Oglethorpe Echo. All rights reserved.

OPINION & COMMENTARY

Look around and see Oglethorpe's quality of life

"You can observe a lot by just watching."
Yogi Berra

Major league baseball's immortal legend, Yogi Berra, had a quip for just about every situation. During lunchtime Saturday, I thought about Yogi's observation on observation, but you can look without seeing.

Saturday, during lunchtime at the Rowdy Rooster, was an opportunity to see, really see, what many Oglethorpe County residents consider to be their top priority—quality of life. But I am getting ahead of myself.

The morning's goal was to paint The Echo's lobby. The trio of painters was volunteers Jane Robertson, Fran Rauschenberg and my wife, Pam. I was their errand boy and furniture mover.

By midmorning, I was thinking, "I sure am hungry." And then in walks Kathleen deMarrais with a plate of scones and a pot of coffee, courtesy of Ralph Maxwell, The Echo's recently retired editor and publisher. Kathleen, along with Jamie Lewis, is the Rooster's proprietor. Talk about quality of life. There we were, tasting it on our work break at 221 East Main St.

Other morning visitors were John and Jill Hill, the newspaper's down-the-street and around-the-corner neighbors. John said he was a pretty good handyman, and asked, "How can I help?" I showed him a dripping bathroom faucet. He said, "I can fix



Dink NeSmith

yours."

Donny Faust came by, too. He's much more than Crawford's municipal waterworks expert. Donny is an invaluable volunteer photographer on The Echo's sports-reporting team. Edward Toledano of The Gillen House in Maxeys also asked, "How can I help?" When we look back on the launch of this newspaper's new era, we will see—really see—how volunteers made the difference in its success.

God gave Oglethorpe County some magnificent geography. I love the woodlands, the wide-open spaces, the rolling hills, streams, lakes, historic landmarks and proximity to other amenities. What completes the quality-of-life package are the civic-minded people of Oglethorpe County.

And that's what I saw—civic-minded people—when we crossed East Main St. and walked into the playful spirit of the Rowdy Rooster's patrons. As Lexington postmaster Lincoln Lindsey entered, wearing an Abe-like black stovepipe hat, he got a "rowdy" welcome in the Rooster.

Kathleen introduced me to Mar-

that." Historian Tom Gresham and his wife stopped by. Tom allowed he was "pretty good" with yard work. I laughed and pointed at our crop of kudzu, said, "It's all



On a sunny October afternoon, Shannon Haynie took her children and their puppy on an errand in downtown Lexington. From left, are Georgiana, 5; Zara, 7; Dmitri, 3; 3-month-old puppy, Bonny, and Shannon Haynie, holding 9-month-old Roman. Two years ago, George Haynie moved his family from New Jersey to join UGA's engineering department.

ilyn Hill, who was eager to volunteer. Terry Rowlett and Cheryl Washburn were there for lunch, too. Ralph joined Fran, Jamie, Pam and me, while we sampled the delicacies of Kathleen and Jamie's kitchen. Looking around, I imagined we were on the set of TV's iconic sitcom of Friends.

Before we left, I showed Kathleen a photo that I had taken the day before. Others looked, too, and a chorus chimed, "That's

Shannon and her children!" Shannon is an artist. She had illustrated Am I Still The Ocean, a book for sale at the Rooster.

Twenty-four hours earlier, I had observed a young mother pushing a triple stroller through The Echo's parking lot. Strolling with her was a fourth child and a puppy on a leash. I had to get closer look.

As Hwy. 78's big rigs and vehicles swished by, I learned Shannon Haynie and her husband,

George, had moved their family from New Jersey. George is with UGA's engineering department. Shannon and her entourage were running—well, walking—an errand to the post office, with a stop by Kendall Strickland's roadside vegetable and fruit stand.

How about that, Yogi? You can't "observe" much better quality of life than that.

And it's all available, right here in Oglethorpe County.

THE ECHO'S OPINION

Here's to our future: A new era

The Oglethorpe Echo has a proud, 148-year-old heritage. Dating back to its founding in 1874, the weekly newspaper has recorded this Northeast Georgia community's happenings and history. Long before the Digital Age, The Echo was Oglethorpe's "Google." Through bound volumes and microfilm, that institutional knowledge is still available.

Since 1956, Ralph Maxwell Sr.'s family has been the faithful steward of Oglethorpe County's newspaper and legal organ. The edition that you are holding in your hands and reading marks a historical milestone for The Echo. Ralph Maxwell Jr. and his siblings, Lynda, William and Scott, are turning over the family's newspaper ownership to a nonprofit corporation, The Oglethorpe Echo Legacy Inc.

Rather than see the newspaper close, volunteers—donating their dollars and energies—have stepped forward to begin a new era for The Oglethorpe Echo. Why? Because they believe our community deserves a voice through the pages of its newspaper.

For The Oglethorpe Echo to be a sustainable business, it must increase its advertising income and circulation. More readers mean more advertising. More advertising means more pages of news. If the newspaper is to survive, it must have the community's support.

The publishing model for your newspaper is somewhat groundbreaking, thus the new nonprofit approach. As already demonstrated, volunteers are donating contributions (that will eventually be tax-deductible) and services, such as answering the phone, painting and lawn care.

One of the largest investments of any business is payroll. That is why UGA's Henry W. Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communications will be a key factor in this approach. It will be a win-win-win opportunity for the students, the newspaper and the community.

These aspiring journalists will gain invaluable experience by reporting what goes on in Oglethorpe County. Our residents can educate the students to real life in small-town America. And in return, The Oglethorpe Echo Legacy Inc. can minimize its overhead, an ever-demanding challenge for all businesses.

You should know that this initiative is attracting national attention. Reporters are curious and calling. They are anxious to see whether The Echo's novel ap-

proach will be exported to other rural communities. Will this concept work? Yes. Will this concept be perfect and error-free? No. From this edition forward, The Oglethorpe Echo's new era will be a learning adventure for the students, the community and the nonprofit corporation. We ask for your patience and your support. There will be bumps and bruises, but nothing that we hope a Band-

aid and a little time can't help to heal. We subscribe to the proverb: "If you want to run fast, run alone. If you want to run far, run together." Previous publishers of The Oglethorpe Echo—with the backing of the community—have run for 148 years. We are grateful to the Maxwell family and their predecessors. Now, we look to the future. Will you join us so that The Oglethorpe Echo can run even farther?

PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Monday, Nov. 8:** Lexington Downtown Development Authority, Lexington City Hall, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, Nov. 9:** Economic Development Authority, Board of Commissioners, 5:30 p.m. Crawford City Council, Crawford City Hall, 7 p.m. Maxeys City Council, Maxeys City Hall, 7 p.m. Winterville City Council, Winterville Auditorium, 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Nov. 11:** Lexington City Council, City Hall, 7 p.m.

OUR LAWMAKERS

- U.S. Senate**
Sen. Raphael Warnock
warnock.senate.gov
3625 Cumberland Blvd., Suite 970
Atlanta, GA 30339
(770) 694-7828
Sen. Jon Ossoff
ossoff.senate.gov
3280 Peachtree Rd. NE Suite 2640
Atlanta, GA 30305
(470) 786-7800
- U.S. House of Representatives, 10th District**
Rep. Jody Hice
hice.house.gov
1020 Park Drive, Suite B
Greensboro, GA 30642
(762) 445-1776
- Georgia Senate, District 24**
Sen. Lee Anderson
lee.anderson@senate.ga.gov
160 Louisville Road
Grovetown, GA 30813
(404) 656-5114
- Georgia House of Representatives, District 120**
Rep. Trey Rhodes
trey.rhodes@house.ga.gov
1051 Ben Hammond Dr.
Greensboro, GA 30642
(404) 656-5099



THE OGLETHORPE ECHO

Serving Oglethorpe County for more than 148 years

P. O. Box 268
Lexington, Georgia 30648
editor@oglethorpeecho.com
706.743.3111

Opinion & Letter Policies

- The Echo's Opinion is a staff editorial expressing the views of The Echo.
- Opinion or guest columns express the views of the writer only.
- We encourage letters to the editor on a wide range of issues and topics.
- Publication of any letter is subject to the discretion of the The Oglethorpe Echo. All views expressed in any letter are those of the writer.
- Letters are subject to editing for style, grammar or libel and should be limited to 350 words.
- All letters must be signed. Please include street address and phone number for the verification of identity. Only names and city of residence will be published.
- Letters are due by the weekly deadline of Monday at 5 p.m., on a week of normal publication schedule. Holiday events often cause an earlier deadline.
- Letters can be mailed to: Editor, P. O. Box 268, Lexington, Georgia 30648. or e-mailed to editor@oglethorpeecho.com

INDEX	INSIDE
Opinion 4-6	Senior running back 4-5
Community 5-10, 13	Nata Brown has 5-10, 13
Classified/Ads 11	Roundtable in the 5-10, 13
Short Report 14-17	Parade offense with 5-10, 13
Special 18-21	With special this 5-10, 13
	Season 11

THE OGLETHORPE ECHO

End of an Era for the Echo
Tribute to Ralph Maxwell's 40 years as Echo editor, a longtime family tradition

By Dink NeSmith
The Oglethorpe Echo has a proud, 148-year-old heritage. Dating back to its founding in 1874, the weekly newspaper has recorded this Northeast Georgia community's happenings and history. Long before the Digital Age, The Echo was Oglethorpe's "Google." Through bound volumes and microfilm, that institutional knowledge is still available.

End of an Era for the Echo
Tribute to Ralph Maxwell's 40 years as Echo editor, a longtime family tradition

By Dink NeSmith
The Oglethorpe Echo has a proud, 148-year-old heritage. Dating back to its founding in 1874, the weekly newspaper has recorded this Northeast Georgia community's happenings and history. Long before the Digital Age, The Echo was Oglethorpe's "Google." Through bound volumes and microfilm, that institutional knowledge is still available.

Lexington officials ask for feedback on new city hall design
An ADA-approved building with separate access or it could be open to the public in the near future.



Lexington City Hall is pictured on Oct. 29, 2021. City officials are asking residents to share their ideas about the addition or other aspects of the design.

We welcome your donations.
Make checks payable to The Oglethorpe Echo Legacy, Inc.
Post Office Box 268, Lexington, GA 30648

(Application for 501(c)(3) nonprofit status has been submitted to the IRS. When approved, donations will made tax-deductible, retroactively. Process typically takes several months.)

GBI arrests court clerk
Oglethorpe County Probate employee charged with theft, forgery

UGA students begin reporting for the Echo
By Andy Johnson

LETTERS TO THE ECHO

Thankful, wishing the best to the new era of The Oglethorpe Echo

Editor,
I had to let you know how pleased and appreciative I am to read that you stepped up to help keep the Oglethorpe Echo going.

My husband and I were born and reared in the county. He grew up only a couple of miles from where you now reside, on what was then known as "The MooretheMerrier Farm." It's no longer a dairy farm, and is now occupied by no one we know. I grew up in the Enterprise community, where my daddy ran the little community grocery store. It went the way of all the other little family grocery stores that now sit vacant and sad along the roadsides of the county, with inventories consisting only of memories.

My grandfather Garfield Eberhardt wrote the acclaimed "dots" from Enterprise 'till he died in the early 1950s, then my Grandmother Eberhardt took over for him, followed later by my mother, Opal Harris, who told all there was to tell from Enterprise until she moved in 1990. Lots of folks now laugh at the concept of "the dots," but we all know they still exist; they just moved and are now called "Facebook posts." The way we communicate has changed a wee bit since my people in Enterprise relied on the dots to tell us what our friends over in Lexington, Smithonia, and all the other bergs were up to. At any rate, as you can see, the Echo has been a big part of my family for as long as I can remember.

