

Following Lee's lead, Terrell County hits pause on data centers

By KATHRYN CROCKETT
Staff Reporter

The Terrell County Commission has become the latest southwest Georgia government to pause potential data center development while officials draft regulations, joining a growing number of local governments choosing to establish rules before developers come calling.

The Terrell County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously Tuesday to adopt a six-month moratorium on new data centers,

giving county officials time to develop zoning regulations governing where such facilities could be located and how they would operate.

The move comes even though no formal data center proposal has been submitted in the county.

Commission Chairman W.T. Gamble III said the county's goal is not to discourage development but to ensure commissioners have clear standards in place before considering what could become one of the largest industrial investments in the county's history.

"I'm not saying that because I'm necessarily hardcore against them," the chairman said during Tuesday's meeting. "They do have some big advantages."

Among those advantages, he said, are the substantial property tax revenues large data centers can generate.

"They sometimes bring \$20 million or \$30 million a year in property tax," Gamble said, noting that figure could exceed, and potentially more than double, the county's current annual property tax collections.

At the same time, commissioners acknowledged the facilities present unique challenges, including high water consumption, significant electrical demand, noise concerns and potential impacts on rural landscapes.

Planning officials raised the issue after discussing how other Georgia communities have begun responding to increased interest from data center developers.

County officials specifically referenced neighboring Lee County, where commissioners earlier this year approved a temporary mor-

atorium while considering development standards. Similar discussions have taken place elsewhere across Georgia as local governments seek to balance economic development opportunities with infrastructure demands.

"One thing they did say was that it's a good idea to go ahead and be proactive," Terrell County Extension Coordinator Margaret Halbrook told commissioners, recalling a presentation she at-

DATA CENTERS
Continued on page 2

Dawson council approves \$68k excavator purchase



The damaged Yanmar mini excavator at the center of months of Dawson City Council debate and public records disputes sits outside Dawson's Public Works facility/KATHRYN CROCKETT

By KATHRYN CROCKETT
Staff Reporter

After months of debate over a damaged mini excavator, the Dawson City Council voted Thursday to purchase a replacement using transportation special-purpose local-option sales tax, or T-SPLOST funds, ending months of discussion over whether the existing machine should be repaired.

The unanimous vote came after City Manager Roxie Powell told council members that replacing the excavator would ultimately be more practical than installing a replacement engine.

"Even if we replaced the engine, there are several additional parts that would also need to be replaced," Powell said. "(The) estimate was that replacing the engine, along with the additional components, would cost approximately \$30,000." She said the equipment dealer recommended purchasing a new machine with a warranty instead.

Powell said comparable machines ranged from approximately \$54,700 to \$68,000, depending on size, with city officials recommending replacement of the smaller model currently owned by the city.

The council subsequently approved purchasing the excavator with available T-SPLOST funds.

The decision concludes one portion of a controversy that has generated months of public scrutiny but leaves several unanswered questions regarding how the city's original machine was damaged, whether employees were held accountable and what documentation supports the decision to replace rather than repair it.

Before discussion began Thursday, Mayor Robert Aaron addressed previous reporting concerning the excavator.

EXCAVATOR PURCHASE
Continued on page 2



The city of Dawson is confronting a widening financial crisis after officials acknowledged overstated revenue projections, proposed borrowing up to \$420,000 to maintain operations and outlined a hazy multi-year financial recovery plan /KATHRYN CROCKETT

City of Dawson proposes borrowing up to \$420k to stay afloat as finances unravel

By KATHRYN CROCKETT
Staff Reporter

The city of Dawson is operating with a structural budget deficit of at least \$300,000, according to its proposed Fiscal Year 2026-27 budget, which projects \$5.88 million in recurring revenue against \$6.18 million in planned spending.

On a monthly basis, the city estimates recurring operating revenue of about \$448,000 while carrying approximately \$441,703 in recurring payroll, insurance, retirement, utility, vendor and solid waste obligations before accounting for many other routine operating expenses, leaving little room for unexpected costs or declining collections.

Documents obtained by The Dawson News show city officials are proposing to balance the budget through a transfer from the Public Utilities Fund while simultaneously seeking authority to borrow as much as \$420,000 from a private financial institution to continue meeting payroll and other operating expenses as Dawson works to complete

financial audits that have remained unfinished since 2023.

During last week's budget presentation, City Manager Roxie Powell told the mayor and council that a review of the city's finances uncovered a budget built on revenue the city never actually received.

"As we've reviewed our revenue, we've found that some of the revenue listed in the Fiscal Year 2026 budget has never actually been collected," Powell said. "I don't know where some of those numbers came from, but our revenue was overstated."

Powell said the city now expects to miss at least \$200,000 in revenue included in the current year's budget.

"Because of that, the Fiscal Year 2027 budget will be significantly smaller," she said.

Those statements closely mirror findings contained in the city's proposed budget summary.

"The proposed budget is balanced only through the inclusion of an authorized interfund transfer from the Public Utilities Fund," the report states.

"Without this transfer, General Fund revenues would not be sufficient to support current operating expenditures."

The report further states that city officials rebuilt revenue estimates using actual collections after determining previous budgets had significantly overstated anticipated revenues.

"During the budget preparation process, it was identified that previous budgets had significantly overstated anticipated revenues," the report states. "In addition, certain one-time transfers, including Right-of-Way (ROW) proceeds from the Utility Fund, had previously been budgeted as recurring General Fund revenue, resulting in unrealistic revenue expectations."

The city's financial presentation also revealed mounting cash-flow concerns.

Powell told the council monthly revenue has ranged from approximately \$451,000 to \$349,000, while payroll alone averages roughly \$200,000 every month.

FINANCES
Continued on page 2

Georgia Ag Department warns farmers of online equipment scams

STAFF REPORTS

ATLANTA — The Georgia Department of Agriculture Law Enforcement Division has warned Georgia's agricultural community to be vigilant after receiving multiple reports of sophisticated online scams targeting farmers searching for farm equipment.

Investigators have identified fraudulent schemes in which scammers create highly convincing websites and online advertisements that appear to represent legitimate farm equipment dealerships. In many cases, the dealerships themselves are real businesses; however, criminals are using artificial intelligence and other advanced technology to imitate those businesses, creating convincing websites, advertisements, emails, and communications designed to deceive potential buyers.

Victims typically locate tractors or other agricultural equipment advertised online at attractive prices. After expressing interest, they are contacted by individuals posing as



The Georgia Department of Agriculture warns the agricultural community of online scams targeting farmers searching for farm equipment/FILE PHOTO

dealership representatives through telephone calls or text messages. The scammers then instruct buyers to wire funds or electronically transfer money to complete the purchase. Once payment is made, the equipment does not exist or is never delivered, and the funds are often unrecoverable.

"Unfortunately, our state's No. 1 industry is not immune to crime, and Georgia farmers are being targeted by online scammers," Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Tyler Harper said in a news release. "The safest approach is to personally vis-

it the dealership, put your own eyes on the equipment, and complete the purchase in person. Taking these extra steps can prevent significant financial losses, while we work to hold the perpetrators accountable."

The Georgia Department of Agriculture urges farmers and agricultural businesses to exercise caution before purchasing equipment online. Before sending any payment:

Verify the dealership by independently locating its official phone number and contacting the business directly.

Discuss large online purchases

with your financial institution before transferring funds.

Be extremely cautious of requests to wire money or send electronic payments to unfamiliar accounts.

Whenever possible, travel to the dealership in person, inspect the equipment yourself, and complete the transaction using a cashier's check or another secure payment method.

The Georgia Department of Agriculture remains committed to protecting Georgia's farmers, ranchers, and agricultural businesses from fraud and criminal activity. Agriculture is Georgia's No. 1 industry, and safeguarding the people who support it remains a top priority.

Anyone who believes they have been targeted by one of these scams should immediately contact their financial institution and report the incident to local law enforcement. Suspected fraud involving agricultural businesses may also be reported to the Georgia Department of Agriculture Law Enforcement Division.



Southwest Georgia Regional Commission launches adult home modification program

STAFF REPORTS

CAMILLA — The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission has announced the official launch of the Older Adult Home Modification Program (OAHMP). Backed by a \$1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, this initiative will provide free, essential home safety and accessibility modifications to approximately 100 to 120 low-income senior citizens (ages 62 and older) across the region.

