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THE DAWSON NEWS

CIRCULATES IN THE HEART OF THE PEANUT BELT

(USPS 149-480)

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Terrell sheriff seeks local firing range as county weighs sites

Commissioners discuss safety, land availability and possible youth shooting-sports use

By KATHRYN CROCKETT
kathryn@albanyherald.com

DAWSON — A request for a local law enforcement firing range drew support from Terrell County commissioners Tuesday, but finding a location that can safely accommodate firearms training without interfering with nearby homes, recreation or future business development remains the first hurdle.

Sheriff Vernon L. Jessie asked commissioners Nov. 3 to make county land available for a range where deputies could train without traveling outside Terrell County. The proposal remained exploratory at the close of the discussion, with no site selected or construction funding approved.

Jessie described a local range as an investment in officer preparedness and public safety that could save travel time and potentially reduce training expenses. He called for the county and sheriff's office to work through location, safety, environmental and funding considerations.

Chairman Wilbur T. Gamble said commissioners would work with the sheriff's office to examine options, with the goal of developing a plan within a month or two.

Discussion initially focused on about 2 acres at a former archery site. Jessie suggested clearing the property and using inmate labor to help build the range, although no cost estimate was presented.

That possibility raised questions about the land's availability. During the discussion, the former archery property was identified as development-authority

FIRING
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A shooter takes aim at a clay target. Terrell County commissioners are exploring a proposed law enforcement firing range, with discussion also touching on possible shared use for 4-H shooting sports. Staff Photo: KATHRYN CROCKETT

Wolfe makes majority-party pitch as District 151 runoff with Cheokas nears

By KATHRYN CROCKETT
kathryn@albanyherald.com

AMERICUS — When Ethan Wolfe asked voters across Georgia House District 151 this fall whether their longtime state representative had taken care of their needs, he said the answer was hard to miss.

"I heard a resounding no," Wolfe said.

The Democrat and retired Air Force lieutenant colonel now gets a second chance to make that case. Wolfe will face Rep. Mike Cheokas, R-Americus, in a Dec. 1 runoff after neither candidate won a majority in the Nov. 3 three-way race.

Unofficial returns showed Cheokas with 47.88% of the vote, Wolfe with 40.85% and independent Travis Lockhart with 11.26%. Georgia law requires a candidate to win more than 50% of the vote to avoid a runoff.

Cheokas did not respond to a request to be interviewed for this story. He also did not respond to The Herald's interview requests for an October story on the race.

A runoff with statewide stakes

The runoff carries weight well beyond the district, which takes in all of Chattahoochee, Marion, Schley, Stewart, Terrell and Webster counties and parts of Dougherty and Sumter counties.

Democrats won a majority in the Georgia House on Nov. 3 for the first time since 2004. Unofficial results on election night showed Democrats winning 93 of the 180 seats.

That cushion narrowed days later in neighboring House District 154. Seminole County officials found 388 Election Day votes that had not been uploaded to the county's election management system, turning Republican Rep. Gerald Greene's 58-vote deficit against Democrat Harry James into a 262-vote lead, according to the secretary of state's office. If Greene's lead is certified, Democrats would hold 92 seats, one more than the 91 needed for a majority. Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger has opened an investigation into how the votes were missed.

District 151 is the only state House race in Georgia headed to a runoff.

"Now that we're in the runoff, we're the only runoff in the whole state," Wolfe said. "So we're about to have a lot of folks descending upon southwest Georgia, not only to see what was going on, but also to help out."

'In a position to work with the majority'

Wolfe said the Nov. 3 results showed Georgia voters want change. But he argued that a new majority in Atlanta will not, on its own, deliver for the district's rural counties.

"While we have change at the state level, which is going to help advance a lot of those main issues ... we need someone here locally that focuses on the counties in District 151," Wolfe said, naming Medicaid expansion, education funding and affordability among those statewide issues. "Each county has their own needs, right? I mean, we all have needs that are similar, but we also have individual needs that need to be addressed."

The question he posed to voters, Wolfe said, was whether Cheokas had met those needs while serving with the House's governing party, and how he would meet them now.

"If he's elected back into office, and now he's in the minority party of the General Assembly, why do you think he would fix those issues now, or how do you think he would fix those now, being in the minority?" Wolfe said.

"If I'm elected, I'm going to be in the majority in the House, and I'll be in a

CHEOKAS
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Judge extends service deadline in Terrell County dog lawsuit; Beckum says he has lawyer

Judge extends service deadline in Terrell County dog lawsuit; Beckum says he has lawyer

By KATHRYN CROCKETT
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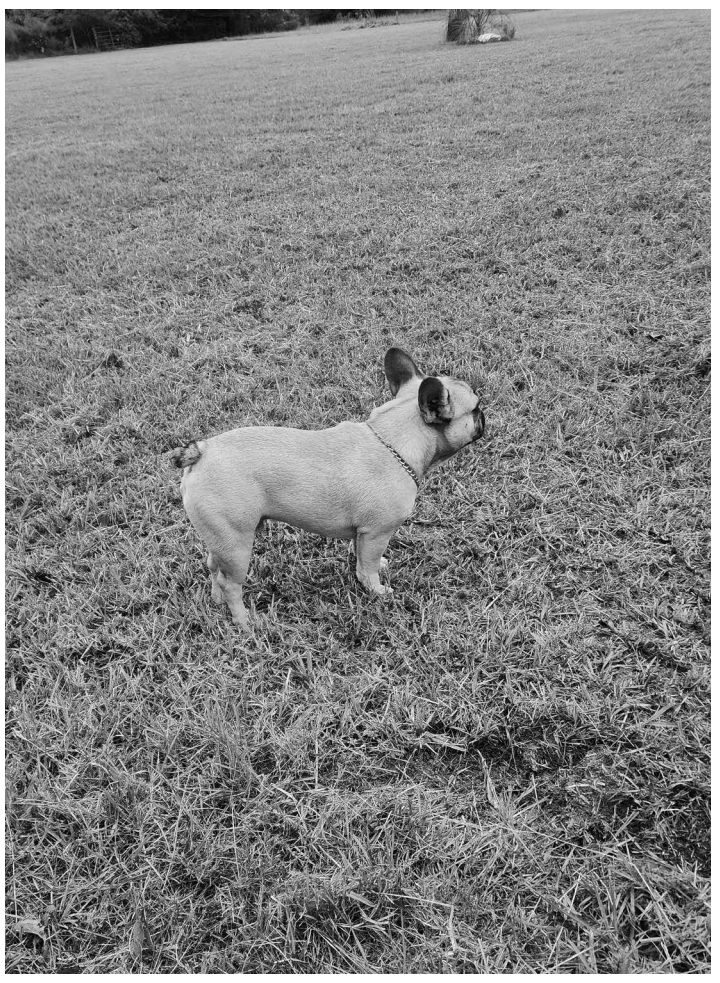
DAWSON — A federal judge has given a Terrell County resident until Dec. 2 to properly serve his civil rights lawsuit over the removal of 12 French bulldogs, and the resident says he has found an attorney after months of seeking representation.

U.S. District Judge W. Louis Sands granted Talmadge Allen "Tab" Beckum's request for more time Nov. 2, finding good cause to extend the deadline. Beckum must serve each defendant with a summons and a copy of his amended complaint, then promptly file proof with the court.

Beckum said in an email to The Albany Herald that Matt Handsfield of Dreyer & Associates agreed to represent him after he contacted more than 240 attorneys.

"Having an attorney and the opportunity to correct service is a tremendous relief after pursuing this matter on my own," Beckum wrote. "I feel renewed hope about having my case heard."

The lawsuit names Terrell County, animal control director Martha Ann Coe and County Commission Chairman Wilbur T. Gamble III.



One of the 12 French bulldogs removed from Talmadge "Tab" Beckum's Terrell County property on June 11, 2024. A federal judge has given Beckum until Dec. 2 to properly serve defendants in his civil rights lawsuit over the dogs' removal. PHOTO COURTESY OF TALMADGE BECKUM.

Beckum alleges 12 French bulldogs were removed from his property without a warrant June 11, 2024, and that he was denied a meaningful opportunity to contest their loss. He disputes that he voluntarily surrendered the animals.

The Nov. 2 order addresses service of the lawsuit. It does not decide the merits of Beckum's allegations or resolve the defendants' request to dismiss the case.

Gamble denied wrongdoing in an interview with the newspaper during reporting for its earlier story.

"Obviously, I can't talk a lot about it, but I can just say we categorically deny basically everything he's got in his lawsuit," Gamble said. "We absolutely did not do anything illegal or wrong."

In a written response to Beckum's records request, Gamble described the surrender as voluntary and said it spared Beckum potential charges and animal-care costs. Beckum said he signed an incomplete release form under duress.

Beckum filed the lawsuit May 21 without an attorney. According to the Nov. 2 order, he obtained summonses from the clerk June 22, and the defendants received them without copies of the complaint, which federal rules also require.

