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THE DAWSON NEWS

CIRCULATES IN THE HEART OF THE PEANUT BELT

(USPS 149-480)

VOLUME 137, NO. 80 | DAWSON, TERRELL COUNTY, GEORGIA 39842 - November 26, 2026 | $1

Terrell school employees underpaid $11,783, audit findings show

District outlines corrective measures for fiscal 2025 findings as new finance chief takes over.

By KATHRYN CROCKETT
kathryn@albanyherald.com

DAWSON — Two Terrell County school nutrition employees were underpaid a combined $11,783 during fiscal year 2025, and the district lacked documentation supporting thousands of meal claims and other expenditures, according to a district corrective action plan.

The plan, included with the school board's Nov. 9 agenda, outlines changes to purchasing procedures, financial reviews, meal reporting and equipment records. It describes five findings involving federal programs and sets June 30, 2027, as the deadline for full implementation of corrective measures.

The proposed changes come as the district brings in a new chief financial officer. Board members voted unanimously Nov. 3 to hire Georgette Evans, effective Nov. 4, according to meeting minutes. The findings concern a fiscal year preceding her appointment.

Financial oversight had also drawn board attention in October. During the Oct. 12 meeting Superintendent Shereca Harvey reviewed the status of contracted services with Mauldin and Jenkins, and board members requested a separate meeting to examine district finances in detail.

The November corrective action plan describes problems affecting both employee compensation and the records needed to support federal funding.

A review of five school nutrition employees found that two were underpaid because the district did not follow its board-approved salary schedule. Supporting documentation also could not be provided for $19,891 in salaries paid to three employees, according to the plan.

The document attributes the payroll finding to insufficient central office oversight and significant staff turnover during the fiscal year. It does not state whether the underpaid employees have received back pay.

The corrective measures listed under that finding focus on financial reporting, including a formal preparation checklist, completed account reconciliations, documented reviews and training for finance personnel.

Purchasing records presented another concern. In a sample of 60 procurement transactions, the district could not provide evidence that enough price or rate quotations had been obtained for 56 small purchases. Six expenditures and two journal entries also lacked

AUDIT
Continued on page 5



Terrell County's Keyon Huckaby shoots during Saturday night's game against Westover in Dawson. Huckaby and the Greenwave fell behind early but battled back and made the Patriots earn their first win of the season. Westover pulled away late for a 59-46 win. Staff Photo: JOE WHITFIELD

Westover holds off Greenwave rally to complete sweep in Dawson

By JOE WHITFIELD
Sports Editor

DAWSON — Terrell County had cut a 15-point deficit to seven early in the fourth quarter, and the home crowd had reason to believe the Greenwave had one more run in them. Westover pulled away again, though, and Josiah Daniels finished with 21 points as the Patriots won 59-46 Saturday night to complete a sweep in Dawson.

The Westover girls won the opener 50-26 to improve to 2-0.

The Patriots scored the first 11 points of the boys game, prompting Terrell County first-year coach Telvin Hodo to call a timeout during the run. Dominique Polite got the Greenwave on the board with a 3-pointer, and Terrell County began to handle Westover's pressure long enough to close within 11-8.

Westover coach Dallis Smith called a timeout of his own, and the Patriots

WESTOVER
Continued on page 5

Dawson City Council approves state audit assistance agreement in special meeting

Free GEFA program aims to clear path for more than $1 million in federal grants

By KATHRYN CROCKETT
kathryn@albanyherald.com

DAWSON — The Dawson City Council voted last week to enter a technical assistance agreement with the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority that will help the city organize its financial records and complete three years of overdue audits — a prerequisite for accessing millions of dollars in federal infrastructure grants.

The council convened at 5 p.m. in a special called meeting at City Hall, 101 South Main St., to consider a single agenda item: the Municipal Audit Preparation Program agreement, known as MAPP. The motion was carried with Councilwoman Iri D. Pittman abstaining. The agreement is free to the city as long as it does not withdraw from the program.

"We called this special meeting because we're in the process of completing audits for years '23, '24, '25," Mayor Robert Aaron told those in attendance. "We do need some help, and for that reason, we have the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority, who has agreed to help us with that at no charge, and that's a good thing."



The "Dawson: Where History Is Alive" mural in downtown Dawson, Ga., depicts local icons including soul musician Otis Redding, the city's Historic District and Terrell County's agricultural heritage. The mural is located at the corner of South Main Street and East Lee Street. Staff Photo: KATHRYN CROCKETT

What the Agreement Does

Under the MAPP agreement, GEFA will provide technical assistance — not conduct the audits themselves — to help city staff prepare and organize financial documentation so that an independent auditor can more efficiently complete the city's pending financial audits. The agreement covers up to five consecutive fiscal years immediately preceding the current fiscal year.

City Attorney Tommy Coleman emphasized the distinction for the public in attendance.

"They're not doing the audit," Coleman said. "Before you can do an audit, you have to prepare the documents that you have in a form so they can be audited, and that's what they're going to do."

The 13-task program includes designating contact staff, conducting a governance and organizational review, reviewing financial reporting and accounting practices, assessing internal controls, reviewing policies and procedures, and walking through the city's grants compliance. GEFA will ultimately deliver an audit readiness action plan and work alongside staff to implement changes.

Under the agreement's terms, the city must within 10 business days designate a primary point of contact, make relevant staff available to GEFA's assistance provider, and respond to document requests within five business days. Critically, the city is required to hire an independent auditor within 120 days of completing the MAPP program.

Should the city fail to cooperate or fail to procure an independent auditor within the 120-day window, GEFA may terminate the agreement. In that case, the city would be responsible for reimbursing GEFA for all technical assistance costs, with 45 days to pay in full. GEFA could also move to terminate, de-obligate, or withdraw any existing loan

MEETING
Continued on page 5

Dawson seeks estimates for possible ABR Trucking cleanup

By KATHRYN CROCKETT
kathryn@albanyherald.com

DAWSON — City officials are gathering estimates for a possible cleanup of the ABR Trucking property after an inspection indicated it remained out of compliance with city codes despite repeated court proceedings.

Attorney Joel Wright, representing City Attorney Tommy Coleman, told the City Council Nov. 12 that two court orders authorize Dawson to correct violations at the property. However, identifying vehicles, notifying their owners and arranging removal could make the work costly.

"We went out there this morning and did a walk-through inspection, and it appears that it's still not in compliance," Wright said.

The inspection followed several municipal court hearings, fines and deadlines for correcting violations, Wright said. A third party accompanied city officials to assess the property and begin obtaining estimates from vendors.

Council members took no vote on the matter, and no cleanup cost or start date was announced.

Mayor Robert Aaron asked how Dawson could recover money spent on the work.

Wright said the city would need to take reasonable steps to limit expenses and maintain detailed receipts. Dawson could seek reimbursement through a lien against the property, potentially recovering its

CLEANUP
Continued on page 5

Terrell County returns to one-act competition after 21 years, earns acting honors

DAWSON — Eight first-time actors helped bring Terrell County High School back to the Georgia High School Association's One Act Play Competition this fall, ending a 21-year absence and earning individual honors for three students.

Directed by Santee Archer and Tory Griffin, the students performed Dennis Bush's "Asylum" at the regional competition in Seminole County. The Green Wave earned 241 of a possible 300 points.

Senior Reginald Rogers Jr. was named the region's best supporting actor for his portrayal of Geoffrey. Senior Justyce Mitchell, who played Tracy, and freshman Caleb Schley, who played Tim, also earned individual acting honors, according to the school's results announcement.

"Simply being part of bringing performing arts back to the students of Terrell County High School is an honor and a privilege," Griffin said.

The school's return followed efforts to expand theater opportunities for local young people. In 2024, Dawson Main Street Theatre launched youth theater camps organized by then-manager Stephanie L. Johnson, with Griffin serving as lead instructor.



Terrell County High School's one-act play cast and crew receive the Terrell County Board of Education's Impact Award following the school's return to regional competition after a 21-year absence.

The camps offered local students an introduction to acting and performing. Two years later, Griffin helped direct a high school production featuring five seniors and three freshmen, supported by three additional freshmen serving as understudies and stagehands.

After the competition, the students brought "Asylum" to the Dawson Main Street Theatre for community performances Nov. 10 and 13. The shows placed the high school cast on the same downtown stage where the youth camps began.

"I am extremely proud of the effort these young people put into bringing a performance to life," Griffin said.

"Asylum" is an approximately 45-minute drama written for eight performers. Set in a state-run psychiatric institution, it uses a series of monologues to reveal the characters' experiences and their searches for safety, belonging and a place to call home, according to Brooklyn Publishers, which licenses the play. The action unfolds both within the institution and, at times, within the characters' minds.

The competition format requires students to manage the production within a strict schedule. Under GHSA rules, schools have 55 minutes to set up, perform and clear the stage. Three judges evaluate each production, with acting serving as the competition's central focus. Technical elements are intended to support the performers. Regional champions advance to the state competition.

Although Terrell County did not win the regional championship, its students returned with recognition that extended beyond the competition. The Terrell County Board of Education honored the cast and crew with its Impact Award.

For five members of the cast, the school's return came during their senior year. Joining Mitchell and Rogers were Jason Currington Jr. as Kevin, Litzy Tapia-Casarrubias as Dinah and Jacey Brooks as Janine.

