

The Bright Side™

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SERVING ACWORTH, KENNESAW, MARIETTA SINCE 1992

DEC2025



GOVERNOR BRIAN KEMP FEATURED AT KBA 50TH ANNIVERSARY BREAKFAST

BY MEGAN DAVIS, TOMMY NOBIS CENTER

The Kennesaw Business Association (KBA) successfully hosted its milestone event, “Celebrating the Past, Shaping the Future: KBA’s 50th Anniversary Breakfast featuring Governor Brian Kemp,” on Thursday, November 20, 2025. Held at the Governor’s Gun Club in Kennesaw, the exclusive event drew a crowd of over 200 attendees, marking a significant moment in the association’s five-decade history.

The morning began with robust networking and a breakfast buffet at 8:00 a.m., followed by the main program from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

The highlight of the program was a dynamic fireside chat between Governor Brian Kemp and John Loud, LOUD Security Systems President & Former KBA President. The discussion centered on the foundational strength of Georgia’s small business community, leadership insights gleaned from personal experience as a small business owner, and the state’s continued efforts to lead the country in talent and workforce development initiatives.

The conversation recognized KBA’s longevity, celebrating its 50 years as a thriving community business association dedicated to fostering local economic success.

In honor of the association’s golden anniversary, the program featured remarks from key community leaders who recognized KBA’s enduring impact. Esteemed speakers included Mayor Derek Easterling, Judge Marsha Lake, Chief Bill Westenberger, Wayne Dodd, Mark Mathews, and Jay Cunningham.

For more information on Kennesaw Business Association or to join as a member, visit www.kennesawbusiness.org.

Pictured above l-r John Loud, Loud Security; Jenni Brown, Brown and Dutton Law Firm.;Meagan Davis, Tommy Nobis Center, Governor Kemp, and Teresa and Austin Porter, Freedom Church.

CONGRATULATIONS MICHAEL PARIS 2025 EAST COBB CITIZEN OF THE YEAR



The Cobb Chamber’s East Cobb Area Council has selected Michael Paris, President and CEO of the Council for Quality Growth, as its 2025 Citizen of the Year. The Citizen of the Year Awards are given to honor an individual whose impact through the years will be recognized and regarded with pride throughout the area as a role model. These outstanding citizens are chosen for their definable, exceptional deeds, with which he or she has made their community a better place to live. Awards are given based on local area nominations.

Michael Paris, a Cobb County native, took the helm at the Council for Quality Growth in late 2003 and has worked to expand the Council and to spread its mission of promoting balanced and responsible growth throughout the metro region and the state. Paris’ steady leadership, quiet influence, and deep commitment have shaped nearly every part of the East Cobb community.

Paris is involved in numerous community and professional activities. For more than three decades, Paris

has been a driving force behind the growth and impact of the YMCA in Cobb County, helping establish new branches, strengthen vital programs, and ensure thousands of families have access to opportunities that enrich their lives. Recently, Paris served on The Extension’s Capital Campaign Committee, raising funds for the 2023 addition of their 56-bed men’s dormitory. Tyler Driver, Executive Director of The Extension, said “He helped the organization raise \$7,000,000 in record time so we can serve more people. In the process, the trajectory of the families he has touched is forever changed. They have opportunities they never felt possible because he believed they deserved their best future too.” Throughout his years in Cobb, Paris has consistently put service above self in all he does, dedicating himself to helping improve the quality of life in East Cobb.



l-r Mayor Tommy Allegood, Tim Richardson, Marty Richardson.



The Cowan Historic Mill
Business of the Year Award
AMANDA AND WADE MARCY



Jim Faucette Reliable Paper
Person of the Year Award

ACWORTH BUSINESS ASSOCIATION DECEMBER AWARDS

BY MADISON PARKER

On Thursday, December 4 at the Acworth Business Association monthly luncheon, Mayor Allegood was honored to present the ABA Service Beyond Self award to Alderman Tim Richardson for his dedication to building an incredible quality of life in the Acworth Community for more than 28 years serving on Acworth’s Board of Alderman. Thank you, Alderman Richardson, for your love and commitment to making Acworth a wonderful place to call home. When Tim first was elected, Acworth was headed toward a sleepy bedroom community - under his leadership and that of other alderman, the designation was turned into a vibrant, thriving community that has become a destination for both tourists and long time residents.

We celebrated a meaningful leadership transition as 2025 ABA President Kim Wigington passed the torch to our 2026 President, Alicia Todisco, who announced our 2026 theme: LEGACY.

ABA was proud to present their annual awards to Jim Faucette (Reliable Paper) – Person of the Year, Vicki Frank (The Garza Insurance Group) – Ambassador of the Year, The Cowan Historic Mill – Business of the Year and Alderman Tim Richardson – Service Beyond Self Award presented by Mayor Tommy Allegood.

A huge thank-you to TRG Vino Market and Trash Taxi for sponsoring the event, to Catered Southern Events, LLC for the delicious lunch, and to the Allatoona Jazz Band for their beautiful performance. What an incredible way to close out the year at our final ABA Luncheon! What an incredible way to close out the year at our final ABA Luncheon!



