

July Fest to be held Saturday

STAFF REPORTS

The Terrell County Recreation Department will host a patriotic celebration on Saturday, July 4, at 1455 Jimmy Raines Rd., Dawson, GA 39842. The event will be begin at 4 p.m. and will feature local vendors and a firework display at dark. Bring your own lawnchairs, family and patriotic spirit for a fun-filled evening. Inquire with Terrell County Recreation Department about vendor applications. All vendors are welcome to submit applications.

The Dawson News grows digital presence with Albany Herald website, Facebook page

STAFF REPORTS

Staying connected with Terrell County news is now easier than ever as The Dawson News expands its digital presence through The Albany Herald's online platform and launches a dedicated Dawson News Facebook page.

Residents can now find Dawson News coverage alongside regional reporting on The Albany Herald's website while also following breaking news, community events and feature stories through the Dawson News Facebook page.

The expanded digital presence is designed to make local journalism more accessible whether readers prefer to read stories on a computer, smartphone or through social

media.

The launch reflects changing news consumption habits across the country. According to the Pew Research Center, nearly seven in 10 readers who access their local newspaper now do so primarily through digital platforms, while more than half of U.S. adults say they get news from social media at least sometimes. At the same time, most Americans continue to say local news organizations are important to the health of their communities.

For Terrell County residents, the expanded online presence provides easier access to coverage of local government, schools, economic

WEBSITE

Continued on page 10



The Dawson News has expanded its digital presence with a dedicated Facebook page and online coverage through the Albany Herald's website, giving Terrell County residents new ways to stay connected with local news, community events and public affairs /KATHRYN CROCKETT



Riley and Jessie Davis, joined by family, community members and Terrell County Chamber of Commerce representatives, celebrate the ribbon-cutting marking the new ownership of Christie's Feed & Seed in Dawson/Photo courtesy of Terrell County Chamber of Commerce

Christie's Feed & Seed enters new chapter as local business assumes new ownership

By KATHRYN CROCKETT
For The Dawson News

A long-time Dawson business has entered a new era as Riley and Jessie Davis officially assumed ownership of Christie's Feed & Seed, with the Terrell County Chamber of Commerce marking the transition during a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The event celebrated both the future of the business and the legacy of Tim and Pat Christie, who operated Christie's Feed & Seed for more than two decades before retiring. Chamber leaders

thanked the Christies for their years of service to Terrell County and wished them well as they begin retirement.

Located on Forrester Drive, Christie's Feed & Seed has long served area farmers, gardeners and pet owners with feed, seed, plants and lawn and garden supplies. Under the Davis family's ownership, the business is already expanding its product offerings with the addition of FRM dog food and other inventory expected to arrive in the coming weeks.

Friends, family, chamber members and community supporters gathered for the ceremony to welcome the Davis

family as they take over one of Dawson's established local businesses.

Chamber officials encouraged residents to visit the store and support the new owners as they build on the foundation established by the Christie family while introducing new products and services to meet the needs of customers throughout Terrell County.

The business remains open at 816 Forrester Drive in Dawson, continuing its tradition of serving the agricultural, outdoors and gardening needs of southwest Georgia under its new ownership.

Who decides elections? Data shows older voters dominate the turnout in Terrell County elections



Voter turnout data found participation dropped from 28.6% in the May primary to 15.2% in the June runoff, with older voters accounting for the largest share of ballots cast/STAFF PHOTO

By KATHRYN CROCKETT
Staff Reporter

As Terrell County prepares for the November general election, turnout data from this year's primary and primary runoff offer a snapshot of who is most likely to shape the outcome at the ballot box.

An analysis of voter participation from Georgia's May 19 primary and June 16 runoff shows older residents consistently turned out at the highest rates, while overall participation fell by nearly half between the two elections, and the demographic makeup of the electorate shifted significantly.

According to the Georgia Secretary of State's office, 1,731 of Terrell County's 6,048 active registered voters cast ballots in the May primary, a turnout rate of 28.6%. Four weeks later, only 922 voters participated in the June 16 primary runoff, reducing turnout to 15.2%.

While lower participation is typical in runoff elections, the county's voting data reveal notable differences in turnout by age, race and gender that provide insight into who has participated most consistently heading into November.

ELECTION DATA
Continued on page 10

Lesser known Founding Fathers of The United States

SPECIAL TO THE DAWSON NEWS

When Americans celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States throughout 2026, names like George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and John Adams are bound to come up. While those four men played notable roles in the establishment of the United States of America, many more Founding Fathers bore significant influence as well.

America's semiquincentennial is a great time to celebrate all who have helped make the country into what it is today, and that includes some of the Founding Fathers who have not become household names over the last 250 years.

- William Livingston: Born in Albany, New York,

in 1723, William Livingston was a prominent attorney prior to the outbreak of the American Revolutionary War. The Historical Society of the New York Courts notes Livingston moved to Elizabethtown, New Jersey, in 1772. Within two years of that move, Livingston became New Jersey's representative to the Continental Congress. By June 1776, Livingston was appointed brigadier general of the New Jersey militia, a position he held until 1777, when he became the Governor of New Jersey. Livingston was a target of British forces, who offered a reward for his capture. But Livingston remained Governor of New Jersey until his death in 1790, and even served as the New Jersey delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1787, when he signed the United States Constitu-



tion adopted at that convention.

- William Hooper: William Hooper was born Boston in 1742, but he made his name as a Founding Father after relocating to Wilming-

ton, North Carolina, as a young adult. The National Constitution Center notes Hooper, like Livingston, was a successful attorney. Hooper was appointed Deputy Attorney General of the North Carolina colony in

1770, and even supported the Royal Governor's efforts to suppress a taxation-related rebellion of North Carolina farmers during this

FOUNDING FATHERS
Continued on page 8



OBITUARIES

Edwin "Eddie" Fletcher

Edwin "Eddie" Fletcher, 76, of Lakeland, Florida, passed away peacefully on June 3, 2026. Born on Dec. 25, 1949, in Cuthbert, Georgia, Eddie was the cherished son of the late Claude and Grace Fletcher.

Eddie graduated from Lyman Ward Military Academy in Camp Hill, Alabama, where he laid the foundation for a life marked by dedication and hard work. Following his education, he worked alongside his father on Fletcher Farms before establishing Fletcher Trucking. Eddie found great joy in his career as a truck driver, relishing the opportunity to meet new people and explore the open road. A proud veteran, Eddie served his country with honor as a Sergeant in the U.S. Army. Enlisting in 1971, he bravely served during the Vietnam War. His service exemplified his commitment to duty and his unwavering sense of responsibility.

Eddie was a devoted family man who deeply loved his wife Brenda Carol and their blended family. He is survived by Brenda ; his children Edwin Fletcher Jr. (Pam) of Dawson, Georgia; Angel Mullis (Eric) of Sumner, Georgia; Adam Fletcher (Pam) of Cumming, Georgia; Michelle Cross (Scott) of Lakeland, Florida;

and Jeremiah Hartley (Cristy) of Lakeland, Florida. Eddie was also a proud grandfather to William, EJ, Matthew, Dave, Ellissa (Kenny), Tiffany, Emily, Savannah and six great grandchildren. Additionally, he is survived by his sisters Nell Marshall of Leesburg, Georgia, and Jane Eubanks (Bill) of Dawson, Georgia.

Eddie's life was enriched by his passions for hunting and fishing activities that brought him peace and connection to nature. He also enjoyed riding bikes with Brenda, sharing countless adventures together that strengthened their bond. A man of faith, Eddie was a member of Hopewell Baptist Church in Plant City, Florida.

Those who knew Eddie remember him as a wonderful husband and a man who loved his family deeply. His legacy lives on through the lives he touched with his kindness and dedication. May Eddie's memory bring comfort to all who knew him.

A graveside service will be held on July 21, at 11:30 a.m. at Florida National Cemetery Bushnell Florida 6502 SW 102nd Ave, Bushnell, FL 33513.

Rebecca Thrower Peak

Rebecca Thrower Peak, lovingly known as "Red" by many who knew her, passed away peacefully at her home on June 19, 2026. Rebecca

received her high school diploma from Westover High School. She leaves behind a legacy of kindness, laughter, and open doors that will forever live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved her.

Rebecca was born on July 24, 1952, to the late Ralph and Ann Thrower. She was a rare and beautiful soul who truly never met a stranger. With her warm spirit and compassionate heart, she welcomed everyone into her life as if they were family. She had a deep love for animals and a special gift for bringing people together, earning the admiration and affection of many throughout her life. She also found joy in her favorite television show, In the Heat of the Night, and recently developed a fondness for NCIS television series.

A familiar and friendly face in the community, Rebecca found joy in connecting with others through her work. She spent many wonderful years at Savelle Jewelers and Sunshine Travel Agency, and later at Lowe's, where she eventually retired. Her dedication to service extended beyond her career, as she was a devoted Charter Member of the Albany Evening Lions Club. Through her involvement, she played an instrumental role in raising funds to provide essential vision services to those in need.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her brothers, Ralph Thrower and his wife, Barbara, and Russell Thrower; and her sister, Elaine Thrower.

