

# Budget hearing postponed, temp spending authority expiring

**By KATHRYN CROCKETT**  
Staff Reporter

The City of Dawson canceled its Sept. 24 budget hearing, citing an unfinished countywide property reassessment, as its one-month temporary spending authorization approaches expiration Sept. 30.

The postponement leaves the city without an adopted budget for the fiscal year that began Sept. 1 and needing further council action to authorize continued spending in October.

In a public notice signed by City

Manager Roxie Powell, the city said it would reschedule the hearing once the reassessment is complete and updated property valuations are available. The notice provided neither a replacement hearing date nor an expected completion date for the reassessment.

“Because the reassessment has not been finalized, the city does not yet have the updated property valuation information needed to accurately establish its property tax revenue projections for the proposed budget,” the notice

states.

In response to a request for comment, the city confirmed that its next regular council meeting remains scheduled.

“The regular City Council meeting remains scheduled for Oct. 8. At this time, a new date has not been established for the budget hearing. The city will provide notice once a new date has been confirmed,” the city’s response stated.

The response did not address how the city will authorize spending beyond Sept. 30. The Terrell

County tax assessor’s office had not responded to a request for comment by publication.

Property valuations help determine the tax digest, which the city uses with its millage rate to project property tax revenue.

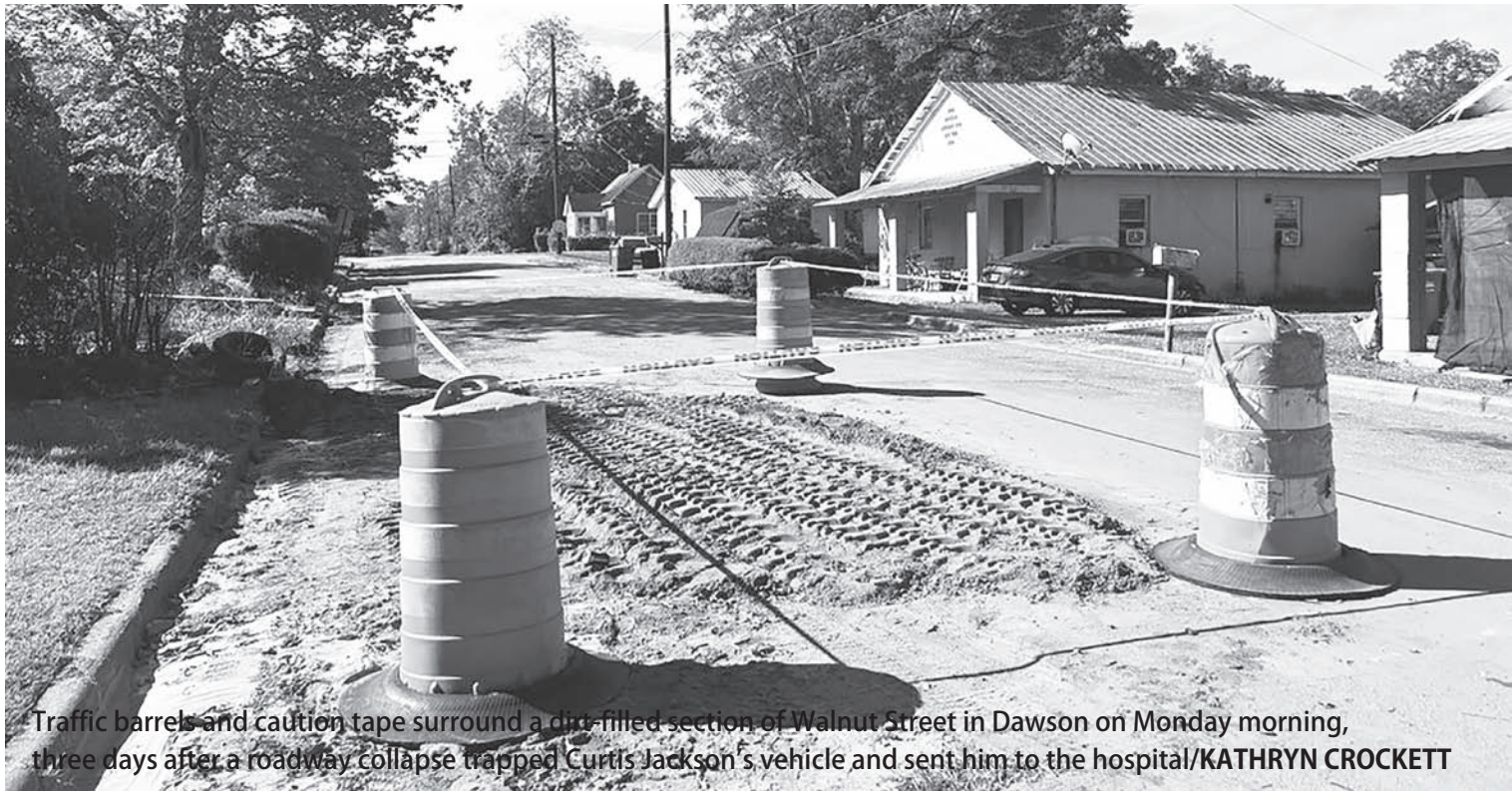
The council previously approved one month of temporary spending authority after Dawson entered the new fiscal year without an adopted annual budget. During the council’s September discussion, the authorization was described as limiting September

spending to one-twelfth of the final amended prior-year budget, with additional provisions for debt service and capital expenses.

That authorization covers September. Canceling the budget hearing does not extend it into October.

The city’s original schedule called for budget adoption Oct. 8, meaning additional spending authority would have been needed even before the hearing was postponed. Confirmation that the reg-

**BUDGET HEARING**  
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Traffic barrels and caution tape surround a dirt-filled section of Walnut Street in Dawson on Monday morning, three days after a roadway collapse trapped Curtis Jackson’s vehicle and sent him to the hospital/KATHRYN CROCKETT

# Drive recounts Walnut St. collapse after months of road condition complaints

**By KATHRYN CROCKETT**  
Staff Reporter

Curtis Jackson knows he needs his car. But after a section of Walnut Street collapsed beneath his vehicle Friday, trapping him inside and sending him to the hospital, his first concern is getting himself well.

“I know I need my car,” Jackson said during an interview Monday. “But right now we’re thinking about me.”

His priority, he said, is to “get myself back together.”

City Manager Roxie Powell said Monday that Public Works crews had repaired a water leak at the location Wednesday, Sept. 23, and filled the work area with dirt while waiting for the ground to settle before applying asphalt. The same water line subsequently broke at a different point, she said, softening the surrounding soil.

“Unfortunately, the same water line experienced another break in a different location,” Powell said in a written response. “As a result of the water leakage, the soil in the area became soft.”

The Sept. 25 incident left Jackson’s vehicle lodged in a water-filled opening in the street. He was taken by ambulance to Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany, and a tow truck later removed his car.

Speaking with the Dawson News three days later, Jackson described the moment the car suddenly dropped into a deep hole filled with water, where supporting soil should have been.

“The dirt was gone from up underneath there,” he said. “Wasn’t nothing but water there; the tire wasn’t even touching anything, just hanging there.”

Jackson said he was traveling no more than about 30 mph and had moved around another car before encountering the hole. He described its location as near the yellow line dividing the roadway.

He confirmed that he could not open his door after the vehicle became stuck.

Dawson firefighters, Terrell County sheriff’s deputies and emergency medical personnel responded. Residents living near the hole said Jackson has a

disability and uses a walker. They also said city crews had attempted repairs at the location just days earlier, but conditions quickly deteriorated.

“Based on the information currently available to the city, the vehicle became stuck after the driver encountered the area while attempting to avoid another vehicle that was parked along the side of the roadway,” she said.

Powell said crews have since repaired the line again, filled the affected area with dirt and placed barrels around the work area to warn drivers while the soil settles.

“Public Works is continuing to monitor the site for any additional settling,” she said. “The city will acquire asphalt to permanently repair the affected area once the ground has adequately stabilized.”

Her response did not provide a date for the permanent repair or say whether warning devices were in place before

**POT HOLE**  
Continued on page 6

# Deadline to register to vote in election is Monday, Oct. 5

SPECIAL TO THE DAWSON NEWS

The last day for a person to register and be eligible to vote in the Nov. 3 General Election and Special Election is Monday, Oct. 5, according to Mrs. Carolyn Williams, Terrell County Board of Registration and Elections Supervisor. Monday, Oct. 5, is also the deadline for voters to make a change of name and/or address, Mrs. Williams noted.

Citizens may obtain voter registration forms from any public library, any agency providing public assistance, or from the Registrar’s Office located in the Terrell County Governmental Building at 955 Forrester Drive, S.E., Dawson, Georgia.