Beckum told the court he had left three stamped copies of the complaint with the clerk and they were not returned with the summonses.

After the defendants challenged his original

DOG
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Harper dominates rural vote as Juhan-Arnold wins statewide

By KATHRYN CROCKETT
kathryn@albanyherald.com

County group	Counties	Harper votes	Juhan-Arnold votes	Harper share	Share of all votes	Share of farm gate value
Rural	118	570,363	253,558	69.2%	19.8%	84.0%
Urban	41	1,350,394	1,985,435	40.5%	80.2%	16.0%
Top 20 farm counties	20	163,445	73,767	68.9%	5.7%	42.4%

Tyler Harper received 68.9% of the combined vote in Georgia's 20 cunties with the highest 2024 farm gate value, while Katherine Juhan-Arnold won the agriculture commissioner's race statewide. Those 20 counties accounted for 42.4% of Georgia's farm gate value and 5.7% of the votes cast in the race. GRAPHIC: THE ALBANY HERALD

ALBANY — Democrat Katherine Juhan-Arnold won Georgia's agriculture commissioner race Tuesday without winning most of Georgia's farm country.

Juhan-Arnold, a Snellville nonprofit founder, defeated Republican incumbent Tyler Harper 2,238,993 to 1,920,757, or 53.8% to 46.2%, according to unofficial results from the Georgia Secretary of State's Office. Harper, a seventh-generation farmer from Ocilla, carried 18 of the state's 20 largest farm counties.

Juhan-Arnold will be the first woman and the first Black person to lead the Georgia Department ofAgriculture, the oldest state agriculture department in the nation.

An Albany Herald analysis matched vote totals from all 159 counties with University of Georgia farm production estimates and state and federal rural classifications. It shows her margin came from metro Atlanta, while the counties that produce most of Georgia's farm value voted for Harper.

Where the votes fell

Georgia's 118 rural counties hold 84% of the state's farm gate value, the university's estimate of what food and fiber production is worth. They cast 19.8% of the votes in this race. Harper won 69.2% of those votes.

The rural count uses the Georgia Department of Revenue's list of counties with fewer than 50,000 people, excluding military personnel and their dependents. Federal definitions produce a similar result: Harper won 68.4% in the 85 counties the U.S.

Juhan-Arnold's statewide margin was 318,236 votes. Fulton, DeKalb, Gwinnett, Cobb and Clayton counties alone gave her a 677,606-vote edge, more than twice that margin. Those five counties hold about 1% of the state's farm gate value.

Overall, Harper carried 126 counties to Juhan-Arnold's 33. The counties he won hold 88.9% of the state's farm gate value.

The farm belt was not unanimous. Juhan-Arnold carried Macon County, No. 7 in farm gate value at $426.1 million in 2024, and Sumter County, No. 15 at $245.4 million. She also narrowly carried Burke County, No. 25 at $215 million, 4,370 to 4,269.

Harper's strongest results among the top farm producers came in the state's northeast poultry belt. He won 86.5% in Banks County. He won 84% in Franklin County and 75.2% in Hart County, the state's top two poultry and egg counties, according to UGA. In Colquitt County, the state's largest farm producer at $700.1 million, he

HARPER
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OBITUARIES



DANIA IRENE SOLIS DEVANE

CUTHBERT, GA - Dania Irene Solis DeVane, 89, of Cuthbert, GA passed away on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, in Southeast Health Medical Center in Dothan. Funeral services will be conducted at 11:00 AM on Saturday, November 7, 2026, in the Trinity Methodist Church with interment to follow in Rehoboth Baptist Church Cemetery near Shellman with Rev. Paul Buckheister officiating.

Dania was born on October 20, 1937, in Havanna, Cuba the daughter of the late Ram'on Solis and the late Ofelia Rey Solis. She was a graduate of St. Joseph Catholic Academy and received an Associate's Business Degree from Andrew College. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Marvin Harris DeVane, Sr. and son, Marvin Harris DeVane, Jr.

Dania was instrumental in the establishment in 1972 of the Randolph County MR Center and Randolph-Clay Training Center. She was very active in the community serving on the Randolph Farm Bureau Committee, Randolph 4-H Committee, FSA Board and the National Pork Board.

Survivors include 3 daughters, Yvonne Irene DeVane, Dania Maria DeVane and Roxanne DeVane, a son, John Andrew DeVane, and daughter-in-law, Jennifer DeVane all of Cuthbert, 5 grandchildren, Jenna (Joe) Settles, Loy (Cameron) DeVane, Devan McCarter, Dana McCarter and Macie Milliron, and 5 great grandchildren, Chance Washington, Jerri Sue Washington, Chevy Washington, Anakin DeVane and LJ DeVane.

Also, her first cousin is Silvia Del Aguila, and her late husband was Jose Del Aguila. Aunt Silvia's children are Jose Jr., Aymara, and Mayra DelAguila Castrillon. This was her family she adored and loved so much from Miami, FL. Silvia and Dania grew up together in Cuba and were more sisters rather than cousins.

Serving as pallbearers will be Clifford Rigsby, Tom Peavy, TJ Peavy, Tommy McCook, Clint Ferguson, Billy Hall, Taylor Harris and Wayne Wall.

Memorials may be made to the Randolph County 4-H Club at P. O. Box 282 Cuthbert, GA 39840. The family will receive friends on Friday from 6:00 until 8:00 PM at the funeral home.

LUNSFORD FUNERAL HOME, CUTHBERT, GA 229/732-2148

Terrell historic society plans Dec. 5 Christmas Tour of Homes

By KATHY HICKS
Terrell County Historic Preservation Society

DAWSON — The Terrell County Historic Preservation Society will host its Christmas Tour of Homes from 1 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, raising money for historic preservation projects in Dawson and Terrell County.

The tour will feature the homes of Veronica and Michael Johnson; Sheryl and Jeff Elliott on Seventh Avenue; Kevin Sutton on Lee Street; Maria and Steve Strowbridge on Stonewall Street; and Winifred and Robert Aaron on Brooksville Road.

The Clay Communion on Main Street and First Baptist Church on Church Street also will be featured.

The historic Log Cabin on Stonewall Street will serve as tour headquarters. Attendees should pick up their tour books there, and tickets will be available for purchase on the day of the event.

Souvenir pillows, suncatchers, Christmas ornaments and the Terrell County history book also will be available for purchase at the cabin, which houses the Terrell History Museum, an ongoing society project.

Tour tickets are $25 for adults and $15 for ages 13-17. Children 12 and younger are admitted free. Advance tickets may be purchased with cash or check from Jill Hester at Georgia Community Bank or by calling Kathy Hicks at 229-854-3763.

The society also will host a dinner Friday evening, Dec. 4, at the Main Street Theater to honor participating homeowners. Dinner tickets are sold separately for $30 and may be purchased with cash or check through Hester or Hicks.

Proceeds from the tour support improvements and marketing for Dawson's nationally recognized historic district and other historic projects. The society promotes the preservation and restoration of homes and businesses, county beautification and the preservation of local history.

Mike Prachar Selected as Scout Executive of the South Georgia Council

We are pleased to announce the selection of Mike Prachar as Scout Executive of the South Georgia Council in Valdosta Georgia, effective December 1, 2026.





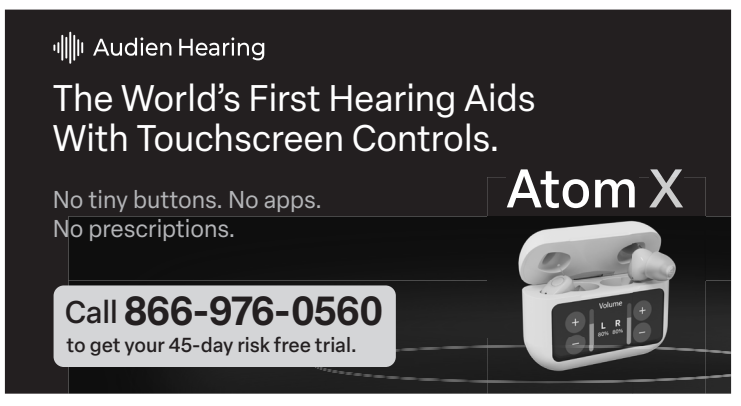
Mike began his Scouting career in 1994 as a District Executive at the Mecklenburg County Council in Charlotte North Carolina. He moved on to become a Senior District Executive at the Piedmont Council in Gastonia North Carolina, and Field Director at the National Capital Area Council in Bethesda Maryland, then served as the Assistant Scout Executive at the Indian Waters Council in Columbia South Carolina, Director of Support Services at the Blue Ridge Council in Greenville South Carolina, Director of Support Services at the Circle Ten Council in Dallas Texas, and served on the National Staff as the Associate Director to the 2026 National Jamboree.

Mike is an Eagle Scout, Vigil Honor member of the Order of the Arrow, who enjoys playing pickleball, golf, skiing (water and snow), shooting, throwing frisbee with his dog Scout and traveling.