The U.S. Air Force works in mysterious ways, as does God, and they landed us in Ohio way back in 1987 where, to our surprise, we've been ever since. However, I've subscribed to my Echo wherever we've lived, from California, Arizona, Missouri, Texas, and now Ohio. I pay a tidy sum for my out of state subscription just to have a little taste of home show up once a week. We still have deep connections in the county and love to visit it when we can. We're among a crowd of folks who've always thought the world of the Maxwell family. Goodness, I always felt like I'd be letting my sweet, departed mama down if I stopped getting our Echo.

Anyway, that's way more than you need to know, but I truly want to wish the best to all those who will be working to revive, and likely reinvent, the Echo. I know changes will come, but I'm confident they will be positive. I can't help but also hope it can maintain the charm and warmth of the community that's so close to my heart. I'm sure it's in good hands. I plan to keep on subscribing (please, do what you can to prevent my out of state subscription from climbing—pretty please), and I'm going to give a gift subscription to my older sister in Greene County who forgot to renew hers a while back. Hopefully others will do similar things, and collectively it can help in a small way to sustain our old family friend, The Echo.

Thanks again, and if a transplanted Georgia Bulldog can ever help from Ohio, just let me know.

God Bless,
Diane Harris Moore,
Beavercreek, Ohio

Support for more affordable child care is in everyone's interest

Editor,
In 1990 I had a premature baby. I'd been on bed rest for two weeks, eating deeply into saved-up, state employee sick leave. Mother was four hours away, dying of cancer; mother-in-law was 12 hours away, paralyzed by a stroke. Husband got no paid leave whatsoever. We lucked out and found an amazingly competent and caring in-home day care provider for our 5-week-old daughter.

My situation back then mirrors that of today's mothers. My daughter just had her first child. Lack of childcare in her area means her husband is tending the baby while she works full-time. I live two hours away and can't help. He does an amazing job. Anybody who says stay-at-home parents don't really work or contribute to our country's economy is uninformed. But he needs to work to help pay bills.

America's young couples are delaying or choosing not to start families at all because of the expense and/or lack of care. It averages \$10,000/child annually. No wonder the birth rate in America is declining! Caregivers are predominantly female, and most make minimum wage. Many must take on second jobs to survive. One Georgia employee, educated in early child education, makes \$10/hr caring for precious babies and \$15/hour moonlighting at Starbucks. Is this obscene imbalance what Americans want for their children?

We must all help our young families. Get behind Biden's plan, no matter your political party. It's a lifesaver for your children and grandchildren. Don't believe me? Just ask them what they need.

Regina Smith,
Athens

Local novelist explains plots of two recently released books

Editor,
Local author John Brewer has recently published two more novels, his 15th and 16th. The first, "Identity," follows the life of an English boy, Robert Abbott, who realizes the man and woman he is living with are not his father and mother. They are being paid to bring him up. He wants to find out who his real mother and father are, what his identity is. Later, he joins Officers Training Corps as a public school student. When World War I begins, he becomes a British Army officer.

He is wounded and meets another wounded officer, Charles Moorfield, from a titled family, who is his twin. The two men together begin to try to find their true parents. Daisy Moorfield, considered Charles's half-sister, volunteers to become a nurse. Through three years of carnage, Robert and Daisy grow close as Robert uncovers the secret of his birth.

The second novel is a murder mystery, "The Huntress." Alex Edwards just wants to put WWI behind him. He accepts a job teaching at a grammar school in NW England, a land of high hills. The only place he can find to live is at the Omber's, a war widow, with a daughter, Diana. With her, Alex explores some local caves and finds human remains perhaps thousands of years old. He sees Diana is a remarkable shot, taking rabbits for food and their pelts.

Teaching is helping Alex heal his "shell shock," when he discovers the body of a young girl, murdered and left for the buzzards. He reports this, but is so shaken, the police become suspicious. So Alex must turn detective, to find the real murderer. Diana is helping, he is not sure why, but his efforts attract the real murderer's attention.

Copies of all Brewer's books are at the Oglethorpe County Public Library and can be read there. Or they can be bought at The Rowdy Rooster in Lexington or through Amazon.

John Brewer,
Arnoldsville

COVID-19 booster shot rollout begins

State of emergency extended for long-term care facilities

By Julianna Russ
The Oglethorpe Echo

Thursday morning is the most hectic day of the week at Skrip Shoppe Pharmacy. Customers start trickling in to receive their scheduled COVID-19 vaccine or booster shot, and the staff prepare to tackle the long day ahead.

With Oglethorpe County's community transmission rate currently designated as "high" by the CDC, local health care experts hope that recent approval of the booster shot will bring another level of protection to the population.

The pharmacy, founded in 1980 by University of Georgia graduate Carlos Rodriguez-Feo, serves residents of Oglethorpe County and surrounding areas. Skrip Shoppe Pharmacy is offering COVID-19 vaccinations by appointment, including administration of booster shots.

At the time of writing, 45% of Oglethorpe County residents received at least one dose of the vaccine, with 42% of residents fully vaccinated, according to the Georgia Department of Public Health Vaccine Distribution Dashboard.

"For the COVID vaccines, we schedule them on Thursdays," Rodriguez-Feo said. "We usually try to do (the appointments) in multiples of 10. Generally 20 or 30 will get scheduled on any given Thursday."

To schedule an appointment, call Skrip Shoppe Pharmacy at (706) 743-5477. The seasonal flu shot is also available any day of the week.

Those who received the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines are eligible for the booster shot if aged 65 years or older, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines. People aged 18 years or older are also eligible for the booster if they live in long-term care settings, have underlying medical conditions or work or live in high-risk settings. The booster should only be taken at least six months following administration of the second dose.

For those who received the single-dose Johnson & Johnson Janssen vaccine, the waiting period for a booster shot is two months after vaccination. All people aged 18 years or older are eligible.

In both instances, any of the COVID-19 vaccines authorized for distribution in the United States can be safely administered as a booster. Skrip Shoppe Pharmacy and the Oglethorpe County Health Department are both administering booster shots on a limited basis.

While cases are still occurring in Oglethorpe County, Emergency Medical Services Director Jason Lewis said COVID-19's toll on the community appears to be dwindling.

"Our overall call volume remains relatively steady, some of those due to the COVID long-haulers that we have. We're hoping to see vaccination numbers rise when there's more of a wider age range that's eligible," Lewis said. "With all of the mitigation strategies that we have in place locally, we're excited that the numbers are down."

Long-haulers is a term used to describe those who do not fully re-



JULIANNA RUSS/THE OGLETHORPE ECHO

Carlos Rodriguez-Feo, above, is pictured in Skrip Shoppe Pharmacy on Oct. 29, 2021. Rodriguez-Feo founded the pharmacy in 1980, pictured below, and it currently provides COVID-19 vaccinations.



TOTAL COVID-19 NUMBERS

(as of 4 p.m. on Nov. 2, 2021)

Oglethorpe County

- Confirmed Cases: 1,699
- Deaths: 40

Georgia

- Confirmed Cases: 1,266,216
- Deaths: 24,921

Source: Georgia Department of Public Health

cover from COVID-19 and have lingering symptoms.

Care facilities cautious

Many sectors of the economy are resuming regular operations, but others are still experiencing pandemic-related regulations. Specifically, the state of emergency for long-term care facilities in Georgia was recently extended until January.

Residents of Quiet Oaks Health Care are tested once per week and staff are tested twice per week. Only essential employees are permitted inside the facility, and no

communal dining or social activities are allowed. Outdoor visits with residents cannot last longer than 30 minutes. Masks and social distancing are required.

Despite these limitations, Social Services Director Chris Wrenn and the Quiet Oaks staff are trying to maintain some degree of normalcy for residents.

"We are doing drive-up visits and window visits, things of that nature to try to maintain the relationship between the families and the residents," Wrenn said. "We're trying to find ways — I guess creative ways — to make sure that our residents' (lives are) as normal as possible."

CHARLES FLEMING
Hauling
Clearing
Grading
706 202-3897

B & C
Well Pump
Repair
Installation and
Trenching

Bo Smith
& Cory Smith
Free Estimates

Bo: 706-340-6572 - Cell
Cory: 706-340-6396 - Cell

WILLIAMS TREE SERVICE & LAND CLEARING
"From the top of the tree down to the roots - We Can Do It All!"
- Cell Ph. - 706-255-6764 - text only
CARY WILLIAMS
Owner/Operator
• Fully Insured • Free Estimates • Full Equipped
• Specializing in Dangerous Tree Removals
• Stump Grinding • Land Clearing • Hauling
• Chipping Equipment
• Bobcats • Chipper • Dump Trucks
Also Available: Mulch & Firewood - Delivery or Pick-up

ATHENS PET CREMATION
In Partnership with Lord & Shoppens

706-765-8190
We are available by phone 24/7, 365 days a year.
www.athenspetcremation.com

DISTRICT TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Stoudenmire aims to have positive influence on kids

By Thomas Ehlers
The Oglethorpe Echo

Penni Stoudenmire sees her students not merely as pupils, but as “one big family.”

The Oglethorpe County Primary School kindergarten teacher was recently named the district teacher of the year and will represent the district at the state level. Oglethorpe County Schools Superintendent Beverley Levine described Stoudenmire as a teacher who “brings a lot of wisdom and enthusiasm to the position.”

“Ms. Penni Stoudenmire will represent us exceptionally well,” Levine said. “She is a dedicated teacher. The students love her, and affectionately call her Ms. Penni.”

Stoudenmire said she maintains an organized classroom and challenging curriculum that is done in a way that is “developmentally appropriate.” Her classroom provides a predictable schedule while establishing rules and routines early in the year to prevent surprises. She said keeping children engaged and creating fun learning experiences are keys to success.

“I really have always just wanted to be the teacher that I would want for my own children,” she said. “I just try to aspire everyday to come in with a good attitude and to come in happy. I want to give them a good experience where they really have a good foundation, not only with academics, but they love learning.”

Stoudenmire earned her bachelor’s in elementary education from the University of Georgia and her master’s in education from Piedmont College. She began her teach-

ing career in Morgan County before joining OCPS as a kindergarten teacher in 2006.

This is her 25th year as a teacher.

Stoudenmire does more than just instruct from the tardy bell to dismissal. She is a part of the Aspire program at OCPS that offers after-school care while enriching and enforcing standards taught in class and providing homework help. She makes an effort to spark a constructive change for young people in Oglethorpe County.

“I just want to be a positive influence on the children of my community, whether it be at church, or at school or just seeing them out in public,” she said. “Another goal is to have an impact on sports in my community. Not only the academic portion of their lives, but to also help get our community on the map when it comes to athletics.”

Last year, she accomplished that goal when Stoudenmire and her husband Tim led the high school’s girls track team to the Class 2A state title last spring. Outside of school, she is an avid runner and athlete, reader, mother to children Grayson and Ella and guardian to three dogs.

Stoudenmire said since students’ situations are different, she tries to treat each one with respect and meet them in their place, which fosters social and intellectual growth along with a welcoming learning environment.

“We love them first, we teach them second,” she said. “The learning part comes so easily when they feel safe and when they see the love and feel taken care of.”

She said if she were able to suggest changes as part of the state competition, she



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Penni Stoudenmire smiles in her classroom with one of her Kindergarten students after an in-class activity. Stoudenmire uses hands-on activities like this one to foster an enjoyable and engaging environment for her students.

would advocate for additional pre-kindergarten classes, developmentally appropriate curriculum and smaller class sizes. While public school regulations have changed through her years as an educator, three ideas stay the same. “All kids need a little help, a little hope and a little love,” she said.

