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THE DAWSON NEWS

CIRCULATES IN THE HEART OF THE PEANUT BELT

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No budget, overdue audits: Spending extended through November

By KATHRYN CROCKETT
Staff Reporter

More than five weeks into its fiscal year without an adopted budget, Dawson has authorized spending through November while officials work to close a projected general fund shortfall.

The Dawson City Council approved the temporary spending measure Oct. 8, the night previously scheduled for budget adoption. Officials also set aside a proposed financial services agreement intended to help the city catch up on overdue audits.

The delays have consequences beyond City Hall. Emily Davenport, a member services consultant with the Georgia Municipal Association, warned that unresolved audit problems threaten access to grants. Mayor Robert Aaron said Dawson needs that money to repair failing water lines.

"So we can't adopt an unbalanced budget," City Administrator/Clerk Roxie Powell told the council. "So I'm asking for an extension."

Ordinance 2026-14 authorizes spending for October and November and sets a limit tied to one-twelfth of the final amended budget for the fiscal year that ended Aug. 31, plus debt service and capital expenditures known to be due. It does not explicitly state whether that limit applies separately to each month.



Emily Davenport, a member services consultant with the Georgia Municipal Association, addresses the Dawson City Council on Oct. 8. Davenport warned that overdue audits threaten the city's access to grants needed for infrastructure repairs/KATHRYN CROCKETT

Powell described the measure as an extension of "another 30 days," although the ordinance names both October and November. Neither the ordinance nor the discussion established what authorized spending in September, the first month of the fiscal year.

Powell said she plans to present a balanced budget, schedule a public hearing and seek adoption sometime in November.

She said she is using last year's property tax revenue to prepare the budget but has not eliminated the pro-

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Dawson approves $6,500 gas safety settlement; penality figures conflict

By KATHRYN CROCKETT
Staff Reporter

The Dawson City Council approved a $6,500 settlement Oct. 8 in a natural gas safety case involving 13 alleged violations, including failure to promptly repair a hazardous leak and inadequate protection against excessive pipeline pressure.

The proposed consent agreement with the Georgia Public Service Commission staff says all listed violations have been corrected. It requires commission approval before taking effect.

The payment approved by the council matches the agreement, but the original penalty described during the meeting does not.

City Administrator and Clerk Roxie Powell told council members the fine had been reduced from $115,000 to $6,500. The agreement in their packet lists 13 proposed penalties of $5,000 each, totaling $65,000. The proposed settlement is 10% of that amount.

Powell did not explain the discrepancy during the meeting.

When a council member asked whether the problems had been corrected, Powell said, "Yes, ma'am. All of them, and the report has been submitted. The only thing

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City Council update: Downtown plans, sewer work, and medical office lease

By KATHRYN CROCKETT
Staff Reporter

Efforts to reactivate Dawson's Downtown Development Authority should include an open application process to identify residents interested in helping shape downtown's future, a Georgia Municipal Association representative told the Dawson City Council on Oct. 8.

Emily Davenport, a GMA member services consultant, encouraged officials to look beyond people they already know when filling board seats.

"You may have people in the community that you just don't know that have a passion for it," she said.

Davenport suggested looking for applicants with backgrounds in architecture, engineering or historic preservation while ensuring local businesses are involved.

"You want to make sure you've got your local businesses involved because they're invested," she said.

She offered to help connect Dawson with training and resources and pointed officials to online training for downtown development authority members scheduled for Oct. 20-21.

Mayor Robert Aaron asked whether the authority needed a full board before members could attend training. Davenport said existing members could participate while additional appointments are being made.

"We want to make sure that everybody is trained properly and understands the kind of roles and responsibilities for each of those positions," she said.

During that discussion, an audience member asked about a rumor that "the Golden Triangle wanted to buy" the downtown theater, which the authority owns.

"That's different," Aaron said. "I'll talk to you about it in private."

Powell pulled a proposed contract with Bennett Financial Tax Advisory from the agenda. The agreement in the council packet would have paid the firm a $4,150 monthly retainer to help clear the city's backlog of annual audits.

COUNCIL UPDATE
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Terrell County Schools Superintendent Shereca Harvey reviews Fiscal 2025 audit findings ahead of a state-approved corrective action proposal with school board members during an Oct. 6 work session in Dawson/KATHRYN CROCKETT

Improper payroll deductions among seven findings in school audit

By KATHRYN CROCKETT
Staff Reporter

Terrell County school officials are working to correct payroll, purchasing and recordkeeping weaknesses identified in a Fiscal 2025 audit by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts, with Superintendent Shereca Harvey outlining the findings and corrective actions during an Oct. 6 school board work session.

Harvey outlined seven findings: two involving financial statements and five involving federal awards. An exit conference with auditors was held Sept. 25. All five board members attended Tuesday's work session.

"Most of the issues that were addressed have already been corrected," Harvey said.

The period under review predates Harvey's tenure as superintendent. Fiscal 2025 ended June 30, 2025; she took office July 1, 2025. The audit work took place later, as the district was rebuilding its finance department.

Tony Lowe joined as finance director in February 2026 and was promoted to chief financial officer at the start of the next fiscal year, Harvey previously said. He later resigned to take the CFO position with Sumter County Schools after about six months in Terrell.

On Aug. 25, the board approved Mauldin & Jenkins to provide CFO consulting and financial support following Lowe's departure.

Among the findings Harvey discussed Tuesday were improper Social

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Voters reminded of in-person voting

SPECIAL TO THE DAWSON NEWS

Terrell County voters are reminded that Saturday In-Person Voting for the upcoming Nov. 3 General Election/Special Election will take place this Saturday, Oct. 17, and Saturday, Oct. 24.

That was the word this week from Mrs. Carolyn Williams, Terrell County Board of Elections and Registration Supervisor. According to Mrs. Williams, Saturday Advance Voting will take place in the Registrar's and Elections Office, located in the Terrell County Governmental Building. Hours will be from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. on both Saturdays.

As of Monday morning, of this week, Mrs. Williams reported that _____ electors had cast an in-person absentee ballot. An additional _____ requests for absentee-by-mail ballots had been made by electors, she said.

"The last day a voter may request an absentee ballot by mail is Oct. 23. The last day an elector can cast an in-person absentee ballot is Friday, Oct. 30," Mrs. Williams said.

"If there are questions, please contact the Registrar's and Elections Office at 229-995-4756 or 229-995-5066, and we will be happy to assist you," Mrs. Williams added.



SNAPSHOTS: TERRELL ACADEMY EAGLES DEFEAT ARCHRIVAL DEERFIELD-WINDSOR 24-14

Terrell Academy senior quarterback Byse Peachey ran for touchdowns of 19 and 72 yards Thursday night in Albany as the Eagles beat archrival Deerfield-Windsor, 24-14. For the full story, see page 2/JOE WHITFIELD

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jected general fund shortfall.

"I'm still coming up with a little deficit in the general fund, but I'm still looking to see what we can come up with in that area," she said.

In July, Powell told the council that the previous budget included at least $200,000 in revenue the city did not collect. The city subsequently authorized a tax anticipation note of up to $400,000 to cover operating expenses ahead of property tax collections.

Powell did not explain during the Oct. 8 discussion how the new proposal accounts for those previously identified revenue overstatements or repayment of the short-term borrowing.

A separate delay affects the city's property tax rate. Powell said the tax digest — the compilation of assessed property values used to calculate taxes — is not expected until late November or early December.

Without it, she said, she cannot prepare the five-year tax digest and levy history needed before the council adopts its millage rate.

The financial uncertainty also affected a smaller spending request. A proposed $1,500 allocation for a downtown trick-or-treat event received no motion.

Powell said she had held off planning the event "because of the financial situation with the city, being that we haven't adopted the budget or anything."

The agenda packet included a proposed agreement with Bennett Financial Tax Advisory, dated Sept. 22. Powell asked that consideration be postponed.

Under the draft, the firm would serve as financial adviser and internal auditor, reconcile the city's books monthly and prepare records to support independent audits for Fiscal Years 2023 through 2026.

The agreement called for a $4,150 monthly retainer beginning Oct. 1, totaling $49,800 during an initial term ending Sept. 30, 2027.

It also proposed $5,000 performance payments for each completed and submitted audit for Fiscal Years 2023, 2024 and 2025. An additional $5,000 would be earned if all three overdue audits and the Fiscal 2026 audit were completed and delivered by the end of the initial term.

Other terms included automatic annual renewal, a 3% yearly increase in the retainer and written notice of nonrenewal at least 60 days before a term ends. The city would remain responsible for retainer payments through the end of the term and any earned performance fees.

The draft also provided for an accountant's login to city bank accounts to monitor transactions and perform reconciliations.

The agreement cited findings from the city's 2022 audit, including expenditures exceeding budget appropriations in violation of state budget law. The packet copy was unsigned.

