

Terrell Academy announces homecoming court



Terrell Academy recently announced the 2026-2027 homecoming court/SPECIAL PHOTOS

STAFF REPORTS

Here are the bios of the Terrell Academy 2026 homecoming court:

Homecoming Queen Court Sarah Ellyn Freeman (Freshman) is the daughter of James and Kristi Freeman of Dawson. She is the granddaughter of John and Ellyn Hinson and Will and Janice Bryant all of Dawson. She has two brothers, Dylan, who is a senior, and Levi, who is in 6th grade. Sarah has attended Terrell Academy for 12 years. She played varsity soccer for one year and plans to play this year as well as

continue basketball. She is an active member of the Key Club. Sarah attends Dawson Methodist Church.

Kacy Stavely Sheffield (Sophomore) is the daughter of Michael and Kendall Sheffield of Albany and the granddaughter of Kenny and Lynn Stavely of Bainbridge and Ernie and Susan Sheffield of Colquitt. She has two siblings at TA, Molly, a sixth-grader, and Easton, a third-grader.

This is Kacy’s fourth year attend-

HOMECOMING COURT
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Dawson's budget hearing: What law requires and residents should ask

By KATHRYN CROCKETT
Staff Reporter

Dawson residents will have an opportunity Sept. 24 to question the city’s proposed budget before the City Council decides how to fund police, fire protection, streets and other services for the fiscal year already underway. But the documents available for review leave a basic question unanswered: How much does the city plan to spend, and what money will pay for it?

The public hearing is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 101 S. Main St., ahead of an Oct. 8 adoption vote. The proposal contains no general fund spending total, identifies no accumulated funds being used to cover expenses and shows no planned transfers between funds. Repeated

costs and inconsistent account codes also raise questions about whether its figures accurately represent the city’s intentions.

Those problems do not establish that Dawson plans to spend more than it has. They leave the council and residents unable to determine whether the proposal balances as Georgia law requires — and what it could mean for taxes, utility bills and city services.

What the figures show

Dawson’s proposed General Fund revenue totals \$3,232,250. Printed departmental spending totals add up to approximately \$3.89 million. A separate \$400,000 allocation to repay a tax anticipation note brings the apparent spending plan to approx-

imately \$4.29 million, about \$1.06 million above anticipated revenue.

That calculation assumes every amount represents a separate cost. The document provides reasons to question that assumption.

The same unemployment account number appears six times across six departments, with amounts totaling \$16,500. Other account numbers repeat for liability insurance, workers’ compensation and retirement expenses.

Identical amounts also appear across departments: \$17,500 for liability insurance in 11 departments, totaling \$192,500, and \$18,226 for workers’ compensation in 11 departments, totaling \$200,486.

BUDGET
Continued on page 2



The Dawson City Council approved moving forward with the police department’s K-9 program, which officials said will cost the city about \$5,000 after grants and donated services/G-R MOTTEZ, Unsplashd

K-9 program approved, wastewater purchases amid audit delays

By KATHRYN CROCKETT
Staff Reporter

Questions about unfinished audits, restricted state funding and an unbalanced budget dominated a Dawson City Council meeting that also included decisions on wastewater equipment, employee benefits, a police K-9 program and the city’s dormant downtown development board.

The council met as Dawson entered a new fiscal year without an adopted budget and remained behind on three annual audits. The missing audits have prevented the city from drawing additional money from Georgia Environmental Finance Authority loans supporting its water and wastewater projects.

Councilwoman Sondra Walker questioned why the council was not told about the funding restrictions before they were reported publicly.

City Manager Roxie Powell said Dawson will not lose the GEFA commitments but cannot request additional reimbursements until its audits are brought into compliance. Powell said the city had been waiting for guidance from GEFA and attempting to develop a corrective plan with the city’s outside auditor.

Officials attributed much of the delay to problems created when financial information was transferred from the city’s former Harris Computer system to Tyler Technologies software. Records were duplicated, omitted or did not reconcile with the city’s trial balance, officials said.

CITY COUNCIL
Continued on page 5



SNAPSHOTS: TERRELL-LEE RETIRED EDUCATORS WELCOME STUDENTS, TEACHERS TO NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Terrell-Lee Retired Educators participated in welcoming students back to school on Aug. 3. The educators also supplied gift bags for all new teachers in order to make sure their first day was great from an educator to an educator. Those pictured include: Mrs. Loretta N. Williams, Ms. Dorothy S. Jenkins, Ms. Barbara G. Marshall, Ms. Earea Woodson and Principal O. Jones/SPECIAL PHOTOS

Pittman and Walker decline to support \$8 monthly fire charge

By KATHRYN CROCKETT
Staff Reporter

Dawson utility customers will pay an additional \$8 per month to support the city fire department after the City Council approved a new fire service district charge amid questions about unfinished audits, a proposed budget deficit and how the money will be tracked.

Council members Iri Pittman and Sondra Walker did not vote to approve the charge.

The charge will apply to residential and commercial utility accounts within the Dawson city limits. Based on approximately 1,800 accounts, city officials estimate it will generate about \$172,800 annually.

Officials said the revenue will be placed in the city’s general fund but tracked through a separate line item designated for fire department expenses.

The council discussed beginning collection in January and reviewing the charge after six months or one year. The ordinance and final billing schedule will

determine the effective date and collection procedures.

The fire department operates on an annual budget of approximately \$1 million, making it one of Dawson’s largest municipal expenses. Officials said the \$8 charge will not fully fund the department but will reduce the amount required from other general-fund revenue.

Completely shifting the department’s cost from the general fund would require a charge of approximately \$50 per account, according to figures discussed during the meeting.

Council members previously considered monthly charges ranging from \$8 to \$15. At \$10 per account, the city could generate approximately \$216,000 annually. A \$15 charge could produce about \$324,000.

Mayor Robert Aaron presented the charge as an alternative to increasing the city’s property tax rate.

“We need money just to provide ser-

FIRE CHARGE
Continued on page 2

OBITUARIES



John Rabon Shoemaker

John Rabon Shoemaker, 82, passed away at his home in Brinson, Ga. on Sept. 6, 2026.

The funeral service was held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 8, at Brinson Baptist Church with Rev. Ellis Hardwick and Rev. Robert Crapps officiating. Interment followed at Brinson Cemetery with Alan Sims, Robert Cohen, Mike McComb, Jason King, Steven Hicks and Rob Cohen serving as active pallbearers.

Online visitors may sign the guest register at www.bryantfuneralga.com. Memorial donations may be made to Brinson Baptist Church, PO Box 655, Brinson, GA 39825 or Brinson Cemetery Fund, PO Box 693, Brinson, GA 39825.

John, known to his family as Johnny, was born to Lester Harper Shoemaker and Marion Rabon Shoemaker on June 27, 1944. He grew up in Blakely with his brothers, Larry and Richard, and his sister, Sharyn. He graduated from Blakeley High School in 1962 and from Valdosta State College in 1967.

In June 1967, he married Annette King and in September joined the U.S. Army. He graduated from OCS in July 1968, and he and Annette drove to Alaska for his first assignment. After a year, he received orders to Vietnam where he served in the First Infantry Division. While he was there, his daughter, Sherri, was born in Bainbridge, Ga. After his discharge, the family moved to Dawson, Ga. where he was employed by the GA Department of Corrections as a probation officer. He retired as Chief Probation Officer of the Pataula Circuit in 2000. While in Dawson, John was a member of First Baptist Church and the Willing Workers Sunday School Class. John was an avid golfer and played golf at the Dawson Country Club and at Stonebridge in Albany. He scored five holes-in-one during his golfing years.

In 2006, John and Annette moved to Brinson to be near family. He enjoyed fishing on Spring Creek, traveling some, and going on cruises with friends. In Brinson, he was a member of Brinson Baptist Church where he served as a deacon and on various committees.