Freshmen Aaliyah Gardner and Aubrey Jackson played Laurie and August, respectively, joining Schley among the production's younger cast members.

Freshmen Jaden Hand, Quamesia Hallback and Ariyonna Jackson served as understudies and stagehands. Their participation brought the student cast and crew to 11.

The production connected the high school's return to competition with a community theater effort that began two years earlier. For Griffin, the significance went beyond the students' scores and awards.

"I'm even more elated to see something I'm passionate about bring joy and inspiration to a new generation," he said. "These students opened doors for themselves and for others."

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 24 — MONDAY

BOOKMARK MAGIC! — AI IN THE SOUTH FOR KIDS

Terrell County Library
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Looking for something fun and creative for your child to do after school? AI in the South for Education is hosting "Bookmark Magic!" — a free, hands-on bookmark-making workshop designed especially for kids ages 6–12. Children will get to design and create their very own custom bookmark to take home and use in their next favorite book. It's a great opportunity to spark creativity and a love of reading in a welcoming, library setting.

IMPORTANT INFO:

• Pre-registration is required — spots are limited, so sign up early.
• Ages 6–12 only.
• The event is completely free.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED / REGISTER:

Email info@aiinthesouth.com or visit www.aiinthesouth.com to register your child.

GIRL SCOUT TROOP 40599 — REGISTRATION & Q&A SESSION

Terrell County Public Library | 913 Forrester Dr SE, Dawson, GA
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Girl Scout Troop 40599 — part of Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia — is growing and welcoming new members this fall! Whether your daughter is just starting out as a Daisy or is ready to step into leadership as an Ambassador, this troop has a place for her. Families are invited to come to this informal Q&A session at the library to learn what Girl Scouts is all about, meet troop leaders, and get help with registration on the spot. Cookie season is just around the corner (starting December 14!), so now is the perfect time to join.

The troop is also actively recruiting adults — troop leaders, co-leaders, age-level leaders, parent volunteers, and a cookie team are all needed. No scouting experience is required; just a willingness to show up for the girls in this community.

IMPORTANT INFO:

• Open to girls in grades K–12 (Daisies through Ambassadors).
• Multiple registration options are available, including financial aid and free/reduced membership through Amerigroup, Peach State, and Care Source Insurance — no family should feel they can't participate because of cost.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

Register online at mygs.girlscouts.org — be sure to select Troop 40599.

Questions? Contact Stephanie L. Johnson at info@thedowntownbusinesscollective.com or (912) 289-8306.

NOVEMBER 27 — FRIDAY (BLACK FRIDAY)

SECOND CHANCE THRIFT BOUTIQUE — BLACK FRIDAY SALE

647 MLK, Dawson, GA
10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Skip the big-box crowds this Black Friday and shop local at Second Chance Thrift Boutique in Dawson. The boutique — known for unique finds and a welcoming atmosphere — will be offering 20% off storewide as part of their holiday celebration. Whether you're hunting for gifts or just treating yourself, it's a great chance to score a deal while supporting a local small business in downtown Dawson.

IMPORTANT INFO:

• 20% off storewide.
• Located at 647 MLK, Dawson, GA.
• Hours: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM.

NOVEMBER 28 — SATURDAY (SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY)

SECOND CHANCE THRIFT BOUTIQUE — SHOP SMALL SATURDAY HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE

647 MLK, Dawson, GA
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

The holiday shopping weekend continues at Second Chance Thrift Boutique with their Shop Small Saturday Holiday Marketplace. It's the perfect day to come find one-of-a-kind gifts for everyone on your list while keeping your dollars in the local economy. Second Chance Thrift Boutique lives up to its tagline — "Something Worth Stopping For."

IMPORTANT INFO:

• Located at 647 MLK, Dawson, GA.
• Hours: 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

ONGOING — DONATIONS NEEDED NOW THROUGH DECEMBER

TERRELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE — COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS GIVING PROGRAMS

3108 Albany Highway, P.O. Box 463, Dawson, GA 39842
(229) 995-4488 | Office of Sheriff Vernon L. Jessie

The Terrell County Sheriff's Office is once again leading the charge to make the holiday season brighter for families across the county. Sheriff Vernon L. Jessie and his department are coordinating several community giving initiatives and are actively seeking donations of toys, blankets, and monetary contributions right now. Every donation goes directly to Terrell County residents in need.

PROGRAMS ACCEPTING DONATIONS:

• TOYS FOR TOTS / CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE (Distribution: December 17)

Drop off new, unwrapped toys at the Sheriff's Office anytime before December 17. All donated toys go directly to local children whose families are facing financial hardship this holiday season. Monetary donations are also welcome — make checks payable to the Terrell County Sheriff's Office.

• BLANKET BLESSINGS

The department is collecting new or gently used blankets to distribute to elderly members of the Terrell County community. As temperatures drop, this effort makes a real and immediate difference for some of the county's most vulnerable residents. Blankets and monetary donations accepted.

• FRUIT BASKETS & SOCKS DRIVE

Community partners are working alongside the Sheriff's Office to assemble holiday fruit baskets and sock bundles for distribution. Donations of fruit, non-perishable items, and socks are welcome.

• SHOPPING WITH THE SHERIFF — DECEMBER 17

On December 17, the Sheriff's Office will partner with community organizations to take local children Christmas shopping at Walmart. Financial donations to support this program are especially needed. Organizations and individuals wishing to serve as community partners for this event are encouraged to reach out.

FINANCIAL DONATIONS NEEDED BY DECEMBER 1ST.

HOW TO GIVE / GET INVOLVED:

Drop off donations or contact the office at (229) 995-4488.

Visit: 3108 Albany Highway, Dawson, GA 39842 (Monday–Friday, regular business hours).

Checks payable to: Terrell County Sheriff's Office.

Organizations wishing to be recognized as community supporters in event materials and on social media should also reach out to the office.

DECEMBER 4 — FRIDAY (EVENING)

TCHPS HOMEOWNER APPRECIATION DINNER

Main Street Theater, Dawson, GA

Evening event — exact time TBA | $30 per ticket

The evening before the Christmas Tour of Homes, the Terrell County Historic Preservation Society will host a special dinner honoring the homeowners who open their doors each year to make the tour possible. This is a ticketed special event and a wonderful evening out for history lovers and community supporters alike.

TICKETS: $30 per person (cash or check).

Contact Jill Hester at Georgia Community Bank or call Kathy Hicks at 229-854-3763.

DECEMBER 5 — SATURDAY

TERRELL COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION SOCIETY — 2026 CHRISTMAS TOUR OF HOMES

Headquarters: Historic Log Cabin, Stonewall Street, Dawson, GA
1:00 PM – 7:00 PM

One of Dawson's most beloved holiday traditions returns! The Terrell County Historic Preservation Society (TCHPS) invites the public to its annual Christmas Tour of Homes — a self-guided, festive journey through some of Terrell County's most beautiful and historically significant homes and sites. This year's tour features five private residences beautifully decorated for the season, as well as The Clay Communion on Main Street and First Baptist Church on Church Street:

FEATURED HOMES & SITES:

1. Veronica & Michael Johnson
2. Sheryl & Jeff Elliott — Seventh Avenue
3. Kevin Sutton — Lee Street
4. Maria & Steve Strowbridge — Stonewall Street
5. Winifred & Robert Aaron — Brooksville Road
6. The Clay Communion — Main Street
7. First Baptist Church — Church Street

Tour headquarters is the historic Log Cabin on Stonewall Street, where guests can pick up their Tour Books and purchase tickets the day of the event. The Log Cabin is also home to the Terrell History Museum — an ongoing community project. Souvenir pillows, suncatchers, Christmas ornaments, and the Terrell County History Book will be available for purchase.

Proceeds from the tour support the Society's ongoing work preserving and restoring historic homes and businesses across Dawson and Terrell County, including the nationally recognized historic district.

TICKETS:

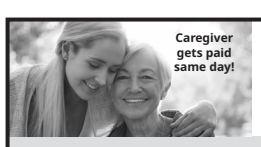
• $25 — Adults
• $15 — Youth ages 13–17
• FREE — Children 12 and under

Advance tickets (cash or check) available through Jill Hester at Georgia Community Bank or by calling Kathy Hicks at 229-854-3763.

CORRECTION

A story about Dawson City Council's Nov. 12 meeting incorrectly reported Councilman William Durr's vote on a water rate study. Durr voted in favor of the study, which passed 4-1, with Councilwoman Sondra Walker opposed. The vote approved a study, not a rate increase. We regret the error.

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DID YOU KNOW...?

Was the voice of a beloved Disney animated character provided by a U.S. Marine Corps Drill Instructor?

By JACK BAGLEY
GTLN

Today is Thanksgiving.

Well, today is actually Thursday as listed on the front page, but knowing the newspaper business as I do, I also know you probably are getting your newspaper the day after Thanksgiving.

So how was the meal? I hope you had a very happy time with family and friends and lots of love and great food.

May I offer some dessert? This trivia is great, and very low in calories, too. Enjoy!

Did you know ...

... you can tell if a Nazi eagle is political or governmental by looking at it? Most people assume that the *Reichsadler*, the "national eagle" of Nazi Germany, was the same everywhere. It wasn't. If the eagle clutching the swastika was looking over its right shoulder, it was a governmental emblem. However, if the eagle is looking over its left shoulder, it was symbolic of the Nazi party. (Nowadays, the Nazi eagle looks ... dead.)