Rebecca's memory will be forever cherished by her son, Chris Peak and his fiancée, Yulia Panchenko; her daughter-in-law, Jennifer Peak; her sister, Linda Billings; her sister-in-law, Liz Thrower; and a loving circle of nieces, nephews, and dear friends, including Pam Hentschel, Debi Griffin and her childhood friend, Nancy Washburn.

Rebecca's warmth, generosity, and vibrant personality will be deeply missed but never forgotten.

A memorial gathering to honor her life will be announced at a later date.

Feds bust ring that allegedly flew drugs, weapons into prisons

By TY TAGAMI
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — They were allegedly flying to help prisoners get high and to maybe escape, but now nine people, all but one from Macon, are behind bars themselves after federal agents arrested them in connection with delivering drugs, phones and weapons into prisons from above.

The bust, announced Wednesday, involved a "vast alleged conspiracy using drones to smuggle contraband," according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

The nine suspects and three inmates are accused of coordinating deliveries of methamphetamine, marijuana and other controlled substances, as well as cell phones, tobacco and objects such as saw blades to be used as weapons for escape.

The eight of the accused who are from Macon are Leviticus Blash, 42; Chrystal Dunn, 37; Ira Christopher Jackson, 42; Xavier Maxwell, 30; Kenna Middleton, 45; Glenn Middleton, 70; Jeff Richardson, 23, and Tysean Richardson, 23.

The accusations were in an indictment unsealed Wednesday that described drone deliveries to 10 prisons in eight states, including two in Georgia, in Atlanta and in Jessup.

The joint announcement by the federal government included U.S. Attorney William R. "Will" Keyes for the Middle District of Georgia and William K. Marshall III, director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Drones have been an ongoing problem for Georgia prisons.

During a legislative hearing at the Atlanta Capitol in December, Matthew Wolfe from the Georgia Department of Corrections said that for the year through June 2025 there were 120 inmates charged and 362 civilians arrested in connection with contraband deliveries.

The schemes sometimes involved simple methods, such as wrapping contraband with duct tape into the shape of a football and tossing it over a prison fence. But they often involved drones, said Wolfe, who displayed a photo of a confiscated unmanned aircraft that could carry hundreds of pounds.

"Civilian involvement remains the most common threat vector, with throwovers and drone drops continuing to be the primary method used to infiltrate our institutions," Wolfe said.

Corrections Commissioner Tyrone Oliver said technology existed to stop such drones.

"We just don't have the authority, the legal authority, to be able to do it," Oliver told lawmakers.

The General Assembly responded by passing House Bill 1230, which takes effect Wednesday.

The new law will make it illegal to fly a drone over a prison. It will also authorize law enforcement agencies and officers who suspect drone use for criminal intent to detect, track and identify the aircraft and then intercept and disable them with jamming, hacking or other methods.

That law is for state and local authorities.

The indictment unsealed Wednesday involved a takedown by the federal government using sophisticated tracking technology.

The federal Bureau of Prisons used a drone detection system that provided alerts when drones were nearby and that reported an aircraft's make, model and identification number, along with the launch location, flight path and altitude.

RELIGION DIGEST

Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church Friends and Family Day 2026

Sunday, July 12, 1881 Ben Arthur Rd., Dawson, Ga.

Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church invites the entire community to join us for our annual Friends and Family Day worship service on Sunday, July 12, at 11 a.m. Sunday School is held every Sunday at 10 a.m. All are welcome.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Terrell County Recreation Department July Fest Saturday, July 4, 1455 Jimmy Raines Rd., Dawson, Ga.

The Terrell County Recreation Department will host a patriotic celebration on Saturday, July 4, at 1455 Jimmy Raines Rd., Dawson, GA 39842. The event will be begin at 4 p.m. and will feature local vendors and a firework display at dark. Bring your own lawnchairs, family and patriotic spirit for a fun-filled evening. Inquire with Terrell County Recreation Department about vendor applications. All vendors are welcome to submit applications.



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!

The Lighthouse is open...



Adult Day Care Center

274-0003

PUBLIC NOTICE
Holiday Closing

City Hall will be closed Friday, July 3 in observance of the Independence Day holiday, and will re-open on Monday, July 6.

If any emergency should occur, please contact the Police Department at 995-4414 and they will notify the proper personnel.

City of Dawson

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.



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4th of JULY

Let us count the freedoms you have on demand. You can talk to a friend whom you happen to meet when you're shopping or walking along any street. You can take a vacation by car or by train, and wherever you go, you don't have to explain.

What a blessing to live in this land of the free! Happy Birthday, America!

HOLIDAY CLOSING HOURS

We will be closed Friday, July 3, in observance of the Independence Day holiday, and will re-open on Monday, July 6.

FARM BUREAU TERRELL CO.

229 Johnson St, SE
(229) 995-2222

DID YOU KNOW...?

Was the lead in a popular 1960s sitcom originally held by someone else?

By JACK BAGLEY
Georgia Trust For Local News

This Saturday is the Fourth of July, which in itself is a wonderful day. But this year, it's extra-special. You see, this year's Independence Day is the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the symbolic thumbing of the nose to King George III of Great Britain by the American colonists. A pretty nasty war followed that, but once the war was over, these 13 formerly British colonies became a new nation, the one in which you and I live. (Unless you live somewhere else.) So Happy 250th birthday, America, and let's get on with the trivia!

Did you know...
... about 0.5% of the entire world's male population is believed to be descended from a single man? The man was Genghis Khan (1162-1227), who is believed to have fathered between 1,000 and 3,000 children during his time leading conquests for the Mongol Empire. Those children's male descendants make up the single largest group whose lineage could be traced to one person in the world today. (Talk about someone who got around! I'll bet the child support payments were astronomical.)

... an airline lost one of its jets for 13 years, only to find it was under their nose all the time? In 2012, an Air India Boeing 737 jet was decommissioned and removed from the airline's records. The plane itself, however, was left in a parking area at Kolkata airport, and airport officials dutifully sent the airline bills for parking fees. The airline disputed the bills, saying they didn't have a plane there – until 2025, when an official of the airline arrived at the airport to discuss the situation and a worker pointed to the jet, effectively saying, "There it is." The airline sheepishly admitted it was indeed their jet, arranged for its removal, and most importantly paid the thirteen years of back parking fees. (No wonder it costs so much to fly.)

... armadillos are practically bullet-proof? (If you choose to test that, remember, I have nothing to do with it.)

... ancient Olympic athletes competed naked? It was believed that being nude while performing athletic events brought the athlete closer to the gods. (Can you imagine the ratings if the modern Olympics were conducted that way?)

... the iconic star of a 1960s sitcom was not the first person in the role? From 1967 to 1970, Sally Field (born 1946) starred in The Flying Nun, a situation comedy on ABC. Field had initially been offered the role after the cancellation of her earlier series Gidget, but she thought the premise of the show – a novice nun who could fly due to high winds and a starched corset – was silly. She passed on the role, and the producers began filming the pilot with their second choice, actress Ronne Troup (born 1945). But after Field had a rather serious conversation with her stepfather Jock Mahoney (1919-1989), she changed her mind, putting Troup out of a job and causing all of the scenes she had filmed to be re-shot. Additional trivia note: Field reportedly hated the role and the concept of the series, and following its cancellation she was concerned about being typecast. Fortunately, she was able to work in several serious movies in the years following The Flying Nun, and her career did not suffer for her having played the role. (I guess wanting to eat and live indoors causes a lot of actors to take roles they don't really want to play.)

... a popular brand of tortilla chips has a different name in Sweden? Doritos ranch flavor chips are called "American flavor" in that Scandinavian country, because Swedish people are totally unfamiliar with ranch flavor. (So, ranch flavor is what America tastes like?)

... a president's wife is believed (in some circles) to have killed him? When President Warren G. Harding (1865-1923) died in San Francisco, rumors circulated that he had been poisoned by his wife, Florence (1860-1924), as retaliation for his numerous extra-marital affairs. The fact that Mrs. Harding refused to allow an autopsy to be performed fed those rumors. Historians, however, believe Harding died of a heart attack, and Florence was not involved in his death. (Sure.)

... you can see stars up to 4,000 light-years away with the naked eye? With one colossal exception – the Andromeda galaxy is visible to the naked eye, and it's 2.5 million light-years away from Earth. (Andromeda ... now that's a heavenly body.)

... identical twins are not totally identical? While they may look alike, sound alike, and even have the same basic DNA, there is one major difference – they have unique fingerprints. (If you want to get technical about it.)

... the Earth's rotation is slowing down? Don't worry, you don't notice it. But due to tidal and gravitational forces from the Sun and the Moon, Earth's rotation is slowing by about 1.8 seconds per century. In fact, about 600 million years ago, one day on Earth only lasted 21 hours.