The program focuses heavily on rural, underserved, and persistent poverty communities across 14 counties. Eligible participants can receive an estimated \$5,000 to \$15,000 per household in low-cost, high-impact improvements tailored to their needs. Covered modifications include the installation of safety ramps, grab bars, handrails, door widening, and critical accessibility upgrades for bathrooms and kitchens.

Changes will target crucial repairs to improve general safety, health, and energy efficiency. To maximize safety outcomes, SWGRC is partnering with licensed Occupational Therapists who will conduct personal, in-home assessments using specialized Home for Life Design digital software. This data-driven framework measures environmental barriers and customizes every repair plan.

Approved, licensed contractors will execute the construction work, and all homes will undergo an inspection to ensure compliance with HUD, local, and historical preservation standards before a final homeowner sign-off.

"Our goal is to ensure that our senior neighbors can continue living in their homes safely, comfortably, and with dignity," SWGRC Deputy Director Barbara Reddick said. "As an AARP-designated Age-Friendly Region, we are fully committed to bringing these vital resources directly to the families who need them most."

The program targets low-income homeowners and renters whose household income does not exceed 80% of the Area Median Income. Interested persons can see the Regional Commission's website (<https://www.swgrc.org/OAHMP>) for income program requirements. Eligible individuals currently on existing housing waiting lists will be notified directly, and outreach is expanding regionally via newspapers and social media to reach historically marginalized groups.

Applications are being accepted and prioritized based on urgency and structural need. Residents in 14 counties and 43 cities are encouraged to apply. Counties include Baker, Calhoun, Colquitt, Decatur, Dougherty, Early, Grady, Lee, Miller, Mitchell, Seminole, Terrell, Thomas and Worth.

For more information, to check eligibility, or to request an application, contact Intake Specialist Jennifer Pittman at (229) 522-3552, extension 118, or Program Manager Brenda Wade at (229) 522-3552, extension 105, or visit <https://www.swgrc.org/OAHMP> to get program details and income limits.

Dougherty County Police Department, McDonald's to hold National Night Out

STAFF REPORTS

ALBANY — The Dougherty County Police Department is inviting the community to support its National Night Out efforts by attending a National Night Out Kickoff fundraising event at the McDonald's restaurant located at 101 S. Westover Blvd.

The kickoff events will be held on July 22, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. During each event, Dougherty County Police officers will step behind the counter to serve customers alongside McDonald's employees. A percentage of the proceeds from purchases made during the two-hour events will be donated to the Dougherty County Police Department to support National Night Out activities.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes partnerships between law enforcement and the neighborhoods they serve while encouraging crime prevention and community engagement.

"We're asking our community to come out, enjoy a meal and help support an event that strengthens the relationship between our officers and the residents we serve," Dougherty County Police Chief Kenneth Johnson said. "Every purchase made during these events helps us continue building safer, stronger neighborhoods through National Night Out."

Residents are encouraged to bring their families, meet local officers and show their support by dining at the participating McDonald's location during either event.

For additional information, contact the Dougherty County Police Department at (229) 430-6600 or email Cora Baker at cbaker@dougherty.ga.us.

RELIGION DIGEST

Bronwood Road Church of Christ Giveaway
904 Crawford St. NE, Dawson, Georgia
Saturday, July 25, at 9 a.m.

Church to Host Free Community Giveaway The Bronwood Road Church of Christ, located at 904 Crawford St. NE in Dawson, will host a free community giveaway on Saturday, July 25, beginning at 9 a.m. The event will feature free clothing, Bible study materials and light refreshments. Community members are invited to attend, and all items will be available at no cost while supplies last. For more information, contact Brother George Drain at (229) 343-6779.

DATA CENTERS

Continued from page 1

tended. "If you don't already have some kind of ordinance in place, they can take advantage of that."

County Attorney Jimmy Skipper agreed the county should establish regulations before any proposal arrives.

Without an ordinance, officials noted, the county could have limited authority to address issues such as setbacks, buffering, utility requirements or operational standards should a developer seek approval under existing zoning.

The moratorium is intended to provide time for commissioners, the Planning and Zoning Board and county staff to research best practices before adopting permanent regulations.

EXCAVATOR PURCHASE

Continued from page 1

"We've gone back and forth on this issue," Aaron said. "I want to make it clear that there was never an engine purchase for this excavator. Whatever may have been reported elsewhere, the city has not purchased an engine for it."

However, the existence of a replacement engine was not originally reported based on anonymous sources or speculation.

As previously reported by The Dawson News, the information originated from statements made during public meetings and records produced by the city itself.

During an April council meeting, officials publicly stated that a replacement engine had been purchased at a cost of \$10,000 after the excavator was reportedly damaged.

Subsequent investigation determined related invoices were actually for a replacement starter rather than an engine. City officials later acknowledged no replacement engine had been purchased.

That reversal became the focus of multiple follow-up stories after the city was unable to produce records documenting an engine purchase or even reports accurately outlining the damage preventing the excavator from being operational, despite repeated Open Records Act requests.

Although Thursday's discussion centered on replacing the excavator, council members again received no written mechanical assessment of the damaged machine, no formal repair estimate and no competing repair bids before voting to spend T-SPLOST funds on a replacement.

FINANCES

Continued from page 1

"As a result, we're running a deficit for July," Powell said. "We're also projecting deficits for August, and likely into September."

City records presented with the budget show total monthly collections falling from \$543,934 in February to \$349,020 in June. Property tax collections dropped from \$54,078 in February to just over \$4,000 in June following the primary tax collection season. Utility billing collections also declined sharply, from \$365,979 in February to \$267,622 in June.

As officials discussed improving cash flow, Powell acknowledged problems with the city's utility collection practices.

"We discovered that some customers who should have been disconnected for non-payment were not being disconnected, so we've changed those assignments," she said.

The budget proposal attributes the city's financial condition to rising personnel costs, inflation, aging infrastructure, increasing maintenance expenses, stagnant local revenue growth, water loss, declining operational efficiency and utility rates that have not been adjusted since 2011.

"We're still operating on revenue levels established approximately 15 years ago, while inflation and operating costs have continued to increase," Powell told the council.

To address the shortfall, Powell recommended immediate spending controls.

"We're also recommending a hiring freeze and a freeze on discretionary spending unless it's an emergency repair or replacement that's necessary for operations," she said.

Data centers have become increasingly attractive to local governments because they often represent hundreds of millions of dollars in taxable investment while employing relatively few workers compared with manufacturing facilities.

The rapid expansion of artificial intelligence, cloud computing and digital storage has accelerated demand for new facilities across Georgia, particularly in communities with available land, reliable electric infrastructure and access to major transmission lines.

But the projects have also drawn scrutiny.

Large data centers can consume millions of gallons of water daily for cooling, depending on their design, while requiring enormous amounts of electricity that can strain local power infrastructure. Many local governments

Instead, Powell summarized information she said had been provided verbally by Southern Sales.

"Mr. (Michael) Sinquefield (the city's Public Works superintendent) contacted Southern Sales, where we originally purchased the excavator, and requested additional documentation," Powell said. "We have not yet received that documentation."

She said the dealer nevertheless recommended replacement because of the additional repairs that would be required beyond an engine replacement. The council did not receive a written engineering evaluation, inspection report or detailed repair estimate during the meeting before authorizing the purchase.

Several council members indicated their concerns extended beyond purchasing another machine.

"My concern isn't with what's being proposed today," one council member said. "My concern is how the first mini excavator was damaged and the fact that there didn't appear to be any accountability."

The council member added that the issue affected more than a single piece of equipment.

"This isn't just about the mini excavator," the council member continued. "We have numerous pieces of city equipment. I'd like an inventory of all city equipment presented to the council. It seems like we're constantly spending money repairing equipment that's being damaged, and I'd like to see greater accountability."

Powell responded that the city's newly adopted employee safety manual allows employees to be disciplined when negligence results in damage to city property.

"Employees may be disciplined if there is negligence on their part, and

also have debated issues ranging from diesel backup generators and noise to the long-term use of agricultural land.

Terrell commissioners emphasized Tuesday that the six-month moratorium is intended to allow those questions to be answered before the county receives a formal proposal.

The board voted to limit the moratorium to six months, with the option of extending it if additional time is needed to complete an ordinance.

"I don't want to just linger that forever," Gamble said. "I want to get something in place. It's a pretty complicated issue."