ACWORTH ALSO CELEBRATED MANY LOCAL COMMUNITY PROGRAMS THROUGH THEIR GIFTS OF LOVE INITIATIVE

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RED WAGONS, BIG HEARTS

**Fielding Lewis DAR Chapter
Builds and Donates Chad's Bracket
Wagons, with
Founder Roger Leggett**

Members of the Fielding Lewis Chapter,
National Society Daughters of the American
Revolution, marked the recent DAR National Day of
Service by rolling up their sleeves to build 12 bright
red Chad's Bracket wagons, which are specialized
hospital wagons designed to make life safer and
easier for young hospital patients.

This service project took on special meaning
as DAR volunteers worked side by side with Roger
Leggett, the founder of Chad's Bracket. Of the 12
wagons they built, the Fielding Lewis DAR Chapter
funded two of them and then joined Leggett in
delivering them to the Children's Healthcare of
Atlanta new Arthur M. Blank Hospital.

"Working with Mr. Leggett to build and donate these wagons was an incredible experience," said
Chapter Regent Melissa Tanner. "And seeing the comfort and joy they bring to children in the hospital
was absolutely unforgettable."

The Fielding Lewis DAR Chapter also presented Leggett with the National Society DAR
Community Service Award for his extraordinary contribution and dedication to helping children and
families nationwide through Chad's Bracket. This award was formally presented at a recent Fielding
Lewis DAR Chapter meeting held at the Marietta Country Club.

Leggett's mission began 14 years ago during a hospital visit to check on his 4-year-old granddaughter
at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. As he and his son, Chad, an EMT, walked down the hospital hallway,
they saw a young mother struggling to maneuver her child, medical equipment, and tangled IV lines
into a hospital elevator. Leggett recalled his son turning to him and saying, "There has to be a better
way to do that."

Weeks later, Chad died of heatstroke at the age of 24. During devastating loss, Leggett held onto
that moment with his son. Honoring his son's compassion, he developed a customized IV-pole bracket
with help from the Chattahoochee Technical College welding program. This bracket allowed IV poles
to be attached directly to the red wagons, creating a way that allows young hospital patients to move
more safely and comfortably.

More than 1,700 of the Chad's Bracket wagons have since been built and donated to children's
hospitals across the nation. Leggett's lifetime of service, however, began long before Chad's Bracket.
He served more than 20 years as a firefighter and built a distinguished career at Lockheed Martin in
Cobb County.

For the Fielding Lewis DAR Chapter, the combination of hands-on service with Chad's Bracket
and the chance to honor the man behind the mission made this year's DAR National Day of Service
especially meaningful.

The DAR is a nonprofit, nonpolitical women's service organization founded in 1890, whose members
can trace their lineage to an individual who contributed to securing American independence during
the Revolutionary War. DAR members participate in volunteer service projects to promote patriotism,
education and historic preservation.

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Bright Side page 2 LOCAL HISTORY STORIES

Andrew J. Bramlett

Last year, I shared some historic
holiday letters to
Santa Claus from
Kennesaw children.
I am continuing that
tradition today with
letters from 1925 —
exactly a century
ago. These requests
to the North Pole
were all published
in the Cobb County
Times on December 10, 1925.



H. G. Pittman was two years old and
asked for a wagon, a rubber ball, a harp,
and fruits and candy. Young Bryan Taylor
asked for a toy with a pop gun, sparklers,
and something pretty for his sweetheart.
Elira Adair asked Santa to bring a doll,
basketball, wagon, and candy, and she
wanted to be sure Santa took care of
her nieces and nephews. Leroy Wrigley
wanted a toy train and tricycle, along with
a hobby horse for his brother.

Annie Louise Brooks was five years
old and was looking forward to attending
school after Christmas. She made sure Santa
knew she had helped carry firewood for her
mother. She asked for a rocking chair, a
storybook, fruits, nuts, candy, and chewing
gum. Last but not least, Martha Glenn Lewis
(a four-year-old downtown resident) wanted a
"kiddie Car," a doll, fruits, and "just anything
else that you can bring me."

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CONGRATULATIONS KENNESAW STATE
FOOTBALL

BY STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DEVAN SEABAUGH



and Kennesaw State football has accepted an invitation to participate in the 2025 Myrtle Beach Bowl, presented by Engine, on Friday, Dec. 19 in Conway, S.C., where it will face Western Michigan, the MAC Champion. Kickoff is set for 11 a.m. ET at Brooks Stadium – home of Coastal Carolina – and will be televised nationally on ESPN.

WOW! What a great game. A huge Congratulations to our Kennesaw State Owls Football team, Coach Jerry Mack, Athletic Director Milton Overton, and KSU President Kathy Schwaig on winning the Conference USA Division Championship!

A huge achievement for the players, coaches, and Owl Nation. Excited for our players, our coaches, our program and all of Owl Nation. The team has clinched a Bowl Game in their first season of Bowl eligibility



SEVERAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR
PHOTOS WITH SANTA –

Santa is making plenty of stops around Kennesaw this December, offering families a variety of festive ways to say hello and snap a photo. From casual mingles to ticketed meals and scheduled sessions, there’s something for everyone. On Wednesday, Dec. 3, Santa will be mingling for quick photo ops during the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at Depot Park, following a holiday choir performance at 6:30 p.m. and the tree lighting at 7 p.m. On Thursday, Dec. 4, from 4 to 7 p.m., Santa at Smith-Gilbert Gardens features story time, sweet treats, and scheduled photo sessions — pre-registration is required. On Saturday, Dec. 6, families can enjoy Breakfast with Santa at 8 or 10 a.m. with advance tickets, and later that day, Pictures with Santa at Depot Park offers a free walk-up line from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. or pre-scheduled sessions with digital downloads from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. On Tuesday, Dec. 9, from 6 to 8 p.m., Dinner with Santa at Copeland’s of New Orleans includes holiday cheer and photos, with donations benefiting the Jerry Worthan Memorial Christmas Fund. On Saturday, Dec. 13, Santa will be at the Southern Museum from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. during All Aboard for Holiday Fun, included with museum admission. Finally, on Sunday, Dec. 14, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sleigh Ride for Smiles offers a charity car cruise with Santa and helpers available for photos with participants’ vehicles. Whether you’re looking for a quick snapshot or a full holiday experience, Santa will be spreading cheer all month long across Kennesaw.

HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA

Experience the magic of the season at the fifth annual Holiday Extravaganza in downtown Kennesaw. Visit Depot Park to see decorated holiday trees, festive lights and creative displays from local families, schools, businesses and community organizations. The Holiday Extravaganza is free and open to the public, offering a festive way to celebrate the season in the heart of Kennesaw. The display will be on view from Dec. 1, 2025, through Jan. 6, 2026.

MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

The General Emporium features a variety of exclusive Civil War and railroad objects, from clothing and collectibles to toys and model trains. We also have our own signature line of Lacy House jams, jellies, and sauces. Created and stocked for children and adults alike, you will find something special at the General Emporium, where all purchases benefit the educational mission of the Southern Museum.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR
TRAINS, TRAINS, TRAINS,

Trains, Trains, Trains!: Save the date. This highly anticipated event will feature a wide array of model train layouts, train-themed activities and historic trains, making it a must-see for train enthusiasts of all ages.

Visitors will be able to explore model train layouts in various sizes and themes, many with interactive buttons for young attendees to enjoy.

The “Board the Caboose Experience” will offer an opportunity to tour the caboose for a \$5 donation to the Kennesaw Museum Foundation. Children 3 and younger are free. Proceeds will support the museum’s mission.

Museum operating hours for Trains, Trains, Trains! are 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Jan. 25 and 26, 2025. Regular admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors (65+), and \$5 for children (ages 3 to 17), active-duty, reserve, guard and retired military personnel (with ID), and university students (with ID). Tickets are available online. Admission for museum members is free.

Parking will be available at Swift-Cantrell Park, 3140 Old 41 Hwy NW, with free shuttle service to the museum.

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NEWCOMERS CLUB

The Newcomers Club of Cobb County meets at 10:00 a.m. on the third Tuesday of most months and has other activities thought the month. www.newcomersofcobbcounty.com for the location of the next meeting or activity. Those NEW to Cobb or just looking for NEW friends and activities are invited to join us.

SONGS OF CHRISTMAS AT DUE WEST METHODIST CHURCH

Prepare your heart for the season and worship Jesus at Songs of Christmas (formerly West Cobb Christmas)! Remember the reason for the holiday season December 13th, (6:00 pm) and December 14th (9:00 am and 11:00 am). All services will be held in the sanctuary of Building A.

Invite your friends and neighbors to this celebration highlighting the Christmas Choirs (adult, youth, children), and full orchestra proclaiming the glory of Jesus at Christmas



THANK YOU, ALLATOONA QUILTERS GUILD!

The City of Acworth wants to extend a heartfelt thank-you to the Allatoona Quilters Guild for their incredible donation of 189 handmade quilted blankets to the Acworth Police Department. These blankets will be placed in our patrol vehicles and used by officers to provide warmth and comfort to victims, children, and anyone experiencing stressful or traumatic situations.

Your generosity directly supports our mission of caring for our community, not just through enforcement, but through compassion. Thank you for making a meaningful difference and helping us bring comfort when it's needed most.

HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL HOLIDAY CRAFT MARKET FAIR

Happy Holidays! We look forward to seeing you at the 2025 Harrison High School Winter Extravaganza and Holiday Craft Market Fair on Thursday night, December 11th. Doors open at 5:30 pm. Please enjoy the Holiday Craft Market Fair. The music program will begin at 7:00 pm. Your presence not only enriches the evening but directly supports our students' journeys. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students Purchase tickets at: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/2025-harrison-high-school-winter-extravaganza>

MAKE A FRESH WREATH

Smith Gilbert Gardens DIY Wreath Making: With guidance from our Garden Manager, Hanna Young, participants will learn how to make and decorate a natural 12" wreath frame to take home with them. Materials from the garden will be provided to create and decorate wreaths, but participants are asked to bring their own wired ribbon and any other desired decorations. The timing of this class has been planned so that wreaths will still be fresh to display throughout the holidays!

Classes are scheduled for December 13th (9am-11am) & (1pm-3pm).

Classes are filling up quickly so reserve your space now! TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THIS LINK: <https://ticketscandy.com/e/garden-learning-series-diy-wreath-making-11561>



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ALL ABOARD FOR HOLIDAY FUN AT THE SOUTHERN MUSEUM

On Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025 from 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., the Southern Museum will celebrate the holidays with their annual All Aboard for Holiday Fun, offering festive activities for all ages, included with regular museum admission.

The holiday event will feature a variety of live musical performances to set the festive tone. Guests can enjoy fiddle tunes by Doug Carson throughout the day, a special performance by Smyrna United Methodist Church’s “Sounding Joy Handbells” from 10 – 10:30 a.m., and Victorian carolers “Like the Dickens” from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Visitors can explore Victorian-era traditions in the Cobb Gallery with Civil War soldier stories, candle dipping, card making, wreath-making demonstrations and complimentary wassail. In the Jolley Education Center, holiday trades come to life through demonstrations by artisans, along with a children’s craft. Families can also enjoy festive train layouts and join outdoor activities on the front lawn hosted by the Kennesaw Museum Foundation.