... mirrors facing each other actually do not produce infinite reflections? As the reflections get smaller, they get darker, and eventually fade into invisibility. (But the effect is staggering for as long as it lasts.)

Now... you know!

Fireworks: A public service announcement

THE NEW SOUTHERN DAD

By KYLE DOMINY

During last year's Fourth of July celebrations more than 13,000 Americans reported to emergency rooms across the country due to fireworks-related injuries. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, that number was down from over 14,700 in 2024.

How many people lost fingers, or worse, in backyard explosions is unknown. I don't think there is a commission that keeps up with that. At least not publicly. You can assume around 1,700, if my math is correct.

With the United States' 250th birthday approaching, it's a safe bet that more people will be enjoying amateur pyrotechnics this year than in a long time. And why not? Few things celebrate freedom quite like turning your backyard into southern Lebanon with colorful blasts of gunpowder.

That's a topical geopolitical joke. Try to keep up.

I can remember when fireworks were illegal in Georgia. To get your hands on a Roman candle or a string of firecrackers you had to sneak them back from a family vacation or have a shady uncle who frequently visited the state line and came back with what were essentially little sticks of dynamite.

Now you can get them anywhere. I was buying a gallon of milk the other day and right next to the checkout line, adjacent to the candy, chewing gum and other impulse buys, was a display case full of colorfully packaged explosives.

We can thank the ancient Chinese for the invention of fireworks. Dating back to the Song Dynasty, firework technicians would pack gunpowder into bamboo tubes. It was not long before they discovered that adding powdered chemicals would produce colorful blasts of light.

These pyrotechnicians of old were highly revered members of society. Their wares were sought-after commodities used in festivals and religious ceremonies. Now we've got Geech and Skeeter, not a full hand of digits or complete set of teeth between

'em, all rockets red glare at all hours of the night for any ol' excuse.

Don't get me wrong, I love fireworks and I think our Founding Fathers would want us to have access to them. Besides, fireworks were a part of the very first Independence Day celebration in 1777, one year after the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence. But like many things, excess has taken the magic out of fireworks.

Few large tourist attractions do not include a nightly fireworks display; most major sporting events have celebratory explosions. They are a common sighting from small towns to mega metropolitan areas. Fireworks displays are much like parades, if you have seen one, you've seen them all.

We don't shoot off many fireworks in my family these days. We have too many dogs, and most dogs come pre-installed with PTSD. Loud noises make them cower or act rashly, like they are having flashbacks from Nam.

If you're going to celebrate this Fourth of July with a personal fireworks extravaganza, please do so safely. Secure your pets, stop at a reasonable hour and keep some ice handy.

You know, for when you blow your finger off.



Happy Independence Day!

This great nation is the product of its people ... and the strength of their ideals.

As we celebrate the anniversary of our independence, let's also applaud America... her people... her freedom.

Holiday Closing

Georgia Community Bank will be closed Friday, July 3, in observance of the Independence Day holiday. We will re-open on Monday, July 6.

We hope you will make the necessary arrangements for your banking needs for the holiday.



Georgia Community Bank

www.gcb.bank

250 East Lee St.
995-4461



That would never happen in a metropolitan city. It only happens in the Classic City when restaurateurs like the Slaters hang out one of their many shingles.

America is truly a beautiful country, and you too should make a point to see it. In red states, blue states, and in our purple mountain majesties, the beauty goes well beyond our vistas. It is, and remains, in our people.

I will miss Bob, but I am glad I got to tell him what an enormous influence he had on my life. I am here because he was there. Thank you, big brother. Rest in peace.

THE DATA FROM THE DATA CENTER IS IN...

HIGHER ELECTRIC COSTS, HIGHER WATER COSTS AND MORE NOISE POLLUTION.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
MICK SMITH

DATA FROM THE DATA CENTER IS IN THE DATA CENTER.

Legals

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

D-076

IN THE PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF TERRELL
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: DAVID JOHNSON, DECEASED
ESTATE NO: 4135
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

To: ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, INTERESTED PARTIES, CREDITORS

FELICIA DENISE BLACKMON has petitioned to be appointed **Administrator** of the estate of **DAVID JOHNSON** 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 6TH, 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 11 18, 25, July 2, 2026

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 ADMINISTRATION 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-082

PUBLICATION

TERRELL COUNTY JUVENILE COURT
IN THE MATTER OF: A.H., B/F, 10-05-2021;

To: **Ricky Coleman, Putative Biological Father of the above referenced female child born October 5, 2021.**

A petition was filed in this Court by Terrell County Department of Family and Children Services on the 13th day of March, 2026. The Petition alleges the above-referenced child to be dependent according to Georgia law and seeks **termination of your parental rights, if any.** You may obtain a copy of the Petition, which sets forth the specific allegations in detail, from the Clerk of Juvenile Court of Terrell County, **499 Roundtree Drive, Dawson, Georgia**, phone is 229-995-2631.

By authority of an Order for Service by Publication by the Judge of said Court on the 19 day of May, 2026, you are commanded to be an appear in the Juvenile Court of Terrell County, Georgia, at the Terrell County Courthouse located at **235 East Lee Street, Dawson, Georgia, within sixty (60) days of said Order for Service by Publication and on the 1st day of September, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.** to then and there make defense to allegations of the petition, and to show cause why the prayers of the petition should not be granted, and why the said child and all parties named herein should not be dealt with according to the provisions of the law. **The hearing is for the purpose of terminating your parental rights.**

You or any other interested party may file a written objection or answer on or before the date and time for the hearing stated above by filing the same at the office of the Clerk of Juvenile Court of Terrell County, Georgia, and the Petitioner's Attorney, Brumby M. Dwyer.

Witness the Honorable Edward R. Collier, Judge of said Court this 21 day of May, 2026.

Tina Ivey
Clerk of Terrell County Juvenile Court
Brumby M. Dwyer
Special Assistant Attorney General
Post Office Box 71412, Albany, Georgia 31708
Phone (229) 854-3379, Georgia Bar Number 492098

June 18, 25, July 2, 9, 2026

D-087

IN THE PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF TERRELL
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: HENRY LEE DENNARD, JR., DECEASED
ESTATE NO: 4137
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

To: ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, INTERESTED PARTIES, CREDITORS

TAMMY GEORGETTE DENNARD has petitioned to be appointed **Administrator** of the estate of **HENRY LEE DENNARD, 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 13th, 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 18, 25, July 2, 9, 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 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-079

Notice of summons - Service by Publication

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF TERRELL COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

Donna A. Fields, Plaintiff
v.
Robert H. Fields, Defendant
Civil Action File No. 26-CV-0034

TO: ROBERT H. FIELDS

You are hereby notified that the above styled action for divorce was filed against you in said Court on the 31st day of March, 2026 and that by reason of an Order for Service by Publication entered by the Court on the 4 day of June, 2026 you are hereby commanded and required to file with the Clerk of Court and serve upon Plaintiff an Answer to the Complaint within sixty (60) days of the date of the Order for Service by Publication.

If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

This 4th day of June, 2026.

Tina Ivey
Clerk of Superior Court
Terrell County, Georgia

June 11, 18, 25, July 2, 2026

D-078

IN THE PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF TERRELL

STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: CAL DENNARD, DECEASED
ESTATE NO: 4136
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

To: TOBIAS DENNARD, ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, INTERESTED PARTIES, CREDITORS

PEARLIE A. DENNARD has petitioned to be appointed **Administrator** of the estate of **CAL DENNARD** 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 6TH, 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 11, 18, 25, July 2, 2026

D-073

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER

STATE OF GEORGIA, COUNTY OF TERRELL

By virtue of a Power of Sale contained in that certain Security Deed, from Alyse Tackore, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc., as Nominee for Verus Residential Loanco, LLC, dated February 2, 2024, and recorded on February 5, 2024, in Deed Book 13R, at Page 469, in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Terrell County, Georgia, said Security Deed having been given to secure a Note of even date, in the original principal amount of One Hundred Five Thousand and no/100 Dollars (\$105,000.00), with interest thereon as provided therein, as last transferred to UMB Bank, National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for Verus Securitization Trust 2024-4, recorded in Deed Book 14H, at Page 629, in aforesaid records, will be sold at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the courthouse door of Terrell County, Georgia, or at such place as has been or may be lawfully designated as an alternative location, within the legal hours of sale on the first Tuesday in July, 2026, all property described in said Security Deed including, but not limited to, the following described property:

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATED, LYING, AND BEING IN THE CITY OF DAWSON, TERRELL COUNTY, GEORGIA, CONSISTING OF ONE HOUSE AND LOT, TOGETHER WITH OTHER IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, AND BEING KNOWN AS ALL OF LOTS 6, 7, AND 8, AND A SOUTH PORTION OF LOTS 14, 15, AND 16 OF BLOCK A OF THE CARVER ADDITION, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OF THE CITY OF DAWSON BY MARBURY AND WRIGHT, THE SAME BEING MORE SPECIFICALLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN AT THE NORTHWEST INTERSECTION OF EAST LEE STREET AND NORTH GRAY STREET AND FROM SAID POINT RUN THENCE IN A WESTERLY DIRECTION

