



Gwinnett County's community forum and idea exchange

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Wednesday, December 7, 2022

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December 6, 2022 7:21 am

GwinnettForum | Number 21.92, Dec. 6, 2022



LIGHT ABOUND in the darkness around this year's Christmas tree at Gwinnett's Historic Courthouse in Lawrenceville. Roving photographer Frank Sharp features the tree in brightness, while he outlines the tower of the old courthouse in this distinctive presentation.

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SPOTLIGHT: Lail Family Dentistry

GWINNETT FORUM | DEC. 6, 2022

"I told the doctor I broke my leg in two places. He told me to quit going to those places.



–British born American comedian Henry Youngman (1906-1998)

RECENT DEATHS



[Johnnie Mae Alexander](#)

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CONTINUING OBJECTIVES

Gwinnett Forum publisher Elliott Brack suggests that Gwinnett County needs a long-range list of continuing objectives for improving the county. His list:



1. Move statewide non-partisan judge election runoffs to the General Election.

FEEDBACK: Pearl earring painter and hay baler have something in common

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LAGNIAPPE: DAR chapter presents awards to Johnson and Lawrenceville Co-op

CALENDAR: Festival of Trees continues at the Southeastern Railway Museum in Duluth

TODAY'S FOCUS

Sound off to Congress about reducing all our drug costs

By Jack Bernard, contributing columnist

PEACHTREE CITY, Ga. | Congress and President Biden are to be commended for beginning to negotiate some drug prices for Medicare beneficiaries under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). We wonder why did it take so long and why isn't the drug negotiation benefit more comprehensive?

To know the answers, we should first look at the history of the Medicare program, which was finally created under the LBJ administration, and then for seniors only.



**JACK
BERNARD**

FDR, Truman and JFK wanted Medicare for All, not just seniors, but failed due to Dixiecrat and Republican opposition. The American Medical Association called it "socialism", as did Reagan and Nixon in the early 60s. But political wheeler-dealer LBJ pushed through an age limited program as an exclusive benefit for the elderly.

The Medicare Part D outpatient drug benefit itself is relatively recent. It goes back to the George W. Bush administration, which pushed it through Congress in 2003 with the help of both key Republicans and Democrats. It took effect in 2006. It was initially unpopular, with 56 percent of the public opposing it.

"Privatization" was one key factor in President George W. getting his fellow Republicans to buy into the creation of Part D. Medicare D requires an enrollee to contract annually with a private insurance company which negotiates prices for some drugs (not all), charging premiums and deductibles to the enrollee).

To their credit, Biden and Congressional Democrats pushed through the Inflation Reduction Act, the biggest improvement ever to Medicare Part D. Not a single GOP House representative or senator voted for Medicare to negotiate drug prices.

However, there remains a lack of drug negotiations for all drugs. Plus, implementation starts in 2026... and even then, only 10 drugs are initially covered with the number slowly increasing over many years.

That date can and should be moved up. Further, all important drugs should be covered.

Medicare drug costs must be reduced with all deliberate speed. This cost reduction can be accomplished by simply expanding the national drug negotiations currently conducted by

- MARTA rail for Gwinnett from Doraville station to Gwinnett Arena.
- More creative efforts to support the arts in Gwinnett.
- Advancement and expansion of city historical societies.
- Require establishments that serve alcoholic beverages to halt sales of such products at 2 a.m., and close by 3 a.m.
- Require the Georgia Legislature to meet only once every two years.
- 21st century salary for the Gwinnett County Commission members.
- Remove chewing gum on sidewalks at entrances of post offices and other governmental buildings.
- Eliminate single-use plastic packaging and straws in Gwinnett and require instead the use of paper products.

INTERESTED IN GWINNETT HISTORY?

Now re-printed in its third edition, **Gwinnett: A Little Above Atlanta**, the award-winning history of Gwinnett County, is once again available for purchase. It had sold out of its first two printings. The book won the 2010 Award of Excellence in Documenting Georgia History from the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board. The book is available at **Liberty Books**, on the Historic Courthouse Square, in Lawrenceville. The hardback is also available at **Old Town Antiques** in Lilburn.



The history of Gwinnett is also available as an e-book from [Amazon](#) or [Barnes and Noble](#) for \$9.95.

