

YOUR GUIDE TO LIVING IN GEORGIA'S LAKE COUNTRY

Lakelife

VOLUME 20 ♦ ISSUE 4

2026 ♦ FREE

**Joe
Gransden's
amazing
search**

Artisan
bladesmith
Daniel Moye

Rising star
Stacey Blanton

Wondrous
Canadian
Rockies

A SUPPLEMENT TO THE LAKE OCONEE NEWS



7 GOLF COURSES

374 MILES OF SHORELINE

THE RITZ-CARLTON®

11 RESTAURANTS

Rates and availability are subject to change and excludes holidays. Club credit for promotional purposes only. Real estate and other amenities are owned by Oconee Land Development Company LLC and/or other subsidiaries. This is not an offer of real estate or a solicitation of offers to buy OLDG-owned real estate in Reynolds Lake Oconee by residents of HI, ID, NY, OR, or any other jurisdiction where prohibited by law. Access and rights to recreational amenities may be limited or restricted at any time. Void where prohibited by law. WARNING: THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE HAS NOT INSPECTED, EXAMINED, OR DISQUALIFIED THIS OFFERING. An offering statement has been filed with the law



No one knows Reynolds better.

Since 1987, we've been the trusted partner for buyers and sellers within the gates of Reynolds. Our local agents don't just know Reynolds — we live it. Deeply connected to the rhythms of club life, we help families navigate their real estate journey with confidence. Reynolds is all we do.

And it makes all the difference.

Contact us today.

855.403.1370



5 MARINAS

SPORTING GROUNDS

TENNIS & PICKLEBALL

WELLNESS PURSUITS

subsidiaries and affiliates of MetLife, Inc. (collectively, "OLDC") and by unrelated third parties. OLDC is not involved in the marketing or sale of properties owned by third-parties. This is not intended to be an offer to sell
e subject to fees, membership dues, or other limitations. For OLDC properties, obtain the Property Report required by Federal law and read it before signing anything. No Federal agency has judged the merits or value,
owa Real Estate Commission and a copy of such statement is available from OLDC upon request. OLDC properties have been registered with the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Real Estate Brokers and Salesmen in Boston, MA.

From the Editor

In a recent flashback to the good ol' days, I recalled the annual summer chore of shucking corn on the back porch as kids.

About 5 years old, I was a girly girl and each time I peeled back the green husks and found a worm, I'd shriek and toss the barely-shucked cob into my six-years-older brother's pile. Needless to say, his pile grew instead of shrank. But he'd repay me later while I was quietly playing in my own little world, he'd interrupt with an attack of sycamore ball bombs. Definitely the good ol' days!

The corn shucking memory surfaced when I read Mark Smith Jr.'s column about shelling peas with his grandfather (p.30). Mark is still missed greatly, but we are thankful he left us many reasons to laugh and remember good times. He had a unique storytelling talent, as did George Heiring, who shared an amusing experience with Romani musicians (p. 102). George is also missed and leaves us grateful to have experienced lake living with him.

This issue also ventures into Jones County, where we found an up and coming country star (p.12) and an ingenious hard-working businessman who successfully rallies his city to help sick children (p.106). Jones County isn't part of Lake Country because it's not on the shores of lakes Oconee and Sinclair, but it has quite a few of its own lakes that are popular for fishing and recreation.

I was inspired by a man who went from great success to intense tragedy and found a unique way to pull himself out of the mire (p.20); and delighted to cool off with some incredibly creamy made-from-scratch ice cream (p.46). Now I'm dreaming of a scenic hike in the breathtakingly beautiful Canadian Rockies (p.94).

Last but not least came a renewed belief in perseverance, delivered by legendary jazz musician Joe Gransden, who is a favorite around Lake Oconee. Spoiler alert: it has nothing to do with his trumpet.

Lake life and *Lakelife* are never stale or boring!

Lynn
Lynn

lynn@lakelife.today

Lakelife

1106 MARKET STREET
GREENSBORO, GA 30642

VOLUME 20 • ISSUE 4

Contact us at:
706-749-7241 • lynn@lakelife.today
www.Lakelife.today

Dedication

MARK SMITH JR. (1965-2019)
Executive Editor 2018-2019

©2026 Lakelife Magazine.
All Rights Reserved.

Lakelife Magazine is published bimonthly by The Lake Oconee News, a division of Smith Communications, Inc. No portion of this issue (including publisher-designed advertisements) may be copied, scanned, or reproduced in any manner without prior written consent from the publisher.

Lakelife accepts no responsibility for unsolicited manuscripts, artwork or photographs. These will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Lakelife Magazine is sent to subscribers of the Lake Oconee News and The Eatonton Messenger. To subscribe to either newspaper, call 706-485-3501. It is also available free in kiosks all around Georgia's Lake Country.

SMITH
COMMUNICATIONS
PO Box 4027 • Eatonton GA 31024 • 706.485.3501
Newspapers • Magazines • Printing

PUBLISHED BY THE

Lake Oconee News

A division of Smith Communications, Inc.
100 N. Jefferson Ave. • P.O. Box 4027 • Eatonton, GA 31024
A. Mark Smith, President
706.485.3501 • Fax: 706.485.4166



Publisher
A. Mark Smith



General Manager
Matt Smith



Advertising Manager
Matt Plocha



Editor
Lynn Hobbs



Associate Editor
Leigh Lofgren

**Managing Editor
& Creative Director**
Josh Lurie

Graphic Designer
Victoria Anadenko
Brandon Park

Staff Writers
T. Michael Stone
Skyla Morris

Sales Representatives
Maria Maddox • Melissa LeBrun
Dianne Phillips • Brooklyn Moore

Business Manager
Cassandra Fowler

MICHAEL'S

LAKE OCONEE'S ONE STOP HOME FINISH STUDIO

shades • blinds • shutters • drapery • bedding • wallpaper & re-upholstery

105 HARMONY CORSSING #3 EATONTON, GA

706.923.2929

HunterDouglas

Provenance® Woven Wood Shades



ADVERTISER LISTINGS

ACS/Pro Tech Plumber	31	Harmony Crossing Animal Hospital	84	Putnam General Hospital	26
Adventure Away Travel Agency	18	Harmony Holistic	11	Real Country Q92.3FM	27
Aesthetic Specialty Centre	42	Harmony Pet Resort	85	Reynolds Lake Oconee Properties	1
Alliance Home & Land Group	81	High Priority Pest Services	35	Ricardo's Kouzzina	55
Amelia's Apparel	72	Jasper County Lumber	91	Rock Eagle Conference Center	64
Athens Academy	29	Jennifer Vaughan – Dwell Real Estate	65	Roll-Off Resources	34
Athens Ford	5	JGS Enterprises Group LLC	42	Rooftop Communities	104
Aurum Studios Ltd.	8	Jim Boyd Insurance	71	Russell W. Wall, Attorney at Law	44
BankSouth	61	Joe's Roofing	19	Santoro's Italian Kitchen	53
Barkin' Dogs Shoe Company	73	John Milledge Academy	105	Seniors Helping Seniors	100
Boatright Realty Group	43	Kinchen Custom Homes	34	Shoemaker Equipment	70
Body Kneads Touch	60	LadyLike Boutique	92	Shoppes of Monticello	90
Central Georgia Storage	80	Lake Country Books & Gifts	84	Silt Busters	18
Chapis Teando	57, 91	Lake Country Hearth & Patio	77	Smith & Sons Funeral Home	91
Christine's Jewelers	85	Lake Country Homeowner Advocates	32	Southern Laser Medical Spa	33
Creeside Cabinetry	84	Lake Country Outfitters	93	Southern Spa & Patio	16
Crowe Marine	9	Lake Oconee News	45	Squared Away Construction	92
Dann's Lakeside Plumbing	27	LandMart	64	St. Mary's Health Care System	6-7
Dawson's Lake Country Antiques & More	44	Madison Car Care	72	State Farm – Bruce Morris	48
Doghouse at Lake Oconee	33	Madison Coin & Bullion	81	Stump Busters	18
Dr. Meigan Miller	64	Madison-Morgan Cultural Center	70	Sugar Creek Marina	18
Edward Jones – Robbie McNeill	44	Manning Brothers	28	TCH Watersports	48
Evergreen Storage	87	May Lane Boutique	73	The Baldwin Bulletin	60
Exchange Bank	111	Mercer Medicine	101	The Eatonton Messenger	66
Festival Hall	45, 104	Michael's Window Treatments	3	The Madison Flea Market	110
Filet Steak & Seafood	54	Monticello Welding Supply	66	The Meat Locker	52
Gatewood Schools	49	Oconee Cleaners	59	The Peoples Bank	10
Georgia Generator Pro	91	Oconee Cultural Arts Foundation	28	The Plaza Arts Center	67
Georgia Power	71	Oconee Performing Arts Society	103	The Thrift Store	92
God's Goods Milledgeville	60	Oconee Springs Campground & Marina	109	The Vining Group	89
Good News Network Radio	80	Old Phoenix Center LLC	80	The Wellness Cottage & Spa	90
Goodwill	104	Pamlico Pool Company	27	Three Rays Boutique & Head Spa	32
Grease Monkey	66	PDQ Accounting Services	45	Tim Green Designs	17
Greensboro Family Dentistry	31	Pho and More	56, 100	TJ Bishop's Men's Shop	73
Greensboro Jewelers	45	Pickle Barrel Café & Sports Pub	60	Tri-CoGo	100
Greensboro Tire Pros	58	Power Pro Electric LLC	77	Wilhoit Gas Company	77
Gutter Solutions	111	ProSouth Services	34	Wilson Bryant Air Conditioning	87

CONTRIBUTORS

MICHELE BECHTELL • TREVOR BOWDEN • GEORGE DISSMEYER
 MARK ENGEL • BRAD GILL • MAURIEL PHILIPS JOSLYN • SUZANNE LAWLER
 KATHERINE MAHLBERG • TERRY N. MASSEY • HANK SEGARS
 PHYLLIS WOODS • LORAN SMITH • CASEY BRADY • KATHY WRIGHT

ATHENS — FORD —

IN TUNE WITH PERFORMANCE

Power. Precision. Performance.
Engineered to move you.



Lifetime Powertrain
Warranty
only we offer



4x President's
Award Winning
Dealer



Wholesale Dealer
with a wide variety of
OEM and aftermarket parts



Mobile Service and
Pick Up/Delivery
within 50 miles



4260 ATLANTA HWY
ATHENS, GA 30606



(706) 521-0778



ATHENSFORD.COM



Rendering of the St. Mary's Good Samaritan Pavilion courtesy of May Architects

Coming in 2027: Enhanced access to care at St. Mary's Good Samaritan Pavilion

Here is good news for the greater Greensboro, Eatonton and Lake Oconee area: construction has begun on the 42,000-square-foot St. Mary's Good Samaritan Hospital Pavilion, a \$45.6-million investment in expanding St. Mary's high-level care, higher-level caring in the region.

“St. Mary’s Good Samaritan Pavilion will reduce the burden of travel for people across the communities we serve,” said Stonish Pierce, President and CEO of Trinity Health Georgia. “As part of Trinity Health, this investment reflects our shared commitment to deliver faster, more convenient access to care, shorter wait times and improved patient outcomes for essential services such as cardiology, primary care and surgery.”

“Few rural communities are blessed with the high-quality, compassionate care that St. Mary’s Good Samaritan Hospital already provides, but there are still many needs we cannot meet locally,” said Dr. Dave Ringer, Chief of Staff. “The Pavilion will be a tremendous step forward for everyone who lives, works and plays in this region.”

The \$45.6 million facility, which will attach to the south end of the existing hospital at 5401 Lake Oconee Parkway, will enhance local access to:

- Cardiology and cardiac rehabilitation services, creating a seamless transition from inpatient care to outpatient recovery
- Gastroenterology care, creating more capacity for diagnosis and treatment of digestive issues, from acid reflux to colon cancer
- Expansion of non-oncology infusion services, allowing more patients with chronic and complex conditions – such as rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, Crohn’s disease and multiple sclerosis – to receive safe, hospital-based infusion care close to home
- Pharmacy services, including expanded inpatient services, a new “meds-to-beds” program for inpatients at discharge, and a new retail pharmacy open to the community
- Primary care, bringing providers on-site, with immediate access to associated services such as laboratory testing and imaging
- Rheumatology care, providing local access to treatment for patients experiencing reduced quality of life due to the pain and inflammation caused by autoimmune diseases
- Expanded surgical services, with future growth providing enhanced access to general surgery, neurosurgery and other surgical specialties
- Laboratory draw station, providing easy access to outpatients who need samples collected
- Community Education and Conference Center, including a 3,200-square-foot classroom and catering kitchen

Community support is integral to maximizing the services and technology available at the Pavilion, noted Russ Dawson, Chair of the St. Mary’s Good Samaritan Foundation. Trinity Health is providing \$35.6 million for the project, with the remaining \$10 million to come from the generosity of donors large and small.

“Our goal of raising \$10 million is about much more than a building,” Dawson said. “It’s about our community coming together to invest in the health and well-being of our families, friends and neighbors. Every gift helps ensure that people throughout the region can receive exceptional care close to home for years to come.”

A public groundbreaking ceremony on July 20 officially kicked off construction, and the Pavilion is expected to open in fall 2027. More details about the project will be shared with the community in the near future, including ongoing updates beginning soon at stmaryshealthcaresystem.org/foundation/pavilion



A Member of Trinity Health

stmarys-health.org

FEATURES

LAKELIFE MAGAZINE

ISSUE 4 – 2026

12 Nostalgic and Refreshingly Bold

High tech plus luxury equals healthy horses

20 Forging for Life

Surgeon-turned-bladesmith Daniel Moye



36 Making Dreams Come True

Jazz legend Joe Gransden's amazing search

46 Outlawing Bad Ice Cream

Home on the range at Crooked D Creamery

106 Miracles for a Treat

Raising funds for local children's hospital

*Aurum
Studios
Inc.*

Designers and Makers
of Fine Jewelry since 1975



SINCE 1975

An Athens Tradition
since 1975.
Scan our QR code to
stay up to date on all
things Aurum Studios!



Downtown Athens, GA
aurumstudios.com
(706) 546-8826



94 The Wondrous Canadian Rockies

LOVING LAKELIFE

- 30 Humor, "Shelling peas, baseball, beating heat"
- 74 Calendar of Events
- 82 Community Events
- 102 We are Gypsy Music!
- 112 Poetry, "Stealing the Stage"

LAKELIFE AREA GUIDE

- 50 Restaurant Guide
- 58 Maps of Lakes Oconee and Sinclair
- 62 Area Attractions
- 68 Golf Courses
- 69 Parks and Campgrounds

ON THE COVER

Legendary Jazz musician Joe Gransden at home with his beloved trumpet and car he drove in high school.

Photo by Ian Tocher



**PROUD TO
BE YOUR
LOCAL
DEALER**

**SALES | PARTS
ACCESSORIES
SERVICE**



706 - 485 - 9600
www.crowemarine.com
1010 Lake Oconee Pkwy
Eatonton, Ga 31024



Money Market vs. CDs

Ready for a better banking experience?

Downtown Eatonton
209 S. Jefferson Ave.

Lake Oconee
991 Lake Oconee Pkwy.

Gainesville
200 Main St. Suite 100

Understanding the difference matters!

MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT (MMA)

- **FLEXIBLE:** You can usually deposit and withdraw money without penalty (subject to account rules).
- **VARIABLE INTEREST RATE:** The rate can go up or down over time.
- **GREAT FOR:** Emergency funds or money you may need soon.
- FDIC- or NCUA-insured (if at a bank or credit union), within applicable limits.

CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT (CD)

- **FIXED TERM:** Your money is locked in for a set period (e.g., 3 months to 5 years).
- **FIXED INTEREST RATE:** Your rate is guaranteed for the entire term.
- Early withdrawals typically incur a penalty.
- FDIC- or NCUA-insured (if at a bank or credit union), within applicable limits.



Community Banking Since 1943

peoples1943.com

Call us at **706.485.8542**

Bank by phone **706.485.1143**



NEW BUSINESS IN LAKE OCONEE!

HARMONY^{HOLISTIC}

- NUTRITION • HERBALISM •
- INFRARED SAUNA •



Get to the Root of disease
by getting back to the Roots of Food!

BY
APPOINTMENT ONLY



Harmony Holistic, located in the back of Harmony Crossing is your go-to destination for holistic nutrition counseling and detox support. We specialize in holistic methods of approaching pathogenic root causes for multiple

symptoms of disease. We utilize an education-based approach that will leave you understanding your body's communication systems more fully. In addition, we offer a detox spa promoting the release of toxins from your body. Our commitment to wellness extends to various holistic approaches that support your mental and emotional vitality

focusing on nutritional and herbal recommendations for managing your health. At Harmony Holistic, we strive to create a harmonious environment where you can nurture your body, mind, and soul from our diverse range of knowledge and expertise.



**BOOK AN
INFRARED SAUNA OR
HALOTHERAPY
SESSION WITH US!**



We are happy to offer a private Detox Spa experience right here in our Lake community town! We have sessions available for: Infrared Sauna, Vibration Therapy, Chromotherapy, Targeted Red Light Therapy, and Aroma Therapy.

921 HARMONY RD
STE 10

HARMONYHOLISTICGA.COM

706•818•8166



Nostalgic and refreshingly bold

Stacey Blanton embraces wide range of music

■ Story by **Debbie Lurie-Smith & Lynn Hobbs**

Nancy Sinatra's boots may have been made for walkin', but Stacey Blanton's boots are all about dancin'.

In her live concerts, Stacey's onstage exuberance and energy quickly becomes contagious to her audience, which bounces and sings right along with her. "Every song Stacey writes is crafted to connect with her audience," her bio on her website states. "She creates music that speaks to the highs, lows, and in-betweens we all experience.

Whether it's a soulful ballad or a fiery anthem, her lyrics and voice leave a lasting impression."

Indeed, Stacey made such an impression that she was not only named Female Artist of the Year, but also won Overall Artist of the Year at the 2025 Georgia Country Awards ceremony Nov. 9 in McDonough.

Now in its 17th year, the annual competition is put on by Georgia-Country.com, which says it is Georgia's No. 1 website for country music fans, artists and venues. Fan voting is 50% of the points for each nominee, and grades from a panel of leaders in Georgia's music business are the other 50%. The panel members grade each nominee on their stage performances, videos, number of shows, website, and social media page.

The "Overall Artist" award is not voted by fans, but is awarded by the panel members to the artist they feel has done the most to advance his or her career. The bottom line is it's a hard-fought competition that begins in June and ends in October.





I was a stay-at-home mom, but I started singing again the last two years. I decided it was time to chase my career dreams.

Blanton grew up in Jones County, where she attended Jones County High School and met her husband, David. Stacey described David as her “biggest supporter and cheerleader,” and “the man behind the scenes.” David drives her to shows, helps unload equipment, takes videos, “and promotes me constantly and motivates me more than anyone,” she said in a social media post. The couple has three children, Daisy, Dallas and Barrett. The youngest

was born in 2017, and life with a new baby combined with the COVID-19 pandemic put her career on hold.

“I was a stay-at-home mom, but I started singing again the last two years,” Stacey said. “I decided it was time to chase my career dreams.”

She did that by picking up the beloved guitar she’d been playing since she was 12, and taking voice lessons. Stacey also began playing in local restaurants and venues

around Gray and Macon, where she played with a few bands and made some music videos. When Greg Parker with Wide Open Entertainment came to see her, she started singing with his band, “The JC Boys.”

“I’ve been posting cover songs and was nominated for the contest in the spring,” she explained to *The Jones County News* for an article about her winning the awards.

Influenced by country legends

Shania Twain, Jo Dee Messina, Johnny Cash and Conway Twitty, Blanton is also driven by a deep love for rock music, which seems to fit her high-spirited performances. Her sound is described on her website as “both nostalgic and refreshingly bold.”

Stacey’s tour schedule has been packed in 2026 with performances in Gatlinburg, Chattanooga and Smyrna, Tennessee; Dallas, Texas; Myrtle Beach and Columbia, South Carolina; Charlotte, North Carolina; and all over Georgia including at the Atlanta Braves Country Fest After Party at The Battery in Atlanta; the Cherry Festival in Macon; Aquapalooza on Lake Sinclair; the Georgia GOP Rodeo 250 in Perry; and many smaller venues throughout her home state. She also has seven songs with 1 million streams.

So it’s no surprise that Stacey was again nominated for Georgia-Country.com’s 2026 Georgia Country Award. She also has been nominated for the Josie Music Awards for Country Female Vocalist of the Year.

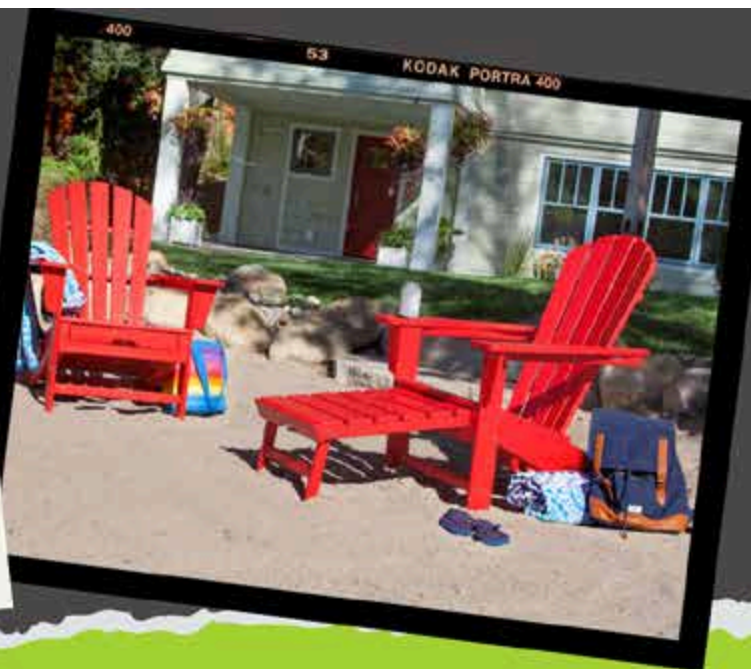
“I’ll be heading to the Grand Ole Opry this fall to attend the awards show,” she announced.

A judging panel of musicians and music industry professionals reviews applicants for the Josie Awards. The awards cover all music genres in many categories. Nominees are selected based on quality, originality, merit, creativity, and impact on the independent music scene. Final winners are revealed at the annual October ceremony.

To participate in fan voting for the Georgia Country Music award, go to the www.georgia-country.com website.

For more information about Stacey Blanton and her music, visit her website, staceyblanton.com or follow her on Spotify, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok. ♦





SOUTHERN

SPA & PATIO

Making your Dream Outdoor Space a Reality



1650 Athens Hwy. Madison, GA 706-310-7007 www.southernspaandpatio.com



TIM GREEN

Designs

Interior Design | Renovation | New Builds
Retail Showroom | Lake Oconee

TimGreenDesigns.com 762.445.1155



LAKE DEPTH **RESTORED.** LAKE HAZARDS **ELIMINATED.**



STEVE EDWARDS

CALL 706.318.0275

Siltbusters@gmail.com
www.Siltbusters.com

**WHEN THE SILT WINS,
YOUR BOAT DOCK LOSES. LAKE MEMORIES LOST.**



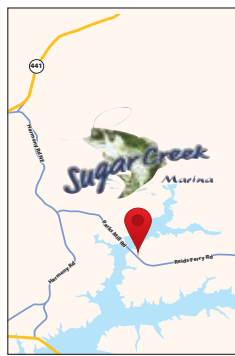
Marina Store – Non-Ethanol Gas - Deli – Boat Ramp
Dry Boat Storage - Bait and Tackle - Costa Sunglasses
Clothing - Boating Accessories – Skis and Tubes

**LARGEST SELECTION OF
TACKLE IN THE AREA**

353 Parks Mill Road
Buckhead, GA 30625
706-342-2231

find us on facebook 



sugarcreekmarina.com

THE ADVENTURE AWAY TRAVEL AGENCY

- ♦ Vacation Planning & Travel Design
- ♦ Group Travel & Special Events
- ♦ Travel Protection & Documentation Support
- ♦ Concierge-Level Support
- ♦ Ongoing Client Care

WOMEN-OWNED • 5 YEARS IN BUSINESS



404-919-6192
theadventureaway.com
rebecca@theadventureaway.com





Middle Georgia's Safest Choice!