To register to vote, citizens must provide satisfactory evidence of U.S. citizenship, as required by Georgia law, O.C.G.A. § 21-2-216. Voters who will be out of town or otherwise unable to go to the polls and who wish to vote by absentee ballot may submit a written application to:

Terrell County Board of Elections and Registration. P.O. Box 715, Dawson, GA 39842. Applications may also be requested by calling 229-995-5066 or 229-995-4756.

Voters may also visit the Georgia Secretary of State’s My Voter Page (MVP) at [www.mvp.sos.ga.gov](http://www.mvp.sos.ga.gov) for voter registration and election.

# County, state, federal offices at stake in the upcoming election

STAFF REPORTS

Terrell County voters will go to the polls on Nov. 3 to cast their ballots for the candidates they feel are most qualified to represent them in their respective offices. Local observers are predicting a large turnout at the polls. At stake are some of the most important offices in the county, state and nation. Locally, the election will be held under the supervision of Terrell County Board of Elections and Registration Supervisor Carolyn Williams.

Appearing on local ballots will be contests for United States Senator, governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, commissioner of agriculture, commissioner of insurance, state school superintendent, commissioner of Labor,

**ELECTION**  
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# Republican Matt Day pitches business-minded challenge to Sanford Bishop

**By KATHRYN CROCKETT**  
Staff Reporter

*Editor’s Note: This feature on U.S. House District 2 candidate Matt Day kicks off The Albany Herald’s campaign coverage leading up to the Nov. 3 midterm elections.*

ALBANY — Matt Day is running for Congress as a Republican, but some of the positions he is taking into one of Georgia’s most reliably Democratic congressional districts don’t fit neatly into the party’s standard playbook.

The south Georgia businessman supports tougher immigration enforcement but says undocumented immigrants should have a path to legal work visas. He argues wages at the bottom of the economy are too low to live on. He opposes making money from incarceration. He says Republicans don’t do enough to address pollution.

And despite running to unseat Democratic U.S. Rep. Sanford Bishop, Day repeatedly declines to make the 17-term incumbent the villain of his campaign.

Instead, Day says he is running on the premise that the business experience that took him from installing glass on relatively small projects to operating nationwide construction companies can be applied to

some of southwest Georgia’s most persistent problems.

“We always say that if it makes sense, it can make dollars, and if it don’t, it don’t,” Day said during a recent interview with The Albany Herald.

Day, a retired construction executive now living part-time in Georgetown in Quitman County, is making his first run for elected office. He spent much of his career in Coffee County, where his businesses remain, and describes himself as a “son of south Georgia,” despite acknowledging he did not originally live within the 2nd District. Quitman County is within the district; Coffee County is not.

He faces a formidable opponent Nov. 3. Bishop, an Albany Democrat first elected to Congress in 1992, is seeking an 18th term. The district stretches across much of southwest Georgia and includes Albany, Americus and portions of Columbus and Macon. Nonpartisan Inside Elections currently rates the race “Solid Democratic,” with a partisan baseline favoring Democrats by 7-3 percentage points.

Day also enters the general election with a significant financial disadvantage. Federal Election Commission records show his campaign reported about \$142,700 in receipts



Matt Day

through June 30 and about \$1,768 in cash on hand, with \$50,000 in outstanding campaign debt. Of his contributions, about \$68,700 came from Day himself.

But Day’s argument to voters is that money and conventional political experience are precisely what he is trying to run against.

A businessman confronting an industry he helped build

Perhaps the clearest example of Day’s unconventional campaign is his position on data centers. His own construction companies have worked on the centers. Now, as southwest Georgia communities weigh massive proposed data-center developments and the energy in-

frastructure needed to power them, Day has become one of their more vocal critics.

“Well, I built them,” Day said when asked why he had focused so heavily on the issue.

Day said his company has paused on data-center work while he examines the industry’s effects more closely. He is not an advocate for banning the developments outright. Instead, he argues communities should receive far more information before local governments approve them, including what the facility will be used for, how developers will make money and whether automation associated with the project could displace workers.

“We believe that the community needs a choice first and foremost, and the community needs to have transparency,” he said.

That position puts him squarely into a debate already unfolding across the district.

Day strongly opposes a proposed 1,500-megawatt natural gas power plant in Mitchell County intended to help serve data-center demand in Lee, Dougherty, Baker and Early counties, describing it as both a major polluter and heavy water user.

He says he is also skeptical of

**DAY**  
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OBITUARIES

Grady Roberson

Grady Roberson, a wonderful man of faith, passed away at his home in Marianna, Florida on Sept. 7, 2026. Grady fought a long and hard battle with a heart disease and made the most of his days during this time. Heaven truly gained a special angel with the passing of Grady.

Grady was borne to Lamar and Georgia Mae Roberson on Jan. 11, 1941 in Wheeler County, Georgia. Grady attended school in Wheeler County, Georgia. After school, he served his Country in the Army Reserves for several years and ultimately began his career as sewing machine mechanic and quickly worked his way to a manufacturing manager. In the early 1970's Grady relocated with his family from their home in Georgia to Bristol, Florida and moved "across the bridge" to Blountstown, Florida in 1979. As the manager of Blountstown Manufacturing Company, Grady was instrumental in bringing employment opportunities for many in Calhoun County at the manufacturing company.

Grady was proceeded in death of his beautiful wife of sixty-four years, Carolyn Roberson. Since Carolyn's passing on March 5, 2026, Grady missed his wife tremendously. The reunification of Grady and Carolyn was most certainly a glorious occasion. Grady loved Carolyn deeply and together they raised three children, Lynn Wimberly (Rick), Grady Randall Roberson and Melanie Mager (Chuck). Grady is survived by his children, grand-children, Brandy Coburn (Shane), Jordan Crain (Brian), Hunter Barnes (Ashley), Jesse Wimberly (Kristie), Jade Ferrante (Anthony) and Colby Silverthorne and by seven great grandchildren, Grace Mills, Jayden Bennett, Brodhi Crain, Brayden Crain, Giada Ferrante, Jessa Coburn and Lina Faye Ferrante. Grady was predeceased by eight siblings, Lamar (Junior), Bobby, Paul, Mary, Marty, Anita, Roy and Gussie. His sisters, Jewel Anderson (Robert) and Ruby Gibbs (Barry) are left to cherish

their childhood and adult memories with their brother, Grady. Grady's sister-in-laws, Anne Thompson (Louie) and Sue Hendrix will miss him tremendously.

He had many talents and took pride in everything that he did; he often quoted "If you aren't going to do it right, don't do it at all." That included his love for his wife, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. He loved each fiercely and expressed it in words, actions, commitment and most of all, genuine love. He gave his all to everything, most of all, being a husband, Daddy and Papa.

Those blessed to know Grady know his work ethics during his life. Grady was a man of faith, strength and courage. Even during his years of sickness, he never stopped working. During his time of retirement, Grady enjoyed especially spending time with his family, working in his yard and gardening. He exceeded every doctor's expectation with his determination to go non-stop. Grady touched many lives during his time on earth and will be missed by all who knew him. Rest in peace, daddy, granddaddy, great-granddaddy, brother, brother-in-law, and uncle to many – you will truly be missed and always remembered for the love that you shared with each of us.

The family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the staff of Dr. William Dixon, especially Shawna Donofro and Courtney Sims, who our daddy loved dearly, for the exceptional care that they have provided throughout the past several years. The family sincerely appreciates the comfort provided by Vitas Hospice for the love and support shown to each of us during our daddy's final days, especially Nancy Dean. Nancy was not only an exceptional caregiver, but became a true friend to each of us.

The family will receive family and friends at Adam's Funeral Home in Blountstown, Florida on Sept. 10 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. with graveside services immediately following at Pine Memorial Cemetery.

BUDGET HEARING

Continued from page 1

ular meeting will proceed does not establish a new budget adoption date or extend the September authorization.

Georgia law requires a public hearing at least one week before the meeting at which budget adoption is considered. Notice of the hearing also must be published at least one week beforehand. A replacement hearing and adoption schedule must meet those requirements.

Temporary spending authority allows the city to continue operating within the limits the council approves. It does not provide additional cash, resolve a budget shortfall or postpone the city's bills.

Those distinctions matter in Dawson, where earlier reporting identified gaps in proposed budgets, unfinished audits and short-term borrowing used to cover operating expenses.

An Albany Herald review of the August budget draft found that its stated balance of \$6,180,350 in revenue and spending depended partly on a \$300,000 utility transfer counted as incoming general fund revenue without a corresponding outgoing transfer. Removing that double-counting exposed a roughly \$300,000 gap in that version of the proposal.

The borrowing documents authorize a line of credit of up to \$400,000 through Georgia Community Bank to pay current expenses ahead of tax collections. They specify a Dec. 31, 2026, repayment date and annual interest of 5.6% on amounts drawn.

