

2026 Georgia Farm Dog announced at Sunbelt Expo

STAFF REPORTS
news@albanyherald.com

MOULTRIE — Farm dogs help their farmers with a lot of tasks. They help move livestock. They guard cattle, chickens, sheep and goats from predators. They ride along in the truck or tractor to keep their farmers company and relieve stress during long work days. Realizing the special role farm dogs play in helping their farmers, Georgia Farm Bureau held its third annual Georgia Farm Dog of the Year contest this year to honor the canines who help with chores and offer unconditional love to their

farmers. Riggs, a tri-red Australian Shepherd who lives on Shadow Lane Farm in Morgan County, was named the 2026 Georgia Farm Bureau Farm Dog of the Year during the Willie B. Withers Sunbelt Expo Luncheon on Oct. 20. As the winner, Riggs received a medal and his person, Kelly Smith, received a gift card to buy Riggs treats. “For many Georgia farmers, a good farm dog is their right-hand companion. This is why Georgia Farm Bureau is proud to recognize these dogs through our Georgia Farm Dog of the Year Contest,” GFB President Tom McCall said. “Georgia Farm

Bureau is dedicated to supporting Georgia’s farm families. Honoring the dogs who work beside them is one way we say thank you for the work that happens on our farms every day to feed and clothe us and to grow the timber used to house us.” Riggs was chosen by a panel of judges with knowledge of farm dogs. What stood out most for the judges is his versatility. At home on his Morgan County farm, Riggs helps Smith monitor and manage horses, goats and chickens. He’s part of every morning and evening feeding. Smith enrolls Riggs in herding les-

sons to keep improving his livestock-handling skills. Like many farmers, Riggs has an off-farm job. He goes to work with Smith at Putnam County High School, where she teaches agricultural education and is an FFA advisor. Every morning, Riggs helps with barn checks on the school’s show heifers and pigs. In Smith’s Veterinary Science classes, Riggs is a hands-on teaching partner. He patiently lets the students learn how to handle animals as they practice their dog-grooming skills and learn how to observe animal behavior. Riggs is also a decorat-

ed competitor. He holds numerous American Kennel Club and United Kennel Club titles in farm dog certification, herding, obedience, rally, temperament and trick dog. Riggs stands 20 inches tall and weighs about 49 pounds. Smith says Riggs’ favorite treat is freeze-dried chicken hearts. “Riggs is a true partner in every aspect of my life,” Smith said. “Whether he is helping manage livestock on the farm, supporting students in the classroom, competing in performance



Riggs, a tri-red Australian Shepherd was named the 2026 Georgia Farm Bureau Farm Dog of the Year at the Sunbelt Ag Expo/PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGIA FARM BUREAU

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Pelham farmers turn hardship into a regenerative mission

By KATHRYN CROCKETT
kathryn@albanyherald.com

MOULTRIE — When serious health problems disrupted April Workman’s career, she and her husband, James, began reconsidering how they earned a living, raised their family and cared for their farm. Part of their answer lay in materials already familiar to Southwest Georgia agriculture: poultry manure and cotton gin waste. The Pelham couple now turns those byproducts into compost through Waymaker Soil Solutions, using the products on their own farm and selling them to other growers. For James, owner and operator of Waymaker Soil Solutions and Waymaker Pecans, the approach centers on building the soil that supports a crop. For April, the change also grew out of a deeply personal reassessment. “We were just rushing out the door, going to all these meetings, doing all this stuff,” she said during an interview at the Sunbelt Ag Expo. Her illness forced them to slow down. April said she experienced severe losses of function, including difficulty walking and speaking. As the couple considered how to replace her income, they began exploring a different approach to farming. Their Christian faith helped guide those decisions, she said. A trip to



Tampico, Illinois, connected them with growers whose methods helped shape their own. The Workmans began poultry farming in 2015.

They already had some mature pecan trees, but expanded their investment in pecans in 2021, planting 5,500 trees, April said. Their operation includes 90

acres of pecans. They initially farmed conventionally. Over

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County, state, federal offices at stake in next Tuesday's election

By CAROLYN WILLIAMS
The Dawson News

DAWSON -- Terrell County voters will go to the polls on Tuesday of next week 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, and Elections Supervisor Carolyn Williams noted that 150 registered voters cast their ballots on the opening day of early voting. Another 162 voters have returned mail-in ballots. At stake are some of the most important offices in the county, state and nation. Locally, Williams is predicting a large percentage turnout of Terrell voters. There are 6,158 active, registered voters for this election, she noted. Appearing on next Tuesday’s ballot 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. Rep. for the Second Congressional District, state Senator, state representative and several other offices. Terrell voters will cast their ballots for candidates seeking a number of offices.

For United States Senator, incumbent Democrat Jon Ossoff and Republican Mike Collins are seeking the office. Vying for governor are Republican Rick Jackson and Democrat Keisha Lance Bottoms. For lieutenant governor, Republican Greg Dolezal and Democrat Josh McLaurin are seeking the position. For secretary of state, 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 Labor commissioner. For Public Service Commission District 3, Republican Fitz Johnson and incumbent Democrat Peter Hubbard are

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The anatomy of a championship: Tough lessons, golden finish

By JOE WHITFIELD
Sports Editor

Terrell Academy coach Ashley Walker scheduled trouble. Westfield. Southwest Georgia. Calvary Christian. All three beat his Terrell Academy softball team. None kept the Lady Eagles from becoming state champions. That was the point. Walker wasn’t building a record to admire in September. He was building a team that could survive October. Saturday at the South Commons Softball Complex in Columbus, the Lady Eagles supplied the proof: Terrell Academy 13, John Milledge Academy 5. The school’s first state softball championship since 2009. An unbeaten run through the GIAA Class AAA tournament. A 16-7 season in which the seven losses helped ex-

plain the final victory. “It allowed us to fail and fail often,” Walker said of his schedule. “It taught us to be closer in tough moments and to battle adversity collectively as a group and not on our own individually.” Fail often. Grow closer. Win a championship. It sounds tidy now. Living through it required considerably more faith. Before the bracket Ask a coach where a championship began, and you might expect a turning-point victory or a late-season practice when everything finally clicked. Walker’s answer takes you to Statesboro in the summer. For three days at an FCA softball camp at Georgia Southern, the Lady Eagles faced tough opponents and learned something about the teammates beside them.



Terrell Academy players celebrate receiving the GIAA Class AAA state championship trophy Saturday in Columbus after beating John Milledge Academy 13-5. The Lady Eagles went unbeaten through the tournament to claim the school’s first softball state title since 2009/SPECIAL PHOTO: DARRELL ROADEN, Columbus Ledger-Enquirer

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them. Away from familiar surroundings, they talked through problems. They leaned on one another. They began becoming the group Walker would need when a season hung in the balance.

“This was the point that I witnessed our team come closer together,” he said. “Going off to Statesboro allowed us to grow together not only in softball but more importantly together in spirit.”

There was work to do back home, too.

Walker challenged his players in the weight room. A long season required stronger bodies, and stronger bodies required a commitment nobody could make for them.

They made it. “I knew that we had a good shot at making a run when I saw the commitment to focus on getting better physically,” Walker said.

The championship was still months away. Its foundation was taking shape.

The price of preparation A difficult schedule offers a coach useful information. It can offer players a bruised sense of themselves.

Terrell Academy had to learn the difference between losing a game and losing its way.

Westfield beat the Lady Eagles 6-2. Then 9-5. Southwest Georgia and Calvary Christian handed them losses, too.

Walker kept asking his team to do hard things against opponents capable of exposing its weaknesses.

