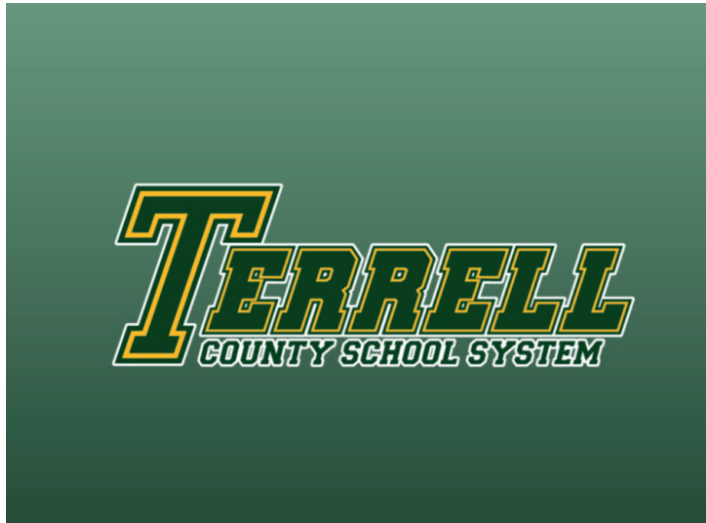


Terrell Co. BOE requests special meeting to review finances



The Terrell County School Board recently held its October meeting/File Photo

STAFF REPORTS

The Terrell County Board of Education requested a special meeting to review district finances in detail after receiving an update on contracted services with accounting firm Mauldin & Jenkins during its Oct. 12 meeting.

Superintendent Shereca Harvey reviewed the status of those services, along with upcoming events, training and conferences, according to meeting minutes. Board members requested the financial review before their next work session, scheduled Nov. 3.

The minutes do not specify a date for the called meeting or identify particular financial issues the board plans to examine.

The board also honored former

Dawson News editor and Publisher Tommy Rountree with its Terrell Way Impact Award, recognizing his decades of coverage of local students, educators and high school sports.

The newspaper remained in the Rountree family for 79 years before he donated it to the Georgia Trust for Local News upon his retirement in 2025.

His father, Carl Rountree, purchased The Dawson News on Feb. 1, 1946. Tommy Rountree joined the newspaper in 1976 and took over as editor and publisher after his father's death in 1985, leading the weekly for the next four decades.

Rather than put the newspaper on the market when he retired, Rountree donated it to the Trust to help contin-

ue local coverage of Dawson and Terrell County.

"It's important for a community like ours to have a weekly newspaper," Rountree told The Albany Herald in April 2025.

In recognizing Rountree, the school district credited his reporting with bringing public attention to the accomplishments of Terrell County students and educators.

In personnel actions, the board unanimously approved 10 hires effective Oct. 13, including four substitutes, three school nutrition workers, two paraprofessionals and a parent facilitator.

TERRELL BOE
Continued on page 2



The Lady Eagles of Terrell Academy stand with the GIAA state championship banner after beating John Milledge Academy Saturday in Columbus to win the state championship in Class AAA girls softball. The Lady Eagles went unbeaten through the tournament and finished the season with a 16-7 record/Special Photo: Dennis Roadan, Columbus Ledger-Enquirer

Unbeaten, undeniable: Terrell Academy Lady Eagles claim the state softball title

By JOE WHITFIELD
Sports Editor

COLUMBUS — This time, Terrell Academy finished the climb.

One year after falling in the state championship game, the Lady Eagles captured the GIAA Class AAA softball title Saturday, overpowering John Milledge Academy 13-5 at the South Commons Softball Complex.

Terrell Academy turned a one-run deficit into a commanding lead with 11 runs across the third and fourth innings, completing an unbeaten march through the tournament and finishing its championship season 16-7.

For head coach Ashley Walker, the breakthrough came in his second season. His first ended with a runner-up finish against Westfield. His second

ended with the Lady Eagles holding the title.

Getting there required Terrell Academy to beat the dynasty, then stop the team that finished dismantling it.

The Lady Eagles knocked off nine-time defending champion Westfield 8-7 Friday to advance to the final. John Milledge subsequently eliminated the Lady Hornets, completing a four-game winning streak through the elimination bracket that also included victories over Central Fellowship, Vidalia Heritage and Deerfield-Windsor.

Saturday, Terrell Academy brought that surge to a halt.

John Milledge briefly held the upper hand when Emmerson Thomas

doubled home the game's first run in the top of the third inning.

In the bottom half, the Lady Eagles made the Lady Trojans defend — and made every mistake count.

Two hits, two walks and four errors produced five Terrell Academy runs. A sacrifice bunt and a sacrifice fly helped move runners and manufacture offense, while one error allowed two runs to score.

By the end of the inning, the Lady Eagles had turned a 1-0 deficit into a 5-1 lead.

Then their bats took over.

Terrell Academy struck for six runs on five hits in the fourth, stringing together the kind of inning that puts a

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP
Continued on page 2

County, state, federal offices in Nov. 3 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, 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, Re-

ELECTION
Continued on page 5

New generation takes the field in Southwest Georgia

By KATHRYN CROCKETT
Staff Reporter

Before the children could compete with a bird dog, they had to learn to notice what the animal could not tell them: a sore foot, a change in drinking habits, a small spot of blood that might otherwise go unseen.

At Daniels Kennels on Saturday, the lessons moved from checking dogs' feet to tying knots, giving horses room and handling a loss. Professional trainers were teaching young people how to compete in field trials — and the daily responsibilities that come with a sport built around animals.

"They can't tell you what's wrong with them, so you have to really pay attention," trainer Jamie Daniels told the children.

The Oct. 17 training and handling clinic near Dawson was part of an effort to bring more young people into a sporting tradition with deep connections to southwest Georgia's bird dogs, horses and quail country. As youth field trials reach new communities, organizers are working to turn an introduction outdoors into lasting participation.

"It's growing every year,"

FIELD TRIALS
Continued on page 2

Breezy Hill Blades celebrates ribbon-cutting in Dawson

STAFF REPORTS

Community members gathered Oct. 2 to celebrate Breezy Hill Blades LLC, a custom knife business owned by local resident and retired school principal Eddie Owens.

The ribbon-cutting took place at the Terrell County Chamber of Commerce, 211 W. Lee St., with knives displayed on tables around the gathering.

"We were thrilled by the huge turnout, and Eddie Owens was so grateful for the community's support," the chamber wrote in a Facebook post following the event.

Owens creates custom handmade knives with Damascus steel blades and handles made from materials selected from countries around the world, according to the chamber. His selection includes pocket knives, fillet knives, hunting and skinning knives, oyster knives and ulu knives, a traditional Arctic style.

Handle materials include deer, stag, sheep, ram and buffalo horn, along with camel bone and burl woods. Some wooden handles are bookmatched, with matching grain patterns on both sides of the knife.