Middle school damage minimal as a result of new TikTok trend

‘Devious licks’ led to theft, destruction of school property

By Thomas Ehlers
The Oglethorpe Echo

Several isolated incidents connected to a TikTok trend that encouraged students to ransack fixtures resulted in damage to Oglethorpe County Middle School bathrooms, according to school officials.

The most costly incident involved two students who kicked, vandalized and removed a urinal from the wall, which caused about \$400 of damage, Oglethorpe County Schools Superintendent Beverley Levine said.

Oglethorpe County Middle School Principal Mack Baldwin said a soap dispenser and toilet were damaged at other times.

Levine said the vandalism decreased after the school system sent an email and posted a Facebook message to inform parents of the “devious licks” trend and another trend involving the consumption of dangerously spicy foods.

Levine said she received a positive response from parents, who identified the trend and helped stop it.

“We hold kids accountable. The hard part is figuring up the damages.”

Mack Baldwin,
Oglethorpe
County
Middle School
principal

“It did dramatically decline after that email,” Levine said. “It is always good when we can involve the parents to help us solve a problem.”

The “devious licks” trend started on the social media platform TikTok. A “lick” is described as successfully stealing an item of value from the school.

Videos on the app emerged of school-age individuals vandaliz-

ing bathrooms, school property and stealing teachers’ possessions, with users stealing increasingly harder or more significant items to increase their video’s popularity.

These acts led to widespread damage and school-wide punishments in some cases.

At OCMS, Baldwin said punishments for occurrences like these are handed out on a case-by-case basis. Students can be placed in detention or in-school suspension. They can also be prevented from using certain restrooms in lieu of ones that are more closely monitored. If those students are seen in prohibited locations, they can receive another referral.

“We hold kids accountable,” Baldwin said. “The hard part is figuring up the damages.”

Baldwin said in some circumstances, money is not the central issue. He said it might take a portion of the day for maintenance staff to fix an issue with a bead of caulk. In these instances, it is more the time commitment for the staff than the cost of replacement fixtures and supplies.

PROPERTY FOR SALE

Farm Listings

*Poultry farm with 3 broiler houses, stack house, 3 additional poultry houses used for storage along with a 3 BR, 1 BA, 1885 sq. ft. brick home all for \$699,900

Land Listing

*28.9 acres of mature timber on Pine Grove Rd. in Arnoldsville. 1300 ft of road frontage. City water available. \$259,000

*Tract 1, 20 acres on Buddy Faust Rd. Open, mixed hardwoods & spring. \$130,000

*Tract 2, 20 acres on Buddy Faust Rd. Open, mixed hardwoods & spring. \$150,000

*Tract 5, 21 acres on Buddy Faust Rd. Open, mixed hardwoods & spring. \$140,000

*1.9 acres on Willow St. in Maxeys. City water and scholarship available. Great home sites. \$24,900

*2.5 acres on Willow St. in Maxeys. City water and scholarship available. Great home sites. \$24,900

*63.03 wooded acres on Arnoldsville Rd. with over 800 ft. of road frontage. City water and natural gas at the street. \$504,000

*112 acres of beautiful pines & hardwoods overlooking flowing creek. Great home site. Good hunting tract or get-

IRIS INC.

Jake Willcox
706-338-0765
willcoxauctions@gmail.com

Iris Walker
706-338-8279
apiris1@aol.com

Donna Floyd
706-206-3587
dfloyd2691@gmail.com

Brian Hill
706-340-0512
bhil13551@gmail.com

Jessica L. Arnold
706-338-6566
jessicaearnold@outlook.com

Blake Arnold
706-340-0866
blakelarnold@outlook.com

Jake Peacock
706-255-8762
jacobjacobpeacock@gmail.com

Brandon Walker
706-338 7586
bwalker.irisincreealty@gmail.com

Georgia
Insurance
Center, LLC

Steve &
Deborah
Bray
1136 Athens
Road
Crawford, GA

Auto • Home •
Business • Farm
• Life

SUBSCRIBE TO THE
OGLETHORPE
ECHO



P.O. Box 268
Lexington, GA
30648
706-743-3111

editor@oglethorpeecho.com

Don't Risk a Detour.

LOCK IN A LONG-TERM
FIXED RATE WITH
FARM CREDIT.*

AGGEORGIA
FARM CREDIT

AgGeorgia.com

CAUTION
HIGHER INTEREST
RATES AHEAD

*FIXED RATE LAND LOANS AVAILABLE UP TO 20 YEARS.

Helping Georgia Grow for Generations®

NMLS# 627367

706.678.7088

Thank You, Ralph and *The Echo* Family!

OGLETHORPE COUNTY Board of Commissioners

Jay Paul, Chairman
Josh Hawkins, Director of
Finance and Compliance
Amy P. Forrester, Clerk

P.O Box 261
Lexington, Georgia 30648
Phone 706-743-5270
www.oglethorpecountyga.gov

David R. Clark
Phil Sanders
Andy Saxon
Will Brown
Tracy Norman

After learning from Ralph about the closing of *The Oglethorpe Echo*, my mind was spinning. I was filled with thoughts of how the closing would not only affect me personally, but how this would profoundly impact Oglethorpe County as a whole.

As Chairman, I have repeatedly stated my belief in preserving the rural quality of life we are so fortunate to have here in Oglethorpe County. Since 1874, *The Echo* has played a pivotal role in the lives of our residents by providing that sense of community that we pride ourselves on and has long been the hub of our County.

Words cannot express how grateful we are to the Maxwell family and *The Echo* staff for their constant dedication and service in reaching the homes and businesses in Oglethorpe County. Their contribution to the culture of our great county will not be forgotten anytime soon.

On behalf of The Oglethorpe County Board of Commissioners, thank you again Ralph and *The Echo* family!



Jay Paul, Chairman



GOOD GROUND. DEEP ROOTS.



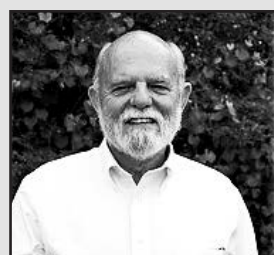
Jay Paul
Chairman
(706) 743-5270
jaypaul@oglethorpecountyga.gov



Phil Sanders
District 1
(706) 759-3655
phil.familyventure@windstream.net



Andy Saxon
District 2
(706) 743-5919
red529@windstream.net



David Clark
District 3
(706) 742-8612
drclarkdist3@windstream.net



William C. Brown
District 4
(706) 202-0629
wbrownboc4@gmail.com



Tracy Norman
District 5
(706) 207-4003
commissionertracynorman@gmail.com



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Maxwell family dedicates a new Oglethorpe Echo building on the 102nd anniversary of the newspaper.

Honoring the long legacy of The Echo

"And then Ralph Jr. and all the Maxwell children, they had that same work ethic and loved the community ... he made a huge impact carrying on the legacy of his dad. That will all be greatly missed."

Bobby Miller, manager of Greater Georgia Printers

Tributes from the community

"Ralph Maxwell is a disappearing breed of newsman. He understood the importance of striking the balance of what a community needs to know and what was good to know. He helped maintain the charm of Oglethorpe County."

— David Gabriel, Oglethorpe County Sheriff

"I would like to extend my thanks to Ralph Maxwell and the Echo team. As Judge of the Probate Court, I have worked closely with the Echo for many years and as a lifelong resident of Oglethorpe County, it has constantly been a part of my life here. Though it feels strange to say goodbye, I will always appreciate the Echo's hard work and service to this county, and I wish Ralph and the staff well in the future!"

— Kayla Grier, Oglethorpe County Probate Judge

"On behalf of the Oglethorpe County Board of Elections & Registration, we appreciate and thank you for your many years of dedication and support in keeping the community updated with information and statistics regarding our elections. Enjoy your retirement!"

— Steve McCannon, Oglethorpe County Election Supervisor

"I am very grateful to Ralph (his family) and The Echo Family for their dedication and service for so many years. Best Wishes to all!!!"

— Sheila C. Arnold, Oglethorpe County Tax Commissioner

"Ralph Maxwell has steadfastly committed to Oglethorpe County for his entire career, sharing the stories that matter to the lives of generations of Oglethorpe residents, and he did it every step of the way with fairness and dogged determination. Aside from that, Ralph is simply a kind and thoughtful person, and I'm better for having known him."

— Amy Stone, President, Plan South Services, LLC

"Ralph has always been very supportive of our efforts to promote events and happenings in the county and to go the extra mile with supporting articles when space permitted. His editor's column always contained humor and lots of history and facts about the county to interest all. He has been an asset to the community and will be sorely missed."

— Linda Parish, Oglethorpe County Tourism and Hospitality Director

"Like many folks here in Oglethorpe County, I met Ralph through several civic organizations that were seeking some newspaper coverage and free publicity for one fund-raising event or another. Ralph carried on the tradition of his father, Ralph Sr., in always helping out the many non-profit organizations in the county. Ralph and The Oglethorpe Echo were the main conduit of information for numerous churches, charitable organizations and communities for decades.

"We all knew the Echo needed advertising dollars, and though we would occasionally buy a small ad to assuage our guilt, most fund-raisers relied on the good will and free publicity of the Echo and Maxwell family. As one interested in the history of the county, I quickly learned that Ralph was an almost unlimited source of information, regarding both facts and the names of others in the county who would know more about any given topic. He always had a good story to go along with the bare facts. I will continue to rely on him for information, contacts and good stories.

"Finally, my wife Gisela and I have come to know Ralph and his extended family personally in the past decade or so. He is a very kind and generous friend who always opens a conversation asking about us and our family. He remembers everything we say, including which grandchild did what, and follows up from our last stories. Lately, we have met most Saturday mornings for coffee and pastries at the Rowdy Rooster, and we always look forward to these engaging conversations."

— Tom Gresham, former president of Historic Oglethorpe



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Ralph Maxwell Sr. is seen at the folder in The Oglethorpe Echo newspaper office.

ECHO, FROM PAGE 1

for the paper began.

"In 1956, I was just 5 years old," Maxwell said. "But even from a relatively early age, there was always ... something that we could do."

Ralph Jr. spent his childhood doing everything from melting down leftover lead in the linotype to setting headlines, learning the technicalities of producing a newspaper. Although he never imagined continuing his father's work at the Echo as a career, the paper's influence extended its reach into his college experience. He studied journalism at the University of Georgia, which presented him with opportunities to explore more about journalistic photography. After his graduation from UGA in 1974, Maxwell left home to find work. However, nothing could compete with the familiarity of the Athens area and the importance of keeping the Echo going.

In 1981, Maxwell's father needed help at the paper and, missing the Athens area, Maxwell decided to return and officially join the Echo team as editor.

"The paper was, you know, at that point, 100 years old, and I was interested in keeping it going," he said.

With 'honest journalism'

Maxwell continued to oversee the paper, but more than that, found his work to be rewarding.

"What seemed less like work than anything was being with the kids at the high school and taking sports pictures, you know, especially if they were having success," he said.

Not all the memorable moments in his career have been enjoyable, though. Deadly bank robberies, twisted murders and burning buildings were among the many stories that he'll never forget.

"You remember the dramatic things," Maxwell said. "But the enjoyable part is working with the kids and people in the community and trying to do good stuff."

Maxwell's focus for the paper has been honest journalism. The newspaper doesn't reveal the community. Rather, Maxwell believes a community reveals itself when represented by a newspaper.

The Echo has served as a representation of Oglethorpe County in several ways.

Maxwell said he believes it has acted as a "cheerleader" of the county, promoting the "best aspects of the community." It has tried to "encourage things that will improve the community." However, he also recognizes the paper as an essential tool of pursuing truth.

His main goal has been "to accurately represent the community and to be fair," he said.

"He's always looked for the good, and I really appreciated him as an editor for that," said Beverley Levine, the school superintendent.

