

# The Bright Side™

VOLUME 35 No 2

SERVING ACWORTH, KENNESAW, MARIETTA SINCE 1992

FEB 2026



## 2026 KENNESAW CONCERT SERIES BRINGS LEGENDARY SOUNDS TO DEPOT PARK

The City of Kennesaw is turning up the volume in 2026 with the return of the Kennesaw Concert Series, presented by Wellstar Health System, with premier sponsorship from Hester Dental, Williams Elleby Howard & Easter, and Woodstock Chiropractic. Now in its third year, the series brings a powerhouse mix of a legendary rock act and fan-favorite tribute bands to the United Bankshares Amphitheater at Depot Park, delivering free, unforgettable live music experiences all season long. From classic rock icons to throwback pop and timeless tributes, the 2026 lineup is packed with shows music fans will not want to miss.

### MARCH 28 – NIGHT RANGER

Night Ranger takes the stage with four decades of chart-topping hits, electrifying live performances, and a legacy that helped define American rock. With more than 17 million albums sold worldwide and over 4,000 shows performed, the band continues to deliver arena-sized anthems and top-tier musicianship. Fans can expect classics like "Sister Christian," "(You Can Still) Rock in America," and "Don't Tell Me You Love Me," along with the energy and precision that have kept Night Ranger touring strong for 40 years.

### MAY 2 – BOY BAND REVIEW

Boy Band Review brings the ultimate throwback party, celebrating the biggest boy band hits of the '90s and early 2000s. With a full live band, polished choreography, and nonstop crowd interaction, the group recreates the excitement of \*NSYNC, Backstreet Boys, New Kids on the Block, and more, delivering a fun, sing-along experience that spans generations.

### AUGUST 22 – RUMOURS ATL: A FLEETWOOD MAC TRIBUTE

Widely praised for their authenticity and musicianship, Rumours ATL recreates the iconic sound and harmonies of Fleetwood Mac with remarkable precision. Audiences will hear beloved classics like "Rhiannon," "Go Your Own Way," and "Dreams" in a performance that honors one of rock's most celebrated catalogs.

### SEPTEMBER 26 – DANCING DREAM: THE TRIBUTE TO ABBA

Dancing Dream brings the sparkle, sound, and global hits of ABBA to life with a high-energy performance featuring favorites like "Mamma Mia," "Dancing Queen," and "Waterloo." Based in New York City and having performed more than 300 shows across North America, the group delivers a polished tribute that keeps audiences on their feet.

"This series is quickly becoming a highlight of our community calendar," said Mayor Derek Easterling. "These concerts bring people together, showcase incredible talent, and continue to position the United Bankshares Amphitheater at Depot Park as a go-to destination for live music in our region. We're excited to welcome residents and visitors alike for another outstanding season."

The Kennesaw Concert Series offers free concerts in the heart of Downtown Kennesaw. Guests are encouraged to bring collapsible lawn chairs or camping chairs and enjoy food and beverages available for purchase from a variety of vendors.

Concert Season Seats are available for \$100 per seat for the full season and are located on the second level of the tiered turf lawn. Seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Full-season seat sales are available until sold out or 5:00 p.m. on March 6, 2026.

For concert details or to purchase seating, visit [www.amphitheateratdepotpark.com](http://www.amphitheateratdepotpark.com).

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THE BRIGHT SIDE NEWSPAPER MAINTAINS A CALENDAR OF EVENTS ONLINE IN THEIR DIGITAL NEWSPAPER AT [WWW.BRIGHTSIDENEWSPAPERNEWS.COM](http://WWW.BRIGHTSIDENEWSPAPERNEWS.COM). CHECK THIS SITE OUT - MANY STORIES AND A GREAT WAY TO KEEP UP WITH OUR LOCAL EVENTS



## ACWORTH'S SPLOST INFORMATION

WHAT IS A SPLOST (SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX) AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

A SPLOST is a 1% sales tax that counties in Georgia can use to fund major capital projects, such as public infrastructure (roads, sidewalk, stormwater), parks, public safety facilities, technology improvements, community centers, and trails.

There have been five SPLOST programs approved by the voters (2005, 2011, 2016, and 2022). The current program expires on December 31, 2027; therefore, a public referendum to renew the SPLOST is being proposed for the general election on Tuesday, November 3, 2026. SPLOST programs are beneficial because they allow the county and cities to complete critical projects without the need to issue long term debt.

Why SPLOST? The advantage of consumption-based taxes to fund capital projects is that visitors from outside of Cobb County contribute towards the cost, reducing the burden on property owners.

### WHAT IS PROPOSED IN THE 2028 SPLOST?

The projected sales tax over the six-year period includes county-wide projects, then the remaining funds are distributed to the cities based on population. If the referendum is approved, the city of Acworth is projected to receive \$28,039,043 under the formula. The list of proposed county-wide projects and those projects proposed in unincorporated Cobb County (not in the city) can be viewed at <https://www.cobbcounty.gov/board/splost>. The full list of City of Acworth proposed projects and supporting information are provided at <https://acworth-ga.gov/splost>.

The public will have an opportunity to meet with county and city leaders to provide feedback on the proposed project list. The Acworth specific open house is scheduled for Thursday, February 12, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Acworth Community Center, located at 4361 Cherokee Street, Acworth, 30101. Feedback can be sent to [splost@acworth-ga.gov](mailto:splost@acworth-ga.gov) as well.

## KENNESAW'S SPLOST INFORMATION

Cobb County and its cities are beginning the process of developing the 2028 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) project list, and the City of Kennesaw invites residents to participate in two upcoming community meetings. The preliminary project list was approved by the Cobb County Board of Commissioners on January 13 and will help guide future investments in critical capital needs across the county and within Kennesaw.

For more than 30 years, SPLOST has funded major capital projects such as transportation improvements, parks and recreation facilities, public safety buildings, libraries, and other essential infrastructure. The 2028 SPLOST proposal would build on the current program, continuing to support projects that maintain and improve facilities and services important to the community.

Residents are encouraged to attend one or both meetings to learn more about the proposed SPLOST project list, ask questions, and share feedback.

Joint City of Kennesaw and Cobb County Open House, March 10, 2026, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Ben Robertson Community Center, 2753 Watts Drive, Kennesaw

City of Kennesaw SPLOST Community Meeting, March 19, 2026, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Ben Robertson Community Center, 2753 Watts Drive, Kennesaw

Community input plays an important role in shaping the SPLOST program. Residents may also share feedback through the SPLOST Renewal Public Feedback Survey.

View the Cobb County 2028 SPLOST information and proposed project list on the County's website at <https://www.cobbcounty.gov/board/splost/2028-splost-proposal>.

Review the City of Kennesaw's proposed 2028 SPLOST project list. <https://www.kennesaw-ga.gov/download/splost-2028-projects-draft/>

### LIST OF ALL ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS:

County and city leaders will meet with residents to get their feedback on the upcoming SPLOST program list. The following engagement sessions have been scheduled. Please check this list often for additions and/or changes to these sessions.