"Every piece is one of a kind," the chamber said.

For information or to order a custom knife, call Owens at (229) 938-3012 or email eddieedgewood@gmail.com.



Eddie Owens holds a knife and the cut ribbon as community members celebrate the opening of Breezy Hill Blades LLC on Oct. 2 at the Terrell County Chamber of Commerce in Dawson. The retired school principal creates custom handmade knives/Photo Courtesy of Terrell County Chamber of Commerce



Terrell Retired Educators meet at county library



From left, Terrell Retired Educators Joyce Barfield, Kathy Hicks, Lee Geer, Evelyn Fillingame and Cindy Carlson took part in the group’s recent meeting/SPECIAL PHOTO

STAFF REPORTS

The Terrell Retired Educators met on Oct. 5 at the Terrell County Library. President Evelyn Fillingame called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Seven members were present.

Co-Chaplain Donice White gave the inspirational moment, focusing on a “Safe Harbor in Jesus.” She closed with prayer. Co-Secretary Joyce Barfield read minutes from the group’s April 27 meeting, and the Aug. 18 Area 1 and Area 2 District meeting held at Albany Technical College. There were 107 members in attendance. GREA President Sallie Mills introduced her project to give to The American Diabetes Association. Her theme for this year is “Sound the Trumpet for Fellowship, Service and Support.”

State Retired Educators Day is Nov. 1. This is a time to honor retired educators in the community. The group’s next meeting is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Nov. 5 at the Terrell County Library.

OBITUARIES



Jane Forrester Wooten Waller

SHELLMAN - Jane Forrester Wooten Waller, 81, of Shellman, Ga. died on Friday, Oct. 16, 2026, at her residence.

Graveside funeral services were conducted at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 18, 2026, in the Shellman Eastview Cemetery with Rev. Chet Anderson officiating. The family will receive friends from 2 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. in the Shellman First Baptist Church Bethea Building.

Jane was born on Oct. 16, 1945, in Cuthbert, Ga. the daughter of the late Council Brooks Wooten and the late Jane Forrester Wooten. She held a bachelor’s degree and retired from Randolph Southern School after teaching for over 50 years and was a member of the Shellman First Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by her parents, and son, Douglas “Doug” Wayne Waller.

Survivors include her daughter, Deirdre (Bubba) Casey of Leesburg, brother, Jim (Kay) Wooten of Mountain Brook, Ala., three grandchildren, Jennifer (Tim) Spencer, Jack Shumate, and Bentley (Colby) Deese and five great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the Rehoboth Ranch P.O. Box 208 Morgan, GA 39866. LUNSFORD FUNERAL HOME, CUTHBERT, GA 229/732-2148.

Martha Hayes Martin

Martha Hayes Martin, of Dawson, Ga., a resident of Charleston, S.C., passed away on Oct. 6, 2026, in Charleston, S.C. She was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Walter Martin of Dawson, Ga. Arrangements by J. Henry Stuhr Funeral, Inc. - Downtown Chapel.



Judge David B. Irwin

Judge David B. Irwin, 70, died on Oct. 11, 2026. A loving husband and father, he devoted his life to his family, his community and the law.

The son of Anne Gordon Irwin and John Richard Irwin III, David grew up in Dawson, Georgia, where he delivered newspapers and worked in a peanut processing factory.

He earned his undergraduate degree from North Georgia College and his Juris Doctor from Mercer University. He served as an intern to U.S. Senator Sam Nunn and became the first full-time public defender in Conyers, Georgia. He also served in the Georgia House of Representatives from 1991 to 1992.

After years in private practice, David was elected to the Superior Court of Rockdale County in 1998, where he served as Chief Judge before retiring in October 2020. Following his retirement, he continued serving as a Senior Judge in counties throughout the greater Atlanta area.

Beyond his work, David was an avid reader, a beekeeper, a devoted Atlanta Braves fan, and a Sunday school teacher. Above all, he cherished his family and his life as a husband, father, and grandfather.

He is survived by his wife, Lisa Tucker Irwin; his son, John Tucker Irwin (Maya Bhat); his daughter, Whitney (Jeffrey) Buss and their two children, Burton and Annie Vaughn; his siblings, Wellborn Irwin (Jay Moore), John Richard (Judy) Irwin IV, Barry Irwin, and Chris Irwin; and his six step siblings, Virginia (Mike) Bradley, Darrellyn Rozsypal, Juanita (John) Cruz, Darrell (Maray) Durham, Joe (Penny) Durham, and Mary (Wally) Binns.

He will be remembered with love by his family and with gratitude by the community he served.

Memorial service was held Saturday, Oct. 17, 2026, at 1 p.m. at St. Simons Episcopal Church. The family will receive friends Friday, Oct. 16, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

TERRELL BOE

Continued from page 1

The new hires were Kristal Bland, Shaniya Coleman, Stephanie Moon and Beverly Smith as substitutes; Mia-ta Clark, Cortney Robinson and Kawajalein Whittaker as school nutrition workers; Corey McKinney and Brittany Smith as paraprofessionals; and Lak-ietha Flowers as parent facilitator.

The board also unanimously approved parent facilitator Latoya Smith-Johnson’s resignation and school nutrition worker Franklin Harris’ termination, both listed as effective Oct. 1. Chairman Ray Moses, Vice Chairman Michael Oxford and members Albert Crumbley and Mellean Davis attended. John Gardner was absent.

The board’s next scheduled work session is Nov. 3 at 6 p.m., followed by its regular meeting Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. Both are scheduled at the board office, 761 First Ave. SE in Dawson.

FIELD TRIALS

Continued from page 1

Chris Mathan, a director of the Youth Field Trial Alliance, which sponsored the clinic, said.

The alliance reports that youth trials expanded or gained recognition during the past season in Connecticut, North Carolina, Tennessee, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Oklahoma, with Wisconsin among the areas preparing to join. It identifies Alabama, southwest Georgia and north Florida as places where youth participation has taken a strong hold.

That expansion comes with a challenge: The broader field trial community is aging, the organization says. Bringing children into the sport is central to its future.

The growth has a local example. A spring 2026 feature in Magnolia and Moonshine magazine reported 28 entries at a recent youth trial near Albany, the largest youth event that club had hosted. That account and the alliance’s expansion into more states point to growing opportunities for children, even as organizers work to recruit the next generation.

For trainer Tommy Rice, who grew up in Thomasville and now lives south of Albany, there is room for people whose families have never participated.

“There’s no doubt about it, we need a lot of new people, and there’s room for all,” Rice said.

Launched in 2019 and granted nonprofit status in 2023, the alliance supports youth participation nationwide. Its leadership includes Mathan, Claudia McNamee and Allison Daniels, an Albany financial adviser who lives in Dawson with her husband, Jamie, and their children. The organization says more than 50 volunteer ambassadors support its work.