Powell said she plans to meet in person with Davenport and the city's accounting firms, followed by a meeting with the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts and county officials.

The goal is "to try to go ahead and complete 2023, so we can move forward with 2024 and 2025," Powell said.

Davenport explained that CKH Group is helping reconcile the city's books, while Mauldin & Jenkins performs the independent audits.

She said, according to information from Powell, the city's transition from an older AS400 accounting system to Tyler software appeared to be a major source of difficulty. Staff turnover and the absence of a finance director have added to the workload.

"With her being city clerk and city manager, that is a lot on one person," Davenport said, "and not having a finance person in here too is going to make it that much more challenging."

Davenport said some records requested by auditors may be unavailable. She recommended adding a monthly audit update to the council's agenda.

According to the Department of Audits and Accounts, state agencies cannot provide state grant funds to a local government that has not submitted all audits required by law within the preceding five years. Georgia's Community Development Block Grant rules also require previous recipients to resolve outstanding audit or monitoring findings before applying.

Although the proposed Bennett agreement describes Fiscal Years 2023 through 2026 as delinquent, the Fiscal 2026 audit is not yet overdue. Davenport said it is due in February 2027.

Aaron said community development block grants have paid for previous water and sewer repairs and are needed again.

"Until we get those kinds of grants, we cannot do anything with the water lines that we have that's bursting all over the city of Dawson," he said.

The fire department's September report described a vehicle encountering a sinkhole on Walnut Street after a pipe developed another leak following repairs by city workers. One person was taken to the emergency room, according to the report.

Aaron said the city had purchased asphalt and planned to begin pothole repairs the following week, weather permitting. But he cautioned that the larger problems would persist.

"So I want to be clear: the potholes are going to be with us for a while," he said.

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that we have left to do is pay the $6,500 fine."

The commission's pipeline safety division enforces federal minimum safety standards for gas pipelines within its jurisdiction in Georgia. The proposed agreement identifies problems involving emergency planning, welding, corrosion prevention, leak repairs, records and pressure protection.

Inspectors alleged that Dawson failed to carry out emergency-plan requirements for coordinating with fire, police and other public officials. They also found that the city lacked a properly recorded, qualified welding procedure and had not ensured that a person welding its steel pipeline was qualified.

Another finding concerned failure to install required excess flow valves on customer service lines.

Six findings involved corrosion control, including inadequate cathodic protection — a system used to help prevent buried steel pipe from corroding. Inspectors cited unsecured test wires, inadequate electrical isolation from metal casings and other buried structures, failure to perform required testing and failure to promptly correct deficiencies.

The agreement also lists failure to promptly repair a hazardous leak, retain required pressure-test records and provide protection against the system exceeding its maximum allowable operating pressure.

It does not identify the hazardous leak's location or explain how long it remained unrepaired.

The proposed settlement credits Dawson with correcting the problems. Its penalty table identifies follow-up inspection reports in which each finding was cleared.

The document says Dawson requested an informal conference with commission staff on Feb. 26, 2025. It leaves the date of the conference itself blank.

During that conference, according to the agreement, the parties agreed that reducing the recommended penalty was in the public interest. The proposed reduction cites the circumstances of the inspection and Dawson's progress toward compliance.

Under the agreement, Dawson would admit no fault or liability and waive its right to a hearing. The settlement would cover only the listed violations, leaving other past or future violations subject to separate action.

The city would have to submit a certified check to the commission within 30 days of commission approval.

The packet copy contains several inconsistencies and unfinished entries. Its first page lists Docket No. 56377, while subsequent page footers list Docket No. 37043. Most references identify Inspection Report AT19-013, but one settlement paragraph names Report JB25-048.

Another paragraph refers to a June 9 "incident investigation" with the year printed as "20258." The conference date appears as "xxxxx," and the unsigned city signature block retains the placeholder "Name and Title."

Those entries leave the inspection chronology and some case identifiers unclear. The packet does not establish whether the reference to an incident investigation concerns an actual gas incident.

Powell did not identify which city fund would cover the payment. Dawson separately approved temporary spending authority through November as officials continue working on a budget for the fiscal year that began Sept. 1.

The council's vote authorizes the $6,500 payment, but the agreement states that the settlement cannot take effect without the Public Service Commission's approval.

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Davenport, addressing the council, laid out the stakes. Dawson is "multiple years behind," she said, and must finish its 2023 audit before moving to 2024 and 2025.

"In order to get state or federal funding, you are going to have to be current on the most current five years," she said. If the 2023 audit is not accepted, she said, "that means you have to have a good audit for '24, '25, '26, '27, and '28 before you'd be eligible for state and federal funding."

"What do the council have to do to speed up the audit?" Councilwoman Iri Pittman asked. "We've been asking for a long time. ... How do we satisfy our public? Because public put us in (office)."

Aaron tied the audits to the city's water lines.

"Until we get those kinds of grants, we cannot do anything with the water lines that we have that's bursting all over the city of Dawson," Aaron said.

The council also received an update on construction at Dawson's wastewater treatment plant and work on the sewer collection system.

A Sept. 14 report from engineering firm Carter & Sloope to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division says equipment for all four secondary clarifiers has been replaced and startup completed.

Installation of new influent pumps was underway, and the contractor had completed underground piping for a new screen and grit structure. Electrical assembly and other improvements remained in progress.

Sewer rehabilitation also continued. The report says contingency funding was being used to clean and inspect additional sewer lines with video equipment, helping identify locations where unwanted water enters the system.

The plant's operations and maintenance manual remained pending. The report references a Dec. 31, 2025, deadline and an expected schedule change but does not provide a replacement date.

In other business, the council extended CareConnect Health's lease of the city's medical office for five years, through Sept. 30, 2031. Monthly rent is $2,944.17.

Council members also approved closing City Hall at 3 p.m. Oct. 16 so employees can leave before streets become congested for the Terrell County High homecoming parade.

Powell said administrative employees had raised concerns about "being blocked in from traffic for the homecoming parade."

The council approved an alcohol license for WMF Industries to store wine for shipment in a warehouse on the south end of Main Street, near the former John Deere location. Aaron described the proposed operation as storage rather than a retail or tasting business.

The council later entered a closed session to discuss litigation, real estate and personnel.

SCHOOL AUDIT
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Security deductions, inadequate documentation supporting compensation to two management-level employees, incomplete equipment records and missing documentation for accounting adjustments.

Harvey said Social Security deductions had been withheld from several employees' pay despite the district having opted out of Social Security years earlier.

"Why was Social Security being withheld from employees when we were not a Social Security district?" she asked. "We were Medicare-only."

When a board member asked where the deducted money had gone, Harvey said the question remained unresolved.

"We can't say one way or the other if monies were being sent to Social Security on their behalf," she said. "We're working on this part. That's all I can say."

Harvey said the district would have to correct the improper deductions and "get those funds back to those employees." She said the practice had not been identified in earlier annual audits.

"These practices were not new, but this was a new team that was looking at things in a different way," she said.

Auditors also identified incomplete equipment records. Four equipment items totaling more than $275,000 were omitted from an equipment listing, Harvey said.

An equipment-tracking finding involved air conditioning units purchased for buses with federal funds. Harvey said auditors visited the bus shop but could not locate one item they requested.

"We still could not put our hands on that item," she said.

Further questioning indicated the item had been disposed of, but the district lacked a record documenting that action.

"That record was not on file in our office," Harvey said.

Harvey also said seven of 25 journal entries reviewed lacked adequate supporting documentation. Those entries record changes in the district's accounts, including corrections to which fund paid an expense. Other findings involved weaknesses in school nutrition purchasing, reimbursement requests and meal reporting.

Harvey said the district remains designated "moderate risk" and expects that status to continue.

The designation concerns financial oversight rather than student achievement. Under the criteria Georgia currently uses, moderate risk identifies systems with reported financial irregularities or budget deficits for one year or two consecutive years. It signals a need for corrective action and closer monitoring; the designation alone does not establish theft or misconduct.

According to the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts, designated districts must submit a board-approved corrective action plan within 60 days of designation, provide monthly anticipated-spending reports for each board member's review and signature, and publish annual financial information. Superintendents also must complete required training.

Harvey said the findings prompted three additional reviews: special education grant spending, federal equipment management involving bus air conditioning equipment, and Medicaid reimbursements.

She linked the special education review to a social worker's salary charged to that program. The federal programs review is expected in January, while the Medicaid review is scheduled for November, she said.

The audit process examines financial records and safeguards. Corrective action plans document how the district will address identified weaknesses and prevent them from recurring.

Harvey described changes already underway, including board-approved salary schedules, printed payroll records and a purchasing process requiring price quotes, approvals and supporting documentation before payments are issued.