- February 12, 2026 – Acworth Community Center, 4361 Cherokee St, Acworth
- February 25, 2026 – Smyrna Community Center, 1250 Powder Springs St, Smyrna
- March 5, 2026 – Cobb Civic Center, 548 South Marietta Pkwy SE, Marietta
- March 10, 2026 – Kennesaw Ben Robertson Community Center, 2753 Watts Dr, Kennesaw

Note - Meetings will be from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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## THIS AND THAT



### ACWORTH'S NOTABLE WOMEN IN HISTORY

BY ANDREW J. BRAMLETT

Last month, the Save Acworth History Foundation unveiled a new series of banners about several notable women from across Acworth's history.

Several of the women featured were elected officials, like former mayor Mary McCall, and former alderwoman Dolores Hester. Fiana Brown, the namesake of a park in downtown, worked for the City of Acworth as City Clerk. School teachers are also featured heavily. Dolores Hester, Kate Logan Good, Charlotte McClure, and her sister Fanny McClure all taught schoolchildren in Acworth. Hannah Chastain Lemon left money in her will for educational causes when she died in 1912. Helen and Esther Sills were owners of the Acworth Cotton Manufacturing Company and built a school for the mill children.

Community leadership is also a theme of the exhibit. Rena Henton (the namesake of the new Rena Henton Theatre) was a longtime fixture of Acworth's African American community, and the whole of Acworth rallied around her after Henton's home was destroyed in a fire when she was in her 100s. Willie Bailey, from the 1920s until 1963, was the local correspondent for the Marietta Daily Journal. Fannie Mae Butler was heavily involved in local community organizations and was part of the local PTA. Last but not least, in 1898 Carrie Dyer helped to establish a social group for women in Acworth called the Calliopean Club. After her death in 1900, it was renamed the Carrie Dyer Woman's Club.

The Save Acworth History Foundation hopes that this will be the first in a series of exhibits about the people, places, and events that have transformed Acworth. This temporary exhibit is currently on display in the lobby of the Acworth Community Center.

### SPECIAL OLYMPICS GEORGIA POLAR PLUNGE

The Special Olympics Polar Plunge, hosted by the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Georgia, will take place at Acworth Beach at Cauble Park and returns on Saturday, February 21, 2026. Join the "coolest" event of the year!



The purpose behind the Polar Plunge is to support and spread awareness for the 17,429 Special Olympics Georgia athletes. The Polar Plunge is the largest fundraising effort benefiting Special Olympics. Many states across the nation participate in this annual event through the efforts of their Law Enforcement Torch Run program. The Polar Plunge is an official Law Enforcement Torch Run event.

All proceeds collected by plungers will benefit the athletes of Special Olympics Georgia. Visit: [www.specialolympicsga.org](http://www.specialolympicsga.org) for more information on Special Olympics Georgia. Join the Acworth City Team, or make a donation here!



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**Bright Side page 2**



### SIMPLE TIPS FOR COLD WEATHER COMFORT

#### Create a Warm Zone

If the power goes out, focus on heating one small room. Close doors, block drafts with towels, and hang blankets over doorways to keep warmth in.

#### Insulate Windows & Doors

Windows lose heat fast. Blankets, towels, or emergency thermal blankets shiny side facing the window can make a noticeable difference.

#### Use Thermal Blankets the Right Way

Place one under your fitted sheet shiny side up and another over you with a thin layer between. Add regular blankets on top to trap body heat.

#### Layer Up

Warm clothes work better than space heaters during outages. Think layers, socks, hats, and cozy blankets especially for kids.

#### Plan Easy, No-Power Meals

Protein bars, peanut butter, crackers, nuts, and jerky help fuel your body and keep you warmer.

#### Cook Safely

If you use a camp stove, crack a window, never use it as a heat source, and only cook while awake. Warm drinks and meals go a long way for comfort.

#### Protect Pipes & Water

Use flashlights instead of candles when possible, and never bring grills or generators indoors. Carbon monoxide safety is critical.

A little preparation can go a long way toward peace of mind during cold weather. And if you have questions about your heating system or winter readiness, we're always here to help that's what neighbors are for.

#### Stay warm and stay safe,

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## SMITH-GILBERT GARDENS TO HOST GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT FEB. 13-14

Smith-Gilbert Gardens invites the public to take part in the global Great Backyard Bird Count.

On Friday, Feb. 13, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., participants can bring binoculars—kid-friendly binoculars will be provided if needed—and receive identification sheets and instructions on how to submit their observations as citizen scientists.

On Saturday, Feb. 14, from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m., Master Birders will lead a guided bird walk through the gardens to spot and listen for the many species that call the area home. Pre-registration is required. Participants can register at [www.smithgilbertgardens.com](http://www.smithgilbertgardens.com).

## SOUTHERN MUSEUM HOSTS WINTER BREAK PROGRAMS FEB. 17-20

The Southern Museum will offer a week of educational winter break programs Feb. 17-20, exploring the pioneers of transportation and their innovative spirit.

On Tuesday, Feb. 17, from 10 a.m. to noon, "The Power of Words" invites participants to get creative while learning how journalists of the past used words to inspire change.

Wednesday, Feb. 18, from 10 a.m. to noon, "Freedom on the Seas" features games and crafts highlighting African American innovators in sea travel.

Thursday, Feb. 19, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., "Mommy and Me: Henry's Hammer" celebrates John Henry and other railroad track layers.

Friday, Feb. 20, from 10 a.m. to noon, the Pullman Porters Mini-Expo, presented by the museum's Special Collections team, offers a behind-the-scenes look at artifacts from the Pullman Company. The programs are designed for the entire family.

## KENNESAW PARKS & RECREATION TO HOST TOUCH-A-TRUCK MARCH 7

The City of Kennesaw's Parks & Recreation, Public Works, and Police departments

will bring back Touch-A-Truck, the annual hands-on community event, on Saturday, March 7, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Adams Park.

Children and families can explore trucks, heavy construction and public safety equipment, specialty vehicles, and cool cars. Attendees can meet vehicle owners and operators and have the chance to touch, climb on, and explore the vehicles. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Admission is free.

The Department of Parks & Recreation is seeking unique vehicles for display. Interested parties can complete an online application at [www.kennesawparksandrec.org](http://www.kennesawparksandrec.org). Volunteers are also needed to help run the event. To sign up for a volunteer shift, visit Kennesaw's <https://secure.rec1.com/GA/Kennesaw-ga/catalog>



and select "Volunteer Opportunities."

Food and beverage vendors are invited to participate. Vendor applications are available at [www.kennesawparksandrec.org](http://www.kennesawparksandrec.org). For more information, call Kennesaw Parks & Recreation at (770) 422-9714.

## KENNESAW SEEKS APPLICANTS FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND PLANNING COMMISSIONS

The City of Kennesaw is accepting applications to fill vacancies on the Historic Preservation Commission and the Planning Commission.

These advisory boards help shape the city's future by guiding responsible growth, preserving Kennesaw's historic character, and supporting thoughtful land use and development decisions that benefit the community.

The city encourages applications from residents with training or professional experience in land use planning, architecture, historic preservation, engineering, land surveying or economics.

Applicants must live within Kennesaw city limits and be registered voters in the city.

Interested individuals may submit an application through the City Clerk's Office. Additional information, including application details and deadlines, is available by contacting the City Clerk or visiting the city's official website at [www.kennesaw-ga.gov](http://www.kennesaw-ga.gov).