“We used the hard schedule to prepare us to be our best when times were at its hardest,” he said. “I needed this group to be battle tested early and often.”

The players had reasons to trust that approach beyond their coach’s assurances.

Some had already won a



Terrell Academy senior Hadley Webb slides into home plate against John Milledge Academy in Saturday’s state championship game. Webb was one of four seniors coach Ashley Walker credited with maintaining the Lady Eagles’ standards throughout their championship season/SPECIAL PHOTO: DARRELL ROADEN, Columbus Ledger-Enquirer

state basketball championship at Terrell Academy. They understood the pressure of a title run and brought that experience to a different field.

“Those young ladies who were able to hoist the trophy created a calm understanding of what it was going to take to create that same result in softball,” Walker said.

They knew a big moment could be handled.

Their teammates learned to believe it, too.

Four seniors, one standard

Hadley Webb. Laine Brown. Caroline Presley. Alyssa Godwin.

Four seniors whose contribution Walker measures in more than hits, innings or outs.

“They cried, they fought, they faced frustration, they were hungry but humble, but most importantly, they led us!” he said.

There is a season inside that sentence.

The frustration of falling short. The work of trying again. The responsibility of keeping everyone moving in the same direction when no-

body can promise where the road will end.

“They never wavered, they kept us on track with our standards and never allowed our team to lower those standards,” Walker said.

He credits the previous senior class with helping establish that culture. These four carried it forward.

Then they carried it to Columbus.

The final examination Westfield had won nine consecutive state championships.

Terrell Academy had lost both regular-season meetings.

Friday, those facts became background.

Jacey Lane hit two home runs and drove in five runs as the Lady Eagles beat Westfield 8-7 to reach the championship game. The opponent that had twice shown Terrell Academy how far it needed to go had just discovered how far it had come.

John Milledge then eliminated Westfield, ending the Lady Hornets’ title streak and completing a four-game charge through the elimina-

tion bracket.

The Lady Trojans arrived in the final knowing how to survive.

Terrell Academy gave them no room to do it again.

Trailing 1-0 Saturday, the Lady Eagles scored five runs in the third inning. They drew walks, put balls in play, used sacrifices and punished mistakes.

In the fourth, they supplied the heavy blows: six runs on five hits, including Michaela Zingarelli’s three-run single.

Presley pitched all five innings.

The team Walker had deliberately placed in difficult situations finished the championship game with an eight-run cushion.

What stays

Four seniors will graduate. Walker makes no promise that replacing them will be easy.

“You know the hardest thing to do in any sport is to stay on top,” he said.

He likes the young talent returning. More than that, he knows what he will ask of it.

“Our goals and expectations will stay the same, we just have to work hard to make sure we give ourselves a chance to compete again.”

There will be more work in the weight room. More demands. More afternoons when the opponent reveals something Terrell Academy needs to fix.

The Lady Eagles now have a championship to show where that work can lead.

Walker scheduled trouble. His players learned how to handle it.

Seventeen years after its last softball title, Terrell Academy finished with the trophy.

Terrell County honors retired educators

SPECIAL TO THE DAWSON NEWS

Terrell County Commission Chairman T. Gamble signed a proclamation designating Nov. 1 as Retired Educators Day, honoring the contributions of educators to the county and state.

Gov. Brian Kemp also proclaimed Nov. 1 as Georgia Retired Educators Day.

Georgia has more than 34,000 retired educators.

Members of the Terrell Retired Educators Association will be recognized at their local churches that day. The observance honors men and women who have dedicated their careers to educating and encouraging young people.

The association’s next meeting is Nov. 2.

Old Herod DAR chapter meets Oct. 8

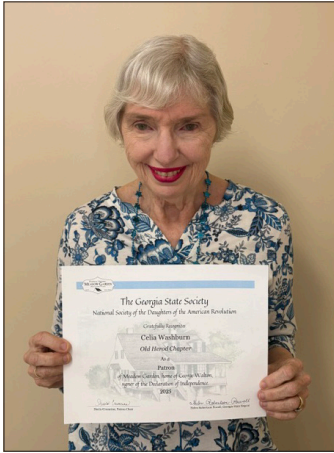
SPECIAL TO THE DAWSON NEWS

The Old Herod Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution met Oct. 8 at the home of Freida Boyles.

Regent Jane Washburn called the meeting to order. Members participated in the ritual, the Pledge of Allegiance and other patriotic activities before conducting a business session.

Washburn received the chapter’s Meadow Garden Patron Award for 2025-26.

Meadow Garden in Augusta was the home of George Walton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. The his-



toric home is owned by the Georgia State Society of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

Macedonia Baptist Church to celebrate ushers' anniversary

SPECIAL TO THE DAWSON NEWS

Macedonia Baptist Church in Parrott will celebrate its annual ushers’ anniversary during the regular worship service at

11 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 1. Apostle Patrick Hosley will deliver the message. Deacon Otis Oxford and the congregation invite the public to attend.



Riggs, a tri-red Australian Shepherd who lives in Morgan County with his owner, Kelly Smith, was named the 2026 Georgia Farm Bureau Farm Dog of the Year at the Sunbelt Ag Expo on Oct. 20/PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGIA FARM BUREAU

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events, or tackling new adventures on the trail, he approaches every task with heart, intelligence, and unwavering dedication.

“His ability to seamlessly transition between farm work, educational settings, competitive arenas, and emotional support roles speaks to his remarkable temperament and versatility. His work ethic, loyalty, and drive make him truly one of a kind.”

Georgia Farm Bureau is known for its love of dogs as Lucky, also an Australian Shepherd, has served as the GFB mascot since 2021. Good Boy Goodies, a Georgia Grown

company that makes all-natural, wholesome dog treats, sponsored the contest. Visit <https://gfb.ag/26farmdogcontest> to learn more about the contest. Visit www.goodboy-goodies.com to learn more about the contest sponsor.

Georgia Farm Bureau is a grassroots organization dedicated to supporting the future of Georgia’s family farms and consumers’ access to locally grown food and fiber. Membership is open to everyone. Visit www.gfb.org to learn how GFB supports farmers, connects consumers with farmers through its Farm Passport Program and to learn about the many discount benefits offered to members.

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seeking the position. For PSC District 5, Republican Josh Tolbert and Democrat Shelia Edwards are seeking the office. For U.S. Representative in the 119th Congress from the 2nd Congressional District of Georgia, incumbent Democrat Sanford Bishop, Jr. is being challenged by Republican Matt Day.

For state Senator from District 12, Democrat Edward Brown does not have any opposition. For state representative in the General Assembly from the 151st District, a contest 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 Terrell County commissioners qualified for re-election. None of the four candidates for those seats will face opposition. Incumbent Democrat Clyde “Eddie” Owens represents District One; incumbent Democrat Ernest Johnson represents District Two; incumbent Independent Larron Copeland represents District Three; while incumbent Democrat Brad Stafford represents District Four on the board.

For the Lower Chatahoochee River Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor position, no one qualified, and the

race will not appear on the ballot. 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.

As of Friday, of last week, some 214 paper absentee ballots had been mailed to electors, Williams said. She also reported Friday that 1,094 Terrell electors had voted in the office on the BMDs (Ballot Marking Devices).

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, Williams said.

Under the law, there are six polling places, or precincts, in Terrell County, including:

- Precinct One – Terrell Governmental Building, Dawson
- Precinct Two – Sasser City Hall, Sasser
- Precinct Three – Bronwood City Hall, Bronwood
- Precinct Four – Parrott City Hall, Parrott
- Precinct Five – Graves

United Methodist Church, Graves

Precinct Six – Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, located between Herod and Dover on the Herod- Dover Road, County Road 167.