ALONG THE NORTH RIGHT OF WAY OF EAST LEE STREET FOR A DISTANCE OF 150 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH FOR A DISTANCE OF 230 FEET; THENCE RUN EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 55 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH FOR A DISTANCE OF 25 FEET; THENCE RUN EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 95 FEET TO A POINT ON THE WEST RIGHT OF WAY OF NORTH GRAY STREET; THENCE RUN SOUTH 205 FEET ALONG THE WEST RIGHT OF WAY OF NORTH GRAY STREET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. THE PROPERTY HEREIN DESCRIBED IN LOTS 14, 15 AND 16 OF BLOCK A OF THE CARVER ADDITION ACCORDING TO THE MAP OF THE CITY OF DAWSON BY MARBURY AND WRIGHT ARE ALL OF SAID LOTS EXCEPT THAT PORTION DESCRIBED IN THAT CERTAIN DEED RECORDED IN THE PUBLIC DEED RECORDS OF TERRELL COUNTY, GEORGIA IN DEED BOOK HH, PAGE 388, WHICH BY REFERENCE HERETO IS INCORPORATED HEREIN AND MADE A PART OF THIS DESCRIPTION.

Said property may more commonly be known as **768 E Lee St, Dawson, GA 39842.**

The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due because of, among other possible events of default, non-payment of the monthly installments on said loan. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of this sale, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).

The individual or entity that has full authority to negotiate, amend and modify all terms of the loan is UMB Bank, National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for Verus Securitization Trust 2024-4, 75 Beattie Place, Greenville, SC 29601; telephone: (800) 365-7107.

Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. The sale will also be subject to the following items which may affect the title: a) zoning ordinances; b) matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or by an inspection of the property; c) any outstanding ad valorem taxes, including taxes, which constitute liens upon said property whether or not now due and payable; d) special assessments; e) the right of redemption of any taxing authority; f) all constituting bills for public utilities which constitute liens upon said property; g) all restrictive covenants, easements, rights-of-way and any other matters of record superior to said Security Deed. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the owners and party in possession of the property are Alyse Tackore and/or tenant(s). 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 legal impediments to the undertaking and completion of sale.

The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network ("FinCEN"), a bureau of the U.S. Department of Treasury, now requires the collection, certification and reporting of certain information relating to non-financed transfers of real property to legal entities and/or trusts, which such information the successful bidder(s) shall be expected to provide to the auctioneer at the time of the subject sale. Interested bidders with questions regarding the necessary information to be provided are hereby directed, generally, to FinCEN's website and, more specifically, to the FinCEN Real Estate Report located in the forms bank thereof.

UMB Bank, National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for Verus Securitization Trust 2024-4, as Attorney-in-Fact for Alyse Tackore

815-444-4444

June 11, 18, 25, July 2, 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-081

PUBLICATION

TERRELL COUNTY JUVENILE COURT
IN THE MATTER OF: J.R.N.DE. AKA J.D.U., B/F, DOB: 06/27/2022;

To: **Keeshya Decotaeau, mother of the above referenced female child born June 27, 2022.**

To: Unknown Putative Biological Father of the above referenced female child born June 27, 2022.

A petition was filed in this Court by Terrell County Department of Family and Children Services on the 19th day of May, 2026. The Petition alleges the above-referenced child to be dependent according to Georgia law and seeks **termination of your parental rights, if any.** You may obtain a copy of the Petition, which sets forth the specific allegations in detail, from the Clerk of Juvenile Court of Terrell County, **499 Roundtree Drive, Dawson, Georgia**, phone is 229-995-2631.

By authority of an Order for Service by Publication by the Judge of said Court on the 19TH day of May, 2026, you are commanded to be an appear in the Juvenile Court of Terrell County, Georgia, at the Terrell County Courthouse located at **235 East Lee Street, Dawson, Georgia, within sixty (60) days of said Order for Service by Publication and on the 1st day of September, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.** to then and there make defense to allegations of the petition, and to show cause why the prayers of the petition should not be granted, and why the said child and all parties named herein should not be dealt with according to the provisions of the law. **The hearing is for the purpose of terminating your parental rights.**

You or any other interested party may file a written objection or answer on or before the date and time for the hearing stated above by filing the same at the office of the Clerk of Juvenile Court of Terrell County, Georgia, and the Petitioner's Attorney, Brumby M. Dwyer.

Witness the Honorable Edward R. Collier, Judge of said Court this 21ST day of May, 2026.

Tina Ivey
Clerk of Terrell County Juvenile Court
Brumby M. Dwyer
Special Assistant Attorney General
Post Office Box 71412, Albany, Georgia 31708
Phone (229) 854-3379, Georgia Bar Number 492098

June 18, 25, July 2, 9, 2026

Georgia

LOCAL MATTERS

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GNS

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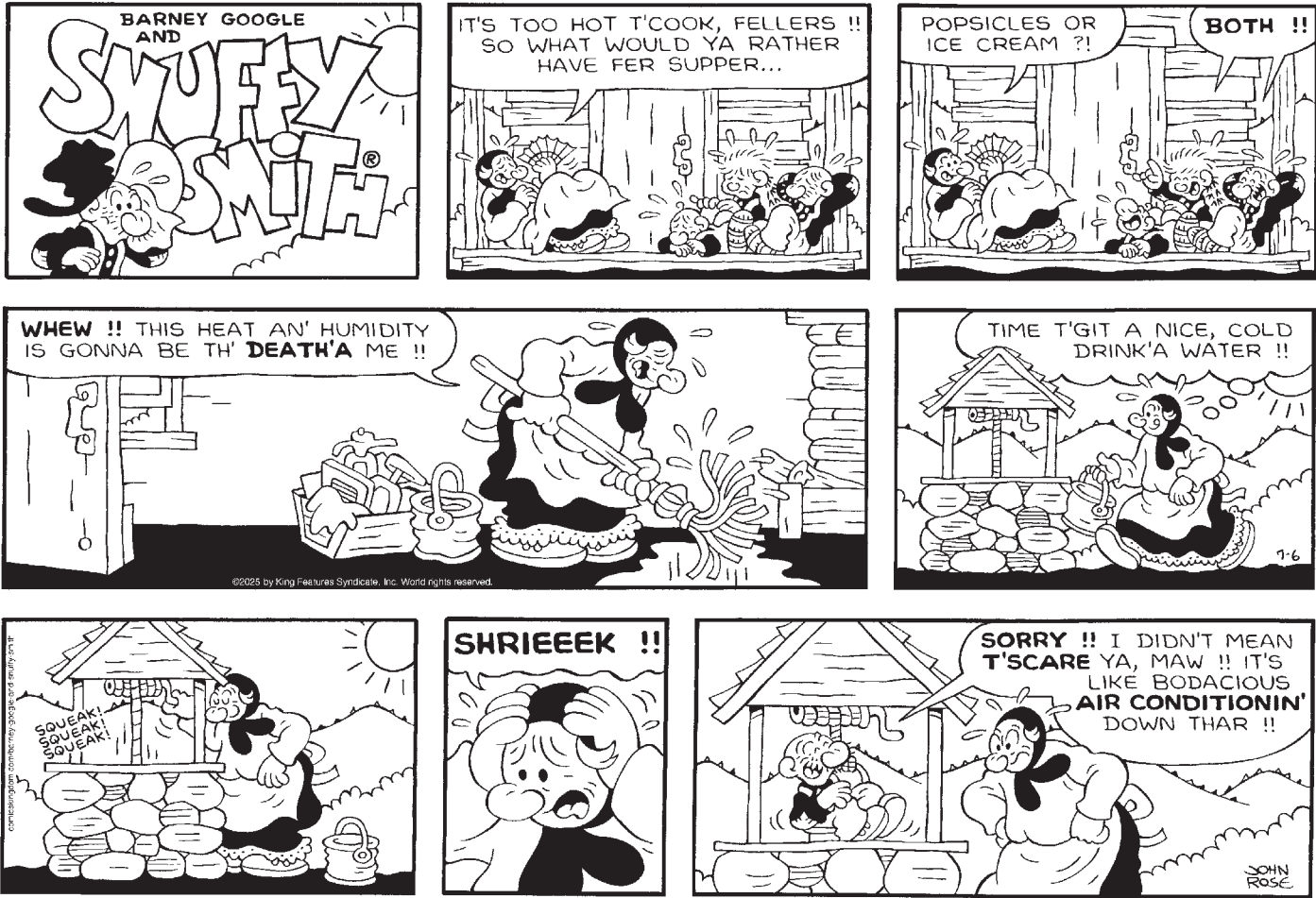
DEADLINE