John is survived by his wife of 59 years, Annette King Shoemaker; his daughter, Sherri Moody (Bobby); and his brothers, Larry Shoemaker and Richard Shoemaker (Kathy). He is also survived by his brother-in-law, Billy Moore (Ellen), and several nieces and nephews. John was preceded in death by his sister, Sharyn Moore, and his sister-in-law, Pat Shoemaker.

Bryant Funeral Home, located at 105 N. Florida Street, is assisting the family with arrangements. (229-246-3321)



BUDGET

Continued from page 1

These could be intended allocations of city-wide expenses. They also could reflect costs copied into multiple sections without being divided correctly, inflating the apparent spending total. The proposal does not explain the calculation.

Several unemployment and workers' compensation expenses in the gas, water and wastewater sections also carry general fund account numbers, although those operations are presented as enterprise funds supported primarily by customer charges.

Account codes identify the fund and department responsible for a cost. Inconsistent codes leave readers unable to tell whether the problem is a labeling error, a duplicated expense or an intended allocation between funds.

What a balanced budget requires

Georgia law requires annual balanced budgets for the General Fund, special revenue funds and debt service funds, and project-length balanced budgets for capital projects funds.

Under O.C.G.A. § 36-81-3, estimated revenue plus any accumulated fund balance appropriated for use must equal appropriations — the amounts authorized for spending. Current-year revenue therefore does not have to cover every expense if sufficient money from prior years is available and budgeted to make up the difference.

Dawson's proposal identifies no such use of fund balance.

It also provides no beginning balance showing how much general fund money is available after existing obligations and restrictions. Without that information, the council cannot assume accumulated money will cover the apparent gap.

The uncertainty is compounded by Dawson's outstanding audits for Fiscal 2023, 2024 and 2025. Neither the proposal nor the unaudited year-end report establishes the city's available financial reserves.

A reconciliation showing beginning balances, anticipated revenue, transfers, proposed spending and projected ending balances would allow council members to assess the plan.

Why last year's report needs reconciliation

The report for Fiscal 2025-26 shows the general fund recording approximately \$3.70 million in revenue and \$7.52 million in expenses, an apparent difference of \$3.81 million.

Much of that difference may arise from how payroll and internal transfers appear in the report.

Departmental accounts collectively show about \$4.59 million in expenses against approximately \$5.16 million budgeted. The largest expense outside those accounts is \$2,735,191.31 labeled "Transfer to Payroll." No amount was budgeted for the line, and no payroll fund appears in the report to receive it. Public Utilities shows another \$409,230.25 payroll transfer.

Meanwhile, salaries and benefits appear separately within departmental accounts.

A plausible explanation is that Dawson pays employees through a central payroll account and assigns the costs to departments. If the report includes both the money transferred to that account and the departmental payroll charges without the necessary offsets, it could count the same cost twice.

The payroll ledger, transaction records and year-end adjustments are needed to establish whether that happened.

Simply removing the \$2.74 million entry would leave a difference of approximately \$1.08 million between reported general fund revenue and expenses. That calculation is illustrative, however, not a corrected financial result: Other entries may also require adjust-

ment, and the report does not show whether accumulated funds financed any spending.

Following money between funds

A transfer moves money between funds. The amount leaving one should have a corresponding entry in the fund receiving it.

Dawson's report shows approximately \$1.77 million transferred from Public Utilities into the general fund, while a Public Utilities expense line shows \$175,000 transferred to the general fund. Other transfer entries appear with different descriptions and signs.

Those figures cannot be reconciled by comparing those two lines alone. They call for a schedule matching the transfers across all affected accounts.

The Gas Fund presents a similar difficulty. Its expense total is reduced by more than \$726,000 in negative transfer entries, contributing to a reported surplus of approximately \$1.03 million. Excluding those entries changes the arithmetic to approximately \$303,000, but does not establish the fund's actual operating result without knowing what the entries represent.

These distinctions matter because authorized utility transfers can help fund general government services. Money paid by water, sewer and gas customers may support police, fire, streets and administration, subject to applicable restrictions.

The proposed budget shows no planned transfers, leaving residents unable to see whether utility revenue is expected to support those services in the coming year.

Who controls spending

The elected governing authority adopts the budget. Administrators prepare and carry out the financial plan within the authority granted to them.

Georgia law generally allows the budget officer to move appropriations below the city's legally established level of control. At the statutory minimum, that level is the department within each fund requiring a budget. A city may establish stricter controls.

That means a repair bill exceeding its individual line-item budget does not automatically require a council amendment if an authorized adjustment within the department covers it. Increasing the department's controlling appropriation, however, requires governing-authority approval by ordinance or resolution, unless applicable charter or local law provides otherwise.

Dawson's prior-year report contains several entries requiring that distinction.

Fire vehicle repair and maintenance shows \$463,807.55 against \$45,000 budgeted. Street lights show \$95,771.85 against \$25,000. The 2019 transportation sales tax fund records \$140,194.57 in spending with no appropriation or revenue shown in the report.

These entries warrant explanations but do not alone prove unauthorized spending. Costs may have been miscoded, authorized adjustments may have occurred, or the report may omit amendments and continuing project appropriations.

The city should be able to connect the recorded expenses to the applicable spending authority. Where spending exceeded the controlling appropriation, it should identify the council action authorizing the increase.

Council members can approve, reject or amend the proposal and require explanations from the administration. Delegating its preparation does not transfer the governing authority's responsibility for adopting it.

The council previously approved temporary spending authority beyond the Aug. 31 fiscal year-end while the new budget was being prepared. The scope of that authorization

is separate from whether the annual proposal now before residents demonstrates a balanced spending plan.

Debt and services need explanations

The proposal includes \$400,000 to repay a tax anticipation note — short-term borrowing in anticipation of tax collections — and \$22,400 in interest.

It does not clearly identify the payments due on Dawson's Georgia Environmental Finance Authority water and sewer loans. The prior-year report records approximately \$3.17 million in GEFA loan proceeds and some principal and interest payments, but the corresponding interest lines in the proposal are blank.

The amount borrowed does not establish how much is due during the coming year. Loan terms, repayment schedules and any principal forgiveness determine those obligations. Council members need those details to assess whether the proposal provides for required payments.

The proposed payment associated with the Police Department's federal loan also falls from \$40,128 to \$12,000 without an explanation of whether the obligation changed.

Other significant differences concern everyday services and tax collections.

Sanitation shows no revenue or garbage-hauling expense, although the prior-year report recorded more than \$1 million in garbage revenue and approximately \$707,763 in hauling costs. The proposal does not explain whether the billing arrangement changed or the activity moved elsewhere.

The 2023 SPLOST fund shows \$2.298 million in revenue and an equal amount in spending, compared with approximately \$88,958 in collections recorded in the prior-year report. SPLOST, the special-purpose local-option sales tax, finances approved capital projects. The proposed figure may include accumulated money, but the document does not distinguish existing funds from expected collections.

The proposal also anticipates \$445,000 in local-option sales tax revenue after the year-end report recorded approximately \$197,848. The difference may reflect incomplete posting or another reporting issue, but council members need the basis for the estimate.

What residents need before the vote

Georgia law requires the proposed budget to be available for public inspection and requires notice and a public hearing before adoption. Dawson's notice says a copy is available at the city clerk's office.

The budget must identify anticipated revenue by source and proposed expenditures at the required level of detail. Residents should not have to reconstruct that information from unexplained accounting entries.

To understand the proposal and assess its financial basis, residents need answers to just four questions:

1.) How much money is available for use in each fund? 2.) Where will additional money come from? 3.) How much spending is the council being asked to authorize? 4.) How much will remain in each fund after that spending?