Terrell voters will utilize 27 of the 32 BMDs, or Ballot Marking Devices, 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 Pre-

cinct 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 One (Dawson) will be Mary Kennedy; Bertha Holloway for Precinct Two (Sasser); Tina Eglin for Precinct Three (Bronwood);

Kim Bridges for Precinct Four (Parrott); Delois Alexander for Precinct Five (Graves);

and Norma Wilson for Precinct Six (Herod/Dover).

Candidates are reminded that they are prohibited by law from campaigning within 150 feet of any polling place, Williams said. 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.

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DID YOU KNOW...?

How old was the youngest serviceman to fight for the U.S. in World War II?

By JACK BAGLEY
GTLN

Well, this week’s Halloween, the first of the four year-end events (three of them are holidays but Halloween isn’t). Can you believe we’re this close to the end of the year already?

Neither can I.

I’ve already decided that I’ll follow my usual custom regarding Halloween - I won’t dress up in a silly costume, and I won’t participate in the extortion of candy by kids. I’m cheap. Put the cuffs on me.

On second thought, don’t put the cuffs on me. They aren’t comfortable in any configuration.

What the heck, let’s just get to this week’s trivia. Oh ... and Trick or Treat!

Did you know ...

... the numbering of the U.S. Interstate Highway system actually makes a kind of sense? North-south Interstates are numbered sequentially, beginning in the west, with odd numbers, while the east-west Interstates are numbered beginning in the south with even numbers. A three-digit Interstate number indicates a connecting route, with the first digit being the purpose of the road and the last two the major highway it connects with. A three-digit Interstate number can be repeated as often as necessary, but not more than once in a state. (I always wondered about that.)

... only one woman, to date, has appeared on a U.S. currency note? First First Lady Martha Washington (1731-1802) had her portrait on the face of the \$1 silver certificate notes of 1886 and 1891, and on the back of the \$1 silver certificate of 1896. Two women have been featured on coins: Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906) and Sacagawea (1788-1812), who both appeared on U.S. one-dollar coins. (They spend, that’s all that matters.)

... an abandoned Russian cruise ship was a navigation menace for years? The MV *Lyubov Orlova*, built in 1976, was used for cruises to Antarctica. The ship was taken out of service in 2010 and sat for two years at a dock in St. John’s Newfoundland, Canada. In 2012, while the issues of decommissioning the ship were being dealt with, the *Lyubov Orlova* was being towed for scrapping to the Dominican Republic when it broke free from its tow lines. For the next several months, the ship drifted in international waters. It is believed that the *Lyubov Orlova* sank some time in 2013, but no one is sure. (Holy ghost ship, Batman!)

... the youngest U.S. serviceman to fight in World War II joined when he was twelve? Calvin Graham (1930-1992) enlisted in the Navy on August 15, 1942, in Houston, Texas. He served aboard the USS *South Dakota* and his ship participated in several battles, with Graham earning a Bronze Star and Purple Heart, along with a couple of Navy Commendations. After Graham was a day late in getting to his grandmother’s funeral in Texas in 1943, however, his mother revealed to the government how old he really was, and the Navy discharged him and his awards were revoked. Graham joined the Marine Corps in 1948, but his enlistment ended early when he fell from a pier and broke his back. His original discharge was upgraded to an honorable one and his military medals from World War II (except for the Purple Heart) were reinstated in 1978. Graham’s Purple Heart was finally reinstated in 1994, after his death. (It takes the government a while, it seems, to recognize courage when they see it.)

... a shrimp has five pairs of legs? (Which makes going to the shoe store an absolute horror sometimes.)

... three states in the U.S. have an official bat? Virginia claims the Virginia big-eared bat as its “official” flying mammal, while Texas and Oklahoma lay claim to the Mexican free-tailed bat. (Then there’s Kentucky, whose official bat is the Louisville Slugger™.)

... most Americans cannot pass their own citizenship test? Of immigrants who come to the United States and seek legal citizenship, an amazing 91% are able to take the citizenship test and pass it, most on the first try. By comparison, a sampling of American citizens living in Miami showed that only one out of 15 could pass the test. (There’s something very disconcerting about that fact.)

... gorillas are very intelligent primates? They have been observed using tools, and having varied forms of communication. Gorillas can even be taught sign language. One classic example was Koko (1971-2018), a gorilla kept at the Gorilla Foundation preserve in Woodside, California. During her lifetime, Koko learned about 1,000 words or concepts in American Sign Language, with which she was able to communicate with her keepers. She showed remarkable intelligence, too: When shown a ring but not taught the sign for it, Koko combined two signs she knew, “finger” and “bracelet,” for the concept of a ring. (Heck, I’m not that smart.)

... archaeologists once discovered what they thought was apparent proof of UFOs? In 1938, an archaeological expedition to China discovered stone disks about nine inches in diameter in caves in the Baian-Kara-Ula Mountains. Each of the 716 disks was reportedly etched with tiny hieroglyphics which, when translated, told a story about “aircraft from other worlds crashing into the mountains.” Also called the Dropa stones, the disks were allegedly given to museums in China, but none of the disks has ever been put on display. Interestingly, the museums mentioned do not seem to have any record of the disks, and that leads many researchers to believe they are simply a hoax. (Oh well, easy come, easy go.)

... you won’t find penguins just in Antarctica? Sure, that’s where most of them are, but you’ll also find significant populations of the flightless swimmers in New Zealand, Chile, Australia, South Africa, and Argentina. (They do get around.)

Now ... you know!

A pomegranate and a pitbull: A cautionary adventure

The pomegranate shrub grows along an old fence row on some old family property. When it was planted, I don’t know, but it has grown there as long as I can remember. What I can tell you is I look forward to collecting the fruit that weighs down the limbs about this time of year.

On one side of the fence is a long dusty drive that leads into the woods. On the other is a pitbull. This season the choicest of pomegranates grew on the wrong side of the fence.

First, a little about the pitbull. It belongs to my cousin, who has an affinity for the breed. This animal is a beautiful, well-cared for specimen, that, besides a ferocious bark and walking around on an imposing all-muscle frame, doesn’t appear to be aggressive. In fact, outside of the fence and when its owner is present, the dog is as friendly as any family pet.

That being said, I’m not taking any chances unaccompanied on its home turf.

The fear of pitbulls is a new phenomenon in our society. In the late 19th Century, the dogs were praised as the quintessential American breed, representing hard work. During the World Wars, pitbulls were used as patriotic mascots featured on recruitment posters and war bond ad campaigns. However, acts of cruelty have followed the breed and given it some negative notoriety.

The cultural significance of the pomegranate goes back even further - to old times, civilizations and religions. The fruit represents fertility, abundance, life and the hereafter.

THE NEW SOUTHERN DAD



By KYLE DOMINY

The Egyptians buried their kings with pomegranates and a variety of treasures fashioned after the fruit. The columns along King Solomon’s temple were adorned with carved pomegranates. In ancient Greece the pomegranate was considered the fruit of the dead, and the seeds bound Persephone to the god of the underworld.

Now they are an overpriced superfood loved by nutrition influencers and health nuts. Unless you have access to an heirloom shrub, preferably one not watched over by a large dog.

Temptation presents itself in many ways. Mine was looking at a ripe piece of fruit, out of arm’s reach with a knee-level pitbull barking just a few feet away. As I walked along the road side of the fence recently, I thought I would have to settle for the smaller bounty growing within the safe harvesting

range.

Then opportunity reared its head. Something else caught the dog’s attention, some other perceived threat that sent it sprinting along the fence row. I knew I couldn’t pass up that chance but try as I might, leaning against the rusted metal wire of the structure, I still couldn’t reach the bounty before me.