Mike has four children; two daughters, Julia, and Lauren who both worked on camp staff at Camp Old Indian in Greenville South Carolina, and two Eagle Scout sons serving overseas with the North Carolina Air National Guard. Mike became a grandfather for the first time in September.

Please join us in welcoming and congratulating Mike as he joins in partnership with the volunteers and staff of the South Georgia Council to deliver quality Scouting experiences to the young people of the communities we serve in our 28 counties in South Georgia.







Terrell County Board of Commissioners Chairman Wilbur T. Gamble Jr., seated, signs a proclamation recognizing November 2026 as American Indian Heritage Month with members of Dawson's Old Herod Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. Photo courtesy of National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Terrell County recognizes American Indian Heritage Month

DAWSON — Terrell County Board of Commissioners Chairman Wilbur T. Gamble Jr. has proclaimed November 2026 as American Indian Heritage Month in recognition of Native Americans' history, culture and contributions.

Members of Dawson's Old Herod Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution provided the proclamation.

The observance honors the influence of American Indians and Indigenous peoples on the nation's history and culture, including the customs and traditions that remain part of its heritage.

Georgia's fertile soil and waterways supported thousands of Native Americans in complex communities. Peoples who have lived in the state include the Cherokee, Creek, Savannah, Timucua, Westo, Yamasee, Oconee, Seminole and Yuchi.



Terrell Retired Educators will celebrate November 1, 2026

Terrell County Commissioner T. Gamble with President Evelyn Fillingame of TREA, signs a proclamation designating the occasion. Governor Brian Kemp proclaimed November 1 as Georgia Retired educators Day. Local members will be recognized at their local churches. This occasion honors the many men and women who have dedicated their lives to educate and encourage the youth of our county and state. Take the time to thank a teacher or educator, both retired and active still in the school.

Feeding the Valley sets November food distribution for Nov. 24

DAWSON — Feeding the Valley's November food distribution will take place from 8 to 10:30 a.m. Nov. 24 at S&S Nursing Home in Dawson.

The distribution usually takes place on the fourth Saturday of the month, but November's pickup date has changed.

For more information, contact Director George Wilson at 229-347-3636.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to advise that Logic and Accuracy testing of the Ballot Marking Devices, ImageCast Precinct (ICP) scanners and Poll Pads to be used in the General Runoff Election on Tuesday, December 1, 2026, will be held Monday, November 16, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at the Terrell County Governmental Building, 955 Forrester Drive SE, Dawson, Georgia.

Testing will continue until all voting units have been tested. The public is invited to attend and observe the test.

Carolyn H. Williams
Supervisor
Terrell County Board of Elections and Registration

PUBLIC NOTICE
Advance (Absentee In-Person) Voting

Terrell County voters are reminded that Advance (Absentee In-Person) Voting for the December 1, 2026, General Runoff Election for Georgia House of Representatives District 151 will be held for three days only, Monday, November 23, through Wednesday, November 25, 2026.

Advance voting will take place daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Registrar's Office at the Terrell County Governmental Building, 955 Forrester Drive SE, Dawson, Georgia. The office will remain open during the lunch hour.

There will be NO Saturday voting for this runoff election.

Carolyn H. Williams
Supervisor
Terrell County Board of Elections and Registration

DID YOU KNOW...?

How did the United States get drawn into World War I?

By JACK BAGLEY
GTLN

November is such a wonderful month.

For instance, we've just had Election Day, and I hope your candidate in every race won.

Next, we had Veterans' Day, and I want to send out a sincere, heartfelt thank you to everyone who served their country in times of war or peace.

And, of course, there's Thanksgiving coming up. I'm already getting my appetite ready.

Each week, too, there's trivia, right here in this space ... and you don't gain any calories from reading it! Have at it, friends.

Did you know ...

... the street lamps in the city of Hershey, Pennsylvania, are shaped like chocolate kisses? (What else would they be shaped like in Hershey?)

... the average American eats 263 eggs a year? (Not all at the same time, of course, unless one is really into cholesterol. Who is this average American, anyway?)

... Germany was not the first country to use gas against enemy troops in World War I? Long reviled for their use of chemical warfare, the Imperial German Army doesn't bear the blame for its first use. That falls to the French army, which fired the first tear gas grenades used in the war against the Germans. Germany would use tear gas against Russian troops, and the Germans were the first to use chlorine gas – a deadly poison – in the war.

... the United States was drawn into World War I by a telegram? During the first years of the war, which began in 1914, U.S. President Woodrow Wilson (1856-1924) did his best to keep the country out of the European conflict. But in 1917, British cryptographers decoded a telegram from German Foreign Minister Arthur Zimmermann (1864-1940) to the German minister in Mexico. The telegram encouraged Mexico to invade U.S. territory in an effort to engage the Army and keep America from intervening in the war. The note promised Mexico the return of Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico if the effort was successful and Germany won the war; reaction to the note caused the United States to enter the war on the side of Britain, France, and Russia. Britain had withheld the telegram from the Americans for several months, and released it to get the Americans into the conflict on their side. (I'm not really sure how Germany would have kept that promise, but it was enough to make the U.S. very upset.)

... two leaders of the Catholic church had different views of a popular book series? Asked about the *Harry Potter* series of books, Pope John Paul II (1920-2005) said the novels, by author J.K. Rowling (born 1965), helped children differentiate between good and evil. But his successor as Pontiff, Benedict XVI (1927-2022), called the books "inconsistent with the teachings of the Catholic Church" and said they eroded Christianity in the soul of young readers. (Different strokes for different folks, perhaps?)

... the man who invented the rabies vaccine had a plan in case of laboratory exposure? Louis Pasteur (1822-1895) developed the first effective vaccine against rabies in 1885. But while the research into the vaccine was going on, Pasteur kept a loaded gun in his laboratory. It was to be used in case he or one of his lab assistants became infected with the disease. (A little extreme, don't you think?)

... what the longest distance something has been carried by a tornado is? According to reports, a personal check was swept up in a tornado on April 11, 1991 in Stockton, Kansas. The check finally hit the ground in Winnetoon, Nebraska, some 223 miles away. (When the check hit the ground, did it ... bounce?)

... a computer glitch fouled up the names of thousands of children? According to our friends at Mental Floss, in 1989 some 1082 baby boys in New York found themselves named Christop, instead of their parents' intended Christopher. The state database had accidentally limited to number of letters in the babies' first name to eight. Some other reported odd names were Katherin, Alexande, and Elizabet. (I don't know, being named Christop might be the key to fortune, fame and riches!)

... the largest national park in the United States is probably not the one you're thinking of? Looking at a U.S. map, one would be forgiven for thinking that Wyoming's Yellowstone National Park is the largest in the country. But it isn't. The largest is in Alaska. Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve is a 13.2 million acre park which is home to some of the country's tallest mountains, including Mount St. Elias. (This is a big park - larger than at least nine different states.)

... the ozone layer is making a comeback? In 1985, a "hole" in the ozone layer of the atmosphere was discovered over Antarctica. The ozone layer protects us from the Sun's ultraviolet light, and the "hole" (actually a diminishing of the layer) was caused by chlorofluorocarbons, or CFCs. CFCs were phased out of use by 2010, and the ozone layer is slowly repairing itself. It is expected to be back to its 1980s level by 2040, and to make a full recovery by 2066. (Thanks to Mason for the tip!)

... dark-roasted coffee has less caffeine than medium-roasted? The longer a coffee bean is roasted, the more caffeine burns off. (Yeah, but the taste trade-off ...)

... about 7,000 new insect species are discovered every year? (They've been hiding all this time!)

Now ... you know!

Thoughts on time travel and the present day

THE NEW SOUTHERN DAD



By KYLE DOMINY

In the Mahabharata, King Raivata Kakudmi travels to a heavenly realm to meet Brahma. When he returns to Earth, he discovers that millions of years have passed and the world as he knew it did not exist anymore. The text, believed to be written around the year 400 B.C and considered sacred reading in Hinduism, is the first known time travel story.

Other ancient texts and legends always have people moving forward through time. Another example is the Japanese folktale of Urashima Taro, in which a fisherman visits a wondrous underwater palace for a few days only to find that 300 years has passed when he returns home.

The 1819 American story of Rip Van Winkle has the protagonist taking a 20-year nap in the Catskill Mountains. The Dutch colonist, prone to laziness and often scolded by his spouse, wakes up with a long gray beard and a dead dog. He laments his missed days but not his departed wife. He moves in with his adult daughter and resumes his old habits.

I'm not sure what the moral of that story is supposed to be.

Folks began traveling backwards in time, at least through literature, in the 1880s. H.G. Wells' sci-fi genre-defining novel "The Time Machine" describes the first, well, time machine, a device exclusively designed to take its passengers to any point in the known universe's timeline through a rift in the fourth dimension, a realm that exists hidden between the fabric of time and space.