As presented, the documents do not give the City Council enough information to establish that the proposal balances as Georgia law requires. Before adoption, the figures need to be reconciled and the revenue, transfers and available fund balances supporting the spending identified.

A vote to approve the document would not resolve those unexplained differences. Until they are resolved, the council cannot determine from the materials presented whether the financial plan it is authorizing meets Georgia's balanced-budget requirement.

result in water service disconnection, when billing will begin and whether every dollar collected is legally restricted to fire services or merely tracked through a designated general-fund account.

edged that the charge will create an additional burden but said the city cannot continue spending more than it collects.

"The city is a business," Councilwoman Melissa Marshall said. "They've got to operate it."

The charge is not auto-

matically permanent. City officials said a future council could reduce or repeal it by adopting another ordinance.

Several details were not clearly established during the public discussion, including whether failure to pay the fire charge could

PUBLIC NOTICE

Voter Registration Deadline/Change of Address

O.C.G.A. § 21-2-224, 21-2-218

The last day to register for the November 3, 2026 General Election to be eligible to vote in the General/Special Election is Monday, October 5, 2026. This is also the last day to MAKE CHANGE OF NAME AND /OR ADDRESS.

Citizens may obtain registration forms from any public library, any agency for public assistance and in the registrar's office in the Governmental Building located at 955 Forrester Dr. SE in Dawson.

Voters who are out of town or unable to go to the polls and who wish to obtain absentee ballots by mail may make written application to the Terrell County Board of Elections and Registration, PO Box 715, Dawson, GA 39842 or CALL 995-5066/995-4756. Voters can also refer to MVP of Georgia Secretary of State Website: <http://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov>

Carolyn H. Williams,
Supervisor

Terrell County Board of Elections & Registration

DID YOU KNOW...?

Was the first solo crossing of the Atlantic Ocean by air a "death-defying" experience?

By JACK BAGLEY
Georgia Trust For Local News

Did you know ...

... a chewing gum magnate got his start with an entirely different product? William Wrigley, Jr. (1861-1932), best known today as the man who started the Wrigley's Chewing Gum™ empire, initially was a soap salesman. In 1891, while trying to make a living selling soap in Chicago, Wrigley would give samples of gum to his customers. The gum quickly became more popular than the soap, so Wrigley decided to switch from making soap to making gum, and a multi-billion dollar business was born. (The rest, as they say, is very tasty gum.)

... you might know someone who practices perissology? In fact, you may be a practitioner yourself. Perissology is the use of more words than necessary to describe something. (No wise-cracks about the writer of this column, please.)

... some people can be parsimonious even unto death? For instance, take a look at the case of actor and comedian Joe E. Ross (1914-1982). Ross, famous as the man whose trademark “Oooh! Oooh!” exclamation was featured in television shows such as Car 54, Where Are You? and It's About Time, was performing in the clubhouse at his apartment building in Los Angeles on August 13, 1982. He died of a heart attack during the performance, and later his widow was only given half of the fee he charged for the show by the organizer of the program, since Ross did not perform the full show. (I suppose there's a good reason, but I doubt Mrs. Ross appreciated it at the time.)

... mosquitoes love smelly feet? Scientists say that the little buzzbombs are really attracted to foot odor, especially if the skeeter is infected with the bacteria that cause malaria. According to Mental Floss, one study found that malaria-infected mosquitoes are three times more likely to be attracted to you if your feet don't smell good. (Phew!)

... the first solo crossing of the Atlantic was not as death-defying as history has indicated? Charles Lindbergh (1902-1974) took off from Roosevelt Field, Long Island, New York on May 20, 1927, in the Spirit of St. Louis to try to win the Orteig Prize for the first non-stop flight across the Atlantic Ocean. He landed at Le Bourget Aerodrome in Paris 33½ hours later, and the stories began to circulate that he was dangerously low on fuel when he landed. Those stories were false – Lindbergh's plane still had enough fuel to fly another 500 miles if he had wished to. But the Orteig Prize specified a flight from New York to Paris, so that's where he landed. The prize would have been won had someone flown from Paris to New York instead, but Lindbergh won the \$25,000 prize that had first been offered in 1919. Additional trivia note: The Orteig Prize did not specify that the flight had to made solo; just that it had to be non-stop. Lindbergh flew alone, but many other attempts to claim the prize were made by pairs or teams of aviators. (History being made was secondary.)

... Alaska was a bargain for the United States? Purchased from Russia in 1867, the U.S. paid \$7.2 million for Alaska, which was then called “Russian America.” With a total land area of 665,400 square miles, that equates to about two cents an acre for the big state. It is so large that if you add the land area of the next three largest states – Texas, California and Montana – you would still not equal Alaska's size. (A bargain, indeed.)

... an insect's flying speed has been slightly exaggerated? For many years, it was generally believed that the deer botfly was the fastest flying insect – or the fastest moving anything – in the world. Legend had it that this little guy could reach 818 miles per hour; could cross 400 yards in one second; could make 13 miles in a minute. Well, not so fast – literally. In 1938, Irving Langmuir (1881-1957), Nobel laureate in chemistry, brought the deer botfly back under the speed limit, and then some. Langmuir discovered that in order to maintain a velocity of 800 or more miles per hour, the insect would have to consume 1½ times its body weight in food every second. There would be a sonic boom – or at the very least a sonic pop – when the little fellow zipped past, because the speed of sound is about 750 miles per hour. And if a deer botfly hit you while moving that fast, you would suffer the same impact trauma as a gunshot wound. Langmuir's research gave the deer botfly a much more reasonable (but still impressive) speed of 25 miles per hour. (Rumors fly fast!)

... an actress actually tied herself in balloting for a “Razzie” award? The Razzies, or Golden Raspberry awards, are actually parodies of shows like the Oscars or the Emmys, and they “honor” the worst in movies. In 2008, actress Lindsay Lohan (born 1986) received two Razzie nominations for Worst Actress for the same movie. Lohan played two roles in I Know Who Killed Me and was “recognized” for both roles in the nominations. Lohan actually won the award (awards?) for both of her roles, and took home an additional Razzie in the special category of Worst Excuse for a Horror Movie. (I haven't seen that movie, but if you have, you already know.)

Now... you know!

How to move a piano --- a brief history

The City of Venice has a long, rich history of wood-working.

Artisans of the region, nestled in northeastern Italy on the Adriatic Sea, are known the world over for their intricate hand-carved picture frames and, of course, gondolas. People travel from all around to sit in one of these famed crafts for a leisurely cruise through the city's equally famous canals.

In 1981 engineer and pianist Paolo Fazioli put that Venetian craftsmanship toward piano making and launched his own line of high-quality, artisanal instruments. These extravagant grand and concert pianos are made slowly (no more than 150 are made each year) in a small factory near the city using only the finest woods and materials. The sound boards are crafted from red spruce cultivated in the Fiemme Valley. It's the same kind of lumber from the same region preferred by Antonio Stradivari, possibly the greatest stringed instrument maker the world has ever seen.

Fazioli pianos range



By KYLE DOMINY

from \$79,000 to the paltry sum of \$300,000. And are typically only used by world renowned pianists, who sometimes travel with their Faziolis to share their skill, passion and, not to mention, good taste in instruments with audiences around the globe. One such performer is Canadian virtuoso Angela Hewitt. She wows concert goers on both sides of the Atlantic accompanied by her custom-crafted, one-of-a-kind Fazioli grand piano.

At least she used to.

In 2020 a couple of butter fingered movers dropped her piano, valued at about

\$194,000, after a recording session in Berlin. The force of the fall, and if you've ever watched the Three Stooges or Bug Bunny cartoons you know pianos can be heavy, shattered the instrument's iron frame and split its casing. The piano was a total loss.

I hope she had good insurance.

About the time Fazioli was launching his piano line, multi-instrument manufacturer Yamaha, a much more consumer friendly brand, opened a piano building facility in Thomaston, Georgia.

