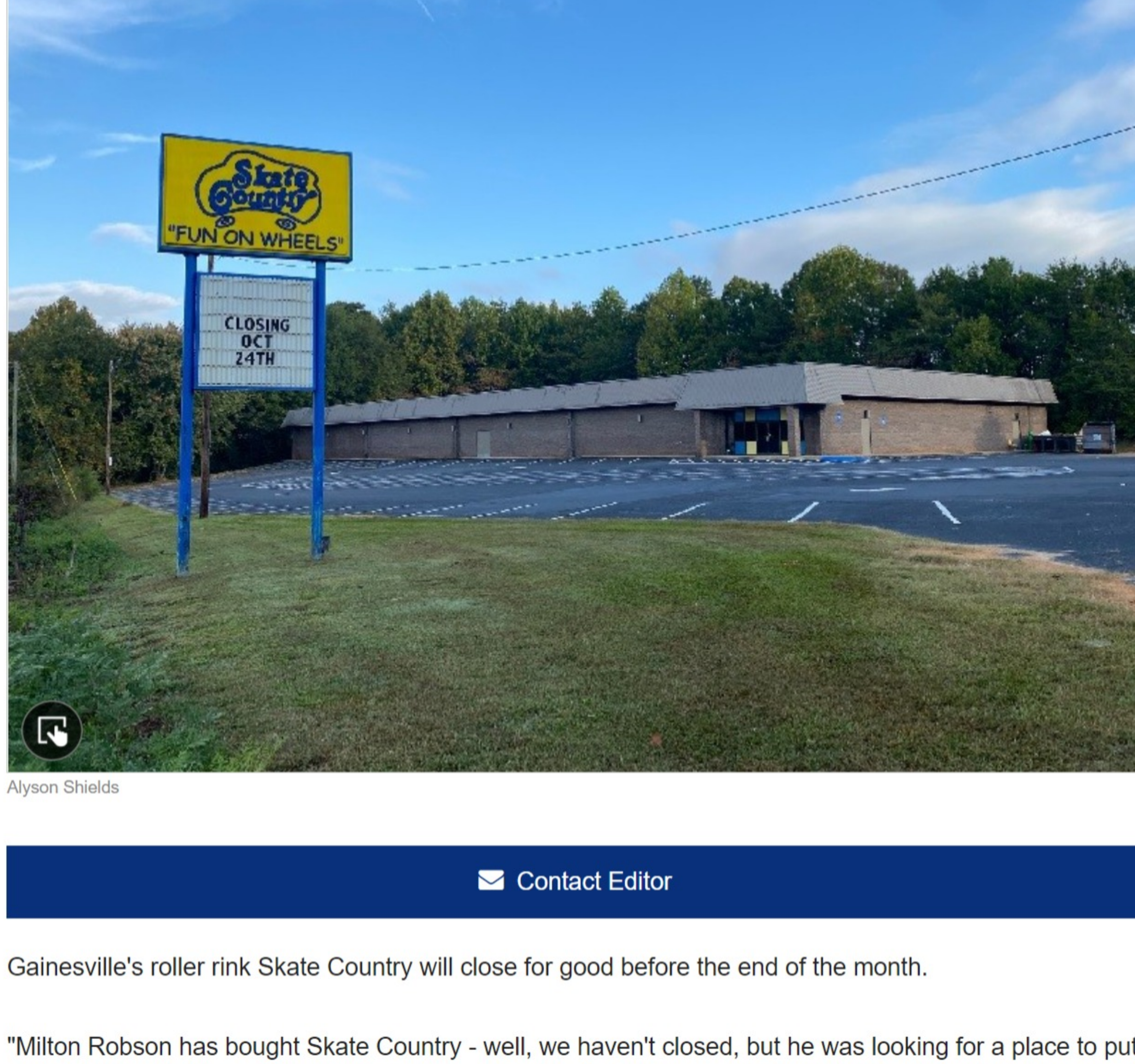


Posted 10:00AM on Thursday 21st October 2021 (4 months ago)

Gainesville's Skate Country to close Sunday

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By Alyson Shields *Reporter*



Alyson Shields

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Gainesville's roller rink Skate Country will close for good before the end of the month.