... plastic grocery bags were originally meant to be used repeatedly? Created by Sten Gustaf Thulin (1914-2006), a Swedish engineer, they were meant to be a reusable, eco-friendly alternative to paper grocery bags. Thulin felt that the production of the paper bags contributed to deforestation. However, our "throwaway" society has basically reduced the bags to one-use, just like the paper bags had been. (The best-laid plans of mice and men ...)

... how much the most expensive edible fungus in the world costs? Known as *Tuber magnatum pico*, the pungent white truffle can sell for as much as $3,000 per kilogram. (For that price, they can come up with a better name than "pungent white truffle." I'm just saying.)

... the voice of a beloved Disney animated character belonged to a decorated Marine drill instructor? The 1942 classic animated film *Bambi* featured the voice of Donnie Dunagan (1934-2026) as the title character. Dunagan was a child actor who had played the *son of Baron Frankenstein* in 1939's Son of Frankenstein. When he turned 18, Dunagan joined the U.S. Marine Corps and, after serving as the youngest drill instructor in the history of the Corps, he rose to the rank of major and earned the Bronze Star and Purple Heart in Vietnam. No one in the Corps knew that he had been the voice of the beloved movie character. *Additional trivia note:* Dunagan came out of an 80-year retirement from movies for a role in the 2026 film *Sub Rosa*. (Imagine Bambi calling you to attention. Just imagine it.)

... a river in Minnesota was at one time believed to drain into nothingness? Minnesota's Judge C.R. Magney State Park, located near Lake Superior, has within it the Brule River, half the water of which flows into the lake and the other half tumbles over Devil's Kettle Falls ... and apparently vanishes. For decades, scientists tried to figure out where the water went, using everything from ping pong balls to GPS trackers. Finally, in 2017, hydrologists with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources said they had solved the mystery. Measuring the water flow above and below the falls and finding it identical, they concluded that the "missing" water actually emerges directly into the river downstream, rather than flowing into Lake Superior as the other half of the river's water does. (I always wondered about that.)

... a kind of cactus grows very large, but takes its time to do so? The Saguaro cactus, found in the U.S. southwest, can grow to be more than forty feet tall. Impressive, right? What's even more impressive is that it can take up to a decade to grow a mere one inch in height. (So it takes its time. So what?)

... a Major League Baseball game gave the appearance of a team playing itself? On June 12, 1977, the Kansas City Royals and the Milwaukee Brewers took the field at County Stadium in Milwaukee, but if you were there, you would have thought it was the Brewers playing themselves. The night before, someone broke into the visitors' clubhouse at the ballpark and stole the Royals' gloves, equipment - and uniforms. To play the game, the Brewers gave the Royals' players their road uniforms, so it looked as if the Brewers were playing the Brewers. The Royals lost the game as well, 4-0. *Additional trivia note:* the only Royal in the starting lineup who got to wear his own uniform was Hall of Fame third baseman George Brett (born 1953). The uniform thieves missed his number 5 jersey. (And that's the one that would be worth the most!)

... the largest flying insect ever had a wingspan of more than two feet? Living in the Carboniferous period about 300 million years ago, *Meganeura* was a giant dragonfly that had a wingspan between 26 and 28 inches. Fossils of the giant dragonfly were found in 1880 in France. The existence of such a big insect was impressive, considering it probably fed on other insects, but despite its massive wingspan, *Meganeura* was not very heavy. It probably weighed less than a pound, scientists estimate. (I still don't want it dive-bombing me.)

... an Oscar™-winning actor attended college on a baseball scholarship? Robert Redford (1936-2025) attended the University of Colorado on a baseball scholarship. The schooling paid off for him when he made the baseball-themed 1984 movie *The Natural*, based on a novel by Bernard Malamud (1914-1986). Redford was nominated for four Academy Awards™ and won the Best Director in 1980 for *Ordinary People*. *Additional trivia note:* The Natural had a different ending in the book than in the movie, a more depressing ending, and Malamud was never consulted about the change. He was not upset by it, however, according to all reports.

Now ... you know!

Sick days: Confessions of a recovering germaphobe

THE NEW SOUTHERN DAD



By KYLE DOMINY

Howard Hughes was an eccentric man to say the least.

One of the most famous wealthy figures in American history, Hughes was just as known for his odd behavior as he was his business dealings. He made movies and was a savvy investor on top of building and flying airplanes. Accidents and near death experiences while testing some of his flying machines are credited with worsening his obsessive compulsive behavior. Trauma does have a way of bringing out the worst in people.

But even before his life took its bizarre, tragic turn, Hughes was widely known as a germaphobe. He went through great lengths to avoid getting sick, going as far as burning his suits if he suspected he had encountered some sort of contaminate or, shudder at the thought, an ill person.

That proves the old adage, you can't hide money. With most suits being dry clean only, you can count on most people wearing dirty suits. I did, however, keep a suit tucked away in the corner of my closet for about a decade after a funeral turned into an illness spreading event. It was a miserable ride home from the cemetery, but I'll spare you the gross details.

I finally tossed the garment away with the trash recently. It's a shame, it was a nice suit. A black three piece with a faint blue pinstripe. Fit like a glove too.

But I digress.

As Hughes' mental state deteriorated over the years, so did his mysophobia. He became more and more irrational. He isolated himself for weeks on end, allegedly wearing tissue boxes on his feet to avoid contact with any surface. His hair and fingernails grew long. He avoided bathing and performing basic hygiene tasks. - a counterintuitive measure that somehow played into his delusion.

When he died he was a mere shell of the former dapper business tycoon. His body was so unrecognizable that the FBI had to be called in to analyze his finger prints.

It is a good thing that he didn't have kids.

This is being written on a sick day, pulling double duty as many parents must during cold and flu season, squeezing in a little work as a sick child rests in the other room. This is after spending the morning in the urgent care waiting room with other people exhibiting symptoms that make you want to burn your clothes. I was recently in an elementary school, visiting to read a story to a class of second graders and the halls echoed with a seemingly non-stop chorus of coughs and sniffles.

My grandmother always said that you can't run from being sick. You don't catch it as much as it catches you.

Admittedly, I'm a recovering germaphobe. There was a time in my life when I would have avoided crowds during flu season. A time when my hands couldn't possibly be cleaner but I'd wash them again.

Having children changed that. Kids are natural dirty bombs, innocently spreading whatever contaminates picked up throughout the day. Besides, getting a little sick every now and then is good for you. It helps the immune system fight off worse conditions.

But if you see me wearing Kleenex boxes on my feet, just know I need a little help.



Anthony Mackie stars in "12 12 12"/**SPECIAL PHOTO, Apple TV**

COUCH THEATRE

By DEMI TAVERAS
King Features

"The Social Reckoning" (R)

The sequel to "The Social Network" (2010), which put Oscar nominee Jesse Eisenberg ("A Real Pain") on the map, is officially available to rent starting Nov. 24! This sequel jumps from the original events of the first film that took place in 2003-2004 to 2019, with Jeremy Strong ("Succession") replacing Eisenberg as Meta Platforms CEO Mark Zuckerberg. "The Social Reckoning" touches on the 2021 Facebook leak and the overall threat against user safety that the social media platform presented at the time. Oscar winner Mikey Madison ("Anora") portrays Frances Haugen, the whistleblower who leaked the company's internal documents, while "The Bear's" Jeremy Allen White takes on the role of Wall Street Journal reporter Jeff Horwitz, who was heavily involved in breaking the news to the public. With mixed reviews from critics, the film unfortunately bombed at the box office, only earning $18.1 million against a budget of $42 million. (Amazon Prime Video)

"The Altruists" (TV-MA)

This series out now to binge is led by Julia Garner ("Weapons"), who looks almost unrecognizable without her signature blonde hair, and Anthony Boyle ("House of Guiness"). In just eight episodes, the series delves into the cryptocurrency exchange FTX, as well as its founders Sam Bankman-Fried (Boyle) and Caroline Ellison (Garner), emphasizing the fact that Bankman-Fried and Ellison were incredibly intelligent and hopeful with their company. But going "all in" on their dream results in a $36 billion fraudulent scheme that quickly turns their lives into a nightmare. Look out for comedian Matt Rife, who seems to be doing well after his recent controversies, Hudson Williams from "Heated Rivalry," and Jennifer Grey from "Dirty Dancing." (Netflix)

"12 12 12" (TV-MA)

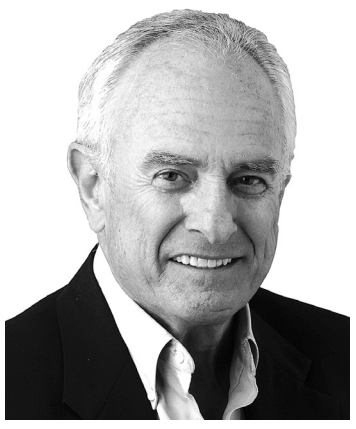
Anthony Mackie ("Desert Warrior") trades his Captain America suit for an FBI badge in this heist series that co-stars Jamie Dornan ("The Tourist"). The series' title nods to its storytelling format, which is broken up into three stages: the 12 months of planning leading up to a huge banking heist in Zurich, the 12 hours executing the heist itself, and the 12 days following the heist. Paul (Dornan), the criminal mastermind behind the heist, obviously has his motivations for planning it, but what Paul doesn't know is that the FBI agent tasked with finding him also has personal reasons of his own. The first three episodes are out now, with subsequent episodes premiering every Friday. (Apple TV)

"Runner" (PG-13)

This action-comedy film features Alan Ritchson ("War Machine") and Owen Wilson ("Focker-in-Law") in roles that aren't much different from anything else we've ever seen them in. Wilson plays a medical courier named Ben, who enlists the help of a runner/smuggler named Hank (Ritchson) to transport an organ for a little girl in a hospital. The problem? The organ donor has an extremely rare blood type, and the leader of a Colombian cartel also needs this specific organ for his dying mother. Luckily, Ben enlists the right person to help him complete his mission, because Hank's past as a soldier turns out to be quite useful to kick cartel butt! Premieres Nov. 27. (Hulu)

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Pheasant Hunting



LORAN SMITH

This is the time of the year that I have traveled to South Dakota for pheasant hunting, a wonderful experience that I miss very much. Although I am getting long in the tooth, I still believe I could knock down a cock pheasant or two if I had the opportunity to return to the "Mt. Rushmore State."