For about 25 years workers at the plant constructed upright and console pianos for a more pedestrian clientele - schools, churches and amateur musicians.

One of these pianos was purchased by my parents. While it cost well below that of a Fazioli, it was bought on credit, so my brother and I could learn to play. After decades of use, the well-loved and cared for instrument was gifted to me.

With some mover's dollies, a pickup truck and a whole lot of elbow grease, my father and I recently managed to move the piano. From one house to the other, the entire operation went off without a hitch. We didn't drop it one single time.

Yamaha closed the Thomaston plant in 2007, and I'm rather pleased to have one of the Georgia-made pianos in my living room. A second generation is now learning to play on the same keyboard that I did.

It may not sound as rich or as clear as a Fazioli, but it certainly is music to my ears.

COUCH THEATER



Ella Beatty stars in "Monster: The Lizzie Borden Story"/Photo courtesy of MovieStillsDB

By DEMI TAVERAS
King Features

The 78th Primetime Emmys (TV-PG)

It's time for the night of the year where primetime television gets its flowers! Premiering live on Sept. 14, the Emmys will be hosted by Mariska Hargitay ("Law & Order: Special Victims Unit"), and the categories are stacked with nominees from multiple HBO shows like "The Pitt," "Hacks," "A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms," and "Euphoria." Netflix scored with nominations for shows like "Beef," "The Beast in Me," and "Black Rabbit." Not to mention Apple TV's "Widow's Bay" and "Pluribus" with 19 and 18 nominations, respectively! In addition, Michael J. Fox will be honored during the ceremony with the Bob Hope Humanitarian Award for his charitable efforts toward Parkinson's disease research. (Peacock)

Monster: The Lizzie Borden Story (TV-MA)

This could be just me, but I do enjoy seeing a nepo baby flourish in the TV and film industry every once in a while, especially when their parents are as iconic as Ella Beatty's ("Feud: Capote vs. The Swans"). Daughter of acting legends Annette Bening ("Lucky") and Warren Beatty ("Rules Don't Apply"), Ella takes on the lead role of Lizzie Borden in the fourth season of the crime-drama anthology series "Monster." Starring opposite her are Charlie Hunnam, who played the titular role of Ed Gein in the third season of "Monster," as well as Billie Lourd and Sarah Paulson of "American Horror Story" fame. This season follows Lizzie in 1892 Massachusetts, as she becomes a primary suspect after her parents are found murdered in their home with a

hatchet. All eight episodes release Sept. 17. (Netflix)

Dancing with the Stars: Season 35 (TV-PG)

Thirty-five seasons is an unbelievable feat for any television show, and with the buzz surrounding its new cast of contestants, "DWTS" still seems far from facing cancellation. (I'm not complaining, though!) "Summer House's" Ciara Miller, who just came out of a recent scandal as a reality TV darling, was one of the first of the 16 contestants to be announced, along with "Love Island" presenter Maura Higgins. But the cast announcements that have truly rocked the world of "DWTS" fans were regarding to actress Julia Stiles from "10 Things I Hate About You," actress/dancer Jenna Dewan from "Step Up" (get ready for all the "Wait, she can dance!" comments), and "Glee's" Harry Shum Jr. The season's set for a two-night premiere, beginning Sept. 15! (Disney+)

Jay-Z in 8 (TV-14)

Allow me to reintroduce myself," teases Jay-Z in the trailer for this new eight-part docuseries. Sitting down with record producer/co-founder of Def Jam Recordings Rick Rubin, Jay-Z partakes in intimate discussions about his career, music, life experiences and creative processes. The black-and-white series was shot over the span of two days in a stunning and quiet hall in Paris, with Jay-Z recounting how he started writing music from the age of 9 and leading into how he produced iconic songs like "No Church in the Wild," "99 Problems," and "4:44." The first two episodes premiere on Sept. 18, with new episodes coming every Friday. (HBO Max)

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September Weather II

While I am not addicted to The Old Farmer's Almanac unlike so many others, I am often intrigued with what I learn when I do take a dip into its contents.

With the oppressive heat of the recent weeks, I searched for what the forecast allows for the next fortnight, hoping that the thermometer will be trending downward.

Not likely, unfortunately. We all know that October usually is when we can expect the temperatures to give us relief from late summer's debilitating heat and humidity.

Looks like it will be sometime down the road

when we can get out our sweaters, which means that the firewood on my side porch will not be utilized for a while.

This time of the year, I am always thinking about sweater wearing, fire building, and planning to find my way to the Chattahoochee for that glorious opportunity to catch a couple of rain-bow trout.

October also means that we won't be drenched in perspiration when we follow our favorite football team. The long-range forecast is that this weekend, the weather should be in the 80s when Georgia plays its second game of the season.



LORAN SMITH

However, it is not often that the weather forecasters get it right.

Perhaps I should place a call to my favorite Marine scientist, Samantha Joye, and she if she can shed light on the heat index for the rest

of the summer. She reads The Old Farmer's Almanac, dating to her time growing up on a farm in South Carolina.

Likely any scientist would remind any inquisitor that global warming is certainly a factor in what seem to be quirky weather trends. Looking back, I always felt that we were going to get cooler temperatures soon after Labor Day.

At some point, the weather will mellow and we will move into October, the greatest month of the year, but we need to send up prayers of thanksgiving for the advent of air conditioning.

When I finally get to the Chattahoochee and cast away for a nice rainbow, I will forget about having to

fret about the heat during the month of September.

Conversations about the weather stimulate recall of the Mark Twain quote, "A great, great deal has been said about the weather, but very little has ever been done." While those words are clever and poignant, he was not the author, or so the experts say.

A modicum of research will confirm that while the publishers of almanacs claim to be accurate 80% of the time, studies confirm that they get it right only about 50% of the time.

That makes sense when you become aware that The Old Farmer's Almanac is published in September and forecasts the weather months in advance—like a dozen or more.

Credibility with the almanac remains high with most subscribers, and that has been going on since 1792, which is how long the almanac has been published. We can forgive them if their vague interpretation of their accuracy continues to make their findings and preachments credible.

According to the internet, "The independent global forecast evaluations by ForecastWatch rank The Weather Company (which powers The Weather Channel) as the world's most accurate weather forecaster."

All I know is that September is far from my favorite month and when October gets here, I feel like I have felt after paying off a 90-day note at the bank—all is right with the world.

Let's talk about trucks

There was once a time when elections were focused on telling voters what the top problems are, and the candidate's very specific plans of how he or she would solve them. Today that seems rather quaint.

The problem with this approach is that voters feel like they should get everything they want, and nothing they don't. Policy plans have costs. There are tradeoffs. Any point of pain in a plan becomes a target for an opponent.

Thus it's really hard to fault the candidates who run on platitudes and vibes. It's up to us, the voters, to cut through the marketing garble and figure out how each candidate would actually effect the change we want on the issues we care about the most.

With that pre-amble I'm going to talk about one of the campaigns in Georgia I wish we were having, rather than the ones we are. Candidates need a theme and preferably a symbol. To move Georgia forward under new state leadership,

we're going to need a truck.

We already have them. Lots and lots of them. Georgians are starting to notice, too.

I-285 is gridlocked much of the day, making the "bypass" around Atlanta often a longer, slower journey than the ITP sections of 75, 85, 20, and GA 400. What's different about 285 is that semi trucks aren't allowed inside of I-285 if they don't have a destination inside of the perimeter.

Sometime soon when you're sitting in traffic on I-285 you'll notice that there are signs saying trucks aren't allowed in the two left lanes. The trucks no longer recognize this, nor do the people in charge of enforcing it.

The truth is, there are more trucks traveling around 285 than will fit in two lanes. They now routinely ride in the third lane over and as soon as traffic backs up, trucks will now take the forth lane too.