"Milton Robson has bought Skate Country - well, we haven't closed, but he was looking for a place to put his cars," said Susan Means, who owns Skate Country with her husband, Jim. "And you know, Jim is 78 and I'm 76, I still work at Buford, and anyway, we've talked about selling for a long time.

"But you know, we were certainly not on the market. And just in our conversation with someone who works for Milton. I said, 'well you know y'all should take a look at Thompson Bridge,' and I have said that a jillion times not - I mean, we were not looking to sell. It just was one of those things. He wanted what we had, and it was a good thing."

The roller rink has been owned by the Means since 1980. Many Gainesville residents grew up at the rink and have fond memories of the place.

Robert and Joanna Martin met at Skate Country back in the 1980s, fell in love and got married.

"Well, I love to skate and Joanna was working behind the concession stand," said Robert. "And I thought she was the prettiest little thing in the world. But I was just too shy to say anything to her. Except for, "can I have a Coke and a piece of pizza?"

A friend of Robert's told Joanna that Robert thought she was pretty, and she approached him. Robert said they dated for 33 nights and then chose to elope.

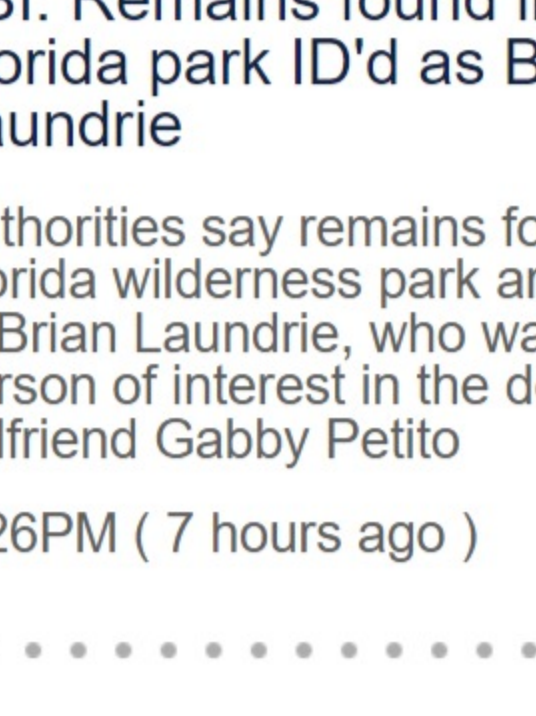
They will be happily married 37 years this Valentine's Day and have two children. The Martins said Skate Country was a special place to them. They continued to visit for the first couple of years after they were married.

"First couple years we did, and life happens. Yeah, life happens, and then we were blessed with a beautiful bouncing boy," said Robert. "And we then we had our little, little girl. And we went skating some with them, and then we started getting older and our knees started cracking and popping so it was time to stop."

Robert also spoke highly of owner, Jim, saying he was both kind but also strong, strong enough to manage teenagers and their shenanigans.

"It's sad to hear that they're closing," said Joanna. "I wish they wouldn't. But I guess they gotta do what they gotta do."

Skate Country in Gainesville will have its last skate on Sunday.



ALYSON SHIELDS *Reporter*
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Official NASA event being hosted by University of North Georgia

The University of North Georgia is teaming up with NASA to mark a historic achievement with a two-day event.