Levine has worked closely with the Maxwell family since the beginning of her career in the school system, when Maxwell's mother offered her a job as a special education teacher.

Legacy for the industry

As the years have passed, the Echo has faced a grim reality: it has become less financially feasible to continue publishing. This is a problem nationwide; the print newspaper business is steadily dying.



SARAH WHITE/THE OGLETHORPE ECHO

Ralph Maxwell Jr., former owner of The Oglethorpe Echo, poses for a portrait on Oct. 29, 2021. Maxwell has run the newspaper since 1981.

"It's hard to combat that," said Bobby Miller, manager of Greater Georgia Printers.

Miller has worked closely with the Maxwells throughout the years, first with Ralph Maxwell Sr. and then with his son. He was hired by Ralph Sr. at the Echo immediately after graduating from UGA and later went on to manage and become a partner of Greater Georgia Printers, which Ralph Sr. co-founded.

Now, as the paper is continued outside of the Maxwell family, their impact on the community is remembered.

"He was one that loved the community and did great things for the community," said Miller about Maxwell's father. "And then Ralph Jr. and all the Maxwell children, they had that same work ethic and loved the community ... he made a huge impact carrying on the legacy of his dad. That will all be greatly missed."

"I think (people) will remember how well they've treated people," said Brenda Norman, bookkeeper at The Oglethorpe Echo for the past 36 years. "They were honest ... they would do the stories and they would be correct, but they never slandered anybody or anything like that. Anybody that ever came in, they've always been nice to them. Everybody that's been here has been like that. They're just good folks."

As he bids the paper farewell, Maxwell said he hopes it will continue to serve and interact with the community.

"I'm hoping that the newspaper will fill its journalistic responsibility and be fair, be objective," he said.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The staff of The Oglethorpe Echo has a combined 188 years of service to the county's newspaper. From left, Brenda Norman, Jessica Colquitt, Ralph Maxwell, Elaine McGarity and John Harold Williams, say they leave behind strong connections to each other.

Echo staff built tight relationships

By Alden Lisse
The Oglethorpe Echo

"It's been wonderful!" Brenda Norman exclaimed when asked about her job at The Oglethorpe Echo.

Norman has been the Echo's bookkeeper for the past 36 years, after one day impulsively quitting her previous job at the local bank. She hasn't wanted to leave since.

The Echo's small staff of Norman, Elaine McGarity, Jessica Colquitt and John Harold Williams, who has been with the Echo for 63 years, has cultivated a close-knit, family workplace dynamic throughout the years.

This has been McGarity's favorite part of the job during the past 10 years she's worked as the Echo's typist. McGarity had come to the Echo's office to have cards printed for her at-home word processing business when Ralph Maxwell asked if she'd fill in as the paper's typist for just two weeks. Those two weeks would become a permanent part-time job for McGarity. Even after leaving to work somewhere else, she promised she would return once she was eligible for retirement. She returned 10 years ago and has been there ever since.

After leaving the Echo, McGarity said she will miss interactions with her coworkers the most.

"Just meeting the people, seeing the people, working with Brenda and Jessica and Ralph," she said. "It's just a very light work attitude here."

Colquitt, the paper's staff reporter, was especially appreciative of this environment after moving to Oglethorpe County from North Carolina, leaving behind her family and friends.

"I could not have done it without (Ralph) and Brenda," she said.

Beginning her career at the Echo immediately after graduating college was intimidating, but she was welcomed with patience and understanding.

"I couldn't have asked for a better working relationship," Colquitt said. "Especially as time went on, it was a very trusting and easy and casual relationship."

STAFF, FROM PAGE 1

this newspaper on a weekly basis this fall.

The plan is to keep covering Oglethorpe County, its communities, and most importantly, its people, in the same fair and truthful manner that Maxwell, his family and his staff have done for generations.

And in the process help save this respected Oglethorpe County institution.

"We're honored and excited to work with a great team to save The Oglethorpe Echo," Charles N. Davis, dean of UGA's Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, said in a release. "This is an incredible hands-on learning opportunity for our students, and it means a great deal to us to keep a 148-year tradition moving forward."

Davis, Oglethorpe County resident Dink NeSmith and Maxwell worked together to put this plan into place.

"I am very pleased that Dink and the journalism school and Dr. Davis are trying to pull this together," Maxwell said in the Grady College release. "They have the knowledge and experience and connections to get it done. I think Oglethorpe County needs a good newspaper. Every community needs a good newspaper, and this is in the best interest of everyone involved."

So please be patient. Please be kind. Please work with us.

The names you see here are student-journalists. They're still learning, and they're new to your county. They don't have the experience, the contacts and the knowledge that Maxwell and his staff have built and used well through the years.

So the student-journalists are already working hard to get to know you and report the stories that are important to you. In fact, you might have already seen them around the county.

Here's the student staff and their beats:

- Maddie Brechtel, government
- Thomas Ehlers, schools
- Julianna Russ, courts and crime
- Alden Lisse, business/features
- De Turner, sports
- Mackenzie Tanner, copy editor/social media
- Sarah White, photojournalist

Despite the new names, you can still use the same email address and dial the same phone number to submit your photos, your calendar items, your press releases, your scores and other news important to you and Oglethorpe County.

"This is more about community spirit, and we will be 100% local to residents of Oglethorpe County," NeSmith said.



SARAH FREEMAN/SUBMITTED PHOTO

Dink NeSmith takes a photo of the new staff of The Oglethorpe Echo in front of a photograph of The Oglethorpe Echo building during a welcome reception for the students on Oct. 20, 2021, in the Journalism Building at the University of Georgia.

Thank You, Maxwell Family!

We are grateful for your 65 years of service to Oglethorpe County.

You helped to make *The Oglethorpe Echo* an inseparable part of our lives.



We wish you the very best!

<p><i>City of Lexington</i></p> <p>Mayor: Craig Snow City Council: Cindy Haynes, Ralph Maxwell, Greg Reece, Jill Severn, Ronnie Boggs City Clerk: Kim Bradford</p>	<p><i>City of Crawford</i></p> <p>Mayor: Seavy H. O'Neal City Council: Diane Brewer, Brenda Butler, Kathy Little, Sandra Sheridan, Helen Smith City Clerk: Amy Wall-Lance</p>
<p><i>City of Arnoldsville</i></p> <p>Mayor: George L. Spearing, IV City Council: Norma Craddock, Danny Morcom (Mayor Pro Tem), Jack Norman, Danny Sniff, Tracy Massey City Clerk: Betty Coy</p>	<p><i>City of Moxeys</i></p> <p>Mayor: Warren Gilson City Council: Danny Gorman, Teresa Churchwell, Carrie Hyatt, Shirley Callahan, Edward Toledano City Clerk: Sherry Gilson</p>

Patriot 5K raises more than \$2,500 for cross country

Staff Report

The annual Patriot 5K raised more than \$2,500 this year, surpassing the goal set by Oglethorpe County cross country coach Melissa McGarity.

The funds will be used to buy uniforms, healthy snacks, water, tents, chairs, coolers, and other items for the Oglethorpe County's cross country teams. The 3.1-mile race was held on Oct. 30 at the high school.

Race winners are:

- Noah Dixon, overall male
- Jenny Wisham, overall female
- Noah Huff-Merck, of OCHS, OC staff male
- Caroline Paradise, of OCHS, OC staff female
- Randy Booth, community male
- Jennifer Dixon, community female
- Tanner Mask, high school male
- Micah Dixon (fifth grade), middle school male
- Lannah Scarborough (sixth grade), middle school female

The High School Female division didn't have a participant.

McGarity credited sponsors and the community. The sponsors include: J&J Chemical, Pulliam Tree Service, Hansford Hay Truck & Trailer, Jessica's School of Dance, Bell's Food Market, Oglethorpe Children's Academy, 78 Salvage LLC, Blue Ribbon Memorials, DePalma's, Kort Carpentry, Soto's Pressure Washing, Skrip Shoppe Pharmacy, Joe H. Campbell, OD, LLC, Industrial Drives & Electrical Inc, McGriff Insurance Co., West Main Auto Repairs, Mr. & Mrs. John Lunsford, Cecil Gabriel, Sandra Fulghum, Marion Johnson, Lane Grier, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Clayton, Katherine & Adam Bailey, Ronnie & Stacey Cook, Pinnacle Bank and Fast Feet Timing.

"I am blessed to have grown up in Oglethorpe County and now get to work and coach at OCHS," she said. "I am so grateful for my co-coach Darrius Tompkins, who dedicates so many hours to our athletes and our cross country families who lend their kids to us every day after school. The OCHS cross country teams are made up of some of the best kids and families around."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Tanner Mask (back row, from left), Randy Booth, Noah Huff-Merck, (front row, from left) Lannah Scarborough, Micah Dixon, Jennifer Dixon, Noah Dixon, Caroline Paradise and Jenny Wisham were the winners of the Patriot 5K.

Program to help Arnoldsville residents with water bills

Staff Report

Help is coming for Arnoldsville residents who are behind on their water bills.

The city unanimously passed a proposal on Oct. 21 to offer the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIH-WAP), which provides funds to assist low-income households with water and wastewater bills.

City Attorney Danny Love said there were "a lot of hoops to jump through" for both the city and any potential applicants, but he felt it was a good program to offer local residents.

The LIHWAP would cover a water bill once a year for those who apply and are eligible to receive assistance. It also might provide a credit for the following year as well.

The LIHWAP is part of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LI-HEAP), a federally funded program through the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS).

Each resident would have to apply for the assistance through DFCS. If the resident or family is chosen to receive help, money for the water bill would be sent to the city, not to individuals.

In turn, the city would have to report any funding it receives for the program and take other steps, Love said. However, he felt the program is worth it because there are numerous residents who might be eligible and in need of assistance.

ARNOLDSVILLE COUNCIL UPDATES

Staff Report

The Arnoldsville City Council heard updates on several continuing efforts involving the city at its monthly meeting on Oct. 21.

Here's what happened:

- It was the first meeting for new city clerk Betty Coy, who was assisted by former city clerk Debbie Love. Mayor George Spearing IV and council welcomed her to her new role.

- The minutes from the previous month's meeting were approved, as were the financial reports from the past month.

- Water superintendent George Spearing III said all of the city's wells were running well. The water tank behind Arnoldsville City Hall had been washed out and refilled. The city has one new water customer on Arnoldsville Road who will be connected next week.

- A fire hydrant on Dunlap Road recently had been run over and damaged.

- The council unanimously approved the draft budget, which will include a \$1,500 increase in the water budget and a \$2,200 increase in the general fund budget.

- Spearing informed the council that the Short-Term Work Programs (STWP) had been completed and submitted to the county. Spearing read a resolution that stated that the STWP had been updated and submitted. The council then unanimously approved the resolution. The STWPs are used for scheduling specific actions that the council intends to take to address the city's needs and goals. The STWPs are usually updated in conjunction with the county's comprehensive plan updates.

- Spearing noted that the council had completed a few of the items since the previous STWP, including building a new city hall. It has also surveyed the city limits and expanded the city's fire protection the past couple years. Mayor Pro Tem Danny Morcom is overseeing the update of the STWP. The council agreed that paving the city hall's parking area could be added.

- Councilman Danny Sniff, who had volunteered to draw ideas for a new city hall marker, will make adjustments and gather price estimates after more discussion about the marker. The council agreed that it would like to have a granite slab, similar to what was previously on the property. It would like the granite to have raised lettering and rock work on the base to match the bottom of the new city hall. The marker will state "City of Arnoldsville-Established 1969." The council would also like to have small lights on a timer to illuminate the marker.