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## THIS AND THAT

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### KENNESAW'S VALENTINES DANCE PARTY

Spend the evening with your big and little ones and experience all the fun of a magical night! Join Kennesaw Parks & Recreation for the Valentines Dance Party on Saturday, February 13, 2026

Dress your best and get ready to dance! Guests will enjoy a festive atmosphere as the Ben Robertson Community Center's Banquet Hall is beautifully decorated for the occasion. Children ages 2 and under do not need a ticket if they will be sitting in laps. Tickets are \$18 each and are available at <https://secure.rec1.com/GA/kennesaw-ga/catalog> - select Special events and register. Or purchased in person at the Ben Robertson Community Center. Advance purchase is required.

### KENNESAW'S MARDI GRAS ON MAIN STREET

Celebrate Mardi Gras on Main Street on February 17 from 5:30-7:30 PM with live music, festive flavors, and plenty of Big Easy spirit.

Enjoy tunes from the Atlanta Crawdaddies, sample free bites like gumbo from 1885 Grill - Kennesaw and mini pancakes from Mini Flipz, and keep an eye out for Mardi Gras beads and fun giveaways throughout the evening. Bring your friends AND family - experience Downtown Kennesaw in full celebration mode.

### STRIDE KIDZ REGISTER NOW

Good Afternoon Everyone!!! Today is the day you have all been waiting for!!!!

We hope you are all doing well and had an amazing holiday season.

Our spring season is almost here and we want to let you know that registration is officially open.

Please follow the link below to register.

We hope to see all of you.

VISIT <https://secure.rec1.com/GA/kennesaw-ga/catalog> Select Youth; scroll down to Youth Athletics, scroll to Stride Kidz Running Program. Register now, it starts March 10!

### TIPS FOR DATA BACKUP

For most of us, a large percentage of personal files include pictures and videos. We often max out data storage on phones and computers. Adam Alexander with My Digital Media Team LLC found a solution.

When Granmama came to Adam for a way to convert her VHS tapes to digital videos, Adam agreed he would find a way. He discovered a process to store digital media files in one location. Now, Granmama's memories are saved for future generations.

My Digital Media Team recommends backing up your data several times a year. The team will setup a private cloud network and transfer files from all your household devices to one storage location that you own in your home. There are no data storage fees or subscriptions.

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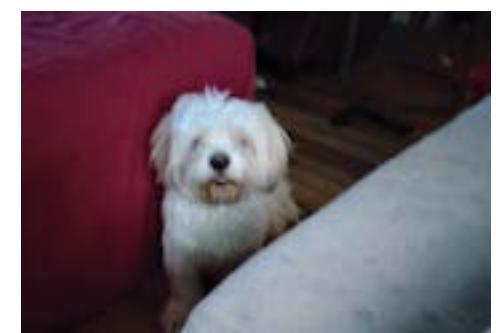
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\$1,250/month - Rooms for Rent (Powder Springs Area) Shared, Independent Home for Females only age 50+. Includes 3 meals daily and utilities. Peaceful environment and convenient location. Parking available. No pets. Contact Ms. Harvey: by email at: [shoneyharvey@gmail.com](mailto:shoneyharvey@gmail.com) or by calling her at 770-255-9983

### COBB LIBRARY SPRING 2026 BOOK SALE

The moment you've been waiting for is almost here! Join us at the Cobb Civic Center located at 548 South Marietta Pkwy SE from March 13-15, 2026, to shop thousands of books, DVDs, and puzzles priced from 10 cents to \$4.00.

We'll be open Friday and Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm and Sunday from 1 pm to 5 pm, featuring plenty of free parking and a special "Bring Your Own Box" flat-rate sale on Sunday. All proceeds directly support the Cobb County Public Library's 15 branches and bookmobile!



### PUPPIES FOR SALE

The cutest puppies: Bichon Frise and Maltese mix - \$800 a piece. Shots are up to date. Will be ready for their new home in about 2.5 weeks. Have Breed of Record Certificate. Call 678-918-7840 for more information.

### 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](http://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.

### NORTH COBB ROTARY

North Cobb Rotary meets at Copelands New Orleans every Thursday morning at 7:30 a.m., feel free to stop by in the coming weeks for great food, great fellowship. The meeting is held at Copeland's Restaurant 1142 Ernest W Barrett Pkwy NW, Kennesaw, GA 30144. Visit their website to learn more about this dynamic group. <https://northcobbrotary.org>.

**GEORGIA 14  
SPECIAL  
ELECTION**

EARLY VOTE BEGINS FEBRUARY 16TH

Visit [https://www.cobbcounty.gov/elections](http://www.cobbcounty.gov/elections), Click on voting, select the ballot under the graphic and see the list of 22 candidates running for Georgia Congressional District #14.



### ENJOY THIS MAGICAL JOURNEY DOWN THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD.

The Georgia Ballet invites you to experience the magic of The Wizard of Oz, coming to life on stage in a spellbinding production for audiences of all ages. This beloved story is reimagined through original choreography created exclusively for this production, blending classical ballet with expressive theatrical storytelling.

From Dorothy's journey through the Land of Oz to her unforgettable encounters with the Scarecrow, Tin Man, and Cowardly Lion, this production celebrates timeless themes of courage, compassion, friendship, and the true meaning of home. Immersive scenic design and imaginative world-building extend the experience beyond the stage, welcoming audiences into Oz from the moment they arrive.

As part of The Georgia Ballet's commitment to accessibility, a Sensory-Friendly Performance is offered, providing a relaxed and inclusive environment for patrons with sensory sensitivities and young children. We invite audiences of all ages to experience The Wizard of Oz—an unforgettable theatrical journey filled with heart and wonder.

#### Performance Dates & Times:

- Thursday, March 5 @ 7:00 PM (Sensory-Friendly Performance)
- Friday, March 6 @ 8:00 PM
- Saturday, March 7 @ 2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
- Sunday, March 8 @ 3:00 PM

Tickets are available at [www.georgiaballet.org/season](http://www.georgiaballet.org/season) or by calling the box office at (770) 528-0881. We encourage you to secure your seats early for this magical journey down the yellow brick road.



### ADVANCE DISCOUNT TICKETS ON SALE NOW 5TH ANNUAL GEORGIA FOOD + WINE FESTIVAL, PRESENTED BY GEORGIA GROWN

A world-class culinary and beverage celebration will take place March 27 - 29, 2026 at Jim R. Miller Park. The Georgia Food + Wine Festival, presented by Georgia Grown will be a showcase of cuisine, beverage and culture that showcases Georgia celebrity chefs, local chefs, artisans, farmers, local craft spirits and beers, along with renowned wine, spirits and beer brands from around the globe. The festival is excited to once again partner with Georgia Grown as the Title Sponsor. This amazing organization brings so much to the table, and the organizers look forward to partnering with them to spotlight the many facets of how Georgia Grown supports Georgia agribusinesses. Georgia Grown will be showcasing their members in a variety of ways, including a Georgia Grown Chef Demo stage, and the Georgia Grown Member Village. The festival offers a wide variety of events for all tastebuds and budgets, with a variety of tasting events, shopping, live music, and more. The festival will again team up with SafePath Children's Advocacy Center as their charitable partner.