During the coming months, county officials are expected to review model ordinances from other Georgia communities and work with the Planning and Zoning Board to develop regulations for future consideration.

they may be held financially responsible when negligence results in damage to city equipment," she said.

The discussion also turned to operator training. Powell said three Public Works employees are expected to complete heavy equipment operator training through the Golden Triangle Regional Commission's equipment simulator program before operating the new excavator.

Mayor Aaron agreed.

"I think it's important that everyone operating the equipment complete that training," he said. "That has been our recommendation from the beginning."

Council members also requested a sign-out system documenting which employee is responsible for each piece of equipment during the workday. Powell said the city does not currently maintain such a system but "can certainly create that."

City officials said the damaged excavator could be declared surplus and sold.

Powell said Southern Sales estimated the machine could bring approximately \$15,000 through the surplus process, with those proceeds returning to the city's T-SPLOST account.

The newly purchased excavator will include a three-year warranty, according to the discussion. The purchase comes as Dawson continues addressing broader financial challenges and confusion.

During the same meeting, Powell informed council members that previous city budgets overstated recurring revenues and that the city is projecting operating deficits over the coming months. She requested authorization to pursue a short-term loan or use certificates of deposit as collateral to maintain operations while implementing a financial recovery plan.

row?" Aaron asked.

Powell replied the city anticipated borrowing "probably around \$400,000 to \$420,000."

The discussion then shifted to the city's incomplete financial audits. One council member asked, "How are we going to move forward with the loan when we still haven't completed the audit?"

Powell then responded that because the proposed financing would be secured through the city's certificates of deposit rather than a state or federal lending program, completed audits would not be required.

"We can do that with the CDs because it's not a state or federal loan," she said. "It's through our local bank, and the CDs serve as the collateral. We don't have to have the audit completed for that."

Powell also recommended leaving the vacant city clerk position unfilled for the coming fiscal year as a cost-saving measure.

"The two of us can split those duties at no additional cost to the city," she said, referencing herself and finance director, Dawn Wiliford. "That would save approximately \$70,000 when you consider salary, taxes, training and the other associated expenses."

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Housing Authority of the City of Dawson, in compliance with applicable U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations, has prepared a draft version of a Housing Agency Plan outlining the Mission, Goals, Objectives, and Policies and Procedures that will be used as guidance in the operation of all Public Housing developments within our jurisdiction for the next year.

The Housing Authority will be conducting a public hearing at the office of the Authority, located at 553 Lemon Street, NE, Dawson, GA 39842 on Tuesday, August 11, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

This comprehensive plan will be coordinated with all residents of public housing and contains information that will be discussed at the public hearing. The Housing Authority encourages residents, citizens, representatives from public agencies and other interested parties to make comments on the draft plan. The Plan will be available for review during normal business hours at the office of the Authority, 553 Lemon Street, NE, from June 25, 2026 until the hearing.

DID YOU KNOW...?

Did Canada once prepare invasion plans against the United States of America?

By JACK BAGLEY
Georgia Trust For Local News

The heights of summer! (Or the depths, depending on how you look at it.) Some people decry the heat and humidity, while others seem to revel in it. I'm not too sure about those revelers, though. Personally, when the heat and humidity get too much, I contemplate jumping into a swimming pool. Only at the shallow end, though, since I can't swim. If I go into the deep part, I sink. Or should there be a "t" in that word somewhere? Anyway, on with the trivia!

Did you know...
... it would take you 19 minutes to fall to the center of the Earth? That's assuming a hole was drilled all the way, the hole was wide enough, and you were silly enough to jump or fall into it. (How did they figure that one out, anyway?)

... a best-selling book was published in 1989 with a surprise? Everything Men Know About Women, by Dr. Alan Francis, spells out just what the title indicates. Topics such as making friends with women, romancing women, achieving emotional intimacy with women, and more are covered fully ... in the book's 128 blank pages. That's the surprise. Alan Francis is the pen name of authors Cindy Cashman (born 1958) and Dr. Alan Francis Garner (born 1934). The book was so popular that it was reissued for a 25th anniversary in 2014, and a 30th in 2019. (I don't think I would need 128 pages to say I know nothing about a topic, but that's just me.)

... a Hungarian rebel leader met a very grisly end? György Dózsa (1470-1514) led a revolt of Hungarian peasants against his kingdom's landed nobility in 1514. His forces were defeated and Dózsa was captured, but his punishment has to rate as one of the worst of all time. Dózsa was sentenced to be placed on a metal throne and forced to wear a metal crown and scepter – and then the throne, crown and scepter were heated to a very high temperature. As if being cooked to death wasn't bad enough, once he was "done," his followers are forced to eat him and drink his blood. (Oh, my!)

... most polar bears live in Canada? Current estimates are that between 22,000 and 31,000 polar bears are alive in the wild, and the vast majority of them – between 60 and 80 percent – live in Canada. The rest can be found in Greenland, Norway, Russia and Alaska. (And they'd love for you to visit them. Really.)

... what the lowest-budget movie to win the Best Picture Academy Award™ was? In an era that is filled with movies with budgets in the hundreds of millions of dollars, it would be very difficult to imagine a film with a budget that is a fraction of that figure being a Best Picture. But Moonlight, released in 2016, had a budget of only \$1.5 million. And before you mention the earlier years and changing value of the dollar, consider: the first movie to win the Best Picture Oscar, Wings, had a budget of \$2 million in 1927 money. (Proof of what you can do if you need to.)

... Canada once prepared invasion plans against the United States? Titled "Defence Scheme 1," the plan was created on April 12, 1921, and was drafted as a response to a hypothetical U.S. invasion of Canada. The plan assumed that U.S. forces would try to capture the capital at Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto, the Prairie Provinces, and British Columbia, and Canadian forces would respond by taking Seattle; Portland, Oregon; Fargo, North Dakota; Great Falls, Montana; and Minneapolis, Minnesota.. The plan was drafted by Lt. Col. James Sutherland Brown (1881-1951) and was predicated on British support for Canada in the event of the plan being needed. What Brown did not know was that Britain had deemed Canada far too large an area to defend, and thus had no plans to send large military forces. The plan was junked in 1928 after the Canadian General Staff decided more peaceful U.S.-British relations were a good idea. (Sure, but what would they gain by taking Fargo?)

... water is not wet? I know, I know, but bear with me a moment. Science defines "wetness" as a liquid's ability to maintain contact with a solid surface. Water itself, by this definition, is thus not wet – but it can make other things wet. (My head hurts all of a sudden.)

... starfish do not have brains? These under-sea animals have a very simple system which does not include that particular organ. (In that regard, they remind me of some people I know.)

... popcorn pops in two main shapes? The shapes are called mushroom and butterfly. A mushroom pop is rather uniform in shape, while a butterfly pop is more explosive. (People actually get paid to figure this stuff out.)

... Daylight Saving Time has economic consequences? You doubt me, I know, but read on: JPMorganChase conducted a study into Daylight Saving Time in 2016, to see if there really are economic issues. The study showed that there was a 0.9 percent increase in daily credit/debit card spending per capita at the beginning of the time change, and at the end there was a spending reduction of 3.5 percent. (Another argument for ending it.)

... you may suffer from papaphobia? I hope you aren't Catholic if you do. Papaphobia is the fear of the Pope. (I thought it was fear of your Dad.)

Now... you know!

Family game night: Treachery and pride

Monopoly is widely recognized as the world's most popular board game. Conservative estimates say that 500 million people enjoy this tabletop pastime. Who knows how many families have been ruined and friendships destroyed with a piece landing on Boardwalk space adorned with a hotel.

A standard game of Monopoly typically lasts one to three hours, according to the rule book. One documented game however, lasted about 70 days and was certainly played by people who devoutly loved each other or severely wished to see the other die an agonizing death. Nothing, and I mean nothing, should ever last that many days.

This innocent game of property investment and driving your competition to the poor house has a long, twisted back story. It began as anti-capitalist propaganda, a way to promote wealth redistribution and oppose land owning monopolies. That was in 1908, and people quickly realized that a game that nobody wins is not a game at all. And why wouldn't you want to be a land tycoon?

So, about a quarter of a century later, another person, who clearly had a better sense of humor and drive to make money, changed the rules of the game to glorify the very thing it was created to destroy. The Parker Brothers company bought the concept, and the rest, as they say, is history. Now there are several variations of Monopoly, even one that glorifies the cheating that many players are prone to do anyway, all with the same goal of bankrupting your opponents.