This book unleashed a seemingly never-ending flow of science fiction tales, and even scientific theory, that humans would one day be able to time travel. This travel would not only open up the possibility of visiting ancient or futuristic times, but would unveil the multiverse, that we all exist along several planes of reality simultaneously.

That means that there could be another me out there while I sit here hunched over a keyboard squinting at a screen, living the life of luxury as a successful CEO, and another surviving off the land as a hermit in the woods. I wonder which one of us is the happiest?

I've never bought into such theories. I'm quite satisfied occupying my little piece of time and space. Sure, this world and time isn't perfect, but find me one that is. People long for the "good old days," but this slice of human history with antibiotics and indoor plumbing has been pretty good to me.

A new study rules out the possibility of many time travel and multiverse theories. I'm going to have to take research at face value, because it's math. Something about lines and how light travels. I don't know, this version of me doesn't understand that kind of stuff.

If people spent half as much time trying to make today a little better as they did trying to get somewhere else, the world might be a better place.

The past isn't what it's cracked up to be and the future won't be too much either if we don't start focusing on the present.

COUCH THEATRE



Rose Byrne, left, and Samantha Quinn star in "The Good Daughter"/**SPECIAL PHOTO, Courtesy of MovieStillsDB**

By DEMI TAVERAS
King Features

"Primetime" (R) -- Director Lance Oppenheim has had two culturally resonant films that have been released this year: a meta-documentary film titled "You Can See Everything," and this psychological thriller led by Robert Pattinson ("The Odyssey"). Much to the real-life Chris Hansen's dismay, in "Primetime," Pattinson portrays "To Catch a Predator" journalist Chris Hansen circa 2006. The potential reveal of an extramarital affair of his causes Hansen to ramp up his efforts toward making his show a success, rather than focusing on the overall mission of catching child predators. While viewers themselves can watch Hansen slowly unravel due to pressure, they can also see him spiral through the eyes of aspiring actor Dan Plum (Skyler Gisondo), who becomes Hansen's mentee. The film is out now to rent; see if it's as "detached from reality" as the real-life Hansen said it was! (Amazon Prime Video)

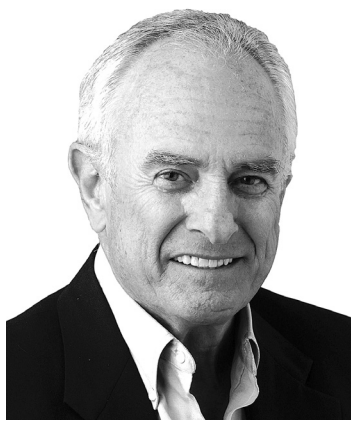
"Other Mommy" (R) -- Jessica Chastain ("Dreams") leads this creepy psychological-horror film based on the 2024 novel "Incidents Around the House" by Josh Malerman. The film zeroes in on a family of three: 7-year-old Bela (Arabella Olivia Clark), her father Russ (Jay Duplass), and her mother Ursula (Chastain). Ursula is laser-focused on her career, which doesn't leave her much time to spend with Russ or Bela. Craving attention from her mother, Bela begins to see a supernatural entity around her house that looks like her mom, so she names this entity "Other Mommy." (Wink.) But as the Other Mommy becomes increasingly contorted and angry, she begins to attack Bela, hoping that Bela will finally let her into her heart. Available to rent on Nov. 10. (Apple TV)

"The Good Daughter" (TV-MA) -- If HBO's "Sharp Objects" was your kind of show, look no further than this new mystery series, which similarly emulates that small-town, gritty, rugged feel. Oscar nominee Rose Byrne ("If I Had Legs, I'd Kick You") stars alongside Emmy nominee Meghann Fahy ("Sirens") as a pair of estranged sisters who tensely reunite after a murder case consumes their hometown. This new case brings back dark memories from a traumatic event when they were young girls, forcing them to reconcile the past and present in order for both sisters to fully move on. Emmy winner Brendan Gleeson ("Spider-Noir") plays their endearing hospitalized father, who hopes to harmonize the relationship between them. All six episodes will be available to stream on Nov. 12. (Peacock)

"Heartland" (R) -- And she's back already! Jessica Chastain ("Other Mommy") is also the lead of this mystery-thriller film premiering on Nov. 13. A completely different change of tune from the film detailed above, "Heartland" takes viewers into the underbelly of Nashville after a young 22-year-old star named Charlie Heart (Carter Faith) disappears. Her aunt, former country music star Misty Jones (Chastain), is pleaded by her brother to go to Nashville and dig around for information about Charlie herself, since she knows her way around the city. At first, Misty is hesitant to go back to this previous chapter in her life, but with Charlie's life on the line, nothing will stop her from finding her niece. (Netflix)

(c) 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

Fall in Virginia



LORAN SMITH

CULPEPER, Va. – This cozy community of 20,000 plus is 70 miles west of the nation's capital and was laid out in 1749 by a young surveyor named George Washington.

It was, owing to its strategic position with the railroads, occupied by both Union and Confederate troops during the Civil War. The battle of Brandy Station, the largest cavalry battle in U.S. history in 1863, took place near here, but a peaceful atmosphere hovers over this town, which has been recognized by *Architectural Digest* as the prettiest town in Virginia.

Virginia is a beautiful state, with Shenandoah Valley less than an hour away. I have accompanied Ted McMullan, a friend with close ties with the University of Georgia and who is the 8th generation of an Irishman who settled here in 1860 following the American Revolution. Ted has come to meet his 93-year-old cousin, Emily McMullan Williams, to record a conversation with her about their ancestor.

She is one of the foremost family historians, who spent years researching the history of John Francis McMullan, who emigrated from Tralee Londonderry in Northern Ireland and fought in the American Revolution.

A brand-new country could not pay its soldiers—there was no treasury—but there was plenty of land, which most people back then would have preferred. He was given a grant of land in this area following the Revolutionary War.

However, he must have gotten the itch to move again because he struck out in 1797 to the South, settling in what is Hart County, which at that time was Elbert County.

We are here to learn what we can from a conversation with Emily McMullan Williams, who was eager to share what she had gathered over the years.

A bonus on this excursion came about when Jenny Tucker Brinkley, who spends time in Middleburg, roughly an hour away, drove down to join us for lunch and provide local transportation. Jenny and her husband, Matt, are Athens residents, but her love of horses makes it a nice fit for periodic fox hunting outings and visiting her daughter, Matilda, who lives nearby.

Our agenda called for lunch, and Ted found a popular and historic restaurant on East Davis Street, "It's about Thyme," with a variety of options, including starters such as duck pate, bruschetta, smoked trout, soups and salads.

There were sandwiches, cheeseburgers, portobello mushrooms, pasta, and seven choices from the main courses, and of course there is a good wine list when you patronize this popular eatery.

While I am sure there are some blights, this is one area of the country that provides an environmental bonanza. Rolling fields dominate an attractive countryside, where there is no roadside trash and no billboards. The foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains are where Culpeper is located, so it should not come as a surprise that this is where the state looks its best.

"Thyme in Culpepper" is more than a popular restaurant. There are rooms for overnight stays and weekend getaways. Spend a night here and you might connect with visions of George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, two of Virginia's most famous citizens.

Thyme's promotional materials are keen on relating to the past, suggesting you can enjoy a "little slice of Europe . . . with scenic murals and old-world ambiance and casual dining at its finest."

Harvest scenes are everywhere, a reminder that this time of the year, we have an opportunity to underscore humility, from the countryside to the storefronts of Culpepper, to say nothing the entire American landscape. I have never traveled to any part of the country during the harvest season when everybody isn't anxious to embrace Thanksgiving. However, it does feel a little different in Arizona and southern California.

What is so uplifting is that small-town America will always make your day, with inhabitants who enjoy being a good neighbor and who underscore faith, hope, and charity.

We don't know why the original John McMullan came to the New World or why he moved on to Georgia after the revolution. More than likely, more productive farmland had something to do with it.

Regarding that, what about these sobering statistics. The total land mass in the U. S. is 2.26 billion acres, with roughly 66-67 million acres being developed. Agricultural-related use is 1.2 billion. We do have room to grow, but let's not make everything metropolitan. Let's develop more small towns like Culpepper.

Georgia: Purple state, at least for now



CHARLIE HARPER
GEORGIA POLITICS

There is no need to sugar coat it. Republicans got their tail kicked last week.

The Democrats will have firm control of Georgia's executive branch and the day to day power that comes with it. Congratulations to Governor-elect Bottoms. I encourage all to pray for her wisdom and discernment.

Whether you voted for her or not, much of the state's immediate future is in the hands of her and her team. We ultimately need her to succeed.

Governor Bottoms' power will go beyond the Governor's mansion. With Democrats also securing the Lieutenant Governor's position, all statewide partisan offices, and the Speaker's gavel, their power extends to the appointment of boards, commissions, agencies, and when vacancies arise, judges.