- A second reading of a potential new ordinance regarding the city's water system was made. Spearing and city attorney Danny Love explained that everything in the ordinance was already in effect. The council unanimously approved the new ordinance.

tate in the wind instead of becoming tangled on the poles, which should help minimize damage. Adding other designs will allow for the flags to be rotated throughout the city.

Mayor George Spearing IV said it should cost around \$500 to replace the flags and purchase the brackets.

New audio equipment

The Oct. 21 meeting was the first for the mayor and council with new audio equipment.

Spearing said microphones had been requested by community members after they had trouble hearing speakers at recent council meetings. Spearing suggested they consider purchasing wireless desktop microphones to place on the tables where he and the council sit.

He had estimated that the new microphones and audio equipment would cost around \$500.

The mayor would also like to buy a lectern with a microphone, where the public would be able address the council.

Nameplates for each of the council members was also mentioned, with the note that they would be inexpensive.

Other news

Councilman Danny Sniff said he spoke with representatives of the Firefly Trail about its plans for Arnoldsville. He had received similar offers and information about potential grants and analysis plans that were presented to Crawford at a recent meeting.

Sniff noted that Arnoldsville could receive a free trail concept plan from the organization, but a more detailed analysis would require a fee.

Spearing said he would contact Firefly Trail representatives to find out more and report to the council at a future meeting.

Holiday flags

The council voted to purchase 30 nylon holiday flags and brackets. They will replace about 18 flags of other material that were damaged last year.

Mayor Pro Tem Danny Morcom found 12 different designs for the holidays that are either themed for Christmas or the new year.

The brackets will allow the flags to ro-

UPDATE FROM PENTECOST CHAPEL

By Barbara Palmer

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations."

— Psalm 100

I enjoyed playing bingo when I visited the senior center several days this week.

On Monday, Deborah Miller brought spaghetti casserole, salad and rolls to Neil, Bernice and me for supper. Later in the week, we visited Daphne and Stanley, and enjoyed a meal of sloppy Joes, baked beans and coleslaw.

Pastor Gailey brought a good message from the book of James at Pentecost Chapel on Sunday.

Remember these in prayer: Marie Sisk, Carlton and Mary Alice Nunn, Hilda and Charles Palmer, Brenda Colley, Rev. William and Helen Anglin, Kathleen Canup, Michael and Tiffany Pugh, Norman and Tracey Pugh, Misty Ogle, Fay Miller, Neil and Bernice Grimes, Tommy and Fran Thaxton, Pastor Gailey's parents, Calvin and Betty Whittington, our government and all those who are serving our country.



Oglethorpe County Rainfall Reporting Network

Name (CoCoRaHS Number)	Location	Oct. 18-25
Lee Thaxton	Upper Flatwoods	0.68
Pat Kelly (OG-2)	Palmetto	0.31
Danny Morcom (OG-5)	Arnoldsville	0.55
Pete Kalla (OG-7)	Sandy Cross	0.30
Paul Webb (OG-10)	Lexington	0.49
Wayne Hughes (OG-12)	Wolfskin	0.69
Gwen Hirsch (OG-15)	Smithonia	0.17
Michael Moody (OG-21)	Glade	0.06
Kathrine Clark (OG-29)	Lexington	0.50

Oglethorpe County average rainfall for the week:
0.42 inches.

Athens rainfall for the week:
0.62 inches (typical weekly 0.92).

Measurements reported 7 a.m. Monday.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

THROUGH SUNDAY

Arnoldsville Cemetery Association, Inc. will be having a Spaghetti Supper fundraiser at 5 p.m. Nov. 4 at Arnoldsville Baptist Church. The Spaghetti Supper includes spaghetti, salad, bread, dessert and drink for \$10 and tickets will be sold at the door. Take-out or eat-in is available. Tickets for a Moss Creek Original Swing with Rack, made by Ross Dudley, will also be available at the supper. Anyone who would like tickets can call 706-352-4038, email arnoldsvillegacemetery@gmail.com or write to Arnoldsville Cemetery Association, Inc., P.O. Box 14 Arnoldsville, GA 30619. Raffle tickets are \$2 each or three for \$5. Venmo/PayPal is accepted. All proceeds to these events go to the maintenance of the Arnoldsville Cemetery on Yancey Road. The drawing will be immediately following the fundraiser at the annual community-wide meeting at Arnoldsville Baptist Church on Nov. 4. All health and safety precautions will be strictly followed.

Winterville Center for Community & Culture, 371 N. Church St., Winterville, offers Mah Jongg in Room 103 from 1-4 p.m. Fridays. There is a \$1 donation per person. All levels of players are welcome. Call 706-

742-0823 or visit the center.

The **Friends of the Oglethorpe County Library** will have a Satellite Book Sale on from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Nov. 6. Cookbooks, fiction, non-fiction, paperbacks, DVDs and other items will be available. All proceeds support the Oglethorpe County Library. Masks are required inside the book room.

The **Athens Area Religious Society of Friends, known as Quakers**, meets for worship from 10:30-11:30 a.m. every Sunday at 2092 U.S. Highway 78, Athens Road (the historic Cherokee Corner Church). The worship is prayer and meditation. All are invited.

Crawford Baptist Church will celebrate its 150th Homecoming at 11 a.m. Nov. 7. It will feature the Southern Gospel duo, Reflections of Grace and a meal will follow the service. Revival services will be held Sunday, Monday and Tuesday evenings at 6 p.m., featuring Rev. Steve Hankins, former pastor of Seacoast Community Church in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and founder of Renewing the Heart Ministries.

NEXT WEEK

Community Christmas of Oglethorpe County registration has begun. They hope to do

all interviews by phone and receive any documents by email. Leave a voice message if your call isn't answered. Calls will be returned in the order they are received. Contact Shirley Dillard (706-540-0785) from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Saturday or Jodie Zeuke (706-410-0382) from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday. For a second year, families will receive financial help toward rent, utilities or another December bill instead of clothes and toys. Parents will be able to choose a couple of gifts for their children by appointment at the Oglethorpe County Recreation Department gym on Dec. 16.

Oglethorpe County GOP will meet Nov. 9 at the Oglethorpe County Library. Doors open at 7 p.m. for meet and greet and the meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. Guest speakers will be Kelvin King, who is running for U.S. Senate, and Tim Barr, who is a candidate for the 10th District congressional seat. Bring a friend and be a part of the growing America First Agenda Movement.

Oglethorpe County Library presents Virtual Toddler/Pre-K Storytime with Mr. Evan at 10:30 a.m. every Wednesday on Facebook.

Northeast GA CASA is seeking volunteers to be trained as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for a child in foster care. This 30-hour training prepares

you to serve a child who is in foster care in your community. Your role is to advocate for the child's best interest as they navigate life in care of Social Services and under supervision from the Court. It is an educational, challenging and rewarding way to serve children in foster care. People from all walks of life can be great advocates for children, but a volunteer must be 21 and able to be an unbiased advocate for the child's interest. If you would like to learn more about being a volunteer for CASA, please contact Chuck Taylor at chuck.taylor@northeastgacasa.org or 706-886-1098.

Ninth District Opportunity, Inc. announces Home Heating & Water Help for the Elderly and Medically Homebound for Oglethorpe County and many surrounding area counties. Households in which every member is age 65 and older or is medically homebound due to health reasons may apply for assistance with their heating and water bills. One-time payments will be made by check issued to the home heating and water suppliers up to \$500 each.

Eligibility is based on the income of all household members. When applying for assistance, persons will present verification of age for everyone in the home, verification of all household income received within the past 30 days (check stubs, public assistance checks, unemployment

checks, etc.); verification of Social Security numbers for everyone in the home, verification of citizenship (driver's license, state ID, etc.), and the most recent heating source, electric bill and water bill. Bring all documentation. All eligible applicants are asked to contact Ninth District Opportunity, Inc.'s scheduling system by telephone at 855-636-3108 or www.ndo.org/eap.

Appointments will be scheduled until all funds are exhausted. Additional info will be made available at www.ndo.org. Applicants that do not meet the required criteria will be denied. The general public may apply on Dec. 1, 2021.

Ninth District Opportunity, Inc. is an equal opportunity agency while providing services without regard to age, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, national origin or any other classification or category.

Winterville Center for Community & Culture, 371 N. Church St., Winterville, offers Chair Yoga from 9-11 a.m. every Monday in Room 102. Cost is \$10 per person per session. Call 706-742-0823 or visit the center.

Winterville Center for Community & Culture, 371 N. Church St., Winterville, offers Dot Painting at 10 a.m. every Monday. The dot painting technique is an art form that's becoming increasingly popular. Call 706-742-0823 or visit the center.

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice To Debtors And Creditors

Notice to Debtors and Creditors
All creditors of the estate of Alonzo Long, Jr., late of Oglethorpe County, Georgia, deceased, are hereby notified to render their demand to the undersigned according to the law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.
This the 7th day of October, 2021.
Jacquelyn S. Long
42 Echols Mill Road
Carlton, GA 30627
11-04-4p

Notice to Debtors and Creditors
All creditors of the estate of Lucille Janice Belmore, late of Oglethorpe County, Georgia, deceased, are hereby notified to render their demand to the undersigned according to the law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.
This the 11th day of October, 2021.
Richard Aaron, Jr.
9604 Rushmore Cir.
Braselton, GA 30517
11-04-4p

Notice to Debtors and Creditors
All creditors of the estate of William Terry Brewer, late of Oglethorpe County, Georgia, deceased, are hereby notified to render their demand to the undersigned according to the law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.
This the 11th day of October, 2021.
Diane Brewer
321 Wall Street
Crawford, GA 30630
11-04-4p

Notice to Debtors and Creditors
All creditors of the estate of Barry Dean Lord, late of Oglethorpe County, Georgia, deceased, are hereby notified to render their demand to the undersigned according to the law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.
This the 18th day of October, 2021.
Brittney Holder (Lord)
19 Sulpher Springs Drive
Winterville, GA 30683
11-11-4p

Notice to Debtors and Creditors
All creditors of the estate of Seiriol Griffiths, Jr., late of Oglethorpe County, Georgia, deceased, are hereby notified to render their demand to the undersigned according to the law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.
This the 18th day of October, 2021.
James Scott Griffiths
27 Lauri Lane
Crawford, GA 30630
11-11-4p

Notice to Debtors and Creditors
All creditors of the estate of William Thomas Nelms, Sr., late of Oglethorpe County, Georgia, deceased, are hereby notified to render their demand to the undersigned according to the law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.
This the 19th day of October, 2021.
Melissa Gabriel
2127 Athens Road
Winterville, GA 30683
11-11-4p

Petition to Probate Will

In The Probate Court Of Oglethorpe County State Of Georgia
In Re: Estate Of Jones Edward Compton, Deceased
Estate No. 2021 P 77
Notice
IN RE: The Petition to Probate Will in Solemn Form in the above-referenced estate having been duly filed.
TO: Jannie I. Compton, Sandra D. Compton, & Samuel B. Compton
This is to notify you to file objection, if there is any, to the petition to probate will in solemn form, in this Court on or before November 15, 2021.
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.
Kayla H. Grier
Judge of the Probate Court
PO Box 70
Lexington, GA 30648
Telephone Number: 706-743-5350
11-11-4p

Petition for Letters of Administration

In The Probate Court Of Oglethorpe County State Of Georgia
In Re: Estate Of Letha Gail McDonald, Deceased
Estate No. 2021 P 79
Petition For Letters Of Administration
Notice
TO: Whom it may concern: Henry Wesley Mcdonald has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of Letha Gail Mcdonald deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before November 15, 2021.
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.
Kayla H. Grier
Judge of the Probate Court
PO Box 70
Lexington, GA 30648
Telephone Number: 706-743-5350
11-11-4p