However, I am now pretty much confined to reminiscing.

Several years ago, an executive with Coca-Cola called with the news that his friend, George Mickleson, governor of South Dakota, was a big golf fan.

He wanted to know if I could get someone to host the governor and his party for dinner while they were in Augusta during Masters week. That was an easy assignment. I eagerly signed up for the opportunity.

At dinner the night before his party returned home to South Dakota, the governor expressed thanks for the hospitality and then asked. "Is there anything we can do for you?"

"Well," I said, "I've always wanted to go pheasant hunting in South Dakota." He responded with a generous laugh and then grinned, "Why didn't you ask for something difficult!"

That was the beginning of many years of the most delightful fall pilgrimages where the hunting was spectacular, the people as remarkable as the landscape, and warm hospitality enraptured you from the time you disembarked at the Pierre Regional Airport in the capital city of the state until you returned home.

Gov. Mickelson and his state treasurer, Homer Harding, were delightful hosts, who offered encouragement to bring friends for a few days of hunting pheasant and Canada geese. I never had a more enriching experience, which was followed by encore after encore.

I began taking friends who were all overwhelmed by the South Dakota pheasant hunting experience. The landscape is different but pleasantly appealing with the grain fields, prairie dunes, and the Missouri River dominating.

One morning, I killed a rooster while hunting near that great body of water and suddenly the scene brought pause to my day. I stood in awe of the river when I realized that Lewis and Clark and Sacagawea once came near where we were hunting.

If you don't get an emotional high with the ringneck pheasant experience, then there is something wrong with your system. South Dakota maintains an average population of 7.4 million ringnecks annually. Hunters are allowed to kill only three pheasants per day.

Pheasant hunting is not only fun for hunters but also an economic driver for the state of South Dakota. It is worth 500 to 700 million dollars to the state's economy annually. I am happy to have contributed to the South Dakota economy in the past and recommend that, assuming you enjoy such outdoor exercise, you do the same. You won't regret making a modest contribution.

Much of the fun of the hunt comes from stalking pheasants in the grain and corn fields. A cock pheasant can really accelerate on foot, but when you close in on them, they rise like a helicopter straight up, cackling as they take flight, and before you know it, you have missed an opportunity. The good news is that after that first trip, I can't remember not getting my limit.

You walk the fields, enjoy the hunt and the environment, and relax by a fire in the hotel lobby. Next, you find a nice steak restaurant for dinner—there seems to be one on every corner—and you are as fulfilled as you could be.

There is more good news. You get to do it again the next day and the next. As your trip comes to an end, you are filled with regret that you didn't stay longer.

For years, I had pheasants smoked in Pierre and shipped to my home address. I shared smoked pheasant with my friends, which was always a nice holiday treat for them.

During the Christmas season, I would enjoy smoked pheasant by a fire with a glass of red wine and raise a toast to pheasant hunting in South Dakota, one of the most emotionally rewarding experiences possible.

Thanks for the food and for the memories



CHARLIE HARPER
GEORGIA POLITICS

Last week I found myself back home. I continue to travel to or near the Atlanta area a couple of times per month, and this trip provided the window to join my mother for lunch, at Judy's Restaurant in Fairburn.

While I grew up in Fayette County, this South Fulton city was in the family's mailing address for the decades our house was on acreage on Hwy 92, about halfway between Fairburn and Fayetteville. Much of my childhood was spent with a run to "town" meaning Fairburn before school assignments pivoted us to Fayetteville.

Groceries were bought from Mrs. Lillian at the Twilight Food Palace. Our shoes were bought from Gordon's. "Mr. Harold" ran the barbershop where Dad and I got our haircuts, and the rest of the men in town hung out to solve all the world's problems. Shannon Mall didn't exist yet. Nor does it now.

My Grandfather had a small gas station and an ice cream parlor there once upon a time. It and he were gone before I came along.

My church also stood at the halfway point between the towns in the community of Fife. You could literally see the county line sign from the back steps.

On one side you had a county that was experiencing the first waves of suburban growth. On the other, part of a county that had to be absorbed by Fulton during the Depression and was experiencing outmigration. The central place that kept me grounded had one foot planted on each side, paradoxically going in opposite directions at the same time.

Dad used to call Fairburn "a dying little town." Somewhere along the way, it seemed to find its stride again.

Despite some of the main downtown buildings burning down in a few separate incidents, new shops began to fill the old storefronts. Amos' Pharmacy has given way to a pizza place. And then there's Judy's, where I found myself dining with Mom last week.

Judy's was originally in a spot in an older shopping center before they recently moved to a new (to them) freestanding building. The cafeteria menu and food remains largely the same. Wednesday is still "catfish day." Thursday offers an excellent turkey and dressing option. Fried chicken is a daily staple.

When we arrived mom noted a plaque above the serving line that read "Meals and memories are made here." She read it aloud. The connections immediately landed.

Judy's was introduced to our world by "Big" Frank Flanders, or as he was known in our house, "Uncle Frank." I don't recall my first visit, but I do remember it was after weeks of Dad raving about this new place where he and his lifelong friend had quickly become regulars.

The last time I took Dad to a UGA football game, we arrived late - just before kickoff and without a parking spot because he "needed" to have breakfast with Uncle Frank before we could leave. The walk from the East Campus lot to the stadium caused blisters that almost cost him his diabetic foot. But the man had priorities, and a good breakfast with his friend to solve some of those problems that weren't solved decades earlier at the barber shop was chief among them.

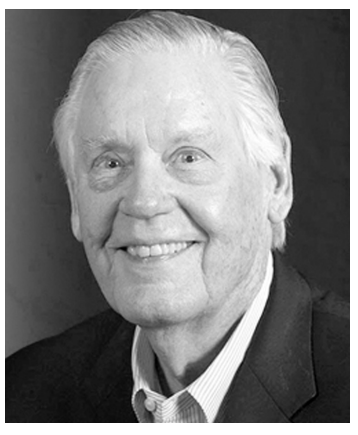
Mom and I had a good visit. We talked about some of those memories in Judy's old location decades ago – about Dad, Uncle Frank and many others no longer with us. We talked a bit about the future. But mostly, we were present – with one foot honoring the past, one looking ahead to what's next for us and the rest of our loved ones. Being present with a parent is the best grounding exercise ever invented.

We'll gather again this week, on Thursday. Judy's will be closed but Turkey will again be on the menu. The number at the table will be larger. It will be at "home" in Sharpsburg, a dozen miles and a county away from the old house on Hwy 92. There will be an entire generation there that never got to meet their granddad, an unfortunate family tradition. But there will be stories and memories, bound together by food from recipes that are largely the same as they were decades ago.

This week we'll give honest thanks. For the food. For those around the table. For those who came before us, and those no longer with us.

And then there's the memories. There are those that we treasure. There will be those that we'll share. And most of all, there will be those that we make, present and together.

Reflections on birthdays past, present and future



DICK YARBROUGH

If I seem a bit slower than usual today, I have a good excuse. I have just had another birthday. Another in a long line of birthdays. A very long line. The first thing I did this morning was to check the obituaries and be sure my name wasn't listed. At my age, one can never be too sure.

As has been the custom for the past 17 years, I celebrate the occasion at the annual Birthday Bash with great grandson, Cameron Charles Yarbrough, whose birthday is a couple of days before mine. When we began this tradition, Cameron Charles was in a highchair. Today, he is taller than his great grandfather. Times have changed but not the Birthday Bash. It remains a cherished family tradition.

Birthdays seem to be coming around faster than they used to. And everyone draws me closer to the end of my time on this earth. I used to think time was plentiful. Now, I wondered what happened to all the days past. And how many I squandered because I knew there would be another one awaiting me to get things right. I don't think that way anymore. Time is precious. Life is short.

My birthday always falls just before, just after or smack dab on Thanksgiving Day. That makes me a Sagittarius for whatever that's worth. We Sagittarians are supposed to be humorous. I suspect there are one or two of you reading this who might disagree with that, maybe even a Sagittarian or two. We are also known to be blunt which can come across as tactless or harsh. Guilty as charged. I'll try to do better in the future. But no promises.