Saturday’s clinic brought that effort to a working kennel. The program listed Jamie Daniels, Rice, Tracy Swearingen and Squire Lee as instructors, with young handlers rotating among four teaching stations. Participants were told to leave their own dogs and horses at home.

The morning offered an introduction to the work behind a competition, from preparing equipment to understanding what judges watch.

In pointing dog field trials, dogs search for birds and hold a point when they locate them. Handlers guide their dogs on foot or horseback, depending on the event. Judges evaluate the dogs’ work, including their ability to find birds, cover ground and respond to handling.

The horse and handler are part of that performance. Rice explained that the direction a horse faces can help tell a dog where to go. A handler’s voice can keep the dog connected even when they are some distance apart.

“All you’re doing is letting your dog know where you are,” he said.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Continued from page 1

championship within reach.

Blakely Aultman drew a bases-loaded walk to force home a run. Hadley Webb followed with an RBI single, and Michaela Zingarelli delivered the biggest hit of the inning, a single that brought three runners home. Jaelynn Oliver added another run-scoring single.

The Lady Eagles finished with 10 hits and five walks, generating offense throughout the lineup. Zingarelli went 2-for-2 from the No. 7 spot, while Aultman finished 1-for-2 with three RBIs. Aultman and Kacy Sheffield each drew two walks.

Caroline Presley supplied the pitching performance to carry that support through five innings. The right-hander allowed

five runs, four earned, on 11 hits, striking out two and walking one. Her defense also turned a double play.

John Milledge starter Payton Pounds allowed eight runs, only three earned, over three innings. Brooklyn Baxley led the Lady Trojans at the plate with a 3-for-3 performance, and Izzy Santarone added two hits.

But John Milledge’s long road through the bracket ended against a Terrell Academy team that never needed a second chance.

The Lady Eagles stayed out of the elimination bracket, beat the defending champions and won the final by eight runs.

A year after coming one victory short, Terrell Academy left Columbus with nothing left to chase.

At his station, children took roles in a demonstration of what happens when one dog points and another stops in response, known as backing. Rice walked them through when to approach, when to wait and how to communicate with the other handler before flushing a bird.

The exercise required them to think about another competitor’s dog as well as their own. Acting too soon could interfere with someone else’s work.

“Respect everybody that’s out there,” Rice said. “Respect other people’s dogs.”

Those expectations extended to the people watching. At the horse-care station, participants learned to leave room between mounts and keep a path open for scouts helping handlers locate their dogs. Spectators, known as the gallery, also had to pay attention.

Allison Daniels compared the spacing between horses to leaving enough distance between cars.

“We want everybody to have a good time,” she said. “We want everybody to be safe, and part of that is you paying attention to the people in front of you.”

Children practiced knots and watched demonstrations of saddle equipment and hoof care. In another session, they practiced moving through cover to flush birds and returning their attention to the dog.

For Jamie Daniels, the instruction began well before a dog entered a trial.

He described a daily routine of checking kennels, water consumption and signs of illness, then inspecting dogs after exercise. A dog eager to work, he explained, might not make an injury obvious.

Daniels recalled finding a small spot of blood on a dog’s foot before a national championship. Closer inspection revealed a stick embedded in the foot. The experience illustrated why a handler must look beyond whether a dog appears willing to run.

He also talked about raising puppies and helping them become comfortable around people. Children were encouraged to give treats to the dogs, spreading their attention beyond a favorite puppy.

“We’re training them; they gotta like people,” Daniels said.

The kennel lesson connected the excitement of working with a young dog to the obligation of caring for it as it grows older. Daniels reminded participants that the work continues after the newness wears off.

For organizers, that steady involvement is one of the sport’s educational strengths. A child has to observe an animal, recognize what it needs and learn how personal decisions affect its performance and well-being.

“They all learn so much from each other,” Allison Daniels said. “And the things I feel like they can learn

in the outdoors is the most beautiful thing about it.”

The learning also crosses generations. During the clinic, Mathan pointed to the range of ages involved and the relationships between children and their grandparents. Adults who have spent years handling dogs were explaining skills the children could practice themselves.

The alliance’s own leadership reflects those connections. Allison Daniels grew up attending field trials; her father, David Williams, is a Field Trial Hall of Fame inductee. Jamie Daniels breeds, trains and handles pointers and manages quail plantation properties in southwest Georgia.

Mathan, whose background includes photography and design, has documented field trials around the country. She now lives in Pavo, near Thomasville, and oversees the alliance’s marketing and communications.

The challenge is making a familiar world accessible to people outside it. Rice said families often learn about field trials through previous generations, but he encouraged newcomers to contact participants and experience a trial.

Sallie McHugh, a parent at the clinic, described a different route into the sport. She teaches, her husband farms, and the family began participating about four or five years ago as a hobby. Her daughter’s interest brought together two things she enjoyed: horses and dogs.

The alliance emphasizes mentorship as a way to help that interest develop. Mathan urged experienced participants to include young people when working dogs, involve them in clubs and give them responsibilities at trials.

“You have to do it to learn, and much of that learning comes from making mistakes,” she said.

Rice’s instruction made room for those mistakes. He explained how to prepare a tracking collar, carry water, watch the clock and show a dog’s good work to a judge. He also reminded the children that a competition does not always end with the result they want.

Judges consider a range of qualities, he said, and handlers cannot control every opinion. They can decide how they treat their animals, their opponents and themselves afterward.

“If they do what I want them to do, I’m happy with them, no matter what the judges think,” Rice said of his dogs.

For children learning a sport, he offered a measure of success they could carry home whether they won or lost.

“If you’re happy with your dog, that’s the most important thing,” he said. “Just go home, work on your weaknesses to make them your strengths.”

COMMUNITY NEWS

Feeding the Valley Food Giveaway

Feeding the Valley Food Bank will host a giveaway at S & S Personal Care Home, 475 Cinderella Lane, Dawson, GA 39842. To help ensure smooth traffic flow, please note the following: enter on Cinderella Lane, exit on Crawford Street. The next giveaway will be Oct. 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Toys For Tots

Calling all churches, businesses, civic organizations, schools, county and city offices in Dawson, Bronwood, Parrott, and Sasser. Toys For Tots Terrell County needs you. We need your donations, warehouse space, volunteers, and toy drop off locations. If you would like to help our community and ensure no child goes without toys and books this Christmas, please call (229) 234-1185 or email terrell.county.ga@toysfortots.org

Toys For Tots Applications

Applications are open for families. Toys For Tots is here to help make the holidays brighter for children in need. For more information, call (229) 234-1185 or email terrell.county.ga@toysfortots.org

RELIGION DIGEST

Rehoboth Baptist Church Homecoming

You are invited to homecoming at Rehoboth Baptist Church in Shellman, Ga. Former Pastor Joe Poitivint will bring our message, and lunch will be provided after our regular service. We would love to have you join us. For information, you may call Morris Monkus at 229-288-3144.