During the event The “Board the Caboose Experience” will offer the opportunity to tour the caboose for a \$5 donation to the Kennesaw Museum Foundation.

Santa will be onsite from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to greet families and hear holiday wishes

All activities excluding “Board the Caboose Experience” are included with regular Admission; \$10 for Adults, \$8 for Seniors, and \$5 for Children. Don’t miss this chance to experience the warmth and wonder of a Victorian holiday while exploring history in a unique and festive setting.



FRIENDSHIP AGREEMENT SIGNED!

The City of Kennesaw signed a Friendship Agreement with the Municipality of Montepulciano, Italy, on Tuesday, November 25, 2025, during a ceremony at Kennesaw City Hall, formalizing a collaborative relationship between the two communities.

Mayor Derek Easterling and Montepulciano Mayor Michele Angiolini delivered opening remarks before signing the agreement. The ceremony included participation from representatives of both cities and Kennesaw State University (KSU), which has maintained a long-standing academic presence in Montepulciano.

Speakers included:
Jacopo Pennecchi, Montepulciano councilor for international relations
Alberto Quinti, Il Sasso Italiana Language School founder
Susanna Crociani, vice president of the Consorzio del Vino Nobile
Jeff Drobney, Kennesaw City Manager
Sheb True, KSU Vice Provost and Kennesaw Sister Cities Commission Member
Sarah Johnson, KSU Senior Lecturer of Communication

“This agreement reflects years of collaboration between our community, the Kennesaw Sister Cities Commission and our partners at Kennesaw State University,” states Mayor Derek Easterling. “We look forward to continued exchanges that strengthen cultural, educational and economic ties with Montepulciano.”

Following the signing, attendees participated in a toast with wine from Montepulciano. The commemorative wine label was designed by KSU students.

Background
Kennesaw established the Kennesaw Sister Cities Commission (KSSC) in August 2021 to explore international partnerships. Montepulciano was identified as a strong match due to a 25-year relationship with KSU through its study abroad programming and its role in the restoration and use of the historic Poliziana Fortress.

The Friendship Agreement, developed after a series of virtual meetings and collaborative discussions, outlines shared goals in cultural exchange, education, economic cooperation and community engagement. The agreement also acknowledges KSU’s central role in connecting the two communities.

Ongoing and past initiatives facilitated through KSU include nursing internships at Nottola Hospital, digital archiving work in Montepulciano’s Historical Archives, and marketing and entrepreneurship activities with local wineries.

Under the terms of the agreement, the two cities will encourage exchanges among civic groups, schools, universities and businesses; support cultural and educational programs; promote tourism and economic development initiatives; and collaborate on joint events. The agreement is nonbinding and may be amended or discontinued with written notice.

ALL ABOARD
FOR HOLIDAY FUN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13 | 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM
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ACWORTH NEWS



CONGRATULATIONS ACWORTH PARKS AND RECREATION - AGENCY OF THE YEAR

At the Thursday, November 20 regular city council meeting, Acworth Parks, Recreation, and Community Resource Director, Kim Watt, shared with Mayor and the Board of Aldermen about recent awards received by the department at the annual Georgia Recreation and Park Association conference that was held in October.

Ms. Watt highlighted Ash Jordan Fox, who serves as Business Manager/Assistant Recreation Coordinator, for receiving the Outstanding Administrative Support Staff award for the Fifth District, and the entire department for receiving the GRPA Agency of the Year Award for its respective size. Ms. Watt also formally introduced Ryan Lopez to Mayor and the Board of Aldermen. Mr. Lopez serves in a new role of Assistant Director - Property Management, and oversees the care and maintenance of all city facilities.

The City of Acworth is immensely proud of the Acworth Parks, Recreation, and Community Resource Team and their dedication and love for creating an incredible quality of life through extraordinary experiences for our community.



**Breakfast
with the
GRiNch**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025

He's been on the naughty list but he's trying to be nice. The Acworth Parks, Recreation and Community Resource Department is excited to host our Annual Breakfast with the Grinch at the Acworth Community Center on Saturday, December 13. Enjoy breakfast provided by JD's Bar-B-Que, while the Grinch visits with each table for photo opportunities and to share Christmas wishes. After breakfast, the Grinch will join us as we do fun activities and create Grinch-themed crafts. Space is limited and you must register each person attending or reserve a table for the whole family! Breakfast will be served from 9:00am - 9:45am with crafts and activities to follow.

Register online at <https://secure.rec1.com/GA/acworth-parks-recreation/catalog>, scroll down to SPECIAL EVENTS, select Breakfast with the Grinch.

MENORAH LIGHTING CEREMONY

Acworth invites everyone to Doyal Hill Park for the 13th Annual Menorah Lighting Ceremony on Tuesday, December 16 at 6:00 p.m. Rabbi Zalman Charytan from the Chabad Jewish Center will officiate the lighting with Mayor Tommy Allegood. www.visitacworth.com

LIGHT UP MAIN CHRISTMAS GOLF-CART PARADE

Coming Wednesday, December 17, 2025: Join Acworth for its annual Light Up Main Golf Cart Parade! Participation is free, but registration is required to join the parade line-up. It's time to bust out the garland, lights, and tinsel to make your golf cart as festive as it can get. The parade has a fantastic downtown route passing through neighborhoods to spread holiday cheer! Tell your friends and neighbors to line the streets. This event will begin at 6:00 p.m., so make sure to grab some solar-powered string lights and make it merry!