There have been some memorable birthdays, like when The Beloved Woman Who Shared My Name hired an airplane to fly over Sanford Stadium on a football weekend with a banner proclaiming, "Nifty. Nifty. Dick Yarbrough is 50" to the cheers and jeers of 76,000 of my closest friends. Not sure what precipitated her doing that except perhaps for the surprise (to her) mock funeral lamenting the passing of her youth on her 40th birthday. The woman obviously had a long memory.

Birthday or no birthday, Thanksgiving is a time to take stock of my life and to give thanks for what I have been given. And I have been abundantly blessed. My family. My friends. Anything and everything about the University of Georgia, the oldest state-chartered university in the nation and home of my beloved Henry W. Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communications.

I am thankful for my church and all within it who labor daily to save my sorry soul. My breakfast buddies, Dale and Mary Jane. Lois and Linda. Dora, Paul and Caryl. We haven't solved all the world's problems yet but we are working on it. These things take time.

I am thankful that God gave me the ability to paint a lick but didn't let me know it until later in life. It has given me something to look forward to in my old age besides aching knees and doctor visits.

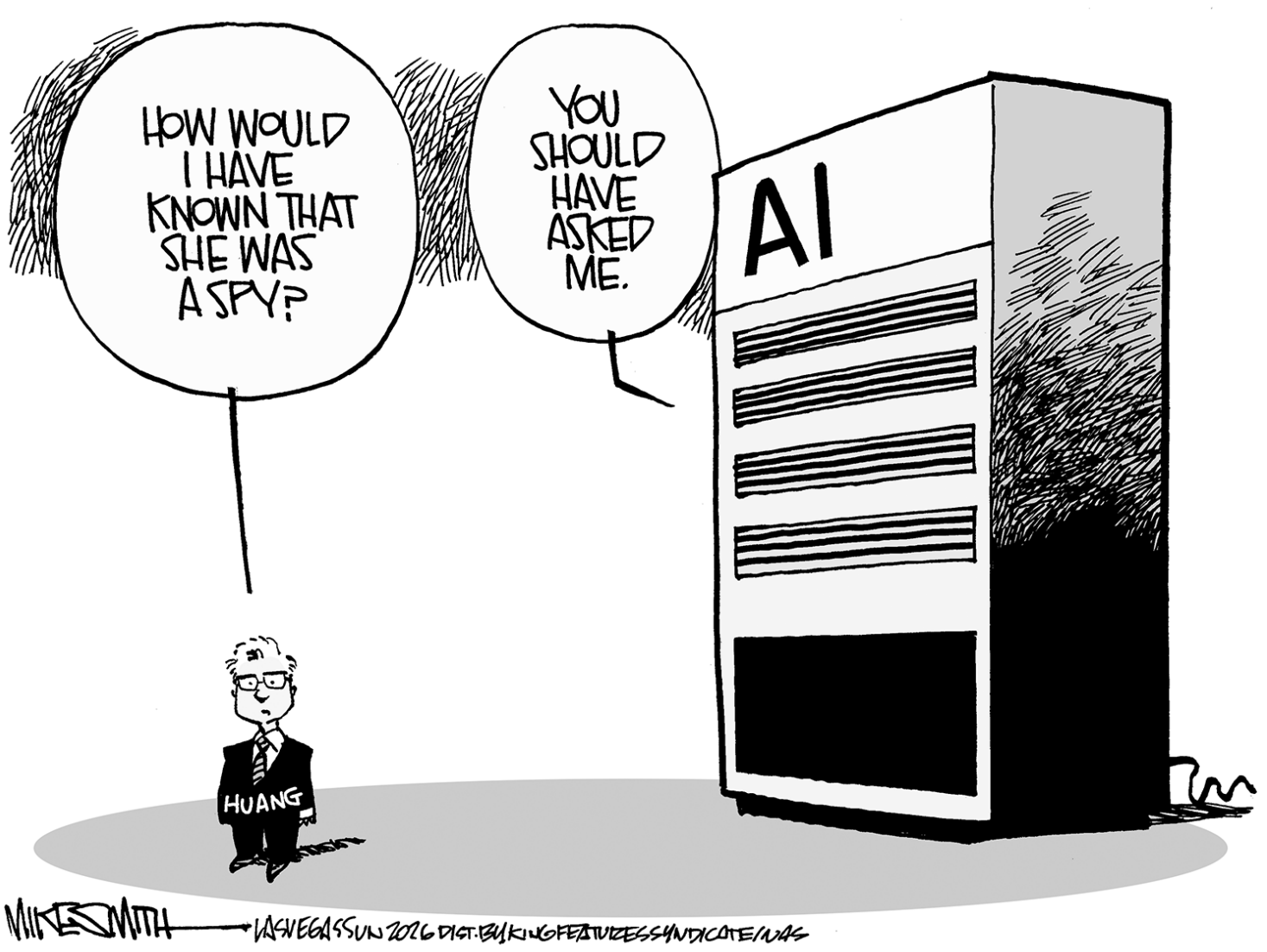
I am thankful that I had 63-and-a-half years with The Beloved Woman Who Shared My Name and that her legacy will live on in supporting the efforts of deserving second-career nursing students at Kennesaw State University to get their degree and to enter the nursing profession and who might not otherwise have had the opportunity.

I am thankful for Regina who cuts my hair and has being doing so for the past ten years; for Olivia, the greatest retail clerk in the history of the world, who makes me feel special every time I walk in the store; for Melissa, Alina and James who have taken care of me since my mangled toe surgery; for Philip, who drives me wherever I need to go. Little things mean a lot.

I am thankful for the opportunity to chat with you each week and to the editors for giving me the chance to do so. I don't take myself seriously but I take this job very seriously. It is a privilege and I must never forget that.

So, another birthday come and gone. What now? The Welsh singer Shirley Bassey says you don't get older, you get better. That is my birthday wish for us all. Older and better. And may we continue this journey together. Thank you.

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



THE DAWSON NEWS

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— for Local News —

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USDA reminds Georgia farmers of crop reporting deadlines

By STAFF REPORTS

Georgia farmers face a series of crop acreage reporting deadlines beginning Dec. 15, with timely reports needed to maintain eligibility for many federal farm programs, including disaster assistance.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency urged producers in a Nov. 18 announcement to report all crops and land uses, including acreage where crops failed or planting was prevented.

"Completing accurate and timely acreage reports helps ensure producers have access to the USDA programs and assistance available to support their operations," said Duncan N. Johnson Jr., the agency's state executive director in Georgia.

The next deadline is Dec. 15 for onions planted from Sept. 20 through Oct. 20. Honey reporting is due Jan. 2, 2027.

Producers must report apples, blueberries, canola, peaches, rye, rapeseed and fall-seeded small grains by Jan. 15.

The March 15 deadline covers pecans, cabbage planted from Oct. 1 through Feb. 20 and onions planted from Oct. 21 through Feb. 1.

A crop acreage report documents what is grown on a farm or ranch, where it is grown and its intended use. Producers should contact their local Farm Service Agency office to file.

Information needed includes the crop and variety, intended use, number of acres, planting dates and a map showing approximate crop boundaries. Producers also must provide their ownership or production shares, irrigation practices and planting patterns when applicable, along with information about failed acres or acreage they could not plant.

Some exceptions apply. If a crop has not been planted by its reporting deadline, producers must report the acreage within 15 calendar days after planting is completed.

Producers who purchase or lease additional acreage after the reporting deadline must report it within 30 calendar days of acquiring it and provide supporting documentation to the county office.

For crops covered by the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, the deadline is the regular acreage reporting date or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting begins, whichever comes first. Producers should confirm crop-specific deadlines with their local office.

Farmers unable to plant because of a natural disaster, including drought, must report that acreage on Form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, within 15 calendar days after the final planting date established by the Farm Service Agency and USDA's Risk Management Agency.

Producers with perennial forage crops should ask whether they qualify for continuous certification, which carries certified acreage forward each year unless a change occurs.

Farm records and maps are available through the farmers.gov customer portal. Access requires a Login.gov account linked to a USDA customer record. Producers can create an account at farmers.gov/account and use the portal to view, print and label maps for reporting.

For questions or appointments, producers should contact their local Farm Service Agency office.

CLEANUP

Continued from page 1

its costs through a sale or foreclosure.

The process would attach the debt to the property rather than pursue its owner personally, Wright explained.

Identifying which vehicles and equipment must be removed — and who owns them — would be a significant part of the work.

Some tractor-trailers reportedly belong to other people who left them at the property for repairs, Wright said. Officials would need to identify vehicles using identification or serial numbers, contact their owners and provide notice before removal. Hauling and storage could add to the expense.

Wright said officials planned to seek an inspection warrant and prepare an inventory documenting the equipment on the property.

The property's zoning allows certain automotive repairs, so a cleanup would not require removing everything, he said. Vehicles being repaired within the permitted use could remain, while inoperable vehicles and accumulated junk identified as code violations would need to be addressed.

"It's an expensive process," Wright said.

One option under consideration is an auction at the property. Wright said the third party assisting the city owns a salvage yard in a surrounding county and suggested an online or in-person auction could reduce hauling expenses.

Councilwoman Sondra Walker questioned whether the business was operating as an automotive repair shop or a salvage operation and whether other enforcement options should be examined.

Wright said the city initially sought to encourage the property owner to comply with city codes and allowed extensions for correcting violations. With the problems continuing, he said officials could consider other enforcement approaches alongside the financial implications of a city-funded cleanup.