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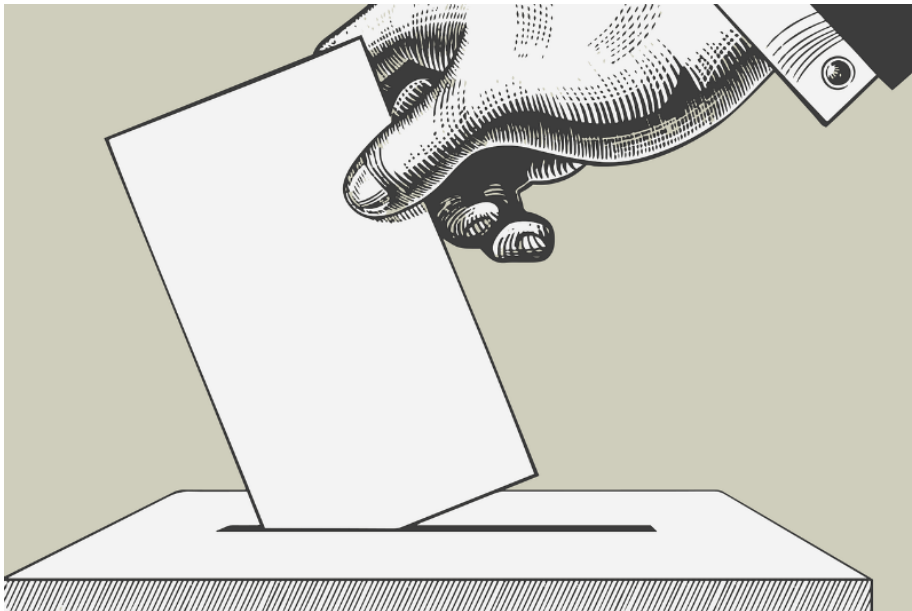
the Veterans Administration, as well as many well-established private entities (called Group Purchasing Organizations- like Premier, Inc. and Vizient) which already purchase billions via existing contracts. The only thing standing in the way is the undue influence of self-interested Big Pharma which has traditionally bought off American politicians of both parties.

With 1,745 lobbyists-most former government employees, including former congressmen of both parties, Big Pharma has a virtual army of lobbyists. Just last year, it spent \$357 million on lobbying.

The situation can change, but only if we put pressure on our elected officials. Sounds off to Georgia's Congressmen and Senators to introduce legislation to speed things up and cover all drugs. Let them know where you stand so that all Americans can get reasonably priced drugs, which will be good for our overall economy and country.

EEB PERSPECTIVE

Fraud? Or framing the mind to see what is just not there



By Elliott Brack

Editor and Publisher, GwinnettForum

DEC. 6, 2022 | The caller's request was simple. She wanted to report election fraud.

The call came during the 2022 General Election Early Voting, as she asked: "Is this the place where I can report voter fraud?"

Perplexed as to why she was calling *GwinnettForum*, I asked of her: "Why are you calling this number?"

She responded vaguely: "Someone said you would know what to do with it."

Therefore, it was with some intrigue that I said: "Tell me about it."

She began: "There's this guy at Killian Hill and Five Forks Road doing it," she said.

"Exactly what is he doing?"



**ELLIOTT
BRACK**

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RECENT FULL ISSUES



[NEW for 12/6: On drug costs, voter fraud and America's challenges](#)



[NEW for 12/2: PCH's good news: Baker's strategy; more](#)



[NEW for 11/29: On PCH miracle and ranked-choice voting](#)



[NEW for 11/22: On cost of living, Stacey Abrams and wealth taxes](#)

LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES

Little Free Libraries dot Gwinnett County. [Click here](#) to see photos of one that may be near your neighborhood or [search by zip code](#).

AWARD



“He’s parked at that intersection, has the trunk of his car opened, and has this sign that reads ‘Cast your vote,’ and that worries me. He’s collecting votes and that is election fraud.” The lady said this in a most rational manner, very concerned at what she saw. “I just think he needs to be reported,” she added.

After that we began to ask a few more questions. We learned that she had moved to Gwinnett from New Jersey many years ago since her two brothers had found jobs in the area. She was now retired, and was most content to have lived here all these years. She had voted in each year’s election, and had never seen something like this ‘voter fraud’ before.