Harvey said the district must be able to document what it owes before issuing payments.

"I can't just write a check for a certain amount of money when I don't have the documentation," she said. "It's not that we don't want to pay people. We just have to have documentation."

Harvey asked board members to review the findings and prepare to approve corrective action plans outlining how the district will address the weaknesses. The board discussed those steps Tuesday but did not vote to approve the plans, according to the meeting minutes.

The board's next regular meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Oct. 12 at 761 First Ave. SE in Dawson. Harvey said corrective action plans would come before the board that evening if state auditors had reviewed and approved them in time. Board members also will be responsible for reviewing and signing monthly reports of anticipated spending as the district continues under its moderate-risk designation.

"I just want to make sure you have the right information," Harvey told the board.

Eagles reclaim bragging rights with 24-14 victory

By JOE WHITFIELD
Sports Editor

ALBANY — When Terrell Academy needed one play to stop Deerfield-Windsor's comeback, two Eagle seniors made it happen.

Facing third-and-25 midway through the fourth quarter, quarterback Bryse Peachey escaped the rush and scrambled toward the sideline. With Deerfield-Windsor's Mangham Pippin closing in, Peachey jumped and launched a pass downfield.

Alex Klughart went up over a defender and brought it down.

The spectacular completion gave Terrell Academy a first down at the Knights' 14-yard line and changed the direction of a rivalry game that had begun slipping away.

Walt Lee completed the drive two plays later, powering through the middle for a 9-yard touchdown that helped the Eagles defeat Deerfield-Windsor 24-14 Thursday night at Webb Memorial Stadium's Lowe Field.

The region victory lifted Terrell Academy to 3-3. The game was played one night early because of the threat from Hurricane Isaias.

Peachey provided most of the Eagles' offense and gave Terrell Academy control early. He converted a fourth-and-7 on the opening drive before scoring on a 19-yard run.

After another Deerfield-Windsor punt, Peachey broke free for a 72-yard touchdown on the Eagles' first play. Liam Kelley made both extra points and later drilled a 42-yard field goal, putting Terrell Academy ahead 17-0.

The Knights refused to go quietly.

Maddox Skipper connected with Jack Hallford for an 80-yard touchdown with 21 seconds left before halftime. Deerfield-Windsor then recovered an onside kick to open the third quarter, although the Knights fumbled two plays later.

Deerfield's defense kept applying pressure and stopped Terrell Academy on fourth down at the Knights' 36. Skipper later found Banks Revel over the middle for a long completion to the 1, setting up Turner Simmons' touchdown run.

The extra point cut Terrell Academy's lead to 17-14. That set the stage for Peachey and Klughart.

A personal-foul penalty had pushed the Eagles into third-and-25, but their improvised completion extended the drive. Lee followed with runs of 5 and 9 yards, scoring the touchdown that restored a 10-point advantage with 5:23 remaining.

Deerfield-Windsor was pinned at its 3 following the kickoff. Skipper used short passes to begin moving the Knights, but the Eagles intercepted him to seal the win.

Terrell Academy returns home next Friday to face Calhoun County

Georgia candidates for governor trade attacks

By TY TAGAMI
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — In what was likely to be their only debate before Election Day on Nov. 3, Democrat Keisha Lance Bottoms and Republican Rick Jackson attacked each other and sometimes agreed on policy during a live encounter hosted by Atlanta News First Tuesday night.

Billed as a "town hall," the hourlong matchup (minus commercial breaks) between the gubernatorial candidates featured questions from more than a dozen voters.

A couple of them asked about privacy concerns and Flock cameras. Both candidates said there needs to be more accountability.

Several asked about healthcare, and both Bottoms and Jackson said they would expand Medicaid — Bottoms, fully, in the way that 40 states already have; and Jackson differently, in a way that he said would not lose $4.5 billion, without explaining what that meant or how he would do it.

He had only one minute. That was the format, although occasionally the candidates got extra time to rebut an attack by their opponent.

Jackson went after Bottoms for her handling of public safety when she was mayor of Atlanta and the city was roiled by unrest.

Bottoms targeted Jackson's leadership of his multibillion-dollar healthcare company, claiming it had raided rural hospitals for their doctors.

Jackson did not rebut that. But he did deny her assertion that he had invested in at least four data center construction companies, although he told Macon news station 13WMAZ in April that his investment in one in Texas made him knowledgeable about the issue.

(He counterattacked, saying Bottoms had approved three data centers as mayor. She said she knew only of one, not hyperscale, at Georgia Tech.)

When a woman who had lost her job due to federal budget cuts asked about restoring funding, Bottoms attacked Jackson for saying during the Republican primary that he would govern like President Donald Trump but "with a Southern tone." Jackson responded that he would stand up to anyone, "just like" Gov. Brian Kemp.

Jackson did not elaborate, but Kemp resisted Trump's efforts to overturn Georgia's 2020 election results.

Bottoms also challenged Jackson about his views on federal intervention in the upcoming election.

After a voter, who happened to be a poll manager, asked about "the divisiveness and concerns around the election process," Bottoms said she was alarmed by Trump's rhetoric while Jackson said he thought Kemp had the right approach.

Then, Atlanta News First anchor Rick Folbaum asked a follow-up question that gave an opening to Bottoms. Folbaum asked about a recent request by the Georgia State Election Board for the federal government to declare Georgia's voting system illegal: "Would you be okay with the Justice Department overseeing and getting involved with Georgia elections?"

Jackson said no, unless Kemp felt it necessary.

Bottoms then asserted Jackson had said the National Guard would be called in during the election. (She also said the State Election Board, which sets the rules for voting, had "gone rogue" and was a "disaster.")

Jackson denied he had ever suggested the National Guard should intervene, calling Bottoms' claim "a complete falsehood."

Folbaum gave Bottoms the last word on that.

"He said that the National Guard would be called in," Bottoms said. "You all can pull the tape on that. Maybe he's forgotten that he said it. But he said it."

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported in August that it had obtained an audio recording from a rally in Columbus. The report said Jackson had talked with an attendee who wanted him to ask Trump for federal troops to monitor the election.

"Well, we'll get National Guard — Gov. Kemp is going to watch it for us," Jackson replied.

(The publication embedded the recording in its story and noted that Jackson's campaign subsequently said Jackson never suggested deploying troops at polling places.)

Despite their differences, the two candidates aligned on several issues. Both would pay teachers more. Both would crack down on insurance companies that inappropriately deny care. Both would cut taxes — Jackson more than Bottoms. And both said retraining workers to give them technical skills was a path to higher pay as costs keep rising.

Jackson illustrated the value of those skills by saying that his plumber drives a Mercedes.

Perhaps owing to the limits on time, both candidates sometimes offered vague policy prescriptions.

To address low pay, Bottoms said she would "strongly encourage" companies to pay more.

To reduce the cost of living, Jackson said "there's absolutely things that we can do to lower cost," and then he pivoted to Bottoms' tenure as mayor, blaming her for inflation.

Trump and accusations of extremism were dominant themes in Georgia' s U.S. Senate debate

By TY TAGAMI
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — The first debate between Democratic U.S. Sen. Jon Ossoff and U.S. Rep. Mike Collins, the Republican nominee challenging him, centered on President Donald Trump.

It was also an opportunity for the two opponents to paint each other as dangerous extremists.

The matchup, hosted by Atlanta News First on Thursday night, featured television journalists peppering the two with questions about the economy, healthcare, the Iran war, immigration and other issues.

Unlike Republican gubernatorial candidate Rick Jackson, who tacked more toward Gov. Brian Kemp than the president in a similar clash with Democrat Keisha Lance Bottoms on Tuesday, Collins hewed closely to Trump, defending the president's policies.

Collins, who represents a district between Atlanta and Augusta, painted Ossoff as a liberal extremist who sides with U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders and supports transgender athletes while opposing tax cuts.

"He wants to take control of this country with these weird and dangerous ideas with his radical friends," Collins said.

Ossoff attacked Collins over Collins' son-in-law, who lives on Collins' property and has been posting social media content that promotes white supremacy and borrows from Nazi propaganda.

Ossoff also pointed to reports about former Collins congressional staffers' links to white supremacists, saying Collins had "hired half the Third Reich" and had himself amplified neo-Nazi content online.

When moderator Rick Folbaum asked Collins what he had said to his son-in-law about his online posts and whether Collins would "once and for all denounce white supremacy," Collins blamed Ossoff's attacks for a recent death threat against Collins and his son-in-law that led to the arrest of a man in New York.

Then, Collins said he had "condemned racism, antisemitism, hate. I don't care where the source is and I tell him that too. It's wrong."

Ossoff called Collins a "bigot" and said his proximity to white supremacists should disqualify him from office.

"Imagine running for the U.S. Senate while neo-Nazi propaganda is disseminated to an audience of millions from your home," Ossoff said. "That's Mike Collins."