As bad as Republicans' numbers look here in Georgia, when viewed with what happened nationally and with the differential on statewide contests, the GOP's position here is in relative decent shape. Republicans managed to hold the thinnest majority in the State Senate with a 29-27 partisan split. The Speaker's gavel will transfer to the Democrats with a thin majority, the exact number still to be determined due to one runoff in SW Georgia.

The margins were decisive in statewide races. They were incredibly impressive from the Democrats' perspective, and equally demoralizing and, frankly, embarrassing for Republicans.

The voters clearly sent a message. The clarity of what they said is always a Rorschach test.

There are many Republicans out there explaining. I've seen many takes I agree with, a few... not so much. 2028 nor 2030 will not be decided by who wins the immediate blame game in this scorching failure's aftermath. Many Republicans will find they have a lot of extra time on their hands in January to contemplate these matters.

Today, we have bigger and more immediate priorities. Most importantly, we have to govern. It will require both parties working together.

I've lived in Georgia my entire life. I'm a proud American. This is our system. Our voters are the shareholders, and they have spoken – loudly. I want what is best for my state and my country.

Most of us just want reasonable approaches to solving problems. We want leaders who understand that, and do their best to make it happen.

I was a relatively young volunteer operative when Republicans took the Governor's mansion and Senate in 2022. It took two more years to get the other chamber and within a decade the GOP held a supermajority in both chambers and all statewide offices. It took 12 years to be back where we started.

The incoming Democrats will largely be a lot like we were a quarter century ago. Most will have limited experience with state government, have a deep distrust if not intolerance of the current majority party, and want everyone out the door as soon as possible.

Some will quickly learn that beneath the level of elected and appointed partisans, there are quite a few people who show up at work every day trying to make lives better for the people of the state. Many of them have institutional knowledge that is not quickly replaceable.

Some will remember the rhetoric and/treatment received by less congenial members of the outgoing majority party and will wield their newfound powers with the full backing of the Old Testament's eye for an eye. That is entirely their right. They won.

The reality is some will work to solve problems. Some will use the problems to work to expand the power and scope of their positions on the way to their next higher title. This is a time honored bipartisan bifurcation of those participating in majority rule.

The hazard for Democrats now charged with governing is that their base sees the results and margins as an unequivocal mandate. The 2024 and 2026 elections had polar opposite results because the fringe of each party convinced their leaders a voter rebuke of the last guys meant they must enact the craziest stuff imaginable.

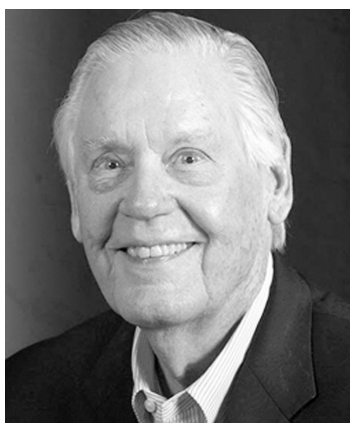
Governor Kemp will leave office with a roughly 70% approval rate not because he scratched every itch that the MAGA wing of his party had, but because he often said "no, Georgians don't want that" and then took a more centrist route. Governor Bottoms will hear similar demands from her base to lurch Georgia far leftward.

Republicans, meanwhile, do have control of the Senate. While they lost the House, there were about a dozen races decided in that chamber by less than 1,000 votes. Republicans won 7 of them, but lost a couple by less than 100 votes. The rematch in 2 years will be extreme and expensive on both sides.

With razor thin legislative margins in both chambers, the legislature should serve to temper the excessive demands of both partisan bases. What hopefully can result will not be a red state nor a blue state, but people from different parties and backgrounds, working together for solutions for all of Georgia.

That's always been our secret sauce. When the needs of Georgia's citizens and the businesses who employ them are put at the forefront and our leaders commit to solving their problems, we don't have time to notice the red or blue fingerprints while we're all counting in green.

Democratic election results should be wakeup call for Republicans



DICK YARBROUGH

Democrat Keisha Lance Bottoms, who may have been the worst mayor in Atlanta history, is now governor-elect of Georgia. Not only that, but every down-ballot post in the state from lieutenant governor to attorney general to labor commissioner to school superintendent to public service commissioner in last week's election went to Democrats and the margins of victory were not even close. Democrats also won control of the Georgia House of Representatives for the first time in 22 years, defeating at least 12 incumbent Republicans across the state. It was political roadkill. For that, you can thank the Georgia Republicans. They never figured out who the enemy is.

While Democrats were planning their blue tsunami, Republicans were up to their usual infighting. As I have stated numerous times, Republicans would rather be ideologically pure than elected. Democrats would rather be elected. The Georgia Republican Assembly, not to be confused with Georgia Republican Party, was trying to tell us who could run for office as a Republican and who could not. In other words, they would make the decision for the voters. (That's us.) Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger being one they considered ideologically impure, he ran for governor in the Republican primary anyway and lost. The voters (that's us) made that decision.

Overhanging all of this, of course, was the Republicans' continuing obsession with Donald Trump's defeat in 2020 and his claim the election was rigged. Personally, I found Trump's actions unpatriotic. Unlike Samuel Tilden and Richard Nixon and Al Gore, all of whom had legitimate – and better – reasons for questioning the outcome of their elections, Trump put his ego ahead of that of his country.

Nixon told journalist Earl Mazo, who had written a series of articles about voter fraud after the 1960 election, that "our country cannot afford the agony of a constitutional crisis." Mazo stopped at Nixon's request.

Gore said. "(T)onight, for the sake of our unity as a people and the strength of our democracy, I offer my concession."

Trump? He spent an hour haranguing Secretary of State Raffensperger to find him 11,780 votes, turned loose a gang of thugs who ransacked the nation's Capital in hopes of preventing a joint session of Congress from counting the Electoral College votes to formalize the victory of president-elect Joe Biden. Fortunately, the attack was unsuccessful, and the election results were certified.

That didn't stop the RITNOs (Republicans in Trump's Name Only) from doing everything they could to overturn the results. Alternative electors. Unfounded accusations against Fulton County election workers that cost their accuser, Rudy Giuliani, a cool $148 million. A so-called documentary,"2,000 Mules," which alleged a widespread conspiracy that turned out to be false. Blathering "experts" questioning the integrity of our voting system but proving nothing. All of their smoking guns turned out to be cap pistols.

Nationally, Democrats took both Houses of Congress by huge margins and elected senators from states that had been Republican for decades. In the case of Kansas, a Democrat had not been elected to the Senate in almost a century. Georgia voters kept our congressional delegation split along party lines, nine Republicans and five Democrats.

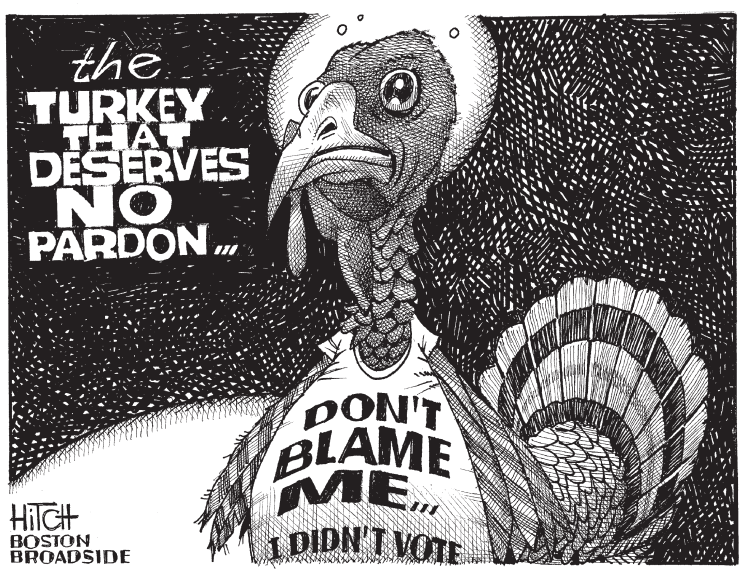
Trump says had he been on the ballot, the elections would have turned out differently. Poppycock. His performance was on the ballot. His "four-to-five week" war. Higher fuel prices. His on-again-off-again-on-again tariff decisions. His preoccupation with his personal surroundings. Jeffery Epstein. Punishing those who dared disagree with him. Tiresome stuff.

In Georgia, the best Republicans could do was to run ads saying Jon Ossoff uses makeup (?) while ignoring Mike Collins' son-in-law's misogynistic and racist remarks. Greg Dolezal promised if elected lieutenant governor he would rid the state of jihadists. Yeah, right. Gazillionaire Rick Jackson poured $220 million into his gubernatorial campaign and lost by 10 points. Give me $220 million and I could get elected pope.

Do I take pleasure in the outcome? Except for shutting the yap traps of the RITNO election deniers permanently (I hope), none at all. In my opinion, this was more a vote against an arrogant and unpopular administration rather than an endorsement of Democratic policies. Frankly, the Democratic Socialists of America are gaining influence across the country and that scares the heebie-jeebies out of me.

