



>> **GEORGIA COLLEGE**

Cox receives lifetime achievement award

Georgia College & State University (GCSU) President Cathy Cox received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Supreme Court of Georgia on April 15 during the 25th annual Justice Robert Benham Awards for Community Service. Athens attorney Kenneth Dious also received the award during this year's ceremony.

The Lifetime Achievement Award is the highest recognition given by the

Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism, presented this year in a ceremony within the Supreme Court courtroom at the Nathan Deal Judicial Center in Atlanta.

The Benham Awards recognize the commitment of Georgia lawyers and judges to volunteerism, encourage lawyers and judges to be involved in

MORE COX >> A6



Retired Justice Robert Benham (right) was on hand April 15 in Atlanta when GCSU President Cathy Cox (with trophy) received a lifetime achievement award during the 25th annual Justice Robert Benham Awards for Community Service.

CONTRIBUTED

>> **BUSINESS**



ANSLEY KATE ALLEN/Staff

Milledgeville Plant Manager Doug Cumpston does the honors of cutting the ribbon for the re-opening. Local and corporate employees of Vernay and community members smile with pride at the ceremony.

Vernay re-opens Milledgeville manufacturing facility

Ansley Kate Allen
The Baldwin Bulletin

The Milledgeville branch of Vernay Manufacturing proudly celebrated its grand re-opening on April 24. The manufacturing plant was filled with excitement as Vernay staff members, representatives from the Milledgeville-Baldwin County Chamber of Commerce, and corporate representatives

gathered to celebrate the start of a new chapter for Vernay.

Vernay is a global leader in precision flow-control components and has manufacturing locations in Georgia, Holland, Italy, and China. Fifty percent of the locations are in Georgia, with factories in Kennesaw and Griffin in addition to Milledgeville. The company supplies to automotive, small engine, medical, and specialty

industries.

Milledgeville Plant Manager Doug Cumpston was beaming with pride as the ribbon was cut, showing the continuing progress of a commitment Vernay has demonstrated locally since 2023. Vernay has been committed to providing not only top-notch manufacturing, but also providing enriching

MORE VERNAY >> A5

>> **CRIME**

Milledgeville man sentenced in Putnam man's murder

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Tavish N. Goddard

A Milledgeville man pled guilty in Baldwin County Superior Court last week to the 2023 murder of a Putnam County man.

Tavish Nigel Goddard was sentenced to life in prison by Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit Superior Court Chief Judge Alison T. Burleson.

The victim, Joshua Corey Jones, 43, formerly of Thomas Drive on Lake Sinclair in Putnam County, was found dead June 17, 2023. Jones, a self-employed handyman, was lying unresponsive on the ground between two houses that were being remodeled in Graham Homes. At the time, Milledgeville Police Department's Maj. Linc Boyer said Jones died from at least one gunshot wound from a Glock .9 mm handgun, according to previous reports.

Goddard was arrested by Milledgeville police officers at his home on Highland Avenue two days later and charged with malice murder, aggravated assault, possession of a firearm during the commission of a crime, and possession of a firearm

MORE MURDER >> A5

>> **MILLEDGEVILLE CITY COUNCIL**

Rapid Flashing Beacons to be installed for safety

Bailey Ballard
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Milledgeville City Council met April 22 to discuss traffic lights and hear budget presentations.

City Manager Hank Griffeth stated solar-powered Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons

were suggested to the council about two years ago and he has been going back-and-forth with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) since then. Griffeth went through GDOT because they did a safety pedestrian audit a few years ago and will be paying for the signs on East and West Hancock

Streets. The city will bear the cost of North and South Wayne Streets.

"We will be installing each 100th block on North Wayne Street, South Wayne Street, West Hancock Street, and East Hancock Street. All four of those areas have a mid-crosswalk in those blocks so we felt

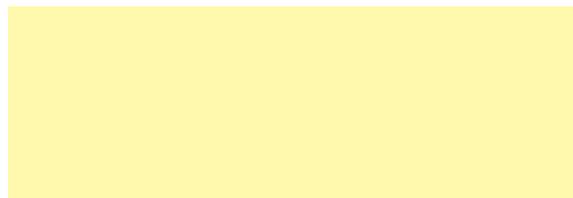
like we needed to do a better job letting vehicles know when pedestrians are in those crossings," said Griffeth. "The lights will flash once a pedestrian presses the button."