Ossoff started the debate by criticizing Collins for his ties to white nationalists and also for his "pathetic, childlike devotion" to Trump.

Collins tried to tie Ossoff to Abdul El-Sayed, the Democratic Senate nominee in Michigan who has been critical of Israel's military campaign in Gaza and, as Collins put it, "hates Israel, loves Iran."

When Folbaum asked Ossoff whether he believed Israel had committed genocide, Ossoff, who is Jewish and said he had family in Israel, deferred judgment to the International Criminal Court. But he said he believed Israeli forces in Gaza had "violated the law of armed conflict and international humanitarian law."

Ossoff attacked Collins over the war in Iran, blaming rising fuel costs on Trump and on Collins' support for the president's policies. Collins said Trump had to stop Iran's nuclear ambitions.

Ossoff also attacked Collins over tariffs and their effect on the cost of living.

Collins said he supported an "America first" policy and that the country had "bowed down" to other countries and their tariffs. American "tariffs now are making it fair," he said.

Ossoff shot back: "You just heard Mike Collins say the tariffs are working. Go buy groceries."

The debate also touched on the rising cost of fertilizer, a concern for farmers.

Ossoff blamed the war and tariffs. Collins blamed a reliance on imported fertilizer.

Collins pivoted to Democrats' role last year in the government shutdown, blaming Ossoff for delaying Hurricane Helene relief funding to farmers. Ossoff said he had helped Georgia farmers by meeting repeatedly with India's ambassador to get that country to reduce its tariff on pecans.

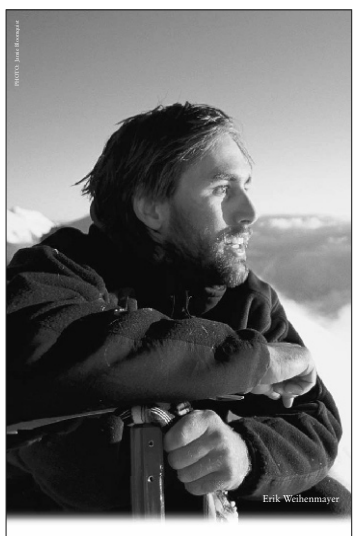
Collins criticized Ossoff and Democrats on immigration policy, saying his Laken Riley Act — the first bill signed by Trump in his second term — had secured the borders. Ossoff blamed the Trump administration's aggressive deportation enforcement for the deaths of American citizens.

Collins blamed Democrats for rising healthcare costs. Ossoff blamed Republicans for cutting Medicaid and for allowing enhanced Affordable Care Act subsidies to expire, saying that a hospital in Collins' district had closed its labor and delivery unit partly due to Medicaid cuts. Ossoff said the Congressional Budget Office had warned that service cuts at rural hospitals could result from passage of Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

Collins blamed the subsidies. "The only people getting rich on these subsidies are our health insurance carriers out there," he said.

In a rare instance of agreement, both suggested that more price transparency could help restrain rising healthcare costs.

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Public notice is hereby given that the Terrell County Planning Commission and the Terrell County Board of Commissioners will conduct public hearings on the following application and said property is hereinafter described:

2026-002: Request for variance on 1.7403 acres belonging to Tammy Walden/Stan Howe, and located in Land Lot 224 in the 12th Land District of Terrell County, Georgia.
The variance is requested by Stan Howe for the purpose of requesting relief of the current zoning ordinance and requirements. The property is located and addressed as 1196 Columbus Highway.

Any additional information on said property or request may be obtained at the Terrell County Zoning Office located at 955 Forrester Drive SE, Dawson, Georgia.

Public notice is hereby given that on the 27th day of October 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at the Terrell County Governmental Building Room #110, the Terrell County Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing pursuant to this request, and at the public hearing will make a formal recommendation to the Board of Commissioners regarding said application.

Public notice is also hereby given that on the 3rd day of November 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Terrell County Courthouse, the Board of Commissioners will conduct a second hearing pursuant to this request and at the public hearing the Board of Commissioners will consider adoption of said application.

Martha Ann Coe
Planning Director
229-995-4410

NOTICE

Upcoming Appointment of Terrell County Board of Equalization:

In accordance with Georgia laws (O.C.G.A. § 45-5-311), the Terrell County Grand Jury is required to appoint members and alternate members to the Terrell County Board of Equalization during the December term of the Superior Court of Terrell County, Georgia.

Any resident of Terrell County having the following qualifications and an interest in serving on the board may nominate himself/herself for appointment by submitting a nomination form as indicated below:

QUALIFICATIONS

(1) Each person who is, in the judgment of the appointing grand jury, qualified and competent to serve on the Board of Equalization, who is the owner of real property, and who is at least a high school graduate, shall be qualified, competent, and interested in serving as a member or alternate member of the board. No member of the governing authority of a county, municipality, or consolidated government; member of a county or independent board of education; member of the county board of tax assessors; employee of the county board of tax assessors; or county tax appraiser shall be eligible to serve as a member or alternate member of the board of equalization.
(2) Within the first year after a member's initial appointment to the board of equalization, each member shall satisfactorily complete not less than 40 hours of instruction in appraisal and equalization processes and procedures, as prepared and required by the commissioner. The failure of any member to fulfill the requirements of this subparagraph shall render that member ineligible to serve on the board; and the vacancy created thereby shall be filled in the same manner as other vacancies on the board are filled. No person shall be eligible to hear an appeal as a member of a board of equalization unless, prior to hearing such appeal, that person shall satisfactorily complete the 40 hours of instruction in appraisal and equalization processes and procedures required by law.
(3) Any person appointed to such board shall be required to complete annually a continuing education requirement of at least eight hours of instruction in appraisal and equalization procedures, as prepared and required by the commissioner. The failure of any member to fulfill the requirements of this subparagraph shall render that member ineligible to serve on the board; and the vacancy created thereby shall be filled in the same manner as other vacancies on the board are filled.

TERM OF OFFICE

Members and alternate members of the Board of Equalization appointed by the upcoming grand jury will serve a 3 year term beginning January 1, 2027 and ending December 31, 2029, unless replacing a member in the middle of a term.

NOMINATION FORM

Please complete an application form that can be received from the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Terrell County, Georgia and either drop it off or mail it as soon as possible so that it may be received by **November 19, 2026** to:
Clerk of Superior Court of Terrell County
P.O. Box 189
Dawson, GA 39842
Please note on front side of the envelope in which the form is mailed the following: ATTENTION: BOARD OF EQUALIZATION
Application forms may be obtained and dropped off at the Superior Court Clerk's office whose physical address is 499 Rountree Drive SW, Dawson, GA 39842

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!
229-469-2677
news@thedawsonnews.com

Tom Johnson



LORAN SMITH

Thomas Wyatt Johnson was a UGA classmate at the Henry Grady College of Journalism in the late fifties. I was living an extraordinarily good life, writing sports for the *Red and Black*, serving as a stringer for the *Atlanta Journal*, and imbibing with the classical and colorful character, Dan Magill.

To tell the truth, I didn't see how life could be any better. This being the pre-family time in my life, I would have been happy if time and circumstances never changed. It was so good that if I could relive it, I'd sign up for an encore before sundown.

Tom's career was all set when he enrolled in his first class at UGA. The *Macon Telegraph* was underwriting the cost of his education, owing to his benefactor, Peyton Anderson. As it turned out, the newspaper paid for his year of graduate study at Harvard.

All he had to do was to graduate, return to Macon and "pay back" his scholarship in service. I sometimes wonder if he had returned to Macon, he might have become publisher and found a way to keep newspapers from folding across the landscape. He was always destined to succeed.

Next thing you know, he is in Washington, D.C., working at the White House with Bill Moyers, who was a boy wonder himself. At the time, I seemed to be making three or four trips to the nation's capital each year, and on one of those trips Tom invited me to have lunch with him one day in the White House staff dining room.

Then I spent time in the press building with the network news reporters and others. I remember seeing Harry Reasoner of CBS taking a nap, snoring quite audibly. I got up the courage to go over to speak to Merriman Smith, celebrated reporter for United Press International, who was from Savannah.

Tom had stashed me there while he was at a meeting and then took me to lunch, which was followed by a private tour, which included a stop at the Oval Office. Lyndon Johnson was president, and had he been present, Tom would have introduced me.

I was prepared to tell LBJ I had spent time in Maxeys, 24.1 miles east of Athens and the ancestral home of his paternal great grandfather. However, he autographed a photo to me, which is now lost in a filing cabinet somewhere.

These scenes and many others flashed back last weekend when Tom came to Athens and spoke to a small group of mostly UGA faculty and friends, which meets quarterly.