As for the political wipeout in Georgia last week, I defer to my friend, the Sage of the Okefenokee, Pogo the Possum, who said, "We have met the enemy and it is us." Whether Republicans got that message remains to be seen. Stay tuned.

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



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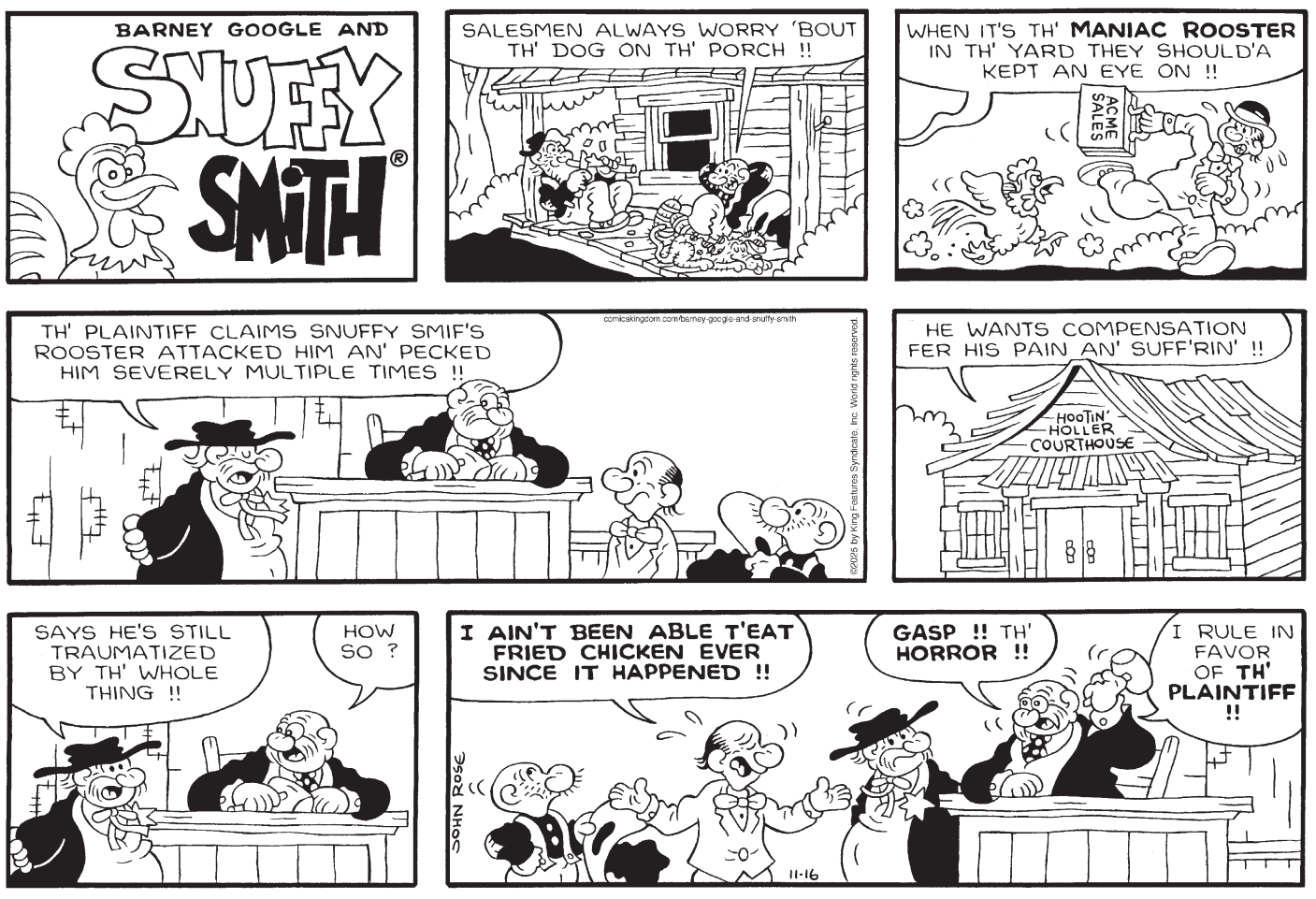
Georgia Press Association | 1985-2025

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

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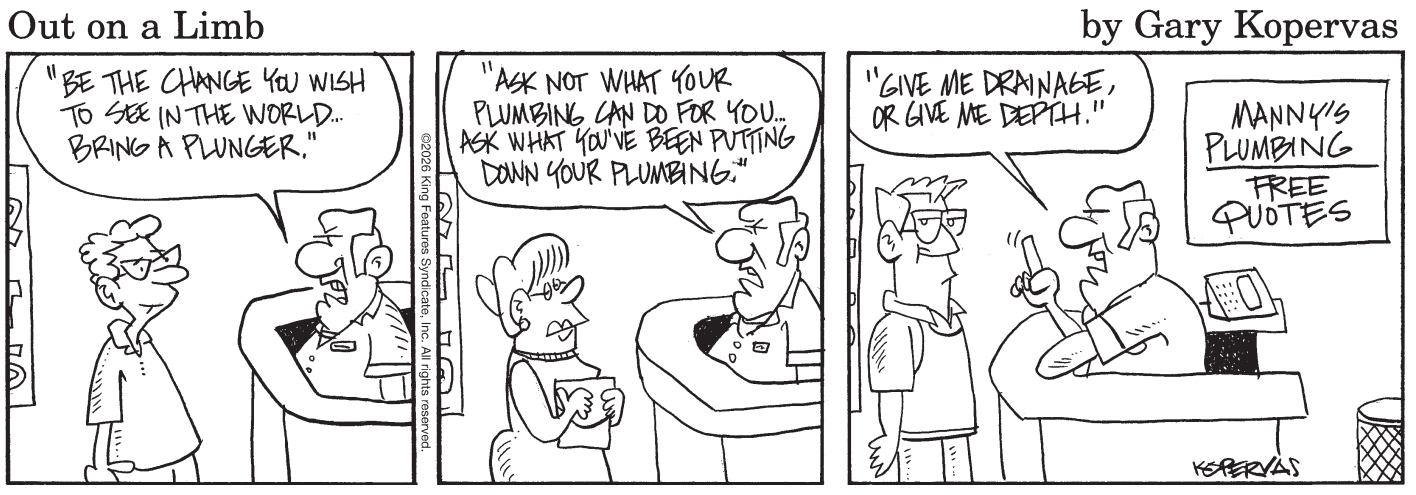
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas





"There's more Christmas cheer in the car!"

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Eye drop
5 Gullet
8 Grime
12 Jazz singer James
13 Financial pro
14 Body sci.
15 Hearty dish
16 Abraham Lincoln's birthplace
18 Arm bones
20 Craig of "Skyfall"
21 Ms. Rowlands
23 Qt. fractions
24 George Washington's birthplace
28 Planted, as seed
31 Anger
32 Bellini opera
34 Steal from
35 Shade of blue
37 Gerald Ford's birthplace
39 Always, in verse
41 Venue
42 Subway line in an Ellington song
45 Saint of Avila
49 Harry S. Truman's birthplace
51 Farm team
52 Worry
53 Ring decision
54 Noggin
55 Disarray
56 Junior
57 Spanish for "this"

DOWN

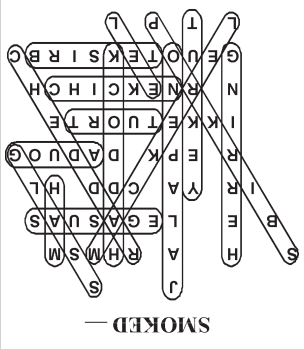
1 TV/radio host John
2 Words to Brutus
3 "Up and —!"
4 Steak tartare ingredient
5 "Barbie" actress Kate
6 Chest-beating beast
7 Wizard's prop
8 Intimidates
9 Cutting teeth
10 Croupier's tool
11 Texter's sign-off
17 Phone bug
19 Check
22 Buenos —
24 Sportscaster Scully
25 Roth svgs. plan
26 Flip-flops
27 Aspiration
29 Stir-fry vessel
30 Cagers' gp.
33 Prado display
36 Bakery supplies
38 Bacteriologist's study
40 Brazilian city
42 Bands on radios
43 Lose energy
44 Crazy
46 Alimony recipients
47 Bicycle part
48 — Domini
50 Former MGM rival



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— King Crossword —
Answers
Solution time: 22 mins.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS



MAGIC MAZE ANSWERS

MAGIC MAZE ● SMOKED —

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: SOCKEYE —

Brisket	Glass	Herring	Sausage
Cheddar	Gouda	Jalapeno	Trout
Chicken	Haddock	Mackerel	Turkey
Eel	Ham	Pork ribs	