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

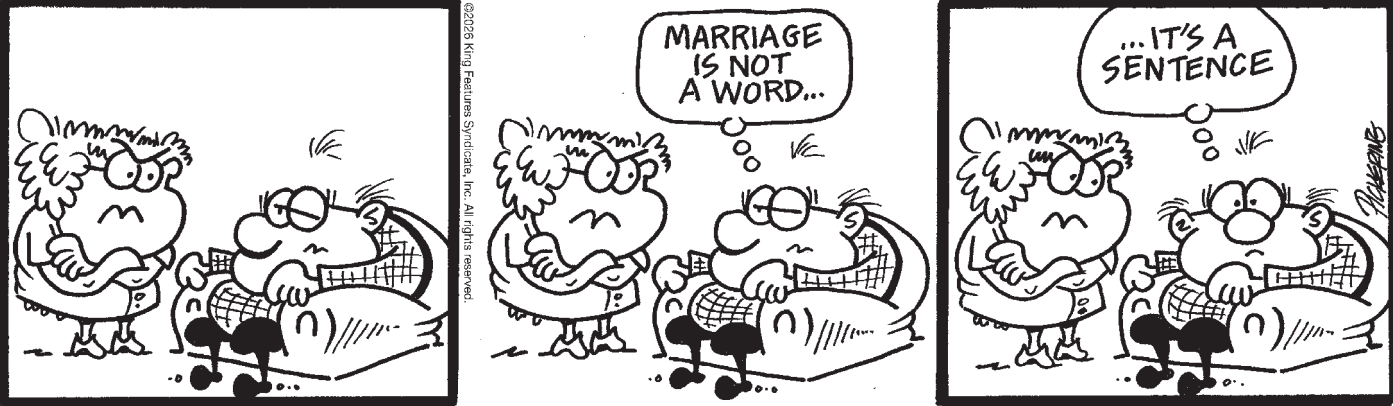


THE DAWSON NEWS

139 W. Lee Street news@thedawsonnews.com 995-2175



The Spats



Out on a Limb



King Crossword

—

Answers

Solution time: 26 mins.

Answers

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

MAGIC MAZE

ANSWERS

ASSOCIATED WITH

INDEPENDENCE DAY

INDEPENDENCE DAY

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 "Chocolat" actor

5 Audio giant

9 Prune

12 Antioxidant berry

13 Egg

14 — budget

15 Plumbing problem

16 Firsties

17 TiVo precursor

18 Foolproof

19 Sch. URL ender

20 Borscht base

21 Sailing hazard

23 — Victor

25 Daughter of Muhammad

28 Lynx

32 "West Side Story" role

33 Prefix meaning "water"

34 Ocean bottoms

36 Grapevine talk

37 Chow down

38 "— was saying ..."

39 Scoff

42 Half of bi-

44 Sod

48 Napoleon's title (Abbr.)

49 Mideast gulf

50 Verifiable

51 Brit. record label

52 Get up

53 Perimeter

54 Lobbyists' org.

55 Pitch

56 Reddish brown

7 Outlying area

8 Ambulance letters

9 Zero, in tennis

10 Formerly

11 Section

20 Date night hire

22 D-Day beach

24 Some Pacific salmon

25 Passing craze

26 Chemical suffix

27 Gratuity

29 LP successors

5 Grocery store

6 Roman poet

31 Pinnacle

35 Recording site

36 Olympic swimmer

39 "M*A*S*H" vehicle

40 Tennis star

41 Raducanu

43 Grand tale

44 Legendary loch

45 Language of Pakistan

46 Carpets

47 Shoe fillers

49 Illustrations

DOWN

1 June honorees

2 Beige

3 Two of a kind

4 Specialist in the heating/cooling industry

5 Grocery store

6 Roman poet

7 Outlying area

8 Ambulance letters

9 Zero, in tennis

10 Formerly

11 Section

20 Date night hire

22 D-Day beach

24 Some Pacific salmon

25 Passing craze

26 Chemical suffix

27 Gratuity

29 LP successors

30 NPR's Shapiro

31 Pinnacle

35 Recording site

36 Olympic swimmer

39 "M*A*S*H" vehicle

40 Tennis star

41 Raducanu

43 Grand tale

44 Legendary loch

45 Language of Pakistan

46 Carpets

47 Shoe fillers

49 Illustrations

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MAGIC MAZE

ASSOCIATED WITH INDEPENDENCE DAY

C F B Y W U R L P N K P I G D

B Z I X V S I Q O M A K I G E

C A Y R W B E U S T Q P N L J

H F E **DEMOCRACY** C A Y

X V U R F W D I I S P Q S S F

P Y T L A Y O L N F R M C E A

K Y A J T T O R H C I F I D T

E G C I I B F Z K I D R N A H

Y X N S L A V I T S E F C R E

V U M E H T N A U U T R I A R

Q P O M L K I H G M E D P P S

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: THE FOUNDING —

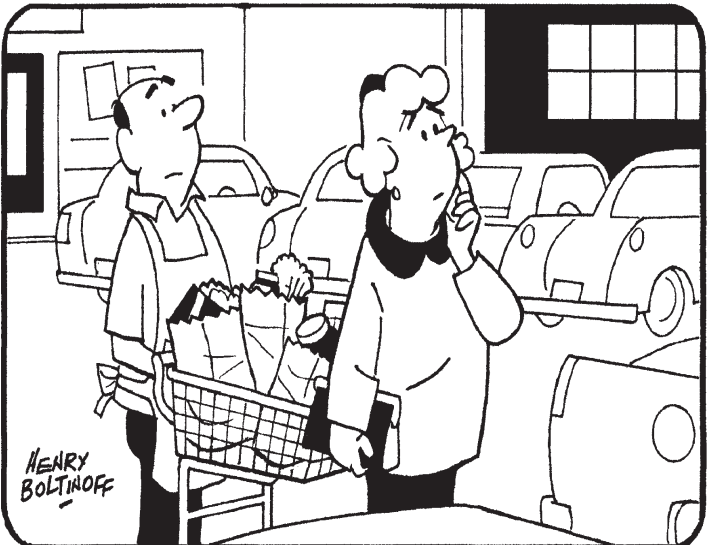
Anthem	Flag	Music	Pride
Democracy	Food	Parades	Sacrifice
Festivals	Liberty	Patriotism	Unity
Fireworks	Loyalty	Picnics	

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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Store windows are moved. 2. License plate is missing. 3. Bow tie is added. 4. Bumper is missing. 5. Coat is longer. 6. Hair is longer.

It pays to advertise in your local paper!

The year 1776: Notable historical events of colonial America

SPECIAL TO
THE DAWSON NEWS

The year the United States came to be was an interesting time to be alive, particularly for those living in colonial America. The American Revolutionary War began in 1776, and much of the year was marked by events stemming from that conflict. Below are some of the more notable events to take place during a year that has come to symbolize so much to generations of Americans.

- Thomas Paine publishes his 47-page pamphlet *Common Sense* in Philadelphia on January 10. Initially published anonymously, the pamphlet is considered a watershed moment in American history, as Paine's easily digestible writing style appealed to the masses, helping promote his arguments that encouraged common people to fight for an egalitarian government.
- The Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge takes place

near Wilmington, North Carolina on February 27. The battle is sparked when loyalists, after storming across a bridge over Moore's Creek, attack a group of men they believe to be rebels. Though the engagement was brief, two loyalist leaders are killed, another is captured and the force is scattered. The failed attempt later complicated efforts to recruit loyalists in the area to fight.

- The Fifth Virginia Convention is held in Williamsburg between May 6 and July 5. The meeting of the Patriot legislature of Virginia ultimately leads to the declaration of Virginia as an independent state and the production of the Virginia Declaration of Rights, which asserts the state's right to reform or abolish any form of government it deems inadequate.
- Thomas Hickey becomes an early casualty of the burgeoning conflict between the colonies and England when the Irish-born

soldier is the first to be executed by the Continental Army for "mutiny, sedition, and treachery" on June 28 in New York City. Hickey had been part of a protective detail for General George Washington but was briefly jailed for passing counterfeit money. During that brief incarceration, Hickey told a fellow prisoner he was part of a conspiracy, and reports ultimately indicated he might have been part of a plot to assassinate General Washington, which proved enough to warrant his execution.