Postponing the hearing does not move the deadline. If the reassessment also delays property tax billing or collections, the city could face additional cash pressure while paying operating expenses and preparing to repay the borrowed funds. The cancellation notice does not say whether the tax billing schedule will change.

The council has approved an \$8 monthly fire service charge, projected to generate approximately \$172,800 over a full year from about 1,800 utility accounts. Officials discussed beginning collections in January, although the ordinance and final billing schedule determine the effective date. Revenue beginning in January would not be available to meet the December borrowing deadline.

State law requires local governments to adopt and operate under balanced budgets for their general, special revenue and debt service funds. Estimated revenue and any appropriated fund balance must equal authorized spending. The law also allows budgets to be amended as financial circumstances change.

The city's notice does not explain whether preliminary property valuations are available or whether officials considered using those figures to prepare a budget that could later be amended. It also does not identify what reassessment work remains.

For residents, the postponement delays the formal opportunity to question how Dawson will pay for services, meet its debt obligations and close any remaining budget gap. For the council, the immediate issue is authorizing spending beyond Sept. 30 while completing a balanced annual plan.

RELIGION DIGEST

Macedonia Missionary Baptist Men & Women's Day

Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Parrott will celebrate its annual Men's and Women's Day on Oct. 4, at 11 a.m., during the church's regular worship service. The colors for the occasion are gray and pink. The theme is "Men and Women Accomplishing God's Work," based on Colossians 3:14. Deacon Darius Myers, a former member of Macedonia, will be the guest speaker for this special occasion. He is presently a member of Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church in Atlanta and is known for his LLAW Prayer Ministry on Facebook. Pastor Lucious Mitchell and the Macedonia church family extend a warm invitation to the general public to attend this memorable occasion.

Bronwood Rd. Church of Christ Fall Gospel Meeting

Bronwood Road Church of Christ will hold its Fall Gospel Meeting Oct. 4-7 at the church building, 904 Crawford St. N.E. Brother Cedrick Davis of Fayetteville, Tennessee, will serve as guest speaker. Sunday's schedule begins with Sunday school at 10 a.m., followed by worship at 11 a.m., lunch from noon to 1:30 p.m. and an afternoon service at 2:30 p.m. Services Monday through Wednesday will begin at 7 p.m. For more information, contact minister Brother George Draine at (229) 343-6779.

Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church celebrates Annual Women's Day 2026

The members of Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church, located at 1881 Ben Arthur Road, Dawson, Ga. 39842, invite the entire community to join us for our Annual Women Day Celebration on Sunday, Oct. 11 at 11 a.m.

The guest speaker will be Rev. Terri Parker, New Life Deliverance Tabernacle, Richmond, Va. This year theme "Rooted in Christ, Flourishing in Grace" (Colossians 2:6-7). We warmly welcome everyone to share this special celebration of faith, fellowship and praise. Sunday School each Sunday morning at 10 a.m.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Family Fall Festival

Morehouse School of Medicine and Albany Area Primary Health Care will host a Family Fall Festival from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 24, at Cooper-Carver Elementary School, 455 Greenwave Blvd. in Dawson. The free community event will feature children's games, food giveaways, trunk-or-treat activities and health screenings. Vendors also are being sought for the festival. For more information or to request a vendor form, email calick@msm.edu.

Breast Cancer & Domestic Violence Awareness

Raines Baptist Church will host its 28th annual Breast Cancer and Domestic Violence Awareness Event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Oct. 3, at the Log Cabin, 293 Stonewall St. NE in Dawson. The event will feature community resources, health screenings, door prizes and vendors, with a focus on awareness, education, prevention and support.

Raines Baptist Church, Door of Hope \$15,000 grant

Raines Baptist Church and the Door of Hope Foundation Inc. have announced a \$15,000 Summers Without Hunger grant from the Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation. The funding will support efforts to address childhood food insecurity and help families access nutritious meals during the summer, when children are out of school.

Annual Family Fall Festival for Saturday, Oct. 24

STAFF REPORTS

Families across Terrell County and surrounding areas are invited to celebrate the season at the Family Fall Festival taking place here Oct. 24. The community event promises a full day of fall fun for residents of all ages.

The festival will feature activities including live music, food giveaways, health screenings, trunk or treat, arts and crafts vendors, children's games/activities and much more. Local organizations, businesses, and volunteers are coming together to make this year's event bigger and better than ever.

Describing last year's event, a former Albany Herald reporter wrote "While the Family Fall Festival emphasized fun, it was also an opportunity for Terrell County residents to get informed and take control of

their health."

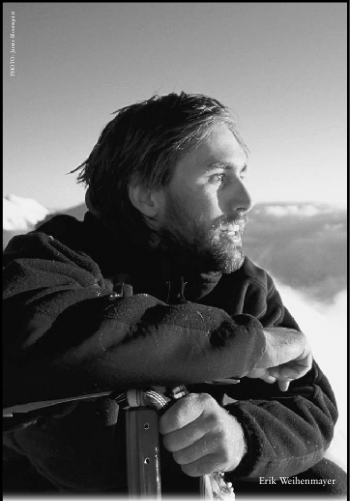
This year promises to be bigger and better with more vendors, more health services, and more activities for the kids.

Event Details

Family Fall Festival  
Oct. 24, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Cooper Carver Elementary School  
455 Greenwave Blvd., Dawson, Ga.  
Free of charge

Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, blankets, etc. and dress for the weather.

The Family Fall Festival is made possible by the support of Morehouse School of Medicine and Albany Area Primary Health Care. For more information, including a full schedule of activities and vendor opportunities, contact calick@msm.edu.



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**Thursday and Friday**

**OCTOBER 1-2, 2026**

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**Americus**  
1120 Felder St.  
8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Cusseta**  
300 A GA Highway 520  
8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Closed for lunch 1 - 2 p.m.

**Leesburg**  
133 Century Road W  
8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Closed for lunch 1 - 2 p.m.

Don't miss meet & greets with *Willie Wiredhand!*

**Thursday, October 1**  
Cusseta | 2 - 4 p.m.

**Friday, October 2**  
Leesburg | 10 a.m. - noon  
Americus | 3 - 5 p.m.



DID YOU KNOW...?

Did one of the lead actors in the 1980 comedy ‘Airplane!’ initially refuse to be in the movie?

By JACK BAGLEY  
GTLN

Now that the nonsense about my birthday is over, let’s get ready for something really special. I won’t get into it here. Just be sure you’re back with the column one week from today. It’s big. It’s huge. It’s something I have been working to achieve for a very, very long time. So don’t miss it. Be here. In the meantime, I hope you have a great time with the silly stuff that follows. Enjoy, as always!

*Did you know ...*

... a European country existed for only 24 hours? On March 15, 1939, a tiny portion of eastern Europe declared itself the independent Republic of Carpatho-Ukraine. And they were ready. The people of the new nation had already elected a president, Rev. Augustin Voloshyn (1874-1945); designed a flag; and even wrote a national anthem. However, their time in the Sun was destined to be brief. The very next day, March 16, the Hungarian army invaded and annexed the country to Hungary. The Republic of Carpatho-Ukraine existed for one day. (But they made the best of it, it seems.)

... you can find a National Leprechaun Museum in Ireland? Located in Dublin, the museum is not just about the wee folk; it includes exhibits encompassing all kinds of Irish mythology and folklore. (Of course it’s located in Dublin. Where else would it be?)

... the first woman to own a professional baseball team did so in 1911? Helene Britton (1879-1950) assumed ownership of the St. Louis Cardinals that year. She sold the team in 1917. (I wouldn’t touch that with a baseball bat with cardinals sitting on it.)

... a dead jellyfish can still sting? (They just don’t realize they’re doing it.)

... an inventor built a huge mansion, spent one night in it, and nobody has lived in it since? In 1894, a man named William Wyckoff (1835-1895), who designed a new kind of typewriter for the Remington Arms Company, commissioned the construction of a house on Carleton Island on the St. Lawrence River in upstate New York. When the mansion was completed, Wyckoff moved in, spent one night, then died of a heart attack. The family lost its fortune in the Depression and had to sell the mansion, having never lived in it. Planned uses for the mansion and property never panned out, and it’s been vacant since 1895 – and for sale since 2012. (A bargain at any price.)

... one of the actors in the classic 1980 comedy film Airplane! initially rejected being in the movie? Peter Graves (1926-2010), a serious dramatic actor, was at first repulsed by the script for the spoof, calling it “the worst taste” and “the most disgusting piece of trash I ever read in my life.” He gave a hard pass to playing the role of Captain Clarence Oveur, but following a meeting with producers Jerry O’ateur (born 1950), Jim Abrahams (1944-2024) and David Zucker (born 1947), Graves reconsidered and (somewhat reluctantly) accepted the role. Later, Graves said, “They say you’re supposed to stretch as an actor,” as a reason for playing the part. It must have worked; Graves reprised the ridiculous role two years later in Airplane II: The Sequel. Additional trivia note: Graves’ change of heart may have also been helped by the reaction of another classic dramatic actor in the film, Robert Stack (1919-2003). Stack, whose last comedy role had been in 1942, finally realized that “we are the joke,” meaning serious actors like himself being parodied in the film. (And don’t call me Shirley.)