It was only a matter of time before the guard dog returned its attention to me. I grasped at the limbs of the plant, pulling the tree’s canopy closer and closer until finally I was able to pluck the fruit that I desired.

That may seem like a lot of work to get three pomegranates. And perhaps it is. That’s why I intend on planting the seeds from one so I can eventually harvest my own ... pitbull not included.

COUCH THEATER



Stephen Graham, left, and Liev Schreiber star in "Nocturne"/Photo courtesy of Apple TV

By DEMI TAVERAS
King Features

Nocturne (TV-MA)

Liev Schreiber ("Splinter Cell: Deathwatch") leads this six-episode crime-drama series premiering on Oct. 30. The series follows homicide detective Jonah Lynn (Schreiber), who gets pulled back into one of his previous cases after more victims start to go missing. At a loss as to how there could be more victims when the original perpetrator is behind bars, Jonah’s FBI agent daughter, Saga (Zazie Beetz), volunteers to go undercover and get closer to the serial killer. But as determined as Saga and Jonah are, serial killer Jurek Walter (Stephen Graham) is a master manipulator and knows how to unearth the buried emotions inside those he has affected. (Apple TV)

Carrie (TV-MA)

The 1974 novel "Carrie" by Stephen King has seen a few adaptations, including Brian De Palma’s 1976 film, the 2013 version starring Chloe Grace Moretz, and now a 2026 eight-episode miniseries! Summer H. Howell ("Normal"), who began working in film and TV as a child actress, takes on the iconic role of the telekinetic Carrie White. Howell was undoubtedly in great hands under the direction of Mike Flanagan, who’s known as the showrunner for horror series like "The Haunting of Hill House" and "The Fall of the House of Usher." Other notable names in the cast include Matthew Lillard ("Behemoth!") and Samantha Sloyan ("The Exorcist: Martyrs"). Stream it now before spooky season comes to a close! (Amazon Prime Video)

East of Eden (TV-MA)

Florence Pugh ("Dune: Part Three") is no stranger to period pieces, having starred as the well-mannered Amy March in Greta Gerwig’s "Little Women" (2019). So, she’s an excellent choice to portray Cathy Ames in this seven-episode TV adaptation of John Steinbeck’s 1952 novel. Taking place in the late 1800s through World War I, the series tells a story that explores similar themes to the story of Cain and Abel in the Book of Genesis. It particularly focuses on the marriage between Cathy and her husband, Adam, her subsequently leaving her twin sons and husband, and the emotional turmoil it left behind to each of them. Mike Faist ("Challengers") and Christopher Abbott ("You Can See Everything") co-star alongside Pugh. The entire series is out now to stream. (Netflix)

War (TV-MA)

It’s clearly a week for television, and this week’s final pick is a sleek legal-drama series led by Dominic West ("The Crown") and Sienna Miller ("Horizon: An America Saga"). Since it’s deemed an anthology series, the main characters will change as the seasons progress. This first season, which has already premiered its first four episodes, focuses on a divorce case between a tech mogul named Morgan (West) and an international actress named Carla (Miller). Each has the backing of a top London law firm, and although their intentions are to keep the proceedings as civilized as possible, war is sure to erupt between them and their lawyers once the case starts leaning too far in either direction. New episodes premiere every Thursday. (HBO Max)

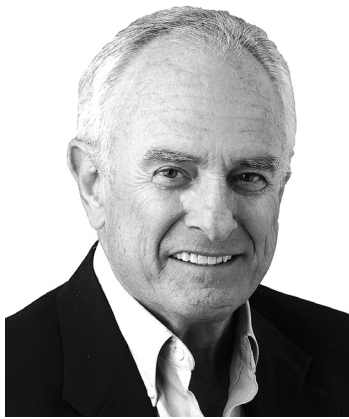
(c) 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

Fall color

As one gets older, trips down memory lane become more treasured, and now that fall is upon is, those moments when I can sit by an indolent fire with a good book and a glass of wine are more appreciated than ever.

October has been in a sprint since September ebbed away amid the most bothersome and prolonged heat that I can remember, and now I wish we could slow October down with little more than a week left in my favorite month.

I want to meet up with my friend Jimmy Harris, who has taken me fishing on the Chattahoochee for years. I could spend hours and days reminiscing about fishing this Georgia



LORAN SMITH

tributary.

He taught himself to become a fly fisherman, and he is an expert who often takes off for flyfishing destinations such as the Rocky Mountain West and Argentina.

However, he can't get enough of fly-fishing opportunities in his own back yard—and the Chattahoochee which has its be-

ginning at Jack's Knob in the Blue Ridge Mountains and flows past Columbus forming the boundary of Georgia and Alabama.

All along the Chattahoochee River, there are fishing and recreational opportunities. There are places in Atlanta where you can fish for trout with high-rise buildings in the background.

For years I frequently visited with Atlanta friends who lived near Lovett School and would walk the track around the football field and commune with nature. Listen to the Chattahoochee as it flowed by and spook the Canada geese, which congregated there in the early morning.

Sometimes when I take a long flight, like to the West Coast, I find myself enraptured with the sol-

itude and conjure up in my mind's eye the images of the Chattahoochee that I hold dear, which fortunately never fade away.

To accompany Jimmy Harris into the Chattahoochee and listen to the whisper of my favorite river is an experience that I will never tire of—which I am about to experience again.

I cannot imagine living in this bountiful state and not fishing the Chattahoochee and swooning to its effects. To wade out into this classic mountain stream and feel the cool waters slapping against your waders, seeing a whitetail deer monitoring all movements, and observing a flock of mallards settling softly on the river as you prepare to make a cast into the water—a tiny fly awkwardly meeting up

with a ripple, taking your lure downstream.

Wham—bam! A rainbow trout parked stealthily in a shadow streaks toward the fly with the greatest of alacrity and heads downstream as you feel the line on your rod tighten, his actions signaling that he is full of fight and will not capitulate.

The fly rod bends almost double, as "mister three pounder" slams about with unending commitment and resolve. Even though your concentration must be maintained as you tire him out and reel him to your net, you, nonetheless, are consciously aware of the setting in which you are blessed to be immersed—the refreshing North Georgia mountains, the still pristine Chattahoochee flowing freely, and na-

ture's bounty reminding you that you are fortunate to be away from guns, violence, and greed.

As you and your bounty both try to catch your respective breaths, you wish the outdoor experience for the world over. Instead of placing the United Nations Building in New York, why not set up shop on the banks of the Chattahoochee? After a good night's sleep for all delegates, let them fly fish in the mornings and then dine on silver queen corn for lunch. Lunch to be followed by a 30-minute nap. Negotiating would take place in the afternoon.

Methinks that environment would take the hostility out of the give-and-take sessions to make the world more compatible and hospitable.

From Albany to Atlanta, on and with purpose

Albany Georgia is the kind of place you have to go to on purpose. It's about 45 minutes to an hour off I-75, whether you're traveling from Cordele or Tifton. It's landlocked in the heart of Southwest Georgia. And it's one of the places that helped me fully understand and appreciate, as an "Atlantan", the outlook of those who live in rural Georgia.

About a decade ago I was asked to join a trip through South Georgia with those who had worked on constructing and passing the revised gas tax formula with a bill that added almost one billion dollars per year to Georgia's road repaving and bridge rebuilding budget. That bill also added the first dedicated state funding to transit systems.

The era was just past the peak of the Tea Party movement, and some leaders were a bit nervous how the bill was being received at the local level. This particular leg of presentations that were part sales,



CHARLIE HARPER
GEORGIA POLITICS

part listening tour, took us from Columbus one late afternoon, to Albany for dinner, and on to Valdosta for a breakfast presentation the following morning.