DID YOU KNOW...?

Did the world almost come to an end in 1989?

By JACK BAGLEY
GTLN

Well, since we now know who said what (check last week’s column if you don’t know what I’m talking about), it’s time to get back to the real business here - sharing incredible trivia. Also, be on the lookout for some classic Halloween costume ideas. I might actually go to a party this year. Imagine that, me getting out and partying. On second thought, don’t imagine it. The picture is too unsettling. Here’s what we should be doing ... sharing the trivia. Enjoy, friends!

Did you know ...
... the pilot of the bomber which dropped the first atomic bomb used in wartime had no regrets about the mission? Colonel Paul Tibbets (1915-2007) was at the controls of the *Enola Gay*, a B-29 Superfortress, which dropped the atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima, Japan, on August 6, 1945. To the end of his life, Tibbets said he had no regrets and never lost a single night’s sleep about the mission. Additional trivia note: Tibbets was concerned about his gravesite or headstone being a focus for anti-war or anti-nuclear protesters following his death. So he was cremated, and his ashes were spread across the English Channel.

... swimming trunks for men did not appear until the 1930s? Prior to that decade, men wore swimsuits that had a top as well as a bottom. In 1932, the first “detachable” top for a men’s swimsuit, the “Topper,” was introduced. Under the law at the time, however, men who chose to remove the top were often charged with indecent exposure. The laws were relaxed during the latter part of that decade, and swim trunks without a top began to be offered. (And today many men swim with a t-shirt. Go figure.)

... the Pentagon has twice the number of bathrooms it needs? Headquarters of the United States Department of Defense in Arlington, Virginia, the Pentagon was constructed in 1941 and opened in 1943. At that time, the state of Virginia still enforced segregation laws, and whites and blacks were required to use separate restroom facilities. So the building was designed and built with twice the number of bathrooms it needed. Additional trivia note: Due to those ridiculous, discriminatory laws, the Pentagon also has twice the number of water fountains it should have.

... the world almost ended in 1989? On March 22 of that year, an asteroid named Asclepius crossed the orbit of the Earth, undetected by science. In fact, Asclepius wasn’t even discovered until nine days later, after it had passed by. The big mountain-sized rock came within 500,000 miles of Earth, and if it had hit our world the consequences would have been catastrophic. Asclepius is several times larger than the meteor that wiped out the dinosaurs. The most amazing part of the whole thing is ... Earth had occupied the spot where Asclepius crossed its orbit only eight hours earlier. Even if we had known about it, there would have been nothing we could have done. (I am glad we didn’t know about that in advance, myself.)

... a species of shrimp has evolved aluminum armor to protect itself? Found in the Marianas Trench in the Pacific Ocean, the deepest place on Earth, the species *Hirondella gigas* has evolved a protection from the crushing pressure of seven miles of water above it – an exoskeleton made primarily of aluminum. The little crustacean has evolved a way to draw the metal from the sediment of the ocean floor and cover itself with it, keeping the incredible weight of the ocean from crushing it out of existence. (Wonder how they taste?)

... “foreign accent syndrome” is a real disorder? The disorder is found in some patients of recent brain trauma. It causes a change in the patient’s speech so that it sounds as if they are speaking with a foreign accent, much different than their natural speech pattern from before the trauma. Oddly, in most cases, the sufferer does not speak another language fluently enough to trigger the accent. The good news is, in most cases the effect is not permanent. (Und zen vhat?)

... one of Jupiter’s moons has more water than all of Earth’s oceans combined? Europa, discovered in 1610 by Galileo Galilei (1564-1642), is a small moon orbiting Jupiter. It is slightly smaller than Earth’s Moon and covered in ice. Beneath that ice, scientists say, lies an immense ocean with more water than all of our oceans combined. We have no idea how deep the water goes, and even less of an idea if anything lives in it. But Europa is considered the best place in the Solar System to look if we’re trying to find extraterrestrial life. (E.T., phone Europa.)

... a dog in Colombia has figured out the monetary system? Bear with me a moment. A dog named Blackie, who lives at the Diversified Technical Education Institute of Monterrey Casarne, observed the habits of students using money to buy food. One day the dog decided to try it for himself – he brought a leaf into the store and sat wagging his tail. Store staff figured out what Blackie was doing, and gave him a cookie in exchange for the leaf. This happened in 2018, and the dog has been coming into the store almost every day since with a leaf to get his cookie. The staff of the store limits the dog’s purchases to one or two a day, to prevent the leaf’s value from being hit by inflation (and to protect Blackie’s waistline from another kind of inflation). (Good boy. Very good boy.)

Now... you know!

Sasquatch sightings in the state of Georgia and walking at night

In the early morning hours of Aug. 25 2024, a motorist traveling along old Highway 96 in Peach County saw something he just couldn't believe.

C.B., a 51-year-old of Butler, was headed toward an auto parts store in Fort Valley when a bipedal creature, with long outstretched arms darted across the rural stretch of the two-lane road. The Georgia native had spent his whole life in the woods – he worked in the great outdoors, clearing land for a living – had never seen anything like it.

Standing at 6 feet tall and tipping the scales at 200 lbs., C.B. knows big when he sees it, and whatever cut across in front of him was big ... and fast.

"There is no way a human could have the speed this thing had," C.B. reported. "When I got to where it was I slowed to almost a stop, but it was out of sight. I immediately called my wife to tell her what I saw ... After that I drove back by there four times looking for it, but I saw nothing."

This incident is now a recognized sasquatch encounter, recognized by The Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization at least. It had to be a bigfoot, the group concluded, because it wasn't the first sighting in Middle Georgia. The creature must have a thing for peaches because in 2010, a work detail clearing brush near the same highway in nearby Crawford County, discovered large footprints, and heard noises of a large animal trampling through the thick scrub and reported feelings

THE NEW SOUTHERN DAD



By KYLE DOMINY

of being watched while they performed their duties.

Bigfoot researchers have compiled over 100 reported sasquatch sightings in this state. Most of them are in the North Georgia mountains. Mythical creatures do tend to stick to higher elevations, and they like to aggravate mountain folk. However, he, or even she, I suppose, has been spotted as far south as Toombsboro. The hills of Wilkinson County can fool anyone I guess.

There have been no confirmed bigfoot sightings in my neck of the woods, though I'm not too far removed from the Wilco line. That's all well and good because I've taken up the habit of taking nighttime walks.

I don't think humans are sup-

posed to exist with as much light as we have grown accustomed to. Inside and out, we like to live fully illuminated, and while it is said that bad things happen in the dark, it's hard to do anything good or nefarious if you can't see your hand in front of your face.