Here’s the way we ventured from this point. We explained that while she saw what may have been something different for her, we didn’t think this amounted necessarily to voter fraud. “We think that one of the candidates is paying that guy to tell people that they need to get out and vote. After all, there’s no way one person can collect lots of ballots and take them into the voting precincts and cast them for another person. There’s no provision for this. The voting officials would never allow this. He’s just encouraging people to vote.”

By now, the lady seemed less disturbed by what she saw. We asked her to call back if she thought she saw anything else like this before the General Election. She was much more calm by the time the call ended.

What bugged me about this call was not the perceived voter fraud. Our elections laws are tight enough that would not allow an individual to haul in lots of votes and get them cast.

What bugged me is that people like this lady are so surrounded by allegations of stolen elections, unregistered people voting, ballot tampering, and the possibility of fraud in our midst, that thoughts of illegal situations are creeping into their minds.

All this has been caused by the outright lies that certain people are telling as truths, and some people believing. All of a sudden, some are caught up in these instances of misinformation, to the point that they see situations before them....and make interpretations in their minds from it, that are just not right. Without realizing it, they have been conditioned to the point that they can’t recognize what is actually happening, but are moved to a false assumption. Their minds are so confused by today’s world that they see what is not there.

You wonder how long it will be before our country is back to more sanity, so that people’s minds won’t be whipped into widespread false assumptions. The person with the voter fraud thought was conditioned to see something that was just not there.

Then you wonder how all this influenced her vote.

- *Have a comment? Send to: elliott@brack.net*

[ANOTHER VIEW](#)

America faces challenges no matter who is in control

By Gordon Watts

PLANT CITY, Fla.—Regardless of who wins the remaining midterms, or which party gets

control of the House, Senate or Oval office, America faces challenges. Georgia, especially, faces multiple challenges. Among them:

- *Business Insider* reports 19 states have higher student-loan debt than annual budgets. Georgia ranks highest among the states, with a state budget slightly more than \$48 billion but Georgians' total federal student debt is about \$82 billion! (Could this be why there was no "red wave" in Georgia's last two senatorial elections?)
- Moreover, 45 million Americans face unbearable student debt; another 50-60 million are cosigners/family, for a total of well over a hundred million. Today students don't have affordable college like their parents/grandparents did.
- Black Americans have twice as much student debt and three times the default rate as the national average. With student debt over \$2 trillion, it's almost 10 percent of total U.S. debt. The largest discretionary spending, Social Security and defense spending, are larger, but not discretionary.



Reasonable minds can disagree on Biden's "forgiveness" plan, but even if it survives court challenges, this isn't a long term solution. When the last pause expires, what then?

A long-term solution would return standard consumer protections, like bankruptcy, to student loans, as all other debt has. Currently-enrolled legislation would do so. The bipartisan Durbin/Cornyn/Hawley bill, and Steve Cohen's resolution for private student loans; and Rick Scott's claw-back bill, are all worth a look.

These expire on December 15 when the Democratic-controlled House goes on Christmas break and Republicans take over. I'm Republican, but I'm Christian first, and let's be honest: modern-day Republicans are hypocrites and want protection for themselves and rich cronies, but not poor students. If these bills don't pass in a Democratic Congress, you can forget a GOP solution!

Bankruptcy Uniformity isn't a liberal free handout but rather required by the US Constitution's Uniformity clause. It's also a part of the Democratic party platform.

STUDENT LOAN JUSTICE on the Internet, supports bankruptcy uniformity as our Founding Forefathers called for. About half our members are conservatives and fed up with "big government" swamp of the Department of Education failed student lending scam.

Students have more-than fully repaid taxpayers, this even at illegally-inflated price-gouging levels.

Taxpayers actually owe students (and rich colleges owe both taxpayers and students), so the least we can do is obey our constitution. These four bills need to pass before Congress goes on Christmas break or else it likely won't get done never-ever, when Republicans take over the House.

Moreover, the Republican Party platform prohibits federal tax dollars from originating student loans. But no GOP lawmakers even attempt to fix this. Returning to allow

students to declare bankruptcy is the only way to tamp down excessive originations by the liberal Department of Education.

Disagree? Then explain why GOP lawmakers haven't attempted such cuts! Otherwise, demand lawmakers return bankruptcy as a needed Free Market check on profligate/irresponsible lending by the Department of Education to avoid crashing the dollar.