Before proceeding with cleanup work, Wright said officials would coordinate with the city manager and return with estimates and funding needs.

MEETING

Continued from page 1

or grant agreements with the city, and any pending funding applications would be denied until the required audits are completed.

"This is free," Coleman said. "The only catch is if you happen to drop out, then you have to pay."

Mayor Aaron was direct on that point: "So we ain't dropping out."

Why It Matters

The city has fallen behind on required audits for fiscal years 2023, 2024 and 2025, largely due to complications that arose when Dawson converted to a new accounting system mid-fiscal year in 2023. The transition caused some data to go untransferred and other data to be duplicated, requiring extensive manual reconciliation.

Under O.C.G.A. § 36-81-7, Georgia municipalities are required to maintain current financial audits. Without clean audits on file, Dawson is ineligible to apply for federal infrastructure grants — money that in previous years topped $1 million annually.

"We have to have clean audits in order to apply for the grants that we have," Aaron said. "For the last several years, when we got the money, when the audit was clean, we got well over a million dollars to do some of the infrastructure that you see we have done."

The stakes extend beyond future applications. GEFA has already committed funding to Dawson — including money related to the city's sewage treatment plant project — that cannot be distributed until the city's audit status is resolved.

"We want to receive the money we've already been granted," Coleman said, "and so it's important that we do this."

Timeline

City Manager and Clerk Roxie Powell told the council the city met last week with its auditing firm, an accounting firm, and the Georgia Municipal Association to map out a timeline. The accounting firm is currently completing the final outstanding item needed for the 2023 audit and expects to finish before the end of the year.

"Once CKH completes that last outstanding item, the auditors will input all information into their system to make sure it's up to date and everything is reconciled," Powell said. "Then they'll be able to submit a rough draft to the city for their review. If the city has no concerns and no questions, they submit it to the state."

Powell said the 2023 audit's delays stemmed directly from the mid-year system conversion.

"A lot of the data did not get transferred over, and some data got transferred over twice," she said. "So it was a lot of cleaning up that we had to do within the new system in order for the reconciliations to take process."

Powell said fiscal years 2024 and 2025 should move much more quickly, and projected that all three years could be completed by Thanksgiving of 2027.

That timeline means the city will not be able to apply for grants in the February 2027 application cycle. The earliest the city could be eligible under the current schedule would be the 2028 grant cycle.

Broader Context

Dawson is one of 140 Georgia municipalities offered access to GEFA's MAPP program. Coleman noted that of roughly 540 cities in the state, those receiving the offer largely have GEFA loans outstanding — a fact that reflects GEFA's interest in protecting its own financial commitments as much as helping municipalities.

"I think they thought to protect their own interest and to make sure that they needed help, and that's really the most of it," Coleman said.

The council's next regular meeting is scheduled for the second Thursday of December.

AUDIT

Continued from page 1

porting documentation, including evidence of review and approval.

The plan says the district did not follow its purchasing and expenditure approval procedures. It warns that improperly documented expenditures could require repayment to the Georgia Department of Education, but identifies no repayment amount.

To address those deficiencies, the district proposes reviewing purchasing practices, clarifying approval responsibilities, training employees and monitoring compliance.

Meal reimbursement records showed errors in both directions.

The district could not provide meal-count reports supporting claims for 6,641 lunches in June 2025. For July 2024, it maintained meal-count records but submitted no claims for 1,384 breakfasts and 2,276 lunches. Another reporting discrepancy resulted in 12 lunches going unclaimed.

According to the plan, the district implemented Meal Manage during fiscal 2026 to improve meal-count accuracy. Additional steps call for staff training, reviews of daily reporting and regular monitoring of supporting records.

A separate finding involved federal reimbursement receipts. One of three months reviewed lacked evidence that receipts had been reviewed or approved. The proposed response establishes documented checks by school nutrition staff and the Finance Department before receipts are recorded.

The fifth finding concerned equipment purchased through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund program.

Four equipment items totaling $275,820 were omitted from the district's inventory listing. Another item remained on the list after being disposed of in a previous fiscal year, and there was no evidence that a physical inventory had been conducted during the year under review.

The equipment finding concerns incomplete records; the plan does not identify the four omitted items as lost or stolen.

Proposed changes include updating inventory procedures, recording equipment purchases and disposals, and conducting a documented physical inventory annually.

The Nov. 9 agenda listed the corrective action plan for board approval. The agenda does not establish whether that motion passed.

The plan assigns corrective responsibilities to Harvey, finance and school nutrition officials, and other department leaders. It calls for immediate action, with the measures fully implemented no later than June 30, 2027.

WESTOVER

Continued from page 1

stretched the lead to 17-10. Cordarial Smith hit a deep 3-pointer for Terrell County, but Daniels answered with a three-point play to give Westover a 21-13 lead after one quarter.

Terrell County tightened up defensively in a fast, physical second quarter and cut the deficit to 31-25 at halftime. Westover pushed its lead to 50-35 by the end of the third, only to see the Greenwave score the first eight points of the fourth. Polite's drive made it 50-43 before the Patriots closed the game on a 9-3 run.

Javion Russell added 10 points for Westover. Smith led Terrell County with 20, followed by Polite with nine and Keyon Huckaby with seven.

It was the season opener for Terrell County and the second game for Westover, whose matchup with Dougherty last week at Albany State's West Campus was halted after a shooting.

In the girls game, senior guard Sydney Donaldson scored 14 points and her sister Savannah added eight. The Lady Patriots led 20-14 at halftime and held Terrell County to 12 points in the second half, including just four in the fourth quarter.

Jada Rushing hit three 3-pointers to lead the Lady Greenwave with nine points, and Klhoe Brown added seven.

The teams are scheduled to meet again Dec. 1 in Albany.

Legals

Legals

D-135

IN THE PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF TERRELL
STATE OF GEORGIA
IN RE: SAMOLYN YVONNE PRICE JENKINS, DECEASED
ESTATE NO: 4158
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE

To: ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, INTERESTED PARTIES, CREDITORS

MARTHA LEE THOMPSON STEPHENS has petitioned to be appointed **Administrator** of the estate of **SAMOLYN YVONNE PRICE JENKINS** 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 December 21, 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.

RUN: NOV.25", Dec. 3rd, 10th 17th
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

November 26, December 3, 10, 17, 2026

D-134

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

GEORGIA, TERRELL COUNTY

All creditors of the estate of TERESA GLOW GRUBBS, 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 19TH day of NOVEMBER, 2026 MATTHEWS GARRETT GRUBBS, EXECUTOR
TERESA GLOW GRUBBS, DECEASED
MOORE CLARKE DUVALL & RODGERS
MARY ALEX CARTER
POST OFFICE DRAWER 71727
ALBANY, GA. 31708-1727

November 26, December 3, 10, 17, 2026

D-132

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF TERRELL
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER

Pursuant to the power of sale contained in the Security Deed executed by WESLEY SMITH to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS GRANTEE, AS NOMINEE FOR FREMONT INVESTMENT & LOAN in the original principal amount of $115,875.00 dated September 14, 2004, and recorded in Deed Book 7L, Page 605, Terrell County records, said Security Deed being last transferred to DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR FREMONT HOME LOAN TRUST 2004-4, ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2004-4 in Book 14K, at Page 453, Terrell County records, the undersigned will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, before the Courthouse door in said County, or at such other place as lawfully designated, within the legal hours of sale, on 1/5/2027, the property in said Security Deed and described as follows:

THE HOME HOUSE AND LOT OF WILLIAM LEON FERGUSON AND WHEREON HE RESIDED AT THE TIME OF HIS DEATH, THE SAME BEING SITUATED, LYING AND BEING IN THE CITY OF DAWSON, TERRELL COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND THE SAME FRONTING 125 FEET ON THE EAST SIDE OF PECAN STREET (ALSO KNOWN AS THE DAWSON AND ALBANY PAVED HIGHWAY) AND EXTENDING BACK EAST IN PARALLEL LINES AND ALONG THE SOUTH SIDE OF GEORGIA AVENUE A
DISTANCE OF 225 FEET, AND THE SAME BEING KNOWN AND DISTINGUISHED AS THE WHOLE OF LOT NO. 1 OF THE SUBDIVISION OF THE PROPERTY OF H. C. PERRY AND A PLAT AND SURVEY OF WHICH PROPERTY OF THE SAID H.C. PERRY IS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 172, IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF TERRELL COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND SAID PROPERTY BEING, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHEAST INTERSECTION OF GEORGIA AVENUE AND PECAN STREET WHERE THE EAST SIDE OF PECAN STREET INTERSECTS THE SOUTH SIDE OF GEORGIA AVENUE AT A POINT WHICH IS 33 FEET EAST OF AND FROM THE CENTER OF PECAN STREET AND ALSO 25 FEET SOUTH OF AND FROM THE CENTER OF GEORGIA AVENUE, AND WHICH POINT OF BEGINNING IS EVIDENCED BY A CONCRETE MONUMENT, AND FROM SAID DESIGNATED POINT OF BEGINNING, THENCE RUNNING EAST ALONG THE SOUTH SIDE OF GEORGIA AVENUE NORTH 88 DEGREES 15 MINUTES EAST A DISTANCE OF 225 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF GEORGIA AVENUE EVIDENCED BY A CONCRETE MONUMENT LOCATED ON THE WEST SIDE OF A 20 FOOT ALLEY, THENCE TURNING AT AN ANGLE OF 90 DEGREES AND TUNNING SOUTH ALONG THE WEST SIDE OF SAID 20 FOOT ALLEY SOUTH 1 DEGREE 45 MINUTES EAST A DISTANCE OF 125 FEET TO A POINT ON THE WEST SIDE OF SAID 20 FOOT ALLEY EVIDENCED BY A CONCRETE MONUMENT, THENCE TURNING AT AN ANGLE OF 90 DEGREES AND RUNNING WEST ALONG THE LINE OF THE PROPERTY OF H.C. PERRY SOUTH 88 DEGREES 15 MINUTES WEST A DISTANCE OF 225 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EAST SIDE OF PECAN STREET WHICH IS EVIDENCED BY A CONCRETE MONUMENT AND WHICH POINT IS 33 FEET EAST OF AND FROM THE CENTER OF PECAN STREET, THENCE TURNING AT AN ANGLE OF 90 DEGREES AND RUNNING NORTH ALONG THE EAST SIDE OF PECAN STREET NORTH 1 DEGREE 45 MINUTES WEST A DISTANCE OF 125 FEET TO THE AFORESAID DESIGNATED POINT OF BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHEAST INTERSECTION OF GEORGIA AVENUE AND PECAN STREET WHICH IS EVIDENCED BY A CONCRETE MONUMENT SO AS TO FORM AN ANGLE OF 90 DEGREES BETWEEN THE NORTH LINE AND THE WEST LINE OF SAID HEREIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY, AND SAID PROPERTY BEING BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS: ON THE NORTH BY GEORGIA AVENUE, ON THE EAST BY A 20 FOOT ALLEY WHICH SEPARATES THE HEREIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY FROM THE PROPERTY,