... a supermarket chain’s name came about because its founder did not like credit? The Safeway chain of grocery stores was founded in 1915 by Marion Barton Skaggs (1888-1976), a businessman and preacher who thought credit purchases were evil. The name of the store came about because Skaggs felt a cash-only store was the “safe way” to shop. Shoppers only bought what they could pay for with cash on hand, and that kept the company from sinking during the Great Depression of 1929-1935. (Wonder what he’d think of a “cashless society”?)

... the people who make major league baseballs are very poorly paid? A worker in Costa Rica who makes baseballs earns about \$2,750 a year. Looking at modern MLB player salaries, that means the pitcher who throws the ball probably earns more per pitch than the maker of the ball earns annually. (Which is troublesome on many levels, if you ask me.)

... on average, men marry women who are three years younger than themselves? That’s a world-wide average. In the United States, it goes a bit further. Men who remarry in the U.S. choose a wife about five years younger; those going for a third time down the aisle generally choose a wife eight years younger. (I have a line here, but it would close the show.)

... you should be careful about burying your pet in the back yard? You could have an experience like the one had by a family in Modesto, California. When the pet owner dug a hole to bury a beloved pet in 2018, the man discovered something had already been buried there – a person, in an advanced state of decomposition. (How would you like to read that police report?)

... a Japanese rail station had a stationmaster that was not human? From 2007 to 2015, the Kishi rail station in Japan’s Wakayama prefecture was run by Tama, a calico cat. Tama (1999-2015) was the actual stationmaster, too, wearing a special cap and greeting visitors at the gate. (And he worked for a low salary, too.)

*Now ... you know!*

Decoration maxxng: Changing a stance on an old belief

Money is getting a little tight out there.

Diesel fuel is at an all-time high - just in time for cotton and peanut season - not to mention gas and energy prices as a whole; groceries are more expensive; and every statement that comes in the mail, from taxes to the wifi bill, is creeping up. Despite all of that, people are still willing to throw some cash around as the spooky season approaches.

The National Retail Federation is predicting Halloween spending to also reach an all-time high this year, about \$13.5 billion, this season. That’s a lot of people buying decorations, costumes and candy. And not to continuously drive this point home, but cocoa and candy are also extremely expensive now.

But this is not a rant about how costly life is becoming or how people spend their hard-earned money. If buying costumes for your dog brings you joy, by all means dress your pet up for every occasion. What I’m interested in is the in-



By KYLE DOMINY

fringement of holidays and notable seasons to other parts of the calendar.

The internet calls it maxxng - taking a habit or hobby, whether for good or ill, and pushing it to the extreme. I see a lot of decoration maxxrs out there.

In the past, I’ve taken a strict approach on when it is appropriate to decorate for various holidays, notably Christmas. I’ve publicly declared that no Christmas tree should be trimmed before Thanksgiving or a giant skeleton installed before Labor Day.

And you know what? I was wrong.

Along the route of my daily commute I pass a home that, as far as I know, has had a towering skeleton figure in the front yard for months if not all year long. Wrapped around the boney neck of its lanky frame is what appears to be a red, white and blue necktie, still unchanged from the summer holidays like July Fourth.

Another house fully crowds a corner of the yard of skeletons, spiders

and other spooky decor in early September. Last year the skeletons remained by the road until New Year’s, wearing pilgrim hats in November and Santa Claus hoods through Christmas.

Very soon, probably before we experience any real change in the weather, some people will begin decking the halls, hanging garland and setting up Nativity scenes. And now I’m all for it.

It’s been another strange year. Whether from political strife at home, wars overseas, the never-ending debate over data centers and artificial intelligence and not to mention expensive living, we’re all frazzled and a little over stimulated. Some twinkling lights, whether orange and purple or silver and gold, may do us some good.

So decorate away good people. Put up your inflatable Frankenstein’s monsters and have Santa Claus on deck. If it makes you happy and brings a little peace to the world, I won’t complain anymore.

COUCH THEATER



Nate Bargatze stars in "The Breadwinner"/Photo courtesy of MovieStillsDB

By DEMI TAVERAS  
King Features

"Tony" (R)

Dominic Sessa, who had his breakthrough role in the comedy-drama film "The Holdovers" (2023), leads this biographical coming-of-age film directed by Matt Johnson ("Nirvana the Band the Show the Movie"). Sessa plays the titular character Tony, aka Anthony Bourdain, but well before Bourdain ever became the celebrity chef many would come to know and love. Taking place in 1975, the film follows a 19-year-old Tony, who’s a student in Vassar College with aspirations of being a writer. Life doesn’t go exactly as planned, though, and he lands a job at a seafood restaurant in Provincetown, Massachusetts. Once there, however, Tony finds himself drawn to the atmosphere of the restaurant and starts working his way up, catching the attention of the head chef Jose (Antonio Banderas). "Tony" is out now to rent or purchase! (Amazon Prime Video)

"The 2026 MTV Video Music Awards" (TV-14)

As MTV has become less of a staple in music lovers’ lives, their VMA award show has admittedly lost its touch. Still, MTV always aims to recapture the magic of past award shows, and this time, they’re doing so by bringing Madonna back to the VMAs after 23 years! Not only is she the opening performer, but she also leads the pack with 13 nominations for her recent album "Confessions II." Naturally, Taylor Swift follows her with 11 nominations for "The Life of a Showgirl," and Sabrina Carpenter trails Swift with nine nominations for her hit album "Man’s Best Friend." Additionally, Nirvana will be honored with the legendary Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award. If you missed the live event, it’s available

to stream now! (Paramount+)

"Saturday Night Live: Season 52" (TV-MA)

It’s crazy to think that it’s already been two years since "SNL 50," but here we are, welcoming in the 52nd season of Lorne Michaels’ late-night sketch-comedy show. Two new cast members have been announced since Chloe Fineman’s ("Love Language") departure from the show after seven seasons -- the first being Saidah Belo-Osagie and Grace Reiter ("Run Amok"). Reiter is the first SNL cast member to be born in the 2000s. This season will feature hosts like New York Knicks MVP Jalen Brunson, "Obsession" star Inde Navarrette, and comedian Shane Gillis ("Madden"). Meanwhile, upcoming musical guests include girl group Katseye, Spanish singer and actress Rosalia ("Euphoria"), and pop star Gracie Abrams. The first episode is out now to stream! (Peacock)

"The Breadwinner" (PG)

This family-friendly comedy film was co-written by Nate Bargatze and also features the stand-up comedian in his first feature-length starring role. Bargatze plays a family man, also named Nate, and he’s the top employee at his car dealership. Meanwhile, his wife, Katie (Mandy Moore), is a stay-at-home mom who tends to their three daughters. But when Katie invents a product that lands a successful deal on "Shark Tank," their roles get reversed, as Katie must travel to South Korea for two weeks. Nate now takes on the role of a stay-at-home parent, and he quickly realizes that it isn’t an easy feat. Colin Jost ("Saturday Night Live"), Kumail Nanjiani ("See You When I See You"), and Will Forte ("The Four Seasons") co-star in the film, which is out now to stream! (Netflix)

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NOW HERE'S A TIP!

By JOANN DERSON  
King Features

\* Here’s a tip for you waist-watchers out there: Wait until Halloween Day to buy the candy. The in-house sweets won’t be haunting you throughout October.

\* Update window treatments to compensate for dropping temperatures. Trade your sheers for sturdy, draft-blocking panels.

\* Now’s the time to install weather-stripping or caulk for the fall and the winter. To find drafts, try this trick. Light a taper candle and run it very slowly along the cracks of your windows. When you see the flame flicker, that’s where you have a draft leak.

\* Want to save money and be a good environmental servant? Get with the times -- the old times, that is. Buy second-hand items and have household items repaired instead of throwing them out. Good-quality clothes can be sold or donated to charity shops; furniture and household items can be sold or donated to charity as well, or repurposed into new rooms.

\* "To keep sauces from splattering and dirtying the inside of your microwave, cover the food with a damp paper towel or a coffee filter." -- E.C. in Utah

\* Now you can have your tea and clean something too. Teabags can be used to clean woodwork. Rub wood softly with a damp bag.

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# Amy Gibson . . .

The west end of the lunch counter at ADD Drug in the Five Points section of Athens was occupied all last week, but not with anxious diners, which is usually the case. Instead, there were flowers, cards of sympathy, and a somber atmosphere, which was brought about by the death of the queen of the food operation, Amy Gibson.