The Albany stop was different from the public town hall type events in the other two cities. We arrived a bit late to what I recall was a nice steakhouse and were welcomed and escorted to a room in the back. A handful of community leaders had been assembled by the local chamber to have dinner with us

and chat.

I recall the setup being a "U" shaped assemblage of tables where the local chamber folks were mostly on one side. Our group filled in most of the other side. The Chamber President sat toward the middle. I was the closest of our group to her.

Everyone was hungry by the time we arrived. Food was served promptly and everyone began eating. Our guys were making small talk among themselves, as were the hosts on the other side of the table. The Chamber President and I exchanged a few awkward looks as whatever collaboration we were supposed to be having wasn't yet happening.

I, lacking shyness and always willing to risk inappropriateness, spoke up a bit over the voice level everyone else was using and said to her, "Well, I'm sure y'all are weary of people saying we're from Atlanta and we're here to help, but what's on everyone's mind?"

The others quit talking. Everyone looked at the Chamber President for her response.

She didn't flinch. In a very direct and sincere voice she said "No. We're genuinely happy someone is here to ask."

What followed was a long two-way conversation that lasted for more than two hours. We arrived off schedule and departed for Valdosta even more so. I and we learned a lot in that time. I still remember quite a bit of it.

The transportation dream goal was to extend the rail line from Cordele, which was Georgia's first "inland port", to get direct and higher speed freight rail access to Georgia's growing ports. That would go a long way to helping them attract businesses. Unlike Metro Atlanta and most of North and Coastal Georgia, the Southwest corner of the state was losing population and jobs.

We drilled down further. I got granular. I asked specifically what kind of

employers they were hoping to attract. The realistic short term goal was a meatpacker, or some other type of food processor.

I'd been covering Economic Development announcements for years. They weren't looking for a Kia factory like West Point had landed. Metro Atlanta had been landing regional tech headquarters and bio-science jobs with six figure average salaries. Albany wanted, dare I say needed, employers to help them process regionally grown food.

Governor Brian Kemp shifted the focus of Economic Development to Rural Georgia. The success of the efforts have transformed both the rural economy and as we're seeing with the current elections, the issues and expectations of much of the state.

Albany was not left behind. Outdoor Network added a new facility to build outboard boat motors. Proctor & Gamble shifted production of some major brands to their facilities in the area. Several logistics companies have

also expanded in the area.

Economic development success is measured differently in different parts of the state. In Albany and much of deep rural Georgia, every job matters.

Governor Kemp also noticed that commitment to land every job and employ every Georgian by that Chamber President, even if it might not raise eyebrows to most Metro Atlantans. Her name is Barbara Rivera Homes, and Governor Kemp appointed her as Labor Commissioner after the death of Commissioner Bruce Thompson.

She's now running for election, on the ballot for the first time. I didn't meet her as a politician, but as someone who very much understood what people "from Atlanta" could do to help (or hurt) the prospects of those who live and work in remote parts of the state.

Now she is in one of those pivotal positions. She works in Atlanta. I have no doubt that when she is in rural Georgia, people know instantly that she is there to help.

Reflections on a grandson who left us much too soon

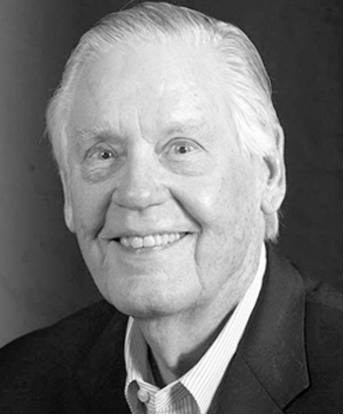
Editor's note: This feature originally ran in September 2023.

My oldest grandson, Zachary Earl Wansley, died 15 years ago this past week while on a training run for an upcoming marathon. He was 21 years old. I am not sure what he would be doing today were he here, but I am positive whatever it might be, he would be a success. He always was.

As to what happened, I do not know. Zack was at the peak of physical condition. The results of the autopsy were shared with his parents, my daughter and son-in-law. I never asked because it wouldn't bring him back.

One of the first calls I received when word got out that my grandson had died was from former Gov. Carl Sanders, who had lost his own grandson after a long and debilitating illness. No one, he told me, should ever outlive their children or grandchildren. Wiser words this great man never spoke.

But outlive Zack, I have done. And now I am left with the memories of an exceptional young man who was the epitome of an achiever. He was an honor student, president of his high school senior class, captain of the cross-country team and winner of the Journal Cup as the school's Outstanding Graduate. None of this went to his head. If there



DICK YARBROUGH

was a vote for Most Likeable, he would have won that, too. Zack was the total package.

Both of his grandfathers were graduates of the University of Georgia as were his father and mother, so there was no question as to where Zachary would be going to college. And off to college he went – to The Georgia Institute of Technology. Not a spur of the moment decision, either. This kid was always an unrepentant and unapologetic Yellow Jacket, who could more than hold his own with all the Bulldogs in his family.

As with everything else he did, Zack excelled academically at Tech and was a member of the cross-country team until he chose to participate in the institution's co-op program, where he would work a semester and attend classes a semester. And, of course, he was highly regarded by the firm for whom he worked and who made a sizeable

donation to Georgia Tech in his memory when he passed away.

When our four grandsons turned 10, the Beloved Woman Who Shared My Name decided we would take each on a trip of their choosing in the U.S. No parents allowed. Zack and his younger brother, Nicholas, wanted to ride a domed train overnight from Seattle to San Diego. One of their cousins, Brian, wanted to go fly-fishing in Montana, and the other, Thomas, chose Boston.

The trips were such a success we decided to do it again before the grandboys were grown and gone. This time, Nicholas decided to go to Scotland where his grandmother's ancestors had lived. Brian opted for the bright lights of New York City, and Thomas, a visit to the D-Day beaches at Normandy. That left

only Zack.

As the oldest grandson and the one I had loved the longest, I told him we would go anywhere on this planet he wanted to go. Just name it. His request? He wanted to go to Yankee Stadium to see the New York Yankees play and then to Boston's Fenway Park to see a Red Sox game. I reiterated that I was talking about anywhere on this planet. He reiterated he was talking about Yankee Stadium and Fenway Park. So we went to Yankee Stadium and Fenway Park.

It was, appropriately, the trip of a lifetime. We had our own private box at Yankee Stadium. In Boston, we were treated like royalty by the fans around us when they discovered a grandfather and his grandson had traveled up from Georgia to see their beloved "Sox" play. Four

months later, Zack was gone. But that memory is forever.

Three months after Zack died, Cameron Charles Yarbrough made his appearance as the family's first great-grandchild and, soon to be 15, is showing much of the same drive to succeed as the cousin he never got to meet. Cameron is an excellent student and a promising high school cross-country runner. I have reminded him he could have no better role

model than Zachary Earl Wansley.

There is no use questioning why someone so special with so much potential was taken from us so suddenly. It happened and nothing can change that fact. All I know is that no one should ever outlive a child or grandchild. And I have.

You can reach Dick Yarbrough at dick@dick-yarbrough.com or at P.O. Box 725373, Atlanta, Georgia 31139



THE DAWSON NEWS

GEORGIA TRUST

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Peter Gelber is named the 2026 Georgia Farmer of the Year

Pete Gelber grew up in the Bronx, a part of New York City. His parents purchased a cabin three hours north of the city to keep the five children out of trouble in the summer. After his brother obtained a job at the neighboring 30 cow dairy, Pete started trailing behind his brother when he was twelve. This childhood experience turned

into a lifelong career in the dairy industry, as it inspired Pete to pursue a degree in Animal Science at Cornell University. Today, Pete owns one of the largest dairy operations in the Southeastern United States where he integrates progress, sustainability, and productivity.