Since 1999

What Our Customers Say...



"Great service, knowledgeable personnel, fair price, work started on time, very good clean up, protected plants. Highly recommend."

Gary C



"Joe's replaced my entire roof including the decking. VERY fast service with no issues at all. Victor was amazing through the entire process. Very important and polite."

Addie



"Brandon & his crew did a great job on my re-roofing & gutter guard project. Excellent communication, workmanship & price. I highly recommend Joe's Roofing."

Brian G

Professional Roof Maintenance Plans

Starting at \$499 per year

- ✓ Three professional roof cleanings
- ✓ One detailed annual inspection report
- ✓ Preventative maintenance designed to extend roof life
- ✓ Priority service scheduling

- ✓ New & Re-roofs
- ✓ Synthetic Roofs
- ✓ Metal & Specialty
- ✓ Soft Wash
- ✓ Leak Repairs
- ✓ Gutters

706-786-4550 | JoesRoofing.net





FORGING FOR LIFE

■ Story and photos by **Leigh Lofgren**

We all know the expression 'life happens' and it's incredible how things can change in an instant. One minute you're doing something you always do, and the next minute, you are fighting for your life.

Such was the case for Daniel Moye, whose life as an orthopedic trauma surgeon and bike racer was changed drastically by a horrific car crash. These days, instead of working with a scalpel in his hand, Daniel is handcrafting custom knives and other kitchen tools.

After completing his orthopedic trauma fellowship at Harborview Medical Center at the University of Washington in Seattle, Daniel moved to Athens

in 1986 to work at his first practice, Athens Orthopedic Clinic.

One fateful day, Daniel was driving home from a successful bike race in Atlanta on July 24, 2008, when a tractor-trailer truck crashed into his car. The big truck had slammed into the driver's side of Daniel's small Prius, leaving him trapped inside.

Emergency crews used Jaws of Life to rescue Daniel from the mangled car, and he was flown

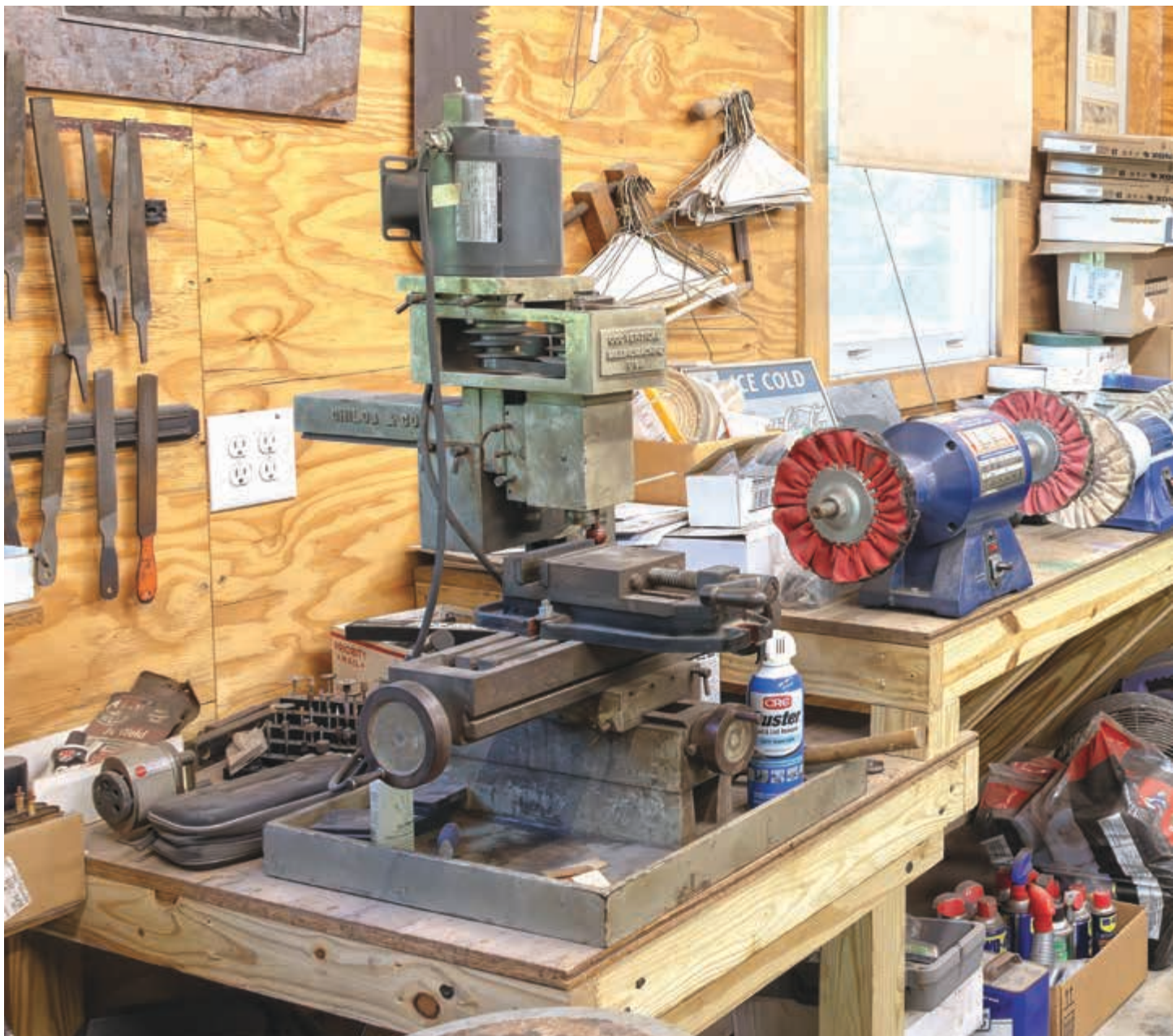


“

All of my blades are forged, filed, sanded and finished by hand with minimal use of power equipment. I strive to make an excellent quality working knife that feels good in the hand, is pleasing to the eye and made to last a lifetime or more.

— Dan Moye of Cattle Dog Forge

”



by medical helicopter to a trauma center. Daniel said he “coded” several times after his arrival at the hospital. What followed was 18 months in various hospitals for treatments and surgeries, some by his own friend, Dr. John Keating.

When his right leg became infected, an amputation was scheduled. As a trauma orthopedic surgeon himself, Daniel said he came up with an idea and talked with Dr. Doug Lundy. They decided on an alternative,

complicated surgical procedure. The surgery was successful, and Daniel is now able to walk without a cane or walker. He credits his success to hours and hours of physical therapy with his friend, the late Kurt Gelfand, and Sophia Waters of Oconee Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine in Watkinsville.

“When I first got out of the hospital after that year and a half, I had not taken one step, not one,” Daniel recalled. “Initially I was

told I probably wouldn’t walk. And then I was able to walk, and I do have some nerve damage. But I owe a lot of it to him (Kurt) giving me the time.”

During this time, Daniel realized he would have to give up his 22-year medical career.

“I loved being an orthopedic surgeon, I really loved it,” he said. “So, I never thought I would find anything that I liked as much.”

However, as one door closes, another opens. Daniel said he had





grew up with a father who did a lot of woodwork, “but I just had always thought I’d make knives,” he said. “I’m not sure exactly why. It just seemed like something I would want to do.”

So, Daniel went to make his first knife. He met John Costa, whose forge was a block away from Daniel’s home. John became his teacher and good friend and Daniel succeeded in becoming an expert knifemaker.

Thus began his company, Cattle Dog Forge. At the time Daniel started making knives, he owned two rescue Australian Cattle Dogs (also known as Blue Heelers) named Kylie and Sadie, along with an “honorary” cattle dog, Annie. These three were the inspiration behind the name “Cattle Dog Forge.” Daniel built a workshop and forge on the property behind his home.

“Blade smithing is something I look forward to practicing every day,” he said. “I love the entire process, from forging the blade on the anvil to the hand finishing work on the blade and handle. As it turned out, knifemaking became the perfect therapy for me. It keeps my mind still and my hands busy.”

Made from high carbon steel with wooden handles, each knife is one of a kind. Daniel said he will sometimes look through his collection of wood pieces for days until he finds the perfect one for the blade. Every step of creating the knife is done in his shop. Forging (heating the steel and shaping it with an anvil), and cooling it in air is done by hand, followed by grinding it and stamping it with Daniels’ maker’s mark.

Each blade is differentially quenched before tempered and finally hand-filed and sanded. Then the handle is affixed and finished with many applications of Tung Oil before it’s buffed



and waxed. The knife is then sharpened by hand.

Each field knife comes with a leather sheath custom made for it by Bud Siniard, of Upland Custom Leather in Watkinsville. From start to finish, the entire process takes about one week.

"My wish is that you will say 'this is the best knife I've ever owned,'" Daniel said.

Moye's unique knives can be seen and purchased online at cattledogforge.com. Fixed blade field knives, oyster knives, kitchen knives and letter openers are offered, as well as spreaders, ice cream scoops and coffee scoops. And although each is one of a kind, Daniel also offers custom knives based on a client's specific wishes.

Daniel is a member of Georgia Custom Knifemakers Guild and

an apprentice of the American Bladesmith Society. He and his wife, Jean, live in Watkinsville with their two dogs, Maisie, a Tibetan Terrier, and Walter, a Havanese. ♦





24/7 EMERGENCY CARE

At Putnam General Hospital, our Emergency Department is staffed with skilled doctors and nurses who are dedicated to providing expert, compassionate care when you need it most. Equipped with state-of-the-art technology, we're able to diagnose and treat a wide range of medical emergencies quickly and effectively. Our patients experience shorter wait times, allowing them to receive timely care in a supportive and professional environment close to home.

WHY CHOOSE US?

- ✓ Compassionate Care
- ✓ State Of The Art Technology
- ✓ Shorter Wait Times
- ✓ Highly Skilled Physicians and Nurses



Dr. Dan Bennett
Director of Emergency Medical Services

 706-485-2711

 www.putnamgeneral.com



Dann's
LAKESIDE
PLUMBING

Master Plumber
Licensed & Insured

GIVE US A CALL
to see the
GIFT **WE HAVE**
FOR YOU!

706-485-4448

HAPPY
FOURTH
OF **JULY!**

AMERICA TURNS
250TH
ANNIVERSARY

IN HONOR OF AMERICA TURNING **250!**

PAMLICO POOL COMPANY

Serving Middle Georgia for Over 43 Years

Custom Gunite or Vinyl Pools • Pool Restorations
Paramount In-Floor Cleaning Systems
Liner Replacements • Saltwater Chlorinating Systems
Polaris Automatic Pool Cleaners



*Let Us Create
The Pool
Of Your Dreams!*



2585 North Columbia Street
Milledgeville • (478) 452-1003
www.pamlicopools.com

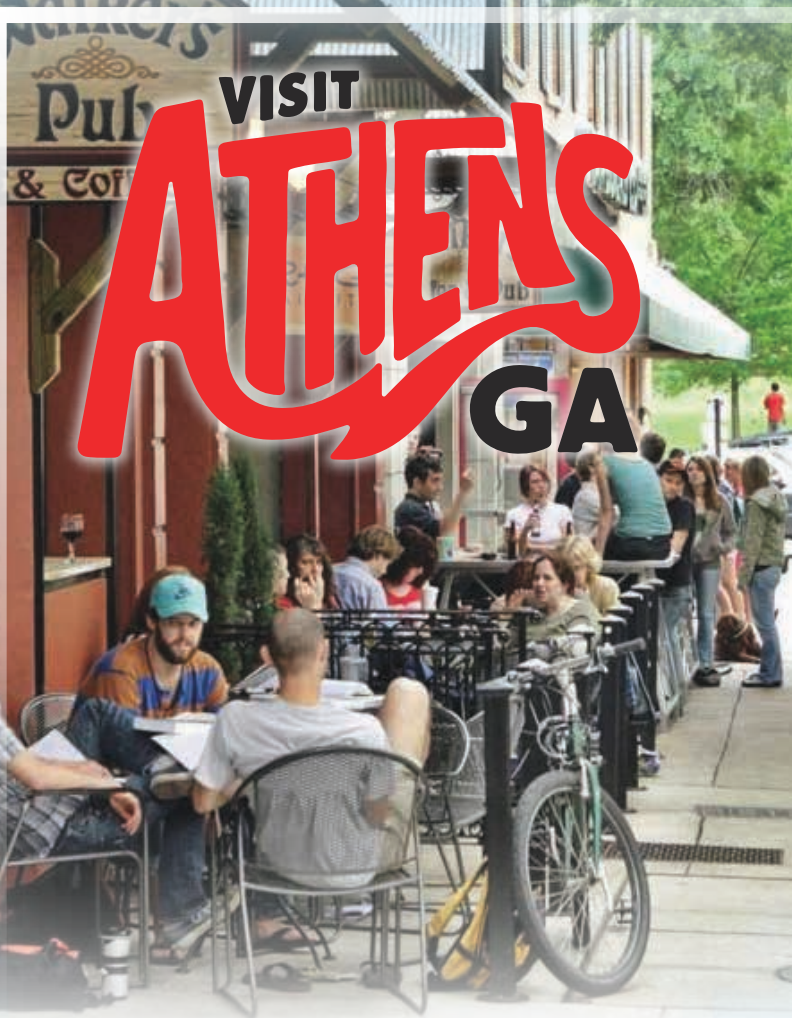
STREAMING LIVE ON WMOQFM.COM

REAL
COUNTRY

Q92.3FM

HOME OF TODAY'S
REAL
COUNTRY STARS
& LEGENDS



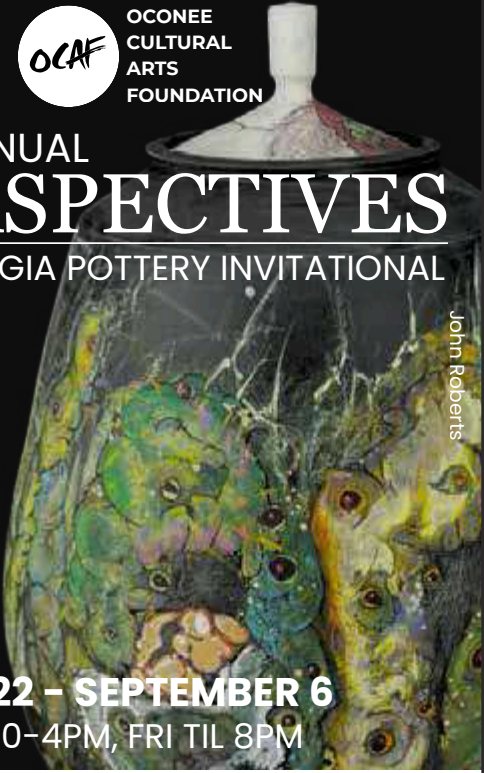



OCONEE CULTURAL ARTS FOUNDATION

24TH ANNUAL PERSPECTIVES
 GEORGIA POTTERY INVITATIONAL

AUGUST 22 - SEPTEMBER 6
 TUES-SUN 10-4PM, FRI TIL 8PM

PREVIEW RECEPTION (\$25)
AUGUST 21, 6-9PM
 More: ocaf.com/perspectives
 34 School Street, Watkinsville


 John Roberts

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

MANNING BROTHERS
 ATHENS • GEORGIA



FOOD EQUIPMENT CO. INC.

- CHEF'S APPAREL
- BEVERAGE & BAR SUPPLIES
- CLEANING PRODUCTS
- CHINA & LINENS
- COOKING EQUIPMENT
- FURNISHINGS
- KITCHEN SUPPLIES
- REFRIGERATED EQUIPMENT
- STORAGE & TRANSPORT SOLUTIONS

210 SANDY CREEK RD. ATHENS, GA 30607



8:30 AM - 5 PM MON - FRI 706-549-7088

visit our showroom or browse online - www.manningbrothers.com

OVER 75 YEARS SUPPLYING THE FOOD SERVICE INDUSTRY!



ATHENS ACADEMY

Because your child deserves...

- A Safe, Creative & Innovative Learning Environment
- \$1.6 Million Available in Need-Based Financial Aid
- A Beautiful 152-acre Campus & Small Class Sizes
- Now Enrolling Students in K3 - Grade 12

\$1.6M IN NEED-BASED FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE
BUS SERVICE AVAILABLE TO GREENSBORO/MADISON

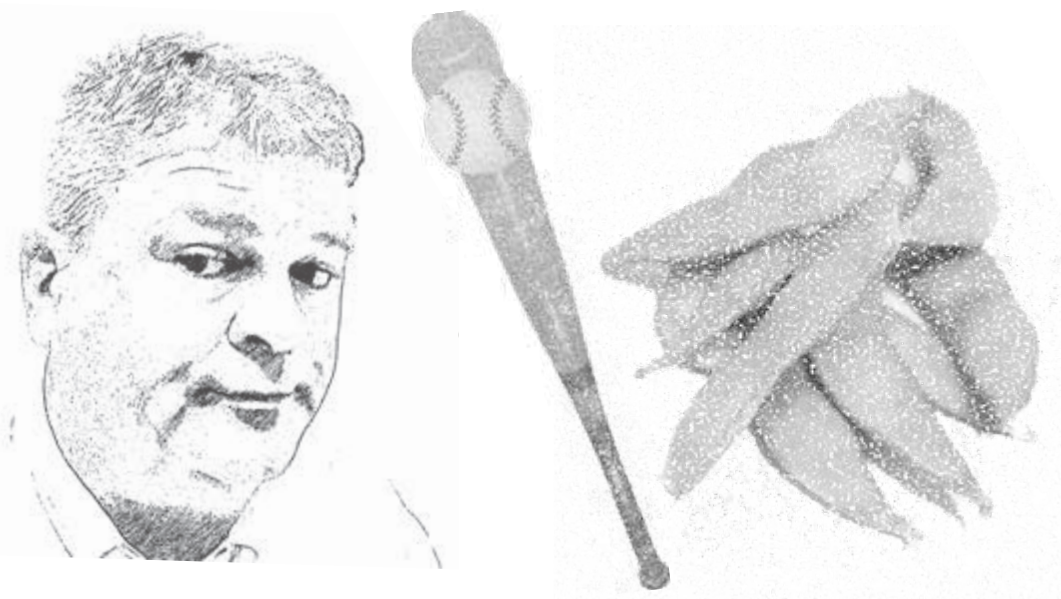


**THE BEST
PRIVATE SCHOOL IN
NORTH GEORGIA**



Shelling Peas, Watching Baseball And Beating The Heat

■ By Mark Smith Jr.



From our car in the driveway, I could hear the TV inside blasting Ernie, Pete and Skip. Just looking at the condensation dripping down the sliding glass door, I could tell the air conditioner was running full tilt as well. My mother's father - my grandfather -- enjoyed watching the Braves. He also liked to stay cool. Like many who grew up during the Great Depression, he knew real struggle and tough times. In retirement, the comfort of his loved ones (and himself) was a priority. Many times, to my astonishment, he would freeze up a compressor in the middle of August. A big block of ice would form on the outdoor unit and he would send me outside to thaw it out by spraying it with a garden hose. I wasn't an electrician, but the idea of putting water on the

biggest electrical appliance in the whole house did concern me a bit.

August also meant Pink Eyed, Purple Hulls were coming in and readily available at farmers markets and roadside stands. Simmered with a little pork fat and salt, no summer supper was complete without the legendary legumes and a slice of home-grown tomato. The pot likker from the peas and the juice from the tomato would often seek to combine on your plate. A slice of white bread was there to mediate between the two and make sure no drop was wasted.

At my grandparents' house, we spent many hours shelling the pink eyed peas while watching players like Ralph Garr, Dusty Baker and Mike Lum. Unlike shucking corn - which was

messy and would only be done out on the back porch - shelling peas could be done in the cool comfort of the living room. Sitting on the sofa with a Tupperware bowl between our legs, shelling peas taught us early lessons in gross and net yield. A large brown paper bag of unshelled purple hulls only produced about a half a cereal bowl full of peas. It seemed like we had to shell nearly a bushel to get a dinner's worth.

Depending on who was pitching, my brothers and I could predict what story we would hear again. Pity poor Pascual Perez, even if he wasn't pitching, we were going to hear about him getting lost on the Atlanta by-pass while driving to a game. He went around the perimeter three times before running out of gas. The

best stories are repeated for a reason.

My grandfather did mispronounce a few of the players' names quite regularly. "That ole Gavine is pitching tonight" he would say, referring to Tom Glavine. I never corrected him; I was worried my ancestors would come out of the ground and whup my butt if I did. He even referred to my fiancé, whose maiden name was Harrison, as Hannah Harris. She just smiled politely; we treasure that memory today.

We once took my grandfather to a Braves game in Atlanta. Dad had gotten us a couple of box seats along the first base line. We were seated three rows behind Ted Turner himself. It was a lot of fun, but it was hot. By the sixth inning, we were headed for the parking lot. He had to get back to the comfort of a recliner, the TV remote control and a thermostat set on 59 degrees. I do not remember much about that game. I could not tell you who the Braves were playing or what the final score was, but I can tell you about freezing my tail off in August and shelling peas. Like I said, the best stories are repeated for a reason. ♦

Mark Smith Jr. (1965-2019) was the Executive Editor of Lakelife magazine and a Vice President of Smith Communications, Inc. The winner of the 2018 Joe Parham Trophy, 1st place for humor columns in the Georgia Press Association, Mark's humor columns appeared in each edition of Lakelife in 2019 and were popular with our readers. This is one he wrote in August 2018 for the Lake Oconee News.



GFD

GREENSBORO COSMETIC & FAMILY
DENTISTRY

"We love to make you smile!"
B. Scott Hillin, D.M.D.

1590 S. Main St. Greensboro, Ga | 706-453-7860
www.GreensboroFamilyDental.com

EST. **ACS** 1967

HOME OF THE
ProTech **PLUMBER**



HEATING • COOLING • PLUMBING

478-200-7501

theairconditioningspecialist.com



Lake Oconee GEORGIA



THREE RAYS
BOUTIQUE | HEAD SPA
LAKE OCONEE, GA

- Women's, Men's, and Children's Clothing
- Gifts, Accessories and Shoes
- Head Spa Services
- Blow Out Bar Services
- Spray Tan Services

Tuesday-Friday 10am-6pm
Saturday 10am-4pm

Book Now

706.816.5583

646 Old Phoenix Rd Ste E, Eatonton

Book Online: threeraysheadspatan.glossgenius.com

Lake Country **HOMEOWNER ADVOCATES**



- Services provided on new home build projects of \$3,000,000 or more only
- Licensed. Local. And Insured.
- It doesn't cost anything to talk. Call Us!



Your GA State Licensed, major residential construction navigators in Georgia's Lake Country



lakecountryhomeowneradvocates.com | 706.453.6179



Southern Laser Medical Spa

Beat the Heat, REFRESH Yourself!