It takes trucks longer to start from a full stop, given the inertia of up to 40 tons



CHARLIE HARPER
GEORGIA POLITICS

of mass that once at rest, tends to stay at rest. When you have trucks in all free-way lanes, any traffic jam is going to take longer to clear because these are the slowest vehicles to move, backing up all traffic behind them.

We're having a similar issue now on our other free-ways throughout the state. Those with three lanes prohibit trucks from the far left lane. Regularly now, trucks are using each lane at least for passing if not cruising. At least twice a month I get to enjoy one tractor trailer going 62 mph on I-16 try to

pass another going 60mph for what seems like an eternity.

So naturally we need leaders willing to get rid of trucks, right? Well, if only life were that easy.

Trucks are a symptom and symbol. They represent problems when we're in traffic, yet opportunity when looked at for what they represent.

Georgia remains a growth state. We also brand ourselves as the number one state to do business.

Our ports are among the fastest growing in the nation, and are now among the largest for both containers and automotive cargos. The success of our ports, even with their massive freight rail upgrades, means growth of truck volume on our roads.

It also means growth of warehouses and distribution centers. Our local governments love these businesses as they generate massive amounts of property taxes while demanding very few local services from police, fire, and most importantly, schools. Trucks represent a bit of a negative externality to local govern-

ments and school boards trying to hold down property taxes.

We also can't just blame the ports for our trucks. Metro Atlanta now has a population greater than Missouri (and 31 other states). Not all, or even most, of these trucks are driving through Atlanta. Many of them represent goods coming to and from our densely populated capital area. With Georgia now the 8th most populous state overall, we need to accept that these trucks are "our" problem and opportunity.

The issue is that fixing this problem is expensive, and neither party wants to address this cost. Asking voters to pay more in a campaign is essentially political malpractice.

You then have a NIMBY problem, where most are in favor of a solution anywhere but in their backyard. Good luck trying to survive the backlash of adding not just additional lanes to existing interstates, but completely new interstate corridors that would trade current rural land for Atlanta route alternatives, using eminent domain to do so.

Even if you get over this bar, you then have timelines that extend beyond attention spans. No politician cares to promise a project that will take up to ten years just to clear environmental permits, and then another decade of construction. A candidate for Lieutenant Governor could promise a new interstate well east or west of Atlanta, win and fund it next session. They could then serve an entire 8 years as Lieutenant Governor waiting for permits and run for an open Governor's mansion, win that, and still not get to cut a ribbon on the finished project before they serve two gubernatorial terms.

It's a lot easier to promise the voters tax cuts or immediate spending on something that will show voters quick changes, while we all just sit in traffic a little bit longer each year. It's the safer way to get elected.

It's hard to blame our candidates for this. We instead need to blame our need for immediate gratification and short attention spans, while we sit in traffic wondering why someone won't do something.

Is a write-in candidacy right in the future?

I've not decided, okay? These kinds of decisions require time and a lot of thought. And I'm not talking about whether to eat my peas with a fork or a spoon or to not eat peas at all. I am talking about am I right in being a write-in candidate for governor of the Great State of Georgia.

I need to make a decision soon. After having brought up the idea a few months back, I was surprised and humbled by the reaction I received from my fellow Georgians. Three readers

immediately committed to support my candidacy. Within a month, that support reached double-digits (10) and has since doubled again (20). We are talking groundswell territory here. At this point, all I need is another 2,111,552 votes. Unfortunately, I can't count on Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger to find them for me. That has already been tried, and we know how that came out.

But I ask myself why would I want to be governor in the first place? I already have a pretty cushy job as it

is. I get to use nouns, pronouns, subjunctive clauses, determiners, interjections, and a lot of other grammar stuff as well as having an endless supply of commas to throw in wherever I wish. As a result, my weekly reflections on current events are considered a must-read. I don't want this to come across as bragging, but my intelligence was considered artificial long before AI.

There are a few perks that go with being governor. You get to live in a fancy house in Atlanta rent-free (thanks to taxpayers), you have your own airplane, (ditto), somebody lays out the clothes you are going to wear tomorrow, and you never have to open a door. That is what your staff is for. The downside is you have to deal with a bunch of fawn-

ing politicians for 4 years. Hmm. I need to think on that.

And then there are the two candidates who are currently seeking the job. Gazillionaire Rick Jackson is the Republican nominee and Keisha Lance Bottoms is the choice of the Democrats. Jackson has already spent an amount equal to the Gross National Product of Burundi on TV ads around the state but still looks like he swallowed a sour lemon. He always ends his commercials with, "I've got this." When you spend the equivalent of the GNP of Burundi on ads, you should have this. Whatever "this" is.

How Keisha Lance Bottoms ever got to be the Democratic choice to run for governor escapes me.



DICK YARBROUGH

She couldn't handle the job as mayor of Atlanta and now all of a sudden she is qualified to run the entire state? Oh, please. The frightening thing is that if the Republicans don't stop all their infighting and figure out who the real enemy is, she just might get elected.

You have the right to ask me what I would do if I was governor of the Great State of Georgia. A fair ques-

tion. First off, I would not be Donald Trump's favorite governor, like Jackson claims he will be. That's because Trump doesn't know who I am. He and I might have a problem, anyway. He is all about changing the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America and Lake Ontario to Lake America and even New Mexico to New America. What is to keep him from coming after Athens, Bremen, Cairo, Damascus, Dublin, Manchester, Rome and Vienna? Make America Great Again by getting rid of these foreign sounding city names? Don't worry. I've got this.

If I do run, like every candidate running for every office everywhere I promise I will (inhale) Lower our taxes. Reduce crime. Shrink the size of government. Create jobs. Stand up to powerful special interest groups. Fight bureaucracy. Secure our borders. Take care of our veterans. Improve education and fix Medicare. (exhale.)

I will also introduce the Don't Mine Me, I Just Live Here Act. Anybody who proposes mining our Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge for toothpaste whitener in the future will be slathered in barbecue sauce and handed over to Albert the Alligator and friends at supper time. They will take it from there.

In summary, I know you are eagerly awaiting my decision as to whether or not I will seek the office of governor of the Great State of Georgia. To the 20 who have pledged their support, I thank you. To the other 2,111,552 of you out there, please don't make me beg.

The Dawson News

GEORGIA TRUST

— for Local News —

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HOMECOMING
 Continued from page 1

ing TA. Kacy is going on her third year as a varsity softball player, and she played varsity tennis her 8th grade year. During her freshman year, she was a member of the Region Championship and Final Four softball team and was awarded All-Region in softball. She also competed on the varsity track team, where her 4x400 relay team placed second in the region.

Kacy’s Literary Quartet team won the region championship her freshman year. During her freshman year, Kacy served as president of the National Junior Honor Society and treasurer of Student Council, while also participating in Key Club and Turning Point USA. Kacy serves as the 10th-grade representative for Student Council and will be inducted into the National Honor Society.

She continues to participate in Key Club, varsity softball, and Literary. Kacy attends Grace City Church and participates in Connect, a youth group held at TA on Wednesday nights.

Lainey Brooke Griffin (Junior) is the daughter of Doug and Mandy Griffin of Leesburg. She is the granddaughter of Fred and Brenda Griffin of Adel, Debbi Parker of Leesburg, and Darryl and Linda Cannon Panama City.

A third-year student at Terrell Academy, Lainey is an active member of the Key Club and One Act Play. She has played softball for 10 years, including three years at Terrell Academy, where she was part of last year’s Region Championship team. Lainey is an active member of Grace City Church.

Seniors

Lyla Camille Griffin is the daughter of Wesley and Laura Griffin of Albany. She is the granddaughter of Debbie Sledge of Albany and the late Ronnie Sledge; Kay Griffin, also of Albany, and the late Butch Griffin. Lyla has one sister, Lucy, who is a seventh-grader at Terrell Academy.