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



Legals

Legals

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

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-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
BALENDA LESHELL TOWOLAWI, ADMINISTRATOR
DEMETRIC BERNARD MALLORY, DECEASED
1488 MEW GULL LN.
EL PASO, TEXAS 79928
October 22, 29, November 5, 12, 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
LAURA PEDDY 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-131
NO26-079
APPLICATION TO REGISTER A BUSINESS TO BE CONDUCTED UNDER TRADE NAME, PARTNERSHIP OR OTHERS

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF Terrell
The undersigned does hereby certify that Cothern Family Farms LLC is, conducting a business as a limited liability company at 978 Lovers Lane Rd in the city of Dawson, county of Terrell in the state of Georgia, under the Trade Name GrainBin Mercantile and that the nature of the business is retail sales and that the names and addresses of the persons, firms or partnerships owning and carrying on said trade or business are:
retail sale of farm products, specialty foods, gifts, and locally made goods; agritourism and events. Cothern Family Farms LLC, Cody Cothern, Baylee Sumner-Cothern 978 Lovers Lane Dawson, GA 39842
Signed Petitioner
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 2nd day of November, 2026
Cynthia N. Thomas
Notary Public
November 12, 19, 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-130
PUBLIC COMMENT NOTICE
TERRELL COUNTY, PI# 0020259
Public comment notice is given that Surface Transportation Block Grant federal/state funding is being amended into the State Transportation Improvement Program for Construction in the amount of $2,213,899 and Utilities in the amount of $50,000 for Georgia Department of Transportation project PI# 0020259, which is the bridge replacement of MELTON MILL ROAD @ WOLF CREEK.
Such notice is required by the IIJA Federal transportation law. Comments should be directed to Matt Markham, Planning Deputy Director, at One Georgia Center, 600 West Peachtree St NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30308.
November 5, 12, 2026

HARPER

Continued from page 1

won 70.2%.

Southwest Georgia was more divided. Harper won 55.5% in Mitchell County, No. 4 in the state and the leading row crop county. He carried Lee County 8,893 to 4,362 and Miller County 1,448 to 491. Juhan-Arnold carried Dougherty County 19,841 to 7,250 and Terrell County 1,818 to 1,598.

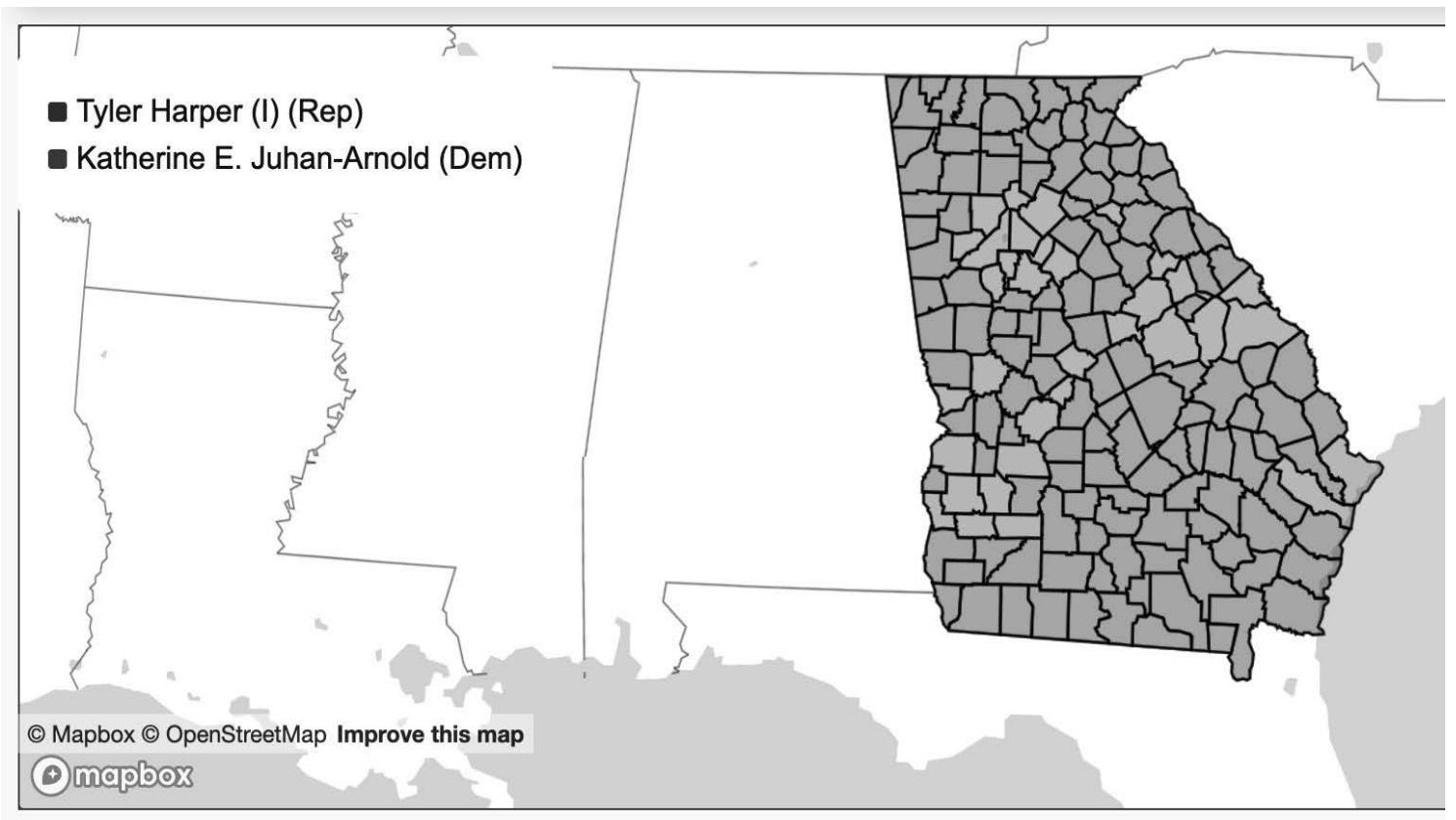
A new first at the oldest department

The Georgia General Assembly created the department Feb. 28, 1874. The state describes it as the first state department of agriculture in the country. It now oversees food safety inspections, animal health, consumer protection and fuel pump calibration in all 159 Counties.

Juhan-Arnold will become the department's 18th commissioner. Every commissioner before her has been a man. One of them, Tommy Irvin, held the job from 1969 to 2011.

She will take charge of an industry that UGA says supported 370,400 jobs and $100.4 billion in Georgia economic output in 2024. Georgia's farm gate value that year was about $18.03 billion, according to UGA.

Her win came in a Democratic sweep of every statewide office on Tuesday's ballot. Black women will hold seven of the state's eight executive offices.



Republican incumbent Tyler Harper carried most Georgia counties, shown in red, but Democrat Katherine Juhan-Arnold, shown in blue, won the Nov. 3, 2026, race for agriculture commissioner with 53.8% of the statewide vote, according to unofficial results. **GRAPHIC: GEORGIA SECRETARY OF STATE**

Why farm counties stayed with Harper

The results suggest party loyalty mattered more than farm ties. Harper's map nearly matched that of Republican gubernatorial nominee Rick Jackson. Jackson carried 125 counties and Harper 126. The only difference was Houston County, which Harper carried and Jackson did not.

In the top 20 farm counties, both men carried the same 18. Harper won 68.9% there, compared with 68.4% for Jackson. That 0.5-point edge matches his edge statewide, so the largest farm counties gave him no added boost.

Harper still ran stronger than any other Republican on the statewide ballot, with 1,920,757 votes. He gained the most on Jackson in Clarke and Oconee counties, where he ran 1.9 points ahead, and in his home county of Irwin, where he ran 1.8 points ahead. He also ran well ahead of Jackson in nearby Coffee, Ben Hill and Tift counties.

Harper campaigned on his roots and his record. His family has worked its land for more than 125 years, and he grows peanuts, cotton and timber and raises cattle in Irwin County.

"Agriculture is who I am, what I am, and what I'm about," Harper said in a candidate profile published by the Georgia Farm Bureau. Gov. Brian Kemp endorsed him Aug. 18, saying Harper had "fought tirelessly" for the state's top industry.

Where Juhan-Arnold is vulnerable

The same data shows soft spots for the incoming commissioner. Her 53.8% was the lowest share of any Democrat in the 11 statewide contests on the ballot. U.S. Sen. Jon Ossoff won 59% and Gov.-elect Keisha Lance Bottoms won 54.3%. She also received 29,471 fewer votes than Bottoms.

She won 16 of the 118 rural counties and two of the top 20 farm counties. She will lead a department whose largest farm economies are concentrated in counties that voted against her.

This was her first campaign for elected office. Harper spent a decade in the state Senate before taking office in 2023.

Her farm experience is on a far smaller scale than his. The Georgia Farm Bureau listed her as a farmer, and The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported in 2020 that she had farmed 2 of 14 acres in Deepstep for three years.

She founded Baby Katie's Pharm & Kitchen, a nonprofit focused on produce access, grower education and farm-to-school connections, in 2014. She has also worked more than a decade in infrastructure systems.