The Georgia Food + Wine Festival takes place at Jim R. Miller Park, in Marietta, at 2245 Callaway Road, SW. Some fantastic savings on the Georgia Food + Wine Festival Early Bird Tickets are now on sale for a very limited time. VISIT <https://www.georgiafoodandwinefestival.com/> to purchase advance discount tickets and learn about the variety of events offered.

The Georgia Food + Wine Festival will take place March 27 - 29, 2026 with culinary, wine, beer and spirit tasting experiences, with schedule, events and talent subject to change. The most up to date festival information is available on the Georgia Food + Wine Festival website and the festival's social media channels: Facebook and Instagram. Please contact Missy Miller [missy@georgiafoodandwinefestival.com](mailto:missy@georgiafoodandwinefestival.com) for festival information, festival photography and assets.

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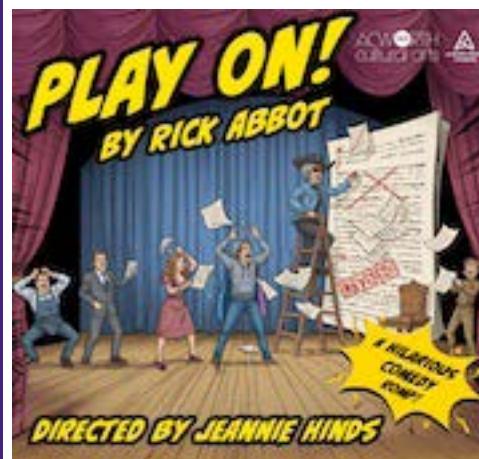
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Shows are Friday, February 20, 21 and 22, 2026 and February 27, 28 and March 1, 2026 • 8:00 PM

*at the Rena Henton Theatre,  
located in the Roberts School,  
4681 School Street, Acworth.*

### THE GEORGIA BALLET PRESENTS



#### *Performance Dates & Times:*

- **Thursday, March 5 @ 7:00 PM (Sensory-Friendly Performance)**
- **Friday, March 6 @ 8:00 PM**
- **Saturday, March 7 @ 2:00 PM & 8:00 PM**
- **Sunday, March 8 @ 3:00 PM**

**Tickets are available at [www.georgiaballet.org/season](http://www.georgiaballet.org/season) or by calling the box office at (770) 528-0881. We encourage you to secure your seats early for this magical journey down the yellow brick road.**

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## ACWORTH NEWS



### GRAND OPENING OF RENA HENTON THEATER

The City team joined Mayor Allegood and Acworth Cultural Arts on Thursday, January 15, for a ribbon cutting celebrating the grand opening of the Rena Henton Theatre at the Roberts School Community and Education Center.

The new black box theater is named after beloved Acworth resident, Rena Henton, who lived in her home on Cherokee Street for over 70 years before it was tragically destroyed by fire in 1988. Remembered as a familiar and caring presence to so many in the community, her story, resilience, and lasting impact on the quality of life in Acworth will be remembered for generations to come.

### ACWORTH'S WINTER BREAK: ART EXPLOSION CAMP

It's time to get those creative juices flowing! School is out but Our Art Explosion Camp has a full week of non-stop art experiments and activities. Each day of camp will focus on a different art medium like fabrics and dyes, paper, paint, clay and more! Prepare to roll up your sleeves and create your next masterpiece. Campers are encouraged to dress in clothing ready to get painted, stained and splattered! Fees cover the cost of all art materials, supplies and field trip admission. Camp will be held Monday, February 16, 2026 - Friday, February 20, 2026 SCHEDULE Daily Drop off - 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM; Camp Activity Time: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM; Daily Pick Up: 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM; Cost: \$150 R/ \$175 NR. This camp will be held at The Acworth Community Center 4361 Cherokee Street Acworth, GA 30101, To Register visit: CAMP REGISTRATION: VISIT: <https://secure.rec1.com/GA/acworth-parks-recreation/catalog/>. Select Acworth Community on the left side of the screen under location; select Youth under age group, scroll down until you see Winter Break 2026 and register. Register now til Feb 11. Or call Parks and Rec at 770- 917-1234 for help in registering.

### SPECIAL OLYMPICS GEORGIA POLAR PLUNGE

The Special Olympics Polar Plunge, hosted by the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Georgia, will take place at Acworth Beach at Cauble Park and returns on Saturday, February 21, 2026. Join the "coolest" event of the year!

The purpose behind the Polar Plunge is to support and spread awareness for the 17,429 Special Olympics Georgia athletes. The Polar Plunge is the largest fundraising effort benefiting Special Olympics. Many states across the nation participate in this annual event through the efforts of their Law Enforcement Torch Run program. The Polar Plunge is an official Law Enforcement Torch Run event. All proceeds collected by plungers will benefit the athletes of Special Olympics Georgia. Visit: [www.specialolympicsga.org](http://www.specialolympicsga.org) for more information on Special Olympics Georgia and to register. Join the Acworth City Team, or make a donation here!

### HORIZON BASEBALL LEAGUES

This is a Therapeutic Recreation program, and attendees will need a parent/caregiver (18 years or older) at this event to assist the participant. Register online at <https://secure.rec1.com/GA/acworth-parks-recreation/catalog>. Scroll down to the Horizon Special Needs section to register. All games are played at the Horizon Field (4000 South Main Street (Kenworth Park).

**Youth Horizon Baseball League** will be held Saturday, April 11th - Saturday, May 16th Time: 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM (Games are an hour long and maybe held at a different time each week). For ages Ages: 5-12. The Cost: \$15

**Teen Horizon Baseball League** will be held Saturday, April 11th - Saturday, May 16th Time: 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (Games are an hour long and maybe held at a different time each week). Cost: \$15. For Ages: 13-21

**Adult Horizon Baseball League** will be held Thursday, April 9th - Thursday, May 14th Time: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM. (Games are an hour long and maybe held at a different time each week). Cost: \$15. For Ages: 22 and up

The Horizon Baseball League is an adaptive baseball league open to all individuals ages 5 years and older with cognitive and physical disabilities. Games are non-competitive and each player on the roster gets on base before the opposing team gets a turn to bat. Youth and teen games are played throughout the day on Saturdays, and games for the adult league are played on Thursday nights. This is a non-competitive league and games consist of at least two innings. All athletes bat and score before the inning is over. The city of Acworth provides several activities in sports and the arts for our special needs population. For more information visit <https://secure.rec1.com/GA/acworth-parks-recreation/catalog> and scroll to the Horizon Special Needs section. For our teens (ages 13-21) and adults: games and fun include Clover Craze Bingo, Cornhole, Taekwon-Do, Bowing, Pop-up Games, A walking program to name a few.

**KEEP UP WITH WHAT'S GOING ON IN OUR COMMUNITY.  
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### KINESTHETIC LEARNING AT BROOKWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

What do you remember more and understand more? Is it something you read about or something you do? Why have students read about static electricity when they can put their hands on a Van de Graaff generator? Why have students read about the anatomy of an insect when they can dissect one?

With kinesthetic learning, abstract concepts become real world experiences. New pathways are actually created and reinforced in the brain when students have an active hand in their own learning.