Amy was a hard worker, a pretty brunette with a touch of gray that gave her a classic look. Most of all she had an evergreen smile that made this well-known spot in the Classic City the place for good food, unparalleled service, ambient atmosphere, and a broadside of love and laughter if you were a regular. If you weren't a regular, you could join Amy's club by showing a smiling face and not your backside.

Students, faculty, and

local folk hang out there. When students settle across the state and become doting alumni, many of them, when they return to Athens, order a meal at ADD Drug, which began operations in 1961 by the Horton family. ADD is an acronym for Athens Discount Drugs.

When Kevin Florence took over the ADD Drug, he said he knew nothing about the lunch business, but he quickly knew what to do. "I simply asked Amy what I should do. She took over and supervised the entire operation. We never had a problem, and we had the smoothest transition imaginable. She made many friends for us, and we will always be indebted to her for making our customers feel good all the time."

Vanessa Owings worked with Amy for over five years and was on the verge of



LORAN SMITH

tears when she said, "She was more than a co-worker; she was my friend and became a part of my family. We all miss her so much."

Amy knew who the generous tippers were but did not bad mouth the cheap-skates. "That's their problem," she would say of those who had resources but were miserly when it came to tipping the working class.

I have been an ADD Drug patron since it

opened in 1961 and have hosted guests there, who were taken by the down-home atmosphere that prevails—to say nothing about the food, service from a smiling staff, and the collegial ambience.

That includes Verne and Nancy Lundquist, and Craig Silver, CBS; Holly Rowe and Todd Blackledge, ESPN; John Underwood, Sports Illustrated; and in the spring, Annika Sörenstam, the greatest of women's golfers whose daughter wanted to tour the UGA campus, was pleased to have lunch with Amy.

She thought that was "neat," but she reserved just as much affection for friends like Mike and Runell Cheek, Mac and Jennifer Coile, Ted and Sandy Dieter, Ricky Chastain, and a host of others. And while we are namedropping, let's not overlook the fact that ADD Drug is patronized by Marianne Rogers who grew up on Bloomfield Street in

walking distance of the establishment.

Amy arranged photos on the wall from coaches who have had a tasty sandwich over the years, including Kirby Smart, Jack Bauerle, Joni Taylor (who now is at Texas A&M), Mark Richt, and others.

Nobody loved working and satisfying customers more than Amy, who was always displaying a sign that reflected the proper attitude when you took a seat at the counter.

For over 12 years, Amy built a reputation that made her the doyenne of ADD Drugs.

She enjoyed telling her customers the latest joke that she had heard and was eager to collect one from you, if you had one to make her day. Just about a week before she died, I told her a true story about the Florida land boom and bust in the mid 1920s.

Two guys from South Georgia went down to Miami looking for work, but

the bust had brought ruin to the boom. Flat broke, they walked by a restaurant advertising steaks and strawberry shortcake and went inside. They were seated, commenced to order, and enjoyed steak and dessert to the fullest.

When they finished, they walked up to the cashier, who was also the proprietor, and asked him what he would do if two drifters came into the restaurant, ordered steaks and dessert, and did not have the money to pay?

The owner replied, "Why I would kick them square in the rear." With that one of the diners bent over and said, "Well, in that case take out for two."

That made Amy laugh with verve and satisfaction. So, the last memory I will have of Amy will always be making this bundle of goodwill, elite hospitality, and eternal selflessness, laugh.

# If the election were held today...

"If the election were held today" is how questions for polls are framed. It's used to get a snapshot of where things are now. There is sleight of hand involved to then use the results to project what will happen later. The chasm in between makes a huge difference.

Let's first differentiate between two kinds of polls. There are those done mostly for media purposes. Some are done by news outlets themselves, while others are done by groups who wish to generate news coverage. Some of the latter are by supporters of a candidate, often laundered through "independent, nonpartisan" organizations. Others are from interest groups that want to influence a particular issue by injecting it into a campaign.

These are usually the cheapest to perform, and are thus often shallow or superficial to the point that they should be ignored. Instead, they are amplified as was the intent of their design, to reinforce today's



CHARLIE HARPER  
GEORGIA POLITICS

snapshot as the foundation for what the sponsors wish the future to be.

Other polls, often commissioned by candidates or some of those same interest organizations for internal use, are much more complex and dive into subject matters more deeply. They cost several times more to produce than the others, because the data actually matters. While those who construct and conduct them fully understand the fleeting nature of asking how someone feels

today, they also understand the purpose is to figure out what they must do to get the results they need much later.

This isn't about whether or not you can or should believe polls. It's about understanding what they are and are not.

Polls when properly constructed and executed remain fairly accurate in representing where things stand with public opinion on an issue or candidate on the day the questions are asked. The problem comes when we try to either assume that opinions are locked in stone, that others aren't actively trying to change those opinions, or that someone will motivate or de-motivate some respondents. That's before we consider that most people forget that in any statistical sample there is a "margin for error" which often can totally change the results if pushed to the extreme.

Let's ignore the math and just focus on the concept and construct. Polls do not predict the future.

They only tell you where things stand right now.

One of the most profound examples of this was the re-election campaign of President George H. W. Bush. In the spring the prior year, he had an 89% approval rating. Bill Clinton was fighting just to remain relevant while mired in multiple scandals. Even in the following June, Bush still led Clinton by 5 points.

Voters are fickle. More importantly, they vote with self-interest – in private. Too many candidates and campaigns forget that while many recite the approved party lines and clap on command, what actually happens when it is time to make a decision in private can be a very different thing. Just ask a lot of skilled union members.

So now we approach the midterms, and the polls aren't looking great for many Republicans. Many from the MAGA wing are still celebrating their achievements from 2024's election, as if it were a permanent victory. Many voters are looking at promises that not only said that the rate of inflation would decrease, but that actual prices would come down.

The voters were angry in 2024. Inflation was too high. Our borders weren't just open, but the Administration was flying immigrants in as asylum seekers by the tens of thousands. Americans who had just endured forced lockdowns and closed schools suddenly saw a new class of non-citizens at the front of the line for essential services.

President Trump's initial approval ratings were higher than his first term. But as illustrated in the example above, that was a snapshot in time.

Some Republican candidates chose to make their primaries about fealty to the President. They're having a hard time now, as circumstances have changed.

Others, while not distancing themselves from the President, charted their own path and message. They were better suited for this stage of the cycle.

Chief among them here at home is Rick Jackson. While a self-made billionaire who has tailored his narrative as an outsider to mirror President Trump, he wasn't the President's endorsed candidate in the

GOP primary. He's thus had a wider birth to position where voters' minds will be next month, as opposed to where they were a year ago.

Which brings us to a brief post on Twitter/X, from Washington pundit and UGA Alum Mary Katherine Ham. Sharing the campaigns most recent ad, she noted "Rick Jackson's is the only campaign that has figured out how to effectively remind people how 2020 felt and that Dem leadership from that time will take you back there (because) they have never reckoned with mistakes. "Woke 1 was crazy" doesn't answer this critique."

The decision on who will lead Georgia will be made based on how voters feel between October 13th, the beginning of early voting, and November 3rd. The next month will be a battle between current grocery and gas prices versus memories of Covid shutdowns, protests, and unchecked lawlessness. Georgians will choose their future based on which days they remember the least fondly or more profoundly.

# No debate that these should be great debate

Unless you have been living in a cave, you have no doubt been inundated with political ads from businessman Rick Jackson and former Atlanta mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, who are running for governor;

and incumbent Democrat Jon Ossoff and Republican challenger Cong. Mike Collins, the two candidates vying for the U.S. Senate seat in Georgia. The ads are so incessant, we almost know them by heart. But

what about the candidates themselves? How much do we know about them when they step out from in back of their ads?

You will get the chance to find out for yourself on Oct. 6 and Oct. 8. All four have agreed to face-to-face debates on WAFN in Atlanta and streamed on Gray Media stations live and statewide. The gubernatorial debate will take place on Oct. 6 at 8 p.m. and the Senate debate on Oct. 8 at 7p.m.

Frankly, I was surprised to hear the news. With the election just a bit more than a month away, why would the candidates want to expose themselves to their opponent? I asked WANF news anchor, Rick Folbaum, the man behind the project. How did he make it happen?

"As much as I'd like to take credit that I was able to earn the campaigns' trust with my decades of experience and dazzling charm," Folbaum quips, "the truth is these candidates want to be able to reach as many voters as possible and Gray gives them that ability. This was our main selling point." Gray owns stations in every major media market in Georgia, making them the only outlet that could offer live, primetime statewide coverage.



DICK YARBROUGH

Folbaum says: "Back in February, I approached my bosses with the idea that WANF and Gray Media should host political debates ahead of the November midterms. They said, 'Sure, go ahead and get the campaigns on board.' That's when I started reaching out to the campaigns to tell them what we wanted to do and make the case we could be trusted to do it."