Lyla has been a student at Terrell Academy for 11 years. She has played varsity soccer for four years, earning All-Region and All-State honors her junior year. Lyla has played basketball for four years and was a member of the State Championship basketball team last year.

Lyla has participated in dance line and cheered for four years, as well as One Act Play. She is a member of the Thespian Society and National Honor Society. Lyla is active in the Key Club and served as the webmaster her junior year. She has served on the Student Council for two years, and this year is the president. Her junior year, Lyla participated in the Sumter EMC year-long

leadership program.

Lyla attends Grace City Church, and after graduation, she plans to attend Georgia Southern University and major in Pre-Pharmacy.

Caroline Marie Joiner is the daughter of Daniel and Deanna Joiner of Shellman. She is the granddaughter of Tommy and Nancy Brumbelow and Danny and Jo Joiner, all of Shellman. Caroline has one sister, Savanna, a 2025 Terrell Academy graduate. Caroline has been at Terrell Academy for 14 years.

She has played soccer and basketball for four years, and was on the State Championship team last year, as well as region champion teams the past two years. Caroline has played tennis for five years, earning All-Region for two years.

She has participated in One Act Play for four years and dance line for three years. She has been involved in the Key Club for four years, and is actively serving as president. She has been a member of the National Honor Society for four years. Caroline has been a class officer for four years, serving as class president for the past three years.

Caroline attends Shellman Baptist Church, and after graduating, she plans to attend Georgia College and major in exercise science.

Caroline Colleen Lee is the daughter of Neil and Ashley Lee of Bronwood. She is the granddaughter of Mike and Debbie Wiley of Parrott and Ronnie and Sheila Lee of Bronwood and the late Sandy Sorrells. Her sister, Addie, is a 2024 graduate of Terrell Academy. Caroline has attended Terrell Academy for 15 years.

Caroline has been a varsity cheerleader for football and basketball for four years. She has played tennis for three years. She has been an active member of One Act Play for five years and is a member of the Thespian Society.

During her junior year, Caroline served on the yearbook staff. She has been an active member of the Key Club for four years, serving as an officer her sophomore, junior and senior years. She has also been in the Honor Society for four years.

Caroline was the treasurer of her junior class and currently serves as the treasurer of her senior class. She attends Dawson Methodist Church, and after graduating plans to attend Auburn University and major in nursing.

Harlee Lynn Torbert is the daughter of Mike and Shelly Torbert of Cuthbert. She is the granddaughter of Larry and June Howard of Shellman and Sam and Barbara Torbert of Cuthbert. Harlee’s older siblings, Landon and Lindsey, are 2020 alumni of

Terrell Academy. Harlee has attended Terrell Academy for 14 years.

She has played soccer and basketball for four years and was a member of the State Champion basketball team last year. She has participated in dance line for two years. Harlee is an active member of the Key Club, serving as the secretary this year. She is a member of the National Honor Society.

Harlee attends Bethlehem Free Will Baptist Church in Shellman and is undecided on where she will attend college, but she wants to major in psychology.

Hadley Kate Webb is the daughter of Dr. Daniel and Gina Webb of Bronwood. She is the granddaughter of Carl and Connie Hobbs of Leary and Cris and Belinda Webb of Bronwood. Her brother Bowen Webb is a TA freshman. She has attended Terrell Academy for 14 years.

Hadley has been a member of the varsity softball and basketball teams for five years. She earned All-Region honors for both sports her sophomore and junior years.

She received All-State honors for basketball her junior Year where she was a member of the State Championship team. Hadley has been a member of the varsity soccer team for four years, receiving All-Region honors her sophomore and junior years. She was a member of the varsity track team for three years.

Hadley has been an active member of Key Club for four years, where she served as treasurer her Junior year. Hadley was a member of Student Council for two years and One Act Play for four years. She is a member of the National Honor Society and served as treasurer her junior year. She has served as junior and senior class secretary.

She is a member of Gillionville Baptist Church in Albany, and after graduation, hopes to attend Georgia College and State University to earn a degree in Nursing.

Homecoming King Court
Brody Lawson Cowart is the son of Keith and Crystal Cowart of Shellman. He is the grandson of Mike and Anna Bishop of Thomaston, Rhonda Thompson of Snellville, and the late Lamar Cowart. Brody’s sister, Brantley, is in the sixth grade at Terrell Academy.

Brody has played varsity baseball for five years. He has played football one year and was on the shotgun team for one year. Brody has participated in Key Club for four years and Club America for one year.

Brody is a member of Morgan Baptist Church, and after graduating plans to attend Troy University and major in Civil Engineering.

Avery (Willis) Clayton Henley is the son of Kevin and Brooke Rys of Atlan-

ta and Adam and Lindy Henley of Dawson. He is the grandson of Dan and Pam Baker of Batesville, Miss., and Sally and the late Chapin Henley of Macon. Willis has attended Terrell Academy for two years.

He has played football and golf for four years and tennis for one year. Willis has participated in Key Club and One Act Play for two years. He is a member of Turning Point USA and was the president of the student body for two years at his previous school in Atlanta. Willis attends Dawson Methodist Church, and after graduating, plans to attend the University of Georgia or Georgia College and major in business finance.

Walter Chandler Lee, Jr. is the son of Chandler Lee of Dawson and Stephanie Lee of Bronwood. He is the grandson of Ronnie and Sheila Lee of Bronwood and the late Sandy Sorrells and Sue Stevenson of Macon and the late Stuart Stevenson. He has one sister, Ellie Stuart Lee, a current junior at Terrell Academy. Walt has been a student at Terrell Academy for 14 years.

Hehas played varsity football for four years, earning All-Region honors last season. He has played golf for four years, tennis for two years, and ran track for one year. He has been in Key Club for three years and a member of Club America for one year. Walt attends Dawson Methodist Church and is undecided on his plans after graduation.

Hudson Gordon Massey is the son of Brock and Khristina Massey of Dawson. He is the grandson of Tom and Jill Massey of Dawson and Larry and Rhonda Gordon of Sasser. Hudson’s brother, Henry, is a 2024 Terrell Academy graduate. Hudson has been a student at Terrell Academy for 13 years. He has been a member of the golf team for four years, football team for two years, and shotgun team for four years.

Hudson has been an active member of the Key Club for three years and a member of the Honor Society for four years. Hudson is a member of Dawson Methodist Church, and after graduating is undecided on his college plans.

Bryson Joseph Peachey is the son of Becky Peachey of Shellman and Matt Peachey of Cuthbert. He is the grandson of Stan and Kathy Brinson of Shellman and Sue Peachey of Cuthbert and the late Joe Peachey. His brother, Wes, is a 2025 graduate of Terrell Academy. Bryse has been a student at Terrell Academy for six years.

Bryse has played football for four years, earning All-Region honors for two years. He also has run track for four years. Bryse is a member of the Key Club. Bryse attends Sherwood Baptist Church, and after graduating plans to attend South Georgia Tech and become a lineman.

CITY COUNCIL
 Continued from page 1

The city is working with accounting firm CKH and representatives of the Georgia Municipal Association to reconstruct and reconcile some of the information needed by CPA firm Mauldin & Jenkins to complete the audits.

Council members requested an opportunity to speak directly with the auditors and asked for department-by-department reports showing actual revenue and expenditures from the fiscal year that ended Aug. 31.

The city has been operating with financial and administrative vacancies following the resignation of Finance Director Dawn Wiliford. City Manager Roxie Powell is overseeing the city’s financial operations while also performing her regular duties, and the duties of city clerk.

Mayor Robert Aaron praised Powell’s work and urged council members to support her while the city attempts to fill the vacant positions.