Active learning helps students understand and retain information. It also develops problem-solving and critical thinking skills. Students are no longer passive observers but are more engaged while building confidence and autonomy

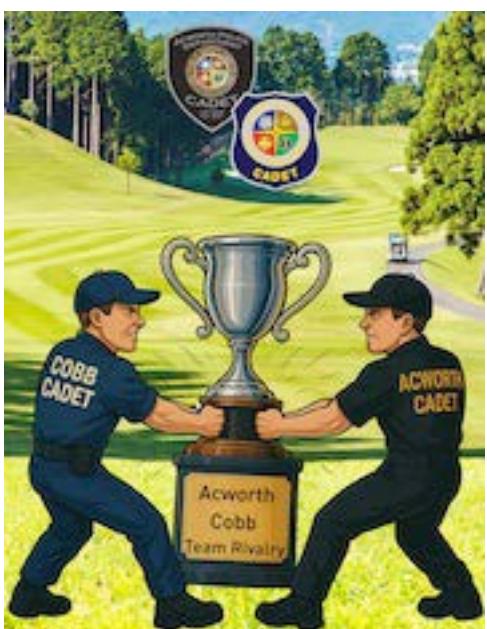
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### BROOKWOOD'S SPRING TEA & AUCTION

Join us for a delightful afternoon on Brookwood Christian School's beautiful campus (4728 Wood St, Acworth, GA 30101) on April 23th from 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM. Enjoy a delicious catered lunch, sip on refreshments, and bid on incredible auction items ranging from gift baskets to luxury vacations. Tickets are \$40 per person, which includes a catered lunch and access to the silent auction.

Our Spring Tea & Auction supports Brookwood Christian's scholarship fund, providing students with dyslexia the opportunity to succeed in a supportive learning environment. With a specialized curriculum and small class sizes, we help reduce literacy-related challenges that can lead to limited career opportunities and financial insecurity.

\$40/per ticket (includes a catered lunch & access to the silent auction) **For tickets, text TEA to 404-491-7724.**



### FAIRWAYS FOR THE FUTURE: PUBLIC SAFETY CADET GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Acworth and Cobb Public Safety Cadets have partnered to host their first annual golf tournament on . Proceeds will support both cadet units as they prepare for an upcoming national competition and help fund uniforms, equipment, and training needs. A portion of all proceeds will also be donated to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation in honor of an Acworth resident.

The tournament will be held at Cobblestone Golf Course with checkin at 7:45 and shotgun start at 9:00 am. The date of the event is Monday, March 16.

Readers may register to sponsor, volunteer, or play: <https://charitygolftoday.com/event?e=20476&ce=9fc8c8>

### ACWORTH EGG HUNT

The City of Acworth and Freedom Church would like to invite your family to experience an egg hunt like you've never seen before! The event will take place on Friday, March 27th at the Acworth Sports Complex Baseball Fields (4000 South Main St.) We will have concessions, family fun activities and photo opportunities before the hunt so make sure you arrive early.

This event will take place from 6:00 pm until 8:15 pm. It is for folks of all ages and is it a FREE Community Event. The Acworth Egg Hunt is broken down into five age groups and the start times will alternate between fields. Check the fields and times at [Visitacworth.com..](http://Visitacworth.com..)



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Bright Side page 8



## GEORGIA SQUATTERS BEWARE BY STATE REPRESENTATIVE DEVAN SEABAUGH

"We made significant progress with our code amendments in 2024, and HB 61 closes several loopholes that have continued to be exploited by criminals. This legislation strengthens property rights, supports law enforcement, and brings much-needed clarity to the law. I appreciate Senator Shawn Still and Senator John Albers help to champion this bill through the legislative process." Rep. Devan Seabaugh (R-Marietta)

Georgia HB 61 is moving in the Senate and will be closing the loopholes in our squatting laws that allow bad actors to exploit legal gray areas, harm property owners, and destabilize neighborhoods. These abuses burden homeowners, small landlords, law enforcement, and the courts, while undermining confidence in lawful property rights and due process.

Just as important are innkeeper reforms, especially with the world coming to Atlanta in June for the FIFA World Cup. Hotels and extended-stay properties need clear authority to address nonpaying occupants who overstay and exploit loopholes—protecting guests, workers, and public safety during a global event.

Closing these loopholes will restore fairness, reduce court backlogs, and ensure Georgia is ready to welcome visitors while safeguarding our communities and economy.

Closing these loopholes is pro-business, pro-family, and pro-community. Strong, fair laws protect property rights, support economic growth, keep neighborhoods safe, and

## CONGRATULATIONS TO SHAY NDERI, ON BEING CROWNED USOA MISS GEORGIA 2026

Congratulations to Shay Nderi, on being crowned USOA Miss Georgia 2026. Shay is 21 years of age and attends Chattahoochee Technical College in pursuit of a degree in Special Education. She currently works as a Registered Behavioral Therapist (RBT) in both community (schools, daycares, libraries, etc.) and home settings. She provides one-on-one applied behavioral analysis (ABA) therapy under the instruction and supervision of a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA).

Shay's platform is Autism Awareness. Her story with Autism is one that many share; her sister was diagnosed in 2020. Her family immediately began the process of ABA and IEPs. With those came different accommodations, different schools, different classrooms, but never a different love and care. They were determined to give her the best tools for success, and Shay believes that ABA offers that to many children.

While her message has always been Autism awareness, this new position along with the job she has had for a year Shay will be able to advocate not only for Awareness but has the knowledge of the next steps families need to take when faced with autism of a family member.



Shay is working with several churches in both Cobb and Fulton counties. Setting up support groups for families who can relate to the situations encountered, and who also understand the good days and milestones achieved as well as the hard days.

Her platform is also one that is rooted in faith. As we live in the bible belt, Shay urges us to remember the word as well as His promises. Our milestones are nothing short of testimonies. Shay would like to thank her family for believing in her throughout this journey, and to her friends and supporters for the consistent encouragement. She does not take it for granted.

## YOU ARE INVITED TO CELEBRATE

The City of Acworth and the Acworth Lake Authority would like to invite you to a ribbon cutting at Cauble Park (4425 Beach Street Acworth, GA 30101) to celebrate the completion of the first phase of the Lake Acworth Master Plan! The ribbon cutting will take place on Thursday, March 5th at 4:30 p.m.

The renovations to the park included removal and replacement of pavilions, expanded sidewalks, grading and landscaping of the great lawn, and the addition of individual shade structures and picnic areas. We are excited to share what the new space with the community!

We will have activities for the kids, as well as a DJ, so come a little early to enjoy the event!

We hope that you can join us for an exciting ribbon cutting!



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## LOUD SECURITY SYSTEMS PROMOTES ERIC WIDNER TO CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

LOUD Security Systems, Inc., one of Georgia's leading independently owned security providers, announced today the promotion of Eric Widner to Chief Operating Officer. Widner most recently served as General Manager and will now oversee companywide operations during a period of significant growth and transformation for the organization.

The promotion comes at a pivotal moment for LOUD Security Systems, as the company continues to expand through strategic acquisitions, workforce growth, and infrastructure investment, including the development of a new corporate headquarters and the addition of a second regional location in Warner Robins.

Eric Widner began his career with LOUD in 2003 as a Low-Voltage Technician, entering the industry with no prior security experience and learning the business from the ground up. He was promoted to Operations Manager in 2006, where he helped strengthen internal processes and support the company's early growth. In 2015, Widner was named General Manager, assuming responsibility for companywide operations and cross-departmental leadership.