In The Probate Court Of Oglethorpe County State Of Georgia
In Re: Estate Of George Brown, Jr., Deceased
Estate No. 2021 P 82
Petition For Letters Of Administration
Notice
TO: Whom it may concern: Mary J. Brown has petitioned to be appointed administrator of the estate of George Brown Jr. deceased, of said county. (The petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond, waiver of reports, waiver of statements, and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. § 53-12-261.) All interested persons are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the Court on or before November 22, 2021.
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.
Kayla H. Grier
Judge of the Probate Court
PO Box 70
Lexington, GA 30648
Telephone Number: 706-743-5350
11-18-4

Petition To File For Year's Support

In The Probate Court Of Oglethorpe County State Of Georgia
In Re: Rollin Lee Thaxton, Jr., Deceased
Estate No. 2021 P 78
Notice Of Petition To File For Year's Support
The petition of Mary Appling Thaxton, for a year's support from the estate of Rollin Lee Thaxton, Jr., deceased, for decedent's surviving spouse, having been duly filed, all interested persons are hereby notified to show cause, if any they have, on or before November 15, 2021, why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the

grounds of any such objections, and must be filed on or before the time stated in the preceding sentence. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed the petition may be granted without a hearing.
Kayla H. Grier
Judge of the Probate Court
PO Box 70
Lexington, GA 30648
Telephone Number: 706-743-5350
11-11-4p

Notice of Petition to Change Name of Adult

Superior Court of Oglethorpe County
State of Georgia
In re the Name Change of: Diana Michelle Gomez, Petitioner.
Case Number 21OV00162P
Notice of Petition to Change Name of Adult
Diana Michelle Gomez filed a petition in the Superior Court of Oglethorpe County on October 11, 2021, to change the name from: Diana Michelle Gomez to Diana Michelle Hughes. Any interested party has the right to appear in this case and file objections within 30 days after the Petition was filed.
Dated: October 11, 2021
Petitioner, Pro Se
Name: Diana Gomez
Address: 591 Collier Church Road
Comer, GA 30629
11-04-4p

Notice of Publication

In the Superior Court of Oglethorpe County State of Georgia
Petitioner: Peta-Gaye Espinoza
and
Respondent: Victor Espinoza
Civil Action File No. 21-OV-101W
Notice of Publication
To: Victor Espinoza
By Order for Service by Publication dated 8th day of October, 2021. You are hereby notified that on the 14th day of June 2021, the Petitioner filed suit against you for Petition for Citation of Contempt (name of petition).
You are required to file with the Clerk of the Superior Court of Oglethorpe County, and to serve upon the Petitioner (name) Peta-Gaye Espinoza, at this address, 111 W Main Street, Lexington, GA 30648, an answer to the complaint within sixty (60) days of the date of the first publication of notice.
Witness the Honorable Harvey Wasserman, Judge of this Court.
This 8th day of October, 2021.
Kelli Paradise Smith
Clerk, Superior Court of Oglethorpe County
11-25-4c

BANKSTON CONCRETE & CONSTRUCTION
(770) 337-8958

Building Slabs,
Driveways, Sidewalks,
Retainer Walls, Decorative Concrete
FREE ESTIMATES

30 Years Experience
Big or Small Jobs

CLASSIFIEDS

EMPLOYMENT

JOB OPENING

Quiet Oaks Health Care has immediate day and night time openings for LPNs to work 12-hour shifts with every other weekend off. The hours are 6:45 a.m. to 6:45 p.m. and from 6:45 p.m. to 6:45 a.m. There are also immediate openings for CNAs to work DAY shift from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. We are offering a new higher pay rate and after 90 days benefits including insurance / sick pay. Fax resumes to 706-743-5455 or email to quietoakshealthcare@gmail.com or come by 125 Quiet Oaks Drive, Crawford, GA 30630. Criminal background and drug screen required. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer. TFN

HELP WANTED

Quiet Oaks Health Care has positions available in Dietary, Laundry, and Housekeeping. Different departments have different schedules. After 90 days benefits include health and dental insurance and sick pay. Fax resumes to 706-743-5655 or email to quietoakshealthcare@gmail.com or come to 125 Quiet Oaks Drive, Crawford, GA, to complete an application. A Background Check and Drug Screen are required. We are an equal opportunity employer. TFN

ESTATE SALE

130 Hargrove Lake Road
Crawford
Friday and Saturday, Nov. 5 and 6
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Gulf-Atlantic Forestry

Forest Managers & Consultants
Timber Sales, Appraisals,
Real Estate & Land Surveying

Whit Lester 706-202-2996
gulfatlanticforestry@yahoo.com

MASTERS REALTY, INC

Timberland, Farms & Lots
Acquisitions & Sales
WHIT LESTER 706-202-2996
gulfatlanticforestry@yahoo.com

WEST MAIN

AUTO REPAIR

706-743-7379

Vacation Rental

Three bedroom, three bath beach front condominium available in Amelia Island, Fernindina Beach, Florida
Through April 1 - Labor Day - \$275 per night. After Labor Day until April First - \$175 per night. Plus \$125 cleaning fee per stay. King size bed and two queens, fold out double bed sofa, single bed fold-out love seat. Four flat-screen Smart TVs. Can access your own Netflix or Amazon, Full Kitchen, ground level patio, breakfast nook, large dining room table.
call 706-743-3111 or 706-224-1400.
Completely booked June and July 2021 & 2022
Available
November -7-19
Nov. 28- Dec. 28
Google: "#40 Ocean Place Amelia Island - Amelia Rentals - Vacation" -for pictures

SUBSCRIBE TO THE OGLETHORPE ECHO



P.O. Box 268
Lexington, GA 30648
706-743-3111

editor@oglethorpeecho.com



Charlie Snelling

Tales of Oglethorpe County

Almost 100 Years Ago — Tractors

When I was growing up, there were a lot of mules around. However, there were also tractors that did a lot of the farm work.

We're talking about the 1950s here, so it wasn't that long ago, and there were a lot of tractors around in those days.

I think I mentioned earlier that we were RED tractor people. Those are the ones with the clutch pedal on the left and the brake pedals on the right and were operated with the feet, like it should be.

Of course the GREEN tractor (John Deere) people know where I am going now.

Our tractors had four cylinders and pretty much sounded normal when they ran. The other brand had two cylinders that were about the size of lard cans and only fired now and then.

Many call these tractors the POP-POP variety, which sounded like someone hitting a bass drum when it was running slow.

Because they had such large pistons and so much torque, they did not need to fire quite as often as the International Harvesters (McCormick, FARMALL) brand we had.

I have to give them credit. They would almost stop under a heavy load, but that old two-cylinder would hit one more lick just when you thought it was done.

My earlier comment regarding the positioning of the clutch and brake is what everybody knew was different between RED and GREEN.

The John Deere, mostly model "A" tractors that I was familiar with, had a huge steel rod on the right side that was the clutch lever. When you got ready to move, you engaged the clutch with this rod and off you went. When you got ready to stop, you reversed this process and disengaged your power.

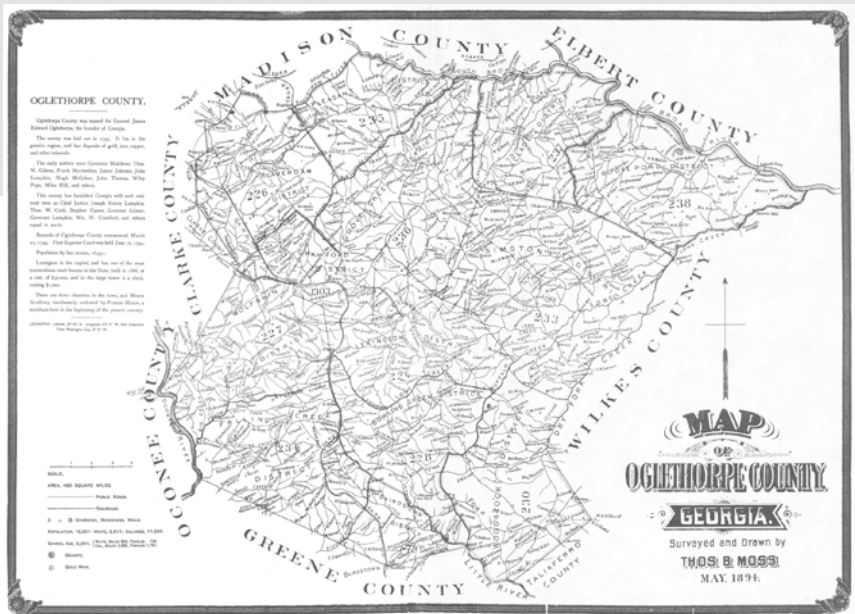
A GREEN tractor man did not know what "push in the clutch" on a tractor meant.

The first tractor I ever drove was a FARMALL "H," which was one of the models that we had.

The other one was an "M," which was much bigger. They let me drive the "H" because it only had 24-horsepower and was a good bit smaller than the "M."

All the tractors we owned had the "tricycle" front end. For those who don't know, that's where the two front tires are very close together. Some people say these are not stable, but I never had a problem.

What I do know is that if you wanted to turn around, say to the left, all you had to do was turn the wheel and push on that left brake. It would turn around on a dime, and that left rear wheel would be in the same track it was in when it was going the other way. You can't do that with these wide, front-end trac-



tors today.

Actually, in the 1950s, if you saw a tractor with a wide front end it was usually a little 7N or 8N Ford. Many people swore by these because they were so easy to work on, and the ignition parts were the same as your car.

The John Deere tractors also had the "tricycle" front ends that let you make that quick 180-degree turn. The brakes were a little different. The left was on the left and the right was on the right. A RED man would always hit that left brake before he realized he needed to pull the "Johnson Bar" to engage the clutch. I could never get used to a hand clutch, no matter how much I ran one of those old model "A"s.

All in all, the John Deere models had a little more horsepower and a lot more torque than the FARMALLs did.

When it came to plowing, it was the green monsters that could turn the dirt. That was not a big deal for the row cropping farmer who spent most of his time planting, cultivating, running hay equipment or pulling an old orange Allis Chalmers combine.

Green or Red did not really make much difference. None of these tractors had a whole lot of horsepower compared to what we have today.

However, they did beat hooking up a team of four mules to pull a big enough bottom plow to get that "new ground" ready for farming. "New ground" was land that had just been cleared of trees, so it could be used for agricultural purposes. That's a whole 'nother story in itself.

P.S. Not too long ago I used a 1949 "H" FARMALL, pulling a two-section mule drag harrow, to plow in the hand-sewn seeds I had just put out on my food plots. It was "deja vu" all over again. I was 12 years old again, and I don't think the smile ever left my face the whole time.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Staff Report

All information is from the Oglethorpe County Sheriff's Office arrest/booking reports and miscellaneous incident reports. All defendants are presumed innocent.

Deputy Joe Tapley was dispatched to Athens Road, Arnoldsville, at 4:12 a.m. Oct. 24 for a traffic accident. He met with the driver, Deon Arnold, who stated that he, nor the passenger, was not hurt. Arnold stated that several deer were in the roadway that he tried to miss, but lost control. After gathering information, Tapley had Dispatch run the subjects' information through GCIC for validation.

Arnold was placed under arrest for driving while suspended. The car was towed, and he was transported to the Oglethorpe County Jail, where he was turned over to the jail staff.

At 3:02 p.m. Oct. 24, Sgt. Andrew Brooks was dispatched to Smokey Road, Crawford, in reference to gun shots. The caller stated the bullet hit the dog pen and bounced off, nearly striking her in the head.

There were several complaints of shots fired in the area, and Brooks spoke with neighbors that pointed him in the right direction. The officer made contact with Johnny Sheridan.

