

SPORTS



Photo by MORRIS BRANSON

Washington-Wilkes Tiger Kevonta Jones scores on Harlem Bulldog Chase Bisel. Jones won the match 18 to 7.



From left to right: Chris Wilson, Austin Fanning, Kevonta Jones, Will Kimberly, Levi Brock and Hunter Price and their parents.

Tigers win home match against Harlem Bulldogs

By MORRIS BRANSON
Staff Reporter

Lead by Coaches, Johnson, Saggus, and Hampton, and despite facing a much larger group of wrestlers, the Washington-Wilkes Tigers beat the visiting Harlem Bulldogs, 46-36 on January 4. This will be their last home match this year. They will be participating in a regional tournament this Friday. The evening started out

with preliminary matches featuring middle-school wrestlers.

The Tigers then singled out the seniors for special recognition and they were presented with a gift bag. The varsity team then took to the mats and quickly showed that they would not be intimidated by the Bulldogs. Kavonta Jones won the first match 18-7 which set the tone for the rest of the evening. The Tigers cruised on to victory over the Bulldogs.

New state record Shoal Bass caught on Chattahoochee River

Any day of fishing is good, but you know what makes it even better? A day you catch a new state record! Joseph Matthew McWhorter of Lanett, AL is the proud holder of the new state record shoal bass. His catch, caught on Dec. 23 on the Chattahoochee River near Columbus, weighed 8 lb, 5 oz, and replaces the 1977 record (8 lb, 3 oz), according to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division (WRD).

"What a way to end 2021, with a new state record shoal bass. Catches like these really showcase the amazing fishing opportunities found in Georgia," says Scott Robinson, Chief of Fisheries for the Wildlife Resources Division. "Who will catch the next one? It might be you – but you have to get outdoors and Go Fish Georgia!"

Shoal Bass (*Micropterus cataractae*), designated as the official state riverine sportfish species, are native to the Chattahoochee and Flint River basins; and introduced in the Ocmulgee and Oconee rivers. They have an upper jaw that does not extend beyond the eyes, unlike the largemouth bass, and the dorsal fin is continuous and

not deeply notched. They are most like the redeye basses, but do not have any red coloration in the fins or pale margins on the tail. Unlike smallmouth bass they usually have a large dark spot at the base of the tail. The average adult is between 12–24 inches. Shoal bass are usually found around current breaks near flowing water. This can be in the middle of a big shoal, in a deep-water bend of the river with large boulders, or on the bank behind a tree in the water.

Georgia anglers support fisheries conservation! Did you know that your license purchase allows Georgia WRD to continue to do important research, maintain and operate public fishing areas and more? Purchase a Georgia license at www.gooutdoorsgeorgia.com.

For fishing tips and information, be sure to check out the Angler Resources page at <https://georgiawildlife.com/fishing/angler-resources>.

Information about state-record fish, including an application and rules, can be found at <https://georgiawildlife.com/fishing/recordprogram/rules> or in the current Sport Fishing Regulations Guidebook.

GA Department of Driver Services recognizes National Human Trafficking Prevention Month

By SUSAN SPORTS
DDS Public Information Officer

With January recognized as National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, the Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS) Commercial Driver License (CDL) Program wants the public to be aware of human trafficking in our communities.

The exploitation of trafficked persons through forced labor and commercial sex victimizes 25 million people worldwide of their freedom every year. Human trafficking victims can be of any race, age, gender, nationality, and economic status refuting the myth that trafficking only happens to women, people from other countries, or underprivileged communities. Victims and traffickers can look like everyday people, which increases the importance of bringing awareness to the public to help eradicate this crime in our state, country, and globally.

DDS Commissioner Spencer R. Moore commented, "DDS is pleased to continue to partner with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Association (FMCSA) and Georgia's Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force to help educate the public about this rapidly-growing crime."

In the 2021 Trafficking In Persons (TIP) Report, the United States, Mexico, and Honduras were the top three countries of origin for victims trafficked in the U.S. Trafficking happens in every state in the U.S.— with Georgia having one of the largest economies in the nation, one of the world's busiest airports, two ports, and a substantive agriculture sector, placing it one of the top states in the country for human trafficking.