Since this was before the primaries, Folbaum called everyone. Once he knew the nominees from each party, he was able to focus on the two candidates for governor and the Senate.

Folbaum, a 30-year broadcast veteran, says he had contacted Ossoff's office first, since he was running unopposed in the

Democratic primary. Then he was in contact with communications directors and campaign managers with the other candidates. "I wrote up proposals outlining our vision and shared them with the campaigns," Folbaum told me. He followed up with regular phone calls offering to answer anyone's questions or concerns.

"Deciding whether to take part in a debate and which debates to sign on to is no easy decision," he says. "There is so much at stake in these elections and the campaigns, understandably, want to make sure they're signing on to an event that will be carried out fairly for everyone involved."

The gubernatorial debate is a town-hall-style debate. Some of those asking questions will be in the debate hall. Those who don't live in metro Atlanta will have their questions recorded and played back for the candidates during the debate. Most importantly, the people asking the questions will go through a thorough vetting process to make sure they don't have any affiliation with the campaigns or with any other political organization.

In the Senate debate, a panel of journalists from Gray Media stations in Albany, Macon, Savannah, Columbus and Augusta

will ask the questions that reflect the concerns of voters in their particular area.

Folbaum says polls show most voters have already made up their minds. I agree, based on the "see-no-evil" responses I get from those who would support their candidate if he or she were seen running jaybird-naked down I-75. But the debates can also change minds if a participant does extremely well or very poorly. There is no safety net.

Your assignment: Tune in. Take off the blinders. Watch. Listen. Then decide who best can serve us in Washington and in the governor's office. As for Folbaum, who will moderate the debates, he talked to Chris Wallace, with whom he had worked at Fox News. "Chris's main piece of advice to me," he said, "was to be as invisible as possible. If the headlines the next day are about the moderator, then you've done something wrong."

Not much chance of that happening. So far, everything he had done has been right. Let the debates begin. And may they be great debates.

You can reach Dick Yarbrough at [dick@dickyarbrough.com](mailto:dick@dickyarbrough.com) or at P.O. Box 725373, Atlanta, Georgia 31139.

The Dawson News

GEORGIA TRUST

— for Local News —

DuBose Porter/PUBLISHER EMERITUS

Pam Burney/GENERAL MANAGER

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Wm. Thomas Rountree

Editor and Publisher

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Editor and Publisher (1946-1985)

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Legals

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 ADMINISTRATION

To: ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, INTERESTED PARTIES, CREDITORS  
BALENDA 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-112  
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

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 according 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, ADMINISTRATOR**  
**LEON CLYDE JOHNS, DECEASED**  
**3495 GRAVES HWY.**  
**DAWSON, GA. 39842**

September 10, 17, 24, October 1, 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 3-1, 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 however, 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 attorney'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-111  
IN THE PROBATE COURT  
COUNTY OF TERRELL  
STATE OF GEORGIA  
IN RE: MARTHA SHARON DAVIS  
DECEASED  
ESTATE NO: 4147  
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

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-114  
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

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, DECEASED**  
C/O JOHN M. MOORHEAD  
MOORHEAD LAW FIRM, LLC  
314 W. RESIDENCE AVENUE  
ALBANY, GA. 31701

September 17, 24, October 1, 8, 2026

D-117  
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

GEORGIA, TERRELL COUNTY  
All creditors of the estate of **MICHAEL DAVE KILPATRICK**, 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 25TH day of **SEPTEMBER, 2026**  
**JEREMY MICHAEL KILPATRICK, EXECUTOR**  
**MICHAEL DAVE KILPATRICK, DECEASED**  
C/O COLLIER & GAMBLE, LLP  
EDWARD R. COLLIER  
P.O. BOX 577  
DAWSON, GA. 39842

October 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026

D-113  
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

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 according 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-118  
IN THE PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF TERRELL  
STATE OF GEORGIA

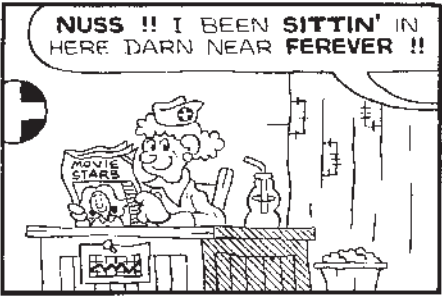
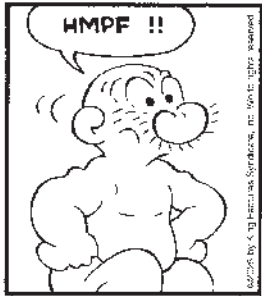
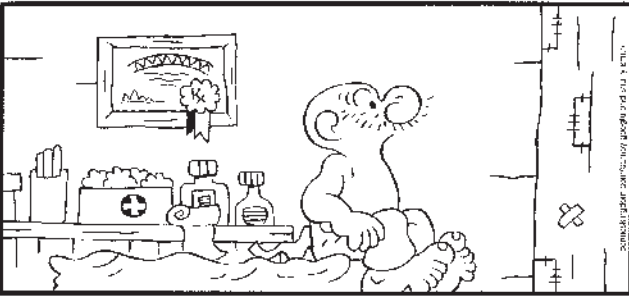
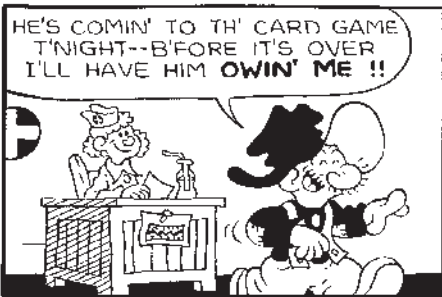
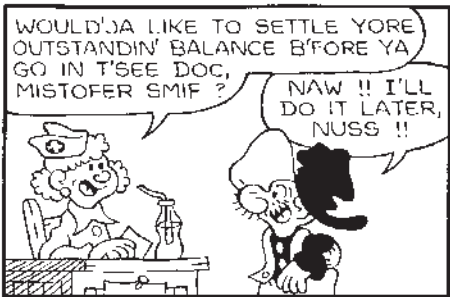
IN RE: **BARBARA ANNETTE WATSON, DECEASED**  
ESTATE NO: 4151  
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

To: ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, INTERESTED PARTIES, CREDITORS  
JILL RANEE WISENER has petitioned to be appointed Administrator of the estate of **BARBARA ANNETTE WATSON** 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 26TH, 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

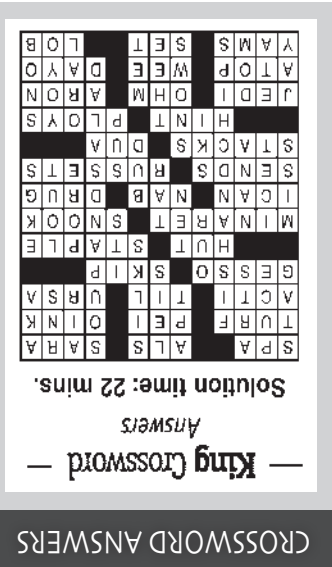
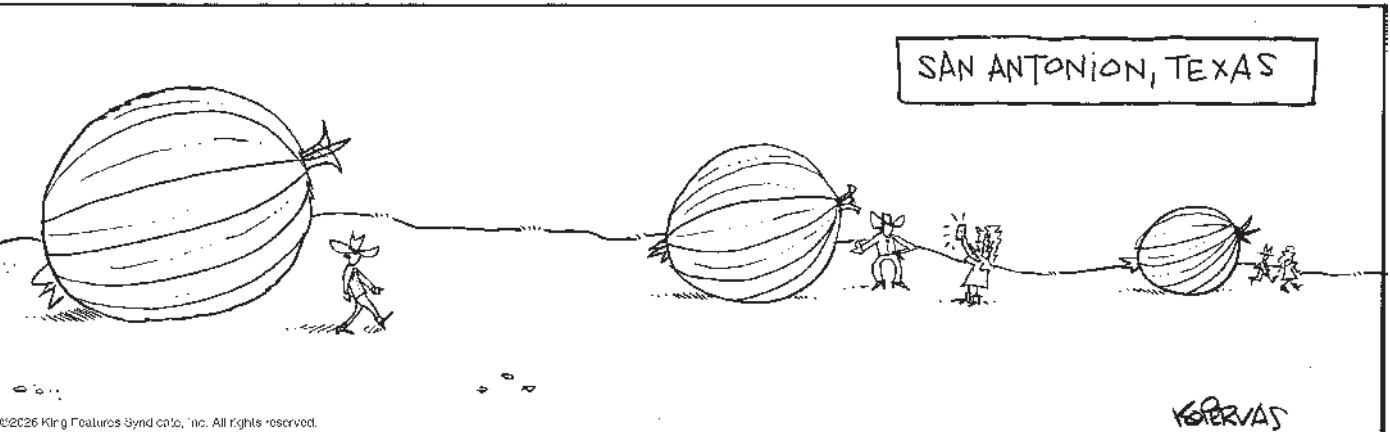
October 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026