Tom reviewed his book, *Driven*—published by the University of Georgia press—which is principally his autobiographical recollections of his time in the White House, highlighted by his being the official note keeper of all LBJ conferences and meetings.

He became a favorite of LBJ ("the son LBJ never had," says Judy Woodruff, who wrote the foreword to Tom's book), and when the Johnsons left Washington and returned to Texas, Tom knew there was opportunity with LBJ—and it wasn't roping cattle and baling hay.

After working in the family communications business, he moved on to the *Dallas Times Herald* as publisher. That led to his next move, which was to LA as publisher of the *Los Angeles Times*. Then he came home.

In 1990, Ted Turner hired him to become President of CNN, and while there is more ahead for this accomplished UGA graduate and passionate Bulldog, he has always been charity oriented, has openly talked about his brush with depression, and supports causes that deal with mental health.

His wife, Edwina, is from Athens, and she was in our wedding. Therefore, we had the opportunity to enjoy seeing them in all locations where they lived, finding them warm, hospitable, and always interesting—to say nothing of the people they cavorted with in a multifaceted career.

I have always enjoyed seeing anyone with UGA training reach exalted heights, and few have risen as far as Tom Johnson. He has always maintained strong feelings for his alma mater. Perhaps there is another book lying in wait.

A long look at our short term thinking



CHARLIE HARPER
GEORGIA POLITICS

Secretary of State Marco Rubio was in Greece last week. He took a long look around.

He looked backward. He looked forward. He looked around at our European Partners. He simultaneously took a long look at us. The speech was designed to make us look inward.

The remarks were wordsmithed to the finest detail. The optics set the Acropolis squarely in focus in the background to punctuate the historical line drawn straight to the present. Choices for direction and ultimately our future were placed in the balance.

One could question the timing of both this speech and dedicating to it a column that is mostly focused on State of Georgia politics just weeks before pivotal midterm elections. Some will note it was Rubio's soft launch of a campaign for 2028. It may be, but that is another topic for another time.

We do have choices to make over the next few weeks. The choices do matter. Elections have consequences.

The Acropolis was constructed about 2,500 years ago. The roots of modern democracy and our western world were planted and cultivated there. They've matured and endured throughout two and a half millennia bringing us to today.

We, a relatively short sighted people, are too often stuck in the present. We take our history and the sacrifices made to get us here for granted, not unlike third generation trust fund kids separated from the hard work, motivations, and necessity that fueled the initial wealth creation.

We have also largely separated ourselves from future consequences of poor present choices. A broad social safety net, bailouts, victimhood, or a lack of personal accountability or shame are all acceptable off ramps from personal or financial failure.

We're living in a time of unimaginable personal wealth and standards of living to even our forefathers a century ago, much less to those of the ancient Greeks. Too many look around at all we have, what have available to us individually and collectively, and only see the problems. They neither see the history nor work it took to get here, nor the systems that have withstood for centuries that have allowed us to stay here – at least, for now.

Our politics have grown short sighted and narrowly focused on ourselves. We want what we have and more. We don't wish to sacrifice to keep it.

America has endured various wars in the last quarter century that most of the country at least tacitly agreed were important. We fought them with all volunteer armed forces. The general public hasn't been asked to sacrifice anything.

As a result, we've grown more and more distant from our military and the consequences of military action, as well as allowing festering inaction around America's major active adversary of the last half century. We're now flailing about with mixed messages to both our allies and enemies as to what our goals are in Iran and the middle east, as well as Russia and Ukraine.

China, for now, has chosen to be eerily silent on Taiwan. The saying "data is the new oil" was meant for Wall Street, as it was primarily used to fuel appetites to finance the tech boom. Taiwan produces about 90% of the world's advanced semiconductors, which are now part of our everyday life and also critical to our defense apparatus. Those who wanted us to keep out of the middle east over oil should be taking a long and critical look at our current reliance on Taiwan.

These are not easy topics. They have weight because the implications and consequences are heavy.

But the speech given by Secretary of State Rubio wasn't one of despair urging us to manage malaise with a stiff upper lip, nor was it one of gleeful platitudes that tell us to cheer up and ignore the pressing challenges we currently face. It was, instead, an appeal to return to greatness.

In noting that "decline is a choice", he instead urged us to choose greatness.

"Too often, these days, we build downwards. We design our standards to ensure that no one will lose. We preoccupy ourselves more with the comfort of the worst than the potential of the best. We hold the most exceptional things among us hostage to the average."

Part of the problem with a never ending campaign cycle is that it is difficult to step back and see the big picture. We have instant online reactions to every event. We have deep partisans and foreign influence operations reacting immediately to any headline of consequence to divide or distract us.

For some, there is big money in being a divisive influencer. For others, there is a long game in destabilizing the world's most successful experiment in freedom to date.

Secretary Rubio gave us the big picture, visually and rhetorically. We – Americans, Europeans, The West, and all who yearn to live freely – have more in common to unite us than what divides us.

We need to take a long look around over the next few weeks before casting our ballots. We must not take what we have for granted. We must instead look for those who will work together to build upwards.

We owe it to 2,500 years of those who built the foundation from which we stand. More importantly, we owe it to the generations who will inherit this from us when it is our time to pass the torch.

No debate on who is the best candidate in upcoming election



DICK YARBROUGH

I hope you saw the debates on Gray Media this past week between gubernatorial candidates Republican businessman Rick Jackson and the Democratic nominee, former Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms. I don't think either one helped or hurt their campaign. Pretty much boilerplate stuff, except when Jackson talked about going to the "gas store." That caused a wince or two. I can see why he isn't going to do any more debates. He's not good at it. Bottoms came across much more polished but then you have to remember she was an in-over-her-head, one-term mayor. She's the best Democrats could come up with?

The senatorial debates were a little more spirited. Incumbent Democrat Jon Ossoff called Republican Cong. Mike Collins a bigot with "ties to white nationalists." Collins said Ossoff was an extremist who voted for men in girls sports," and "a trust fund kid who's never had a job in his life."

Ossoff, who is Jewish, didn't back away from his stance opposing U.S. weapons sales to Israel, saying Israeli forces violated international humanitarian law in the war in Gaza. "I also care about innocent Palestinian life and make no apology for my votes," he said.

At a time when many Republican candidates are treating Donald Trump like the weird uncle who talks too loud and belches too much at family reunions, Mike Collins made no bones about his support for the president, from the war with Iran to his tariff decisions. He is all-in on Trump.

The man behind making the debates possible and then serving as moderator was WANF news anchor Rick Folbaum. He did an outstanding job of keeping things on track, even stopping candidates politely but firmly when they tried to go over their allotted time.

Chris Wallace, with whom Folbaum had worked at Fox News, told him if the headlines the next day were about the moderator, then you had done something wrong. They were not, but his performance is worthy of mention here.

Of course, I can't help but feel some bitter irony here. I could have been on that stage with Jackson and Bottoms or Ossoff and Collins had I started my campaign as a write-in candidate earlier. I had been thinking about running for governor, but no doubt I would make a good senator, too. It really doesn't matter to me. A job is a job.

This is not to say I won't be a formidable candidate come Nov. 3. The groundswell of support has been humbling. From the time I broached the subject of running as a write-in candidate until today, confirmed commitments of support among Georgia voters has soared from 3 to 41. That, my friends, is a 1,226.67 percent increase. That's the good news. The not-so-good news is that to get the additional 2,111,467 votes I would need in order to be elected would require a 5,148,680.49 percent increase. That could be a problem.

Since, due to factors beyond my control, I was unable to speak directly to those 2,111,467 of you who are undecided, let me share with you why I think I am the best candidate for governor/senator (pick one) this November.

First, if elected I will (inhale) Lower 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.)

Second, I don't have an embarrassing idiot of a son-in-law who is a misogynistic racist to deal with. Actually, my son-in-law is pretty smart. After all, he married my daughter. That was pretty smart.

Third, I was never mayor of Atlanta. Had I been, I would not have bailed on the city in its time of need and gone to Washington and gotten a made-up nothing job in the Biden Administration.

Fourth, I promise that if I am running low on fuel, I won't roll down the window and ask where the nearest gas store is.

Finally, if any politician or bureaucrat so much as thinks about drilling in our Okefenokee for titanium dioxide so that the world never runs out of toothpaste whitener, I will slather them in barbecue sauce and toss them in the middle of the swamp at supper time. That's sure to get the alligator vote.

I'm not sure what else the 2,111,467 of you out there need to know. It is obvious that I would make a great governor/senator (pick one.). Of that, there is no debate.