DRIVING MISS DAISY

Acworth Cultural Arts Center presents DRIVING MISS DAISY, an American Comedy Drama in January 2026. Tickets are available online at the Acworth Cultural Arts website. The performances will be Friday, Saturday and Sunday on the weeks Jan and Jan 23-25. The play will be performed at the Rena Henton Theatre at the Roberts School. Prices range from \$21.88-\$24.14. Visit www.acworthculturalarts.org for tickets and more information.

CITY OF ACWORTH'S SENIOR LUNCHEON

Senior luncheons are held at Acworth Community Center. The November luncheon will be held Wednesday, DECEMBER 17/ Join us every third Wednesday of the month for the City of Acworth's Senior Luncheon. Come join us for lunch and Bingo. This program is free to City Residents 55 and up, but you must register to attend. Registration closes 1 week before the luncheon.

Visit www.acworthparksandrecreation.org, navigate to the menu on left, click on register or reserve now. Select Senior from Age Group and then click on Senior Luncheon under Active Adult Programs. .

GEORGIA FOOD AND WINE COMING MARCH 27-29

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SUNDAY, MARCH 29
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TOWN CENTER COMMUNITY



**HILLGROVE STUDENT, BRANDON KING
DONATES 1,700 FOOD ITEMS TO THE CENTER
FOR FAMILY RESOURCES**

Brandon King, a junior at Hillgrove High School and an Eagle Scout candidate, is taking meaningful action to support families experiencing food insecurity — one box at a time. For his Eagle Scout project, Brandon collected, sorted, and packaged an impressive 1,700 nonperishable food items, ultimately assembling 40 “Express Food Boxes” for individuals and families seeking emergency food assistance at The Center for Family Resources (CFR) in Marietta.

“I heard about The Center for Family Resources while researching food pantries,” Brandon explained. “After calling them, I felt it was the best place to donate because they were excited to accept the boxes and help distribute them to families in need.”

To gather the items, Brandon organized a large food drive at Hillgrove High School. Students contributed 695 items, while friends, neighbors, and family added another 1,005. “I spread the word on Instagram and Snapchat and put flyers around the school,” he said.

Brandon’s commitment to fighting hunger began after attending the Atlanta Community Food Bank’s Youth Summit, where participants learned about local hunger issues and volunteered with organizations such as Urban Recipe and Networks Cooperative Ministry. “We did a deep dive into food insecurity,” he said. “It showed me what it really means to help people who don’t have enough to eat.”

“The generosity and leadership Brandon has shown through this project are truly inspiring,” said Melanie Kagan of The Center for Family Resources. “These boxes will have an immediate impact on families in crisis.”

Brandon hopes to study industry and architecture but says he will “always make time to volunteer and support my community.”



WELCOME TO KENNESAW REFORMATION BREWERY

Reformation Brewery, a North Georgia-based independent craft brewery known for creating community-centered spaces and handcrafted beer and spirits, is excited to announce plans for a new location in downtown Kennesaw. The project is currently in development, with construction anticipated to begin in the near future and a hopeful opening timeline of 2027.

Located at the northwest corner of Main Street and J.O. Stephenson Avenue, the forthcoming site at 2861 Main St, Kennesaw, GA 30144 will serve as a flagship for Reformation’s growing spirits program. The expansion comes in partnership with developers Dale Hughes, Peter Coffman and Steve Harrell, who have followed Reformation’s journey and recognized shared values and a vision for community-driven spaces. Photo courtesy of Barbara Boone.



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“KEEP MOVING FORWARD” - WREATHS
ACROSS AMERICA

by: Mary Lou Cagle, Marietta, GA



The theme for Wreaths Across America 2025 is “Keep Moving Forward”. This theme was inspired by the final words spoken by U.S. Army Captain, Joshua Byers, who was killed in action in Iraq, 2003. On July 23, 2003 as the company was getting ready to move from AR Ramadi to AL Fallujah, Josh was the lead vehicle of the convoy. About two miles out of AL Fallujah an IED was detonated and struck the Humvee that he was in along with three other soldiers and his interpreter. As the smoke was filling the air Josh gave a last command to his driver to “Keep Moving Forward.” This command saved lives. Josh was 29 years old. Josh told his family before he deployed “there is no better way to die than in service to my beloved country.”

Remember our fallen men and women; honor those who serve; and teach the next generation the value of Freedom.

Wreaths Across America is an organization that continues to focus on our veterans and military families and bring attention to the needs of our Veteran community. It will be a heartwarming experience for you even though you might not know the veteran whose grave you place a wreath – call their name and thank them for their service. There are many ways to serve our community and country. If you know a veteran or meet a veteran take the time to talk to them about their service; most are happy to tell you their story. If you know a family who has lost a loved one they too will be thankful that you care. Teach our children about these men and women who sacrificed so that they can enjoy the freedom they have – the Freedom we all have.

This year the National Wreaths Across America Day is Saturday, December 13, 2025. You can be a part of this along with two million (2,000,000) volunteers and supporters who will gather to Remember, Honor and Teach at more than 4,600 locations in all 50 states, at sea, and abroad.