THE NEW SOUTHERN DAD



By KYLE DOMINY

Somewhere along the way, the notion of a family game night was touted as a way for parents and children to connect with each other, probably by board game companies seeking to gain more market share in an entertainment/leisure industry that embraces all things electronic.

Regular events of families gathering around the table to enjoy a game supposedly has great benefits. It boosts cognitive development, relieves stress and creates familial bonds and routines that last a lifetime.

I love a good tabletop game, board, card or otherwise. I've spent countless hours over the years whiling away the hours with a game, some of which become very competitive and even divulged into arguments (Note: If you are related to a college professor, never agree to a game of Trivial Pursuit, unless

you like feeling stupid). However, I'm sad to report that I seldom get up from a family game night happy to have held a family game night. The depravity of man comes on full display when my children roll the dice. The desire to win, at any cost, prevails over all the manners and sensibilities I have instilled over the years. We can't get a game of checkers in, let alone a round of Monopoly.

I blame myself. I don't go easy on my offspring. What better way to teach the harshness of life than by kicking their butts at a board game? Yes, I charge full rent when they land on my hotel-developed Boardwalk square.

The game is called "Monopoly," not "be nice to your free-loading children."

We should probably take up family walks.

COUCH THEATER



Molly Shannon, left, and Will Ferrell star in "The Hawk"/Photo courtesy of Netflix

By DEMI TAVERAS
King Features

The Hawk (TV-MA)

This absurd comedy series was co-created by and stars a comedic actor who's well-versed in absurdity, the fabulous Will Ferrell ("You're Cordially Invited"). Starring alongside another "Saturday Night Live" alum, Molly Shannon, Ferrell plays professional golfer Lonnie "The Hawk" Hawkins, aka 2004's top golfer. Determined that he has what it takes to get back to the top, Lonnie signs on for a PGA tour with his son, Lance (Jimmy Tatro). With his can-do attitude, good humor, and awful fashion sense, nothing can stop Lonnie from redeeming his golf legacy. All 10 episodes premiere on July 16. (Netflix)

Tron: Ares (PG-13)

The sequel to "Tron: Legacy" (2010) didn't quite make up its \$220 million budget in theaters, with only \$142.2 million recouped at the box office. It also failed to receive glowing reviews from critics, which is surprising considering its lead actor, Jared Leto ("Masters of the Universe"). Rounding out the rest of the cast are "The Morning Show's" Greta Lee, "Dahmer's" Evan Peters, and "The Abandons" Gillian Anderson. Taking place in 2025, the film follows two companies that are locked in a race to bring digital programs into the real world. One company, led by Julian Dillinger (Peters), introduces the "perfect expendable soldier" in his program Ares, but what Julian never expected is that Ares' self-awareness might overpower his expendability. Out now to stream! (Disney+)

NOTICE OF SEALED BIDS
CITY HALL
142 EAST MAIN STREET
PARROTT, GA 39877

The City of Parrott would like to extend drainage pipe by 10 feet under Oak Street in Parrott, Ga.

All interesting parties please submit your bid by 5:00 P.M. Monday **August 31, 2026**. You will be notified at that time of who has won the bid. If you have any additional questions, or concerns please call 229-623-2635.



Housing Authority of the City of Dawson

553 Lemon Street NE
P.O. Box 724
Dawson, GA 39842-0724
dawsonha@windstream.net

Phone (229) 995-2675
Fax (229) 995-3790

APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED

2nd & 3rd Thursday of each month between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm

Documents needed in order to complete application (No Exceptions):

- Birth Certificates for each household member
- Social Security cards for each household member
- Picture ID for each household member 18 years of age and up
- Proof of Income

Please call us if you have any questions!

Resaca Musings

RESACA – This laid-back settlement is 13 miles south of Dalton, just a little more than a stone’s throw from Interstate 75. It has an interesting history that involves a name change, a link to the Mexican-American War, a beauty pageant involving a former spouse of the sitting US president, and a colorful moonshiner.

I traveled here to see the moonshiner, which led to a recent stop at a convenience store on LaFayette Road. That is pronounced “Lah-FAY-ette,” but is named for the French general who befriended George Washington during the American Revolution and used a different pronunciation of his last name. Wonder what he would say if he knew about the bastardization of his surname.

Originally, the name of Resaca was “Dublin,” which is very interesting in that the town of Dublin, located in Laurens County, is 209 miles south. Before an issue could be raised about two towns with the same name in the same state could be debated, victory in the Mexican-American War took care of that.

Seems that those returning soldiers who won a significant victory at the Battle of Resaca de la Palma renamed the town Resaca, which means “Dry riverbed of the palm” in Spanish—according to one historian.

Apparently, Marla Maples was born in Cohutta, where a World War II hero, Bill Petty, was from. Petty was credited with putting away 30 Germans on D-Day. He was one of the

Rangers who scaled the cliffs at Pointe du Hoc and took exception to any soldier who boasted about any battlefield encounter.

When I asked him if the number of casualties credited to him was accurate, he said in disgust, “I don’t know, but what damn fool would keep count?”

Marla Maples had relatives in Resaca and has a different story to tell. A former UGA coed, she had a nice run of beauty pageant successes included the “Miss Resaca Beach Poster Girl Contest” in 1984. I have been to Resaca a few times but never saw a beach. Curiosity research confirms that the nearest beach connected to an ocean is Tybee Island, 338 miles to the southeast.

My wife and I once were invited to Mar-a-Lago as overnight guests—the invitation did not come from Donald Trump—and Marla and their daughter, Tiffa-



LORAN SMITH

ny, were on the property. (We had a friend who was a friend of the general manager, and he arranged for our visit.)

Only in America could a pretty blonde from the mountains of North Georgia wind up marrying a billionaire who would become President of the United States. But, then again, Georgia girls are especial.

Cohutta was the scene of

the Great American Locomotive race during the Civil War.

Union spies, led by one James J. Andrews hijacked the steam locomotive, “The General,” in Kennesaw, then known as Big Shanty. A man named William Fuller then began to pursue “The General,” starting out on foot and then commandeering a handcar.

The General eventually ran out of gas but the Union spies were captured and executed. The surviving Union soldiers were awarded the first Medal of Honor.

You can find The General at the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History, which is in Kennesaw. If you are interested in visiting “The Texas,” you will find it at The Atlanta History Center.

The most interesting story about these parts came years ago when I bumped

into a boot legger who lived in Resaca. He had become a local legend who had refined the art of making moonshine. He had a model of his still on his back porch.

I came away with a good story during my visit. It has to do with a revenuer who meets this kid at the foot of a mountain and asks, “Son where is your Pa?” The kid replied, “He’s up on the mountain, making moonshine.” The revenuer then asked, “Where’s your Ma?” The kid said, “She’s up there helping him.”

When the revenuer said, “I’ll give you a quarter to take me to where they are,” the kid put out his hand. “Oh no,” the revenuer said. I’ll pay you when we get back.”

And the kid had the last word: “No sir, I want my money now, ‘cause if you go up there, you ain’t coming back.”

Who's number one?

It’s that time of year again. The Thermometers occasionally say 100 but the true fans are looking toward fall. Pre-season football rankings will begin to be released shortly.

Per usual, there will be plenty to argue about. The rankings will be based on the opinions of a few experts. The reactions will come from fans who see bias in anything that displeases them. By the time a champion is crowned, few will remember the vicious arguments that were provided as stop gap entertainment during the summer doldrums.

CNBC plays this game every year with their own rankings, tailored to their audience of viewers seeking economic based news. Last week they listed their annual ranking of “Top States For Business.”

Their rankings have gone from quizzical to comical. Let’s put on our Georgia fan jerseys and talk about it.

Georgia has branded itself as the number one state for business for more than

a decade. We have a new Hyundai plant, several battery manufacturers, and a site being prepped for Rivian – along with dozens of new suppliers for this ecosystem to show for it.

Biotech has become a quiet force between Atlanta and Athens, with a new medical 2,000 acre research campus named Rowen landing its first major tenant this year. UCB has committed to a \$2 billion investment and 330 permanent high paying life science jobs.

We’ve got infrastructure like no other. The East Coast’s most efficient port and the nation’s busiest airport have miles and miles of roads and rail liking them to us and the world.