THE DAWSON NEWS
GEORGIA TRUST
— for Local News —

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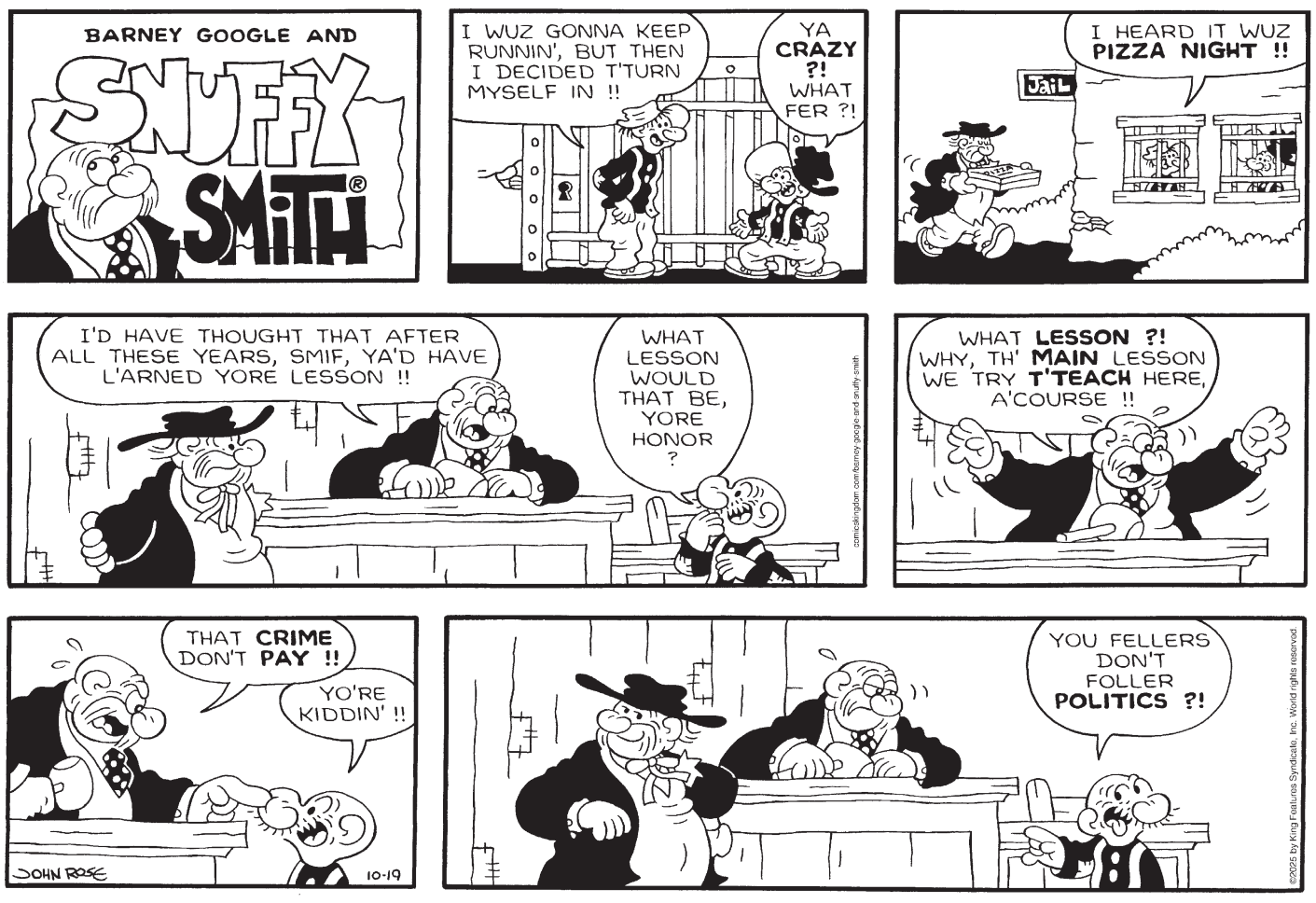
Wm. Thomas Rountree Editor and Publisher
Carl Rountree Editor and Publisher (1946-1985)

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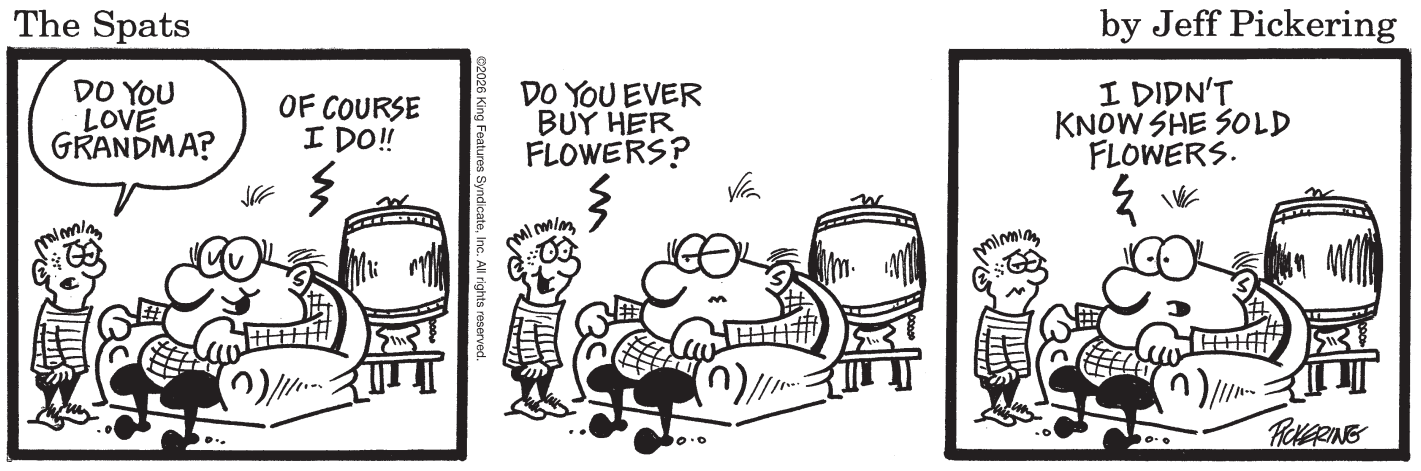
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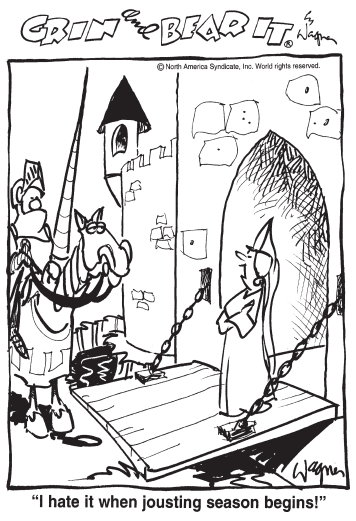


The Spats by Jeff Pickering



Out on a Limb by Gary Kopervas





"I hate it when jousting season begins!"

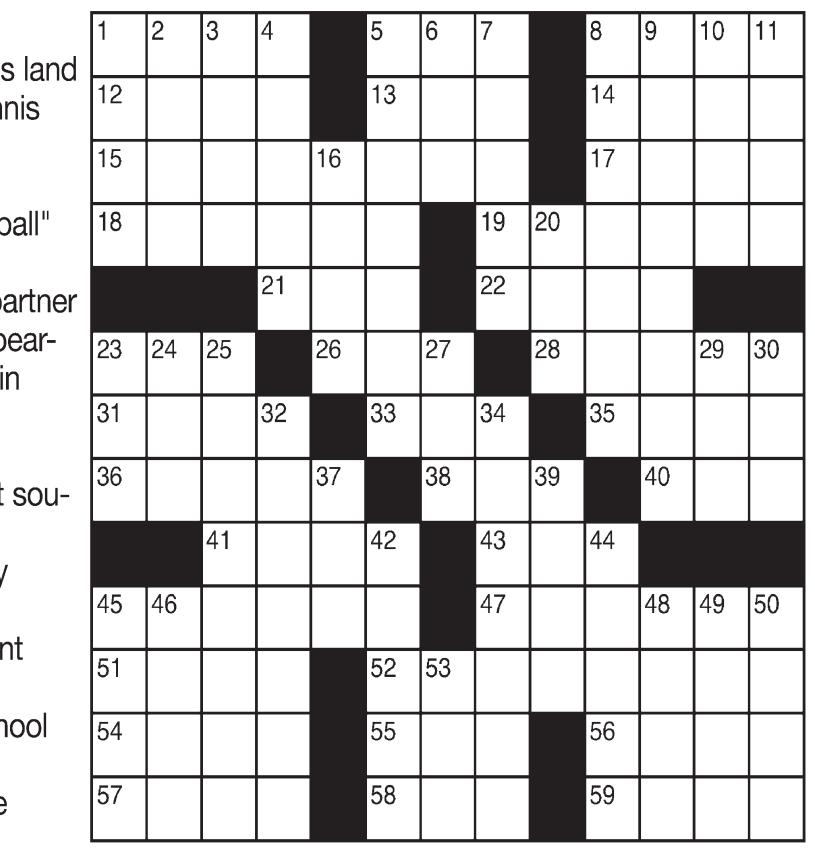
King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Havana's land
5 High tennis shot
8 Pitt of "Moneyball"
12 Spoken
13 Shock partner
14 Shakespearean villain
15 Military groups
17 Bar fight souvenir
18 Order by classes
19 Vehement protest
21 High school subj.
22 Poi base
23 Likely
26 Small battery
28 Cowboy in "Toy Story"
31 Indy winner A.J.
33 Away from SSW
35 Peevish fit
36 Seized vehicles
38 Business mag
40 Punker Vicious
41 Shacks
43 Cyclades isle
45 1912 Olympic legend
47 Relatives of loons
51 Mine, to Marcel
52 Spoofs
54 Dresses in
55 Org. with a style manual
56 Squad
57 Celeb's aide
58 Tummy muscles
59 Young fellows