- Have a comment? Send to: elliott@brack.net

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Lail Family Dentistry

The public spiritedness of our sponsors allows us to bring



Dr. Slade Lail and his team

GwinnettForum.com to you at no cost to readers. Lail Family Dentistry has been serving the community in Duluth and Gwinnett County for 50 years. Being the longest serving dental practice in the county, our roots run deep within our community and will continue to do so for generations to come. The doctors at Lail Family Dentistry are all members of the Lail family and are here to provide for you and yours.

If you are in search of a traditional, hometown dentist that utilizes the latest dental techniques and technology while also exemplifying the utmost sense of professionalism, timeliness, and hospitality, we would be glad to welcome you to our practice. For more information, please visit our website at drlail.com or phone (770) 476-2400.

- For a list of other sponsors of this forum, [click here](#).

FEEDBACK

Pearl earring painter and hay baler have something in common

Editor, the Forum:

To many this painting, *The Girl with the Pearl Earring*, is from a famous Dutch painter, Vermeer, and today a movie starring Scarlett Johansen. But it is also the name of the best hay baling system pulled behind a tractor. The Vermeer bailer is known for its high efficiency and low energy needs for the tractor. One can see them on the five million acres of Georgia fields of Eastern Coastal Bermuda, the best hay.





You probably know that one first cuts the hay leaving it in the field in a row to dry, then this unit rolls it into those cylinders we see in the fields.

When I lived in Ohio, farmers were suffering from a drought in the South and bluegrass hay was sent to help them. Years later the good deed was returned by southern farmers when drought hit the Midwest. The local farmers commented about the high quality of the southern hay. So think of feeding livestock when you see the painting with the girl with the pearl earring.

– Byron Gilbert, Duluth

Send us your thoughts: We encourage you to send us your letters and thoughts on issues raised in GwinnettForum. Please limit comments to 300 words, and include your hometown. The views of letters are the opinion of the contributor. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and length. Send feedback and letters to: elliott@brack.net.

UPCOMING

Gwinnett Chamber's 5-star accreditation among tops in nation

The Gwinnett Chamber has earned its Five-Star Accreditation from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the highest designation achievable in the chamber industry, nationwide. This designation, which makes history as a “first” for the Gwinnett Chamber, was awarded for the organization’s sound policies, effective procedures, and positive impact on the community.



Gwinnett Chamber

The Gwinnett Chamber worked through a six-month process to complete a 200-plus page application measuring the organization’s activity from 2019-2021 across 9 different areas including Communications, Finance, Governance, Facilities, Human Resources, Program

Development, Technology, Benchmarking, and Government Affairs. Of the 7,000-plus chambers of commerce across the nation, only 201 are accredited with any designation, and even fewer have received Five-Star status. The Gwinnett Chamber is now among the top one percent that has achieved Five-Star Accreditation.

“This designation affirms the highest level of industry integrity, financial responsibility, and trust that our organization has worked diligently over the last few years to achieve,” said Nick Masino, President and CEO, Gwinnett Chamber and Partnership Gwinnett. “Our members, investors, leaders, and staff are all deserving of this recognition, and we are honored to be ranked among the nation’s best when it comes to our mission of championing business.”

Credit union plans to award \$225,000 in scholarships and grants

The Peach State Federal Credit Union C.A.R.E.S. Foundation has announced it is now accepting applications for its 2023 scholarship program. This year, the foundation will be awarding over \$225,000 in scholarships and educational grants to emerging professionals and graduating high school seniors attending post-secondary studies.

Demitra Houlis, Peach State’s chief administrative officer and Foundation president, says:

“We’re committed to helping our neighbors improve their financial well-being. This includes being able to afford attending or sending a child to college in pursuit of building a better future.”

Among the students getting the awards included those at Georgia Gwinnett College, Gwinnett County Public Schools and Gwinnett Technical College. To view the complete list of available scholarships, eligibility criteria and to apply, visit www.peachstatefcu.org/scholarships. Recipients of the annual program will be announced spring of 2023.

NOTABLE

Norcross offers grants to firms hit hard by pandemic

The City of Norcross, in partnership with Access to Capital for Entrepreneurs (ACE), has launched the Small Business Grant Program. The program will provide \$600,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to qualified small businesses to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19.