Council heard resolutions for these additions on the 100 block of West Hancock Street and the 100 block of East Hancock

Street. They were both adopted unanimously.

In addition, Griffeth announced that some of the engineering for crosswalk lights on Franklin Street has been paid for by the school zone speed camera money. Georgia

MORE BEACONS >> A2



WEATHER

85 HIGH
Friday
Scattered T-storms

58 LOW

Detailed forecast / B8

INSIDE THIS WEEK

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Baldwin County Property Transfers Through April 18

Date	Price	Buyer	Seller	Property Address
4/11/25	\$15,000	Cannie, Jr., Donnie	Brookins, Shereaia	134 Lovers LN
4/14/25	\$129,000	Holbrook, Kenneth	Milburn, Timothy	114 Stevens DR
4/15/25	\$225,000	Housh, Shannon	Decker, Sandra	101A 086D
4/15/25	\$590,000	MOORE, TIMOTHY	KAREN S. JONES N/K/A KAREN JONES HAMRICK	083X 038
4/15/25	\$250,000	Batchelor, Christie	Meeks, Jr., Carl	598 Sparta HWY
4/15/25	\$70,000	Adams, Eric	Griffin, Willie	M80-023
4/15/25	\$3,895,000	JPG Rental #1, LLC	Karen Circle 1 HC, LLC	M91053/M91106/M91107/M91108/M91109/M91110/M911107/
4/15/25	\$76,000	PrimePoint Ventures, LLC	LeBlanc, Robert	102B-120
4/16/25	\$199,500	Forit, Joseph	Lowder, Essie	2458 River Ridge RD
4/17/25	\$251,000	Strawsma, Ronald	Southern CE, LLC	M90 060
4/17/25	\$339,000	MOODY, MICHAEL	STEPHENS, CHARLES	109 MISTY LN NW 512
4/18/25	\$825,000	Robert C. Forslund, Jr. and Annette M. Forslund, Trustees, The Robert Forslund Jr. Trust	Patterson, Jr., Rudolph	046B 021
4/18/25	\$1,250,000	Patterson, Jr., Rudolph	Ballew, James	086A-042A
4/18/25	\$225,000	McBride, Earline	Humphrey, Bonnie	118A-060, 118A-061
4/18/25	\$454,000	OWEN IV, THOMAS	TOLMICH, IRA	085 405
4/18/25	\$252,000	Lowder, Essie	Hollinshead, Jona	108 Meriwether CIR NW

COX

CONTINUED FROM >> A1

community service, and raise the public image of lawyers and judges.

Recipients of The Lifetime Achievement award not only meet Benham Award requirements, but also demonstrate "an extraordinarily long and distinguished

commitment to volunteer participating in the community throughout his or her legal career," according to the Supreme Court of Georgia.

Cox graduated magna cum laude from Mercer Law School, then practiced law in her hometown of Bainbridge and in Atlanta for 10 years, during which time she was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives.

She subsequently broke new ground in her election as Georgia's 25th Secretary of State in 1998, becoming the first woman in Georgia's history to serve in this constitutional office.

Following terms as president of Young Harris College and dean of Mercer Law School, Cox became GCSU's 12th president in October 2021.

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ARREST REPORTS

April 24

Michael Andrew Collins, 34, of Port Ricney, Florida - driving while license suspended or revoked (misdemeanor); no insurance; possession of methamphetamine; two charges of probation violations

Endia Aliyah Glover, 19, of Jeffersonville - driving while license suspended or revoked

Troy Jerrell McClinton, 42, of Milledgeville - probation violation

Trejor Zhewel Steward, 27, of Milledgeville - driving while license suspended/revoked; two charges of probation violations

Tucker Lee Sutton, 23, of Fayetteville - probation violation

Marissa Gene Taylor, 24, of Milledgeville - failure to appear; obstruction of officers (misdemeanor)