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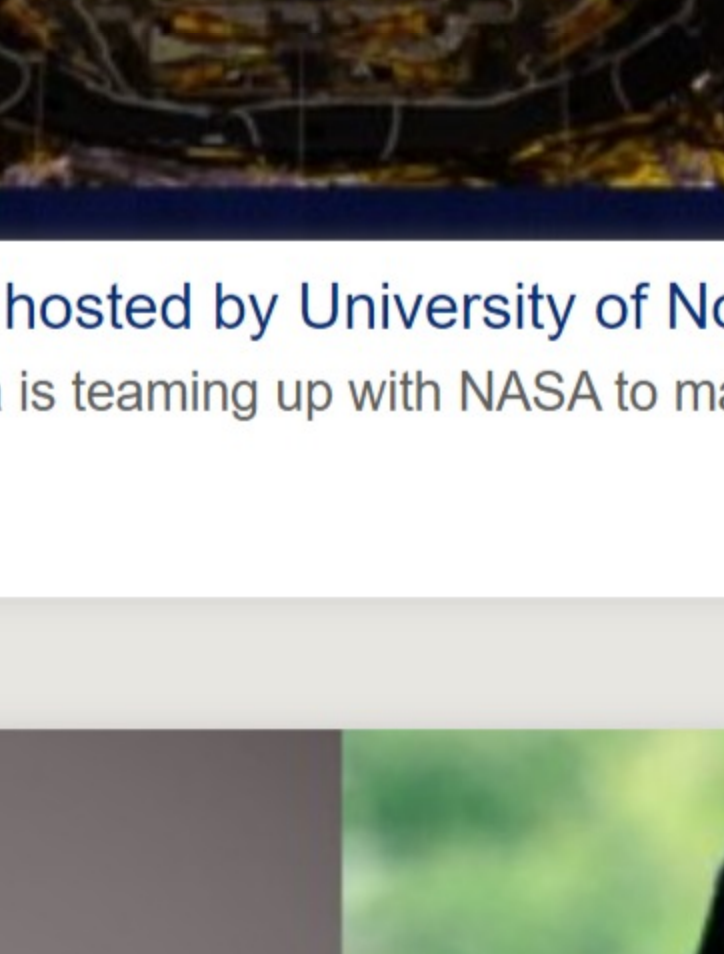
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FBI: Remains found in Florida park ID'd as Brian Laundrie

Authorities say remains found in a Florida wilderness park are those of Brian Laundrie, who was a person of interest in the death of girlfriend Gabby Petito