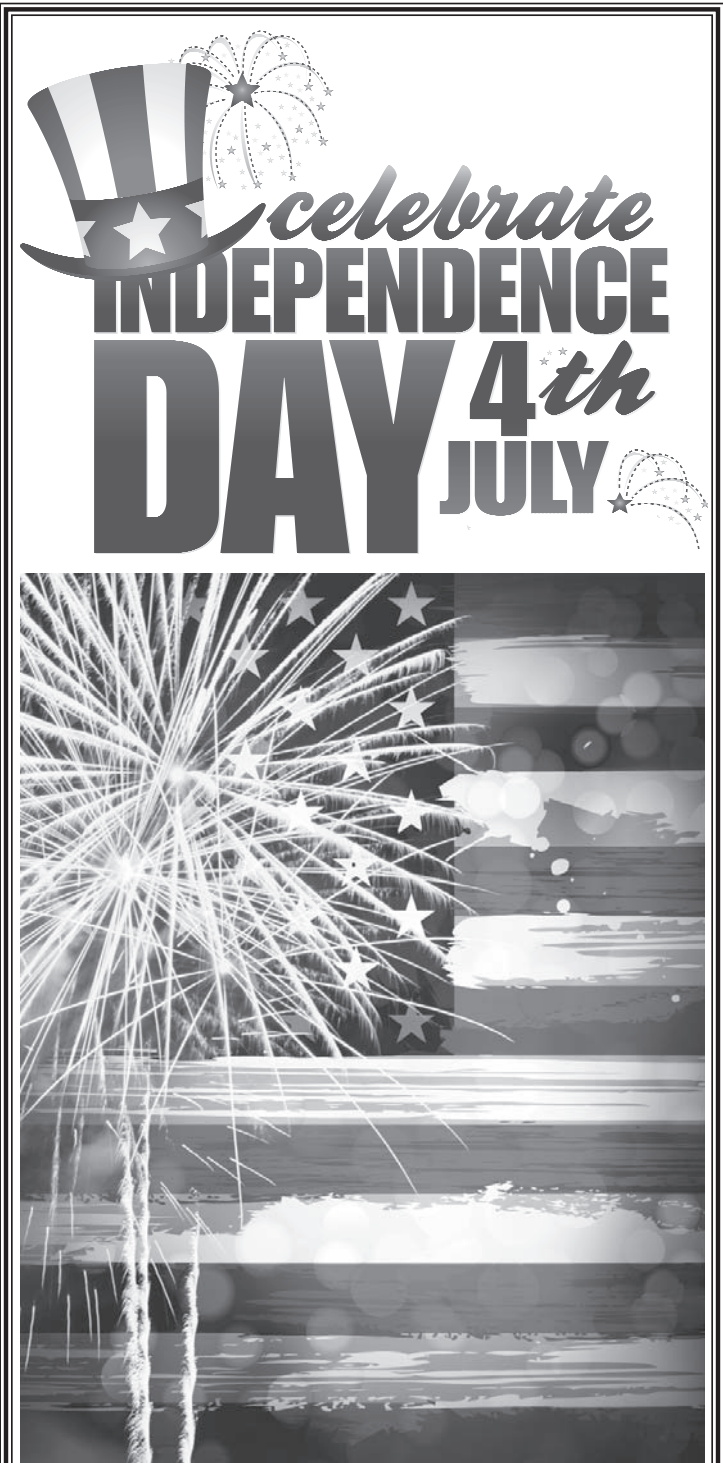
- An uptick incidents of violence between Native Americans and settlers in Kentucky was a ripple effect of the American Revolutionary War, and that increase in aggression was behind the capture of Jemima Boone and the Callaway girls on July 14. Days later Daniel Boone led a successful attempt to rescue his daughter and Elizabeth and Frances Callaway, who were the children of Colo-

nel Richard Callaway, one of the first white settlers in Kentucky. A fictionalized version of the incident was included in James Fenimore Cooper's novel *The Last of the Mohicans*.

- The Great Fire of New York destroys as much as

25 percent of all buildings in New York City as it burns through areas in lower Manhattan on September 20 and 21. The fire broke out shortly after British forces began occupying the city. While each side accused the other of arson

in the aftermath of the fire, historians dispute such assertions, noting the fire likely started with burning rooftop debris before windy conditions spread the conflagration to surrounding buildings.



July 4th is such a big day for picnics, it's easy to forget what the celebration is all about. July 4th marks the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Freedom is the foundation upon which our country stands. It promises each of us an equal vote in determining the practices and policies of our great nation.

This 4th of July, let's all celebrate our freedom and be thankful that we live in a country where we can stand up for what we believe in.



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to build it.

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Happy INDEPENDENCE DAY



As we celebrate this Independence Day holiday, let us look past all the fireworks and concentrate on the true meaning of the day.

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Nicknames for all 50 states

The United States is the fourth largest country in the world in terms of total area. According to The World Factbook, the U.S. features more than 9.8 million square kilometers (roughly 3.8 million square miles), and the country’s terrain is as diverse as the people who call the nation home. Each state in the United States has at least one nickname, and those monikers can be a fun way to spark discussions and learn more about each of the 50 states that make up the country.

- Alabama**
Cotton State, Yellowhammer State
- Alaska**
The Last Frontier
- Arizona**
Grand Canyon State
- Arkansas**
Natural State
- California**
Golden State
- Colorado**
Centennial State
- Connecticut**
Nutmeg State, Constitution State
- Delaware**
The First State, Diamond State
- Florida**
Sunshine State
- Georgia**
Peach State, Empire State of the South
- Hawaii**
Aloha State

- Idaho**
Gem State
- Illinois**
Prairie State, Land of Lincoln
- Indiana**
Hoosier State
- Iowa**
Hawkeye State, Corn State
- Kansas**
Sunflower State
- Kentucky**
Bluegrass State
- Louisiana**
Pelican State, Creole State, Sugar State
- Maine**
Pine Tree State
- Maryland**
Free State, Old Line State
- Massachusetts**
Bay State, Old Colony State
- Michigan**
Wolverine State, Great Lake State
- Minnesota**
North Star State, Gopher State, Land of 10,000 Lakes, Land of Sky-Blue Waters
- Mississippi**
Magnolia State
- Missouri**
Show Me State
- Montana**
Treasure State, Big Sky Country
- Nebraska**
Cornhusker State, Beef State
- Nevada**
Silver State, Sagebrush State, Battle Born State
- New Hampshire**
Granite State



Georgia is the Peach State, but did you know the other states’ nicknames?/SPECIAL PHOTO

- New Jersey**
Garden State
- New Mexico**
Land of Enchantment
- New York**
Empire State
- North Carolina**
Tar Heel State, Old North State
- North Dakota**
Flickertail State, Sioux State, Peace Garden State
- Ohio**
Buckeye State
- Oklahoma**
Sooner State
- Oregon**
Beaver State
- Pennsylvania**
Keystone State
- Rhode Island**
Ocean State, Little Rhody
- South Carolina**
Palmetto State
- South Dakota**
The Mount Rushmore State
- Tennessee**
Volunteer State
- Texas**
Lone Star State
- Utah**
Beehive State
- Vermont**
Green Mountain State
- Virginia**
The Old Dominion, Mother of Presidents
- Washington**
Evergreen State, Chinook State
- West Virginia**
Mountain State
- Wisconsin**
Badger State, America’s Dairyland
- Wyoming**
Equality State

FOUNDING FATHERS

Continued from page 1

pivotal period, when he was notably dragged through the streets by angry rioters. By the mid-1770s, Hooper had changed course, and was even among the three delegates chosen to represent North Carolina at the First Continental Congress in 1774. Prior to that conference, Hooper wrote to a friend that the colonies were destined to win independence from the Crown, an assertion that ultimately earned him the nickname the “Prophet of Independence.” Hooper signed the Declaration of Independence but illness forced him to retire from politics. He continued to support the war effort, donating much of his legal earnings to the colonists’ cause, and was so reviled by the British that his home was burned down when Wilmington was taken by Crown forces in 1781.

• John Witherspoon: John Witherspoon was born in Scotland in 1723 and moved to what would become the United States in 1768. Witherspoon is unique among signatories of the Declaration of Independence because he is the only active clergyman and the only college president to sign the document. Witherspoon later signed the Articles of Confederation and supported the ratification of the Constitution. Witherspoon came to New Jersey to become president of the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University), which educated many notable figures from the era, including James Madison and Aaron Burr. All told, 12 members of the Continental Congress studied at the school while Witherspoon was president. The Presbyterian Witherspoon supported colonial independence for various reasons,

and was especially opposed to the Crown’s attempt to appoint an American Anglican bishop, speaking out against British interference in colonial affairs in a sermon titled “The Dominion of Providence Over the Passions of Men” during a 1776 sermon. Like Hooper, Witherspoon was convinced independence was the path forward for the colonies.

• Roger Sherman: Born in Newton, Massachusetts, in 1721, Roger Sherman was a multit talented Founding Father who began to study law in the mid-1750s after working as an author, general store owner, and surveyor, among other jobs. By 1766, Sherman was so established in the legal profession that he was appointed a judge of the Superior Court

of Connecticut. Though he initially expressed reservations regarding colonists’ resistance to the Crown, by 1774 he agreed to serve as a Connecticut delegate to the First Continental Con-

gress. Sherman joined the committee to draft the Declaration of Independence in mid-1776, and later represented Connecticut on the drafting committee of the Articles of Confederation.

Sherman also holds the unique distinction of being the only person to sign the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution.

4th of July



This great nation is the product of its people ... and the strength of their ideals.

As we celebrate the anniversary of our independence, let’s also applaud America... her people... her freedom.