NOW OFFERING:

- ARTEMIS T SHAPE 2 BODY CONTOURING
- FULL BODY SPA TREATMENTS
- HYDRAFACIALS
- MICRODERMABRASION
- MICRONEEDLING
- DERMAPLANE



- MEDICAL GRADE RED LIGHT THERAPY BED
- LASER HAIR & VEIN TREATMENTS
- OPUS PLASMA
- FACIALS
- MASSAGE
- NAIL CARE



Lake Oconee Area's Original Medical SPA

921 Harmony Rd • Suite 2 • Eatonton | 706-485-7200 | southernlasermedicalspa.com



- Family-run Dog Boarding business
- 3,000 sq ft climate-controlled facility
- Indoor/Outdoor Kennels
- Canine anti-slip epoxy flooring
- Tailor Made textile anti-microbial pet turf
- Kennels for all size and multi-dog kennels
- All kennels have drain and water hoses for sanitation
- 12,000 sq ft outdoor play area
- Specialized pet fencing
- Discount for multiple family dogs
- **New announcement: Prof Groomer in the House!**



Scan for WEBSITE



Mon-Sun
8:30am-5pm

Visit our website to view the gallery of our entire facility.
www.doghouseatlakeoconee.com

762.753.0099

860 Harmony Rd, Eatonton
(turn down the gravel road)



Scan for FB



Where
Dream
Homes
Begin



- New Construction & Custom Homes
- Site Planning, Permitting & Code Coordination
- Kitchen & Bathroom Remodels
- Complete Construction Consulting
- Landscaping & Exterior Enhancements

706.473.0109

stephenkitchen413@yahoo.com
kitchencustomhomes.com



**15, 20 and 30 Yard Roll-Off Containers
for Commercial and Residential**

We are a waste removal company conveniently
located in the heart of "Lake Country"
between Eatonton and Greensboro.

**FOR A QUOTE CALL
706.818.2570**

136 Sammons Pkwy | Eatonton, GA 31024

www.rolloffresources.com



24 Hours Service



Commercial & Residential

GENERAC

Authorized Dealer,
Certified Installer &
Maintenance Provider

Voted Lake Country's #1

Electrical Service Provider and Heating & Air Service Provider

VOTED 2025 BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

by the Eatonton-Putnam Chamber of Commerce!



ProSouth Services
ELECTRICAL - HEATING & AIR

706-749-8213 – www.ProSouthServices.com

Offering a full range of Electrical, Heating, and Air Solutions.
No job is too big or small. Call today for Fair Prices, Quality
Work, Fast Response Times and Free Quotes!

938 Greensboro Rd, Eatonton, GA



Licensed & Insured



Protect the Beauty of Your Landscape



Is this Your Home?

A thoughtfully designed landscape is an investment in the beauty and value of your home.

Unfortunately, deer see your carefully selected plants, flowers, and shrubs as an open buffet.

Our Priority Deer Protection Plan provides a discreet, professional solution designed specifically for high-end residential landscapes. Using proven deterrent treatments and a seasonal service schedule, we help protect the plants and garden spaces that make your property exceptional.

Our Deer Protection Program Includes

- Targeted deer deterrent treatments
 - No unsightly fencing
 - No constant replanting
- Reliable protection keeping your landscape looking its best
- Seasonal applications for continuous protection
 - Customized plans based on your landscape
- Safe treatments when applied by professionals

Scan the code to learn more!



Locally Owned & Operated

Professional Service with Personal Care

470.474.2847

To learn more or start your plan visit:
highprioritypest.com

Your garden was designed to be enjoyed — not eaten.





Above, as a teen, Joe earned money to buy the car of his dreams, pictured here in 1988.
Opposite page, Gransden today in his driveway with his old car now restored.

Making DREAMS come true

■ Story by **Lynn Hobbs**

■ Photos by **Ian Tocher** and contributed

In the mid 1980s, Joe Gransden was like most other young teens in Buffalo, New York. He played hockey on the schools' teams, played trumpet in the schools' bands, hung out with his friends, and would do anything to drive a muscle car. Most specifically, he wanted the car Burt Reynolds drove in *Smokey and the Bandit*.



"I saw that movie and I fell in love with that car and I promised myself I was going to get one," Joe said. "I worked summer jobs. I caddied at the local golf club and I worked in convenience stores and saved up every penny that I could."

Although he was unable to find the exact model that Bo "The Bandit" Darville had in the movie, Joe was just as proud to finally become the owner of a black 1979 Trans Am with the gold screaming chicken on the hood. Joe chuckled as he recalled the one-hour drive home after he bought it. It was the middle of winter and he said the car was "sliding all over the place" all the way back to Williamsville, a small town just outside of Buffalo.

"The car became my identity in Williamsville," he smiled as he reminisced. "I would drive it to my high school band performances because I played the trumpet and I knew that's what I was going to do

for a living. So, this was my car and everybody who saw it on the street knew it was Joe."

Knowing at such a young age that he would be a professional musician only made sense. After all, it was in his genes. On his mother's side of the family is the famous piano virtuoso, Carmen Cavallero, also known as "the poet of the piano." Joe's grandfather was a well-respected trumpet player in New York City who played as a sideman with Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey or Harry James' bands when they performed in New York. Joe's father is a gifted singer and pianist.

"He still plays and he's fantastic," Joe said of his father. "But I chose the trumpet in fourth grade because that's what I heard all the time as a kid from my grandfather. And you don't play piano in the school wind ensemble. You need to play an instrument

you can put on your back and carry home on the bus.

"So, although I played piano, I chose trumpet and I loved trumpet," he added. "But I didn't love it as much as I loved playing hockey in Buffalo. I always wanted to be a hockey player."

One day in middle school, the band director brought in Allen Vizzutti, one of the top trumpet players in the world, as a guest soloist for the middle school band's concert. The concert was on the same evening as an important hockey game.

"And I fought with my parents and said, 'I'm not going to the band concert, I'm going to the hockey game,'" Joe recalled.

His mother and father explained that hockey games were every week, but he only had concerts once per semester. They reminded him that he played first trumpet, and was needed at the concert.

The day of the concert, Allen Vizzutti came to the school and rehearsed with the young students.

“When I heard Allen Vizzutti play that day, it was so beautiful and his tone was so crystal clear and his technique was so perfect,” Joe said. “His ease of playing was incredible—something I had never experienced before.

“I remember that day saying, ‘that’s what I’m doing the rest of my life.’ And everything changed for me that day, instantly. I still played hockey, but I practiced trumpet every day, all day. I couldn’t get enough of it.

“I fell in love with jazz music. I fell in love with Chet Baker and Miles Davis. I owe everything to my band director for supporting music education and bringing in guest artists on that level. And I owe it all to Allen Vizzutti for inspiring young musicians.”

Not long after high school, Joe spent a year on the road as a sideman with the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, playing all over the world. He then moved to Atlanta, where his parents had moved, to finish his college education. Unlike his small town in New York, Joe’s daily drive to college in Atlanta was a one-hour, one-way commute. So he sold his beloved Trans Am and bought an economical compact car.

“I remember I was basically in tears, I couldn’t believe that I’d let it go,” Joe said. “It was devastating, but it was just time for the next stage of my life.”

While studying music at Georgia State University, Joe met his wife Charissa, and started a new life with her. As time went on, he began to miss his old car, so he bought other Trans Ams, both old and new, trying to “take care of that itch I had for that car. But nothing would take care of it. It’s hard to explain,” he said.

In the early 2000s, he began



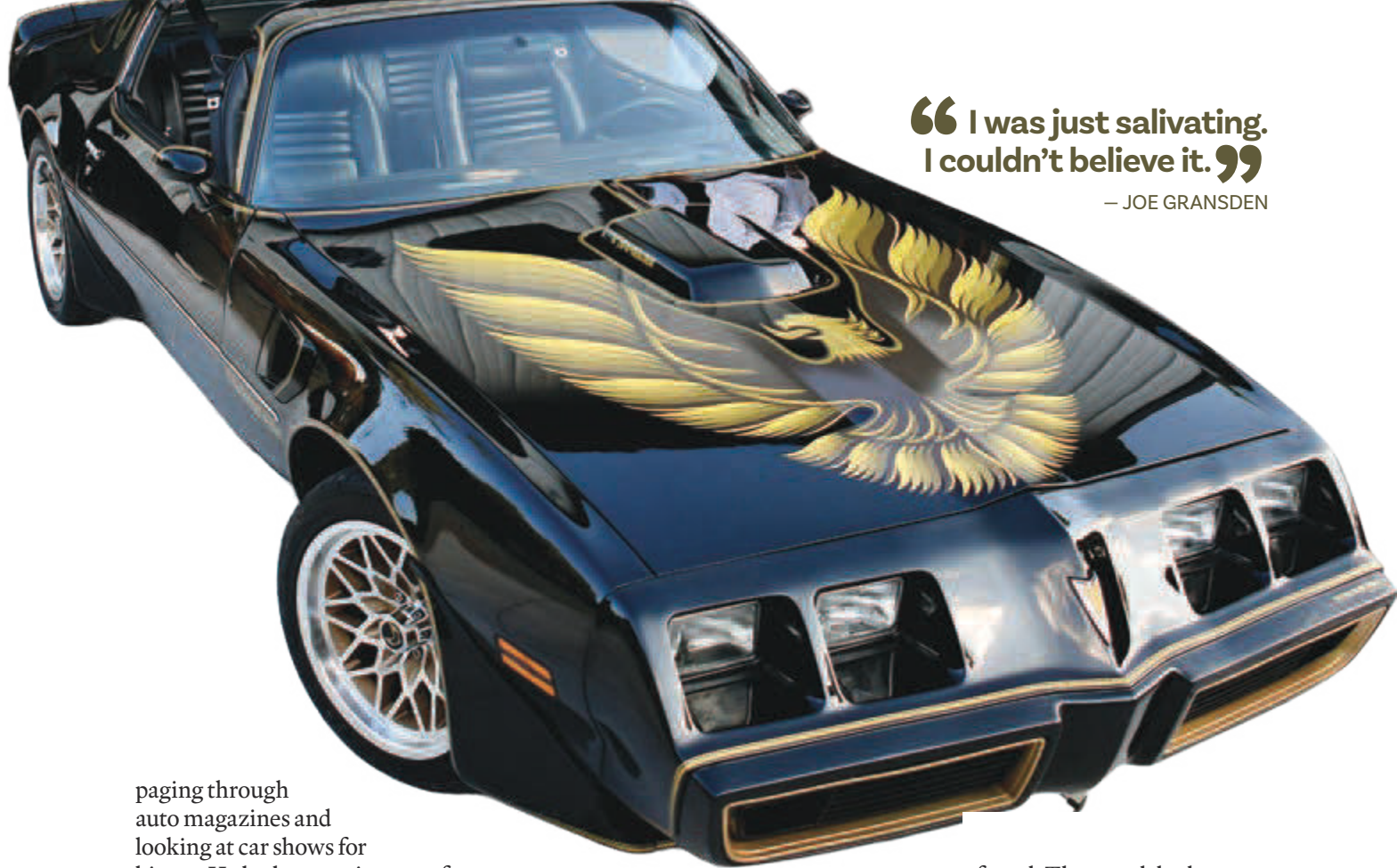
Joe behind the wheel of his '79 Trans Am today (Opposite page) and in 1988 (above).



The long-lost Trans Am when Gransden finally found it in Alabama.



Joe is all smiles with his beloved Trans Am and trumpet.



**“I was just salivating.
I couldn’t believe it.”**

— JOE GRANSDEN

paging through auto magazines and looking at car shows for his car. He had many pictures of the car, but without the Vehicle Identification Number or name of the man he sold it to, his search was futile.

More than a decade later, Joe and his son, Joey, were watching TV when a show called “Trans Am” came on. Joe watched with interest as the show’s stars, brothers Scott and Tod Warmack, restored an old Trans Am just like his.

“I was just salivating, Joe said. “I couldn’t believe it.”

Joe immediately told Joey about his own car and pulled out old pictures of it. Joey caught his dad’s contagious excitement and told him they needed that car back in the family. Joe became more determined than ever. He called the Warmacks, who put him in touch with Rick Deiters of Trans Am Specialties of Florida.

“I told Rick my story and he was so excited, he couldn’t wait to help me find this car,” Joe said. “Like the Warmacks, he said I’d

probably never see it again, but he also said ‘let’s give it a shot.’”

Joe sent Rick a picture of his car, which Rick posted on his website with a brief story and plea for help locating it. A few months later, the man who had bought the car from Joe saw the post, and contacted Joe.

“He remembered pulling up my driveway, he remembered the color of our house, he remembered meeting my father that day,” Joe said. “It all made sense, and he showed me a picture of my car after he’d bought it from me.”

The man, Robert Betas, no longer had the car. He said that he, too, had gone to college and needed a different vehicle. But Robert joined Joe’s search and went back to his parent’s old house, looked in the basement and eventually found an old insurance card that had the VIN on it.

Using the VIN, Joe traced the car up to 2002 in Alabama, then no other records of it could be

found. The search had taken another year or two. One day, Joe said he decided to “do something out of the ordinary.” He Googled “Private Investigator Atlanta, GA” and called the first name that came up. He told Tim McWhirter his story, and quickly learned that Tim was also a car guy and understood Joe’s need. About six months later, McWhirter called and said he’d found the car.

The two car guys drove four hours to the hills of Alabama, where they pulled up to the address and saw the car way in the back of a yard behind a fence.

“It’s sitting under a tree all beat up, and I knew it was mine,” Joe remembered. “There it was right beside the fence and I could see the big buff mark that I put in the car in 1988 in Buffalo when I was waxing it one day with a buffer. It was winking at me, and I was in tears.”

No one answered the door at the house, but a neighbor told them where to find the resident’s sister. The sister was unwilling to help

until Joe recognized her accent and they realized they were both from the Buffalo area. They connected as they shared memories of schools, restaurants, and stomping grounds. She changed her mind and accompanied Joe and Tim to look at the car in her brother's backyard. But the brother said the car had emotional value and he didn't want to sell it.

"I explained to him that if it's so emotional, maybe he should put it in the garage because it was rotting out," Tim said. "But he didn't, and he refused to sell."

Another year passed, and Joe decided to make one final attempt. "If it didn't work, I was going to have to let it go because it was tearing me apart," he said.

Joe sent a final offer via text message, "I offered maybe 10 times what it was worth." Because he never had the chance to look inside the car or under the hood, Joe noted that the offer was contingent upon the condition of the car. The owner agreed. An inspection of the car revealed the floors and firewall were completely rusted out and the original engine was gone. So Joe made "another offer that was way lower but very fair." This time, there was no hesitation and the car was finally Joe's again.

The car was put on a flatbed

and taken to Joe's home in Atlanta, where he "stared at it for two days and texted all my old friends from high school with pictures of it. Nobody could believe it, it was insane," Joe said. "It was just an emotional thing. I could still picture myself working on that car with my father. I could still picture prom night and wearing a tux driving it, just all the memories."

He sent the car to Rick Deiters at Trans Am Specialties. Rick took two years restoring the car like new. A lot of the original is still there – the metal, the stick shift, a lot of the glass, "but it's 100% restored and it runs like a top, and I'll keep it forever," Joe said.

Unlike his high school years, Joe no longer drives his Trans Am to his band performances. With all the money and time he invested in reclaiming and restoring it, Joe said he keeps it "in a car bubble" these days.

His musical performances, however, continue to travel everywhere, providing his many fans with the same happiness Joe experiences in life. From his earlier days of weekly performances at The Ritz Carlton at Reynolds, to now packing the house at his concerts in Festival Hall in Greensboro, The Plaza Arts Center in Eatonton, and

Empire Mills in Madison, Joe is well-loved in the Lake Country. He and either his 17-piece big band, 8-piece band, or jazz quintet are booked in these venues in the coming year.

Joe and his band also perform regularly in Atlanta and New York. They have two new shows about to tour this year and 2027. One is a tribute to Tony Bennett, called "The Good Life," which will start off at the Lincoln Center in New York City on Bennett's birthday, Aug. 3.

The other show is "Feels So Good," a tribute to Chuck Mantione and his platinum hit of the same name. Mantione was a flugelhorn player with many smooth jazz hits in the 1970s.

Joe also has a new recording project, "Let's Take a Chance Together," which is available on all steaming platforms or on a CD.

When he isn't performing, Joe is focusing on inspiring younger musicians, just as he was influenced in middle school. He teamed up with the nonprofit Atlanta Music Club, which focuses on classical music concerts and musical education. They've started "Joe Gransden's Future of Jazz," which mentors young musicians and puts them performing on stage with professionals. ♦



For more information on Future of Jazz, visit online at atlantamusicclub.org/jgfoj.



AESTHETIC SPECIALTY CENTRE

plastic surgery • dermatology

NON-SURGICAL

COOLSCULPTING ELITE | COOL TONE
 BOTOX & FILLERS
 MICRONEEDLING | PRP
 SECRET RF
 ULTHERAPY | THERMISMOOTH
 THERMIVA | CLOVANA
 LASER HAIR REMOVAL
 DIAMOND GLOW | HYDRA FACIAL
 CHEMICAL PEELS | HAIR
 RESTORATION

SURGICAL

FACELIFT | BLEPHAROPLASTY
 RHINOPLASTY | CHIN IMPLANTS
 OTOPLASTY | BREAST
 AUGMENTATION
 SCAR REVISION | LIPOSUCTION
 HAIR TRANSPLANT



ASC is Top 1% in the country
 for Botox & fillers by Allergan®

*"I chose Dr. Yune & ASC
 because they are simply the best"*

*-Actual Patient - L.H.
 Surgeon - Los Angeles, CA*



Marc E. Yune, MD

Triple Board Certified
 Fellowship Trained Facial Plastic
 and Breast Cosmetic Surgeon
 Inventor of the DART & ICE Procedures

Aesthetic Specialty Centre

Two office locations serving you:
 2001 Linger Longer Rd | Greensboro | (706) 467-6300
 1825 Old Alabama Rd, Suite 201 | Roswell | (770) 393-9000
 ASC-PSD.COM

HERE COMES HELP

JGS Enterprise Group, LLC

Contractor
 Licensed & Insured

- ✓ Roofing
- ✓ Interior/Exterior Painting
- ✓ Gutter Painting & Cleaning
- ✓ Landscaping
- ✓ Swimming Pools
- ✓ AC/Heating
- ✓ Fencing
- ✓ Electrical
- ✓ Plumbing
- ✓ Flooring
- ✓ BobCat Work
- ✓ Lot Clearing
- ✓ Basements
- ✓ Remodeling
- ✓ Decks
- ✓ Sunrooms
- ✓ Concrete Work
- ✓ Gutter Guards
- ✓ Septic Service
- ✓ Water Damage Specialist

TURN KEY
 REAL ESTATE
 CONSULTING
 AVAILABLE

Visit JGS Enterprise
 Contracting on Facebook



ACCREDITED
 BUSINESS
 A+ RATED

CALL FOR AN ESTIMATE! 770-780-8128

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.JGSENTERPRISEGROUP.COM
 VISIT US ON FACEBOOK: JGS ENTERPRISE CONTRACTING



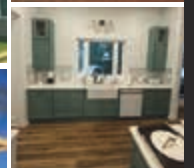
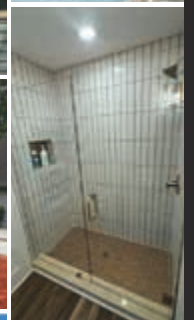
JGS IS
 "CHOMPING
 FOR YOUR
 BUSINESS!!"



\$500 OFF

ANY LARGE
 PROJECT WITH THIS AD

Must present ad. Cannot combine.



Come Live the Lake Oconee Lifestyle

Your Award-Winning Realtors

Robert Boatright
President's Award 2025
Realtor of the Year* 2023

Lauren Coyne
Rookie of the Year* 2023



**BEST OF ZILLOW
PREMIER AGENTS 12
CONSECUTIVE MONTHS**



**CB GLOBAL
LUXURY
SPECIALISTS**



**INTERNATIONAL
PRESIDENT'S
ELITE**



**COLDWELL
BANKER DIAMOND
SOCIETY**



**REAL ESTATE
ALLSTARS
2023 & 2024**



**TOP PRODUCERS
EAGLE AWARD
15 YEARS**



**GOLD AWARD
FOR TOP
INDIVIDUAL AGENT**



**BRONZE AWARD
THIRD INDIVIDUAL
AGENT**

Visit our new website at: www.BoatrightRealtyGroup.com



BOATRIGHT
REALTY GROUP



COLDWELL BANKER
LAKE OCONEE REALTY/
LAKE COUNTRY

706.817.1273 | rboatright@cblakeoconee.com | 706.467.3181

*LAKE COUNTRY BOARD OF REALTORS



WELCOME TO GREENSBORO

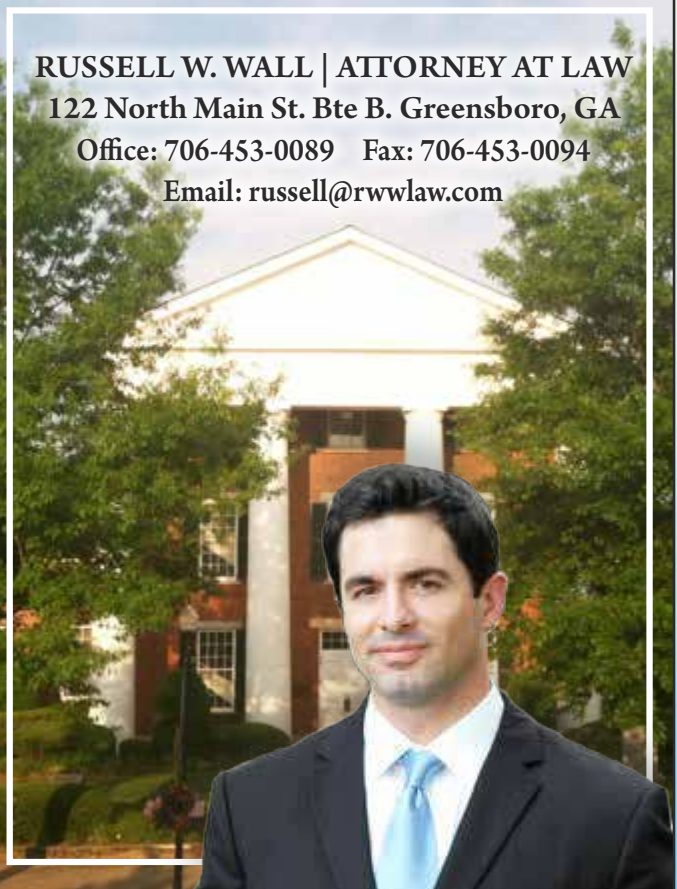


**Dawson's
Lake Country**
Antiques & More



108 N. Main St. • Greensboro
470.558.7725
dawsonknight21@yahoo.com
Open Wednesday - Saturday
10am - 5pm

RUSSELL W. WALL | ATTORNEY AT LAW
122 North Main St. Bte B. Greensboro, GA
Office: 706-453-0089 Fax: 706-453-0094
Email: russell@rwwlaw.com



Edward Jones

Member SIPC

**Lake Country: The power of personal
attention working for you**
Here for you.



Robbie McNeill, AAMS®, CRPC™
Financial Advisor
118 S Main St Ste B
Greensboro, GA 30642
706-454-5095

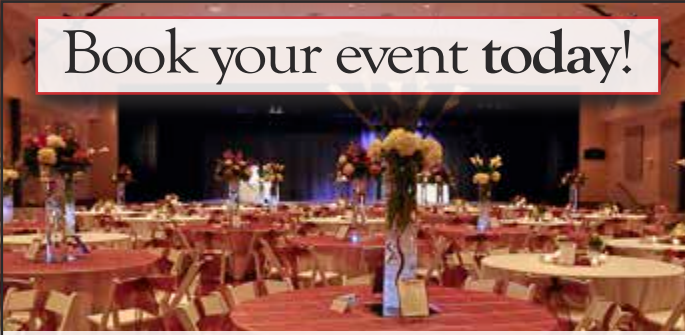


GREENSBORO Jewelers
MASTER JEWELERS



118 N. Main Street,
Greensboro, GA 30642
(706) 453-9222

Book your event today!