Human trafficking is a lucrative illicit crime that operates like a business generating \$150 billion in revenue worldwide annually. The success of its profitability expands beyond the scope of happening solely on street corners. Human trafficking takes many forms and is often hidden in plain sight. Human trafficking intersects across vast industry sectors that range from social media, hospitality, entertainment, health and beauty, financial services, and transportation.

Common areas traffickers use to solicit buyers are locations that are a part of our daily lives when we are on the road—gas sta-

tions, rest stops, and truck stops. These locations offer traffickers ambiguity due to their remote location, the transient customer base, and minimal detection. The transportation industry's response to human trafficking addresses the challenges that allow the crime when not reported to go under the radar. Laws such as the "No Human Trafficking On Our Roads Act" and house bills signed by Governor Kemp, give a lifetime CDL disqualification to an individual from operating a

commercial motor vehicle when used to commit human trafficking.

For National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, January 11th is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. To bring justice to victims and put an end to human trafficking, learn the signs and report suspicious activity to the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888. The Georgia Coalition to Combat Human Trafficking also has a 24/7 hotline at 1-866-ENDHTGA (1-866-363-4282).

2022 Georgia fishing regulations available

Start planning your fishing adventures for the new year and be sure to review the updated 2022 Georgia Sport Fishing Regulations Guide, says the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division (WRD).

"Whether you are brand new to fishing or an experienced angler, you can always find something of interest in the Sport Fishing Regulations Guide," said Scott Robinson, Chief of the WRD Fisheries Management Section. "This publication is developed with the help of fisheries biologists and staff to ensure it has the most current and accurate information on regulations and new opportunities and anglers can access it in multiple ways, including online, from our Outdoors GA app or in the printed copy."

Anglers should note there was delayed production of a printed copy of the 2022 Georgia Sport Fishing Regulations guide due to paper accessibility and manufacturing issues. It is anticipated the print version will be available by the end of January. The guide can now be found online at <http://www.eregulations.com/georgia/fishing/>, or through the Outdoors GA app (free app for iPhone or Android users). If you need a printed copy sooner, a pdf of the publication will be available online (you can choose to print the full book or only the information you need).

The 2022 Georgia Sport Fishing Regulations Guide provides information such as a color fish identification chart for both freshwater and saltwater fish, license purchasing information, contact information for Wildlife Resources Division and Coastal Resources Division fisheries management offices and DNR Law Enforcement offices, trout stream listings, public fishing area information, state record fish listings, fishing regulations for Georgia and so much more.

What's New for 2022:

- Minnow trap use is now legal in freshwaters.
- Waters Creek trout regulations have changed.

Largemouth bass regulations have changed on two Public Fishing Areas.

Need more fishing information? Check out the Angler Resources page on the WRD website (<https://georgiawildlife.com/fishing/angler-resources>).

PUBLIC NOTICE:

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 251-foot Self-Support Communications Tower. Anticipated lighting application is medium intensity dual red/white strobes. The Site location is 3363 Court Ground Road, Washington, Wilkes County, GA 30673, Lat: 33-42-16.4, Long: -82-52-35.38. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Antenna Structure Registration (ASR, Form 854) filing number is A1207477.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

Interested persons may review the application (www.fcc.gov/asr/applications) by entering the filing number. Environmental concerns may be raised by filing a Request for Environmental Review (www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest) and online filings are strongly encouraged. The mailing address to file a paper copy is: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554.



If you are new to Washington-Wilkes and have not been visited by the Welcome to Washington Committee, contact them at welcomewashingtonga@gmail.com or 706-678-1019

Send notifications of community events for this column and for the W-W Chamber of Commerce calendar of events to news-reporter.com and washingtonwilkesevents@gmail.com, or drop them off at *The News-Reporter* office, 23 W. Robert Toombs Ave. in Washington.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO INTRODUCE LOCAL LEGISLATION

Notice is given that there will be introduced at the 2022 regular session of the General Assembly of Georgia a bill to amend an Act providing for the election of members of the Board of Education of Wilkes County, approved March 18, 1986 (Ga. L. 1986, p. 4091), as amended; and for other purposes.

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