Merritt Pecan Company

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The Declaration of Independence gave birth to the United States and proclaimed us an independent nation, and the Constitution established a system of free and popular government.

Together, these documents reaffirm our commitment to democracy and government by the people.

Take time to reflect on the freedoms we enjoy this Independence Day.

CLOSING INDEPENDENCE DAY

We will be closed on Friday, July 3 and Independence Day, July 4th.
We will re-open on Monday July 6.



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Revered in American history are those virtues and ideals established, maintained and staunchly guarded by all Americans of past and present times.

These ideals of country, freedom, liberty and justice for all - guard them well, America - they are part of our glory and our joy!

Be proud to be an American!



What makes us great.



UNITY

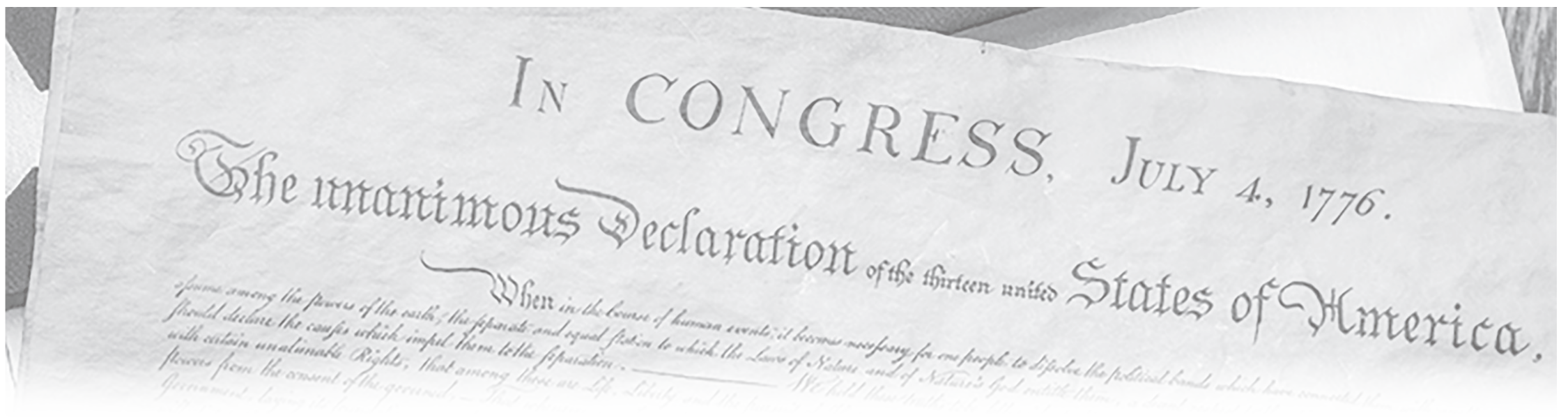
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Getting to know the Declaration of Independence

SPECIAL TO THE DAWSON NEWS

The Declaration of Independence is a formal document that served as the signatory colonies' statement that they were now "free and independent States." It is a vital document in American history.

On July 1, 1776, delegates from the original 13 colonies, making up the Second Continental Congress, met in Philadelphia to vote on Richard Henry Lee's motion for independence. After some deliberation, ultimately 12 of the 13 delegates voted in favor. In recognition of those 12 delegates, here are 12 facts regarding the Declaration of Independence.

1. The drafted document was officially adopted on July 4, 1776, two days after freedom from Britain was approved. However, most

delegates signed the document on August 2, 1776, while others signed on a later date. John Dickinson and Robert R. Livingston never signed the Declaration of Independence.

2. John Dunlap was the official printer of Congress at the time. He worked all night and into the morning of July 5 to produce the large, single-sided sheet, known as a broadside. About 200 copies of Dunlap's broadside were made.

3. The University of Virginia owns two copies of a rare early printing of the Declaration. It is on display in the Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library. It is believed the copy once belonged to George Washington.

4. Benjamin Franklin, George Read, Roger Sherman, Robert Morris, George Clymer, and James Wilson signed both the

Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.

5. The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were hidden at Fort Knox during World War II, two weeks after Pearl Harbor was attacked.

6. Despite what the movie “National Treasure” will have one believe, the message on the back of the document is visible and reads “Original Declaration of Independence dated 4th July 1776.”

7. Richard Stockton, a lawyer from New Jersey, was a signer of the Declaration who later recanted his support of the American revolution. He subsequently swore his allegiance to King George III after being captured by the British.

8. In 1989, an original Dunlap Broadside was found hidden behind a picture a Philadelphia man bought at a flea market for \$4. It

later sold for \$8.1 million. Ultimately, 26 copies of the original prints have been found.

9. The United States celebrates Independence Day on July 4th, even though independence was accepted on July 2nd.

10. Early on, not everyone in America was supportive of the Declaration of Independence. Partisan politics led to discord. Federalist John Adams was feuding with Republicans and Thomas Jefferson. The anniversary date of the signing was not widely celebrated until the Federalists were no longer involved in politics.

11. The one-year anniversary of Independence Day and the celebration of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence slipped the minds of Congress in 1777. When they remembered it was July 3rd, they planned a last-min-

ute celebration on July 4th, and
each year thereafter.

12. John Trumbull's painting "Declaration of Independence," which was made into a lithograph replica by Ralph Tremblay, hangs in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol. It is a fictional depiction of the five-man drafting committee presenting their draft to Congress, and not the signing. The painting shows 42 of the 56 signees, since Trumbull couldn't get likenesses of all involved. The men featured in the painting were never all in the room at the same time during the Declaration's debate and signing.

The Declaration of Independence is a key document in American history, and its words are celebrated each Independence Day.



celebrating
AMERICA

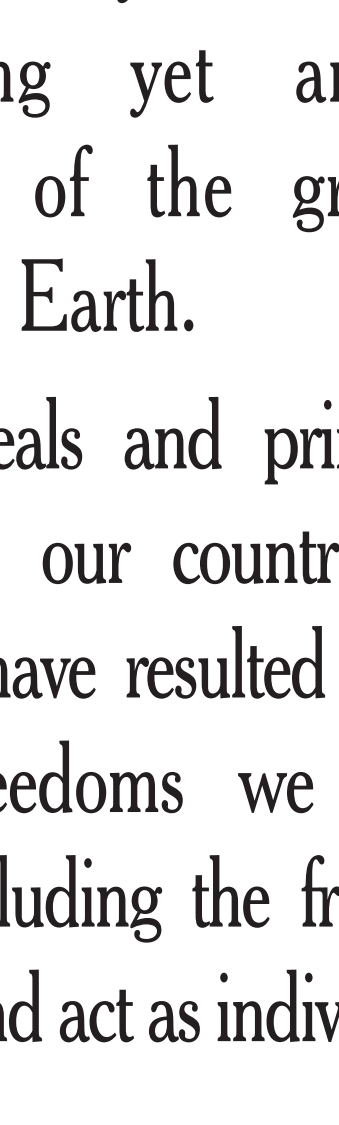


We're happy and proud to join you and your family in celebrating yet another birthday of the greatest nation on Earth.

The ideals and principles on which our country was founded have resulted in the many freedoms we enjoy today, including the freedom to think and act as individuals.

Happy Birthday America!

4TH OF JULY SALE





GOLDEN PEANUT™

Dawson 995-2111

WEBSITE

Continued from page 1

development, business, public safety, community events and the people shaping life across Dawson and the surrounding area.

Leaders with the Georgia Trust for Local News say making trusted local journalism easier to access is central to their mission.

"Community journalism is about strengthening our connec-

tions to each other and our understanding of the world around us," a spokesperson for the Georgia Trust for Local News said. "It's how folks keep tabs on local governments and school boards, follow high school sports and learn what's going on in their neighborhoods."

Readers are encouraged to subscribe through The Albany Herald website for full digital access to Dawson News coverage and to fol-

low the Dawson News Facebook page for breaking news, story updates and community conversations.

Community input will remain an important part of Dawson News' coverage.

Residents with story ideas, upcoming events, questions or issues they believe deserve attention are encouraged to contact Dawson News reporter Kathryn Crockett at kathryn@albanyherald.com.

"Local journalism is most valuable when it reflects the voices and experiences of the community it serves," Crockett said. "Whether it's a government issue that deserves closer scrutiny, a local business success, a school achievement or an event that brings people together, we want to hear from the people of Terrell County. Our goal is to tell the stories that matter most to this community."

The Dawson News' expanded digital presence is intended to make local reporting more accessible while strengthening connections throughout Terrell County.

By combining in-depth reporting for The Dawson News via The Albany Herald website with timely updates on social media, readers can stay informed wherever they are while continuing to support local journalism that serves their community.