While speaking with the subject, Brooks could smell the odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from Sheridan's breath along with bloodshot eyes. Sheridan was holding a glass with a liquid that he stated was alcohol and admitted to drinking.

Sheridan admitted to shooting his Springfield AR .223 and his KAHR TP45 at a target beside the house that was in line with the dog pen and was 100 feet or so from the pen and the residence.

Sheridan stated he was sorry and should have used better judgment.

Sheridan was placed under arrest and transported to the

Oglethorpe County Jail. The two weapons were taken and placed into evidence.

Deputy Joe Tapley was dispatched to Cotton Circle, Colbert, at 9:55 p.m. Oct. 24 for a drunk and disorderly person complaint. Tapley arrived and was met by the complainant, who stated that his brother, James Orr, had been drinking and got mad at him for getting rid of his dog.

The complainant stated his brother was yelling at him and hit him in the face and grabbed him. The complainant pulled his brother to the ground, holding him until the officers arrived.

Orr said he had been drinking shots all day and his brother had taken his dog off while he was in jail. The subject said he was mad, grabbed the complainant and wanted to fight.

The complainant did not want charges on his brother, but wanted him to get some help.

Orr was placed under arrest for disorderly conduct and transported to Oglethorpe County Jail, where he was turned over to jail staff.

Around 5:01 p.m. Oct. 25, deputy Luis Ochoa observed a silver 2021 Volkswagen Jetta traveling at a high rate of speed on Athens Road, Crawford, near Heather Lane. He confirmed visual estimated speed with his radar unit and performed a traffic stop on the vehicle at the BP gas station. Ochoa approached the driver, Manuel Marte, advising he was being stopped for traveling 74 mph in a 55-mph zone.

The officer provided Central with the driver's information to run through GCIC/NCIC and it came back Marte's driver's license was suspended for failing to appear.

The suspension and serve date listed was Oct. 20, 2021.

Ochoa returned to the Jetta and advised Marte to step out of the vehicle, where he was placed under arrest for driving while suspended. Marte's vehicle was turned over to a licensed driver at the scene.

Marte was cited for driving with a suspended driver's license and speeding.

Sgt. Andrew Brooks clocked a white Volkswagen Jetta traveling 66 mph in a 45-mph zone at Mile Marker 5, Crawford, at 10:42 a.m. Oct. 24. He made a traffic stop on the vehicle at North Street and identified the driver as Isai Velazquez Rios, who was unlicensed.

There were two passengers who were traveling from Texas to South Carolina.

Velazquez Rios was placed under arrest for speeding and driving unlicensed, and transported to Oglethorpe County Jail.

The two passengers were transported to the Sheriff's Office to wait for a ride. The Jetta was towed.

ARRESTS

■ Geovany Josue Almendares, Bold Springs Road NW, Monroe, was arrested Oct. 28 and charged with marijuana — possess less than 1 ounce.

■ Deon Arnold, Freeman Drive, Athens, was arrested Oct. 24 and charged with driving while license suspended or revoked (misdemeanor).

■ Jordan Steele Compton, Tappan Spur Road, Watkinsville, was arrested Oct. 27 and charged with probation violation.

■ Mary Melton Criswell,

Melton Road, Winterville, was arrested Oct. 25 and charged with probation violation.

■ Michael Granville, Park Avenue, Crawford, was arrested Oct. 29 charged with driving while license suspended or revoked (misdemeanor).

■ Jessy Hernandez, Lexington Road, Athens, was arrested Oct. 27 charged with driving without a valid license (misdemeanor) and two counts of tail lights require.

■ David Blake Holder, Pittard Road, Winterville, was arrested Oct. 27 charged with fugitive for justice and Agency Assist — Hold for SC.

■ Joseph Robert Ingram, NW 74th Avenue, Margate, Florida, was arrested Oct. 28 and charged with possession of methamphetamine, violation of window tint law and possession and use of drug-related objects.

■ Ashton Christopher Jones, Roswell Road, Sandy Springs, was arrested Oct. 27 and charged with theft by receiving stolen property — felony; speeding; marijuana — possession of less than 1 ounce; receipt, possession or transport of firearm by convicted felon or felony first; and driving with learners permit without licensed driver.

■ Sakauri Louis, Clay Road, Mableton, was arrested Oct. 26 and charged with failure to appear — misdemeanor.

■ Manuel Marte, C Street, Hiltonia, Georgia, was arrested Oct. 25 and charged with speeding and driving while license suspended or revoked (misdemeanor).

■ James Monroe Orr, Cotton Circle, Colbert, was arrested Oct. 24 and charged with disorderly conduct local ordinance.

■ Naquan Quizan Owens, Round Road, Grayson, was arrested Oct. 27 and charged with marijuana — possess less than 1 ounce, and theft by receiving stolen property — felony.

■ Johnny Curtis Queen was arrested Oct. 25 and charged with Agency Assist.

■ Cerlia Shvonna Robinson, Jefferson Village Drive, Jefferson, was arrested Oct. 27 and charged with speeding and no insurance.

■ Johnny William Sheridan, Smokey Road, Crawford, was arrested Oct. 24 and charged with reckless conduct.

■ Isai Velazquez Rios, San Jose Avenue, Austin, Texas, was arrested Oct. 24 and charged with driving without a valid license (misdemeanor) and speeding.



Headmaster's Corner

By Steve Cummings
"CHARLEY'S AUNT"

This year's High School One Act performance of "Charley's Aunt" was a huge success! The classic "love game" comedy was performed in the Globe Theater in 1893, and ultimately broke the worldwide record for longest running play with 1,466 performances.

"Charley's Aunt" is a brilliant, twisting story involving a young lad who takes on the identity of a millionaire widow. Senior Adam Shuman delighted the crowds as the young college student who impersonated Charley's rich aunt.

Thank you to One Act Director Monica Woodlief, who worked tirelessly on this year's play. Also, a big shout out to our One Act stars: Braden Byram, Ethan Woodlief, Annie Rollins, Hollis Williams, Anna Loggins, Ali Nabulsi, and Zach and Jasmine Colquitt.

GoHedge

- PLANT RENTALS
- HAND PRUNING
- POLE SAW WORK

706.247.5947

CHAD MILLER
contact@GoHedge.net
GoHedge.net



Words From The Well

A bi-weekly ministry of Living Water Baptist Church, Arnoldsville

H.G. Wells' 1897 novel, "The Invisible Man," proposed an interesting theory that if a person's refractive index is changed to the same as air, and if his body doesn't absorb or reflect any light, that person will be invisible.

Those are some might-big "ifs," and who wants to be invisible anyway!

God makes Himself visible through His children. We've all heard it's never too soon to be kind, but God's Word tells us there's never a time to be unkind.

"And become useful and helpful and kind to one another, tenderhearted (compassionate, understanding), forgiving one another [readily and freely], as God in Christ forgave you." (Ephesians 4:32, AMP). Hearts genuinely and freely forgiven will bear a visible distinction!

Why, the very next sentence says, "Therefore be imitators of God [copy Him and follow His example], as well-beloved children [imitate their father]." (Ephesians 5:1).

I was led to this passage by the lyrics of a song by Mitchel Jon, "I will do something visible for the Invisible One."

It made me consider the appearance [even perception] of my own actions, my behavior toward and before others. In truth, Believers' lives are a revelation of the Godly Reality within them — a reality shown [if you will] to the world of the difference Jesus makes. Let's carefully consider just how visible the invisible Presence is in us!

"Words from The Well" is written by Beverly F. Chandler. Read "Morning with Beverly." Monday-Friday at www.morningwithbeverly.blogspot.com

Border Patrol agents apprehended a total of 1,666,167 illegal immigrants along the southwest border in fiscal 2021!

Dennis Peter Helmreich

Attorney-at-Law
120 W. Main Street
Lexington, Georgia 30648
706-743-3410

AROUND THE COUNTY

TRUNK-OR-TREATING



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

John and Kristina Turner were in a tropical mood on a cool Halloween night at Lexington Baptist Church's annual Trunk or Treat Festival. They reported lots of treats and no tricks.

Church members handed out lots of candy, and the church provided hot dogs and chips. The event started at 6 p.m. and continued to 8 p.m.



Friends Naomi Brubaker and Kennedy McNair enjoyed meeting up at the Lexington Baptist Church Trunk or Treat Sunday.



This foursome enjoyed celebrating Halloween at the Trunk or Treat at Lexington Baptist Church on Sunday. Pictured are (left to right) Elizabeth Cook, Carlie Gabriel, Ansley Paul and Elin Turner.

HUFF TAKES MOST WINS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Oglethorpe County Middle School FFA member Luke Huff shows off the belt buckle he was awarded as the winner of the Georgia Junior Livestock Foundation showmanship points circuit in the dairy division at the Georgia National Fair. Huff recorded the most wins and received the greatest points of any junior dairy exhibitor in the state.

HONORING ROY DYER



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Shown with Brenda and Bobby Dyer are active members of the Lexington Volunteer Fire Department during a memorial tribute for Roy Dyer, who recently died. Dyer was captain at the Oglethorpe/Lexington Volunteer Fire Department for 15 years. For his "final ride," Dyer's remains traveled to the Ag Building, which he and his son, Bobby, worked to complete. Dyer was also instrumental in displaying the American flag on Veterans Day and Memorial Day, which is how he chose to honor U.S. veterans.

COSTUMES ENCOURAGED



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jean and Richard Westmacott of the Stephens Community enjoyed a Halloween Special Concert at No. 3 Railroad in Arnoldsville on Sunday. Local band Check The Signs performed from 2-4 p.m. Costumes were encouraged.

RETIRED TEACHERS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Karen Wamsley (standing, left to right), Leslie Jones, Marion Johnson, Barbara Cabaniss and Kate Finch (sitting, left) and Linda Banks (right) with Oglethorpe County Board of Commissioners Chairman Jay Paul. The teachers are wearing Georgia Retired Educators Day ribbons.

OGLETHORPE SPORTS

Q & A

Shealy leads OCHS volleyball to best season in years

By De Turner
The Oglethorpe Echo

The Oglethorpe County High School volleyball team concluded its season last week in the first round of the state playoffs. First-year head coach Kate Shealy led the team to a record of 12-17, 6-5 in the region, its best conference record in the past five seasons. There were five seniors — Brianna Bone, McKenzie Freeman, Caitlin Hartrum, Stacy Lapczynski and Emma Montoya — on the team.

Q: What was your first year as head coach like and what did you learn?

Kate Shealy: I couldn't have asked for a better year as a first-time head coach. I think as an educator, or coach or even just a human, if you ever stop learning and adjusting in order to improve, then you are failing yourself. With that being said, I learned more than I will ever be able to put into words. I learned a lot about building relationships with my athletes, what works and what doesn't work, and what I need to put more effort into in order to lead my team to a successful season. There will always be more to learn, regardless of how long you've been coaching; it's all about having a mindset that allows you to constantly learn from your experiences. So, I hope I continue to learn more and more each season.

Q: What were your goals going into this season and do you think you and the team accomplished them?

A: My goal for this season was to make it to the state playoffs, which my girls did successfully. We finished the season as the third seed in our area out of nine teams. I am proud of the hard work our girls put in this season in order to make it this far. That goal will be upped to winning region and state next year. They are beyond capable.

Q: What can you say about the group of seniors who will be leaving the team?

A: These girls set a solid foundation for the girls coming up through the program. We will miss them next year, but I hope they are leaving with confidence that the next generation of girls will make them proud to be OCHS volleyball alumni.

Q: What moment or game from this season was most memorable for you and the team?