While total darkness is hard to achieve since even the stars provide enough visibility to go for a walk, there is something mystical about shutting off all artificial light and going outside. If you live near the woods, or behind the cover of anything that can shield nocturnal light sources, you might even experience true darkness.

All the area sasquatch sightings seem to be during the day, so I don't have anything to worry about.

COUCH THEATER



Hugh Jackman stars in "The Death of Robin Hood"/Photo courtesy of MovieStillsDB

By DEMI TAVERAS
King Features

The Death of Robin Hood (R)

Don't be misled by the name of this thriller film and sit the kids down to watch this one; this definitely isn't Disney's version of Robin Hood's story. Based on the 17th century ballad "Robin Hood's Death," this film is led by none other than Hugh Jackman ("The Sheep Detectives") with a supporting cast that includes Jodie Comer ("28 Years Later") and horror aficionado Bill Skarsgard ("Dead Man's Wire"). Jackman portrays the aged outlaw Robin, who is widely known as a folk hero across 1247 England but remains tormented by the crimes he's committed. After a few more treacherous duels leave him delirious, Robin finds himself on a remote island at the Priory of St. Clement, left only with the reminder of his sins as Sister Brigid (Comer) nurses him back to health. Out now. (HBO Max)

Crystal Lake (TV-MA)

Calling all slasher lovers! (Because I fear I am not one.) This new series starring Linda Cardellini ("DTF St. Louis") serves as a prequel to the 1980 film "Friday the 13th." Cardellini takes on the role of Pamela Voorhees (originally

played by Betsy Palmer in the 1980 and 1981 films in the franchise), who has a young son with physical differences named Jason. (Hint, hint.) While Pamela's working as a lunch lady at Camp Crystal Lake, where her son's also a camper, Jason mysteriously drowns in the lake when the camp counselors aren't looking. Traumatized by grief, Pamela attempts to go back to work at the camp a year later but is unable to move on. Simultaneously, dead bodies begin appearing around town. All eight episodes are available to stream now! (Peacock)

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I grew up a poor Alabama farm boy. I’m presently a Christian missionary in Japan, having lived in Japan since 1973. Please listen to my Radio Sermons Audio on my website: Christ-is-all.us
Sermon Number 2024-1 is especially touching. Richard Yerby c/o Christ Is All, PO Box 490, Vernon, AL 35592-0490

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Alex, the Graduate II

TEMPE, Ariz. – Grandchildren are not overrated. I stole that quote from a friend, and I appreciate its wisdom more and more as I see the third generation of our family segueing into adulthood. Here last week at Mountain America Stadium, home of the Arizona State Sun Devils, our oldest grandchild, Alexander Moss Smith, graduated from ASU with a degree in history. His grades were admirable as he exited the campus with cum laude honors and a rich college experience. He grew up in Dallas, with paternal influence of the Deep South. On the maternal side, it was Oklahoma, “where the wind comes sweeping down the plain”—if you remember those lyrics from the Rodgers and Hammerstein Broadway production. He chose a different path from his father and grand-

father by matriculating somewhere other than Athens. He has always had an affinity for the West, but his passion for Georgia football will always reign supreme. He loves the Dawgs, a tie that counters the Texas and Oklahoma influences in his family. With the Sun Devils enjoying something of an up-tick under Kenny Dillingham in 2024-25, his interest in his alma mater’s football program was piqued considerably the last couple of seasons. He took great pleasure in Dillingham’s signing a new contract recently and showing no interest in other job opportunities, including at the University of Michigan. Dillingham wants to return the Sun Devils to the inspiring era of the late Frank Kush, who elevated ASU football to national prominence during his years as



LORAN SMITH

head coach, 1958-1979. Alex listened to the splendid valedictory of President Michael Crow, while sitting on the football field where the late Pat Tillman distinguished himself on defense for the Sun Devils. You likely know the rest of Tillman’s tragic story, leaving the NFL Arizona Cardinals to patriotically volunteer for military duty in Afghanistan where he

subsequently lost his life. ASU is also the alma mater of Jimmy Kimmel, Al Michaels, Phil Mickelson, and Governor Katie Hobbs. Add Alex Smith’s name to the alumni rolls that include those distinguished alums. His family is proud of him even if his name does not become affiliated with any sort of celebrity. We want Alex to be a good citizen who finds success in his profession so that he can experience the ancillary benefits that come with travel, the arts, great moments in sports, books, and intellectual exposures. We want him to be a good husband, a good father, and do some good for his community. The things that Great Americans do. You don’t have to be elected senator or governor or win the Heisman or the Nobel Prize or accumulate astounding wealth to be a Great American. All you have to do is to live an honest life, pay your bills, take

care of your family, and underscore respect for charity, church, and flag. And, most of all, develop harmony with your fellow man. That goes on every day across this great land. Underneath the distressing headlines, the selfish and senseless stories, there are the many who wake up every day with great feelings for America and extend a helping hand. The give-back fraternity is alive and well in our society, but it can always enroll another member. We wish that for Alex. In recent years, we have had a three-generation gathering, usually in Phoenix in the spring—grandfather, father, and son. We often take in an Arizona Diamondbacks game as the guest of the owner Ken Kendrick whose son, Cal, is a UGA graduate who has deep and abiding feelings for his alma mater. We enjoy good food and sports conversations, and

we reminisce about championship Georgia games we have experienced. Also on the informal agenda are lamentations for those times when our favorite teams came up short, and that includes the Cowboys since Dallas has long been his father’s favorite NFL team. Alex’s first game took place between the hedges, and he keeps up with the Bulldogs via the internet. He is sensitive to what takes place in Athens, Norman, Austin, and Tempe. He will enjoy intersectional connections with his college affiliations. Like so many college graduates today, he must find a job and be a fledgling in the real world. The colors of his three-pronged pitchfork include red, black, crimson, cream, burnt orange, on a base of maroon and gold. We believe he is well prepared for life’s challenges and opportunities.