NOW OR FORMERLY, OF H. C. PERRY, ON THE SOUTH BY THE PROPERTY, NOW, OR FORMERLY, OF H. C. PERRY, AND ON THE WEST BY PECAN, STREET (ALSO KNOWN AS THE DAWSON AND ALBANY PAVED HIGHWAY); AND THE AFORESAID PROPERTY IS OFF OF THE EXTREME NORTHWEST CORNER OF TRACT NO. 19 OF THE ELLADALE ESTATE PROPERTY AND A PLAT OF WHICH PROPERTY OF THE SAID ELLADALE ESTATE IS RECORDED IN DEED BOOK EE, PAGE 344, OF THE DEED RECORDS OF TERRELL COUNTY, GEORGIA; AND ALSO, THE AFORESAID PROPERTY IS A PORTION OF THAT PROPERTY CONTAINED IN THAT CERTAIN DEED EXECUTED BY HRS. MAUDE D. PERRY TO H. C. PERRY, DATED AUGUST 27, 1951 AND RECORDED IN DEED BOOK OO, PAGES 581-582, OF THE DEED RECORDS OF TERRELL COUNTY, GEORGIA.

THE PROPERTY CONVEYED HEREIN BEING THE IDENTICAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN A DEED FROM H. C. PERRY TO W. L. FERGUSON, DATED THE 27TH DAY OF JANUARY, 1953, AND RECORDED IN DEED BOOK QQ AT PAGES 429-430; TERRELL COUNTY PUBLIC DEED RECORDS.

Said property being known as: **506 PECAN ST SE, DAWSON, GA 39842**

To the best of the undersigned's knowledge, the party or parties in possession of said property is/are WESLEY SMITH or tenant(s).

The debt secured by said Security Deed has been and is hereby declared due and payable because of, among other possible events of default, failure to pay the indebtedness as provided for in the Note and said Security Deed. The debt remaining in default, this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the same and all expenses of sale, including attorney's fees (notice of intent to collect attorney's fees having been given).

Said property will be sold subject to the following: (1) any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, whether or not yet due and payable); (2) the right of redemption of any taxing authority; (3) any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property; and (4) any assessments, liens, encumbrances, zoning ordinances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record superior to the Security Deed first set out above.

Said sale will be conducted subject to the following: (1) confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; and (2) final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed.

The name, address, and telephone number of the individual or entity who has full authority to negotiate, amend, and modify all terms of the mortgage is as follows:

Onity Mortgage Corporation f/k/a PHH Mortgage Corporation
1661 Worthington Road, Suite 100
West Palm Beach, FL 33409
800-887-4420

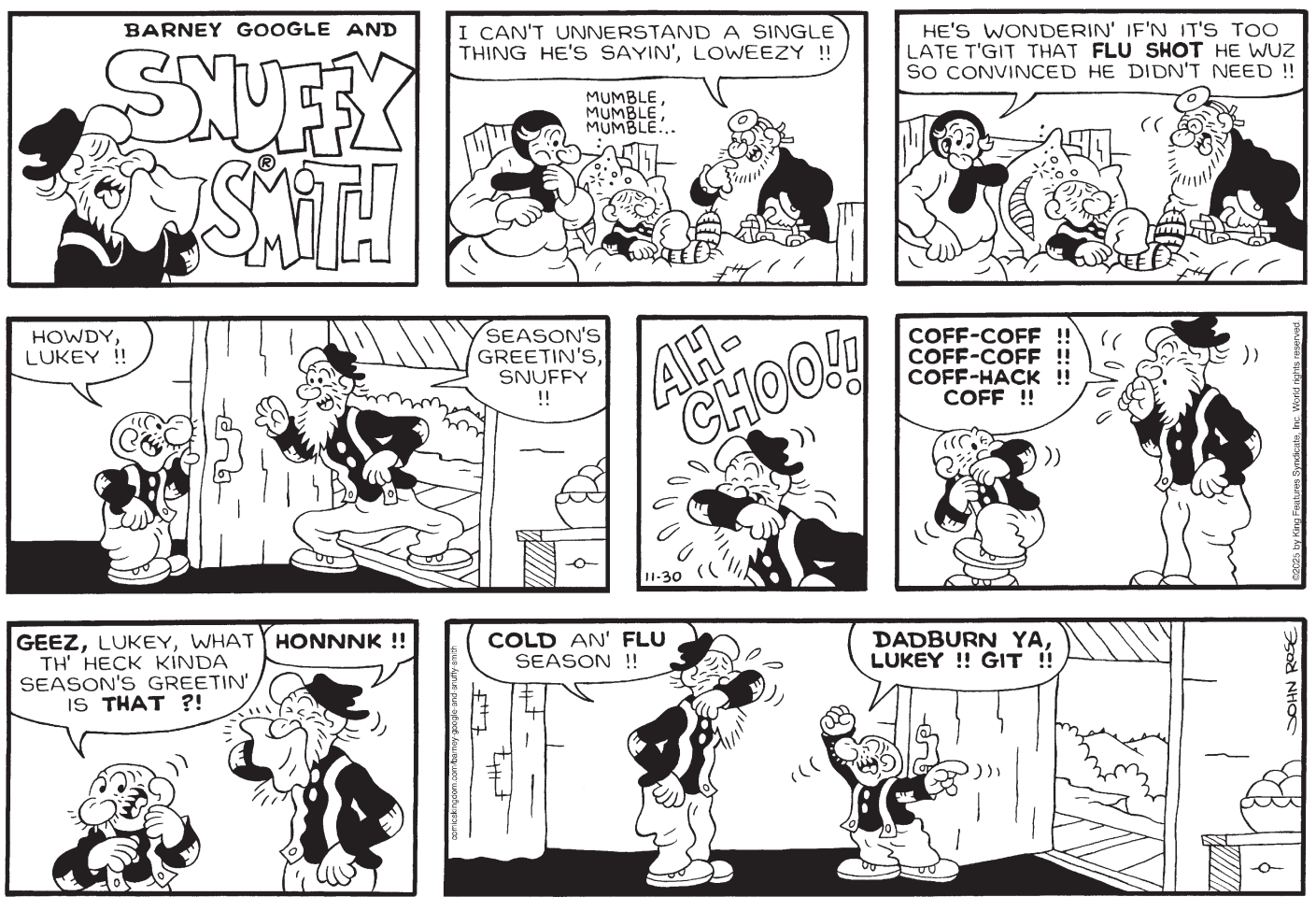
Note that pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 44-14-162.2, the above individual or entity is not required by law to negotiate, amend, or modify the terms of the mortgage.