"Eric's leadership has been instrumental to LOUD's success for more than two decades," said John Loud, President and Owner of LOUD Security Systems. "From navigating the housing downturn of 2007 to 2010 to guiding our teams through the challenges of COVID and supply-chain disruptions to helping us adapt to rapid changes in security technology and consumer expectations, Eric has consistently demonstrated the operational vision and steady leadership this role demands."

As Chief Operating Officer, Widner is positioned to navigate increasing changes in technology and lead the company's continued growth across both residential and commercial markets.

"As the industry continues to evolve, our focus remains on staying relevant, responsive, and reliable for our customers," Widner said. "I'm proud of how our team has navigated change, and I'm excited to help lead LOUD into its next phase of growth while preserving the culture and service standards that define who we are."

Widner is active in the community, where he and his wife, operate StrideKidz, a nonprofit running club for children focused on developing leadership, self-esteem and healthy living. Additionally, he is a 2022 graduate of Leadership Cobb, and currently serves on the Board of Trustees for Chattahoochee Technical College, and the Board of Advisors for the Georgia

## THE TOWN CENTER COMMUNITY IS THRIVING

BY TRACY STIF, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Since its founding in 1997, the Town Center Community Improvement District (CID) has proven that when the public and private sectors work together, incredible things can happen.

As I reflect on the past year, it's clear the Town Center Community is not only growing, it's thriving. With a \$12.6 billion annual impact on Cobb County and a \$16.2 billion contribution to Georgia's economy, Town Center remains one of the county's most dynamic economic engines. Our district supports more than 36,000 jobs, nearly 10 percent of all employment in Cobb County, and generates over \$238 million in annual public revenue that helps fund schools, transportation and vital community services.

Our current Master Plan outlines 15 projects totaling nearly \$100 million, positioning Town Center as a regional hub for employment, education, shopping and recreation. But the CID's mission extends beyond infrastructure, bringing together partners across sectors to create long-term community value. Every investment we make connects people to opportunities, neighborhoods to destinations and ideas to action.

In 2025, we celebrated major progress on the South Barrett Reliever Phase III, the largest infrastructure project in CID history. The project, set to open soon, will enhance connectivity across I-75, relieve congestion on Barrett Parkway by up to 22 percent during peak hours, and open new routes for local access and redevelopment.

Looking ahead to 2026, our focus will be on strengthening our assets, revenue streams and economic resilience. We will continue to raise funds, secure grants and reinvest CID dollars in projects that are strategic, impactful and fiscally responsible.

The transformation of aging retail corridors, such as the one fronting the Town Center at Cobb Mall, remains a top priority. Working closely with Cobb County, Kennesaw State University and other partners, we are re-imagining these areas as mixed-use, high-quality destinations that drive new investment and expand the tax base.

At the same time, we're advancing initiatives to study the Barrett Parkway, improve the George Busbee Parkway corridor and construct the Noonday Creek Trail Pedestrian Bridge, each representing a tangible investment in safety, access and mobility.

As we look toward 2026 and beyond, we must emphasize that none of the work we do or the successes we have happen in isolation. We partner with public and private entities like Cobb County, Kennesaw State University, Cobb Travel & Tourism, Kaiser Permanente, Avonlea and countless other sponsors and community groups to deliver results that benefit everyone.

In the coming years, Town Center is poised for its next major chapter. We're nearing completion of our Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) Plan, which will serve as the foundation for our new Master Plan—a blueprint for how our community will grow and thrive over the next three decades.

The LCI Plan is helping us reimagine land use, housing and mobility with an eye toward balance, innovation and inclusivity. The Master Plan will carry that work forward, charting a course that sustains economic growth while strengthening livability and connectivity.

With the FIFA 2026 World Cup bringing international attention to KSU and our region, Town Center will be ready to showcase what makes this community shine: strong partnerships, creative leadership and a shared vision for a connected, vibrant future.

Our story is still being written, but the momentum is undeniable. Together, we're building a community that is invested, connected and thriving today and for generations to come.



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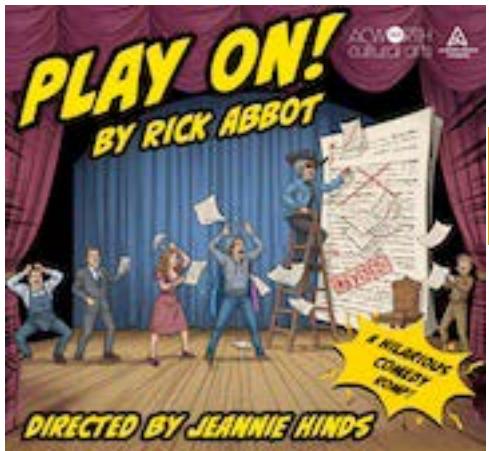
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*at the Rena Henton Theatre, located in the Roberts School, 4681 School Street, Acworth.*

## THE GEORGIA BALLET PRESENTS



### **Performance Dates & Times:**

- **Thursday, March 5 @ 7:00 PM (Sensory-Friendly Performance)**
- **Friday, March 6 @ 8:00 PM**
- **Saturday, March 7 @ 2:00 PM & 8:00 PM**
- **Sunday, March 8 @ 3:00 PM**

**Tickets are available at [www.georgiaballet.org/](http://www.georgiaballet.org/) season or by calling the box office at (770) 528-0881. We encourage you to secure your seats early for this magical journey down the yellow brick road.**

## MARIETTA NEWS

### CREATING CHILD-FRIENDLY INTERVIEW SPACE MARIETTA POLICE PARTNER WITH MARIETTA HIGH SCHOOL ARTISTS TO CREATE CHILD-FRIENDLY INTERVIEW SPACE

The Marietta Police Department (MPD) is proud to unveil a newly transformed interview room designed specifically to support the department's youngest and most vulnerable community members. The room, which features a very detailed and vibrant new mural, was made possible through a volunteer collaboration with Marietta High School art teachers and students.

Recognizing that police department environments can be intimidating for children, especially those who have been victims of crimes, the MPD sought to create a space that feels warm, inviting, and safe.

Art teachers Amanda Rudolph and Katherine Robinson, along with the artistic student members of the National Art Honor Society (NAHS), dedicated their time and skills over several work sessions to bring this vision to life. The mural replaces the once stark walls with a calming atmosphere intended to reduce anxiety during sensitive interviews.

Our goal at MPD is to ensure that every child who walks through our doors feels protected and heard, and we are incredibly grateful to Ms. Rudolph, Ms. Robinson, and all the NAHS students for using their talents to help us provide a more compassionate environment for children in crisis.

The Marietta Police Department extends its deepest thanks to the Marietta City Schools community for their partnership in this project.



### POP-IN AT MARIETTA HISTORY CENTER

The February Pop-In of 2026 will be held on February 21st with a focus on Black Inventors with themed crafts and activities for all ages. These engaging and educational events will take place on the third Saturday of every month, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Designed for children and their families, Pop-Ins feature fun and interactive activities and crafts, each centered around a unique theme. Marietta History Center, is located at 1 Depot Street, Marietta, GA 30060. No charge thanks to the generous sponsorship of Cauthorn, Owen, and Sanders.