The ARPA Small Business Grant Program will provide financial assistance for businesses that have been negatively impacted by the pandemic, stabilize and sustain Norcross businesses and ensure they can retain employees. The

program will offer grants of \$10,000 or \$15,000 to qualified small businesses within the city limits of Norcross. The funds may be used for operating expenses, including rent, utility bills, payroll and other qualifying expenses.

To qualify, businesses must meet certain criteria, including having an active City of Norcross Business License for years 2019–2021, the ability to demonstrate an annual revenue decline of 25 percent or more for tax years 2019 and 2020, being recognized as a domestic corporation in good standing in the State of Georgia and more.

Applicants must demonstrate both need, and appropriate use of funds, by submitting appropriate financial documentation and receipts. If the city receives more applications than funds are available, it will select awardees via a lottery system. The grant application process launches on December 1, 2022, and ends at noon on January 3, 2023. For more information or to apply, visit norcrossga.net/2214/ARPA-Small-Business-Grant-Program.

Jackson EMC margin refunds total \$15 million

Approximately 221,000 current and former members of Jackson EMC will receive their share of a total of \$15 million in margin refund checks in December. Checks are being mailed this month.

Jackson EMC Board Chairman Otis P. Jones of Buford says: “One of the key benefits of being a member of an electric cooperative is margin refunds. Our members are owners of a not-for-profit cooperative. At the end of the year, they are eligible to receive a portion of the funds left over after all of the co-op’s expenses are paid. That money is called margin refunds, and your board is proud to be able to return it to our members.”



Margins are refunded for a combination of years, so former, long-term and newer members benefit from belonging to an electric cooperative. This year, margin refunds will go to those who received electric service from Jackson EMC in 1994, 1995, 1996 and/or 2021. The amount of each member's refund check is based on the amount each member paid for electric service during those years.

- Have a comment? Send to: elliott@brack.net

OBITUARIES

Johnnie Mae Alexander

Johnnie Mae Alexander, 91, of Lawrenceville, died on Saturday, November 12, 2022 after a short illness. She was preceded in death by her husband of 61 years, John David Alexander on August 8, 2013.



Alexander

She is survived by two sons and daughters-in-law; David and Melody Alexander, Jefferson and Linda Alexander; grandson, Jefferson Alexander, Jr.; granddaughter, Stephanie Alexander, and granddaughter, Katherine Alexander; sisters-in-law, Betty Alexander and Jeannie Alexander; brother-in-law, Gerald Cowie; nieces and nephews, Gennie and Bob Whitaker, Carol and Karl Frederick, Dr. Dale and Allie Hunter, Jr., Karen and Rick Wells, Jane and Vince Egelston, Lynn and Ron Mikulka,

Nancy and Dan Carlton, Natalie and John Faulkner, Tracy and Laila Alexander, Greg and Jada Alexander, Seth Alexander; other relatives and a host of friends.

Mrs. Alexander was also preceded in death by her parents, John Vincent Alexander and Ora Weaver Alexander; sisters, Marie Alexander Cowie and Betty Jane Alexander; brothers, Robert Alexander and Wayne Alexander; sister and brother-in-law, Juanita and Dale Hunter; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, C.G. and Kathryn Alexander, Jr.; nephew and wife, Nancy and Reg Cowie.

Mrs. Alexander was born in Winchester, Tenn. on January 17, 1931. Her family later moved to Tullahoma, Tenn. She graduated from Tullahoma High School where she was captain of the Girls' basketball team, Tennis Club, F.H.A., Commercial Savings Club, Historian, Girls State, Annual Staff, and Girls' Sports Editor. Following High School, she studied at Tennessee Polytechnic Institute before entering the workforce. While raising their two boys, John and Johnnie owned and operated the OTASCO store in downtown Buford. Following that Mrs. Alexander spent many years working for Parsons in Duluth. For over 15 years John and Johnnie operated Goodlife Tours, taking many friends on adventures around the country and overseas.

The Memorial Service to honor and celebrate the life of Johnnie Mae Alexander was held November 20, 2022 at Lawrenceville First United Methodist Church with the Reverend Dr. Adam Hilderbrandt officiating. Mrs. Alexander will be placed in the Columbarium at Georgia National Cemetery, Canton, next to her husband, John David Alexander, at a later date. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Music Department at Lawrenceville First UMC in memory of Mrs. Johnnie Mae Alexander. Condolences may be sent or viewed at www.wagesfuneralhome.com. Tom M. Wages Funeral Service, Lawrenceville, was entrusted with the arrangements.