Harper attacked her most sharply over inspections. At an Oct. 15 debate, she said inspections had dropped 45% since 2022, stating that business inspection coverage fell from 100% in 2022 to 55% in 2025. Harper disputed the claim, said the agency had increased inspections and called her stance "disqualifying for her to hold this office."

"Those are the figures that your department gave the state," she replied.

Her proposals could also test her. She has proposed regional food hubs at about $2 million each. A League of Women Voters chapter guide noted those proposals are plans rather than existing programs. Their funding would depend on state budget decisions.

What comes next

Results remain unofficial until they are certified, with Juhan-Arnold set to take office in January. Her platform calls for stronger food safety, regional food hubs, expanded cold storage and more processing in Georgia, so that profits stay with family farmers.

She has argued that producers need a more responsive agency, "I don't think you should have to know the right person to get the right answer."

CHEOKAS

Continued from page 1

position to work with the majority to make sure that we have the things we need in southwest Georgia in District 151," he said.

Cheokas has served in the House for most of the past two decades, though not all of it in the majority party. He was first elected in 2004 as a Democrat and joined the House Republican Caucus after the 2010 election. He lost his seat in 2016 to Democrat Bill McGowan and returned to the House in 2019 after McGowan did not seek a second term. He has represented District 151 since 2023 and chairs the House Small Business Development Committee.

'He rarely shows up'

Wolfe said the 2021 redistricting reshaped District 151, and many voters in the newer parts of the district still do not know who represents them.

"They know that there's a Republican incumbent, but they don't know who he is because he rarely shows up," Wolfe said. "Where I've been going, they've appreciated me showing up. I also like looking people in the eye when I talk to them and making that connection."

He said local governments want the same thing. "Not only the people, but the municipalities and the counties want someone that can help further their goals ... at the state level," he said.

Wolfe said Cheokas had also declined interview requests from at least two other newspapers and did not appear at events Wolfe's campaign had hoped he would attend. He urged The Herald to keep asking.

"Please keep reaching out to him, because I'd be very interested in where he stands on certain issues too," Wolfe said. "I haven't heard anything from him this election."

Ground game

To close a gap of about 7 percentage points, Wolfe needs to hold his own voters, win over some of Lockhart's and get both groups back to the polls on a runoff calendar shortened by Thanksgiving.

Wolfe said he will make his case to every voter in the district, whatever they did Nov. 3.

"I'm here to represent everyone in this district," he said. "I don't hold grudges, especially in politics, when it comes to who you voted for last election."

He pointed to a question he fielded at a candidate forum about voters who planned to back the other party in the governor's race.

"I served in the military for 30 years, and while I was serving in the military, I defended our Constitution and the right to vote," Wolfe said. "For me to sit up there and tell [them] they have to vote a certain way — it's just wrong of me to do, and I'm not going to do it. So now's the time to regroup, and let's focus on District 151 and what we need here."

He also acknowledged where his campaign fell short.

"I've got a better ground game this time," Wolfe said. "That's one thing that the independent candidate beat me on. I could see that."

Wolfe said the district has more than 35,000 registered voters spread across 2,195 square miles, about 26 people per square mile.

"That's why we really need to focus on a ground game, because it's hard to reach some of these voters," he said.

The runoff schedule means Wolfe will be campaigning while newly elected lawmakers learn the ropes in Atlanta.

"While a bunch of the freshman legislators are in orientation next week, I'm going to be on the campaign trail trying to get people to turn back out to go vote," he said. Wolfe acknowledged he is still learning the legislative process and said, if elected, "it's going to be a quick learning curve."

Priorities unchanged

"My priorities are the same," Wolfe said. "I'm trying to bring money to upgrade and modernize the infrastructure down in southwest Georgia."

"If we build infrastructure in southwest Georgia, that will lead to attracting good-paying jobs into southwest Georgia," he said, adding that more hiring could "lower the poverty rate, like in Terrell County, and help people down here better their lives."

"I don't say their bad lives," Wolfe added. "We all get caught in troubles at times, financial hardships, and I want to help it to where if we go through another economic downturn, we're not having to lay off people everywhere."

In October, Wolfe told The Herald he wants state infrastructure grants that require no local match, with at least half the money available up front, because many small towns cannot afford the 10% to 20% match that many grants require. He also named Medicaid expansion as a first-term priority.

'An ear out'

Wolfe said his campaign pledge to hold regular town halls has not changed.

"I've always been one that wants to be transparent with everybody," he said.

Outside the legislative session, and sometimes on weekends during it, Wolfe said he would be in the district. He said he plans to meet at least monthly with each county and city government, whether in person, over Zoom or by email.

"How am I supposed to represent the people in the counties and municipalities unless I'm in touch and know what's going on in those counties?" Wolfe said. "It's not to take over; it's to have an ear out."

He described a recent visit to Americus' historic Rylander Theatre, where the theater's new director asked whether he could help with infrastructure upgrades and remodeling of the building.

"I said, well, you know, I could help with that. I just need more information," Wolfe said.

He said constituents can follow his work through his campaign newsletter, Facebook page and website, ethanwolfeforga.com, and that he would keep the newsletter going if elected.

Cheokas reported $49,605 in campaign contributions this cycle, compared with $11,009.74 for Wolfe. Wolfe said his campaign is "always needing donations to reach people."

The closing argument

Asked for his message to undecided voters and those returning to the polls, Wolfe aimed squarely at the incumbent's tenure.

"To the voters of this district: The incumbent has been there for 20 years in the majority. What has he done for you in this district?" Wolfe said. "Are you better off now than you were 20 years ago, or even four years ago?"

How to vote in the runoff

- **Election Day:** Tuesday, Dec. 1. Polls are open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Early voting:** Nov. 23–25, a window shortened by the Thanksgiving holiday. Voters may use any early voting location in their county of residence.
- **Absentee ballots:** The last day to request one is Friday, Nov. 20. Completed ballots must be received by 7 p.m. Dec. 1.
- **Check registration and polling places:** Georgia My Voter Page, or call your county registrar.

FIRING

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land in the industrial park. Commissioners expressed concern that a firing range there could eventually have to move to accommodate a business.

Commissioner Copeland said the county needed a location where the range could remain permanently, rather than one that might later be needed for economic development.

Safety and proximity to neighbors also figured prominently in the discussion. Commissioners discussed embankments behind and alongside the shooting area to contain bullets, fencing and enough separation from homes to limit noise concerns.

"You don't need to be too close to houses. People don't want to hear shooting all the time," Gamble said.

Land near the prison camp also came up, but participants questioned whether proximity to the airport would make it suitable.

Copeland suggested looking more closely at recreation-department property, where earlier discussions had considered a clay target team. The board discussed whether an underused field could provide space and whether shooting could be oriented away from the highway. Questions remained about available space and how firearms training would fit alongside children's activities.

"I like the idea a lot. We just got to find the right spot," Copeland said.

The conversation also raised the possibility that a future range could support 4-H shooting sports. Margaret Halbrook, Terrell County's Extension coordinator and 4-H agent, said the former archery program had moved to a pavilion after losing access to the industrial-park property and later stopped operating after its coaches retired.

Halbrook asked whether the sheriff's office might consider sharing a future range to help revive youth shooting opportunities. No shared-use arrangement or new youth program was established during the discussion.

For now, commissioners' next step is to examine locations and determine what earthwork and other safeguards a range would require before bringing a plan back for consideration.

DOG

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complaint, Sands allowed Beckum to amend it. Beckum filed the amended complaint Sept. 16 and sent copies to the defendants' attorneys. The court denied the earlier dismissal motions as moot.

In a joint motion filed Sept. 30, the defendants argued that Beckum's failure to properly serve the original lawsuit meant his claims were barred by the statute of limitations. They also argued that his allegations failed to state a claim and that Coe and Gamble were entitled to qualified immunity.

The defense further contends that Beckum has not sufficiently alleged that available remedies for challenging the loss of his property were constitutionally inadequate, or that a county policy or custom caused a constitutional violation.

Beckum told the court the joint motion was the first time he learned the defendants considered service improper. He requested a 30-day extension Oct. 2. None of the defendants responded to that request, according to the Nov. 2 order.

Sands found that sending the amended complaint to defense attorneys did not substitute for the formal service Beckum had yet to complete. The judge nevertheless found good cause to give him additional time.

In a separate Oct. 7 order, Sands declined to appoint counsel but gave Beckum additional time to find an attorney and respond to the dismissal motion. That order set Nov. 16 as the deadline for an attorney's notice of appearance and Dec. 7 for Beckum's response.

Beckum is also seeking firsthand accounts from Terrell County residents who believe county officials forced or pressured them to surrender personal property, including animals. He said he wants to hear from people who have documents or other records.

Residents wishing to contact Beckum can reach him at beckumtab@gmail.com. Readers with information to share with The Dawson News or The Albany Herald can contact kathryn@albanyherald.com, 229-291-3634 or via facebook.