FESTIVAL HALL • 762-243-8022
201 N. Main Street • www.festivalhallga.com

P D Q
ACCOUNTING SERVICES
DONNA JONES ADAMS

- Monthly Accounting Services
- Quick Tax Returns
- Certified Electronic Tax Filing
- Payroll Services

103 N. East Street
Greensboro, Georgia 30642

706.453.9995
donna@pdqaccounting.com

Lake Oconee News
Support local journalism
lakeoconeenews.us — 706-454-1290

LOCAL MATTERS






Jesse and David Hodge smile in their shop where they make their ice cream from scratch.
Opposite page: Jesse makes homemade waffle cones while David serves a customer.

OUTLAWING BAD ICE CREAM

■ Story by **Lynn Hobbs**

■ Photos by **Ian Tocher**

Anyone who steps inside the door of Crooked D Creamery will think they've stepped back into old Westerns on television. A player piano clangs out cheerful tunes, the friendly owner is clad in cowboy hat and boots, and rope lassos, hay, barns and cows decorate the walls.

An initial peek at the menu might cause a muddlin' of the brain, but keep lookin' and it begins to make sense – Sweet Charolais is classic vanilla ice cream, named after Charolais cattle, which are large white beef cows. Pistol Peach is peach ice cream with a sneaky kick of hot honey. Cowboy Crunch offers coffee ice cream with dark chocolate-covered espresso beans mixed in.

But don't fret because owners David and Jesse Hodge readily hand out samples to help your



decision process. They know that once you've sampled, you're hooked. The Creamery is open 2-9 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 1-10 p.m. Saturdays. There's a steady flow of customers from the time the doors open until they're locked at night, David said. The three occasions that *Lakelife* visited, it was just as he said.

"People just keep coming back," David said. "We have some who have been here every single day since we opened. They have not missed a day. Others come every Friday night for their date night, they come every week."

Others have come from LaGrange, Commerce, Macon, Milledgeville, Athens, McDonough, Madison, and Lake Oconee, "and they're not coming just once; they're coming back (multiple) times," he noted. "They tell me they used to go to another ice cream shop, but now they drive past those to come here."

The secret to success seems to be in the shop's name – "Creamery" instead of "ice cream shop." David said when he and his cousin were discussing a name for the business, "Crooked D" came from both of their years of experience ranching. But when his cousin suggested "Crooked D Ice Cream Shop," David put his cowboy-booted foot down. "We are not an ice cream shop, we're a micro creamery," he explained.

A creamery is a small, independent business that produces ice cream using traditional or artisanal methods and sources its milk and other ingredients from local farms for freshness and quality. The focus is on small-batch, farm-to-table production that emphasizes flavor and craftsmanship over mass productions.

All of Crooked D's ice cream is made in-house at the Creamery. David comes up with the unique flavors, and Jesse makes recipes for and bakes the ingredients. Whether its brownies, caramel, oreo cookies, waffles, or compote, every item that is mixed into the ice cream

for its individual flavor is made from scratch in the shop by Jesse. She creates the textures of the cookies/cakes so they won't fall apart or freeze solid when stirred in the cream, churned and frozen.

"Sometimes she rolls her eyes and asks 'how are we going to pull that off?' But she always comes up with a way to make it work and then we bring it all together," David said with a proud smile.

Jesse busily served customers as he talked. "We create it and then the people come in and say it's so good," he added. "Or we see the little kids with their big smiles and that makes it worth it. I like making ice cream and she likes baking, and we both like serving people, so it's a lot of fun."

Because he loves ice cream so much, David and Jesse went on a quest across the U.S., Scotland and Puerto Rico in search of the perfect ice cream. They were unsuccessful and decided to make their own. When their creation became so popular, they decided to open Crooked D Creamery.

The fruits in the fruited flavors are fresh from a farm in Middle Georgia and the milk comes from a local dairy, but David must go to the Atlanta Farmers Market to pick it up because the dairies belong to a coop. No artificial dyes, preservatives or additives are ever used.

David churns the ice cream early in the mornings and later in the evenings. He had made 12 gallons on the day of *Lakelife's* interview. After it's churned, the ice cream must set up in a freezer for at least 12 hours, and preferably 24 hours before it's served.

The menu is limited to various flavors of ice cream in cups or homemade waffle cones. The pricing is reasonable and includes "Little Buckaroo" junior scoops so an entire family can enjoy themselves without breaking the bank.

For more information, follow Crooked D Creamery on Facebook or call 727-207-3640. ♦

TCH WATERSPORTS

SALES • SERVICE • REPAIR

YOUR LOCAL WATERCRAFT EXPERT

ONE STOP FOR ALL YOUR WATERCRAFT NEEDS!



NEW & PRE-OWNED
WATERCRAFT SALES



CERTIFIED SERVICE
& REPAIRS



PARTS &
ACCESSORIES

CALL TODAY!
706.485.9979
TCHWATERSPORTS.COM

AREAS WE SERVE: While we are based in Eatonton, GA, we service all areas in the southeastern united states, including the following Georgia locations:
ATLANTA • MILLEDGEVILLE • EATONTON • GREENSBORO • LAKE LANIER • LAKE JACKSON



xpress boats®
we build excitement



YAMAHA®

TAHOE
PONTON BOATS



YAMAHA
OUTBOARD

MERCURY
GO BOLDLY™



Savings & care 24/7/365



 **State Farm®**

Morris Ins and Fin Svcs Inc
Bruce Morris, Agent
1600 S Main Street, Suite A
Greensboro, GA 30642-1266

Bus: 706-454-1670
bmsfagency.com

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®



If you want personal service and understanding with your insurance, I'm your good neighbor. You'll also get 24/7 tech options when you want to manage your policies online. Call, click or stop by for a quote today.

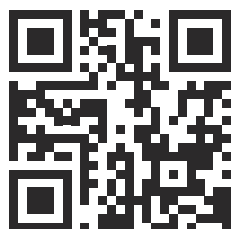
State Farm
Bloomington, IL



**Gatewood Schools love our faculty!
Where students are known, valued,
challenged and equipped for success!**



**For any questions or information, please contact
Donna Pye for admissions 706-485-8231 x 103**



SCAN TO VISIT
OUR WEBSITE

dpye@gatewoodschool.com

www.gatewoodschool.com



@gatewoodschool



139 Phillips Dr. Eatonton, Ga 31024

lake area restaurant guide

greene

3Natives Acai & Juicery
6167 Lake Oconee Pkwy
762-445-1177

Amici Lake Oconee
1101 Parkside Main, Ste. 105
706-413-9600

Amore Del Lago
Ritz Carlton Reynolds
1 Lake Oconee Trail
706-467-7135

The Boathouse at Harbor Club
3991 Walker Church Rd.
706-999-9717

Café 44
1051 Village Park Dr.
706-999-9744

China Garden
6181 Lake Oconee Pkwy.
706-453-0012

Family Ties BBQ & Seafood
118 S. Main St.
706-920-1217

Filet Steak & Seafood
1000 Parkside Main, Ste. 101
706-453-2980

Gaby's by the Lake
Ritz Carlton Reynolds
1 Lake Oconee Trail
706-467-060

Harbor Club Clubhouse Restaurant
1111 Polo Circle
706-453-7111

Holcomb's Bar-B-Que
404 W. Broad St.
706-453-2577

Holcomb's Barbecue
7070 GA-15, White Plains
706-467-2409

Jalisco Mexican Grill
1100 Parkside Main
706-999-3530

Linger Longer Steakhouse
Ritz Carlton Reynolds
1 Lake Oconee Trail
706-467-7135

Los Torres Mexican Grill
117 E. Broad St.
706-453-0092

Marcos Pizza
1010 Market St.
706-920-2727

Metropolis Cafe
1000 Parkside Main
762-445-1182

Pedros Mexican Grill and Cantina
6161 Lake Oconee Pkwy.
762-445-1141

PJ's Coffee
1010 Market St.
762-445-1187

Ripe Thing Market
112 W. Broad St.
706-454-2155

Sammy's by the Lake
6141 Lake Oconee Pkwy., Greensboro
706-817-0197

Santoro's Italian Kitchen
1061 Village Park Dr.
706-453-1110

Table at the Lake
1010 Cowles Clinic Way.
706-786-1127

Tin House Thai
4950 Carey Station Rd.
706-454-5999

Yesterday Café
114 N. Main St.
Greensboro
706-920-1099

putnam

Brenda's Fish & Wings
102 Oak St.
706-749-8439

The Deck, Safe Harbor Marina
144 Collis Marina Rd.
706-485-7596

El Agave
960 Greensboro Rd.
706-484-2025

El Cazador
104 N. Jefferson Ave.
706-991-5003

El Sitio
106 Harmony Rd.
706-485-6105

Giant Subs at Oconee Wild
1133 Lake Oconee Pkwy.,
706-816-9676

Inaho Japanese Steak & Sushi
103 Harmony Crossing, Ste. 6
706-991-5122

Iron Fork Café
106 Harmony Crossing
762-220-1033

Italian Chop House on Lake Oconee
920 Greensboro Rd.
706-705-7005

Kina's Krazy Creations
102 N. Jefferson Ave.
706-473-7641

Lake House & Tap
1137 Lake Oconee Pkwy.
762-220-1212

Lake Oconee Bistro
1130 Lake Oconee Pkwy.
706-452-4400

Mellow Mushroom
105 Harmony Crossing
706-484-2074

Pho & More
113 Harmony Crossing
706-991-6003

Salty Claw
107 Oak St.
706-333-4041

The Silver Moon
1077 Greensboro Rd.
706-485-5698

Sips 31024
104 W. Marion St.
762-298-2420

Surchero's Fresh Mex
109 Thunder Point Dr.
762-220-1080

Sweet Kneads
103 Clack Circle
706-484-1588

Tastee Chick
812 Oak St.
706-485-9988

Tasty Wings & Seafood
100 W. Walnut St.
706-749-8131

Tienda Tarimoro
107 Oak St.
706-485-1276

Tipsy Turtle Bar & Grill
112 N. Jefferson Ave.
762-777-0726

Wing Maxx
100 Scott Rd.
912-536-2370

morgan

MADISON

Amici Italian Cafe
174 W. Washington St.
706-342-0000

Betty Gene's
231 Hancock St.

Brookshire BBQ
270 W Washington St.

Cracker Barrel
2003 Eatonton Rd.
706-343-9963

Crowe's Bar-B-Que
1320 Eatonton Rd.
706-342-7002

The Dining Room
146 E. Washington St.
706-478-7893

Dos Amigos Mexican Grill
1650 Eatonton Rd.
706-438-1556

Dunkin Donuts
1800 Eatonton Rd.
706-847-4205

Farmview Market
2610 Eatonton Rd.
844-210-7030

Happy China
1143 Eatonton Rd.
706-342-7679

Hart & Crown Tavern
142 E. Washington St.
706-438-8050

Madison Chophouse Grille
202 S. Main St.
706-342-9009

Madison Drug Company
213 North Main St.
706-342-1722

Madison Produce
111 W. Jefferson St.
706-342-1908

Madison Square Nutrition

132 E. Washington St.
678-634-8157

Martha's Favorites

325 W. Washington St.
706-342-1600

Oconee Coffee Roasters

142 Academy St.
443-994-0242

R+B Soul Café

461 Burney St.
706-438-3030

Ricardo's Kouzzina

271 W. Washington St.
706-342-0729

Sakura Sushi and Hibachi

1512 Eatonton Rd.

The Sinclair

298 Hancock St.
706-438-1101

Scoops Ice Cream Shop

123 W. Washington St.
706-342-3002

Tequila's Mexican Grill

863 N. Main St.
706-343-1519

Tickled Pig BBQ

270 W. Washington St.
706-438-3027

Town 220

220 W. Washington St.
706-752-1445

Wing Night's at Benny Paul's

139 E. Jefferson St.
706-438-3200

Yanmi Kitchen

1682 Eatonton Rd.
706-438-1588

RUTLEDGE

Caboose

102 W. Main St.
706-557-9021

Rutledge Wings

148 Atlanta Hwy D
706-557-7369

baldwin

A Town Wings

2600 N. Columbia St.
Ste C2
478-295-0585

AJ's Hotwings to Go

400 S. Elbert St.
478-451-0101

Amici Milledgeville

101 W. Hancock St.
478-452-5003

Applebee's

106 Roberson Mill Rd. NE
478-453-8355

AJ's Hot Wings

2601 N. Columbia St.
478-804-0101

Aubri Lane's

3700 Sinclair Dam Rd. NE
478-454-4181

Barberitos

146 W. Hancock St.
478-451-4717

Biba's

2803 N. Columbia St.
478-414-1773

Blackbird Coffee

114 W. Hancock St.
478-454-2473

Bollywood Tacos

107 W. Hancock St.
478-453-9547

The Brick

136 W. Hancock St.
478-452-0089

Buffalo Wild Wings

2472 N. Columbia St.
478-804-0022

Chicken Salad Chick

1901 N. Columbia St.
478-288-5350

Chili's

2596 N. Columbia St.
478-452-1900

China Garden

1948 N. Columbia St.
478-454-3449

China Wings 3

1071 S. Wayne St.
478-453-3655

Country Buffet

1465 S. Jefferson St.
478-453-0434

Cravings!

108 W. Hancock St.
478-295-2646

Down South Seafood

972 Sparta Hwy.
478-452-2100

Duke's Lounge & Dawg House

162 Sinclair Marina Rd.
478-453-8440

El Amigo Mexican Rest.

2465 N. Columbia St.
478-453-0027

El Tequila Mexican Rest.

168 Garrett Way
478-414-1702

Flavor of Texas

960 N. Wilkinson St.
478-234-9445

The Front Porch

3065 N. Columbia St.
478-295-0351

Good Eats Healthy Living

2601 N. Columbia St. #H
478-804-0101

Great Wall

1304 N. Columbia St.
478-452-5200

Greene's Farmhouse Foods

116 W. Hancock St.
478-295-2300

Huey Magoo's

1972 N. Columbia St.
478-295-0865

IHOP

2598 N. Columbia St.
478-452-0332

Jalisco Mexican Grill

2400 N. Columbia St.
706-413-3166

Kai Thai

2600 N. Columbia St.
478-454-1237

Krispy Kreme

1700 N. Columbia St.
478-295-3212

Legends Seafood & Grill

3021 N. Columbia St.
478-453-9452

Lieu's Peking

2485 N. Columbia St.
478-804-0083

Little Tokyo Steakhouse

2588 N. Columbia St.
478-452-8886

Local Yolkal Cafe

117 W. Hancock St.
478-295-0098

Longhorn Steakhouse

2470 N. Columbia St.
478-414-7700

Los Magueyes

3052 N. Columbia St.
478-453-0271

Mama J's

1057 S. Wayne St.
478-295-3155

McAlister's Deli

114 Roberson Mill Rd.
706-623-8700

Metropolis Café

138 N. Wayne St.
478-452-0247

Morning Grind

451 W. Montgomery St.
478-456-1464

Ms. Stella's

1850 N. Columbia St.
478-453-7311

My Favorite Sweet Tea

104 W. Hancock St.
478-453-0098

Ned Kelly's Downstairs

119 S. Wayne St.
478-295-2699

Octagon Café

2400 N. Columbia St.
478-452-0588

Old Clinton BBQ

2645 N. Columbia St.
478-454-0080

Pho Little Saigon

2601 N. Columbia St.
478-295-2686

Pickle Barrel Café

1892 N. Columbia St.
478-452-1960

Real Deal Grill

185 W. Andrews St.
478-804-0144

Ruby Tuesday

2440 N. Columbia St.
478-452-5050

Shane's Rib Shack

2789 N. Columbia St.
478-295-1115

Shark's Fish & Chicken

196 Roberson Mill Rd.
478-295-3306

Shima

140 W. Hancock St.
478-451-0245

Shrimp Boat

911 S. Elbert St.
478-452-0559

Stacked Sandwiches

1827 N. Columbia St.
478-414-4348

Surcheros Fresh Mex

108 Roberson Mill Rd.
478-215-4542

That Way Wings

335 Allen Memorial Dr. SW
478-295-0601

The Vault

113 S. Wayne St.
478-295-3838

The Velvet Elvis Grille and Tap

113 W. Hancock St.
478-453-8226

Tropical Smoothie Café

1860 N. Columbia St.
478-295-3290

Wings, Rings and Things

3015 N. Columbia St.
478-295-2224

Wingstop

2775 N. Columbia St.
478-389-9464



YOUR GO-TO SPOT

for Grilling

FRESH MEAT, GREAT TASTE.

Every Time.

MEAT PACKAGES AND
CUSTOM ORDERS
AVAILABLE YEAR ROUND
UPON REQUEST



- Pork
- Brisket



- Steaks
- Chicken



- Bacon
- Sausage



- Prime Rib
- Seafood

EVERYTHING YOU NEED FOR THE PERFECT COOKOUT!



HOURS:
Monday-Saturday
8am-6pm
Sunday
11am-3pm



182 Pea Ridge Rd
Eatonton, GA 31024
706-989-MEAT

The Meat Locker the_meat_locker_182

Santoros

ITALIAN KITCHEN

SNEAK PEEK OF SOME OF OUR FAVORITE DISHES

Appetizers

FRIED CALAMARI

crispy calamari served with a side of marinara sauce

MOZZARELLA CAPRESE

freshly made mozz, tomatoes & basil drizzled with balsamic dressing

Classic Entrees

CHICKEN PARMIGIANA

tomato sauce & melted mozzarella served with a side of spaghetti

SHRIMP SCAMPI

wine, lemon, butter, shallots & garlic served with linguini

Pasta Specialities

MEAT LASAGNA

tomato sauce, ground meats & a blend of cheeses layered & baked

RIGATONI VODKA

creamy pink sauce with shallots and vodka
add prosciutto 4.00

Pizza

MARGHERITA PIZZA

dop san marzano tomatoes, fresh mozzarella, basil & evoo

GRANDMA PIZZA

16" thinner square pizza with fresh dop tomatoes, garlic, basil oil & mozzarella

Hours:

Sunday–Thursday 11am–3pm & 5pm–10pm

Friday & Saturday 11am–3pm & 5pm–11pm

1061 Village Park Drive
Greensboro, GA

Call to make your reservation

1.706.453.1110



Summer at Lake Oconee

COOL DOWN WITH OUR SPECIALTY DRINKS



OR ENJOY OUR DELICIOUS NEW MENU ITEMS



filet
STEAK & SEAFOOD

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR CURRENT HOURS
1000 PARKSIDE MAIN, SUITE 101
GREENSBORO, GEORGIA 30642
TELEPHONE: 706-453-2980
WWW.FILETSTEAKANDSEAFOOD.COM

Voted Best Steak on The Lake



RICARDOSKOUZZINA.COM



SCAN FOR MENUS & MORE



LUNCH HOURS
Tuesday - Saturday • 11am-2pm
DINNER HOURS
Tuesday - Thursday • 4pm-8:30pm
Friday and Saturday • 4pm-9pm

706-319-1636
271 West Washington Street
Madison, GA 30650

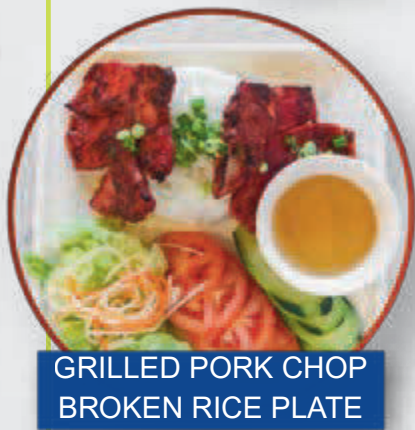
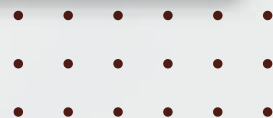




SHRIMP FRIED
RICE PLATE



ICED VIETNAMESE COFFEE



GRILLED PORK CHOP
BROKEN RICE PLATE



PHO & MORE

AUTHENTIC VIETNAMESE CUISINE



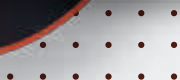
CRISPY FRIED SHRIMP



SEAFOOD PLATES



BUBBLE TEA



SEAFOOD PHO



COMBINATION
VERMICELLI



COMBINATION FRIED
RICE PLATE



VISIT PHO & MORE!

Mon–Tue: 10am–3pm & 5pm–9pm
Wednesday: Closed all day
Thu–Fri: 10am–3pm & 5pm–9pm
Sat: 10am–9pm
Sun: 10am–8pm



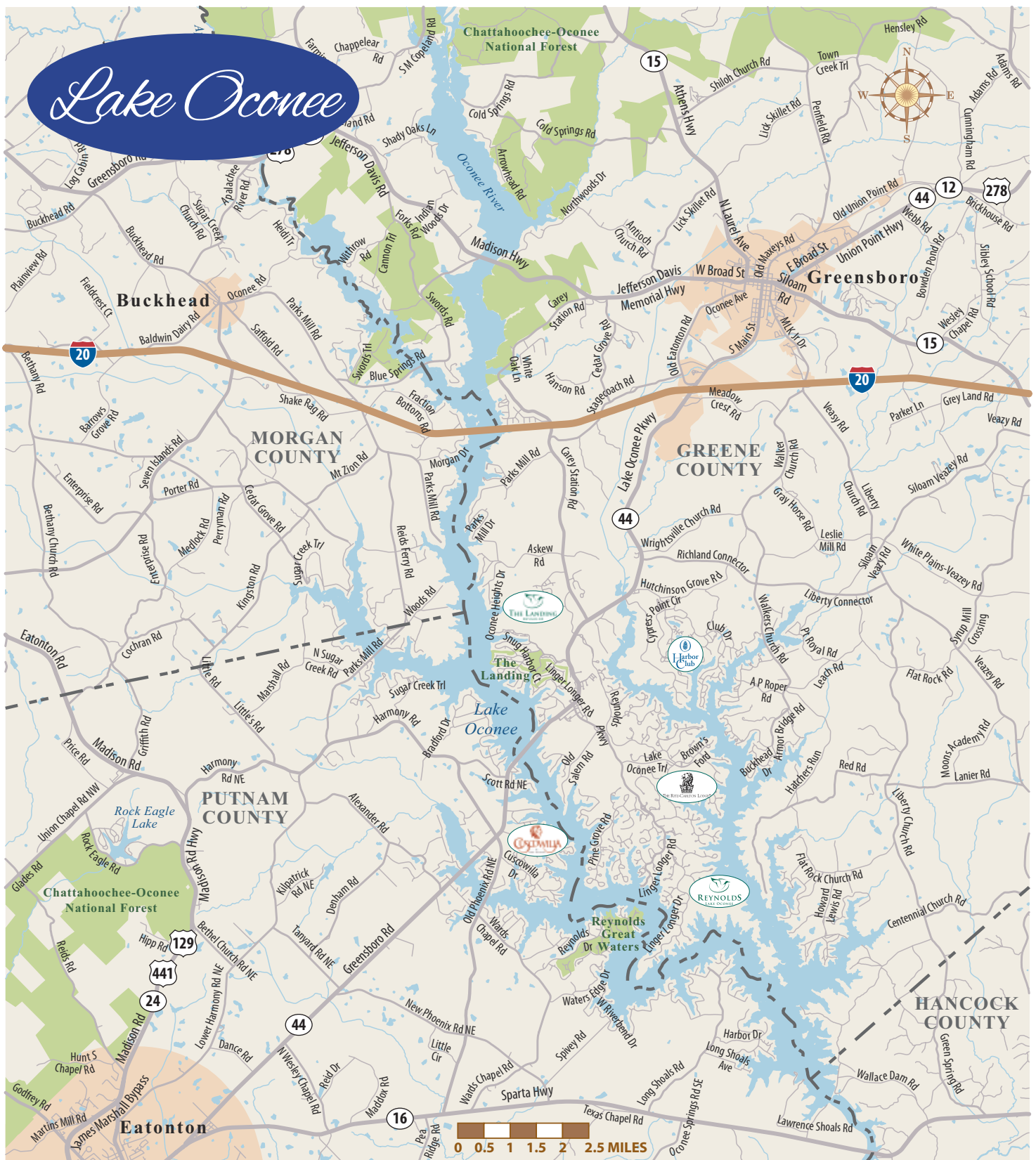
Visit our FB Page for Daily Specials→

WE ARE HIRING



(706) 819-3570

107 W Washington St , Monticello



Since 1981
GREENSBORO TIRE
TIRE PROS

1010 Town Creek Blvd
Greensboro, GA 30642
(706) 453-2454



OCONEE CLEANERS

Scott Joris

**Your professional
cleaners at
Lake Oconee**

478-457-6623 • 1210 Commerce Dr. Suite 105 • Greensboro, GA

Visit Milledgeville, Georgia

The Baldwin Bulletin

Support local journalism

bbnews.today — 478-452-1777

LOCAL MATTERS



**PICKLE
BARREL**
Café & Sports Pub

1892 N Columbia St, Milledgeville | 478.452.1960
picklebarrelcafe.com | pbcmyville@gmail.com



ORGANIC
FOODS



HEALTH-BASED
PRODUCTS



LOCAL ARTISTS
& VENDORS

God's Goods is a unique resell market and gift shop
located in Milledgeville GA!