The council authorized the city to continue operating temporarily by spending no more each month than one-twelfth of its final amended Fiscal 2026 budget, plus authorized debt-service and capital expenses.

A public hearing on the proposed Fiscal 2027 budget is scheduled for Sept. 24. The new fiscal year began Sept. 1.

The proposed budget generated extended debate over whether council members and residents had been given enough information to determine how the spending plan balances.

Walker raised concerns that the documents did not clearly show actual departmental spending, available account balances or how

the city reached its current financial position.

Powell told the council that a previous budget included projected revenue the city did not collect, while the city remained responsible for salary increases and other operating costs approved during that period.

“The city is a business,” Ward 1 Council Member Melissa Marshall said during the discussion. “The city has to be run.”

The council approved an \$8 monthly fire service charge that will be added to utility bills for customers within the city limits. Officials estimated the charge could generate approximately \$172,800 annually from about 1,800 accounts.

The fire department’s annual operating cost was estimated as approximately \$1 million. Officials said the new revenue will not cover the entire department but will reduce the amount that must come from the city’s other general-fund revenue.

The council also approved purchasing a sludge pump for \$16,416 and a bypass pump for approximately \$15,000 for the wastewater treatment plant. The combined cost of approximately \$31,416 will be paid from SPLOST revenue.

Walker again questioned why local sales tax money was being used when the city has received state-administered financing for its wastewater projects. Powell responded that the pumps are maintenance equipment and were not included in the GEFA-financed construction work.

The council also considered changes to the city’s website. Officials said the company hired to build the website would host the site but not the city’s email accounts, requiring Dawson to pay two providers. The council voted to end that arrangement and consolidate

the website and email hosting with the city’s existing technology provider.

In personnel matters, the council approved renewing employee health insurance through UnitedHealthcare with a 10.73% increase. The in-network deductible will rise from \$1,500 to \$2,000, while the out-of-network deductible will increase from \$2,000 to \$4,000.

Powell said competing proposals were more expensive, though no alternative proposals were presented.

The council also approved an amendment to the city retirement plan related to former City Manager Shalonda Caldwell. City Attorney Tommy Coleman said Caldwell’s employment contract provided for immediate participation and vesting in the plan, but the required plan amendment was not completed during her employment.

Coleman said the amendment fulfills the city’s contractual obligation by applying the benefit from the beginning of Caldwell’s employment. No cost analysis was presented during the meeting.

Council also approved moving forward with the Dawson Police Department’s K-9 agreement.

The department budgeted \$15,000 for the program, although Police Chief Michael Tinson estimated the city’s immediate out-of-pocket expense would be about \$5,000 because of grants and donated food and veterinary services.

The city is not creating an additional officer position for the program. Officials said an existing sergeant position was reassigned as the K-9 position. The assigned officer is paid \$25 per hour and was expected to begin training the following week.

Council also took steps to restore the Downtown Development Authority board

by appointing Marshall to serve on the board.

The DDA has been unable to conduct business following multiple resignations. Officials said a functioning board is needed to address the Dawson Theater property and negotiate an extension of delinquent debt owed through the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

Coleman said approximately \$135,000 remains outstanding and that extending repayment over 10 years would reduce the city’s monthly or quarterly obligation. The original theater financing involved a \$250,000 DCA loan issued in 2006 and guaranteed by the city.

Officials said storm-related repairs to the theater have been completed, although the building still needs a new roof.

The council approved the annual Section 5311 resolution supporting southwest Georgia’s regional rural transit program and approved a Terrell County Recreation Department request for a fall festival and related downtown street closures.

During departmental reports, officials discussed deteriorated and abandoned properties across Dawson. Coleman said approximately 35 properties had been referred for possible legal action. Demolition and disposal could cost about

\$10,000 per property, creating a potential total expense of approximately \$350,000.

Unresolved estates, inherited properties and disputed ownership continue to slow enforcement efforts, officials said.

Council members also

raised concerns about conditions at a city cemetery after a former resident posted photographs of overgrown areas, damaged headstones and disturbed graves on social media. City staff agreed to inspect the location.



Terrell-Lee Retired
 Educators attend
 Area, Area II meeting

Several members of the Terrell-Lee Retired Educators attended the Area I and Area II meeting held at Albany Technical College on Aug. 18. Pictured above are: Ms. Barbara Sherman, Mrs. Loretta Williams, Mrs. Mary Browner, Mrs. Norma Wilson, Dr. Sallie R. Mills, State GREA President Ms. Barbara Marshall, Ms. Dorothy Jenkins, TLREA President, and Dr. Clifford Browner, Past TLREA President. Our theme for the 2026-2027 year is "Sound the Trumpet: Fellowship, Service, and Support" /SPECIAL PHOTO

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 36-81-5(e), the City of Dawson will hold a public meeting at City Hall, 101 South Main Street, Dawson, Georgia, on September 24, 2026, from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m., at which time the City Council will hear from the public on the proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning September 1, 2026. A copy of the budget is available for public review in the office of the City Clerk at Dawson City Hall.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 36-81-36(a), the budget will be adopted at the City Council meeting to be held in Council Chambers at City Hall on October 8, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

BARNEY GOOGLE AND
SNUFY SMITH

I'M THINKIN' OF ENTERIN' TH' HOG-CALLIN' CONTEST THIS YEAR !!

YA SHOULD, MARY !! I BET YA MIGHT EVEN WIN !!

I DUNNO...NOT SHORE I WANNA SPEND ALL THAT MONEY FER A PHONE !!

COME A-A-AND GIT IT !!

SUPPER'S READY!!

RUMBLE !! RUMBLE !!

RUMBLE RUMBLE !!

OOPS !! SORRY, CRITTERS-- GUESS I SHOULD'A BEEN MORE SPECIFIC !!

The Spats

HONEY, YOU SPOIL ME ROTTEN.

NO I DON'T...

...YOU'RE ROTTEN ALL BY YOURSELF.

Out on a Limb

HUMMALA, BEBHULA, ZEEBUHLA, BOOBULA, HUMMALA, BEBHULA, ZEEBUHLA, BOR... G-II!

DAVID LEE ROTH AT BINGO NIGHT

King Crossword

— King Crossword —

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

MAGIC MAZE ANSWERS

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Ashley and Wynonna

6 Consumer protection agcy.

9 Catchall abbr.

12 Track star Bolt

13 Tic-tac-toe win

14 "The Matrix" character

15 Refuse an offer

16 Seattle sub-urb that's home to Microsoft

18 Credit rating publisher

20 Skin soother

21 Corp. money exec

23 Overly

24 Part of LGBTQ

25 Hit on the noggin

27 Japanese fish dish

29 Tranquil

31 Sort of dive

35 Police ID

37 Employ

38 Hairnet

41 Moray, for one

43 Past

44 Plane-related

45 Country song?

47 Archbishop Tutu

49 Stag

52 Altar affirmative

53 Reuben bread

54 More practical

55 Aachen article

56 Rowing need

57 Birch's kin

DOWN

1 Roast beef au

2 "Suits" net-work

3 "Shark Tank" star — John

4 Flintstones' pet

5 Stuffed shirt

6 Gift giver's words

7 Low digits

8 Atlantic fish

9 — Holmes (Sherlock's sister)

10 Mortise part-ner

11 Encryptions

17 "Butterfly" singer Carey

19 Medicated

21 "60 Minutes" aier

22 Nemesis

24 Fill in — blank

26 Explosive sound

28 Bed cover

30 Wee bit

32 Tiara stone

33 Work unit

34 Old Olds

36 Census info

38 "Sexy" Beatles girl

39 "— say more?"