After struggling mightily on a small rented hillside

dairy Pete went to work for Ron St. John, who at the time was milking 700 cows in western New York. St. John moved to Florida in 1986 and Pete followed four years later. St. John became both a mentor and friend to Pete. When St. John purchased a couple of bankrupt dairies in Montezuma, Georgia, Pete was made a partner in the newly attained entities.

Pete quickly recognized the opportunities the Georgia dairies offered. A great aquifer, large productive fields and a strong milk market were all conducive to dairying. All of these benefits positioned the dairies for long-term growth and profitability. In 2007, Pete moved to Montezuma, Georgia to manage the dairies full-time. Five years later, he purchased the dairies and assumed full ownership with his son, Richard Gelber.

“I have been extremely fortunate throughout my career to work with exceptional and generous partners,” said Pete.

Today, Pete’s 10,000+ acre operation is structured into four distinct business units. The farm headquarters, Barrington LLC, is located on the northern end of the property and houses half of the milking herd and all of the dry cows. Highbrighton Maco, on the south end of the property, houses the highest-producing cows and features a state-of-the-art 120-head rotary milking parlor. Pete milks 13,500 cows between the two facilities, producing around 1.3 million pounds of milk per day. Highbrighton Aglands and Barrington Aglands both function as cropping operations, producing corn, wheat, and millet silage that is supplied directly back to the dairies for feed. The four entities work in supporting the productivity, efficiency, and long-term success of the dairy farm.

Each cow at Barrington LLC contributes economically through fluid milk production or by sale to third-party markets. Fluid milk is marketed through Dairy Farmers of America and sent into grocery stores in Georgia and the Southeast.

The breeding program at Barrington LLC uses

sexed semen along with the top genetic females to produce desirable replacement heifers that support future expansion. All the cows are genomically tested to select the top 50% of genetic superior females. All other females are bred to Angus bulls. These calves are sold to feedlots and finished for beef production. Cull cows are bid out weekly. An average of 95 head per week are sold. This process ensures that the most productive cows remain in the milking herd and supports the overall efficiency and profitability of the operation. Revenue generated from the sale of beef calves and cull cows represents an important component of Gelber’s business model, accounting for approximately 15% of annual income.

Environmental stewardship is crucial on a large operation like Barrington Dairy LLC. Pete follows the old saying, “Leave it better than you found it,” with each environmental decision he makes. Richard Gelber, Pete’s son, has developed an extensive lagoon system and land base that plays a critical role in efficiency for the operation. Its large storage capacity allows for significant volumes of manure, which is then applied directly to crops during key vegetative growth stages to provide nutrients, reduce fertilizer input costs, and improve crop yields. Pete has also installed additional pumps with electric motors to increase pumping capacity while reducing emissions compared to traditional diesel-powered systems. Through improved productivity in both the herd and crop production, Barrington LLC has reduced the farm’s overall carbon footprint.

Pete’s three children and five grandchildren have all worked, or will work, on the dairy. His son, Richard, currently serves as the dairy’s Operations Manager, overseeing crop production, irrigation systems, and lagoon management. Pete values raising his family on the farm and teaching the importance of hard work, a positive attitude, and understanding the true value of a dollar. He knows his operation wouldn’t be possible without his employees, and he

is committed to providing a supportive work environment for them. He has given three longtime employees phantom stock in the business.

“I hope to help educate future generations about the importance of agriculture, the value of maintaining a positive attitude and caring for both animals and employees,” said Pete.

Along with his operation, he also values supporting the community and growing the dairy industry as a whole. He currently provides calves for the Baby Barn exhibit at the Georgia National Fair which allows consumers to see where their milk comes from and learn about modern dairy farming practices. Pete opens his farm up for tours and field trips, allowing students, veterinary students, and industry professionals to learn about a modern dairy operation firsthand. He also provides internships on the farm for students from multiple states interested in veterinary science or dairy science.

Locally, Pete supports the 4-H and FFA programs in numerous Georgia counties. The dairy participates in the Macon County Elementary Farm Day which teaches students about agriculture. On the state level, he is a member of Georgia Milk Producers and serves on the Board of Directors for the Agriculture Commodity Commission for Milk. In 2022, Pete was named the Distinguished Agricultural Steward Award Winner.

“By striving to be a responsible steward of our land, livestock, and natural resources, I hope to serve as a positive example of sustainable agriculture while helping educate others about the importance and impact of the dairy industry,” said Pete. “At the very least we want to stay off the six o’clock news,” he joked.

Pete was nominated for the Georgia Farmer of the Year award by Macon County Extension Agent Madison W. Luke.

“Pete Gelber exemplifies the dedication, innovation, leadership, and stewardship which define a true Farmer of the Year,” said Luke. “Through hard work, perseverance, and a com-

mitment to strong values, Pete built and grew one of Georgia’s leading dairy operations. Under his leadership, the operation has evolved through extensive modernization efforts. Pete’s impact extends far beyond his operation. He has devoted decades to serving the dairy industry and agricultural community through leadership roles, mentorship, educational outreach, and support for future generations.”

A distinguished panel of judges will visit each finalist in August and the winner will be announced during the 2026 Sunbelt Ag Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year Luncheon.

Returning program sponsors in 2026 are Harper Family Holdings, the Alabama Farmers Federation, Arkansas Farm Bureau, Florida Farm Bureau, Georgia Farm Bureau, North Carolina Farm Bureau, South Carolina Farm Bureau, Virginia Farm Bureau, the Georgia Association of Conservation Districts, Ag Georgia Farm Credit, Ag South Farm Credit, and SW Georgia Farm Credit and Arkansas Farm Credit. New sponsors for 2026 include Phoebe Putney Health Systems.

As the state winner of the Sunbelt Expo award, they will receive a \$2,500 cash award and an expense-paid trip to the Sunbelt Expo from the sponsors. A vest from the sponsors will be given to each state winner and nominator. The Moultrie Colquitt Co. Chamber of Commerce will give each state winner a local keepsake.

The state winners are now eligible for the \$15,000 cash prize awarded to the overall winner by the sponsors. Massey Ferguson North America will provide each state winner with a gift package and the overall winner with the use of a Massey Ferguson tractor for a year or 250 hours (whichever comes first). A jacket from the sponsors will be given to the overall winner. Hays LTI will award the overall winner with a HAYS Smoker/Grill. In addition, the overall winner will receive a Henry Repeating Arms American Farmer Tribute Edition rifle from Reinke

Irrigation and a diesel prize package from Howes.

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-129

IN THE PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF TERRELL STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: CHARLIE ANDREW POWELL, DECEASED
ESTATE NO: 4154
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

To: ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, INTERESTED PARTIES, CREDITORS

AUDRA PRICE has petitioned to be appointed **Administrator** of the estate of **CHARLIE ANDREW POWELL** 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 NOVEMBER 23RD, 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 29, November 5, 12, 19, 2026

D-127

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-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-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-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 CRUISE ROAD NORTHWEST
SUITE 301
LAWRENCEVILLE GA. 30044

October 15, 22, 29, November 5, 2026

D-128

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

GEORGIA, TERRELL COUNTY
All creditors of the estate of **BARBARA ANNETTE WATSON WISENER**, 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 27TH day of OCTOBER, 2026
JILL RANEE WISENER, ADMINISTRATOR
BARBARA ANNETTE WATSON WISENER, DECEASED
135 HUGH ROAD
LEESBURG, GA. 31763

October 29, November 5, 12, 19, 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

D-126

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

GEORGIA, TERRELL COUNTY
All creditors of the estate of **DEMETERIC 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
DEMETERIC BERNARD MALLORY, DECEASED
1488 MEW GULL LN.
EL PASO, TEXAS 79928

October 22, 29, November 5, 12, 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

FARMERS

Continued from page 1

roughly two years, James said, they began changing their fertility and crop-protection practices, relying more heavily on compost and an extract made from it.