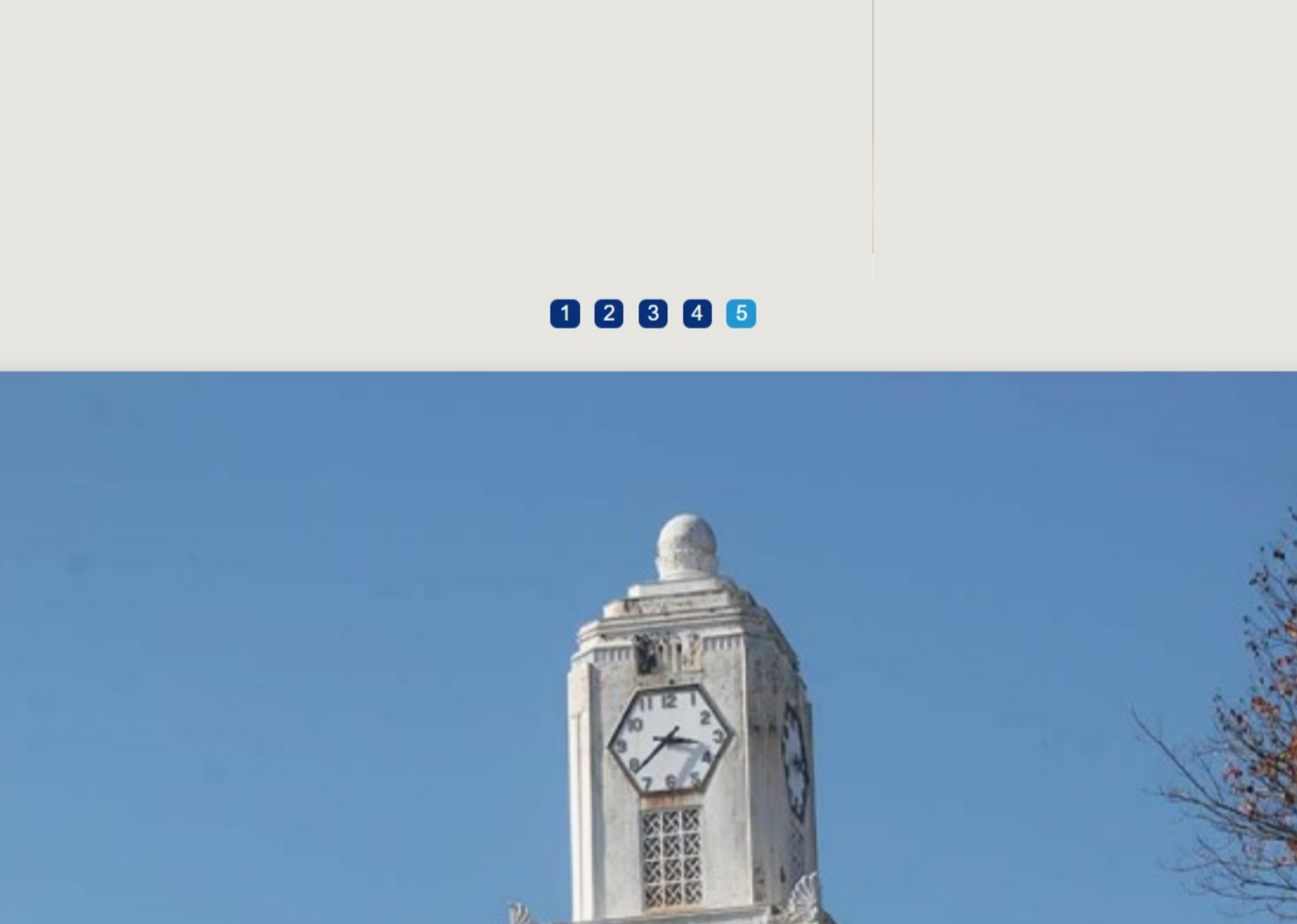
7:26PM (7 hours ago)



Social media threat means extra police presence in Gwinnett County schools

School officials at Mill Creek High School were on high alert today after a social media post emerged threatening to kill students.

5:37PM (9 hours ago)



Official NASA event being hosted by University of North Georgia

The University of North Georgia is teaming up with NASA to mark a historic achievement with a two-day event.

By Kimberly Sizemore

8:30PM (6 hours ago)



