

Half Wit – Half Wisdom



ROY RHODES

New book

(Continued from Page 1)

a real estate agent. He and his wife Jan live in Valdosta.

"Half Wit-Half Wisdom" can be ordered online from Amazon.com. The book is available as a hardback, paperback or E-book. For the next few weeks, Rhodes has contributed essays from the book to be published in The News, which can be found on Page 4.

Hardee honored

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Mayor Pro Tem for decades, and as interim mayor as well. Hardee has also served with the South Georgia Regional commission since 1979, and has never missed a single meeting with the organization.

City Council member Amanda Webb spoke at the beginning of the celebration and said of Hardee, "he is a servant worthy of great honor." This was the feeling echoed by other speakers such as Homerville City Manager Samantha Rittenhouse and Reverend James A. Alexander Sr. of Brown's Chapel AME. Willie Hardee's niece, Jeanette Hardee, along with her sister Diana Hardee, travelled from Atlanta to help the city honor their uncle, and many others also joined in pay tribute to Mr. Hardee's legacy of service to the community and region.

Dre's Snack Shack

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acknowledges challenges along the way, especially the ongoing effort to stay consistent. His advice for anyone considering opening a business downtown is straightforward and sincere: "Make sure you are dedicated to what you do."

Looking ahead, Dre's Snack Shack has plans for growth, including expanding into a bigger seating area to better serve its customers. And while many may already feel like family when they walk through the door, one thing customers might not know is that Lacey was born and raised right here in Homerville — making his investment in downtown even more meaningful.

When asked to sum up what makes the area special, Lacey didn't hesitate: "Downtown Homerville is special because everyone loves each other."

For more information or to place an order, Dre's Snack Shack can be reached at (912) 487-2334.

News from the Capitol

The Georgia House of Representatives reconvened at the State Capitol on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, to begin the sixth week of the legislative session following the President's Day holiday. By the end of the week, we completed Legislative Day 22—meaning we are officially more than halfway through the 2026 legislative session.

Over the course of the week, we passed numerous pieces of legislation. I have listed some of them here:

House Bill 1063 would prohibit electric utilities from passing along costs tied to building and maintaining data centers.

House Bill 419 would require institutions within the University System of Georgia and Technical College System of Georgia to make opioid antagonists, such as naloxone, readily available to students and university personnel. By expanding access to life-saving medications on our college campuses, students and staff would be able to respond more quickly and, ultimately, prevent opioid overdose deaths and save lives.

House Bill 256, legislation that would rename the "Foster Parents Bill of Rights" to the "Foster Placements Bill of Rights," meaningfully expanding protection of foster care providers under state law. The bill would extend the same statutory rights afforded to traditional foster parents to relative caregivers.

We continued to focus

on policies impacting children in foster care with the passage of House Bill 943, which would further support Georgia's foster children, particularly those who may identify as having autism spectrum disorder.

House Bill 970 would expand the list of qualified healthcare professionals who can conduct sports physicals. This measure would increase timely access to care for student athletes, particularly those in rural and underserved communities.

We focused on improving safety on our roadways by passing House Bill 1161. This bipartisan legislation would require drivers to move as far as possible to the right-hand side of the roadway when an emergency or law enforcement vehicle approaches in an official capacity to conduct a traffic stop.

House Bill 1061, known as the Mandi Ballinger Act, in honor of our late colleague and former chair of the House Judiciary Juvenile Committee, recognizing her years of commitment advocating for juvenile justice reform. Georgia treats most 17-year-olds as adults in the criminal justice system—one of only a few states that still does this—and this legislation would initiate a formal planning process to determine how the state could align with other states that have raised the juvenile court age to 18. Juvenile courts often focus on accountability and reha-

John Corbett

STATE REPRESENTATIVE



ilitation, helping young people redirect their lives before adulthood and reducing recidivism and improving long-term outcomes.

House Bill 662, would amend the definition of "rural hospital organization" to include "rural freestanding emergency department." The organization would be required to have its primary campus in a rural county and be licensed to provide maternal and newborn services or have at least five percent of its annual net revenue categorized as indigent care, charity care, or bad debt.

House Bill 1022, would prohibit any person from operating a motor vehicle with electric tinting applied or affixed to its windshields or windows.

House Bill 1086, or

the "Preston Fant and Brant Chesney Firefighter Safety Act," which would require the owner of any commercial or industrial building to post a notice that the building was constructed using light-frame truss-type construction, to ensure the safety of the first responders.

On Monday, February 23, we will return to the Capitol for our seventh week of session beginning with our first committee workday. A full slate of committee meetings are scheduled to focus on reviewing legislation ahead of Cross-over Day.

John Corbett of Echols County represents Clinch County in the Georgia House of Representatives.

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UGA Blueberry Field Day

Hosted by the UGA Blueberry Breeding Program and UGA Berrien County Extension Office

Date: March 27, 2026

Time: 11:00 am to 3:00 pm

Location: UGA Alapaha Blueberry Research Farm, Alapaha Georgia (<https://goo.gl/maps/yC54vkyALCqP8waS9>; about 2.7 miles south of Alapaha on US Hwy 129)

After farm visit, we will serve lunch at the UGA Berrien County Extension office followed by an educational session.

Presenter	Title
Dr. Luan Oliveira	Precision Agriculture Blueberry Trials.
Dr. Jonathan Oliver	Blueberry Disease Management
Dr. Angelos Deltsidis	Postharvest management of Georgia blueberries
Dr. Ashfaq Sial	Monitoring and management of insect pests in blueberries
Federica Rossi	From Light to Fruit: How Selective Pruning Affects Blueberry Yield and Quality
Natalia Espinoza	Optimizing fertilizer use: How do fertilization practices impact soil health and blueberry nutrition?
Sindoor Nalajala	Breeding Better Blueberries: Expanding diversity through hybridization

- **Any trouble finding the farm please contact Benjamin Reeves at 229-445-5962**
- **Pesticide credit hours will be available**
- **In the event of inclement weather, the program will be promptly rescheduled**