40 Director Welles

42 — apso (small dog)

45 Novelist

46 Airline to Tel Aviv

48 Spanish gold

50 Born

51 Blunder

Legals

D-112
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDI-TORS
GEORGIA, TERRELL COUNTY
All creditors of the estate of **LEON CLYDE JOHNS** deceased, late of Terrell County, Georgia are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned accord- ing to law, and all persons indebted to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment. This 8TH day of SEPTEMBER, 2026
BESSIE ARDELLA SHATTLES, ADMIN- ISTRATOR
LEON CLYDE JOHNS, DECEASED
3495 GRAVES HWY.
DAWSON, GA. 39842
September 10, 17, 24, October 1, 2026

D-113
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDI-TORS
GEORGIA, TERRELL COUNTY
All creditors of the estate of **MILDRED KAY LEARY** deceased, late of Terrell County, Georgia are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned accord- ing to law, and all persons indebted to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment. This 11TH day of SEPTEMBER, 2026
JIMMY LEARY, EXECUTOR
MILDRED KAY LEARY, DECEASED
312 6TH AVE. NE
DAWSON, GA. 39842
September 17, 24, October 1, 8, 2026

D-111
IN THE PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF TERRELL
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: **MARTHA SHARON DAVIS DECEASED**
ESTATE NO: **4147**
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMIN- ISTRATION
NOTICE
To: ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, INTERESTED PARTIES, CREDITORS
STEVEN DANIEL DAVIS has petitioned to be appointed **Administrator** of the estate of **MARTHA SHARON DAVIS** 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 OCTOBER 5, 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
September 10, 17, 24, October 1, 2026

D-115
IN THE PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF TERRELL
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: **DEMETRIC BERNARD MALLORY, DECEASED**
ESTATE NO: **4149**
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMIN- ISTRATION
NOTICE
To: ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, INTERESTED PARTIES, CREDITORS
BALEND A LESHELL TOWOLAWI has petitioned to be appointed **Administrator** of the estate of **DEMETRIC BERNARD MALLORY** 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 OCTOBER 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 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
September 17, 24, October 1, 8, 2026

D-106
GEORGIA, TERRELL COUNTY
FORECLOSURE AD
Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in that certain Deed to Secure Debt, from **WAVINE SOILBERRY a/k/a WAVINE THOMAS to BANK OF DAWSON** and filed for record on June 2, 2016, and recorded in Deed Book 11-1, Pages 189-193, in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Terrell County, Georgia, the undersigned will sell at public outcry during the legal hours of sale before the Courthouse in Terrell County, Georgia, on the first Tuesday in October, 2026, to the highest bidder for cash, the following described real property, to wit:
That certain tract or parcel of land lying and being in the City of Bronwood, Terrell County, Georgia and being a small portion of Land Lot #152 in the 12th Land District of Terrell County, Georgia and said Lot being more particularly described as Lot 36 according to the plat of the property of Sam C. McGill and Marian M. McGill by Richard M. Pace, Surveyor, under date of July 10, 1970, which plat is titled "Subdivisions of Lands of Sam McGill", and said plat is recorded in Plat Book No. 3, Page 251, in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Terrell County, Georgia, and said plat and the record thereof are by reference made a part hereto of this description.
The herein described property is a portion of that tract or parcel of land transferred by Warranty Deed from Earl Wilburn, a/k/a Wilborn as Grantor to Wavine Soilberry on the 22nd day of March, 1988, said deed being duly recorded in Deed Book 3-4, Page 365, in the Clerk's Office of the Terrell County Superior Court.
Parcel ID#: B03 064
The debt secured by said Deed to Secure Debt is evidenced by that certain note from **WAVINE SOILBERRY a/k/a WAVINE THOMAS to BANK OF DAWSON** in favor of Bank of Dawson, dated May 24, 2016, in the principal amount of \$13,956.96, respectively.

The debt secured by said Deed to Secure Debt and evidenced by said note has been and is hereby declared due and payable because of Grantor's failure to pay said note as the same became due. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying said indebtedness including all accrued and unpaid interest thereon and attorney's fees and all expenses of said sale.
Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §44-14-162.2, the person who shall have full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the mortgage with the debtor is as follows:
Barry Lyle, Bank of Dawson, Post Office Box 230, Dawson, GA 39842; Phone Number 229-995-2141. Provided how- ever, such person shall not be required to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of a mortgage instrument.
This property will be sold as the property of **WAVINE SOILBERRY a/k/a WAVINE THOMAS to BANK OF DAWSON**, who, to the best of the undersigned's knowledge and belief is the parties in possession of said property.
Notice has been given of intention to enforce provisions for collection of attor- ney's fees and foreclosure in accordance with legal requirements and the terms of said Deed to Secure Debt and note.
Said property will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and assessments, if any, and other restrictions and easements of record, if any.
This law firm is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
Bank of Dawson
As Attorney-in-Fact For
WAVINE SOILBERRY a/k/a WAVINE THOMAS COLLIER & GAMBLE, LLP
As Attorneys For
BANK OF DAWSON
September 10, 17, 24, October 1, 2026

D-114
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDI-TORS
GEORGIA, TERRELL COUNTY
All creditors of the estate of **THEODORE ERIC ROTHMAN**, 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 14TH day of SEPTEMBER, 2026
ELIZABETH BLAKEMORE, EXECUTRIX
THEODORE ERIC ROTHMAN, DE- CEASED
C/O JOHN M. MOORHEAD
MOORHEAD LAW FIRM, LLC
314 W. RESIDENCE AVENUE
ALBANY, GA. 31701
September 17, 24, October 1, 8, 2026

D-109
IN THE PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF TERRELL
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: **WILLIE JAMES MITCHELL, SR., DECEASED**
ESTATE NO: **4145**
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMIN- ISTRATION
NOTICE
To: ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, INTERESTED PARTIES, CREDITORS
WILLIE J. MITCHELL, JR. has petitioned to be appointed **Administrator** of the estate of **WILLIE JAMES MITCHELL, SR.** de- ceased, 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 here- by 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 **SEPTEMBER 28TH, 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
September 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026

D-110
NOTICE OF LOCATION AND DESIGN APPROVAL
P. I. 0019099
Terrell COUNTY
Notice is hereby given in compliance with Georgia Code 22-2-109 and 32-3-5 that the Georgia Department of Transportation has approved the Location and Design of this project.
The date of location and design approval is: August 27, 2026
The proposed project would consist of re- placing the Category II dam with an updated multi-barrel box culvert and an upstream water control structure. The proposed con- struction will take place on and under State Route (SR) 55. Additionally, this project proposes to add an upstream embankment armoring to resist wave action on the Clarks Millpond riparian pond, and the removal of the abutting gate house. The existing typical section of SR55 consists of two 12-ft travel lanes, one in each direction, with rural, dirt and grass shoulders, on top of an earthen dam. The project site is approximately 0.4 miles south of Laing Crossroad and the project length is approximately 0.2 miles. The roadway will consist of two 12-ft lanes with 8-ft shoulders (2-ft paved). The bridge culvert will be a triple 10' X 8'. The project will be constructed with an off-site to main- tain traffic. The project is located within in Land Lot 270, Land District 4, Georgia Military District 909 and is approximately 9 miles South of Dawson. The estimated construction duration will be 24 months. Georgia Department of Transportation would be responsible for acquiring property rights for this project. 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.
Contact Name, Sean F. High/Area Man- ager District 4, Area 5
E-mail Address: SHigh@dot.ga.gov 2060 Newton Road Albany, GA 31701
Telephone number: (229) 430-4198
Any interested party may obtain a copy of the drawings or maps or plats or portions thereof by paying a nominal fee and re- questing in writing to:
Kimberly Nesbitt, State Program Delivery Administrator GDOT Office of Program Delivery
Attn: Athony Tate atate@dot.ga.gov 600 West Peachtree St NW Atlanta, GA 30308
(404) 807-7692
Any written request or communication in reference to this project or notice SHOULD include the Project and P. I. Numbers as noted at the top of this notice.
September 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026