RECOMMENDED

The Battle for the American Mind, by Pete Hegseth with David Goodwin

From Susan Harris, *Stone Mountain*: Authors

Hegseth and Goodwin present some good premises in this book. The philosophy of Western Christian Paideia makes some valid points about the erosion of education in public schools. In particular, their points about the value of learning critical thinking, reading the classics, focusing on mathematics, history, rhetoric, and philosophy are relevant in that they promote building a value system that can build solid citizens. My concern is that the book comes off as a rant against the 'evil progressives' whom they blame for all the ills of society. The true ill in our country is the absence of civility, the refusal to listen to others who are different, and espousing Christian values with hearts full of hate. I pray daily that our wonderful country will be built from within with charity, curiosity, and forbearance. This is our only hope. The full title is *Battle for the American Mind: Uprooting a Century of Miseducation*.



- **An invitation:** what books, restaurants, movies or web sites have you enjoyed recently? Send us your recent selection, along with a short paragraph (150 words) as to why you liked this, plus what you plan to visit or read next. Send to: elliott@brack.net

GEORGIA TIDBIT

Pete Drake, music producer and expert on the steel guitar

Roddis Franklin "Pete" Drake was a record producer, record company founder, and musician whose steel-guitar playing was heard on hundreds of hit recordings.

New Georgia ENCYCLOPEDIA

One of the most sought-after backup musicians of the 1960s, he played on such gigantic chart toppers as Lynn Anderson's "Rose Garden," Charlie Rich's "Behind Closed

Doors," Bob Dylan's "Lay Lady Lay," and Tammy Wynette's "Stand by Your Man." Drake played on 38 of 48 BMI (Broadcast Music, Incorporated) award-winning recordings in 1966 alone. He also played his steel guitar on five of Elvis Presley's movie soundtracks.

Drake was born in [Augusta](#) on October 8, 1932, the son of a Pentecostal preacher. His brothers, Jack and Bill, performed as the Drake Brothers. Jack was a bass player for Grand Ole Opry star Ernest Tubb's band, the Texas Troubadours, for 24 years.

At age 18 Drake drove to Nashville, Tenn., heard steel guitarist Jerry Byrd on the Grand Ole Opry, and was inspired to buy a steel guitar in an [Atlanta](#) pawnshop. He organized a band, Sons of the South, in Atlanta in the 1950s; it included future [country](#) stars [Jerry Reed](#), Doug Kershaw, Roger Miller, Jack Greene, and [Joe South](#).

In 1959 Drake moved to Nashville at the suggestion of Kathleen Jackson, owner of Atlanta's popular Egyptian Ballroom nightclub. He went on the road as a backup musician

for Don Gibson, Marty Robbins, and Carl and Pearl Butler. The first hit single he played on was Roy Drusky's "(I Don't Believe You Love Me) Anymore" in 1960. In 1964 Drake had an international hit on Smash Records with his "talking steel guitar" playing "Forever." He made the talking sound by speaking into a mouth device he had created that was connected to the steel guitar.

Drake had a productive association with folk singers Bob Dylan and Joan Baez. He played on Dylan's three historic Nashville-recorded albums, including Nashville Skyline, and on Baez's David's Album.

After Drake met George Harrison of the Beatles at Bob Dylan's New York home, Harrison invited him to England to work on All Things Must Pass. In turn, Harrison persuaded fellow Beatle Ringo Starr to come to Nashville to produce his Beaucoups of Blues album with Drake in 1970. This marked the first time a member of the Beatles had recorded in the United States.

Drake produced albums for many other music stars, including B. J. Thomas, the Four Freshmen, and Leon Russell. He founded Stop Records and First Generation Records. He was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame's Walkway of Stars in 1970 and the Steel Guitar Hall of Fame in 1987. He died in Nashville on July 29, 1988 at age 57.

- To view the Georgia Encyclopedia article online, go to <https://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org>

MYSTERY PHOTO

Check out this obvious summertime scene



Today's mystery doesn't isn't obviously a December-taken photograph, but one taken in the midst of a warm summer day. See if you can detect where this photograph was taken. Send in your ideas to elliott@brack.net and include your hometown.