130 LOG CABIN RD SUITE E, MILLEDGEVILLE, GA

(770) 321-5221

GODSGOODSMILLEDGEVILLE@GMAIL.COM



Relax · Restore · Renew

Because your body *kneads* touch.



404.860.1287

**130 Log Cabin Rd, Suite E
Milledgeville, GA**

Banking That Lives Here

Local service, local decisions, and a team that knows
your name, not just your account number.



**Dedia
Vinson**

NMLS# 738028



**Chan
Layson**

NMLS# 1352381



**Victoria
Liebl**

NMLS# 1034958

BankSouth

6340 LAKE OCONEE PARKWAY
(706) 453-2943

200 NORTH EAST STREET
(706) 453-2236

BANKSOUTH.COM

BankEasy. BankSafe. BankSouth.

*Get to
Know Your
Local
Lenders*



Construction • Lot & Land • Renovation • Bridge



NMLS #688851. CREDIT AND COLLATERAL ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL. TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY.

lake area Attractions

BALDWIN

ANDALUSIA

Home of famed author Flannery O'Connor. The farm estate is open for self-guided tours. For more information, call 478-445-8722 or visit andalusiafarm.org.

BARTRAM FOREST

Originally inhabited by Native Americans in 1794, Bartram Forest today features educational hiking and biking trails that allow visitors to see wildlife and natural wetlands. 478-445-5164.

CENTRAL STATE HOSPITAL MUSEUM AT THE DEPOT

Located in the west wing of The Depot, a Seeking Asylum Photo Gallery is displayed alongside other exhibits. Open during office hours by reservation and every Saturday 10a.m.-2p.m. (478)453-1803.

HISTORIC TROLLEY TOURS

Milledgeville's guided trolley tour includes visits to historical venues throughout the downtown area. For tour information, call 478-452-4687 or go to visitmilledgeville.org.

JOHN MARLOR ART CENTER

One of four historic buildings making up the Allied Arts Center, the art gallery features rotating exhibits of local and regional artists. 478-452-8672; milledgevillealliedarts.com

LOCKERLY ARBORETUM AND ROSE HILL

A unique horticultural laboratory surrounding an 1850 Greek Revival home. For more information, call 478-452-2112 or visit lockerly.org.

MEMORY HILL CEMETERY

The final resting place of many people from Milledgeville and Georgia history, including L.Q.C. Lamar, Congressman Carl Vinson, Flanner O'Connor, early Georgia governors, legislators, college presidents, enslaved people, soldiers. Self-guided tour of 47 points of interest begins at the gazebo and follows numbered signs. Download brochure at www.friendsofcems.org/MemoryHill/

OCONEE RIVER GREENWAY

This park and riverwalk offer trails, paths, boardwalks, a dog park, observation decks on the river, individual fishing stations, boat ramp, and canoeing or kayaking opportunities. Open daily, sunrise to sunset. Free parking. visitmilledgeville.org.

OLD GOVERNOR'S MANSION

This National Historic Landmark was home of eight Georgia governors from 1839 to 1868 and occupied by Sherman. For more information, call 478-445-4545 or visit gcsu.edu/mansion.

SALLIE ELLIS DAVIS HOUSE

Born in 1877 to a Black woman and Irish man, Sallie Ellis Davis worked her entire career as a teacher and principal at the Eddy School, where she educated and was an inspiration to hundreds of Black children. Her legacy, preserved in her home, is one of excellence. Open for tours each week. ADA compliant. Call 478-445-5889 or visit gcsu.edu/sallieellisdavis for more details.

THE STETSON-SANFORD HOUSE

Located at 601 W. Hancock St., Milledgeville, this historic house was built in 1825 in the "Milledgeville Federal" style and was a hotel for many visiting legislators who came to the state capital. Open by appointment or on the Milledgeville Trolley Tour. 478-453-1803, visitmilledgeville.org.

GREENE

GREENE COUNTY AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM

Dedicated to the empowerment of and truth-telling about African American lives in Greene County, the museum shares the important contributions and stories of Greene's African American community. Visit gcaam.org or call 706-372-4562.

THE OLD GAOL

This 1807 rock jail is one of the oldest penal structures in Georgia. Patterned after Bastilles with castellated battlements. Open by appointment. 706-453-7592.

GREENE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

Collection of artifacts, photographs and manuscripts provide a glimpse of the people and events that shaped Greene County's beginnings. For more information, call 706-453-7534.

GREENSBORO CEMETERY

Located on North East Street in downtown Greensboro, unique stones and ironwork mark the burial sites of soldiers, senators, a governor and other notables from Greene County's history. Graves date from the 18th century to the present day and include soldiers from the Revolutionary War and more than 45 unknown confederate dead. Open daily.

HAWTHORNE HEIGHTS

Historic home built in 1848 in Union Point and one of the oldest houses in the city. Originally a raised cottage, it was enlarged along Greek Revival lines. Drive by tour only. 706-453-7592.

THE IRON HORSE

The 2,000-pound iron sculpture was created by Abbott Pattison and placed at the University of Georgia in 1954; later, it was moved to a Greene County farm near the Greene-Oconee countyline. An awesome photo spot, this iron horse is located in a cornfield on Hwy. 15 North and can only be seen seasonally. Call Greene County Chamber of Commerce, 706-453-7592, for more information.

LAKE COUNTRY DISCOVERY MUSEUM

Packed with historical exhibits, interactive multi-media displays, kiosks, nostalgic memorabilia, art, photographs, a 10-foot scale topographic map of Lake Oconee and more. 6340 Lake Oconee Pkwy., Greensboro. 706-999-3513.

L.L. WYATT MUSEUM

This law enforcement museum and hall of fame was named for Loy Lee Wyatt, a Greene County sheriff for 37 years. Century-old arrest warrants, a seized corn liquor still and an authentic former cell block are among items on display. 706-453-7592.

ROBINSON PARK SPLASH PAD

Located directly behind the Greensboro Police Department, features green space, playground equipment, picnic tables, and a splash pad. The splash pad is open as long as temperatures allow. Users can turn it on by pressing a button on a short blue pole.

SCULL SHOALS,

This site on the Oconee River was home to Native Americans 10,000 years ago, a frontier settlement in 1782 and then Scull Shoals Mill Village in the early 1800s. For more information, call the Oconee Ranger District Office at 706-485-7110 or visit scullshoals.org.

MORGAN

GEORGIA SAFARI CONSERVATION PARK

Dedicated to wildlife conservation and stewardship, this 530-acre safari-style park features pastures of free-roaming animals from around the world. Enjoy various tour and/or lodging packages, which include ADA compliant amenities, for an immersive, wildlife-focused experience. 706-608-8203 georgiasafari.com

HERITAGE HALL

Greek Revival House & Museum, furnished in the period. Tours available as well as rental for special events. Tours offered daily. Closed on Mondays. For more information, call 706-342-9627 or visit friendsofheritagehall.org.

MADISON ARTISTS GUILD GALLERY

A co-op of artist members showcasing painting, pottery, jewelry, metal sculptures, textiles and photography. Classes for kids and adults. 706-342-9360; madisonartistsguild.org.

MADISON HISTORY MUSEUM

The museum presents "Madison, Georgia in the 19th Century -- Everyday Life in a Small Southern Town." Carefully curated exhibits and a historic timeline details Madison's first century. Located in the Madison Morgan Cultural Center, closed Sunday-Monday. 706-342-4743, www.mmcc-arts.org/the-museum

MADISON-MORGAN CULTURAL CENTER

Romanesque Revival-style building built in 1895 served as a school and library before becoming a center for visual arts exhibits and performing arts events. For more information, call 706-342-4743 or visit mmcc-arts.org.

MORGAN COUNTY AFRICAN-AMERICAN MUSEUM

Housed in the former home of Horace Moore (c. 1895), this museum serves to preserve, teach and research African-American history, art and culture. For more information, call 706-342-9191 or visit mcaam.org.

THE ROGERS HOUSE AND ROSE COTTAGE

The Rogers House was built circa 1810. The Rose Cottage was built circa 1891. Tours of

both are offered daily. Closed on Mondays. For more information, call 706-342-9627 or visit friendsofheritagehall.org.

STEFFEN THOMAS MUSEUM OF ART

This museum was built by the family of artist Steffen Thomas to display his varied works from drawings to sculptures. It also hosts rotating exhibits of other artists and offers workshops. For more information, call 706-342-7557 or visit steffenthomas.org.

PUTNAM

ALICE WALKER TRAIL

A driving tour highlighting points of interest relating to Alice Walker, author of *The Color Purple*. 706-485-7701.

THE ARTISANS VILLAGE

The gallery/guild/studio on West Marion Street in downtown Eatonton showcases a full range of one-of-a-kind artisan items by local artists. Guild members provide art lessons. Visit theartisansvillage.org or call 706-623-7757.

THE BRONSON HOUSE

This Greek Revival house is rich with history and now serves as headquarters for the Eatonton-Putnam Historical Society. For group tours and other information, call 706-485-6442 or visit e-pgahistory.org.

BUTTERFLIES & BLOOMS IN THE BRIAR PATCH

This certified butterfly habitat sustains butterflies through all their life stages, tags and monitors migrating monarch butterflies and educates the public on how to incorporate larval host plants into their own gardens. Admission is free. Located at 617 North Jefferson St., Eatonton. Call 706-473-6035 for more information.

GEORGIA WRITERS MUSEUM

This museum has permanent exhibits for local authors Alice Walker, Joel Chandler Harris and Flannery O'Connor, and rotating exhibits of other Georgia authors. For more information, call 706-991-5119 or visit georgiawritersmuseum.org.

VETERANS WALL OF HONOR PARK

Located on West Marion Street in downtown Eatonton, this park includes the names and information of more than 1,800 Putnam County veterans from the

Revolutionary War to present. Open daily. For more information, call 706-473-5406.

OCONEE SPRINGS PARK

This family park nestled on the shores of Lake Sinclair features a swimming area with sandy beach and floating waterpark, cabin rentals, campsites, recreational areas, marina, store, kayak rentals, event space and more. Go to oconeespringspark.com or call 706-485-8423.

OLD SCHOOL HISTORY MUSEUM

Located at The Plaza Arts Center in downtown Eatonton, the museum chronicles Putnam County's history, economy and notable residents from the days of Creek Indian occupation to today. For more information, call 706-485-3156 or visit georgiawritersmuseum.org.

THE PLAZA ARTS CENTER

The Center is housed in a renovated school built in 1916 and offers a variety of performing arts shows, art exhibits, community events and creative classes. For more information, call 706-923-1655 or visit theplazaartscenter.com.

ROCK EAGLE 4-H CENTER

Encompassing 1,428 acres, including an 110-acre lake, Rock Eagle is the largest of five centers operated by UGA in support of the state's 4-H Program. For more information, call 706-484-2899 or go to "Georgia 4-H Facilities" at georgia4h.org.

ROCK EAGLE MOUND

This stone effigy and its viewing tower are located at Rock Eagle 4-H Center. It is believed to have been created by Native Americans and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

ROCK HAWK EFFIGY & TRAILS

The site of Putnam County's second stone effigy offers historical and recreational options, including camping, trails, boating, archery and educational displays. For more information, visit rockhawk.org.

THE UNCLE REMUS MUSEUM

Museum dedicated to the life and literary works of Putnam County native and author Joel Chandler Harris, who wrote the Uncle Remus stories. For more information, call 706-485-6856 or visit uncleremusmuseum.org.

LANDMART.com

LAND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES



SHOULDERBONE CREEK TIMBERLAND

126.17 Acres in Hancock County, GA
\$589,691

Shoulderbone Creek Timber & Hunting Investment / Approximately 100 Acres in 4 Year Old Planted Pines / Hardwood Drains / Use as a Timber Investment & Weekend Retreat / Close Proximity to Lake Oconee Area as well as Lake Sinclair & Athens / Two Interior Creeks that Merge Together on the Property / Potential Pond Site

LISTING AGENT

Austin Breiner

478-414-8419

austin@landmart.com



LAKE COUNTRY TIMBER & RECREATION

592.95 Acres in Baldwin County, GA
\$2,495,000

Timberland Investment Opportunity/ Former Timber Company Land/ Well Managed Timberland Property/ Premier Hunting & Recreation Tract/ Multiple Age Classes of Planted Pines/ 210 AC - 1999 Planted Loblolly Pines/ Excellent Deer & Turkey Hunting/ Convenient to Lake Sinclair/ Multiple Pond Sites/ Power & Internet on the Road Frontage

LISTING AGENT

Austin Breiner

478-414-8419

austin@landmart.com



WILD BERRY FARMS

137 Acres in Wilkinson County, GA
\$541,150

Wild Berry Farm/ 137 +/- Acres, Wriley Rd., Wilkinson County, GA/ Close Proximity to Milledgeville Shops & Dining/ Oconee River Corridor/ Covered in Wild Berry Bushes/ Deer, Hogs, Turkey, & Ducks / Excellent Area for Wildlife / Trails for ATV Riding/ Remainder in 2021 Planted Pine, Roads, & Food Plots/ Rolling Terrain w/ Internal Road System

LISTING AGENT

Austin Breiner

478-414-8419

austin@landmart.com



HENDERSON GROVE FARM & TIMBER

215.89 Acres in Washington County, GA
\$1,195,000

Henderson Grove Farm & Timber/ Turn-key Hunting Preserve/ Charming 1950s Farmhouse / Live or Use as a Weekend Home/ 1710 sq. ft. of Living Space / 3 Bedroom 1 Bath / Front Porch w/ a View/ Beautiful Country Setting w/ a Roomy Yard / Area for Gardening/ Muscadine Vines, 2 Pear Trees, 2 Plum Trees, 4 Pecan Trees

LISTING AGENT

Austin Breiner

478-414-8419

austin@landmart.com

ROOTED IN THE COMMUNITY

PROUD TO BE SERVING AND CARING FOR YOUR FAMILY'S SMILES



"Where patients become Family!"



CALL 706.485.9031 TO SET YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY!

WWW.DRMEIGANMILLER.COM
104 N. LAFAYETTE STREET • EATONTON

Rock Eagle

4-H & Conference Center
Eatonton, GA



Banquet Facilities
Meeting Accommodations
for 10 to 1100 Guests
Holiday Events
Weddings and Receptions
On Site and
Off Site Catering

www.rockeagle4h.org
reagle@uga.edu
706-484-2800



Love Where You Dwell

REAL ESTATE

Lake Oconee, Madison, Lake Sinclair, GA

Jennifer Vaughan

c. 706-431-0678 | o. 706-612-5576

JV@DwellLakeOconee.com | JENNIFERVAUGHAN.COM

1031 Village Park Drive Suite 104, Greensboro, GA 30642

All data believed to be accurate but not warranted. Dwell upholds Equal Housing Opportunity & Federal Fair Housing policies. If you have an existing relationship with another brokerage, this is not intended as a solicitation.

Visit Eatonton

CLOSE TO EVERYTHING... NEXT TO PERFECT



Welding our Community Together

- ◆ Cylinder Gases
- ◆ Welding Wires & Rods
- ◆ Welding Equipment
- ◆ Safety Products
- ◆ Industrial Supplies
- ◆ Steel materials



A proud supporter
of Andy's Nest
Animal Sanctuary

Now serving Eatonton and surrounding area.

678-369-5602

4406 Goolsby Rd, Monticello
www.monticelloweldingsupply.com



NEED BRAKES OR TIRES?



MON-FRI: 8AM-6PM

SAT: 8AM-5PM SUN: 10AM-4PM

706.927.5918

103 WALMART DR. EATONTON, GA



The Eatonton Messenger

Support local journalism

msgrnews.com – 706-485-3501

**LOCAL
MATTERS**



SAVE THE DATE



PLAZA CLASSIC
GOLF TOURNAMENT

A TOURNAMENT TO
SUPPORT THE ARTS

THE PLAZA CLASSIC

A GOLF
TOURNAMENT
TO SUPPORT
THE ARTS

OCT. 14,
2026

AT THE OCONEE IN REYNOLDS

TO PLAY OR BE A SPONSOR,
CALL 706-923-1655 OR EMAIL MOREINFO@THEPLAZAARTSCENTER.COM

lake area Golf Courses

COURSES	PAR	YARDAGE	HOLES	PRO	DESIGNER	ADMISSION	FEES	PHONE
The Club at Lake Sinclair	71	6,180	18	D. Franklin	Cobb	M-G	\$51	478-452-3220
The Creek Club at Reynolds	72	7,079	18	J. Lopez	Engh	M	N/A	706-467-1680
The Creek Course at Hard Labor Creek State Park	72	6,612	18	K. Gross	McCloud	M-G-P	\$23-44	706-557-3006
Cuscowilla	70	6,730	18	R. Radel	Crenshaw/Coore	M-G	\$114-225	706-484-0050
Great Waters at Reynolds	72	7,073	18	R. MacNeil	Nicklaus	M-G-R	N/A	706-485-0235
Harbor Club	72	7,048	18	K. Kelly	Weiskopf/Morrish	M-G-P	\$75-199	706-453-4414
The Landing at Reynolds	72	6,691	18	P. Shelley	Cupp	M-G-R	N/A	706-467-1564
Little Fishing Creek	72	6,718	18	N/A	Player	P	\$12-15	478-445-0796
The National at Reynolds	72	7,034	18	R. Frisch	Fazio	M-G-R	N/A	706-467-1142
The Oconee at Reynolds	72	7,029	18	I. Milhouse	Jones	M-G-R	N/A	706-467-1200
The Preserve at Reynolds	72	6,674	18	J. Sitler	Cupp	M-G-R	N/A	706-467-1135
Richland at Reynolds	72	7,090	18	R. Frisch	Fazio	M	N/A	706-467-1142
Uncle Remus	72	6,780	9	L. Dunn	Ellis	P	\$34-\$47	706-485-6850

(*M-G-R-P: MEMBER, GUEST, RESORT, PUBLIC)



UPCOMING EVENTS



Fri, Sept 25, 2026

Join us for an unforgettable evening as the Madison-Morgan Cultural Center marks its 50th Anniversary with a special performance by legendary Atlanta-based rock band Mother's Finest.



Sat, Oct 24, 2026

This festive event brings together music lovers, art enthusiasts, foodies, and families for an unforgettable fall day! This event is 3pm - 9pm on the front lawn at MMCC. VIP and General Admission tickets available.



Fri, Nov 13, 2026

Join legendary keyboardist Chuck Leavell along with Randall Bramblett, Nick Johnson, Michael Steele, and Gerry Hansen for an unforgettable evening of music and storytelling. The performance will feature songs, stories, and reflections inspired by Sea Level and Charlane Plantation. In partnership with Madison-Morgan Conservancy

434 S. Main Street, Madison, GA 30650

706-342-4743

Tickets & Information: WWW.MMCC-ARTS.ORG

lake area Parks & Campgrounds

Floats Your Boat

A. H. STEPHENS STATE HISTORIC PARK

Known for its equestrian facilities, Confederate museum and lakeside group camp, this pretty park has 14 miles of trails and its own campground. Located at 456 Alexander St, Crawfordville, GA (800) 864-7275, www.gastateparks.org.

COUNTRY BOY RV PARK (PRIVATE)

Located at 2750 Eatonton Rd. (Highway 441), Madison. (706) 342-1799.

CROOKED CREEK MARINA

Boat launches, restaurant, convenience store and RV/tent camping located on Lake Sinclair at 208 Crooked Creek Road in Eatonton. (706) 485-9693.

DURHAMTOWN PLANTATION

Located in Union Point, Durhamtown Plantation offers cabin and RV rentals for the avid dirt bikers, ATV riders, hunters, and more. 2350 Randolph Church Road, Union Point. (706) 486-4603.

HARD LABOR CREEK STATE PARK

More than 60 camping and RV sites, two group camps, two group shelters, two group camps and 20 rental cottages are available in west Morgan County. (706) 557-3001, www.gastateparks.org.

JERE SHAI LAKESIDE, LAKE SINCLAIR

Cabin, jet ski and pontoon rentals, RV lots, boat storage, and more. Located at 1064 Milledgeville Road, Milledgeville, (706) 485-3322.

LAKE SINCLAIR BEACH CAMPGROUND (US FOREST SERVICE)

Camping, picnicking, hiking, boating, fishing and swimming. Hikers can enjoy the 1.8-mile Twin Bridges Trail, which originates at this site. Fees are required. (706) 485-7110, www.fs.fed.us/conf.

LAWRENCE SHOALS, LAKE OCONEE (GEORGIA POWER RECREATION AREA)

Camping and RV sites, picnic pavilion, picnic tables, public beach and boat ramp at 123 Wallace Dam Road, Eatonton. (706) 485-5494.

LITTLE RIVER PARK, LAKE SINCLAIR

Boat launch and marina, RV sites, beach for campers, children's playground. Located at 3069 N. Columbia St., Milledgeville. (478) 452-1605.

NORTH SHORE RESORT

Located on Carey Station Road in Greensboro, this unique private resort on Lake Oconee features full hook-up campsites. Amenities include a clubhouse, two pools, a private beach, boat slips, boat launch, tennis and store and grill. www.northshoreresort.net (706) 453-4505.