### MARIETTA HISTORY CENTER AT 30 MARIETTA HISTORY CENTER CELEBRATES THREE DECADES OF STORYTELLING WITH NEW ANNIVERSARY EXHIBIT:

The Marietta History Center is proud to announce the opening of its landmark 30th-anniversary exhibition, "Marietta History Center at 30." This retrospective journey traces the museum's evolution from its 1996 founding to its status today as Marietta and Cobb County's home for history, housed within the historic Kennesaw House.

The exhibition is organized into four chronological chapters that mirror the museum's rise over three decades. Beyond just a timeline of events, the exhibit offers a rare look at the "inner workings" of the museum. Visitors will be introduced to essential museum concepts, including the importance of volunteers and how artifacts are accepted into the permanent collection.

A special area of focus in the exhibit is the Kennesaw House itself. Originally built in the 1840s as a cotton warehouse and later transformed into the Fletcher House hotel, the building famously survived the Civil War and the burning of Marietta. "Thirty years ago, we began a new museum in this historic landmark," says Amy Reed, Museum Director. "By starting the museum in this space, we ensured that the building's history would be protected right alongside the artifacts we house."

Through this anniversary exhibition, we celebrate thirty years of preserving our collective memory and reaffirm our commitment to being the stewards of the stories that define us. This celebration aligns with our mission to ignite curiosity in Marietta's history by connecting people through compelling stories and engaging experiences. We invite the public to join us in honoring our past as we look forward to the next thirty years of discovery.

Marietta History Center is located at 1 Depot Street, Marietta, GA 30060. The exhibit is on display now through late Fall 2026. Tickets are as follows: Adults-\$10.00, Students & Seniors (60+)-\$7.00. Members, Children under 5 & Active Military and Veterans are Free. Scheduled Guided Tours (10 or more persons) are \$10.00 per person

### MARIETTA POWER MAINTAINS CURRENT ELECTRIC RATES FOR 2026

Marietta Power is pleased to announce that there is no planned electric rate increase for 2026, allowing residential and business customers to continue benefitting from low and competitive electrical rates. This decision, which provides stable rates for the coming year to Marietta Power customers, is particularly notable as many other electrical providers across the state are implementing rate increases.

For 12 of the last 13 years, Marietta Power has not implemented a rate increase while continuing to deliver reliable, high-quality service to its customers. This practice of not regularly raising rates has resulted in Marietta Power's current ranking of 2nd lowest among all providers in the State of Georgia Public Service Commission's Residential Rate Survey for average home usage. This survey compares electric service providers across Georgia by evaluating costs based on total electric bill amounts for typical residential usage levels. This ranking demonstrates Marietta Power's continued commitment to competitive rates and excellence as a municipal power provider.

"Our Board of Lights and Water remains committed to excellence in electrical deliverance and competitive rates and keeping rates stable another year reflects such," said Mayor Steve Tumlin, Chairman of the Marietta Board of Lights and Water. "We have absorbed wholesale cost increases to hold rates steady for our customers, while continuing to provide reliable service. Marietta Power remains among the lowest-cost electric providers in the state without compromising quality."

**MARCH DEADLINE IS WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 25**

## REGISTER FOR THE ANNUAL NOONDAY SHANTY



REGISTER AND learn more visit: <https://www.towncentercid.com/noonday-shanty>

### MARIETTA SHAMROCK SHUFFLE

Get ready to lace up for the 10th Annual Marietta Shamrock Shuffle 5K Walk/Run, hosted by the Marietta Police Athletic League - PAL. This beloved St. Patrick's Day-themed event and official Peachtree Road Race Qualifier will take place on Saturday, March 21, 2026, at 8:00 AM (warm-up begins at 7:30 AM) at Marietta Square, 75 East Park Square, Marietta, GA.

Registration Details: • Register or donate today at <https://brnw.ch/21wZvpL>; • Registration Fee: \$45 • Onsite registration: Opens at 7:00 AM on race day • Early packet pickup: Thursday, March 19, 2026, 10:00AM – 7:00 PM at the Hugh L. Grogan Jr. Community Center, 510 Lawrence Street, Marietta.



### CONGRATULATIONS NCHS STUDENTS

These four students just recently signed to play their sport at follows. Awesome achievement.

Left to right: Jude Blessington – Football (Georgia Military College); Sebastian Easley – Football (Southeast Louisiana University); Malaya Alvarez – Flag Football (Wesleyan College); Jordyn Cowan – Flag Football & Basketball (Wesleyan College)

### TRUE SPEC GOLF AT GOVERNOR'S TOWNE CLUB

True Spec Golf, the global leader in custom club fitting and club building, is opening its newest location at Governors Towne Club. True Spec North Georgia has moved from its original location in Cartersville and is now open to the public and booking appointments for fittings. This undertaking is the latest in a growing number of partnerships that brings True Spec's bespoke fittings and best-in-class customer service to prominent venues around the country.

True Spec North Georgia is home to one of True Spec's signature state-of-the-art mobile fitting units and is slated to become a full indoor-to-outdoor studio in the future. The premium facility utilizes Foresight GCQuad technology and features True Spec's brand-agnostic fitting matrix of over 70,000 clubhead and shaft combinations from every major equipment manufacturer. That functionality enables True Spec's master club fitters with the ability to find the best equipment to improve a player's game. Each club is custom built at True Spec's Scottsdale headquarters to the exact specifications derived from the club fitting process.

Consistently ranked by GOLF Magazine and Golf Digest as one of America's top club fitters, True Spec's master builders are the nation's undisputed leader in luxury club fitting.

True Spec North Georgia is located at 4545 Champions Walk Dr, Acworth, GA. Fitting sessions range from \$125 to \$375 for a full bag fitting. To book a custom fitting appointment, golfers can visit <https://www.truespecgolf.com/>.

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

### GOLF TOURNAMENT - MARCH 30

The Saint Catherine's Parish Knights of Columbus annual Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, March 30, 2026 at the Pinetree Country Club, Kennesaw. Registration begins at 9:00 am with a Shot Gun Start at 10:00 am. The fee is \$520.00 for a four person team; A Single Golfer \$130.00. We have numerous Sponsorships Opportunities: including Hole-Sponsorships: Tee Box Signs \$100.00 each.

EMAIL OR CALL and ask about other available Sponsorships. Please contact Chuck Guta, [cgeagle6@bellsouth.net](mailto:cgeagle6@bellsouth.net) Or call (404) 805-3218 or contact Don Cazeaux, [cazeauxdon@gmail.com](mailto:cazeauxdon@gmail.com) Or call (678) 361-0612.



### About Us

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Call 770-425-5060 or email at [deercreekgunshop@gmail.com](mailto:deercreekgunshop@gmail.com).

Deercreek Gun Shop is celebrating their first anniversary at their new location in Kennesaw!



## DONALD MASSARO, JR HAS PASSED AWAY

Donald Massaro, Jr, age 63, of Kennesaw, GA passed away peacefully on January 24, 2026. He was preceded in death by his parents, Donald Massaro, Sr., and Betty Massaro. He is survived by his daughter, Alexandra Massaro; brother, Tim Massaro and wife Jen Massaro; and sister, Chris Yost and brother-in-law, Tom Yost. He also leaves behind beloved Massaro nephews: Brandon, Brian, Jason and Kevin, and many other family and friends.