Each wreath is made of fresh Maine Balsam Fir and decorated with a flag representing the USA, each branch of the military, and POW/MIA. A hand-tied velveteen bow completes the circle of flag tribute. Yes, made IN the USA.....

To sponsor a wreath the cost is \$17.00 per wreath. Send a check to Wreaths Across America, P.O. Box 249, Columbia Falls, Maine 04623. If you would like to designate your wreath to the Georgia National Cemetery in Canton, GA, use code GANCCA; for the Marietta National Cemetery, the code is GAMNCM.

Picture above is the tombstone of Mary’s brother. Mary Lou Cagle is a contributing editor to the Bright Side Newspaper

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KENNESAW’S WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Please join the Kennesaw Mountain Chapter, NSDAR to Remember our fallen men and women; Honor those who serve and Teach the next generation the value of Freedom. The 6th annual Wreaths Across America event will be held on December 13, 2025, at 12:00pm at Kennesaw City Cemetery, 3000 Cemetery St, Kennesaw, GA 30144. If you are interested in sponsoring a veteran wreath, please use this link: <https://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/pages/164153/Overview/>.

COBB VETERANS TO LAY WREATHS AT
MARIETTA NATIONAL CEMETERY

The Cobb Veterans Memorial Foundation will be laying wreaths at Marietta National Cemetery to honor those buried there for the Christmas holiday. It’s part of the Wreaths Across America program and will take place on Saturday, Dec. 13.

The foundation invites our community to volunteer, and is inviting the public to take part in the ceremony. The event begins at 12 p.m. and the wreath placements will follow.

The Marietta National Cemetery is the final resting place for more than 17,000 United States veterans and family members. Of the 17,000 burials, 10,172 are Union Civil War soldiers of which approximately 3,000 are unknown. Marietta National Cemetery serves as the final resting place for many Union soldiers who perished at the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain. The Marietta National Cemetery is located at 500 Washington St., Marietta.

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2025 CHRISTMAS AT PIEDMONT CHURCH
PRESENTED BY: SUPERIOR PLUMBING

Join us for a festive celebration; Christmas at Piedmont Church Arts & Craft Show will be buzzing with activity on Friday, December 12 and Saturday, December 13. We have a wide variety of unique arts and crafts exhibitors from all over the southeast that have created, arranged, painted, or built all the products themselves. A sample of products to be sold is jewelry, pottery, paintings, ornaments, apparel, and unique one of a kind gift items. A perfect time to enjoy good family fun and finish up your Christmas shopping!!

The kids will enjoy the FREE KID’S ZONE sponsored by C&S Paving on Friday from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m., to 5 p.m. In addition to these rides, there will be a wide variety of children’s activities including inflatable slides and bounces. The young and old can enjoy getting up close and personal with the petting zoo animals on Saturday only from 10- 5...the best part is it’s FREE!!!

Local Entertainment will be set on the LGE Community Credit Union Stage featuring 40 local school chorus groups filling the air with song. Six local dance groups, including Great Gig Dance from Kennesaw, will also be there to get you in the Christmas Spirit!

FREE Admission and FREE Parking. There will be FREE parking and a free courtesy shuttle from the Old Time Pottery Parking lot. For more information call 770-423-1330 or www.piedmonthchurch.tv.

“I’VE TOLD YOU THESE THINGS, THAT YOUR
JOY WOULD BE FULL.” JOHN 15:11

BY MARLON LONGACRE, ASSOCIATE PASTOR, PIEDMONT CHURCH

In the Bible, in the story of the first Christmas, the word joy is used eight separate times. It is the major theme of Christmas. There are some things that will deplete your joy this Christmas. There are three great destroyers of joy, and they are found in the Christmas story. Lets go over one of them with today’s EPIC.

The number one thing that steals joy out of your life is anxiety.

I am talking about when we get stressed out, when we get tense, when we get nervous, when we get scared, when we get worried. Any time you get stressed out with worries and fears, you cannot be joyful and fearful at the same time. When anxiety comes in the front door, joy goes out the back door of your life. Distress is the opposite of delight.

We need to take a 20 second time out and just think about all the stress and pressure Mary was under. Mary was no more than 15 years old at the time. She is a young teenager and she is engaged to Joseph and then she has what is called a “virgin birth.” What is that? It never happened to any woman in the past, birth without a husband or a birth without a man. Try explaining that to your parents.

Think of all the gossip about a single girl being pregnant and not married, all the scandal, God’s the father, nobody is going to believe that. Then just a few days before she is about to give birth she must get on a donkey and make a two-to-three-day trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem because of the census that was about to be had. I can only imagine her letting Joseph have it for that ride. I still hear it from Libby for taking her to the Georgia vs. LSU game when she was nine months pregnant with our oldest son Todd. She let me have it with every step we walked up to our seats in the nose bleed section.

There were no rooms to be had. Mary ends up sleeping in a barn with a bunch of farm animals with no family for support.

The choice that Mary made to bring joy into her life was even though she was afraid she chose to trust God and accept His plan for her life.

Luke 1:30 reads “Do not be afraid, Mary!” The angel told her. “You have been chosen by God for His purpose.”

You have been chosen by God for his purpose too! God has a purpose for your life just like He did for Mary, but you can miss it. You will miss the purpose of your life unless you do what Mary did, you choose to accept it.