The Spats



Out on a Limb



King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Hot tub
- 4 Gore and Pacino
- 7 Poet Teasdale
- 11 Sod
- 13 Architect I.M. —
- 14 Sty cry
- 15 Play opener
- 16 Up to
- 17 — Minor (bear constellation)
- 18 Bas-relief medium
- 20 Leave out
- 22 Grass shack
- 24 Paper fastener
- 28 Mosque tower
- 32 Florida game fish
- 33 Optimist's credo
- 34 Apprehend
- 36 pharmaceutical
- 37 Transmits
- 39 Baking potatoes
- 41 Orders of pancakes
- 43 "Don't Start Now" singer Lipa
- 44 Intimate
- 46 Tactics
- 50 "Star Wars" knight
- 53 Resistance unit

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| 28 | 29 | 30 |    |    |    | 31 |    | 32 |    |    |    |    |
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| 56 |    |    |    |    | 57 |    |    |    | 58 |    |    |    |
| 59 |    |    |    |    | 60 |    |    |    |    | 61 |    |    |

- 55 "East of Eden" twin
- 56 At the summit of
- 57 Pint-sized song
- 58 Belafonte
- 59 Orange veggies
- 60 Matching pair
- 61 Arced tennis shot
- 5 Floral rings
- 6 Sari fabrics
- 7 Light lunch order
- 8 Televis
- 9 ICU pros
- 10 Rap sheet letters
- 12 Popular
- 19 Owned by us
- 21 The "I" of TGIF
- 23 Sawbuck
- 25 Skin opening
- 26 Lummo
- 27 Heart charts (Abbr.)
- 28 Avoid
- 29 "Rhyme Pays" rapper
- 30 "Peter Pan" pooch
- 31 Roofing goo
- 35 Future flower
- 38 Enjoy Vail
- 40 "How's it goin'?"
- 42 Bamboozles
- 45 Biblical pronoun
- 47 Exam format
- 48 Vacillate
- 49 Elitist
- 50 Comic Leno
- 51 JFK info
- 52 — Perignon
- 54 Bumped into

POT HOLE

Continued from page 1

Friday’s incident.

For Jackson, the experience has left concerns that extend beyond retrieving the car. He described the seat belt as being “right around my neck” during the incident.

“I didn’t know that a seatbelt would do you like that,” he said.

The extent of his injuries and the time he will need to recover have not been established. Neither has the extent of damage to his vehicle or how repairs will be handled. Powell’s response did not address assistance with Jackson’s medical expenses or vehicle repairs.

The incident followed months of public discussion about road conditions, deteriorating properties and whether the city has the resources and equipment to address them.

At the City Council’s June 11 meeting, former Dawson Mayor Ada Lemons-McIntyre urged officials to make street repairs a priority, warning that potholes were damaging tires and knock-

ing vehicles out of alignment. She said residents were still discussing problems raised during her time in office in 2019 and 2020.

Lemons-McIntyre pointed to Orange Street, Third Avenue and 10th Avenue, describing stretches where drivers had to weave around damaged pavement.

“We are citizens; we pay taxes,” she told the council.

Other speakers, including Patrick Holloway, Kathy Hicks and Veronica Johnson, raised concerns about ordinance enforcement, neglected properties and neighborhood conditions. Residents identified problems at East Lee Street properties and called for a coordinated meeting involving city officials and community organizations to turn repeated complaints into action.

Mayor Robert Aaron responded that pothole repairs depended on asphalt availability, suitable weather and the city’s ability to transport material.

“Whenever we can buy asphalt, we will,” Aaron said.

He explained that the city lacked the hauling capacity to obtain large quantities and needed to

place asphalt soon after collecting it. Rain also limited when crews could work. Aaron asked residents to report locations to City Hall so the city could prioritize the most severe holes. He said broader street paving would require additional funding.

Road repairs returned to the council’s discussion July 9. Aaron said the Public Works report listed identified potholes and completed repairs, and that residents should report streets missing from the work list.

When a council member asked how 11 potholes had been repaired, a Public Works representative said crews had cleaned and packed the holes but lacked equipment to dig them out completely.

Equipment availability has been a recurring issue. Earlier Dawson News reporting examined the city’s disposal of surplus equipment and its inoperable mini excavator, including missing repair records and officials’ statements that the city lacked functioning equipment for certain utility work.

The council voted unanimously July 9 to purchase a replacement

excavator using T-SPLOST funds, the transportation special-purpose local-option sales tax.

During that discussion, Powell said replacing the old machine’s engine and other components could cost approximately \$30,000. New machines were quoted at approximately \$54,700 to \$68,000, depending on size, and would carry a three-year warranty.

Powell said Southern Sales had advised that the damaged excavator could be declared surplus and sold for an estimated \$15,000, with proceeds returned to the T-SPLOST account. That figure was an estimate, not a completed sale.

Council members questioned equipment maintenance, operator training and accountability for damage. One requested an inventory of city equipment, while Powell discussed training for designated operators and employee acknowledgment of equipment-use policies.

Powell’s response Monday did not address whether the replacement excavator has been delivered and put into service or what

equipment crews used on Walnut Street.

At the July meeting, council members also revisited efforts to address blighted properties. City Attorney Tommy Coleman said roughly two dozen properties were under review and explained that the process required identifying and notifying owners, heirs and others with a legal interest before pursuing court action.

Those discussions concerned broader maintenance and enforcement problems. They do not establish whether equipment limitations contributed to the Walnut Street incident.

Powell said the city also plans to address potholes throughout Dawson as part of its ongoing road maintenance efforts.

Jackson, meanwhile, said he did not know whether officials were aware of the hazard before his car became trapped.

“I don’t know if they knew or not,” he said. “I can’t say either way.”

For now, his attention remains on recovering. “However long it takes, I just need to get myself back together,” he said.

ELECTION

Continued from page 1

public service commission, U.S. Representative for the Second Congressional District, State Senator, State Representative and several other offices.

Terrell County voters will cast their ballots for candidates seeking a number of offices.

For United States Senator, incumbent Democrat Jon Ossoff and Republican Mike Collins are seeking the office. Vying for governor are Republican Rick Jackson and Democrat Keisha Lance Bottoms. For lieutenant governor, Republican Greg Dolezal and Democrat Josh McLaurin are seeking the position.

For secretary of state in Georgia, Republican Tim Fleming and Democrat Penny Brown Reynolds are seeking the office. Republican Brian Strickland and Democrat Tanya Miller are seeking the office of attorney general. For commissioner of Agriculture, incumbent Republican Tyler Harper and Democrat Katherine E. Juhan-Arnold are seeking the office.

Incumbent Republican John King and Democrat Keisha Sean Waites are seeking the office of commissioner of insurance. For state school superintendent, incumbent Republican Richard Woods and Democrat Lydia Powell are seeking the office. Incumbent Republican Bárbara Rivera Holmes and Democrat Nikki Porcher are seeking the office of commissioner of Labor.

For Public Service Commission District 3, Republican Fitz Johnson and incumbent Democrat Peter Hubbard are seeking the position. For Public Service Commissioner District 5, Republican Josh Tolbert and Democrat Shelia Edwards are seeking the office.

For U.S. Representative in the 119th Congress from the 2nd Congressional District of Georgia, incumbent Democrat Sanford Bishop Jr. is being challenged by Republican Matt Day. For state Senator from District 12, Democrat Edward Brown does not have any opposition. For state Representative in the General Assembly from the 151st District, a contest has developed between incumbent Republican Mike Cheokas, Democrat Ethan Wolfe and Independent Travis Lockhart.

For district attorney of the Pataula Judicial Circuit, incumbent Republican Vic McNease qualified for the office without opposition. All four of the incumbent county commissioners qualified for re-election. Nevertheless, none of the four candidates for those seats will face opposition. Incumbent Democrat Clyde “Eddie” Owens represents District 1; incumbent Democrat Ernest Johnson represents District 2; incumbent Independent Larron Copeland represents District 3; while incumbent Democrat Brad Stafford represents District 4.

For the Lower Chattahoochee River Soil and Water Conservation District supervisor position, no one qualified, and the race will not appear on the ballot for this reason. Therefore, Brian Goolsby will be required to continue serving as supervisor.

There are three proposed constitutional amendments on the ballot for voters’ consideration, including: (1) Increases the maximum acreage that may qualify for assessment and taxation as bona fide conservation use property from 2,000 acres to 4,000 acres. (2) Provides for the nonpartisan election of all probate court judges. (3) Authorizes the creation of the Georgia Next Generation 9-1-1 Fund for the expansion, maintenance and operation of 9-1-1 systems.