“We make our own compost now,” April said. “We have poultry houses.”

Their compost combines two parts cotton gin waste with one part poultry manure, according to the company’s product description. They also produce a fertilizer made from composted chicken manure and a liquid compost extract. April said they apply the extract to foliage and through the irrigation system.

The process links the couple’s poultry and pecan operations while creating another product to sell. Materials left from raising chickens and processing cotton become inputs for growing another crop.

That emphasis on recycling nutrients and improving soil is central to regenerative agriculture. University of Georgia researchers describe the approach as building soil health and organic matter while reducing dependence on outside inputs. Practices can include compost applications, cover crops and re-

duced tillage, with methods adapted to the farm.

USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service identifies four principles for soil health: minimizing disturbance, keeping soil covered, increasing biological diversity and maintaining living roots. Such practices can improve nutrient cycling, soil structure and water infiltration.

At Waymaker, James said, the transition involved watching how the trees responded.

He said the farm stopped using liquid nitrogen during the preceding season and reduced fungicide applications. This year, he said, its fertility program relied on composted poultry manure and compost extract, with supplemental zinc added to address a deficiency.

“We did have to add some zinc,” he said. “That was the only deficiency that we had.”

James said monthly tissue analyses helped track the trees’ nutrient levels. He reported that some nutrients increased even when they were not being added individually.

Those observations have encouraged the couple.

The financial question matters alongside the biological one. In a UGA account of regenerative ag-

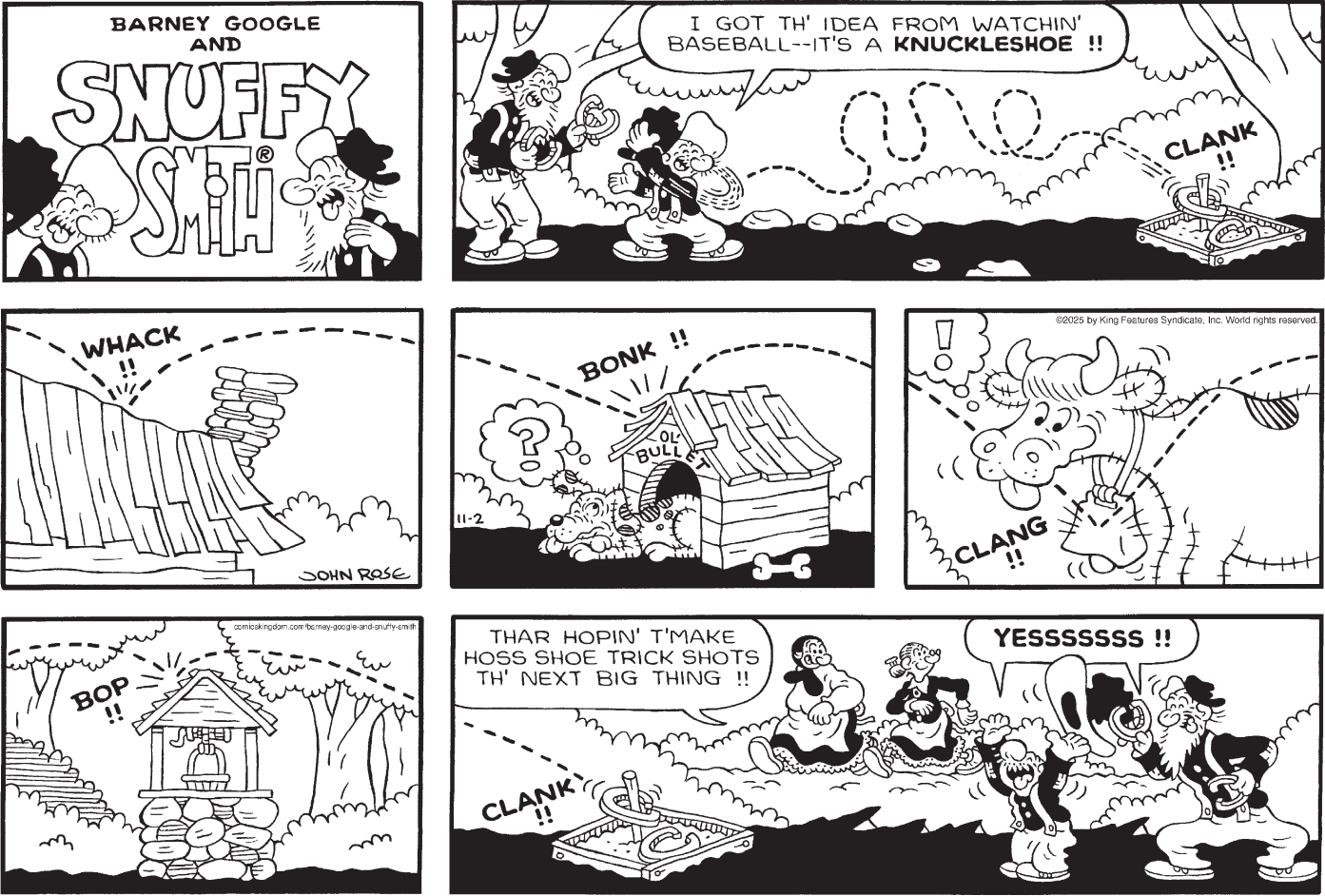
riculture research, Tifton horticulturist Juan Carlos Díaz-Pérez emphasized that changes must work for both the land and the people earning a living from it. “The challenge is to demonstrate that you can be sustainable both ecologically and financially,” he said in the university report.

Soil-building practices also have an established place in pecan research. Another recommendation from the UGA Extension is the addition of crimson clover between orchard rows to supply nitrogen and build organic matter. The clover grows while pecan trees are dormant and produces seed in late spring and early summer.

For the Pelham couple, the farm has also become a place to test what they sell.

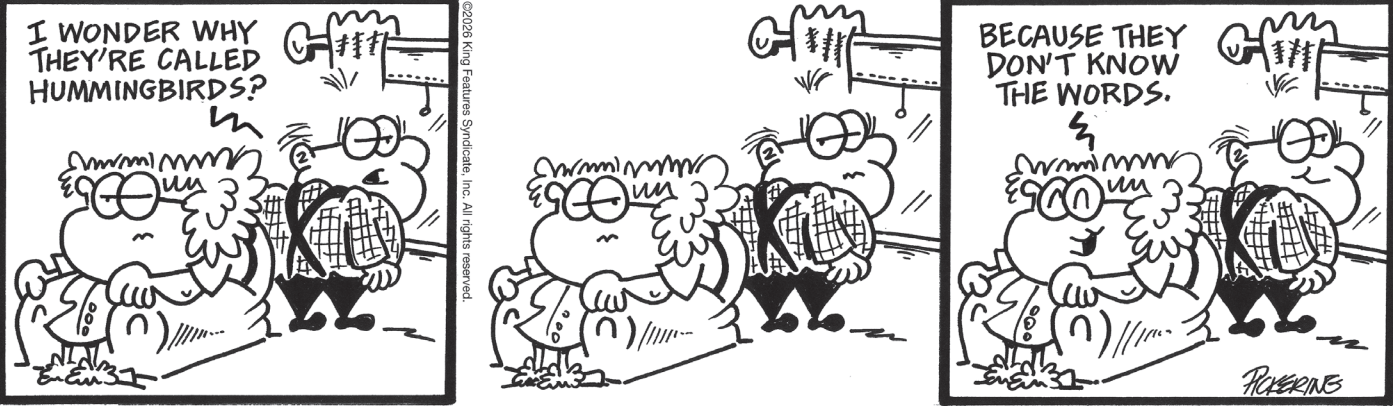
April said they initially marketed their products to backyard growers. Their own experience with struggling citrus trees helped persuade them to expand the approach across the farm. After applying compost supplied by their Illinois partners, she said, the trees began bearing fruit.