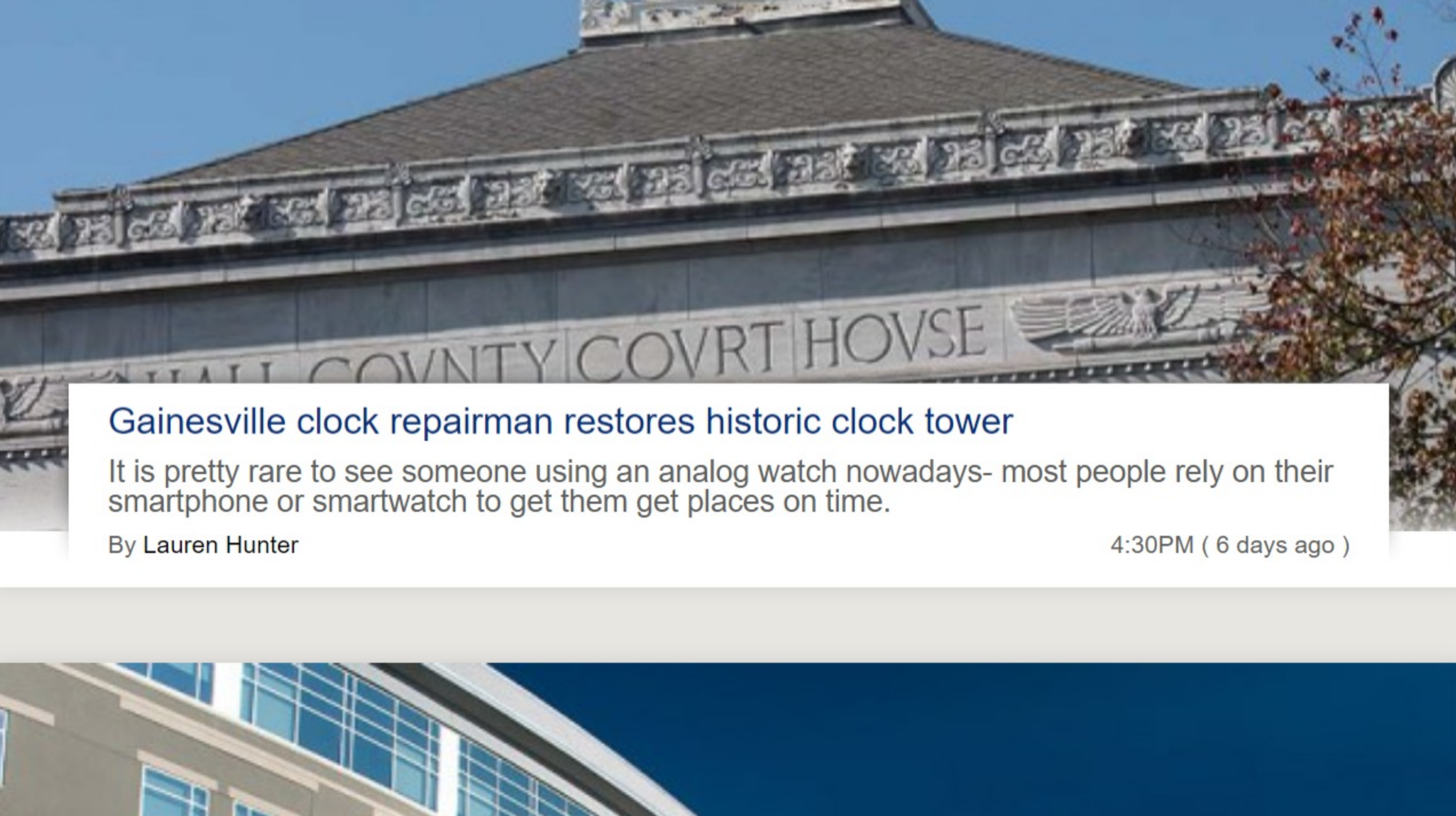
Gainesville mayoral race: housing affordability

The mayoral race in the City of Gainesville is contested between two candidates as part of the 2021 municipal election cycle, so AccessWDUN recently asked the two candidates to give their thoughts on four topics, the first of which being housing in the city.

By Austin Eller

4:00PM (11 hours ago)

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Gainesville clock repairman restores historic clock tower

It is pretty rare to see someone using an analog watch nowadays- most people rely on their smartphone or smartwatch to get them get places on time.

By Lauren Hunter

4:30PM (6 days ago)



NORTHEAST GEORGIA MEDICAL CENTER

Northeast Georgia Medical Center: Adapting and improving throughout the pandemic

Visible changes are coming to Northeast Georgia Medical Center's Gainesville campus as COVID numbers continue to decline.

By Kimberly Sizemore

6:38PM (1 week ago)



POULTRY INDUSTRY

2 convicted of sending undocumented workers to North Georgia poultry plant

An Alabama couple has been convicted of providing undocumented workers to a North Georgia-based poultry processing plant for years in a scheme that included false identities, homes for housing workers and vans that shuttled people around.

By The Associated Press

12:00PM (1 week ago)



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