DOWN

1 Club in a Manilow song
2 Web addresses
3 Sheepish remarks
4 Choir members
5 From Vientiane
6 Personal
7 Make drunk
8 Casual eateries
9 Masked mammals
10 Lab gel
11 "Finding Nemo" fish
16 Killer whale
20 Motor City labor org.
23 Ghana's cont.
24 "The Bells" writer
25 Violent storms
27 Blackbird
29 Nero's 502
30 Since Jan. 1
32 Sightseer
34 Bafflers
37 NASCAR advertiser
39 Business abbr.
42 1965 march site
44 Capital of South Korea
45 "I did it!"
46 Med. plan options
48 — fide (genuine)
49 Oklahoma city
50 Bygone jets
53 Cleric's tunic

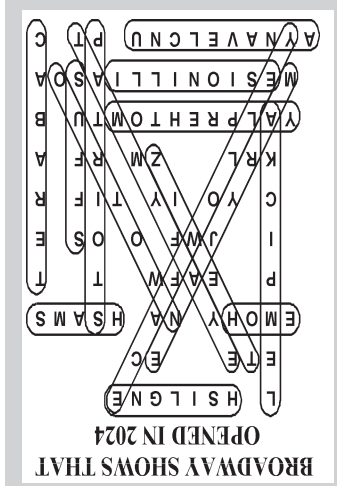


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— King Crossword —

Solution time: 24 mins.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS



MAGIC MAZE ANSWERS

MAGIC MAZE ● SHE'S IN THE MIDDLE

D U R P N K I G D B Z E X V S
S R E H S U Q O M K K Y S R R
I G S F E T C A O I Y E E Y E
W U S L I Q E S V L A H S P H
N L J H L S H E D S S S L N S
F E C A Y E H E H I X I E E A
V U S C A S H E W S Q F H H W
P N M K L S L S R J D S S S H
F E C O A L B Z G Y A E U A Y
X V B B S U T R Q G P O B M L
K I A H R E N E H S E R F G E

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: GUIDES YOU TO YOUR SEAT

Abashedly
Ashen
Ashes
Bedsheets
Bolshevik
Bushels
Cashews
Eggshells
Fishery
Fisheye
Freshener
O'Shea
Seashells
Washers
Wishers

Legals

D-116
SUMMARIES OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS
Pursuant to requirements of the Georgia Constitution, Attorney General Christopher Carr, Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, and Legislative Counsel Betsy Howerton hereby provide the summaries of the proposed constitutional amendments that will appear on the November 3, 2026, general election ballot for consideration by the people of Georgia (short captions are those adopted by the Constitutional Amendments Publication Board):
-1 -
Increases the maximum qualifying acreage for assessment and taxation as bona fide conservation use property.
House Resolution No. 32
Ga. L. 2025, p. 1081
( ) YES
( ) NO
Shall the Constitution of Georgia, for the purpose of protecting family farmland, be amended so as to increase the maximum acreage to qualify for assessment and taxation as a bona fide conservation use property from 2,000 acres to 4,000 acres?"
Summary
This proposal increases the maximum acreage to qualify for assessment and taxation as a bona fide conservation use property from 2,000 acres to 4,000 acres. It amends Article VII, Section I, Paragraph III of the Georgia Constitution, relating to uniformity, classification of property, assessment of agricultural land, and utilities, by revising subparagraph (e)(1).
A copy of this entire proposed constitutional amendment is on file in the office of the judge of the probate court and is available for public inspection.
- 2 -
Provides for the nonpartisan election of all probate court judges.
House Resolution No. 251
Ga. L. 2026, p. 1110
( ) YES
( ) NO
Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended so as to require that all probate court judges be elected in nonpartisan elections?"
Summary
This proposal provides that all probate judges shall be elected in nonpartisan elections. It amends Article VI, Section VII, Paragraph I of the Georgia Constitution, relating to selection and term of office of judges, by revising subparagraph (a).
A copy of this entire proposed constitutional amendment is on file in the office of the judge of the probate court and is available for public inspection.
- 3 -
Authorizes creation of Georgia Next Generation 9-1-1 Fund for 9-1-1 systems expansion, maintenance, and operation.
House Resolution No. 1243
Ga. L. 2026, p. 1109
( ) YES
( ) NO
Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended so as to authorize the General Assembly to dedicate certain existing revenues, including revenues reallocated by law, to a nonlapsing fund to be used exclusively for the expansion, maintenance, and operation of emergency 9-1-1 systems in this state?"
Summary
This proposal authorizes the General Assembly to provide by general law for the creation of the Georgia Next Generation 9-1-1 Fund. It amends Article III, Section IX, Paragraph VI of the Georgia Constitution, relating to appropriations to be for specific sums, by adding a new subparagraph (s).
A copy of this entire proposed constitutional amendment is on file in the office of the judge of the probate court and is available for public inspection.
October 15, 22, 29, 2026

D-123
NOTICE OF INTENT TO VOLUNTARILY DISSOLVE FARMER MUTUAL
Notice is given that Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company ("FMFIC"), an entity organized pursuant to O.C.G.A. §§ 33-16-3 et seq. with its registered office at 567 Cinderella Lane, SE, Dawson, Georgia 39842, intends to dissolve and cease operations. All interested persons with claims against FMFIC or interested persons who object to the dissolution of FMFIC are instructed to submit such claims or objections in writing to FMFIC at the registered office. All claims and objections must be mailed or delivered to FMFIC prior to November 2, 2026.
October 15, 22, 29, November 5 2026

D-120
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
GEORGIA, TERRELL COUNTY
All creditors of the estate of MARTHA SHARON DAVIS, deceased, late of Terrell County, Georgia are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.
This 5TH day of OCTOBER, 2026
STEVEN DANIEL DAVIS, ADMINISTRATOR
MARTHA SHARON DAVIS, DECEASED
1700 JOHN MARTIN ROAD
DAWSON, GA. 39842
October 8, 15, 22, 29, 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
NOTICE
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

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-124
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
GEORGIA, TERRELL COUNTY
All creditors of the estate of **GALE L. HODGINS**, 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 6TH day of OCTOBER, 2026
WYNN D. HODGINS AND CHRISTOPHER J. HODGINS, CO-EXECUTORS
GALE L. HODGINS, DECEASED
ARSLAN MUNAF
2775 CRUSE ROAD NORTHWEST
SUITE 301
LAWRENCEVILLE GA. 30044
October 15, 22, 29, November 5, 2026

D-121
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS
GEORGIA, TERRELL COUNTY
All creditors of the estate of DANNY PHIL JOHNSON, deceased, late of Terrell County, Georgia are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.
This 6TH day of OCTOBER, 2026
DEBORAH LEE JOHNSON, ADMINISTRATOR
DANNY PHIL JOHNSON, DECEASED
COLLIER & GAMBLE, L.L.P.
EDWARD R. COLLIER
P.O. BOX 577
DAWSON, GA. 39842
October 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

Sunday scaries and dorveille: Two short dad stories

THE NEW SOUTHERN DAD



By KYLE DOMINY

For a lot of folks Sunday is a day of rest. Whether taking a long nap after church or vegging out on the sofa watching football, most people spend the day relaxing.

This, of course, doesn't apply to retail workers whose schedule can creep into any day of the week, even nights; or the retired, depending on their health and mobility, who may be homebound. For example, my nonagenarian grandfather is probably taking a nap right now.

I have it on great authority that some of the rudest customers come to town on Sunday afternoons. You are just as likely to get a cussing from someone with Reverend in front of their name as from anyone else. Everyone has their bad days, but you can really get to know people standing in line at restaurants and grocery stores.

But Sundays can bring on other, more unpleasant emotions. Called the Sunday scaries, the slow paced afternoon of the Sabbath day can evoke feelings of anxiety and dread. Neck deep in the school year, the Sunday scaries are a real thing in my house.