Our strongest competition, depending on the industry, tends to come from our neighbors. Economic Development trophies are usually shared within the SEC, whether the winner is us or Florida, Texas, Tennessee, or one of the Carolinas.



CHARLIE HARPER
GEORGIA POLITICS

So imagine sitting through the hype of CNBC who decided to spotlight... Ohio?

It just seems inherently wrong when a college football championship goes to the B1G. It should seem the same when a major business network claims businesses are tripping over themselves to relocate to Toledo. What gives?

Buried in the online footnotes of their contest ranking criteria, the producers let us know their biases. Their “Quality of Life” score is weighted at 11.6% - their 4th most important metric.

Who has the best quality of life? According to CNBC,

that’s Vermont. They’re followed by Maine, New Jersey, Minnesota, and Connecticut.

Who has the worst Quality of Life? Tennessee. Followed by Texas, Indiana, Louisiana, and Georgia.

Read those two paragraphs again and think about how many folks from Tennessee and Texas are pining away for their chance to move to Minnesota or New Jersey. I’m sure there are days we’re all a bit annoyed with life in Georgia, but do you really think it’s fifth worst in the entire country?

CNBC’s pro-business quality of life metrics are in fact, the counter balance for states that are actually business friendly. What do they consider the necessary attributes?

They consider it to be business friendly if a state bans right to work laws. They also look for “livable wage policies” and paid leave. These are some of the exact policies that states are citing when leaving places like Seattle or California. To make sure you see the political favoritism, they include this line: “...we favor reproductive rights in this category as well.”

Want to understand Minnesota’s high ranking? “With studies showing that childcare is one of the main obstacles to employees entering or re-entering the workforce, we consider the availability and affordability of qualified facilities.” We’re all now aware of Minnesota’s abundant opportunities for child care “learning”. Being pro-fraud is now “pro-business”.

Like a pre-season poll, CNBC’s ranking is something states with approved political positions can brag about, but not terribly meaningful when the trophies are finally awarded. So what is Georgia doing now that actually matters? It’s an open question.

Companies don’t just value today’s pro-business policies. They also need stability and predictability well into the future.

Georgia is a purple state. That may be a bonus for some industries, but is also a cautionary signal. No one wants to make a multi-billion capital outlay if the rules are about to dramatically change.

That caution doesn’t just extend to a possible parti-

san change in November’s election. Georgia’s Republican primaries were dominated by candidate messaging emphasizing how much things were about to change. Take the most extreme populist rhetoric away, and the promises that “outsiders” were about to remake the state, and you still have stated goals of the winning candidates and legislative leaders promising to remake the tax code.

Current and future employers need to know what their share of future tax bills will be. There are promises of rate cuts but few details of where new revenues will come from nor if spending for services will be cut, and where.

Candidates who plan to later hand out trophies and attend ribbon cuttings would be well served to answer many of these questions now. CNBC’s ranking aside, Georgia has earned its reputation as a top state for business and its actual (high) quality of life. It would be nice to hear our current and future leaders articulate how they intend to protect what is good while railing against other parts of the status quo.

Dick Yarbrough: A letter. A bracelet. And God's anonymous hand

The Beloved Woman Who Shared My Name had a refrigerator magnet that said "Coincidence is God's Way of Remaining Anonymous." I have just had a number of coincidences that will require some explanation, so bear with me.

This column generates quite a bit of reader response, depending on the subject. The preponderance

of your responses come via email. But I also get mail sent to the P.O. box listed at the bottom of this column. I am not as punctual in getting to the post office as I should be.

So it was that last week when a number of letters were awaiting me, including a package from Ellore, South Carolina. Since my column doesn’t run in El-

lore (Pop. 570) or anywhere else in South Carolina, that naturally piqued my curiosity. Needless to say, I don’t get much mail from South Carolina.

The writer was Catherine Kennedy. She was writing to tell me about a remarkable coincidence. (Cue the refrigerator magnet.) During the Vietnam War, when she was a child living in Miami, Oklahoma, she requested and received a POW/MIA bracelet and dutifully wore it, hoping to learn the fate of the individual and that he would return home safely.

“Eventually,” she said, “I tucked the bracelet away in a jewelry box, occasionally taking it out and wondering what happened to him. Had he been found? Had he made it home to his loved ones? I could not bring myself to ever let loose of the bracelet. It seemed I had a responsibility to safeguard

it.”

Catherine says that she has moved across the country more times than she cares to count but she held onto the bracelet, although she said, “there were times I couldn’t tell you where it was.”

Here comes another coincidence. “Yesterday, I reached into a suitcase pocket and pulled out something that had no reason to be there,” she said. It was the long-forgotten bracelet. Ms. Kennedy decided to do a quick search to learn more about the name on the bracelet and found a column I wrote in December 2023. It was about my having discovered the fate of Maj. Paschal (Pat) Boggs, my classmate at Russell High School in East Point and later my fraternity brother at the University of Georgia. The name on the bracelet she had worn as a child.



DICK YARBROUGH

Pat and I lost contact after graduation. All I knew was that he had joined the military. Later, I found out that he was missing in action. Years passed. I was in Washington and happened to be jogging by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on The Mall when something compelled me to stop, walk over and look at the names. Of the approximately 58,000 names on the wall, I looked straight at the name of Maj. Paschal Boggs. A coincidence? It gave me goosebumps and I wrote a column about that surreal experience.

By coincidence, a reader sent the column to Pat’s brother-in-law, Ron Breuch, in Monterey, California. Ron was married to Pat’s younger sister, Cecile, who had since passed away. He filled in the details.

“Ceil was very active in the POW/MIA movement,” he told me, “and traveled many times to Washington

in attempts to get North Vietnam to follow international rules on POWs and MIAs. It was not until 2005 that North Vietnam finally opened their country to US military teams and we finally knew the complete story of what happened in August of 1967.”

Pat Boggs was navigator on a two-man Grumman A6 raft launched from a carrier at night and headed to North Vietnam. Their plane hit a karst, a limestone formation prominent on the coast. Total devastation. U.S. military recovery teams later found only their harnesses and a pistol Pat always carried with him. Nothing more.

But now at least I finally knew what had happened to my fraternity brother, Pat Boggs, after all these years and I wrote a column about it. It was closure. End of story. Only it wasn’t. By coincidence, Catherine Kennedy, of Ellore, South Carolina, read the account almost three years later and sent me his bracelet she has had in her possession for 53 years.

In closing, Ms. Kennedy thanked me for “being the next caretaker on this journey of your friend’s bracelet.” It is she that deserves the thanks. I am wearing it as we speak and will continue to do so. I told you this story would be full of coincidences. And it is. God has been working overtime.

The Dawson News

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Legals

D-086
IN THE PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF TERRELL
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: OBIE NEWTON GOLDEN, JR. ,
DECEASED
ESTATE NO: 4138
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMIN-
ISTRATION
NOTICE

To: ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, INTERESTED PARTIES, CREDITORS
HARDY FRANKLIN GOLDEN has petitioned to be appointed **Administrator** of the estate of **OBIE NEWTON GOLDEN, JR.** deceased, of said County. The Petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. §53-12-261. All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the court on or **before JULY 20TH, 2026**, **BE NOTIFIED FURTHER:** All objections to the Petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel at the following address/ telephone number for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.
Carol M. Speir
Judge of the Probate Court
By: CINDY THOMAS
Clerk of the Probate Court
Address: P.O. Box 67
Dawson, Georgia 39842
229-995-5515

June 25, July 2, 9, 16, 2026

D-096
Public Notice
The Southwest Georgia Regional Commission, located at 181 East Broad Street in Camilla, GA, is issuing a Request for Qualifications to assess potentially environmentally hazardous sites and assist with the management and execution of an EPA Brownfields Grant and future related projects within a fourteen-county area of the Southwest Georgia region. If you are interested in receiving the Request for Qualifications document, please contact: Barbara Reddick
Deputy Director
PO Box 346
Camilla, GA 31730
breddick@swgrc.org
Or you may access the document electronically at https://www.swgrc.org/public-notices under "Request for Qualifications"
Proposals will be due no later than Monday August 10, by 4 PM EST.