Born in Struthers, OH, Don was a devoted father, loyal friend, and respected business owner. He found so much joy in riding his motorcycle through the mountains and backroads with his friends, cheering for the Steelers and Braves, and spending time on any body of water. He most cherished time with his daughter Alex, including their weekly cornhole league, calling their time together "priceless".

Don proudly served his community in countless ways. He volunteered with the Cobb Humane Society and MUST Ministries, rang the bell for the Salvation Army, pulled people out of ditches and off the side of the road on snow and ice days, and so much more. He was a proud Kiwanian and Leadership Cobb Alumni and cherished the Cobb County community.

Don owned and operated Integrity Extinguisher alongside his nephew, Jason, with pride. He loved going to work every day and truly valued the relationships he built with his customers, and many were true friends. Don will be remembered as generous, selfless, and considerate... with the best sense of humor and wit.

We will honor and celebrate Don's life on Sunday, February 8th. Southern Cycles will give Don a final memorial ride to arrive at Mayes Ward Dobbins Historic Marietta Chapel by 1:30pm, then a celebration of life service will be held at 2:00pm. The family will host a celebration of life reception at The Brickyard immediately following the service. In lieu of flowers and in honor of Don's heart for service, memorial donations may be made to the Cobb Humane Society or MUST Ministries.

Editor's Note: Having to publish this makes me so sad for his family and friends. He was well liked and involved in our community. Rest in peace, Don.

**THE BRIGHT SIDE NEWSPAPER IS ONLINE**  
[WWW.BRIGHTSIDENEWS.COM](http://WWW.BRIGHTSIDENEWS.COM)  
**SELECT BRIGHTSIDENEWS ONLINE FROM MENU**

## ACWORTH BUSINESS ASSOCIATION By ABA PRESIDENT Alicia Todisco



The Acworth Business Association (ABA) started the new year with a clear mission. At our first lunch meeting of 2026, we introduced an inspiring theme for the year: "Building Your Legacy".

While many people think a legacy is only found at the end of a career, I would challenge that view. I believe a legacy is built every single day through our intentional actions. The connections people make can be powerful when we find others with similar values.

### CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY

For January, the focus was on connecting with the community. As the ABA President I want to encourage business owners to think of networking as a way to share our goals, not just a way to "get" new customers or leads. By sharing our business's mission, local owners can find partners who want to help achieve those goals.

Our purpose is more powerful when it is shared. The ABA helps connect business owners with local leaders and other entrepreneurs who can help us build momentum. This teamwork can turn a small business goal into a "community movement".

### A CHALLENGE FOR 2026

Instead of just talking about what your business does, talk about the impact you want to have this year. By working together, Acworth businesses can start building a legacy that makes the whole community better for everyone.

### GET INVOLVED WITH ABA:

Local business professionals, we would love for you to join us this month to learn more. Our very own Mayor Tommy Allegood addressed the association at the February luncheon and shared his perspective on how he has built a 25-year legacy by intention and great community leadership. Our next luncheon is March 5, at 11:30-1:00, please register at the [www.AcworthBusiness.org](http://www.AcworthBusiness.org) events page.

### ACWORTH BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

**THUR FEB 12 ACWORTH ALIVE AFTER 5** Join the ABA for after hours food, fun and networking at Broken Anchor 3335 Cobb Parkway. This event is free for ABA Members, \$5 for Guests RSVP at [www.acworthbusiness.org](http://www.acworthbusiness.org) for more information.

**THUR FEB 19 WOMEN'S LUNCHEON** LUNCHEON - 11:30-1:00 at The Cowan. Guest Speaker Rhoda Hendrix Please RSVP at [www.acworthbusiness.org](http://www.acworthbusiness.org). Member is \$20.00.

**THUR MAR 5 ACWORTH A BALUNCHEON** -11:30-1:00 ACWORTH COMMUNITY CENTER. SPONSORED by Ace Handyman Services and Catered by Sourthern Events. Please visit acworth's website for more information and to RSVP [acworthbusiness.org](http://www.acworthbusiness.org)

### KENNESAW BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

**TUES FEB 17 ALIVE AFTER FIVE** 5:30-7:30 AT THE LACY at South Main, 2652 S. Main, This event is free for KBA members and \$5 for guests.

**TUES MAR 10 KBA LUNCHEON** - 11:00-1:00 GOVERNOR'S GUN CLUB, 1005 Cobb Place Blvd, Kennesaw Guest Speaker: Melissa Cantrell CDH Architecture Partners CEO If you choose not to register in advance, you will pay an additional \$10 at the door. SPONSOR Horrace Mann, Caterer Carrabbas Italian Grill. RSVP at [www.kennesawbusiness.org](http://www.kennesawbusiness.org)

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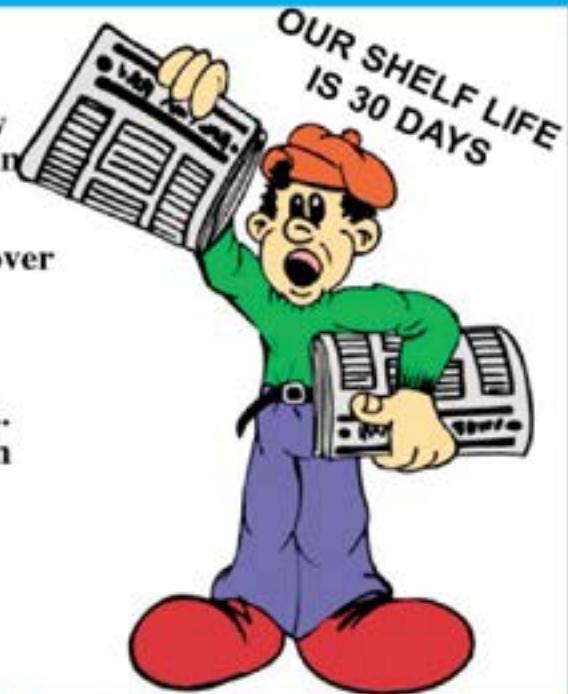
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# The Bright Side

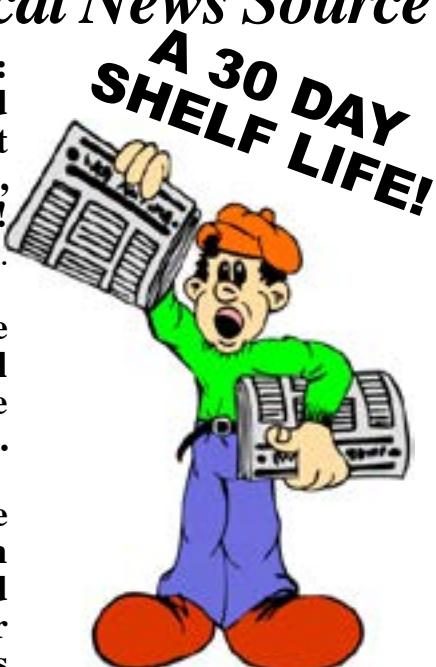
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- **JOIN US!:** The Bright Side Newspaper is filled with positive LOCAL news and events about people in our community. Check what's going on, where ever you are.



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