I do not know what you are anxious about this Christmas. I do know the antidote and that is you must follow Mary’s example and that is to trust God and accept His plan for your life.

What is the result of saying “God I am going to trust you even though I do not understand the plan you have for my life. Mary said, “My spirit finds it joy in God, my Savior.” Luke 1:47.

Remember all financial donations given to Love Does the month of December will go to support the Piedmont Family Ministry team with summer camps in 2026.

I love all of you dearly and thank you for the countless ways you show God’s love to so many.

Marlon

Love is a choice. Love is something we do. Love Does! Keep praying for great weather on Dec. 12th and 13th.

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Make strides along the Noonday Creek Trail at the Annual Noonday Shanty 5&10K Kick off your spring running season and enjoy the scenic views along Noonday Creek Trail while supporting future greenspace and trail projects in the Town Center area. This event features two USA Track & Field certified race lengths and a paved course on the trail and roadway. Runners, walkers, and families are all encouraged to participate. Participants will experience scenic views, greenspaces, and attractions along Noonday Creek Trail and Town Center such as Noonday Creek, Aviation Park, Cobb International Airport, Fifth Third Bank Stadium, and wetlands and bird habitats including the Chimney Swift Tower. TO REGISTER AND learn more visit: <https://www.towncenterid.com/noonday-shanty>



CONGRATULATIONS MARIETTA HS GIRL'S CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONS

The Marietta High School girls' cross-country team continued its remarkable dynasty at the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) State Championships, earning the 2025 6A State Title. It's their sixth consecutive championship and eighth in the last nine years. "This championship is about more than winning – it's about the heart, hard work, and integrity our student-athletes bring to everything they do," said Superintendent Grant Rivera. "Their success reflects the spirit of Marietta and the community that stands behind them." Under the leadership of head coach Jack Coleman, the Lady Blue Devils once again dominated on the state's biggest stage, with five runners placing in the top 15: When the team returned home, the Marietta community lined the streets to celebrate their record-breaking achievement. The Marietta Fire Department led the way, escorting the team bus with lights and sirens in honor of the Blue Devils' state title.



LADIES WARRIOR SIGN TO PLAY

Congratulations to these Warriors who will play at the next level! (Front row, Left to Right) Hannah Nicholson- Volleyball- Radford University, Alyssa Russell- Softball- Delaware State University, Skylar Starks- Softball- Georgia State University (Back Row, Left to Right) Jenesys Moctezuma- Volleyball- Alfred University, Novel Howell- Volleyball- Curry College, Mia Goldbach- Volleyball- Life University, Leah Byrd- Softball- Auburn University, North Cobb is SO proud of these athletes! GO WARRIORS!



NCHS LADY WARRIORS SIGN

Pictured above L-R- North Cobb Warrior Amaia Hardy will play Flag Football for Lees-McRae while Jasmine Robinson will run track for UGA.



NCHS FOOTBALL SIGN

Pictured l-r Michael Hill will play football for Charleston Southern U while Brandon Anderson will play football for the University of Missouri.



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CONGRATULATIONS CITY OF MARIETTA

The City of Marietta is pleased to announce that it has received the prestigious 2025 Outstanding Planning Document Award from the Georgia Planning Association (GPA) for the Mountain to River (M2R) Trail Activation Study. This award recognizes the study's exceptional quality and completeness of the overall planning process that goes beyond a traditional planning document. The project stood out for its communication, graphics, storytelling, and overall quality of thought and delivery.

In 2023, the City applied for and received technical assistance through the Atlanta Regional Commission's Community Development Assistance Program and was partnered with the Georgia Conservancy to complete the study. The purpose of the trail activation study was to explore ways to further invigorate the 3.5-mile portion of the M2R Trail located within Marietta's city limits, encouraging greater usage and access. The study addressed the key components of placemaking, wayfinding, and integration of the trail with its surrounding neighborhoods.

The trail activation study was identified as an implementation item in the City of Marietta's 2022 Comprehensive Plan, supporting the City's ongoing efforts to enhance community spaces and promote active living.

City staff accepted the award on October 9, 2025, during the annual GPA Awards Luncheon, held in conjunction with the organization's fall conference.

The full M2R Trail Activation Study and additional information about the City's trail planning efforts are available at <https://www.marietta.gov/1363/Trail-Planning>.



CHECK OUT THE MARIETTA HISTORY CENTER FOR UNUSUAL GIFTS

The Marietta History Center is celebrating the holiday season with extended shopping hours and exclusive perks for visitors. Beginning Friday, December 5, the Museum Store will remain open late, offering extra time to browse locally inspired and historically themed gifts just in time for the holidays.

To spread even more cheer, Museum Members will receive 20% off all Museum Store purchases during the extended shopping period. It's an ideal opportunity to check off holiday gift lists while supporting local history.

From handcrafted ornaments to Marietta-themed keepsakes, the Museum Store features unique items perfect for families, history enthusiasts, and holiday shoppers alike.

Extended Holiday Museum Store Hours Now through – Tuesday, December 23
Tuesdays–Sundays: 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.; Monday, December 22: 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.; Christmas Eve: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Admission: Adults: \$10; Students & Seniors (60+): \$7; Members, Military & Children Under 5: Free The Marietta History Center is located at 1 Depot Street Marietta, GA 30060

The Marietta History Center ignites curiosity in the city's past by connecting people through compelling stories and engaging experiences. For logo files or promotional images, email AReed@MariettaGA.gov. For more information, call 770-794-5710 or visit www.MariettaHistory.org.