Precincts Reported: 6 of 6 (100.00%)
Registered Voters: 922 of 6,055 (15.23%)
Ballots Cast: 922

Election Summary Report

Closed Primary
Terrell

June 16, 2026

Summary for: All Contests, All Districts, All Tabulators, All Counting Groups
Official and Complete

Elector Group	Counting Group	Ballots	Voters	Registered Voters	Turnout
Total	Election Day	550	550	6,055	9.08%
	Advance Voting	295	295		4.87%
	Absentee by Mail	77	77		1.27%
	Provisional	0	0		0.00%
	Total	922	922		15.23%

US Senate - Rep (Vote for 1) REP

Precincts Reported: 6 of 6 (100.00%)

	Election Day	Advance Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total	
Times Cast	388	179	6	0	573 / 6,055	9.46%
Candidate	Party	Election Day	Advance Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total
Mike Collins		263	111	4	0	378
Derek Dooley		120	61	1	0	182
Total Votes		383	172	5	0	560
	Election Day	Advance Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total	
Unresolved Write-In	0	0	0	0	0	

Governor - Rep (Vote for 1) REP

Precincts Reported: 6 of 6 (100.00%)

	Election Day	Advance Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total	
Times Cast	388	179	6	0	573 / 6,055	9.46%
Candidate	Party	Election Day	Advance Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total
Rick Jackson		175	125	4	0	304
Burt Jones		211	53	2	0	266
Total Votes		386	178	6	0	570
	Election Day	Advance Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total	
Unresolved Write-In	0	0	0	0	0	

Secretary of State - Dem (Vote for 1) DEM

Precincts Reported: 6 of 6 (100.00%)

	Election Day	Advance Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total	
Times Cast	162	116	71	0	349 / 6,055	5.76%
Candidate	Party	Election Day	Advance Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total
Dana Barrett		48	34	18	0	100
Penny Brown Reynolds		114	82	53	0	249
Total Votes		162	116	71	0	349
	Election Day	Advance Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total	
Unresolved Write-In	0	0	0	0	0	

Commissioner of Insurance - Dem (Vote for 1) DEM

Precincts Reported: 6 of 6 (100.00%)

	Election Day	Advance Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total	
Times Cast	162	116	71	0	349 / 6,055	5.76%
Candidate	Party	Election Day	Advance Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total
DeAndre Mathis		60	26	28	0	114
Keisha Sean Waites		100	90	40	0	230
Total Votes		160	116	68	0	344
	Election Day	Advance Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total	
Unresolved Write-In	0	0	0	0	0	

State School Superintendent - Rep (Vote for 1) REP

Precincts Reported: 6 of 6 (100.00%)

	Election Day	Advance Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total	
Times Cast	388	179	6	0	573 / 6,055	9.46%
Candidate	Party	Election Day	Advance Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total
Fred "Bubba" Longgear		178	75	3	0	256
Richard Woods (I)		187	92	2	0	281
Total Votes		365	167	5	0	537
	Election Day	Advance Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total	
Unresolved Write-In	0	0	0	0	0	

Lieutenant Governor - Rep (Vote for 1) REP

Precincts Reported: 6 of 6 (100.00%)

	Election Day	Advance Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total	
Times Cast	388	179	6	0	573 / 6,055	9.46%
Candidate	Party	Election Day	Advance Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total
Greg Dolezal		198	104	3	0	305
John F. Kennedy		175	72	2	0	249
Total Votes		373	176	5	0	554
	Election Day	Advance Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total	
Unresolved Write-In	0	0	0	0	0	

Lieutenant Governor - Dem (Vote for 1) DEM

Precincts Reported: 6 of 6 (100.00%)

	Election Day	Advance Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total	
Times Cast	162	116	71	0	349 / 6,055	5.76%
Candidate	Party	Election Day	Advance Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total
Josh McLaurin		82	70	40	0	192
Nabilah Parkes		75	45	29	0	149
Total Votes		157	115	69	0	341
	Election Day	Advance Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total	
Unresolved Write-In	0	0	0	0	0	

ELECTION DATA

Continued from page 1

Across both elections, turnout was concentrated among older residents. The largest voting blocs in both May and June were voters between 55 and 79 years old, with participation peaking among those ages 65 to 69. In the June runoff alone, nearly seven out of every 10 ballots were cast by voters ages 55 through 79.

Younger adults participated at much lower rates.

Only 71 runoff voters were under age 40, despite those age groups accounting for a substantial portion of the county's registered voters. The figures reflect a long-standing national trend in which older Americans consistently vote at higher rates than younger adults, particularly in primary and runoff elections.

The racial composition of the electorate changed markedly between the two elections.

In the May 19 primary, black voters cast 915 ballots compared with 699 cast by white voters, meaning black voters accounted for approximately 53% of all ballots cast. But four weeks later, the June 16 runoff produced a very different electorate.

White voters cast 542 ballots, while black voters cast 326, making white voters nearly 59% of all runoff participants. The shift was driven not by an increase in white turnout, but by a much steeper decline in black voter participation between the primary and the runoff.

The shift resulted primarily from differences in voter retention between the two elections. Black participation declined by approximately 64%, while white participation declined by about 22%.

Because runoff elections include fewer contested races and often generate less public attention, political scientists generally expect participation to fall. Terrell County's results illustrate that the decline was not evenly distributed across demographic groups. Despite recent U.S. Census estimates indicating Terrell County's resident population remains majority black, white voters represented the majority of those participating in the runoff.

Population statistics and election turnout measure different things. Census data include children and non-citizens who cannot vote, while turnout reflects only registered voters who cast ballots.

Even so, comparing the two highlights that the demographic makeup of voters can differ substantially from the county's overall population, particularly in lower-turnout elections.

Gender participation showed little variation. In the May 19 primary, women accounted for 59.6% of all ballots cast, while men represented 40.4%. The results are consistent with long-standing national voting patterns, which have shown women turning out to vote at higher rates than men in most elections

for several decades.

Because May 19 was Georgia's statewide primary election, voters selected either a Democratic or Republican ballot, while a small number participated in nonpartisan contests. Terrell County recorded 1,004 Democratic ballots, 704 Republican ballots and 23 nonpartisan ballots. Participation declined substantially in the June 16 primary runoff, with 572 Republican voters and 350 Democratic voters casting ballots.

Those totals reflect only voters who had contested races remaining on their chosen primary ballot and should not be interpreted as party registration figures, as Georgia does not register voters by political party.

The June 16 primary runoff drew 922 voters, 809 fewer than the 1,731 who participated in the May 19 primary, which represents a 46.7% decline in turnout, with voter participation falling from 28.6% of Terrell County's 6,048 active registered voters to 15.2%.

In other words, fewer than one in six registered voters returned to the polls for the runoff.

While the election data identify clear patterns in voter participation, they do not explain why some residents voted while others did not. The results nevertheless point to several areas that merit further examination, including why older voters participate at significantly higher rates than younger adults, what factors contributed to the sharper decline in black voter turnout between the primary and runoff, and how campaign activity, media coverage, voter outreach and the number of contested races may have influenced participation.

The findings also invite questions about whether practical barriers, such as work schedules, transportation or voter engagement efforts, affect turnout among younger voters. Those are questions that extend well beyond a single election cycle and are central to understanding long-term civic participation in Terrell County.

With fewer than one-third of registered voters participating in the May primary and only about one in six returning for the runoff, the data illustrate how quickly the electorate can shrink between successive elections — and how its demographic makeup can change as turnout declines.

As Terrell County voters prepare to return to the polls in November, the primary and runoff results provide a useful benchmark for understanding recent voting patterns.

Whether turnout rebounds to levels more typical of general elections — and whether younger voters and demographic groups that participated at lower rates in the spring return to the polls — will help determine how representative November's electorate is of the county's more than 6,000 registered voters.

Secretary of State - Rep (Vote for 1) REP

Precincts Reported: 6 of 6 (100.00%)

	Election Day	Advance Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total	
Times Cast	388	179	6	0	573 / 6,055	9.46%
Candidate	Party	Election Day	Advance Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total
Tim Fleming		211	104	3	0	318
Vernon Jones		153	59	2	0	214
Total Votes		364	163	5	0	532
	Election Day	Advance Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total	
Unresolved Write-In	0	0	0	0	0	

Commissioner of Labor - Dem (Vote for 1) DEM

Precincts Reported: 6 of 6 (100.00%)

	Election Day	Advance Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total	
Times Cast	162	116	71	0	349 / 6,055	5.76%
Candidate	Party	Election Day	Advance Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total
Nikki Porcher		101	78	44	0	223
Michelle Michi Sanchez		58	38	23	0	119
Total Votes		159	116	67	0	342
	Election Day	Advance Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total	
Unresolved Write-In	0	0	0	0	0	

PSC - District 5 - Rep (Vote for 1) REP

Precincts Reported: 6 of 6 (100.00%)

	Election Day	Advance Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total	
Times Cast	388	179	6	0	573 / 6,055	9.46%
Candidate	Party	Election Day	Advance Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total
Bobby Mehan		145	85	3	0	233
Josh Tolbert		205	68	2	0	275
Total Votes		350	153	5	0	508
	Election Day	Advance Voting	Absentee by Mail	Provisional	Total	
Unresolved Write-In	0	0	0	0	0	