Support for very different candidates with very similar traits

I have mostly avoided direct campaign contributions over the past few cycles. I know many of the candidates running, can’t contribute to all of them, and in many cases, my money isn’t going to make that much of a difference in a race once millions are being spent. I wrote two checks during the primary cycle, one for a State Senate candidate and one for Georgia’s Supreme Court. For the general election I chose four candidates for the State House. Three are incumbents, with the fourth running for an open seat. Three are outside of the areas where print publications run these columns. I’m sharing because while they’re each very different in geography and seniority, there are some common threads among the differences that highlight qualities I look for in a legislator beyond being “someone I know” or “good to have a friend in that office”. Sharon Cooper was my Representative when I first moved to Marietta and is one of the longest serving legislators. She’s currently the Chair of the Public Health



CHARLIE HARPER
GEORGIA POLITICS

Committee, which oversees many of the bills for which she is uniquely suited as a former Registered Nurse. I’ve seen her take on numerous thankless battles – including those within her own party and party’s leadership – to make sure that someone else’s sloganeering don’t negatively affect medical care delivery in Georgia. Her expertise has earned deference. Her persistence and work ethic has improved many bills that meant well but at least in part were misguided. Georgia needs more

legislators with this dedication to detail. A relative newcomer to the Capitol is Representative Bethany Ballard of Warner Robbins. We had been Facebook friends for years prior to her 2022 election, but I mostly knew of her then as a Republican Party leader and her social media posts mostly about being a wife and mom of two teenage boys. Her posts about her family haven’t changed much in the past four years, and her dedication to her family remains the priority. She’s grounded. But those who underestimated her ability to get things done in Atlanta have been sorely mistaken. She quickly became the driving force in the House, then the Capitol as a whole, as the leader in education reform with a laser like focus on increasing standards and student achievement. She’s just getting started, and I want to continue to work with her to get more done – and more to join with her sense of urgency on this topic. Jack Miller of Milton is nearing the end of his first campaign, where he is seek-

ing the seat currently held by House Speaker Pro Tempore Jan Jones. He won’t have her titles nor experience if he’s elected as a Freshman, but he has that long term potential. I first met Jack when he was volunteering on a campaign for Congress almost a decade ago, when he was still a teenager. Even then, he stood out. He was the proverbial “work horse, not a show horse” among his peers in the volunteer group and led them by example. He was driven and focused with some very specific life goals and plans. When life events changed some major parts of that plan, he adjusted in real time with new goals that put him on different paths with the big goals largely intact. I don’t recall him ever saying public office was on that list, but the opportunity before him fits him and his big picture. I can’t think of anyone in his generation I’d rather have in the Georgia House. All three of those candidates are Republicans. The last is Representative Esther Panitch, a Democrat from Dunwoody. Rep. Panitch and I

shared a bit of time a decade ago at Atlanta’s NBC television affiliate, with her as a legal analyst and me coming in from time to time as a political analyst. We made a bit of small talk but I didn’t really get to know her until she was a member of the House – and until October 7th happened. She is the House’s only Jewish member, and has worked tirelessly across the aisle to get a legal definition of antisemitism into Georgia law so that it can be considered when sentencing for convictions of Georgia’s hate crime law. She’s also been willing to call out members of her own party when issues important to Jewish Georgians were being ignored. Her independence was rewarded by a primary challenge from a candidate with the backing of the Democratic Socialists of America. She could have just pretended it was a routine intra-party challenge and ignored the far left nature of the opposition. She didn’t. Instead, she made it clear that socialism isn’t compatible with Georgia and Georgians, directly

and repeatedly. She, too, is quite grounded. She understands the importance of the office she holds, who she is, and how those two must be leveraged for our state to survive and thrive. Yes, she’s an elected Democrat. Yes, I come from a long Republican background. I’ve got my hands full pushing back on a party catering to populists and too often dabbling in crony capitalism. I’m happy to back someone doing her part to defeat socialism within the Democratic party, before it becomes a binary choice at higher levels between Democrats and whatever flavor of Republicans they choose to nominate next. I’ve chosen to support leaders who lead. I’m less concerned these days about party labels, and more concerned about supporting those who know when to do the right thing, even when the easier answer would be to go along quietly and find a different, largely costless battle to fight.

Here’s one know-it-all that doesn’t know it all

Some of you out there won’t be surprised by this, but to be the know-it-all I claim to be I must confess that there are some things I just don’t understand. Let’s start with the recent ruling from U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit that says Georgia can enforce its new law requiring social media platforms to verify the age of account holders and restrict its use by minors. The state law aims to prevent children under the age of 16 from having social media accounts without a parent or guardian’s permission. (Let’s read that last part again – “without a parent or guardian’s permission.”) The law also limits advertising on and the collecting information from minors’ social media accounts. The suit had been brought by NetChoice, a trade association of online businesses like Amazon and Meta and eBay and Google, that says it is an advocate for free expression and free enterprise on the internet. NetChoice had sued Georgia’s Attorney General Chris Carr in 2025, claiming the law, entitled the Protecting Georgia’s Children on Social Media Act, chills the rights of all Georgians to engage in anonymous speech online, contrary to the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Chill the rights of kids under the age of 16 from getting on social media without their parents’ approval or



DICK YARBROUGH

knowledge and engaging in anonymous speech online? Like cyberbullying or bomb threats? Oh, please. With all due respect to kids under 16, what is wrong with getting parental or guardian approval? To the NetChoice lawyers, same question. Sadly, there are likely enough parents who want so badly to be their kid’s BFF, that they would probably say yes anyway. They are probably also the ones that would buy their child an AK-47 for the same reason. And then there was the crash on Interstate 20 in DeKalb County when a Georgia State trooper spotted a car weaving through traffic at roughly 110 mph and without headlights. The driver fled a traffic stop attempt, lost control and caused a 10-vehicle crash that tragically killed a 7-month-old infant and the driver.

I held my nose and got on Reddit, (which happens to be a member of NetChoice, by the way), and read the comments of oh-so-cute anonymous appellations like “bunnysuitman” and “Single_Bar_1836” who seem to want to blame the GSP for the audacity of stopping a car with no headlights doing 110 mph while weaving in and out of traffic on a major interstate. I don’t understand their reasoning except they seem to not care much for the police. I don’t know why the state of Tennessee was unable to execute death row inmate Christa Pike after two attempts. In 1995, Pike and an accomplice lured Colleen Slemmer, a fellow Job Corps trainee, to an isolated area at the University of Tennessee agricultural campus, tortured her and beat her to death because Pike thought

Slemmer was trying to steal her boyfriend. Pike bashed Slemmer’s head in with a chunk of asphalt and then kept a piece of the skull as a souvenir. Pike survived two doses of pentobarbital meant to kill her. She ended up in the hospital and was later discharged and sent to the women’s prison in Nashville. Not sure what happens next. Okay, so what do I know? I know the Protecting Georgia’s Children on Social Media Act is a positive development. Children under the age of 16 have no business being on social media anonymously. They are not mature enough at that point. I know the lawsuit brought by NetChoice was ill-conceived and ill-advised. The association and their lawyers ought to be ashamed of themselves. Why don’t they

spend their time helping us from being hacked by bad people? I know the Georgia State Patrol did the right thing in trying to stop that manic on Interstate 20 before he killed someone else. As for “bunnysuitman” and “Single_Bar_1836”, they are proof-positive why not letting anonymous pubescents on social media is a good thing. Reading their post-pubescent comments made me wish the law

had been passed a decade earlier. I know that in all the hue-and-cry over the botched execution of Crista Pike, she has come across looking like the victim and we want to forget it was really Colleen Slemmer who was the victim. She and her family. They deserved better. I know that some of you will agree with me and some of you won’t. And I know your comments won’t be anonymous. Thank you.