Sunday afternoons are often met with an impending sense of doom, mainly from my son, as a new week creeps closer and closer. For some reason he thinks he must cram a lifetime's worth of relaxation and thrill seeking in one and half days and having to return to the classroom resets everything.

We're working on some coping mechanisms, because, as I've told him, it only gets worse as you get older. Many days I'd rather go back to school, as bad as I hated it, than go to work.

In Colson Whitehead's famed crime novel "Harlem Shuffle," the main character is pulled between two worlds.

The protagonist is trying to be a legit businessman, running a furniture store in the historic New York neighborhood. However, making ends meet on the up and up isn't easy, and past

connections and serendipitous encounters take him down shady paths.

These less than upright endeavors, as a lot of criminal activity does, occur after nightfall. To juggle his priorities, the character, Ray Carney, takes up the practice of dorveille, or second sleep. The idea comes from pre-electricity days, when people went to bed at dark. After a few hours of rest they got up and took care of tasks like record keeping, accounting and the like before going back to bed to rise with the sun and go back to work.

To keep his family in the dark, Carney "settles his accounts" in the dark, rising the midnight hour to orchestrate his schemes. The second sleep becomes a major theme of the book. You should read it sometimes.

I was reminded of the passages recently when I was awakened by a rattling pipe. The noise only sounded at night, and it took me a couple of days to pinpoint the source. It was a leaky toilet valve.

I haven't fixed it yet, but I plan on doing it in the daytime.

DID YOU KNOW...?

Who said it?

By JACK BAGLEY
GTLN

Did you know...

... who said "Keep your friends close, but your enemies closer"? The quote is attributed to the ancient Chinese scholar Sun Tzu (544 BC-496 BC). Known for his work The Art of War, which is still studied by military forces today, Sun Tzu said a lot of noteworthy things - but this isn't one of them. In fact, the quote comes from the 1974 movie The Godfather Part II, and was spoken by the character of Michael Corleone, played by actor Al Pacino (born 1940). (It's good advice, regardless of the source.)

... who said "Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result"? This popular one is said to have been uttered by physicist Albert Einstein (1879-1955), but there is no definitive proof he ever said it or wrote it. In fact, nobody is sure where the comment comes from. (But it's right.)

... who said "Well-behaved women rarely make history"? Many people think that line came from actress Marilyn Monroe (1926-1962), and it would have been most appropriate if indeed it had. But it didn't. The line was actually uttered in 1976 by Laurel Thatcher Ulrich (born 1938), a historian. Her work specialized in early America and the history of women, so she should know. (And how.)

... who said "If you can dream it, you can do it"? This line is said to have been the mantra of Walt Disney (1901-1966). However, there's no actual record of Disney himself saying it. The quote comes from the Disney organization, but it was crafted long after Walt's death. (Maybe the mouse said it.)

... who said "I disapprove of what you say but I will defend to the death your right to say it"? You might think it was the French writer Voltaire (born François-Marie Arouet, 1694-1778), or possibly Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826). You'd be wrong in either case. The line was actually written in 1906 by Evelyn Beatrice Hall (1868-1956), a British writer and biographer of Voltaire. She wrote it while summarizing his attitude toward free speech. (I many not agree with who said it, but will ... uh ... never mind.)

... who said "We are not amused"? This classic is attributed to Queen Victoria of the United Kingdom (1819-1901). The pure ice of the line is enough to freeze the worst attempt at humor in its tracks ... but Her Majesty herself denied ever saying it, and no written record of the words exist. Nobody knows where the line actually came from, but it probably was derived from her almost humorless image. (We are not ... whatever.)

... who said "The death of one man is a tragedy; the death of millions is a statistic"? This rather dark thought is said to have come from Soviet leader Joseph Stalin (1878-1953) but, again, nowhere in his speeches or writings does Uncle Joe ever say it. People who study such things say the words more likely stem from mid-20th Century German writers and satirists. (Truth comes from many angles.)

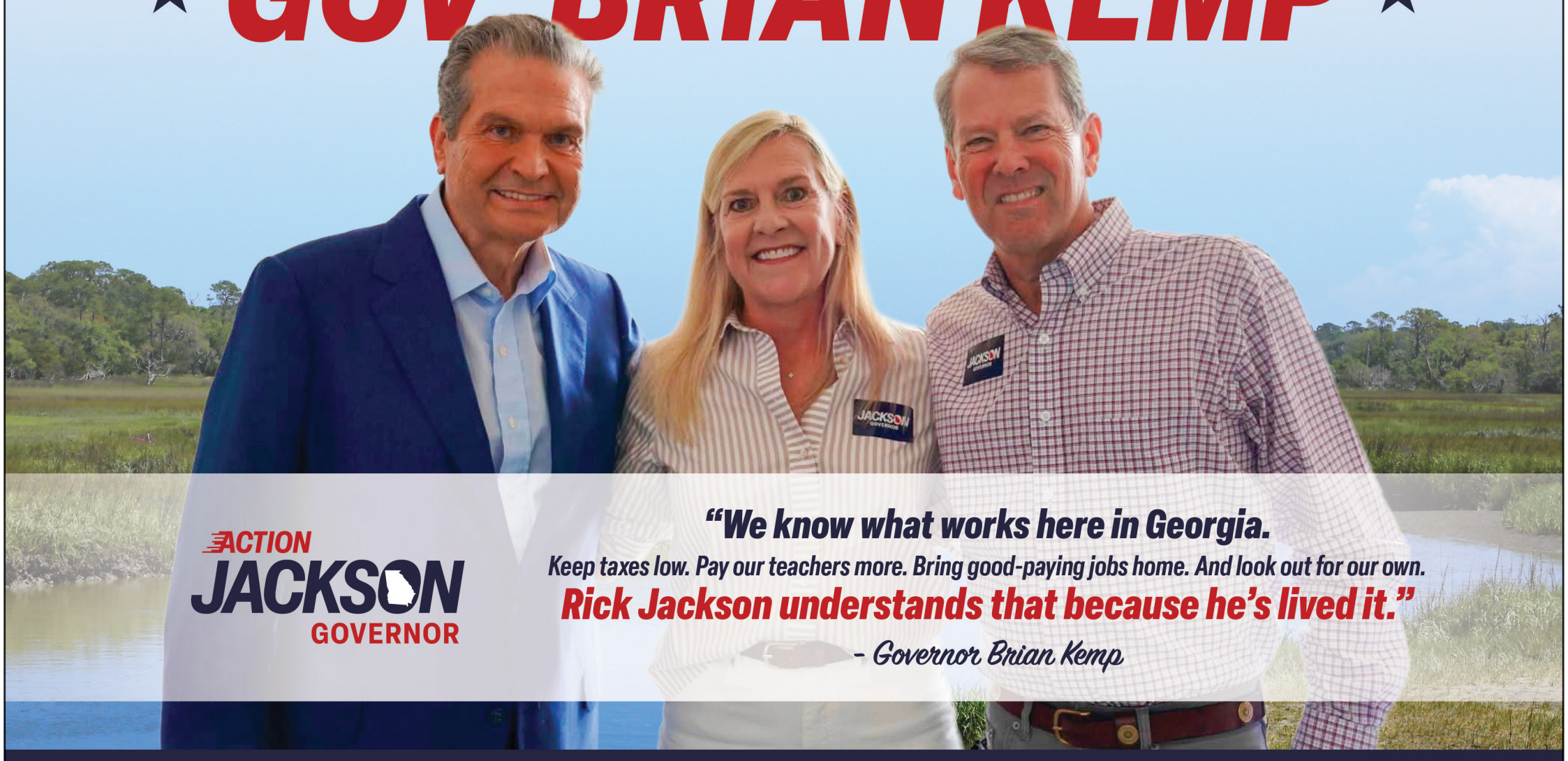
... who said "You can never cross the ocean unless you have the courage to lose sight of the shore"? Well, I can tell you who didn't say it, though it is attributed to him - Christopher Columbus (1451-1506). The words appear nowhere in his writings. They do appear, however, in the writings of the man who actually said them, André Gide (1869-1951) a French author. (I don't cross oceans. I can't swim.)

... who said "Good artists copy; great artists steal"? If you've been following the theme of the column, you know it wasn't Pablo Picasso (1881-1973), the famous Spanish painter and sculptor who is said to have said it. The idea of the quote comes from numerous artists throughout time, but exactly who codified it in those words is not known. (Great writers do the same thing. Good thing I'm not a great writer.)

... who said "History is written by the victors"? Most people who are familiar with the line think it came from Sir Winston Churchill (1874-1965), Prime Minister of the United Kingdom during most of World War II. But the saying is much older than Churchill, reaching back into the 19th Century. While he may not have said it, he certainly lived it. (With great aplomb, I might add.)

Now... you know!

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5 Keep Georgia families safe

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