There were not many entries recognizing the last Mystery Photo. The first was from Darrell Pruitt of Sugar Hill writes:

"That is a statue of John Wesley, at 12Stone's Sugarloaf



campus in Duluth.” The photo was sent in by Cindy Evans of Duluth. Here is a deeper version of the setting, showing a nameplate at the foot of the statue.

Others recognizing it include George Graf of Palmyra, Va.; Susan McBrayer, Sugar Hill; and Ann Serrie, Lawrenceville.

LAGNIAPPE

DAR chapter presents awards to Johnson, Lawrenceville Co-op



Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry volunteers from left: Kurl Witter, Will Lasater, Melanie Piefke and Jon Thomaston

Two Community Service Awards have been presented by the Philadelphia Winn Chapter, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR). The awards are presented each year to recognize deserving individuals and organizations for outstanding voluntary service.

Frances Huff Johnson was recognized for her dedicated work as the Archive chairperson at the Gwinnett Historical Society (GHS) in honor of her many volunteer hours of service over the past years working to collect, document, and preserve historical documents, photographs, and objects which significantly reflect the history of Gwinnett County. The GHS Archives is a repository which is often used by individuals researching family genealogy and by those working on scholarly documentations of our local history. Generations to come will benefit from the work of Frances Huff Johnson.



Frances Huff Johnson, left, with NSDAR Community Service Award Chairperson Beverly Paff.

The Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry was recognized for serving the communities of Lawrenceville and Dacula, Gwinnett County and partnership with other community

service providers. Lawrenceville Co-op provides boxes of food and hygiene staples on a weekly basis. Beyond that, clients are connected to providers for help with additional needs, such as clothing and shelter.

CALENDAR

Tree Festival: The Duluth Fine Arts League is sponsoring the Festival of Trees this year at the Southeastern Railway Museum. Decorated trees are highlighted among the train engines, railcars and other transportation vehicles throughout the museum. With any ticket purchase to the museum now through the end of the year, visitors can enjoy the tree display, the antique train memorabilia, the mini train village, the RR Gift Shop, and much more. Make plans to discover a treasure in your own backyard! For more details, go to: <https://www.train-museum.org/>.



Snellville Commerce Club Christmas Luncheon will be at noon Tuesday, **December 6** at The Kitchen at Summit Chase. Members will share Secret Santa gifts and play the Secret Santa Game. The club is also collecting cash, canned goods and non-perishable food items to share with others at Christmas.

New at Lionheart Theater in Norcross, is the play *The Lion in Winter*, running Thursdays through Sundays from **December 8-18**. Tickets are \$18 per person; and \$16 or seniors, students or the military. Based on the popularity of this production, it's recommended that you [make your reservations online](#).

Groundbreaking on Rowen, a 2,000 acre knowledge community, will be Friday, **December 9** at 2 p.m. The event will be directly across from New Rock Springs Baptist Church at 3002 Drowning Creek Road in Dacula. At complete build out, Rowen is projected to bring nearly 100,000 jobs to Georgia, contributing \$8-10 billion into the state's economy annually.

Authors and desserts in Duluth: Join the Gwinnett County Public Library in Duluth for this event on **December 15** at 7 p.m. Bestselling fiction authors Kimberly Brock, Piper Huguley and Alayne Smith will be in conversation with Emmy winner Kolinda Scialabba. Books will be on sale and signing.

Two concerts are scheduled by the Johns Creek Symphony Orchestra on **December 17**, both at Johns Creek United Methodist Church, 11180 Medlock Bridge Road. At 2:30 p.m. there will be a kid's Christmas concert. Then at 7:30 p.m., the orchestra will present a Christmas Pops Concert. To purchase individual concert tickets, visit johnscreeksymphony.org or call 678-748-5802.

OUR TEAM

GwinnettForum is provided to you at no charge every Tuesday and Friday.

Meet our team

- Editor and publisher: [Elliott Brack](#), 770-840-1003
- Managing editor: [Betsy Brack](#)
- Roving photographer: [Frank Sharp](#)
- Contributing columnist: [Jack Bernard](#)

- Contributing columnist: [George Wilson](#)

More

- Mailing address: P.O. Box 1365, Norcross, Ga. 30091
- Work with us: If you would like to learn about how to be an underwriter to support the publication of GwinnettForum as a community resource for news and commentary, [please contact us today](#).

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