Michael Wesley Thrasher, 26, of Milledgeville - probation violation

Dwayne Daquan Tipton, 21, of Milledgeville - driving while license suspended or revoked; littering highway; speeding

April 25

Heather Elaine Bounds, 36, of Milledgeville - theft by taking (misdemeanor)

Brennan William Brazell, 26, of Eatonton - public drunkenness

Akeem Shaquille Dawson, 31, of Milledgeville - driving while license suspended or revoked

Jesus Walfredo-Vargas Demandado, 23, of Milledgeville - failure to appear

Nakarrien Dumas, 22, of Covington - probation violation

Emily Ann Horne, 19, of Milledgeville - probation violation

Brandy Shakira Johnson, 18, of Milledgeville - criminal trespass; simple battery

Meagan Brooke Jones, 28, of Milledgeville - probation violation

Jordy Edgardo-Eude Mongombry, 40, of Greensboro - driving without a valid license (misdemeanor); DUI (alcohol); failure to drive within single lane

Daiamon Ramoiad Myrick, 19, of Milledgeville - aggravated assault; possession of firearm or knife during commission of or attempt to commit certain crime

Felix Maurice Myrick, 17, of Milledgeville - aggravated assault; criminal attempt to commit a felony; false statements or writings; conceal facts or fraudulent documents in

matters of importance; possession of firearm or knife during commission of or attempt to commit certain crime

Travis Dylan Reese, 30, of Milledgeville - simple battery

John Sullivan, 32, of Milledgeville -DUI (drugs); expired driver's license; lighted headlights required at certain times; possession of cocaine

Jamelle Enrique Thompson, 45, of Milledgeville - DUI (alcohol); open container in vehicle

Rodney Osarata Womble, 28, of Sandersville - probation violation

April 26

Brayden Carl Belford, 19, of Edmond, Oklahoma - DUI (alcohol); failure to drive within single lane

Harrison Avery Hopkins, 21, of Milledgeville - operation of watercraft under the influence of alcohol, drugs or toxic vapor

April 27

Elizabeth Erin Adams, 40, of Milledgeville - failure to appear

Pedro Caal Choc, 21, of Milledgeville - driving without a valid license (misdemeanor); DUI (alcohol)

Christian Cordova, 20, of Milledgeville - DUI (alcohol); furnishing, purchasing, and possession of alcoholic beverages by persons below limit; laying drags

Lamarcus Davis, 33, of Milledgeville - driving while license suspended or revoked (misdemeanor); expired vehicle tag or decal; no insurance

Jonathan Pitts, 45, of Milledgeville - DUI (alcohol); public indecency (misdemeanor)

Justin David Syphoe, 28, of Lithonia - DUI (alcohol); speeding

April 28

Mardi Deanne Hennly, 52, of Milledgeville - theft by taking - misdemeanor

Kenya Lashea Milner, 38, of Milledgeville - three charges of school compulsory attendance law

Tavalas Detrail Robinson, 48, of Milledgeville - probation violation

Tavious Antwon Spencer, 35, of Milledgeville - parole violation

Zacaria Deneen Stephens, 20, of Milledgeville - probation violation

>> COURT ADVOCATES



Century Bank donates to Ocmulgee CASA

Century Bank & Trust (CB&T) in Milledgeville recently donated \$500 to Ocmulgee Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), which works for the well-being of children in need within the regional court system.

Ocmulgee CASA trains and empowers community volunteers to serve as advocates for abused and neglected children in the court system. These volunteers ensure each child's voice is heard and

their best interests are represented throughout their legal journeys.

Community support, especially for organizations like Ocmulgee CASA, represents a key part of the bank's century-long legacy of service and care.

"Our team believes in the power of community and the importance of standing up for our most vulnerable members," CB&T President and CEO Derek Williams

said. "We are honored to support Ocmulgee CASA in their mission to provide stability, hope, and a brighter future for children in our area."

Serving Baldwin, Putnam, and surrounding counties, Ocmulgee CASA plays a vital role in helping vulnerable children thrive. To learn more visit ocmulgeecasasa.org. Visit CB&T at centurybankonline.com or call 478-453-3571 for information.

—Contributed

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