Williams noted that the last day for a voter to request an absentee ballot by mail is Oct. 23. On Election Day, polls

will open at 7 a.m. and will close at 7 p.m. Voters who are in line at closing time will be permitted to vote.

Under the law, there are six polling places, or precincts, in Terrell County, including: Precinct One – Terrell Governmental Building, Dawson; Precinct Two – Sasser City Hall, Sasser; Precinct Three – Bronwood City Hall, Bronwood; Precinct Four – Parrott City Hall, Parrott; Precinct Five – Graves United Methodist Church, Graves; Precinct Six – Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, located between Herod and Dover on the Herod-Dover Road, County Road 167.

Terrell voters will utilize 27 of the 32 BMDs, or ballot-marking devices in the county, Williams said. On Election Day, between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., electors who are 75 years of age or older or who are disabled and require assistance in voting, shall, upon request to a poll officer, be authorized at any primary or election to vote immediately at the next available booth without having to wait in line.

Williams also noted that no elector shall use photographic or other electronic monitoring or recording devices, or cellular telephones, while within the enclosed space in a polling place.

Voters are reminded that they must present photo identification at the polling place before casting their ballots. There are six acceptable types of identification, including: A Georgia driver’s license, even if expired; Any valid state or federal government-issued photo ID, including a free voter ID card issued by the Department of Driver Services or the county registrar’s office; A valid U.S. passport; A valid employee photo ID from any branch, department, agency or entity of the U.S. Government, Georgia or any county, municipality, board, authority or other entity of this state; A valid U.S. military photo ID; A valid tribal photo ID.

According to Williams, there will be 10 BMD units and two poll pads for Precinct One in Dawson; four BMD units and two poll pads for Precinct Two in Sasser; four BMD units and two poll pads for Precinct Three in Bronwood; three BMD units and two poll pads for Precinct Four in Parrott; three BMD units and two poll pads for Precinct Five in Graves; and three BMD units and one poll pad for Precinct Six in Herod/Dover.

Serving as the election manager for Precinct 1 will be Mary Kennedy; Bertha Holloway for Precinct 2; Tina Eglin for Precinct 3; Kim Bridges for Precinct 4; Delois Alexander for Precinct 5, and. Norma Wilson for Precinct 6.

Candidates are reminded that they are prohibited by law from campaigning within 150 feet of any polling place. This includes signs, posters, advertisements, handouts or any literature, as well as personal solicitation of voters. The law also provides that candidates cannot leave vehicles with bumper stickers or any other type of advertisement at the polling place during Election Day. Additionally, candidates are reminded that they cannot bring voters to the polls in vehicles that have signs or bumper stickers seeking votes on the vehicle.

In the General Election, a voter does not have to declare his or her party and can vote for the candidates of his or her choice. On election night, citizens of Terrell County may log onto the Georgia Secretary of State’s election results website to monitor election-night reporting as precinct results are uploaded from Terrell County.

“If there are any questions pertaining to this election, please contact the Elections and Registration office, and we will be happy to assist you,” Williams said.

DAY

Continued from page 1

converting large amounts of farmland and timberland to utility-scale solar. Day instead advocates for greater use of biomass energy produced from timber, arguing it could provide renewable energy while supporting south Georgia’s forestry industry.

His position on environmental issues is one of several places where Day openly distances himself from many other Republicans.

"As a Christian, I pay attention to where the Bible tells me that it's our job to take care of the garden, the world," he said. "And I don't think our party does enough to fight pollution."

Agriculture at the center

Any candidate hoping to represent the 2nd District must also contend with agriculture, one of southwest Georgia’s dominant industries and a cornerstone of Bishop’s tenure. Bishop is not a member of the House Agriculture Committee, which writes much of federal farm policy. He is, however, the ranking Democrat on the House Appropriations subcommittee overseeing funding for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, rural development programs and the Food and Drug Administration.

Day says he has developed a 20-point agriculture plan, although a complete written version was not available on his campaign website when The Herald reviewed it.

The proposals he described center on changing the economics of farming rather than eliminating federal support. Day argues farmers are squeezed between relatively low commodity prices and increasingly expensive inputs such as fertilizer, chemicals, fuel, equipment and labor. One proposal would allow farmers to form cooperatives that import commodities when domestic production cannot meet demand, keeping some of the profits within agricultural communities rather than leaving the importing business to outside companies.

He says he also wants greater scrutiny of the prices agricultural suppliers charge U.S. farmers, contending fertilizer, chemical, seed and equipment companies can charge American producers substantially more than customers elsewhere.

Day said he also supports regenerative agricultural practices aimed at protecting topsoil.

On immigration, another issue closely tied to agriculture and construction in the district, Day again takes a position he acknowledges differs from some Republicans.

He opposes amnesty and a pathway to citizenship for people who entered the country illegally but supports creating a pathway for them to obtain work visas.

"We know we need workers in this country," Day said.

An 'Albany Resurrection Plan'

Day’s campaign is also making an unusually specific pitch to Albany, the political center of Bishop’s Democratic base. He calls it the "Albany Resurrection Plan," a proposal he says could eventually serve as a model for struggling communities elsewhere.

Day described beginning with East and West Oglethorpe Boulevard, using government grants and private investment to rehabilitate abandoned properties and improve the appearance of the corridor. He said he would pair those improvements with a criminal justice program allowing some people convicted of misdemeanors to work full-time while completing 10 to 15 hours of community service rather than going to jail.

Participants could maintain properties and public spaces while learning to operate equipment and developing job skills.

"We're trying to keep these kids out of the system, and we're trying to keep them working with mentors," Day said.

Another component would involve the Small Business Administration helping entrepreneurs without significant collateral gain access to abandoned commercial property, giving them an asset around which to build a business.

Day also envisions a mentorship network connecting new businesses with accountants, lawyers, insurers and other professional services at negotiated rates.

The proposals reflect a theme running through much of his campaign: Day is not

necessarily arguing that federal money should stop flowing into communities such as Albany. He argues that public dollars should be structured to help recipients eventually become less dependent on them.

"We want to bring the funds back, but we want to help these people be more self-sufficient," Day said.

Day also has proposed creating a privately operated transitional facility outside Albany for people experiencing homelessness or, in some cases, entering the criminal justice system. His concept combines housing, transportation to jobs, a working farm and employment assistance, with residents eventually paying toward their own housing.

Some of Day’s approach is rooted in his own history. He told The Herald that he struggled with drugs and alcohol as a young man and credited employment and mentors, rather than rehabilitation, with helping him change direction.

"When I was 18 until age 21, I did all kinds of stuff," Day said. "I was hooked on drugs. I was hooked on alcohol, and I was not living correctly. The way that I got straight is, I didn't go to rehab, I went to work."

Recruiting industry to Albany

Economic development is where Day most clearly tries to translate his private-sector network into a congressional argument. He said he would use relationships developed through decades in construction to recruit employers to the district, particularly companies offering wages capable of moving families into the middle class.

Among his ideas is using robotics to build a textile manufacturing industry around cotton already grown across Georgia and the Southeast, allowing more of the crop to be processed domestically rather than shipped overseas. He also wants Albany to pursue large advanced-manufacturing employers, including businesses comparable to semiconductor manufacturers, that could provide thousands of higher-paying jobs.

His most unusual proposal may be turning Albany into a federal humanitarian and disaster-relief logistics hub.

Day argues that Marine Corps Logistics Base-Albany, existing rail infrastructure and U.S. 82’s connection to Georgia’s ports give the region assets that are not being fully exploited. Under his plan, food, medicine, hygiene products and other supplies could be stored in Albany for rapid deployment following domestic disasters. Products approaching expiration could later be shipped abroad as U.S. foreign aid rather than discarded.

"We should be a logistics hub," Day said.

A challenger who won't make Bishop the enemy

For all of his criticism of government and Democratic economic policies, Day is strikingly reluctant to make his campaign a personal indictment of Bishop. He credits the congressman with delivering for farmers and repeatedly said he would consider the campaign worthwhile if Bishop adopted some of his proposals.

"It's not just about winning the race," Day said. "Even if Bishop sees one of these ideas and he carries it and he gets it done, I'm happy. That's why I'm not here to beat him up."

It is an unusual posture for a challenger attempting to defeat one of the longest-serving members of Congress — particularly one running in a district where Republicans cannot afford to rely solely on their own base. Day appears to understand that arithmetic. He openly argues that Republicans have failed to compete effectively in communities such as Albany because they have not spent enough time building relationships or recruiting candidates there.

His campaign website describes priorities ranging from agriculture and manufacturing to rural health care and ending generational poverty. That gives voters in the 2nd District a contrast that is more complicated than Republican businessman versus Democratic incumbent.

Day is asking voters to replace a congressman who has represented southwest Georgia for more than three decades with someone who has never held public office, has far less campaign money and sometimes disagrees with his own party.

His case is that those aren’t necessarily weaknesses. They are the point.