OCONEE RIVER CAMPGROUND (US FOREST SERVICE)

Located along the bank of the Oconee River, the recreation area offers camping, picnicking, hiking, boating and fishing. Hikers can enjoy the mile-long Scull Shoals Trail, which originates at the site. A fee is required. (706) 485-7110, www.fs.fed.us/conf.

OCONEE SPRINGS PARK, LAKE SINCLAIR (PUTNAM CO. RECREATION AREA)

Camping, cabins, boat ramp, beach and bath facilities, picnic tables and pavilion. Located on Lake Sinclair at 109 South Spring Rd. SE, Eatonton. (706) 485-8423.

OLD SALEM, LAKE OCONEE (GEORGIA POWER RECREATION AREA)

Camping and RV sites, picnic pavilion, public beach, and boat ramp. 1530 Old Salem Rd., Greensboro. (706) 467-2850.

PARKS FERRY, LAKE OCONEE (GEORGIA POWER RECREATION AREA)

Camping and RV sites, beach and boat ramp, wildlife habitat area. Located at 1491 Parks Mill Rd., Greensboro. (706) 453-4308.

ROBINSON PARK

Located just past downtown Greensboro, Robinson Park features picnic benches and walking path. 1141 Siloam Road, Greensboro.

ROCKY CREEK PARK, LAKE SINCLAIR

Swimming beach, boat ramp, picnic tables, grills, restrooms, fishing pier, playground. Georgia Power park. (706) 485-8770.

SCENIC MOUNTAIN RV PARK AND CAMPGROUND

Stocked ponds, nature trails, swimming pool, club house, playground, pets friendly. Located at 2686 Irwinton Rd., Milledgeville. (478) 454-1013.

*Trust &
Quality
Without
Question.*



JIM BOYD INSURANCE

Employee Owned & Operated since 1970

120 E. WASHINGTON STREET, MADISON
706.342.2411
JimBoydAgency.com



OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT STORE • AGRICULTURE SERVICE • COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT SUPPLIER



BOBCAT • CASE IH • BAD BOY MOWERS • ECHO POWER EQUIPMENT • IRRIGATION SUPPLY • HONOR LSV

Shoemaker
Irrigation
Supply

Bobcat
LAKE OCONEE

SHOEMAKER
EQUIPMENT SUPPLY



(706) 719-1000 • www.shoemakerequipment.com
1000 BOBCAT DRIVE • GREENSBORO, GA

Your Online
Guide to
Living in
Georgia's
Lake Country.



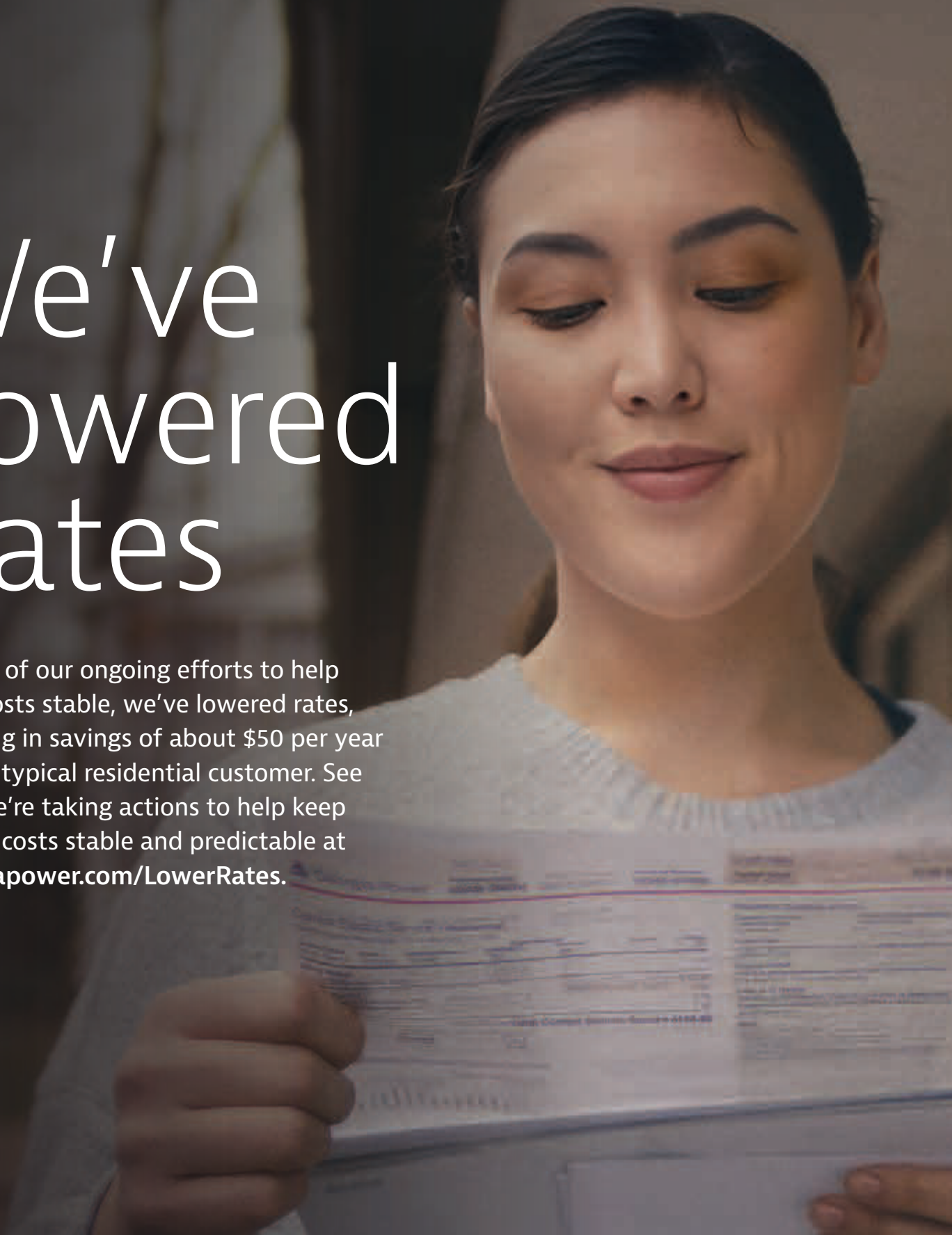
Lakelife.today

STORIES • PHOTOS • CALENDAR • MORE



We've Lowered Rates

As part of our ongoing efforts to help keep costs stable, we've lowered rates, resulting in savings of about \$50 per year for the typical residential customer. See how we're taking actions to help keep energy costs stable and predictable at georgiapower.com/LowerRates.



VISIT BEAUTIFUL



AMELIA'S APPAREL



MADISON
172 S MAIN ST.
MON-SAT 10-5 | SUN 1-5
&
ATHENS
1738 S LUMPKIN ST.
MON-SAT 11-5

@AMELIASAPPAREL | WWW.AMELIASONMAIN.COM

**BRAKES • TIRES
ALIGNMENT • GENERAL CAR
REPAIR • CAR RENTALS**

**Madison
Car Care**

**1040 CONFEDERATE ROAD
MADISON, GEORGIA 30650
706-342-4774**



MAY LANE
Boutique

Open Wednesday - Saturday

202 W Washington St.
Madison, GA 30650

 May Lane Boutique
  May_Lane_Boutique
 May_Lane_Boutique



BARKIN' DOGS
SHOE CO.
EST. 2008

108 East Washington Street
Madison, GA. 30650
(706) 342-2929

BACK 70



TJ BISHOP'S
MEN'S SHOP

TWO LOCATIONS IN MADISON
137 S. MAIN ST. & 115 S. MAIN ST. | MADISON, GA
MEN'S APPAREL | SHOES | ACCESSORIES
706-438-1464 | TJBishops.com



Georgia Lake Country

Calendar of Events



SATURDAY, JULY 25

BALDWIN: Grown Up Book Fair

Relive the joy of your favorite school book fairs with a grown-up twist. Browse a curated selection of books and book-themed goods from local artists. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Allen's Market, 101 E. McIntosh St., Milledgeville. 478-452-3950.

BALDWIN: Blueberry picking & muffins class

Children and their grown-ups can pick blueberries straight from the bush before learning how to make homemade blueberry muffins together. \$25 for one child and adult, additional children \$10 each, additional adults and children under 2 attend free. 10 a.m. at Woodland Acres at Robbins Farm, 223 Cox Woodland Rd. NW, Milledgeville. 706-444-3675.

TUESDAY, JULY 28

MORGAN: Sunset and Full Moon Paddle

Watch changing colors on the water as the sun sets, then paddle under the full moon on this ranger-led tour of Lake Rutledge. Geared for ages 8 and older. At Hard Labor Creek State Park, 5 Hard Labor Creek Rd., Rutledge. For time, fees, info, registration, contact park 706-557-3001 or <https://gastateparks.org/HardLaborCreek>.

THURSDAY, JULY 30

MORGAN: The Squirrelheads Band concert

Free concert with The Squirrelheads' sounds of New Orleans funk, boogie-woogie and Mardi Gras music. Bring your coolers and chairs. 7 p.m. in Madison Town Park, 171c GA-83, Madison. 706-342-1251.

FRIDAY, JULY 31

MORGAN: Scott Little in concert

BYO chairs to Town Park in Rutledge and enjoy Scott Little's acoustic Americana/Southern Rock music. 7-9 p.m. at the Gazebo Stage, 129 Fairplay St., Rutledge.

FRIDAY, JULY 31, SATURDAY, AUG. 29 & SEPT. 6

BALDWIN: Full Moon Float

Experience kayaking the Oconee River by the light of the full moon. Single and tandem kayak or canoe rentals available, or rent shuttle only for personal boats. At sunset, but times and locations vary. Contact Oconee Outfitters, 478-452-3890.

SATURDAY, AUG. 1

MORGAN: Ag Fest

This free community festival highlights the role of agriculture to our region while offering interactive family fun, food samplings, live demonstrations, hayrides, live music, watermelon eating contest, lawn games, crafts, petting zoo, and more. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Farmview Market, 2610 Eatonton Rd., Madison. 844-210-7030.

SATURDAY, AUG. 1 & SEPT. 5

BALDWIN: Ghosts of Milledgeville Morning Walk

This guided walk through downtown's historic streets offers a respectful yet spine-tingling look at Milledgeville's haunted heritage. 10 a.m. the first Saturday of each month, Milledgeville Visitor Center, 200 W. Hancock St. \$12. Moderate walking required. 478-452-4687

FRIDAY, AUG. 7

MORGAN: Blue Velvet Atlanta

Blue Velvet Atlanta performs blues, rock, and pop music under the stars at The Gazebo. 7-9 p.m. in Rutledge Town Park, 129 Fairplay St., Rutledge. BYO chairs.

MONDAY, AUG. 3 & SEPT. 7

MORGAN: Open Mic Night

Share your song, poem, story, joke, talent 7-9 p.m. each first Monday at Madison-Morgan Cultural Center, 434 S. Main St., Madison. Free. 706-342-4743, mmcc-arts.org

TUESDAY, AUG. 4

PUTNAM: Meet the Author: Robert Gwaltney

Award-winning author Robert Gwaltney's Southern fiction explores the uneasy border between the living and dead. Gwaltney presents his newest book, *Sing Down the Moon*. 7 p.m. at Georgia Writers Museum, 109 S. Jefferson Ave., Eatonton. 706-991-5119. Tickets \$40-\$45 include refreshments. georgiawritersmuseum.org



THURSDAY, AUG. 6

GREENE: Jazz Legacy Project: Cole Porter

As one of the key music writers for Broadway, Porter composed the music and lyrics of nearly 1,000 songs. Jazz vocalist Sachal Vasandani and narrator Justin Varnes will explore the thoughts and life of Porter. 7:30-9:00 p.m. at Festival Hall, 201 N. Main St., Greensboro. 762-243-8022, festivalhallga.com.

Have an event you'd like listed in Lakelife's community calendar? Email it to lynn@lakelife.today by Sept. 6



Lake Adventures

THURSDAY, AUG. 6

BALDWIN: Garden Party at the Brown-Stetson-Sanford House

Explore the historical medicinal herb garden, enjoy light refreshments, paint your own flower vase to take home. \$25, pre-registration recommended. 6-8 p.m. at Brown-Stetson-Sanford House, 601 W. Hancock St., Milledgeville. 478-453-1803.

PUTNAM: Paint Between the Lines Opening Reception

For this collaboration between The Artisans Village and Georgia Writers Museum, area writers submitted a story, poem, essay, which local artists used to create a masterpiece all their own. The written pieces will be displayed side by side with the finished artwork. Opening reception, 5-7:30 p.m. at The Artisans Village Art Gallery, 110 W. Marion St., Eatonton.

FRIDAY, AUG. 7

BALDWIN: Audrey Crumbley Exhibit Opening Reception

Meet artist Audrey Crumbley and experience a vibrant collection of watercolor and mixed media works, which will be exhibited through Aug. 27. Reception is 5-7 p.m. at Allied Arts, 201 N. Wayne St., Milledgeville. 478-452-3950, milledgevillealliedarts.com

SATURDAY, AUG. 8

PUTNAM: Downtown GetDown Concert

BYO chairs, coolers, dancing shoes for a free, outdoor concert by the Ray Howard Band and his tribute to Earth, Wind & Fire. Vendors, food trucks open 6 p.m., music 7 p.m. at Eatonton City Center Stage, 124A N. Jefferson Ave., Eatonton.

TUESDAY, AUG. 11

MORGAN: Paddle Under the Perseids

Join a park ranger on this kayak tour to watch the best meteor shower. Limited spaces, 8 years and older. Hard Labor Creek State Park, 5 Hard Labor Creek Rd., Rutledge. For time, fees, info, registration, contact park 706-557-3001 or <https://gastateparks.org/HardLaborCreek>.

FRIDAY, AUG. 14 & SEPT. 11

BALDWIN: Sip & Paint Fridays

Enjoy loaded teas (non-alcoholic) while you paint the perfect project. \$25 includes instruction, all supplies and materials. (Teas extra, discounted for event) 6-8 p.m. at The Ville Downtown Nutrition, 117 S. Wayne St., Milledgeville, 478-212-6633.



WEDNESDAY, AUG. 12

GREENE: Lake Country Yellow Jackets Cookout

The Lake Country Yellow Jackets fan club's annual Fall Cookout Kickoff is at Collins Farm, 1040 Oconee Heights Lane, Greensboro, at 6 p.m. (burgers served at 6:30 p.m.). Bring a side dish for your admittance fee. For more information, email LakeCountryYellowJackets@yahoo.com or visit the Lake Country Yellow Jackets Facebook page. Go Jackets!

FRIDAY, AUG. 14

PUTNAM: Paint Between the Lines Reading & Reveal

The winning written submissions of Paint Between the Lines will be revealed and read. 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Georgia Writers Museum, 109 S. Jefferson Ave., Eatonton. 706-991-5119. See the Aug. 6 event for more details.



SATURDAY, AUG. 15

PUTNAM: Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social

Free fun for the whole family includes homemade ice cream, games, prizes, dancing, cake walk, barbershop quartet, storytelling, face painting, hot dogs, and more. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Old School History Museum, 305 N. Madison Ave., Eatonton. 706-923-1655, oldschoolhistorymuseum.org

PUTNAM: Chicago Rewired

The premier Chicago tribute band, comprised of talented and seasoned musicians, brings the soundtrack of the timeless music of Chicago. 7 p.m. at The Plaza Arts Center, 305 N. Madison Ave., Eatonton. 706-925-1655, plazacenter.org.

BALDWIN: Children's Trolley Tour "Little Explorers"

Ages 3-10 can enjoy a 90-minute adventure, ride the Trolley to Lockerly Arboretum for storytelling, a walking nature hunt and fossil dig. 11:30 a.m. at Milledgeville Visitor's Center, 200 W. Hancock St., Milledgeville.

MORGAN: Observatory open

Located in the middle of Hard Labor Creek State Park away from light pollution, the Observatory's telescopes are ready for public viewing of the night skies. Free parking. 9-11 p.m. at 2010 Fairplay Rd., Rutledge. Cancelled/closed in the event of rain or completely overcast skies.



• FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1946 •

214 E Broad Street • PO Box 748 • Greensboro, GA 30642
(706) 453-2533 • WilhoitGas.com



• SALES, SERVICE, INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE •

1011 Parkside Commons, Suite 102 • Greensboro, GA 30642
(762) 445-1333 • LakeCountryGasLogs.com



POWER PRO ELECTRIC LLC

Licensed • Insured
Residential • Commercial
New Construction • Remodel • Electrical Service



No job is too big or too small!

Contact us today to see how we can help with all your electrical needs.

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK @ [POWERPROELECTRICGA](https://www.facebook.com/POWERPROELECTRICGA)

706-818-5103 | powerproga@gmail.com | powerproelectricga.com



THURSDAY, AUG. 20

GREENE: Hamilton Movie Night

Relive the joy of award-winning Broadway phenomenon Alexander Hamilton in a special screening of Hamilton on the big screen in Downtown Greensboro. BYO blanket. Free, 6-9 p.m. at 111 N. Main St., Greensboro. 706-453-7674.

FRIDAY, AUG. 21 - SUNDAY, AUG. 30

PUTNAM: The Shark is Broken

This comic stage play celebrates movie history as it explores the choppy waters of Hollywood's blockbuster, Jaws. The second of The Plaza's Young Directors Series, presented at 7 p.m. Aug. 21, 22, 28 & 29; and 3 p.m. Aug. 23 & 30. The Plaza Arts Center, 305 N. Madison Ave., Eatonton. 706-925-1655, plazacenter.org.

SATURDAY, AUG. 22

BALDWIN: FloatChella End of Summer Music Festival

Join Wide Open Entertainment on Lake Sinclair for an afternoon of live music, local vendors, great food and lakeside fun. Begins at 1 p.m. at 117 Avant Ave. NW, Milledgeville. <https://bit.ly/4pzVsRI>

ONGOING THROUGH AUG. 25

MORGAN: Peak Summer Exhibit

Madison Artists Guild hosts this exhibit by local artist Trish Jones, whose paintings capture the charm of small towns and the beauty of natural landscape. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday at MAGallery, 125 W. Jefferson St., Madison. 706-342-9360, themadisonartistsguild.org.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 26

BALDWIN: Stained Glass class

Discover the timeless art of stained glass in this hands-on class by Janice Westfall. Learn essential techniques while creating a piece of your own. All skill levels welcomed. 5:30-8:00 p.m. at Allen's Market, 101 Floyd L. Griffin Jr. St., Milledgeville. Register at milledgevillealliedarts.com, 478-452-3950

THURSDAY, AUG. 27

PUTNAM: Flannery O'Connor Book Club

Dr. Bruce Gentry, professor, editor, author who specializes in everything O'Connor, hosts a conversation about "Greenleaf" by Flannery O'Connor. 2-3 p.m. at Georgia Writers Museum, 109 S. Jefferson Ave., Eatonton. 706-991-5119, georgiawritersmuseum.org

TUESDAY, SEPT. 1

PUTNAM: Meet the Author: Mark Clegg

Atlanta native Mark Clegg presents, signs, discusses his newest and third book, The Crimson and Gold, a comprehensive narrative detailing the struggle for integration in Athens, Ga. 6:30 p.m. at Georgia Writers Museum, 109 S. Jefferson Ave., Eatonton. 706-991-5119. Tickets \$40-\$45 include refreshments. georgiawritersmuseum.org

FRIDAY, SEPT. 4

BALDWIN: Anadenko and Rogers Exhibits Opening Reception

Celebrate two local artists whose works will be displayed Sept. 4-24. Victoria Anadeko captures the atmosphere of landscapes, architecture, and meaningful places. Dustin Rogers transforms everyday materials and moments into imaginative, luminous creations. Meet the artists, explore both exhibits and enjoy refreshments in this free event. 5-7 p.m. at Allied Arts, 2101 N. Wayne St., Milledgeville. 478-452-3950, milledgevillealliedarts.com

SATURDAY, SEPT. 5

MORGAN: Open-Air Farmers Market

Browse fresh, locally grown produce, handcrafted goods, and more at Farmview Market's September market. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Farmview, 2610 Eatonton Rd., Madison. 844-210-7030.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 12

MORGAN: Kayaking 101

Ages 8+ who can swim can learn the basics of kayaking on a safe, peaceful section of Lake Rutledge. (Minors must be accompanied by an adult.) Equipment provided. Space limited. Hard Labor Creek State Park, 5 Hard Labor Creek Rd., Rutledge. For time, fees, info, registration, contact park 706-557-3001 or gastateparks.org/HardLaborCreek.

PUTNAM: Downtown GetDown concert

BYO chairs, coolers, tents, dancing shoes for a free outdoor concert of R&B, soul and funk by John Dunn & The Jazzman Band. Vendors, food trucks open 6 p.m., music begins 7 p.m. at Eatonton City Center Stage, 124A N. Jefferson Ave., Eatonton.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 13

GREENE: OPAS Candlelight Series: Afternoon in Paris

Acclaimed singer Christine Andreas takes you to the romance and elegance of Paris through an afternoon of music, storytelling and timeless sophistication. 3 p.m. at Festival Hall, 201 N. Main St., Greensboro. 706-467-6000, 762-243-8022.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 12 - OCT. 10

MORGAN: Wearable Expressions

Madison Artists Guild studio presents handcrafted wearable art and accessories across all mediums to merge with your personal style. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday at MAGallery, 125 W. Jefferson St., Madison. 706-342-9360.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 17

PUTNAM: Dual Vision Opening Reception

The Artisans Village Art Guild artists interpret photographs by Lake Country Photography Club. Their art works in any medium or style are displayed side by side with the photograph and available for sale. Includes light refreshments, complimentary wines or full bar options available for purchase. 5-8 p.m. at Barrel 118, 118 N. Jefferson Ave., Eatonton.



See more events using this QR code. Send your events to lynn@lakelife.today for inclusion in the print and online calendars.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 17

PUTNAM: Flannery O'Connor Book Club

Dr. Bruce Gentry, professor, editor, author who specializes in everything O'Connor, hosts a conversation about "A View of the Woods" by Flannery O'Connor, 2-3 p.m. at Georgia Writers Museum, 109 S. Jefferson Ave., Eatonton. 706-991-5119, georgiawritersmuseum.org



SATURDAY, SEPT. 19

PUTNAM: The Swingin' Medallions

Hear their signature high-energy style music performed live, 7 p.m. at The Plaza Arts Center, 305 N. Madison Ave., Eatonton. BYO chair for this outdoor concert. 706-925-1655, plazacenter.org.

MORGAN: Community Yard Sale

Sell or shop gently used toys, clothing, housewares and more. Hosted by Madison Main Street. 8-11 a.m. in Madison Town Park, 171c GA-83, Madison. Call 706-342-1251 for more information.

MORGAN: Community Health Fair

Join Morgan Medical Center for a health fair at Farmview Market, 2610 Eatonton Rd., Madison. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 706-342-1667

THURSDAY, SEPT. 24

PUTNAM: An Evening in Eatonton

Shopping and dining 5-8 p.m. Bring your friends, explore downtown Eatonton, support local small businesses, enter drawings and enjoy specials during this festive night out.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 25

MORGAN: Mother's Finest concert

Madison-Morgan Cultural Center marks its 50th Anniversary with a special performance by legendary Atlanta-based rock band Mother's Finest. Tickets \$75. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at MMCC, 434 S. Main St., Madison. 706-342-4743.

Teaching
**BIBLICAL
TRUTH**

through Scripture & Song

**102.7
WPMA FM
GREENSBORO**

EATONTON • ATHENS
MILLEDGEVILLE

94.3 WTHP FM, Gibson
105.9 WFAL FM, Milner
90.5 WPWB FM, Macon



Scan the QR code
to download our app



GOOD NEWS NETWORK

Box 510, Appling, GA 30802

(800) 926-4669 | www.gnnradio.org

email@gnnradio.org |  

Contact us to request a FREE car decal and program guide!