THE DAWSON NEWS

GEORGIA TRUST

— for Local News —

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ELECTION

Continued from page 1

publican 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.

Legals

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-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-126
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

GEORGIA, TERRELL COUNTY
All creditors of the estate of DEMETRIC BERNARD MALLORY, 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 16TH day of OCTOBER, 2026
RUN: Oct. 22ND, 29TH, NOV. 5TH, 12TH
BALENDIA LESHELL TOWOLAWI, ADMINISTRATOR
DEMETRIC BERNARD MALLORY, DECEASED
1488 MEW GULL LN.
EL PASO, TEXAS 79928
October 22, 29, November 5, 12, 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 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-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-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-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-121
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

GEORGIA, TERRELL COUNTY
All creditors of the estate of SALLY TURNER LOSKA, 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 15TH day of OCTOBER, 2026
LAURAPEDDY COPELAND, EXECUTRIX
SALLY TURNER LOSKA, DECEASED
COLLIER & GAMBLE, LLP
W.T. GAMBLE, III
P.O. BOX 577
DAWSON, GA. 39842
October 22, 29, November 5, 12, 2026

D-127
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

D-125
NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

GEORGIA, TERRELL COUNTY
All creditors of the estate of MELBA JOYCE HAGAN, 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 15TH day of OCTOBER, 2026
JAN MILLER JOHNSON, EXECUTRIX
MELBA JOYCE HAGAN, DECEASED
COLLIER & GAMBLE, L.L.P.
EDWARD R. COLLIER
P.O. BOX 577
DAWSON, GA. 39842
October 22, 29, November 5, 12, 2026

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 Sheila 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 bal-

lot-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.

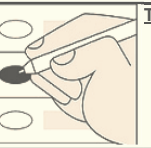
In the General Election, a voter does not have to declare his or her party and can

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.

OFFICIAL ABSENTEE / PROVISIONAL / EMERGENCY BALLOT

Terrell County, Georgia
Precinct: 201-Dawson, 203-Dawson, 204-Dawson, 205-Dawson, 206-Dawson, 207-Dawson, 208-Dawson, 209-Dawson, 210-Dawson, 237-Dawson, 243-Dawson
General Election - November 03, 2026



To Vote:

1. Use Black or Blue Ink to mark the ballot.
2. Completely fill in the empty oval to the right of the candidate name or choice in all races you wish to vote.
3. If voting for a Write-In candidate, completely fill in the oval to the right of the Write-In selection, then write the name of the Write-In candidate in the space provided.

Warning

Do **NOT** use red ink or felt tip pen to mark ballot.
Do **NOT** circle, underline or mark through choices.
Do **NOT** use check marks or X to mark ballot.
Do **NOT** mark more choices per race than allowed.
Do **NOT** sign, cut, tear or damage the ballot.

If you make a mistake or change your mind on a selection:

- A. Do not attempt to mark through the selection or attempt to erase. Write "Spoiled" across the ballot AND across the return envelope.
- B. Mail or return the spoiled ballot and envelope to your county board of registrars; a new official absentee ballot will be mailed to you.

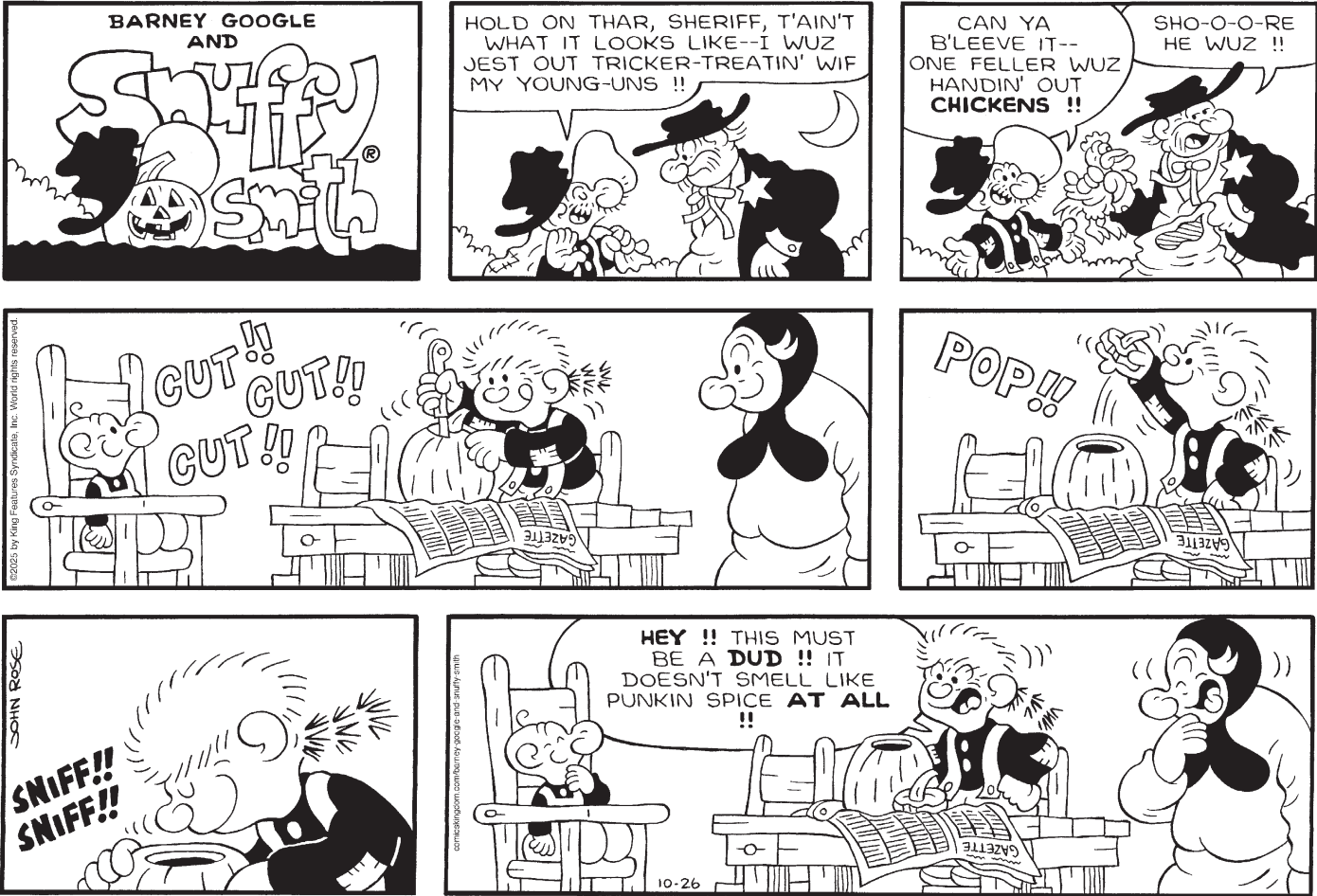
If you decide to vote in-person: Surrender the ballot to the poll manager at an early voting site within your county or the precinct to which you are assigned. You will then be permitted to vote a regular ballot.