July 16, 2026

D-088
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
UNDER POWER
TERRELL COUNTY, GEORGIA
Under and by virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Deed to Secure Debt, Assignment of Rents and Security Agreement (the "Security Deed") given by Cibol Distribuidora Bolivar, LLC, a Florida limited liability company, to Rain City Capital, LLC, a Washington limited liability company, dated April 3, 2025, and recorded on June 18, 2025 in Deed Book 0014C at Page 0843, Terrell County, Georgia Records, conveying the after-described Property to secure a certain Secured Note in the original principal amount of \$167,860.00, with interest thereon as set forth therein, there will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the Court House Door of Terrell County, Georgia (or such other area as designated by Order of the Superior Court of said County) within the legal hours of sale on **August 4, 2026** (being the first Tuesday of said month unless said date falls on a Federal holiday, in which case being the first Wednesday of said month), the following described Property:

That tract or parcel of land including the residence and other improvements thereupon, situated, lying and being in the City of Dawson, Terrell County, Georgia, and the same being known and distinguished as the West 118.5 feet of the North part of Lot No. 2 in Block No. 127, according to the Map of the City of Dawson by Marbury & Wright, there being excluded and not conveyed herein the East five feet of the North portion of said Lot No. 2 in Block No. 127 according to the Map of the City of Dawson by Marbury & Wright, and the Property herein described and herein conveyed fronting 118.5 feet on the South side of East Church Street and being more particularly described as follows: BEGINNING at a point on the inside of the sidewalk on the South side of East Church Street evidenced by an iron pin located 22 feet South of and perpendicular from the center line of East Church Street at a distance of 110 feet East of and from the center line of North Nelson Street, and from said designated point of beginning of the herein described and herein conveyed Property, thence running in a Southerly direction South 0 degrees and 26 minutes East a distance of 157.6 feet to a point evidenced by an iron pipe, thence running in an Easterly direction North 88 degrees and 30 minutes East a distance of 118.5 feet to a point evidenced by an iron pin; thence running in a Northerly direction North 0 degrees and 26 minutes West a distance of 158.4 feet to a point evidenced by an iron pin located on the inside of the sidewalk on the South side of East Church Street at a distance of 22 feet South of and perpendicular from the center line of East Church Street, thence running in a Westerly direction along the inside of this sidewalk on the South side of East Church Street South 89 degrees 3 minutes West a distance of 118.5 feet to the aforesaid point of beginning of the herein described and herein conveyed Property, evidenced by an iron pin located 22 feet South of and perpendicular from the center line of East Church Street; and said Property being bounded now or formerly as follows: On the North by East Church Street, on the East by the property of Mrs. Augusta Griggs Raines, on the South partly by the property of Earl J. Reid and partly by the property of Herschel W. Christie, and on the West by the property of Mrs. Willie Chappell Davidson; and a more accurate description of said Property will appear by reference to a Survey and Plat thereof made by Joseph F. Dubeau, Surveyor under date of January 28, 1969, entitled "Property Line Survey for Mrs. Fannie Alexander Curtis – Part of Lot No. 2, Block No. 127 – Dawson, Terrell County, Georgia", and which Plat is recorded under date of March 18, 1969, in Plat Book No. 3, Page 182, in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Terrell County, Georgia, and said Plat and the record thereof are by express reference thereto made a part hereof of the description of said Property; and said Property is a portion of the Property contained in that certain Deed executed by Mrs. Genie Pace Bell to Gussie G. Raines (same person as Mrs. Augusta Griggs Raines), dated December 20, 1943, and recorded in Deed Book JJ, Page 28 of the Deed Records of Terrell County, Georgia. Said Property is known as 419 Church Street N.E. under the present system of naming and numbering streets in Dawson, Terrell County, Georgia. Tax/Parcel ID: D07139 Address: 419 Church Street NE, Dawson, Georgia 39842 Parcel: D07 139 To the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the Property is Cibol Distribuidora Bolivar, LLC, or tenant(s). Said Property is more commonly known as **419 Church Street NE, Dawson, Georgia 39842 (Parcel #D07 139)**, together with all fixtures and personal property attached to and constituting a part of said Property, if any. U.S. Bank Trust Company National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Indenture Trustee for Rain City Mortgage Trust 2024-RTL1 is the current holder of the Security Deed, by instrument, dated June 22, 2026 and recorded on June 25, 2026 in Deed Book 0014J at Page 0470, Terrell County, Georgia Records.

The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, amount other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as and when due and in the manner provided in the Note and Security Deed. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, as provided in the Security Deed and by law, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given). Please note that, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2, you are not entitled by law to an amendment or modification of the terms of your loan. The entity having full authority to negotiate, amend, or modify all terms of the loan (although not required by law to do so) is U.S. Bank Trust Company National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Indenture Trustee for Rain City Mortgage Trust 2024-RTL1. To discuss possible alternatives to avoid foreclosure, U.S. Bank Trust Company National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Indenture Trustee for Rain City Mortgage Trust 2024-RTL1 can be contacted at: U.S. Bank Trust Company National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Indenture Trustee for Rain City Mortgage Trust 2024-RTL1 c/o Tandem Servicing LLC Attn: Tiffany Anderson 12131 113th Avenue NE, Suite 201, Kirkland, Washington 98034 Tel: (425) 588-0039 E-Mail: tiffany@tandemservicing.com Said Property will be sold subject to (a) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), (b) unpaid water or sewage bills that constitute a lien against the Property whether due and payable or not yet due and payable and which may not be of record, (c) the right of redemption of any taxing authority, (d) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the Property, and (e) any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above. The sale will be conducted subject to (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed, and (3) any right to redemption or other lien not extinguished by foreclosure. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 9-13-172.1, which allows for certain procedures regarding the rescission of judicial and non-judicial sales in the State of Georgia, the Security Deed and other foreclosure documents may not be provided until final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan as provided immediately above. U.S. Bank Trust Company National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Indenture Trustee for Rain City Mortgage Trust 2024-RTL1, as agent and/or Attorney in Fact for Cibol Distribuidora Bolivar, LLC. The below law firm may be held to be acting as a debt collector under Federal law. If so, any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Attorney Contact: Michael J. Palumbo, Esquire Gingo Palumbo Law Group, LLC 4700 Rockside Road, Suite 440, Independence, Ohio 44131 Tel: (216) 503-9512 E-Mail: michael@gpawllc.com David Metzger, Esquire Williams Teusink, LLC 312 Sycamore Street, Decatur, Georgia 30030 Tel: (404) 373-9590 E-Mail: dmetzger@williamsteusink.com July 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

D-085
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
GEORGIA, TERRELL COUNTY
All creditors of the estate of **WILLIE JAY TOLBERT, SR.**, deceased, late of Terrell County, Georgia are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.

This 22ND day of JUNE, 2026
WANDA PATRICIA TOLBERT, ADMINISTRATOR
WILLIE JAY TOLBERT, SR., DECEASED
672 CRAWFORD ST., NE DAWSON, GEORGIA 39842
June 25, July 2, 9, 16, 2026

D-091
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
GEORGIA, TERRELL COUNTY
All creditors of the estate of CAL DENNARD deceased, late of Terrell County, Georgia are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment. This 7TH day of JULY, 2026
PEARLIE A. DENNARD, ADMINISTRATOR
CAL DENNARD, DECEASED
131 N. HIGHLAND
CUTHBERT, GEORGIA 39840
July 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

D-092
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
GEORGIA, TERRELL COUNTY
All creditors of the estate of DAVID JOHNSON deceased, late of Terrell County, Georgia are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment. This 7TH day of JULY, 2026
FELICIA DENISE BLACKMON, ADMINISTRATOR
DAVID JOHNSON, DECEASED
166 CHURCH ST.
BRONWOOD, GA. 39826
July 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