**MADISON COIN
& BULLION**

WE BUY GOLD, SILVER, COINS, JEWELRY

**WE BUY & SELL
GOLD & SILVER**



**BEST PRICES ON
BULLION & JEWELRY**

706.438.1150

**2492 EATONTON RD
MADISON**

MADISONCOINBULLION@GMAIL.COM



Old Phoenix Center LLC

RETAIL SPACE

- Competitive Rates
- High Traffic Count
- Visibility

**CENTRAL GEORGIA
STORAGE**

**Regular & Climate Controlled
Self-Storage Units**

Guaranteed Lowest Price in the Area
Variety of Sizes • Safe & Secure

646 Old Phoenix Road • Eatonton
706.484.0940 office • **478.451.7767** cell

FROM LAND TO LAKE HOMES

LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE


ALLIANCE
HOME & LAND GROUP



KW PREMIER
KELLERWILLIAMS.

762.815.3073 | 706.485.0088



Each Office Is Independently Owned and Operated

Community Events

July 4th Celebration & Golf Cart Parade

Harbor Club - Greene County - July 4, 2026

Photos by **Leigh Lofgren**



Charles & Angela Lance



Randy & Linda Wilcox



Laura Shearer, Lisa Soeters



The McCrackens

Lake Adventures



Mike & Sherry Pesses



Jody & Ted Twombly



Evenz & Mollie Escarne, Ginger & Rose



Terry & Gail Lawler



Peggy Borchelt & Linda Preston

Harmony Crossing

AT LAKE OCONEE



-  Dr. Richter
-  Dr. Powell
-  Dr. Lashley
-  Dr. Spence



Harmony Crossing Animal Hospital is a well established, full-service, small veterinary hospital providing comprehensive medical, surgical and dental care.

*Brisket
enjoying summer
at Lake Oconee*



706.923.1456

1013 Lake Oconee Pkwy. Suite 102
Eatonton, GA 31024

lakeoconeevet.com

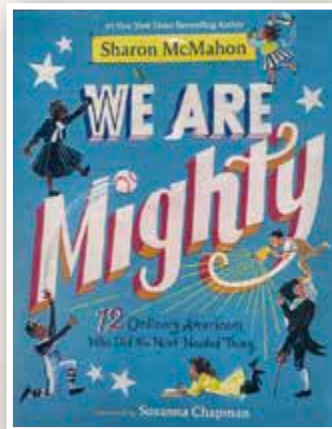


*One Book Can
Change Your Life!*



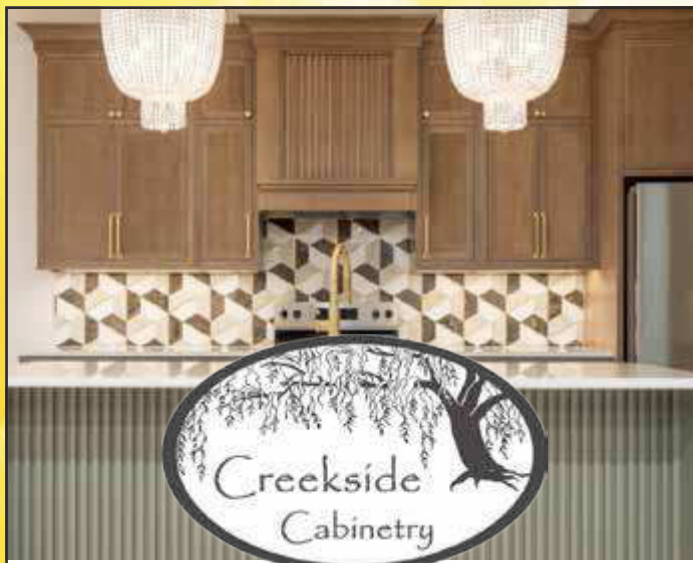
Story time

*Last Saturday of Every Month at
11:00 AM*



**109 HARMONY CROSSING
EATONTON, GA | 762.220.1201**

READ@LAKECOUNTRYBOOKSANDGIFTS.COM



shiloh **ASPECT** **W** MANTRA
CABINETRY CABINETRY

CUSTOM DESIGNS FOR YOUR HOME
CABINETRY BUILT TO YOUR SPECIFICATIONS & STYLE
INSTALLATION & WARRANTY
NEW CONSTRUCTION, REMODELS, REFACING, COUNTERTOPS

706.473.3080

113 Harmony Crossing Ste 1 Eatonton

Located in Lights of Oconee



Celebrate
**FREEDOM, FAMILY
& TIME TOGETHER**

MEMORIAL DAY • 4TH OF JULY • FATHER'S DAY

WE SPECIALIZE IN CUSTOM JEWELRY DESIGN

**WE
◆ BUY ◆
GOLD**



706.485.0551

105 HARMONY CROSSING, STE 10, EATONTON, GA

**HARMONY
PET RESORT**

**WELCOME TO
HARMONY PET RESORT**

Since 2006, Harmony Pet Resort has provided the award-winning care your pets deserve. Our state-of-the-art facility and attentive staff ensure your pet feels right at home while having lots of fun. Visit us for deluxe overnight pet boarding, dog daycare, full-service grooming & spa, professional dog training, and pet supplies. We can't wait to pamper your pets!

DAYCARE • **SPA SERVICES** • **PET SUPPLIES** • **OVERNIGHT CARE** • **TRAINING**

Call us Today!
www.harmonypetresort.com
 706.923.1881
info@harmonypetresort.com

Community Events

An Evening in Eatonton & The Artisans Village Art Guild Juried Art Show

Barrel 118 – Downtown Eatonton – June 25, 2026

Photos by **Lynn Hobbs**



Karin Gould, William Lum, Tamra Fergusson



Bebe Daher, Cathy Grant, Jo Elliott



Kevin Thomson-Hooper, Ian Tocher



Tim Schaffer, Jerel Seay



Janna Waddell, Alexie
Camp & Tatum



Everett & Carol Williams



ENERGY BILL CONCERNS?

**WE OFFER A NUMBER OF WAYS
TO REDUCE YOUR ENERGY BILL**



LIC# CN208169

- HIGH EFFICIENCY EQUIPMENT
- PROGRAMMABLE CONTROLS
- HYBRID HEAT[®] DUAL FUEL SYSTEM
- A GEOTHERMAL SYSTEM
- VARIABLE SPEED SYSTEM



WITH TWO LOCATIONS IN GREENSBORO AND MACON, CALL US TODAY!

**126 SCOTT OAK DR • EATONTON
706.485.5456 • BRYANT-AIR.COM**

Evergreen Storage



478-986-7597 | Storage Units and Services

Low Prices | Military Discounts | Law Enforcement Personnel Discount

Enjoy the BEST Storage Services in the Area!

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| ▪ Insulated units | ▪ Clean dry units |
| ▪ 24-hour access | ▪ Well managed |
| ▪ Outdoor lighting | ▪ FREE rodent |
| ▪ Secure security | control and |
| ▪ Short and long | insect spray |
| term storage | every 6 months |

Covenient Locations to Serve You: Macon, Milledgeville, Eatonton and Sandersville

104 Mattie Wells Dr, Macon | 46 Marshall Rd, Milledgeville
Corner of Hwy 441 and Sweet Shrub Rd, Eatonton | 1311 S, Harris St, Sandersville

Community Events

Summer Bash for Lake Oconee Humane Society

The Burch Boathouse – Lake Oconee, Greene County – June 28

Photos by **Leigh Lofgren**



Kaya and Connor Edge



Milly and Sam Denna with Quincey



Emily Schnieder

THE VINING GROUP

est. 2003

LAKE
OCONEE
REAL
ESTATE

kw LAKE OCONEE
KELLERWILLIAMS



Where Great Music Meets Great Living

THE LAKE LIFESTYLE
BEGINS HERE.



**TOP
1%** KELLER WILLIAMS
NORTH AMERICA

KELLERWILLIAMS
Luxury **#1**
INTERNATIONAL

REAL ESTATE TEAM
LAKE OCONEE

Visit Monticello



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICA!



404.475.8157

139 WEST WASHINGTON ST. • MONTICELLO



The Wellness Cottage and Spa

Your place to relax, renew, and restore

Talented team of therapists and estheticians:

- Facials & NeveSkin
- Deep Tissue & Prenatal Massage
- Reflexology & Waxing
- Head Spa

Relax in our Infrared sauna or unwind in our serene relaxation room.

762.435.7190

951 College Street,
Monticello

thewellnesscottageandspa.com



JASPER COUNTY

EST. 1919

LUMBER CO.

706-468-6444

YellaWood QUIKRETE DEWALT Milwaukee PPG

Need a free quote???

- * Lumber * Roofing
- Deck * Fencing packages

We've got you covered

262 Southern Ave
Monticello, GA 31064

Authentic Mexican Food & Drinks

OPEN FOR BREAKFAST

WE ARE HIRING

Visit our FB Page for Daily Specials→

(706) 819-3570
107 W Washington St , Monticello

Schedule a free consultation

Installation • Maintenance • Repair

Highlighting turnkey installation!
Over 20 years experience.

Brands: **Generac • Kohler • Cummins**

Your Local Generator Installation Company.
678.744.7578

www.georgiageneratorpro.com
sales@georgiageneratorpro.com

Honoring Every Life With Grace and Respect

We are a full service funeral home with a broad array of service offerings, including:

- Traditional and Memorial Services
- Graveside and Cremation Options
- Preplanning and Grief Support

706.468.6625
706.816.0082
923 Fundberg Dr
Monticello

smithandsonsfuneralhomemonticello.com



SQUARED AWAY CONSTRUCTION
Luxury Custom Homes
706.476.3612

HAPPY 250th AMERICA!

Licensed General Contractors • Residential and Commercial
Founders: Dustin Young Sr. And Kendra Young
squaredawayconst.com
214 Southern Ave. • Monticello GA 31064



The thrift store
And Estate Treasures
Furniture * Linens * Books and Vinyl




706.476.3579
Tuesday-Friday 10-5:30
Saturday 10-5
336 Forsyth St. Monticello, GA

National Bridal Sale Month! Sample Sale July 19 - Aug 1st
Gowns starting at \$299
Veils \$99
Mother of the occasion \$199
Limited 1 hour appointments available

Ladylike BOUTIQUE



HOCO 2026 HOURS:
Aug 8th-Oct 10th
Monday-Closed
Tues-Fri. 11am-6pm
Sat 10am-4pm
Sun 12pm-4pm

**BRIDAL • MOB/MOG • SUIT/TUX RENTAL
PROM • HOCO • PAGEANT**

NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED - EXCEPT FOR BRIDAL www.ladylikeboutique.com

Bridal Hours:
Monday-Closed
Tues & Sun-By Appointment Only
Wed-Fri 11am-5pm
Sat 10am-2pm (Bridal by appointment only)



@ladylikedressboutique
@ladylikebridalboutique

CALL US AT 706.476.1669
LOCATED ON THE DOWNTOWN SQUARE IN MONTICELLO, GA
133 W. WASHINGTON STREET • MONTICELLO, GA 31064

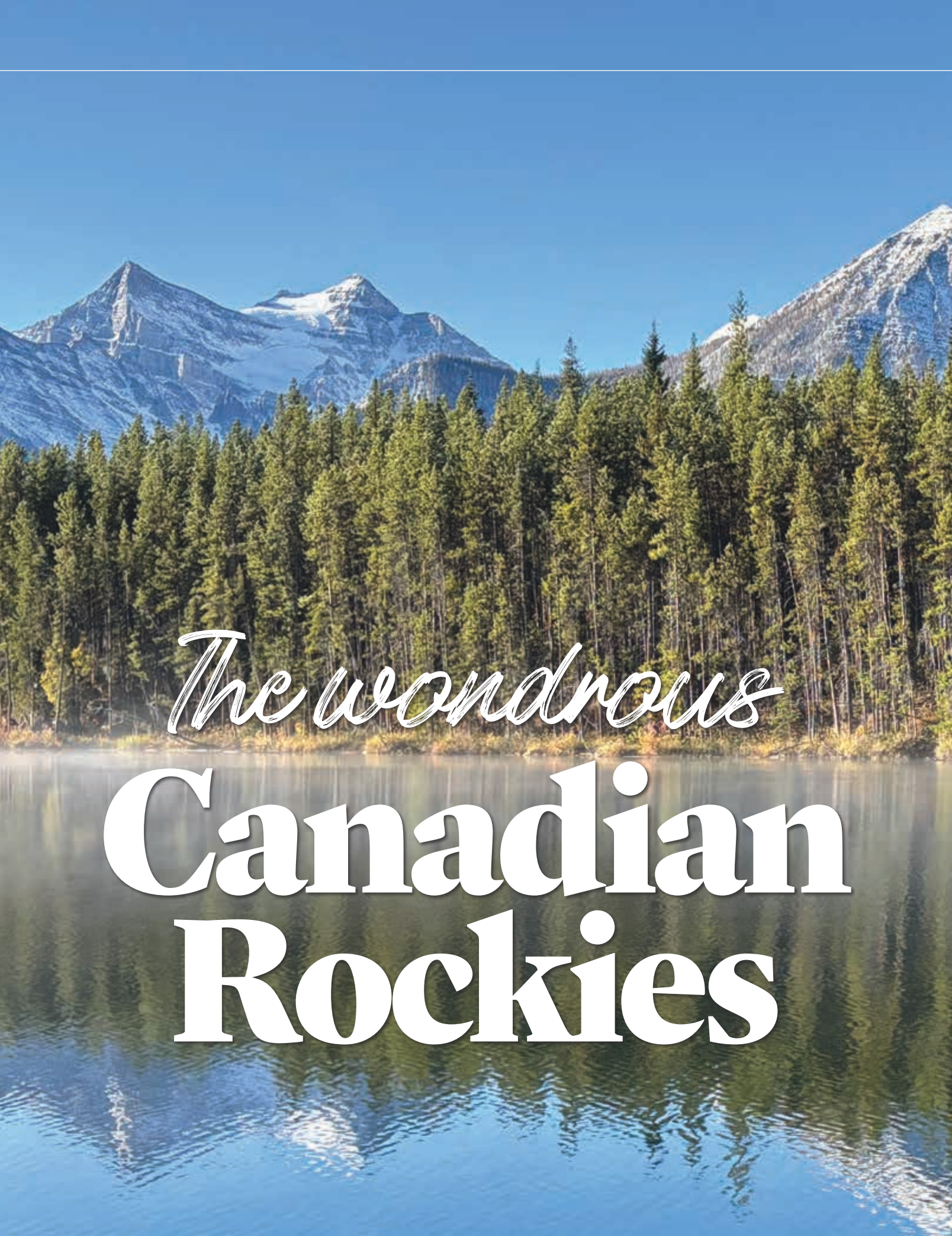


Lake Country OUTFITTERS

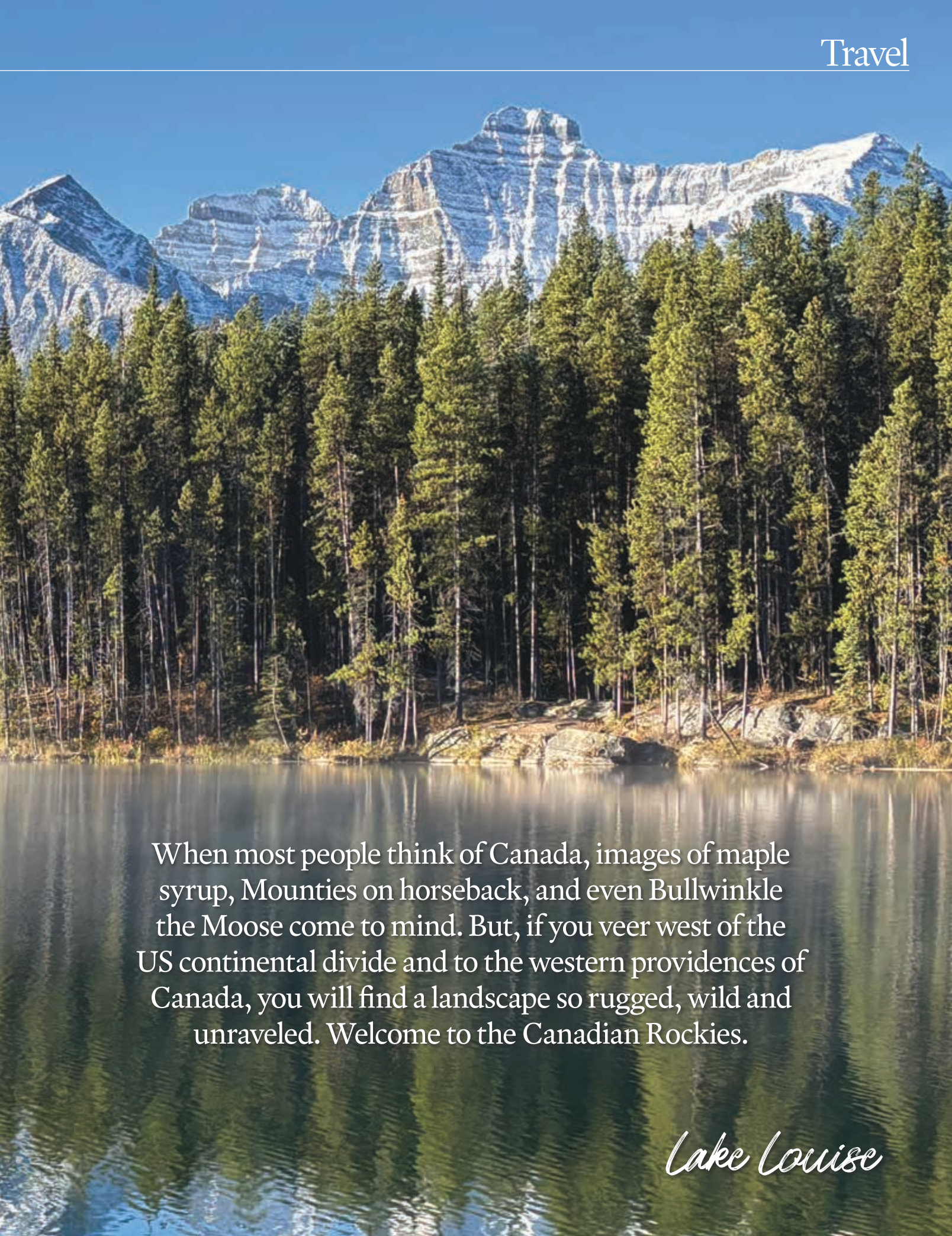
LAKE OCONEE, GA

1020 Lake Oconee Parkway | Eatonton, GA 31024 | (706) 485-7866
Monday - Saturday 10AM - 5PM | Sunday 12PM - 4PM

LAKECOUNTRYOUTFITTERS.COM



The wondrous
**Canadian
Rockies**



When most people think of Canada, images of maple syrup, Mounties on horseback, and even Bullwinkle the Moose come to mind. But, if you veer west of the US continental divide and to the western providences of Canada, you will find a landscape so rugged, wild and unraveled. Welcome to the Canadian Rockies.

Lake Louise



Athabasca River



■ Story and photos by **Maureen Stratton**

On my husband Tom's and my trip, the first stop was Calgary, the largest city and third largest municipality in Canada. It is deeply rooted in its western culture and home to an annual Calgary Stampede featuring wagon races, bull riding, and the largest Powwow bringing in indigenous cultures through native dance and drumming.

Our arrival to Calgary brought us to our first Canadian sunset over the Rockies on our way to Banff. Hungry, we stopped and enjoyed a fabulous meal alongside a terrific display of the area's earliest settlers.

A stunning mountain range, the jagged peaks of the Canadian Rockies span British Columbia

and Alberta. It is home to various wildlife, and features lakes, glaciers, and pristine forests. This range also includes the towns of Yoho, Kootenay, Watertown Lakes and Jasper. Designated as a UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site in the 1930's, Banff National Park is the third oldest national park in the world.

Banff serves as a major tourist outpost with ski lodges, shops, boutiques and restaurants within an alpine setting. Its storybook setting made me feel like Hansel and Gretel were about to appear at our front door. It was teaming with tourists and tour operators hoping to entice bookings to nearby lodges, glaciers, sky trams and more.

We had a loose itinerary subject to the weather and I found I had not packed a heavy enough jacket to shield me from the cold and wind

that October. I made do and we explored Johnston Canyon nearby. A tributary of the Bow River, the canyon is located within the park. Rushing waters and a dense forest canopy led us along a mountain trail with suspended catwalks guiding hikers to the lower and upper falls. The rushing waters were almost deafening, but the trek was well worth the five miles up and back to see several waterfalls all descending into a pool of bright ice-blue water.

Our drive up to our final stop in Jasper took us along the famed Icefields Parkway, which gave us an opportunity to see elk and moose along the Bow River. Heading north up to Lake Louise, we stopped to hike over many roadside trails that took us by the river to explore different viewing spots.

You have not seen the Rockies until you visit the well-heeled Fairmount Hotel along the shores



Spirit Island

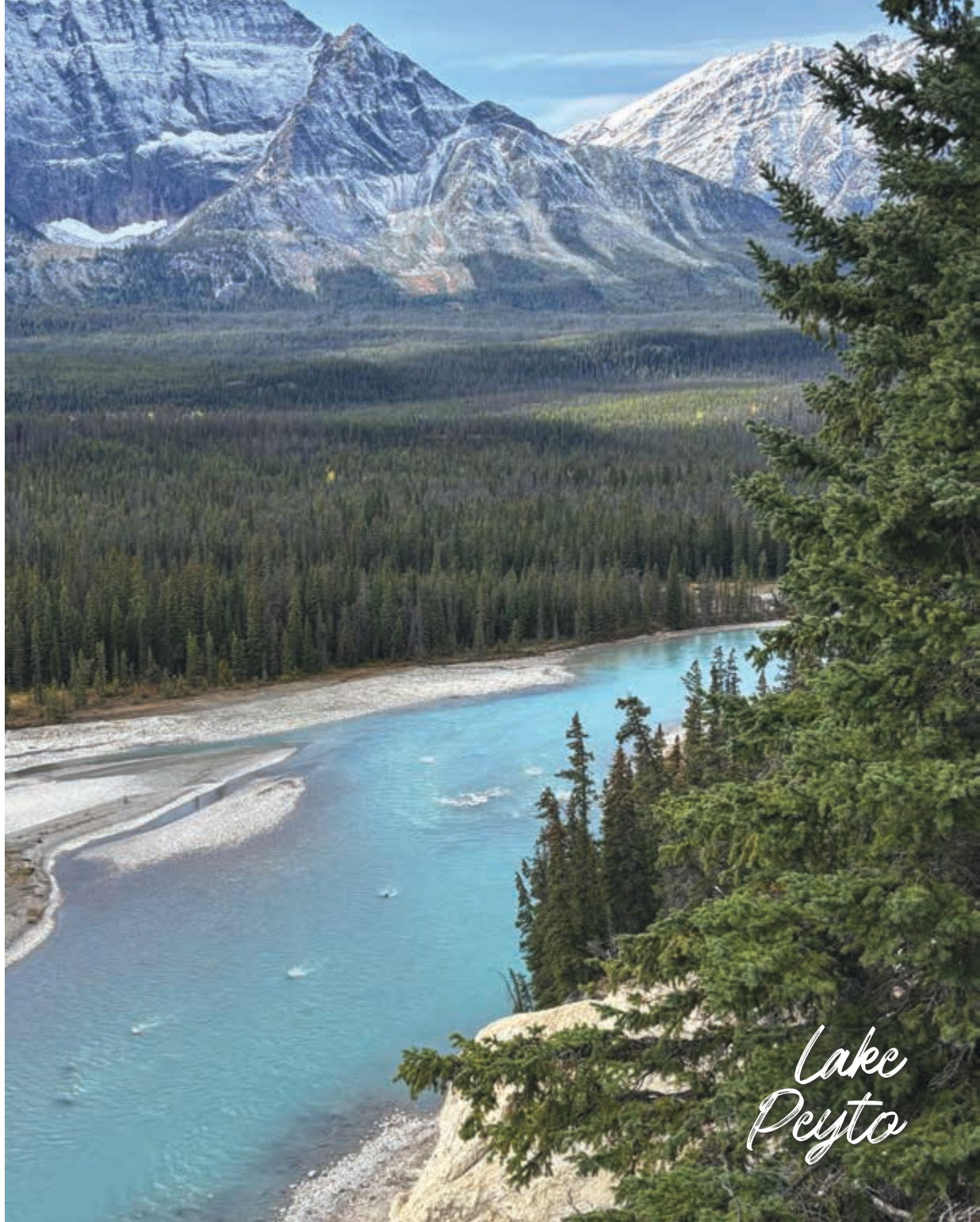
of Lake Louise. It was a perfect spot to sip some of its famed hot chocolate while admiring the view. We chose to escape the crowd and head down to a perfect viewing spot to see Lake Louise's stellar star – the Athabasca Glacier.