"I understand that the offer or acceptance of money or any other object of value to vote for any particular candidate, list of candidates, issue, or list of issues included in this election constitutes an act of voter fraud and is a felony under Georgia law." [O.C.G.A. 21-2-284(e), 21-2-285(h) and 21-2-383(a)]

For United States Senate (Vote for One)	For Commissioner of Insurance (Vote for One)	For State Senate District 12 (Vote for One)
Mike Collins Republican ☐ Jon Ossoff (I) Democrat ☐ Write-in:	John King (I) Republican ☐ Keisha Sean Waites Democrat ☐ Write-in:	Edward Brown Democrat ☐ Write-in:
For Governor (Vote for One)	For State School Superintendent (Vote for One)	For State House of Representatives - District 151 (Vote for One)
Rick Jackson Republican ☐ Keisha Lance Bottoms Democrat ☐ Write-in:	Richard Woods (I) Republican ☐ Lydia Powell Democrat ☐ Write-in:	Mike Cheokas (I) Republican ☐ Ethan Wolfe Democrat ☐ Travis Lockhart Independent ☐ Write-in:
For Lieutenant Governor (Vote for One)	For Commissioner of Labor (Vote for One)	For District Attorney Pataula Judicial Circuit (Vote for One)
Greg Dolezal Republican ☐ Josh McLaurin Democrat ☐ Write-in:	Bárbara Rivera Holmes (I) Republican ☐ Nikki Porcher Democrat ☐ Write-in:	Vic McNease (I) Republican ☐ Write-in:
For Secretary of State (Vote for One)	For Public Service Commissioner District 3 (Vote for One)	For County Commissioner District 1 (Vote for One)
Tim Fleming Republican ☐ Penny Brown Reynolds Democrat ☐ Write-in:	Fitz Johnson Republican ☐ Peter Hubbard (I) Democrat ☐ Write-in:	Clyde "Eddie" Owens (I) Democrat ☐ Write-in:
For Attorney General (Vote for One)	For Public Service Commissioner District 5 (Vote for One)	
Brian Strickland Republican ☐ Tanya Miller Democrat ☐ Write-in:	Josh Tolbert Republican ☐ Sheila Edwards Democrat ☐ Write-in:	
For Commissioner of Agriculture (Vote for One)	For United States House of Representatives - District 2 (Vote for One)	
Tyler Harper (I) Republican ☐ Katherine E. Juhan-Arnold Democrat ☐ Write-in:	Matt Day Republican ☐ Sanford Bishop (I) Democrat ☐ Write-in:	

Abbreviation Definition: (I) = Incumbent

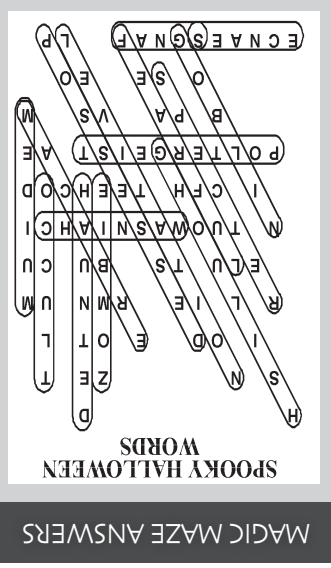
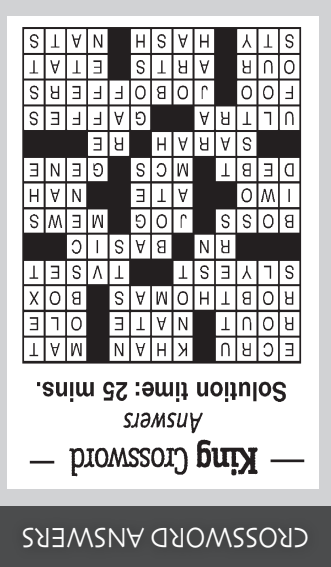
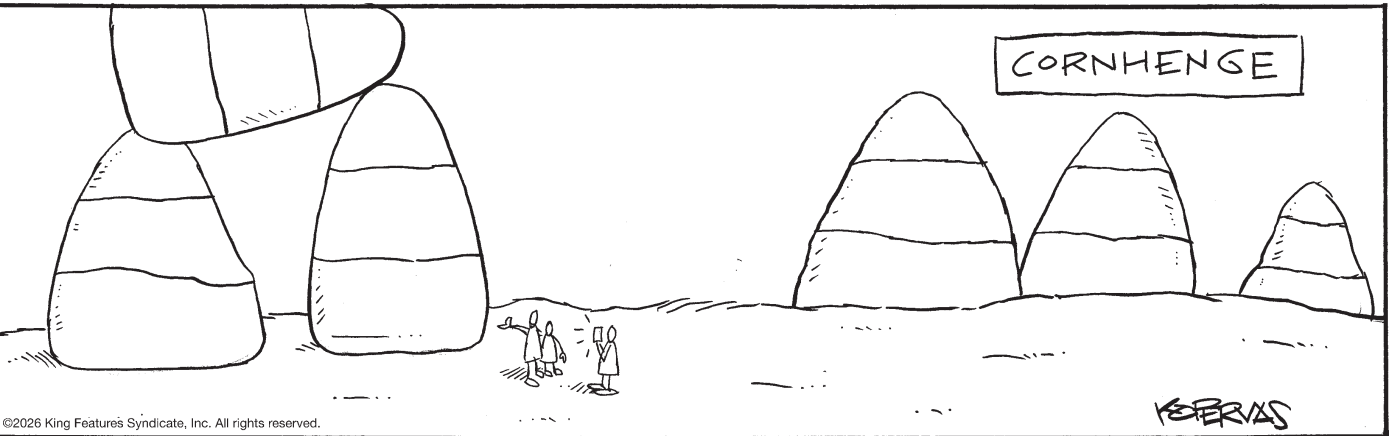
Turn Ballot Over To Continue Voting



The Spats



Out on a Limb



SPOOKY
MAGIC MAZE ● HALLOWEEN
WORDS

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: Tangles of Silken Threads

Chainsaw
Fangs
Fearful
Ghoulish

Goblin
Haunted
Levitation
Macabre

Medium
Occult
Poltergeist
Possessed

Seance
Specter
Zombie

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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Cupcake is moved. 2. Money is missing. 3. Sign is moved. 4. Man is taller. 5. Counter is wider. 6. Sleeve is shorter.

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