D-090
NOTICE OF DETOUR APPROVAL
P. I. 0018252 TERRELL COUNTY
Notice is hereby given that the Georgia Department of Transportation has approved the use of and the routing of a detour for this project. The date of detour approval is: June 29, 2026
The proposed project PI 0018252 is located on Judge Laye Road at Brantley Creek approximately 1.7 miles west of Sasser in Terrell County, Georgia. The existing bridge will be replaced with a new bridge 70 feet long and 30 feet wide, with one lane in each direction. The road will have a speed limit of 35 mph. Approximately 150 feet of the dirt road on both sides of the bridge will be paved, the remainder will be gravel. The existing bridge is currently closed to traffic. An existing detour is in place that will remain in place during construction, with no extra travel time. The total project length is approximately 0.1 miles. The expected time for construction and the detour is approximately 12 months. The designated detour route will utilize Sasser Herod Road, Bill Whitaker Road and State Route 55 to maintain traffic flow and minimize disruptions. The total length of the detour route is approximately 5.5 miles, with a net additional travel distance of 2.3 miles. Drawings or maps or plats of the proposed project, as approved, are on file and are available for public inspection at the Georgia Department of Transportation: For information or questions regarding the Detour Route, please contact: Dennis Thacker Area Manager District 4, Area 5 dthacker@dot.ga.gov 2060 Newton Road Albany, GA 31701 (229) 430-4198
July 16, 23, 30, August 6, 2026

D-083

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
GEORGIA, TERRELL COUNTY
All creditors of the estate of **MARILYN MOORE POPE**, deceased, late of Terrell County, Georgia are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment. This 17TH day of JUNE, 2026
PRESTON WADE POPE, ADMINISTRATOR
MARILYN MOORE POPE, DECEASED
COLLIER & GAMBLE, LLP
WILBUR T. GAMBLE, III
P.O. BOX 577
DAWSON, GEORGIA 39842
June 25, July 2, 9, 16, 2026

D-095
IN THE PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF TERRELL
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: TIMOTHY DEWAYNE BARTHLOW, DECEASED
ESTATE NO: 4140
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE
To: ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, INTERESTED PARTIES, CREDITORS
WENDY GLEATON has petitioned to be appointed **Administrator** of the estate of TIMOTHY DEWAYNE BARTHLOW deceased, of said County. The Petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. §53-12-261. All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the court on or **before AUGUST 10TH, 2026**. **BE NOTIFIED FURTHER:** All objections to the Petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel at the following address/ telephone number for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.
Carol M. Speir
Judge of the Probate Court
By: CINDY THOMAS
Clerk of the Probate Court
Address: P.O. Box 67
Dawson, Georgia 39842
229-995-5515
July 16, 23, 30, August 6, 2026

D-084
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
GEORGIA, TERRELL COUNTY
All creditors of the estate of **ROBERT LAMAR WILLS**, deceased, late of Terrell County, Georgia are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment. This 1ST day of JULY, 2026
RUN: JULY 9TH, 16TH 23RD 30TH
SANDRA FAY WILLS, EXECUTRIX
ROBERT LAMAR WILLS, DECEASED
WILLIAM D. MOORHEAD, III
314 RESIDENCE AVENUE ALBANY, GA, 31701
July 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

D-094
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Georgia Self-Service Storage Facility Act (O.C.G.A. § 10-4-210 et seq.), the contents of the following self-storage units will be sold to the highest bidder to satisfy a landlord's lien for delinquent rental payments. **Facility:** U-Stor Rental **Address:** 534 Main St., Dawson, GA The following storage units, belonging to Mark Brannon, will be sold:
Units: 2, 8, 9, 10, 21, 22, 23, 78, 88, 92, and 94
The contents of these units will be auctioned to the highest bidder on **August 2, 2026**, due to delinquent payment. The occupant may redeem the property at any time before the sale by paying the full amount owed. U-Stor Rental reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to withdraw any unit from the sale prior to the auction.
July 9, 16, 2026

D-087
IN THE PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF TERRELL
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: VERLINDA FAYE JACKSON DECEASED
ESTATE NO: 4139
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE
To: ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, INTERESTED PARTIES, CREDITORS
RUTHELL JACKSON has petitioned to be appointed **Administrator** of the estate of **VERLINDA FAYE JACKSON** deceased, of said County. The Petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. §53-12-261. All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the court on or **before JULY 27TH, 2026**. **BE NOTIFIED FURTHER:** All objections to the Petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections. All objections should be sworn to before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel at the following address/ telephone number for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.
Carol M. Speir
Judge of the Probate Court
By: CINDY THOMAS
Clerk of the Probate Court
Address: P.O. Box 67
Dawson, Georgia 39842
229-995-5515
July 2, 9, 16, 23, 2026

Georgia

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STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS FOR THE WEEK 7/12/26

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HEALTH CARE

Don't let the stairs limit your mobility! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today! 1-877-871-3210

ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. Call 1-877-553-1109

Stroke and Cardiovascular disease are leading causes of death, according to the American Heart Association. Screenings can provide peace of mind or early detection! Contact Life Line Screening to schedule your screening. Special offer – 5 screenings for just \$149. Call 1-855-391-2065

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material — steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer — up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-866-939-2151

SunSetter. America's Number One Awning! Instant shade at the touch of a button. Transform your deck or patio into an outdoor oasis. Up to 10-year limited warranty. Call now and SAVE \$350 today! 1-877-740-0337

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 1-877-652-0640

WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP: A small amount of water can lead to major damage to your home. Our trusted professionals dry out the wet area and do repairs to protect your family and your home's value! If you have water in your home that needs to be dried, call 24/7: 1-877-625-0433. Have zip code of service location ready when you call!

ELECTRICAL SERVICES: Reliable & experienced. Competitive rates. From simple household problems to installing a brand new electrical system, we can take care of it all! Call now and have the zip code of the service location when you call! 1-877-917-6746

NEED NEW FLOORING? Call today schedule a FREE in-home estimate on Carpeting & Flooring. Call Today! 1-877-914-0502

PEST CONTROL: PROTECT YOUR HOME from pests safely and affordably. Roaches, Bed Bugs, Rodent, Termite, Spiders and other pests. Locally owned and affordable. Call for service or an inspection today! 1-877-236-3738. Have zip code of property ready when calling!

HOME BREAK-INS take less than 60 SECONDS. Don't wait! Protect your family, your home, your assets NOW for as little as 70¢ a day! Call 1-877-606-2120

MISCELLANEOUS

YMT Vacations. Over 50 guided tours available. Affordable, social and stress-free travel designed for mature travelers. Our tours include accommodations, transportation, baggage handling, sightseeing, entrance fees, a professional Tour Director and select meals. For a limited time SAVE \$250 on all tours. Call YMT today. 1-855-548-2623

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BEHIND ON YOUR MORTGAGE PAYMENTS? Threatened with foreclosure? Denied a loan modification? Let us help! Call the Homeowner Relief Line to speak with a mortgage specialist. 844-797-7162

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WANTED

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TOP CASH PAID FOR OLD GUITARS! 1920-1980 Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild, Mosrite, Rickenbacker, Prairie State, D'Angelico, Stromberg. And Gibson Mandolins / Banjos. 1-877-515-0329

DEADLINE

for all stories, advertisements and classifieds for *The Dawson News* is **Fridays at 12:00 p.m.** for the next week's edition.