THIS LAW FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR FREMONT HOME LOAN TRUST 2004-4, ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2004-4, as Attorney-in-Fact for WESLEY SMITH

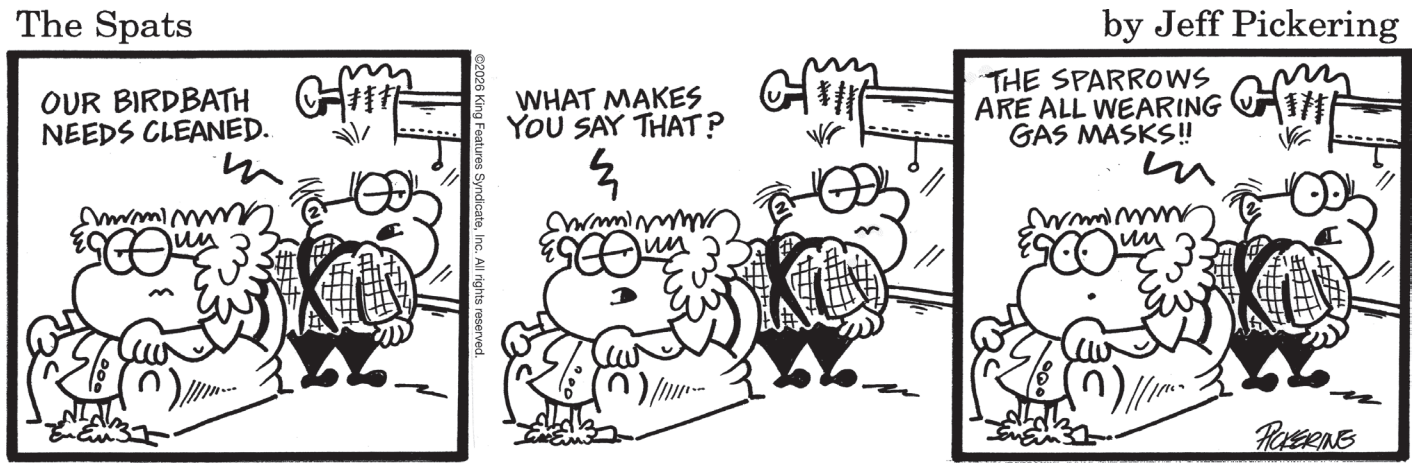
Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC
13010 Morris Rd., Suite 450
Alpharetta, GA 30004
Phone: 470-321-7112
Firm File No. 26-470242

November 26, December 10, 17, 24, 31, 2026



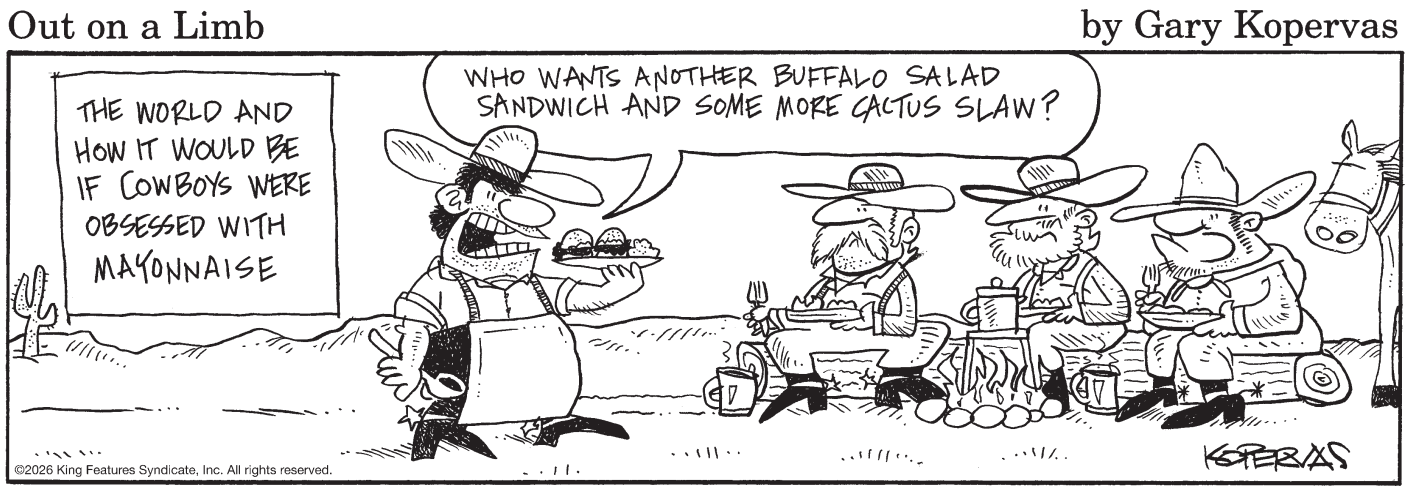
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

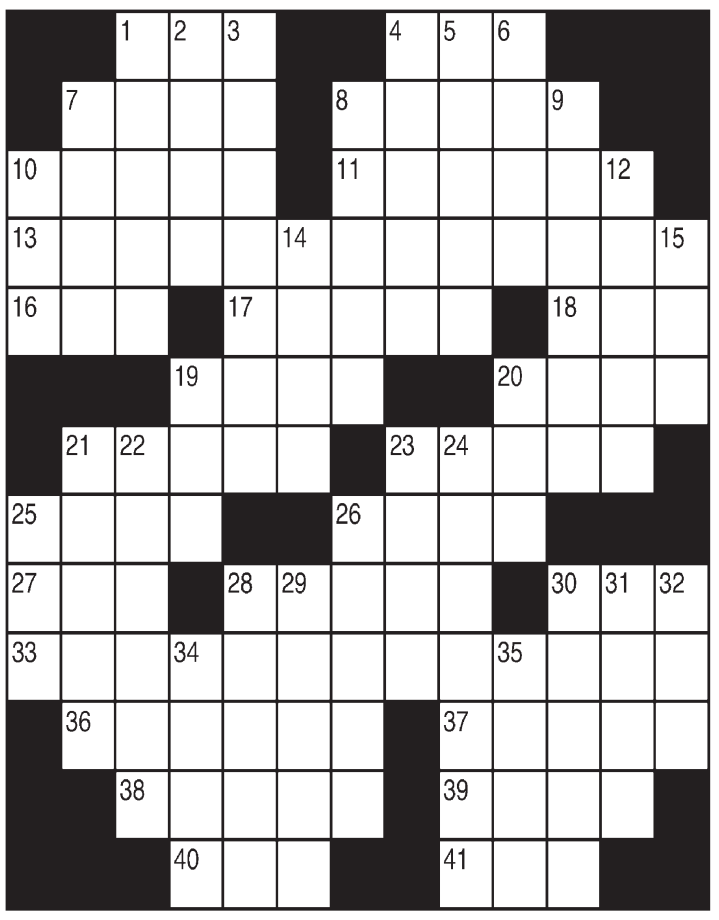


Grin and Bear It



"OK, I need to pick one of you for my vice president."

King Crossword



ACROSS

1 Indent key
4 "Spring ahead" hrs.
7 Mentor
8 Japanese bedroll
10 Rock genre
11 European peninsula
13 1980 Lennon/Ono album
16 Mercedes-Benz models
17 Barbecue site
18 Scoundrel
19 Netting
20 Helps
21 Parisian river
23 Accra's country
25 Dumbstruck
26 Milne bruin
27 Standard
28 Hose woes
30 Cagers' gp.
33 Figure skater's jump
36 Wild scuffles
37 Unconventional
38 Actor McDowall
39 Gratis
40 Airport screening org.
41 Nourished

DOWN

1 Ballerinas' skirts
2 United — Emirates
3 Pitcher's warmup area
4 Persian Gulf emirate
5 Shorthand pro
6 Legal wrong
7 Earth sci.
8 Bourbon buy
9 B vitamin
10 ER workers
12 Carne — (Mexican dish)
14 Lighten
15 NFL measures
19 Prefix for "night" or "morning"
20 "That feels good!"
21 Honey bunch?
22 More spine-tingling
23 Type of dancer
24 Spray down with water
25 Suitable
26 Sucker
28 Winter coasters
29 "I — vacation!"
30 Famous
31 Drill
32 Chest-beating beast
34 Conspiracy
35 Entice

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— King Crossword —
Answers
Solution time: 24 mins.

TOPPINGS

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

MAGIC MAZE ANSWERS

MAGIC MAZE ● TOPPINGS

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

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

Bacon bits	Glazes	Meringue	Sauces
Dressing	Gravy	Nuts	Sprinkles
Frosting	Guacamole	Pepperoni	Syrup
Ganache	Icing	Salsa	

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

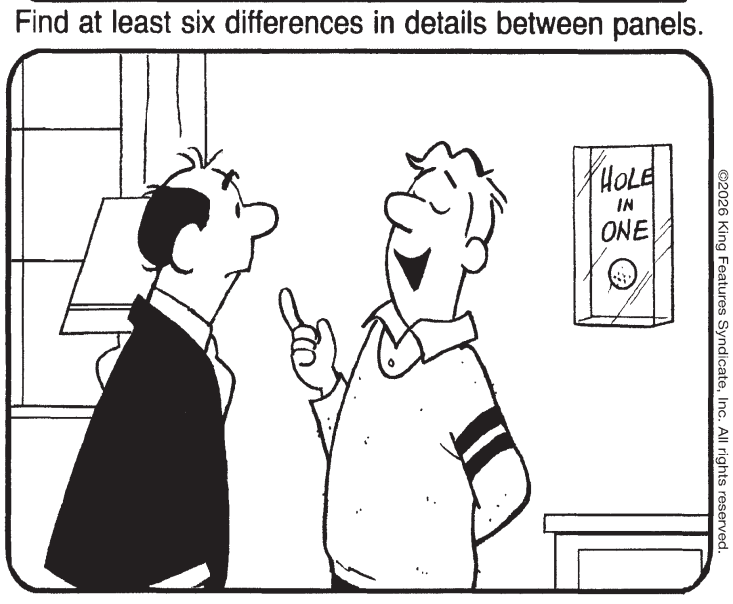


HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Hand is moved. 2. Stripe on sleeve is moved. 3. Sleeve is longer. 4. Lampshade is different. 5. Windowpanes are different. 6. Ear is smaller.

It pays to advertise in your local paper!