KATHY WINIARCZYK, IS THE RECIPIENT OF WEST COBB BUSINESS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Credit Union of Georgia is proud to announce that our exceptional Business Development Officer, Kathy Winiarczyk, has been selected as the 2025 President's Award recipient by the West Cobb Business Association (WCBA).

This prestigious honor is awarded annually to an individual who demonstrates outstanding leadership, unwavering dedication, and meaningful impact within the West Cobb business community. Kathy's passion for building relationships, fostering collaboration, and elevating community engagement has made her a standout leader both within our organization and throughout West Cobb.

"We are absolutely thrilled to celebrate Kathy and this remarkable achievement," said Amanda Arnold, Director of Community Outreach. "Her commitment to serving others and advancing the mission of our community is truly inspiring. Kathy represents the very best of who we are."

Kathy's drive, professionalism, and heart-centered leadership continue to energize everyone around her. Her selection for the 2025 President's Award is a reflection of the profound difference she makes each day.

Kathy is pictured here with Justin Ardnt



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COBB CHRISTMAS 2025 TOY DISTRIBUTION AND FUNDRAISING EVENTS

The Cobb Christmas Elves and Board of Directors are once again hard at work planning this year's Cobb Christmas Toy Distribution.

CobbChristmas, Inc. is a 100% volunteer-run, non-denominational, nonprofit organization that has been helping low-income families in Cobb County have a Merry Christmas since 1963. Through the generosity of community volunteers, local businesses, industries, and government partners who host toy drives and fundraising events, Cobb Christmas provides toys each year for 1,000–2,000 children ages 3–12.

These toys not only bring joy to children but also offer financial relief to parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, and other guardians who might otherwise be forced to choose between paying bills and buying gifts.

This year, Cobb Christmas has partnered with local restaurants to host Charity Dining events—breakfasts, dinners, and full-day fundraisers. Burger 21 in Kennesaw recently held its 8th Annual Charity Day benefiting Cobb Christmas. The next fundraising event will take place at the Marietta Wine Market on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, from 5–7 p.m. The Marietta Wine Market has supported Cobb Christmas by hosting fundraisers since 2014!

Important Dates for Cobb Christmas 2025:

- Registration: Opens November 10 (online at cobbchristmas.net/registration)
- Stuff-A-Bus: December 16–18
- Set-Up: December 15–18
- Distribution: December 19–20

Set-up and distribution will take place at IAM Local Lodge 709 on South Marietta Parkway in Marietta.

Cobb Christmas anticipates an increase in assistance requests this year and will be placing a special emphasis on collecting toys for older children (ages 11–12), as requests for this age group have been growing.

For more information about Cobb Christmas, including registration requirements, wish lists, volunteer opportunities, and donation options, visit www.CobbChristmas.net. The website also includes details on hosting toy drives and fundraisers, as well as contact information.

Stay connected by following Cobb Christmas on Facebook (@CobbChristmasInc) and Instagram (@cobbchristmas) for updates and upcoming events.

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- **Stuff-A-Bus 12/16-12/18**
- **Set up 12/15-12/18**
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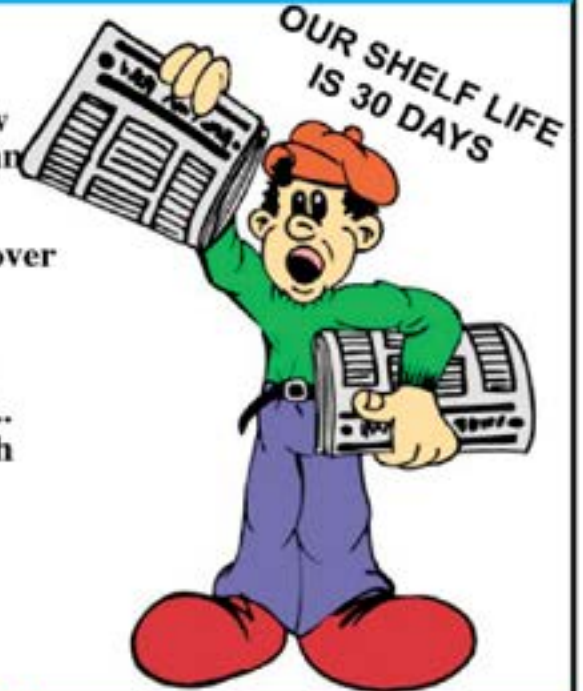
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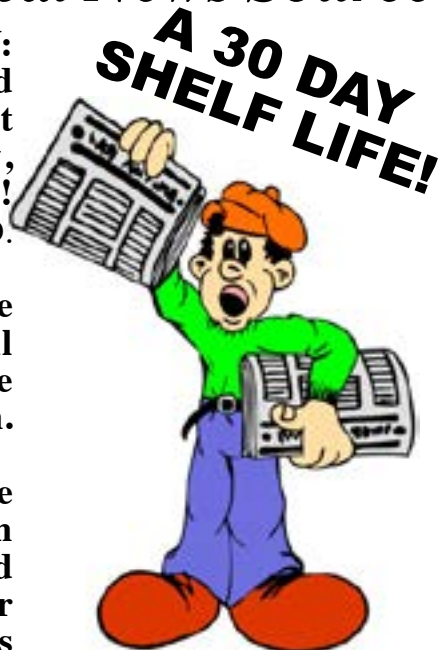
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