She attributed the improvement to the compost. The experience became part of the couple’s decision to change their practices, rather than proof that



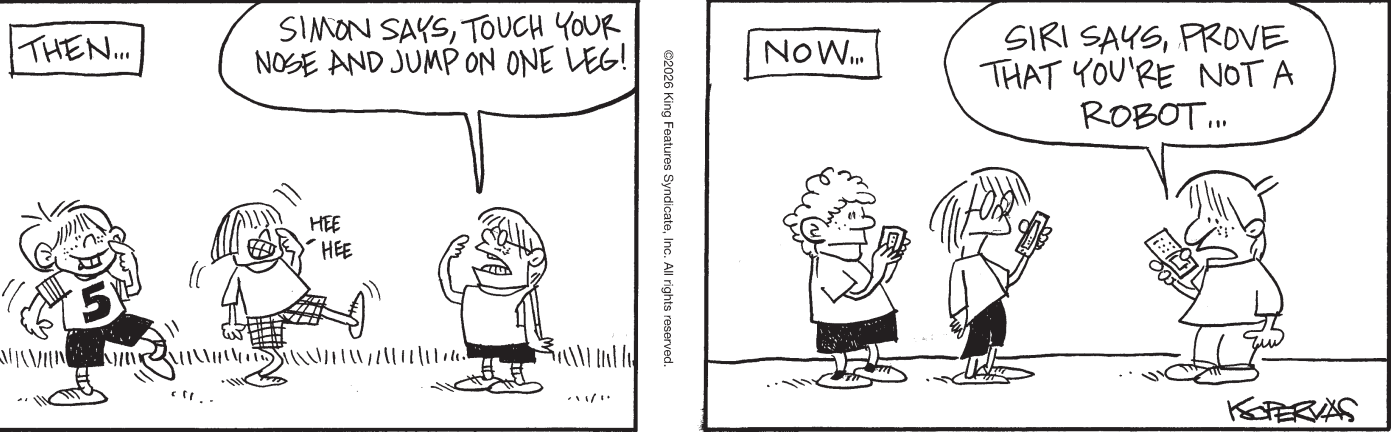
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



King Crossword

Answers

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

1. Personal

4. Poi base

8. Fraud

12. Romance

13. — incline (tilt- ed)

14. Unruly groups

15. Message from an admirer

17. Border on

18. On an angle

19. Vinyl records

21. Before

22. "Darn it!"

26. Scrabble piec- es

29. Movie format

30. "Little piggie"

31. Rd. crossers

32. Grant's foe

33. 1982 sci-fi film

34. "The Newsroom" actor Patel

35. Farm grazer

36. Resided

37. "I, Robot" author

39. Lanka lead-in

40. Storm center

41. Sculpted trunks

45. Sagan or Sandburg

48. Romantic Ella Fitzgerald song

50. Squad

51. — Stanley Gardner

52. PC linking sys- tem

53. Short cuts

54. Snitched

55. Vintage

11. Rockies hrs.

16. Tools for duels

20. Third degree?

23. To be, in Tours

24. "Neato!"

25. Superman's alias

26. "There!"

27. Currier's part- ner

28. Jeans maker Strauss

29. Morning mois- ture

32. Mini-shutout at Wimbledon

33. Spin

35. Demure

36. Buzzed

38. Thaws

39. Unmoving

42. Aviator's mile- stone

43. Track shape

44. Email com- mand

45. Young lion

46. Year in Spain

47. Chest bone

49. Granada gold

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MAGIC MAZE

DIRTY WORDS

Q E B M Y V R O L I F C Z W S

T Q N U K I F Y C Z W U R T P

M J H D E C S Z X U S Q A N L

J G E D E S C Z X V T I R P E

N L J Y E G H S E C N M A G Y

W V H M W H D Q O T A P D R R

E P Y T O O S U N I E U L U K

I M G E L C L A M B L R Z B X

W U I S R I P L W S C E O B M

L J I R G E F O A N N D D Y B

A Y X E G N U R G W U W U T S

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: A HARD TO REMOVE SPOT

Filth	Impure	Smudged	Unclean
Grime	Messy	Soiled	Unwashed
Grubby	Muddy	Sooty	Wallow
Grunge	Sludge	Squalor	

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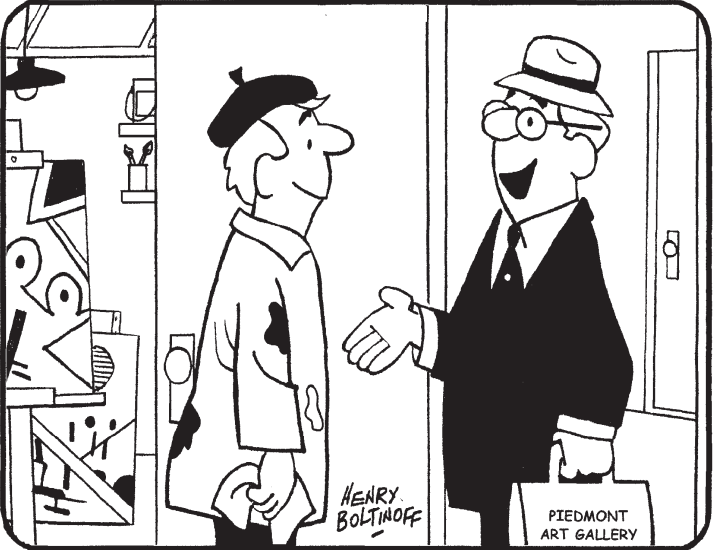
Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

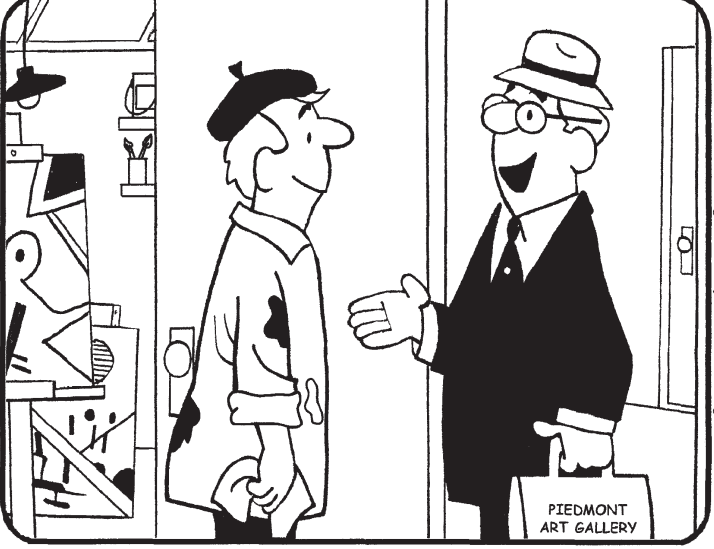


HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Light is moved. 2. Sleeve is rolled up. 3. Hand is moved. 4. Door is moved. 5. Thumb is moved. 6. Painting is different.

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