A: The most memorable moment for our team, in my opinion, was our two-time defeat of Lake Oconee Academy. LOA (made it to) the Elite Eight for A/AA State Playoffs, so beating them twice during the regular season



SARAH WHITE/THE OGLETHORPE ECHO

Kate Shealy poses for a portrait in the Oglethorpe County High School gymnasium on Nov. 1, 2021. Shealy coaches the women's volleyball team at Oglethorpe County High School.

proves just how strong we are and how capable we are of succeeding.

Q: What did you enjoy most about working with these girls throughout the season?

A: I think the most enjoyable thing about this set of athletes was that they were always willing to try whatever crazy new drill I threw their way. These girls love playing volleyball, and it was evident in how they approached practice and

games. They made my job easy.

Q: What do you think the team can learn from this season and work on for next year?

A: I think as a whole, our girls need to realize their potential. I have full confidence that our team has the ability to win area and even state. For next year, we will work on rising up to the challenge of bettering ourselves and our team with positive attitudes and winning mentalities.

OCHS cross country teams repeat, head to state



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Above: Sarah Taft (from left), Harper Palmer, Lizzie Wadsworth, Sydnie Henderson, Abby Cabaniss and Nadia Henderson led the Oglethorpe County girls cross country team to its second consecutive Region 4-AA championship. Wadsworth was the individual winner with a time of 21:14.

Below: The Oglethorpe County boys cross country team repeated as the Region 4-AA champion behind Austin Kort (from left), Landon Mallonee, Garrett Gilreath, Luke McGarity, Kyle Frankel, Clay Frost and Chayton Tuck. McGarity finished in 18:03 to win his second consecutive individual region title.



Staff Report

Winning the region is twice as nice for Oglethorpe County. Both cross country teams advanced to the Class AA state meet after winning their respective Region 4-AA championships for the second consecutive season.

The state meet will be held Friday at Carrollton High School. The Patriots will compete at 9 a.m. and the Lady Patriots will run at 9:45 a.m.

Junior Lizzie Wadsworth sparked the girls team by winning the girls individual title with a time of 21:14. Not to be outdone, junior Luke McGarity defended his individual Region 4-AA title by winning the boys title this year with a time of 18:03.

"I plan on Lizzie being a four-time region champion team member and hope we can add a state title to that list for her," coach Melissa McGarity said.

Freshman Sydnie Henderson finished second with a time of 21:33 and fellow freshman Harper Palmer was third in 23:33. Abby Cabaniss, a sophomore, came in fourth with a time of 24:45 and junior Nadia Henderson was sixth in 25:48. Freshman Sarah Taft finished eighth in 26:41.

The Lady Patriots are ranked seventh in the state.

The Patriots easily defended their region title with a perfect team score as senior Chayton Tuck finished second behind McGarity with a personal-best time of 18:54.

"Our course is a pretty tough course, so for Chayton to have the best time of his career on it is pretty impressive," McGarity said.

Senior Garrett Gilreath finished third with a time of 19:03, followed by sophomore Landon Mallonee in 19:14. Junior Kyle Frankel finished fifth with a time of 19:19.

In cross country, seven runners can run in region and state competitions, but the first five runners from a team can score points. The team with the lowest score wins the meet.

The Patriots swept the top five spots, finishing with a team score of 15 points.

Seniors Clay Frost and Austin Kort finished in seventh and 14th place, respectively.

"Several of our guys trade places from race to race," coach Darius Tompkins said. "It'll be interesting to see how they finish at state."

"I plan on Lizzie being a four-time region champion team member and hope we can add a state title to that list for her."

Coach Melissa McGarity

ATHLETICS SCHEDULE

Friday, Nov. 5

- Cross Country: State Meet at Carrollton
- Football: vs. Westside-Augusta, 7:30 p.m. (Senior Night)

OGLETHORPE SPORTS



Left: Oglethorpe County quarterback Will Sampson (3) tries to elude Laney defenders on his way to rushing for 41 yards and a touchdown in a 30-14 loss to the Wildcats last Friday night. Sampson also passed for 62 yards as the Patriots fell to 3-6, 3-3 in Region 4-AA.

Above: A host of Oglethorpe County defenders bring down a Laney ball carrier. The Patriots will host Westside-Augusta in the final regular-season game at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

DONNY FAUST/SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Move to running back pays off in 1,000-yard season for Brown

By De Turner
The Oglethorpe Echo

Senior running back Nate Brown surpassed 1,000 rushing yards during Oglethorpe County's game on Friday against Laney. Despite the Patriots' 30-14 loss, Brown rushed for 105 yards to bring his season total to 1,005.

Brown primarily played as a cornerback in previous years, but after the team's starting running back, sophomore Elijah Hood, was out for a few weeks due to illness, the coaches called on the senior to step in. Not only was Brown not expecting the position change, but his success at running back surprised himself as well.

"It feels kind of cool," Brown said about hitting the milestone. "Coming up from being a freshman and going through the years, I never really thought I'd be a running back or get anywhere near 1,000 rushing yards."

Brown and the Patriots will close out the regular season against Westside-Augusta on Senior Night at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

Combining his rushing yards with those from receiving and punt returns, Brown has 1,093 all-purpose yards. He averages 5.9 yards per carry and 111.7 rushing yards per game. His seven touchdowns, six from rushing and one from a punt return, account for a third of the team's total.

Brown leads the Patriots with 169 carries

this season, more than double the next leading player, junior quarterback Will Sampson, with 77 carries. He explained that when he has the ball, things work out best when he doesn't put too much pressure on himself and just looks for space.

"I try not to think; I just do it," Brown said. "When I think about it too much, I usually mess up or do something stupid. I see a gap, and I just run."

The coaching staff received the most credit from Brown on his outstanding performance this season. He claimed that the advice he gets from the coaches and their decision to change the offensive formation has opened the field for him.

First-year head coach Mike Holland shares a mutual respect for Brown and values his work ethic on the field. After getting the position in March, Holland quickly noticed Brown's skills and appreciated his ability to adapt to their new spread offense.

Holland changed from a Pro I formation to help their players run with the ball in space.

"The good thing about Nate is that not only is he obviously one of the most talented kids we have, he's one of the hardest workers," Holland said. "When your hardest workers are your most talented kids too, they can be really special."

When Brown isn't rushing 100 yards a game, he continues to make his presence known on the defensive side at corner-



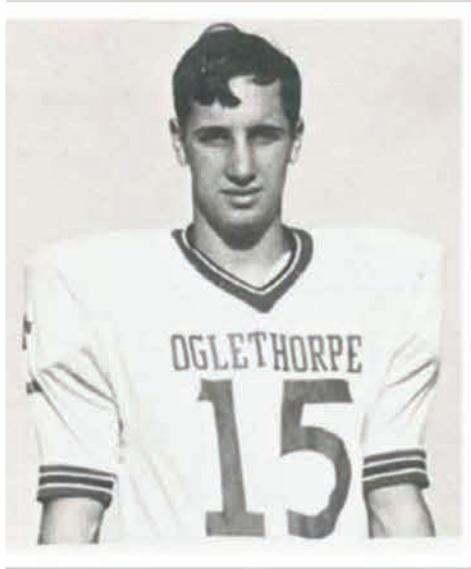
SARAH WHITE/THE OGLETHORPE ECHO

Nate Brown rushed for 105 yards on Friday and has 1,005 yards rushing heading into the Patriots' final regular-season game.

back. He has been named the All-Region 4-AA cornerback the past two seasons, and in Oglethorpe County's win against Josey, Brown totaled four tackles, a sack and an

interception.

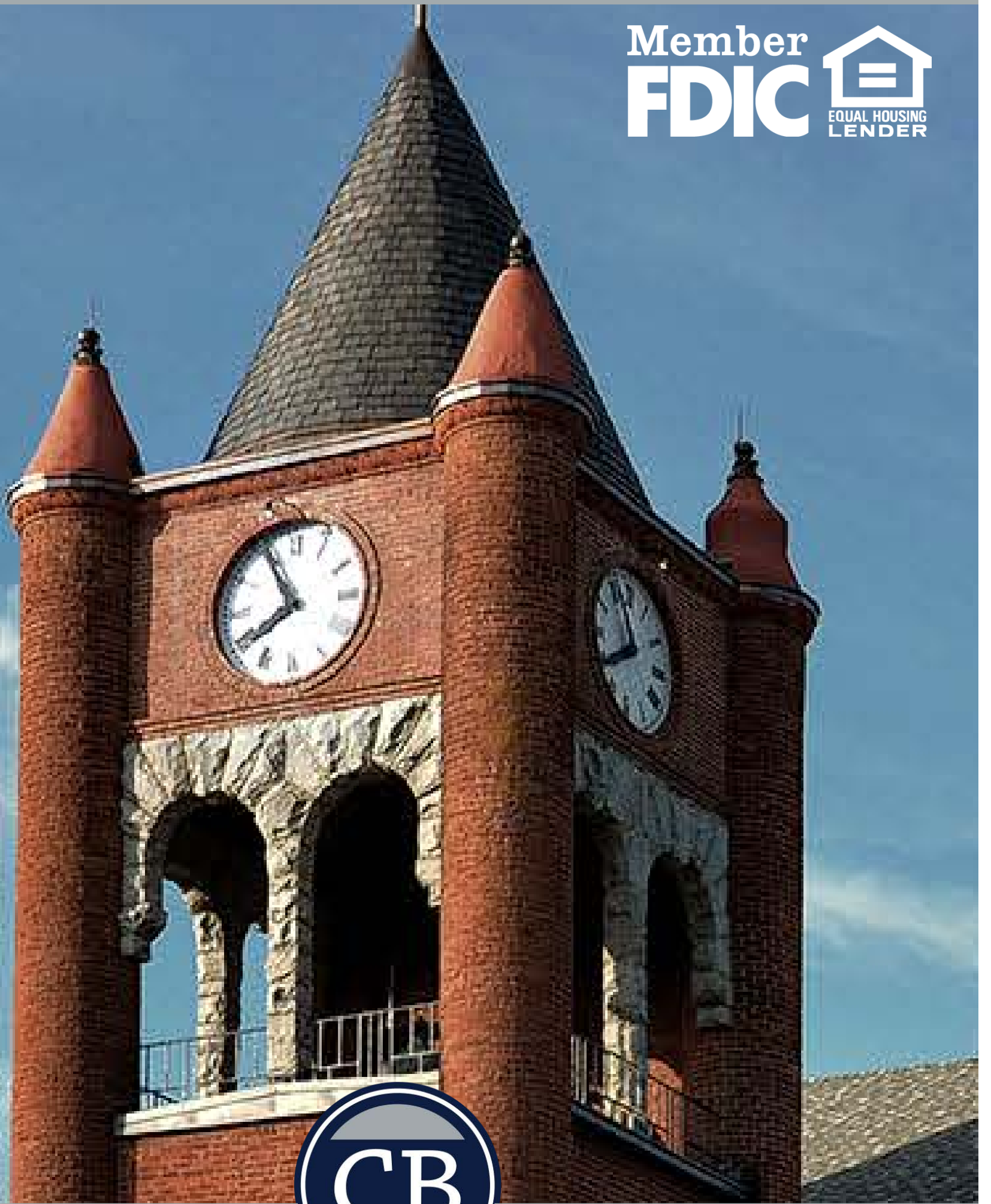
"On offense and defense, Nate is like a cornerstone for us," Holland said. "I wish I had him for another year."



OC Student - Life long Supporter - OC Hall of Famer
Thank you, Ralph Maxwell, for all you have done for the
Oglethorpe County School System. We will Miss you at The ECHO

Timeless Service in Oglethorpe County for Now and Many Years to Come.

Member
FDIC 
EQUAL HOUSING
LENDER



**THE
COMMERCIAL BANK**

**The Commercial Bank extends its
gratitude to the Maxwell family and the
Oglethorpe Echo for their partnership
and 148 years of service to the
Oglethorpe community.**