With its wondrous iridescent reflections, it is North America's most visited glacier, attracting thousands who flock every year to see it. Sadly, it is known for its rapid retreat, having lost half its volume in the last 125 years and helping spark the debate over global warming. Situated within neighboring Jasper National Park, the glacier's size alone--roughly four miles high and wide with an ice depth of 980 feet--makes it the largest glacier in the park.

Heading north along the Columbia Icefield Parkway, our next stop was Peyto Lake, and the steep walkway to the viewing platform was well worth it. I have been lucky enough to see the Caribbean and Mediterranean seas but viewing this lake so blue that it glowed seemed to marvel all else. Peyto Lake gets its famous vibrant turquoise color from the nearby Peyto Glacier.

This 144-mile parkway led to some of the most not-to-be-missed sights, including Lake Moraine. Boat tours go out daily along the shoreline to take tourists to Spirit Island, one of the most photographed spots anywhere. This small island is a Canadian Rockies icon located in Jasper National Park.

The beauty and mystery of Spirit Island have been shared in photographs on postcards, stamps, paintings and more. It still is a sacred home to the Stoney First Nation, an indigenous collective of three native bands sharing the cultural traits of America's Dakota and Lakota nations. Every year, a lucky few are selected to go



out with members of the nation to celebrate the “people of the mountains” in a solemn ceremony. One day I hope to be one of those lucky few.

Our final nights were spent in Jasper, an earlier fur trading outpost within the park, in a wonderful rustic cabin on the shores of the Athabasca River.

Hoping to catch a glimpse of the Northern Lights, we ventured out in the darkest of night hoping to view what few have seen. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate, but over a campfire one night, we did gleam some dancing white lights high in the sky. It was another highlight of a trip that would have us planning our next

venture to Canada to see Waterton National Park, the northern part of Glacier National Park stateside in Montana.

We flew home out of Edmonton, where we discovered poutine, a Canadian specialty of French fries and gravy. I wonder if it is served anywhere in Lake Country. I think it would be a hit. ♦



TRI-CO 

Lake Country's
ONLY 4 GIG
100% FIBER
NETWORK

POWERED BY TRI-COUNTY EMC



GO win. We'll handle your speed.

*Fresh ingredients.
 Bold flavors.
 Made for you.*



AUTENTIC
 VIETNAMESE CUISINE

PHỞ & MORE



Mon-Tue: 10am-3pm & 5pm-9pm
 Wednesday: Closed all day
 Thu-Fri: 10am-3pm & 5pm-9pm
 Sat: 10am-9pm | Sun: 10am-8pm

113 Harmony Crossing, Eatonton, GA
(706) 991-6003
phoandmore.org



Seniors
Helping
Seniors®

**Lake Country, Welcome To Home Care
 That Feels Less Like Hired Help and
 More Like a Trusted Friend.**



Learn More



191 Sammons Industrial Parkway
Eatonton, GA 31024
762-775-0006 info@shsmidsouthga.com

Caring for Georgia's lake country

At Mercer Medicine Putnam County, our experienced primary care providers are dedicated to helping you live your healthiest life. Whether you need preventive care or help managing a chronic condition, we're here for you.

For an appointment, call 762-320-2100.

MERCER **Medicine**
Putnam County



117 Harmony Crossing, Suite 1, Eatonton | Mon. - Fri., 8 am - 5 pm | mercermedicine.com

“VE are gypsy music!”



■ By George Heiring

It was our final night in Budapest. We sat with our Georgia friends on the stepped terrace of the Hilton, sipping aged Tokaji wine. Below us, swag lights gracing the celebrated Chain Bridge over the Danube River glittered to life. The ancient cities of Buda and Pest were suddenly tied together with a gilded bow. Yes, it was quite beautiful, but I was arguing our experience in Budapest was, nevertheless, incomplete.

“How can we leave here without enjoying a night of gypsy music?” As the oft-quoted Hungarian saying goes, “Be careful what you wish for.” Particularly after drinking.

Fekete Hollo (translation: “The Black Crow”) wasn’t far from the Hilton. Furthermore, the restaurant was given a favorable mention in our guidebooks. It was close by and endorsed by someone I never met — two of my favorite dining criteria. How could we go wrong?

When we arrived, four men in tuxedos were sitting at an outside table reading newspapers. “Is this the place with the gypsy music?” I asked.

The four men shot to their feet as if their chairs were electrified. “Yes, please, Mis-tar!” the tallest and best mustached of them declared smartly. “VE are gypsy music!”

We were seated with a flourish by a waiter who looked like George Clooney with five o’clock shadow. The four-man orchestra picked up their instruments the instant

our posteriors connected with upholstery. After that, the music followed each course relentlessly and passionately. As menus were distributed, the quartet struck up the lively “Circus Polka.” Our selection and approval of wine was inspired by “Brahms Hungarian Dances.” Salad and bread brought us half an hour of Cole Porter tunes.

The lead violinist zeroed in on my wife with “I’ve Got You Under My Skin,” his black eyebrows dancing in expectation of her smiling approval. He might still be waiting if she hadn’t suddenly suggested we revise our seating arrangement so I was closer to the music. The orchestral group was obviously honored by my proximity and asked for my requests, bowing with each of my inspired choices.

Though there were other diners in The Black Crow, like it or not, the gypsies were clearly mine for the evening, and I was -- no question about it -- theirs until a major tip had been paid or a knife duel had been fought. Speaking of that, my order of duck came with a dagger thrust in its breast. The mere sight of the imbedded weapon stirred the sweating orchestra to a rousing rendition of “Liszt’s Hungarian Rhapsody.”

Then — more eating, more music, more eating, more music. At last, the dessert strudel was plunked down amid empty wine glasses and the gypsies broke into a prayerful

rendition of “Ave Maria.”

After we had settled the bill with a credit card, I began to dispense Euros for the evening entertainment. Each bill was accepted with a deep bow and a palm that never closed. When my pockets were empty, the leader produced a CD from his jacket--Budapest at Night performed by the Champagne Ensemble.

“Yes, ve are Champagne Ensemble, as you zee. You must take to America vit you dis mammary of evening,” he insisted, adding quickly, “for you, good sir, just twenty Euros.”

My hands went into my pocket once more and came up empty. “No more Euros,” I shrugged. “Just —” I reached into my credit card case and discovered a single bill — “just twenty US dollars.”

“For you, kind Mis-tar, just fine,” the leader grinned, plucking the bill from my fingers as if he were performing the “Flight of the Bumblebee” while timed with a stopwatch. Then he gave me the sort of passionate hug a gypsy pick-pocket employed as he lifted your wallet — a symbolic metaphor, as things turned out. The three other musicians grinned in practiced unison and took a deep, final bow.

As our group left the Black Crow and stepped into the night, I heard the Champagne Ensemble break into the opening bars of “God Bless America.” ♦

.....
A native of Iowa, the late George Heiring lived many years on Lake Oconee with his wife, Donna, during which time he helped found the Georgia Writers Museum and remained active in the community. This story was taken from his book, *When Do the Lions Eat?*, which is available at *The Eatonton Messenger* Newspaper office and Georgia Writers Museum.

SAVE THE DATES FOR OUR FALL CONCERTS!



2026-27 SEASON OPENER!

OPAS Candlelight Series:
“An Afternoon in Paris”
with Christine Andreas

SEPTEMBER 13 AT 3:00 PM
Festival Hall

OPAS Pop-Up Series:
The Concert Truck Returns!

SEPTEMBER 20-24

Times & Locations TBA*

**Coming to five community locations!*

Broadway Sings for OPAS
with The OPAS Philharmonic

NOVEMBER 8 AT 3:00 PM
The Plaza Arts Center

Rhythm & Brews Festival
(Lineup TBA)

OCTOBER 23 AT 5:00 PM

Sandy Creek Barn

In collaboration w/ Reynolds Lake Oconee

Fa-La-La
with The OPAS Philharmonic

DECEMBER 12 AT 3 & 7:30 PM
The Plaza Arts Center

OPAS

OCONEE PERFORMING ARTS SOCIETY

To learn more about
OPAS programming and
membership visit **opas.org**
or call **706.467.6000**



COTTAGE GROVE AT LAKE OCONEE

SMARTLY BUILT. INTENTIONALLY LIVED.

Can you sense it?

A slower pace. Friendlier streets. Back porch evenings. Homes designed with purpose—made for the way you really want to live.

At Cottage Grove at Lake Oconee, we build homes that blend timeless design, everyday comfort and lasting value—at a price that still feels within reach.

Backed by more than 41 years of experience in Georgia real estate, development and construction, Rooftop Communities is committed to creating neighborhoods where life feels right—today and for generations to come.



THOUGHTFUL
DESIGN



LASTING
VALUE



TRUE
COMMUNITY

Not just a house. A better way of living.



TIMELESS COTTAGE
ARCHITECTURE



BACK PORCH
LIVING



PEACEFUL SETTING
MINUTES FROM
LAKE OCONEE

2, 3 & 4 BEDROOMS
DESIGNER FINISHES
LOW MAINTENANCE LIVING
*Come see the difference
you can feel.*

NEW HOMES
FROM THE
MID \$200s

rooftop
COMMUNITIES

Smartly Built.
Intentionally Lived.



Donna Newell

REALTOR®

CFIS, SRES, REPM, REYS
dnewell@myrooftoprealty.com

706.817.6302

Rooftop Communities
234 W. Washington Street
Madison, GA 30650



101 Cottage Grove Circle | Eatonton, GA 31024 | 706.558.4022

FESTIVAL HALL
Presents

The Jazz Legacy Project

COLE PORTER

JAZZ IN TECHNICOLOR

AUGUST 6, 2026
7:30 PM

SCAN FOR
TICKETS

Sponsors

Jeff and Ellen
Lemming

REYNOLDS
EAST OCONEE PROPERTIES

LAKE
OCONEE

Festivalhallga.com • 201 N Main St, Greensboro, GA 30642 • (762) 243-8022

THANKS TO DONATED JEANS, MY CAREER IS A PERFECT FIT.

LEARN MORE

goodwillworks.org

goodwill

DONATE. CHANGE LIVES.

John Milledge Academy **SCHOOL** **ENROLLMENT**

Now Enrolling for the 2026-2027 Academic Year!

Join Our School Today!

Our Advantages :

- Quality Education
- Supportive Learning Environment
- Competitive Extra Curriculars



jwalters@johnmilledge.org



www.johnmilledge.org



Dairy Queen of Gray owner Justin Kelly immediately shares awards he received from President and CEO of DQ International Troy Bader (left) and Children Miracle Network CFO Frances Fu with community partners.

Miracles from a Treat

■ Story by **Lynn Hobbs** and **Debbie Lurie-Smith**

*E*ach summer, a miracle takes place in the small city of Gray.

From Lake Country, Gray is located in Jones County just before Macon. With a population of approximately 3,500 people, Gray is the home of The Busiest Dairy Queen on Earth. And that is where the miracle happens.

Each year on Miracle Treat Day, Gray's Dairy Queen raises a surprising amount of money for the Atrium Health Levine Beverly Knight Olson Children's Hospital in Macon. Last year, owner Justin Kelly presented the hospital with a check for \$180,000. In 2024, the amount was \$123,677. Kelly credits the community.

"I am so very blessed to be a part of a community with such

a giving heart," he said last year on a social media post of the check presentation. "When the businesses, citizens, law enforcement and community leadership all get together to do something here in our town, they knock it out of the park every time. Congratulations Jones County and Central Georgia on making it happen again this year in a big way for the kids."



The above screenshot above shows part of a video posted to the Jones County Sheriff's Office Facebook page during the 2025 Miracle Treat Day event. Scan the QR code to watch the whole video.

That same social media post was shared by the Navicent Health Foundation: "A heartfelt thank you to Justin Kelly and the entire Jones County Community for surpassing your goal on Miracle Treat Day! Your incredible support makes a real difference in the lives of the children served at (the children's hospital). Congratulations on being the top fundraising Dairy Queen in the country!"

Kelly became the Gray Dairy Queen franchisee in 2020 during the COVID pandemic. At that time, drive-thru only service was mandated. By the time that mandate ended and he could open the doors to inside dining, Kelly said the mandate restriction had actually been a benefit.

"We were really good, probably one of the best, if not the best, at running a drive-thru window," he said. "So then we could learn how to keep that going with the crowded inside business."

Less than a year later when the chain's annual Miracle Treat Day

rolled around, the significance hit Kelly's emotion because Central Georgia's Miracle Treat Day's poster girl lived in Gray. Kelly had gotten to know 16-year-old Emma Moseley. She was a Jones County High School student who was suffering from bone cancer. Kelly said that when Emma died unexpectedly a month before the fundraiser, he wanted to do something to honor her.

“

So I got on Facebook and said, 'I would like to raise \$50,000 in Emma's honor on Miracle Treat Day. Let's do it.' Well, we ended up raising over \$80,000 that day. And it has kind of grown into something bigger than all of us.

- Justin Kelly

”

The Gray DQ employees even joined in by donating their salaries for that day. The next year, the total amount they raised was \$91,000, according to an article in the Jones County News newspaper.

Dairy Queen has been a supporter of Children's Miracle Network since 1984. The first-ever Miracle Treat Day was in August 2006, and it has been held annually in the U.S. and Canada ever since then. At least \$1 of all proceeds from each Blizzard sold at participating locations is donated to local Children's Miracle Network hospitals.

But at Gray's DQ, every sale, not just Blizzards, goes to the children's hospital. And not just \$1, but every dime of the proceeds.

"So whether you get breakfast, lunch, or dinner, every dime goes to the children's hospital," Kelly said. "If we sell you a sausage biscuit that morning, we donate every dime of the proceeds to the cause."

“And then every dime is matched,” he added. Local businesses partner with Kelly’s fundraiser to match sales for a certain hour of the day. Kelly said last year, the busiest hour was actually matched by 50 local businesses. Because they are small businesses, Kelly asks them to commit to matching up to \$2,000.

“And last year, our top hour’s sales were \$3,600-\$3,700 in one hour,” he said. “So, 50 businesses gave \$2,000, which took us to \$100,000 right off the get-go.”

Partnering businesses are “given a shout-out” by Kelly on social media and on radio, he said.

Another sweet topping on the ice cream fundraiser’s total is pre-sales. Groups, such as office staff of a business, in Jones, Baldwin, Bibb, Monroe, and Wilkinson counties can pre-order online before Treat Day, and their Blizzards will be delivered between 11 a.m. and noon on Treat Day.

“It’s only a \$5 donation per Blizzard, and it’s the easiest way to push us toward the goal!” Kelly said his social media promo. “Every cent of every purchase will be donated and matched that day and this is a fun way to get everyone in Central Georgia involved. Last year, we delivered 5,500 Blizzards in an hour and every freezer trailer we had was full. MAKE ME GO RENT A FREEZER TRUCK THIS YEAR!” he added.

The setup for such a busy day appears to be a miracle all in itself, but obviously a lot of hard work, cooperation, and hundreds of volunteers are involved. Freezer trailers are strategically positioned all around the restaurant as well as many large coolers. Several lanes are marked with cones along Clinton Street in front of Dairy Queen, and traffic is directed by local law enforcement agencies. That aforementioned



Justin Kelly is embraced by Beverly Knight Olson, namesake of the Navicent Health Children’s Hospital in Macon at the 2025 event. All funds raised go directly to support children and their families.

pandemic-mandated drive-thru only service also paid off. About 2,600 cars went through the drive-thru last year on Miracle Treat Day.

“It takes a village to make an event like this happen and it was an awesome sight to see so many people show up willing to do absolutely anything needed to raise money for the kids,” Kelly said after last year’s big day. “The Gray Police Department and the Jones County Sheriff’s Office are 100% first class operations. It was the first day of school and they were already stretched thin, but they came together with plenty of manpower, plenty of equipment, cones, reader board signs, generators, lights and anything it took to help keep our community as safe as possible while moving the crowd as efficiently as possible to raise the most money possible for the Children’s Hospital.

Kelly also praised his employees for “overcoming obstacle after obstacle” such as system crashes and equipment malfunctions.

“I can’t describe how proud I am to work alongside these men and women every year with one goal in mind,” he said of the law enforcement agencies, volunteers,

and the “DQ Dream Team” of employees.

To add to the excitement of the day last year, Dairy Queen’s CEO dropped in and presented Kelly with the Local Corporate Person of the Year award.

Last but in no way least, Kelly recognized the community for showing up and supporting the effort.

“You decide to spent the most money possible and wait in wild lines almost a half-mile log to help complete the mission,” he said. “There’s no other place on earth I’d rather be than right where I am.”

This year’s Miracle Treat Day is Thursday, July 30.

The Gray Dairy Queen is located at 315 W. Clinton St.

Other Lake Country Dairy Queens participating in Miracle Treat Day include:

Downtown Greensboro, 2251 S. Main St.; Lake Oconee, 1091 Parkside Main; and Milledgeville at 1105 S. Wayne St. Attempts were unsuccessful to reach the Eatonton and Madison locations by phone to ask them. ♦

Smith Communications Inc. writer Greenberry Moore contributed to this article.

Let's Make
**SOME
MEMORIES!**



Oconee Springs

CAMPGROUND & MARINA



109 SOUTH SPRING ROAD S.E.
EATONTON, GA 31024

706-485-8423



The Edgewater offers multiple locations to fit your needs. Our main facility features an open floor plan with seating for up to 100 guests. We also offer an outdoor lawn with a picturesque view of Lake Sinclair.

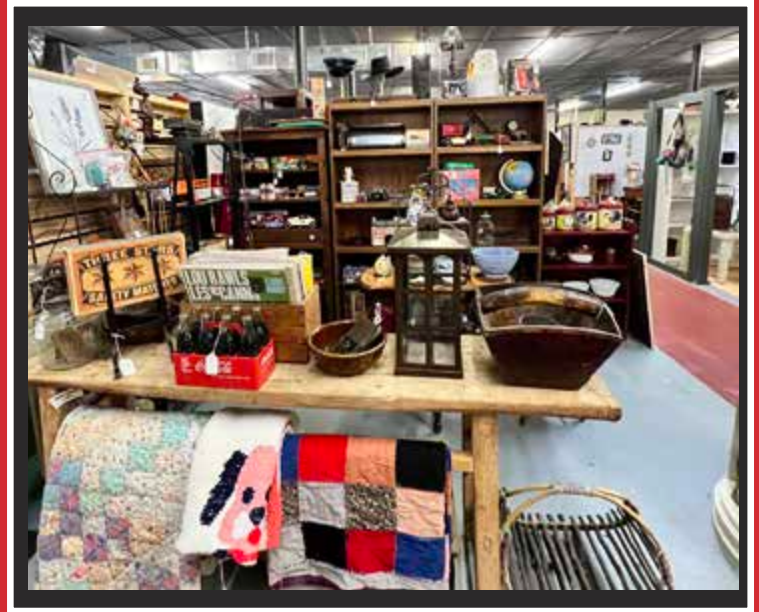


706-485-8423 | OCONEESPRINGSPARK.COM

YEAR ROUND CLIMATE CONTROLLED COMFORT
Great Prices!

Flea Market | Antiques
Old/New Home Decor
In High Cotton
Old/New Painted Furniture
Vintage Jewelry
Amelia's
Children's Clothing
Rowe Casa
Dixie Belle Paint
Peepers

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK



OVER 100 VENDORS ALL ON ONE LEVEL

THE MADISON FLEA MARKET

1291 EATONTON ROAD | MADISON, GA 30650 | 706-343-0100



ENTER MARKET FROM COMMERCE STREET



Where would
YOU
rather be
this summer?...



Gutters Need Maintenance?...Let Us Handle It For You!

NEW GUTTER INSTALLATION • REPLACEMENT & REPAIR • RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • MULTIFAMILY • WHOLESALE
COPPER GUTTERS & DOWNSPOUTS • LEAF GUARD SYSTEMS • SOFFIT & FASCIA REPLACEMENT • GUTTER CLEANING

GUTTER SOLUTIONS

132 Sammons Pky, Eatonton | 706.999.0201 | www.guttersolutionsforyou.com

Premier Service. Convenience. Affordability.


EXCHANGE
www.exch.bank

Exchange Bank helps newlyweds and growing families turn house-hunting dreams into home-owning reality—competitive rates, personalized service, and a team that celebrates your milestone as much as you do.



478-452-4531

Member
FDIC

Stacey Keaton NMLSR ID# 415818 | Exchange Bank NMLSR ID#401817



Stealing the Stage

■ By Kathy Wright

The sun wades into the lake, its fire
Spreading over the water,
Rippling across the waves,
Evoking
Memories of yesterday's dreams.

Each day has an equal set of hours,
Yet time never seems enough—
Only more loose ends left
Dangling
From more unfinished plans.

A little work, a little rest, a little
Folding of the hands, and a
Winsome man in the moon
Smiles, as once again,
evening steals the stage.

Photo by Casey Brady



OUR SERVICES

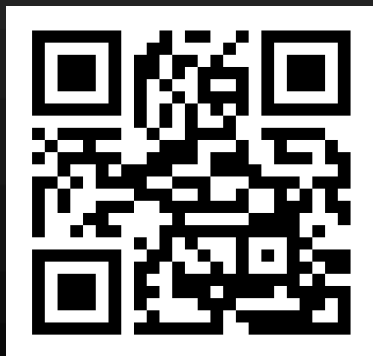
BOAT SALES



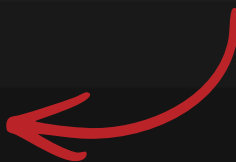
ON-SITE & DOCKSIDE SERVICE



PRO SHOP GEAR



VIEW IN-STOCK MODELS!



➤ **TELEPHONE**
706.268.9300

➤ **ADDRESS**
951 GREENSBORO
ROAD, EATONTON,
GA 31024

skiersmarine.com

@skiersmarine



DAVID YURMAN



SCULPTED CABLE
ON EIZA GONZÁLEZ

WINDSOR
FINE • JEWELERS

2635 Washington Road • Augusta, GA 30904
706.738.7777 • www.windsorfinejewelers.com