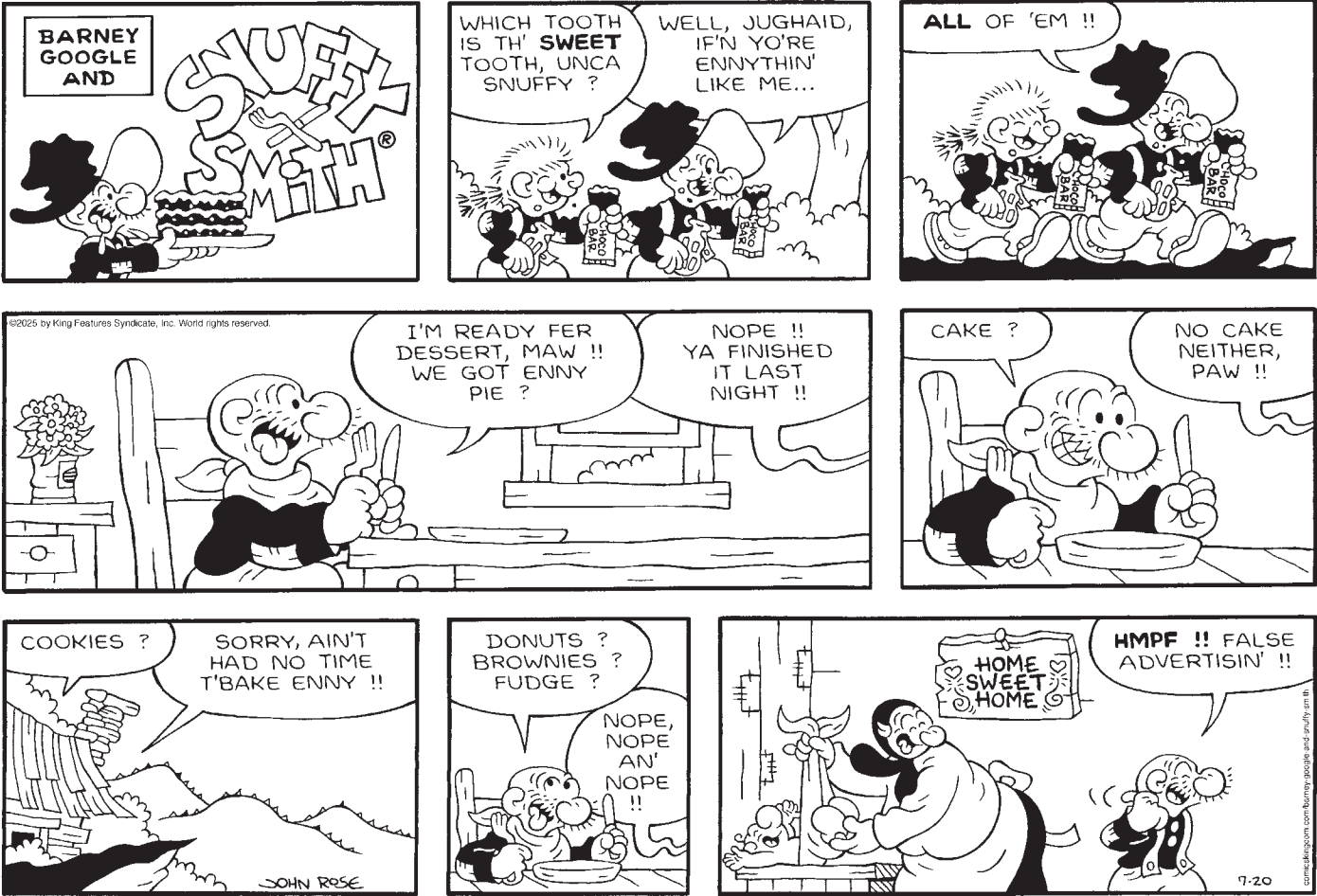


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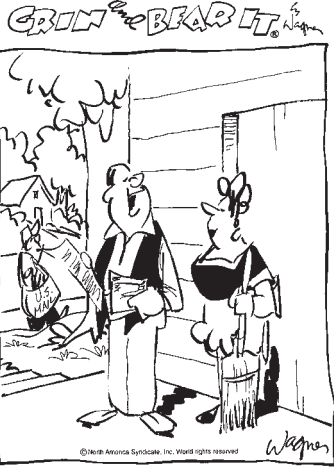
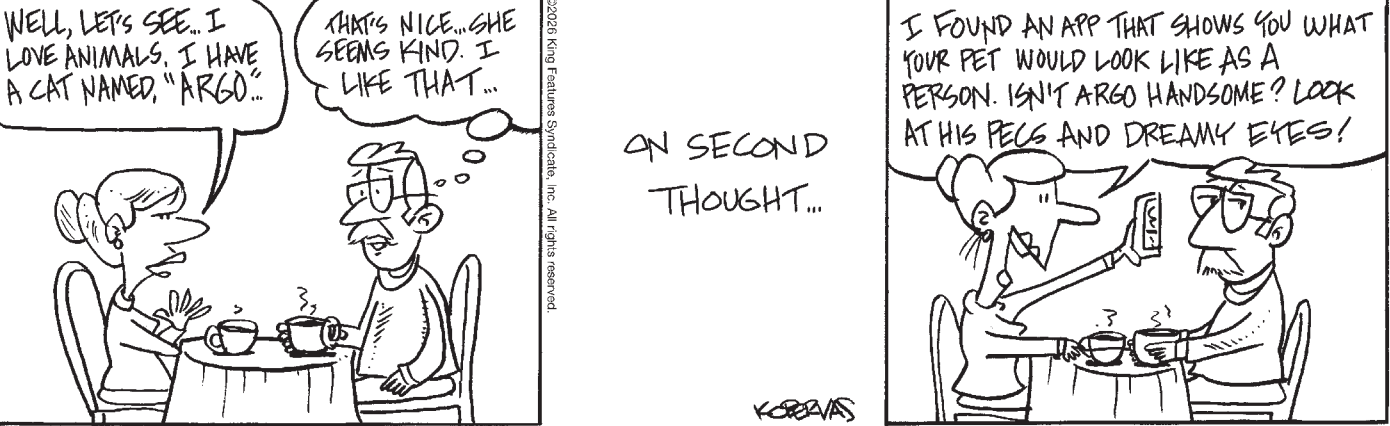
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



King Crossword

Answers

King Crossword

Answers

A Tree in the Middle

Answers

A Tree in the Middle

Answers

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Valley

5 Unruly crowds

9 Dean's list stat

12 Pinnacle

13 Each

14 Science room

15 Show loyalty to

17 Mentalist Geller

18 Green land

19 Critic Roger

21 Finished

24 Love god

25 Parliamentarian

26 Raised children, say

30 Lucy of "Kill Bill"

31 Desert haven

32 Call — day

33 Native of Yerevan

35 Read quickly

36 Mast

37 Bracelet site

38 Pocket breads

40 Japanese soup

42 Hindu honorific

43 Street game

48 Pouch

49 Actress Fisher

DOWN

1 German article

2 Suitable

3 Floral garland

4 Surpass

5 Bryn —

6 Mayberry boy

7 Automaton, for short

8 Orbs

9 Crafter's adhesive

10 Henry VIII's Catherine

11 Slightly

16 Josh

20 "— voyage!"

21 First lady of scat

22 Dark film genre

23 Chicken choice

24 Actress Moran

26 Twosome

27 Botanist Gray

28 List-ending abbr.

29 "Great" dog

31 Jackie's Ari

34 Ecol. watch-dog

35 Stuck-up

37 Request

38 "Hey!"

39 Nest egg choices

40 "— 18" (Uris novel)

41 Optimist's credo

44 Mao — -tung

45 Celestial altar

46 Like Abner

47 Country music's Greenwood

MAGIC MAZE • A TREE IN THE MIDDLE

EHFCAYSPEARSWDU
RPNLJHFAPPEARED
DBULLFIGHTERHE
ZXVTSRTNSQHUOSK
MKIHFEIADSGBZAA
SYWVNHLTEIIRQRO
PONISCLMFKFIHTL
IFPADCUNAREDLAC
NSLAZGOXWVRUSRQ
EPONECYLENIPUSM
SRELPPARGKFJIHF

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: SMALL UPRIGHT PIANO

- Appeared
Bullfighter
Caldera
Clashes
- Cloaked
Configure
Firefighter
Grapplers
- Legumes
Selma
Spears
Spines
- Splashing
Supinely
Trashed

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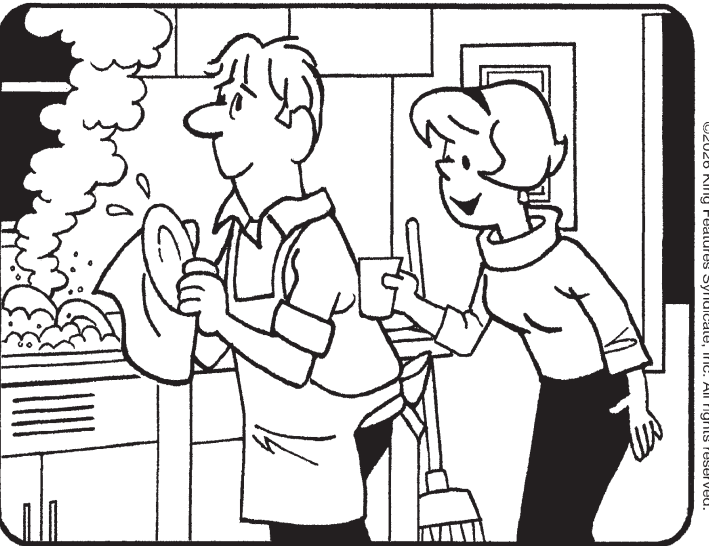
Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Cabinet is wider. 2. Apron is missing. 3. Curtain is different. 4. Arm is moved. 5. Hair is different. 6. Broom is different.

It pays to advertise in your local paper!